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NEWS RELEASE

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September 10, 2025

## Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto Presents 2025–2026 Cultural Arts Season

Featuring actress and comedian Iris Bahr, Jewish rockstars  
**Mostly Kosher** and more!

**PALO ALTO, CA—September 10, 2025—**The Oshman Family JCC is thrilled to announce an inspiring and eclectic line-up for the 2025–2026 Cultural Arts season! From world-class performances to thought-provoking conversations, this year's program promises unforgettable experiences.

Start the season off with the story of Jonah as **Dr. Aaron Winkler** explores how ancient rabbinical texts shed light on modern understandings of ADHD. The **founder and former director of the Stanford Adult ADHD Clinic** will guide us into the depths of the mind through the timeless story of Jonah.

Award-winning performer **Iris Bahr** (*Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Hacks*, *Friends*, *DAI (enough)*) makes her OFJCC debut on **November 16** with *Stories from the Brink*, a hilariously poignant journey through her near-death adventure. The season continues with an evening of witty banter as President and CEO Zack Bodner explores *The Jews: 5,000 Years and Counting* with author **Rob Kutner** on **December 2**, followed by a lively Hanukkah concert with crowd favorites **Mostly Kosher** on **December 14**.

Fronted by the dynamic Leeav Sofer, **Mostly Kosher** serves up a vibrant fusion of jazz, latin, rock and folk—a musical celebration that feels like a global feast for the ears. They made history as the first Jewish music group to perform at the Disney Parks, captivating audiences at the Festival of Holidays. For over a decade, Sofer has been deeply connected as the Executive and Artistic Director of *Urban Voices Project*, amplifying the voices of the homeless and working with a choir rooted in Skid Row, Los Angeles. Sofer is passionate about social impact, dedicated to using music to heal, empower, bridge

2026 promises to bring more engaging content to the OFJCC.

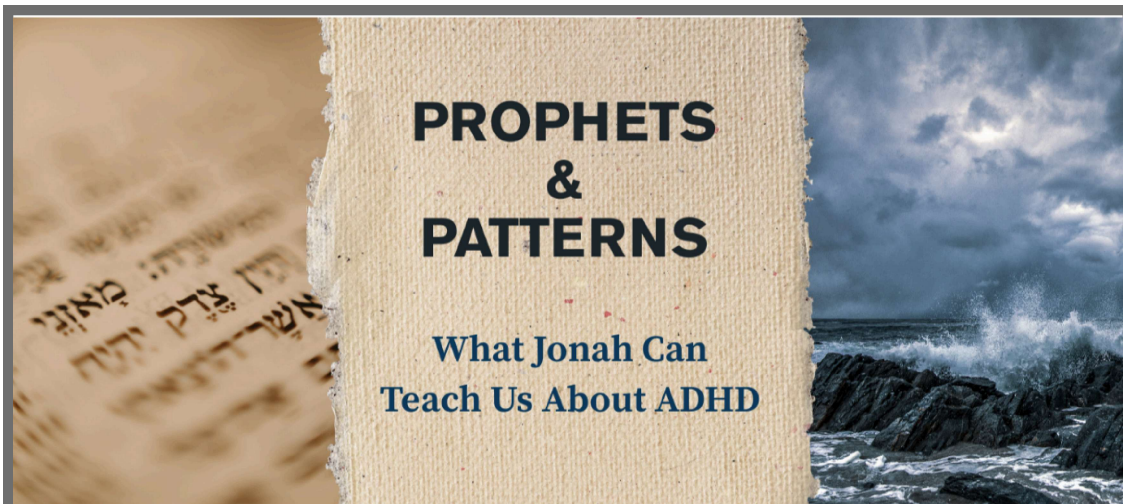
To commemorate **Holocaust Remembrance Day**, on **January 27**, 7:00–8:30 PM, there will be a screening of the powerful documentary [999: The Forgotten Girls](#). The film is based on the book by best-selling author and historian Heather Dune Macadam and follows the events of March 1942, when nearly 1,000 young Slovak Jewish women, mostly teenagers, were told by their government that they were embarking on a volunteer work assignment, while they were instead illegally deported to Auschwitz on the first Jewish transport to the Nazi death camp.

On **February 21**, the OFJCC welcomes Hollywood's hottest little-big band, **Phat Cat Swinger**. If Bruno Mars and Frank Sinatra made a band—it'd look and sound like Phat Cat Swinger. Phat Cat Swinger specializes in high-energy music with that classic Hollywood touch. What sets them apart is their showmanship, movement and creative takes on swing classics. This is a show for the whole family.

**The Jewish Plays Project** takes center stage on **March 29** to celebrate new voices in playwriting—and to choose one brilliant new play. Join JPP's City Producers, and the 30-member Silicon Valley Community Reader's Panel, for a stellar evening of community, culture and the JPP's specialty—artistic democracy! David Winitsky is the Founder and Executive Artistic Director of JCC—the nation's leading development house for contemporary Jewish Theater.

