

# 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.**



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# June 24th 2023

## TVCJ Community News

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

## Upcoming Events

If you would like to attend one of our events email us at [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) or call **(925) 399-8029** for an Evite. You can find us at [trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://trivalleyculturaljews.org). Free to members, suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able. Masking is optional outdoors when social distancing is possible.

You can make donations to TVCJ through Paypal or Venmo. Our handle is Tri-Valley Cultural Jews.

### **Philosophers' Cafe--7/6/23** **Monthly Friendly Discussion Group**

Want to have a civil discussion about a topic of general interest? No shouting, no snark, just talking with reasonable people about current affairs, ideas, real life. We meet at 7 p.m. for an hour (or a little more) on zoom on the first Thursday of most months. Join us Thursday, July 6th and find out the topic then. Zoom ID 568 599 7884.

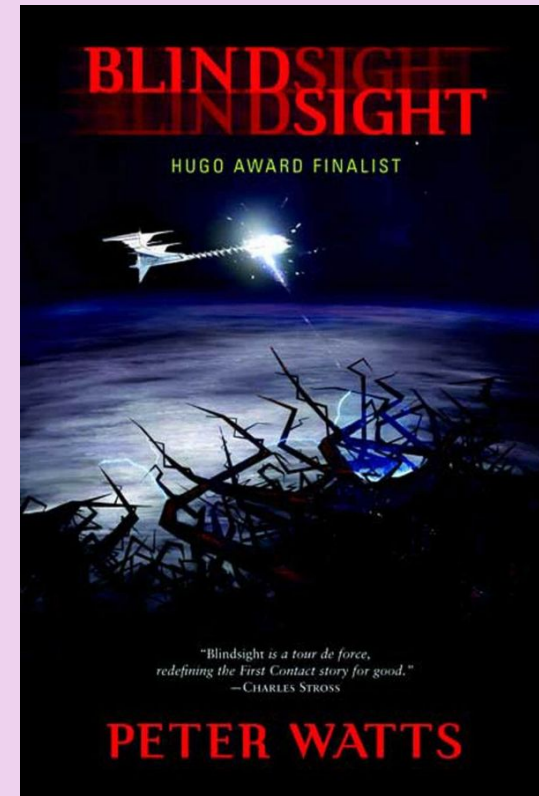
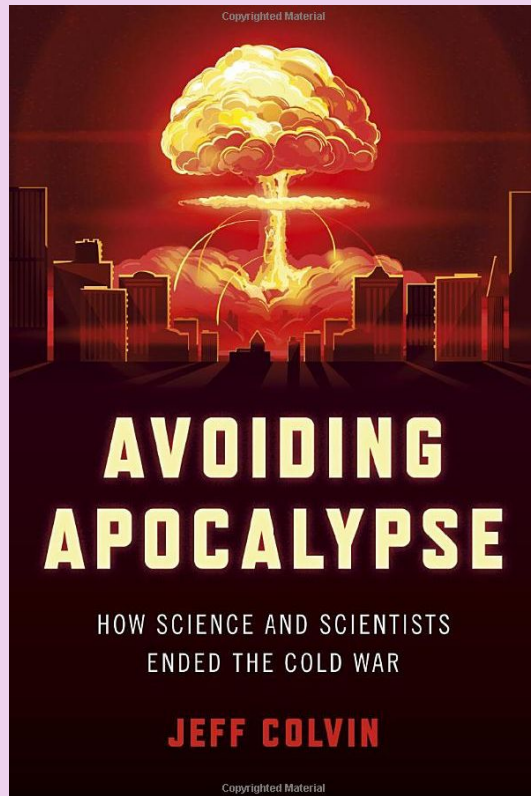


## **Volunteers Needed: TVCJ Booth at Castro Valley Pride- -7/15/23**

We will have a booth at Castro Valley Pride again this year. It's July 15th from noon to 5 p.m. We have some volunteers to staff the table, but could use a few more. If you're interested in spending an hour helping to promote TVCJ and Jewish Culture School (and a little more time just strolling around the festival), please let us know. It's a fun time!

