



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY (JGSCV)

Volume 1, Issue 12

September 2006

President's Message

Our first anniversary is here and I hope to see many of you at our celebratory meeting on Sunday, 17 September, commencing at 1:30 P.M. Gary Froehlich's presentation on Ashkenazi diseases is important for all to hear and promises to be most interesting.

I am pleased to announce that we have a renewed website and new webmaster, JGSCV member Michael Gallop. Michael graciously accepted the position when we posted our need for a new web manager. You can still access our web at www.JGSCV.org and now see a lot more information. There are still some pieces being built — a new look and more "genealogical" information. The JGSCV Family Finder will be the last item Michael puts up — after all the other changes are completed. You will also find our local resources listed, links to a number of genealogically-relevant sites, as well as to Temple Adat Elohim, our meeting co-sponsor. Handouts available from past meetings are included under the prior meetings' button.

We have some dynamite programs coming up (see page 3). Valery Bazarov from the Hebrew Immigrant Aide Society (HIAS) will make a presentation on the various holdings of HIAS that may have significance to genealogy researchers.

Note the one-time change in day and date of our meeting (from the usual Sunday to Wednesday, 15 November at 7:30 P.M.) for the unique opportunity to accommodate Valery's schedule. If evening travel causes any one problems let us know and we will try to find you a ride with another member.

Remember to complete your membership renewal form (see page 4). Whether you already are a member or not, joining now will provide membership through December 2007. Your membership keeps us strong and growing.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 17th.

Jan Meisels Allen

ANNUAL IAJGS CONFERENCE IN NYC DEEMED GREAT SUCCESS

Werner L. Frank

Certainly the most successful ever annual IAJGS annual conference for Jewish Genealogy was held in New York City in the period August 13-18, 2006. Close to 1,500 interested persons attended the offering of over 200 sessions. Our own JGSCV was represented by ten members, six of whom had official capacities as officers of IAJGS or as speakers. Highlights of the Conference will be presented to our membership during the next meeting on 17 September.

This newsletter editor and his wife Phoebe started their visit to the Big Apple with a Saturday midnight stroll around Times Square, just a short walk from the conference hotel, the Marriot Marquis. We could not have planned the serendipitous moment that came along this man-made "Milky Way" when we literally bumped into our cousin from Jerusalem who was in NYC on business. It was an unplanned but happy meeting!

But there were more surprising happenstances during the course of the week. On separate occasions four individuals approached me and identified themselves as distant relations.

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SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

SEE PAGE 4 FOR 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

ABOUT JGSCV.....

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County meets once a month, usually on a Sunday. Meetings are oriented to the needs of the novice as well as the more experienced genealogist. Members share materials, research methods and ideas, as well as research success or failures. Members have access to the JGSCV library located on a special shelf at the Agoura Hills Public Library.

Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email.

2006 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send appropriate amount in check made out to JGSCV and addressed to Richard Munitz at 29633 Windsong Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

ANNUAL IAJGS CONFERENCE IN NYC DEEMED GREAT SUCCESS

(continued from page 1)

These encounters added to the six known cousins who were regulars at these meetings. This phenomena makes these annual international meetings so productive and fun, and a genealogist's delight.

I started off Monday morning by participating in one of many Birds-of-a-Feather sessions held throughout the week, this one sponsored by GERSIG, the special interest group (SIG) of researchers focused on the genealogy of once-speaking German areas. Our discussion concerned various projects being undertaken to digitize data of interest to the group and produce computer accessible databases including: name conversion lists of the early nineteenth century, vital statistics of a special Bavarian area known as Schwabia and the data entry of vital statistics contained in personal announcements from the pages of the weekly *Aufbau* published from 1934 until 2004. Like the other dozen or so of SIGs, GERSIG held a special luncheon providing fellowship and further exchange of common interests.

Of considerable interest to the attendees were the forums devoted to explicating the availability of resources from a variety of archives represented by such organizations as: the Center Genealogy Institute in NYC (American Jewish Historical Society, YIVO, Leo Baeck Institute, Sephardic and Landsmanshaftan resources at the Center of Jewish

History), American Jewish Archives in Cleveland, and the independent organization Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland). Another large number of presentations were oriented to the availability of local government vital records in the New York City area itself.

