

News & Fun Activities

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

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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February 26th 2022

TVCJ Community News

Upcoming Events

Purim

Purim is coming! Join us for our Purim Celebration outside behind the Bothwell. We'll have a Hamilton themed Purimspiel courtesy of Noah King, costume parade, crafts and hamantaschen to take home. Masks are required for all attendants.

Date: 3/13/2022

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

Place: Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore, CA 94550 (Outside Behind the Westend Room)

Email: culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions. **There will be more information in the Evite.**

March Havdalah

Join our March 19th Havdalah celebrating Women's History. We will also have a short, Secular Humanistic ceremony. **There will be more information in the Evite.**

Date: 03/19/2022

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

Cost: Free to members, suggested donation \$10.00 per non-member adult if you are able.

Email: culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

March 3rd Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Day: First Thursday of each month (next one is March 3rd)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom (Please see Evite for Zoom information)

Cost: Free to members, \$10.00 suggested donation for non-members.

We've had a lot of fun discussing so many varied topics at our monthly friendly discussion group led by members. Last month Paul Grabowki led a fascinating discussion of the research into and the possible use of nuclear weapons. Our topics are sometimes timely current events, sometimes personal stories, sometimes ideas and issues. Join us the first Thursday of each month for a new topic! And of course, we'd love any of our members to lead a session - just think of something you'd like to hear people's stories or opinions about and let us know you're ready to lead. We have a discussion leader lined up for March, but the rest of the year is open and waiting for you! If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please let us know by emailing culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** and we'll schedule your session. Join us!

Passover

Join us for Passover! Zoom with us at 5pm on April 16th for our Secular Humanistic ceremony. Details to follow in the Evite.

Date: 04/16/22

Time: 5:00p.m.

Cost: Free to members, suggested donation \$10.00 per non-member adult if you are able.

Email: culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

JCS Special Event Passover Open House

Join us outside on April 10th for a special Passover event. We'll have a matzoh throw down, sing our favorite Passover songs and groove to some Passover tunes. Masks are required for all attendants.

Date: 4/10/22

Time: 10:30a.m.

Cost: Free

Email: culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

Jewish Culture School (JCS)

January JCS

Our January Jewish Culture School was so busy! We made an apple cake that the German Jews moving west in the 1840s and 50s might have made; it was delicious! Then we learned what it was like to sew denim, like the material used by Levi Strauss to make blue jeans. (It's hard!) We learned a dance called the Sher, which means "scissors" in yiddish - a sewing dance! - and practiced Hora Aggadati. We sang Di Gedanken Sind Frei and practiced singing Siman Tov u'Mazal Tov in advance of Ira's Brit Mitzvah ceremony this spring. And we talked about why Levi Strauss wouldn't hire Chinese workers in his factories. It turns out that some people then thought the same as some people think even now, that immigrants bring down the wages for everyone.

In Jazz's absence, our terrific aides, Colin, Sophia and Rebecca, stepped up and did a fantastic job filling in everywhere they were needed.



February JCS

In February we learned about Jews in the Civil War. Jews might have fought on both sides of the Civil War, but one thing remained the same: hardtack is pretty terrible! While most Jews did not support the South, we talked about how some Jews were able to justify slavery (hint: just because people did

it in the Torah, doesn't make it a good idea), baked some hardtack that really lived up to its name, and sang some freedom songs.



Three Generations of Jewish Women

In honor of Women's History Month in March, here's a story about three generations of Jewish women. My grandmother and grandfather were stalwarts of the Los Angeles Yiddish Culture Club.

My grandfather never wanted to be president, but was vice-president for as many maternal years as I remember. My grandmother was on the hospitality committee. Every single Saturday (except during the summer, when it was too hot in the old building that had no air-conditioning) she would go out to get cake and would get to the Culture Club early to help set up for that night's party or speaker or concert. My grandmother was also a Pioneer Woman. They raised money for poor Jews in postwar Europe to move to Israel or the United States or Canada or Cuba or Argentina or South Africa. My grandfather attended meetings where decisions were made.

