

# 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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## November 25th 2023 TV CJ Community News

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

TV CJ is an accepting, welcoming, diverse community of Cultural Jews and their families, affiliated with CSJO. Call or email us at **(925) 399-**

**8029** or [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) for an Evite or for more information about our community. You can find us at [trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://trivalleyculturaljews.org). Free to members, suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able. Masking is optional when social distancing is possible.

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

## Upcoming Events

### Chanukah on 12/10/23!



Apple sauce? Sour cream? Chocolate syrup? Bring your favorite latke topping to our Chanukah Celebration on December 10th at 10:30a.m. We'll be making Chanukah crafts, playing games and singing our songs. Please bring your favorite latke topping or a dish to share, plus a folding chair if you are able. Email us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 399-8029** for an Evite.

You can find us at [www.trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://www.trivalleyculturaljews.org). Free to members, suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able.

## **Philosophers' Cafe Next Meeting 1/04/24**

There's no philosophers' cafe in December, as it would fall on the first night of Chanukah. Instead, when you light your first candle at home, talk about how you can bring light to the world this coming year.

## **It's Not A Book Club! -- 01/07/24**

The not-a-book-club will meet on January 7th at 3 p.m. at Judy and David's to discuss the book *To Say Nothing of the Dog* by Connie Willis.

## **Tu B'Shvat 1/20/24**



Tu B'Shvat on Saturday, Jan 20th at St. Clare's Garden! We'll help them bring in their winter harvest to benefit local food banks.

### **Why I Have Been Quiet. Opinion Piece**

The following blog is the opinion of Judith Seid. She is speaking for herself and not as a representative of TVCJ.

<https://secularjewishweddings.com/why-i-have-been-quiet/>

## **Jewish Culture School**

### **JCS 11/12/23**

Our Jewish Culture School class on birth and names was so much fun! We made a delicious sesame cake, played Go Fish in Yiddish and danced our hearts out! Many thanks to Robert for being our bonus aide and making the day run more smoothly.



## Board Meeting Updates Teen Group update

TVCJ teens got together one afternoon in October to make enrichment toys for the animals at Sulphur Creek. They created an entire box of braids and a collection of paper mache containers to delight the animals. Here are some photos of the enrichment toys and an example of some of the animals that will end up using them this week! Many thanks to the Mogilefskys for hosting.









## Upcoming Events Calendar

### 2023

- 10/1 Sukkah Raising
- 10/5 Philosophers' Cafe
- 10/15 JCS
- 10/29 JCS
- 11/12 JCS
- 11/26 JCS
- 12/10 Chanukah Party - mid afternoon

### Winter Break

### 2024

- 1/4 Philosophers' Cafe
- 1/7 JCS and It's Not A Book Club!
- 1/20 Tu B'Shvat
- 2/4 JCS
- 2/18 JCS
- 3/3 JCS
- 3/17 JCS
- 3/24 Purim
- 4/7 JCS
- 4/21 Passover Family Day
- 4/27 Community Passover Seder
- 5/05 Last Class JCS
- 5/26 Lag B'Omer
- 6/9 Shavuot + Annual Meeting

## INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT

**Unitarian Universalist Church Livermore invitation to participate in their "Festival of Lights," December 16th evening.** Interfaith Interconnect will have a table to promote our group. "We will be having a public Christmas Light Display called 'A Festival of Lights' and want to showcase our partners. We will be collecting donations as admission, hoping to also have a beverage truck, and welcome musical offerings too.

**Next Religion Chats: January 10th, February 14th, March 13th.**

Topic: ***Nearly all religions have a version of "thou shalt not kill." How does your religion/ congregation deal with the reality of war?***

**Confirmed speakers:**

January 10th: Fr. Andy Lobban/St Bartholomew Episcopal and Rev. Sangye Hawke/Unitarian Universalist

February 14th: Rabbi Milder/Beth Emek and Omar Naisan/MCC.

