

# News & Fun Activities

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## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

**TriValleyCulturalJews.org**

[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)

(925) 399-8029

**Affiliated with the Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization**

**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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***April 03rd, 2021***

**TVCJ Community News**

**Upcoming Events**

**Joke Night Havdalah**



We will be having our short secular, humanistic observance. If you would like to participate, then bring a G-Rated joke to share and have a braided candle, glass of wine/juice, and spices.

**Date:** Saturday, April 17th, 2021

**Time:** 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

**Cost:** We ask non-member adults to give a donation of \$10 if you are able to support our programming.

If you have questions, please contact Jamie

at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call (925) 399-8029.



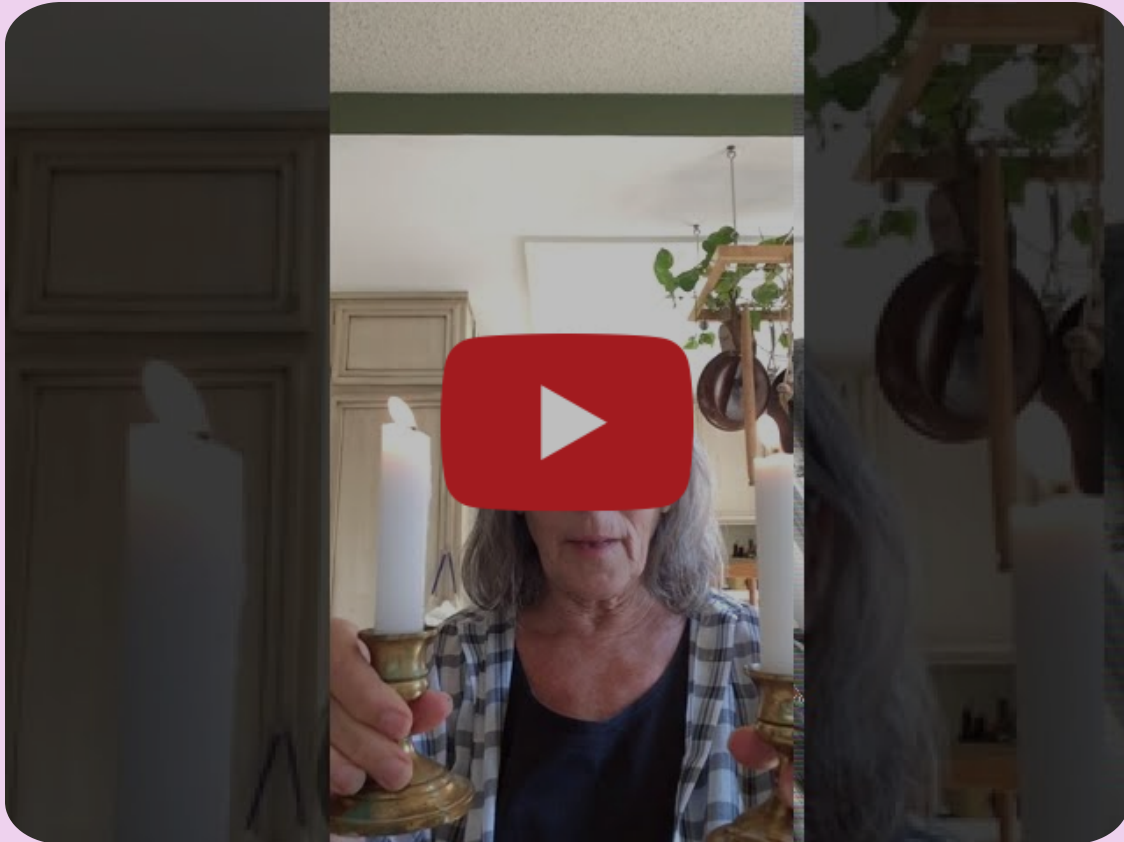
## Other Upcoming Events

**April 28th** --Jewvie Movie Night (Movie TBD)

**May 1st**-- Lag B'Omer (Tentatively a picnic at Athan Downs Park, San Ramon)

**May 16th**--Shavuous (TBD)

**May 22**--Havdalah (TBD)



## Shabbes Ashreis for Candles and Wine

Non-religious rituals (blessings) for lighting the sabbath candles and for wine. Secular and Humanistic Jews enjoy the sabbath at home and in community. <https://trivalleyculturaljews.org/>

## Philosophers' Cafe

Is there something on your mind that you would like to discuss with a group of friends? Or an issue that is important to you and that you would like a chance to explore with others? Consider hosting a Philosophers' Cafe, our monthly friendly discussion group. We're open to a wide range of topics - current events, ethics, introspective topics - pretty much whatever you think people might like to talk about for an hour. Let us know if you have a topic you would like to discuss in May, June, July or August.

**Day/Time:** Philosophers' Cafe meets on the **first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m.** for a friendly discussion of various topics, serious and light.

