

TVCJ Happenings [View this email in your browser](#)

Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

TriValleyCulturalJews.org

info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org

[\(925\) 399-8029](tel:(925)399-8029)

Our mission statement: A Secular Humanistic community serving those who identify with the Jewish People through family, culture and history, rather than through religion.



**TRI-VALLEY
CULTURAL JEWS**
secular + humanist

Like and Share on Facebook

TVCJ is an accepting, welcoming, diverse community of Cultural Jews and their families. Call or email us at [\(925\) 399-8029](tel:(925)399-8029) or culturaljews@gmail.com for an Evite or for more information about our community. You can find us at trivalleyculturaljews.org. Free to members, suggested \$15 donation per non-member adult if you are able.

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

April 26th 2025

TVCJ
proudly
supports
our
Federal
Workforce



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In solidarity, Tri-Valley Cultural Jews is offering \$18 memberships to any recently fired federal workers. Grounded in the Jewish tradition of tzedek (justice) and the humanist commitment to dignity and compassion, we stand with those facing unjust hardship. This symbolic gesture—\$18 representing chai, or life—is our way of saying: you are not alone, and your struggle matters.



MAZEL TOV
ON YOUR UPCOMING BRIT MITZVAH
Keren

Keren Rother Telias will celebrate her Brit Mitzvah on **July 5th** in the South Bay. We hope many TVCJ members and friends will come celebrate with the family and see what a Secular Brit Mitzvah ceremony is like.

Want to Help Represent Our Community?

We're looking for a volunteer to attend Interfaith Interconnect meetings!

No experience needed—just a friendly spirit and a willingness to show up once a month.

Our Secular Humanist Jewish group is part of a local interfaith network that brings together communities to share ideas, build understanding, and support one another. We'd love to have someone represent us and our

values—human dignity, reason, justice, and Jewish cultural heritage—in those conversations.

It's a great way to give back, help strengthen our interfaith connections, and be a quiet but meaningful voice for who we are. If you're curious or want to try it out, reach out—we'd love to hear from you!

We Need A Home Fund

Last month we explained why we need a home because of logistics. This month, we want to explain why else we need a home. It's for legitimacy.

Some people feel uncomfortable when their first experience with an organization would be in a private home. It can make them feel like intruders, as if they are invading a private gathering, or even not quite safe. Although we are almost 20 years old, having a private home as our address also makes us seem less stable and reliable.

For us to gain public legitimacy, we need a public presence. That's why we are asking for contributions to our We Need A Home Matching Fund.

We'd like to be able to rent a space for our smaller gatherings and for our school so that we will be seen as a stable legitimate organization that people can feel good about joining.

Upcoming Events

Not a Book Club - 4/26/25

On Saturday, April 26th, we'll discuss *The Golem of Brooklyn* by Adam Mansbach.

This special group is a perk for our members. Want to find out more about who we are and what we do? Email us at culturaljews@gmail.com or call **(925) 399-8029** if you have questions or want to find out more about our community.

Sunday Chats - 4/27/25

Sunday Chat is composed of any members who want to meet on the Sunday mornings that JCS meets. Parents of JCS kids and other members meet at Inklings in downtown Pleasanton for coffee and conversation.

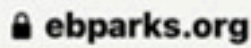
Philosophers' Cafe - 5/01/25

Our monthly friendly discussion, Philosophers' Cafe, will be held on zoom Thursday, May 1st from 7-8 p.m. The topic will be a surprise this time.

The event is restricted to members, but non-members are invited to participate a couple of times before deciding to join. So try it - you might like it! Look for the evite!

TVCJ Hike Saturday - 5/03/25 9:30a.m.

Meet at the East parking lot (no fee) at 9:30a.m. Walk about 2 miles out (466ft elevation gain) loop back 2 miles. Total trail is 14.6 miles so we can go further if we want. Deep in a valley framed by oak-covered hills, Del Valle Lake is five miles long surrounded by 4,395 acres of beautiful land for hiking, horseback riding, and nature study. Exposed, but shouldn't be too hot in early May. Bring plenty of water.



