

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

April 27th 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

Join Us for 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

Are you coming to our Passover Seder and Potluck? Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for our Secular Humanist Passover Seder and Potluck on Saturday, April 27th for a 5:00 p.m. ceremony and a 6:30 p.m. potluck. Our ceremony features poetry and songs in English, Hebrew and Yiddish. **Please bring a dish to share.**

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



NOT A
BOOK
CLUB

APRIL 28 3PM 2024



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews * Secular * Humanist
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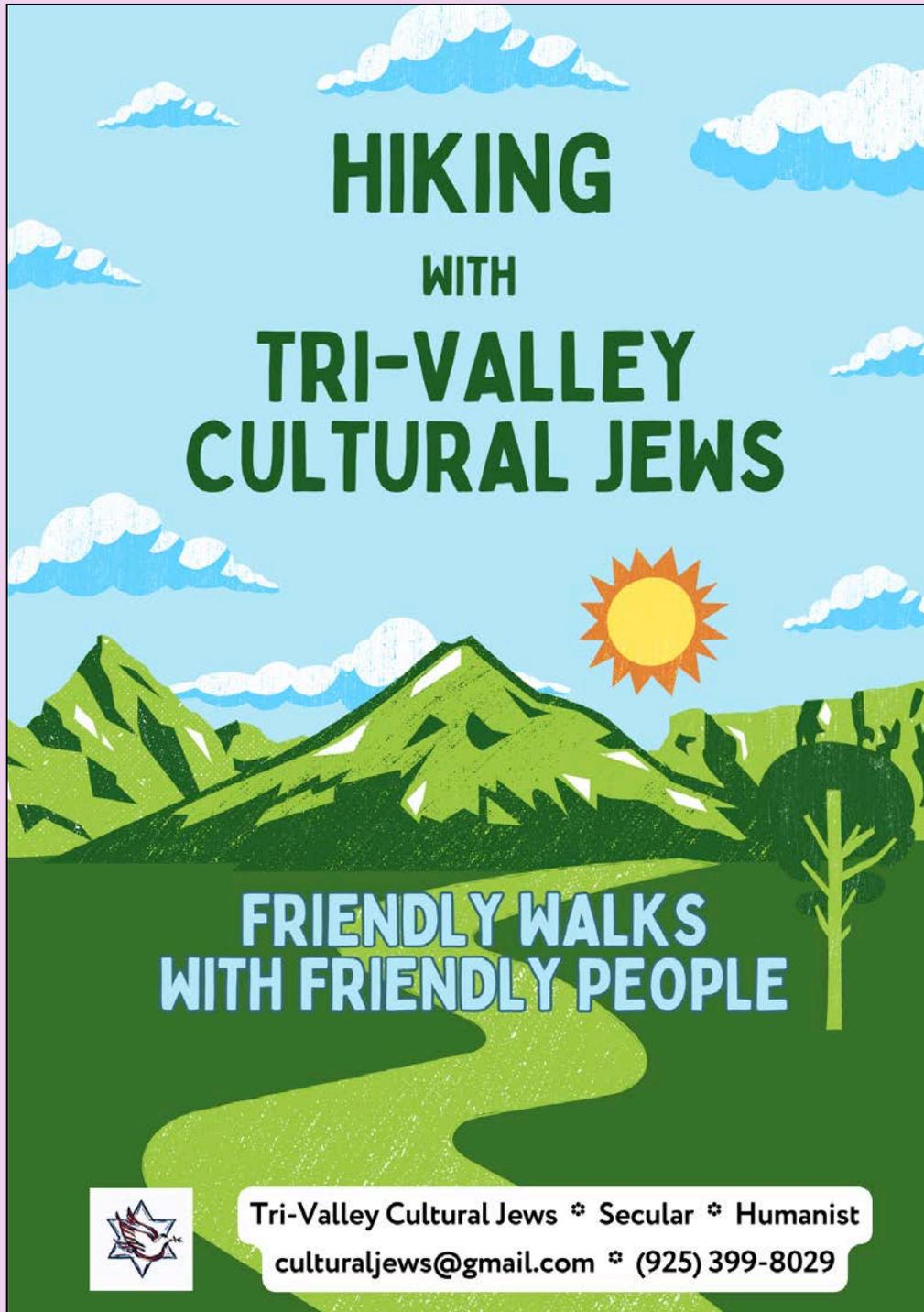
A group for people who want to try something they ordinarily wouldn't.

