

# News & Fun Activities

[View this email in your browser](#)



Share



Forward



Tweet

## 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."



Share



Forward



Tweet

**\*\*Please share this with your friends by clicking on the Facebook, Email, or Twitter symbols above.\*\***

# March 26th 2022

## TVCJ Community News

Like and share our FaceBook page:  
<http://facebook.com/trivalleyculturaljews>

### ***Mishpokha Column***

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Jack Nachamkin, Margaret Goodman's husband, who had heart surgery in March.

## Upcoming Events

### **April 7th Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group**

**Date:** First Thursday of each month (next one is April 7th)

**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 Jerry Zwick led a discussion of competition in its many forms. 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 April, 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](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **925-399-8029** and we'll schedule your session. Join us!

## **Virtual Passover - April 16th**

Celebrate freedom from the comfort of your own home! Join us for our virtual Passover Seder this year, as we read our Secular, Humanistic Haggadah, sing our songs, and recline on the cushions of freedom! We miss noshing with you in person. Share a photo of what you're eating and who you're eating it with [HERE](#). Don't know what to cook? Find some of our favorite Passover recipes by clicking [HERE](#). **Zoom meeting information to follow in the Evite.**

**Date:** 04/16/22

**Time:** 5:00p.m.

**Place:** Zoom

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

**Email:** [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.

## **Jewish Culture School Event Passover Open House - April 10th**

Join our [Jewish Cultural School](#) (JCS) for a special Passover Open House. Make some matzoh, learn some songs and practice the Four Questions in four languages. We will meet outside with masks on to keep everyone safe. Kid centered, but open to everyone. Details to follow in the Evite.

**Date:** 4/10/22

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

**Place:** 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton 94588

**Cost:** Free

**Email:** [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **925-399-8029** if you have questions.



### **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.



### **Lag B'Omer Picnic**

Lag B'Omer Picnic on May 15th! Details to follow in the Evite.

### **TVCJ Board Covid Masking Policy Update**

The Board discussed masking at the March meeting. We decided that TVCJ and JCS events will continue with the same protocols (participants masked, events outside) until it's clear that numbers are staying down despite masking requirements being

relaxed more broadly (county/state/school district). We will reassess at the end of the JCS school year.

## Jewish Culture School



Jewish Culture School  
Word of the Week:

ברוך הבא

Ba-RUKH ha-BAH  
(one person)

ברוכים הבאים

Bru-KHIM ha'ba-YIM  
(more than one person)

WELCOME!

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

To do at home

Find out your family's immigration stories.



We covered so much ground in [Jewish Culture School](#) (JCS)! We talked about the migration of Jews from Eastern Europe to the U.S. and what it was like to go through Ellis Island. The Jews leaving Eastern Europe were looking for a safe place to live. We tied that into our upcoming celebration of Purim—our yearly holiday reminding us that tyrants have always existed and that there is always a need to speak truth to power. We made food that immigrants might have enjoyed—soft pretzels with optional yellow mustard (yum!)--and played some games their kids probably knew: hopscotch and Shimon Zogt (Simmon Says in Yiddish). We danced, and practiced singing the songs that Ira Pino has selected for his Brit Mitzvah.

## Our Purim Celebration

How sweet it was to gather together again! We had an epic Hamilton-inspired Purimspiel, games, crafts and schmoozing. Thanks to everyone who baked hamantaschen--delicious!





