



CHAI LIGHTS

April 2026

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

Orange County, CA.
PacifComm@aol.com

714-739-1366
www.pccjews.org



Pacific Community's Passover Observance



Saturday, April 4th, 2026

1:00 - 4:00 PM

Debby Penley's Clubhouse.

(RSVP to get address)

Please join us in the reading of our secular Haggadah, music, and candle lighting, followed by a catered traditional Passover meal.

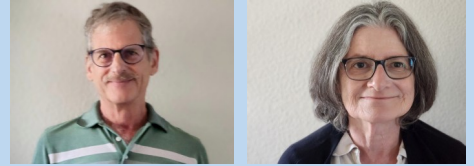
If you are able to attend, you must RSVP to Suzy Baron at Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net or (657) 274-3440
NO LATER than March 30th, NO EXCEPTIONS!
as the caterer needs our final head count by the April 1st.

Everything for members is provided at no cost.

There will be a charge of \$25 for non-members/guests.



Co-Presidents' Message



Spring is nature's way of reminding us that no matter how long or harsh the winter has been, renewal will come. It may be difficult to feel much hope these days. But embracing the spring season may help. The beauty of spring greenery, newly bloomed flowers and sunny weather remind us that better days will come. Hope for secular Jews does not mean having faith that God will steer events in the right direction. Rather, as Lawrence Rifkin stated in TheHumanist.com (1/17/2012) "It's about finding goodness within the spectrum of what's real and what's possible." The best outcome is possible in any situation, no matter how bleak it may appear. It's up to us though to take the best possible course of action we can in any challenging situation.

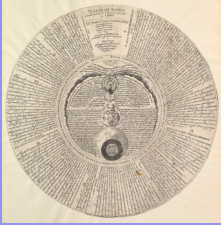
Passover, perhaps like no other holiday, exemplifies hope and resilience. Please join us for our seder on Saturday, April 4, and bring your friends and relatives. Information is contained elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please also join us for the Philosopher's Café on Friday, April 17. We extend our best wishes to Leslie Zwick for a swift recovery following a recent medical procedure. All of us at Pacific Community look forward to seeing her soon.

Jim and Sylvia Rothman
Co-Presidents, Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

DINE OUT

There is no Dine Out in April due to several holidays taking place. See you in May,



Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)



Friday April 17, 2026

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

The Zoom link will be sent out to those who RSVP to Jim Rothman by April 15, 2026 Look for it in your email. Then on April 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 April



Happy Birthday!
Jerry Zwick - 4/14



Jews to Know

Galia Galili

Galia Galili is a prominent **Israeli peace activist** and a leader within [Combatants for Peace](#), an organization composed of former Israeli soldiers and Palestinian militants who have renounced violence. Galili serves as a veteran activist and leader within the movement, often representing the organization in international forums alongside Palestinian counterparts like [Rana Salman](#). She is recognized for leading **grassroots campaigns** and bi-national community organizing efforts aimed at nonviolent resistance to the occupation. Her work is centered on the principle of **non-violent co-resistance**. Galili advocates for ending the Israeli occupation through political means. Recognizing the narrative of "the other" as a prerequisite for peace. Building a reality where security is not achieved through "oppressing another people". She frequently speaks at universities and organizations—including [J Street](#) and various U.S. colleges—to share the vision of a "shared path forward" through mutual recognition and equality

Galia Galili grew up in a household defined by contrasting cultural and political backgrounds, which she credits with shaping her eventual path toward activism. Her mother was born in Scotland to a family from Jaffa that identified as Palestinian. Her mother grew up in a wealthy, liberal, and left-wing Jerusalem household. Her father, an immigrant from Rabat, Morocco, arrived in Israel at age 13 and became the first doctor of Moroccan heritage in Israel despite growing up in poverty. Her father held right-wing views and distrusted Arabs, while her mother's family was liberal. To avoid conflict at home, Galili initially avoided political topics as a child. She grew up playing with Palestinian children in Silwan, a neighborhood in East Jerusalem riding donkeys together. She recall taking Palestinian friends home for cookies, which frequently angered her father.

At 18, Galili was recruited into the **Israeli Air Force**. Her squadron was responsible for dropping warning leaflets over Gaza neighborhoods before bombings. Reflecting on this later, she described the experience as a form of "psychological torture" used against civilians, noting that ten-minute evacuation warnings were rarely enough for families to escape safely.

Two major events shifted her perspective from passivity to active peace-building: **The Second Intifada**: While living in England during the Second Intifada, she was deeply affected by the violence. Her brother, a medical student in Jerusalem at the time, was a first responder to terror attacks. The loss of a close friend in a suicide bombing further "shook her awake" to the cycle of pain. In late 2018, her eldest son turned 18 and was scheduled to join the military. Galili decided she was no longer willing to have him participate in what she viewed as the oppression of another people, leading her to join [Combatants for Peace](#).

Written by Laura Shapiro

Source: Claude AI and Combatants for Peace



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Apr. 4, 2026	Passover Seder
Apr. 17, 2026	Philosopher's Café
TBD	Yom Ha'atzmaut
May 8, 2026	Philosopher's Café
May 9, 2026	Dine Out
May 16, 2026	Jewish Humor Event
June 5, 2026	Philosopher's Café
June 6, 2026	Book Share
June 14, 2026	Member End of the Year Party



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
Newsletter Editor	Karen Knecht	Knechtfour@aol.com
Webmaster	Celeste Mendelson	Mendelsons5@yahoo.com
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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 -	Nature Hike and Lunch Gathering
Jan. 17, 2026 -	Hilbert Museum & Lunch
Feb. 7, 2026 -	Lee Jacobi Memorial Hike
Feb. 28, 2026 -	Jewish Improv & Purim
Mar. 21, 2026 -	International Food Event
Apr. 4, 2026 -	Passover Seder
TBD	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Observance
May 16, 2026 -	Humor Event
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. 24, 2026 (date change)

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