

News & Fun Activities

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

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(925) 485-1049

Affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations

Our mission statement: "A Secular Humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish People through family, culture and history, rather than through religion."



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January 6th, 2018



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TVCJ Community News and Important Dates

Congratulations!

Jamie Ireland has been appointed to the CSJO Board and has agreed to be a member at-large.

Come to Our Events Board meeting/TVCJ Planning

Date: Tuesday, January 9th, 2018

Time: 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Place: Seid-Gates home, 1817 Sinclair Drive, in Pleasanton.

All members are welcome

Emergency Preparedness Event



Date: Sunday, January 21, 2018

Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:20 p.m.

Place: 2902 Liberty Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94566

Cost: FREE for Members, Suggested Donation for Adult Non-Members \$5.00

Are you prepared for an emergency? Do you have a grab and go kit with needed essentials? Could you survive for several days away from your home, or in your home for weeks without electricity? Can you monitor vital communications when cell phone towers go down? Most of us are ill-prepared for the next emergency. It's not if but when. And there is no do-over when it comes. So add preparing an emergency kit to your 2018 New Year's resolutions and sign up for this event!

A member of our community, Leah Morrison, who has recently completed her Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, will use the knowledge she learned along with survival skills from backpacking to walk you through what you should have in an emergency kit and why, as well as where you should store it. She will deconstruct her emergency kits and pass around items. A handout will be available with a list of items to have in your kit along with helpful tips, including how to purify water with iodine. This is an event you won't want to miss.

Bring some trail mix to share. Hot cocoa will be provided.

**Shabbat Shira
A Sing-Along Shabbat**



Date: Saturday, January 27th, 2018

Time: 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Place: Bothwell Arts Center, Livermore, California, 2466 8th St, Livermore, CA 94550 - West End Room

Cost: FREE for Members, Suggested Donation for Adult Non-Members \$5.00

Saturday, January 27th is Shabbat Shira - Singing Saturday, observed throughout the Jewish community. We'll observe the date with a "kumzits," a Jewish hootenanny (sing-along). We'll sing easy-to-learn songs in Yiddish, Hebrew and English, suitable for kids and adults.

We'll supply hot chocolate, tea and decaf. **Bring your guitars, ukuleles and mandolins - song sheets with chords will be available.** We'll end with our secular havdalah ceremony.

Our Hanukkah Party Was So Much Fun!

Our Hanukkah Party was so much fun! We enjoyed latkes, lit our menorah candles and ate yummy food. The kids participated in their naming ceremony. Thanks to the Mogilefsky's for letting us use their home and to Amy Greenberg for doing the coordination. Thanks also to the following people: Jamie and Judy for leading the naming ceremony, David Gates, Solomon Ireland and Rick Randel for doing the cooking, Scott Pepper for bringing the food processor, Joy Randel for doing the shopping, Noah for doing the promotions and cleaning up, Leah and Luba for help cleaning up, Carol for doing the evite, Judy for getting the paper supplies and David Gates for doing the photography.

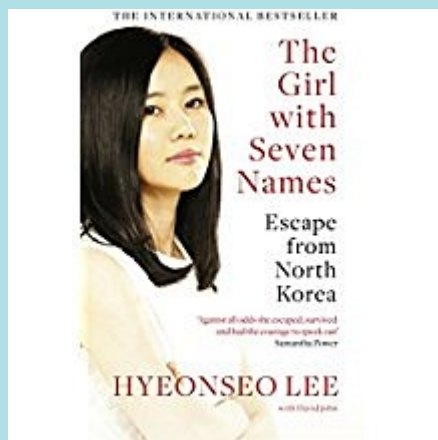




Remembering Gloria Jean Caulfield

The community mourns with Kelly Mogilefsky the death of her mother, Gloria Jean Caulfield. Memorial donations can be made to [The American Cancer Society](#).

