

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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TVCJ Community News

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

Upcoming Events

If you would like to attend one of our events email us at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **(925) 399-8029** for an Evite. You can find us at trivalleyculturaljews.org. Free to members, suggested \$15 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.

Our Calendar

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

**Philosophers' Cafe - May 4th 7:00p.m.
Monthly Friendly Discussion Group**

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or just something fun to think about. It's different every time, so give it a try. We regularly meet the first Thursday of each month for a multi-generational discussion on a topic chosen by a different participant each month. We never know what's coming up!

Zoom ID 568 599 7884

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



Join us for our Lag B'Omer Picnic at Athan Downs Park in San Ramon on May 7th at 10:30a.m. We'll play some field games, and do our annual watermelon toss, as is our tradition. Please bring a dish to share, any games you want to play, and a mask for when social distancing isn't possible.

Shavuos Tradition

Other eat dairy meals (blintzes and cheesecake, yes!) because this is the time the young mammals born earlier in the spring are weaned, and there's plenty of milk available. In some communities, it's the tradition to stay up all night studying Jewish texts. Since I think that all texts are Jewish texts (trust me, I have grace of state; I can make anything Jewish), it is my considered rabbinic opinion that all children can stay up as late as they want on shavuos, as long as they are reading.

By Judith Seid

Shavuos--Creekside Park, May 21st 10:30a.m.

We're people of all the books! Join us for our Shavuos Book Fest on May 21st at 10:30a.m. at Creekside Park in Pleasanton. We celebrate Shavuos by sharing the best book each person read this year. We can't wait to hear your book recommendations! Iced tea and cookies will be provided. Bring your favorite snack if you're able.

Annual Meeting Save the Date - June 4th Noon

Our Annual Meeting is just around the corner! Join us to make decisions about where we're going as an organization and how we're going to get there. And after we talk, we'll eat.

Judith Seid Speaking At Interfaith InterConnect Religion Chat - June 14th 7:00p.m.

Judith Seid, will be presenting in person. **Topic:** What is the significance of the calendar our TVCJ community uses. How has it shaped her and our community? How has our community shaped it? She will highlight some of the important observances and their significance and how they are celebrated.

Judith Seid is the author of the book [God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage, and Community](#). Her presentation will probably be in Pleasanton, the location has not be announced. A second speaker is pending. **Watch for further details! All are welcome! Please feel free to invite others to attend.**

One Survivor Remembers Film

One Survivor Remembers is Gerda Weissmann's account of surviving the Holocaust. This film was produced in 1995 by HBO and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. [Click here to see the film.](#)

Jewish Culture School

JCS 4/16/23

There have been Jews in Yemen since the time of the Second Temple. We learned a Yemenite dance step and tried embroidery, a traditional craft of Yemenite Jews. Both men and women embroider. We made zhug, too, and ate it on pita. Here are some pictures.



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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 or call **(925) 399-8029**.

Open Position: Eden Interfaith Representative:

Meet 1x a month, the first or second Tuesday of the month at 7:00p.m, 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.

We need Board members!

TVCJ is in trouble. If we do not get a minimum of 4 board members next year, we will not be able to sustain the organization. Please consider helping out and maintaining our unique organization! Board Membership is not a

large burden; 2-3 hours per month.

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 or call **(925) 399-8029** if you would like more information about serving on the Board.

