

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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May 27th 2023
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. Masking is optional outdoors when social distancing is possible.

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

Mishpokha

Mazal tov to Michelle Coren on her graduation from Washington State University with a Bachelors of Science in Kinesiology. Michelle is living in Washington another year to continue her job as the manager of performance nutrition for the Washington State University football team.

Congratulations to Dr. Sarah Minasyan on earning her MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania!

Philosophers' Cafe - June 1st 7:00p.m. Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

How should we pay the national debt? What's the best decision you ever made? How do you know what you know? What makes a good friend? If these are the kind of discussions you might like to have with a group of friends, join us for Philosophers' Cafe, our monthly friendly discussion group. We meet on zoom on the first Thursday of each month from 7 p.m. to about 8:00p.m. or 8:15p.m. We never know what the topic will be until we get there - so there's no homework. Join us June 1st at zoom ID 568 599 7884. See you there!

Annual Meeting Save the Date - June 4th Noon

Where are we going and how do we get there? Join us for our TVCJ Annual Meeting and make decisions about the TVCJ agenda, budget, and board members. This important event only happens once a year and is open only to TVCJ members. Come to our Annual Meeting and let your voice be heard. Sandwich fixings will be provided by the Board.

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

Our wonderful Judith Seid, will be speaking in-person at this month's Interfaith InterConnect Religion Chat on Wednesday, June 14th from 7:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Topic: What is the significance of the Jewish calendar? 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.

Location: The Muslim Community Center East Bay, 5724 W. Las Positas Blvd., Pleasanton. Conference Room/Suite 100. (west side of building).

Judith Seid is the author of the book [*God-Optional Judaism: Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History, Heritage, and Community.*](#)

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

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

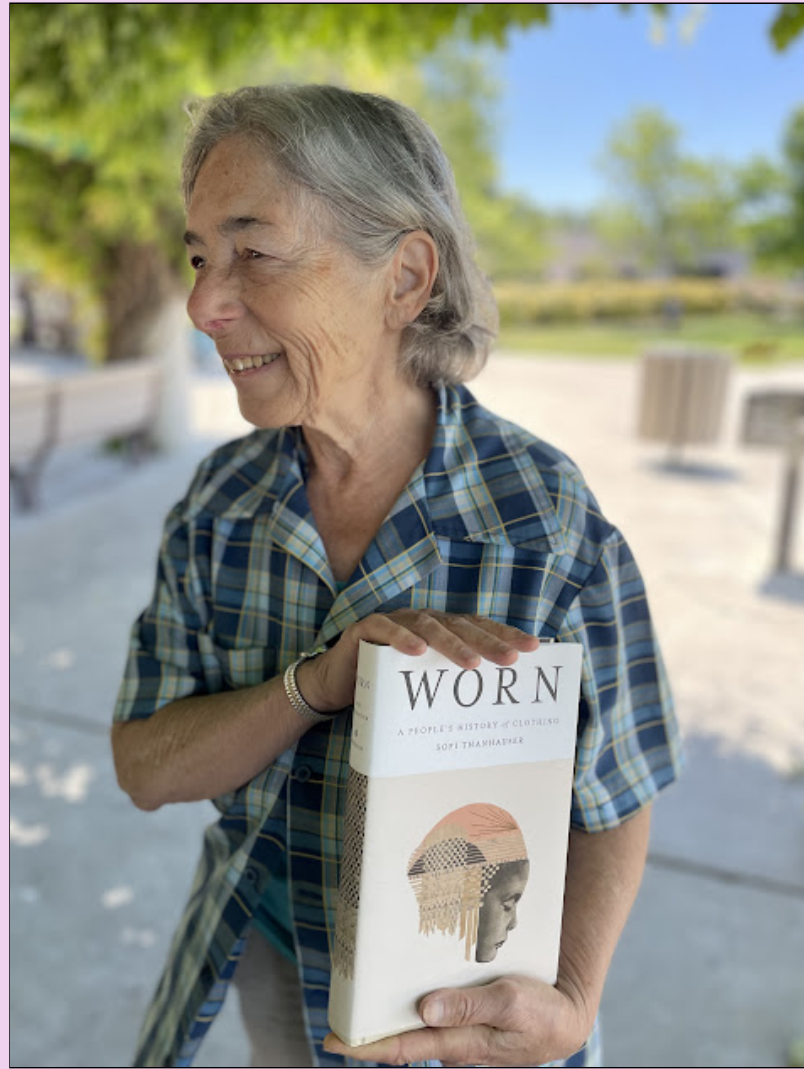
Lag B'Omer

What a beautiful day for a watermelon toss! Thanks to everyone who came out and made our Lag B'Omer Celebration special. We can't wait to hear about your favorite book at our Shavuot Gathering on May 21st.



Shavuos Bookfest







We're people of all the books! Our Shavuot Bookfest had the best recommendations. Thank you to everyone who shared their best read of the year!

