



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 2, Issue 7

April 2007

President's Letter

On April 15 we will commemorate Yom Hashoah Day (Holocaust Memorial Day) at our meeting. We also celebrate the month of *Nissan* (March 20-April 18), as Jewish Genealogy Month. JGSCV is tying both occasions together by encouraging all members and interested parties to complete Pages of Testimony (POT) to honor the memory of those who perished in the holocaust. To complete a form go to: http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace!/ut/p/cm/d/cs./ce/7_0_A/s/7_0_2C0/s.7_0_A/7_0_2C0. JGSCV will also have these forms available at our next meeting.

March was Women's History Month. It is usually more challenging to research our female ancestry roots due to women changing their name as a result of marriage. Also, historical records usually favor the identification of the male family line over the females. In the past many of our female ancestors were often "hidden behind the scenes." What better way to honor our female ancestors than to research their lines, including writing their story and incorporating it in your genealogy and memorializing those who perished in the Shoah with a POT. This will provide future family members something to remember, passed down and shared again and again. For example, a recipe passed down from one generation to another, a story of cooking or baking with mother, grandmother or aunt, or a story remembering how they cared for you when you were ill with the flu or measles — all goes to recalling and honoring them.

I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting.

Jan Meisels Allen



**DR. JOEL
WEINTRAUB**

**SPEAKER AT
MARCH 18
MEETING OF
JGSCV**

"Navigating the New York and Federal Censuses with Fewer Tears...and More", was engaging, entertaining and educational! Dr. Weintraub is Professor Emeritus, Cal State University Fullerton, and is also known as "Generic Dr. Morse," due to his collaboration with Steve Morse of One-Step fame.

In his presentation, Joel provided a quick review of the One-Step process and how it helps with Ellis Island immigration records and census research — both Federal and New York State. In 1905, one out of 20 U.S. residents, and an estimated half of the US Jewish population, lived in New York City — making these early 20th century censuses of vital interest to Jewish genealogists.

Joel also gave us a preview of what to expect with the 1940 US census, which will be released April 1, 2012. Since the U.S. was in war-time, some familiar questions from previous censuses were replaced by more specific issues addressing immigration. The 1940 census was the first US census that used sampling of a percentage of the population for supplemental questions. Attendees were also advised about the likely questions that will be posed for the upcoming 2010 census.



Don't forget to make your plans to attend the 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City. It will be a genealogical trip of a lifetime! Go to www.slc2007.org for more information.

Conference attendees are invited to volunteer to serve at the registration desk and other areas. If interested, contact Jan Meisels Allen at jan@jgscv.org

SEE PAGE 4 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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 Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

JGSCV Outreach to Community

Two outreach programs were offered by JGSCV. On January 29/30, 2007, President Jan Meisels Allen presented several sessions on Jewish genealogy to students of Temple Adat Elohim. A letter of appreciation for Jan's efforts indicated that the idea of examining one's family history hit an accord with the classes.

On January 30, Newsletter editor Werner Frank made two presentations at Oaks Christian School of Thousand Oaks in connection with their Symposium 2007, an all day celebration of multi cultures. His theme was focused on "What is Your Story," showing how the students can trace their own roots. This event and our participation received generous coverage by the Ventura County Star in its publication of February 8, 2007.

FLASH NEWS.....

Effective April 1 the LDS Family History Library and its local Centers will no longer provide free access to all of the Ancestry.com databases. However, certain databases will remain available at no charge. This action is due to the inability of the two parties to negotiate a continuation of the current agreement. If you plan to do research at the local Family History Center using the soon-to-be terminated databases of Ancestry.com you should make your visit before April 1. (see www.JGSCV.org resources for a list of locations)

Western States Jewish History Journal Announces New Website

Anyone with interest in the history of Jewish settlement and life in the West of the United States should become familiar with the Western States Jewish History Journal. This magazine is published quarterly and subscription information is available at its website: www.wsjhistory.com .

The Journal has just announced the availability of two online indexes to the 31 year volumes that have been published, one index by individual person's name and the second by location. Archival links are yet to be activated to five related libraries that hold the Journal's rich collection of books and documents reflecting on the history of Western States Jewry.

LAC Announces Completion of Database

The Library and Archives Canada (LAC) announces the completion of the database regarding the Likacheff-Ragosine-Mathers collection (LI-RA-MA). This database contains documents created between 1898 and 1922 by the consular offices of the Tsarist Russian Empire in Canada. The series on passports and identity papers is comprised of about 11,400 files on Jewish, Ukrainian and Finnish immigrants who came to Canada from the Russian Empire. The series includes passport applications and questionnaires containing general information. First released at the end of October 2006, the remaining 35,000 digitized images were recently added, bringing the total to 55,000.

See www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants.

