

# News & Fun Activities

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## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

**TriValleyCulturalJews.org**

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



**\*\*Please share this with your friends by clicking on the Facebook, Email, or Twitter symbols above.\*\***

## ***August 8th, 2020***

### **Jamie's New Coordinator Role**

As Coordinator, Jamie will be organizing the holidays, Shabbes and Havdalah events, answering the phone calls and monitoring the TVCJ email account. Jamie will also continue to work with kids who are becoming a Brit Mitzvah.

If you have any suggestions for holidays or would like to help out with these events please contact Jamie at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com).

# TVCJ Community News



## August Havdalah

**Date:** August 15th 2020

**Time:** 7:00p.m.

**Place:** **Reservations are required. To make reservations please email Jamie at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) and she will send you the Zoom meeting link for the August Havdalah.**

**Cost:** FREE

Shalom TVCJ, Join us for a Virtual Havdalah! Bring a braided candle, juice/wine, spice box to participate...or just watch our short secular, humanistic ceremony. Afterward we will have an online game night.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.



**Jewish  
Culture  
School**

## **First Day of Jewish Culture School August 30th**

Jewish Culture School is going online this fall. It's not easy to hold Culture School online. Zoom singing is hilariously impossible, nobody has room for exuberant folk dancing, and cooking together to build community might have to wait. But we have plans! Our youngest and middle classes will be learning about being Jewish at home. Each week, the half-hour zoom classes will include objects that the students will find in their homes. Our oldest class will be studying Jewish life in Eastern Europe through a combination of individual assignments and in-class discussions during our half-hour weekly meeting. All three classes will take as-wild-as-possible dance breaks when needed.

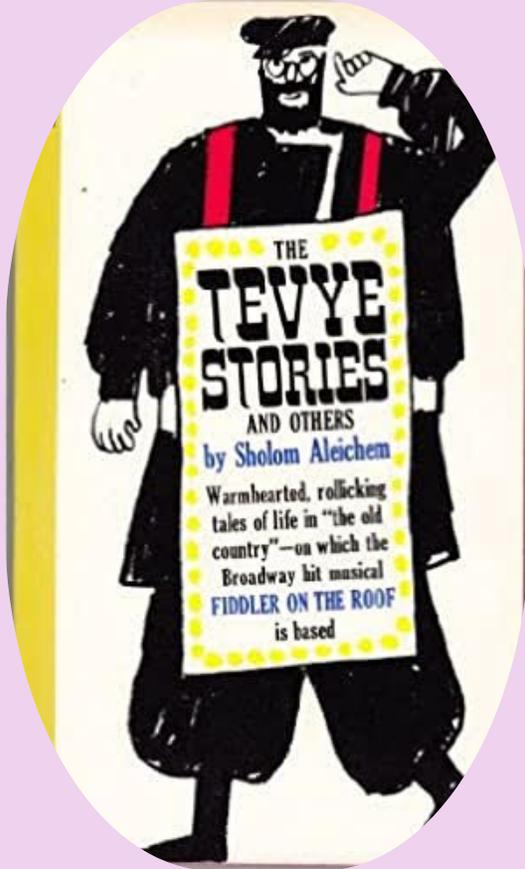
Jewish Culture School teaches a Secular and Humanistic way of being Jewish. It is open to students 5-14 and can culminate in a Secular Brit Mitzvah ceremony. Students' households must be members of Tri-Valley Cultural Jews. For more information and [membership/enrollment forms click here](#), or call (925) 399-8029. [Please click this link to find out the all the JCS dates and times for this year.](#)

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews is a member of the [Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization](#),

## **New in Our TVCJ Library**

Did you ever wonder where "Fiddler on the Roof" came from? It's from a series of short stories by the Yiddish author Sholom Aleichem (Sholom Rabinowitz), and we now have those stories, and others, in our library.

This little book is full of funny stories and those that show the daily life of the Jews in Eastern Europe before World War One. The characters - including the small town of Kasrilifke, itself - are quirky and



immediately recognizable. In addition to being entertaining, the stories are engaging and even (a little) educational.

