



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

November, 2011

Volume 7 Issue 2

JGSCV celebrated its 6th anniversary at our October 10th meeting. Thank you all for helping us grow and become a regular part of the Jewish genealogy community!

We were privileged with a special program on *Finding Your Jewish Ancestors on Ancestry.com* with Crista Cowan who has been working for Ancestry since 2004 and has been a regular at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy for a number of years. She was fantastic! Not only did she focus on finding our Jewish ancestors, she gave invaluable techniques on how to use the Ancestry.com website-even the most advanced researcher learned something new. Crista has already agreed to return next year with a follow up!

Crista also talked about the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum partnership to index records for the World Memory Project (www.worldmemoryproject.org).

Since Ancestry and USHMM started the project in May, 2011 they have indexed over 600,000 records. Anyone may volunteer to work on the project - just click on the



Crista Cowan of Ancestry.com on Oct. 10th

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY. NOV 7th 7-9 PM

JGSCV President Jan Meisels Allen provides direction and lots of insights into "**How to Begin Your Genealogy**". Regardless of your level of experience, you can expect lots of helpful tips.

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website's "get started" button.

Marion Werle, JGSCV board member, presented the genealogical technique at the beginning of the program. The topic was timelines. Marion demonstrated how Family Tree Maker and Legacy Family Tree software include timelines, and the different types of timelines that one can use: historical, hybrid and family/individual. If you are willing to share a genealogical technique at one of our future meetings, please contact me.

Five of our board positions are up for election at the December meeting. The five board members, whose terms expire the end of this year, have all expressed a desire to continue to serve and the Nominations Committee has recommended them. At our November meeting, anyone wishing to be nominated from the floor may do so—read about the requirements on page 5.

JGSCV has started its 2012 membership renewal and new member campaign. Please join/renew now—your membership will be good through December 2012. See form on page 10. Remember, if you join or renew between now and our December 11 meeting, and you attend the December meeting, your name is eligible to be drawn for great genealogical gifts.

We are delighted that Amazon.com has reinstated their affiliates program in California. JGSCV is once again an affiliate and this is a great way to help support JGSCV. Just make your Amazon.com purchases by entering their website through the JGSCV portal. Read more about this on page 6. Another way to support JGSCV is with Ralph's Community Contribution program. To learn more about Ralph's Community Contribution program go to our website www.jgscv.org and click under notices. JGSCV appreciates your support through both programs.

October 29-November 26 is the Jewish month of Cheshvan, when we celebrate International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM). See page 9 for more information. JGSCV's November 7 program is in part to celebrate IJGM. If you know of someone who might be interested in starting their genealogy, invite them to attend the meeting. The program will include information for everyone, including the seasoned genealogist.

Jan Meisels Allen



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.

2012 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send a check in the appropriate amount payable 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.

FREE WEBINAR TO START YOUR GENEALOGY

Family Tree Magazine is offering a free webinar by Desmond Walls Allen on Oct. 26 at 10 AM Pacific time entitled "Secrets to Starting your Genealogy". The webinar will last 60 minutes. To sign up go to <http://tinyurl.com/3rp7ztq>. Registration includes the live presentation, Q&A, unlimited access to the webinar recording and a .pdf of the presentation slides for future reference.

WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE: 2012

The third season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* will include searching the family histories of Marisa Tomei, Martin, Sheen and Blair Underwood. The complete list of celebrities is not yet available. The show is expected to return to NBC in early 2012.

DEAD SEA SCROLLS ONLINE

GOOGLE has partnered with the Israel Museum (Jerusalem) to make five Dead Sea Scrolls available online. Currently, the scrolls can be viewed with magnification for additional detail. Hovering the mouse over text will activate an English translation. For more information go to: <http://tinyurl.com/3l63lgy>

SEVEN MILLION NEW RECORDS ADDED TO FAMILYSEARCH.ORG

FamilySearch.org has added records from Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Italy and Spain as well as the Phillipines, Mexico, Peru and the USA. These new records are listed at <http://tinyurl.com/3h6ra2e>.

NEW INTERACTIVE SITE FOR MAPPING

A free interactive site offering access to a range of updated maps is now available at www.findfreemaps.co.uk/. After selecting a map and location, users can examine an area in which family members lived or create personalized maps denoting geographic movement, gravesites, etc.

LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES CANADA ADDS TO HOME CHILDREN DATABASE

Library and Archives Canada maintains multiple records of the more than 100,000 children sent to Canada from Great Britain during the child emigration movement between 1869 and the 1930's. The latest update includes more than 20,000 children who came to Canada between 1925-1932: <http://tinyurl.com/3xxs8nm>.