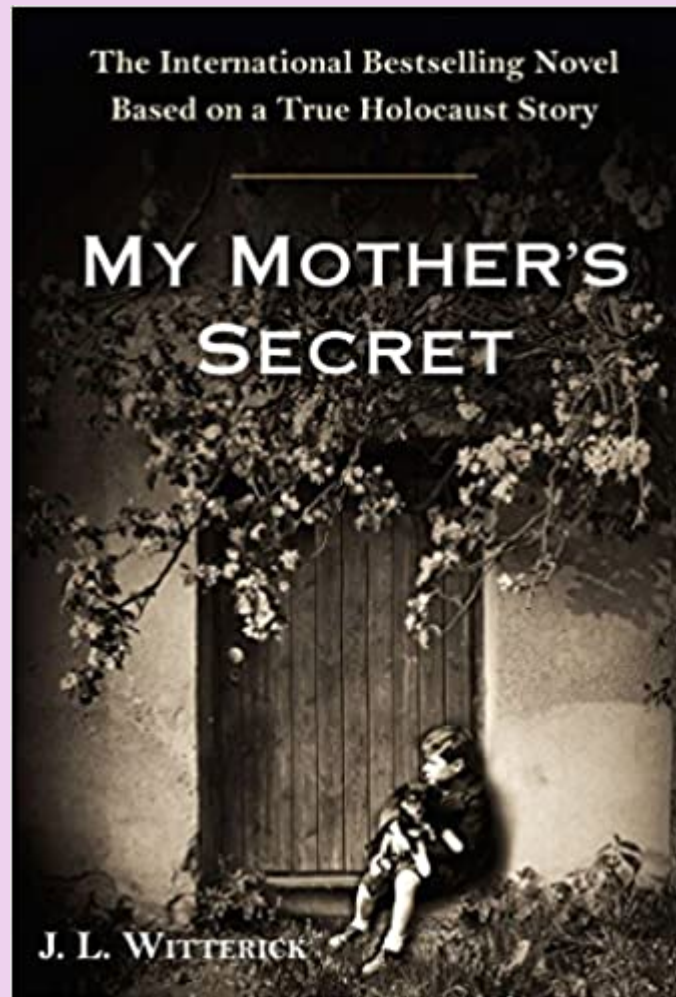
## **American Red Cross Blood Drive**

We joined our friends at the Eden Area Interfaith Council in February to contribute to the American Red Cross blood drive they hosted. Our team registered 37 total donors, collected 36 pints of blood and recruited 9 first-time donors. Our efforts have helped boost the community blood supply and ensure hospital patients have the lifesaving blood they need.

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **My Mother's Secret: Based on a True Holocaust Story**

**By  
J.L. Witterick**



As it says in the subtitle, this is a novel based on a true holocaust story. It tells of the unbelievable courage of both Jews and gentiles who faced certain death if their secrets were discovered.

This is a story of a gentile polish family who hide a Jewish family in a loft above their pigsty, a Jewish doctor with his wife and son in a makeshift cellar under the kitchen, and a defecting German soldier in the attic—each party completely unknown to the others. The matriarch of the family was asked why she risked her and her families' lives for people she barely knew. Her answer was that she

