

Pacific Community  
of Cultural Jews



# CHAI-LIGHTS

December 2017

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

Orange County, CA 714-739-1366  
PacifComm@aol.com www.pccjews.org

## The Borscht Belt Balabustas

(AKA Nancy, Suzy and Cheryl)

Invite you to join us at

### “Latkes, Bingo, and Laughter”



We will celebrate Chanukah on Dec. 16, 2017  
from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at  
Bluffs Fiesta Room  
2414 Vista del Oro  
Newport Beach



And.. please think of other and bring an unwrapped child’s toy or a gift card for food, gas, Target, Ralphs, etc. for our Chanukah Drive. All gifts will be given to needy Jewish families in Orange County through the Jewish Federation Family Service. We suggest a gift of \$20.00, but all gifts will be appreciated.

You will receive an email from Balabusta Suzy regarding how you can help with our wonderful meal.

Please RSVP no later than Dec.11, 2017 to Balabusta Suzy at  
Byronbaron@sbcglobal.net or 714-639-4906.

Free to members, \$10.00 for non-members



Hi Everyone,

I want to welcome our new members, Ralph Haller and Norton Schwartz. We are glad to have them as part of our Pacific Community.



Thank you to Marissa Jacobi for pursuing the grant for us from the OC Jewish Federation. We were awarded \$600.

I hope you will all make plans to attend our Chanukah Party. We always have lots of latkes!

Happy December,

Leslie Zwick  
President, Pacific Community



## DINE OUT

Dec. 9, 2017

6:30 pm.

Sam Woo Restaurant  
& BBQ Express

15333 Culver Dr.

Irvine, CA

949-262-0688



Please RSVP to Karen ([Knechtfour@aol.com](mailto:Knechtfour@aol.com))  
no later than Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>

# PHILOSOPHER'S CAFÉ

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)

Dec. 9, 2017 (Saturday)

1:30 p.m.

At the home of

Sheila Bass

5528-C Via La Mesa

Laguna Woods

Please **RSVP immediately** to Sheila at 949-206-9452 or  
Shekaba@aol.com

You must RSVP on or before Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> since she needs to submit a list of attendees to the Gate. She will give you the Gate information you will need when you RSVP.



## Happy Birthday !

Zena Jacobi - 12/12

Suzy Baron - 12/24

Sylvia Rothman - 12/29

## Happy Anniversary !

Lee & Zena Jacobi - 12/15

David & Pnina Shichor - 12/20



## Sheila Says ...

## “The Melting Pot”

If I would take a survey of our members, I wonder how many of you could trace your family tree, here in the U.S., back more than a couple of generations.

A couple of years ago, I took one of my many trips to London and Prague. I, was born in London – and my late Husband, Karel, in Prague. My Daughter and I had taken our ten year-old girls to London a few years before, but this was their first exposure to Prague.

It fascinates me, how we all ended up here, from various parts of the United States, Canada – and so many other countries around the world.

I think of myself as English, although I am proud of my American nationality. I can hardly deny it with my accent – and everyone seems to think that’s who I am.

But, who am I – and who are you all, really .....

My Father and also his Mother, were born in London, as was my Mother. However, my Father’s Father came from Russia. He died at an early age, but during his lifetime, was known for giving assistance to other new immigrants, in the East End of London, although he and my Grandmother made a slim living, owning a small grocery shop there.

My Mother’s Parents both came from somewhere in Poland – what was called the ‘Pale of Settlement’ an area to which the Jews were confined. Neither of my Parents ever discussed with me the history of their families, so I really never knew of the small towns they came from, or the circumstances under which they left.

My Husband’s background, however, has been well documented – at least on his Mother’s side of the family. They originally came from Spain and were in Czechoslovakia for over three hundred years, until Hitler came along and murdered them all. His Mother’s family lived in a small town or village, just outside of Pilzen. When his Mother was of marriageable age, she was sent to Prague and I believe was introduced to Karel’s Father. Out of her family of eight siblings – all the girls perished. Two brothers were able to come to the States and one brother survived the war, due to the fact that he was married to a non-Jew. He had been a lawyer and during the war, was forced to be a road sweeper.

One of Karel’s Bass Uncles, was the leader of the Senate in Prague – and as the Germans marched in, he committed suicide by jumping out of a window, as he had spoken out strongly against the Nazis, from the floor of the house.

My Husband, after being imprisoned as an ‘industrial spy’ – another story, for another time, was released on condition he left Czechoslovakia within three weeks! He received a permit from the Jewish Agency and eventually made his way to Palestine, after a number of harrowing experiences. During this time, he was actually helped, on three different occasions, by German officials in detention camps, etc., finally being pushed over into Italy, from where he eventually sailed on the last boat to Haifa.