Our next book is *Twentymile* by C. Matthew Smith.

Sunday, April 28th at 3:00 p.m.

Philosophers' Cafe
Next Meeting 5/02/24

What's the best advice you've ever been given? The worst? Let's talk! Our friendly discussion group, Philosophers' Cafe, will meet on zoom at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 2nd to talk about advice given and received, and what we did with that advice. Join us! Zoom ID 568 599 7884.



It's Spring, time to get out and walk. TVCJ will have its first hike of the season, led by Karen Furst and Debby Seid. The hike is a 3 ½ mile loop with less than 300 ft elevation change. It should take about an hour and half. In addition, there is a paved path, so bring the kids and any scooters, bikes, or other kid friendly transportation devices you may have.

Time: May 4th at 9:30. (You should arrive a few minutes early so we can start hike at 9:30)

Directions: Take Holmes in Livermore to Wetmore, turn onto Wetmore Road (it's a T intersection, so you can only turn SE). Go about 0.2 miles to Sycamore Grove

Park, 1051 Wetmore Rd. and park. It will be on the right. Note there is a \$5.00 Parking Fee.



Board Meeting update

Reducing Waste

We're trying to reduce waste and honor the earth. We invite you to bring your reusable plates, cups and utensils to events, starting with Lag B'Omer on Sunday, May 26th.

