

**TVCJ Happenings** [View this email in your browser](#)

# Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

**Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community**

[TriValleyCulturalJews.org](http://TriValleyCulturalJews.org)

[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto:info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org)

[\(925\) 399-8029](tel:(925)399-8029)

**Our mission statement:** A Secular Humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish People through family, culture and history, rather than through religion.



**TRI-VALLEY  
CULTURAL JEWS**  
secular + humanist

Like and Share on Facebook

TVCJ is an accepting, welcoming, diverse community of Cultural Jews and their families. Call or email us at [\(925\) 399-8029](tel:(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.

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

## February 22nd 2025

### Our Sympathies

The community sends condolences to the Fabrikant family: Alex, Nicole, Gale and Sol on the death of Nicole Fabrikant's mother, Jennifer Ann Holland.

## **"We Need A Home" Matching Fund Update**

We are over a quarter of the way to our matching fund goal of \$20,000 to find a dedicated space for TVCJ. We are hoping to be halfway there by Shavuot (June), so if you've been meaning to make a donation, now is a good time! We are wishing for 100% participation (at any amount) from members and those who attend our events and appreciate a Secular Humanistic Jewish community.

## **Mishpokha**

Congratulations to Zhaomo Yang on becoming a U.S. citizen!

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Not a Book Club - 2/23/25**

TVCJ's NOT a Book Club is our chance to read something we might not have otherwise picked up. It will meet **Sunday, Feb. 23 at 3 p.m.** to talk about *The 12 Million Dollar Stuffed Shark* by Don Thompson, about the very strange market in art.

This special group is a perk for our members. Want to find out more about who we are and what we do? Email us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 399-8029** if you have questions or want to find out more about our community.

### **Sunday Chats - 3/02/25**

Sunday Chat is composed of any members who want to meet on the Sunday mornings that JCS meets. Parents of JCS kids and other members meet at Inklings in downtown Pleasanton for coffee and conversation.

### **Philosophers' Cafe - 3/06/25**

Our February Philosophers' Cafe focused on humor, which all the participants really appreciated at this unsettling time. Our March discussion will be on ethics, specifically the question of whether one should do the "right thing" even if it will result in a bad end. Join us Thursday, March 6th from 7-8 p.m. on zoom. Look for the evite!

### **Purim - 3/16/25**



*celebrate*  
**PURIM**

*SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH, 10:30-12PM  
LIVERMORE, CA*

*GAMES    HAMENTASCHEN    SPIEL    CRAFTS*

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**CULTURALJEWS@GMAIL.COM**  
**(925) 399-8029**

Get ready for a festive and fun-filled Purim celebration with Tri-Valley Cultural Jews! Whether you're a Purim pro or just love a good costume party, this event is for everyone. Join us on March 16th from 10:30am-12pm in Livermore, CA, for a day packed with food, laughter, and community.

Here's what we have planned:

**Hamantaschen making:** A classic Purim treat—bring your favorite filling to share!

**Purimspiel:** A modern twist on the Book of Esther, with plenty of laughs.

**Costumes and crafts:** Dress up or come as you are, and get creative with crafts.

**Potluck lunch:** Bring your favorite dish to share and enjoy a festive meal together.

This event is **free for members**, and there's a **suggested \$15 donation for non-member adults** if you're able. **Don't forget to RSVP by March 8th**, and feel free to **bring your friends, family, and your best costume!**

Let's come together to celebrate Purim with joy, freedom, and community!

## Passover Family Day - 3/30/25



# PASSOVER FAMILY DAY

**SUNDAY**  
MARCH 30  
10:30-12

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

- ✓ Matzoh Making
- ✓ Crafts
- ✓ Music



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Join us for a fun and festive Passover Family Day! Whether you're familiar with Jewish traditions or exploring them for the first time, this event is a perfect way for families to experience the joy of Passover together in a welcoming, secular environment.

### **Event Highlights:**

- **Matzah Making:** Get hands-on with a matzah-making station, where you can create your own Passover matzah!
- **Crafts:** Fun arts and crafts for kids (and adults!) to celebrate the season.
- **Music:** Enjoy traditional Jewish music that will have everyone tapping their feet and singing along.

**When:** March 30, 2025

**Time:** 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM

**Where:** Pleasanton, CA

This is a family-friendly, free event open to all, and a great way to connect with our Jewish community. It's also an opportunity to learn more about our Jewish Culture School and how we offer an inclusive, humanist approach to Jewish education for families, children, and adults.

