

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

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org
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

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

Events are free for members. For most events, we suggest a \$15 donation for non-member adults. For High Holiday services, the suggested donation is \$25 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** (you can also scan our QR code below.)

October 25, 2025

We Need a Home Fund

We have received some very generous donations for our matching fund, but you don't have to be George Soros to be able to make a difference. Every donation counts, from the smallest to the largest. We're just a little over \$6,000 away from our \$20,000 goal. Do you know someone with a donor-advised fund? Do you know someone who works for an organization that would make a donation? Do you know someone who's just interested in Jewish diversity and the continuation of Jewish culture? Ask for a donation!

Checks can be sent to **TVCJ at 690 South K Street, Livermore, CA 94550**. Our Venmo is **@Tri-Valley-CulturalJews** (you can also scan the QR code below).



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews
@Tri-Valley-CulturalJews



Gale's Brit Mitzvah Celebration



What a truly special day it was as our community gathered to celebrate Gale's Brit Mitzvah! The ceremony was filled with warmth, meaning and a wonderful sense of connection that perfectly reflected both Gale and our shared values.

Gale gave a thoughtful and engaging presentation that shared her family's fascinating history offering an incredible window into the stories that have shaped her. Her parents' words were deeply touching and heartfelt.

We were especially inspired by Gale's community service project, which showed her commitment to making a positive difference in the world--a true reflection of the Humanistic Jewish values of responsibility, compassion and community.

The whole celebration was warm, personal and full of joy. Mazel tov to Gale and her family and thank you for letting our community be a part of such a meaningful milestone!

Upcoming Events

Philosophers' Cafe - 11/06/25

Let's talk! Join us on zoom November 6th at 7 p.m. for Philosophers' Cafe, an hour long chat about - it's a surprise! Could be something topical, something personal, something just for fun. Zoom in and find out, meet other members, and find something interesting to think about.

Look for your evite! (Non-members are welcome to attend a couple times before we'll ask you to join TVCJ.)

Hanukkah 12/13/25



SAVE THE DATE 12/13/2025

Join us for a warm, light-filled Hanukkah celebration on **Saturday, December 13!** Whether you grew up celebrating, are new to our community, or just love a good latke, this is a time to come together for music, laughter, candle lighting and good company. Mark your calendars and get ready for a cozy, festive evening filled with light, warmth and community connection.

More details and Evite coming soon--stay tuned!

Next month in Jewish history: The November Pogrom

November 9, 1938 saw the horrific pogrom known as Kristallnacht, the night of broken glass, signaling a new phase of the oppression of the Jews in Germany that had begun in 1933. It's a reminder that a little bit of discrimination is never the end.

Every small disability, every passing humiliation, that is imposed upon a minority, if not fought vigorously, will inevitably lead to further oppression. Speak up!

Jewish Culture School





Jewish Culture School Update--Jews Who Fought for LGBTQ+ Rights

This week at JCS we spent the morning learning about Jews who've made a difference in the fight for LGBTQ+ rights, including the inspiring Harvey Milk. We talked about the Jewish values of equality, dignity, healing the world and the importance of welcoming and celebrating people who are different from us.

The kids had thoughtful things to say about what it means to make our community kind and inclusive--and then we got hands-on with a fun activity: making rainbow pizzas! The results were colorful, delicious and full of joy.