On **April 12**, **Isaac Mizrahi** and his band of six jazz musicians return to the OFJCC with a brand-new show (name of show TBD). For over 30 years, Mizrahi has been a creative force in the entertainment world—lighting up stages as a performer, host, writer, designer and producer. He brings his signature blend of music, storytelling and humor to audiences nationwide, from Joe's Pub to City Winery and his annual residency at NYC's iconic Café Carlyle. As *The New York Times* put it, he's basically a founding father of the genre that mixes performance art, music and stand-up—think cabaret with a twist!

**Details and pricing information are available online for all events up to the**



**PROPHETS  
&  
PATTERNS**

**What Jonah Can  
Teach Us About ADHD**

**Prophets and Patterns  
What Jonah Can Teach Us About ADHD  
A Conversation with Dr. Aaron Winkler, MD**

**Wednesday, 10/22/2025 | 7:00 PM**

Dr. Aaron Winkler, MD—founder and former director of the Stanford Adult ADHD Clinic—will take us into the belly of the mind and the timeless story of Jonah as we explore how ancient rabbinical texts can shed light on modern understandings of ADHD. Through engaging group discussion and rich textual exploration, we'll uncover surprising connections between Jonah's journey and the lived experience of attention, distraction, purpose and calling. Come ready for insight, conversation and new ways of thinking about what ADHD is—and what can be done about it.

Tickets are \$15 for general admission. More information can be found at [palaltojcc.org/prophets](https://palaltojcc.org/prophets) or by calling (650) 223-8649. [More](#)



## ***Stories From the Brink:* My Festive Near-Death Adventures**

**Sunday, 11/16/2025 | 7:00 PM**

Award-winning performer, Iris Bahr (*Curb your Enthusiasm, Hacks, Friends, DAI (enough)*), brings *Stories from the Brink* to the OFJCC. Ms. Bahr's wild, touching and hilariously poignant journey takes us through her near-death adventures. It is a true tale of adventure, escape, thrills, terrors and her evolution through perpetual movement. Her story spans a fragmented childhood in the Bronx, time in Israel, Asia and South America, and a return to Tel Aviv, where she now cares for her mother with dementia, and where, on October 7th, things came full circle.

Tickets are \$35. More information can be found at [paloaltojcc.org/brink](https://paloaltojcc.org/brink) or by calling (650) 223-8649. [More](#)

# THE JEWS

## 5,000 YEARS AND COUNTING



***The Jews: 5,000 Years and Counting***  
**Comedy Author Rob Kutner in Conversation**  
**with Zack Bodner**

**Tuesday, 12/2/2025 | 7:00 PM**

Join us for an evening of witty banter, meaningful dialogue and hilarious conversation with Emmy-winning comedy writer Rob Kutner and OFJCC CEO Zack Bodner as they explore *The Jews: 5,000 Years and Counting*—a sharp and hilarious take on Jewish history and culture written by Kutner. Covering every major moment in Jewish history from the literal "Beginning" to Tuesday's rerun of *Seinfeld*, this book will make you laugh. It might inadvertently make you learn. If you're Jewish, it will unquestionably give you something to kvetch about.

Tickets are \$25 for the book bundle, \$20 without a book. More information can be found at [paloaltojcc.org/kutner](https://paloaltojcc.org/kutner) or by calling (650) 223-8649. [More](#)



## Mostly Koshers: A Hanukkah Celebration Live Music Show

Sunday, 12/14/2025 | 5:00 PM

Celebrate the Festival of Lights with a night of music, joy and community as Mostly Koshers takes the stage for an unforgettable Hanukkah concert! Led by the magnetic Leeav Sofer, Mostly Koshers is renowned for reimagining Jewish tradition with a fresh, modern twist. Their genre-bending sound seamlessly blends klezmer, rock, jazz, Latin and folk, creating a high-energy musical experience that must be heard to be believed. Hailed as one of Los Angeles's most innovative bands, Mostly Koshers brings heart, humor and unstoppable spirit to every performance. This is more than a concert—it's a vibrant celebration of culture, connection and community.

Tickets are \$50 for adults, \$30 for children/students. More information can be found at [paloaltojcc.org/mostlykosher](https://paloaltojcc.org/mostlykosher) or by calling (650) 223-8649. [More](#)

### About the Oshman Family JCC

The Oshman Family Jewish Community Center (OFJCC) on the Taube Koret Campus for Jewish Life serves the South Peninsula through educational, social, cultural, fitness, sports and other programs. The OFJCC is a multi-generational Jewish neighborhood where all are welcome, and which seeks to enrich lives, build community and inspire Jewish journeys. The OFJCC provides a common ground for individuals, Jewish institutions and other local groups, organizations and individuals to work, learn, play and celebrate together for the betterment of the whole community. The OFJCC's registered trademarks are Live Fully®, J-Pass®, Z3® and Architects of the Jewish Future®. For more information, visit [www.paloaltojcc.org](https://www.paloaltojcc.org) or call (650) 223-8700.

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