



# CHAI LIGHTS

August 2022

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

Orange County, CA 714-739-1366  
PacifComm@aol.com www.pccjews.org

**27<sup>th</sup> 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 25 2022  
11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

**Bluffs Fiesta Room  
2414 Vista del Oro  
Newport Beach**

**Lunch to follow Observance**



**37<sup>th</sup> Annual**

**Yom Kippur Observance**

sponsored by the

**Pacific Community of Cultural Jews**

**Wednesday, October 5, 2022  
Virtually by Zoom**

**1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Our Program Consists of the  
Following:**

- A Secular Kol Nidre
- A Secular Niskor (Let Us Remember)

**There will be a separate emailing with the information sheet and registration  
for the High Holidays.**

## President's Message

Recently several our members gathered at a private home to plan our events for the coming year. The act of gathering and seeing my friends in person, both old and new, is a special thing to me. We know this after having lived through the past two years. We have events planned for almost every month in our calendar, including our celebrations of the High Holidays. We have entertaining and educational events planned as well, including a group tour of the Bowers Museum, with a lunch date at their lovely restaurant.

If you are an unaffiliated Jewish person or just a person wanting to explore more about Secular Humanistic Judaism, you will be welcome at our events. Our Philosopher's Café forum, held via Zoom, is free and open to anyone wishing to meet some of our members and listen to a topical or philosophical discussion.

Last week my husband and I watched a documentary film called "Four Seasons Lodge". It told the story of Holocaust survivors who established a Catskill, NY bungalow colony after WWII, and their struggle to keep the summer vacation spot open, even as the management and the owners became aged and gradually passed away. The filmmaker, Andrew Jacobs said: "They didn't have a lot of religiosity. Most of them were in the camp of where was God? But they didn't throw it all out. There was a comfort in the rituals of Judaism. You have a sense from them of 'They wanted to stamp this out, so we should keep it going.' I think there was an attachment to ritual and tradition and history, not so much the faith."

I think this sums up perfectly why I continue to enjoy Jewish traditions, even though our practices do not center an image of God as described in the Bible.  
Wishing you the best of health in the coming year.

**Nancy Okamoto**

**Pacific Community President**



## DINE OUT

**August 13, 2022 11:30 a.m.**

**Kareem's  
(vegetarian choices available)**

**1208 S. Brookhurst Ave,  
Anaheim  
714-215-4035**

**Please RSVP to [Knechtfour@aol.com](mailto:Knechtfour@aol.com)  
no later than Aug. 10th.**

**No Exceptions to the RSVP date!**



# BOOK REVIEW

By Jerry Zwick

## GATEWAY TO THE MOON

BY MARY MORRIS



This historical novel takes place primarily in two locations and in two eras. The first location is Spain in circa 1492. The second locations are Mexico and New Mexico in modern times. The book continually shifts between these eras and locations.

What is illustrated dramatically in this novel is the experiences and hardships the crypto-Jews faced and the role that astronomy played throughout their history.

As you may know, Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492. Most left. But those who remained were forced to hide their Jewish identities under penalty of death or imprisonment. They became known as the crypto- Jews. Many of them sailed to the New World with Columbus and settled in Mexico and later, New Mexico. Without modern navigation, they used stars to guide them.

Crypto-Jews in the New World also hid their Jewish identities and became Christian in name only due to the extreme anti-Semitism of the time. However, over the centuries they kept many of the Jewish customs and practices, sometimes not knowing their origins.

The main character in the modern era was Miguel, whose great-great-great grandfather sailed with Columbus as his interpreter. He was a teenager employed by a family whose customs were similar to those he grew up with but didn't understand. In this respect his story is similar to thousands of crypto- Jews over the centuries. Also his love of astronomy played a significant role in his life and guided many of his decisions.

This book is very well written. I found it very hard to put down. I would highly recommend it to everyone.

Reviewed by Jerry Zwick

## Calling All Book Lovers!

Pacific Community is starting a book club primarily focusing on Jewish authors and/or themes and will include Jewish authors of different nationalities. We will meet on the first Tuesday of the month (there may be exceptions, of course) at 7:00 PM via Zoom.

Please join us for our first meeting on **Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**. We will discuss "What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank", a collection of short stories by Nathan Englander (224 pgs). The book is available in audio, Kindle, Nook, and at local libraries.

Please contact Sylvia Rothman at: [sobaysyl@aol.com](mailto:sobaysyl@aol.com) or Nancy Okamoto at: [naokamoto@roadrunner.com](mailto:naokamoto@roadrunner.com) if you would like to join us.

# Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)

**August 19, 2022 - 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom**

The Zoom link will be sent out to those who RSVP to Jim Rothman by Aug. 16th. Look for it in your email. Then on Aug. 19th, 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](mailto:jrbythec@aol.com), so he can include you.

