

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.

Events are free for members. For most events, we suggest a \$15 donation for non-member adults. For High Holiday services, the suggested donation is \$25 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** (you can also scan our QR code below.)

April 25, 2026 Newsletter

Are You Passionate About Photography?

TVCJ would love some new photos of our group at our events. Our members often take and submit photos that need an editor to find the best ones to use to represent the best of us.

We are looking for a member to be our photo editor and or to take photos at our events for us.

Please contact us if this is of interest to you!

Member Spotlight

JCS grad **Ira Pino** co-captained the robotics team that earned the Design Creativity Award for Innovation by Rockwell Automation. The team created a robot partly using old materials from games and also 3-D printed some parts.

JCS grad Maggie Pino is also a member of the robotics team, which TVCJ member Jesse Pino helps coach.

Upcoming Events

Lag B'Omer Picnic and Potluck- 5/03/26 10:30am

lag b'omer

picnic + potluck

START AT 10:30AM

05.3.26



San Ramon, CA



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WWW.TRIVALLEYCULTURALJEWS.ORG
CULTURALJEWS@GMAIL.COM
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Spring is here, and that means it's time for one of our favorite traditions--the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews Lag B'Omer Picnic!

Join us for a relaxed morning full of fun in San Ramon as we celebrate community, connection, and the season together. Our Secular Humanist approach to Lag B'Omer brings people together to enjoy Jewish culture in an authentic way that's full of life.

Expect good food, easy conversation, and plenty of fun--including frisbee, soccer, and of course, our infamous Annual Melon Toss!

Date and Time: Sunday, May 3, 10:30am-12pm

Location: San Ramon (details shared at registration)

Cost: Free for members, suggested \$15 donation for non-member adults, if you're able

Bring a dish to share, a picnic blanket or chairs, outdoor games, and your sense of fun!

Philosophers' Cafe - 5/07/26 7:00pm

How can we talk with people we disagree with - and should we bother? May's Philosophers' Cafe, our friendly discussion group, will tackle these questions on our monthly zoom, Thursday, May 7 at 7 p.m.

Join us for an hour-long exchange of opinions on this timely topic. We'll talk about techniques for engagement and our own experiences with these conversations.

Watch Party and Potluck PBS Documentary - 5/16/26

Black and Jewish America: An Interwoven History?

Looking for a space for meaningful, intellectually engaging conversation? Join us for a special Tri-Valley Cultural Jews watch party and potluck as we gather to view Part 4 of *Black & Jewish America*, the powerful PBS documentary series exploring the historical and cultural connections between Black and Jewish communities.

We watched Part 1 together--now we invite you to continue the journey. Feel free to watch Parts 2 and 3 on your own, then come ready to experience Part 4 as a community, followed by a rich and thoughtful discussion.

May 16th Evening Schedule:

5:30pm--Potluck dinner--bring a dish to share!

