



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 2, Issue 9

June 2007

President's Message

We have just received wonderful news from Temple Adat Elohim: The list of meeting dates for August 2007-June 2008! (See page 4 for list of future meetings). JGSCV is most appreciative to the Temple, our program co-sponsor, without whom we would not be as successful. The board is actively working on the programs for the fall now that we have the dates.

With the number of JGSCV members planning on attending the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy this summer in Salt Lake City our August meeting will be for sharing our conference experiences, the research breakthrough, a fascinating lecture, a moving film, meeting a previously unknown kinsman and more!

The hottest topic in genealogy is DNA and genetics. Our June 10 speaker, Bennett Greenspan, founder of FamilyTree DNA is the expert on this fascinating subject. This is a meeting not to miss!

The very successful May meeting had members sharing their successes, failures, artifacts and brick walls. Nine attendees participated (see Photo Gallery on page 5):

Lina Boardman discussed her Dutch roots, being the only survivor in her family. She emphasized the importance of going to the archives to obtain documented information and not rely on family information or information posted on the Internet that might not be accurate.

Stewart Bernstein shared how he found that his father had volunteered for the Army a second time (having been refused the first time due to being underage) using the name "Albert Murphy," thus explaining his lifelong nickname "Murph."

Susan Geiger talked about how the Internet and the JGS of Central NJ helped her find a cousin.

Fred Land talked about finding out that his father was Jewish, a fact previously hidden — which led to finding previously unknown family and two Jewish grandfathers.

Elizabeth Miller talked about the research a European cousin had done which led to her finding relatives she thought had perished in the Shoah.

Judy Pines talked of her brick walls and the members gave suggestions of where to research next.

Helene Rosen talked of her La Grange Texas ancestors and Captain Alexander Selig of the Confederate Army.

Carole Webber shared how JewishGen helped her find information on her father and how the younger generation's use of YouTube helped her find photos of her previously unseen great grandchild.

Jan Meisels Allen shared how JewishGen, the Internet and Google helped her find two previously unknown cousins living here in Los Angeles.

Jan Meisels Allen



Final notification 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 Fountain wood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

STARTING YOUR RESEARCH

If you are just starting out with your genealogical research and looking for software that will assist in building your family tree, you might be interested in a free offering of Millenia's Legacy Family Tree. The standard package of Legacy Release 6.0 can be downloaded from www.legacyfamilytree.com at no cost. This is a feature rich system which is more than suitable for capturing and presenting a family history. The company also provides guidance to assist the genealogist through tutorials and newsletters as well as specialized software that enhance the more common family tree visual presentations. A Deluxe Edition of this software is also available for a modest fee. Already existing data in GEDCOM format can be imported into this software.

ALL ABOUT SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY

A comprehensive introduction to the process and methodology for researching Sephardic genealogy is available at a unique website offered by author Jeffrey Malka (*Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World*) at www.orthohelp.com/geneal/sefardim.htm The site provides a historical context and history of the Sephardim, including many links to relevant sources and archives. Of great significance are the links to individual geographic areas (some 17 countries) where Sephardim thrived.

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM GOOGLE

Google Inc is making available a service that enables users to download and print a variety of out-of-copyright books free of charge using its Book Search service. The company is digitalizing books into PDF format and makes them available at <http://books.google.com>. A sample check requesting books that satisfy the query "Jewish genealogy" yielded a choice of 2,144 items.

MUSEUM OF FAMILY HISTORY

www.museumoffamilyhistory.com is an interesting website that provides a potpourri of information for the genealogist. Structured as a virtual museum, the content includes articles and visuals geared to "honoring and preserving the memory of our ancestors for the present and future generations."

Like any museum, there are many facets to be explored...and one can easily get lost in the myriad of available "exhibits." The best approach to exploiting the rich information is to rely on the "Site Map" offered in the top banner. This displays a long list of topics that can be selected for further view. Among the more relevant topics are: historical notes on Jewish life in Eastern Europe, the immigration process and establishing a new life in the United States, Holocaust memorials in Canada, the United States and Europe, reports on cemetery projects including New York and New Jersey, collection of postcards relevant to Jewish life, and family photos organized by town of origin. Special "pages of interest" are offered for each of Belarus, Bialystok Region, Geshet Galicia, Lithuania, Poland and Ukraine. A very useful set of hyperlinks open up an even wider opportunity to facilitate the research of the genealogist, including:

Genealogical Resources (within U.S.)

Foreign Resources (outside U.S.)

Shtetl-Associated Sites

Jewish Museums

Yiddish Resources

Jewish Music

Cemetery Information/Restoration

Searchable Cemetery Databases

Telephone Directories

Media

Organizations

Other Sites of Interest



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.

Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*

(* and surrounding areas)



Sunday, June 10, 2007 **3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

at Temple Adat Elohim

2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

"Jewish Genealogy and DNA Testing"

Bennett Greenspan, President and Founder, Family Tree DNA

Bennett Greenspan's presentation begins with Jewish history, an explanation of DNA testing, and the genealogy that started Family Tree DNA. The presentation will include a description of how family relationships can be determined through DNA testing and how Family Tree DNA can come to the rescue when the paper trail ends or traditional genealogy runs into a brick wall. Additionally, Bennett will tell us what the science of DNA testing does for genealogists as well as what we can expect from and learn from testing. We will see what DNA test results look like and how we can interpret and use them in our family history research.

An entrepreneur and life-long genealogy enthusiast, Bennett Greenspan founded Family Tree DNA in 1999, turning a hobby into a full-time vocation. Since its inception in April of 2000, Family Tree DNA has been a pioneer in DNA testing for genealogy. Family Tree DNA is the world leader and main organization in the field of genetic genealogy that has been constantly developing the science that enables many genealogists around the world to advance their families' research. With over 80,000 individuals tested, Family Tree DNA has the largest database of its kind in the world

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. Meetings are co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim.

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

NOTE THIS ONE TIME START OF THE MEETING AT 3:00 PM

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**

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

Future meetings will be as follows:

2007: Aug 19, no Sep meeting, Oct 14, Nov 11, Dec 9

2008: Jan 6, Feb 10, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1

GALLERY OF PRESENTERS AT THE JGSCV MEETING IN MAY



Carole Webber relates how she obtained data from JewishGen.



Susan Geiger reveals how she found a cousin.



Fred Lang shows newspaper article about his family.



Elizabeth Miller discusses her Moravian roots.



Linda Boardman discusses her Dutch background.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Ann Ewart

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