

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

October 2015

Volume 11 Issue 1

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It is with great sadness that I write this letter as I have just learned of Pamela Weisberger z'l passing early Friday, September 25. Pamela comes as close as anyone can to being irreplaceable. She died after a brief illness and everyone is still in shock.

I first met Pamela at the IAJGS International Conference in Toronto in 2002. At the time I was vice president of JGSLA and I knew I was meeting someone who would be a genealogy superstar. I invited her to become active with JGSLA and the following year she joined the board of directors. Not only was Pamela the Vice President of JGSLA, she was the driving force behind Geshher Galicia and was its president for many years. Pamela spoke at many genealogy conferences including the IAJGS, NGS, FGS, RootsTech and the Southern California Genealogical Jamboree. Pamela was the Co-Chair of the 2010 IAJGS conference hosted by JGSLA and she was responsible for the film festival at many IAJGS conferences. She spoke at numerous Jewish genealogy societies, and was scheduled to speak at JGSCV this January. Pamela participated in our SIG Roundtables last year promoting Geshher Galicia. Pamela traveled the world over from Australia to Israel to do research and speak. The world of genealogy, not only the world of Jewish genealogy has lost a superstar.

There will be a celebration of life for Pamela Weisberger on Wednesday, September 30, 2015 at 7 pm at the Bel Air Country Club 10768 Bellagio Road Los Angeles, CA. All are welcome to attend.



Pamela Weisberger z'l

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, October 11th 12:30-2:30 PM

DNA Testing for Genealogy

Jay Sage will explain the different types of DNA and how each can be used appropriately by genealogists. **NOTE SPECIAL TIME!**

The year 5776 marks JGSCV's 10th anniversary
October, 2015

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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Mission Statement:

JGSCV is a non-profit organization run by enthusiastic volunteers dedicated to the sharing of genealogical information, techniques and research tools with those interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Members who include beginners and experienced genealogists share with each other.

The year 5776 marks JGSCV's 10th anniversary. Congratulations to all who have made this possible. Ten years is a remarkable achievement for any non-profit organization. Thanks to you, our membership has grown each year unlike some other JGS's. JGSCV must be doing something right! Our programs, newsletter, website, libraries and Publicity Committee members who let the public know about us, all have contributed to our success. The "behind the scenes" activities such as membership, treasury and administrative responsibilities have also contributed greatly to our success.

We could not have done this without the wonderful support of Temple Adat Elohim who co-sponsors our programs by providing the facility with audio-visual equipment and staff for our meetings. Thank you!

October starts JGSCV's membership renewal for 2016. We already have several members who renewed. As usual, our December meeting will include a drawing for 10 fantastic genealogical gifts for those who are eligible. Eligibility consists of renewing or joining for 2016 and attending that meeting. See page 13 for a 2016 membership form which will also be available at the meetings. We ended last year with membership at an all-time high and I hope this year we surpass that!

Since January, we have been running a series of articles by members on their own experiences or research into their ancestor's experiences to commemorate the centennial of World War I and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II—holocaust stories are part of World War II. We welcome more participants for this project. If you have some information on a relative who served during one of the two World Wars—we need to hear from you with your stories! Thus far, Barbara Algaze Sarah Applebaum, Hal Bookbinder, Joanne Cadis, Werner Frank, Allan Linderman Stephen Weinstein, have shared their stories. Dorothy Drilich's story is on page 6 How about you?

Our 10th anniversary program is on the "hot topic" of *DNA Testing for Genealogy*. Guest speaker Jay Sage has lectured at the international conferences and to genealogy societies on the topic of DNA testing. Remember that to accommodate Temple Adat Elohim and a wedding later that afternoon, **we are starting the meeting earlier for this one time: 12:30-2:30 pm**. The traveling library will be available starting at 12 noon and the schmoozing corner begins at 12:10 PM.

Looking forward to seeing you on October 11th!

Jan Meisels Allen





10 Tips for Successful Oral Interviews Posted

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island, winner of the 2015 IAJGS Outstanding Publication Award for its *You Tube Channel*, is pleased to announce the posting **10 Tips for Successful Oral Interviews**.

Oral interviews can be one of the genealogist's most important research techniques and a valuable piece of media to share with future generations. You can access all JGSSI videos from their website <http://jgsli.org/>

Cont'd. Special kudos to the late Sam Schleman who initiated the project.

