

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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March 30th 2024

TVCJ Community News

TVCJ 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 for an Evite or for more information about our community. You can find us at 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

Passover Family Day - 4/21/24



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews * Secular * Humanist
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JEWISH CULTURE SCHOOL

Passover Family Day

SUN. APRIL 21. 10:30AM-12PM
PLEASANTON, CA

Come to our Free Passover Jewish
Culture School Open House and
find out what Jewish Culture
School is all about!

MATZAH MAKING
CRAFTS
MUSIC



Find out what Jewish Culture School is all about at our Free Passover Family Day! JCS meets twice a month for kids Kindergarten through Brit Mitzvah and provides a secular/cultural experience for all. Come see what we're all about on Sunday, April 21st from 10:30-12:00p.m. Don't forget to bring a smock or old shirt you don't mind getting dirty!

Passover Seder 4/27/24



PASSOVER SEDER

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

5pm ceremony

6:30pm potluck

In person & on Zoom



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews
Secular * Humanist

Join our Secular, Humanist Passover Seder on Saturday, April 27th for a 5:00p.m. ceremony and a 6:30pm potluck. Come celebrate freedom from slavery with us. We'll sing our songs, drink our wine (or grape juice) and tell stories of liberation. **Please bring a dish to share.**

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

We're using symbolic items as part of our Seder. If you're joining us on Zoom, you can find a shopping list of items for your Seder plate [here](#).

It's Not A Book Club! -- 04/28/24



NOT A
BOOK
CLUB

APRIL 28 3PM 2024



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Our members-only try-something-different not-a-book-club met in March to discuss *The Maid* by Nita Prose. This book lent itself to a deeper discussion of themes than our prior choices, which encouraged more discussion of plot. We had a lively discussion of several of the main themes of the book and also touched on the shocking reveal at the end. Many cookies were consumed.

Our next choice is *Twentymile* by C. Matthew Smith. We'll meet to discuss (and have snacks) at Judy and David's house, 1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28th. All members are welcome.

Philosophers' Cafe Next Meeting 5/02/24

Philosophers' Cafe will not meet in April. Our friendly discussion group, Philosophers' Cafe, used our March meeting to talk about the nature and causes of antisemitism. In May, we'll discuss a less weighty topic - we'll ask everyone what's the best and worst advice they ever got and if they followed it. Should be fun! Join us on zoom, Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 p.m. Zoom ID 568 599 7884.

Lag B'Omer 5/26/24

Save the date for our Lag B'Omer Picnic, Potluck and Watermelon Toss on May 26th.

Our Teen Group

The teen group met on Sunday, March 17th for pizza and games. They also made some extremely gooey (and delicious) brownies. We had a good time and will meet again after Pesakh for more hanging out and maybe some community service. Our teen group is for kids 12-through high school. Right now it is limited to TVCJ members, but the kids may decide to invite others later in the year.

Jewish Culture School

JCS 3/17/24

Chag Purim Sameach! We talked about the story of Purim, made some delicious sambousek (pastry stuffed with chickpeas, in honor of the chickpeas Esther ate in the story), danced and sang.



Our Jewvie Movie Night

Our first Movie night since covid was inaugurated with a controversial documentary, "Israelism" about the Palestinian/Israeli conundrum. While obviously controversial, the subsequent discussion was thoughtful and balanced. Thanks to the Mogilefskys for hosting, and everyone else who brought food for the potluck.

Our Purim Party

Thanks to everyone who made our Purim Celebration a success. Special thanks to Noah for writing this year's Purimspiel, to Sarah for championing our crafts, and to everyone who brought food and made the day special! Happy Purim!