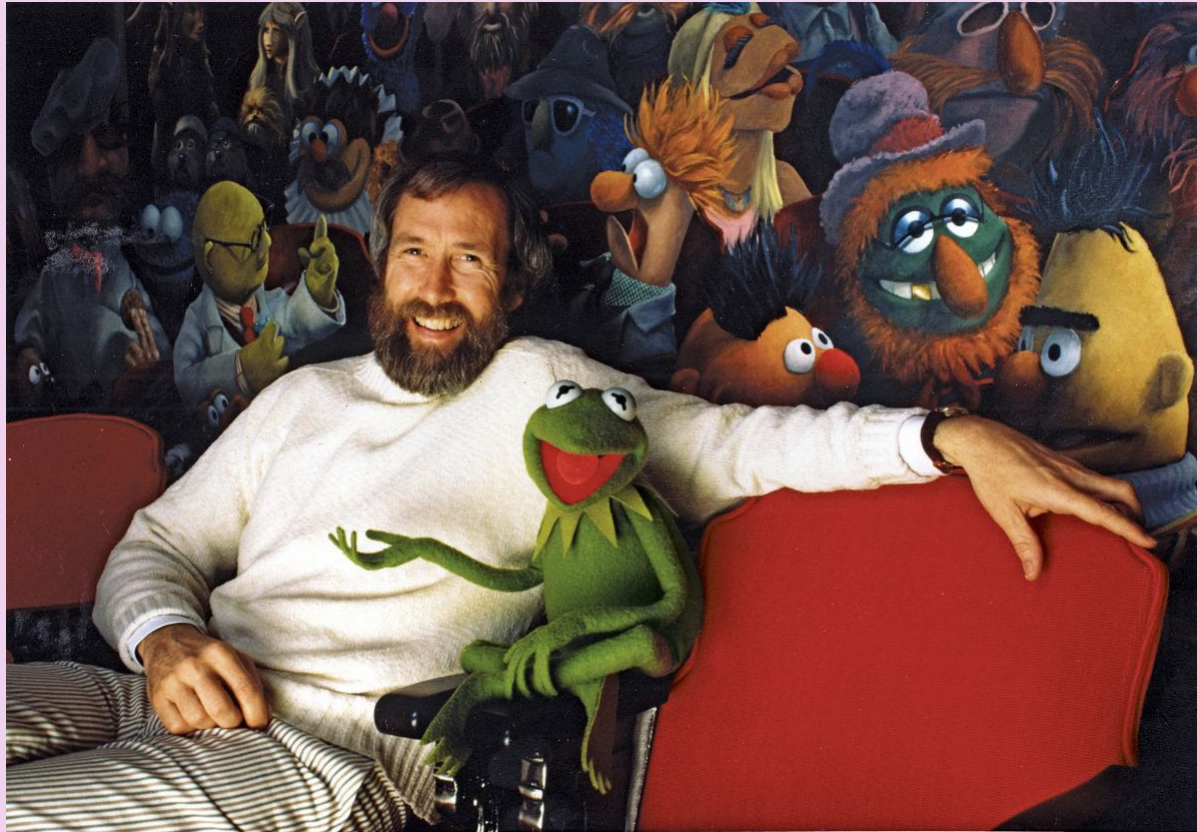


couldn't turn down people who were desperate and needed her help. She knew the certain fate of all of them if they were discovered. Her family had to be smart and resourceful as they were frequently under suspicion by others in the community.

This is a short book but a very powerful one. The characters were unforgettable and compelling. I would definitely recommend reading it. [Click here to find this book on Amazon.](#)

**Reviewed by Jerry Zwick**

**Contemporary Jewish Museum**  
**Opening MAR 31st (Mar 31, 2022–Aug 14, 2022)**  
[Click Here to Buy Tickets](#)  
**The Jim Henson Exhibition: Imagination Unlimited**



A celebration of the legacy of Jim Henson (1936–1990), trailblazing puppeteer, animator, cartoonist, actor, inventor, and filmmaker. Featuring more than 150 objects drawn from the beloved worlds of Sesame Street, Fraggle Rock, The Dark Crystal, Labyrinth, and more, the exhibition highlights Henson's groundbreaking work for film and television, his indelible mark on popular culture, and the profound social impact of his work. It also includes material from Henson's experimental film projects and his early work, presenting him as a restlessly creative performer and technical innovator. While Henson himself was not Jewish, his work celebrates diversity and inclusion, both core values of The CJM. Discover how Henson and his team of builders, performers, and writers created an unparalleled body of work, sharing characters and stories that represent diverse backgrounds and abilities. These stories continue to delight audiences and inspire people of all ages to look beyond differences and cultivate a

more compassionate, inclusive world.

Imagination Unlimited begins with a look at Henson's early life through images and reproductions of his early drawings and sketches. It then follows the steady rise of his career—from early works and experiments to the famed worlds of Sesame Street, The Muppets, and beyond. Featuring a wide range of artifacts, including more than twenty puppets, character sketches, storyboards, scripts, photographs, film and television clips, behind-the-scenes footage, and costumes, this exhibition offers a rare window into Jim Henson's boundless imagination and ingenuity. Don't miss your chance to see Kermit the Frog, Beaker, and Scooter, from The Muppets; Bert, Ernie, Grover, and Count von Count from Sesame Street; Red and Wembley from Fraggle Rock; Ludo and Fiery from Labyrinth; and Jen, Kira, and Aughra from The Dark Crystal.

## **Interfaith InterConnect Religion Chat**

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

**Speakers:** Parima Shah, Jain and Gaurav Rastogi, Hindu.

**Date:** Wednesday, April 13th 2022

**Time:** 5:00p.m.via Zoom **The Zoom Meeting Opens at 4:45p.m.**

**Zoom Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86898800415>

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

## **JCCSF Adult Hebrew Classes**

We are excited to announce that the spring term of online Hebrew classes for adults at the JCCSF, Jewish Community Center in San Francisco, will begin on **April 4th**.

Classes are open to students of all levels seeking to start, continue or perfect their study on the modern Hebrew language. Registration and more information are now available on the JCCSF website: <https://www.jccsf.org/program/hebrew/>

## **Who We Are**



### **In March We Remember**

Teible Barach  
Henry Eilbirt  
Jeannette Eilbirt  
Rebecca Friedman



### **March Birthdays**

Lois Ehrlich  
Adam King  
Nadav Noy  
Sierra Randel  
Debby Seid  
Leslie Zwick

**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

**Joke:** How do snails fight? **They slug it out.**

---



---

*Copyright © 2022 Tri Valley Cultural Jews, All rights reserved.*

[unsubscribe from this list](#)

[update subscription preferences](#)

