

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

## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews

Your East Bay Secular Humanistic Jewish Community

[TriValleyCulturalJews.org](http://TriValleyCulturalJews.org)  
[info@tri-valleyculturaljews.org](mailto: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

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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](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com) for an Evite or for more information about our community. You can find us at [trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://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.

**June 28, 2025**

# Upcoming Events

## Philosophers' Cafe - 7/03/25


Our friendly discussion group, Philosophers' Cafe, met to talk about the worst jobs we've ever had. We heard some pretty awful stories, but ended on a high note. Next session is Thursday, July 3rd at 7:00 p.m. on zoom. Look for the evite!

## What to Expect at a Secular Brit Mitzvah Ceremony

What does a Secular Brit Mitzvah ceremony look like? Find out on July 5th as Keren Rother Telias and her family celebrate her coming-of-age ceremony. It's our tradition that members bring a dessert to share. Look for your evite!

## Tri-Valley Cultural Jews at Castro Valley Pride

**Attend and Stop By Our Table or Volunteer!**

 **July 19, 2025**



We're proud to once again have a presence at Castro Valley Pride, a vibrant celebration of love, identity, and inclusion—and we'd love for you to be part of it!

**When:** Saturday, July 19

**Where:** Castro Valley

**Volunteer Shifts:** Between 12 PM and 5 PM

We'll be hosting a table to share our secular humanist Jewish values and connect with the broader community. **This year's activity:** DIY Pride buttons! We'll provide all the materials—just bring your creativity and energy.

Whether you can help for an hour or stay the whole afternoon, your presence matters. Castro Valley Pride is always filled with joy, music, and connection—a chance to stand proudly for inclusion and community.

### **Want to volunteer?**

Email [CulturalJews@gmail.com](mailto:CulturalJews@gmail.com) with your availability, and we'll coordinate shifts so everyone can take part and enjoy the day.

We can't wait to celebrate with you!

## **TVCJ Hike Saturday - 7/20/25 9:00a.m.**

Our next TVCJ hike is a double whammy, Schrodinger's paradox kind of hike. We already hiked part of Lake Del Valle in May and Sycamore Grove in June. For July we will meet at the Lake Del Valle Staging Area and decide there whether to hike a different part of the Lake Del Valle trail or hike the upper part of the Sycamore Grove trail. We won't resolve until we start.

Dogs are welcome on leash. The trail is somewhat exposed and it will be hot in July, so bring plenty of water and sun protection.

**Time: Sunday, July 20th at 9:00.** (You should arrive a few minutes early so we can start hike at 9:00a.m.). **Call David @ 410.852-6079 for any other information.**

### **Directions: Directions to Arroyo Road Staging Area**

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.

## **Our TVCJ June Hike**

Good weather and pleasant company made for a great TVCJ hike. Jamie, Solomon, Debby and David met in the Sycamore Grove parking lot and had a leisurely 5 mile walk through Sycamore grove. We saw lizards and turtles as we went by Cattail pond, as well as cows.

## **Movie Night - 7/26/25 6:30p.m.**

TVJC will be having Movie Night Saturday, July 26th at 6:30p.m. in Livermore (complete location will be in the Evite). The movie is *Jews Don't Count*, an hour long documentary by British writer and comedian David Baddiel. In it Baddiel explores anti-Jewish sentiment across the political spectrum with emphasis on the left. David Schwimmer, Neil Gaiman, Sarah Silverman and others weigh in on why it seems that progressive voices who oppose discrimination are curiously silent about anti-semitism. Bring snacks.

**New Year of [Jewish Cultural School](#) - Starting 8/24/25**



### [Jewish Culture School](#) Returns This Fall on August 24th

**CASTRO VALLEY, CA – August 24, 2025**

We are set to kick off a new year at [Jewish Culture School](#) (JCS)—our hands-on, inclusive program for children ages 5 through Brit Mitzvah. Rooted in secular humanistic values, JCS offers a welcoming space to explore Jewish identity through culture, creativity, and community.

