

Press Release

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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, 7 January, 2018 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 pm



## The Topic:

### Push and Pull Genealogy: A Methodology for Finding Deeper Roots



By pursuing the typical paper trail process that he calls *Push Genealogy*, our speaker has identified over 35,000 family members dating to the late 17th century. Faced with the inevitable metrical data roadblock of the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648), he conceived the notion of jumping over this brick wall to seek family harbingers within the relatively small European Jewish population that existed in the Middle Ages. It was his hope to identify such antecedents and to pull down a descendant chain from medieval times to the seventeenth century and consequently close his family tree gap by this *Pull Methodology*.

The *Pull Methodology* has much promise since there is a surprising amount of genealogical data associated with prominent Jewish families of the Middle Ages highlighted by Rabbinical and Merchant Banking Dynasties. Whether it was by surname, location, prominence or sheer selection by chance, our speaker was successful in identifying individuals whose descendant history revealed a family connection to his "pushed" data and led to an unexpected direct link to eleventh century Rashi of Troyes and seventh century Rabbenu Meshulam of Tuscany.

The talk will illuminate the small world of Jewish genealogy and the rationale behind the claim that all Ashkenazi Jews are at least 30th cousins.

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

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.

For more information contact: [information@JGSCV.org](mailto:information@JGSCV.org) or call  
Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616 See: [www.JGSCV.org](http://www.JGSCV.org)