



CHAI LIGHTS

September 2026
Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

Orange County, CA.
PacifComm@aol.com

714-739-1366
www.pccjews.org



Mark Your Calendars

High Holiday Observances

September 13, 2026 - Rosh Hashanah

September 21, 2026 - Yom Kippur

September 26, 2026 - Sukkot/Succos

For more information, please contact Suzy Baron at
bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net



Please Join Us on Sept. 26, 2026 for the
Harvest Festival at the
Fullerton Arboretum - 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
1900 Associated Rd.
Fullerton

Then join us for a Potluck Lunch at 12:00 p.m. at
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

Co-Presidents' Message

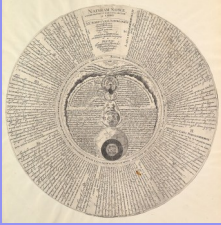
September is full of holidays relevant to the Jewish people. In addition to Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and Sukkot, Labor Day should also be included. Jewish people were among the forefront of the Labor movement in the United States. Much of it can be attributed to the Jewish Bundist movement of the late 19th and early 20th Centuries. The Bundists organized in 1890's Russia, Poland and Lithuania. They were Yiddish-speaking trades people and, in contrast to Zionist movements of the time, secular and socialist. After the first communist revolution of 1905 which failed, many Bundists immigrated to the United States, mostly New York City. There, the Bundists dominated the Workman's Circle movement (now Workers' Circle). The Workman's Circle set up secular, Yiddish speaking schools, and provided financial support and medical care among other things to immigrant workers. Later, Jewish people became active in various labor movements including American Federation of Labor (founded by Samuel Gompers, a Dutch-Jewish man) and the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, of which Clara Lemlich, a Jewish woman, was an early leader.

In more recent times, Jewish people have been organizers, legal counsel or leaders. Robert Reich worked in the administrations of presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, and he served as Secretary of Labor under President Bill Clinton. Mr. Reich was also part of Barack Obama's economic transition advisory board. Actors Ed Asner and Fran Drescher were leaders of SAG-AFTRA. Randi Weingarten, a secular Jewish and openly gay woman, currently leads the American Federation of Teachers and has spoken at a Shabbat service of an SHJ congregation. So, while you're enjoying that Labor Day picnic, take moment to appreciate the accomplishments of American Jews in the Labor movement in the United States.

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



**There will be no Dine Out this month.
See you in October.**



Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)



There is no Philosopher's Café this month.

See you in October.



Congratulations **September**

Happy Birthday!

Rosalie Rosen - 9/7

Bert Bonem - 9/15

Happy Anniversary

Dave & Nancy Okamoto - 9/7

Libby Frolichman & Vince Gonzales - 9/12



BOOK LIST FROM BOOK SHARING EVENT

Bookish People, Susan Coll

Empire of Pain, Patrick Keefe

Fans First, Jesse Cole

Filled with Laughter, A Compilation, Rufus Lears

Hitler in Los Angeles, Stewart J. Ross

Isle of Canes, Elizabeth Shown Mills

Mycroft Holmes, Kareem Abdul Jabbar and Anna Waterhouse

One of them, Kitty Zeldis

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon

The House of the Spirits, Issabella Allende

The Jewish Dog, Arthur Kravitz

The New Girl, Daniel Silva

The Secret War of Julia Child, Diana Chambers

The Sum of Us, Heather McGhee

Trees, Percival Everett

Who Murdered Elvis, Stephen B. Ubaney

Wild Dark Shore, Charlotte McConaghy





Jews to Know

Hedy Lamarr

November 9, 1914 – January 10, 2000

Before Hedy Lamarr became a Hollywood star she was Hedwig Eva Maria Kiesler, a Jewish girl growing up in Vienna during the final years of the Austro-Hungarian world. She was the only child of Emil Kiesler, a successful bank director, and Gertrude Kiesler, a pianist from a cultured Jewish family. Her childhood unfolded in an artistic, and intellectually curious household.

