



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 5, Issue 4

January 2010

President's Message:

The incomparable Steve Morse, our guest speaker at the December 6 meeting and Chanukah Party, wowed the audience with his "Hodge Podge of Lesser Known Gems"—those One-Step Programs that were on the cutting room floor from last year's talk! See Steve's website www.stevemorse.org to access his growing number of One-Steps that have revolutionized accessing databases.

Eleven of our "2010" members received Chanukah gifts as part of our annual Chanukah Party and membership renewal drive. Our grand prize of a Worldwide Deluxe Subscription to Ancestry.com was donated by Ancestry.com along with copies of the Official Guide to Rootsweb.com and Finding Answers In the US Census. Other fantastic prizes included a subscription to Footnote.com, Family Tree Magazine, and Legacy Family Tree Deluxe 7.0 genealogy software. Thanks to all our corporate donors. Other prizes included software donated by JGSCV member Ron Arons, and genealogically-relevant books donated by JGSCV members Helene Rosen and Jan Meisels Allen. JGSCV thanks all of its corporate and member donors for making the Chanukah party and membership renewal drive so successful!

Hal Bookbinder conducted the election of the open board positions. The slate of five board members was accepted by acclimation. Elected to the board for 2-year terms were: Jan Meisels Allen, Stewart Bernstein, Warren Blatt, Dorothy Drilich, and Allan Linderman. Half of the JGSCV board members are elected every year for two-year terms. Following the by-laws, the Board determines the assignments at their January meeting.

The Schoomzing Corner was facilitated by Hal Bookbinder and continues to be a successful pre-meeting addition. Werner Frank will facilitate the January Corner— where you can discuss your latest genealogical find or problem. Schmoozing is limited to the 15 minutes immediately **BEFORE** the meeting. Plan to arrive by 1:10 PM to participate!

The JGSCV Board has also recommended that we add a 5-7 minute book report on a genealogically-relevant book at each meeting starting in 2010. You are welcome to select a personal favorite but books chosen for presentation must be pre-approved. JGSCV's traveling library will make *select* books available for this purpose for 2010 members. Our libraries are non-circulating, so this is a special, new feature of membership. As some books are very old, out of print and fragile, borrowing privileges will depend on the condition of the book. Our library books are listed on our website. If you are interested in participating in this new feature, please contact me at president@jgscv.org.

If you have not yet renewed your membership or joined JGSCV please use the membership form in the newsletter or go to our website: www.jgscv.org to print or download a membership form and complete and submit it. We really want **you** as members! The more members we have the stronger the society.

Our January 10th meeting is "How To Begin Your Genealogy Research" with JGSCV Board Members Debra Kay Blatt and Jan Meisels Allen. Debra will be talking on how to search what is on JewishGen.org including familiarization with search functions, databases (including the All-Country Database), use of the Family Finder and introduction to ShtetLinks pages. Jan will be doing an introduction to genealogy talking on census records, immigration records, family photos and more. Even if you are beyond a beginner, you can learn from this program!

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors, have a happy, healthy, and safe New Year!

Jan Meisels Allen



Steve Morse

Future Meetings Notices – Page 3, 5

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.

2010 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 the new/renewal membership form on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

GALICIA JEWISH MUSEUM

The Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow is preparing an exhibition "We Remained: Stories of Jewish Survival from Wartime Lwow". Scheduled to open in June, 2010 the museum is seeking Jewish survivors and their families from the Lwow area who may be able to provide useful input into the exhibition and/or be willing to be featured in it. A link to additional information ("GJM Lwow Exhibition") can be found at the bottom of the museum website: <http://tinyurl.com/ybs49pk>



2010 IAJGS CONFERENCE IN LOS ANGELES

Mark your calendars! July 11-16, 2010 -- the 30th IAJGS Conference will be hosted by JGSLA and held at the JW Marriott Hotel at LA Live near the Staples Center in downtown LA. The JGSLA website is up and running: <http://www.jgsla2010.com/> The Call for Papers began on November 15th and registration will open on January 15th, but hotel reservations can be made now.

RALPHS COMMUNITY PROGRAM

The Ralphs Community Contribution program helps JGSCV with making contributions to us every quarter, based on the purchases made by participants in the program. Please visit our website under "notices" for the easy step-by-step instructions to register and have JGSCV benefit from your Ralphs purchases.

