

# 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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# October 29th 2022

## TVCJ Community News

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

Welcome to new members Sarah Minyasin and Jason Marengo and their children: Max, Raffi and Lenti.

## Upcoming Events

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

### November 3rd Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

**Date:** First Thursday of each month (next one is November 3rd)

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

**Place:** Zoom (The Zoom link will be in the evite you should receive soon.)

**Cost:** Free to members, \$15.00 suggested donation for non-members.

Philosophers' Cafe is back! Our monthly friendly discussion group is a place where people of any generation can come to talk about topics both weighty and lighthearted. The program is led by a different member each month. We meet on zoom for an hour or so on the first Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. Suggested donation for non-members is \$10. Join us at 568 599 7884.

## Shabbos Gathering

**Date:** November 12th, 2022

**Time:** 2:30p.m.

**Theme:** Spinning Yarns, Stories, Stitching & Knitting

Join us for an outdoor afternoon of crafting with friends. Bring a project you're working on and a story to share. Face masks optional outdoors when social distancing is possible. Details to follow in the Evite. Email us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **925-399-8029** with questions.

## Chanukah Celebration - *Save the Date*

**Date:** December 18th, 2022

**Time:** 10:30am

Welcome the light with us at our annual Chanukah Celebration! Join us for games, music and more holiday fun. Save your junk! Recyclables, styrofoam packing materials, boxes - whatever you can find. We will be using them at our Chanukah party! Details to follow in our Evite.



## Judaism 101

Have you forgotten everything you learned in Jewish school as a child? Did you never go to Jewish school, maybe because you weren't brought up Jewish? Are you in the dark about what happens at religious services, how the Jewish calendar works, what happens at a mikveh or what the Talmud actually is? We are considering a once monthly zoom Judaism 101 class exploring these and other topics. Interested? Please let us know by emailing [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) and we will get back to you with date/time possibilities. Of course, the class will be free to members and will be open to non-members at a reasonable fee.

## Our Calendar

### 2022:

**August 13** - Shabbos

Gathering

**August 28** - JCS Open House

**September 11** - JCS

**September 25** - Erev Rosh

Hashanah gathering

**October 4** - Kol Nidre

(evening) gathering

**October 9** - Sukkah raising

party

**October 23** - JCS

**November 3** - Philosophers'

Cafe

**November 6** - JCS

**November 12** - Shabbos

**November 20** - JCS

**December 1** - Philosophers'

Cafe

**December 4** - JCS

**December 18** - Chanukah

party (first light of Chanukah)

### 2023:

**January 1** - JCS

**January 5** - Philosophers' Cafe

**January 22** - JCS

**February 2** - Philosophers'

Cafe

**February 5** - Tu B'Shvat

**February 19** - JCS

**March 2** - Philosophers' Cafe

**March 5** - Purim

**March 19** - JCS

**April 2** - JCS/Passover Open

House

**April 6** - Philosophers' Cafe

**April 8** - Community Passover

Seder

**April 16** - JCS

**April 30** - JCS

**May 4** - Philosophers' Cafe

**May 7** - Lag B'Omer

## Covid Policy Update

During the October Board Meeting, the Board decided that given the declining Covid transmission rates, we will adjust our mask policy at TVCJ events. For outdoor events, when social distancing is possible, masks will be optional. For indoor events, we still require that people wear masks.

## This Month in Jewish History

In November of 1210, King John began imprisoning the Jews in England. John was the king because the actual king, Richard the Lionhearted, was on Crusade. While fighting for Jerusalem, Richard tried to hire away Saladin's medical advisor, but was unsuccessful. The doctor in question? Maimonides!

Maimonides is known as the author of abstruse influential Jewish texts such as The Guide of the Perplexed. His doctoring was not quite so robust - for example, he was a proponent of elephant dung as a medicine. He was also known for his dedication to work, both rabbinic and medical, often working late into the night and neglecting his family to do so.

## **Interfaith InterConnect of the Tri-Valley Thanksgiving Interfaith Service**

**Date:** Sunday, November 20th, **In-person**

**Time:** 3:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m., simple reception following 4:30p.m.-5p.m.

**Place:** St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 1315 Lomitas Avenue, Livermore

**Topic:** This year's program will feature a variety of ways different faiths and cultures express gratitude.

**Cost:** FREE, but an offering will be accepted to benefit a local charity.

After the program, there will be a simple reception from 4:30p.m.-5:00p.m. offering light refreshment and the opportunity to socialize with attendees and presenters.