When I was a child, I attended the Valley Kindershule two afternoons a week and on Saturday mornings. (My paternal grandparents started that shuleh so my aunt would have a place to learn to read and write Yiddish.) My father served as president for a few years. My mother taught and I remember her making tons of phone calls "This is Ethel Seid from the shuleh" she would start. She also helped develop the curriculum. Oh, and she drove us there and back. (She taught elementary school and was home in time to bring us. My father slept late on Saturdays and Sundays, so she took us then, too.) My father attended meetings where decisions were made. Sometimes.

Me, I'm a rabbi. I teach Jewish Culture School and create and lead holiday observances. I write the occasional column and give the occasional talk on Jewish topics to our Tri-Valley Cultural Jews and to other Secular and Humanistic Jewish communities. (Zoom is good!) I coordinate our Philosophers' Cafe. And *I* get to attend the meetings where decisions are made.

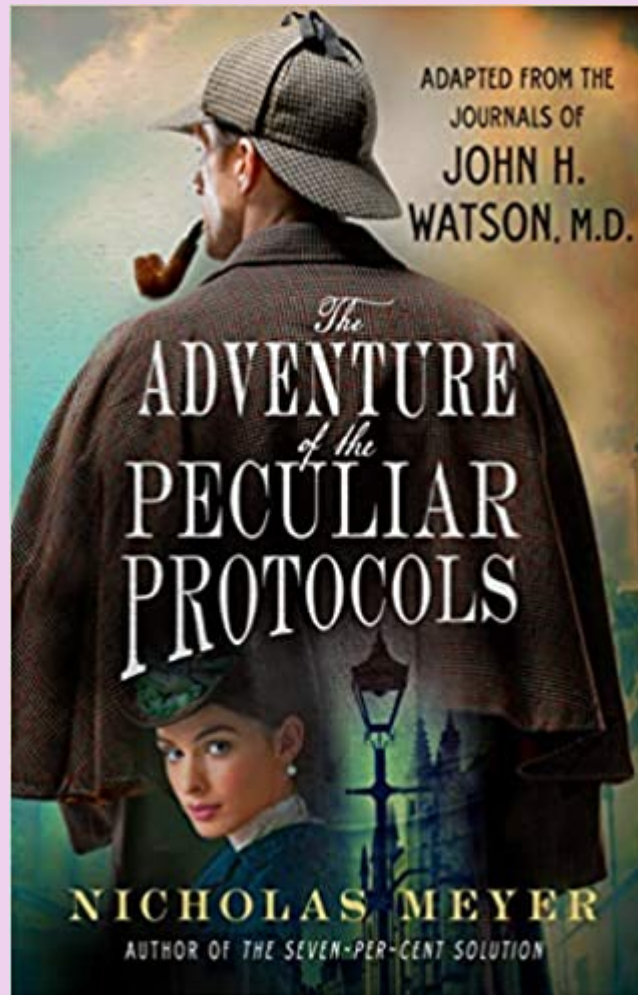
For information on interesting Jewish Women, check out the Jewish Women's Archive at <https://jwa.org/>.

