



# CHAI LIGHTS

December 2021

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

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



*Happy Chanukah!*

## **Christmas Day Hike and Lunch - December 25, 2021**

No plans for Christmas? Enjoy the outdoors with a 1 or 2+ mile hike at the San Joaquin Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, 5 Riparian View, Irvine California

followed by lunch at  
TG Garden, Chinese Restaurant,  
13913 Harbor Blvd. , Garden Grove California 92843.

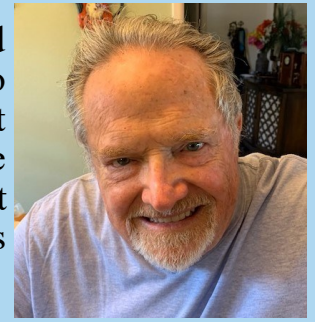
For the hike, meet at 10:30 a.m. in front of the Audubon House. (Use entrance from Campus).

Lunch is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

RSVP to Sylvia Rothman ([sobaysyl@aol.com](mailto:sobaysyl@aol.com)) **no later than December 18, 2021**. You must specify whether you are going on the hike, going to lunch, or doing both and how many in your party if going to lunch.

## And now a word from our President:

Happy Hanukkah to all of you. I am sorry we had to cancel our planned Zoom Hanukkah Program this year but with the holiday being so close to Thanksgiving and previous program commitments, there was just not enough time for the volunteers to put together a great program everyone would enjoy. Hopefully by next year, (we keep having to say “by next year”), we can all be together in-person to celebrate. I think Hannukah is one of those holidays that is best enjoyed with everyone together.



In the meantime, we still have some activities for December. There is the Zoom Philosopher's Café on December 10<sup>th</sup> and the Christmas Day hike followed by lunch. Check this newsletter for additional info on these activities.

It is hard to believe that this year is almost over. While 2021 was better than 2020 as far as the Covid pandemic, we can only hope that 2022 will be even better. Be well and stay tuned.

**Bryon Baron**  
Pacific Community President



## DINE OUT

**December 11th**  
**11:30 a.m.**



**Irrawaddy, Taste of Burma**  
**7076 Katella Ave.**  
**Stanton**  
**714-252-8565**

**Please RSVP to [Knechtfour@aol.com](mailto:Knechtfour@aol.com)**  
**no later than Dec. 8th.**

**Because of COVID restrictions, I need to make the reservation earlier than usual therefore there can be No Exceptions to the RSVP date!**

# Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)

**December 10, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.**

**Via Zoom**

**The Zoom link will be sent out to those who RSVP to Jim Rothman by December 8th. Look for it in your email. Then on December 10th click on the link and join in the fun.**

**To make sure we have your correct email address, please email Jim at [jrbythec@aol.com](mailto:jrbythec@aol.com), so he can include you.**



## Congratulations

### 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

Josh & Gina Moss - 12/28





## Jews to Know

### Mort Sahl (1927-2021)



Mort Sahl was born in Montreal, Canada in 1927. His parents were Jews: an American father and a Canadian mother. The family moved a few times, until settling in Los Angeles. Upon graduating Belmont High, Sahl enlisted in the Army Air Force. He edited his post's newspaper, where he published negative comments about his commanding officer. He was punished with 83 consecutive days of KP (kitchen) duty. After his discharge, Sahl attended Compton College on the GI Bill. He earned a BA degree in public administration at USC, and then started masters' studies, but dropped out. Over the next few years, he wrote and staged one-act plays, started to do stand-up comedy, worked as a used car salesman, and wrote a novel that didn't get published.

Sahl got his career going at the *hungry i*, a small San Francisco night club, in late 1953. He had a rocky start, but soon he was generating standing-room-only crowds.

Mort Sahl revolutionized stand-up comedy in the mid 1950s with his insightful political and social satire. "I don't tell jokes, I give little lectures" Sahl later described his act. In a typical 45-minute monologue, he began with jabs at Charles De Gaulle and Pres. Dwight Eisenhower, then jumped to segregation, trade unions, a recent movie, jazz, New York City and Berkeley, playwright Samuel Beckett, newspapers, coffeehouses, sandals... and dozens of other subjects. At the end, he asked "Are there any groups I haven't offended?"

Sahl's career nosedived when he strongly promoted the theory that the assassination of Pres. John Kennedy was the result of a conspiracy, as opposed to the official Warren Commission's conclusion of a lone assassin. People didn't want to hear that. His income plummeted to \$13,000/year. But, Sahl would not change his caustic and satiric style. His career had a modest rebound with the public's reaction to Pres. Richard Nixon administration's Watergate scandal. In 1987 he performed a one-man show of his work on Broadway. Late in life, Sahl taught a class in critical thinking at Claremont McKenna College.

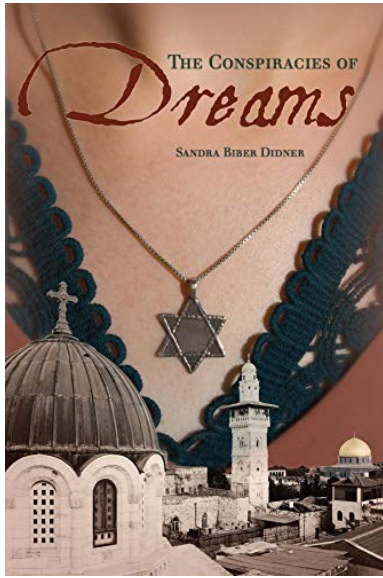
Sahl died in 2021 at the age of 94.

