



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 1, Issue 8

May 2006



Panelists Jan Meisels Allen, Warren Blatt, Debra Kay Blatt

Fifty-five attendees, including eight first-timers, were present at the April 9 JGSCV meeting:

"How to Begin Your Genealogy, Part II - Researching the Internet"

presented by board members Debra Kay Blatt and Warren Blatt. Jan Meisels Allen, JGSCV president, gave a presentation on researching city directories and U.S. military records. This program is part of a multi-session series being held throughout 2006 to demonstrate how to do various aspects of genealogy. Part III will be held later this year.

Questions were submitted in advance by JGSCV members related to records in the census, Ellis Island and other US port arrivals, naturalization, name changes and the role of JewishGen. Debra and Warren answered questions by showing examples of how to best research these queries on the Internet and using JewishGen's FAQ at www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/faq.html, which often directs one to the appropriate Internet site.

Jan showed the value of city directories as genealogical tools for tracing where someone lived over time, assist in finding people in censuses, learning their occupations and who else lived in the same household. U.S. Military records on the Internet range from the Revolutionary War to more recent conflicts. Sample records of genealogically relevant information were shown.

Richard Munitz, JGSCV's V.P. Membership, videoed the program. The resulting DVD will be available shortly for borrowing by JGSCV members.

President's Message...

This month I want to share information that I have found interesting and pertinent to our research:

[Click here: virtual cinema of The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive](#)

You can easily spend several hours on this collection of films. If you click on one of the subjects on the opening page, it will lead you to a number of choices on that subject. Just keep clicking some films are just fabulous!

When your chosen film comes up, instead of squinting, just click on the X on the left under the 'screen' and it will go to full screen. Allow yourself plenty of time to enjoy.

The Academy Award winning documentary (VHS) "Into the Arms of Strangers: Stories of the Kindertransport" was donated to JGSCV by member Fran Entin. Werner Frank has made available the DVD, "We Were So Beloved," the pre WWII emigration story of German Jews to New York's Washington Heights. Richard Munitz recorded on DVD the January program, "How To Begin Your Genealogy Research, Part I". All three shows may be borrowed by members only. Please contact jan@JGSCV.org if you wish to borrow one or more of these items.

A unique opportunity presents itself on a one-time basis as GenAmi, the French Jewish Genealogical Society makes available to the public a view of its current 28-page newsletter #35 at www.genami.org. Key topics included: research in London, genetics and genealogy, the cemetery of Trimbach, Alsace, history of Loeb Wolfowitch Sandalowski (minister of Jews in Lorraine) and the story of the chief Rabbi of France, Jacob Kaplan.

Jan Meisels Allen

Seeking a volunteer to take responsibility for the JVSCG website. Anyone interested should contact President Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS



Jewish Genealogical Society (New York)
is hosting the
26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish
Genealogy

August 13-18, 2006
New York Marriott Marquis Hotel

Make your plans now to attend this exciting
conference. Check the website for attendance and
hotel registration details at www.jgsny2006.org.

The kickoff session will take place Sunday
evening, August 13, 2006 with keynote speaker
Dr. Allen Weinstein, Ninth Archivist of the
United States.

ABOUT JGSCV.....

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Conejo Valley
and Ventura County meets once a month 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. Editorial and
feature articles, as well as tips for pursuit of
genealogical research are welcome. Send such
material as a file attachment or message via email
to newslettereditor@jgscv.org

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.

Preserving Genealogical Data

Tips from Hal Bookbinder [hal@jgscv.org]

We go to a lot of effort to gather family pictures,
documentation, recordings, newspaper clippings
and stories. Yet, if we are not careful, these precious
items may be lost forever. Here are some hints to
consider in protecting these finds:

- Mark pictures lightly on the back in pencil. Ink will bleed through. Don't use glue. It will bleed through as well.
- Only use archival quality tape, sleeves, binders and boxes for your pictures and documents. Otherwise, the chemicals and acids in these items will slowly destroy them.
- Don't rush to remove materials from non-archival albums. This may damage the contents. Consider interleaving the pages with high quality paper or plastic sheets.
- Protect pictures and documents from exposure to ultraviolet light. Cover with ultraviolet light blocking plastic film.
- Newspaper is highly acidic. It will yellow and eventually crumble into dust. Anti-acid solutions/sprays may help, but are not fool proof. Test the solution before using.
- It is best to copy such items onto good bond paper. Cheaper copy paper is itself acidic and will not last.
- Scan pictures and documents so that you can transmit and reprint them in the future.
- Documents can actually be harmed by the heat and harsh light in copying and scanning. So, if particularly valuable, consider photographing the document without artificial light.
- Regularly back up your data and scanned copies of pictures and documents onto CD-ROMs and DVDs. Keep one copy at home and others elsewhere.
- Tape recordings and "read/write" CDs deteriorate over time and in a matter of just five or ten years can become useless.
- Use "write-once, read many" CD-ROMs and DVDs for long-term retention. They should last for decades.
- And, most importantly, share copies of your trees, stories, data, pictures and documents with others!

For additional information on preservation, see
[\[www.cyndislist.com/preservation.htm\]](http://www.cyndislist.com/preservation.htm)

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

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

The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe

Eastern European border changes occurred over the past millennium, interspersing Russian views about Jews in their midst – including those in the Pale of Settlement. One's ancestral home may have been under the rules of several countries at different times. Recognizing which government was in control at various times can help genealogists in their research in understanding the environment in which their ancestors lived, events that stimulated migration, languages in which records were kept and likely locations where records might be found.

Hal Bookbinder, immediate past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and a founding member of the JGSCV will give this talk.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim
at 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks CA
Sunday, May 7 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 818-889-6616

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates Through June 2006
All Meetings are held 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

June 11, 2006 "The Wayfarers," Stuart Tower will talk on his historical novel which chronicles the emigration, *on foot*, of thousands of Jews from Romania across Europe and to America during 1899-1914. In Yiddish, these wayfarers were called *fusgeyers*...they who went by foot. There will be an opportunity to buy the book at the meeting.

Meeting dates for the balance of the year will be available in the next issue of the Newsletter. There will be no meeting in August due to the IAJGS Conference in New York City, nor in October due to the High Holydays.

A Genealogical Success Story by Helene Rosen



**Mr. & Mrs. Philip Loevner
60th Wedding Anniversary**

I want to share the exciting genealogical adventure I have had. My grandfather came to this country and settled in Pittsburgh in the early 20th century. He died before I was born and what little I knew about his family came from recollections my mother told me many years ago.

Through JewishGen, I recently received an email from Pam, who was researching a name that I had posted on the Discussion Group. Pam provided me with the names of two brothers who had the same last name as my grandfather and had settled in Pittsburgh. Checking my records, I knew right away that these brothers were two of eight siblings that included my grandfather. This, plus a few other tidbits, confirmed this.

In the space of a few days all kinds of things came to light. The Ellis Island arrival record of my grandfather was just waiting for my click. I never thought to look for this record since I knew little about where and when he might have arrived. His manifest record provided an exact hometown that matched a note that I had on a scrap of paper from year before.

Then I looked through a box of miscellaneous items that I had collected over the years. I found two newspaper clippings with photographs. One described the 50th wedding anniversary celebration of one of the brothers that had been cited to me and the other told of their 60th anniversary celebration in 1933 (see attached photo). By mail, I also received the death certificate for my grandfather that I had requested.

New information resulted from these documents. I had always thought that the name of my great grandfather was Joseph. Now I learn that it was Benjamin Joseph. This turned out to be significant in the search for more information. Also, his mother's maiden name was included, another big discovery. With this new information, Pam made the leap to Europe. She discovered many records at the family's hometown and identified relatives back to 1785. We now go back more generations and know about weddings, births, and relationships that we never dreamed of.

Now here is the best part. Pam, who is doing the research, is not my relative. Her husband turns out to be my second cousin once removed. Her husband's great-grandfather is the brother that celebrated 60 years of marriage. Pam is putting together a book of genealogy for her father-in-law's (my second cousin) 80th birthday. It turns out that Pam lives in Australia with her husband and children, and stranger yet, the father-in-law lives here in Los Angeles. So, when they visit from Australia this coming June for the birthday celebration, we will get to meet!

- We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at newslettereditor@jgscv.org .
- We also seek a volunteer to take responsibility for constructing and maintaining our website. Anyone interested in this activity should contact President Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org .

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

BEVERLY WISOTSKY, ALICIA WOLIN, ROSLYN WOLIN

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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