



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 6, Issue 8

May, 2011

President's Letter:

JGSCV's April 3rd meeting was devoted to "Jews of the Pacific Coast" with Ava F. Kahn, Ph.D. Using the photographs in her new book of the same name, Dr. Kahn related stories of how the Jewish communities on the Pacific Coast started, and changed over time. San Francisco had the largest Jewish population in the west, until the 1906 earthquake and fire, when many left for other Pacific Coast areas. Today, Los Angeles is the second largest Jewish community in the US, after New York City. Jews came to the west, not in a flood of immigration, but as a "river" from Europe both Sephardim and Ashkenazi. California Jews included the first Jewish Congresswoman, Florence Prag Kahn, who served for 6 terms and was the first woman on the House Military Affairs Committee. Dr. Kahn's book is available for purchase at local bookstores and through Amazon.com.



Ava F. Kahn

Handouts from the meeting, including the power point of the highlights of 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, hosted by the JGS of Greater Washington are available on the JGSCV website under meetings, prior with the date. The conference has a phenomenal program. JGSCV has 5 members who will be presenting and so far at least eight who say they are attending. See page 2.

Last month's newsletter included a notice about an exhibit at Pepperdine University on Polish Galician Jews, *Rediscovering Traces of Memory, The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia*, which is on loan from the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow. A group of JSGCV members toured the exhibit. See page 8.

JGSCV members from 2010 who have not yet renewed their membership for 2011 will continue to receive future meeting notices but will be removed from active membership by mid-April. While our meetings are open to all, there is great value to membership and those who support our programs and activities with their dues receive those extra benefits. We hope that if you attend our meetings you will become member. A membership form is on our website: www.jgscv.org

Our May 1 meeting commemorates Yom Hashoah Day, Holocaust Memorial Day. Founding JSGCV member, former board member and holocaust survivor Werner Frank, will talk on: "The First Massive Jewish Deportation: To Camp de Gurs in 1940" The administrative heads of the States of Baden and the Pfalz/Saar, sought to be the first among their Nazi cohorts to make their territories *Judenrein* (free of Jews). They engineered a massive expulsion of over 6,500 Jews to Camp de Gurs. The relocation of Jews to the Gurs concentration camp became only an intermediate step prior to the infamous "Final Solution" which was pronounced in January 1942. Frank delves into the background of the historical events that led to the *Aktion*. See page 4 about the book report, by Clara Knopfler, also a holocaust survivor.

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors we wish you all a Happy Passover and for those celebrating Easter, have a Happy Easter.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 1st!

Jan Meisels Allen

FUTURE MEETINGS NOTICES PAGES 5, 9

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.

2011 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.

BEGINNING GENEALOGY CLASS AT AMERICAN JEWISH UNIVERSITY

Barbara Algaze, Librarian of JGSLA, will be conducting a 4-session course in Beginning Jewish Genealogy at the American Jewish University (formerly the University of Judaism). The course will be held on four Wednesday mornings: May 4th, 18th, 25th, and June 1st, 10:00 a.m. – 12 noon. The first two classes will be held at the University campus at 15600 Mulholland Dr. Bel-Air, 90077. The cost for the class is \$106 plus a \$15 registration fee. (The \$15 is a one-time per semester fee, therefore, if you are taking additional courses, only one \$15 fee will be charged.)

You can access the course description directly at <http://tinyurl.com/44kpeuh>. You may register online or by calling the AJU directly. For more information contact Barbara Algaze directly at Barbara@jgsla.org

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY JAMBOREE

The 42nd Annual Southern California Genealogy Jamboree will take place June 10-12 at the Marriott Burbank Airport Hotel, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank, CA 91505. The extensive program includes sessions as diverse as 'Introduction to Genealogy', 'Here Comes the 1940 Census and We ARE Ready!!' and 'The Genealogist & the Coroner: Working as a Team to Locate the Next of Kin'. There are also workshops on Excel 2003 for Genealogy and How to Launch a Blog, among others. And, virtually every day is filled with classes beginning at 8:30 AM. Early bird registration ends April 30th.

For more information go to the Jamboree home page <http://tinyurl.com/3ft776f> and navigate through the buttons at the top.

DC2011 CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES PROGRAM

Registration is open for the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by JGS of Greater Washington. If you haven't registered for the conference, go to www.dc2011.org as the early bird discount prices only run until April 30th, and will increase after that date. The rich program has been posted to the website. In addition, you are able to register for the 10 SIG luncheons and one SIG Breakfast, Breakfast with the Experts and Thursday night Gala. Each of these meal functions are an additional charge above the registration fee. If you have registered, you can modify your registration by modifying your records and following the directions you were given in the confirmation e-mail you were sent at time of original registration. If you cannot immediately find the email, go to the registration site and click the "Already registered?" link. You can request an email reminder of your confirmation number, which should arrive within minutes.

