

# CHAI-LIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2006

Affiliated with  
The Society for Humanistic Judaism and the Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations

Volume IX, No. 1

## The Pacific Community of Cultural Jews Invites you to celebrate **THE HIGH HOLIDAYS 5767 (2006)**

There've been some changes made:

**ROSH HASHANAH - Saturday, September 23rd at 10 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.**

This year our Rosh Hashanah celebration will be held at the Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church. Join us for bagels and cream cheese, juice and coffee before the meaningful secular program.

**YOM KIPPUR - Monday, October 2nd, 1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.**  
Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church

First a Secular Kol Nidre featuring Bongshin Ko at the cello, then a discussion, "Let Those People Go - The Immigration Dilemma" with Moises Escalante, a program coordinator for the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles.

After a short break, we will continue with our Niskor (we shall remember) observance.

This year, there will be no food service at Yom Kippur. The Pacific Community has arranged a no-host "Break-the-Fast" Dinner at the Mandarin Restaurant at 6:00 P.M. Reservations must be made through registration for the High Holidays. (What's more appropriate than Chinese Food on the High Holidays?)

Rosh Hashanah/Yom Kippur Package for members: (Before 9/15) Adults \$25; Children 12 and under: \$10. (After 9/15) Adults: \$35; Children: \$20.

Non-members: (Before 9/15) Adults: Rosh Hashanah \$20, Yom Kippur \$20; Children: RH \$10, YK \$10. (After 9/15) Adults: Rosh Hashanah \$30, Yom Kippur \$30; Children: RH \$20, YK \$20

FOR INFORMATION and RESERVATIONS  
Contact KAREN KNECHT at [Pacifcomm@aol.com](mailto:Pacifcomm@aol.com)  
or call The Pacific Community at 949/262-5850



Our own Jerry Zwick



**Saturday, Sept. 9th, 6:00 PM**

**DINE-OUT GROUP**  
at  
**Natraj - Cuisine of India**  
(see page 3)

**Sunday, Sept. 10th 2:00 PM**

**FILM VIEWING**  
**TEVYE**  
at the  
**Seal Beach Rec. Center**  
(see page 6)

**Thursday, Sept. 28th 7:30 PM**

**BOOK CLUB**  
at the home of  
**Jack & Bernice Stein**  
(see page 5)

**Saturday, Sept. 23rd 10:00 AM**

**ROSH HASHANAH**  
(see page 1)

**Monday, Oct. 2nd 1:00 PM**

**YOM KIPPUR**  
(see page 1)

**Saturday, Oct. 7th 4:30 PM**

**HAVDALAH & SUKKOT  
CELEBRATION**  
at the home of  
**Zena & Lee Jacobi**  
(see page 6)

**President's Message:**



Well, we have come full circle to the end of one year, according to the Jewish calendar, and the beginning of a new one. It is a time for taking stock of, not only ourselves, but our organization, as well. To that end, a committee will be meeting soon to talk about what changes, if any, need to be made. If you are interested in having a say in that, please contact Jack Stein at (714) 968-0998.

As I said in my last message, we are planning some wonderful programs this year, including a new series of Shabbat and Havdalah dinners (please see the ad for the first one inside this issue). Also, with all the tsuris in the world, I feel it incumbent upon us, as Secular Humanistic Jews, to take more action as a whole community towards tikkun olam. I will keep you posted as plans shape up for that.

I do hope that you will all stay involved with our activities this year, even volunteer to help whenever possible, and spread the word about us! We must grow if we are to remain a viable organization!

For the coming year, l'shanah tovah tikatevu!

Alice

\* CORRECTION: I stand corrected with regard to my statement in my last message that the Jewish Parents' Institute (JPI) was "one of the first branches of SHJ," In fact, it was the first affiliate of CSJO (Congress of Secular Jewish Organizations) in 1970.

The Pacific Community extends heartfelt condolences to Mark Price on the passing of his father.

Another Jewish New Year approaches, and that means the Choir will sing again!

If you like to sing (no previous choral experience necessary), please join and participate with the Choir.

Please call Lee Jacobi at 714/838-2836

First practice: 9/16/06 (Sat.) 3 PM, Jacobi home  
23 Alameda, Irvine, CA

**Pacific Community USED BOOK SALE**

Collection of used books has begun. Several people have already donated bags and/or boxes of books and the Unitarian Church of Anaheim has promised us their surplus used books. However, we need many, many more in order to hold a successful book sale.