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on

Monday, November 7, 2011 7:00 PM 9:00 PM

at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Note: Different day of week and time!

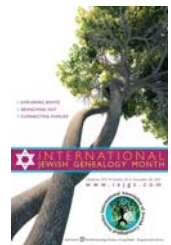
Come Celebrate International Jewish Genealogy Month!

The Program:

"How To Begin Your Genealogy"

Have you been wondering how to begin your genealogy? Have you been working on your genealogy for a while and need some ideas of where to focus next? Whether you are new to genealogy or a seasoned genealogist there is something for everyone to learn in this program covering family documents, time lines, census records, immigration and naturalization records, family photos, interviewing techniques, newspaper research...and more!

The International Jewish Genealogy month is celebrated during the Hebrew month of *Cheshvan* (Oct 29-Nov 26). International Jewish Genealogy Month is an opportunity to encourage Jewish genealogy. What better way for JGSCV to celebrate this occasion than to offer a program on how to begin your genealogy!



Speaker: Jan Meisels Allen, president and founding member of JGSCV. Jan is vice president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and has served on the IAJGS Board of Directors since 2004, is chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee (PRAMC) and represents the IAJGS as a managing member on the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC). Jan served on the JGSLA board of directors for 5 years including 4 years as programming vice president. She has been researching her Polish, Hungarian and Galician roots for over 13 years. She has spoken at a number of organizations on Jewish genealogy, including at a number of IAJGS International conferences.

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. (www.jgscv.org). **There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.**

Traveling Library categories A and B will be at the next meeting.

Please check the website for the books included in each category <http://jgscv.org>.



To request a book that is not in either category, please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 3 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org

Don't forget **THE SCHMOOZING CORNER**, open 15 minutes before each meeting where a JGSCV member knowledgeable in genealogy research will be available to answer questions, provide direction and maybe



even a solution to some of your concerns.

Werner Frank (left) answering questions and offering advice prior to the Oct.

10th meeting. You will find **THE SCHMOOZING CORNER** at the front right corner of the meeting room at Temple Adat Elohim.

All JGSCV members send sincere get well wishes to board members Stewart Bernstein and Warren Blatt. Both spent several days in the hospital over the past few weeks but are now continuing their recuperation at home. We wish each a speedy recovery and hope see both at the November 7th JGSCV meeting!

FORTHCOMING JGSCV ELECTIONS

As per the By-Laws of JGSCV a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Hal Bookbinder (with members Sonia Hoffman and Sara Hyman) has recommended the following slate of individuals to fill the five two-year terms on the Board of Directors that will become vacant as of January 2012:

Jan Meisels Allen

Stewart Bernstein

Warren Blatt

Dorothy Drilich

Allan Linderman

All five nominees currently serve on the board.

According to the By-Laws, anyone else wishing to be nominated to the Board can do so during the November 7, 2011 meeting of the Society. An individual may nominate him/herself or another. No second is necessary. Nominees must have been members of the Society for at least one year. Any person that is nominated from the floor must be present and orally agree to serve on the Board if elected, or if not present must have signed a written statement indicting their willingness to serve if elected. This statement must be available for inspection at this meeting. After this solicitation, nominations for the Board are closed. The names of all nominees with brief biographies will be published in the December issue of this newsletter. Elections will then be held at the December 11, 2011 meeting.

JGSCV Linked Again With Amazon.com

We are delighted that new California legislation effective September 23 resulted in Amazon.com again having California affiliates. JGSCV members (or anyone following the procedure below) can shop at Amazon.com knowing that they pay the same price for the same product as usual, but Amazon awards an advertising fee to JGSCV. **Please help JGSCV when shopping at Amazon.com by starting at the JGSCV website (www.jgscv.org) and scrolling down to the bottom of the webpage. Click on the Amazon link and shop the way you normally would. By entering the Amazon website through JGSCV you are helping your society and you pay no more than you would if you went directly to Amazon.com!**

JGSCV became an Amazon.com affiliate January 2011 with advertising fees supplementing dues to boost the overall budget. When California's legislature passed legislation requiring all internet sales companies with a presence in the state to charge California sales tax, Amazon.com (and other Internet companies) ceased their California affiliates programs as of June 29, 2011 because the affiliates programs were considered a presence in the state.

The new compromise legislation conditions that a federal law be enacted that authorizes states to compel the collection of state sales and use taxes by out-of-state retailers and requires the state to pass a law following whatever the federal government requires. The new California law requires the federal government to enact the required legislation by July 31, 2012 and for California to enact enabling legislation by September 14, 2012 or Amazon would likely cancel the program again. So we are an affiliate at least until next July 31, 2012. Shop . . . shop . . . shop at Amazon going through the JGSCV portal at least until then!