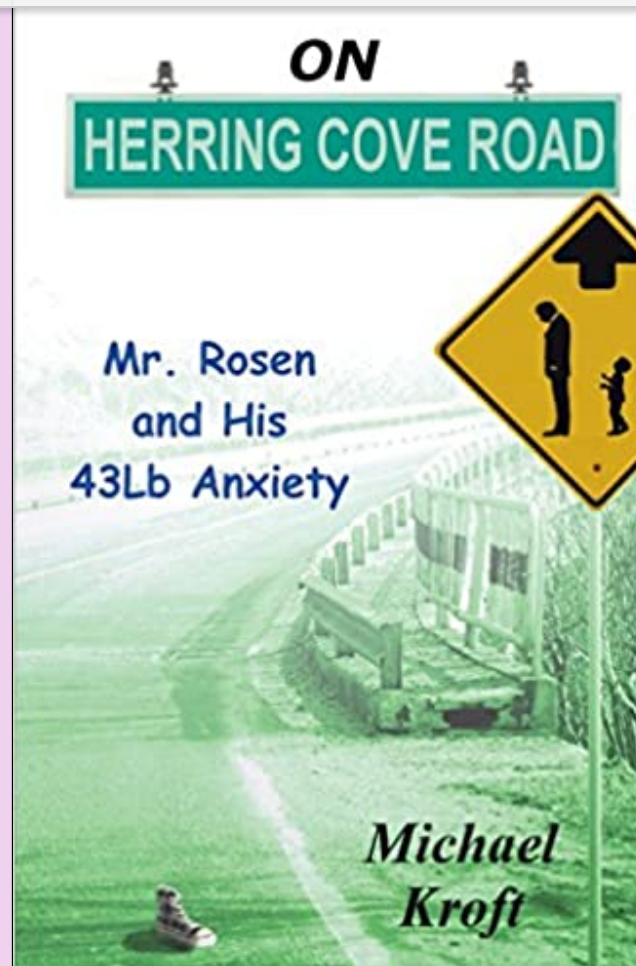
Our Passover Celebration

Passover was sweeter with you! Thank you to everyone who celebrated Passover with us this year! We thank Kelly and Bret Mogilefsky for handling the waiting room, Judy and Jazz for the music, Peter Grabowski for running the slides, and we thank those who read.





**BOOK REVIEW
ON HERRING COVE ROAD:
MR. ROSEN AND HIS 43LB ANXIETY
By**



Mr. Rosen is a crotchety elderly Jewish man who recently moves next door to a single mom with a needy but mature 11-year-old son who addresses him as Mr. Jew. The man initially just wants to isolate himself but finds it difficult as the boy gradually develops a father and son type friendship with him.

All the characters become dependent on each other due to their neediness and their ability to help each other cope with sudden changes in their lives.

Both families are faced with the prejudices and bigotry that exist in the town as well as in their extended families.

This heart-warming novel, which takes place in Halifax, Nova Scotia, contains humor, tragedy, and drama. It is extremely



jewish film institute

April's Online Short: BROKEN/FIXED

Directed by Joanne Feinberg

BROKEN/FIXED centers around a conversation with director Joanne Feinberg's 83 year-old mother and 17 year-old daughter about their complicated and complex relationship with their Jewish noses.

Head over to [The Cinegogue](#) to watch the film and read an exclusive JFI interview with the director.

Interfaith Interconnect

Virtual Religion Chat: Wednesday, May 10th, 5:00p.m.-6:00 p.m. including time for audience questions.

Optional breakout discussion groups 6:00p.m.-6:30p.m. **Zoom room opens at 4:45p.m.**

Topic: The Speakers will talk about the significance of the calendar their religion/community uses. How has it shaped them and their community? How has their community shaped it? They will highlight some of the important observances, their significance, and how they are celebrated.



SAVE THE DATE for the June 14th 7:00p.m. Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat. Our own, Judith Seid, will be presenting in person on the same topic.

Judith Seid is the author of the book [*God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage, and Community*](#). Her presentation will probably be in Pleasanton, the location has not been announced. A second speaker is pending. **Watch for further details!**

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>



If you would like to attend one of our events email us at culturaljews@gmail.com or call (925) 399-8029 for an invite.

You can find us at trivalleyculturaljews.org. Free to members, suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able.

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In April We Remember

Helen Bloom

David Geller

Norma Mogilefsky

Regina Seid



April Birthdays

Jeffrey D. Colvin

Michelle Coren

Paul Grabowski

Ya'el Seid-Green

Samy Markey

Mariana Noy

Sarah Rees

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: Two Windmills are standing in a field. One asks, "What's your favorite style of music?" The other says, "I'm a big metal fan."



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