



CHAI LIGHTS

June 2026

Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

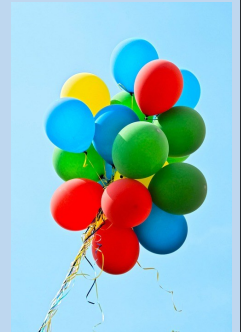
Orange County, CA.
PacifComm@aol.com

714-739-1366
www.pccjews.org

Please join us for our Pacific Community
Members Only End of the Year Party
as we celebrate the end of a wonderful,
Sunday, June 28, 2026 1:00 p.m.



Village Park Community Association
4552 Michelson Drive,
Irvine, CA 92612



A catered lunch will be served.

Please RSVP to Suzy at 657-274-3440
no later than Monday June 22, 2026.

We need volunteers to come early to help with the set up and to stay and help clean up.
We would need you to be there at 12:15 p.m. and to stay afterwards as well. If you can
help us, please let Suzy know ASAP, so she can plan accordingly.

SLATE OF OFFICERS - 2026-2028

The following people have been nominated to be elected as our officers for 2026-2028.
The vote will take place at our Yer-End Party on June 2th.

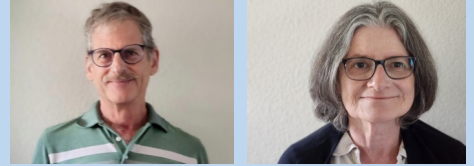
President - Jim Rothman and Sylvia Rothman
Vice President - Nancy Okamoto
Secretary - Sylvia Rothman
Treasurer - Leslie Zwick
Program Chair - Suzy Baron

Membership Chair - still needed
Publicity Chair - still needed

If you are interested in serving on our Board, please let Jim Rothman or
Sylvia Rothman know.

Co-Presidents' Message

As we approach the end of the program year, we'd like to thank our fearless program chair, Suzy Baron, along with Leslie Zwick and Barbara Price, for a year of successful programming. We'd also like to thank our Board for their dedication to our group. Our next program year begins in July. If you have an idea for a program you would like to see, have expertise you'd like to share with the group, or have an idea for a speaker, please join us for our program meeting in July.



Flag Day is June 14th. As our nation celebrates its 250th year, the day invites celebration and contemplation of the values the flag symbolizes in addition to our independence: a government rooted in democracy, equal rights, and justice for all.

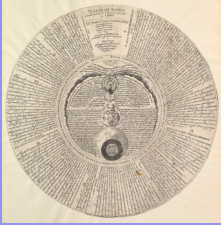
Father's Day began to be observed in the early 20th century to honor fathers and their role in society. President Lyndon Johnson proclaimed the third Sunday in June to honor the role of fathers and other paternal figures. It became an official holiday in 1972. While many of us have had complicated relationships with our fathers, it's a good idea to think of the life lessons we have learned from our fathers or other father figures.

We wish everyone a good start to the summer season and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Jim and Sylvia Rothman
Co-Presidents, Pacific Community of Cultural Jews

There is no Dine Out in June.

See you in July!



Philosopher's Café

(Our Friendly Discussion Group)



Friday June 5, 2026

7:30 p.m. Via Zoom

The Zoom link will be sent out to those who RSVP to Jim Rothman by June 3, 2026 Look for it in your email. Then on June 5th, 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 June



Happy Birthday!

Hana Avishay - 6/23

Nancy Okamoto - 6/30

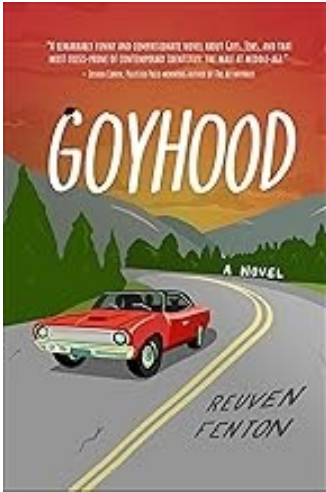
Happy Anniversary

Laura Shapiro & Don Wilen - 6/3

Bryon & Suzy Baron - 6/24



BOOK REVIEW



GOYHOOD : A NOVEL

BY

REUVEN FENTON

Mayer and his brother David are middle aged twins. However, they are dissimilar in a number of significant ways: Mayer is a serious orthodox Jew, while his brother has rejected the religion and has adopted a happy go lucky life style. Mayer is married to a religious lady; while David is single.