From I-580 in Livermore, exit at North Livermore Avenue. Drive south on North Livermore Avenue. Turn right at Portola Avenue, then left on North L Street. North L Street becomes South L Street, then Arroyo Road. Continue on Arroyo Road past the entrance to the U.S. Veterans

Administration Hospital and Sycamore Grove Park. The staging area is on the left at the end of Arroyo Road (No parking fee).

Alternatively, take Holmes St. in Livermore to Wetmore Rd. Continue past Sycamore Grove entrance to Arroyo Road. Turn right and proceed as above.

Lag B'Omer Picnic! - 5/18/25

lag b'omer

picnic + potluck

START AT 10:30AM

05.18.25



San Ramon, CA



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Reconnect at Our Lag B'Omer Picnic!

Join us on Sunday, May 18th in San Ramon for our annual Lag B'Omer picnic, a relaxed and fun way to reconnect with the TVCJ community. We'll enjoy spring sunshine, a potluck lunch (bring something tasty to share), and lighthearted games—including the always-entertaining Melon Toss.

Time: 10:30 AM–12:00 PM

Cost: Free for members | \$15 suggested donation for guests


Location: San Ramon (exact location shared when you RSVP)

Whether you've been away for a while or just haven't made it to an event recently, this is the perfect opportunity to come back, catch up, and celebrate the season together.

RSVP by May 12—we'd really love to see some familiar faces!

Shavuos Bookfest & Annual Meeting - 6/01/25


SHAVUOS + Annual Meeting



**MAKE CHOICES ABOUT TVCJ'S FUTURE
SHARE YOUR FAVORITE BOOK + POTLUCK**

June 1 2025 | Pleasanton, CA

Annual Meeting 10:30 | Shavuos Bookfest 11am



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Join TVCJ for our annual **Shavuos Bookfest**—a celebration of learning, community, and curiosity.

10:30 AM – Annual Meeting (members only)

11:00 AM – Bookfest begins (open to all)

Lunch provided – please bring a dessert to share in honor of our dairy holiday tradition

Bring a short reflection (up to 5 minutes) about a book you loved, something new you learned, or an idea you want to share. Or just come to listen, eat, and enjoy great company!

Pleasanton – location details upon RSVP

Free for members | \$15 suggested donation for guests

RSVP by May 29 – we'd love to see you there!

The 37th Annual East Bay Tikkun: A Day of Learning in Honor of Shavuot

When: Sunday, June 1st

Time: 2:00p.m. to 8:00p.m.

Where: JCC East Bay in Berkeley

Pre-Registration will be required.

Class Schedule

Shortly before the event, all pre-registered attendees will receive a PDF schedule of classes emailed to the email address with which they registered.

If you have questions, email tikkun@jcceastbay.org and they will respond in a timely manner.



We're Going to Castro Valley Pride! 🏳️‍🌈

Mark your calendars—TVCJ will be participating in Castro Valley Pride on **Saturday, July 19th**, and we couldn't be more excited!

This is a joyful, welcoming event that celebrates LGBTQ+ identity, inclusion, and love—and we're proud to show up as a community that supports it all. We'll have a booth to share who we are, connect with others, and spread some good vibes (and maybe snacks).