FIFTY MOST POPULAR GENEALOGY WEBSITES FOR 2011

Progenealogists.com, a division of ancestry.com, published the list of 50 most popular websites: of 2011 as measured by four major ranking companies. That list is available at <http://tinyurl.com/3ksr2u4>

NEW RECORDS AT FAMILYSEARCH

Fourteen million new records have been added to the Family Search database at www.familysearch.org. These include records from Belgium, Canada, Chile, England, Netherlands, Slovakia, South Africa and the U.S.

PRINTED FORMS FOR GENEALOGISTS

If you save your family history on paper rather than on a computer, these forms from the Blood and Frogs genealogy website may be helpful: <http://tinyurl.com/639nols> They may be downloaded as .pdf files. Just follow the directions on the site.

SEARCH SURNAMENAMES ON MULTIPLE SITES WITH ONE CLICK

A website from The Netherlands makes surname searches simpler. Using <http://tinyurl.com/3p8zayh> will allow you to type in the surname once while it searches several global databases. Note, some search results will be on paid sites and not available without a subscription.

1911 SCOTLAND CENSUS RELEASED

The Scotland census of 1911 was released this month. Its database of 4.7 million Scots including name, address, age occupation, birthplace and marital status may be accessed at: <http://tinyurl.com/3pwguth>

Beyond The Conejo Valley

What's happening at other JGS's Around the Globe?

From The Jewish
Genealogical Society of
Great Britain – April, 2011



The Kindertransport – Sources from the National Archives

By Gina Burgess Winning



The first Kindertransport



Children on arrival in Great Britain

In a fascinating talk, Ela Kaczmarek, an education officer at the National Archives, shared with us some of the documents relating to the Kindertransports she discovered there. Given the subject matter, this JGSGB event was also open to members of the Association of Jewish Refugees, and the Second Generation Network whose members comprise the children of Kinder, refugees and survivors.

Ela focused mainly on documents from Home Office and Foreign Office files: letters and memoranda showing how the government was persuaded to allow some 10,000 Jewish child refugees from Nazi Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia to enter the UK, unaccompanied, from 1.12.1938 to 29.8.1939.

We also learned that Ministry of Health files provided an unexpected source of information, containing list of names (and in some cases home addresses in Germany) of Kinder who were medically examined upon arrival at Southampton. Several Kinder in the audience asserted that they had not been subjected to a medical examination when they landed, which conflicted with government records. The MH files also contained letters and reports referring to the conditions at Dovercourt, a former holiday camp where children without guardians or foster families were accommodated during the hard winter of 1939.

Records from the General Registrar contained correspondence with the government and the Chief Rabbi's office concerning the guardianship provisions enacted in 1944 to appoint Lord Gorell as guardian for all Kinder below the age of 16. Ela had found a letter relating to the guardianship of Lore Freudenthal, the writers' mother. The files contain many names, including a schedule listing 498 children.

There are plans to create a searchable database of the names of the children listed in the MH files and the guardianship schedule.

JGSCV
UPDATES . . .



Look for the SCHMOOZING CORNER sign (above/center) fifteen minutes before our regular meetings at Temple Adat Elohim where you will find a JGSCV expert who can help you overcome a genealogical brick wall or maybe just answer a question. Marion Werle led the SCHMOOZING CORNER on April 3. Debra Kay-Blatt will facilitate on May 1st.



This Month's Book Report:

"I Am Still Here" My Mother's Voice will be discussed by the author, Clara Knopfler. Ms. Knopfler (left) is a Thousand Oaks resident, frequent attendee at JGSCV meetings and a holocaust survivor.

Book Missing From Traveling Library

Jewish Voices of the California Gold Rush: A Documentary History 1849-1880 by Ava F. Kahn is missing from our traveling library. It is a category "C" book and was last at the January 9th meeting. If someone inadvertently took it home, please return it by either contacting Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org, bring it to Temple Adat Elohim, and ask them to contact Jan to pick it up, or bring it to the May 1st meeting. No questions asked—we only want the book returned.

Resources Updated on JGSCV Website

JGSCV webmaster David Oseas has updated the list of genealogical resources on the JGSCV website. Go to: www.jgscv.org and click on resources.

TRAVELING LIBRARY BOOKS Classifications A and C (and holocaust books from Category D) will be at the May 1st meeting. Visit our website www.jgscv.org under library/traveling for the list of books in these categories. If you would like an unscheduled book to be brought to the meeting please send a request to Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting (president@jgscv.org). *Rediscovering Traces of Memory: The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia*—on the exhibit at Pepperdine U. was recently added to our library (see page 8). It will be part of classification B.

April 3
JGSCV MEETING!



