

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) 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."



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July 30th 2022

TVCJ Community News

Like and share our FaceBook page:
<http://facebook.com/trivalleyculturaljews>

Upcoming Events

If you need more information or have questions about anything in this newsletter, then please email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029**.

August 4th Philosophers' Cafe Monthly Friendly Discussion Group

Date: First Thursday of each month (next one is August 4th)

Time: 7:00p.m.

Place: Zoom (**The Zoom link will be in the evite you should receive soon.**)

Cost: Free to members, \$10.00 suggested donation for non-members.

Is consciousness a chrome book? An odd question, but one we tackled during July's Philosophers' Cafe. We talked about the nature of consciousness and also the nature of conscience and why some people don't seem to have one. Philosophers' Cafe is our monthly friendly discussion group. We talk about ideas both esoteric and concrete, serious and lighthearted. We never know what the topic will be before the zoom call at 7 p.m. the first Thursday of each month, so there's no homework! Come meet other members and friends of TVCJ and enjoy shmoozing with other like-minded people. Look for the evite each month with the zoom link.

We need new topics - they can be either serious or lighthearted. If you have an idea, please

let us know! And of course, we'd love any of our members to lead a session - just think of something you'd like to hear people's stories or opinions about and let us know you're ready to lead. If you have an idea you'd like to discuss, please let us know by emailing culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** and we'll schedule your session. Join us!

Our Calendar

2022:

August 13 - Shabbos

Gathering

August 28 - JCS open house

September 11 - JCS

September 25 - Erev Rosh

Hashanah gathering

October 4 - Kol Nidre

(evening) gathering

October 9 - Sukkah raising
party

October 23 - JCS

November 6 - JCS

November 20 - JCS

December 4 - JCS

December 18 - Chanukah
party (first light of Chanukah)

2023:

January 1 - JCS

January 22 - JCS

February 5 - Tu B'Shvat

February 19 - JCS

March 5 - Purim

March 19 - JCS

April 2 - JCS/Passover Open
House

April 8 - Community Passover
Seder

April 16 - JCS

April 30 - JCS

May 7 - Lag B'Omer



August Shabbos Gathering on 8/13/22. More details to follow in Evite.

Jewish Culture School

Rosh Hashanah Jewish Culture School Open House...and Tell Friends!

Date: August 28th

Celebrate Rosh Hashanah with Us! Join Tri Valley Cultural Jews for a Rosh Hashanah Open House and see what we do at Jewish Cultural School. We'll sing, we'll dance, we'll bake and there will definitely be apples and honey! Geared towards kids Kindergarten through Brit Mitzvah (5-14) and their families. We meet outside with masks on to keep everyone safe. Kid centered, but open to everyone. More details to follow in the Evite.

Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** for information.

First Day of Jewish Cultural School

Date: September 11th

A new year of JCS begins on 9/11. Join us as we visit Jews Around the World through crafts, stories, food, dance and song. Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** for

more information.

[Click here to read more about our Jewish Culture School.](#)

TVCJ Board Update

The board has adjusted TVCJ's annual dues and JCS tuition for the 2022-2023 year. A membership renewal email will go out in August, but the new dues are:

Membership Enrollment Annual Dues

\$250 (one-adult household)

\$360 (two-adult household)

We keep our fees as low as we can so everyone who wants to be a member of our group can afford to be. If Membership dues are a hardship, please let us know.

If on the other hand, you can afford to make an additional tax-deductible donation, can you be a.....

- **Mensch:** + \$100
- **Mitzvah:** + \$250
- **Melekh (King):** +\$400
- **Lamed-Vav** (Righteous One): +\$600
- **Malakh (Angel):** +\$1000

Jewish Culture School Tuition Fees

Yearly tuition is \$450 for the first child, and \$360 for each additional child in the same household.

- The fee for Bar/Bat Mitzvah preparation is an additional \$150/year for two years.

TVCJ Discretionary Fund for Reproductive Justice

TVCJ has set up a discretionary fund for reproductive justice. The fund will be used to help with travel and abortion costs for those who need to travel out of state for an abortion. We are in touch with a network that helps when abortion funds and other sources are not sufficient and will be able to respond to their funding requests. If you'd like to make a tax deductible donation to the fund,

please Venmo or send a check with the notation "discretionary fund for reproductive justice."
Checks should be made to TVCJ. Our ground address is 1817 Sinclair Drive, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Here's our Venmo information:



Tri-Valley Cultural Jews
@Tri-Valley-CulturalJews





Rosh Hashanah - September 25th

Welcome the New Year at our Rosh Hashanah Celebration on September 25th. Tashlich begins at 3:30pm with a walk down to Arroyo Mocho and our service begins at 4:30pm. Join us and start the new year off right! We will meet outside and socially distance ourselves. Free to members, suggested \$10 donation per non-member adult if you are able. More details to follow in Evite.

