

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

September 2014

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV had an excellent Genealogy in the Round program on August 10! It's very gratifying to hear directly from members about their genealogical successes and how they broke down their personal brick walls. There were lots of hints for everyone. For a summary of the seven presentations see page 12.

A 5-minute genealogical hint on the use of the World War 1 Draft Registration Cards was given by Jan Meisels Allen. The power point is posted to the JGSCV website (www.jgscv.org) under meetings-prior with the date of August 10. We need volunteers for the 5-minute genealogical hint. If anyone wants to present on a topic not yet given please contact me at president@jgscv.org.

Thank you to Werner Frank for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner prior to the meeting. Seventeen members of JGSCV attended the 34th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Even if you didn't attend, you can still purchase the LIVE! subscription for 60 key sessions. Click here for more information <http://tinyurl.com/owmu7wn>. Remember, if you are a JGSCV member, you get a 10% discount with our member code. If you don't have the code, contact me and I will send it to you. For a summary of the highlights of the Conference, including the IAJGS Board election and awards see page 6. As I mentioned in the last two newsletters, JGSCV is offering a new computer class for



NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, September 7th 1:30-3:30 PM

All About JewishGen

A step-by-step on how to use JewishGen, the primary online site for Jewish genealogists. Presented by Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen and founding board member of JGSCV.

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JGSCV members-only! Crista Cowan, Ancestry.com's Barefoot Genealogist®, will facilitate the computer class: "Getting The Most Out of the Ancestry.Com" on Sunday September 14 at the Conejo Valley Adult Education School. **This is a JGSCV-member only benefit** and while JGSCV defrays most of the costs, there will be a **pre-paid, non-refundable \$10 charge for those who register**. As of writing this letter we have 17 registrants. There are only 29 computers available for use and Crista is a favorite of JGSCV so if you plan to attend, please sign up NOW to avoid being disappointed! See page 10 for more information on the class and how to register and prepay.

The JGSCV Nominations Committee is chaired by Hal Bookbinder, JGSCV honorary immediate past president and includes Israel Perel, the JGSCV Board representative and Sara Applebaum the JGSCV member representative. Hal will contact eligible members inquiring if they would like to serve on the JGSCV Board. The board application is posted to our website www.jgscv.org under "contact us" and the "welcome" page. If you have a problem, right click on the link and save it to your computer to fill-out and send to Hal. This year there are six seats up for election. Existing board members are also invited to apply to continue to serve. The Nominations Committee will report later this fall. Even if you don't want to serve on the board but want to get more involved let Hal know!

JGSCV's permanent library is housed at the Agoura Hills Library—one of the 86 branches of the Los Angeles County Public Library. See page 18 for announcement on reopening on Mondays starting in September!

We have always had rich programming for our monthly meetings and JGSCV has confirmed programs through the end of 2014, and February, March and May 2015. Please note, the October and November meetings will be held on **Monday** evenings. Unlike past years, the Temple requires the Social Hall for their special children's show (and rehearsals) through mid-December. Our two annual Monday evening programs, which are usually split between the spring and fall, will both be in the fall this year. Announcements will be made at the meetings and posted on the website (www.jgscv.org) and in the monthly newsletters as new speakers are confirmed. See page 16.

The *Genealogists' Bill of Rights* is very important to sign for everyone who is an American citizen and registered to vote. A sign-up sheet was available at the August meeting and will be again at the September meeting. You may sign electronically by going to: <http://bit.ly/gen-declaration>. For more information see: <http://iajgs.org/ISigned.html>. While records access is a concern worldwide, at this time the Declaration is US-based only. IAJGS is hoping other countries will adopt a similar Declaration for their country.

Our next meeting is Sunday, September 7 1:30-3:30 PM with Warren Blatt presenting "All About JewishGen". This session will take you step-by-step through the process of using JewishGen's most popular features including how to search the databases, how to make inquiries, and how to add your own data. Warren is the Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief of Jewish Gen as well as a founding member and board member of JGSCV.

Looking forward to seeing you there!
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.

2014 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 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.

FINDING CLUES FROM WW I

In recognition of the 100th Anniversary of the start of WW I, ancestry.com is offering a downloadable, printable guide for exploring the WW I service of our ancestors: <http://tinyurl.com/n6pxdgn>

ANCESTRY TO MOVE MY CANVAS

Ancestry.com had previously announced it would 'retire' MyCanvas but an outcry by customers has resulted in their moving it to another source. MyCanvas products which included genealogy books, calendars and other printed products will be available at *Alexander's*, the company that has been doing the printing production. This will be a six month transition during which time MyCanvas will remain available on ancestry.com

NEW AT ANCESTRY.COM

- Maine Passenger Lists, 1894-1960
- California State Hospital Records, 1856-1923
- U.S. Military Headstone and Interment Records
- Slovakia Synagogue and Church Books, 1592-1910
- New York Discharges of Convicts, 1882-1915

A PRIMER FOR BEGINNERS

For anyone considering to begin researching their family history, a good place to start is FamilySearch's "Begin your genealogy quest" at <http://tinyurl.com/lof9q92>. You will find links to click on as well as step-by-step hints and suggestions.

