

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

April, 2014

Volume 9 Issue 7

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Roger Lustig treated JGSCV members and friends to an excellent presentation at our March 2nd meeting: *One Hundred Germanies A Hundred Jewish Histories*. Roger is a genealogical researcher based in Princeton, NJ and the research coordinator for GerSIG—the German Special interest group under JewishGen. Until 1871 Germany's Jews were subjects of dozens of different states, each with different laws and attitudes toward its Jewish population. Napoleon emancipated most of Germany's Jews and led Prussia to do likewise for almost all the rest; but as soon as he was gone, the many German states—most with new boundaries—returned their Jews to one or another special legal status. This poses great challenges for the German –Jewish researcher. To read the highlights from Roger's program, see page 6.

The five-minute genealogical hint was a preview of the upcoming IAJGS conference given by JGSCV founding member and lead conference co-chair, Hal Bookbinder. A number of you have told me that you are planning to attend the IAJGS conference this July 27-August 1 www.iajgs2014.org (see page 11 for more information). This is a great opportunity to meet and greet



Roger Lustig the March 2nd speaker on "One Hundred Germanies A Hundred Jewish Histories"

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, April 7th 7:00-9:00 PM

The Sephardic Community in Los Angeles

Arthur Benveniste returns to share his insights and stories about growing up Sephardic in Los Angeles.

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those who are researching the same towns/countries and surnames. While the program will not be announced until later in April, Hal announced to us that the keynote speaker will be David Laskin, author of *The Family: Three Journeys Into The Heart of the Twentieth Century* and evening entertainment will include "Time Capsule in a Milk Can" Emanuel Ringelblum and the Secret Archives of the Warsaw Ghetto. (I saw *Milk Can* last year when the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum celebrated its 20th anniversary in Los Angeles and it's a very powerful performance.) Early registration ends May 31st so don't delay in registering—and rooms at the conference hotel are going quickly—best to make your reservations now. If you want the conference to help find you a roommate there is place on the conference registration form addressing that need.

JGSCV ended 2014 with 112 memberships and 148 members. As of the day this letter is being written we have for 2014, 111 memberships and 146 members. We are fortunate that we attract new members throughout the year—with some moving out of the area or leaving JGSCV for different reasons we are stable and growing. We had an attrition rate of 8%—still way below the annual attrition rate of JGS's—and 3 more have promised to send in their dues. I hope they do, but as renewal dues for 2014 were due January 1st, we reluctantly have to remove those from our membership list who have not renewed. Each member who has not yet renewed has been contacted. Our meetings are open to the public and that is how we attract new members throughout the year and some who have not renewed return. Of course if those who have not yet renewed decide to renew later they will be welcomed back. Members do have certain privileges that non-members do not enjoy.

Each year we have one program that focuses on Sephardic Judaism. The April meeting—which will be held on Monday evening 7:00-9:00 p.m. (note the different day and time) is this year's program. Arthur Benveniste has graced our society several times with his excellent presentations—each one different—but all on Sephardism. This program is *Sephardic Jews in Los Angeles*. For those of us who come from Eastern Europe and believe we are "only" Ashkenazi—unless you have traced your family back to the late 1400's we can't be 100% certain—as Jews fled the Inquisition and many went east. Whether or not you have Sephardic roots you will find Arthur's presentation of interest.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday night, April 7, at 7:00 p.m. the traveling library is available starting at 6:30 and the schmoozing corner at 6:40 p.m.

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.

FREE FAMILYSEARCH CLASSES

Barbara Algaze, JGSCV member and LA Family History Library expert, will lead 3 free classes:

- Wed April 9th, 1-2 PM: Introduction to Genealogy/Genealogy 101
- Wed April 23rd, 1-2 PM Introduction to the Family Search website
- Wed April 30th, 1-2 PM, Introduction to the ancestry.com website

Classes are at 10471 Santa Monica Blvd. Los Angeles, 90025. For information call 310-474-9990

PERSONAL STORY FROM THE UKRAINE

The recent Harvard Divinity Bulletin includes a moving story of the family history of Jonathan Herman of the Department of Religious Studies at Georgia State University – from Zhabokrich, Ukraine <http://tinyurl.com/p3hvd3w>

