



**Tri-Valley Cultural Jews**  
Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community  
**TriValleyCulturalJews.org**  
[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)  
(925) 485-1049

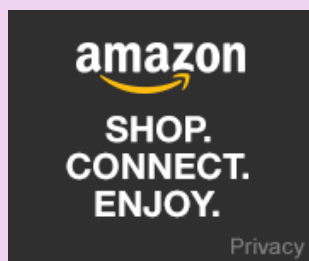
**Affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations**

**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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## ***November 16th, 2019***



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## **TVCJ Community News**

### **Board Meeting/TVCJ Planning**

**Date:** Tuesday, December 10th 2019

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

**Place:** We're using Google Hangouts to meet remotely for the next few months. If you wish to join the Google Hangout

please call Joy at 510-898-8789 and let her know.

**All members are welcome**

## **Our Sukkot Celebration**



Thank you to Vicki Hudson, Monika Poxon, Lillian and Thelma for having us at your home.

It was a lovely day to build a sukkah! Our temporary harvest home, the sukkah, is a good reminder of those who are needing shelter at this time. We had a wonderful potluck brunch and we decided who we are inspired by to invite into

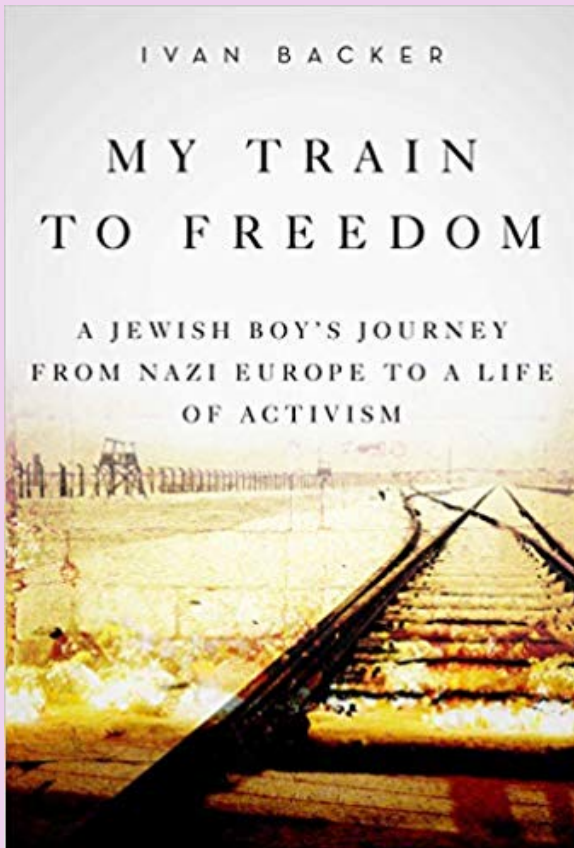
the sukkah with us for Ushpizin. Some included were MLK Jr. Amelia Earhart, Greta Thunberg, Hamilton and other family members of those who were there. We got to know each other better and played a rousing round of the song game while the kiddos played in the yard. The photo is of Mariana, Nadav, Ella and Dani Noy.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### [My Train to Freedom:](#)

### [A Jewish Boy's Journey From Nazi Germany to a Life of Activism](#)

**By,  
Ivan A. Backer**

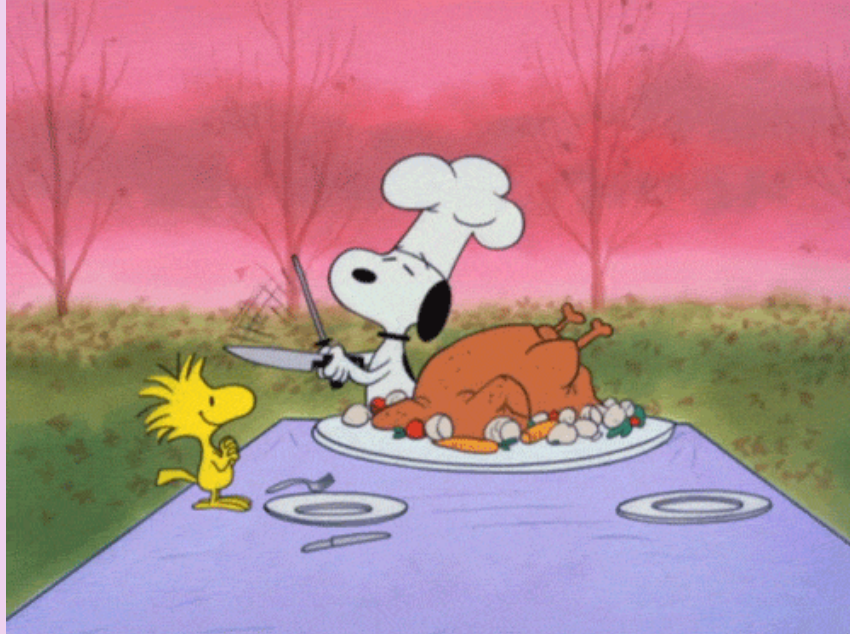


This is a memoir of the author who grew up in a Secular Jewish home, and as a boy escaped the holocaust by being part of the Kindertransport project organized by Sir Nicholas Winton, a young London stockbroker. The author was one of 669 Czechoslovakian children who were brought to England by these trains thus saving their lives. The book recounts his narrow escape from Czechoslovakia, his life in England and his trip to America.

Throughout his life he always asked the question, "why was I saved and others perished in the Holocaust?" To help answer this question, he lived a life full of activism for humanitarian causes and projects, which were dedicated to promoting peace and freedom. While in England he received an education at a Christian boarding school. Because, he was strongly influenced by his Christian teachers, he considered himself both Christian and Jewish.

In my opinion, too much of the main body of the book contained only mildly interesting retelling of family history. However, the final appendices tell of his relatives' experiences in the concentration camps and on the forced death marches. These accounts were very graphic. I found them difficult to read, but unfortunately quite true. If you would like to purchase this book from Amazon [click here](#).

**Jerry Zwick**



## Interfaith Interconnect Seventh Annual Thanksgiving Celebration

**Date:** Sunday, November 24th, 2019

**Time:** 5:30PM to 6:30 PM

**Place:** St. Augustine Catholic Church 3999 Bernal Ave., Pleasanton

You are invited to attend the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving celebration! Through a variety of readings, music and reflections, our many faith communities will explore this year's theme of Expressions of Gratitude.

After the program, there will be a reception from 6:30–7:00 with light refreshments. All are welcome, no RSVP needed! There is no cost to attend, but an offering will be accepted to benefit Sunflower Hill, a local nonprofit working to create a sustainable residential community for individuals with special needs.



### In November We Remember:

Jerry Kranz

### Who We Are

#### Board Members:

Karen Furst 925-784-1775

Jazz Saluen-Grabowski 718-  
578-7876

Ira Ehrlich 310-995-4149

Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404

Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956

Joy Randel 925-362-3245



### Happy November Birthdays:

Amy Greenberg

Emma Greenberg

**Newsletter:** Joy Randel 925-  
362-3245

**Webmaster:** Noah King 925-  
371-8585

**JCS Teachers:** Judith Seid,  
Jamie Ireland

**Family Shabbat/Havdalah**

**Coordinator:** Scott  
Pepper 650-296-6295

**Movie Coordinator:** Wendy

Karen Furst  
Kelly Mogilefsky  
Alexander Pepper  
Monika Poxon

Berenson 925-829-0554  
**Adult Programming:** Karen  
Furst 925-784-1775



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