(Referenced from the Eastman Blog)

Holocaust Remembrance Day Memorial

Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Simi Valley will hold a memorial service on Sunday, April 15, 2007 at 10 A.M. to honor those who perished in the Shoah. In this connection Mount Sinai is sponsoring the construction of a memorial tapestry composed of individual contributions of cloth squares quilted together and containing a name of a survivor, liberator or perished victim. For more information and participation in the making of the quilt go to www.mountsinainparks.org and click on Yom Ha'Shoah.



27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Sunday, July 15—Friday, July 20

Hilton City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

**Network with international
researchers, experts and archivists, and
access the world's largest genealogical library**

World-famous speakers

Film Festival

Focused SIG programming

DNA & Genetics Track

Computer Workshops

Breakfast with Experts

Special Photo Exhibit

On-site Resource Room

Free WIFI Access

For all event details, program and registration

www.sl2007.org

JOIN YOUR FELLOW JGSCV MEMBERS IN ATTENDING THIS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED CONFERENCE FOR A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE WHICH WILL ALSO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE RICH GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMONS) IN SALT LAKE CITY.



**Commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day
Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society
of the Conejo Valley and Ventura
County* (* and surrounding areas)**

**Sunday, April 15, 2007 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

"There Once Was A Town"

**Award-winning PBS Documentary on a visit to an ancestral shtetl
commemorating Yom Hashoah Day (Holocaust Memorial Day)**

In 1941, Nazis invaded the small town of Eishyshok, Poland (now Lithuania), and brutally murdered nearly all 3,500 Jewish residents. Fifty-six years after the massacre, four survivors and their families return to their childhood home. This remarkable 90-minute documentary is narrated by Actor Ed Asner, a descendant of an Eishyshok family.

Professor and author Yaffa Eliach leads the group in its search for remnants of Jewish life that flourished before the war. The documentary is based in part on Professor Eliach's critically acclaimed book, "There Once Was a World: A Nine Hundred Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok."

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim

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 @ 818-889-6616

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

May 6, 2007: "Genealogy in the Round: Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls." Come and share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall, or genealogical artifact! This is YOUR meeting—We all learn from one another—take this opportunity to share your genealogical story—success or failure, ask questions about your brick walls, and more!

June 10, 2007: "Jewish Genealogy and DNA Testing" presented by Bennett Greenspan, president and founder FamilyTree DNA. The lecturer will explain how DNA is used for genealogy—what it can do for the modern genealogist and what it is unlikely to accomplish. Examples of DNA tests will be presented showing how a genealogist can look at the results and have a sound understanding how it applies to your specific family for genealogy purposes. Both the Y (male) and the mitochondrial (female) chromosomes will be discussed.

No JGSCV meeting in July due to the IAJGS Conference July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah

Traveling Library—Books

(These books are available for inspection at each of our monthly meetings and are in addition to the bibliography that was published in the March issue of this Newsletter)

- A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery, Segal, Rabbi Joshua L., Jewish Cemetery Publishing 2005
- A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation and Migrations, Beider, Alexander, Avotaynu, 2001
- A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From Galicia, Beider, Alexander, Avotaynu, 2004
- A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From the Kingdom of Poland, Beider, Alexander, Avotaynu, 1996
- A History of the Jews, Sachar Abram Leon, Alfred Knopf, 1934
- A History of the Marranos, Roth, Cecil, Jewish Publication Society, 1932
- Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy, Sack, Sallyann Amdur and Mokotoff, Gary, Avotaynu, 2004
- Documentary History of the Jews in the United States 1654-1875, Schappes, Morris, Citadel Press, 1950
- The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust, ed. Spector, Shmuel 3 vol 1: A-J; 2 K-Serd, 3- Serdina-buda-Z Yad Vashem, NYU, 2001
- Farewell Hispana: The World of the Sephardim Remembered, First Vintage Books Ed., 1994
- Family Reunion Handbook A Guide to Family Reunion Planning, Barbara Brown and Tome Ninkovich Reunion Research, 1992
- From Generation to Generation, How To Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History, Kurzweil, Arthur, Jossey-Bass publishers
- Monuments, Rites and History, Kinga Frojimovics, Geza Komoroczy, Viktoria Pusztai and Andrea Strbik, CEU Press 1999
- Jewish Heroes & Heroines of America: 150 True Stories of American Jewish Heroism, Sy Brody, Lifetime Books, Inc.
- Going To Salt Lake City To Do Family History Research Third ed. J. Carlyle Parker, Marietta Publishing Co., 1996
- How We Lived: A Documentary History of Immigrant Jews in American 1880-1930, Irving Howe and Kenneth Libo Plume- New American Library, 1979
- Jewish Budapest
- Jewish Residents of San Buenaventura & Vicinity, October 2005
- National Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Cooperation with the US Holocaust Memorial Council, 1993
- Pioneer Jews: A New Life in the Far West, Rochlin, Harriet and Fred, Houghton, Mifflin Co. , 1984
- Ventura County: Garden of the World, Ventura County Museum, Vol. 46, 2002

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: David Gaynon

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman	information@jgscv.org
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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