



# Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County

Sunday, February 8, 2009 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim

2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

## "Secret Jews: History and Culture of Crypto-Jews and Their Research For Jewish Roots and Identity"

In the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Centuries, Jews of Spain and Portugal were forced to convert to Catholicism. Many families kept the knowledge of their Jewish past for 500 years, transmitting it in secret to their children and often continuing to practice Jewish rites covertly. Many of the descendants of these Crypto-Jews are now seeking their Jewish heritage. Mr. Benveniste's presentation will follow the history of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, their forced conversion, the emergence of crypto-Judaism, how it came to the Americas, and the discovery of their Jewish background by many Hispanics in the Americas today.

**Speaker: Arthur Benveniste**, has been active in the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies since 1993, where he was president of the society from 2001 to 2003. He served as the co-editor of *Halapid*, the newsletter of the society. Mr. Benveniste has visited Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Peru, Italy, Morocco, Turkey and Greece. In 1992, he was invited by King Juan Carlos to return to Spain to commemorate the quincentennial of the expulsion of the Jews.

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. Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.

For more information contact [information@JGSCV.org](mailto:information@JGSCV.org) See: [www.JGSCV.org](http://www.JGSCV.org)  
Or call Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616