Here are some of our favorite books that we shared at Shavuot 2023:

If you would like to purchase any of these books on this list, [Click here to see these books on the TVCJ Goodreads bookshelf.](#)

Blindsight by Peter Watts

Bret: A sci-fi, first contact book that draws on a lot of recent research about cognition, and discusses the extremes of Human Experience

The RIE Manual for Parents and Professionals - Magda Gerber

Rachel: A great resource for new parents

We're Different, We're the Same - Sesame Street

Yanai

The Amulet series by Kazu Kibuishi

Jazz: An enthralling graphic novel series

Blitz by Daniel O'Malley (The Checquy Files #3)

Paul: A fun supernatural thriller with bureaucracy

Magyk by Angie Sage (Septimus Heap Series)

Elsa: Very descriptive, draws you in, very dramatic

Hyperbole and a Half by Allie Brosh

Maggie: Relatable comics about, life, dogs, and dealing with depression

They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera

Sophia: It may make you cry

Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmis

Jamie: Single mom chemist in the 1960s with cooking show

Worn: A People's History of Clothing by Sofi Thanhaus

Judy: Devastating histories of the different fabrics we wear

Avoiding Apocalypse by Jeff Colvin

David: A history of scientists working to end the Cold War, by one of TVCJs own

Foundryside Trilogy by Robert Jackson Bennett

Jesse: Action fantasy with comedy, a great magic system, and a bit of philosophy

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow by Gabrielle Zevin

Noah: Two friends come together in the world of videogame design

All our Wrong Todays by Elan Mastai

Noah: What if our reality is the wrong one, and there's a way to change it?

Magpie Murders by Anthony Horowitz

Jazz: A British mystery novel with a twist!

Jewish Culture School

JCS Last Class for the Year

What a beautiful (and delicious) way to end this Jewish Culture School year! We made Italian Date Cake and Coconut Rocks, and learned how to transform our hands into little faces that can sing Shalom Chaverim! Thank you for a wonderful year--updates coming soon about the fun in store for next year.







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.

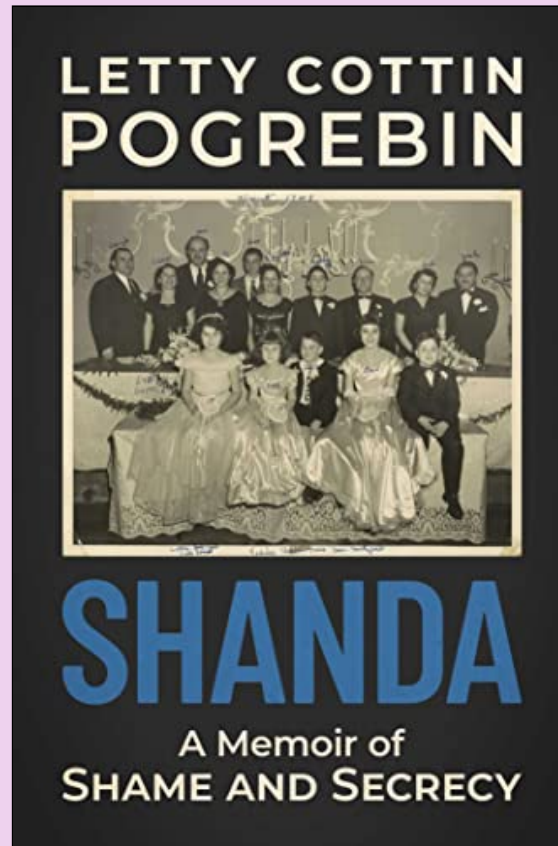
We need Board members!

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.

Book Review Shanda: A Memoir of Shame and Secrecy By

Letty Cottin Pogrebin



The author of this memoir is the founder of Ms. Magazine. Her early family life was replete with shame and secrecy, including the fact that she had a sister that nobody told her about because she was born out of wedlock. This was considered a Shanda, or a shame in the Jewish community. Letty was unaware of the number of shandas that others in her family had to deal with because nobody talked about them. Shandas were considered black marks on the family name that nobody wanted to disclose. She later found out that almost all families had shandas of one type or another. These included such things as violence, crime, child sexual abuse, etc.

Jewish immigrants in America valued the ideal family life, which was a problem-free existence. They wanted to portray the ideal family who followed all Jewish laws and rituals as well those in the greater community. Those who strayed in one way or another kept it a secret. Many times, these secrets came back to haunt them in different and painful ways.

This book was very well written. It contained much drama and humor. It also provided an opportunity to revisit the Yiddish language and customs that I learned growing up. [If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick



jewish film institute

May's Online Short:

What Doesn't Kill You Directed by Darya Zhuk

Contains sounds of missiles, discussions of illness and death, and a sex scene. May not be suitable for all viewers.

After a rare diagnosis, Lily's attempts to flee from war torn Israel are thwarted when the airport shuts down and her zany cousin forces her to party.

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

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>



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Yahrzeit Memorial

In May We Remember

William Roy Hudson

Chaparral Ireland



May Birthdays

Rosita Gorel-Wong

Peter Grabowski

Lillian Poxon-Hudson

Rebecca Ireland

Bram Markey

Joey Mogilefsky

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: How does Moses prepare coffee? **Answer:** Hebrews it.



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