Honing Your Googling Skills

The everyday user on Google probably uses only "the tip of the iceberg" in tools that this search engine offers. At google.com, click on the image in the upper right corner that is APPS. (9 squares in 3 rows) and feast your eyes. Here's just a few, genealogically speaking:

15,000 Records Added to FamilySearch by JewishGen Hungarian SIG

Vivian Kahn, JewishGen Hungarian SIG Coordinator announces that close to 15,000 additional vital records have been added to the Hungarian Jewish Vital Records at FamilySearch.org. This increases the total number of records in this collection to 26,447. You can access the database at <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/1787825>

The records are from films at the Hungarian State Archives in Budapest and from county archives and have been indexed by JewishGen H-SIG volunteers. The latest batch includes additional records from Pest-Pilis and Szabolcs, which are not yet included in the JewishGen Hungary Database.

- Google allows users to set up a personal ALERT with *your* key words, and the results are emailed to you weekly or when they are found.
- Blogger Lisa L. Cooke writes about making your use of Google for genealogy searches more effective at <http://lisalouisecooke.com/google-for-genealogy-google-keyword-search-tips/>
- GoogleBooks may have some published family genealogies that are in the public domain. Read the online.

The (US) National Archives is relocating their collection of bankruptcy case files to Subtropolis, an archival facility that is part of the National Archives in Kansas City. The records moved are the Bankruptcy Act of 1898 Case Files 1898-1979 RG 21, A1 159. As of September 21 2015. Inquiries for Kansas City holdings should be directed to KansasCity.Archives@nara.gov.

The National Archives has information on using bankruptcy records for genealogy research that may be found at:

<http://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2014/fall/bankruptcy.pdf>

The Jewish Community (IKG) of Nuremberg

is in possession of the so-called "Sturmer or Streicher Library", a collection of approximately 10,000 books taken by the Nazis. The Jewish Community of Nuremberg is requesting assistance in finding the former owners and the restitution of the writings to their legal successors. For more background on the collection and a listing of robbed victims as well as pictures of images of inscriptions and book notes, see:

<http://tinyurl.com/gg99t13>

October, 2015

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, October 11, 2015 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, **12:30-2:30 p.m.**

Note: Earlier start time for this meeting only

Come Celebrate JGSCV's 10th Anniversary!

Meeting Topic:

DNA Testing for Genealogy

With the incredible drop in the cost of DNA sequencing, DNA testing is now affordable for individuals. Jay Sage will discuss the role of DNA in genealogical research. His presentation of the basics of human genetics will clarify the essential features of the two very different categories of tests: the Y chromosome and mitochondrial DNA tests on the one hand and the autosomal DNA test on the other. Examples will illustrate how to reach proper and appropriate conclusions from each type of test. The talk will also briefly cover how to order and perform the tests as well as the cost.

Speaker: Jay Sage served as co-president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston (JGSGB) from 2000 to 2003 and is currently co-editor of the Society's journal, *Mass-Pocha*. He was Co-Chair of the 2013 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Boston. He has lectured at the international conferences and to genealogy societies on the topics of DNA testing and the use of Google Earth as a genealogical tool. Professionally, Sage worked as a research physicist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.



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 is open to the public and there is no charge to attend. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Join now for 2016! Light refreshments will be served.

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JGSCV UPDATES

LIBRARY: The County of Los Angeles Public Library has completed indexing all of our outstanding books. All of the books are now on the dedicated shelves at the Agoura Hills Public Library and an updated list of permanent books is posted to our website at www.jgscv.org under library, permanent.

RALPHS: Remember that effective September 1st everyone is required to reregister for Ralphs Community Program (RCP) which helps JGSCV whenever you shop at Ralphs. Thank you to those JGSCV members who let us know they reregistered and if you have not yet joined RCP please do so –and obtain a Ralphs Card from your local store. Karen Lewy will be able to assist you at the meeting, but you must bring your Ralphs’ card with you. If you are renewing, you will need your Ralphs’ password, as well. For more information see the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under “notices”.

AMAZON: Don’t forget to shop at Amazon by first visiting the JGSCV website and clicking on the Amazon logo. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one here). This takes you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. We rely on both the Amazon and Ralphs contributions for our annual operating budget. Dues alone do not cover all we do.



Remember, the **SCHMOOZING CORNER will open at 12:10 on Oct. 11th**. Just come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the “SCHMOOZING CORNER” sign where next month where founding JGSCV founding member and Managing Director of JewishGen, Warren Blatt, will be waiting to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins.

NEW SERIES: Starting with this issue of Venturing Into Our Past, we have a new monthly series on “Practicing Safe Computing” by JGSCV founding member, Hal Bookbinder. See page 8.