## **In Search of A Few More Pacific Community Choir Members**



Do you like to sing? And do others say you sound good when you sing? If yes, please consider joining our little Pacific Community Choir. We sing at our annual Rosh HaShanah and Yom Kippur observances. Contact Lee Jacobi by email [LeeJacobi123@gmail.com](mailto:LeeJacobi123@gmail.com) or by text 714-277-6193



## Congratulations

### Happy Birthday!

Jim Rothman - 8/11

Lee Jacobi - 8/14

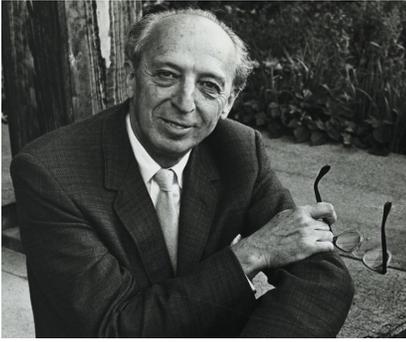
Laura Shapiro - 8/14

Donald Wilen - 8/22



### Happy Anniversary

Bert & Shirley Bonem - 8/22



## Jews to Know

### Aaron Copland (1900-1990). Composer and Conductor

Aaron Copland was born in Brooklyn, NY in 1900 to Jewish parents who had immigrated from Lithuania. His father had stopped in Scotland to earn money for the boat fare to the US; it was there he anglicized his surname from Kaplan to Copland. Aaron was the youngest of 5 children. The family lived up above the father's neighborhood clothing store. Aaron was Bar Mitzvahed in a Conservative synagogue. His mother sang and played piano, and had her children take music lessons. After attending a concert by the composer-pianist Paderewski, 15-year old Aaron decided to become a composer. After graduating high school, Copland played in local dance bands. When the Russian Revolution broke out, Copland cheered its goal of freeing the lower classes.

Copland's first teacher taught him classical music in the German style. But Copland wanted a more modern music style, and he found like-minded musicians and artists in Paris in the 1920s. Returning to America, he tagged on to a circle of artists (including Ansel Adams and Georgia O'Keeffe) who endeavored to reflect the ideas of American democracy in their work. He and some other young American composers shifted their composition style to be simpler, to appeal more to the common person. Copland's first signature work *El Salon Mexico* was completed in 1936. That was followed by American frontier music *Billy the Kid*. In 1939, he was commissioned to write scores for two Hollywood movies: *Of Mice and Men* and *Our Town*. His 1940s works included *Rodeo* and *Appalachian Spring* that were huge successes. His *Third Symphony* was his best-known symphony.

Despite having composed music to champion America, Copland was investigated by the FBI during the Red scare of the 1950's. Ironically, Copland had already resigned from leftist groups in protest against the lack of artistic freedom in the Soviet Union.

Copland's last major work was the music for the opera *The Tender Land*. In the 1960's, Copland became a frequent guest conductor in the US and in the UK. He became referred to as the "Dean of American Composers" of his time.

Upon Copland's death in 1990, his estate was bequeathed to a fund that annually bestows \$600,000 to performing groups.

Written by Lee Jacobi. Credits: Wikipedia



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS



Aug. 19, 2022 - Philosopher's Café  
 Sept. 23, 2022 - Philosopher's Café  
 Sept. 25, 2022 - Rosh Hashanah Observance  
 Oct. 5, 2022 - Yom Kippur Observance  
 Oct. 14, 2022 - Philosopher's Cafe

### 2022 - 2024 PACIFIC COMMUNITY BOARD

#### ELECTED OFFICERS

|                        |                |                           |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| President              | Nancy Okamoto  | 949-386-0400              |
| Vice President         | Jerry Zwick    | jerlesz@verizon.net       |
| Secretary              | Sylvia Rothman | sobaysyl@aol.com          |
| Treasurer              | Leslie Zwick   | jerlesz@verizon.net       |
| Membership             | Nancy Okamoto  | 949-386-0400              |
| Program Co-Coordinator | Suzy Baron     | Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net  |
| Program Co-Coordinator | Cheryl Cohen   | Cjbcohen47@gmail.com      |
| Publicity              | Josh Moss      | cincinnati@klez@yahoo.com |

#### COMMUNITY AND BOARD POSITIONS

|                       |               |                          |
|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|
| SHJ Representative    | Lee Jacobi    | LeeJacobi123@gmail.com   |
| CSJO Liaison          | Leslie Zwick  | jerlesz@verizon.net      |
| Board Member-At-Large | Bryon Baron   | Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net |
| Board Member-At-Large | Di Bunin      | DBF331@hotmail.com       |
| Board Member-At-Large | Lee Jacobi    | LeeJacobi123@gmail.com   |
| Board Member-At-Large | Laura Shapiro | LShapiro501@gmail.com    |
| Newsletter Editor     | Karen Knecht  | Knechtfour@aol.com       |
| Sunshine              | Cheryl Cohen  | Cjbcohen47@gmail.com     |

*Chai-Lights* is published monthly by the  
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Affiliated with  
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 and  
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