Jan Meisels Allen, President, JGSCV, describing IAIGS Conference opportunities



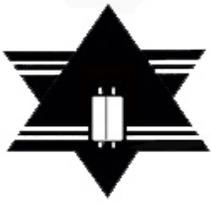
JGSCV members using the Traveling Library



Speaker Ava Kahn signing her book



JGSCV members during Ava Kahn's presentation



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*

(* and surrounding areas)

Come and Commemorate Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day)

Sunday, May 1, 2011 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

The Program: The First Massive Jewish Deportation: To Camp de Gurs in 1940



Gauleiters Robert Wagner and Joseph Bürckel, administrative heads of the States of Baden and the Pfalz/Saar, sought to be the first among their Nazi cohorts to make their territories *Judenrein* (free of Jews). They had engineered a massive expulsion of over 6,500 Jews to Camp de Gurs, located in unoccupied Vichy France. The event became known as the *Wagner-Bürckel Aktion* by the *Gauleiters* as their gift to the to the *Führer* on October 23, 1940.

Gurs Camp From Google Images
claude.torres1.perso.sfr.fr

The relocation of Jews to the Gurs concentration camp became only an intermediate step prior to the infamous "Final Solution" which was pronounced in January 1942. This Nazi inspired annihilation program triggered yet a second round of transports that would move the incarcerated from Gurs to the Parisian suburb of Drancy, an assembly point where the victims faced a final deportation to the death camp of Auschwitz.

The story of this little known tragedy is told by Frank, who delves into the background of the historical events that led to the *Aktion*, recounts the impact of this cataclysm on his hometown of Eppingen and relates the tribulations and ultimate fate encountered by his widely located family in the State of Baden.

Speaker: Werner Frank is a founding member, former board member and former newsletter editor of JGSCV, and a member of JGSLA. He was one of the founders of GERSIG (the German Special Interest Group of JewishGen, Inc.), and has written articles for *ROOTS*, *Maajan*, *Avotaynu* and *Stammbaum*. Frank (right) has been researching his family's history, amassing a genealogical database of over 33,000 names, resulting in the publication of the history of his family, *Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family over Time and Circumstance*, published by Avotaynu Foundation in 2003. He has spoken at numerous IAJGS conferences and other venues.



Meeting co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

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

FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS



Some of the attendees at our March 6th Assisted Research Afternoon asked why we met at the Los Angeles Family History Library (LAFHL) when there are Family History Centers geographically closer to us. There are several reasons: The LAFHL (photo right) has many more resources: 86 computers permitting everyone who attended to have their own computer, access to many Jewish microfilms on site and access to the JGSLA and Polish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles libraries. In addition, the LAFHL has been gracious to provide us an exclusive afternoon on a Sunday— a day they are normally closed— when they opened for us and their volunteers came into to assist on their day off.

Having just visited the LAFHL, we should be aware that there are smaller Family History Centers (FHCs) throughout Ventura County— that are closer to us geographically, but with resources that are more limited. However, you may want to visit them to access the resources they have.

An alphabetical list of California FHC's is located at <http://tinyurl.com/4whq8tw>. Scroll down to the town nearest where you live: Camarillo, Newbury Park, Ojai, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley and Ventura. The geographically closest one in LA County is in Canoga Park. Their hours and days of operation are listed, as are their telephone numbers. Each center has much fewer computers than LAFHL—some with as few as two or three computers requiring reservations to use the computers in some centers. The FHCs also have more limited hours of operation.

The Ventura FHC—is the largest FHC in Ventura County. It has 11 computers and has the same subscription database as the LAFHL:

[Ancestry.com world deluxe edition, Footnote.com, The Genealogist, Heritage Quest on-line, Historic Map Works, World Vital Records and Godfrey Memorial Library and more] including the Ancestry full domestic version and on 8 computers, they have the Ancestry.com world deluxe edition.

While the LAFHL has an extensive collection of Jewish vital records on microfilm, the smaller FHC's do not have them onsite. For a small fee, microfilm ordered from Salt Lake City will be delivered for use at the local FHC. Check out the Family Search catalogue on their website to find out the microfilm number before ordering: <https://www.familysearch.org/#form=catalog>

Our sister JGS, JGSLA, includes on their website a list of the Jewish Microfilms available at the LAFHL <http://jgsla.org/research/microfilms-at-lafhl> . JGSLA also has a searchable list of all of their books located at the LAFHL at: <http://jgsla.org/research/library-lafhl>. Their list of journals located at the LAFHL is searchable at: <http://jgsla.org/research/journals-lafhl>

The LAFHL is open Monday/Friday/Saturday 9:00 AM-5PM and Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9:00 AM-9PM. Their website is www.lafhl.org .



Barbara Algaze, the JGSLA Librarian who gave the introduction to the LAFHL at our meeting, is there most Tuesdays late mornings-early afternoons. You may want to check with Barbara before you go: Barbara@jgsla.org

(Cont'd next page)

(Family History Centers Cont'd)

Anyone is welcome to use the resources of the Family History Centers/Library and need not be members of the Mormon Church.

