



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 1, Issue 4

January 2006

JGSCV's Fourth Meeting

Some Attendees at the Meeting



Topic: Putting Flesh on the Bones

On December 4, 2005 the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) held its fourth meeting at the site of co-sponsor Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks, California. The sixty attendees were treated to an in depth presentation of research techniques that can be utilized to uncover collateral information concerning any one of our ancestors.

The featured speaker was Ron Arons who gave vivid examples of archival documents that are likely to be available in institutional records, newspaper files, family letters and diaries, as well as government agency archives. Ron showed the importance of networking among immediate family and those families that came from one's ancestral home.

Chanukah was in the air as attendees enjoyed cookies and beverages. The holiday was somewhat accelerated by the gifts of nine genealogically relevant door prizes. Winners were David Oseas, Al Miller, Dalya Dektor, Hal Bookbinder, Helene Rosen, Mindy Levy, Judy Morningstar, Sharon Rosenthal and Jack Bruckman. All attendees received a free copy of *Family Tree Magazine*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

At our December 4th meeting, several more people joined JGSCV. We are delighted to have reached the 100 member mark with the enrollment of Carole Webber. What a fantastic achievement in four short months. On behalf of the entire JGSCV interim board of directors, we thank all the people who have joined as well as those who are still considering joining. We are most fortunate that our society has a mixture of well-seasoned genealogists and those first experiencing the fun and delight of genealogy!

At our November meeting we had a wonderful presentation by Ron Arons, who showed us how to move from one piece of research to another. Our January meeting will help those who are new to genealogy by showing them how to start their research. Even if you have been doing your genealogy for a while, you can learn from the presentations as well as help others by sharing your experiences.

We want ALL the members to recognize this is YOUR genealogy society. Some of our members have already "taken ownership" by volunteering for the publicity committee and the cemetery project. If others want to become more involved with JGSCV, there is always something to be done—just let us know.

Jan Meisels Allen

SEE PAGE 4 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING JGSCV MEETINGS

SEE PAGE 2 FOR EXTRA JANUARY SESSIONS

JGS Conejo Valley and Ventura County Library Holdings at the Agoura Library

Electronic Newsletters

Atsmi Uvsari (My Bone and My Flesh) JGS Utah
No. 9, 10

Branches JGS Greater Miami Sep 2005, Dec 2005

Illinana JGS Winter 2005-6

JGS-NYT JGS Denmark Vol 1 (4 issues) 2004;
Vol 2 (3 issues) 2005

Looking Back JGS Tampa Bay (Vol 1 # 3&4 2005)

Mishpacha JGS Greater Washington (Vol. 24 # 4
- Fall 2005)

Mishpochology JGS Southwest Florida (Vol. 10
No. 3, 4 Fall, Winter 2005)

Montreal Forum JGS Montreal (Vol. 1-1 Sept.
2005; 1-2 December 2005)

Newsletter JGS Great Britain (#33 October 2005)

Toldot JGS Argentina (no. 26 Jul 2005, No. 27
November 2005)

Venturing Into Our Past JGS Conejo Valley and
Ventura County (No. 1- Oct 2005, #2 Nov 2005,
#3 Dec 2005, #4 Jan 2006)

Zichron Note JGS San Francisco Bay Area Vo. 25
N. 4 (November 2005)

Journals

*Stammbaum Journal of German-Jewish
Genealogy* (# 25, Summer 2004, #26 Winter 2005,
#27 Summer 2005)

Books

*A Century of Ambivalence: The Jews of Russia
and the Soviet Union 1881- present;* Zvi
Gitelman, 1998

*Genealogical Resources in the New York
Metropolitan Area;* Ed. Estelle Guzik, Jewish
Genealogical Society, 1989

*Jewish Heroes & Heroines: Their Unique
Achievement;* Darryl Lyman

*Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family
Across Time and Circumstance;* Werner L. Frank,
Avotaynu 2003

My Destiny: Survivor of the Holocaust; Georgia
Gabo, Amen Publishing Company, 1981

EXTRA MEETING...THE PUBLIC IS INVITED

We announce a special two lecture series oriented to genealogy to be held during the Winter Semester 2006 Adult Education Program of Chabad of the Conejo. These free sessions are co-sponsored by our own JGSCV and Chabad of Agoura and will be held at:

Conejo Jewish Academy
30345 Canwood Street
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
818-991-0991

JGSCV member Werner L. Frank will present two talks on successive Monday evenings as follows:

Monday, 16 January at 8:00 P.M.

The Genealogist's Crowning Achievement Recording His Legacy

Werner L. Frank has published a meticulously researched 900 page family history: "Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance." Mr. Frank has amassed a database of over 30,000 names extending back to the 13th century, made possible by connecting to a rabbinic dynasty. Mr. Frank will discuss the creation of the book and some of his incredible discoveries in conducting research in ancestral towns and specialized libraries in Germany, Israel, and the United States.

Monday, 23 January at 8:00 P.M.

Jewish Royalty: The Role of Rabbinic Dynasties in Extending One's Genealogy

Chances are that you are a descendant of a well known rabbinic leader. Or, you may discover such a tie after pursuing some genealogical research. If such a rabbinic connection can be made, you may be able to trace your origin to the middle ages — if not to King David himself.

