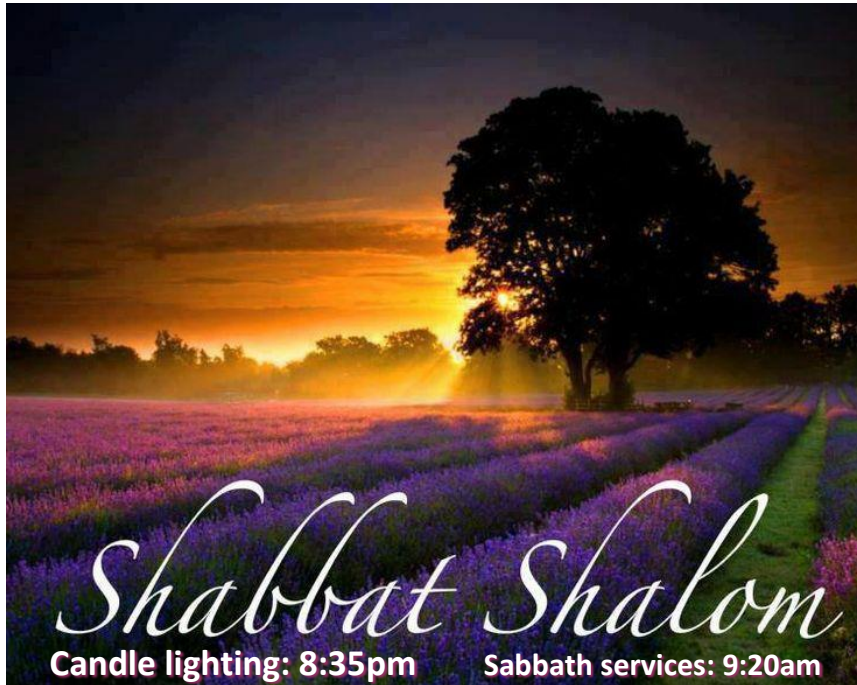




Carnegie Shul Chatter

July 5, 2017



A Little Known Hero

This week we celebrated America's Independence Day.

There were many great Americans whose names we recall when we think about Independence Day – men like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, Paul Revere, and John Hancock. But how many of us remember a Jewish man without whom America might never have gained its independence from England?

Who was that Jewish hero of American independence? None other than Haym Salomon.

So, who exactly was Haym Salomon?

Well, many historians call him the financier of the American Revolution.

Born in Born in Lissa, Poland, in 1740, Salomon spent several years moving around western Europe and England, during which time he developed fluency in several languages, a skill that was to bode him well in the world of business and finance.

Upon emigrating to New York City in 1772, Salomon became a successful merchant and dealer in foreign securities. After striking up

Jewish Heroes

I remember first hearing about Haym Salomon when I was taking Advanced Placement History in High School. I also remember that when I asked several of my friends who were taking regular US History, not AP, if they had read about Salomon, they had absolutely no idea who I was talking about.

But then again, how many of us know about David Rubitsky?

Rubitsky is said to have single-handedly killed 500 to 600 Japanese soldiers while guarding a military outpost in Papua, New Guinea, during the Battle of Buna in December, 1942.

According to Rubitsky's account, he defended the bunker with a 30-cal. machine gun, a .45-cal. pistol, a rifle and grenades. Rubitsky spent a total of 21 hours in the bunker — including nine under heavy siege. The Japanese army attacked from three different directions — the north, south and west. His bunker had slits on all sides, making it possible for him to respond to an attack from any direction. He switched from gun to gun and threw grenades at the enemy, while the Japanese alternately charged his position and shelled it with light artillery.

Rubitsky was invited in 2001 to Buckingham Palace to receive a decree, signed by the queen, naming him an honorary Member of the British Empire after the government of Papua New

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an acquaintance with Alexander MacDougall, leader of the New York Sons of Liberty, Salomon became active in the patriot cause. When war broke out in 1776, Salomon got a contract to supply American troops in central New York.



Following New York City's Great Fire of 1776, which began on September 21, six days after the British invasion of New York, British forces arrested and imprisoned Salomon, but Salomon gained his release because the British hoped to use his language skills to communicate with their German mercenaries. Instead, Salomon covertly encouraged the Hessians to desert. Arrested again in early 1778, Salomon had his property confiscated and a court martial sentenced him to hang, but Salomon escaped, probably with the help of the Sons of Liberty, and fled penniless to Philadelphia.

In Philadelphia, Salomon resumed his brokerage business. The French Minister appointed him paymaster general of the French forces fighting for the American cause. The Dutch and Spanish governments also engaged him to sell securities that supported their loans to the Continental Congress.

In 1781, Congress established the Office of Finance to save the United States from fiscal ruin. Salomon allied himself with Superintendent of Finance William Morris and became one of the most effective brokers of bills of exchange to meet federal government expenses. Salomon also personally advanced funds to members of the Continental Congress and other federal officers, charging interest and commissions well below the market rates. James Madison confessed that "I have for some time ... been a pensioner on the favor of Haym Salomon, a Jew broker."

Salomon also played a prominent role in the Philadelphia and national Jewish community affairs, serving as a member of the governing council of Congregation Mikveh Israel, the fourth oldest continuous synagogue in the United States, founded in 1740, and known as the "*Synagogue of the American Revolution.*"

Salomon, following the lead of his friend Robert Morris, also lobbied successfully to have the Pennsylvania Council of Censors eliminate the religious test oath that barred Jews and other non-Christians from holding public office in Pennsylvania.

