



CHANUKAH LIGHTS

December 2023
Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

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

Please join us for our Annual Chanukah Party

December 9, 2023 1:00p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



The Bluffs Community Room
2414 Vista del Oro
Newport, CA.



This year's plans include-

- * White Elephant exchange (returned by popular demand)
- * Latkes and fruit salad
- * Chanukah Songs
- * A Celebration with Friends

Please bring something fun to exchange during the White Elephant activity
(something in good condition from your home - a value of \$15.00 or more, wrapped.
Remember what is useless for you may be useful to someone else)

Free for members of Pacific Community. \$15.00 for non-members.

Please RSVP to Suzy Baron at Bryonbaron#sbcglobal.net or 657-274-3440
no later than Dec. 2th to let us know if you will be joining us.

Christmas Day Hike and Lunch - December 25, 2023

No plans for Christmas? Enjoy the outdoors with a 1.8 mile hike at Quail Hill Trailhead, 34 Shady Canyon Drive, Irvine, followed by lunch at TG Garden, Chinese Restaurant, 13913 Harbor Blvd. Garden Grove.

For the hike, meet at 11:00 a.m. in the parking lot. Although this is an easy hike, there is a hill either at the beginning of the hike (going down) or at the end (going up) depending on which direction you go.

Lunch is scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

3RSVP to Sylvia Rothman (sobavsyl@aol.com) by December 18, 2023. Specify whether you are going on the hike, going to lunch, or doing both and how many in your party if going to lunch.

President's Message

As I write this message, we are approaching the busy holiday season. Tomorrow is Thanksgiving, when many of us gather with family and friends to give thanks for the good things in our lives. We look forward to good health and prosperity for everyone. As I grow older, I gain a better understanding of what is most important for a meaningful life. For me, that is knowing people are safe and knowing people have the basic necessities of life. That is why the war in the Middle East is so distressing to me. I just want it to end. Humanistic Judaism expresses compassion for people throughout the world who have suffered trauma and tragedy in their lives. Sometimes I think we should all turn off news broadcasts for a day or two and just listen more carefully to other people's viewpoints, without judgement.



All we can do is express caring and compassion or at the very least, respect for everyone with whom we come into contact. I hope to see you on December 9th at the Bluffs Clubhouse in Newport Beach, when we celebrate Chanukah together. It is always fun, especially seeing what gifts people bring to exchange.

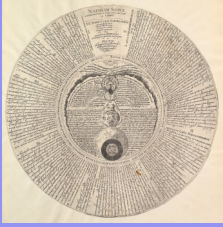
I am looking forward to a peaceful end to this year and a more hopeful beginning for next year.

Nancy Okamoto
President, Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

**Dine Out will not happen this month
due to our Chanukah Party taking place
on December 9, 2023**

SAD NEWS

On November 17, 2023, Gina Moss, wife of Josh Moss passed away in her sleep. Gina had been ill for a long time, and is now finally at peace. Please keep Josh in your thoughts as he goes through this difficult time.



Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)

**December 1, 2023 -
7:30 p.m. Via Zoom**

**The Zoom link will be sent out to those who RSVP to
Jim Rothman by November 29th. Look for it in your email.
Then on December 1, 2023, 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,
so he can include you.**



Congratulations



Happy Birthday!

Zena Jacobi - 12/12

Mark Price - 12/13

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

Vivian Silver (1949-2023). Womens' Rights and Peace Activist

Vivian Silver was born and raised in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. She was an activist since her college days. In her junior year in 1968, she studied abroad at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel. Back in Canada in her senior year, she co-founded the Student Zionist Alliance on her campus. Silver was a leftist who was supportive of the socialist wing of Israel, while most leftist activists opposed Israel as being the oppressor of the indigenous Palestinian Arabs.

Silver emigrated to Israel in 1974, and became a member of a kibbutz (collective farm). She advocated for women's rights within the kibbutz movement, and worked on the Knesset (Israel's parliament) Subcommittee for the Advancement of Women in Work and the Economy.

In 1990, Silver, with her husband Lewis Zeigen and their 2 children, moved to Kibbutz Be-'eri very near the Gaza border. She quickly took leadership roles in this kibbutz. Beginning in 1998, Silver served for 16 years as executive director of the Negev Institute for Strategies of Peace and Development. Silver became fluent in Arabic. In 1999, Silver and a Bedouin Israeli woman co-founded the Arab-Jewish Center for Equality, Empowerment and Cooperation. Silver was also involved with other organizations including Creating Peace; the human rights organization B'Tselem; and the Alliance for Middle East Peace.

After retirement from paid work, Silver co-founded the interfaith organization Women Wage Peace, and she volunteered with Road to Recovery, driving Palestinian cancer patients from Gaza to get treatment in Jerusalem.

Silver, who had worked tirelessly for Israeli-Palestinian peace, was killed by Palestinian militants in the Hamas attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023. She was one of about 130 of the men, women and children who were killed at her kibbutz.