If you wish to contribute your used books, let me know and I will arrange to pick them up. Hard covers or soft; children's books or adult literature; novels, histories, sci-fi, or whatever, WE WANT THEM!

Please call me at 714/968-0998 or  
E-mail [JStein7901@aol.com](mailto:JStein7901@aol.com)

Jack Stein



**DINE OUT**

On Saturday, August 26, 2006, sixteen members of the Pacific Community experienced a new meaning to the expression, "enjoying a hot meal." Just after partaking in typical Deli fare and about to start on dessert, we were startled by the presence of firemen and police in the dining room. They announced that there was a fire in the kitchen and the facility had to be evacuated! After milling around outside at a safe distance, it became evident that we weren't going to be allowed back in to finish our dinner, so we decided to leave. Yes, we paid the bill sans dessert! Leslie and Jerry Zwick graciously offered their house and several couples took them up on their kind offer and enjoyed coffee and shmoozing at their house.

**OUR NEXT ETHNIC DINE OUT** will take place on Saturday, September 9, 2006, Dine Out is heading for: Natraj - Cuisine of India 24861 Alicia Parkway , Laguna Hills, CA 92653. Cross Street: Cabot Rd. Phone: 714 581 4200 The restaurant is at the back of the stripmall on the right, after the first stoplight West of the 5 freeway on Alicia Parkway.

We would love to have all members and their friends who are interested join us. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Karen Knecht at [Knechtfour@aol.com](mailto:Knechtfour@aol.com), or 714-739-1366, no later than Tuesday, September 5th, and let her know you are interested. We welcome anyone who wants to join us.

**SEPTEMBER  
SIMCHAS**

**BIRTHDAYS**

Jennifer Knecht	1st
Maya Vega	3rd
Matthew Kozlov	12th
Jerry Ackerman	17th
Florence Lobel	19th

**ANNIVERSARIES**

Max and Dale Lechtman	2nd
Allan and Florence Lobel	30th

**If You Ever Wondered Where the Afikomen Monies Go . . .**

The Board has decided that the Afikomen monies collected at our Seder, approximately \$350 plus a generous donation by Phyllis Jacobs in honor of Karen Knecht, will be divided between the purchase of school supplies to be donated to Share Our Selves and Magen David Adom (MDA), the Israeli national emergency medical, disaster, ambulance and blood bank service.

Magen David Adom is now (since June 2006) officially recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross as the national aid society of the state of Israel according to the Geneva Conventions, and a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

## BEYOND THE HOLOCAUST.....WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Speaking before the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Rabbi Harold Schulweis addressed the issue of the Jewish condition....now and in the 21st century. As a result of what Pope John Paul II has called "the century of the Shoah," the most terrible century in history, the question asked is what can be expected from a people who has lived through it? There is pain and fear, shame and resentment, and anger. We are angry at the world, its churches, its states, and angry at ourselves. The Holocaust is our dominant psychic reality. The Shoah is our dybbuk

Santayana was only partially correct in his celebrated aphorism, "Those who do not remember history are doomed to repeat it." The other unwritten half is that those who remember only history are doomed to repeat it. If we deal with the 21st century as if it were a replication of the past, we foreclose the possibilities of the future. The past becomes both prologue and prophecy of the future. If everyone that we meet is but a reincarnation of yesterday's enemy, there will be no rapprochement, no negotiation either with the Arab world or with the Church or with the nations of the world.

The question to be asked is not whether but *what* to remember of the Shoah....There are right and wrong lessons to be learned from the Holocaust. One of the wrong lessons, created by rage, is confirming the belief that there is a basic split in the human species, a fundamental chasm between "them" and "us". As our sages said, "If a man spits in the air, it will fall in his face." The sages were aware of the self-destructiveness of anger. Contemporary cave dwellers, disgusted with the betrayal of the world, find solace, security, and the promise of salvation in the insulation of an exclusive enclave. From within, they look out with contempt at those Jews who engage in worldly activities, "plow the field and sow the seeds," outside the cave. These cave Jews look on the outside Jews as carriers of the virus of assimilation to be quarantined, excommunicated, and expelled. Not only are they different, they are collaborators with the enemy. The cave Jew accuses the dreaded Enlightenment for having seduced our people with the false promises of universalism, humanism, secularism, pluralism, and liberalism.....the corrosive, sugarcoated acids of modernity. "After 'their' feigned paralysis and amnesia during the Shoah," they fume, "Should we now exert our Jewish energies to improve 'their' inner cities?" "After what 'they' did to us," they growl, "Should we even bother with them in any way?"