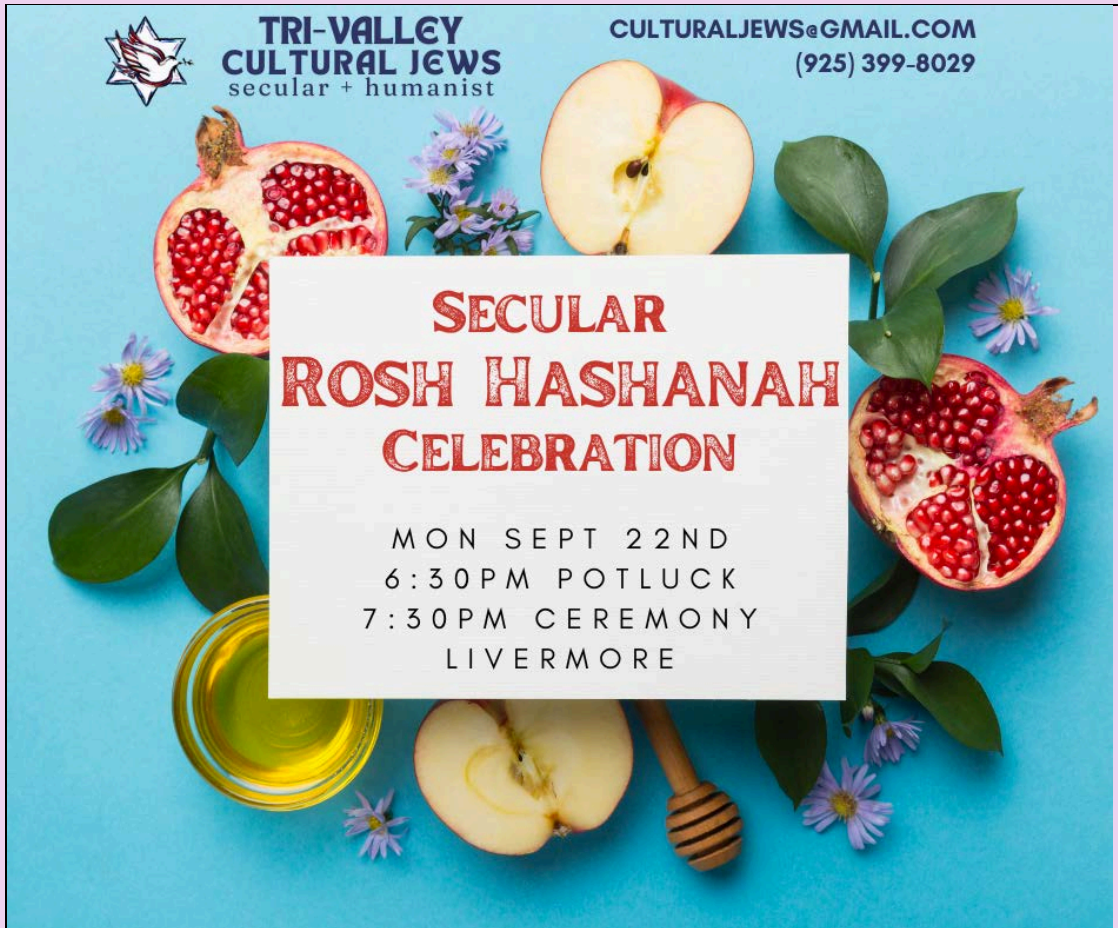
This year's theme, Social Action, will guide students in connecting with Jewish heritage through stories, traditions, and active engagement with the world around them. From the labor movement to civil rights and immigrant justice, students will explore how Jewish values have shaped—and continue to shape—movements for a better world.

At JCS, children will sing, dance, create, cook, build community and make a difference! Classes meet twice a month in Castro Valley and are open to all family structures and backgrounds. No prior Jewish education is required—just curiosity and a willingness to engage.

**Enrollment for Jewish Culture School is now open!**

Learn more or register at [trivalleyculturaljews.org](http://trivalleyculturaljews.org), email [culturaljews@gmail.com](mailto:culturaljews@gmail.com), or call (925) 399-8029.

## Save the Date for Rosh Hashanah - 9/22/25



### **Celebrate Rosh Hashanah with Tri-Valley Cultural Jews** **Monday, Sept. 22 – Livermore, CA**

Join us for a warm, inclusive Rosh Hashanah celebration rooted in Secular Humanistic Jewish values. We'll begin with a potluck dinner at 6:30 PM, followed by a music- and reading-filled program at 7:30 PM reflecting on renewal, community, and cultural identity.

