



CHAI LIGHTS

October 2025

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

Orange County, CA.
PacifComm@aol.com

714-739-1366
www.pccjews.org



**Please Join Us on October 25, 2025 for the
Harvest Festival at the
Fullerton Arboretum - 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
1900 Associated Rd.
Fullerton**

**Then join us for a Potluck Lunch at 1:00 p.m.
Celeste and Mike Mendelson's Home
1215 W. Valley View Dr.
Fullerton
714-992-5224**



**Please bring a non-perishable item for donation to the
Fullerton Interfaith Pathways of Hope.**

**We will be meeting at the Arboretum at 11:00 a.m. Prior to that, if you have
a perishable item for the potluck, please drop it off at Mike and Celeste's
home between 10:00 and 10:30 the latest.**

**Please RSVP to Mike and Celeste at 714-992-5224
no later than October 23rd, so they can make room for everyone.**

Please welcome our newest members of Pacific Community:



**Eileen Harris
Bev Krassner-Bulas
Mark Ross**



Come and join us for our visit to the Hsi Lai Temple.

Information on the next page.



BUDDHIST TEMPLE TOUR

OCTOBER 5, 2025

TIME: 1:00 PM (1 hour tour)

Hsi Lai Temple -

**3456 Glenmark Drive,
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745**

Please join us as we visit a neighborhood Buddhist Temple. We have committed to having at least 15 people attend. Invite your friends and family to attend this special event! This is a great opportunity to learn about another religion and its traditions.

Dress Code: No tank tops, shorts, short skirts/dresses, flip-flops, or slippers.

Comfortable shoes are recommended since the tour involves standing and walking, including stairs. Elevators are available to those who need them.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE INTERIOR ARE NOT ALLOWED.

Handicapped parking is available on the upper level.

Please RSVP to Sylvia Rothman (sobaysyl@aol.com) no later than Oct. 4th, so we know how many people to expect

A special thank you goes to Shirley Bonem for arranging this event!



Co-Presidents' Message

Just under two weeks ago, we observed Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. We had a meaningful and enjoyable celebration. It was great to see so many of our members and some new faces as well!



On Thursday, October 2, we will have our Yom Kippur observance. At Yom Kippur, we secular Jews hold ourselves accountable to others as well as ourselves, rather than a supernatural being. We ask ourselves what actions might have distanced us from others or caused harm. We seek forgiveness and reconciliation. We reflect on how we can do better in the coming year.

We have several other activities planned this month. On Sunday, October 5, we will visit the Hsi Lai Buddhist Temple in Hacienda Heights. We are committed to having at least 15 people for our guided tour, so we encourage everyone who expressed an interest to RSVP as soon as possible. On Saturday, October 25, we will have a belated Sukkot/Fall Harvest celebration. Our monthly Dine-Out and Philosopher's Café are also scheduled. Details for all of these events are listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

We look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Jim and Sylvia Rothman

Co-Presidents, Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

DINE OUT

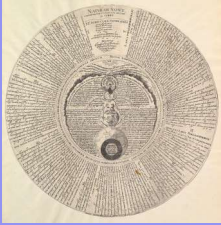


Sat. Oct. 18, 2025
(new date)
1:00 p.m.



The Old Spaghetti Factory
110 E. Santa Fe Ave.
Fullerton

Please RSVP to Knechtfour at Knechtfour@aol.com
Or 714-739-1366.no later than Oct.15,2025



Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)



Friday October 24, 2025

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

The Zoom link will be sent out to those who RSVP to Jim Rothman by Oct. 22, 2025. Look for it in your email. Then on Oct. 17th, 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 October



Happy Birthday!

Bernice Stein - 10/07

Vince Gonzales - 10/14

Karen Knecht - 10/31



Happy Anniversary !

Bob & Karen Knecht - 10/29



Jews to Know

Norman Milton Lear

July 27, 1922 – December 5, 2023

Norman Lear was a highly influential American television writer and producer, born in New Haven, Connecticut to parents of Russian-Jewish descent. He is also the Society for Humanistic Judaism's 2025-26 Humanistic Jewish role model. Lear produced, wrote, created, or developed over 100 shows, including *Maude*, *Sanford and Son*, *One Day at a Time*, *The Jeffersons*, and *Good Times*. But he was probably best known for *All in the Family*. The show revolves around the life of a working-class man and his family. It broke ground by introducing challenging and complex issues into mainstream network television comedy: racism, antisemitism, infidelity, homosexuality, women's liberation, rape, religion, miscarriage, abortion, breast cancer, the Vietnam War, menopause, divorce, and impotence. The series became arguably one of television's most influential comedies, as it injected the sitcom format with more dramatic moments and realistic, topical conflicts. The working-class father Archie and mother Edith were partly inspired by his parents, but he alleged that what inspired his lifetime of advocacy was hearing the antisemitic Catholic radio priest Father Charles Coughlin when he was nine years old. He learned then that there were people who hated him and other Jews just for who they were. He attended Emerson College in Boston, but dropped out to join the U.S. Air Force, where he flew 52 bombing missions over Europe. When grounded he would entertain his fellow airmen with comedy.

