



CHAI LIGHTS

November 2026

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

Orange County, CA.
PacifComm@aol.com

714-739-1366
www.pccjews.org

Please join us on November 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

at the Hilbert Museum

167 N. Atchinson

Santa Ana

There are lots of exhibits to see.

Afterwards, we will be having our Dine Out at

The Streamliner Lounge & Cafe

186 N. Atchinson

Santa Ana

Please RSVP to Suzy Baron for the Museum and/or Dine Out

At Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net no later than

November 18, 2026



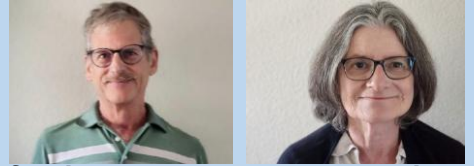
**Please welcome to our Pacific Community Family our
newest members**

Barry Bernardi

Karen Levy

Diane Neuner

Co-Presidents' Message



In nature, the month of November is very much a time of transition forcing us to pay more attention to our physical world. The weather changes, the light of day becomes shorter, many trees shed their leaves, nature looks lost. However, nature is only taking a break. For humans, the opposite is true. We rush, we may have more social obligations, and our focus may be on all that has to be done. However, Mother Nature is also telling us to slow down, shed what does not serve us and take a moment to consider what we are grateful for. Ostensibly, that is what the holiday of Thanksgiving encourages us to do. Admittedly, this task is much easier said than done. Perhaps prior to that delicious Thanksgiving meal, take a moment to really think about what inspires your gratitude – the people in your life, where you live, your health and finances, as well as those “little” things that bring you happiness and/or meaning. We and other members of the Pacific Community are grateful for our group which is a home for our version of our Judaism/Jewishness.

Shifting gears, this month we are having an in-person Philosopher's Café on November 15, 2026. We hope in-person Philosopher's Cafes will become a regularly scheduled bi-monthly event. For the past six years, we have been meeting online, where it was decided to avoid discussions of politics and/or current events. For our in-person Philosopher's Café, we would like to focus our discussions on politics and/or current events, which we expect will increase attendance at the Philosopher's Café. We will moderate these discussions, and we expect civility and kindness from all who participate. There will be no judgment of any person's opinions and no name-calling or other disparaging comments. We look forward to thoughtful discourse and the opportunity to learn from each other. Please join us.

We wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving holiday and look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Jim and Sylvia Rothman

Co-Presidents, Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

DINE OUT



Nov. 21, 2026 12:30 p.m.

The Streamliner Lounge & Cafe

186 N. Atchinson

Santa Ana



**Please RSVP to Suzy at
Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net no later than
Nov.18,2026. No exceptions!**



Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)



Sunday, November 15. 23, 2026

2:00 p.m. In Person at

Di Bunin's Home

1841 Lake St

Huntington Beach

**Please RSVP to Di at 657-237-5333 no later than
November 12th so she can make sure there are enough
seats for everyone.**

Congratulations November



Happy Birthday!

Maria Lepowsky - 11/8

Ellen Jacobs - 11/12

Bob Knecht - 11/14

Shirley Bonem - 11/23

Bev Krassner - 11/24

Celeste Mendelson - 11/29



Happy Anniversary

Jim & Sylvia Rothman - 11/23



Jews to Know

Gloria Steinem

March 25, 1934 – September 2, 2026

Gloria Marie Steinem was an American journalist, author, and activist who became one of the most recognizable leaders of the feminist movement. Born in Toledo, Ohio, her family lived and traveled in a trailer allowing her father to work as a roaming antiques dealer. After her parents separated, she remained with her mother and encountered firsthand the economic insecurity and social restrictions that shaped many women's lives. She still managed to graduate magna cum laude from Smith College in 1956. After college, she spent two years in India, due to her admiration for Mahatma Gandhi, where exposure to grassroots organizing helped shape her later approach to activism.

Steinem built a career in journalism despite the narrow assignments commonly offered to women. She considered her first "serious assignment" to be an article about contraception for Esquire magazine. Her 1963 undercover report on working conditions at the Playboy Club brought national attention. In 1968 she became a political writer and editor at New York magazine, and her reporting increasingly focused on civil rights, reproductive freedom, and women's liberation. She emerged as a prominent movement spokesperson and, with other journalists, co-founded Ms. magazine, which began publication in 1972 and brought feminist analysis to a broad national audience.

Her activism extended far beyond publishing. In 1968 she signed a pledge to refuse to pay taxes in protest of the Vietnam War. Steinem helped establish the National Women's Political Caucus and the Women's Action Alliance, later co-founded the Women's Media Center, and spent decades speaking and organizing for equality across gender, race, and class. She was involved in many presidential elections. She supported George McGovern in 1968. She voiced fierce criticism of the George W. Bush administration as being hostile to women's rights and endorsed Hillary Clinton in 2008 and 2016. In 2013, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Steinem was raised without much religion and generally described herself as secular. Her father was Jewish and her mother was Protestant. She was quoted as saying "never in my life have I identified as a Christian but wherever there is antisemitism, I identify as a Jew." Her mother taught her that her Jewish heritage was a good thing and that Jewish men made good husbands, though per Steinem her father provided no such evidence. Her grandmother, Pauline Steinem, provided a particularly important family precedent: she was a suffragist, an advocate for vocational education, and the first woman elected to the Toledo Board of Education. Gloria only learned of these accomplishments from other feminists. Later in life, Steinem participated in feminist Passover seders and expressed particular interest in Jewish mysticism and the feminine divine.

Written by Zena Jacobi

Credits: Co-pilot; Wikipedia; Forward (magazine)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

November 7, 2026 — **Way of the World Postponed**
November 21, 2026 **Hilbert Museum Trip**
November 21, 2026 **Dine Out (new date)**
November 15, 2026 **Philosopher's Café (In Person)**
December 12, 2026 **Chanukah Party**
December 18, 2026 **Philosopher's Café (via Zoom)**
December 25, 2026 **Hike and Lunch**
January 9, 2027 **Dine Out**
January 10, 2027 **Philosopher's Café (in person)**
January 23, 2027 **Sherman Gardens**



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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Affiliated with
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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 - Postponed
Nov. 21, 2026	Hilbert Museum
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 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.

Aug. 15, 2026

Oct. 10, 2026

Nov. 21, 2026 – New Date

Jan. 9, 2027

Feb. 13, 2027

Mar. 13, 2027

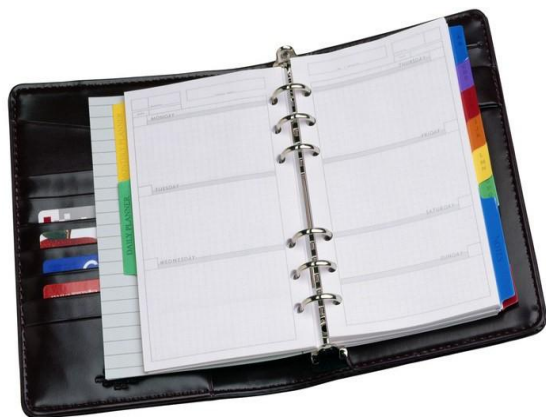
Apr. 10, 2027

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 & In Person)

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)

Nov. 15, 2026 (in person)

Jan. 10, 2027 (in person)

Mar. 7, 2027 (in person)

May 16, 2027 (in person)

Oct. 23, 2026 (zoom)

Dec. 18, 2026 (zoom)

Feb. 19, 2027 (zoom)

Apr. 2, 2027 (zoom)

June 11, 2027

Schedule subject to change.

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