FUTURE MEETING DATES 2011-12

Monday, Nov. 7th 7:00-9:00PM

Jan Meisels Allen, HOW TO BEGIN YOUR GENEALOGY

Sunday, Dec. 11th 1:30-3:30PM

Steve Morse, FROM DNA TO GENETIC GENEALOGY and Chanukah/Membership Renewal Party

Sunday, Jan. 8th 1:30-3:30PM

Panel, ETHICS, SENSITIVITIES, SENSIBILITIES AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Sunday, Feb. 12th 1:00-5:00PM

Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Library-Current Dues Paid Members-only. Anyone may join at the door.

Sunday, March 4th 1:30-3:30PM

Joel Weintraub, HERE COMES THE 1940 CENSUS

Sunday, April 1st 1:30-3:30PM

Arthur Benveniste, THE HOLOCAUST AND SEPHARDIC COMMUNITIES

Sunday, May 6th 1:30-3:30PM

VISITING YOUR ANCESTRAL SHTETL TOWNS

Sunday June 10th 1:30-3:30PM

TBD

July no meeting - IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Paris, France July 15-18, 2012

Back to the old country – or not?

Robyn Dryen

This article originally appeared in the October, 2011 issue of 'Kosher Koala', newsletter of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society. Reprinted with permission.

My father always told me that my grandfather had come to Australia from Russia with his parents and five siblings in the 1890s. The story continued that not liking life in Australia, they had returned to Russia, but did not like it there, and so came back to Australia.

After ten years of research, I concluded there was no truth in this story.

Knowing precisely when they first arrived has been difficult to establish. The (sic) naturalisation applications for my great-grandfather Samuel Dryen, grandfather Edward Dryen, and one of his brothers Albert Dryen, all stated that they disembarked in Adelaide. They all gave the name of the same ship, the *Oldenburg*, from Bremen. Great-grandfather and grandfather both stated that they arrived in 1894; grandfather's older brother, Albert, stated that he arrived in 1895.

The problem of confirming whether they actually arrived together, or whether some came in 1894 and others in 1895, has been due to the lack of surviving manifests in Adelaide. I have long hoped that maybe one day, the manifests for ships which arrived in Albany/Fremantle would include the voyages of the *Oldenburg* in 1894 and 1895. There are manifests for this ship in Melbourne and Sydney for April and August 1894 and January 1895, but by the time the boat reached these ports, the Dryens had already disembarked.

As newspaper advertising in the *Barrier Miner* shows that my great-grandfather, Samuel Dryen, was in business in Broken Hill by January 1895, I felt reasonably certain that he, at least,

had arrived in 1894. My grandfather's youngest brother, Michael, was born in Broken Hill on 15th March 1895. So it would seem that great-grandmother had accompanied Samuel in 1894.

Over the last couple of years, I have extensively researched my Dryen family's time in Broken Hill. I followed their progress from Railway Town up to Argent Street, the main street of Broken Hill. I discovered their deep involvement in the religious life of this outback community and the various positions the Dryens held in the synagogue. There seemed to be a continuous residence from 1894 to 1920.

So, I concluded that the story of the return to Russia was apocryphal.

From the Ellis Island website (<http://www.ellisland.org>) I did find that Albert travelled from England to New York in February 1904 aboard the *Cedric*. I also found a manifest in Adelaide showing that he arrived back in Adelaide on 10 May 1904, aboard the SS *Weimar* from Bremen. So, had he visited Russia on that journey? Possibly – I am unlikely ever to know for sure.

There was one other journey I discovered with great glee.

My grandfather was 20 years old when his father applied for (sic) naturalisation early in 1903 and was therefore included in the application. By the time the papers had been processed in May 1903, my grandfather had turned 21 and so was excluded from his father's (sic) naturalisation. The official correspondence was silent on this matter and nobody in the family had noticed. In 1916, he enlisted in the AIF, claiming to be a (sic) naturalised subject. He enlisted again in 1941, also claiming to be (sic) naturalised. It was only when he was medically discharged and sought a military pension in 1948 that it became clear that he had remained an alien.

His 1948 application for (sic) naturalisation stated that he had lived continuously in

Australia since 1894, except for the period 2 March to 10 August 1899 when he returned to Russia “on business”. I duly noted the fact and thought no more of it.

Last month, when searching for a twig on my tree at *ancestry.com*, I noticed that the results included hits in the category *Western Australia, Australia, Crew and Passenger Lists, 1852-1930*. This was a new category for me. Was I finally about to solve the mystery of the Dryens’ arrival in Australia?