**Judith Seid**

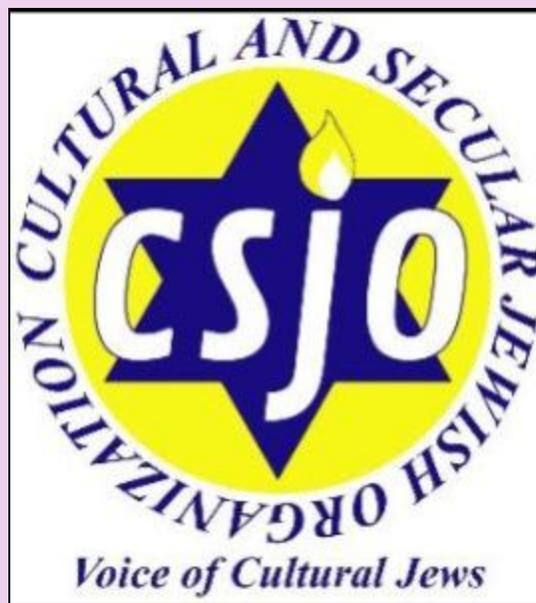
## **Philosopher's Cafe**

**Join Our Next Meeting first Thursday of each month @ 7:00 p.m.**

We had our first Philosopher's Cafe! A big thank you to Judy for kicking us off! Our topic was Telling The Truth. We talked about times we told the truth and wish we hadn't, when we wish we had but didn't. And whether there are times when you shouldn't tell the truth, is it ever okay to not tell the truth and various other iterations.

Please let Jamie at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) know if you'd like to pick the topic for us to discuss and lead one for us.





## Join CSJO's New Book Club!

Have you ever been interested in joining a multigenerational book club made up of people from all over North America? Well look no further, because CSJO is creating just that! At each meeting, we will discuss a book that relates to Judaism and was written by a Jewish author, and we'll mix things up meeting to meeting by reading both nonfiction and fiction of all different genres.

We'll be hosting the first virtual book club meeting on **Thursday, September 3, 2020 at 8pm Eastern/5pm Pacific**, where we will discuss (((Semitism))) : Being Jewish in America in the Age of Trump by Jonathan Weisman.

"An urgent and compelling report on the clear and present danger of proto-fascism in the U.S." —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

# (((SEMITISM)))

*Being Jewish in America  
in the Age of Trump*

JONATHAN WEISMAN

What can you expect from the first book club? It will be filled with good times, thought-provoking conversations, and a chance to help us determine the book, date, and time for our next meeting. Below, you can find a list with different ways you can get your hands on a copy of the book. **If you are interested or have any questions about the book club, please reach out to Sarah Waslow-Washington at [sarah.csjo@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.csjo@gmail.com).** Please let her know if you are interested **by September 1st** so she can send you the Zoom link for the meeting. We're looking forward to getting our read on!

**P.S.** This is a BYOB/G (Bring Your Own Bottle/Glass) and BYOF (Bring Your Own Food) event!

**Here are some ways to get a copy of (((Semitism))) by Jonathan Weisman:**

Your local library "Libby" to check out an ebook or audiobook version from your local library

The phone app

Your local small bookstore

[Thriftbooks](#) has used copied for around \$5

[Barnes & Noble](#)

[Kobo](#) has ebook versions that you can download.

# **Book Review**

## **Beyond the Shadow of Night**

### **By**

### **Ray Kingfisher**

This is a novel about two boys who grew up on a farm in Ukraine during the time of World War II. They were inseparable. They considered themselves as brothers born of different mothers. Asher was Jewish and Mykhail was gentile. As the years went by Asher's family left the farm to find work in Warsaw. Mychal's family stayed on the farm. But Asher's family was placed in the Jewish ghetto, and was eventually imprisoned in the Treblinka Concentration Camp.

Unbenounced to Asher, Mykhal ended up as a mechanic in the same camp, working with the Nazis. After the war they were reunited, each not knowing what the other had done during the past several decades. They each had secrets concerning their activities while at the camp.