By Judith Seid

BOOK REVIEW

The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols By

Nicholas Meyer



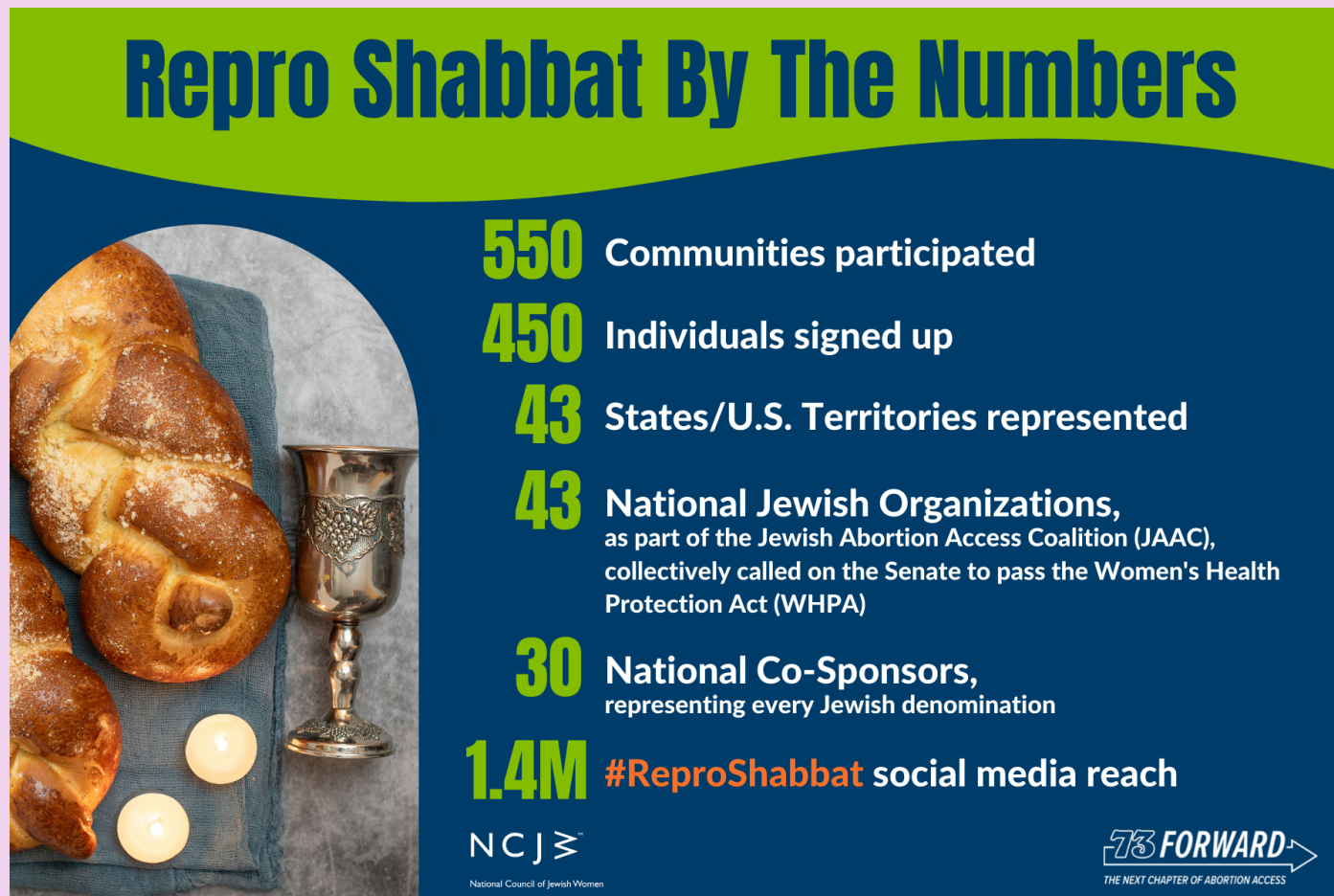
It's not often one can call a book about the Kishinev pogrom and the Protocols of the Elders of Zion "charming." But that's exactly how I'd describe *The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols* by Nicholas Meyer. Written in the voice of Dr. Watson, and, like all the best historical fiction, including real people and events, this short readable novel describes the adventures of Sherlock Holmes, Watson and other characters, imagined and real (including Chaim Weitzman and Israel Zangwill) involved in debunking the Protocols of the Elders of Zion. The conclusion, however, is less charming, but completely apropos of our own time – the power of a lie to outrun and outweigh the truth.

Image of The Adventure of the Peculiar Protocols: Adapted from the Journals of John H. Watson, M.D. [Click here to find this book on Amazon.](#)

Reviewed by Judith Seid

Our Reproductive Rights Shabbat

Last month, TVCJ held a Reproductive Rights Shabbat. We thought you might be interested in seeing this infographic, which shows how participating in Repro Shabbat was part of a larger conversation happening across the US.