JGSCV TRAVELING LIBRARY UPDATE

A new category within the JGSCV Traveling Library Classification C has been added: Western Europe. With the donation of several books by Rabbi Jonathan Plaut, of books written by his mother Elizabeth Plaut, a new category of Western Europe was added. Books previously under Miscellaneous, in Category B were moved to this new category: Jewish Life in Kraichgau and the History of the Eppinger Jews and its Families and Jewish Amsterdam. See the list of classification of books on the website: www.jgscv.org library: traveling. If you have genealogically relevant books to donate to our library please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org.

ANCESTRY.COM IMPROVES CENSUS DATA

As a result of their partnership with FamilySearch, Ancestry.com has upgraded images for all U.S. censuses between 1790-1900 while indexes have been improved for the 1850, 1860, 1870 and 1900 censuses.

HISTORIC JEWISH PRESS ONLINE

Articles from the Palestine Post, predecessor to the world-famous Jerusalem Post, have been available on the Internet for a number of years. Now other Jewish publications have been digitized and indexed and are available at a "Historic Jewish Press" site. To date there are 11 publications including the Palestine Post 1932-1950, Bulletin of the Alliance Israélite Universelle (1860-1913) and Ha-Magid 1856-1903. A complete list, as well as links, to each publication can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ye9ru7q>

DOCTORS, MIDWIVES, DENTISTS ADDED TO UK SITE FAMILYRELATIVES.COM

UK-based genealogy database site Familyrelatives.com added a million records of doctors, dentists and midwives who practiced from 1853 to 1943.

The records come from several sources, including the London List Medical Directory, Nisbet's Medical Directory and the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians. After 1858, the UK's General Council of Medical Education and Registration began keeping medical registers.

You can see a [list of databases in the medical registers collection at FamilyRelatives.com](#) (you'll need to scroll down on the page).



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

(*and surrounding areas)

Sunday, January 10, 2010 1:30-3:30 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim

2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

"How To Begin Your Genealogy Research"

Want to learn how to begin your genealogy research? Wondering how to fill in the gaps on your family tree? Want to learn how to use JewishGen.org- THE website for Jewish genealogy?



Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV Board members and founding members, Jan Meisels Allen and Debra Kay Blatt, both accomplished genealogists and presenters, will present and lead the discussions including: how to begin searching your family history including census and ships manifests, family hearsay, searching older newspapers for obituaries and articles on family businesses, and how to search what is on JewishGen.org including familiarization with search



Debra Kay Blatt

functions, databases (including the All-Country Database), use of the Family Finder and introduction to ShtetLinks pages.

While the program is directed for beginners, everyone can learn from the presentations.

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.

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.

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

THE SCHMOOZING CORNER



Hal Bookbinder (left) hosted the most recent Schmoozing Corner. Here, he is discussing a genealogy issue with JGSCV member Len Shenkin.

Werner Frank will host the Jan. 10 Schmoozing Session.



SURVEY ON AMERICAN JEWISH LANGUAGE USE

How do American Jews speak English? Who uses Hebrew and Yiddish words and New York regional features? When using Hebrew words, who prefers Israeli pronunciations and who prefers the Ashkenazic ones? Which Yiddish-origin features do some non-Jews use?

Two researchers from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, linguist Sarah Bunin Benor and sociologist Steven M. Cohen, have released the results of a large-scale survey of Jews and non-Jews in the United States that addresses these questions. The online survey began in the summer of 2008 with an e-mail invitation to about 600 people, and within 6 weeks, over 40,000 people had participated.



Benor and Cohen found that American Jews use many Yiddish words and constructions within their English speech (such as heimish, bashert, “staying by them,” and “she has what to say”) and that many non-Jews use selected Yiddishisms (especially klutz, shpiel, and “money shmoney”). Most Yiddish words are more common in the older generations, but some (including bentsh, leyn, and shul) are increasing among younger Jews who attend synagogue frequently. American Jews, especially those who have spent time in Israel or are highly engaged in religious life, also pepper their English with Hebrew and Aramaic words (including yofi, balagan, davka, and kal vachomer). Jews with different social networks have different understandings of the meanings of certain words (such as whether schmooze means ‘chat’ or ‘kiss up’). Outside of New York, Jews are more likely than non-Jews to use certain New York regional pronunciations, such as pronouncing “orange” as “AH-range.” And Jews are somewhat more likely than non-Jews to report that they have been told that they interrupt too much.