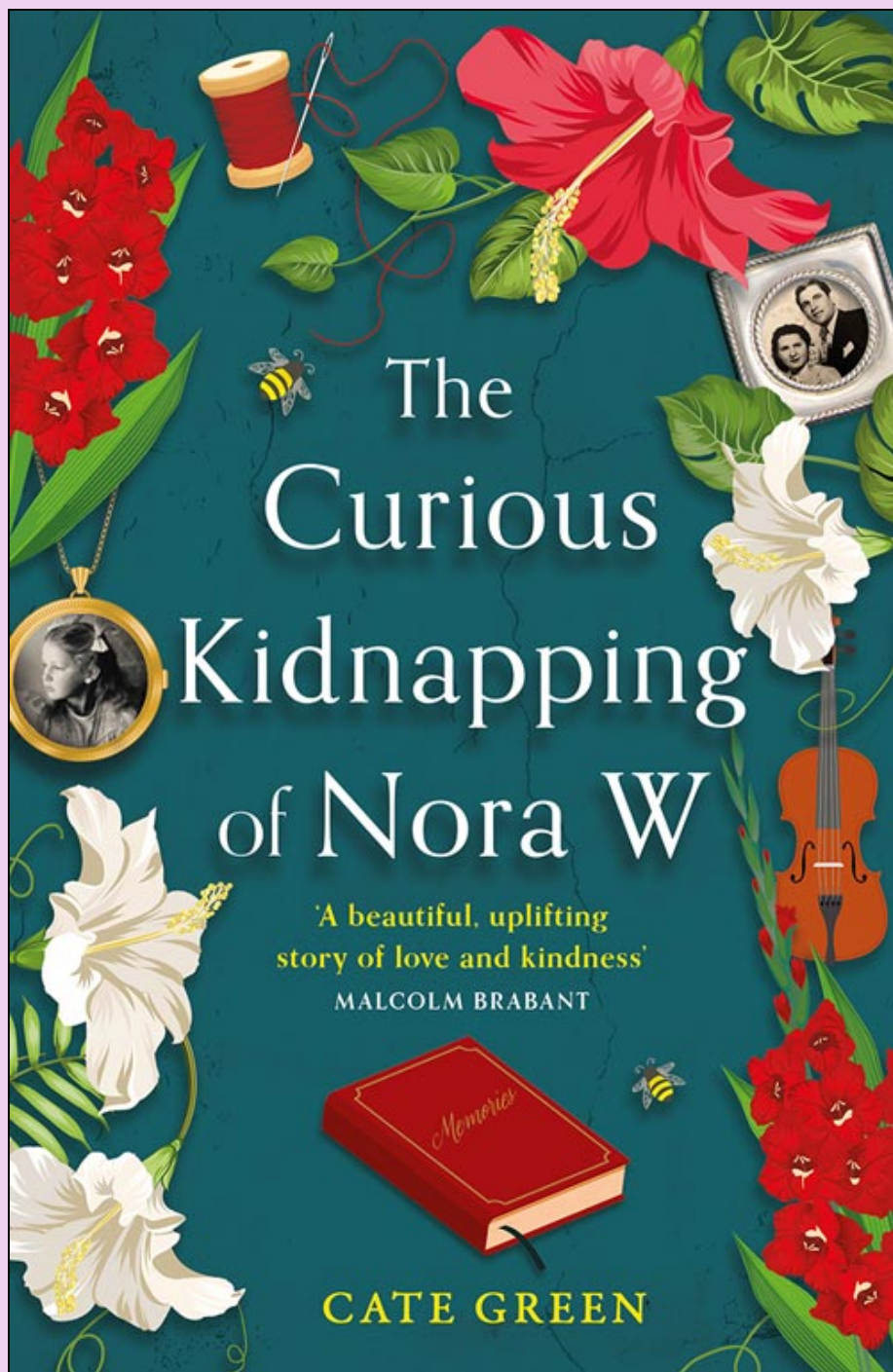


Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

April 4th is a Jewish holiday. It's the yortseit (death anniversary) of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who was assassinated on that date in 1968. Martin Luther King, Jr. was an activist not only on behalf of the civil rights movement, but was also an activist for peace and for workers' rights. He was in Memphis that day to support striking sanitation workers. On April 4th, we remember that Jews and Black Americans marched together in support of all those causes, and that there can be no civil rights, workers' rights or peace alone - each supports and strengthens the others. In the words of the Mishnah, "the more justice, the more peace."

By Judith Seid

BOOK REVIEW THE CURIOUS KIDNAPPING OF NORA W. AGE of 122 By Cate Green



This novel is about Nora W. who is a holocaust survivor who lives to the ripe old age of 122. That makes her the oldest person alive. To celebrate this her large family, consisting of children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great great-grandchildren, etc. want to throw her a huge birthday party along with representatives from the Book of World Records. She is not interested. Her main interests consist of spending time with her great-grandchildren and indulging in her favorite foods, like schmalz herring and vodka. That is, until one of her grandsons teaches her how to play poker for money on her new computer.

A mystery ensues when large amounts of her money go missing from her saving accounts. A drama occurs when her favorite granddaughter has an accident and goes into a coma. It is not known if she will regain consciousness. These events throw the family into disarray. Meanwhile, Nora and her caregiver go to London to relive her past. Secrets are discovered.

The book is divided up into the days prior to the party. You never know whether the party will ever really take place. The book contains humor, drama, mystery and Yiddishkeit. I loved every

aspect of it and would 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

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT

In Person April and May Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chats

Wednesday, April 10th, 2024 and Wednesday, May 8th, 2024.

Presentations: 5:00p.m.-6:00 p.m. **Optional breakout discussion groups:** 6:00p.m.-6:30 p.m.

Topic: *When bad things happen to good people: How does your faith/congregation help someone to recover following a significant loss, emergency, or tragedy?*

Speakers April 10th, 2024: Chris Samson, Catholic Community of Pleasanton; Jordan Sylar, Asbury United Methodist, Livermore

Location April 10th, 2024: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints 3574 Vineyard Ave., Pleasanton 94566

Speakers and Location May 8th, 2024: TBD

All Are Welcome.

Interfaith Interconnect Facebook

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

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

Adam King
Alexandra Kociolek
Nadav Noy
Sierra Randel
Debby Seid
Leslie Zwick

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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