Save the date! April 30th 2022

Ira Pino's Brit Mitzvah ceremony will be held **April 30th** in Livermore. Ira will be presenting several of his projects and there'll be lots of singing (of course). It's our tradition that TVCJ members bring desserts for after the ceremony, as it is a community celebration.

Explore a New Exhibition at The CJM

tikkun

for the cosmos,
the community,
and ourselves

[Click Here to Buy Tickets](#)

OPENING FEB 17, 2022

This February, help us welcome Tikkun: For the Cosmos, the Community, and Ourselves to The Contemporary Jewish Museum (The CJM)—an exhibition featuring works by thirty Bay Area-based contemporary artists reflecting on the Jewish concept of tikkun (Hebrew for “to repair”). The twelfth iteration of The Dorothy Saxe Invitational at The CJM, this exhibition re-examines tikkun as a phenomenon of care and interconnectedness that is grounded in personal action, environmental responsibility, and community, unfixed from its evolving meanings throughout history. Taken together, the works in this exhibition consider how the concept of tikkun can help us look critically both inward and outward, guide us through change, and build resilience for the ongoing work of repair.

**The 27th Annual East Bay International Jewish Film
Festival
March 12th through March 26th**

Check out eastbayjewishfilm.org for ticket information. We are co-sponsoring *With No Land*: With first hand testimonies and unique archive footage, the film retells the history of the Jewish Ethiopian community and the efforts made to bring them to Israel.

Operation Solomon brought 15,000 Jews from Ethiopia to Israel in under 24 hours. Hailed as a military operation that few countries could have mastered, the contributions of Ethiopian Jewish activists have remained mostly unknown. This documentary reveals the clandestine and often dangerous activities of the Ethiopian Jews themselves.

Guest Speaker: Yonatan Eyov, an Israeli emissary (shaliach) serving at Stanford University, will share his own story of immigrating to Israel at the age of six from Ethiopia and the present situation facing the Beta Yisrael community.



March 12 – March 26
The 27th Annual East Bay International Jewish Film Festival
15 Days of Inspiring

We're back with 29 inspiring & exciting films from Denmark, France, Germany, Israel, Russia, Switzerland & the UK.


Tri-Valley Cultural Jews is co-sponsoring the powerful documentary "With No Land" that starts its 7 days of streaming on March 24.

For tickets and the complete line-up:
Eastbayjewishfilm.org 925.240.3053

A film by
Aalam-Warqe and Kobi Davidian
Black & White films



WITH NO LAND ★ የከ መሬት



Script
Aalam-Warqe and Kobi Davidian

Art director
Neta Shaham

Original score
Shmaya Cohen

Cinematography
Idan Glikberg

Production coordinators
Adam, Eitan & Ravi Davidian

Graphic design
Oleg Fedorikov

Editing
Ayelet Claram

81min, Israel, 2021

BLACK AND WHITE FILMS

Interfaith InterConnect Religion Chat

Topic: "What holy books or other texts are important to your religion?"

Date: Wednesday, March 9th 2022

Time: 5:00p.m.via Zoom **The Zoom Meeting Opens at**

4:45p.m. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86485915504>

Optional breakout groups 6:00p.m. to 6:30p.m.

Speakers: Pastor John Bost, Holy Cross Lutheran Church Livermore and Dr. Asad Tarsin, Muslim Community Center East Bay Pleasanton.

If you missed the February 9th Religion Chat with speakers Rev. Ellie Kilpatrick of Unitarian Universalist Church Livermore and Mr. Bruce Bird, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, here is the link to the recording. <https://youtu.be/IDGJ3XcpGKw>.



In February We Remember

Benjamin Gorman
Rachel Hubbard
Dena Luborsky
Jeanette Maddon
Elinor Peel
Donald Wright

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

Rachel Rose 808-494-8586

Newsletter: Joy Randel

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky



February Birthdays

Derek

Greenberg

Yana Markey

Phoebe Shulewitz

Joke: What do you call a bear with no teeth? A gummy bear!



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