BEST GENEALOGY WEBSITES

Family Tree Magazine has released it list of 101 Best Genealogy Websites for 2014. This is the 15th year of the magazine's annual compilations and it is shown as simple list by category with easily clickable links. Most sites are free: <http://tinyurl.com/n42nr9z>

RAF AND RFC RECORDS RELEASED

Findmypast.com in partnership with The National Archives released 450,000 service records of Airmen of the Royal Air Force and Royal Flying Corps, according to Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter. More than 340,000 of these records have never been available online before. The records contain include both military and non-military information as well as physical descriptions, religious denominations and family status. Next of kin is often included in this easily searchable index. For more information visit: <http://goo.gl/vQBaOR>



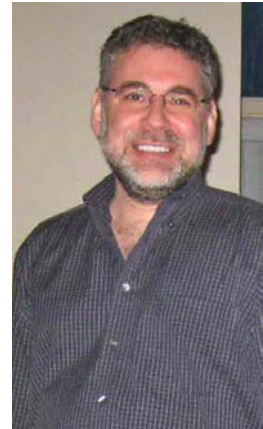
The JGSCV will hold a general meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, September 7, 2014 1:30-3:30 PM at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

The Topic: "All About JewishGen"

JewishGen is the primary Internet site for Jewish genealogy, an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Come hear Warren Blatt present the ultimate step-by-step guide to using JewishGen's most popular features:

- JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF)
- Kehila Links Websites
- Searching Databases
- Adding Personal Data
- JewishGen Communities Database
- ViewMate
- Making Inquiries
- Yizkor Book Project

Speaker: Warren Blatt Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, JewishGen, (www.jewishgen.org), an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage and founding member and board member of JGSCV. In 2004, Warren received the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author of *Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area*; and co-author of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*. Warren has over 25 years of research experience with Russian and Polish Jewish records, and is the author of the "JewishGen FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about Jewish Genealogy," as well as many other JewishGen InfoFiles.



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.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family.



JGSCV UPDATES . . .



JGSCV really, really needs an assistant editor for our newsletter, “Venturing Into Our Past”. The assistant editor will need to devote only about of 2 hours (at your own pace) throughout each month researching and accumulating the records updates and insights that appear on page 3 of this publication. Help in writing will be provided if necessary. **Please contact** Allan Linderman if interested: newslettereditor@jgscv.org

THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is available If you would like individual insights for your genealogical pursuits from an experienced JGSCV member. JGSCV board member Debra Kay-Blatt will lead the Schmoozing Corner before the September 7th meeting. Come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the SCHMOOZING CORNER sign 20 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin.



You can help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com by simply entering the Amazon site from JGSCV’s **home page**. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one here). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



Don’t forget to sign-up or renew your Ralph’s Community Contribution Program. Even if you have already registered, Ralph’s requires re-registration beginning each Sept. 1. See page 17 for easy to follow directions. JGSCV receives significant contributions from Ralph’s when you use your Ralph’s Card and have chosen JGSCV as your participant organization. Karen Lewy will be available to help you (re)register at the September 7 meeting.

If you enjoy and are enriched by JGSCV programs, please remember to renew your membership or join for the first time. JGSCV dues help defray the costs required to develop such a full schedule of fertile programs and speakers to enhance your genealogical research and experience. A form is on the website www.jgscv.org

Beginning next month, *Venturing Into Our Past* will include an “Ask the Expert” column with answers to questions YOU HAVE ASKED regarding your specific family history or genealogy in general. Start thinking about what questions you would like to have answered by an expert. The October issue will have all the information about how to submit your questions.

The 34th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen



Kudos to the co-chairs of the 34th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Salt Lake City, UT July 27-August 1: Ken Bravo, Banai Feldstein and JGSCV's own Hal Bookbinder who was the lead Co-Chair! It was a dynamic week of research, learning new techniques, participating in excellent programs, camaraderie and fun! Thank you to JGSLA president Sandra Malek, the Program Chairperson who provided us with a rich and compelling selection of program offerings. One theme of the conference was the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I. Conference attendees had 16 program choices touching on "The Great War" as well as many WWI databases available on the resource room computers. Platinum sponsors of the conference were Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.

The overall attendance of 558 at the conference was less than hoped for (572 registered). However, there were 309 registrants for live streaming and/or playback via LIVE! (of which 87 were also conference attendees) for a total of almost 800 who "attended" either in person or virtually. Attendees represented 16 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States and Uruguay! Needless to say the United States had the largest contingent with 504 attendees and California led the states with 145 attendees.

IAJGS conferences continue to embrace new technology for attendees: handouts were downloadable from the website; an app
September, 2014

including an electronic daily planner provided easy access to the program and more. IAJGS Conference LIVE! (video streaming) provided over 60 hours of Jewish Genealogy. LIVE! sessions will be available for playback for three months following the conference. IAJGS Conference LIVE! was produced by the IAJGS and FamilySearch. You can still take advantage of this opportunity for a fee. For more information go to: <http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/Live.cfm>. On Sunday there was also SHARE Fair (SIGS and BOFs, Historical Societies, Archives, Repositories, Eminent local JGSs). "Dear Myrtle"—your friend in genealogy blogger otherwise known as Pat Richley-Erickson (right) attended the SHARE FAIR and did her "Ambush CAM" interviews amongst the attendees. Roger Lusting hosted IAJGS LIVE! early in the afternoon before Dear Myrtle arrived.



JGSCV was well-represented with 17 members attending: Jan Meisels Allen, Nancy Biederman, Debra-Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Joanne Volk Cadis, Dalya Dektor, Carol Flesher, Patricia Fuller, Susan Geiger, Bonnie Gould, Richard Hoffman, Israel Perel, Helene Rosen, Marian Rothstein, Steve Rothstein and Marion Werle.