There is a legend that during the design process of the Great Seal, Washington asked what compensation Salomon wanted in return for his financial contributions to the American Revolutionary War. He replied that "he wanted nothing for himself but that he wanted something for his people." While there is no evidence, there is a theory that the 13 stars representing the colonies on the seal were arranged in the shape of the Star of David in commemoration of Solomon's contributions.

Guinea commissioned a historian who concluded Rubitsky was telling the truth.

Rubitsky's company commander, Capt. Joseph M. Stehling, recommended Rubitsky for the Medal of Honor after surveying the battle site. The recommendation reached battalion commander Lt. Col. Herbert A. Smith, who passed it on to Col. John W. Mott, the division's chief of staff.

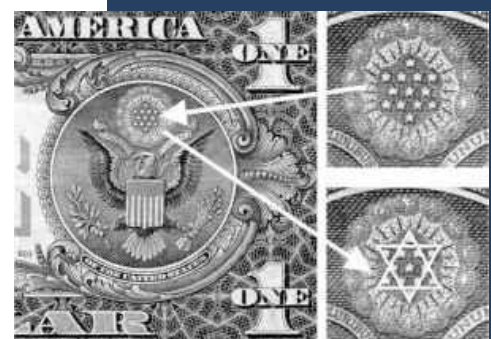
According to Smith, Mott said, "You mean a Jew for the Congressional Medal of Honor?" Mott then laughed and walked away, Smith said.

In 1986, when Rubitsky's former commanders discovered he had not been awarded the medal, they got several lawmakers and the Anti-Defamation League to take up the cause. After an investigation, however, the U.S. Army announced in 1989 there was insufficient evidence to support Rubitsky's claim.

Lest you think that anti-Semitism has kept all Jews from winning the Medal of Honor, the Jewish War Veterans lists 16 Jews who have received the honor.

They are:

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| Abraham Cohn | Benjamin Levy |
| Sydney Gumpertz | Samuel Marguilies |
| Isadore Jachman | Tibor Rubin |
| Jack H. Jacobs | Ben L. Solomon |
| Leopold Karpeles | William Sawelson |
| Benjamin Kaufman | Simon Suhler |
| Leonard M. Kravitz | David Urbansky |
| John Levitow | Raymond Zussman |



Other official commemorations of Salomon include:

- In 1893, Congress ordered a gold medal be struck in recognition of Salomon's contributions to the United States.
- In 1975, the Postal Service issued a commemorative stamp honoring Salomon for his contributions to the cause of the American Revolution. The stamp, like others in the "Contributors to the Cause" series, was printed on the front and the back. On the glue side of the stamp, the following words were printed in pale green ink: "Financial Hero – Businessman and broker Haym Salomon was responsible for raising most of the money needed to finance the American Revolution and later to save the new nation from collapse."



- A monument to Salomon, George Washington and Robert Morris can be found on East Wacker Drive in Chicago, and Beverly Hills, California, is home to an organization called the American Jewish Patriots and Friends of Haym Salomon.
- In 1946, a memorial statue was erected to Salomon at Hollenback Park in Los Angeles. The statue was rededicated in 2008 at Pan-Pacific Park, where it can be found on the corner of Gardner and Third Street.



- *The Congressional Record* of March 25, 1975 reads: When Morris was appointed Superintendent of Finance, he turned to Salomon for help in raising the money needed to carry on the war and later to save the emerging nation from financial collapse. Salomon advanced direct loans to the government and also gave generously of his own resources to pay the salaries of government officials and army officers. With frequent entries of "I sent for Haym Salomon," Morris' diary for the years 1781–84 records some 75 transactions between the two men.
- In World War II, the United States liberty ship SS Haym Salomon was named in his honor.¹
- The Haym Salomon Nursing Home in Brooklyn is named in his honor.
- The Haym Solomon Center, a news and public policy nonprofit located in Northbrook, Illinois, that advocates for liberty and combats anti-Semitism is named for Salomon.



The Carnegie Shul extends special appreciation...

To Harvey Levine, who is sponsoring Kiddush following Shabbas morning services, July 8, the 14th of Tammuz, in memory of his father Reuben Levine.

Please join us for services and Kiddush this weekend.

Yahrzeit Plaques

A wonderful way to commemorate loved ones is to dedicate a yahrzeit plaque in their memory at the Carnegie Shul. These beautiful plaques, which are mounted on the walls of the sanctuary, are lit on the anniversary of a loved one's yahrzeit, on Yom Kippur, and on days when Yizkor is recited. The names are also read aloud from the Bimah during services on the Sabbath of the yahrzeit and on Yom Kippur. To purchase a plaque in memory of a loved one, for only \$175, please email Mike Roteman at mrmike7777@yahoo.com.



Each Shabbat, after services, we join together to make Kiddush and Hamotzi and to share a repast that often includes herring, lox, bagels, and desserts. Please consider sponsoring a Kiddush as an honorarium or a memoriam. The cost is only \$36 and your sponsorship will be announced from the bimah and in the weekly Chatter. To sponsor a Kiddush, please email Mike Roteman at mrmike7777@yahoo.com.

July 10, 7–8:15 pm

SOUTH HILLS
SHALOM SINGERS

Jewish Community Choir

South Hills JCC