## **TVCJ Book Day--7/23/23**

July 23rd is TVCJ book day! At 10:30 a.m., we'll gather at Judy and David's house (1817 Sinclair Drive in Pleasanton) to discuss the book *Blindsight* by Peter Watts. It was a book recommended at our Shavuot gathering and those who had read it said they couldn't stop thinking about it. So, grab a copy from your library and let's talk. At 2 p.m. member Jeff Colvin will be speaking at the Livermore Public Library on his new book *Avoiding Apocalypse* about how scientists stopped the cold war. Both should be interesting and informative. And maybe we'll all go out to lunch between.



## **New Year of Jewish Culture School--8/27/23**

Get ready for another amazing year of Jewish Culture School (JCS)! This year we're doing a deep dive into holidays and life cycles. The fun starts on August 27th, so mark your calendars and tell your friends! JCS is geared towards Kindergarten through Brit Mitzvah (5-14). Meetings will be mostly indoors with good ventilation and air filtration.

## **Rosh Hashanah Family Day--9/10/23**

Got apples and honey? Get in the Rosh Hashanah mood at our Family Day on September 10th. We're cooking, crafting and making the music that makes this time of year special. Come see what Jewish Culture School is all about.

## **Rosh Hashanah Celebration Save the Date--9/16/23**

Join us for a sweet start to the New Year at our annual Rosh Hashanah Celebration on September 16th!

## Save the Date for Kol Nidre--9/24/23

Start your year off right with our Kol Nidre Observance on September 24th.

### Have you always wanted a Sukkah in your backyard?

TVCJ hosts a Sukkah Gathering every year in a member's backyard. You provide the space, and we help you build and decorate! If this sounds like fun, call or email us at [\(925\) 399-8029](tel:9253998029) or [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com). Our Sukkah Celebration is on Sunday, October 1st at 10:30am.

## Contemporary Jewish Museum

### Mika Rottenberg: Spaghetti Blockchain Exhibition



[Click Here to Buy Tickets:](#)

**May 18, 2023–Oct 22, 2023**

One of the most innovative and internationally acclaimed artists working today, New York–based Mika Rottenberg (b. 1976, Buenos Aires) employs a disarmingly absurd sense of humor to confront the paradoxes of global capitalism and uncover the surprising ways in which we are all connected. This exhibition presents Rottenberg’s most prominent videos, installations, and sculptures of the past decade in the first museum survey of her work ever to be presented on the West Coast. Explore a collection of vividly colorful video installations and kinetic sculptures that uncover the surreal qualities of mass production and consumption.

## **Bend the Arc, Jewish Action: Enzi Tanner and Rachèl Lafores Video Series Your Safety Is My Safety**

Between now and the High Holy Days, Ben the Arc will be sharing videos that invite us into reflection about what safety can look like if we commit to community and relationship.



**Upcoming Events Calendar**

## **2023**

**8/27** First Day JCS

**9/10** Rosh Hashanah Family  
Day

**9/16** Rosh Hashanah

**9/24** Kol Nidre

**10/1** Sukkah Raising

**10/15** JCS

**10/29** JCS

**11/12** JCS

**11/26** JCS

**12/10** Chanukah Party - mid  
afternoon

**Winter Break**

## **2024**

**1/7** JCS

**1/21** Tu B'Shvat

**2/4** JCS

**2/18** JCS

**3/3** JCS

**3/17** JCS

**3/24** Purim

**4/7** JCS

**4/21** Passover Family Day

**4/27** Community Passover  
Seder

**5/12** Last Class JCS

**5/26** Lag B'Omer

**6/9** Shavuot + Annual Meeting

## **Open Position: Eden Interfaith Representative**

Meet 1x a month, the first or second Tuesday of the month at 7:00p.m, with other leaders at their location in Hayward and give Secular Jews a voice. Tasks involve representing TVCJ in Interfaith actions, reporting back to the board on Interfaith activities, and volunteering (or finding other volunteers) for actions you find important.

## **May Board Meeting**

At the May meeting, the board approved a new membership category for people who live too far away to attend in-person events. The membership fee for a one-adult household is \$118 and for a two-adult household is \$180.

We will continue to provide zoom access for holidays, and our Philosophers' Cafe will continue to be held on zoom. We are also considering a Judaism 101 zoom class starting this fall.

