



# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 3, Issue 8

May 2008

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV held its first members-only assisted research day at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center (LARFHC) and it was a big hit! We had 42 JGSCV members participate in the afternoon and we could hear the expressions of delight as members found records pertaining to their ancestors! The meeting resulted in four new members (3 new memberships) who joined at the door. The LARFHC has the largest genealogical library outside of the main library in Salt Lake City.

We were most fortunate to have Barbara Algaze, a volunteer at the LARFHC and librarian of our sister society, JGSLA, give an outstanding overview presentation on how to use the resources at the Center. Additionally, several volunteers from the LARFHC gave up their Sunday to assist our members. This will be something we do annually provided the LARFHC grants us permission to be there on a Sunday when it is otherwise closed.

The JGSCV website has an updated list of resources. Please review it as the additional sites may help in your genealogical research. [www.JGSCV.org](http://www.JGSCV.org)

JGSCV has submitted to meeting co-sponsor Temple Adat Elohim our preferred future meeting dates running through June 2009. The Temple will advise us which dates we may meet later in May. As soon as we learn of the future meeting dates we will include them in the Newsletter. I can tell you that we will NOT meet in July 2008 as we are meeting twice in June (June 1 and June 29- see page 3 for more information). Neither are we meeting in August, as many of us will be attending the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Chicago.

Our May 4 meeting is commemorating Yom Hashoah Day with a very poignant video. If you have not completed your Pages of Testimony for Yad Vashem to remember those who died in the Shoah, this is the time to do so (see page 2 for more information).

Our June 1 meeting is Genealogy in the Round- where the members and friends of JGSCV share a genealogical success, failure, artifact or brick wall. Please contact me at ([president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)) if you have something to share—each participant gets 5-10 minutes depending up on the number of participants.

All of us in the Jewish genealogical world owe a great debt of gratitude to Susan King, creator, founder and the managing director of JewishGen.org for the past 22 years, who no longer will be affiliated with the organization effective March 31, 2008. It was through Susan's vision and dedication that most persons searching their Jewish roots were able to research and make contact with others studying the same names and shtetls. JGSCV wishes Susan the best in her future endeavors.

Warren Blatt is the new managing director of JewishGen, having been involved with JewishGen since 1990, most recently as its editor-in-chief. JGSCV is especially privileged to have Warren Blatt on our board of directors. We know Warren will do a fantastic job in continuing to bring those of us with Jewish roots the best there is in Jewish genealogy.

Jan Meisels Allen



Speaker Barbara Algaze

**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 Fountain wood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) by selecting the membership button. Send changes in your contact information to: [membership@JGSCV.org](mailto:membership@JGSCV.org)

## **JEWISH PRESENCE IN CALIFORNIA'S SANTA MARIA VALLEY**

[Reported in the Tracing the Tribe Blog at

<http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com/search?q=santa+maria>]

California's Santa Maria Valley has an interesting Jewish history covering the towns of Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Lompoc, Guadalupe, San Simeon and other population centers. The [Santa Maria Valley Historical Society](#) has organized a two-month exhibit of Jewish culture, including artifacts, antiques, photographs and memorabilia dating to the mid-1870s.

The article names many families active in the early days, including Orenstein, Kaplan, Goodman, Berkowitz, Meyer, Chern, Cohen, Friedman, Heller, Kreidel, Fleisher, Kaiser, Goodwin, Bryant, Blochman, Rosenblum, Cassner, Weill, Klein, Lehmann, Gottschalk, while Jewish graves (from 1980) in the Lompoc Evergreen Cemetery include Bernard, Brambir, Epstein, Howard, Kanner, Krupkin, Kushner, Quart, Tunic.

## **VENTURA COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM**

### **LOSES ACCESS TO PRO QUEST HISTORICAL NEWSPAPERS**

JGSCV has been advised that due to budgetary constraints, the Ventura County Public Library System no longer has access to the ProQuest Historical Newspapers. Previously, they had access to both the Historical Los Angeles Times and the Historical New York Times. This is a great loss for research in our area. For information on which area libraries have subscriptions to ProQuest, Heritage Quest and Ancestry.com please go the [www.JGSCV.org](http://www.JGSCV.org) and click on resources.

## **RUSSIAN/GERMAN/ITALIAN TO AMERICA INDEX IS NOW ONLINE**

[From: *Nu? What's New* published biweekly by Avotaynu, Inc. To receive this free bulletin go to [www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm](http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm) ]

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration has placed on the Internet three important immigration indexes previously available only in book and CD form. They are "Germans to America (1850-1897)," "Italians to America (1855-1900)" and "Russians to America (1834-1897)."

For "Russians to America," the database consists of records of 527,394 passengers who arrived in the United States between 1834 through 1897 and identified their country of origin or nationality as Armenia, Finland, Galicia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Russian Poland or Ukraine. There are records of passengers who were U.S. citizens or non-U.S. citizens planning to continue their travels, returning to the U.S., or staying in the U.S. There are records of passengers arriving at the following ports: Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia; the bulk of the records are for passengers arriving at the Port of New York. Each of the passenger records may include name, age, town of last residence, destination, and codes for passenger's sex, occupation, literacy, country of origin, transit and/or travel compartment, and the identification number for the ship manifest.

For "Germans to America," the series consists of records of 4,048,907 passengers who arrived at the United States between 1850 through 1897; about 90 percent identified their country of origin or nationality as Germany or a "German" state, city, or region. In about 10 percent of the records, passengers identified their country of origin or nationality as France, Luxemburg, Switzerland, United States, and other places.