Livermore-Pleasanton Interfaith Clergy Association is planning the service. Ample parking in the adjoining lot. All are welcome. **NO RSVP is need.** For more information, check the Interfaith Interconnect Facebook Page at <https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/> [interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com](mailto:interfaith.interconnect@gmail.com)

Interfaith Interconnect of the Tri-Valley's mission is "*To enrich, inform and educate ourselves and others about the great diversity of faiths and cultures in our valley.*"

## **National Council of Jewish Woman**



# Action alert!

## Today's top actions

**The issue:** An application for the first-ever over-the-counter (OTC) birth control pill was filed with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June.

**The good news:** The FDA announced an advisory committee will meet on November 18th to review the application. This meeting is a key step in the FDA's regulatory process and an important opportunity for public testimony emphasizing the strong evidence and broad support for OTC birth control pills for people of all ages.

**Your task:** [Click Here](#) to submit testimony letting the FDA know that everyone should have the



**TELL THE FDA: WE  
NEED OVER-THE-  
COUNTER BIRTH  
CONTROL NOW!**

**Submit your testimony**

resources they need to plan their futures, including the birth control method of their choice, free from barriers or stigma. *Submissions must be received by November 3.*

### **TAKE ACTION NOW**



**URGE THE SENATE:  
PRESERVE EVERYONE'S  
RIGHT TO MARRY WHO  
THEY LOVE**

**Pass the Respect for  
Marriage Act**

**The issue:** The right for LGBTQ+ individuals to marry who they love was a hard-fought battle but is under threat: Justice Thomas's concurring opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* urged the court to reconsider *Obergefell v. Hodges* — the case that secured the right to same-sex marriage.

**The good news:** The Respect for Marriage Act would require the federal government to recognize the validity of same-sex and interracial marriages. The bill has already passed in the House with bipartisan support and is now being considered in the Senate.

**Your task:** Send an email to urge your Senators to pass the Respect for Marriage Act and ensure the continued right to same-sex and interracial marriage.

### **TAKE ACTION NOW**

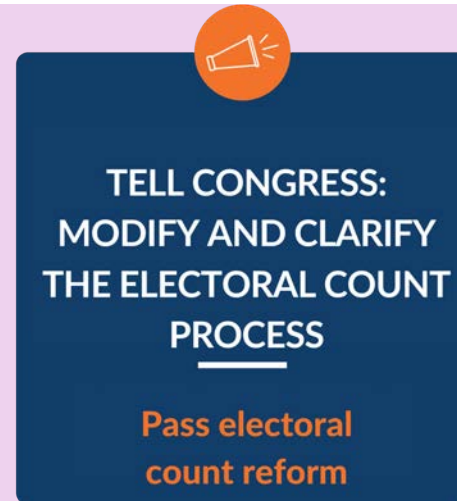


**The issue:** After the January 6th, 2021 insurrection on the capital, the Senate must clearly define and modernize the electoral count process to mitigate future abuse of power.

**The good news:** The Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act of 2022 modernizes and clarifies the process of certifying the presidential election, and a version was passed by the House on September 21st, 2022.

**Your task:** Send an email to your Senators, demanding they pass this act and continue to advocate for meaningful voting rights reform.

**[TAKE ACTION NOW](#)**



## BEND THE ARC

### This is what Latin-Jewish community looks like

Right now we're in the middle of Latino/x Heritage Month (el mes de la herencia Latina) — a month that honors the richness, history, and culture of Latin heritage.

To celebrate Latino/x Heritage Month this year, BEND THE ARC is partnering with our friends at Jewtina y Co. and sharing stories from Latin-Jews\* in our community.

Read on to meet Leili and learn what being a Latin-Jew means to her:

"My favorite part about being an Iranian, Latina, Jewish woman is that I LOVE my cultures, languages and food! It means I choose to be a caretaker of my loved ones. It means I welcome people into my home with



nourishment and care. It means I have access to recipes that have been in my family for generations. It means I have access to languages that have existed for centuries and that are still very part of my everyday life.

As we continue to build this community together, let us gently remind ourselves that we are not a monolith. We are multicultural, multi-lingual, multi-faith and multiracial.”

**- Leili Herlinda Davari**

## **Our Holiday Celebrations**

### **Rosh Hashanah**











We gathered together to celebrate the new year in our community with a reverse Tashlich (we picked up trash to heal the world), readings, songs, and many blasts from the shofar. Wishing everyone a sweet new year!

So many people helped make the gathering so lovely. **Readers:** Jazz, Jeff and Mary Frances Colvin, Solomon, Rachel, Bret. **Zoom access:** Bret for setting it up and Kelly for hosting the zoom. **Setup:** Elsa, Ira, Sophia. **Shofar blower:** Sofia. **Leading Tashlich:** Jamie. **Bakers and song leaders:** Judy and Jazz. **Organizer Supreme:** Jazz. **Master program author:** Judy. And everyone who

attended for 2 clean-ups - the Tashlich trash clean-up and the schlepping of chairs back into the building.