Lamarr's Jewish background is a complicated part of her story. Her family belonged to Vienna's assimilated Jewish upper-middle class. Her 1933 marriage to Austrian arms manufacturer Fritz Mandl pulled her into a world of wealth, control, and fascist connections. She converted to Christianity; a decision connected to her marriage and to the pressures surrounding Jewish identity in Austria. Later in life, Lamarr rarely spoke publicly about being Jewish, and some accounts note that for many years even her children were not fully aware of their heritage.

Her parents helped shape the person she would become. From her mother, Lamarr inherited an early exposure to performance and music. From her father, she gained a fascination with how things worked. During World War II, Lamarr turned that curiosity toward a practical military problem: radio-controlled torpedoes could be jammed by enemy forces. Working with composer George Antheil, she helped design a "Secret Communication System" that rapidly switched a radio signal among many frequencies, so the transmitter and receiver would move together while an enemy listener would hear only confusing noise. Their 1942 patent used the idea of synchronized player-piano rolls to coordinate the jumps between frequencies. Although the U.S. Navy did not adopt the invention during the war, the principle of frequency hopping later became important in secure military communications and is often described as an early foundation for technologies such as Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and GPS. In 1997, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) jointly awarded Lamarr and Antheil with their Pioneer Award. That same year, Lamarr became the first woman to receive the Invention Convention's Bulbie Gnass Spirit of Achievement Award. She was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2014.

Lamarr eventually fled Mandl and left Europe, arriving in London before making her way to Hollywood. There, MGM studio head Louis B. Mayer renamed her Hedy Lamarr, and transformed Hedwig Kiesler into an international screen persona.

Written by Zena Jacobi

Credits: Co-pilot; Jewish Women's Archive; Jewish Virtual Library;



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

September 13, 2026 Rosh Hashanah
September 21, 2026 Yom Kippur
September 26, 2026 Sukkot/Succos
October 10, 2026 League of Women Voters Event
October 10, 2026 Dine out
October 17, 2026 Star Party (Star Gazing)
October 23, 2026 Philosopher's Café (Zoom)
November 7, 2026 Way of the World
November 14, 2026 Dine Out
November 15, 2026 Philosopher's Café (In Person)



2026 - 2028 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	Nancy Okamoto	949-386-0400
Co-Program Coordinator	Suzy Baron	Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net
Co-Program Coordinator	Karen Knecht	Knechtfour@aol.com
Publicity Co-Chair	TBD	

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
Sunshine	Sheila Bass	shekaba@aol.com

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 Cultural Jews,
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PACIFIC COMMUNITY OF CULTURAL JEWS

Calendar of Events 2026 - 2027

EVENTS

Aug. 12, 2026-	OC Art Museum
Sept. 13, 2026 -	Rosh Hashanah Observance
Sept. 21, 2026 -	Yom Kippur Observance
Sept. 26, 2026 -	Sukkot/Succos & Potluck
Oct. 10, 2026-	League of Women Voters Speaker
Oct. 17, 2026-	Star Party (Star Gazing)
Nov. 7, 2026-	Way of the World
Dec. 12, 2026 -	Chanukah Party
Dec. 25, 2026 -	Nature Hike and Lunch Gathering
Jan. 23, 2027 -	Sherman Gardens
Feb. 6, 2027 -	Documentary and Discussion
Mar. 21, 2027 -	Purim Celebration
Apr. 24, 2027 -	Passover Seder
May 5, 2027-	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Observance
May 8, 2027-	Retro Game Night
Jun 27, 2027-	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.

Aug. 15, 2026
Oct. 10, 2026
Nov. 14, 2026
Jan. 9, 2027
Feb. 13, 2027
Mar. 13, 2027
Apr. 10, 2027
May 8, 2027
June 12, 2027
July 10, 2027

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 and in person. Please check our monthly newsletters for information on our Philosopher's Café.