USCIS GENEALOGY SEMINARS

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is offering a series of webinars that require pre-registration. “Genealogy Program Introduction” at 10 AM PDT will run on April 10th and repeat on May 8th. For more information: <http://tinyurl.com/mbfus2g>

JEWISH IMMIGRANT GUIDE

The Museum of Family History has made available a ‘nearly literal translation’ of the 1916 book, *Guide to the United States for The Jewish Immigrant* by John Foster Carr. Originally published in Yiddish, it offers a step-by-step for immigrants to follow from learning about and traveling to the U.S. to getting a passport. To view go to <http://tinyurl.com/oux4a6z>

FAMILY HISTORIANS TO FOLLOW

Family Tree Magazine has posted its version of the most influential media historians to follow on social media. Listings are categorized based social media element: Blogs, Twitter, Facebook, Pinterest and YouTube. You needn’t be active in all these online elements. Just pick the one(s) that works for you: <http://tinyurl.com/oggqpb6>

NY PHILHARMONIC RECORDS SEARCHABLE

The oldest symphony orchestra in the United States, the New York Philharmonic, has digitized and made available its entire historic archive dating to 1842. If any of your ancestors were professional musicians, this is an intriguing database to search: <http://tinyurl.com/p3vqznu>



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, April 7, 2014 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

The Topic: Sephardic Jews in Los Angeles



Arthur Benveniste grew up in a tight community of Sephardic Jews from the island of Rhodes. Most of them lived within walking distance of the Sephardic Hebrew Center on 55th and Hoover. Until he was in high school, Benveniste thought that all Jews spoke Spanish. Benveniste interviewed many of the founders of the community and videotaped several of them giving their memoirs. As director of the archives at Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel, he had access to the original minutes of *La Comunidad Sefardi*, written in Ladino and dating back to 1920. He had access to many other documents including photos from the synagogue files and from private collections. The presentation will cover:

1. The history of the Spanish speaking Jews from around the Aegean, the Balkans and North Africa;
2. Settlement in Southern California and founding their Synagogues;
3. Benveniste's discovery of Ashkenazi Jews and the differences in our cultures;
4. The differences between Ladino and Castilian Spanish and the many misinterpretations they have had; and
5. Sephardic culture, including folklore, cuisine and music, etc.

Speaker: Arthur Benveniste. His parents were from the Island of Rhodes where his ancestors lived for four hundred years. For many years, he has been interested in tracing the roots of Sephardic culture. Benveniste has been active in the Society for Crypto Judaic Studies since 1993, where he was president of the society from 2001 to 2003. He served as the co-editor of *Halapid*, the newsletter of the society.

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. Join now for 2014!

JGSCV UPDATES . . .



1

JGSCV is seeking a volunteer to join the Membership Committee. It takes only about one hour a month and would be a great help to the society and its members. The only requirement is that you must be able to send and receive emails with word or pdf attachments. These attachments are the Press Releases announcing our monthly meetings and are provided to you. However, they *must* be emailed the first week of every month. If you are willing to help with this assignment please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is available if you would like individual insights for your genealogical pursuits from an experienced JGSCV member. Debra Kay Blatt (in photo left) led the Schmoozing Corner prior to the March 2nd 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. Warren Blatt will lead the schmoozing corner at our April 7th meeting starting at 6:40 p.m.



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 will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. start at – except JGSCV



Don't forget to sign-up or renew your Ralph's Community Contribution Program. JGSCV receives significant contributions from Ralph's when you use your Ralph's Card and have chosen JGSCV as your participant organization. See "Notices" at the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org.