The mother of the twins finds out that she is dying. So she writes them a letter which will shatter their identities. The letter was not opened until after she dies.

It states that that she was never Jewish, but raised the boys to be Jewish so that they would have a better life. Mayer decides to keep his orthodox life style, while David decides to stay the way he is, and feels that they are now free to adopt any religion, or none.

They became friends with a young lady who has a significant influence in both of their lives. Their young lady friend tells them that she has always wanted to hike the Appalachian Trail. The twins reluctantly decide to accompany her out of fear for her safety. They used this odyssey to clarify their religious beliefs and to solidify their relationships.

This book talked about the importance of family and friendships. It also had a great deal of humor as well as serious discussions of religious identities.

I enjoyed this book and would recommend it.

Reviewed by

Jerry Zwick





Jews to Know

Molly Crabapple , Author and Artist

Sept. 13, 1983 -

Artist and writer Molly Crabapple was born to a Jewish mother and a Puerto Rican father. Her Jewish heritage is deeply tied to the Jewish Labor Bund, a secular, socialist, and historically anti-Zionist Jewish workers' movement. Crabapple's maternal great-grandfather, Sam Rothbort, was a Belarusian immigrant, painter, and a member of the Jewish Labor Bund. Discovering her great-grandfather's Bundist roots inspired Crabapple to learn Yiddish and delve into the history of the movement.

The Bundist Philosophy Hereness (*Doikayt*): The Bund rejected Zionism and the concept of a Jewish state in Palestine. Instead, they championed *doikayt* (Yiddish for "here-ness"), which was the belief that Jews had a right to live, build communities, and fight for dignity and liberation exactly where they already lived. She identifies her connection to Judaism through this secular, rebellious tradition, viewing early Bundists, dissident intellectuals, and rebel artists as her political and cultural ancestors.

She authored the book *Here Where We Live Is Our Country: The Story of the Jewish Bund*, which serves as a mix of family history and political reclamation. It was published in April 2026 and is on the NY Times Best Seller List. She writes extensively about how the Bund's history offers lessons for modern struggles against ethnonationalism, as well as providing a forgotten lineage for anti-Zionist and leftist Jewish organizers.

Molly Crabapple was born Jennifer Caban in 1983 in Queens, New York City, New York to a Puerto Rican father and a Jewish mother, who was the daughter of a Belarusian immigrant. Caban began drawing at the age of four with guidance from her mother, an illustrator who worked on toy product packaging.^{[4][5]}

Crabapple has remembered herself at age 12 as a " goth moppet in a pair of Doc Martens, who blared Hole on her Walkman, drew headless cheerleaders, and read the Marquis de Sade in class."^[6] She discovered punk rock music at age 12. Caban's school diagnosed her with oppositional defiant disorder (ODD) and she was expelled from the seventh grade.

Caban never liked her given name, so she started using the name *Molly Crabapple* after a boyfriend suggested that it reflected her disposition.

After graduating from high school at age 17, Crabapple traveled to Europe. After receiving a notebook as a gift she began drawing on a serious basis.

Molly's two previous books are Brothers of the Gun, an illustrated collaboration with Syrian war journalist Marwan Hisham, which long-listed for the 2018 National Book Award, and her memoir, Drawing Blood, which received global praise and attention. Her animated films have won two Emmys and an Edward R. Murrow Award.

Molly's reportage has been published in the New York Times, New York Review of Books, The Paris Review, Vanity Fair, The Guardian, The New Yorker and Rolling Stone. She was the 2019 artist-in-residence at NYU's Hagop Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies in 2019, a New America fellow in 2020, and the winner of the Bernhardt Labor Journalism Award in 2022. In 2023, she was a fellow at the Dorothy and Lewis B. Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.

