



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 4, Issue 5

February 2009

President's Letter

There was laughter while learning at Ron Aron's presentation at the January 4 meeting "The Musical 'Chicago' and All That Genealogical Jazz"! Ron is a four-time guest speaker, each time with a different presentation that has the audience learning while enjoying the tales he tells. This presentation, part of a program given at the 2008 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, demonstrated through a myriad of internet resources, newspaper and court documents the truth from fiction about Belva Gaertner, one of the two real-life women who were convicted of murdering their lovers in Chicago in 1924. The websites and references referred to by Ron is posted on www.JGSCV.org website under programs, previous, and the January 4, 2009 date.

Receipients of this Newsletter who have not yet joined our JGSCV for the year 2009 are so encouraged. What better can you do to spend \$25/\$30 for socialization, fun, education and meeting new friends! Additional contributions to our library and program funds are greatly appreciated. As a non-profit organization your contributions are eligible for tax deductibility.

We met last Nov. & Dec. on Monday evenings. Some members may prefer the Sunday afternoon meetings. The board is considering holding 2-3 meetings a year on a weekday evening. We would like to hear from members if they would have problems with such a plan. The majority of meetings would still be on Sunday afternoons. Please contact me with your thoughts and preferences. president@JGSCV.org.

The JewishGen Family Finder database is invaluable. Don't neglect to submit your surnames and towns and search for others who share your interests (www.jewishgen.org/jgff/). There is no charge but you must be registered with JewishGen. It's definitely worth your time to register your names and towns. A true story of a success from JGSCV member Sonia Hoffman: "About ten years ago, I was contacted through the Family Finder, and the person provided me with information on the families of six siblings of my great grandmother—people I knew nothing about. We shared the cost of obtaining many records from Poland through the JRI-Poland database. Just last week, a woman who lives in Brazil, found me using the Family Finder about the same family. Her great grandfather was the brother of my grandfather, and she introduced me to other descendants of this family from Graweje, Poland. They have great photos, documents, and information about branches of my family, again new information to expand my research."

Looking forward to seeing you at the February meeting to learn about Crypto Jews—those Jews who converted to Catholicism due to the Inquisition, keeping the knowledge of their Jewish past for 500 years, transmitting it in secret to their children and often continuing to practice Jewish rites covertly. Traveling Library books Categories A and C will at the meeting. If you want a specific Category B book at the meeting please contact me 5 days before the meeting. You can view the list of books on the website under Library- traveling.

Jan Meisels Allen



SPEAKER RON ARONS

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MEETING NOTICES

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.

2009 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.

FAMILY MEMBERS IN YIDDISH

eidem: son-in-law
einikl: grandchild
bruder: brother
bobe: grandmother
feter: uncle
foter: father
schwesterkind, kusun, kusine: cousin
mischpoche: family
muter: mother
plimenik: nephew
plimenize: niece
schnur: daughter-in-law
schwester: sister
sun: son
tante: aunt
tochter: daughter
seide: grandfather
schwiger: mother-in-law
schwer: father-in-law

For other translations of English/Yiddish see:

www.ectaco.co.uk/English-Yiddish-Dictionary

From "Mishpochology" (Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida newsletter).

JEWISH HISTORY

Check this comprehensive source of links to a potpourri of various aspects of Jewish history and locations where Jews have lived. You will be amazed!

<http://www.haruth.com/JewishHistory.html>

YIZKOR BOOKS AT LIBRARIES

Check this JewishGen source for library holdings of Yizkor Books including three in Los Angeles at:

www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/database.html and
www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbookonline.cfm

VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY ARCHIVES

Before WWII Vienna with its 175,000 Jews was the third largest Jewish community in Europe, however by the end of the war only a few thousand were left. The official body representing Vienna's Jews was the Israelite Religious Community, known as the Israelitische Kulturgemeinde Wien (IKG). This was a large organization with many departments, including registration of births, marriages and deaths (BMD), upkeep of synagogues and cemeteries etc. Fortunately for us the huge archive of the IKG survived the war more or less intact, and since the re-established IKG was unable to look after it, a large part was transferred in the 1950s to the Archive for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem. The BMD records remained in Vienna with the IKG and in the 1980s these were microfilmed by the Family History Library. In recent years the Holocaust Museum in Washington started to microfilm some of the records pertaining to the period 1938-1945 and this project is still going on. With the cooperation of people from various institutions I have compiled a short list of the type, location and accessibility of the records and this article can be seen on the web page of the Austria-Czech SIG: www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech/ikgarchive.html

Henry Wellisch, Toronto

NEWS FROM JEWISHGEN

JewishGen announces the computerization of the Jewish records of the Wiener Stadt and Landesarchiv (Vienna City and Provincial archive) that have been filmed by LDS, FamilySearch - Record Services. We are starting with Births 1849-1873 and 1877-1881, Marriages 1857-1871 and 1906-07, and Deaths 1826-1863. This project solicits data entry volunteers working from digitized records, with relatively high-speed Internet connections, having Excel on their home computer. Previous experience on data entry projects and familiarity with 19th Century European handwriting will be helpful.