Lag B'Omer 5/26/24

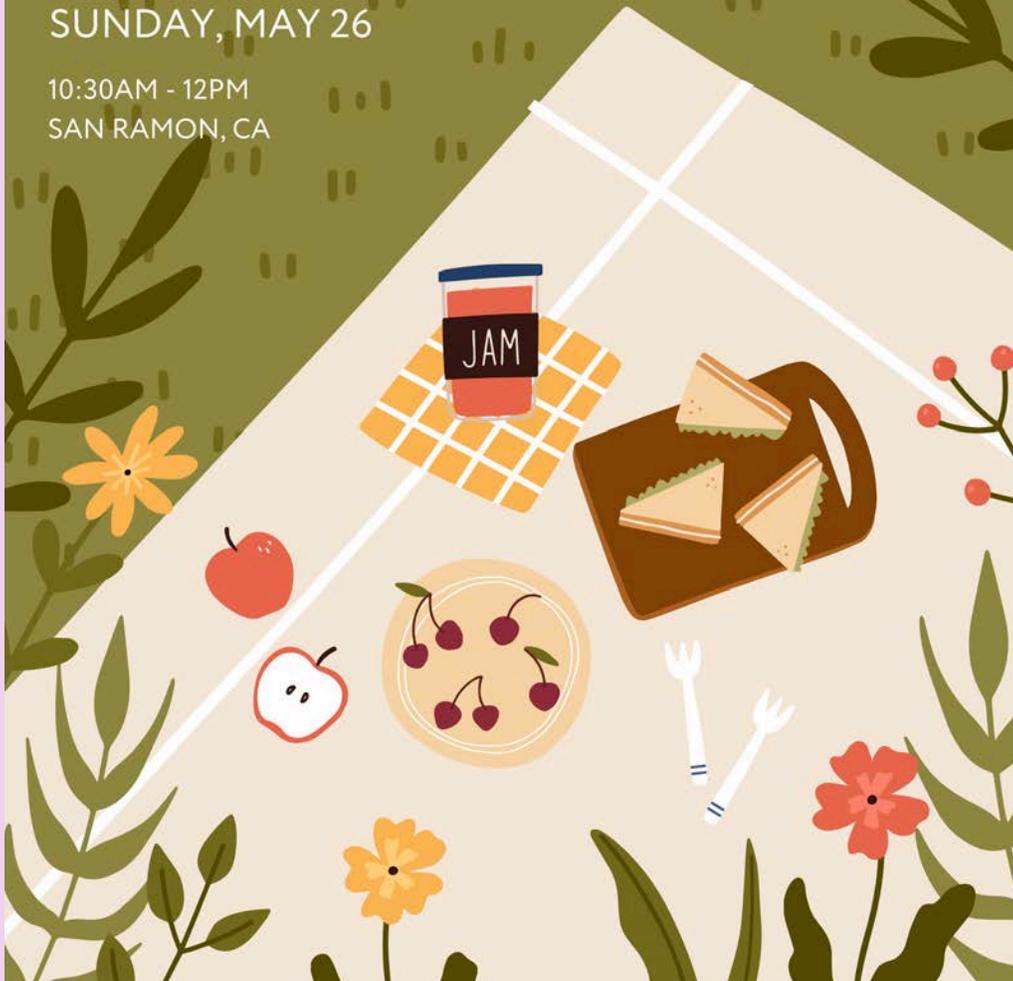


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YOU ARE INVITED TO TVCJ'S
LAG B'OMER
PICNIC + POTLUCK

SUNDAY, MAY 26

10:30AM - 12PM
SAN RAMON, CA



Join us for TVCJ's annual Lag B'Omer Picnic and Potluck on Sunday, May 26th at 10:30am. Come for some fun outdoor games and don't forget our yearly watermelon toss! Please bring a dish to share and any outdoor game you want to play.

Shavuot and Annual Meeting



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SHAVUOS and Annual Meeting

make choices about TVCJ's future
celebrate our favorite books + potluck

JUNE 9 2024

10:30-12PM



Join us for our Shavuos Celebration where we'll share our favorite books and our Annual Meeting where we'll make decisions about TVCJ's future. June 9th, 10:30-12:00 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and the best book you read this year.

May Day

May Day - a very Jewish holiday. You may know May Day as a celebration of spring, complete with dancing around a Maypole, garlanded with flowers. But May 1st is also International Labor Day and has been celebrated by Jews as well as progressive people around the globe since 1889, when it was designated as such by the AFL and other socialist groups and unions during the Second International. The date was chosen partly to commemorate the May 4th, 1886 Haymarket Massacre during which the police killed at least 4 workers who were striking for an 8-hour workday. Here is the English translation of the Yiddish song May Leed (May Song), which refers not only to the end of winter, but to the end of wage slavery.

Whose voice do I hear ringing?
Let new songs be sung!
Everything evil has passed
along with the long, cold winter.
Rich in colors, rich in sounds
the First of May arrives.

Whose voice do I hear ringing?
Let freedom songs be sung!
Slavery is coming to an end.
The clanging lightens, the chains loosen,
brightly adorned with fresh flowers
the First of May arrives.

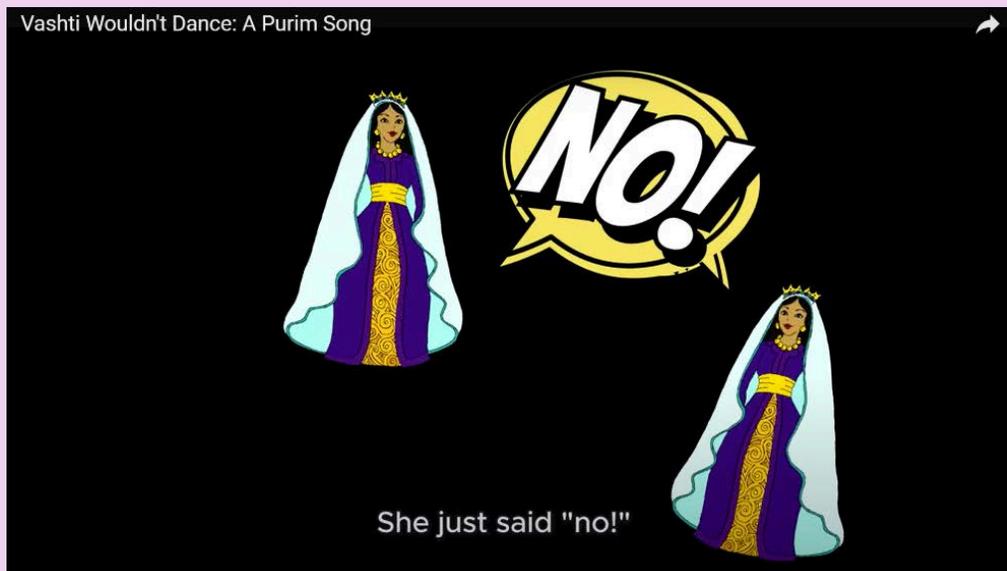
Whose voice do I hear ringing?
Let us sing cheerfully and loud!
that our song may carry boundlessly
from all corners.
Awakening us to a new life,
the First of May arrives.

