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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 1, 2025

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"The Raffel Ticket: Betting on America" — Keith Raffel in Conversation with Zack Bodner at the OFJCC in Palo Alto



Palo Alto, CA—December 1, 2025—The Oshman Family JCC (OFJCC) will host a live conversation between nationally syndicated columnist Keith Raffel and OFJCC President & CEO Zack Bodner on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, from 7:00–8:30 PM. The evening marks the release of Raffel's new book, *The Raffel Ticket: Betting on America*, a sharp and soulful collection of essays exploring the challenges facing the United States, Silicon Valley, Judaism and Israel.

scholar and OFJCC board member, Raffel brings a historian's memory, a novelist's empathy and a Jewish American's conscience to the biggest questions of our turbulent times. Bodner—author of *Why Do Jewish? A Manifesto for 21st-Century Jewish Peoplehood*—will engage, challenge and spar with Raffel in a conversation designed to prompt reflection, laughter and hope.

What people are saying about *The Raffel Ticket*:

- Congressman Jamie Raskin promises, "Readers will enjoy [Keith Raffel's] sharp analysis and amusing observations on every page as they time-travel the last two years of American life."
- Lee Child, creator of the Jack Reacher thrillers, says, "Keith Raffel is someone I really pay attention to—he doesn't always change my mind, but he always makes me think. We need more like him."
- Ty Cobb, White House special counsel in 2017–18, writes, "Do yourself a favor, read this and follow the work of Mr. Raffel. It is a jewel and packs the punch of art and truth."

About the Speaker

Keith Raffel has monitored the CIA as senior counsel to the Senate Intelligence Committee, run for Congress, founded a Silicon Valley internet company, developed and co-taught a college course on technology ethics and written five bestselling thrillers. He and his wife, Teri, split their time between Palo Alto and an undergraduate dorm at Harvard, where they serve as resident scholars. *The Raffel Ticket: Betting on America* is his first book of nonfiction.

About the Moderator

Zack Bodner is President & CEO of the Oshman Family JCC in Palo Alto. A MOTH storyteller and TEDx presenter, he writes regularly for Jewish publications in the U.S. and Israel. He is a member of YPO, participated in the Aspen Institute's Executive Leadership Seminar, serves on the board of the JCC Association of North America and sits on the Advisory Board of the Taube Center for Jewish Studies at Stanford. Before joining the OFJCC, he served 14 years as AIPAC's Pacific Northwest Regional Director. He holds an M.A. in philosophy of religion and theology from Claremont Graduate University, a B.A. from Yale and studied at Hebrew University and Stanford Business School's Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders.

For Calendar Editors

WHAT: *The Raffel Ticket: Betting on America*—Keith Raffel in conversation with Zack Bodner

WHERE: Freidenrich Conference Center at the Oshman Family JCC, 3921 Fabian Way, Palo Alto

REGISTRATION: Registration takes place at www.paloaltojcc.org/raffel

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 fosters new personal and community connections through rich and rewarding experiences. The OFJCC provides a common ground for Jewish institutions, other local groups, organizations and individuals to work, learn and play together for the betterment of the whole community. The OFJCC's registered trademark is Live Fully®. For more information, visit www.paloaltojcc.org or call (650) 223-8700.

Tickets + More Information:

For tickets and more details, visit www.paloaltojcc.org/raffel

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