JewishGen also announces the release of 120,000 new records in the JewishGen Holocaust Database:

- Information on 4,000 children hidden in France by the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE)

-Persons from Rhodes who were transferred to the Ferramonti Di Tarsia Internment Camp, 12-Jan-1942.

-"Jews For Sale": The Rudolph Kasztner Transports with names of 1,900 rescued Hungarian Jews, 1944

-Arad Census, 9,698 names in a census of Arad, Hungary/Romania, 1942

-Lost Train from Bergen-Belsen to Trobitz, April 1945.

The JewishGen Holocaust Database is a collection of 150 datasets, containing nearly two million records about Holocaust victims and survivors. www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust .



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting on
Sunday, February 8, 2009, 1:30 to 3:30 PM
at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

"Secret Jews: History and Culture of Crypto-Jews and Their Research For Jewish Roots and Identity"

In the 14th and 15th Centuries, Jews of Spain and Portugal were forced to convert to Catholicism. Many families kept the knowledge of their Jewish past for 500 years, transmitting it in secret to their children and often continuing to practice Jewish rites covertly. Many of the descendents of these Crypto-Jews are now seeking their Jewish heritage. Mr. Benveniste's presentation will follow the history of Spanish and Portuguese Jews, their forced conversion, the emergence of crypto-Judaism, how it came to the Americas, and the discovery of their Jewish background by many Hispanics in the Americas today.

Speaker: Arthur Benveniste, has been active in the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies since 1993, where he was president of the society from 2001 to 2003. He served as the co-editor of *Halapid*, the newsletter of the society. Mr. Benveniste has visited Brazil, Spain, Portugal, Peru, Italy, Morocco, Turkey and Greece. In 1992, he was invited by King Juan Carlos to return to Spain to commemorate the quincentennial of the expulsion of the Jews.

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

March 1, 2009: "Town Wide Research — Recreating Our Ancestral Shetl — Ariogala, Lithuania"
presented by Sonia and David Hoffman (1:30 to 3:30 PM).

April 5, 2009: Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center
(1:00-5:00 P.M.)

Subsequent meetings: May 3, 2009; June 7, 2009

MORE NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES FREE ONLINE

More and more newspaper articles are being made available online, and many are completely free to users!

One of the biggest ventures is the [Australian Newspapers Digitisation Program](#), which has a beta site giving access to over 3.5 million articles from 1803 onwards. In Canada the University of Victoria is leading a project to put [online articles](#) from the Daily Colonist (also known as the British Colonist, and now the Times Colonist) and other Vancouver Islands newspapers from 1859-1921.

The archives of the [London Gazette](#) are also online. Best known as the newspaper where official notices of bankruptcies are published, there are also editions for Edinburgh and Belfast.

But by far one of the largest archive is [PaperofRecord.com](#), a project now owned by Google, which has over 21 million newspaper pages - most of them from Canada (but publications from the US, Mexico, and Europe are also in the list). Google, of course, also has [Google Books](#), which allows you to search the text of millions of books and magazines including some which are transcriptions of parish registers including records of births, marriages, and deaths.

UPDATES ON IRELAND 1901 AND 1911 CENSUSES

Included in the January 2009 issue of *Venturing Into Our Past* under the article "Update on UK and Ireland 1911 Census was information that the 1901 and 1911 Ireland Censuses were already digitized and available on-line at no charge. The Library and Archives Canada announced that its partner, the National Archives of Ireland, has launched the next important phase of an online census research tool for the Irish counties of Antrim, Kerry, and Down for 1911. The census records for all counties for 1901 and for 1911 will be made available online throughout 2009.

To visit the Irish Census Online and the virtual exhibition on life in Ireland in 1911, please, go to: www.census.nationalarchives.ie (in English only). While we may not think many Jewish ancestors came from Ireland, remember some may have stopped in Ireland on their route to Canada or the United States.