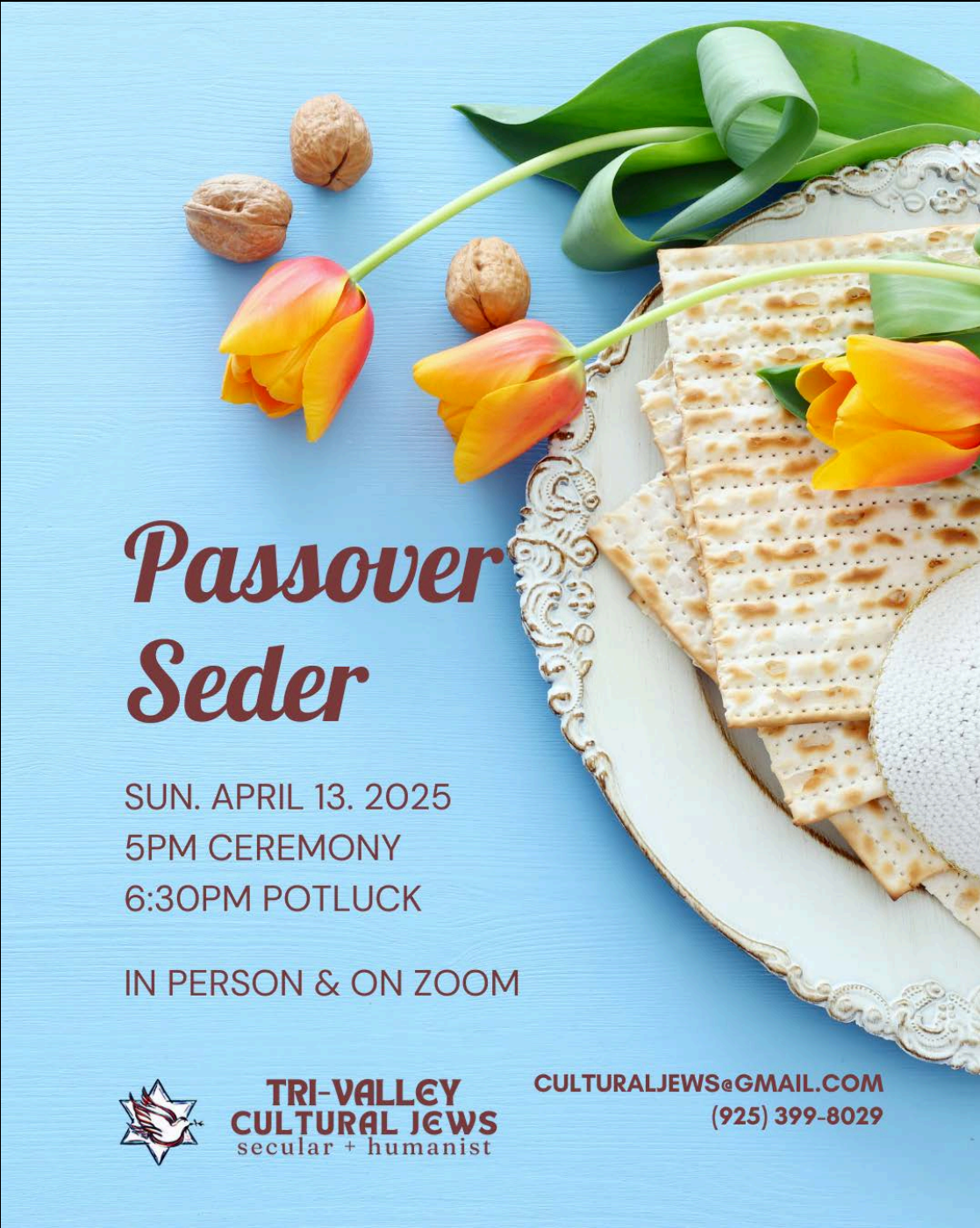
### **RSVP Today!**

We'd love to see you there! **RSVP now** to reserve your spot and ensure you don't miss out on this fun-filled morning.

For more information and to RSVP, email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 399-8029**.

We look forward to celebrating Passover with you and your family!

## **Passover - 4/13/25**



# Passover Seder

SUN. APRIL 13. 2025

5PM CEREMONY

6:30PM POTLUCK

IN PERSON & ON ZOOM



**TRI-VALLEY  
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**CULTURALJEWS@GMAIL.COM**  
**(925) 399-8029**

Come join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for an engaging and inclusive celebration of Passover, grounded in the values of freedom, justice, and shared humanity. This will be a Secular, Humanist gathering where we honor the rich traditions of the holiday while focusing on the universal themes of liberation and collective responsibility.

**When:** Sunday, April 13th

**5:00pm:** Ceremony

**6:30pm:** Dinner

**Where:** Livermore, CA

**What to Expect:**

- A thoughtful, non-religious Passover Seder
- Engaging discussion on justice, equality, and social responsibility
- A delicious potluck dinner (bring your favorite dish to share!)
- A warm, welcoming atmosphere for all who care about community, human rights, and social progress

Whether you're a longtime Passover participant or new to the holiday, this Seder is a chance to connect with others who share your commitment to building a just and compassionate world.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

**P.S.** Feel free to bring friends or family—just let us know so we can plan for enough food.

## Our Tu B'Shvat Celebration

Our Tu B'Shvat Celebration was an absolute blast! Imagine a grown-up field trip, full of history, hands-on fun, and a little bit of adventure. We explored the fascinating history of Hagemann Ranch, checked out some seriously cool farming gadgets (hello, pulley system for hay!), and even got a chance to try our hand at lassoing. We stamped metal at the Blacksmith's shop, pumped water like pros, and got to take adorable goats for a walk! After all that action, we enjoyed a delicious potluck lunch to top it all off. A huge thank you to everyone who joined in and made the day unforgettable—and to the amazing volunteers at Hagemann Ranch for being the best hosts. Can't wait for the next adventure!