During the IAJGS Annual meeting the IAJGS Directors and a new vice president were elected. While there was some controversy over several proposed members who work for large genealogical companies, when the votes were counted, all of the proposed slate members were elected with substantially more than the required majority. Congratulations to IAJGS's

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

newly elected vice president, Ken Bravo, and to the directors: Nolan Altman, Quinton Atkinson, Daniel Horowitz, Deborah Long, Shipley Munson and Garri Regev. Not up for election this year, and still serving are: IAJGS President, Marlis Humphrey, IAJGS Secretary, Mark Nicholls and IAJGS Treasurer, Paul Silverstone.

IAJGS gained three new members since last year: JGS Maryland, The Society for Danish Jewish History and Yeshiva University Family Discovery Club.

IAJGS President Humphrey announced the dates of the next three IAJGS conferences:

- 2015: Jerusalem, Israel (Ramada) July 6-10, 2015 hosted by IAJGS
- 2016: Seattle, Washington (Sheraton) August 7-12, 2016 hosted by IAJGS
- 2017: Orlando, Florida July 23-28, 2017 (Walt Disney World Swan) hosted by IAJGS
- Under study: 2018 Eastern Europe-Warsaw with satellite conferences

One of the highlights of each conference is the awards that are presented at the annual banquet. This year the four prestigious awards went to:

Life Time Achievement Award: *Alexander Beider* In recognition of his many significant contributions to the specialized science of the origins and forms of proper names and surnames of persons as applied to the field of Jewish genealogy, as well as, for the scholarly works that he has authored that have become over time, indispensable reference resources for genealogists and families who are researching their ancestors. Garri Regev received the award in Alexander's name.

Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product: *Jewish Records Indexing - Poland* was recognized for providing since 1995

searchable on-line indices of Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland and for its recent ground breaking multi-year agreement with the Polish State Archives (PSA) in a massive effort to digitize all vital records in more than 30 regional archives. This initiative will dramatically expand access to records for family historians tracing their Jewish roots to Poland and make them freely available online.

Outstanding Program or Project Award: *Montefiore Census Digitization* is recognized for the exemplary work of Mathilde Tagger, Billie Stein, and Rose Feldman as well as the numerous volunteers from the Israel Genealogical Society and the Israel Genealogy Research Association who created the database, transcribed and translated all five 19th century censuses which document the Jewish population of Eretz Yisrael between 1839 and 1875. This project enables the availability of Sir Moses Montefiore's records to all genealogy researchers with roots in Ottoman Empire Palestine.

Outstanding Publication by an IAJGS Member: *Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island New York "Lineage"* was recognized for excellent design, editing and original content of a quarterly Jewish genealogy newsletter. "Lineage" stands out in effectively engaging the members of JGS Long Island to become more actively involved in their society as well as becoming better skilled in conducting their family research.

The Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Grant: *Jewish Colonies in South America* to digitize, index, and make available the Jewish Colonization Association's census and passenger lists of those assisted to agricultural colonies in South America, a \$3,000 grant.

John Stedman Memorial Grant: *The IAJGS* was the recipient in 2012 of \$15,000 from the estate of Jon Stedman to honor his father, John Stedman. An additional \$15,000 was given in

2014 by the Jon Stedman estate to IAJGS making the total bequest \$30,000.

Odessa Document Acquisition and Translation Projects, to obtain copies of the indexes of the Jewish vital records stored in the State Archives of Odessa, Ukraine, and to translate and make available these indexes in a searchable format: \$3,000.

Throughout the conference US citizens were encouraged to register to vote to sign the *Genealogists' Declaration of Rights*. Worldwide we are experiencing increasing barriers to access records of genealogical importance. The *Declaration* is a product of the Records Access and Preservation Committee (RPAC), whose three sponsoring members are the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), IAJGS and the National Genealogical Society (NGS) with the rest of the genealogical organizations' alphabet soup participating in a non-voting capacity. This *Declaration*, is focused on the United States but it is hoped that other countries will adopt a similar declaration. The intent is to provide state and national elected officials with the signatures of their constituents along with a copy of the declaration when RPAC submits statements on records access to show the elected officials the interest in open access to records. Signatures may also be done electronically at: <http://bit.ly/gen-declaration> . (Sign-up sheets will also be available at JGSCV meetings). For more information go to: <http://iajgs.org/ISigned.html>



Over 200 people signed at the conference. As of this writing there are over 3,535 signatures gathered by the NGS, IAJGS, on-line and more. The upcoming FGS conference later this month will include a campaign to have their attendees sign.



The keynote speech was given by David Laskin (left), author of *"The Family: Three Journeys Into the*

Heart of the 20th Century" David will be JGSCV's 9th anniversary program speaker on October 6th—giving a different presentation than his keynote speech. The "Great War" (WWI) had an impact on the Jews of the 20th Century—we always focus on the Holocaust and the creation of Israel-- post WWII-- but the experiences of WWI—and the "micro-history" of how genealogists look at the past through the lives of "ordinary people" was a watershed event. Jews Served in WWI in the Austrian-Hungarian Army as well as in the Allied armies.