Judith Seid

Vashti Wouldn't Dance: A Purim Song

Created by Sophia Ireland, music and lyrics by Judith Seid

Click on the picture to see the video.



Our Passover Family Day

It was a beautiful day to get in the Passover mood. We made matzah, DIY charoses and stamped beautiful matzah covers. Many thanks to everyone who made Passover Family Day a success: Judy for hosting, Sarah for planning our craft, and our amazing aides, Sophia and Maggie. Thanks to Elaine for all her help in managing activities, to Sarah and Jason who jumped right in and helped so much with clean up and to Diego who started finding how to help without even being asked.





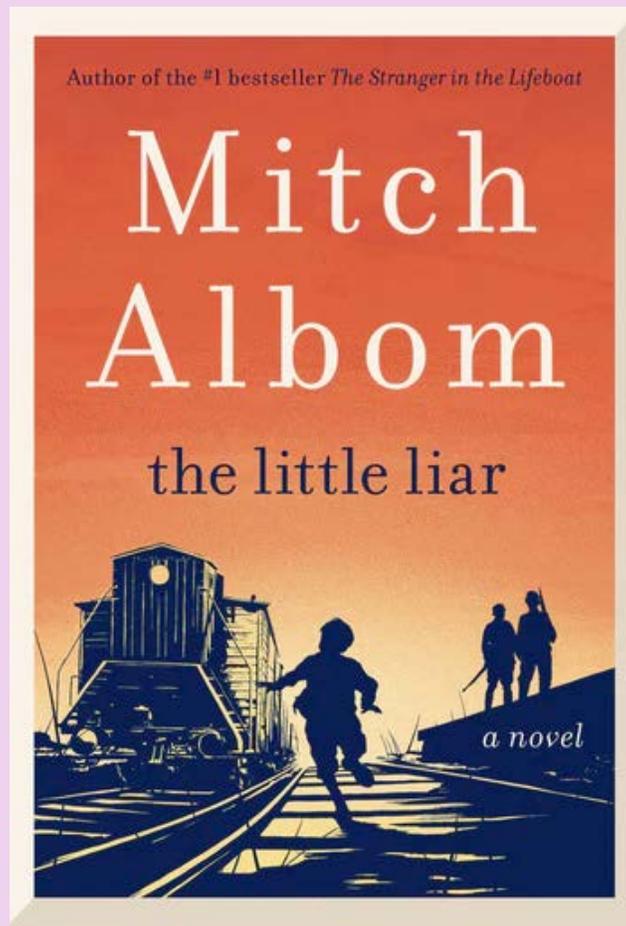
Jewish Culture School

JCS 4/07/24

Today was our Passover JCS class. We made matzah balls that will be served at our Community Passover Seder on April 27th and even harvested our own horseradish! We practiced the 4 questions in English, Hebrew and Yiddish and talked about how we answer them.

BOOK REVIEW Little Liars

By Mitch Albom



Nico is an 11 year old Jewish boy who lived with his family in Salonica, Greece. He developed a reputation for never telling a lie. His grandfather had told him that bad things happened to people who told lies and he totally believed this. One day while he was watching the Jewish people of the town being loaded into boxcars, he asked a Nazi officer where they were being taken. The officer told Nico that they were being taken to a place where they could find good jobs and nice apartments. The officer was told about Nico's reputation of honesty. So he told him that if he spread the word to these Jews he would make sure that his family would be given the best of everything. So unknowingly Nico did as he was told, and spread this lie which kept the Jews quiet as they were taken to their deaths. Thus the lying began.