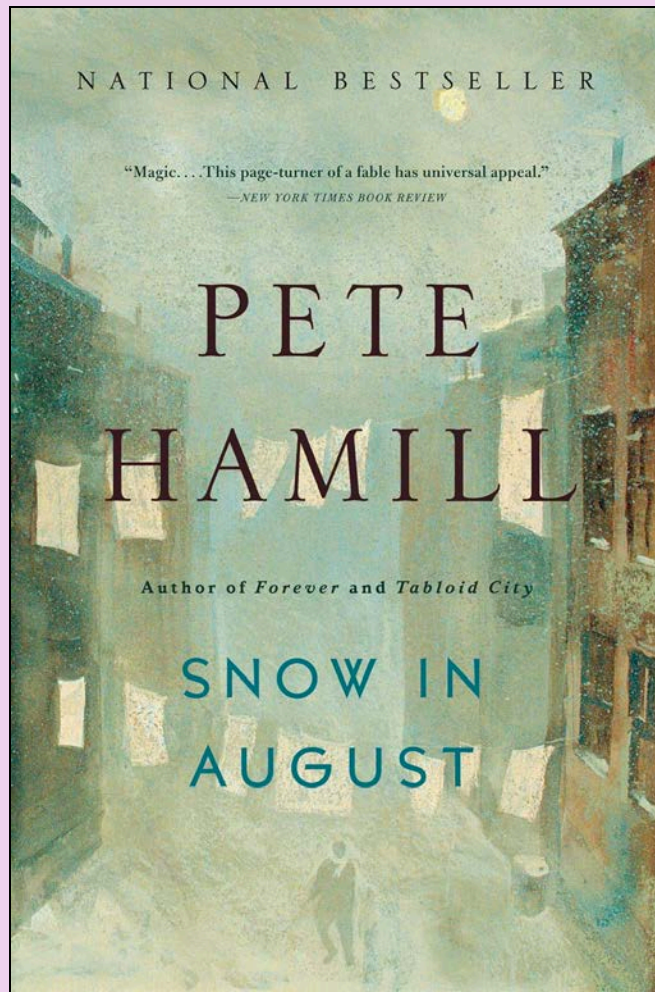
It was a sweet reminder that Jewish culture isn't just about holidays and history--it's also about standing up for justice, kindness and love.

BOOK REVIEW

Snow in August

By

Pete Hamill



This book is both historical fiction and fantasy. It takes place in New York City post World War II. An Irish boy becomes friends with the rabbi of a small synagogue. He reluctantly agrees to become the “Shabbos Goy” for the shul because the rabbi cannot find anyone else to do the job. In the process the boy agrees to teach the rabbi about American customs, such as baseball. The rabbi, in exchange, agrees to teach the boy about Yiddish and Jewish customs. And about the city of Prague, where the Rabbi was born. They become unlikely best friends.

The main obstacle to this friendship is the antisemitic and violent gang who controls the neighborhood. The leader of this gang commits a violent act against another older Jew. The boy witnesses this act. He is threatened by the gang leader with terrible violence if he ever tells the police.

The book describes the antisemitism of the time, as well as the good will of many of the residents. It also contains an element of fantasy involving the creature called the Golem. It is a page turner that I thoroughly enjoyed and would highly recommend.

[If you would like to purchase this book on Bookshop.org click here.](#)

[If you would like to purchase this book on Barnes and Noble click here.](#)

Reviewed By Jerry Zwick

Our Yom Kippur Kol Nidre Gathering

What a beautiful evening we shared for this year's Kol Nidre! On a weeknight when many of you made the extra effort to drive in from near and far, our community came together to reflect, remember and connect in a warm, welcoming space.

A huge thank you to Judy for writing such a thoughtful and moving program, and to Judy and Jazz for filling the room with lovely music. Derek and Amy gave us a truly incredible song performance that made the night feel extra special. Thanks also to Noah for helping with setup and to everyone who stayed to help clean up afterwards--we couldn't do it without you.

Our Sukkot Celebration

What a joyful morning we had for our sukkah raising! There's nothing quite like a group of culturally Jewish folks, a pile of wood, a few power tools, and a lot of good humor to make building a sukkah feel like a true community celebration.

A heartfelt thank you to Judy and David for so generously hosting this event--and a warm welcome to them in their new home! It was such a treat to gather in their beautiful space and fill it with laughter, chatter and the sounds of sukkah construction. Thanks to everyone who showed up ready to build, decorate and share delicious food. Kids and adults alike pitched in --from hanging branches and greenery to sampling potluck goodies--making the whole morning feel warm and festive.



Bluesky

TVCJ is on Bluesky now.

@tvcj2.bsky.social. Check it out.

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>



In October We Remember

Mary Gates

Taki Greenberg

Ron Kociolek

Seymour and Ethel Seid

Adina Senensieb

October Birthdays

Diego Rother

Aria Soltani



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

Diego Rother

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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