



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 3, Issue 12

September 2008

President's Message

There were over 800 enthusiastic Jewish genealogists attending the 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Chicago, August 17-22. Attendees came from five continents: Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. JGSCV was represented by the following members Jan Meisels Allen, Ron Arons, Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Richard Hoffman and Helene Rosen. Missing was Werner Frank who had unexpected surgery on the Friday before the conference. I am delighted to inform you that Werner is home from the hospital and doing well. We all missed him.

The IAJGS Board held its bi-annual election of directors (the directors are elected in the even years and the officer positions elected in the odd years). The candidates who were elected to the board are: Jan Meisels Allen (Agoura Hills, CA); Daniel Horowitz (Kfar Saba, Israel) William Israel (St. Petersburg, FL); Kahlile Mehr (Salt Lake City, UT), Paul Silverstone (New York, NY); and Jackye Sullins (Carlsbad, CA).

Each year the IAJGS members nominate candidates for four possible awards. This year all four were awarded. They are:

Howard Margol for IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award

Steven Lasky for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product (Steve's outstanding website is: www.museumoffamilyhistory.com)

Petra Laidlaw for Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy (for creating the Jewish Community mid 19th Century Britain database (<http://jgs.gb.org.uk/1851/Introduction.asp>))

JGS Great Britain Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS for their series of guidebooks on genealogical research in Europe.

The Malcolm Stern Grant provides funding to encourage institutions to pursue projects, activities and acquisitions that provide new or enhanced resources to benefit Jewish genealogists. This year the Malcolm Stern Grant was awarded to the Italian Genealogy Group. The grant is for the group to create a Brooklyn brides index for the years 1910-1930 to be posted to their website: www.Italiangen.org. The funding for this award comes from the various JGSs members' who voluntarily contribute an additional \$1.00 when they pay their annual dues.

The most talked about announcement at the IAJGS conference was the JewishGen and Ancestry cooperative agreement. The basics of the agreement are: JewishGen will make some of its databases available on the Ancestry website. Ancestry will provide hardware and network support for the JewishGen website. JewishGen remains an independent non-profit organization, affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. There will be no change to the JewishGen management team, structure or affiliation with the museum. This new agreement, combined with the generosity of donors throughout the world, will allow JewishGen to continue offering all of its extensive resources for no charge. All of the JewishGen data licensed to Ancestry will be freely available on the Ancestry.com website without charge. Privacy of personal information for JewishGen users is of key importance to us. Information about JewishGen registrants will not be shared. For more information go to: <http://jewishgen.blogspot.com>

JewishGen also premiered their new logo.

Remember to sign up for the Ralph's Community Contribution Program see page 5. You have to sign-up **EACH** September to have a percentage of your purchases contributed to JGSCV.



Looking forward to seeing you at our meeting on September 7.
Jan Meisels Allen, President, JGSCV

FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, SEE PAGE 3

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 special shelves at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email.

2008 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. Send changes in your contact information to: membership@JGSCV.org

COLORADO GENEALOGY SOURCES

The Temple Israel Foundation of Leadville, Colorado has collected information regarding the role played by Jews in the latter part of the nineteenth and early twentieth century in this thriving mining town. Names of early Jewish settlers and their family histories are recorded along with additional useful information about Jewish organizations and the then existing shuls/temples. See www.jewishleadville.org

Another site with information about Jewish Colorado is the Center for Judaic Studies at the University of Denver (see www.du.edu/cjs) which also provides a link to the Rocky Mountain Jewish Historical Society. Connected with this University is the Ira M. Beck Collection at its Penrose Library where it is possible to browse pictures of early Jewish settlers and access the records of the Jewish Consumptive Relief Society. See the website: www.penlib.du.edu/specoll/Beck/index.cfm

A book of primarily photos about the Jewish history of Denver and other Colorado communities is available: "*Jewish Denver, 1859-1940*," authored by the head of the Beck Collection, Dr. Jeanne Abrams and published by Arcadia Publishing, 2007, ISBN 978-0-7385-4829-6.
Marion Hattenbach Bernstein

GOOGLE HAS MUCH MORE TO OFFER

To learn all the functional capabilities of Google aside from its rich search operations check out the website: www.google.com/intl/en/help/features.html#calculator

