

# 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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# March 25th 2023

## TVCJ Community News

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

## 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**.

## Our Calendar

March 2 - Philosophers' Cafe

March 5 - Purim

March 19 - JCS

March 26th - JCS/Passover Open House

April 8 - Community Passover Seder

April 16 - JCS

April 30 - JCS

May 4 - Philosophers' Cafe

May 7 - Lag B'Omer

May 21 - JCS/ Shavous

June 1 - Philosophers' Cafe

June 4 - JCS / Annual Meeting

## The Right to Bodily Autonomy

It's Pesakh, the holiday we commemorate as the celebration of freedom from slavery. What does slavery mean? It means that your body is subject to the will of another, that you must labor for the benefit of others and have no means to escape this burden. The essence of slavery is that your body is not your own. On this holiday celebrating

freedom, let us remember those who are no longer free - those in 26 states in this free country who have no rights to determine what to do with their bodies. Let us redouble our efforts to ensure the freedom of all - those enslaved all over the world and those at home who have lost their bodily autonomy. If you're looking for how to act - the [National Council of Jewish Women](http://www.ncjw.org) is a leader in the fight. [NCJW.org](http://www.ncjw.org).

**By Judith Seid**

## **Jewish Culture School Passover Open House: Tomorrow, March 26th 10:30a.m.**

See why Jewish Cultural School is so much fun! Come to our Free Outdoor Passover Jewish Cultural School Open House on March 26th at 10:30a.m. We'll learn about Passover traditions from around the world and make some homemade matzoh. Our teachers, Jazz and Judy, will be there to answer all your questions and lead kids in a fun craft they can take home. Jewish Cultural School meets twice a month for kids ages 5 to teen. Masks are required. Want more info? Email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call us at **(925) 399-8029** or find us at <https://trivalleyculturaljews.org>

**[For more information about Jewish Culture School click here.](#)**

## **TVCJ Virtual Passover Seder - April 8th 5:00p.m.**



Come celebrate freedom from slavery with us from the comfort of your own home! Zoom in to join our Secular, Humanist Passover Seder on Sunday, April 8th at 5p.m. We'll sing our songs, drink our wine (or grape juice) and tell our stories of liberation. We encourage everyone to gather with friends and loved ones for dinner after our zoom seder.

Don't know what to cook? Find some of our favorite Passover recipes [HERE](#)

We're using symbolic items as part of our Seder. Find a shopping list of items for your Seder plate [HERE](#).

We miss noshing with you in person. Share a photo of what you're eating and who you're eating it with [HERE](#).

Want to share your Seder at your home, or the home of another? Email us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 699- 8029** and we'll try to connect you with someone in your area.

Not getting our Evites? Email us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 399-8029**. You can find us at [www.trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://www.trivalleyculturaljews.org). Free to members, suggested \$10 donation per non-member adult if you are able.

You can make donations to TVCJ through Paypal or Venmo. Our handle is Tri-Valley Cultural Jews.

## **Celebrate Lag B'Omer with us - May 7th 10:30a.m.**

Join us for an outdoor potluck, field games and our annual melon toss on Sunday, May 7th! More details to follow in the Evite.

## **Jewish Culture School (JCS)**

**Make Chocolate Matzah Toffee with Us.  
Click on This Video to Get the Recipe!**



**JCS 3/19/23**

We journeyed to North Africa today the way Jews did back in 500 BCE. We made delicious carrot salad and gorgeous wire jewelry accented with beads. Hot apple cider kept us warm during the drizzly class!









## **Join Our [Jewish Cultural School](#) team!**

We're looking for a fun, dynamic co-teacher to sing, dance, cook and teach about Jewish culture and history. JCS meets twice a month for ages 5 to teen. A curriculum will be provided. Email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 399-8029**.

**Tri Valley Cultural Jews Wants You!  
Join Our Board!  
Make Your Voice Heard!**

Help guide the direction of our dynamic Secular, Humanist Organization by joining the Board. The Board meets monthly from 7:00p.m.-8:30p.m. on Zoom to make decisions about events and other TVCJ initiatives. Board membership is open to any TVCJ member, including recently Brit Mizvah-ed teens. Please email us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 399-8029** if you would like more information about serving on the Board.