March 13th: speakers pending

**Interfaith Interconnect Facebook**

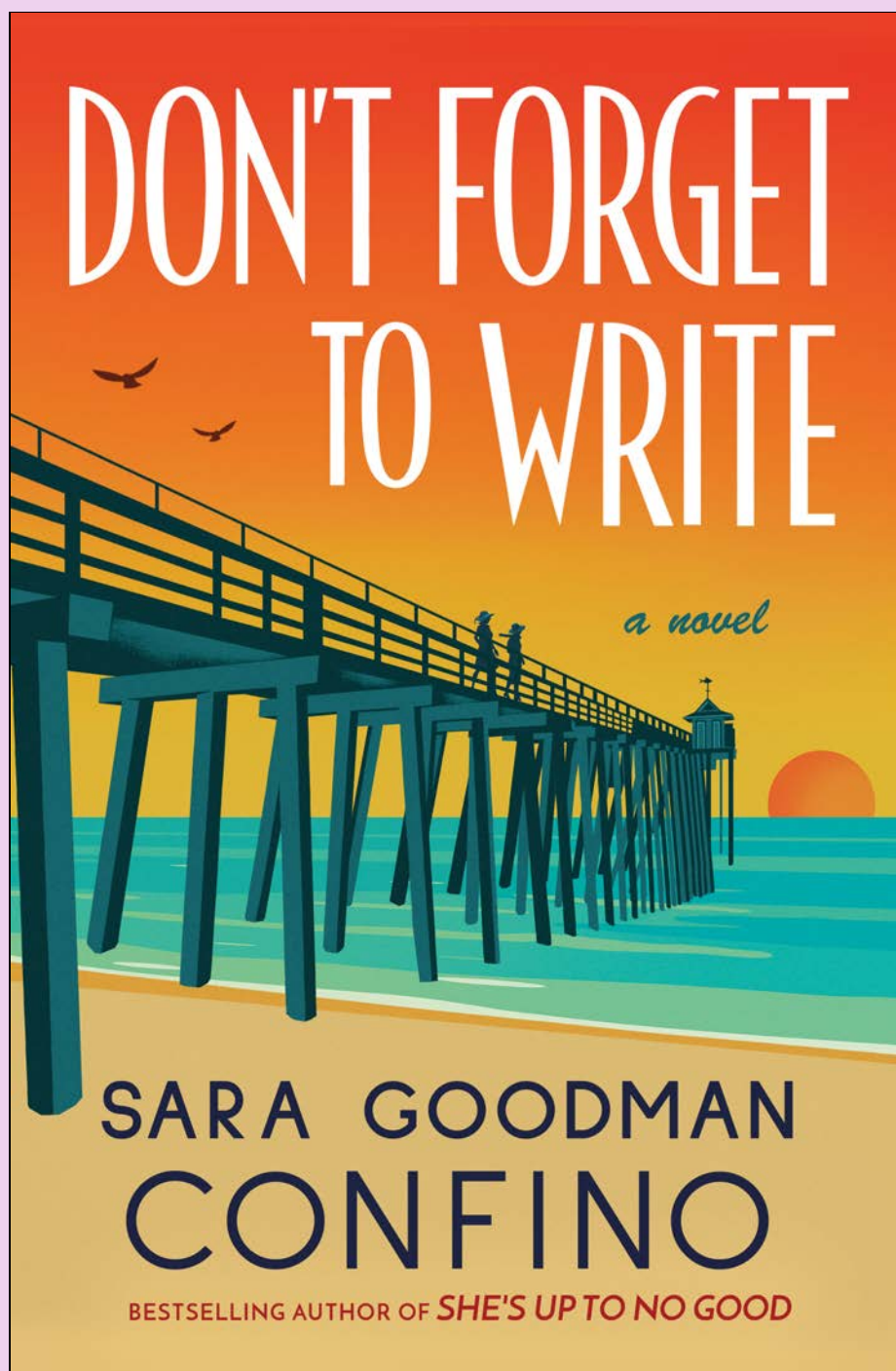
**Page:** <https://www.facebook.com/InterfaithInterconnect/timeline>

## 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.

## BOOK REVIEW Don't Forget to Write By



**Sara Goodman Confino**

Marilyn is a young woman growing up in New Jersey. Father is a religious Jew. Mother is a house wife. Marilyn is strong willed and eager to learn about life. When she and a young man from the temple, the Rabbi's son, are caught in an indelicate position at the temple, the embarrassed parents decide to send her to live with her great aunt Ada who is wealthy and cantankerous, in order to "straighten her out" and to fix her up with a nice Jewish husband. Since Ada is a professional matchmaker, this should have been a perfect arrangement. What could go wrong?

In the first place, we see that Marilyn has no desire to get married, but instead would like to be a writer. At first, she and Ada butt heads. Marilyn

is headstrong and wants to be free. They soon learn to help and care about each other. Many issues complicate the lives of the characters. The characters are well developed and relatable.

This book is both humorous and dramatic, and hard to put down. I would very 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>*



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### **In November We Remember**

Jerry Kranz



### **November Birthdays**

- Emma Greenberg
- Karen Furst
- Amy Greenberg
- Kelly Mogilefsky
- Alexander Pepper
- Monika Poxon
- Robert Kocioleke

### **Who We Are**

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

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

**Board Members:**

- David Gates
- Jazz Salwen-Grabowski
- Jamie Ireland
- Kai Mogilefsky
- Rachel Rose
- Judith Seid

**Newsletter:** Joy Randel

**Webmaster:** Noah King

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

**Holiday Coordinator:** Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

**Movie Coordinator:** Bret Mogilefsky

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