Laskin's keynote presentation focused on three Jews- an Australian General John Monash who showed what a Jew could do even when he was subject to criticism as both a Jew and someone with Germanic background although he was firmly an Australian. General Monash played a critical role in the Eastern



Front- the Gallipoli Campaign. Another person Laskin talked about was Shimon Dov Hakohen a Russian civilian and Laskin's second great grandfather who served in the Russian Army (as did 450,000 other Jews) and fought on the Eastern Front. Unfortunately, what followed WWI were pogroms and the Russian revolutions and "blood lands" between Germany and Russia in WWII. According to Laskin, without the atrocities of the Eastern Front, Auschwitz would not have occurred. Countries other than the US were the losers in WWI –and the immigration movement increased after WWI. The third person Laskin discussed was a Sergeant who did not get the Medal of Honor because he was a Jew –this Sergeant took charge when there were no officers and kept the company fighting, despite being inflicted with a head wound as he had pride in serving his adopted country. American Jews served in WWI with pride despite the widespread anti-Semitism.

During WWI, Bernard Baruch issued a plan for US women to give up corsets because the steel

ribbons were needed for the war effort. During this campaign enough steel ribbons were diverted to build a battleship. Needless to say after the war, women were not going back to corsets. His great Aunt recognized the need for brassieres and created the Maidenform company! David will talk more about his family and the genealogical adventure for writing *The Family* at our October 6th program.

Other Highlights:

Monday evening there was a one-man performance of the play, "Time Capsule in a Milk Can", which was commissioned by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. The play tells the story of Emmanuel Ringelblum and the archive he created in the flames of the Warsaw Ghetto. Much of his material survived the war by being buried in milk cans. In this play, Marc Spiegel channelled Emmanuel Ringelblum. This is an extraordinary play and if you have the chance to see it –it is a must!

Warren Blatt (right), managing manager of Jewish Gen and JGSCV founding member and board member, along with Michael Tobias and Avrami Groll gave the annual report on JewishGen. Since last year's conference there are 73 new Kehila Links and the Yizkor Book Project added 30 books, 63 new entries and updated 300 books. There are 782 Yizkor Books on JewishGen. JewishGen's volunteer of the year is Gary Sandler—a critical person behind the scenes for network and systems support. The education program put on eleven courses and held 71 classes with 2,600 students. The JewishGen FamilyFinder has 100,000 researchers listed and 530,000 towns/surnames. JewishGen will be migrating to a new system and it was announced that a \$50,000 grant was awarded to initiate an upgrade to the discussion groups which will eliminate the need to post in plain text and enhance the server software. This is expected by years end.



Several JGSCV members presented at the conference: Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt, Jan Meisels Allen and Marion Werle. Debra and Warren (right) each did several presentations and one jointly on *Using Pre-1826 Polish Parish Records in Jewish Genealogical Research*. For those who research Polish records this was an exceptionally important research tool to learn –to review the “parish” records pre-1826 when all religions were included in the Church records. 1826 is the year when Jewish records were separated into their own registers. Pre-1826 parish records are a window into the daily lives of Jews in the Pale of Settlement, as well as a way of tracing the immigration patterns of Jews from small villages, then to towns, industrial centers in the Pale, and later out of Europe. As the records provide information on occupations, relationships for further research, migration trends, use of patronymic names as surnames were not yet adopted there is a wealth of information on life in the early 1800's.



Warren also presented on *Jewish Given Names* and *Jewish Sur Names*. Marion gave her presentation on *Researching Your Canadian Jewish Family from Afar*. I presented on a panel program: *Genealogy Under Fire: Government Actions Impede Access to Records YOU Need*, Conducted the Yizkor Book SIG and ran a *Discussion Group on Access to New York City Vital Records*.

A joint project between JewishGen and the IAJGS is the memorial plaques project to have synagogue memorial plaques photographed and catalogued on JewishGen by members of IAJGS societies. (This is a project I have been asking for JGSCV volunteers for the past several years and now we need to step forth and commit to this project).

Crista Cowan, the barefoot genealogist[®] from Ancestry.com gave several lectures and she will be JGSCV's December meeting guest speaker. As

always there is something new to learn from Crista and new databases on Ancestry.com--- including Jewish databases.

Past speakers who spoke at JGSCV also made presentations and it was wonderful to see and hear them again: Joan Adler, Ron Arons, Valerey Bazarov, Arthur Benveniste, Schelly Talalay Dardashti, Elise Friedman, Bennett, Greenspan, Daniel Horowitz, Roger Lustig, Genie Milgrom, Steve Morse and Joel Weintraub.

An *ad hoc* group was started by Mark Fearer of Colorado to explore: how to bridge the gulf between the Jewish and the non-Jewish genealogy worlds, and why that gulf exists. Also, to look at how to more effectively bring higher standards from professional genealogy into the world of Jewish genealogy, by creating a stronger interest in, documenting facts, knowing how and why to cite sources properly, understanding how and why to evaluate evidence, how to resolve conflicting evidence, and other methodological concepts. (The JGSCV permanent library has the three seminal books on how to document and cite sources: *Evidence Explained* by Elizabeth Shown Mills, *Mastering*

Genealogical Proof by Thomas W. Jones and *Genealogy Standards* 50th anniversary Edition by the Board for Certification of Genealogists). JGSCV is a member of both the FGS and NGS. I was invited to attend their meetings but scheduling only permitted me to attend their first get together. JGSCV member Marion Werle is very involved with encouraging appropriate documentation of our sources and is also a member of the *ad hoc* group participant and in May, Marion will talk to our group about why and how to appropriately document our sources.

