

News & Fun Activities

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org

(925) 485-1049

Affiliated with the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations

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 21st, 2017

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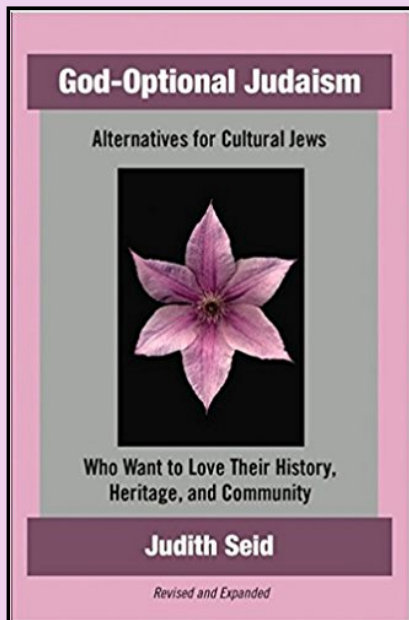


TV CJ Community Events and Dates

An Author in Our Community

**Revised Edition: *God-Optional Judaism*
*Alternatives for Cultural Jews Who Love Their History,
Heritage, and Community***

Written By Rabbi Judith Seid



[Click Here to Buy it Now!](#) **God-Optional Judaism** is a wonderful, chock-full resource for families and individuals who want to find their place in the Jewish world without necessarily believing in God. Funny, accessible, and open-minded the book touches on key elements of Jewish history and philosophy, all of the major holidays (food recipes included!), and contemporary issues of intermarriage, education, conversion, feelings toward Israel, and spirituality.

Secular Humanistic Rabbi Judith Seid is a life-long Secular Jew and has been an organizer and active member of thriving Secular Jewish communities in Michigan, Maryland, and California.

TV CJ Shabbat and Game Night

Date: Friday, April 7th

Time: 6:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Place: The Mogilefsky Home 18929 California Street Castro Valley, CA 94546

Cost: Please bring \$7 per adult for pizza; kids free.

Please join us for Family Game Night and Shabbat. Bring your favorite non-screen game and celebrate the end of the week with some pizza and friendly competition.

Join Our Passover Celebration!

Date: April 15th, 2017

Time: 5:00p.m. to 7:30p.m.

Place: Bothwell Arts Center, 2466 8th Street, Livermore

Cost: Suggested Donation for Non-Member Adults is \$20 (and you can apply this towards membership). Kids and members are free.

RSVP By April 11th - Please call Leah at 650-223-9073 to let us know you are coming and what you'd like to bring for the potluck.

What to bring: We are participating in a book drive to benefit the Jewish Coalition for Literacy. Please bring new or gently used books for ages 4-9 to donate if you are able. Thank you!

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews will hold our annual Community Potluck Seder. Our kid-friendly (but not kid-centered) haggadah is secular and progressive with lots of singing. After the hour-long ceremony, we will share a potluck dinner.

Vegetarian dishes are encouraged but not required. Invite a friend, too! We need to hear from you by April 11 so we can be sure to have enough eggs, charoset, celery, and wine.

Board meeting/TVCJ Planning

Date: Tuesday, April 11, 2017

Time: 7:00p.m. to 9:00p.m.

Place: Seid-Gates home, 1817 Sinclair Drive, in Pleasanton.

All members are welcome



For TVCJ Members Only

Death Over Dinner – *To Be Happier Start Thinking More About Death*

Date: Saturday, April 29, 2017

Time: 5:00pm – 8:00pm

Place: Livermore, CA (more information to come)

This event is only open to members of Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Let's talk about the thing we so often try to avoid -- end of life. Talking about life and death helps us articulate and affirm who we are and what we ultimately care about, leaving us better able to appreciate life and to approach death. *Death Over Dinner* will be a structured discussion over a potluck dinner, with prompts from readings and videos.

There is a maximum of 10 participants, on a first come first serve basis. We'll keep a waiting list for those interested if more than 10 people reply.

More information to come soon in an Evite.

**"Israeli Artists in Conversation with Israel"
Conference Presented by the Berkeley Institute for Jewish Law and
Israel Studies**

Dates: April 5-7, 2017

This conference will bring Israeli scholars and artists together to examine critical issues in Israeli society through the arts. Drawing on music, film, theater, dance, and visual culture, the conference will focus on the meeting and mixing between social groups, identities, and art forms. The participants will engage with each other and the audience through discussions and performances to explore how the arts express and shape Israel today.

More detailed information and registration at:

<https://sites.law.berkeley.edu/israeli-artists-conference>

Our Purim Celebration

Our Purim Celebration was so much fun! We baked hamantaschen, made crafts, played games and we presented our annual Purim skit.



Our Hike: Urban Stairways Through Oakland!



Our hike through the secret stairways of Oakland was fantastic! We enjoyed looking at beautiful architecture, interesting homes and plants. There are over 400 little-known staircases and pathways that wind quietly unnoticed up the East Bay landscape. These were originally built as shortcuts for an influx of hillside residents to get to streetcars post-1906 earthquake.

Solidarity with our Jewish Sisters and Brothers

We received the following wonderful letter from, Raza Ahmad who is part of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community:

Dear Rabbi Seid,
Sholem Aleikhem!

I am a Muslim living in the Bay area and a Computer Science Researcher. I belong to the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community.

I am contacting you as a neighbor in the wake of recent incidents of hate against Jews in America. Our community has been watching in great pain and speaking out against the rising anti-Semitism in our country over the past several years. In particular, the spike in bomb threats and hate crimes against JCCs and Synagogues over the past several months—including the recent destruction of 150 Jewish tombs. Each of these events are horrific and condemnable.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) actively condemned anti-Semitism and commanded Muslims to stand guard to protect universal religious freedom. The Holy Qur'an specifically commands Muslims to protect Synagogues from attack.

I want to take a moment today to convey to you that my fellow Muslims and I are praying for our Jewish sisters and brothers, and stand in solidarity with you. Should your Jewish center or Synagogue ever need someone to stand guard, please know that you can call upon us for any kind of help. We are here to serve and protect our Jewish cousins. May our nation be protected from those who wish to do us harm. May we find peace, together.

May God be with you.
Shalom



Happy March Birthdays to:

Adam King
Sierra Randel
Leslie Zwick
Debbie Seid
Leonard Kreit

In March We

Who We Are

Board Members:

Judith Seid 925-485-1049
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Noah King 925-371-8585
Joy Randel 925-362-3245
Amy Greenberg 925-989-9826
Karen Furst 925-784-1775

Newsletter: Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Webmaster: Noah King 925-371-8585

JCS Teachers: Judith Seid,
Jamie Ireland

Family Shabbat/Havdalah

Remember:

Rebecca Friedman
Doris Handler
Teible Barach
Edward Looney, Senior

Coordinator: Amy Greenberg**Movie Coordinator:** Wendy
Berenson 925-829-0554**Adult Programming:** Karen
Furst

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