6pm--Screening of Part 4

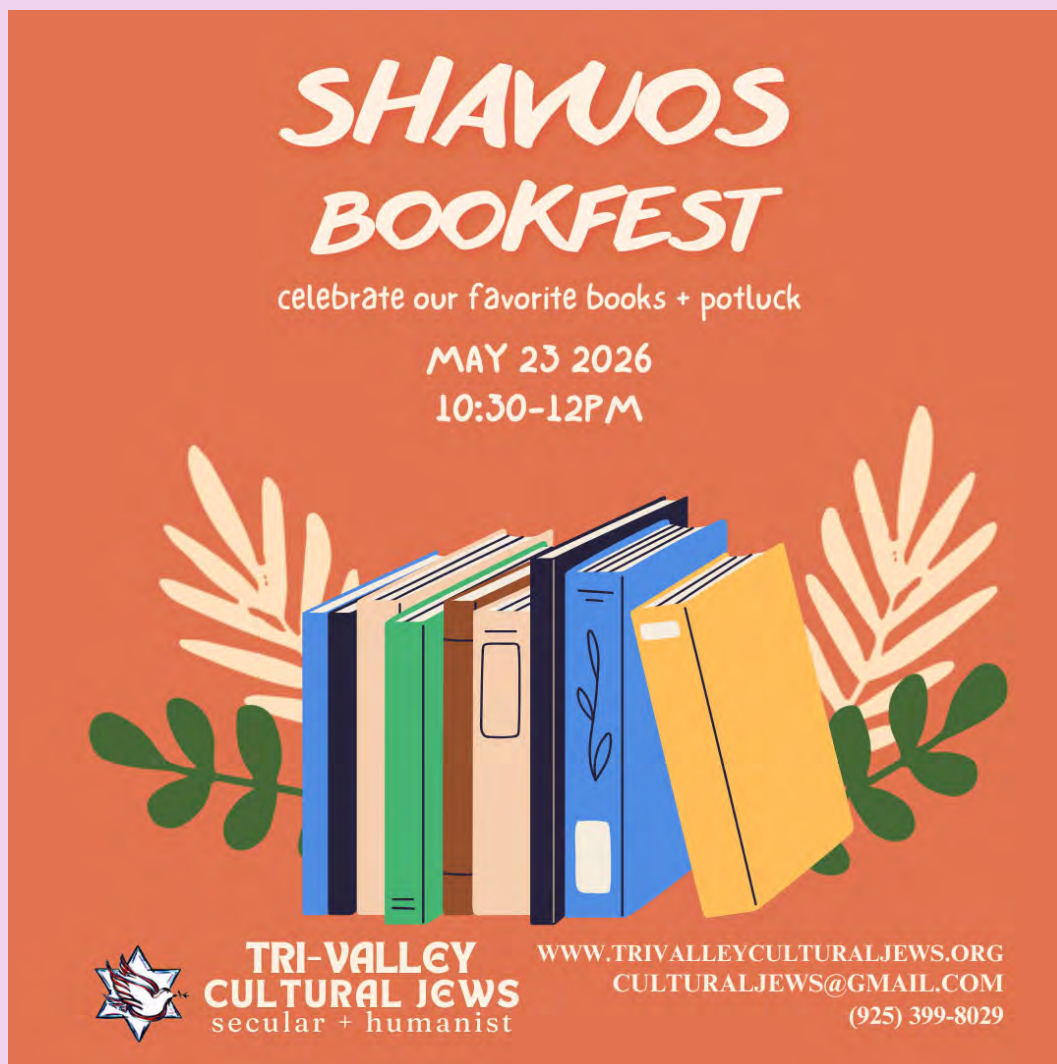
7pm--Discussion--in person and on Zoom

Expect good food, engaging ideas, and a warm, welcoming group of curious people.

Come as you are--bring a dish, bring a friend, and bring your perspective. We'd love to share the evening with you.

This event is a special perk for members. To learn more about becoming a member, please visit: <https://trivalleyculturaljews.org/join-us/> or email Culturaljews@gmail.com.

Shavuos - 5/23/26 10:30am



Join us on Saturday, May 23 (location TBA) at 10:30am for our annual Shavuos Bookfest--a fun, thoughtful, and distinctly Secular Humanist way to celebrate the holiday.

Shavuos is traditionally a time of learning, and we honor that by sharing what has inspired us this year. Share something great you've read, learned or made.

In the spirit of the holiday, please bring a sweet dessert to share, or any dish for our potluck.

Annual Meeting - 6/07/26 10:30am

Our community is shaped by the people in it--and that means you.

Join us for the Tri-Valley Cultural Jews Annual Meeting on Sunday, June 7th at 10:30am in Castro Valley (address provided at registration). We'll come together to reflect, share ideas, and help shape the future of our community.

This is a chance to:

- Look back on the past year
- Talk about what's working (and what could be even better)
- Share your ideas, hopes, and perspectives
- Help guide the direction of TVCJ in the year ahead

Whether you've been involved for years or are newer to the community, your voice is important.

Come be part of the conversation, and the future we're building together.

[Jewish Culture School](#)

Jewish Culture School Next Year

It's a different way to learn Jewish history - not as a series of disasters, not as a reflection of Jewish religion, but as an evolving culture seen through the lens of Jewish scientists around the world since early days. We'll explore the world of Jewish astronomers, doctors and environmentalists from Biblical times through modern days. Students will learn about the lives of Jews both in the various places and times these scientists lived - and we'll do a little science, too!

Jewish Culture School is open to children aged 6-14 and culminates in a secular Brit Mitzvah ceremony. In addition to history, we focus on music, dance, foodways, literature and ethics in a humanistic learning environment.

TVCJ membership is required. TVCJ is open to families of all configurations and backgrounds and welcomes all who seek a Jewish community based on family, community and history rather than on religion.