Many of the SIGS held luncheons and lectures. The SIG programs are an opportunity to mingle and learn from others who are researching the same geographic areas as you are. One of the BEST reasons to attend is to network with others who are studying the same towns and names.

We hope many JGSCV members will attend the 35th IAJGS Conference next year in Jerusalem!

NEXT MEMBERS-ONLY WORKSHOP: “GETTING THE MOST OUT OF ANCESTRY.COM”

A computer workshop on Ancestry.com will be held at the Conejo Valley Adult Education Center (1025 Old Farm Road) in Thousand Oaks on September 14th from 1:30-4:30 PM. Entitled, “Getting the Most Out of Ancestry.com”, the workshop will be led by Crista Cowan, the “Barefoot Genealogist”[®]. JGSCV has been privileged to have Crista talk to us several times, so we know this will be a fast-sell out. The workshop is limited to the 29 spaces available in the single computer room so if you are interested, it is suggested that you act quickly.

This is in addition to our monthly programs and is only offered to 2014 JGSCV dues paid members. If you have not renewed or joined JGSCV for 2014, this is an excellent reason to do so now!

Crista will show you how to get the most out of your Ancestry.com searches. This is a step-by-step workshop with demonstrations of tips and tricks to maximize your searches and find even more treasures on Ancestry.com. Registration for “Getting the Most Out of Ancestry.com” will be available on a **first-come first-serve basis for**

September, 2014

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

those who register through JGSCV. You will only be able to register through JGSCV. The Conejo Valley Adult Education Center will *not* accept direct registrations. If you are interested, contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org. (Note, only Conejo Valley Adult Education Center computers will be used for this workshop. Please do **not** bring your own laptop.) While JGSCV will absorb most of the costs, **the participant fee is \$10.** *The \$10 fee is per person even if you have a family membership to JGSCV.* Once you let Jan know by email and she confirms the reservation, the \$10 fee must be paid in advance by check payable to JGSCV and mailed to our treasurer: Karen Lewy, 4500 Henley Court Westlake Village, CA 91361. **Deadline for receiving the check is September 8** so that those on the waiting list may be contacted. **Payment will only be refunded if someone on the waiting list can fill the previously reserved space.** This new provision has been put in place since five pre-registrants did not attend the last workshop leaving some disappointed members who remained on the waiting list while 5 seats were vacant.

The date is **Sunday, September 14 from 1:30-4:30 p.m.** The workshop will start **promptly at 1:30 p.m.** Late arrivals will have to catch up on their own so please plan accordingly. **The Conejo Valley Adult Education Center is located at 1025 Old Farm Road in Thousand Oaks.**

Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a JGSCV 2014 or 2015 dues paid member-neither spouses nor friends that are not current JGSCV members may attend and those who are current members need to be individually registered.
2. **You must be proficient in basic computer skills:** how to work a mouse-including the difference between right and left clicking, opening and closing a window, getting on

the internet, migrating through webpages and **following directions.** The computers use Windows 7 operating system. **This is not a class on how to learn how to use a computer.** The only assistance given will be how to use the Ancestry.com website.

Registration

The Adult Education Center requires JGSCV to provide information for each person using the facility. If you have a family membership and both members in the membership want to participate, that is considered two (2) registrations - and two \$10 fees. Therefore, in your email to Jan, please include the following information for each individual registering:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone number (cell or landline)
4. Birth date including birth year (this is the unique identifier used by the school)

REMINDER: If you have a family membership to JGSCV and both members wish to attend, you **MUST** provide the above information separately for each family member.

The school assures us that this information will not be used for solicitation or other purposes unless you give them permission to contact you following the class.

For those who register, you may find it helpful to bring a USB (flash) drive in order to copy and bring home any documents you may create or want to download.

The limited number of spaces will go quickly so please sign-up now! *Additional information will be provided to registered participants.* If you have any questions contact Jan at president@jgscv.org

Highlights from: Genealogy in the Round

Each year JGSCV has a special program where members and friends share their genealogical successes, brick walls and artifacts. Our August 10 meeting was this year's Genealogy in the Round and it was excellent! Seven presenters each provided a unique example of a breakthrough, a shattered brick wall or artifact with genealogical hints as to how they achieved their success. One theme came through: "don't give up and keep trying" no matter what answers you may have previously received.

Barbara Algaze found the passenger manifest for an ALGAZE grandmother (Louisa Algaze) after the National Archives Records Administration (NARA) insisted that they did not have her naturalization papers. In fact they insisted that was the case for each the name variations (see below). Barbara was *positive* based on information in the 1930 census that Louisa had been naturalized. The 1920 census showed she was an alien and had arrived in 1913, but the 1930 census showed her arrival in 1911 and that she was naturalized.



Even finding her grandmother's given name was a challenge. Based on multiple records including her husband's naturalization, their marriage certificate, the birth certificate of her first son and Federal and New York censuses, her first name varied from Lisa, Loiza, Louisa, Leah, Lena and Louise. The next question was: What was her surname? This also varied from her patronymic name from Salonika, Greece as Louisa daughter of MORDEHAI (her father's patronymic was Mordehai ben Joseph); her marriage certificate was Loiza JOSEPH—yet her signature was Loiza MORDEHY. The Americanized surname of her siblings was MARCUS as was her father's surname on his death certificate.

No passenger record was found. One clue should have been that the 1930 US census that listed her as naturalized also said the language spoken at home was Yiddish—not true in Greece where the language was Ladino or Greek—indicating the census taker assumed Yiddish since they were Jewish.