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, under the membership tab, and is available at the registration desk at our monthly meetings,



2

JGSCV is seeking an assistant editor for our newsletter, "Venturing Into Our Past". The assistant editor will need to devote a total 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

Crista Cowan, the Barefoot Genealogist, has presented Ancestry.com tips and shortcuts at several JGSCV meetings in the past. Crista also regularly posts articles on her blog on genealogical subjects of interest to her but not necessarily directly related to her position at Ancestry. You may want to bookmark her blog and check it out from time to time: <http://tinyurl.com/lvgoqlh>

Highlights From:

A Hundred Germanies A Hundred Jewish Histories

Roger Lustig spoke about the complexities of German-Jewish history on March 2nd. Until 1871 Germany's Jews lived in dozens of different states, each with different laws and attitudes toward its Jewish population. Napoleon emancipated most of Germany's Jews and led Prussia to do likewise for almost all the rest. As soon as Napoleon was gone, many German states—most with new boundaries—returned their Jews to one or another special legal status. So many laws in so many states presents a challenge for the German genealogy researcher because the same type of information—birth, change of residence, etc.—might be kept by different authorities and in different ways.

Although there was no German nation-state before 1871, the idea of “Germany” was very old and commonly understood. The “Holy Roman Empire of the German Nation” was called that since 1512 and included most of the German-speaking world and its subjects thought of themselves as Germans. Its outer borders changed little, though the many principalities, duchies, counties and bishoprics within were constantly being redrawn. Before the Napoleonic Era (ca. 1795-1814) there were hundreds of these states. In each one that allowed Jewish settlement, Jews were treated differently. Some states (e.g., Württemberg) and many cities and towns (Erfurt, Nuremberg, Augsburg, Cologne, etc.) barred Jewish residence entirely. Some towns allowed Jews to settle in the suburbs; Prussia permitted Jews to live *only* in towns.

Before Napoleon, Jews almost always lived apart from Gentiles. They ate different food, wore different clothes, often spoke a different dialect. Jews had different professions and roles within the larger society as compared to Gentiles. Jewish

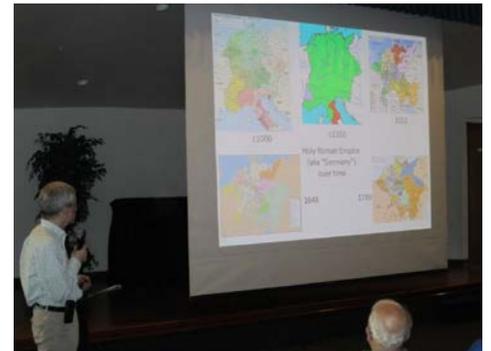
communities were separate corporations with their own civil jurisdiction and collective responsibility for taxation, fees and fines. Jews constituted a commercial caste: they could lend money where gentiles were prohibited from doing so. They traveled across Europe as agents and salesmen in a larger commercial network, moving livestock, finished goods and produce while lending and changing money. Special taxes (Leibzoll) were applied to their movements from place to place.

Unlike Poland, Germany generally prohibited Jews from most handicrafts and trades. Among the exceptions (which differed from place to place): goldsmithy, certain “smelly” occupations such as soap making or vinegar making, and (in a few places nearer to Poland) brewing, distilling and innkeeping.

Jews had to purchase permission to settle and establish themselves, and paid annual tribute to retain their status. This privilege, called “Schutz”

(protection) limited their numbers. Protection could be hereditary, for life or for a period of time, and came with the expectation that the recipient would engage in certain business or commerce. Communities of protected Jews could also have community officials such as a cantor or teacher.

18th century Prussia, defined these relationships bureaucratically with six classes of Jews (starting in 1717 and revised in 1750).



- *General-Priviligierte* [near citizenship for the wealthiest financiers]
- *Ordentlicher Schutzjude* [ordinary protection (merchants) passed on to the first offspring]
- *Ausserordentlicher Schutzjude* [extraordinary lifetime protection- e.g. Physicians]
- *Publique-Bedienter* [public servants-dependent on employment e.g. rabbi, nurse]
- *Tolerierter* [tolerated younger offspring not married]
- *Bedienter* [servants not allowed to establish a family]

All these classes and restrictions were designed to limit the total number of Jews. But younger sons with sufficient capital and potential for profitable business could be established for a fee, as could wealthy immigrants if a situation called for it.

These regulations also called for annual lists of Jews in each town, with information about family status, net worth, etc.