## **Yom Kippur**



It was a beautiful night to gather outside for poetry, introspection and music to honor our Yom Kippur



traditions. Many thanks to everyone who joined, either in person or via zoom, and to Sophia for blowing the shofar, Judy for creating another amazing program, our readers: Jeff, Jesse, Solomon and Jazz, music by Judy and Jazz, and to Derek and Amy Greenberg for adding their moving song of remembrance.

## **Our Sukkah Raising**



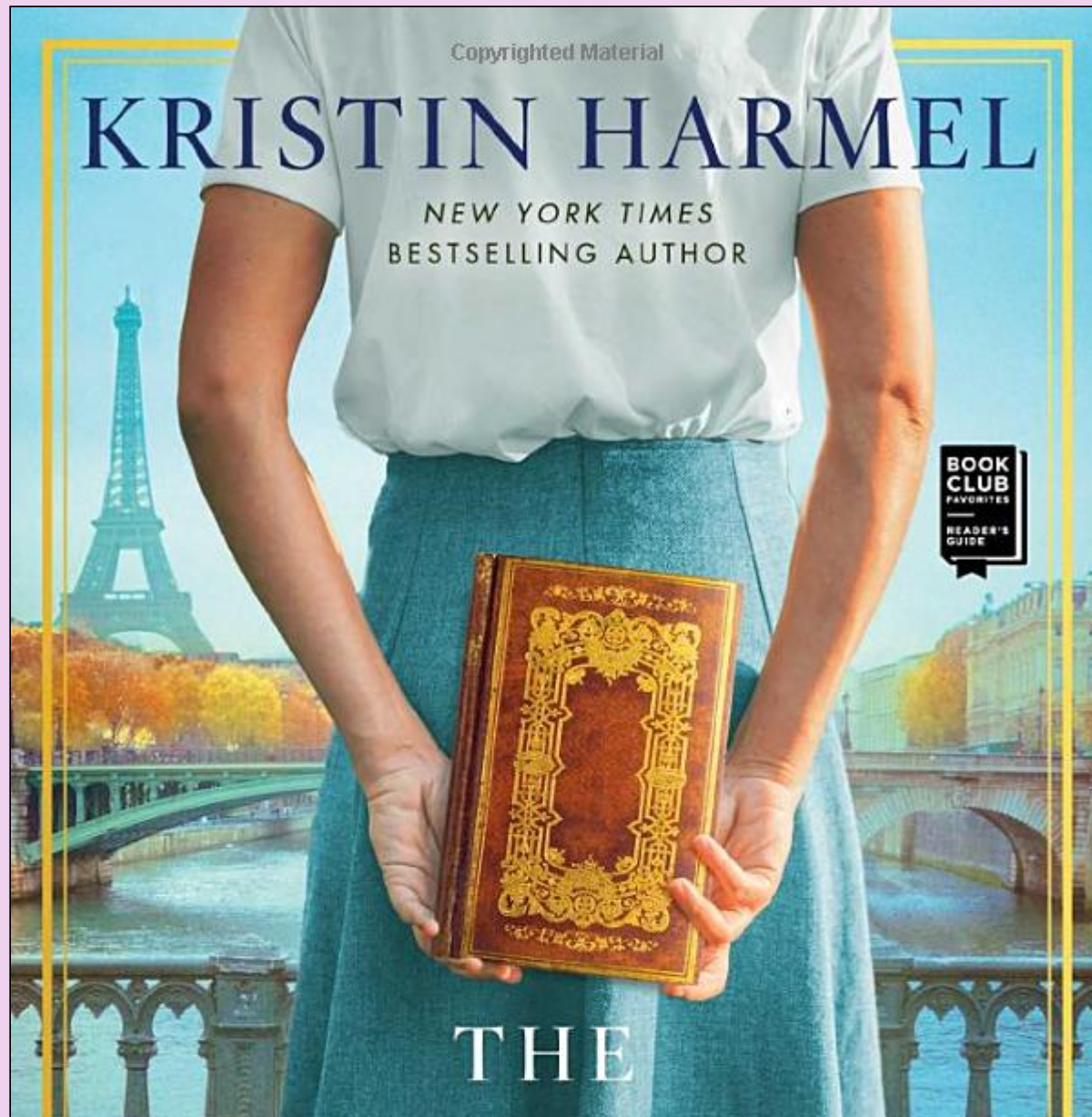


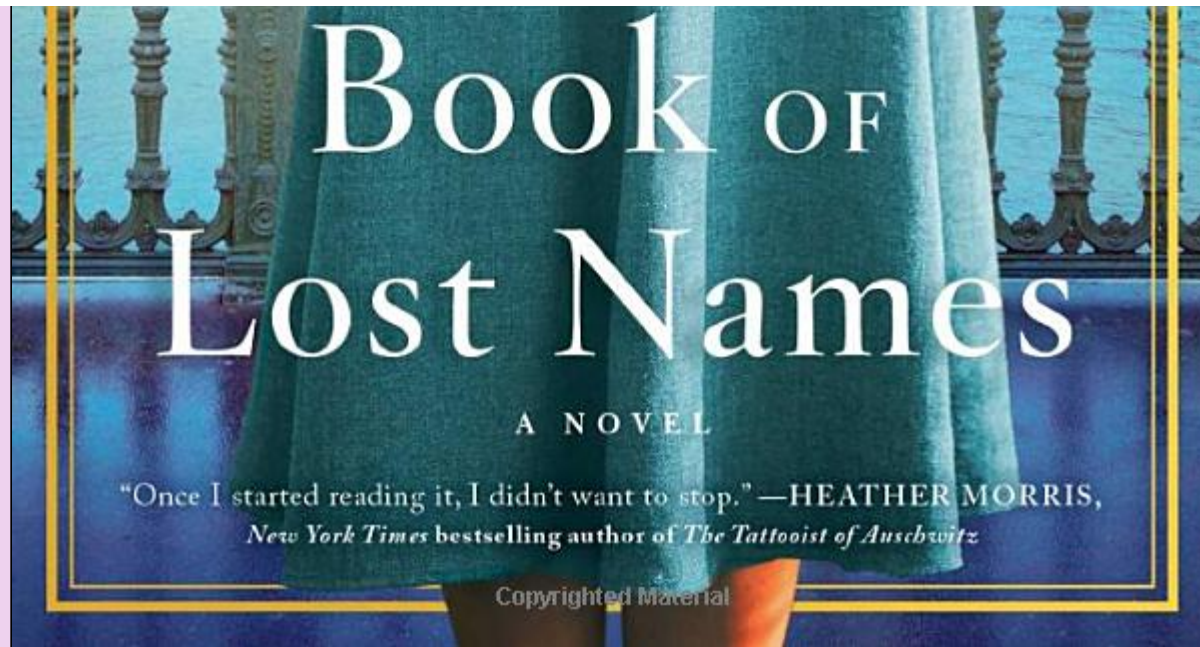


What a beautiful day to gather under the Sukkah! We built a beautiful one this year decorated with lanterns, pinecones and branches. We made an Ushpizin paper chain with all the people we want to invite under the Sukkah with us. Many thanks to Jesse, Minta, Ira and Maggie for being such wonderful hosts, to Sarah and Mark for the gorgeous Suminagashi activity, to Jazz for bringing fruit and organizing the lantern activity, Judy for bringing supplies, and to everyone who came and made our Sukkah beautiful!



**BOOK REVIEW**  
**THE BOOK OF LOST NAMES**  
**BY**  
**Kristin Harmel**





This is a book of historical fiction that takes place in France during World War 2. The main characters are Eva and Remy. They were both forgers who developed thousands of fake documents so that Jewish children could escape the Nazis.

Eva decided that while they gave the children phony names to put on their documents, they needed to have their real names recorded somewhere so that hopefully some day they could be reunited with their parents. These names were placed in the pages of an ancient religious book with the aid of a secret code that they developed. The book was housed in the library of the church in which they secretly did their work. Hence, the Book of Lost Names.

Eva and Remy fell in love, this love affair was not without obstacles. The most challenging of which was that Eva's mother was opposed to it on the grounds that she wanted Eva to marry a Jewish boy. She felt that marriage to a non-Jew would mean that she would be abandoning her family as well as her community, which was already in grave danger. The mother got her way when Eva and Remy were separated by the demands of the Jewish resistance movement in which they served. Each presumed the other was murdered by the Nazis.

This is a story of individuals who exhibited amazing courage in the face of extreme danger. It also told not only of the great and undying love Eva and Remy had for each other, but also of their devotion to the

tasks which saved countless Jewish lives. The book was extremely well written and was a real page - turner. I would most highly recommend it.

[If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.](#)

**Reviewed by Jerry Zwick**

## **TVCJ PayPal Giving Fund Page**

*We now have a PayPal page where you can quickly and easily donate to Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. Simply scan the QR code or visit: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2326042>*



### **Who We Are**

**Rabbi:** Judith Seid

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

**Board Members:**



### **In October We Remember**

Mary Gates  
Taki Greenberg  
Adina Senensieb  
Seymour Seid



### **October Birthdays**

There are no birthdays this month.

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:** What is the most popular winter sport in Israel? **Answer:** Downhill Shalom.



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