Remember: Special Time for October 11 Meeting 12:30-2:30 PM at Adat Elohim

JGSCV MEMBERSHIP

Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership/\$30 for a household. To join, or renew, print out the membership form on our website www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button. Send it with a check in the appropriate amount payable to: JGSCV and mail to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Myron Pogodin: WWII Pilot

By Dorothy Drilich

Myron Pogodin’s maternal grandmother, Feiga Rywka Piatkowska Gutfarb and my paternal grandmother, Chinka Piatkowska Imjak were sisters. My cousin Myron was born June 6, 1919 in Zambrow, Poland, in the Northeastern part of Poland, with the name "Mnachem Majer" Pogodin. He arrived in New York City September 15, 1935 traveling with his mother Frieda Adele Pogodin. Myron was naturalized with a derivative citizenship (under his father—Isadore Pogodin’s citizenship granted in 1936) on November 1, 1943 while serving in the 578th Technical School Squadron, Miami Beach, FL. The derivative citizenship is given to children under 18 years of age of naturalized citizens. For those serving in the armed forces during World War II, derivative citizenship past the age of 18 was granted to accelerate the naturalization process.

Myron Pogodin enlisted when the World War II broke out—before the U.S. got into the war—

“They bailed out of the plane using parachutes.”

on November 11, 1940, believing it was his duty and honor to fight Hitler and the Nazis. His training was in Jackson Barracks, Missouri where he volunteered for the Air Corps and trained in Texas and Florida before he was sent by troop ship to Wellington, England.

Serving as a belly gunner on the bombers, his area was from the tail of the plane to the front and everything on the side of the plane.

Myron would have to remove his parachute due to the tight quarters in the belly gunner seat. All of his missions were over Germany. He was bombarding for about 18 months before being shot down.

He and the rest of the crew of the “Windy City” were shot down on his 19th mission south of Liege, Belgium escaping to German-controlled France. They were returning from a bombing mission to Schweinfurt, Germany. Schweinfurt was the center of Germany’s vital ball bearing production and one of the

Field Title	Value	Meaning
ARMY SERIAL NUMBER	36000112	36000112
NAME	POGODIN#MYRON#####	POGODIN#MYRON#####
RESIDENCE: STATE	61	ILLINOIS
RESIDENCE: COUNTY	031	COOK
PLACE OF ENLISTMENT	6120	CHICAGO ILLINOIS
DATE OF ENLISTMENT DAY	19	19
DATE OF ENLISTMENT MONTH	11	11
DATE OF ENLISTMENT YEAR	40	40
GRADE: ALPHA DESIGNATION	PVT#	Private
GRADE: CODE	8	Private
BRANCH: ALPHA DESIGNATION	BI#	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
BRANCH: CODE	00	Branch Immaterial - Warrant Officers, USA
FIELD USE AS DESIRED	#	#
TERM OF ENLISTMENT	6	Enlistment for the Panama Canal Department
LONGEVITY	###	###
SOURCE OF ARMY PERSONNEL	0	Civil Life
NATIVITY	N0	POLAND
YEAR OF BIRTH	19	19

Practicing Safe Computing

By Hal Bookbinder

You receive an email letting you know that your information may have been part of a recent



breach of health records.

The email looks official with the familiar logo of a hospital

that has treated you. It expresses sincere apologies and is signed by the CEO of the hospital. It asks you to click on a link to find out more about what the hospital will do to protect you from identity theft.

When you click on the link you see a screen with the hospital's logo which lets you know that they will pay for credit monitoring service for the next 2 years at no cost to you. You can decline and take your chances or accept the free offer. It seems like a no-brainer and you are relieved that the hospital is taking the breach and your financial protection seriously.

You click on the "I accept" button and a form is displayed to initiate the coverage. You are asked for your full name, mailing address, phone, email, date of birth, etc. You are a bit concerned however when you see that you are also asked for your social security number and a major credit card. When you click on the question mark by these fields, an explanation is displayed that makes sense.

You enter the data and confirm its accuracy. The screen provides you with a reference number for your free policy and a phone number to call if you have any questions. Surprise, you have been "phished" and your data is on its way to a third world country

where it will be sold to con artists who may use it to steal your identity, purchase big ticket items on your credit or obtain Federal tax refunds in your name.

Never provide personal information when contacted out of the blue, no matter how legitimate and logical the request seems; do not even provide basic information like your address and phone number. Rather, close the email and if you are concerned contact the hospital (or bank or insurance company) directly. You will likely find out that they never sent the email.