Written by Lee Jacobi. Credits: Wikipedia

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From Cheryl Cohen

Sincere thanks to the Board for agreeing to donate to the Khan family, who arrived seven months ago from Afghanistan. Special thanks to Nancy (and Dave) for finding a ton of baby clothing being given away in Newport Beach. Thanks to Leslie for buying a great supply of diapers and wipes at Target. Thanks also to Nancy, Leslie and Debbi for helping us sort and categorize the clothing. The Khans are very appreciative. Their 4th baby will probably be here by the time this newsletter comes out! You are all good people!! Thanks for "welcoming the stranger."



## BOOK REVIEW

# THE CONSPIRACY OF DREAMS

By Sandra Biber Didner

This book of historical fiction took place in 1956 around the time of the Israeli Egyptian war. The main character was a spy for Egypt. His assignment was to collect as much information as possible about Israeli troop movements and military plans in order to relay them back to Egyptian military headquarters.

In order to accomplish this he decides to pose as an Israeli. In the process he falls madly in love with an Israeli woman. They have a serious affair and contemplate making it permanent.

However, in order to do this he realizes that he would have to betray his family, his military career and his country.

Since this would be too much for him, he decides to disappear without telling her his true identity and his whereabouts. Other relationships ensue and get complicated.

In the course of this drama, we learn about such things as Israeli and Egyptians politics of the time, Christian and Jewish religious issues, as well as pagan beliefs.

This book was as dramatic as it was informative. I didn't want to put it down. I would highly recommend it.

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

This link was found by Cheryl Cohen. She recommends you check it out.

National Yiddish Theater Folksbeine

<https://nytf.org/esn/>



## **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**All events via Zoom until further notice**

December 10, 2021 - Philosopher's Café

December 11, 2021 - Dine Out

December 25, 2021 - Hike

January 8, 2022 - Dine Out

January 14, 2022 - Philosopher's Café

January 16, 2022 - Tu B'Shvat Hike

### **2020 - 2022 PACIFIC COMMUNITY BOARD**

#### **ELECTED OFFICERS**

President	Bryon Baron	Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net
Vice President	Jerry Zwick	jerlesz@verizon.net
Secretary	Sylvia Rothman	sobaysyl@aol.com
Treasurer	Leslie Zwick	jerlesz@verizon.net
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Program Co-Coordinator	Suzy Baron	Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net
Program Co-Coordinator	Cheryl Cohen	Cjbcohen47@gmail.com
Program Co-Coordinator	Karen Knecht	Knechtfour@aol.com
Publicity	Nancy Okamoto	949-386-0400

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Affiliated with  
The Society for Humanistic Judaism  
and  
Cultural and Secular Jewish  
Organization

#### **COMMUNITY AND BOARD POSITIONS**

SHJ Representative	Lee Jacobi	LeeJacobi123@gmail.com
CSJO Liaison	Leslie Zwick	jerlesz@verizon.net
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Board Member-At-Large	Lee Field	SLWF@cox.net
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Board Member-At-Large	Lee Jacobi	LeeJacobi123@gmail.com
Board Member-At-Large	Pnina Shichor	info@boundtotravel.com
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Webmaster	Marissa Jacobi	theMarissa@gmail.com



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# PACIFIC COMMUNITY OF CULTURAL JEWS

## Calendar of Events 2021 - 2022

### EVENTS

Sept. 7, 2021 - Rosh Hashanah Observance (Zoom)  
Sept. 16, 2021 - Yom Kippur Observance (Zoom)  
Sept. 25, 2021 - Sukkot/Succos & Potluck  
Oct. 17, 2021 - Book Sharing  
~~Dec. 4, 2021 - Chanukah Party~~  
Dec. 25, 2021 - Nature Walk  
Jan. 16, 2022 - Tu B'Shvat Hike  
Feb. 19, 2022 - Game Night (Zoom)  
Feb. 27, 2022 - Movie Time  
Mar. 20, 2022 - Purim & Comedy Event  
Apr. 16, 2022 - Passover Seder  
May 01, 2022 - Yom Ha'Shoah Observance  
May 15, 2022 - Tales of Our Mothers  
June 27, 2022 - End of Year Party / Tales of Our Fathers

For more information,  
contact Suzy Baron, Cheryl Cohen or Karen Knecht  
bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net / 714-639-4906  
cjbcohen47@gmail.com / 949-616-6288  
Knechtfour@aol.com / 714-739-1366

### DINE - OUT

Join us for dinner at a variety of restaurants once a month. All locations will be decided upon the month before and announced in our newsletter. All dinners are at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

**All dates are tentative, depending on COVID.**

Oct. 9, 2021  
Nov. 20, 2021  
Dec. 11, 2021  
Jan. 8, 2022  
Feb. 12, 2022  
Mar. 12, 2022  
Apr. 9, 2022  
May 14, 2022  
June 11, 2022  
July 9, 2022

For more information, or for suggestions for restaurants,  
contact Karen Knecht  
714-739-1366 or Knechtfour@aol.com

### BOARD MEETINGS

All members are invited to attend  
board meetings and give your input.  
Meetings start at 11:00 a.m. unless  
otherwise noted.

### Philosopher's Café (via Zoom)

People get together on a monthly basis to discuss a topic - either issues of the day, or any topic of general interest. Where they meet is up to the group. The discussions take anywhere from an hour to . . . ?  
Philosopher's Café is being held via Zoom. Please check our monthly newsletters for information on our Philosopher's Café.

Sept. 10, 2021	Oct. 8, 2021
Nov. 12, 2021	Dec. 10, 2021
Jan. 14, 2022	Feb. 11, 2022
Mar. 11, 2022	Apr. 8, 2022
May 6, 2022	June 10, 2022
July 8, 2022	Aug. 5, 2022

**Schedule subject to change**

Pacific Community is an affiliate of 2 International Organizations -  
Society for Humanistic Judaism and the Cultural and Secular Jewish Organization