Indifference to history is the wrong lesson to learn from the Shoah. Judaism from its inception means involvement in the world and inclusion of the disinherited...It would be tragic to learn a perverse logic from the Shoah. Because "they" closed their doors, we should hide in our caves? Because "they" shut their mouths, should ours be muted? Because of "their" passive complicity, should we join the citizens of apathy?

Quite the contrary. The memory of the Shoah and the apathy of the onlookers has, hopefully, sensitized us to the abandoned and forgotten. Those who recall the slaughter of our innocent children must not pretend not to know that 10 million children die each year of malnutrition. Of all things, the Shoah memory teaches us the universal relevance of the biblical imperative "Thou shalt not stand idly by the blood of thy neighbor" (Leviticus 19:16)

Rosalie Gottfried, Madrikha

**Hello From CSJO!**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

The next CSJO conference will be at Ursuline College in Cleveland, Ohio, May 25-28, 2007. The Jewish Secular Community (JSC) has graciously and enthusiastically agreed to be our host community.

More information will follow in subsequent newsletters. Meanwhile...SAVE THE DATE!!!

I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful summer.

On behalf of myself and the entire CSJO Board, I wish all of you a Healthy and Happy New Year.

All the best,

Rifke Feinstein  
Executive Director, CSJO

**Board of Directors 2006-2007**

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<i>Jewish Culture School Representative:</i>	
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<i>Committee Chairs:</i>	
<i>Tributes: Gerry Lumian</i>	<i>GERILU2@aol.com</i>
<i>Social Concerns: Ruth Shapin /</i>	<i>Ruth@shapin.org</i>
<i>Jerry Ackerman</i>	<i>JMA111@aol.com</i>
<i>Book Club: Marty Annenberg</i>	<i>MARAN5901@aol.com</i>



**TRIBUTES**

In Memory of Alan Jacobs

Alice & Bill Selfridge

Condolences to Mark Price  
on the death of his father

Leslie & Jerry Zwick  
Karen & Bob Knecht  
Bernice & Jack Stein

In Honor of Karen Knecht

Phyllis Jacobs

**BOOK CLUB**

The last Book Club meeting was on Thursday, August 31, 2006, at 7:30 P.M., at the home of Gerry Lumian, in Newport Beach. We read about three prominent people, Barney Frank, Congressman from Massachusetts; Kyra Sedgewick, actress; and Don Hewett, creator and executive producer of 60 Minutes. Although being Jewish is an important part of the identity of each of them, all are basically secular Jews. None of their children have been brought up with a real sense of Jewish identity. The interview with Don Hewett, especially, stirred up some strong reactions among those present.

Just when we think its time to start looking for a new book to read, we find more interesting chapters in "Stars of David" we haven't covered that keep us focused on this book.

The next Book Club meeting will be on Thursday, September 28th at the home of Jack and Bernice Stein. Call the Steins at (714) 968-0998, a few days ahead of time to RSVP and get directions. Come to the Book Club for a great read, a great discussion, and great refreshments.

**COME ONE, COME ALL!**

**Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>**

Come to our first ever **Havdalah dinner** of the year! Not only will we be celebrating Havdalah (the close of Shabbat); we'll also be celebrating **Sukkot**, and we'll be able to do it in a real sukkah!

If you would like to participate in the building of the sukkah, please come in work clothes and bring a change of clothing for the dinner.

This will be a pot luck dinner, so please bring your choice of drink for your family, and bring a dish according to where your last name falls in the following:

- A - I** -- Bring a salad.
- J - R** -- Bring an entree.
- S - Z** -- Bring a dessert.

**The place:** Lee and Zena Jacobi's house  
23 Alameda, Irvine 92620

PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO RSVP TO THEM :  
(714) 838-2836.