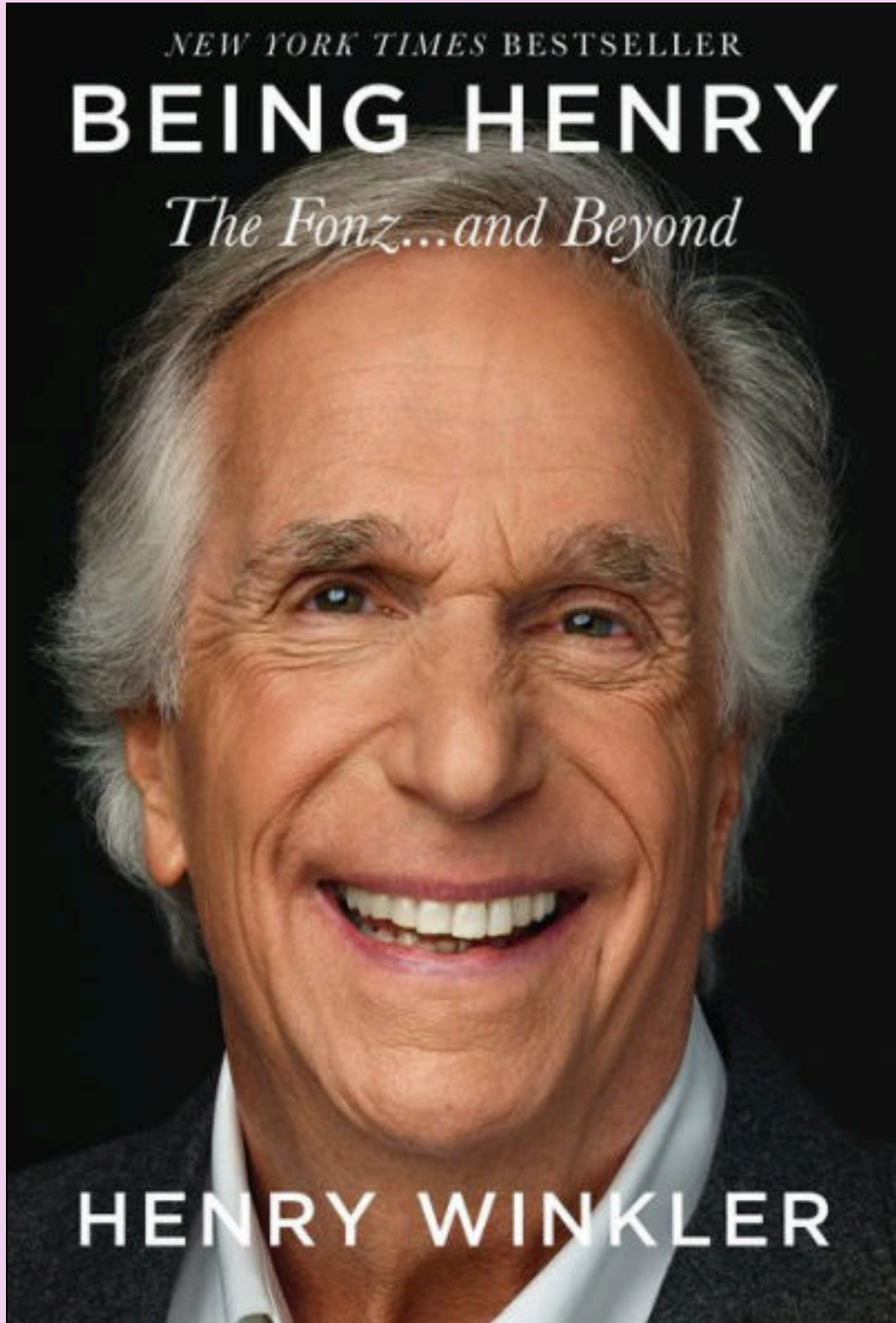
We're looking for volunteers to help staff our table, chat with visitors, hand out info, and represent our values with warmth and pride. Whether you can come for an hour or stay the whole day, we'd love to have you.

Want to help out or learn more? Just reply to this email or find us at an upcoming event. Let's show up together!

Book Review

BEING HENRY
The Fonz...and Beyond

By
Henry Winkler



Henry Winkler, (aka) the "Fonz", was born in New York, New York. His biography surprised me in many ways. Contrary to the character he played on the television show Happy Days, growing up Henry was shy, quiet, and

had low self esteem. This was largely due to his dyslexia, which plagued him throughout much his life and in his acting career.