Aug. 21, 2026 (zoom)	Oct. 23, 2026 (zoom)
Nov. 15, 2026 (in person)	Dec. 18, 2026 (zoom)
Jan. 10, 2027 (in person)	Feb. 19, 2027 (zoom)
Mar. 7, 2027 (in person)	Apr. 2, 2027 (zoom)
May 16, 2027 (in person)	June 11, 2027

Schedule subject to change.

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



**31st Annual
Rosh Hashanah Observance**

Sponsored by the

**Pacific Community of Cultural Jews
Please join us for a secular observance of
the Jewish New Year on
Sunday, September 13, 2026**

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
(Bagels, Lox, and Fruit to follow observance)

**Program includes the blowing of the Shofar,
an emotional candle lighting, and a
meaningful celebration.**

**Debby Penley's Clubhouse
For further information, please email
Pacific Community at Knechtfour@aol.com**

Please RSVP no later than Sept. 8, 2026 for location



41st Annual Yom Kippur Observance

sponsored by the

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews



Monday, September 21, 2026
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Debby Penley's Clubhouse

Our Program Consists of the Following:
A Secular Kol Nidre
A Secular Niskor (Let Us Remember)
No Host Break the Fast Dinner (Tutto Fresco-Santa Ana)

For more information, please contact
Pacific Community at Knechtfour@aol.com

Please RSVP no later than Sept. 14, 2026 for location.

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

High Holiday Observance

Rosh Hashanah - September 13, 2026 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Yom Kippur - September 21, 2026 - 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Price Information

Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur

Members Included in 2026/2027 Membership Dues

Non-Members

Rosh Hashanah	Yom Kippur	Rosh Hashanah & Yom Kippur Package
45.00 pp	25.00 pp	60.00 pp

Once again, there will not be a meal served at Yom Kippur, so for those interested in participating in a “Break the Fast” Dinner, Pacific Community is organizing a No-Host dinner. Reservations must be made on the registration form for the High Holidays, however advanced payment is not needed.

The filled out registration form (attached), accompanied by **TOTAL FEES DUE**, should be sent to:

**Libby Frolichman
18687 Diddy Cir..
Fountain Valley 92708**

**All registration checks should be made out to: Pacific Community
For further information, please email at Pacifcomm@aol.com**

No Refunds Will Be Made after

Sept. 8, 2026 for Rosh Hashanah or Sept. 16, 2026 for Yom Kippur.

Rosh Hashanah / Yom Kippur Registration Form

Sponsored by the Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

September 13, 2026

September 21, 2026

Family Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (____) _____

Email _____

Please indicate which observance you will be attending.

First Name(s)	Member **	Non- Member (per peson)	Rosh Hashanah 09/13/26	Yom Kippur 9/21/26	Total Fee
					\$
					\$
Memorial Donation (optional)					\$
Total amount					\$

**** If you sent in your 26/27 dues, your admission to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is already paid. If you include your dues check with this registration, no further fees for your admission to Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur are required.**

**Please complete the above registration form, and send it
along with your membership form and a check for registration,
payable to Pacific Community for the full amount to:**

**Libby Frolichman
18687 Diddy Cir..
Fountain Valley 92708
Break the Fast Dinner
Tutto Fresco
1808 N. Tustin Ave.
Santa Ana**

**Advance payment is not required, but RSVP's to Karen Knecht are.
(Knechtfour@aol.com)**

YOM KIPPUR MEMORIAL CARD

Yom Kippur traditionally is the day in the Jewish Calendar to honor and remember those who are no longer with us. Therefore, we invite you to submit the name(s) of people meaningful to you, who have passed away. Their names will be included in the memorial segment of the Niskor Program.

Donation \$ _____

All Memorial Card Donations will be used to support our Memorial/ Donation fund.

Please print clearly.

Your name_____

Name(s) of the Deceased
(Please Print)

Relationship to you
(Please Print)

[illegible]