At a JGS meeting, Barbara learned about the United States Alien Registration Act of 1940. (The Act made it illegal for any resident or citizen of the United States to teach or advocate the violent overthrow of the U.S. government. The law also forced non-citizens to register with the U.S. government so that the government would be able to track them and their un-American ideas which may or may not lead to the overthrow of the government.) For more information on the Alien Registration Act see: <http://tinyurl.com/oy7thcg>. Barbara reviewed all the documents she had on Louisa and noted that her death certificate listed her as a citizen of Greece. The U.S. Census was wrong!

Barbara wrote again to NARA, asking for Louisa's Alien Registration and asked for copies of **everything** else in the file. What was returned was a gold mine! The alien registration file said she entered the U.S. as Lucea MORDEHAI. A name also used in the papers was Louise MORDEHAI. Included with those papers was a 1954 application for a replacement alien registration as hers had been lost or destroyed. This paper named the ship

September, 2014

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she immigrated on and provided her mother's maiden name, as well as her uncle living in the U.S. From this information, Barbara was able to find Lucea's ship's manifest from 1912 which also listed the person she left behind—Lucea's mother in Salonika.

Visit NARA or the US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) at: <https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=Start&SWEHo=eservices.archives.gov> <https://genealogy.uscis.dhs.gov/RequesterPage.aspx> to order records. Both sites are fee based. (Note: I had difficulty getting the NARA site to open using Firefox but no problem with Internet Explorer.)

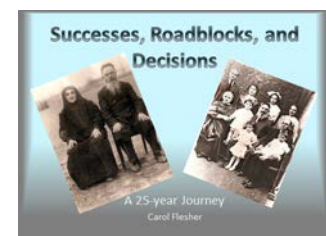
Sara Applebaum talked about breaking through brick walls finding proof of her father's military service during World War II. Sara has written several books including *Lost and Found: A Family Memoir*. In this book Sara tells the story of her family fleeing Poland to Siberia to Kyrgyzstan—where Sara was born. Her father “deserted” his hard labor to fight for the “homeland” (Poland). There was a Polish unit of the Russian Army but she had no information about her father's Army experience.

Sara contacted Russian professional genealogist Vladimer Paley. While he didn't find her father's records he sent Sara her uncle's records. The records are also available through the US Holocaust Memorial Museum database. However, Mr. Paley referred Sara to the Polish Military Archives 1943-1945 caw@wp.mil.pl which sent her a number of records on her father's military service. This included information on his regiment, company, battalion, and that he was hospitalized in Lublin, Poland for a month before being released back to his unit. Also included was a list of her father's personal belongings when he was admitted to the Lublin Military Hospital. The records included doctor's notes and the daily check on symptoms.

Sara was able to share photographs that she found of the Polish Army liberating Lublin, its commanding officer and more. Her father, as part of the Polish Army along with the Soviet troops, was a liberator of Majdanek Extermination Camp on July 23, 1944. Sara and her brother donated the tefillin Sara's father brought back from Majdanek to the Wiesenthal Museum of Tolerance.

Recently, Sara also received a phone call from Galveston TX from a cousin who came to the United States through the Galveston Plan—which she looked up on Ancestry.com and learned she had many more cousins. A cousin in Santa Barbara contacted her through Geni.com.

Carol Flesher talked about successes, roadblocks and decisions—a 25 year journey. Carol's family was from central Ukraine. Her friend was into genealogy and she thought it sounded interesting and that she could trace back too! Carol first started by corralling relatives and asking questions. She asked her older relatives—including her father—to draw family trees which turned out to be very accurate. From family information she discovered the true name of the family's home town was Varva not Chernigov. She learned from ship manifests and bank records that the family name was Troob (originally Trigub). With all the challenges she faced early on, Carol decided that “old school” genealogy “was not for her” and stuck her research into a drawer.



With retirement came more time, and with the Internet and Ancestry.com came “instant gratification” and genealogy was no longer “old school”. Using JewishGen and Facebook she found people and started emailing more family. Carol stockpiled information and uncovered mysteries such as people she never heard of who paid for her grandparent's passage to the US. Someone with
September, 2014

a similar last name ended up in Michigan and her grandparents' took a road trip to visit them; her father had brother who died in infancy and more . . .

Carol did a DNA test with someone she met through JewishGen and found they were cousins from Michigan.

Her brick wall was also decision time. Did she start researching over the Atlantic Ocean? Carol believed discovering her family history was something she owed to her ancestors, her descendants and herself. Carol hired Nadia and Alexei Lipes, a Ukrainian research team she found on JewishGen. After much time and hundreds of dollars, the researchers found nothing. Later, unexpectedly, Carol received an email from the Lipes's with her grandmother's name. They then proceeded to trace two branches of her family back to the mid 1700s before surnames were used.



With all this newly found family information, Carol is writing the book she believes she owes her family. Of course, she is now faced with certain decisions regarding the book's contents. Genealogy is more than a genealogical record. She wants to include a history of the town and daily life in the shtetl for context as well as narrative to make it readable and graphics for visual appeal. Carol also added family recipes, family names, medical genealogy, and DNA reports. Her second volume will be the anecdotes, memoirs, stories and more.