Lear described himself as a secular Jewish American, "as culturally Jewish as I could be and am proud to be Jewish, but I'm not a religionist of any kind." Though he had a bar mitzvah, he recalled it as more of a family party than a deeply religious experience. His identity significantly influenced his creative work and political activism. His Jewish background and experiences with antisemitism fueled his fight for equality and social justice throughout his career.

Beyond television, Lear actively supported causes such as civil rights, anti-poverty initiatives, and education reform. He founded People for the American Way (PFAW), a progressive advocacy organization formed in reaction to the politics of the Christian right. PFAW ran several advertising campaigns opposing the interjection of religion in politics. Prominent right-wing Christians have accused Lear of being an atheist and holding an anti-Christian bias.

Lear died in 2023 at the age of 101. Numerous celebrities paid tribute to him including Jimmy Kimmel, Bill Maher, Bill Clinton, Jon Stewart and many others. The Simpsons' episode 9 from the 35th season ends with the words "In memory of Norman Lear" and a picture of Lear where he is depicted as a character from the Simpsons.

Written by Zena Jacobi

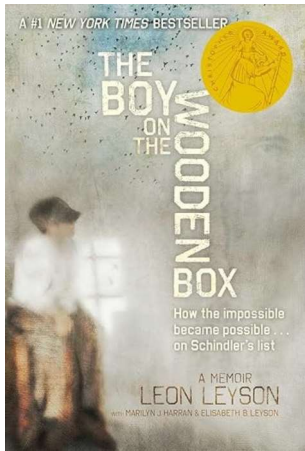
Credits: Society for Humanistic Judaism website, Wikipedia



BOOK REVIEW

The Boy on the Wooden Box

By Leon Leyson



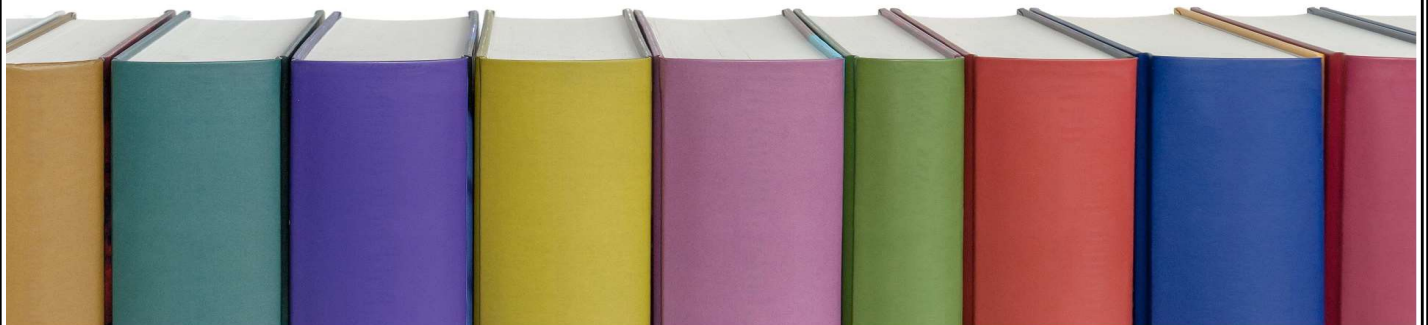
This memoir takes place in Poland prior to World War II. Until Leon was 9 years old, he and his family lived in the village of Narewka. After several months they moved to Krakow where they enjoyed the big city middle class life style.

In 1939, when the Nazis invaded Poland, Leon and his family's lives turned upside down. Their rights as Jews were taken away, and among other things, he could not go to school, and his father was not permitted to work. However, all at once, the family's fortune changed again when the father was hired by Oskar Schindler. Schindler was impressed by the father's work skills at his factory. Eventually, he also became impressed by the Leon's interest and mechanical skills, though he needed to stand on a box to reach the controls.

He didn't know it then but these eventually saved their lives, since Schindler was allowed to save his workers from extermination at the death camps.