## **Annual Meeting**

Our annual meeting was held June 4th and a new board elected. New members are Kai Mogilefsky, Jamie Ireland and David Gates. Returning members are Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Rachel Rose and Judith Seid. The new board met June 13th and elected officers. Jamie will serve as president, Jazz as secretary and Judy will continue as

treasurer.

At the annual meeting, it was proposed that the use of the temporarily restricted fund, the Discretionary Fund for Reproductive Justice, be expanded to help pay for relocation for those who have to leave their states because of anti-trans laws and actions. The accounting rules for non-profits would allow this change only upon agreement of all the donors. All donors have now agreed, the purpose of the fund is expanded.

**BOOK REVIEW**  
**THE PRISON MINYAN**  
**By**  
**JONATHAN STONE**



Welcome to Otisville, America's only  
Jewish prison...rugelach, blintzes and a  
quest for vengeance from the White House



THE  
**PRISON  
MINYAN**

**JONATHAN STONE**

This book is centered on several improbable circumstances. First, a minyan (10 Jewish men who gather for prayer) in a prison. Second, a rabbi, who is one of the prisoners, Third, a class in poetry taught by a female instructor (not a prisoner). Fourth, an anti-Semitic right-wing warden who very few of the prisoners have ever seen and who never knew that this class was operating in his prison until long after it was established.

Most of the prisoners were skeptical about attending a poetry class but decided that it would be a good way to continue meeting and would be a distraction from prison life. The poems they wrote at first were very simplistic. But eventually became expressions of their true feelings and taught them much about themselves and why they committed the crimes that got them incarcerated.

The warden who resented this group came up with ways to destroy it. He later discovered that these prisoners could outsmart him in order to continue the class and the minyan.

There are a number of sub-plots in the book. One involved a mysterious murder on the prison grounds. Others are dispersed throughout the book.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book especially the many plot twists, the Jewish humor, and the poetry written by the inmates. I would most highly recommend it. [\*\*If you are interested in purchasing this book, then you can find it on Amazon by clicking here.\*\*](#)

**Reviewed by Jerry Zwick**



## **San Francisco Jewish Film Festival (SFJFF) July 20th – August 6th**

[Browse All the Films](#)

[Click Here for Tickets on Sale Now](#)

We're excited to share the full program of the 43rd San Francisco Jewish Film Festival! SFJFF celebrates the diverse creativity of global Jewish life with 67 films from 18 countries, each one overflowing with all of the joy, drama, and comedy that define Jewish storytelling. This year's Festival is a can't-miss event with beloved cultural touchstones, energizing community conversations, and an inspiring slate of programs set to push the boundaries of Jew(ish) film.



## **Opening Night Remembering Gene Wilder**

Thursday, July 20th @ 6:30pm

Castro Theatre

Director Ron Frank, producers David Knight and Julie Nimoy, and participant Karen Wilder expected to attend

[Remembering Gene Wilder](#) is a joyful cinematic celebration of the beloved Jewish actor (The Producers, Blazing Saddles, and Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory) and his indelible cultural impact on the silver screen. Wilder's endearing comic genius comes to life in this affectionate tribute, chock full of uproarious clips, outtakes, and poignant reminiscences.

Join us after the film for the SFJFF Opening Night Party at [The Green Room at the War Memorial & Performing Arts Center](#), where guests can mingle, dance, and enjoy delicacies from our Bay Area culinary partners.

## 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 or visit: <https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/2326042>*



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## Yahrzeit Memorial

### **In June We Remember**

Eliza Haile Cloe

Augusta Gorman

John Mogul



### **June Birthdays**

Eileen Alkin-Fagliano

David Gates

Greg Gorel

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Thelma Poxon-Hudson

Vicki Hudson

Carol King

Bret Mogilefsky

Leah Morrison

Judy Seid

**Who We Are**

**Rabbi:** Judith Seid **925-485-1049**

**Madrikha:** Jamie Ireland

**Board Members:**

David Gates

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Kai Mogilefsky

Rachel Rose

Judith Seid

**Newsletter:** Joy Randel

**Webmaster:** Noah King

**JCS Teachers:** Jazz Salwen-Grabowski, Judith Seid

**Holiday Coordinator:** Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

**Movie Coordinator:** Bret Mogilefsky

**Riddle:** Sara has four daughters, and each of her daughters has a brother. How many children does Sara have? **Answer:** Five—each daughter has the same brother.



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