Werner Frank discussed his father's two lives and a remarkable discovery. Werner used a search engine for looking up who served in the German Army in World War I. Werner's father was a volunteer in the Kaiser's Army. From the records he found out that his father had been severely wounded on September 27, 1918 at 12:30 p.m. one kilometer from Bourlon. (Bourlon Wood was the site of a major battle in WW I's Western Front during the 100 Days Offensive by the Allies against the German Army.) A letter from his father's commanding officer was sent to his grandparents—his father's parents— that their son Arthur was killed as a battlefield casualty. This was obviously not true.

In the "*militärpass*" in his father's own handwriting Werner was able to read his father's account of his war years and how he was left for dead one kilometer from Bourlon, and that when he was found he was taken to a hospital. Werner as a child remembers the scar on his father's neck from the wound.

By doing a **Google search** for "Bourlon 27 September 1918" Werner found a book about the battle: *Order of Battle, For King & Empire Volume 6: The Canadians at Cambrai and the Canal du Nord September -October 1918* that showed the exact place and time where his father had been shot.

Carol Paskow told of a friend who did research for her at the FamilyHistory Library and provided information on her parents and siblings. As her parents divorced when she was very young, and she did not see her father much since the divorce, she wanted to get as much information on the father's side as possible.

Carol learned that her father, a dentist, was born in Philadelphia. The researcher found her grandparents' names and, through Ancestry.com, her first cousins, once removed. Also found were the immigration records of her paternal grandfather Jacob Rudolf Bauman. Jacob Bauman was known for creating the Bauman dress form, which is still in use today. Jacob's wife (Carol's

grandmother Fanny) died when Carol was young. She has been able to contact another daughter of Jacob's in Wisconsin and she learned her grandfather remarried. Cousins have been found in Israel - who asked about redheads in the family as the Israeli cousin has a new grandchild with red hair. Interestingly, red hair runs in the family as Carol and others are redheads! When Carol and Rabbi Paskow's daughter, Rabbi Michelle Paskow, goes to Israel she will meet with the newly found cousins. Carol is now researching her father's sister Bessie who she did not know about previously.

Israel (Issie) Perel found unknown cousins and was himself found by previously unknown cousins. Issie's parents' towns were taken over by Russians during World War II. His father and three brothers took off to Siberia as the Nazi's murdered all others in their town. At the end of the war, his parents met in a Jewish Charitable House and then went to a displaced persons camp in Enns, Austria. His mother had three sisters in the United States and a brother in Montreal. The brother sponsored Issie's parents and his older sister. Issie was born in Canada.

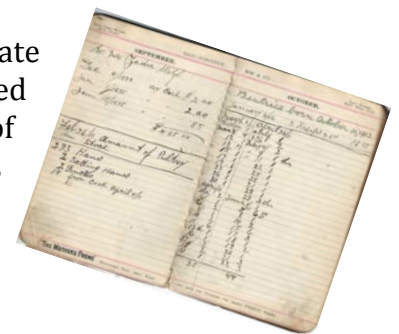
Issie started to research the name "Fishel" (Fizel) and the town of Zamosc (Poland) using Jewishgen.org. Through Ancestry.com he was able to find that he had French cousins. His search was on "Fizel" and "any" Zamosc, Poland. His great-grandfather had a brother Mordka and a nephew in Zamosc who moved to France. Issie showed a number of older family photographs that he was able to obtain from his newly found cousins. He found that the family changed the spelling of the name from Fizel to Fischel when they lived in Germany. There was a family reunion with cousins from Toronto, France and Israel—with a variety of languages being spoken: Hebrew, French, Yiddish and English! Issie also found cousins living in Brooklyn that the cousins in France did not know existed.

Issie also told how he was found by cousins when he received an email addressed to Dr. Perel at his JGSCV librarian email address which he rarely uses. The cousin, Michael Greene, was Googling Issie's late father-in-law, Elvin Greene, when Elvin's obituary showed up. The obit named Issie and his wife Beth. From that, cousin Michael *Googled* Issie and up popped JGSCV's newsletter, *Venturing Into Our Past!* Michael explained the connection and that his great-grandfather had ten children and his great grandchildren live everywhere! There are now more cousins for Issie to contact.

Jan Meisels Allen showed her paternal grandfather's day book that her late uncle's widow gave to her as the family genealogist. The day book showed his profit and loss in the early 1900's as well as documented the births of his children. As Jan's grandparents had a farm and hotel in Hunter Village, New York, the day book also mentioned the number of eggs they bought; the number of hens they had and individual purchases of beds, and clothing. The book was written in Yiddish and German.



Julius, Mordka and Hermann (1908)



JGSCV Meeting Dates Through August, 2015*

At Temple Adat Elohim (Except February, 2015)

Sunday, September 7th 1:30-3:30 PM Program "Step-By-Step for Getting the Most From JewishGen" Presented by Warren Blatt, Managing Director JewishGen and JGSCV Board Member

October 6, 2014 Monday 7:00-9:00 PM JGSCV's 9th anniversary David Laskin, Author of *The Family* a fascinating memoir that follows the author's rather amazing ancestors across the tumultuous sweep of the 20th century. Characters include a Torah scribe on the fringe of the Russian empire, the brilliant woman who founded Maidenform bras, and a young risk-taking couple fighting for the birth of the State of Israel. Book signing opportunity \$17 per book.