When I talk about nationalities, I am mainly thinking of my Husband. During his lifetime, he first came under the Austro-Hungarian Empire, then Czechoslovakia became independent and he became a proud Czech. Then Hitler came along and Czechoslovakia became a German Protectorate. When he reached Haifa, he became a Palestinian and then, with the independence of Israel, became a proud Israeli.

The story does not end there. He came to London, where I met him in 1960, and after giving up his Israeli citizenship and becoming a ‘Foreign Husband’ without a passport, eventually became a British citizen.

In 1968, the three of us - Karel, myself, and our Daughter Paula, who was just four years old, came to live in the United States. We settled in the Detroit area. After the required length of time, we became citizens of the United States. We held dual citizenship, both British and U.S.

Again, there is another chapter - my Daughter and her young girls live in Toronto – where the girls were born. Thus, Rachel and Karly also have dual citizenship –Canadian and U.S.

So, during his lifetime, my Husband has seven different nationalities, I have two, as do my Daughter – and her, young Daughters.

Needless to say, we have all been most grateful to have been welcomed into the United States, which I believe to be the 'Melting Pot'. With all the societal problems we may have, I believe we are an example to the world, how people can live together, if they have good will.

# Jews To Know

by Lee Jacobi



## Ofra Haza - The Yemenite Jewish Pop Singer

Ofra Haza was born as Bat-Sheva Ofra Haza in 1957 in Israel to Jewish immigrants from Yemen. Yemenite Jews had been transported en masse to the new state of Israel, where they arrived without modern skills. The poor family lived in a slummy neighborhood in south Tel Aviv. Ofra was the youngest of 9 children.

At age 12 Haza joined a local theater troupe, where its manager Bezalel Aloni spotted her talent. He became her manager and mentor. By age 19 she was a pop music star. Her early hit songs included Simanim Shel Ohavim (Lovers' Signs), Tfila (Prayer), and Shir Ha'frecha (The Bimbo Song). Haza was voted "Female Vocalist of the Year" in Israel four years in a row 1980 thru 1983. At the 1983 Eurovision Song Contest, she came in second with the song "Chai" (Alive). Then her album of renditions of Israeli folk songs went platinum. In 1984 she released an album of Yemenite songs.

Haza's voice has been described as a "tender mezzo-soprano". She fused styles of instrumentation, orchestration and rhythms that bridged the Jewish and Arab communities. This enabled her music to reach far beyond little Israel. Her album "Shaday" won the New Music Award for Best International Album in 1988. The single "Im Nin'alu" from that album topped the Eurochart for 2 weeks. Haza was selected to sing the theme song "Deliver Us" for the Disney animated film "Prince of Egypt". An international artist, Haza shared duets and concert performances with stars including Paul Anka, Paula Abdul, Michael Jackson, Iggy Pop, Whitney Houston, The Sisters of Mercy, Thomas Dolby and (posthumously with) [ERLINK"https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah\\_Brightman"](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sarah_Brightman) Sarah Brightman.

Ofra Haza died in 2000, at the age of 42. She had contracted AIDS, apparently from a blood transfusion following a miscarriage. Then-Prime Minister Ehud Barak praised her work as a cultural emissary, commenting that she represented the Israeli success story — "Ofra emerged from the Hatikvah slums to reach the peak of Israeli culture..."

Written by Lee Jacobi. Credits: Jewdayo 12/19/2011; Wikipedia

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From Cheryl Cohen -

Thanks to those Pacific Community members who contributed to the DACA/Dreamer websites after our guest speakers on Yom Kippur. Your generosity funded one more Dreamer!!

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

**This is our once a month contribution to your meals and desserts. If you would like to submit a recipe, please send it to Bernice Stein at [jstein7901@aol.com](mailto:jstein7901@aol.com)**

### THE SKINNY COOKIE - LEMON THINS

#### Ingredients:

1 1/4 cups whole-wheat flour or all-purpose flour	1/8 cup cornstarch
1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder	1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup sugar, divided	2 tablespoons butter, softened
2 tablespoons canola oil	1 large egg white
1 1/2 teaspoons freshly grated lemon zest	1 teaspoon vanilla extract
3 tablespoons lemon juice	

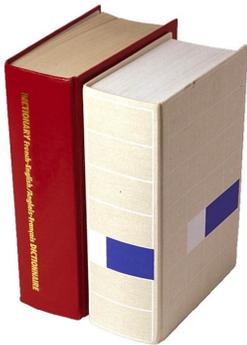
Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Coat 2 baking sheets with cooking spray.