Nico spent the rest of his life trying to redeem himself for this lie that he unwittingly told. He changed his name and identity many times while his family searched for him to forgive him. The book was basically about the value of truth and the harm of lies, even inadvertent ones. At some instances "Truth" even becomes a narrator of the story.

This book has many twists and turns and is very well written as are most of Mitch Albom's. However, I must caution you that some of the scenes in the concentration camps are pretty graphic. [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 May Interfaith Interconnect Religion Chat
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: Gaurav Rastogi, Hindu, yoga and meditation teacher; and Rev. Harriet Hawkins, Senior Minister at Lighthouse Center for Spiritual Living Livermore Valley.

Location: Lighthouse Center for Spiritual Living Livermore Valley, 678 Enos Way, Livermore (across courtyard from St. Bart's Episcopal Church).

All Are Welcome.

Interfaith Interconnect Facebook

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

INTERFAITH INTERCONNECT SPECIAL INVITATION Presentation by Ruth Gasten Thursday May 2, 2024, 12:00p.m.-1:00p.m.



In partnership with LLNL's Shalom Jewish Community,
an Employee Resource Group presents:

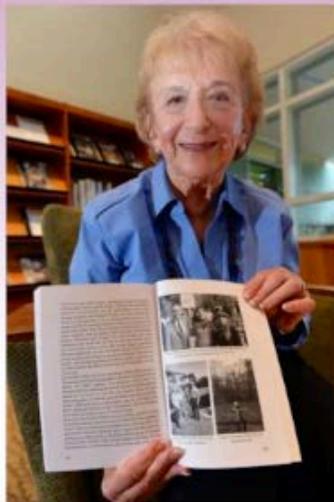


In commemoration of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day
"An Accidental American: Memories of a Immigrant Childhood"

Ruth Stern Gasten, Author & Livermore resident

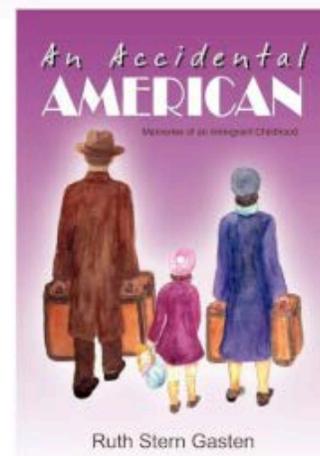
May 2, 2024 | 12-1 PM

B123 Auditorium or Virtual via Webex



"An Accidental American" recalls life in Hitler's Germany, as seen through the eyes of a young Ruth Stern Gasten. She will share her moving experiences as child, the dramatic changes that occurred in Germany within a short timeframe and how she and her family managed to escape to the United States. The book tells of kind neighbors, an unforgettable ocean voyage, and bedbugs in Chicago, among other memories.

Those in attendance in-person will receive a copy of Ruth's book on a first come, first served basis. There will be a limited amount of books given away in a drawing for those who attend the talk via Webex.



Register at <https://www.llesa.com/author-series.html>

Ruth has been invited by Livermore Laboratory Employee Services Association to give her presentation, "An Accidental American: Memories of an Immigrant Childhood." As I think you all know, Ruth and Abdul Awwal started the group that became Interfaith Interconnect over a decade ago.

If you are an employee of Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, you have the option of attending in-person. **Anyone may attend via Webex.**

Both require registration, Click the link to register. <https://www.llesa.com/author-series.html>

Congregation Beth Emek, Pleasanton
Write Postcards
Election Postcarding Party
Tuesday, April 30 | 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Court, Pleasanton

Union for Reform Judaism Every Voice Every Vote

[Register on Eventbrite](#) for an evening of fun and civic engagement, the first postcarding party of the 2024 election season! The campaign is a nonpartisan effort to encourage voter participation in key states, and we will provide all the necessary materials and be there to guide you.

Whether you've participated in postcarding before or are completely new to it, this is a great opportunity to engage in collective action.

Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Please contact Ann Dubin, anndubin@gmail.com.

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>



In April We Remember

Helen Bloom

David Geller

Norma Mogilefsky

Regina Seid



April Birthdays

Michelle Coren
Paul Grabowski
Ya'el Seid-Green
Jeffrey D. Colvin
Sarah Rees
Jerry 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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