Barbara Algaze

US HOLOCAUST MUSEUM TIPS REGARDING ACCESS TO THE ITS DATABASE

To learn more about the International Tracing Service (ITS), the largest Holocaust archive in the world, explore www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/its/. Also contact the [Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors](http://www.ushmm.org/museum/exhibit/focus/its/) at 866.912.4385 (toll-free) or 202.488.6130, or by e-mail at registry@ushmm.org. Sign up to receive [e-mail updates](#) from the Holocaust Museum about the International Tracing Service. Survivors and their families can request information from the archives at [Museum's on-line form](#). Read the Museum's [Frequently Asked Questions about the International Tracing Service](#).

JEWISH BURIALS DOWN UNDER

An online resource provides information about Jewish burials at cemeteries within Australasia and Oceania plus Australian War Graves. Search can be by any one of the following: given name, surname, bracketed date of death, or location of grave. Results provide grave location, full name, date of death, age when known, tomb inscription and Hebrew name. Over 48,000 named graves are in the catalogue. See www.bd-bd.info.

NEWLY FOUND BREMEN PASSENGER LIST

The Bremen Chamber of Commerce and Bremen Society for Genealogical Investigation have made available a searchable database of Bremen Passenger Lists for the years 1920-39, although sporadic other data is included from the year 1830 and on. This database was created from 3,017 passenger lists that were hidden in a salt mine in 1942 and turned over to the Moscow Archives at the end of WWII. Older Bremen lists from 1875-1908 had been destroyed.

Search can be by name, departure date, hometown, destination, or ship name. The resulting tables provide transcriptions of the original passenger lists. The link of the ship's name in the upper left corner of the list yields a picture of the ship with associated technical and historical data. The database includes over 600,000 names.

http://db.genealogy.net/maus/gate/index_en.html

Vivian Kahn, Oakland, CA

JEWISH NATIONAL & UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Jewish National and University Library in Jerusalem is the repository of a wide array of documents and data concerned with the history of the Jewish people. For access to the general catalogue and a variety of databases, as well as reference to a number of Israeli published newspapers, see www.jnul.huji.ac.il/eng/



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, September 7, 2008 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

NOTE THE EARLIER STARTING TIME

JEWISH SURNAMES

Warren Blatt, Managing Director and Editor-In-Chief, JewishGen.org

The history of Jewish surnames - their origins, types, and etymologies. Learn when they were first used in various countries, how they developed, and their transformation upon immigration. This presentation will dispel several common myths about Jewish surnames. Discover which Jewish surnames are the most common in the U.S., Eastern Europe and Israel, as well as sources for learning more about your surnames.

Also: The Klutzmer Band (yes, Klutzmer), playing Eastern European music

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. There is no charge to attend the meeting.

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**

- October 5, 2008 (Sunday at 1:30 PM): “Roundtable Discussions,” opportunity for attendees to review specific research interests with local experts.
- November 10, 2008 (Monday at 7:00 PM): Jon Entine speaking on “Abraham’s Children: Race, Identity and the DNA of the Chosen People”
- December 8, 2008: (Monday at 7:00 PM): Steve Morse speaking on “One-Step Web pages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools”
- January 4, 2009 (Sunday at 1:30 PM): Ron Arons speaking on “The ‘Musical’ Chicago and all that Genealogical Jazz”
- Subsequent meetings: February 8, 2009; March 1, 2009; April 5, 2009; May 3, 2009; June 7, 2009

RECENT UPDATE ON AVAILABLE VITAL RECORDS

The Genealogy Roots Blog (<http://genrootsblog.blogspot.com/>) provides links to available online genealogy databases, records and resources. The focus is on vital records (birth, marriage, divorce & death records), obituaries, census records, naturalization records, military records and ship passenger lists. The following is a status list provided by this Blog focused on Vital Records:

Alabama: Jefferson County: Birmingham Area Newspapers Obituaries Index, Jan 1943-Dec 1976

Arizona: [Arizona Death Certificates 1844-1957](#) (free) also includes birth certificates 1855-1932