Institutions may well send you email about an issue. But, when an unsolicited email asks for personal information, this is a warning that you are at risk. These scams rely on the headlines of the day. Today's headlines tell of huge data breaches. So, when you get an email about this, it seems legitimate. These criminals know what they are doing. Always remain on your guard.

If you have been phished, take immediate action. Close credit or debit cards or bank accounts whose information you provided and contact the three main credit reporting agencies to place a fraud alert on your accounts. These are minimum actions, do your research to see what other steps you should take. Yes, it is a hassle, but nothing like the hassle if your identity is compromised.



This is the first of a series of articles by JGSCV founding Board Member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a former President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and is very skilled in the use of online websites.

IAJGS

The 2016 IAJGS International Conference in Jewish Genealogy will be held in Seattle, WA August 7-12, 2016 (see: <http://www.iajgs2016.org/>). The Conference theme is 'The Wandering Jew' with tracks including

- The Sephardic Experience in the United States
- European Migrations
- South American
- Australian and South African Branches
- Westward Ho! Jews in the Western US Coming Home to Israel

As always, many JGSCV members and friends are expected to attend. The conference discussion group is open to subscribe. Go to: <http://www.iajgs2016.org/discussion-list/>. Requests for proposals are expected to be open in late September and registration will begin on January 4, 2016.

Organizers are exploring a seven day Alaska cruise either before or after the conference. This would not be a conference event, per se, but it would be an opportunity for a different type of adventure for those who are coming to the Great Northwest next August. These cruises leave from the Seattle Cruise Terminal, a short cab ride from the hotel, and go up the Inside Passage along the southeastern coast of Alaska. Typically, they offer spectacular views of glaciers that meet the ocean, views of the forests and wildlife of southeastern Alaska, and all the amenities of a family oriented cruise. Prices start around \$900 per person, double occupancy for an inside cabin, including cabin and meals. A variety of accommodations are available on board these fully equipped cruise ships.



Stops may possibly Ketchikan, Juneau, Glacier Bay National Park, Skagway, and

either Vancouver or Victoria on the return trip. If there are a sufficient number of people booking together, the price will be discounted.

Organizers expect there will be options for those who keep kosher, either pre-packaged kosher meals or vegetarian meals.

One cruise option being considered would depart Seattle either July 28 or 29th, (Thursday or Friday), returning to Seattle on August 4 or 5 (Thursday or Friday). The other option would be a cruise departing either August 15 or 16 (Monday or Tuesday), returning August 22 or 23.

If you are interested in taking one of these cruises, please provide your input including your preference for either the before or after conference dates, and how many would be in your party. Organizers also need to have an idea how many would require a kosher option. These are family oriented cruises with lots of things to do on the boat for all ages of children, as well as the rest of us older folks. If there is sufficient interest expressed before October 5, organizers will proceed with plans and will announce finalized arrangements. If there is not enough interest, this may be the last you hear of this with any connection to the Conference. Of course you can always arrange for such a cruise on your own.

If you *are* interested, please respond to Chuck Weinstein directly at chuck@iajgs2016.org, and let him know what you think. Again, this will not be an organized conference event, but it will be a great opportunity to turn your conference experience into a wonderful vacation to remember and cherish for years to come.

October is Family History Month



By Jan Meisels Allen

Congress passed a resolution in 2001 introduced by Senator Orrin Hatch (R-UT) declaring October Family History Month. That resolution has been reintroduced annually. Senator Hatch wrote in the first resolution, "By searching for our roots, we come closer together as a human family."

International Jewish Genealogy Month, falls annually during the month of Cheshvan, which corresponds this year to October 14-November 12. When both coincide, let's celebrate!