Where they are available, these *Judentabellen* are a principal source of information about Jewish families before emancipation.

When Prussia annexed part of Poland in 1772 (the First Partition) it acquired over 10,000 Jews into the bargain—a substantial increase from before. These Jews had not been regulated by the Prussian system, and included many who were poor and many others who were tailors or plied similar trades. Only a tiny handful qualified for “Ordinary protection.”

King Frederick the Great, no friend of the Jews, hoped to apply his system in the new territory,

expelling all Jews who lacked sufficient capital or commercial potential. But this would have limited the number of Jews to about 30 in the whole province of West Prussia. Expelling the rest would have depopulated cities (some over 50 percent Jewish); moreover, Jewish communities in those cities were in debt to local churches and monasteries, and expelling the Jews would have bankrupted those institutions. Eventually, the Prussian system was modified for West Prussia:

- *Ordentlicher Schutzjude* –privilege now passed on to two offspring, and two servants and families—this affected merchants.
- *Ausserordentlicher Schutzjude*--was now passed on to one offspring and one servant and family.
- *Tolerierter* --lifetime only
- *Publique-Bedienter* stayed the same, but numbers not as restricted
- *Alte Leute*—elderly, some with offspring (a new category)
- *Professionisten*—the trades: residence dependent on employment but eventually to be replaced by Gentile immigrants
- *Emigranten* to be expelled as they were poor—another new category

After Frederick’s death in 1786 the pressure on the West Prussian Jews declined. At the time of emancipation in 1812, many of those designated as “emigrants” long before were still in their old towns. For a few towns we can trace the population year by year through the *Judentabellen*, which makes it possible to identify families despite the lack of surnames.

In the following years, especially in Prussia and Austria, there were moves toward increased tolerance toward Jews and toward integrating them into society, driven partly by Enlightenment ideals, partly by the presence of new, large Jewish

populations acquired in the Partitions. This included the first surname adoption rules (Austria in 1787, Silesia in 1790-94).

Under Napoleon the Holy Roman Empire was abolished along with church-owned states and (in lands occupied by France) more-or-less equal rights and citizenship for Jews. The occupied lands included much of Prussia's Polish territories. Also new: civil registration which required all births, marriages and deaths to be recorded in a common fashion regardless of religion.



Separately, in 1812 Prussia emancipated its Jews in the territories not lost to Napoleon.

The Congress of Vienna in 1815 attempted to roll back Europe to pre-Napoleonic status; for Jews this often meant reversion to some form of the Schutz system plus restrictions on residence.

But liberalization had taken hold and attempts to integrate and assimilate the Jews—e.g., through compulsory education—continued.

Surname adoption continued too. Records of the process are a key source from this period and many are indexed on GerSIG's NALDEX database (<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Germany/Naldex.htm>).

By 1848 all Prussian Jews were citizens and most restrictions elsewhere had ceased. The last surname adoption was in 1852 in Oldenburg; the last towns to permit Jewish settlement did so in 1867. By 1871 the unification of Germany in the Empire, included the newly annexed Alsace-Lorraine. The Jewish population of Germany continued to grow, especially as Jews migrated from Poland and Galicia to cities.

In 1900 Germany had a total Jewish population of 584,000. Two of every 3 Germans lived in Prussia. The largest communities were in Berlin (92,000), Frankfurt/Main (25,000), Breslau (19,000) and Hamburg (18,000). Overall, Jews were 1.4% of the population. No province—and only a few counties and cities—could claim a Jewish population of even 6%. Several provinces had total Jewish populations of only a few hundred.

Overview of Sources

Universal civil registration: October 1874 for Prussia, January 1876 for the rest of Germany. The vast majority of these records survive; new archival laws make the records available after 110 years (births), 80 years (marriages) and 30 years (deaths). Poland uses a standard of 100 years for all civil records. Hessen has placed many of these records online; as have several Polish archives.