November 3, 2014 Monday 7:00-9:00 PM Tammy Hepps, *The Margarine Moonshiners from Minsk: Conducting Story-Driven Research*. Hepps takes on a journey through story telling that is funny and yet a genealogical journey that teaches us how to research. Hepps' routine search on her great-grandfather revealed the shocking surprise that he had been incarcerated in Leavenworth, tracing a group of brothers and brothers-in-law recently immigrated from Minsk, who set out to sell margarine as butter in defiance of one the stranger pieces of legislation ever passed. Her desire to tell this story in its entirety led to uncovering the hijinks of her great-grandfather, who fled with his family repeatedly before the feds finally nabbed him, her great-grandmother, whose pleas to the warden still survive, the brother-in-law he fingered who was excommunicated for selling lard as butter, another brother-in-law who was arrested for threatening to kill a witness, the soon-to-be-famous inspector who was hot on their tail the entire time, and more. Hepps uses numerous historical and genealogical repositories to retrace her journey to get to the bottom of his long-concealed chapter in her family history.

December 21, 2014 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Crista Cowan, *The Best of Ancestry.com "The Barefoot Genealogist"*[®], returns with hints on how to best use Ancestry.com, new records and more! Annual Membership and Chanukah Party

2015

January 4, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 TBA

February 8, 2015 Sunday 1:00-5:00 Annual Assisted Research Afternoon- Los Angeles Family History Library Members Only

March 1, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 Janette Silverman, Ancient Texts Lead to Genealogical Discoveries: The Lives Our Ancestors Led

April 12, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 TBA Annual Yom Hashoah Program (actual Yom Hashoah is April 16)

May 3, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 Marion Werle, Evaluating Evidence, Genealogical Proof Standard, What Is A Reliable Source?

June 7, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 TBA

July 6-10, 2015 IAJGS Conference Jerusalem, Israel No JGSCV Meeting in July

August 2, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 Genealogy in the Round

*All programs subject to change. Check website www.jgscv.org

Ralphs Community Contribution Program To Benefit JGSCV



JGSCV's partnership with Ralphs is an important part of our revenue. Your Board relies on fees received from **Ralphs Community Contribution Program** to help defray the cost of many of our programs, speakers, books and more. The Community Contribution program makes a contribution to JGSCV, at no cost to you, each time you

shop at any of the Ralphs stores. It is the least expensive and easiest way to help fund your JGSCV. Everyone, even people you know who are not JGSCV members, can help by signing up for this program.

First, join Ralphs' Club. **September 1st each year you must re-join** (even if you are already a member) Besides helping JGSCV, Ralphs Club members also receive special discounts on featured purchases.

If you are already a registered participant, you will remain active only until August 31, 2014 at which time you will have to re-register. You can re-register for the new term at www.Ralphs.com starting **September 1, 2014**. Even if you registered as recently as July you will be required to register again starting September 1st!

Remember: You can renew or register for the first time at the JGSCV's meetings—but you must first have a Ralph's Card. You can easily obtain a card by going to the customer service desk at any Ralphs store. For more information contact Karen Lewy at Karen@jgscv.org.

Once you have a Ralphs Club card, register for the Community Contribution Program by going to www.Ralphs.com and clicking on register/sign-in. This will register your Ralphs card so you will be entitled to discounts on featured items throughout each store. Include your email and create a password.

Once You Have Registered Your Ralph's Rewards Card you can sign-up for the Community Contribution Program and help JGSCV by following these simple steps:

1. Log-in to www.ralphs.com:
2. Sign-in with your email address and the password you created
3. Click on "My Account" (it's the top right hand corner)
4. View all your information and edit as necessary
5. Scroll down to bottom of page where it says community awards and click edit or enroll my community contribution
6. Follow the instructions and remember to click on the circle to the left of our organization's name
7. Type in the first words of our organization i.e. "Jewish Gen" (if you only type in "Jewish" a number of organizations appear including ours, so by typing in the first few letters of our second name only we appear) and click on "search" and our name will pop up: "Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &". Or key in our 5 digit NPO number **84732** and

click 'Search'. *Make certain it is our Society as there are other Jewish Genealogy Societies registered!*

8. In the 'Select Your Organization Section', click on the bubble next to our name

9. Click on 'Save Changes'. Our name (Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &.) will appear on the right side of this page. You have now completed your Online rewards card registration **AND** your Community Contributions registration.

10. Click on 'Logout' at the top of the page

The Ralphs Community Contribution program will pay JGSCV quarterly for monthly qualifying purchases per household:

Up to \$200 –1%;

Between \$200-\$349.99 -2%

Between \$350-\$500 3%; and

Over \$500 4%

JGSCV has been receiving from Ralphs between \$45-\$70 per quarter, or equal to 2-3 JGSCV memberships per quarter! Directions are also on our website: www.jgscv.org under "Notices".

JGSCV Welcomes New Member

LORRAINE KRANE

Agoura Hills Library New Hours

The Agoura Hills Library, one of the 86 branches of the County of Los Angeles Public Library, where the JGSCV permanent library is housed, will reopen on Mondays starting September 8, 2014. This means the Agoura Hills Library will be open six days a week-closed only on Sundays and holidays.



The new hours are:

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10AM-8PM

Thursday 11AM-5PM

Friday and Saturday 10AM-5PM

The restoration of Library Service hours, at libraries located in cities throughout Los Angeles County, is made possible by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors' approval to increase the Library budget by \$3.6 million to restore library hours as they were in 2009-2010 before the budget cuts took effect.

JGSCV has a rich permanent library of approximately 300 books plus journals and newsletters from around the world. The Agoura Hills Library is located at: 29901 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills, CA 91301. To see our collection go to : www.jgscv.org and click on library –permanent.