## **Open Position: Eden Interfaith Representative:**

Meet 1x a month, the first or second Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm, with other leaders at their location in Hayward and give Secular Jews a voice. Tasks involve representing TVCJ in Interfaith actions, reporting back to the board on Interfaith activities, and volunteering (or finding other volunteers) for actions you find important.

## **Our Purim Celebration 2023**

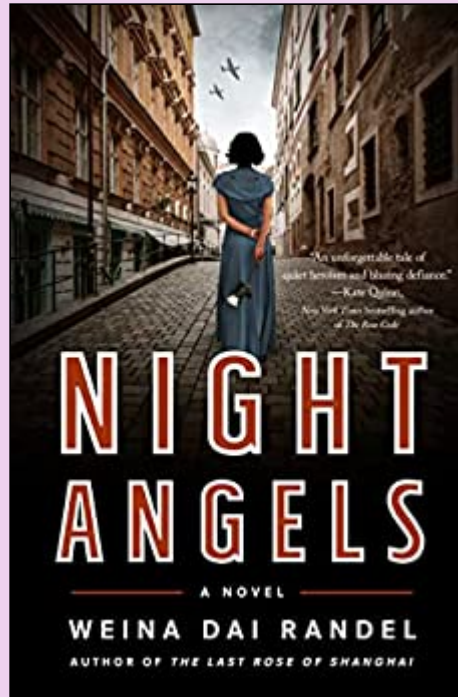


Thanks to everyone who joined us for our Purim Celebration! The groggers were noisy, the hamantaschen were delicious and the spiel was hilarious! Many thanks to Sarah for planning our crafts and Sophia for making sure the hamantaschen didn't burn. **If you would like to watch the Purim Spiel, then click on the video below.**



**BOOK REVIEW  
NIGHT ANGELS  
BY**

## WEINA DAI RANDEL



This novel tells the story of Feng Shan Ho, his wife Grace, and their son Monto. Dr. Ho held the position of Counsel General of the Republic of China during World War II. The story takes place mostly in Vienna, Austria.

At one point the Jews of Vienna are told by the Nazi government that they cannot emigrate from the country. Grace convinces Dr. Ho that all Jews that cannot leave will probably face execution. Of course, there is a frantic effort to obtain exit visas. Dr. Ho is the only person who is authorized to write these visas. At the risk of losing his position and possibly his life and that of his family, Dr. Ho hand writes thousands of visas. He thus comes under grave threat from his ambassador, the Nazi representative, and the local police directing him to quit issuing the visas to the thousands of Jews who line up at the door of his embassy. This decision has a profound effect on his life and that of his family.

This book illustrates the life and death struggles of the Austrian Jews to leave their country in the face of execution. It also illustrates the incredible courage of those Jews and gentiles that risked their lives to help them. Even though this book is well written and exciting, I have to warn you that parts of it, which tell of the brutality of the Nazis, are difficult and unpleasant to read. Nevertheless, I would recommend it. **[If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.](#)**

## Interfaith Interconnect

**In-Person Religion Chat:** Wednesday, April 12th, 5:00p.m.-6:00 p.m. including time for audience questions.

Optional breakout discussion groups 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m. Doors will open at 4:30p.m.

**Topic:** How does your religion adapt itself to reflect changing times?

**Speakers:** Troy Witt, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and Pastor Brad Biggerstaff, Asbury United Methodist Church

**Location:** 1501 Hillcrest Avenue, Livermore (Ample Parking in Parking Lot)

**All are welcome! Please feel free to invite others to attend.**

<https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect>

## 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>*



Yahrzeit Memorial

**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

## **Who We Are**

**Rabbi:** Judith Seid **925-485-1049**

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

**Board Members:**

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Rebecca Ireland

Bret Mogilefsky

Jesse Pino

Rachel Rose

**Newsletter:** Joy Randel

**Webmaster:** Noah King

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

**Holiday Coordinator:** Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

**Movie Coordinator:** Bret Mogilefsky

**Joke:** Can a match box? **Answer:** No, but a tin can!



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