- Have you Googled you family names? Put in the name of the person you are searching with a few more parameters, location, dates, spouses' names and don't forget to try initials or nicknames and putting in the last name first to see if you get different results.
- Google also has a book search and you put in names and places <https://books.google.com/>. Try Google Scholar for books by placing the name of your ancestral town or other location or person (author or someone who a book may have been written about) <https://scholar.google.com/intl/en-US/scholar/help.html>. Also try Google Newspapers (<http://news.google.com/archivesearch>) and Google International newspapers (<http://news.google.com/newspapers>).
- Have you searched military records for those in your family who served? A free site is the United States National Archives: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/>. Click on the war you are searching. Paid/subscription sites include <https://www.fold3.com/>, where you can search for free and some collections, including the holocaust collection are free access.
- Interview a relative. Do you have a relative that you haven't visited with in a long time and may know some family history. If they are close by make an appointment to meet with them, if not close by call them. Remember to ask permission before recording and do not argue with their memory of a family situation—just write it down and attribute their version to them.
- Write down a memory of one or more of your parents, grandparents or siblings. It could be watching your grandmother cook/bake; a day in the park or spending it with your grandparents or parents on vacation, or playing with a sibling.
- Update your family tree with the items you have been meaning to get to!
- Remember to back up your tree.
- Check local archives and libraries to see if they have special events to celebrate Family History Month.
- Use JGSCV's library. The permanent JGSCV library is located at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Their address and hours are posted on our website. We have over 300 books and a number of journals from around the world!
- Use the resources—over 350—on the JGSCV website: www.jgscv.org
- **AND: If you haven't joined or renewed JGSCV for 2016 do so!**

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through June 2016

Sunday afternoons starting at 1:30 Monday evenings starting at 7:00
Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

Check the website and this newsletter for future updates
September No Meeting Due to all the Jewish Holidays

October 11 Sunday **SPECIAL TIME 12:30-2:30 PM** JGSCV's 11th Anniversary Jay Sage: *DNA Testing for Genealogy*. With the incredible drop in the cost of DNA sequencing, DNA testing is now affordable for individuals. Mr. Sage will discuss the role that it can play in genealogical research.

November 2, Monday 7:00-9:00 PM Warren Blatt *Jewish Surnames* Learn when Jewish surnames were first used in various countries, how they developed, and their transformation upon immigration. This presentation will dispel several common myths about Jewish surnames. Classifications of surnames will include: patronymic/matronymic, toponymic, occupational, artificial, religious, and acronyms. Discover which Jewish surnames are the most common in the U.S., Eastern Europe and Israel, as well as sources for learning more about your surnames and how they may be accessed.

December 13, Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Glenn Dynner, Ph.D. *Jews, Liquor, and Life in Eastern Europe*. In Pre-modern Poland the Jewish-run tavern was often the center of leisure, hospitality, business, and even religious festivities. As liquor became the region's boom industry, Jewish tavern keepers became integral to both local economic and local social life. Also, Annual Chanukah Party with Membership prizes

2016

January 3, Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program Marion Werle, *Never Give Up - Strategies for Taking Your Genealogy Research to the Next Level and Finding the Previously Unfindable*

February 14 Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM Annual Assisted Research Day at LA Family History Library. JGSCV Members only.

March 6 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBA Speaker Invited Awaiting Final Approvals

April 4 Monday 7:00-9:00 PM Program Emily Garber. *When It Takes A Village*. This presentation will outline a program for solving genealogical research problems via cluster research techniques including FAN (family, associates, and neighbors). Topics will include: appropriate application, research planning, commonly used resources and documents, and case studies successfully tracking individuals from Europe to the United States, overcoming name and residential changes.

May 1 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Annual Yom Hashoah Program TBA

June 5 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

Programs are subject to change -check JGSCV website www.jgscv.org



Genealogy Roadshow Coming to Los Angeles

Genealogy Roadshow is coming to Los Angeles as part of Season 3! They have invited some genealogical societies to have tables. IAJGS has requested and was approved for tables on December 5—the tables are to promote the 2016 IAJGS Conference, the local societies –JGSCV and JGSLA—and to get signatures for the Genealogists’ Declaration of Rights. The location is unknown at this time but if you are interested in volunteering contact Jan Meisels Allen (president@jgscv.org). It will be a full day so many volunteers will be needed for multiple shifts. Jan will notify members via email when the location is announced.

MEMORIAL FUND ESTABLISHED IN PAMELA WEISBERGER’S NAME:

To honor Pamela's memory in a way most fitting to the life she led, touching so many of you, her family has authorized the establishment of the Pamela Weisberger Memorial Fund, to be administered jointly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles (JGSLA) and Gesher Galicia, the two genealogical organizations to which Pamela devoted herself.

The Pamela Weisberger Memorial Fund contributions will be used to support lectures given in memory of Pamela, for as long as the funds endure. For immediate contributions, please send checks made payable to the Pamela Weisberger Memorial Fund, c/o JGSLA, PO Box 55443, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413. PayPal will be set up shortly. Both organizations are qualified 501(c)(3) organizations.



2016 Membership/Renewal Form
Jewish Genealogical Society
of the
Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*

*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2016

Date _____

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$2.00**

*family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund \$5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Talents that you have to share (accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)