"I consider myself to be a conditional Zionist. I believe in the right of the Jewish people to have a state, as long as we give the same right to the Palestinian people. This [area] could be such a haven to both of our people here." -Vivian Silver

Written by Lee Jacobi. Credits: Wikipedia

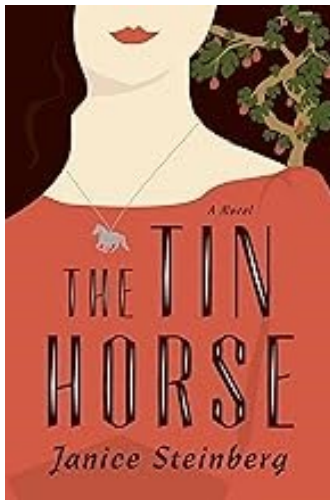


BOOK REVIEW

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

THE TIN HORSE

BY Janice Steinberg



I particularly enjoyed reading this novel because it starts out in Boyle Heights, which was a mostly Jewish neighborhood in Los Angeles---and where I grew up. Reading it was like a walk down memory lane.

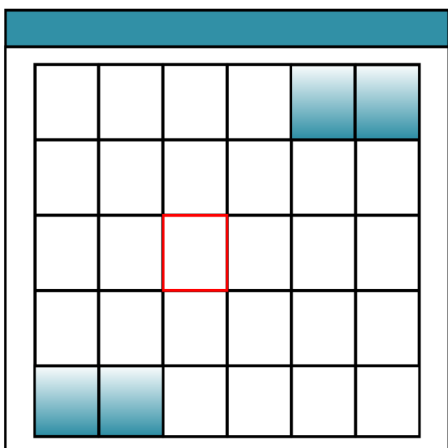
Our story takes place in the 1920s and 1930s. It involves a multi generational family- parents, grandparents and children. who move into Boyle Heights from Europe. Included in the children are fraternal twin girls who are our main characters. These siblings are very different in their personalities and goals. They definitely had a sibling rivalry. Elaine was very studious and was college bound. Barbara was more extravert and was attracted to Hollywood.

When they were 18 Barbara disappeared and cut herself off from the entire family. What ensued was a decades long search for her involving family members, friends and even a private detective. In this search we learn about family secrets and the love lives of all involved.

The book was very well written and suspenseful. I definitely recommend it.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- December 1, 2023** - Philosopher's Cafe
- December 9, 2023** - Chanukah Party
- December 25, 2023** - Hike
- January 19, 2024** - Philosopher's Café
- January 20, 2024** - Dine Out
- January 27, 2024** - Tu B'Shvat Hike
- February 9, 2024** - Philosopher's Café
- February 10, 2024** - Dine Out
- February 24, 2024** - Jews Around the World

2022 - 2024 PACIFIC COMMUNITY BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Nancy Okamoto	949-386-0400
Vice President	Jerry Zwick	jerlesz@verizon.net
Secretary	Sylvia Rothman	sobaysyl@aol.com
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Program Co-Coordinator	Karen Knecht	Knechtfour@aol.com
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Pacific Community of Cultural Jews,
Orange County, CA

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 Jacobi	LeeJacobi123@gmail.com
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PACIFIC COMMUNITY OF CULTURAL JEWS

Calendar of Events 2023 - 2024

EVENTS

Sept. 16, 2023 - Rosh Hashanah Observance
Sept. 25, 2023 - Yom Kippur Observance
Sept. 30, 2023 - Sukkot/Succos & Potluck
~~Oct. 28, 2023 - Book Sharing~~
Dec. 09, 2023 - Chanukah Party
Dec. 25, 2023 - Nature Walk
Jan. 27, 2024 - Tu B'Shvat Hike
Feb. 24, 2024 - Jews Around the World
Mar. 31, 2024 - Play - A Shayna Maidl -
Apr. 27, 2024 - Passover Seder
June 22, 2024 - Year-End Party / Play Reading

For more information,
contact Suzy Baron, or Karen Knecht
bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net / 714-639-4906
Knechtfour@aol.com / 714-739-1366

DINE - OUT

Join us for lunch or dinner at a variety of restaurants once a month. All locations will be decided upon the month before and announced in our newsletter. All lunches are at 1:00 p.m. and dinners are at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted.

All dates are always tentative.

Oct. 14, 2023
Jan. 20, 2024
Feb. 10, 2024
Mar. 9, 2024
Apr. 13, 2024
May 11, 2024
June 08, 2024
July 13, 2024

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



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. 22, 2023	Oct. 06, 2023
Nov. 3, 2023	Dec. 01, 2023
Jan. 19, 2024	Feb. 09, 2024
Mar. 15, 2024	Apr. 19, 2024
May 03, 2024	June 14, 2024
July 19, 2024	

Schedule subject to change.

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