Recently, it was announced that all Family History Center computers have the Ancestry Institutional Library Edition. There are differences in the Institutional Library edition than the full subscription. Basically, the version at all FHCs regardless of size, have the same content as the regular/full Ancestry.com (consumer product) except for the features/services component (See below).

The Ancestry Library Edition—for libraries—such as our local public libraries, is the version in the City of Camarillo Public Library, Los Angeles (City) Public Library, Thousand Oaks Library and, Ventura County Library System (all which may be accessed only at the libraries). The LA County Public Library [Agoura Hills Library, Westlake Village Library], Calabasas Library and Moorpark Library do not have Ancestry.com on their computer systems).

The following are those resources NOT found on the Ancestry Library Edition in public libraries at the time this article is being written: (These resources are included on the “full” edition). (NB: ProQuest is a separate company from Ancestry that provides certain products to public libraries and other resources including some Ancestry products.

- Obituary Collection

- **Historical Newspapers:** ProQuest titles only excluded – other historical newspapers included
- **County Histories:** ProQuest G&HL Books in the Families and Local Histories Collection (UMI)
- **PERSI** (Periodical Source Index for genealogy and local history periodicals)
- **Freedman’s Bank Records** (This is for African-American researchers)
- **Biography and Genealogy Master Index**
- **Passenger and Immigration List Index**
- **Gale City Directories**
- **Ninety titles from the Genealogical Publishing Company**
- **Historic Land Ownership and Reference Atlases**
- **Ancestry World Tree** is available as “read-only”
- **One World Tree – Private Member Trees and Public Member Trees**

Features/Services not available on either Institutional Library Editions (FHC) OR Library Editions (Public Library)

- **Members Connect**
- **The ability to build online trees or download trees to a Gedcom**
- **Family Facts** (found in learning center on Ancestry.com)
- **The ability to connect to a genealogy software program**
- **The ability to print search history**

**JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBER
HARVEY GEMINDER**

JGSCV Members Visit “Traces of Memory” Exhibit at Pepperdine University



On April 5th a group of JGSCV members visited the Payson Library on the campus of Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. On loan from The Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland is *Traces of Memory: a Contemporary Look at the Jewish Past in Poland*, a photographic exhibit (www.galiciajewishmuseum.org).

The late British photojournalist Chris Schwarz and scholar Professor Jonathan Webber gathered material that offers a completely new way of looking at the Jewish past that was destroyed in Poland. The resulting photographs and text of “Traces of Memory,” the permanent exhibition at the



Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland, piece together traces of Jewish life and culture still visible in Polish Galicia today.

The JGSCV group was treated to a personal tour of the photographs by Dr. Rebecca Golbert, Visiting Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Associate Director, Diane and Guilford Glazer Institute for Jewish Studies. Dr. Golbert’s Jewish roots are in the Ukraine. She has done research on the holocaust and holocaust memorialization in the Ukraine. Dr. Golbert (photo below left) is an anthropologist whose research focuses on Jews and the Ukraine.

The photographs depict remnants of Jewish life in Polish Galician towns following the holocaust. The exhibit is open to the public throughout the week through April 25. The photographs are on display in the Payson Library on the second floor.

Rediscovering Traces of Memory: The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia book is in the JGSCV traveling library (Category B). It may be purchased through Amazon.com and if you purchase it there, please consider entering the Amazon.com portal through the JGSCV website (www.jgscv.org) on the bottom of the home page (see below).

REMEMBER TO HELP JGSCV

1. JGSCV has partnered with amazon.com to help raise funds at no cost to you. Just use our website to access amazon.com and we automatically receive credit. Start at www.jgscv.org and click on the Amazon banner at the bottom of the page. This will take you to Amazon’s home page where you can begin your shopping. *You will not pay any more for any item you purchase in this manner.*

2. Don’t forget to sign up for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. Ralphs requires annual registration on their website www.ralphs.com. Sign in and scroll down to community contribution. JGSCV is number 84732 that you insert under charity of choice. Even as an occasional Ralphs’ shopper, it helps JGSCV with no cost to you!

2011 JGSCV Meeting Dates
All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

ALL MEETINGS SUNDAY 1:30-3:30 PM

May 1 Yom Hashoah Day Commemoration, The First Massive Jewish Deportation: To Camp de Gurs in 1940 Werner Frank Thousands of Jews were expelled to Camp de Gurs on the way to the 'Final Solution'. Frank describes these actions and others as they relate to his family in Baden.

June 5 Wrongful (Jewish) Wraskals of the West Ron Arons West coast criminals including research tools and methodology.

July 17 Genealogy in the Round: Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls

August 14-19 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by JGS Greater Washington

No JGSCV meeting in August

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