\* Whisk flour, cornstarch, baking powder and salt in a mixing bowl. Beat 1/2 cup sugar, butter and oil in another mixing bowl with an electric mixer on medium speed until fluffy. Add egg white, lemon zest and vanilla, beat until smooth. Beat in lemon juice. Add the dry ingredients to the wet ingredients and fold in with a rubber spatula just until combined.

\*Drop the dough by teaspoons 2 inches apart, onto the prepared baking sheets. Place the remaining 1/4 cup of sugar in a saucer. Coat the bottom of a wide-bottomed glass with cooking spray and dip it into the sugar. Flatten the dough with the glass into 2 1/2 inch circles, dipping the glass in the sugar each time.

\*Bake the cookies until they are just starting to brown around the edges. 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a flat surface (not a rack) to crisp.

Per cookie: 60 calories



## **BOOK REVIEW**

### **TRIALS OF ZION**

**By**

**Alan M. Dershowitz**

This is a suspenseful novel written by the famed attorney who is an expert in Israeli history and politics. It is the story of a Jewish American lawyer who is the daughter of a famed criminal defense attorney. They both come to the defense of a young Palestinian who is accused of a horrendous crime.

She and her father go to Israel and become embroiled in political, historical, and legal issues involving major players in the Middle East.

The book has elements of intrigue, romance and history.

The story was a definite page-turner that I found hard to put down.

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

# SATURDAY AT THE MOVIES

by Greta Singer

Re-printed from 2013

Before the "big" films come out at the end of the year, I want to remember the movies and my experience at the movies from long ago in Brooklyn.

In Brooklyn, in the fifties, if it was Saturday and you were a kid, you were at the movies. We spent every Saturday afternoon, unless it was a great beach day, in the dark at the Loews Kameo or the Rogers theaters watching whatever happened to be playing that week. There was a routine: lunch at Mee Wah, the Chinese restaurant upstairs next to the theater. There, chicken chow mein, egg roll, tea, soup and fortune cookies were sixty cents. We never heard of a tip. Then the movie at twenty five cents for a child's admission and six cents for a candy bar. For under a dollar, our mothers had a full day of child care taken care of.

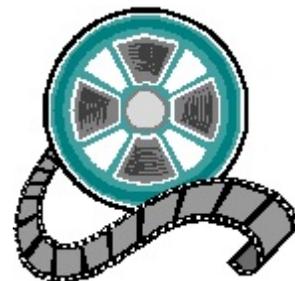
And there was care in the form of the matrons, as they were called, who wielded the flashlights and made sure we were behaving ourselves in the children's section of the theater. These were older women, usually fat and stocky who reminded us of prison guards. They made sure we sat in the correct section, didn't mess, vandalize or destroy any theater property and made less than thunderous noise. We kids yelled, laughed too loudly, jumped around a bit but the matron kept us in line.

But when the movie started, our section became quiet, entranced. There were always five cartoons on Saturday: Mickey Mouse, Tom and Jerry, Bugs Bunny and Elmer Fudd. Sometimes an enterprising cartoon maker would sneak in a slightly more sophisticated short and that would be interesting. There was always the news, mostly about celebrities and the current war our country was fighting: World War II when I was quite young, Korea, later, then Vietnam and the Cold War. Then there were the "coming attractions", today called previews which told us what to expect for the

next few TSaturdays. But it didn't matter what was coming because we continued coming every Saturday afternoon for years.

During my preteen and teen years I saw many of the movies that made me a movie buff, really fine pictures that are still popular today. "On the Waterfront" with a gorgeous Marlon Brando, "High Noon", "Roman Holiday" with a gorgeous Gregory Peck, "From Here to Eternity", "All About Eve". There was never any question of excluding children from the more serious films. so long as we sat in the right place and obeyed the matron.

It was later on that feature films were shown on television, but that was never the same for me. The all encompassing darkness of the big theater, the enormous screen, the sound all around us made it special. As I got older, we bigger kids would take the subway to Manhattan and see some of the first run movies at the art theaters. There we could be part of the big city and feel grown up. But nothing has exceeded the magic of a Saturday afternoon at a local theater, watching the film twice sometimes, or at least staying for the film to be repeated until the place "where we came in". It was usually dark when we emerged from the movies , tired but thrilled at the new things we had seen that day. There has never been anything constant like that in my life to rival Saturdays at the movies.



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