Molly got her start as the house artist for New York's most notorious nightclub. She became a journalist sketching the frontlines of Occupy Wall Street, before covering, with words and art, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Lebanese snipers, Guantanamo Bay, the US-Mexican border, Pennsylvania prisoners, New York cabbies, Greek refugee camps, and the ravages of hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico. She once confronted Donald Trump in Dubai about the fact that his workers there got paid \$100 a month. As an award-winning animator, she has pioneered a new genre of live-illustrated journalism, collaborating with Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, Jay Z, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and The ACLU. Her animations are on permanent display at The Equal Justice Initiative's Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama.

She has spoken to audiences around the world, from Jakarta to Beirut, São Paulo to Ramallah, Mumbai to Paris, at universities including Harvard, Yale, Columbia, The University of Chicago, Princeton, and The London School of Economics, and at museums including The Brooklyn Museum and The Guggenheim. Her art is in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art, the United States Library of Congress, Columbia University and the New York Historical Society.

Submitted by Laura Shapiro

Sources: Wikipedia, and Crabapple's website, <https://www.mollycrabapple.com/about>



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

June 5, 2026	Philosopher's Café
June 28, 2026 **	Member End of the Year Party
July 11, 2026**	Book Share
July 11, 2026	Dine Out
July 17, 2026	Philosopher's Café
July 18, 2026	Programming Meeting for 2026-27



2024 - 2026 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	Barbara Price	BarbaraPPrice@aol.com
Program Coordinator	Suzy Baron	Bryonbaron@sbcglobal.net
Publicity Co-Chairs	Ellen Jacobs Laura Shapiro	ejacobs@socal.rr.com LShapiro501@gmail.com

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
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Webmaster	Celeste Mendelson	Mendelsons5@yahoo.com
Sunshine	Sheila Bass	shekaba@aol.com

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by the Pacific Community of
Cultural Jews,
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Affiliated with
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PACIFIC COMMUNITY OF CULTURAL JEWS

Calendar of Events 2025 - 2026

EVENTS

Sept. 13, 2025 -	Bowers Museum
Sept. 21, 2025 -	Rosh Hashanah Observance
Oct. 2, 2025 -	Yom Kippur Observance
Oct. 25, 2025 -	Sukkot/Succos & Potluck
Nov. 16, 2025 -	Jewish Jeopardy
Dec. 20, 2025 -	Chanukah Party
Dec. 25, 2025 -	Nature Hike and Lunch Gathering
Jan. 17, 2026 -	Hilbert Museum & Lunch
Feb. 7, 2026 -	Lee Jacobi Memorial Hike
Feb. 28, 2026 -	Jewish Improv & Purim
Mar. 21, 2026 -	International Food Event
Apr. 4, 2026 -	Passover Seder
TBD	Yom Ha'Atzmaut Observance
May 16, 2026 -	Humor Event
June 6, 2026 -	Book Sharing Event
June 6, 2026	Dine Out
Jun 14, 2026-	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.

Oct. 18, 2025 (date change)

Nov. 8, 2025

~~Dec. 13, 2025~~

Jan. 24, 2026 (date change)

Feb. 14, 2026

Mar. 14, 2026

May 9, 2026

July 11, 2026

For more information, or for suggestions for restaurants, contact Karen Knecht
714-739-1366 or Knechtfour@aol.com

For more information, or for suggestions for



PHILOSOPHER'S CAFÉ

(via Zoom)

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. Please check our monthly newsletters for information on our Philosopher's Café.

Sept. 19, 2025

Nov. 14, 2025

Jan. 16, 2026

Mar. 6, 2026

May 15, 2026

July 17, 2026

Oct. 17, 2025

Dec. 12, 2025

Feb. 6, 2026

Apr. 17, 2026

June 5, 2026

Schedule subject to change.

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