## Jewish Culture School (JCS)

### JCS Update 2/2/25

Our latest [Jewish Culture School](#) class was a creative journey through art, history, and food! We dove into the vibrant world of Marc Chagall, exploring the symbolism in his artwork that reflects Jewish life and experience.

One of our amazing teachers shared a deeply personal story from her family's history, connecting us to the hardships of being trapped by World War I—a story that

resonates with Chagall's own experiences.

And, as if that wasn't enough, we rolled up our sleeves and made potato dough pirozhki from scratch, a delicious treat Chagall himself likely enjoyed. It was a lesson full of learning, connecting, and, of course, savoring every bite!





***Book Review***  
***The Air Raid Book Club***  
***By***  
***Annie Lyons***

"[A] warm and tender tale about the power and healing of friendship and community and the magic of books."

—RUTH HOGAN, author of *The Keeper of Lost Things*

*The*

AIR RAID

BOOK

CLUB

*A Novel*

ANNIE LYONS

*USA Today* bestselling author of *The Brilliant Life of Eudora Honeysett*

This historical novel takes place in London during the time of World War II. The main characters are a book shop owner, Gertie and a German Jewish girl, Hedy. Hedy's parents foresaw the terrible danger that lie ahead in Germany, so in order to protect

her they send her to London. Here she is reluctantly taken in by Gertie, who is a recent widow.

Shortly after the German bombing of London, Hedy suggests that the community capitalize on their love of books and their boredom and anxiety in the local bomb shelter. She suggests that they start a book club. This club serves to allay their fears and brings their community together in the face of deadly and destructive bombings.

Gertie and Hedy become beloved leaders in the community in spite of their own losses and tragedies. The characters in this book are warm, heroic and compelling. Therefore, I would heartily recommend this book to all.

**Reviewed by Jerry Zwick**

## **Stanford Jewish Alumni Network**

The Stanford Jewish Alumni Network (S-JAN) invites all Stanford alumni - as well as all family and friends of the Stanford Jewish community interested in supporting S-JAN's mission of creating meaningful interaction, learning, service, and inspiration infused with Jewish values and culture – to join us at this critical juncture.

Since S-JAN's launch in 2022, we have grown to be a diverse, multi-generational, volunteer-led organization with more than 1,000 members worldwide. We offer in-person events, webinars and online discussions, networking opportunities, platforms for sharing ideas, and - as a group officially recognized by the Stanford Alumni Association - a conduit for your voice to be heard by the University. We also share important news about Jewish life at Stanford, Israel-related issues, academic programs and more.

There is no cost to join. Simply email [s-jan@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:s-jan@alumni.stanford.edu) or **sign up by following the directions below** if you are interested. We look forward to welcoming you!

You're invited to join



*S-JAN is a diverse, multi-generational, international Stanford Alumni Association (SAA) group and is open to alumni, spouses, students, faculty, staff and parents of students and alumni.*

**How to join:**

- Step 1** All members will need a Stanford PASS account in order to access Stanford Alumni Groups. To create a Stanford PASS account go to: <https://myaccount.stanford.edu/register>.
- Step 2** Await verification of your Stanford Pass account and look for an email from Stanford confirming your PASS account; then...
- Step 3** Join S-JAN by visiting <https://groups.stanford.edu/topics/14881/feed>. Login with your Stanford PASS credentials and click "Join".

**Current students:**

Go to the opt-in page in [AXES](#); Read the information and slide the bar to "Y" to indicate that you would like to opt in to Stanford Alumni Groups; You will receive a confirmation email with login instructions after opting into Stanford Alumni Groups; then complete Step 3 above.



**Need help?**

Call the HELP Desk at (866) 543-0243 (U.S. toll free) or 1-650-724-0627 (International) for assistance.  
You can also email [s-jan@alumni.stanford.edu](mailto:s-jan@alumni.stanford.edu) and we will contact you.

## 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 below.



or visit: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2326042>

**Joke:** Have you ever tried to catch a fog? **Answer:** I tried yesterday but I mist.



### **In February We Remember**

Benjamin Gorman  
Jennifer Ann Holland  
Rachel Hubbard  
Dena Luborsky  
Jeanette Maddon  
Elinor Peel  
Donald Wright





## February Birthdays

Galina Arkhipova

Derek Greenberg

Phoebe Shulewitz

## Who We Are

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

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

**Board Members:**

David Gates

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Maggie Pino

Sophia Ireland

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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**Our mailing address is:**

Contact Us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or [925-399-8029](tel:925-399-8029)

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