The database is more conveniently accessed through the Stephen P. Morse One-Step site at <http://stevemorse.org>.

## **REVISIT PAGES OF TESTIMONY**

Shoah remembrance month is a good time to renew one's efforts in completing the holy task of submitting Pages of Testimony (POT) to Yad Vashem. These affidavits are intended to memorialize family members who were victims of the Holocaust as well as provide a historical account of what transpired in that horrific period in the history of our people. For database search of existing POTs and instructions for submission: [www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY\\_HON\\_Entry](http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Entry)



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

The May 4, 2008 meeting of the JGSCV will commemorate  
Yom HaShoah Day by viewing a poignant Holocaust story video:

## Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance After the Holocaust

a film by Oren Rudavsky and Menachem Daum

Is it possible to heal wounds and bitterness passed down through generations? An Orthodox Jewish father tries to alert his adult sons to the dangers of creating impenetrable barriers between themselves and those outside their faith. He takes them on an emotional journey to Poland to track down the family who risked their lives to hide their grandfather for more than two years during World War II. Like many children of survivors, the sons feel that Poland is a country that is incurably anti-Semitic, but it is precisely here that they meet people who personify the highest levels of compassion. "Hiding and Seeking" explores the Holocaust's effect on faith in God as well as faith in our fellow human beings.

This event is a collaboration with P.O.V., PBS' award-winning nonfiction film series.

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, May 4, 2008 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.

For more information contact [information@JGSCV.org](mailto:information@JGSCV.org), See: [www.JGSCV.org](http://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

June 1, 2008: "Genealogy in the Round: Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls"

June 29, 2008: "The International Tracing Service Records at the United State Holocaust Museum Memorial" by Peter Lande

28<sup>th</sup> IAJGS International  
Conference on Jewish Genealogy

# CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois, August 17-22, 2008

**Where:** Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel

**When:** August 17 – 22, 2008

**Who:** Hundreds of individuals from all over the globe interested in learning more about Jewish Genealogy and sharing what they know.

**Why:** Because it is fun and educational at the same time, and, because you will meet lots of people, make new friends, and see old ones.  
Because you will network with people searching for ancestors from the same country, town or area.  
Because you will hear experts and learn new research tools, and much more.  
Because Chicago is a great city with research resources and wonderful sights.  
Because you love, are addicted to, just starting, or an expert on the challenges posed by doing genealogy.  
Because you believe passing your family history on to future generations is a mitzvah.

**How:** Go to [www.Chicago2008.org](http://www.Chicago2008.org) for more information.



The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is proud to co-host the 2008 conference with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and the Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society

## Future IAJGS Conferences

To get a head start on research possibilities in Chicago go to Mike Karsen's website [www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago](http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago). A Google search for "Jewish Chicago" will also lead to many interesting items.

The 2009 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be in Philadelphia, PA in the period August 2-7, 2009 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel. Also, the 2011 conference will be in Washington DC during the summer of 2011 and hosted by the JGS of Greater Washington. Specific dates have not yet been announced. No announcement has yet been made for 2010.

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT YAD VASHEM

The following information has been made available by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem with respect to online information regarding Holocaust victims and survivors by access to [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org):

- The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names is the single largest computerized database in the world of Jews who perished in the Shoah, includes over 2,000,000 records from Pages of Testimony and around 1,500,000 records from other sources. While the majority of the records in the database relate to people who perished in the Holocaust, some of the lists do include records of people who survived.
- "Pages of Testimony" are forms on which survivors and other relatives or friends recorded what they knew about Shoah victims. Yad Vashem has been collecting these Pages of Testimony since the mid 1950's. Anyone who cannot find their relatives in the database is encouraged to submit Pages of Testimony for them, and thus to commemorate their memory.
- Other sources in the database includes information on Holocaust victims from archival and bibliographical sources. Many of these sources were computerized at Yad Vashem, and others by our partner organizations. Following is a partial list of the sources in the database:
  - List of those deported from France and Yugoslavia.
  - Census from the Lodz ghetto.
  - Partial lists of victims from Hungary, Theresienstadt, Slovakia.
  - List of prisoners from the Mauthausen camp.
  - Tens of thousands of names of those perished from the former Soviet Union from the Soviet Special Committee lists
  - Lists from Yizkor books from various locations
  - Other lists from archival sources.Plans are underway to computerize and add all lists existing at Yad Vashem to the database within the next few years. The database is updated approximately four times a year with new material.
- The Shoah-Related Lists Database includes an index of existing lists at Yad Vashem and at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. In addition, many of the records from Yad Vashem include a scanned image of the list involved. Note that you cannot search in this database by an individual's name, but only by the description of the list, such as place names, date of deportation etc. In the cases where a scanned copy exists in the database, it is possible to read through the list looking for specific names.

Please note: There is a small collection of genealogical sources in our library collection, but generally, it is not productive to engage in genealogical research, not pertaining to the Holocaust, at Yad Vashem. If you cannot come to Yad Vashem, queries may be sent to us by mail, e-mail or fax. This service entails a fee and it can take up to a month to receive a reply. Our addresses: [Ref@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:Ref@yadvashem.org.il), Fax: (972-2)-644-3669, Reference and Information Services Yad Vashem P.O.B. 3477 Jerusalem 91034, Israel

We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at [newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org) .

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Julie & Leonard Goldman, Joy Lees, Carol Lewis

### JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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