Yom Kippur - October 4th

Join us for a time of reflection at our sunset Kol Nidre on October 4th at 6:30pm. More details to follow in Evite.

Sukkot - October 9th

Want to host our next Sukkot gathering? We'll create a sukkah that you can use year after year. Email culturaljews@gmail.com or call **925-399-8029** to volunteer for our Sukkot celebration on October 9th at 10:30am.

Our Disc Golf Shabbos

On July 16th, we played in Robertson Park through their Frisbee Golf course. It is a fun little 9 hole course with alternate tees creating a full 18. Nothing like kibitzing with friends and some Saturday morning frisbee golf!

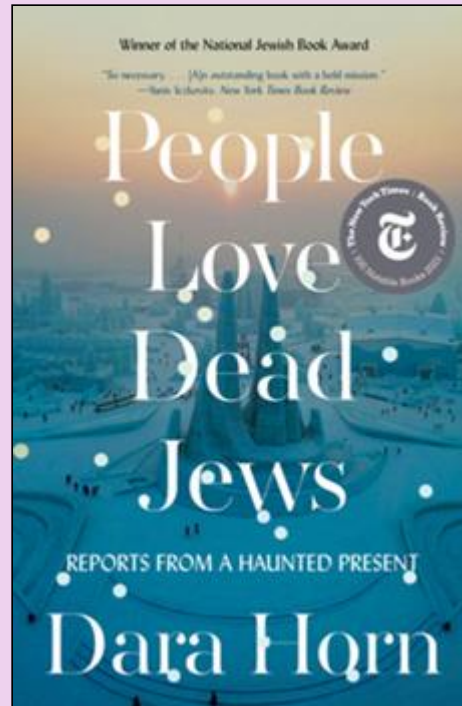




Two Great Book Reviews

**People Love Dead Jews: Reports From a Haunted
Present
By**

Dara Horn

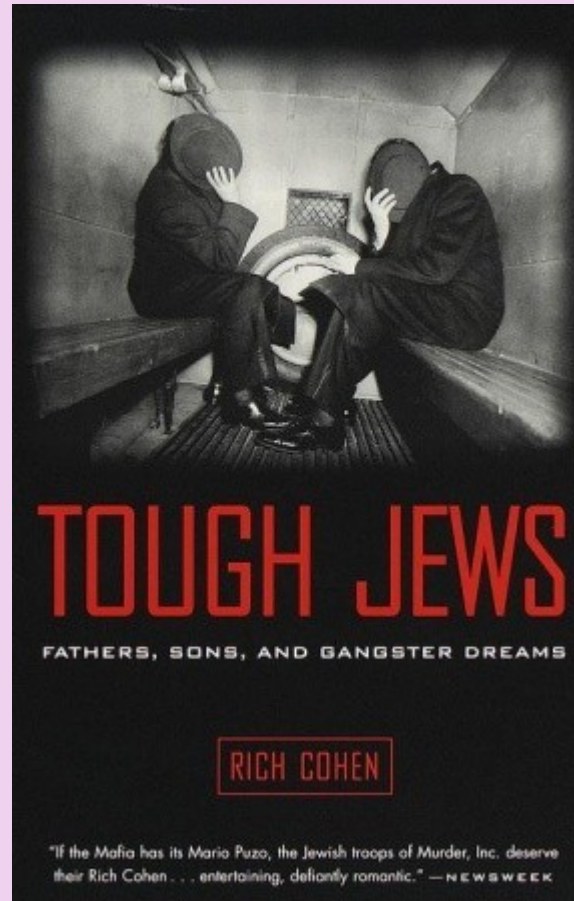


I'm pretty sure I disagree with Dara Horn on a lot of issues. I'm not at all sure I'd enjoy knowing her. But her recent book, *People Love Dead Jews: Reports From a Haunted Present*, is brilliant. Sarcastic (I like that), heartfelt and penetrating, she illuminates how communities that despised the Jews who lived amongst them have now rehabilitated their Jewish history, allowing everyone to feel good about it, and allowing us to forget the actual dead Jews who are being memorialized. She examines Jews in several places in the world (including China, Eastern Europe, the U.S.) and, in one chapter, demonstrates how no anti-Jewish rhetoric or act is like the Holocaust - until it is. Because of the enormity of the destruction of Jews during World War II, everything else seems to be almost trivial to the rest of the world - and even some Jews. The book is short, unexpectedly readable, and deeply disturbing. [Click here to purchase this book on Amazon.](#)