Georgia: Chattooga County: Death Notices from the Summerville News Newspaper 1927-1942 (also has some cemetery listings)

Illinois: Chicago and Cook County; www.cookcountygenealogy.com

The Cook County Clerk's office has been digitizing their birth, marriage and death certificates with on line debut this past July 2008. You may search the database for free, but payment is required to download copies of the records. The site provides an index to birth certificates more than 75 years old, marriage certificates more than 50 years old, and death certificates more than 20 years old. The records will go back as far as 1871 -- earlier records were lost in the Chicago Fire. For additional Illinois related sites see: [Online Chicago and Cook County Death Records Indexes and Obituaries](#)

Indiana: Knox County Death Indexes, 1921-June 2002 & Vincennes Sun-Commercial Obituary Index 2002-2007; Perry County: Tell City-Perry County Public Library Obituary Finder (recent)

Kansas: Johnson County District Court Public Records Search -- includes indexes for recent probate records and marriage licenses

Kentucky: Ancestry has digitized Kentucky death certificates from 1911-1953. See: [Online Kentucky Death Records Indexes and Obituaries](#)

Michigan (beta testing)

Currently being tested in the FamilySearch Labs are [scanned Michigan death ledgers from 1867-1897](#). FamilySearch Labs is a pilot program so there may occasional errors or downtime. Note these are not death certificates, but death registers or ledgers. (free)

Mississippi: Monroe County: New Hope Cemetery Burials (Parham, Mississippi)

Missouri: [Missouri Death Certificates 1910-1957](#) (free) from the Missouri State Archives

North Carolina: As part of their subscription-based collection of genealogy records, Ancestry has scanned North Carolina death certificates from 1909-1975 available for downloading. See: [Online North Carolina Death Records Indexes and Obituaries](#)

Ohio (beta testing): Currently being tested in the FamilySearch Labs are [scanned Ohio death certificates from 1908-1953](#). FamilySearch Labs is a pilot program so there may occasional errors or downtime. (free); Fairfield County Cemeteries Surname Index; Franklin County: Silent Home Cemetery Burials (in Truro Twp near Reynoldsburg); Washington County: 5,275 Burials in Washington County, Ohio Cemeteries

Oklahoma: Muskogee Death and Newspaper Obituary Indexes 1918-1936 and 1954-2008 ; Washington County: White Rose Cemetery Burial Search -- City of Bartlesville

South Carolina: Greenville County, Greenville News Obituary Index 1917-1993 and 1994-present; Greenville County Historical Records Search includes some older probate and estate records

Pennsylvania: Philadelphia (beta testing): Currently being tested in the FamilySearch Labs are [scanned Philadelphia City death certificates from 1803-1915](#). FamilySearch Labs is a pilot program so there may occasional errors or downtime.

(CONTINUATION ON NEXT PAGE)

Tennessee: Death Index 1914-1925; Death Index 1949-2005 (not complete) "Partial Indexes from 1949-2005"; Blount County Obituaries Indexes, includes Maryville Times Obituary Index 1906-1960 (over 16,000) & Index to Misc Obituaries 1867-1940 (over 11,000)

Texas (beta testing): Currently being tested in the FamilySearch Labs are [scanned Texas death certificates from 1890-1976](#). FamilySearch Labs is a pilot program so there may occasional errors or downtime. Very few certificates are available prior to 1903. (free)

Utah: [Utah Death Certificates 1905-1956](#) (free)

West Virginia: [West Virginia Death Certificates 1917-1957](#) (free) has earlier records for some counties - also has birth and marriage records for some counties

Other States - Death Indexes

For a directory of online death indexes, including some cemetery records, obituaries, and probate records see: [Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records](#)

Ralphs Club News - Annual Sign-Up Is Now

Thanks to all of the JGSCV members and friends who joined the Ralphs Community Contribution Program supporting the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV). As a result of your signing up for JGSCV to receive some of the Community Contribution Program funds, we received in excess thus far in this fiscal year over \$200!

