

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) 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 30th 2022

TVCJ Community News

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

Mishpokha Column

Mazal tov to Board Member Rachel Rose and her husband Zhaomo Yang who welcomed a son, Yanai, in late March.



Today, April 30th 2022

Join us outdoors on Saturday, April 30th at 10:00a.m. to celebrate Ira Pino's Brit Mitzvah. We will have a short Secular, Humanist ceremony and Ira will share some of the projects he has worked so hard on during the last two years. It is our tradition that guests bring a dessert to share. Ira's family will provide bagels and schmear. Attendants should bring a chair and a face mask. Address available through the Evite.

Upcoming Events

If you need more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, then please email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**.

May 5th Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Date: First Thursday of each month (next one is May 5th)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom (Please see Evite for Zoom information.)

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

April's Philosophers' Cafe asked us to imagine superpowers, and their ethical responsibilities. Our topics are sometimes timely current events, sometimes personal stories, sometimes ideas and issues. We need new topics - they can be either serious or lighthearted. If you have an idea, please let us know! 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. 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!



Lag B'Omer Picnic: May 15th

Join us for our Lag B'Omer Picnic at Athan Downs Park in San Ramon on May 15th. We'll play some field games, so bring your frisbee, and do our watermelon toss, as is our tradition. More details to follow in the Evite.

May Virtual Havdalah: May 21st

Save the Date for our Virtual May Havdalah on May 21st. We'll have a short Secular, Humanist ceremony and play some games.

Shavuos and Annual Meeting: June 5th

Save the Date for our Shavuos Celebration and Annual Meeting on June 5th!

Jewish Culture School



Jewish Culture School 3/27/22: Music touches us in ways that words alone cannot. At our 3/27/22 Jewish Cultural School we explored how the Jewish Labor Movement used music to help workers feel unified and empowered to fight for change, and then wrote our own songs, like the catchy "Wear a Mask You Fools" to the tune of Happy Birthday. We made our own pickles, a popular Jewish street food, and learned the Israeli Labor song Kadima Hapoel, Forward the Worker!



Jewish Culture School 4/24/22: Today's JCS took us back to the Civil Rights Movement and a crucial time of history for Jews: what is the cost of staying silent, and what can be gained from standing up? We sang songs to prepare for Ira's Brit Mitzvah, made some black eyed pea hummus, and reiterated that we must always Shtey Oif (stand up) for what's right.

[Click here to find out more information about Jewish Culture School \(JCS\).](#)

Last Month's Purim Fun

In case you missed our Purim celebration last month, or just want to relive the hilarity, TVCJ's 2022 Purimspiel can be viewed by clicking the arrow on the video below or by clicking this link here: https://youtu.be/TIfx2o_-5aM

Special thanks to Noah and all the stars of the play!

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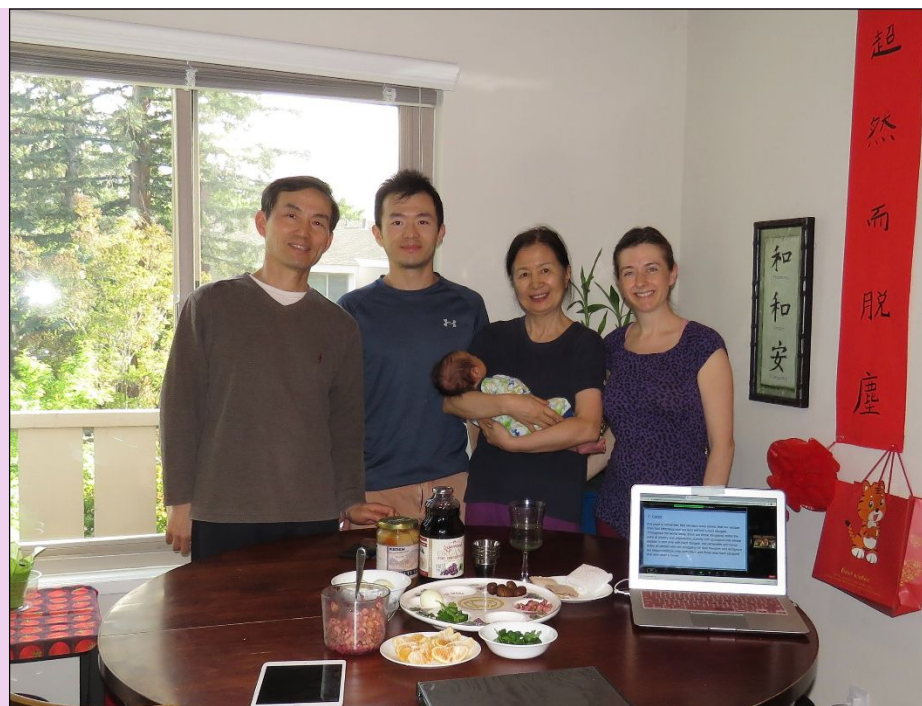
- **Jesse Pino**



Our Virtual Passover Seder

Several dozen of us gathered online for a seder that combined the traditional and contemporary, finding modern meaning in ancient stories and symbols. We lit candles, sang together/separately, and enjoyed the foods on our seder plates before adjourning for our separate dinners in our own homes.