I quickly entered Dryen in the surname field and it returned eight hits, five of which were for a family travelling on a French ship, the *Ville De La Ciotat*, arriving in Albany, WA in August 1899. I was not too



My great-grandfather Samuel Dryen

hopeful – frequently Dryer, Dwyer and Dryden are mis-indexed as Dryen. As the date was rather later than I was expecting, I told myself that, if it was Dryen, they might just have been travelling to WA from Adelaide, rather than from Europe.

I clicked on the link to the digital image. It took some time to digest what I saw. There, in the most beautifully clear handwriting at the bottom of the page, were the names: Mr and Mrs S. Dryen and three children, and immediately following at the top of the next

page Messrs Abraham (my grandfather’s name before he became Edward) and Sam Dryen. All had embarked at Port Said and were destined for Melbourne. And so I recalled my grandfather’s (sic) naturalisation application and his return to Russia “on business”, March-August 1899!

My father’s story had been half right – they had all gone back on a six-month visit – almost ...My grandfather’s older brother Albert was missing – presumably he remained in Broken Hill to look after the growing business. I am assuming that the three un-named children were Rose aged 10, May aged 8 and Jacob aged 6. But what happened to young Michael who would then have been 4 years old? Was he too young to travel, and left behind in Broken Hill with his Krantz grandparents, did they not need to declare an infant on the manifest, or did they not pay for his passage and somehow secreted him on board?

I am also left to ponder whether they reached Port Said from Odessa, a much more direct route from their relatives in Koloniya Vesseleya (now in Ukraine), and did they also visit Palestine, as their Krantz relatives had done on their original journey to Australia?

There are as yet no manifests for the *Oldenburg* entering Albany in either 1894 or 1895 – but this latest discovery proves, once again, that there just might be an element of truth in those old family stories.

Robyn Dryen is the Newsletter Editor of ‘Kosher Koala’. She notes as a follow up that the original surname was actually *Druyan*. They received a visual transliteration from Cyrillic rather than phonetic. However, from the day they arrived in Australia the surname was Dryen.

International Jewish Genealogy Month

International Jewish Genealogy Month honors our Jewish ancestors through the pursuit of Jewish family history research. It's IAJGS's hope that member organizations will take advantage of the International Jewish Genealogy Month to encourage Jewish genealogy and publicize their organization and activities all over the world.

The International Jewish Genealogy month is celebrated on the Hebrew month of *Cheshvan*. For 2011 the exact dates are from Oct 29 to Nov 26.



The IAJGS holds an annual competition for a work to be used as either a poster or flyer for announcing and celebrating the International Jewish Genealogy Month. The winning poster/flyer is unveiled each year at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The artist creating the winning entry receives free registration for that conference.

The 2011 Poster Contest Winner is Jillian Beroza of the JGS of Long Island (New York). Jillian offers her thoughts on genealogy and the Contest:

What is Genealogy?

We've had many speakers and discussions in JGSLI about what genealogy and Jewish genealogy is all about today. There's a BIG stereotype that we all face. As generally portrayed, images from Jewish genealogy involve ancient parchment papers from some foreign language, dusty, old books in libraries and antique photos of Baba Greenberg all

dressed in black and wearing her pearl necklace.

Breaking the Stereotypes

Internet: Though we do LOVE them, genealogists aren't always scouring over old books and looking at sepia toned photos with a magnified glass. We're researching on the internet (like Ancestry) and communicating via social media sites (like FaceBook). In the modern age of genealogy, you need to take advantage of the internet.

Motivation Behind the Posters

My inspiration came from the idea that Jewish Genealogy needed a fresh look for 2011 and needed to break the stereotypes. There needed to be an image that didn't leave out a specific sect of Jews and gives a nod to the new paths of genealogy.

I felt that the symbol of the tree is a very standard look and so... I gave it a new twist, LITERALLY! The tree symbolizes the tall and ever growing family trees that we have. The twisting of tree is to represent both the DNA double helix and the combining of ALL of our family trees.

Trees go up and they go down, so I wanted to put an emphasis that our "roots"/past are being explored while our "branches"/future are expanding out. We are all Jewish, so we're finding missing links and connecting our families together. With DNA testing, perhaps we can't find the exact name and information of the ancestor to which we're related . . . but we can get close enough to connect one Jewish person from Egypt and another from Jewish person from the Netherlands have the same ancestor from the 1200s in Spain.

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

IRIS BRAGAR
KAREN LEWY



2012 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 2012

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 out to: JGSCV

Mail 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 _____

Are you on Facebook? Yes ___ No ___

What is your Facebook Name _____

Link to Facebook by <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

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