The event is family-friendly and welcomes people of all backgrounds and identities. **Reservations required.** Suggested donation: \$25/non-member adult (all welcome, regardless of ability to donate). **Look for an Evite in July with more details.**

## Save the Date for Yom Kippur

## Kol Nidre Gathering - 10/01/25



### Kol Nidre Gathering

Wednesday, October 1, 7:00 PM - Livermore, CA

Join Tri-Valley Cultural Jews for a meaningful, non-theistic Kol Nidre observance rooted in Jewish culture and humanistic values. The evening includes music, readings, and reflection on Yom Kippur themes—welcoming all who identify with Jewish heritage, regardless of religious belief. Quiet activities will be available for children.

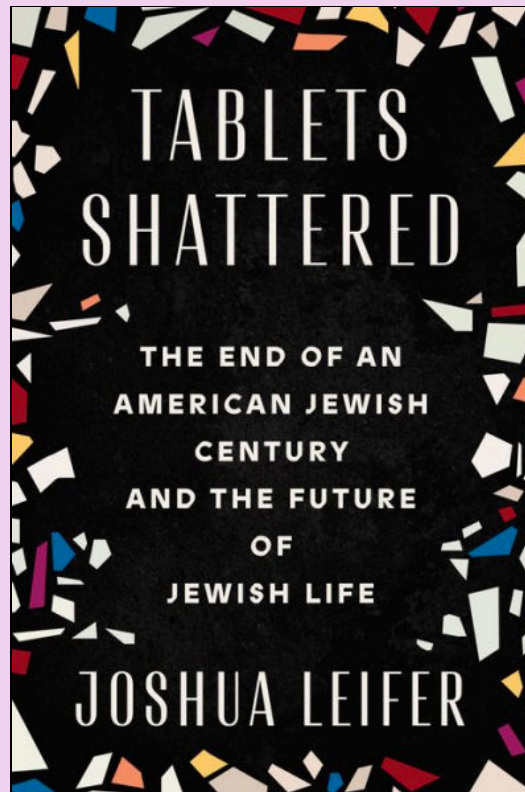
Suggested donation: \$25 for non-member adults (no one turned away).

Look for an Evite in July with more details.

## BOOK REVIEW

***Tablets Shattered: The End of an American Jewish Century and the Future of Jewish Life***

By  
**JOSHUA LEIFER**



The following is a non-fiction book that discusses the future of Jews in America and Israel. The author is a conservative and a mildly observant Jew. He starts with Jews coming to America and Israel after the holocaust.

He focuses on how America has changed Jewish thinking: religiously, economically, and culturally. In the European shtetlach the religion was orthodox. There was no choice. Life centered around torah and dictates of the rabbis. In America choices were infinite and based on what one could achieve.

Similarly, American schools featured secular education. Formerly European children were lost, no matter how intelligent and hard working they were. Language was a major issue here—from primarily Yiddish to English.

In Israel the emphasis was learning what was good for the group as opposed to what was important for the individual. New Americans had to adjust to the new way of thinking if they were to be successful. Those who chose not to adapt in America settled in isolated Jewish communities. The author laments that the former way of thinking began to crumble in both America and Israel. Jews here formed a number of organizations designed to provide support for Jewish refugees. Eventually, many of these organizations failed because they were not compatible with the more modern life styles.

Israel also went through many changes. It went from an idealized Jewish state concerned with helping its residents into becoming what many see as a pariah on the

world stage. Now many feel that its war with Hamas has changed Israel's focus. As is true with many Israelis, as well as Americans, their feelings are in conflict here.

I feel that this is an extremely well written book. It is very important for all of us to read it, regardless of which form of Judaism you subscribe to. [If you would like to purchase this book at Barnes and Noble click here.](#)

Reviewed By Jerry Zwick



**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>

**Ancient Riddle from UCLA Jewish Magazine Ha'Am:** This is a country without a land, its kings and dignitaries are lifeless. If the king is annihilated, no one is left alive.

**Answer:** Chess



### **In June We Remember**

Eliza Haile Cloe  
Augusta Gorman  
John Mogul  
Ian Peel  
David Randel



### **June Birthdays**

Alexey Frunze  
David Gates  
Greg Gorel  
Jazz Salwen-Grabowski  
Carol King  
Henry Kociolek  
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

Maggie Pino

Sophia Ireland

Rachel Rose

Diego Rother

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

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