**THIS IS A MUST, BECAUSE OF SET-UP ARRANGEMENTS!**

**Schedule:** 4:30 p.m. -- building of the sukkah (if you plan to help)  
6:30 p.m. -- arrival approximately  
7:00 p.m. -- secular observance of Havdalah and Sukkot and then - dinner

**HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!**

The Greatest Yiddish Picture Ever Made

**MAURICE SCHWARTZ**

In Sholem Aleichem's Classic

**TEVYA**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH - 2 P.M.**

Felix has reserved clubhouse #3 on September 10 from 2 to 5 at the Seal Beach Leisure World for the viewing of Maurice Schwartz in "Tevye the Milkman" by Sholom Aleichem

It's like sitting at the Yiddish Theater on Second Ave. in N.Y. but this film has English titles so you won't have to whisper "What did he say?" to your neighbor!

Felix must know before SATURDAY, SEPT. 9th if you are joining us so that he can let the guard at the gate know. CALL: 562-598-5230

Bring a potluck dessert

Directions

Take I-405 to Seal Beach Blvd exit. Turn LEFT for approx. 1/4 mile. Enter Leisure World gate on right (give name to guard). Turn RIGHT on Del Monte. Continue past stop sign in middle of street. Look for "Library" sign, turn RIGHT into parking lot and park. The program is in Club House 3 (on right of lot), Room 3.

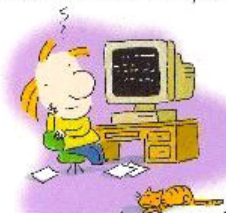
**NEIGHBORS WHO DISAPPEARED**

An emotional exhibition at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust in association with the Czech Torah Network entitled: "Neighbors Who Disappeared" was attended by some of our PC members.

The exhibition presented the efforts of present day high schoolers from Chotebor in the Czech Republic. It's a small town (or village) some 60 km from Prague. Petr Adam, a teacher, and others spoke about the project and its significance. Introductory remarks were delivered by Ivo Strejcek, member in the European Parliament for the Czech Republic

Czech children and youth (ages 12-21) created mixed-media panels which reflect the history of the Nazi Holocaust, as it affected their own cities and towns. The resulting collages combine text, drawings, paintings, contemporary and historical photographs, and facsimiles of historical documents.

Ever notice, the older we get,  
the more we're like computers?



We start out with lots of  
MEMORY and DRIVE  
then we become outdated,  
and eventually have to get  
our parts replaced...:)

## Mel, Bubelah, Can We Talk?

*(Excerpted from a Commentary By Diana Sevanian in the Santa Clarita, CA Signal, Saturday August 5, 2006)*

Dear Mel, Oy! What a tsimmis (big fuss) you've made here.

First, the Sheriff's Department stops you on Pacific Coast Highway last week for driving schikered (drunk). Then you go ballistic on the deputies with your meshuganeh (crazy) outburst, filled with anti-Semitic schmutz (filth) and pompous declarations of how your megabucks and star power deem you the No. 1 big macher (big shot) proprietor of Malibu. So much for Jews "owning the corner" on wealth, arrogance and dominion.

Obviously, this whole magillah (convoluted mess) has given you and your PR pals much tsuris (troubles) to deal with, especially since you've just alienated yourself from Jews who sign big Hollywood contracts.

You have also, overnight, become bupkis (nothing; literally beans or goat droppings) to many Jewish and non-Jewish moviegoers who had faithfully been your fans.

FYI: Given the global scourge of anti-Semitism and current combat in the Middle East, we needed this stuch (stab) like we need a luch en kupp (hole in the head).

Nisht gut.

Nisht gut at all.

So, Mr. Gibson. Nu? (Wassup?) What will you do now to lessen the damages and shander (disgrace) you've created? And how will you get help with your drinking --and thinking - disorder?

Let's take inventory of your mishegoss (insane situation) ameliorations thus far:

You've entered rehab to work on your battle with the bottle.

You've collectively apologized to Jews for saying all those despicable things about them that you "didn't really mean to say."

You've even gone so far as to appeal to the Jewish community to help you in your "path to healing."

OK. You've got a plan. Mazel tov! (Congratulations!)

I applaud your decision to confront the demons you've been battling your entire adult life. My hope is that your admission papers were signed by Mel Gibson, the man, not Mel Gibson, the actor.

On your explanation of those fercockta (crappy) anti-Semitic comments not being of your true core --but instead, your Tequila - I have this to say: Feh! (Something stinks here).

You, with your penchant for using ancient language in films, clearly need a reminder of that old Latin expression: "In Vino Veritas" ("In wine there is truth"). I definitely feel you meant those deep-dwelling Jew-hating invectives; the liquor just helped them bubble to the surface.