Many field trips were organized to visit area Jewish cemeteries and local institutions along with government facilities in order to actually do hands-on research. This was in addition to the availability of hard copy archival material and computer facilities for accessing specialized databases in a Resources Room at the conference hotel. There also was an opportunity to visit landmarks such as Ellis Island, the Tenement Museum and the Eldridge Street Synagogue. My visit to the fascinating and eye-opening Lower East Side was enhanced by a Subway breakdown and participation with frantic New Yorkers in finding an alternate means of "getting there." (My solution: a taxi ride).

I found the most interesting set of talks to be devoted to the role of DNA analysis in genealogical research. Several presentations brought us up-to-date with respect to the latest views on genetic genealogy as well as on issues concerning Jewish genetic diseases. One such talk also stretched the technology of remote lecturing. A speaker from Israel was unable to come to the conference due to the emergency war situation. He sent ahead his PowerPoint talk and, with the assistance of a local individual operating the sequencing of the slides, succeeded in providing live audio from Haifa, together with his live video image on the screen.

Perhaps the lasting benefit from the conference is the very thick *Syllabus* that each registrant received, containing a Reference Section identifying major local repositories useful for genealogical research, names and addresses of local Jewish institutions, vendor name-list of participants at the conference and approximately 200 speakers' bios and associated abstracts of their presentations. The program itself was diagrammed in 10 simultaneous sessions running from 8 AM until 6 PM daily, with interspersed movies shown during the day and in the evening on subjects relevant to Jewish genealogy. In addition to a Family Finder section listing surnames and associated town names, our own Hal Bookbinder edited the annual description of around 120 named world-wide organizations devoted to Jewish genealogy. (A copy of this Syllabus has been purchased by JGSCV for access by our membership). Finally, audio CDs are available for purchase containing recordings of most of the presentations.

Next year's conference will be in Salt Lake City, Utah during July 15-20, 2007. Make a decision to be there; you will not regret it. JCGSV members Jan Meisels Allen and Hal Bookbinder are part of the organizing committee.

NEXT MEETING, September 17:

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

Celebrate JGSCV's First Anniversary!

Light refreshments and a gift for all attendees

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting on Sunday, September 17, 2006 co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim at 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 1:30-4:00 p.m. (**NOTE EARLIER START**)

The Topic:

"Our Heritage and Our Health"

Genealogy, DNA and Genetic Conditions Among the Ashkenazi Jews

Gary S. Frohlich, MS, CGC, patient care liaison/certified genetic counselor, Genzyme Therapeutics will talk about the importance of knowing our family health history—an integral part of genealogy—and the increased risks of inherited diseases of Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews. Details taken from interviews and family documents can create a medical history of the family. Gary will teach us why some diseases such as Tay-Sachs, Gaucher, Familial Dysautonomia and others are more common to our families. Come on the journey from the "fertile crescent" (historical region in the Middle East) to the fields of Bavaria! Find out why some Jewish families would benefit from education, screening and testing for certain disorders.

In addition, JGSCV members will report on the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Conference held in New York City.

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. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

For more information contact: publicity@jgscv.org

Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616

6052 Hackers Lane Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

November 15, 2006: Special Wednesday evening, 7:30 PM meeting featuring Valery Bazarov, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), discussing "Genealogist as Detective: Solving Mysteries Using HIAS Case Files"

There will be no meeting in October due to the prevalence of the Jewish Holy Days.

December 10, 2006: Back to Sunday afternoon 2:00 PM schedule featuring Ron Arons, "Bugsy Segal and Meyer Lansky — The Men Behind the Flamingo Hotel"

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

2007 Annual Dues:

Dues paid now are good through December 2007!

Check one:

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 upon recognizing 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 to: Richard Munitz
29633 Windsong Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State_____ Zip+4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

(This is very important as all communication is done by e-mail!)

- We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at newslettereditor@jgscv.org .

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman	information@jgscv.org
Richard Munitz, Membership	membership@jgscv.org	Warren Blatt, New Member Education	education@jgscv.org
Dalya Dektor, Treasurer	treasurer@jgscv.org	Werner Frank, Newsletter Editor	newslettereditor@jgscv.org
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary	secretary@jgscv.org	Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project	frank@jgscv.org
	Stewart Bernstein, Speaker's Bureau	stewart@jgscv.org	

Website: www.jgscv.org Michael Gallop, Webmaster: webmaster@jgscv.org Raya Sagi, Librarian: librarian@jgscv.org
Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616