His father (a good German Jewish refugee) was in the lumber business and always tried to persuade him to takeover his business after his retirement. But at a young age Henry discovered acting and was convinced that this should be his career. He was very verbal and loved to make people laugh. These two things, along with his dyslexia, made him a failure in school, but a success in show business.

After high school, he got some acting jobs and met Gary Marshall, who became a producer of the television show Happy Days. Gary recognized his talent for acting. And thus his career took off. But Henry's greatest difficulty was that he could not read the lines on scripts. However, he developed a talent for improvising when he didn't know the lines. This served him well throughout his career.

Henry attained success not only as an actor, but also as a best-selling author of children's books written for children with learning challenges. Although he attained great success and recognition as an actor, he never forgot the difficult road he had to travel and the many understanding people who helped him along the way.

I would definitely recommend this book. It provided much understanding of the world of show business, and especially of the area of dyslexia, which still is greatly misunderstood. Henry's story has provided great inspiration for children with special needs and the adults who are associated with them. [If you would like to purchase this book at Barnes and Noble click here.](#)

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

A Joyful Passover Family Day with Our TVCJ Community



Our Passover Family Day on March 30th was filled with laughter, creativity, and connection—what a wonderful way to celebrate together! Families came together for a morning of matzah making, crafts, music, and connection, and the energy of the day reminded us why this community is so special. Kids got hands-on with Passover traditions (the matzah was a hit!), while parents and friends enjoyed the chance to chat and celebrate in a warm, welcoming space.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who helped bring this event to life—from setup to clean-up, from leading activities to simply being present. Your involvement keeps our community strong!

Thank You for a Wonderful Passover Seder!



We want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our Secular Jewish Community Seder such a meaningful and memorable event.

Special thanks to Judy, who composed our beautiful Haggadah—thoughtful, inclusive, and deeply rooted in our shared values. Your work gave us the words and structure to reflect, celebrate, and connect. A huge thank-you as well to Ruthie, whose music brought such spirit and warmth to the gathering. Enormous thanks to Jazz who made it all happen and to everyone who helped set up, cleaned up, brought food, arranged tables, greeted guests, or lent a hand in any way—thank you. It truly takes a village, and your efforts made the space feel welcoming, organized, and full of heart.

Whether you led a reading, sang along, asked a question, or simply showed up and shared the evening with us—you made it special. Chag Sameach, and thank you again for being part of our community.

**Magnes Collection of Jewish Art & Life
in Berkeley**

Jewish Arts & Bookfest

Sunday, May 4th, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., the Magnes Collection of Jewish Art and Life will host the inaugural [Jewish Arts & Bookfest](#) in celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month!

Pricing: Adults: \$20

Youth (under 18): \$5

Students: \$5

Museums for All: \$5

[Click Here to Buy Tickets](#)

In the Magnes tradition of incubating Jewish cultural events, the Arts & Bookfest will bring together over 30 authors and artists for panel discussions, workshops, readings, teen programs, and performances that showcase the Jewish experience through art, culture, and storytelling.

Presented in partnership with New Lehrhaus, J. The Jewish News of Northern California, and Jewish Community Library.



Bluesky

TVCJ is on Bluesky now.

@tvcj2.bsky.social.

Check it out.

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 below.



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

Joke: How does Moses make his coffee? **Answer:** Hebrews it!



In April We Remember

Helen Bloom

David Geller

Norma Mogilefsky

Regina Seid



April Birthdays

Jeffrey D. Colvin

Michelle Coren

Paul Grabowski

Ya'el Seid-Green

Sarah Rees

Cyrus Soltani

Jerry Zwick

Who We Are

Rabbi: Judith Seid 925-485-1049

Madrikha: Jamie Ireland

Board Members:

David Gates

Jazz Salwen-Grabowski

Jamie Ireland

Maggie Pino

Sophia Ireland

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

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Our mailing address is:

Contact Us at culturaljews@gmail.com or [925-399-8029](tel:925-399-8029)

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