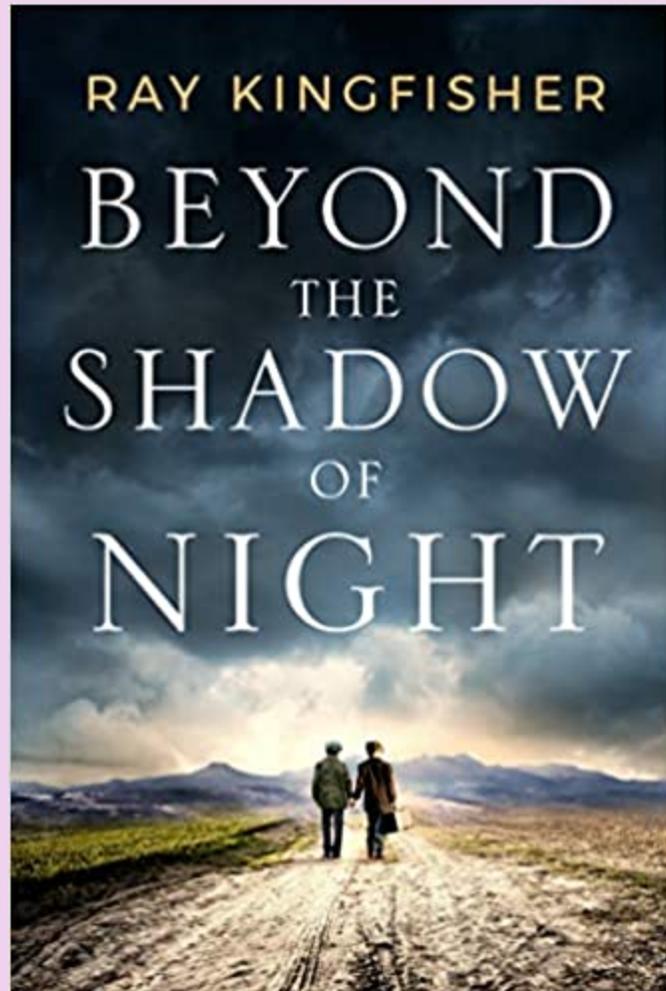
This is a compelling story and well written. However, as a warning, some of the activities at the concentration camp are quite graphic and difficult to read.

**Reviewed by Jerry Zwick**

## **Interfaith Interconnect Together Now Virtual Event**

As we navigate through uncertain times, you are invited to join us for prayer, poetry, story, reflection, and music from presenters representing some of the many cultures and religions in the Tri-Valley.

The program is aimed at bringing out the richness and variety from our faith traditions to benefit us all. We hope it leaves you feeling more connected,



hopeful, and empowered to make a difference in the world, wherever you are.

Sunday, August 9th, 2020, 5:00p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

**No RSVP needed**

Watch live on YouTube at [mcceastbay.org/together](https://www.mcceastbay.org/together)

Or, watch live on Facebook at [mcceastbay.org/together-nowWatch](https://www.mcceastbay.org/together-nowWatch) live online

**Note!** The recording of the program will also be available afterwards from these same links.

## Magnes Collection of Jewish Art Now Online: Exhibits of Works by Vishniac and Szyk

Two large exhibits that had just opened at the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life at UC Berkeley when the coronavirus pandemic began can now be viewed online.

"[In Real Times. Arthur Szyk: Art & Human Rights](#)," a collection of paintings and drawings by the renowned 20th-century Polish artist, and "[An Archive of Archives, Roman Vishniac's Exhibition History, New York 1971-72](#)," a re-creation of a non-Magnes Vishniac exhibit, are in digital form on the [Magnes website](#), along with other artifacts from the collections, videos of past events and more.



### In August We Remember:

Frances Shapiro Colvin  
John Gates  
Lou Garcia  
Susan Durfee Hudson



**Happy**

## Who We Are

### 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

## August Birthdays:

Elsa Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Genoveva Llosa

Dani Noy

Robert Pepper

Joy Randel



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