

## The 25th Anniversary of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™

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**The 25th Anniversary of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™**  
*Jewish comedy on Christmas in a Chinese Restaurant (where else?)*

**FEATURING "THE BEST OF KUNG PAO!"**

**With 3 HEADLINERS: CATHY LADMAN, GARY GULMAN, & WENDY LIEBMAN**

**SAT, DECEMBER 23, SUN DECEMBER 24, and MON, DECEMBER 25, 2017**

5pm Dinner Show • 8:30pm Cocktail Show

**New Asia Restaurant, 772 Pacific Ave., San Francisco's Chinatown**

Info and Tickets: [www.KosherComedy.com](http://www.KosherComedy.com)

Partial Proceeds Benefit:

- **Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS) Sonoma County Fire Relief**
  - **Jewish Community Center (JCC) Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria Relief Fund**
- \*\*Because of the dire need, we have already made our donations.**

San Francisco, CA... San Francisco's annual Jewish Christmas tradition, Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ celebrates its 25<sup>th</sup> (SILVER) Anniversary this December 23-25! The legendary Jewish-comedy-on-Christmas-in-a-Chinese-restaurant extravaganza has been featuring famous Jewish comedians (including the late Henny Youngman and Shelley Berman), Chinese food, and Yiddish proverbs in its fortune cookies ("With one *tuchus*, you can't dance at 2 weddings") since 1993. *Kung Pao* is San Francisco's longest-running comedy show and caters to over 2000 people annually, some of whom have attended every year.

Kung Pao takes place over the course of 3 nights during Christmas (December 23-25) with 2 shows a day: a 5pm Dinner Show (7-course banquet) and an 8:30pm Cocktail Show (vegetarian dim sum) —for a total of six shows. In the spirit of the retirement communities in Florida, all shows are now *Early Birds*, starting an hour earlier than they used to, because the producer is getting old: she started producing the show at age 31 and is now 55 (and can move into a retire community).

Kung Pao, which was created in 1993, is the brainchild of San Francisco-based Jewish comedian, Lisa Geduldig, and solves the age-old question, "What are Jews supposed to do on Christmas?" That October, Geduldig was booked to perform at The Peking Garden Club in South Hadley, Massachusetts at what she imagined would be a comedy club, but upon her arrival she discovered it was a Chinese restaurant. A phone conversation the following day with an old friend from Jewish summer camp about the irony of telling Jewish jokes at a Chinese restaurant led to the idea of Jewish comedy on Christmas in a Chinese restaurant, and a brainstorming session of Jewish, comedy, and Chinese food-related words led to the name, "Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™." The creation of "Kung Pao" is a twist on the unwritten law that Jews must go to a Chinese restaurant and a movie on Christmas. Study: "[Safe Treyf: New York Jews and Chinese Food](#)" (*Treyf* means unkosher in Yiddish.) Geduldig will appear in a new Canadian documentary, *I'm Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas*, which will air on Canadian and European TV this December.

*Feeding the soul as well as the stomach* – New York Times

*A San Francisco institution* – San Francisco Examiner

Kung Pao features four Jewish comedians each year and has boasted a Who's Who of headliners including Henny Youngman, Shelley Berman, David Brenner, Carol Leifer, Marc Maron, Jonathan Katz, Jeffrey Ross, and Judy Gold.

This year, we are showcasing a *BEST OF KUNG PAO* with THREE past headliners: **Cathy Ladman, Wendy Liebman, Gary Gulman**, and MC **Lisa Geduldig** (Kung Pao creator).