THERE IS NO FEE FOR ATTENDANCE

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

JGSVC is initiating a project to list Jews that are buried in cemeteries located in the Conejo Valley and Ventura County. This effort is part of JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR). Volunteers are needed to visit five local cemeteries and record vital information of deceased individuals. If interested in assisting, please contact Frank Tessel at frank@jgscv.org.

BE PREPARED TO VOTE FOR THE JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR 2006

JGSCV has been served by an interim Board since its inception in September 2005. Elections will be held at the January 8 meeting for a Board of Directors that will serve during 2006. A brief biography of the 9 interim board members who have agreed to run for office is included below. During our December 4 meeting there was a call for nominations from the floor. No other candidates were identified. Subsequent to this meeting, according to our by-laws, nominations are closed. JGSCV by-laws limit the number of people to serve on the Board as no less than 6 nor more than 10 elected persons. Questions concerning the elections can be addressed to president@JGSCV.org.

Jan Meisels Allen, Interim President, who led the organizing committee in creating the new JGSCV. Jan serves on the board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) chairing the Public Records Access and Monitoring Committee concerned with access to vital records. She served on the board of the JGSLA for 5 years and is the Yizkor Book translation coordinator under JewishGen for two of her ancestral shtetls. She has been active in genealogy since 1998.

Stewart Bernstein, Interim Speaker's Bureau Coordinator and original organizing committee member. His term as an interim Board member included opening the doors to researchers' family histories and he looks forward to continuing in that capacity. Stewart started the Pultusk Area Group on JewishGen, initiated the translation of the Pultusk Yizkor Book, and has been involved in genealogy for a number of years.

Debra Kay Blatt, Interim information officer and member of the original organizing committee. Debra has been researching her family history for the past seven years. She has been a volunteer for JewishGen and has published in the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal.

Warren Blatt, interim webmaster and member of the original organizing committee. Warren is the Editor-in-chief of JewishGen, the premier on-line site for Jewish Genealogy. He is a winner of the IAJGS' Lifetime Achievement award. He is the author of two books and numerous journal articles.

Dalya Dektor, Interim Treasurer, and member of the original organizing committee. She was in charge of the initial JGSCV publicity campaign. Dalya has been responsible for fund raising for the Channelaire Chorus during the past ten years. She has been working on her family genealogy for the past thirty years.

Dorothy Drilich, Interim Secretary and member of the original organizing committee. Dorothy has had a long time interest in her family history and has started her genealogy research in recent years.

Werner L. Frank is the editor of the JGSVC newsletter and member of the interim board and original organizing committee member. Werner has spoken at a number of IAJGS conferences and written articles for *Stammbaum*, *Avotaynu* and *Maajan*. He has authored his family's 800-year history in "*Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance*" published by Avotaynu.

Richard Munitz, interim Vice President of Membership, was an original member of the organizing committee. Richard retired 3+ years ago from Beverly Hills High School, where he taught English and was an assistant principal. He is active in a variety of volunteer activities, including JGSCV. He has been involved with his family genealogy for some years.

Frank Tessel, interim cemetery project coordinator. Frank started a networking group in Simi which he ran for two years. He has been working with the Jewish community for thirteen years. His knowledge of computers and genealogy extends over many years.

HELP.....We need a volunteer accountant to advise us on completing our tax-exempt organization's Federal and State tax forms. If you have the necessary qualifications to help us in fulfilling our obligations, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org or call 818-889-6616.

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

"How To Begin Your Genealogy Research"

Wondering how to begin your research? Confused on how to proceed? What questions to ask your relatives? Who to research? Where to research next?

Charter members of JGSCV Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay Blatt and Hal Bookbinder will discuss the best way to begin your genealogy research and provide suggested questions to elicit responses from your relatives in order to fill in missing information on your family tree.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim
at 2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks CA
Sunday, January 8, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.

For more information contact information@JGSCV.org See: www.JGSCV.org Or call Jan Meisels Allen at 818-889-66

ADVANCE NOTICE OF FUTURE MEETINGS at Temple Adat Elohim, Thousand Oaks CA

February 5, 2006: "Jewish Treasures in the Ventura County Museum Archives" presented by Charles Johnson, Librarian, Ventura County Museum who will discuss the many resources of interest to Jews held in the Ventura County Museum including the A. Levy collection.

March 5, 2006: Documentary *Children of Terezin*. The film depicts the return to Terezin of a few survivors, the young artists and poets who participated in the underground classes that encouraged the inmates with the power of music, poetry and painting and documents the horror behind the propaganda of the so called "paradise ghetto." Stewart Bernstein, a member of the Board of JGSVC and a producer of the film, will lead a discussion on the making of the documentary.

Also, mark the following dates in 2006 for future meetings: April 9, May 7 and June 11.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President
Richard Munitz, Membership
Dalya Dektor, Treasurer
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary
Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project

president@jgscv.org
membership@jgscv.org
treasurer@jgscv.org
secretary@jgscv.org
frank@jgscv.org

Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman information@jgscv.org
Warren Blatt, Webmaster webmaster@jgscv.org
Werner Frank, Newsletter Editor newslettereditor@jgscv.org
Raya Sagi, Librarian librarian@jgscv.org
Stewart Bernstein, Speaker's Bureau stewart@jgscv.org

Website: www.jgscv.org

Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Publicity: publicity@jgscv.org

Phone: 818-889-6616