For more information, <https://trivalleyculturaljews.org/jewish-culture-school/>

or [click here Jewish Culture School](#)

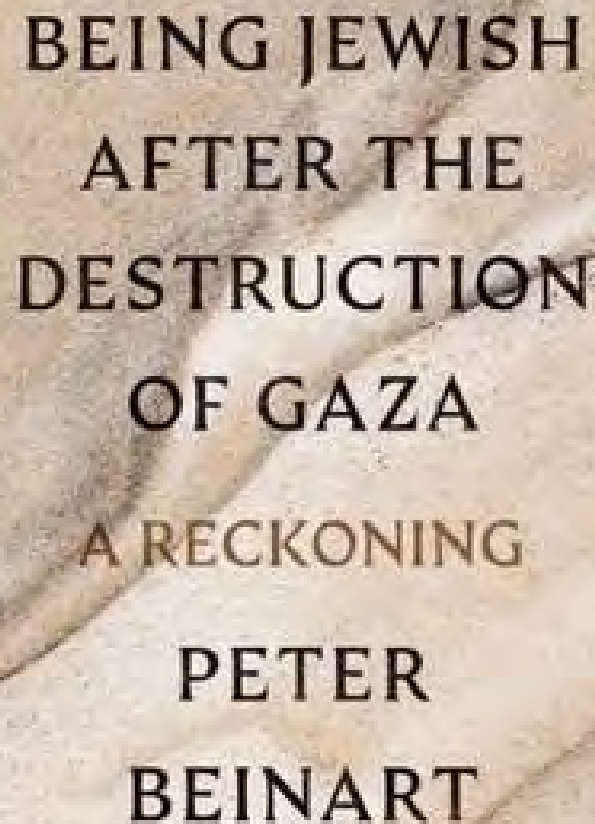
Our Passover Celebration

Our Passover Seder this year was a beautiful reminder of what makes our community so special--connection, reflection, and shared tradition. Our ceremony this year felt so meaningful thanks to Judy's thoughtful leadership and music.

We're so grateful to everyone who helped make it happen--thank you to Karen for handling the shopping, to Phyllis and Ed for bringing eggs, and to our wonderful set up crew: Noah, Carol, Kevin, Karen, Peter, Tai, David and Judy. Special thanks to Noah as well for capturing the evening in photos, and to everyone who stayed to help clean up.

Most of all, thank you to everyone who joined us. Your presence is what made the evening so warm, joyful, and meaningful.

BOOK REVIEW
BEING JEWISH AFTER THE DESTRUCTION OF GAZA
BY
PETER BEINART



**BEING JEWISH
AFTER THE
DESTRUCTION
OF GAZA
A RECKONING
PETER
BEINART**

The author is a well known Jewish writer, thinker and podcaster. I became familiar with him by listening to his podcast about Jewish history and current issues. I gained a greater understanding of our people and their struggles while reading this book.

He wants us to understand that not all Jews are victims as many bible stories proclaim. Modern Jewish history tells of Jews who can be persecutors as well as persecuted. In the present conflict both sides want peace and security but under present circumstances don't know how to achieve it.

A peaceful solution is so difficult now since there have been such atrocities on both sides. Each side proclaims the other as the villains and themselves as the victims. There needs to be greater understanding and empathy for each to the other. This can only be achieved with meaningful dialogue between the two sides and their allies. Words not bombs.

After reading this book we see that the circumstances leading up to this war have been developing for many years and are very complex. The author therefore provides a very valuable and balanced picture of its history and prognosis for peace. I recommend it for all.

[If you would like to purchase this book from Barnes and Noble click here.](#)

[If you would like to purchase this book on BookShop.org click here.](#)

Reviewed By Jerry Zwick

Jewish Film Institute presents: *The 46th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival*
July 16 – August 2, 2026

[Click Here To Learn More About The Jewish Film Festival](#)

The 46th San Francisco Jewish Film Festival, presented by the Jewish Film Institute, will be returning to the Bay Area soon from **July 16 – August 2, 2026!** Mark your calendars for the world's most exciting celebration of Jewish culture, stories, and cinema and discover new premieres of acclaimed films and exciting stories from up-and-coming filmmakers.

Mark your calendars for these key dates:

- **May 15:** Early Bird Ticket Packages & Festival Venues Announced
- **June 16:** SFJFF46 Program Reveal & JFI Members Pre-Sale
- **June 18:** General Public Sales Begin

The best way to experience SFJFF is as a member! Unlock benefits like early ticket sales, exclusive savings, and exclusive events & receptions. [Join as a Jewish Film Institute member today!](#)

TVCJ is on Bluesky now.
[@tvcj2.bsky.social](#). Check it out.



Bluesky

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>



In April We Remember

Helen Bloom
David Geller
Norma Mogilefsky
Regina Seid

April Birthdays

Jeffrey D. Colvin



Michelle Coren
Paul Grabowski
Ya'el Seid-Greendam
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

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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