

News & Fun Activities

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Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

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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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July 3rd, 2020

Khukat-Balak

This July 4th is the Torah reading Khukat-Balak. The Haftarah for Balak, Micah 5:6 – 6:8 is most famous for the very last verse – Do justice . . . love goodness . . . walk modestly with your god. But this year, an earlier verse is much more apposite. It reads "The remnant of Jacob shall be among the nations, in the midst of the many peoples, like a lion among beasts of the wild, like a fierce lion among flocks of sheep, which tramples wherever it goes and rends with none to deliver."

You could, of course, use this to justify the annexation of the West Bank and the trampling

of the rights of those who live there. But the beauty and joy of interpreting Jewish texts is that they can be read so many different ways. Here's how I read it:

Just as the American colonists were a small but lionhearted band who triumphed over the British – that's what we celebrate on July 4th – a small number of people today who are willing to be seen, to be heard, to fight for what's right, can also win. Those who have hearts of lions can triumph over those who, like sheep, know only how to follow the one who sets himself up as leader. The lion does not nicely ask the sheep if it would like to be eaten. It doesn't bargain for a leg of lamb or maybe a tasty chop, leaving the rest intact. It demands its due. Those who care about justice and goodness can prevail – but only if we roar like lions.

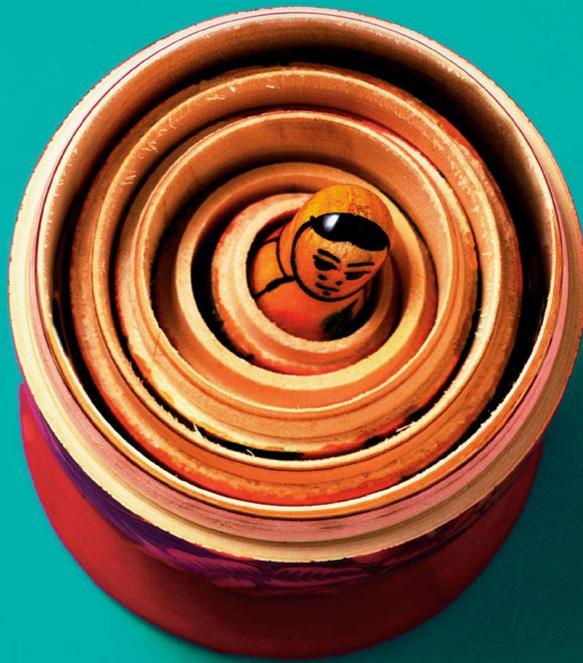
Judith Seid

TVCJ Community News

BOOK REVIEW

Nobody Will Tell You This But Me By Bess Kalb

Nobody Will Tell You This But Me



A true (as told to me) story

Bess Kalb

This book is a memoir of the author (who is a writer for the Jimmy Kimmel show) and an account of the relationship between her and her grandmother. This relationship was extremely close, loving, funny, and, at times, brutally honest. It was recalled by the author's memory, as well as reports by her mother and grandfather. It was also documented by frequent voicemail exchanges between the author and grandmother.

This relationship continued even after the grandmother's death, in the imagined conversations between the two. Many of us would be envious of the closeness of the

relationship, and of the communication and bond that was developed.

I found the book fascinating, even though at the beginning I found it a little hard to follow. I would definitely recommend it, and can understand why it made the current L.A. Times best seller list. If you would like to purchase this book on Amazon [click here](#).

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

Black Lives Matter Juneteenth Event

In keeping with our recent statement supporting Black lives, Judy and David represented TVCJ at the Black Lives Matter Juneteenth event at Santa Rita Jail, sponsored by the Essie Justice group, women who have loved ones in jails and prisons. The program was heartfelt and moving - and everyone was COVID-19 aware. This picture is of people adding to a shrine to those incarcerated and killed.



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews Virtual Upcoming Summer Havdalahs

July Havdalah

Date: Saturday, July 18th

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: This year the TVCJ Havdalah celebrations will be held over zoom video conferencing.

Cost: FREE



Sophia will present one of her Brit Mitzvah projects during our Havdalah. We will celebrate the end of Shabbes with a short Havdalah observance and shmooze afterward. If you'd like to participate from your home, then have a braided candle to light, wine or juice to drink (to put the candle flame out) and a spice box.

Reservations are required. To make a reservation please [Click Here](#).

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Once you receive your confirmation, then please add the zoom meeting link to your calendar.

August Havdalah

Date: Saturday, August 15th

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Place: This year the TVCJ Havdalah celebrations will be held over zoom video conferencing.

Cost: FREE

The Zoom meeting link will be sent closer to the date.



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Who We Are



In July We Remember:

Allen Lee Coren
Dolores King
Bunny Simmel



Happy July Birthdays:

Ben Gross
Solomon Ireland
Noah King
Isaac Passovoy
Rick Randel
Mark Shulewitz

Board Members:

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski 718-578-7876
Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404
Rebecca Ireland 510-888-1404
Bret Mogilefsky 510-610-1956
Jesse Pino 925-605-6003
Mark Shulewitz 510-846-9718

Newsletter: Joy Randel 925-362-3245

Webmaster: Noah King 925-371-8585

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jamie Ireland 510-888-1404

Movie Coordinator: Wendy Berenson 925-829-0554



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