The Gatermann films made in the last year of World War II; the originals were lost. What remained was dispersed to the various German states. Films from Prussian Poland and the former East Germany are distributed by FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/>). German archives plan to publish them on line soon. Hessen records are online (Frankfurt still to come) and GerSIG is indexing these records for the JewishGen Germany Database. Baden-Württemberg records are on line; GerSIG is working on improving access to films for Bavaria, North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony. There may be yet other Gatermann films—no complete inventory exists.

Family Registers: Civil registry offices kept single-page summaries of family groups, with information on births, deaths, marriage, cross-reference to other family pages and individual vital registry entries, who was living in the family unit—such as children and grandparents with their birth dates and notes on moves, marriages and deaths.

In response to many questions we learned:

- In earlier times, very little was recorded in Yiddish, rather information from Jewish communities might be in Jewish

German (German in Hebrew characters).

- Language spoken varied by area and each had their own “slang”
- Residence registration cards list families as they moved to, from and within a town, with much of the information found in the full family registers. Some card files are located in state or city archives; more recent ones, at registry offices. Some were destroyed or damaged in the World War II bombings.
- Despite family lore, there was no fee involved for name adoption nor were “ugly” names given or permitted to be taken! Some places restricted the type of name somewhat.
- JGSCV founding member Werner Frank mentioned that most records were not destroyed but one needs to go to the individual town or archive. Records are transferred from the local towns to the regional archives after a set period.

Werner found a 1732 register for his hometown with name, when the residents came to the town, children, number of servants and assets.

- Roger mentioned the International Tracing Service (ITS) (<http://www.its-arolsen.org/en>) and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington DC (<http://www.ushmm.org/>) for copies of the holocaust records from the ITS to search for applications for those requesting aide following the War as a way to look for survivors.

Roger Lustig is a genealogical researcher based in Princeton, NJ. Since 2002 he has specialized in the Jewish families of Prussian Poland, especially Upper Silesia and West Prussia. He has worked in archives in the US, Germany and Poland. He serves as research coordinator for GerSIG- the German Special Interest Group under JewishGen.org.

JGSCV Welcomes New Members ADRIAN and SONNY HARRIS

Need a special gift?

Why not give them a JGSCV membership?

JGSCV will create a very attractive certificate.

Contact Helene Rosen at membership@jgscv.org

The Mysterious Genealogy of Russian President Putin

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Vladimir Putin is a relative of all royal families of Europe

Russian president Vladimir Putin was a mystery almost for everyone during the moment of his election. He seemed to be a man with no past, inspired with the symbol of the new epoch, but deprived of historic roots. The research, which was conducted by journalists from the Russian city of Tver, became a sensation. As it became known, the parents of the Russian president came from the Kalininsky area of the Tver region.

The president's family tree is not traced after Putin's grandfather Spiridon Putin, who left the Tver governor for St. Petersburg at the age of 15. Vladimir Putin's grandfather was a serious, reserved man of immaculate honesty. Spiridon Putin became a good cook. He worked in fancy restaurants in St. Petersburg before the revolution of 1917. Later, he was invited to cook for Lenin himself. When Lenin passed away, Spiridon Putin started working at one of Stalin's dachas. Putin's grandfather managed to survive the horrid period of the Soviet history. When he retired, he was living and cooking at a holiday camp of the Communist Party. Vladimir Putin tells about his grandfather that he was a man, who liked being silent most of his time.

The researchers did not manage to trace the origin of this last name – Putin. The world-wide web knows only one Putin – Vladimir Vladimirovich. So, using online search engines is absolutely not good for that. No other scientists of history, no dictionary mentions anything about the name Putin amid tens of thousands of other names.

On the other hand, there has been recently a surprising fact discovered. Vladimir Putin looks like Prince Mikhail Tverskoy. They both are not tall, with little hair and similar noses. Is Putin an offspring of the Tver prince? This hypothesis was getting more and more real. The name Putin is not mentioned amid the Russian names. This means that the name is of the artificial origin.

This name has appeared recently, somewhere in the middle of the 19th century. All Putins originally came from the clan of Putins from the Tver region. Illegitimate offsprings of noble families were often given cut names. For example, Russian writer Pnin was an illegitimate son of Field Marshal Reprin. There were lots of other occasions like that – Betskoy instead of Trubetskoy, Gribov instead of Griboyedov. The new names of unofficial clan branches were formed by means of deduction: a syllable was simply taken out of it.