### **COMEDIANS' BIOS:**

**CATHY LADMAN** is one of the country's top comedians. Her comedy show is a self-probing vehicle of honesty and hilarity. She has appeared on *The Tonight Show* nine times and was also featured on the last two of Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show* Anniversary shows, which she considers to be a great honor. Cathy has made five appearances on *The Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, had her own HBO One Night Stand comedy special, and was awarded the American Comedy Award for Best Female Stand Up Comic. A native New Yorker, now living in LA, Cathy has acted extensively in film and TV. Her film credits include *Charlie Wilson's War*, *The Aristocrats*, and *White Oleander*. Many people remember her from her small role in *Don't Tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead*. Her TV credits include *Mad Men*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, and *Everybody Loves Raymond*. She also appeared regularly on *Politically Incorrect* and Comedy Central's *Dr. Katz: Professional Therapist*. Cathy has also been on the writing staffs of popular network sitcoms. She has appeared Off-Broadway, in a theater, not merely walking down 48<sup>th</sup> Street. She is currently developing her solo show, "Does This Show Make Me Look Fat?" and you can see her in her recurring role on the new Showtime series, *I'm Dying Up Here*. [www.CathyLadman.com](http://www.CathyLadman.com)

**WENDY LIEBMAN** took a class called "How to be a Stand up Comedian" at the Cambridge Center for Adult Education in 1985. Since then she has performed on Carson, Letterman, Leno, Fallon, Kimmel, Ferguson, and Hollywood Squares, and in clubs throughout North America. Wendy has done specials for HBO, Comedy Central and Showtime, and was a Semi-Finalist on NBC's *America's Got Talent*, Season 9. She lives in Los Angeles with her family and funny rescue dog, and produces "Locally Grown Comedy" at The E Spot Lounge in Studio City, a weekly show featuring the best stand ups around. Check out her DVD *Wendy Liebman: Taller on TV* on Amazon. [www.WendyLiebman.com](http://www.WendyLiebman.com)

**GARY GULMAN** is a stand up comedian who lives in New York City and is one of only a handful of comedians to perform on every single late night comedy program. "Gary will be the next giant ex-Bostonian comic to break huge, CK, Burr, Gulman: You heard it here first," raved the *Village Voice*. Gary has 4 one-hour comedy specials featured on Showtime, Comedy Central and Netflix. His comedy album *No Can Defend* debuted at #18 on iTunes and his one-hour comedy special, *Gary Gulman: In This Economy?* was recognized as one of the 5 best comedy specials currently airing on Netflix. His new special *It's About Time* is now streaming on Netflix. [www.GaryGulman.com](http://www.GaryGulman.com)

**LISA GEDULDIG** is the creator, producer, and MC of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy; *Funny Girlz: A Smorgasbord of Women Comedians*; *A Muslim, A Mormon, and A Jew Walk into A Bar: The Comedy of Religion*, and has produced *Charo at The Herbst Theatre*. For the past 9 years, she has been running a monthly show *Comedy Returns to El Rio* in SF's Mission District where she began her comedy career 25+ years ago and recently began a monthly comedy show at *Ashkenaz* in Berkeley. She also is a freelance arts publicist.

### **THIS YEAR'S BENEFICIARIES:**

Over the past 24 years, Kung Pao has raised 10's of 1000's of dollars and awareness for numerous organizations. [www.koshercomedy.com/beneficiaries](http://www.koshercomedy.com/beneficiaries) In keeping with the Jewish tradition of *tzedakah* (charity, in Hebrew - tied in with a sense of duty and social responsibility), each year Kung Pao donates partial proceeds to organizations and causes in which we believe.

With all the disasters of late (hurricanes, earthquakes, floods, The Trump Administration), we have deliberated about what two beneficiaries to support and have decided on **Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS) Sonoma County Fire Relief AND Jewish Community Center (JCC) Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria Relief Fund**. Unlike in past years when we give our donation AFTER the shows are over, this year, because of the dire need, we are donating NOW and calling on our audience to also give.

**Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS) Sonoma County Fire Relief** is providing short-term emergency food, shelter, and counseling, and long-term recovery support to the community in Sonoma County during the horrendous North Bay fires. The JFCS staff of case managers and clinicians has been trained in emergency response and is ready to deliver services quickly and efficiently. They are providing emergency financial, housing, and food assistance, toiletries...and setting up to help community members for the long term. JFCS is available to help anyone who needs it and can be reached at 707-303-1500 or [sonoma@jfcs.org](mailto:sonoma@jfcs.org). To donate: [www.jfcs.org/north-bay-fire-relief](http://www.jfcs.org/north-bay-fire-relief)