Thank you to Gordon Watts of Census Canada for announcing this update.

NEW HUNGARIAN JEWISH REFERENCE ON GOOGLE

Google has added excerpts from *Jewish Budapest: Monuments, Rites, History* by Kinga Frojimovics, Géza Komoróczy, Viktoria Pusztai, Andrea Strbik (Central European University Press, 1999) to its collection of on-line publications. Preview the book at <http://tinyurl.com/9jdrhr>. Debbi Korman's review of this scholarly and well-illustrated history is found on the Hungarian-SIG website at www.jewishgen.org/Hungary/book_reviews.htm

From Vivian Kahn, Oakland, CA

CLARIFYING ELLIS ISLAND MANIFEST DATA

Marian Smith wrote a great article -- which she placed on her blog regarding missing manifests from Ellis Island. See: www.mariansmith.com. The essay responded to some questions/comments on the this issue appearing in the JewishGen Discussion Group late in December, 2008. While Ms. Smith is the historian of USCIS, she wrote this article not in her "official" capacity but as a knowledgeable person sharing information with the community of genealogists.

From Jan Meisels Allen

REMINDER TO REGISTER

Ralphs Community Contribution Program will support JGSCV through your purchases of goods at Ralphs markets, and at no cost to you. Please register for this community outreach program by using our identification code: 84732. Ralphs has updated it's website and community contribution program. The new website also saves you money with discounts and coupons. The step-by-step procedure to enroll is outlined on our website: www.jgscv.org and click on "notices."

Now whenever you shop at Ralphs, JGSCV will receive a percentage of what you spend.

JewishGen Discussion Groups

One of the principal lines of communication for Jewish family history research is the Discussion Groups located at the JewishGen site. The first such group on JewishGen is the main one simply named "JewishGen Discussion Group." It has existed for more than 15 years. Here genealogists shared information, ideas, methods, tips, techniques, case studies and resources. As Jewish genealogical research on the Internet grew, and with the advent of Special Interest Groups that concentrate on particular areas on interest, focused Discussion Groups came into creation. There are now nearly 30 such groups. They are (alphabetically): AustriaCzech, Belarus, DNA Testing, Early American, French, Galicia, GerSIG (German), H-SIG (Hungary), JCR-UK (United Kingdom), JRI-Poland, Latin America, Latvia, LitvakSIG (Lithuania), Rabbinic, Rom-SIG (Romania), Scandinavia, Sephardic, South Africa, Ukraine and Yiddish Theatre/Vaudeville. There are also a few town/region groups for Borislav, Drogobych, Sambor and Vicinity; Bialystok Region; Ciechanow; Courland Area; Danzig; Lodz Area; and Warszawa. All the postings of the main JewishGen Discussion Group have been archived since 1993. They can be searched at <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsys~archpop>. The archives for the other groups, some as early as 1998, can be searched at <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsys~sigspop>. Only subscribers to the particular SIG lists can search that list's archives. Anyone can search the main JewishGen Discussion Group's archives.

Hungarian Resource Sites

NEVEKLARSFELD is the unique website that permits access to details concerning over 350,000 Jews of Greater Hungary and their fate during and following the Holocaust. See www.neveklarsfeld.org. The data may provide opportunities to find links to many of the second and third generation of Holocaust victims. The website is due to the Beate Klarsfeld Foundation and reflects the data published in Nevek, an ongoing project over the last decade under the direction of Serge Klarsfeld. Further information relating to Hungarian Jewish genealogy can be referenced at the website of the JewishGen Hungarian Special Interest Group as for example: www.jewishgen.org/hungary/ as well as www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary.

The Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive

Check out an introduction to the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive at <http://tinyurl.com/yqttg2>. A video is shown which provides clips of various films that have been preserved recording Jewish history and culture.

Quebec City Passenger Lists Index (from Jan Meisels Allen)

The Library and Archives Canada (LAC) provides a database of the Quebec City Passenger Lists Index 1865-1900. Researchers can search by name of passengers to access digitized images of original passenger lists for arrivals at Quebec from 1865 to 1900 listing the name, age, country of origin, occupation and destination of each passenger. See: <http://collectionsCanada.gc.ca/databases/passengers-quebec-1865-1900/index-e.html>. There is no charge to access the database.

CONTRIBUTE ARTICLES, THOUGHTS, RESULTS OF YOUR RESEARCH TO THIS NEWSLETTER AT

NEWSLETTEREDITOR@JGSCV.ORG

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