

**Aol Travel.**

CANADA

## **San Francisco: Deck the Halls With Egg Fu Yung** by D. Grant Black



Funnyman Henry Youngman, 91, plays his last show in 1997.

Where else can you find Yiddish proverbs in your fortune cookies? At the 19th Annual Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ shows, of course. If you're in San Francisco over the holidays, check out

Jewish comedy on Christmas in a Chinese Restaurant (where else?).

Since 1993, the Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ has answered the age-old question: "What are Jews supposed to do on Christmas?" It all started as a joke from Lisa Geduldig, a San Francisco stand-up comic. It's now a late December San Francisco institution for over 2000 comedy aficionados and an annual reprieve from Jingle Bells for those who need to escape "Christmas-mania." Geduldig says you don't have to be Jewish to enjoy it. "It's the Bar Mitzvah you never had."

Since its December 1993 inception, Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ has catered to over 40,000 attendees, served that many fortune cookies with Yiddish proverbs and even had one couple, already together for 20 years, married after the show by a rabbi they just met at their table. Attendees have even witnessed one service animal rooster brought to a Kung Pao show.

Comedian Lisa Geduldig, a former New Yorker, invented Kung Pao Kosher Comedy™ in 1993 by accident. When she travelled from San Francisco to South Hadley, Massachusetts to perform, she soon discovered The Peking Garden Club was actually a Chinese restaurant – not a comedy club. This ironic experience of telling Jewish jokes

at a Chinese restaurant led to the creation of Kung Pao, originally a community service for Jews stuck on Christmas with nothing to do but hide under the covers – or go to a Chinese restaurant.

**THE 19<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
KUNG PAO KOSHER COMEDY™**  
Jewish Comedy on Christmas  
in a Chinese Restaurant  
(\*Kosher comedy, not Kosher food!)

**Fri Dec 23 - Sun Dec 25, 2011**

**HEADLINER:  
Elayne Boosler**  
Politically Incorrect  
& Comic Relief

**Avi Liberman** **Jeff Applebaum** **Lisa Geduldig**  
COMEDY CENTRAL Late Show Your Hostess

**Dec 23 & Dec 24: 6PM Dinner Show • 9:30PM Cocktail Show**  
**Dec 25 (Early Bird): 5PM Dinner Show • 8:30PM Cocktail Show**

Dinner Show (7-course banquet): \$62  
Cocktail Show (vegie egg rolls): \$42

**New Asia Restaurant • SF's Chinatown**  
772 Pacific Ave (Grant & Stockton)

Partial proceeds benefit:  
JFCS' L'Chaim Adult Day  
Health Care Ctr  
AND Mullville Senior  
Dog Rescue

**Tickets: [www.koshercomedy.com](http://www.koshercomedy.com) • (925) 275-9005**



Since its inception, Kung Pao's audience has expanded to include Chinese-Jewish couples, interfaith couples, singles, families, gays, straights, those far from home, Europeans who find out about the show from the Internet (and fly to San Francisco) and those who not only seek an alternative to Christmas alienation but who are also comedy fans. One of Kung Pao's claims to fame is that Henny Youngman (1906-1998) performed his last shows there in 1997.



Comedy veteran Elayne Boosler headlines

The 2011 edition will see headliner Elayne Boosler (Politically Incorrect; Comic Relief) share the bill with Avi Liberman (Comedy Central; E!), Jeff Applebaum (Late, Late Show with Craig Ferguson) and Lisa Geduldig (Kung Pao creator, producer, host). There are six shows over three days, Friday, December 23–Sunday, December 25, at the New Asia Restaurant (772 Pacific Ave., btwn Grant & Stockton) in San Francisco's Chinatown.

Each day features an early Dinner Show and a later Cocktail Show. Seating is tables of ten, Chinese banquet-style. The Dinner Show features a 7-course dinner ("Kosher comedy, not Kosher food") and veggie egg rolls at The Cocktail Show. "All ages are welcome, except for screaming babies, please and thank you," Geduldig reminds attendees.

Over the past 18 years, Kung Pao has raised tens of thousands of dollars and awareness for various organizations. 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 their favourite organizations and causes.

For 2011, they've chosen two senior organizations (one for humans, one for pooches):

JFCS' L'Chaim Adult Day Health Care Center, which provides medical, rehabilitative and social services to thousands of elderly and disabled clients in San Francisco - mostly low-income Russian Jews - and Muttville Senior Dog Rescue, a Bay Area non-profit organization dedicated to improve the lives of senior dogs.

-DGrantBlack.com-