

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 2, Issue 1

October 2006

President's Message

JGSCV's first anniversary meeting was very successful. Temple Adat Elohim president, Ken Bock, greeted us and said he hopes we have a long term relationship for many years to come—and we hope so too!

Helene Rosen and Jan Meisels Allen gave an overview of the IAJGS New York 2006 conference. Ten JGSCV members attended the conference, six of whom were also presenters. A copy of the Syllabus is in JGSCV's permanent library collection at the Agoura Hills Library. A CD of the syllabus is available to borrow for members-only.

Guest speaker, Gary Frohlich, certified genetic counselor, Genzyme Therapeutics, gave a very educational and interesting presentation on the 11 most common "Jewish" genetic diseases—predominately affecting Ashkenazi Jews. These diseases also affect the general population but to a lesser degree. While the most recognized "Jewish" genetic disease is Tay Sachs, it is Type 1 Gaucher's disease that has a higher occurrence, with 1 of every 15 Jews being carriers and effecting 1 out of every 450 Jews. Luckily, there is a treatment for Gaucher's disease.

Gary emphasized the need for testing — not only pre-child bearing, but if certain symptoms occur in children or the older adult. Every attendee received an educational DVD "Recognizing Type I Gaucher Disease: Patient Perspectives." A limited number of these DVD's are available for those who did not attend. Please contact me at jan@JGSCV.org if you are interested. Genzyme Therapeutics generously provided refreshments for all attendees, which helped celebrate our first anniversary.



SPEAKER: GARY FROHLICH

JGSCV's membership renewal campaign started with a bang — 18 membership renewals and two new memberships through December 2007. Our December 10 meeting will have drawings for genealogical gifts — only those who join or renew for 2007, by that meeting, will be eligible for the prizes. See page 4 for a renewal/membership form or go to www.JGSCV.org and click on membership.

Please remember that we are not meeting in the month of October due to all the holidays. Our November 15 meeting will be held on Wednesday evening at 7:30 p.m. If you do not drive at night and need a ride, please contact one of the board members so we can try to find you a ride. This is a special meeting with Valery Bazarov from the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society.

On behalf of the JGSCV Board, we wish everyone a happy, healthy, safe and peaceful New Year.

Jan Meisels Allen, President JGSCV

SEE PAGE FOR 3 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.

2007 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.

FINDING ALMOST ANYTHING IN ONE EASY STEP

The most versatile website available to genealogists may be one authored and managed by Steve Morse at <http://stevemorse.org>. A variety of easy entry forms are provided to access diverse databases containing information useful in researching one's family.

Morse initially focused his search tools to Ellis Island immigrant and ship arrivals (1892-1924). As of this writing, 13 forms are now available with which to access a variety of related Ellis Island information. Subsequently, additional port arrival forms have been made available: Castle Garden and earlier arrivals, 1820-1891 (10 Forms); other ports such as Baltimore, Boston, Galveston, Philadelphia, and San Francisco (17 Forms); US Census, 1790-1940 (15 Forms); Canadian and British Census (5 Forms); New York Census (2 Forms); Births, Deaths and other Vital Records (19 Forms); Calendar related data and Maps (12 Forms); Issues with foreign alphabets focused on Hebrew, Russian and Greek (17 Forms); Holocaust related (3 Forms); plus a variety of other helpful tools (22 Forms).

If you have never used the query formats designed by Steve Morse you are missing a real opportunity to ease your data search. If you have not recently accessed his site you will be surprised by the continuing addition of aids that make genealogy research that much easier.

LDS Family History Library Digitization of Records

All genealogists are grateful to the vast resources of the LDS Family History Library and the local Family History Centers, whose resources are open to everyone including non-Church members.

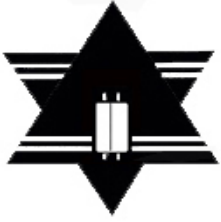
The LDS Family History Library located in Salt Lake City, Utah, was founded in 1894 to gather genealogical records and assist members of the LDS Church with their family history and genealogical research. It is the largest library of its kind in the world, with over 2.4 million rolls of microfilmed genealogical records; 742,000 microfiche; 310,000 books, serials, and other formats; 4,500 periodicals; and 700 electronic resources.

Due to this overwhelming number of genealogical documents, the microfilmed records at the LDS's Granite Mountain Records Vault are being converted to digital images that can eventually be viewed online at www.FamilySearch.org, and ultimately searched in and linked to an online index. The digitized records will be available to everyone, not only LDS Church members. While originally thought to take about 30 years, the LDS now estimates a substantial portion of their collection will be digital images within 6 years! The project began in 2005. In addition, they are also digitizing published family histories — starting with those that are out of copyright. The prioritization for digitizing the records is based on need, interest and LDS church membership, and therefore, leans strongly to the US and to Western Europe. This is of interest to Jewish Genealogists as the process will include birth, marriage and death records, census and other genealogically valuable records.

The digitized materials can be accessed at www.lib.byu.edu. As the material goes on-line, they are creating links from the material to the digitized website. One can search for names, photographs, maps, etc. in the Brigham Young University (BYU) Digitalized records at the following site: <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu/cgi-bin/advsearch.exe>.

Information for this JGSCV Newsletter item was partially obtained from Daniel Schlyter, IAJGS Board Member and Eastern European Specialist at the LDS Family History Department, and Barbara Algaze, librarian, JGSLA.

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



**Jewish Genealogical Society
of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*
(* and surrounding areas)
Wednesday, November 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m.*
at Temple Adat Elohim,
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

*** different day of week and time for this month only**

Genealogist As Detective: Solving Mysteries Using HIAS Case Files

Valery Bazarov, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)— Location and Family History Service, will speak on HIAS activity from the first flood of the Eastern European Jews in the 1880s, to rescuing the last Jews of Iraq during the recent conflict— HIAS has been instrumental in bringing about four million Jews to the US. The discussion includes bringing thousands of Jews displaced after WWII, and the massive exodus of Soviet Jewry in the 1970s. By using case studies, with the help of archival documents, Valery will discuss the scope of HIAS and YIVO archives "where to go for what" and that reconnecting with family past becomes possible.

Valery is a Russian émigré, coming to the US in 1988, the same year he joined HIAS, is currently responsible for the HIAS Location and Family History Service. Over the next decade, he assisted with the arrival of more than 200,000 Jewish refugees who came to the United States under HIAS auspices. Valery is helping immigrants of different generations in finding family members and friends - often in other countries - whom they lost contact with over the years, sometimes decades.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim

There is no charge to attend.

All are welcome to join the JGSCV.

For more information: information@JGSCV.org , see www.JGSCV.org or call Jan Meisels Allen at 818-889-6616

**Future JGSCV Meeting Dates
All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

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 Siegel and Meyer Lansky — The Men Behind the Flamingo Hotel"

First-half 2007 meeting dates: January 7, February 11, March 18, April 15, May 6, and June 10

2007 Membership Renewal Form

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: Frank and Beth Perez, Ellen Kossoris

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dalya Dektor, Treasurer
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