Book Review



THE GIRL WITH SEVEN NAMES
By

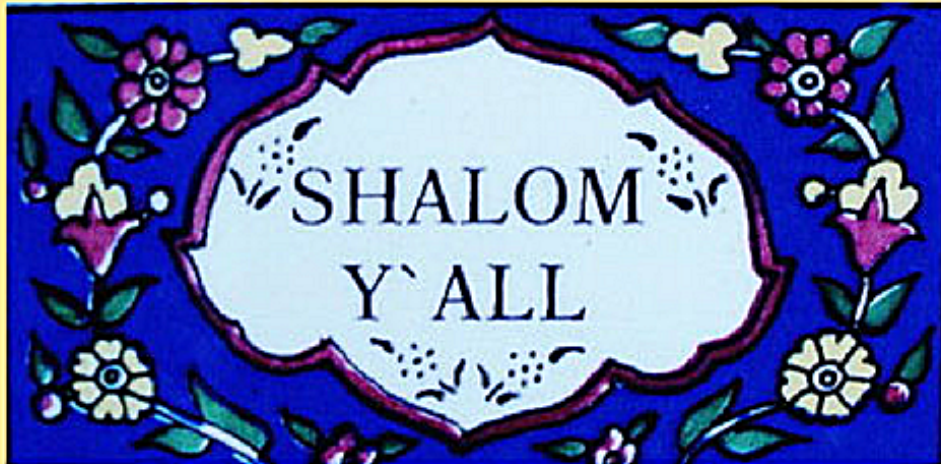
Hyeonseo Lee

This remarkable memoir tells the unbelievable journey of the author as she escapes from North Korea in order to find freedom. It tells of the seemingly insurmountable obstacles she faces as she tries to keep her family together in her odyssey. The title refers to the fact that she is forced to change her name each time she goes to another Asian country in order to avoid detection which could lead to imprisonment and punishment. Her journey was both painful and inspiring as she meets a variety of characters that both helped and hindered her along the way.

The book is extremely valuable in light of our current relationship with North Korea. It describes life there that might be comparable to a giant prison camp. Amazing is the amount of brain-washing beginning in infancy designed to produce religious like devotion to its dictatorial leaders. It certainly makes you appreciate the freedoms we have in the West, but many times taken for granted. This truly is an unforgettable book and I would highly recommend it.

Book Review by Jerry Zwick

Shalom Y'all



Come Visit Colonial Savannah & Historic Charleston

Tour: April 13th to April 15th 2018.

The home of Revolutionary statesmen, early Jewish communities, slavery and freedoms. Join us as Rabbi Adam Chalom's thoughtful perspective brings the antebellum South to life. **BOOKING DEADLINE: January 31, 2018**

Highlights include:

- Two of the oldest Jewish congregations in North America.
- The streets of historic Savannah, saved from destruction after General Sherman's infamous march to sea.
- Magnolia Plantation and Gardens to experience the beauty and challenges of the antebellum American South.
- Charleston, the "Holy City" of religious tolerance, home to Jewish settlement since 1695, exporting cotton and importing slaves.

IISHJ tour includes:

Daily opening lectures and concluding discussions with Rabbi Adam Chalom, four nights accommodations, daily breakfast, shabbat (Friday night) dinner, Savannah to Charleston transportation, Lunch at Magnolia Plantation, all tour and entrance fees and gratuities.

Land tour per person (based on double occupancy): \$950.00

BOOKING DEADLINE: January 31, 2018

*Includes a Tax Deductible donation of \$200.00 to the IISHJ

For More Information and to Register Click Here:

<https://iishj.org/shalom-yall/>

Do you have questions? Email: operations@iishj.org

Phone: 847-383-6330

Czech Jewish Tour 2018

Dear Fellow Secular and Humanistic Jewish Community Members,

For some of you, I know you've read this letter before when I was advertising my Czech Jewish Heritage Tour last year. It was so successful that I'd like to see if I can do it again in 2018 and I'd love for you or other members of your community to be able to experience this wonderful and enlightening trip. You are receiving this in the hope that you might be interested in joining this tour yourselves or, at least, you would find a way to announce this to anyone you think might be interested in attending. Last summer, I was honored to have Jews from all over the United States experiencing this Tour.

My name is Barbara Weitz and I am a member of the JSCA (Jewish Secular Community of Asheville). I am currently retired from 35 years of teaching at Florida International University in Miami, FL and as serving as Director of Film Studies as well as Director of Czech Studies Program. I have had the privilege of spending every summer in Prague for the past 25 years. Because my experiences in the Czech Republic have been so superb and so awe-inspiring, and because I am now retired from the University and have moved to Asheville, NC, I miss bringing others over to the country

to allow them to experience this magnificent place.