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Reviewed By Judith Seid

Tough Jews Fathers, Sons and Gangster Dreams By Rich Cohen



Talk about smashing Jewish stereotypes, this book tells the true stories of Jews who had (well deserved) reputations for being tough guys. They were boxers, gangsters, killers and mobsters. (Who knew Jews could do such things?) They had names like Kid Twist Reles, Bugsy Siegel, Dutch Schultz, Charlie the Bug Workman and many more. Even celebrities like Walter Winchell and Larry King were involved. Most of these stories took place in New York (where else?) in the years between 1920 to 1940. We learn about murders, robberies, executions, beatings etc. One of the orthodox gangsters said that he would never kill anyone on Shabes.

The amazing thing was how organized and powerful the gangs became. Several even took on the Federal Government by way of the FBI and J. Edgar Hoover himself. You didn't cross or "rat" on even members of your own gang. Once a contract was out on you for a real or perceived infraction of the gang's rules, you could be as good as dead. And these murders were frequent and vicious. The gangs' bosses and the boss of the bosses called all of the shots and in many cases who lived and who died.

This book was well written, but contained many extremely violent and bloody scenes. [Click here to purchase this book on Amazon](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

REBOOT

**REBOOT LAUNCHES STUDIO WITH FIRST ROUND OF
FUNDING FOR FRESH AND IMAGINATIVE FILM,
MULTIMEDIA AND ART PROJECTS**

Reboot Studios Advisors include award-winning songwriter Benj Pasek, Searchlight Pictures President David Greenbaum and Amy Israel, EVP, Showtime.

We are excited to announce the official launch of our latest venture, [Reboot Studios](#), to provide seed funding and develop new, inspirational and transformational Jewish content. With the guidance of experienced advisors and anchored by a series of projects around universal ideas of identity, the new studio will create multidisciplinary content for theater, television, film, podcasts, music and publishing, telling hopeful stories that unwind and address prejudice. Read more about our vision for Reboot Studios in this just-released [exclusive article from DEADLINE](#).

"Art influences our world, enriches our lives and brings us together. It has the power to educate, inspire, create movements and change the way we think. Reboot Studios wants to tell stories about the shared human experience in order to amplify and celebrate our universal potential," said David Katznelson, Reboot CEO.

[Learn More about Reboot Studios by clicking here.](#)

**The Contemporary Jewish Museum
New Exhibition: Opening Thursday, July 21st
Oz is For Oznowicz: A Puppet Family's History**



Tickets: This exhibition is **FREE** to the public, and tickets are not required. General admission is required to visit the other exhibitions on view, and we recommend that all visitors book timed tickets online in advance to facilitate a contactless visit to The Museum.

Oz is for Oznowicz is an original exhibition presenting the incredible family history of Frank Oz, the legendary actor, film director, and performer known widely for being the closest collaborator of Muppet creator Jim Henson. Oz's path to performing, puppetry, and use of humor as a tool for social commentary was paved by his parents, Isidore (Mike) and Frances Oznowicz.

Mike and Frances escaped Nazi-occupied Belgium, resisted Nazi forces in Europe, and eventually settled in Oakland, CA, where they became leaders in the puppetry community. Their story is presented through a selection of hand-carved marionettes the couple created, as well as archival photographs and family narratives. Most notable among the marionettes that Mike and Frances created is a never-before-exhibited caricature of Adolf Hitler, which they intended as a tool for mockery and social criticism during the dictator's rise to power in the late 1930s. In the face of rising antisemitism today, this marionette is a striking reminder of the ongoing need to fight back against bigotry in all its insidious forms. [Click here for more information.](#)



In July We Remember

Allen Lee Coren
Dolores King
Bunny Simmel



July Birthdays

Ben Gross

Who We Are

Rabbi: Judith Seid

Madrikha: Jamie Ireland

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

Rachel Rose 808-494-8586

Newsletter: Joy Randel

Webmaster: Noah King

JCS Teachers: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

Holiday Coordinator: Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Movie Coordinator: Bret Mogilefsky

Solomon Ireland

Noah King

Isaac Passovoy

Rick Randel

Mark Shulewitz

Joke: What do you get when you cross a snail with a porcupine? **Answer:** A slowpoke!



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