Our Pesakh seder was lovely, thanks to all those who helped make it so. Kelly Mogilefsky created the slides. Jazz Salwen-Grabowski presented them. Judy Seid and Rivka Gates led the music. And thanks also to our readers and everyone who attended. Happy Passover! Next year in person!







Our Passover Open House

We had so much fun at our Jewish Culture School Passover Open House on April 10. We made matzah - and it was good! We also made Miriam's Cups for our seder tables,

practiced the Four Questions in several languages, danced and sang the songs we sing at our Seder. Two new families attended and we welcome them. Special thanks to aides Sophia, who was in charge of the matzah baking, and Rebecca who was everywhere she was needed. Thanks also to Jamie Ireland and Jesse Pino for stepping in and helping. We couldn't have done it without you.



Our Women's History Havdalah

Have you heard about the German Jewish mathematician whose contributions to abstract algebra changed modern physics?



Emmy Noether

The American Jewish Supreme Court Justice?



Elena Kagan

The queer 17th century fencer and opera singer?

Well, they were all featured at our Women's History Havdalah, as well as many other revolutionary women.



Julie d'Aubigny

Book Review

**Not Our Kind
By
Kitty Zeldis**



This novel set in New York post World War II is about Eleanor, a Jewish college graduate who finds a job as a live-in tutor to a post-polio girl, Margeaux. She and her family live in a very upscale neighborhood that is primarily non-Jewish. In order to fit in better and to avoid religious issues, Eleanor secretly changes her surname from Moskowitz to Moss. While Margeaux becomes very attached to her tutor, the family is very skeptical. But since the girl has had difficulties with other tutors the parents let her stay and live in the guesthouse.

We find out later that the father is an alcoholic womanizer. The mother tolerates this, as she fears what neighbors and friends would think and say if they knew.

Also, the mother's brother comes to live with the family and becomes romantically involved with Eleanor. When Eleanor goes to spend time with the family at their vacation home we find that sexism and anti-Semitism rear their ugly heads.

All the characters in this book are forced to make a variety of life altering decisions thus making them quite interesting. I feel that the book for the most part is well written, but at times has the feel of a soap opera. [Click here to purchase this book on Amazon.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

Interfaith InterConnect Religion Chat

May 11th and June 8th will be hybrid meetings (Zoom and in-person options).

Date: Wednesday, May 11th 2022

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

Topic: How does your community welcome children/youth into the faith? What rite of passage ceremonies are traditional in your culture? Join us to hear the history, ages and traditions included in these events.

Speaker (In-Person): Hosai Majaddidi, MCC; LDS speaker confirmation and flyer are pending

Come In-Person: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 1501 Hillcrest Ave, Livermore.

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89068839705>

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

Date: Wednesday, June 8th 2022

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

Topic: TBD

Speaker (In-Person): TBD

Come In-Person: Muslim Community Center East Bay, 5724 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton.

Zoom link: TBD

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



Coming of Age - Detroit Labor Pains

[Click Here to Watch](#)

This week marks the 48th anniversary of the founding convention for the Coalition of Labor Union Women (CLUW), formed to help women become union leaders and give their issues greater weight during contract talks.

The presiding officer at the event, which attracted more than 3,000 women from 82 unions, was Myra Komoroff Wolfgang (May 1914 – April 1976), one of the nation's first women union organizers and the subject of this week's episode of Coming of Age: Detroit, the award winning digital series from Silver Screen Studios and Reboot.

A labor leader and women's rights activist in Detroit from the 1930s through the 1970s, Wolfgang advocated for the working poor and for women in the workforce.



jewish film institute

April's Online Short Moshe & Amira Eliot Gelberg-Wilson, UK, 2019, 14 min

When a Jewish boy and a Muslim girl's families meet for the first time, an unexpected incident threatens their relationship. *Moshe & Amira* explores cultural and religious identity in modern British society through the paradigm of a tragicomedy.

[Click here to stream the film](#) and read an interview with director Eliot Gelberg-Wilson via [The Cinegogue](#).



In April We Remember

Helen Bloom
David Geller
Norma Mogilefsky
Regina Seid

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



April Birthdays

Jeffrey D.

Colvin

Michelle Coren

Paul Grabowski

Ya'el Seid-Green

Samy Markey

Mariana Noy

Sarah Rees

Allison Berenson Schiffman

Jerry Zwick

Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret

Mogilefsky

Joke: Why is England the wettest country? Because the queen has reigned there for decades.



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