



CHAI LIGHTS

July 2021

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

Orange County, CA 714-739-1366
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Please join Pacific Community as we welcome Rabbi Peter Levi
as he shares with us information about

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of Orange County

July 18, 2021 2:00 p.m. (Virtually)



Rabbi Peter Levi is a veteran Jewish community professional. He is the Regional Director for the Anti-Defamation League's Orange County/Long Beach office which fights anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry, protects civil rights for all by responding to hate incidents, building relationships with elected officials, the interfaith community, law enforcement, other cultural and civil rights organizations. Peter currently just completed a 5 year term as president of the Orange County Board of Rabbis, is a member of the Orange County Sheriff's Interfaith Advisory Council, and was named one of Orange County's 100 most influential people in 2018 by the Orange County Register.

This should be a very interesting conversation with Rabbi Levi as he shares what is happening in Orange County. If you are interested in joining us, please RSVP to Karen Knecht at Knechtfour@aol.com no later than July 14th, (no exceptions) so we can get the Zoom link to you.

We hope you will join us.



**Program Committee Meeting,
Saturday, July 10, 2021 11:00 a.m. (Virtual)**



If you want a say in what programming we offer for the year 2021-2022, then please join us. RSVP to Karen Knecht at Knechtfour@aol.com no later than July 7, 2021. That way we can send you the Zoom link and the Calendar Workbook, to which you can refer.

And now a word from our President:

Wow! What a great pleasure it was to once again see so many of our members in person at our year end party. After a year and a half of only seeing everyone on Zoom, it was nice to be able to visit and catch up on what everyone has been doing. We are hoping that in this coming year we will be able to have more in person events for those who are comfortable participating in that format.

As noted in this newsletter, we are having our annual Planning meeting on July 10th at 11a.m., on Zoom. The Planning Meeting is important in that it allows our members to have input on the types of programs and activities they would like to see implemented in the upcoming program year. Please plan on participating and having a say on what you would like to see continued, eliminated or any new ideas you might have.

Also, as noted in this newsletter, our guest speaker on July 18, will be Rabbi Levi, who is head of the Orange County Anti-Defamation League and will be speaking on anti-Semitism in Orange County. His Zoom presentation will also include a Q and A at the end. This event is open to everyone, so please invite your relatives and friends and anyone you know who might be interested in this subject as it is so important at this time in all our lives.

Be well and stay tuned.



Bryon Baron
Pacific Community President



BOOK REVIEW CONCEALED

By Esther Amini

This is a powerful memoir by Esther Amini, the daughter of Iranian Jewish immigrants from Mashhad, Iran.

The book chronicles the author's struggle to find her own voice and place as she comes of age in the mid-1960's at the start of the Women's Liberation Movement. She struggles to balance being a traditional and dutiful Persian daughter and an American woman during a time when women begin pursuing higher learning, autonomy and professional careers.

Ms. Amini describes her feelings of guilt following her father grudging permission to attend Barnard College. He takes to bed in retaliation. Yet she perseveres. She declines to work with a well-known art history professor and instead marries to please her father. After her divorce, which is scandal in the community, she soars despite her mother's emotional demands and her father's iciness toward her to become happy and successful.

The author delves into the history of the Jews of Mashhad, a holy city for Shiite Muslims, where many Jews outwardly converted to Islam but secretly practiced Judaism. Despite conversion, they suffered tremendous indignities and discrimination identical to their Eastern European and Russian counterparts.

The author uses Persian, Hebrew and Hindi words and phrases, which are defined in a glossary of terms is at the end of the book. It would have been more useful to have them as footnotes on the pages on which they occur or at least at the end of each chapter. Nonetheless, Ms. Amini's story is inspiring and shows the challenges faced by girls in women in many immigrant communities.

Reviewed by Sylvia Rothman

Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)

July 9, 2021 - 7:30 p.m.

Via Zoom

The Zoom link will be sent out to those who RSVP to Jim Rothman by July 7th. Look for it in your email. Then on July 9th, 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

Happy Birthday!

Norton Schwartz - 7/08
Debbie Holland Penley - 7/13
Paul Field - 7/18
Eric Kaminsky - 7/20
Libby Frolichman - 7/22
Debbie Jacobowitz - 7/25

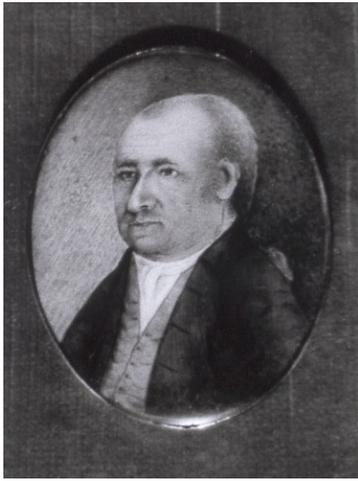
Get Well Wishes

Please send good thoughts and get well wishes to Frank Field. He is home from the hospital and recuperating. Hopefully he will be able to join us soon.

Jews to Know

Mordechai Sheftall

(1735 - 1797)



Mordechai Sheftall was born to Ashkenazic Jewish parents in Savannah, Georgia in 1735. His parents had migrated as part of a group of 42 mostly Sephardic Jews from England to the Georgia colony. Sheftall started into business- tanning deer hides- at age 17.

Utilizing a network of family and friends, he became a successful merchant shipper. He married Frances (Freidel) Hart. The couple had 6 children. Sheftall began to raise cattle and horses on a 2,000-acre farm with 9 slaves. The religiously observant Sheftalls were among the founding members of Congregation Mickve Israel in Savannah.

Angered by Britain's Stamp Act, Sheftall joined the Savannah Parochial Committee, a political group that called for American independence. He rose to chairman of this group. After the American Revolution began, Sheftall was appointed to the role of a commissary to the rebel troops of South Carolina and Georgia. He was promoted to the rank of colonel in the Continental Army - that made him the highest-ranking Jewish American officer at the time. When the British attacked Savannah in late 1788, Sheftall participated in the city's defense, and he advanced considerable sums of money for the American cause. The city fell to the British, and Sheftall and his son were arrested and imprisoned. They were freed, but then recaptured, and not released until a prisoner exchange in 1780. Sheftall and his son then fled north, and were unable to return to Georgia until after the British departed in mid-1782.

The British had seized Sheftall's property during their occupation, and the American government never repaid Sheftall for loans he had made during the war. Sheftall died in 1797 at age 61.

Written by Lee Jacobi. Credits: Wikipedia





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

All events via Zoom until further notice

Philosopher's Café - July 9, 2021
 Program Committee Meeting - July 10, 2021
 ADL Speaker - July 18, 2021
 Rosh Hashanah - Sept. 7, 2021 (virtual)
 Yom Kippur - Sept. 16, 2021 (in person)

2020 - 2022 PACIFIC COMMUNITY BOARD

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 and
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