The family book of the Tver region mentions the name of Putyanin – a clan of Russian princes. This clan gave a lot of outstanding military leaders to Russia, as well as artists, politicians and priests. This is one of the oldest clans in the Russian history. If President Putin is a descendant of the Putyatins clan, this means that Vladimir Putin has a relation to all royal families of Europe.

Gennady Klimov

Maria Orbva

Based on the materials from the Tver newspaper Karavan

Pravda article originally cited in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter March 20, 2014

34th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

The 2014 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Salt Lake City July 27-August 1. Hal Bookbinder (below, right), conference lead co-chair, provided JGSCV with a sneak peek of some of the conference plans at the March 2nd meeting. As the conference will start one day shy of the 100th anniversary of the start of World War I, plans include a major focus on the impact of the War on the lives of our ancestors, whether they served in the armed forces of any of the nations involved in the conflict, suffered the impacts of fighting through the heartland of Jewish Eastern Europe, emigrated to another county because of the war and its aftermath, or were otherwise touched by the conflict. All registrants will be encouraged to share family stories and pictures from the



World War One era. Non-registrants are also encouraged to share their stories. Details of how to do so may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/nj7dt5s>

Registration is open and you may make your hotel reservation at the conference rate now. Registration for the early registration rate is \$295 until May 31, 2014. June 1 the fee increases to \$325. It is \$365 to register on-site. FAQ's regarding registration can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/l3hgsym>

The conference website <http://iaigs2014.org> is updated regularly so visit often to learn more as new information is released.

And, for insights regarding travel and transportation once in Salt Lake City, go to <http://tinyurl.com/l1g4h5o>

Other areas of focus of the conference include:

- Technology in the Pursuit of Genealogy
- Jewish Migrations Over the Ages
- Ethical Genealogical Challenges
- Jews (and crypto-Jews) of the Western United States.

JGSCV MEMBER BENEFITS

- Annual assisted research afternoon at the Family History Library
- Members-only emails from the president announcing special events and free opportunities with Ancestry and other genealogical organizations and other items of genealogical interest
- Use of the traveling library at president's home – with an advance appointment
- For the first year of membership, JewishGen's Warren Blatt will assist with one concise question per month. He won't do your genealogy but with well thought out questions, he can help you on your genealogical journey.
- NEW! Members-Only Workshops on valuable genealogy tools

April, 2014

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

JGSCV Meeting Dates Through June, 2014*

At Temple Adat Elohim

Monday, April 7th 7:00-9:00 PM "The Sephardic Community in Los Angeles"
Arthur Benveniste discusses growing up in the LA Sephardic community.

Sunday, May 4th 1:30-3:30 PM "Yom Hashoah" (Holocaust Memorial)

Confronting the Holocaust: The United States Response- SS St.Louis - documentary about the SS St. Louis in 1939 and the absence of the US response and commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Holocaust in Hungary with Clara Knopfler, holocaust survivor.

Sunday, June 1st 1:30-3:30 PM Program "Roundtables" featuring country-specific tables with experts leading each table

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

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

While this newsletter will be sent out during March even though it is the April newsletter, it is not too late to remind everyone that March is Women's History Month. Women are more difficult to research as most women take their husband's surname and may then be known as "Mrs. Ephraim Cohen". Their history is "hidden" in records due to not knowing their names—definitely a challenge for genealogists. The National Women's History Project founded National Women's History Month and the theme for 2014 is: *Celebrating Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment* (<http://www.nwhp.org/whm/>). Each of us know at least one ancestor that fits that description—

- (Great) Grandmothers who emigrated alone or with a sibling never to see their family again that they left behind—and going to a new country- with different language and customs
- Women who emigrated with children years after the husband because the husband/father emigrated first and had the responsibility for them alone in the original country or when they arrived to their new country
- Survivors of the holocaust having lost everyone else in their family

This would be a perfect time to research them and write something about the women in your family tree who had character, courage and commitment.

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