**Place:** Zoom

**Cost:** Free to members, \$10 suggested donation for non-members.

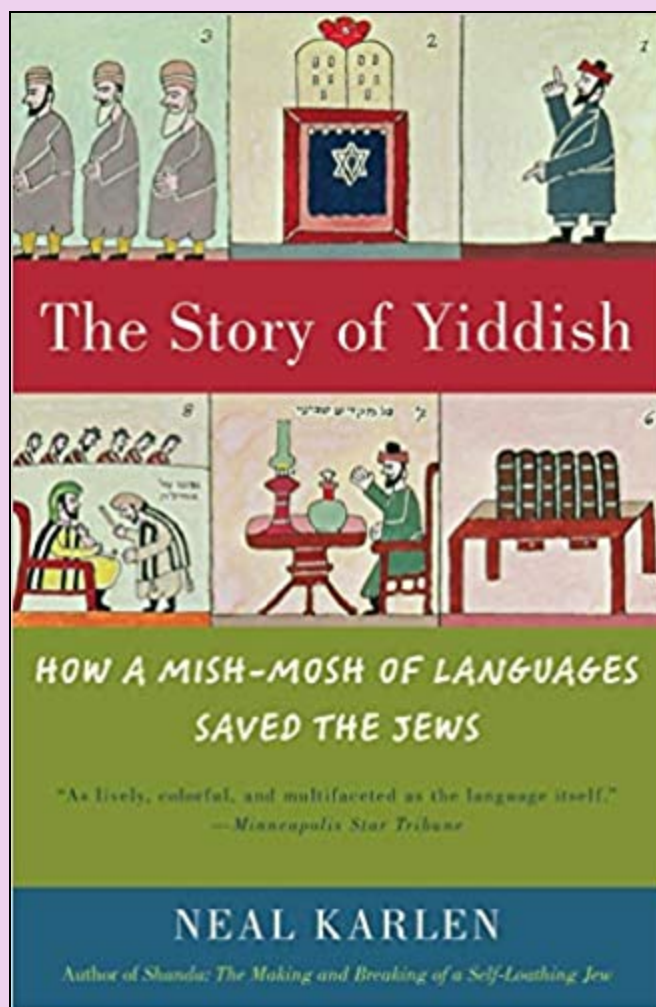
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## Our Community Passover

Our second Zoom Seder was delightful! We started the evening off by sharing some of the ways we are taking single-use plastics out of our lives including not using plastic bags to get produce at the store and using compostable bags instead. Thank you to all who helped prepare the event. Judy for helping with the Haggadah, Noah for PR, Carol for the evite, Ruthy, Rebecca and Judy for the music, Bret for kicking off the event, Kelly for tech support and all of our readers. You (and our holiday committee) made this happen. It takes all of us to put it on and we did it. We welcomed guests from all over the U.S which is one of the benefits of a Zoom event, but our hope is Next year...in person!

## Book Review

### **THE STORY OF YIDDISH HOW A MISH-MOSH OF LANGUAGES SAVED THE JEWS By Neal Karlen**



Oh Boy have I got a book for you! This is a book about the development of the Yiddish language and of Yiddishkeit over the centuries and through modern times. As the title suggests, the Yiddish language is a conglomeration of many languages. It is called the Robin Hood of languages because it has stolen parts of the languages of each of the countries that Jews have been kicked out of, such as Russia, Poland, Germany, et al. Yet Yiddish still lives, even though many have tried to kill it, including Jews themselves.

The book describes how the Yiddish language has been essential to the survival of the Jewish people, as it has moved from place to place. Contrary to first appearances, this is not a dry history book. It contains a great deal of humor. Many of the Yiddishisms and jokes of the great Jewish comedians and humorists are included. Furthermore, we learn about improbable Yiddish speakers such as Bob Dillon and General Colin Powell. We also see that Yiddish words do not have only one meaning. The author states that the whole language can be summed up in a single word: "Oy" or possibly, "Nu?" The language cannot merely be studied academically. It must be listened to and spoken in order to really understand its flavor.

I really enjoyed this book because it brought back so many memories of my childhood and of the language spoken by my parents when they didn't want us to know what they were saying. I think you will feel the same if you have any connection to the language (or not).

**Reviewed by  
Jerry Zwick**



### **In April We Remember**

Regina Seid  
David Geller  
Norma Mogilefsky  
Helen Bloom



### **April Birthdays**

Jeffrey D. Colvin  
Allison Berenson Schiffman  
Jerry Zwick  
Michelle Coren  
Mariana Noy  
Sarah Rees  
Paul Grabowski

## **Who We Are**

**Rabbi:** Judith Seid

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

### **Board Members:**

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski 718-578-7876  
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404  
Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404  
Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956  
Jesse Pino 925-605-6003  
Mark Shulewitz 510-846-9718

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

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

**JCS Teachers:** Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

**Holiday Coordinator:** Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

**Movie Coordinator:** Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554

**Joke:** Why couldn't the pony sing a lullaby? She was a little horse.



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