

Press Release

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 Sunday, January 4, 2015 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Topic:

"BRANKO": In Praise of a Good Man's Journey Through Life



Witnessing the brutal pogrom that takes his family, the six-year old survivor, goes on to a childhood fraught with abusive relatives and unspeakable Tsarist orphanages. But the story of Branko Horvitch is not one of despair and destruction; it is rather an ongoing celebration of unyielding determination, while meeting all manner of challenges that confront him.

From tragic beginnings to the heights of American political power, there is a taste of a bitter-sweet, but never bland life. His is a world beset by disastrous world wars, rapidly changing societies, economic depressions and iconic figures from the pages of history. Through it all he is surrounded by eclectic elements of pathos, chaos, romance and humor.

Branko author, Stuart Tower quickly takes the reader from the 1880's to the 1940's in German occupied Soviet Union. Through the personal history of American Brigadier General Branko Horvitch, we learn a great deal of the history of Jewish migration to the United States and the history of the times.

Speaker: Stuart Tower is an educator, writer, lecturer, and traveler. Tower spoke to JGSCV about his first novel, *The Wayfarers*, in 2006 where Branko was also a character in the story. BRANKO is Tower's second novel but sixth published book. BRANKO was awarded the historical fiction award from the Beverly Hills International Awards. Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase the book following the lecture at \$20 per book.

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. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

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