With regard to your arms seeking hugs from Jews, know that many may not be so ferklempt (choked with emotion) at this suggestion. Actually, some have already said, "Kush meer in toches." (Kiss my ass).

After all, these are the same folks you said are the cause

of all the wars in the world.

These are the same "chosen people" who have been persecuted and enslaved for generations, stripped of professions and possessions, driven from their shtetls (communities), gassed, shot, some even used for unimaginably sadistic Nazi experiments - all because of their religion.

They are also the same fathers and mothers who weep when the children of their enemies are killed, the same enemy that rejoices at Jewish children being slaughtered via cold-blooded suicide bombings.

Mr. Oscar-winning Filmmaker, something is really wrong with this picture.

Speaking of movies. Numerous people, including you, have expressed resentment toward Jews for "owning Hollywood." The fact is, Jews were central in creating Hollywood! Do the names Goldwyn, Mayer, Fox, Laemmle, Zukor and the Warner brothers ring a bell? Ironically, many of these talented Jewish former immigrants developed the business because it was impossible for them to find other work due to religious prejudice.

Why should any person - Jew, gentile, black, white, Hispanic, Asian or anything else - be chastised for realizing the fruits of their hard work, great imagination, education and business acumen?

The unmitigated inhumanity and narrow-mindedness of it all makes me want to geshrey (scream), but my heart remains hopeful that minds will change.

Alevai (it should only happen).

OK, Mr. Mel Gibson. You want to make nice.

If you're sincere in your apologies and desire to get help, then count me as one Jew who forgives and supports you.

Of the many sayings central to my heritage, there's one that truly applies here. It states: Never kvell (take pride or delight) in another person's sorrow. And you, Mel, even with all your gelt (money) and power and movie-making magic, are a person who is suffering and in need of rachmones (sympathy).

Why do I offer this? Two reasons: First, I believe that being raised by a parent seized with hatred and bigotry can lead to becoming a farbissen (crippled by bitterness), fermished (confused) and farchadat (dysfunctional) adult.

Anne Frank, that eloquent Dutch-born Jewish girl who died in the Holocaust --the one that really happened - said of our upbringings and resultant values: "The final forming of a person's character lies in their own hands." I think you get my drift and I wish you koyech (strength) in your journey.

Second, forgiveness is the kosher (legitimate) thing to do. We're all human and we all act like schtunks (lousy persons) sometimes. Besides, the seychel (wisdom) of my elders reminds me that we cannot expect to ever see peace in the Middle East if we cannot forgive and understand our brothers and sisters here at home.

In closing, Mel, please know that your use of old languages in films stirred me to do the same here. Hence, all of this Yiddish, the Mama loeschen (mother tongue) of my ancestors.



**Some Favor**

The angels came to God after he had finished with creation and asked why he had favored the Jews so heavily. "You've given them a land of milk and honey, of olives, barley, dates and pomegranates," they say. "They're gonna have Nobel Prize winners, artists and scientists way out of proportion to their numbers. It's not fair!"

"Oh yeah?" God says. "Wait till you see the neighbors I gave them."

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**Cardiologist's Funeral**

A cardiologist died and was given an elaborate funeral. A huge heart covered in flowers stood behind the casket during the service.

Following the eulogy, the heart opened, and the casket rolled inside. The heart then closed, sealing the doctor in the beautiful heart forever.

At that point, one of the mourners burst into laughter. When all eyes stared at him, he said, "I'm sorry, I was just thinking of my own funeral..I'm a gynecologist."

At that point, the proctologist fainted.

**HUMOR**



**No Pets Allowed**

Then there is Manny who brings his dog Butch to Temple one Friday night. Manny is told by one of the greeters at the Temple doors that he can't have a dog in the Temple. Manny is highly insulted and tells the greeter that Butch is Jewish and should be allowed to come to Temple to pray. The detractor sorts derisively and then looks down at the dog and notices that it has a yarmulke and tallis. Manny sees that this is noticed and asks his dog to pray. The dog starts woofing and flexing his front legs and benching.

The detractor is astonished. He says to Manny "that is absolutely brilliant". Then he says jokingly, maybe the dog should think about becoming a Rabbi. Manny nods his head seriously in agreement and says, maybe you could have a talk with him. He says he wants to be a Doctor

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