### **Jewish Community Center (JCC) Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria Relief Fund.**

It pained us to sit back and watch the lack of US aid to Puerto Rico and Trump literally turning his back on, ridiculing, and blaming Puerto Rico for the hurricane. So, we decided to make a statement and a donation and support the JCC of Puerto Rico in its Hurricane Maria Relief efforts. Puerto Rico's Jewish community of 1,500, living mostly in San Juan, has largely been spared the worst of the damage, says Diego Mendelbaum, community director at the San Juan Jewish Community Center, which shares space with a Conservative synagogue. Its members have turned to helping their more vulnerable neighbors by distributing clothing, food, and water and training local social work students to provide post-trauma care. They are bringing relief to communities throughout the municipalities of Loiza and Ceiba. Their partners of Project Hope are providing health services.

[www.jccpr.org](http://www.jccpr.org) - Updates: [www.jccpr.org/hurricane-mar-a-updates-archive.html](http://www.jccpr.org/hurricane-mar-a-updates-archive.html)

### **Kung Pao Kosher Comedy Background/FAQs:**

- Kung Pao was launched on December 24, 1993 at The Four Seas Restaurant in San Francisco's Chinatown with one show that sold out and turned away hundreds of people.
- Henny Youngman, The King of One-Liners, headlined in 1997, performing at what ended up being his last show; the 91 year old comedian died two months later in February 1998.
- In 2002 we created the bi-monthly *Comedy Clinic* at The Jewish Home. This ongoing class caters to nursing home residents and is one of our proudest accomplishments.
- Kung Pao been covered by the NY Times, LA Times, Chicago Tribune, NPR...
- A chapter in the book, *A Kosher Christmas: 'Tis the Season to be Jewish* focuses on Kung Pao.

## **Kung Pao Kosher Comedy Background/FAQs (continued):**

- Since its inception, Kung Pao has catered to over 40,000 attendees.
- One couple who had been together for 25 years, got married at the show by a rabbi they met at their table.
- One year someone brought a rooster named Vern as an emotional support animal. Really. [www.sfgate.com/entertainment/article/LEAH-GARCHIK-3299717.php](http://www.sfgate.com/entertainment/article/LEAH-GARCHIK-3299717.php)
- Seating at Kung Pao is at tables of 10, Chinese banquet-style, with table names including: Barbra Streisand, Borscht Belt, Chopped Liver, Joan Rivers, Kvetch, Lenny Bruce, Mah Jongg, Marx Brothers, Meshugganah, and Totie Fields.
- Lisa Geduldig will appear in the Canadian documentary *I'm Dreaming of a Jewish Christmas* slated to air on Canadian and European TV in December 2017.

### Calendar Listing:

#### **WHAT:**

The 25th Anniversary of Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™  
Jewish Comedy on Christmas in a Chinese Restaurant  
Featuring: THE BEST OF - Cathy Ladman, Wendy Liebman, Gary Gulman, and Lisa Geduldig

#### **WHEN:**

Saturday, December 23, Sunday, December 24, and Monday, December 25, 2017  
• 5:00pm Dinner Show: 7-course Chinese banquet  
• 8:30 pm Cocktail Show: Vegetarian dim sum

#### **WHERE:**

New Asia Restaurant  
772 Pacific Ave. (between Grant & Stockton)  
San Francisco, CA 94133

#### **TICKETS (on-sale date: October 30):**

Dinner Show: \$72  
Cocktail Show: \$52  
On-line: [www.koshercomedy.com](http://www.koshercomedy.com) OR by phone: 925-743-1282

#### **INFO:**

Visit our World Wide Web Site: [www.koshercomedy.com](http://www.koshercomedy.com)

#### **PARTIAL PROCEEDS BENEFIT:**

- Jewish Family & Children's Services (JFCS) Sonoma County Fire Relief AND
- Jewish Community Center (JCC) Puerto Rico Hurricane Maria Relief Fund

#### **PRESS:**

For additional press materials and interviews, contact Lisa Geduldig at (415) 205-6515 or [lisag@igc.org](mailto:lisag@igc.org)

Hi res photos of the comedians are available upon request or can be downloaded at [www.koshercomedy.com/press](http://www.koshercomedy.com/press)