We have been notified by Ralph's that they require ALL participants to re-join the program every year (their year begins September 1). Ralph's has a NEW rewards program and is requiring EVERYONE to get a new card with a new number. Register between August 4-31 for the new program beginning on September 1! If you have an existing Ralph's reward card, you will remain active until August 31, 2008, and need to re-register for the term beginning on September 1. When you register for the new card at your local Ralph's store REMEMBER to link your old card and new card together at the time you get the new card, or else go to www.Ralphs.com to link to two together in order for JGSCV to get the benefit.

We have posted how to register on our website www.jgscv.org and click on "notices." For your convenience the process is listed below. For those who have a NEW Ralph's Card on or before September 1,

1. Go to www.ralphs.com
2. On the far left side of the page, scroll down to where it says: "Community Contribution"
3. Click "Community Contribution"
4. You'll see two boxes - one "Organization" and one "Participant"
5. Click on the "Sign Up" button in the "Participant" box.
6. Certify that you are the Ralphs cardholder.
7. Fill in the blanks on the Participants Enrollment Form For the NPO number for JGSCV that is, 84732—this goes into the first box on the enrollment form. We are listed as "Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &". **NOTE: Ralph's has "genealogical" misspelled in their database so you must misspell it as "Genelological" when typing in our name .** Your Ralph's Club card number- found on the back of the card below the UPC code goes into the second box.
6. Click submit.

If you do not have a Ralphs card as yet, you can easily obtain one by either going to a Ralphs near you at their customer service desk or signing up on-line http://www.ralphs.com/ralphscard_signup.htm- don't forget once you have signed up for the card to sign-up for the community contribution following the steps outlined above.

Additions to the JGSCV Traveling Library

Since the report in February 2008's newsletter the following have been added to the JGSCV traveling library. If you have genealogically relevant books that you would like to donate, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. A full list of all of our permanent and traveling library holdings may be found on the website: www.jgscv.org .

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames From the Russian Empire: Revised Edition, Alexander Beider, Avotaynu, 2008.
Combined Transport List From Auschwitz to Buchenwald From USHHM
Ellis Island: A Pictorial History. Barbara Benton, Facts On File, Inc., 1985
Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy. Gary Mokotoff and Warren Blatt, Avotaynu, 1999
Guide to Unpublished Materials of the Holocaust Period. Vol IV, Yehuda Bauer, Ed. Yad Vashem 1977
Hamburg Passengers From the Kingdom of Poland and the Russian Empire
Indirect Passage to New York (1988-June, 1973). Geraldine Moser& Marlene Silverman, Landsmen Press 1977
Jewish Bialystok and Surroundings in Eastern Poland. Tomasz Wisniewski, Ipswich Press 1988
My English Connection, Heritage Trip 2007. Herbert Eckerling, 2008
Pictorial History of the Jewish People Updated Edition. Nathan Ausubel, Crown Publishers, 1953
Pioneer Jews of Los Angeles in the 19th Century, Western States Jewish History, David Epstein and Gladys Sturman, ed. Spring/Summer 2006/5766.
Polish Jewish Cemeteries. Neil Rosenstein, Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 1983
The Golden Tradition: Jewish Life & Thought in Eastern Europe. Lucy Dawidowicz, Holt, Rinehart, Winston, 1967.
The Holocaust Chronicle: A History in Words and Pictures. David Hogan, Editor, Publ. International Ltd., 2003
The Illustrated Atlas of the Jewish Civilization. Martin Gilbert, Consulting Editor, Macmillan Publishing Co., 1990.
The Jews of Sing Sing: Gotham, Gangsters and Genuvum. Ron Arons, Barricade Publishers, 2008
The Jews in America: A History American Jewry 1954-1971 Rufus Lears, KTAV Publishing House, 1972
The Litvaks: A Short History of the Jews of Lithuania. Dov Levin, Yad Vashem, 2001
The Moorpark Story. Norma Gunter, Moorpark Chamber of Commerce, 1969
The Thirteenth Tribe. Arthur Koestler, Random House, 1976.
The War Against the Jews 1933-1945. Lucy Dawidowicz, Bantam Trade Paperback, May 1986
This Land of Liberty: A History of America's Jews. Helen Schwartz Kevin, Behrman House, 1986
Tough Jews: Fathers, Sons and Gangster Dreams. Richard Cohen, Vintage Books, 1999

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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