

Press Release

# Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County\* (JGSCV) (\*and surrounding areas)

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, June 7, 2020 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362

Annual Sephardic Program



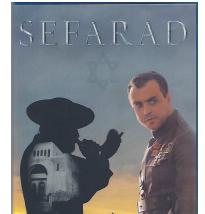
**The Program:**

**SEPHARAD**

**Video**

**1 hour 30 minutes**

**Portuguese with English Subtitles**



“Sefarad” tells the sweeping story of Jews in Portugal across 500 years — from the Middle Ages to the Inquisition to the modern era. In 1496, King D. Manuel prohibited Judaism. Four hundred years later, Barros Basto (1887-1961), a Portuguese army captain converted to Judaism, and about twenty Jewish merchants founded the Jewish Community of Oporto, in the north of Portugal. The video depicts the story of Barros Basto, the Portuguese Dreyfus Affair. Basto was a WW I war hero. He was expelled from the army after a tribunal convicted him of conduct unbecoming an officer in 1937. He was unjustly accused, expelled from the Army, with loss of rank and loss of pay, loss of his reputation and had to face anti-Semitism. In April 2013, he was reinstated by the Portuguese Parliament, the same year that Portugal welcomed the descendants of its expelled Sephardim to apply for citizenship.

The Oporto community was shaken by news that there were descendants of 15th-century Jews in a number of Portuguese villages. These crypto-Jews were resistant to join an organized community. Basto worked to have them included. In addition to establishing the Jewish community of Porto, Basto was instrumental in the construction of the Kadoorie Mekor Haim Synagogue, in 1938, the largest in the Iberian Peninsula. The synagogue became a haven to shelter hundreds of Holocaust refugees in World War II.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. The meeting is open to the public. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family. The meeting is open to the public.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history.

For more information contact: [information@JGSCV.org](mailto:information@JGSCV.org) or call  
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