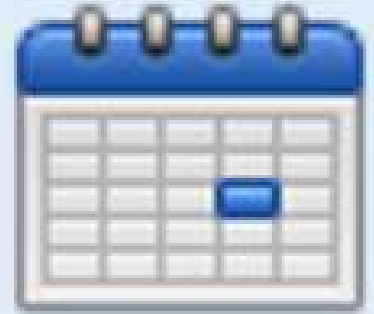
This memoir tells a story of amazing perseverance and courage amidst horrible conditions and death. All of this is told through the eyes of a teenager and his family. It was memorialized in the movie, Schindler's List.

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Oct. 2, 2025 -	Yom Kippur Observance
Oct. 5, 2025	Visit to Buddhist Temple
Oct. 11, 2025 -	Dine Out
Oct. 24, 2025 -	Philosopher's Café
Oct. 25, 2025 -	Harvest Festival (in place of Sukkot)
Nov. 8, 2025 -	Dine Out
Nov. 14, 2025 -	Philosopher's Café
Nov. 16, 2025 -	Jewish Jeopardy



2024 - 2026 PACIFIC COMMUNITY BOARD ELECTED OFFICERS

Co-President	Jim Rothman	JRbytheC@aol.com
Co-President	Sylvia Rothman	Sobaysyl@aol.com
Vice President	Nancy Okamoto	949-386-0400
Secretary	Sylvia Rothman	sobaysyl@aol.com
Treasurer	Leslie Zwick	jerlesz@verizon.net
Membership Chair	Barbara Price	BarbaraPPrice@aol.com
Program Coordinator	Suzy Baron	Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net
Publicity Co-Chairs	Ellen Jacobs Laura Shapiro	ejacobs@socal.rr.com LShapiro501@gmail.com

COMMUNITY AND BOARD POSITIONS

SHJ Representative	Sylvia Rothman	Sobaysyl@aol.com
Board Member-At-Large	Bryon Baron	Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net
Board Member-At-Large	Di Bunin	DBF331@hotmail.com
Board Member-At-Large	Mike Mendelson	Mendelsons5@yahoo.com
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Webmaster	Celeste Mendelson	Mendelsons5@yahoo.com
Sunshine	Sheila Bass	shekaba@aol.com

Chai-Lights is published monthly
by the Pacific Community of
Cultural Jews,
Orange County, CA

Affiliated with
Society for Humanistic Judaism



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PACIFIC COMMUNITY OF CULTURAL JEWS

Calendar of Events 2025 - 2026

EVENTS

Sept. 13, 2025 -	Bowers Museum
Sept. 21, 2025 -	Rosh Hashanah Observance
Oct. 2, 2025 -	Yom Kippur Observance
Oct. 25, 2025 -	Sukkot/Succos & Potluck
Nov. 16, 2025 -	Jewish Jeopardy
Dec. 20, 2025 -	Chanukah Party
Dec. 25, 2025 -	Lunch Gathering
Jan. 10, 2026 -	TBD
Feb. 7, 2026 -	Lee Jacobi Memorial Hike
Feb. 28, 2026 -	Jewish Improv
Mar. 21, 2026 -	International Food Event
Apr. 4, 2026 -	Passover Seder
Apr. 25, 2026 -	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Observance
May 16, 2026 -	Humor Night
June 6, 2026 -	Book Sharing Event
Jun 14, 2026 -	Year-End Party

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 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. 18, 2025 (date change)

Nov. 8, 2025

Dec. 13, 2025

Jan. 10, 2026

Feb. 14, 2026

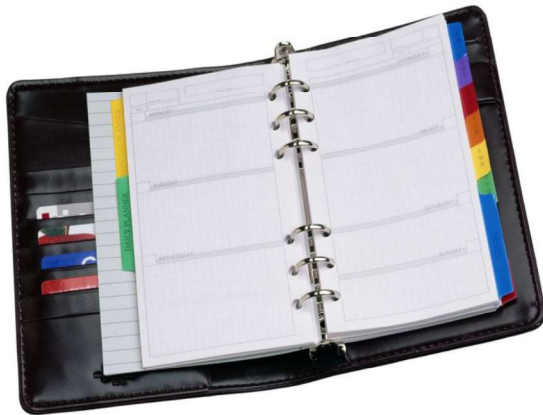
Mar. 14, 2026

May 9, 2026

June 6, 2026

July 11, 2026

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. 19, 2025

Nov. 14, 2025

Jan. 16, 2026

Mar. 6, 2026

May 08, 2026

July 17, 2026

Oct. 17, 2025

Dec. 12, 2025

Feb. 6, 2026

Apr. 17, 2026

June 5, 2026

Schedule subject to change.

Pacific Community is an affiliate of the Society for Humanistic Judaism,
an international organization