Thus, I would like to offer all of you a very special opportunity, *whether you have previously traveled to Prague or not*. This trip is principally for adults and focuses on the Jewish Experience in the Czech Republic as well as on how history is being resurrected culturally, architecturally, and sociologically. What this is ***not*** is a 3 day superficial visit to the capitals of Eastern Europe (in fact, the Czech Republic is part of 'Central Europe'—or 'Mittel Europa') This is an in-depth look into a population of this part of the world that was once very prosperous but has largely disappeared. In the end of 1941, Reichsprotektor Reinhard Heydrich ordered the deportation of 82,309 Czech Jews out of a population of 118,310. Very few returned.

A little more about my background first. I have been teaching film studies at the Prague Film School (FAMU) ever since 1992 and have been in those years joined by many of my students at Florida International University as well as other universities that had heard about my Program over the past 25 years. I thought I knew everything about the Czech Republic until, this past summer, when I stumbled upon the beautifully reconstructed synagogue in Brandys nad Labem (home of the Brandeis family) which I had always wanted to visit.

From that visit, I learned about the exciting program being undertaken by the Czech government and the Jewish Community of the Czech Republic called 10 Stars (10 Hvezd). "10 Stars" is a creative and very well thought out strategy of development and promotion that is funded by the Czech Ministry of Culture and an approximately €10 million grant from the European Union. All the sites are owned by the Jewish community, and there are local partners in each place. Each site houses a permanent exhibition, based on one theme. Linked together, all the sites will, in effect, constitute a comprehensive Jewish museum spread out over the entire country.

As most of you probably know, the Czech Jews were among the strongest, wealthiest and most secular of the Jews of Central and Eastern Europe. Jews are believed to have settled in Prague as early as the 10th century. The 16th century was a golden age for the Jewry in Prague. One of the famous Jewish scholars of the time was Judah Loew ben Bezalel known as the Maharal, who served as a leading rabbi in Prague for most of his life. He is buried at the Old Jewish Cemetery in Josefov, . It is said that the body of the Golem (created by Maharal) lies in the attic of the Old New Synagogue where the genizah of Prague's community is kept. In 1708, Jews accounted for one-quarter of Prague's population. By 1780, almost none were living in the Jewish Quarter in downtown Prague. They had moved to the "suburbs".

I am planning to have Rabbi David Peter, 38, Chief Rabbi of Prague, selected by the Prague Jewish community in 2014, speak (<http://www.kehilaprag.cz/en/page/rabbinate/rabbi>). The tour I plan will spend time in Prague where we'll learn about the history and current state of Jewry in the Czech Republic. You will also have ***much time*** to explore or re-visit so many of the sites and museums located in and around Prague. Then we will take off by private bus to visit as many of the towns and the synagogues in them that have been reconstructed so far. The towns we visit and the time spent in and around the countryside will give you time to appreciate the whole of the Czech Republic—its countryside, medieval and Renaissance castles and towns (the Nazis didn't destroy these breathtaking reminders of history; nor did the Soviets or the U.S. armies as they liberated this fairytale country).

We will also be staying in the south of Moravia for 3 days, in Mikulov, not only to visit its magnificent synagogue and to stay in a former synagogues that has been carefully restored but also to visit the wineries and UNESCO protected castles for which this area is famous. All and all, it's a trip like no other and I ask you to think most seriously about reserving those 2 or so weeks in May-June to take advantage of this awe-inspiring experience.

I urge you to get in touch with me if you are interested in learning more about this tour and/or thinking of participating. My email is weitzb@fiu.edu

Hoping to hear from you,
Prof. Barbara Weitz, retired
Retired, Florida International University
Director of Film Studies
Director of Czech Studies Pgm
<http://10hvezd.cz/en/>
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**Happy
January Birthdays:**

Who We Are

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JCS Teachers: Judith Seid,
Jamie Ireland

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Movie Coordinator: Wendy
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Adult Programming: Karen
Furst



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