A summary of the survey results can be found at <http://huc.edu/survey/09/docs>



GETTING RELATIVES TO TALK ABOUT FAMILY HISTORY

Family Tree Magazine offers some tips on enhancing your genealogy research when gathering with family members. The list below has been adapted from their online post of 11/23/09.

Combine nostalgia, traditions, grandma's pumpkin pie and immediate access to a bunch of relatives, and what do you get?

An atmosphere ripe for talking about family history.

Holidays are a good time to tell and listen to stories, get IDs for mystery faces in photos, and share your genealogy discoveries. It doesn't have to be weird or forced—don't announce "Time to talk about genealogy!" just as everyone's settling in to watch football.

Here are a few easy, unobtrusive ways to start family history discussions.

- Identify the "connector" at the gathering—the relative who knows everyone and starts conversations. Get this person curious about your research by sharing a genealogy discovery or a photo related to his or her ancestor.
- Show off a photo of an ancestor who looks remarkably like a relative who'll be there.
- Over dinner, ask about family recipes, for example, "Where did Grandma learn to make pie like this?"
- Bring up a family gathering from your childhood: "Remember the time Aunt June used salt instead of sugar in the sweet potatoes?"
- Mention changes to an old family home you drove past recently—maybe it's on the market, or someone built an addition.
- You probably have at least one relative who's interested in your research. Arrange to show that person some genealogy records, and you may arouse others' curiosity (but be prepared for people to ask for copies).
- If your child or grandchild is working on a family history project for school or scouts, let him bring his blank ancestor chart and ask relatives for help filling it in.

2010 JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

Jan. 10 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM

JGSCV president and board member Jan Meisels Allen, "How to Begin Your Genealogy"; JGSCV board member Debra Kay Blatt, "An Introduction to JewishGen"

Feb. 1* Mon. 7-9 PM

Ron Arons "Mapping Madness"

March 7 Sun. 1:30-3:30PM

Steve Luxenberg, "Genealogy From the Inside Out" The Story of Annie's Ghosts

April 11 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM

Nat'l Geographic Channel documentary "Hitler's Hidden Holocaust" and Bob Rich "Red Cross Holocaust Tracing Services"

May 2 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM –

"Genealogy in the Round: Share your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls"

June 6 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM – TBA

June 27 Sun. 1:30-4:15 PM

Daniel Horowitz, "Genealogical Resources in Latin America" and "Genealogy Super Search Engine"

***Note: Feb. 1 Meeting is on a Monday Evening**

United Congregation of Israelites in Jamaica

Ainsley Henriques, President, JJGS has offered to help genealogists seeking information about Jamaican roots. The databases are not available online but the JJGS will access the information for you. Contact ainsley@cwjamaica.com



RootsMagic, maker of RootsMagic desktop genealogy software for Windows, has released a free version called [RootsMagic Essentials](#). The program contains many core features found in its namesake.

It's designed for people who want to start using genealogy software, but aren't yet ready to purchase a full-fledged program. RootsMagic Essentials offers the ability to

- add an unlimited number of people and events to your tree
- add pictures and media management
- write source citations using the SourceWizard
- create dozens of reports and charts
- share data with other people and software programs.
-

It can directly import data from Personal Ancestral File, Family Tree Maker (through version 2006), Family Origins and Legacy Family Tree.

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Bonnie Goldenberg
Sue Kriloff
Seth Nasatir

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Stewart Bernstein, Member-at-large	stewart@jgscv.org
Warren Blatt, Member Education	education@jgscv.org	Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman	information@jgscv.org
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary	secretary@jgscv.org	Werner Frank, Member-at-large	werner@jgscv.org
Fred Land, Treasurer	treasurer@jgscv.org	Allan Linderman, Newsletter Editor	newslettereditor@jgscv.org
	Helene Rosen, vp Membership	membership@jgscv.org	

Raya Sagi, Librarian: librarian@jgscv.org
Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616
Website: www.jgscv.org David Oseas, Webmaster: webmaster@jgscv.org

2010 Membership/Renewal Form
Jewish Genealogical Society of the
Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*

*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2010

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$2.00**

*Family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

(Suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund: \$5.00)

Make check payable to JGSCV and send along with application to:

Helene Rosen
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Talents that you have to share (language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)

