



# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY (JGSCV)

Volume 2, Issue 12

September 2007

## President's Message

It is hard to believe but September marks our second anniversary! We have grown in two short years to 115 members. A deep thank you to all who have worked to make JGSCV a reality and special thanks go to Temple Adat Elohim, whose support as program co-sponsor allows us to offer great programming each month.

Our August meeting was devoted to reporting on the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy which took place in Salt Lake City in July. A copy of the syllabus is in our permanent library located at the Agoura Hills Library Reference Desk. In addition to having presentations on the conference by Helene Rosen, Werner Frank, Carole Webber, Jan Allen Meisels and Warren Blatt, we presented one of the 44 films shown at the conference: The Stanley Diamond Story. Stanley is the founder and president of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-PL).

We had an exclusive report from Hal Bookbinder who described his private visit, along with a group of foreign archivists, to the Granite Mountain Vault of the Family History Library (FHL). This is the hardened site storage facility (entrance shown in the above photo) for the original 2.8 million microfilms collected worldwide by the Mormon Church. FHL is actively digitizing all their millions of records at this location for ultimate direct access via the Internet.

Five of the board member positions are completing their 2-year terms and we will hold elections later this year. All JGSCV members who have been members in good standing since January 2007 are eligible to apply to serve on the board. Our nominating committee has been appointed and they will be contacting all eligible members. The nominations committee members are: Hal Bookbinder, chairman, Helene Rosen, board representative and Richard Munitz, general member.

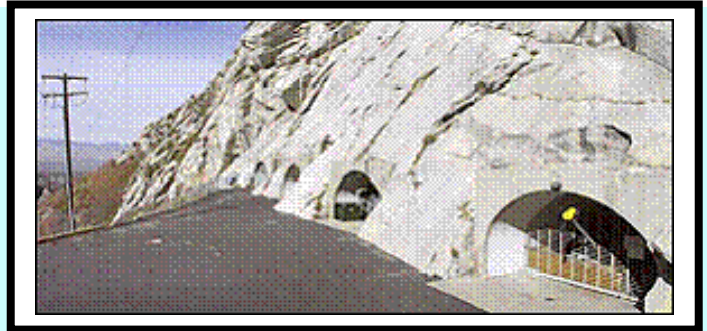
If you would like to get more actively involved in your society, even if you don't want to serve on the board of directors, but work on a project (i.e. cemetery or publicity), please let me know—the more members actively involved, the stronger the society.

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Please review the Ralph's Community Campaign (page 5). Ralph's year begins in September so if you signed up before August you need to sign up again, or if you signed in August then that will begin in September. If you have not yet signed up, please do so, even if you are only an occasional Ralph's shopper you can help your society.

On behalf of the entire JGSCV Board of Directors, we wish you all a happy, safe and prosperous New Year...L'Shanah Tova!

Jan Meisels Allen



**BULLETIN:** The (US) National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has posted their final rule on increased charges in the Federal Register on August 17. To view the final rule, which becomes effective on October 1, 2007, please go to:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-16233.pdf>

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

There will be no meeting of our society during September due to the various Jewish holidays.

## **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 a special shelf at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email.

2007 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send appropriate amount in check made out to JGSCV and addressed to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountain wood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) by selecting the membership button.

## **ONLINE DATABASE: ENGLISH & HUNGARIAN**

The staff of the Hungarian Jewish relief organization, National Committee for Attending Deportees (DEGOB), recorded the personal stories of approximately 5,000 Hungarian Holocaust survivors in 1945–1946. The complete (predominantly Hungarian) text and the scanned images of more than 3500 protocols can be found at website: <http://degob.org/index.php>. Presently this is the most extensive Holocaust testimonial online database in the world. In 2006, translations of the documents to English were commenced. With the help of the general and advanced search, any data (geographical and personal names or any given Hungarian or English expression) may be searched for in the collection.

## **POLIN: A WEBSITE DEVOTED TO JEWISH HERITAGE IN POLAND**

This portal presents information on the Polish Jewish heritage providing historical information, photo galleries and multimedia with respect to more than 1,000 towns where Polish Jewry once lived. At the moment some 200 towns are described and photographed, including recent pictures of the town and Jewish sites such as synagogues and cemeteries. Additions to the database is a continuing effort and contributions from viewers are encouraged. The geographic purview of this database is limited to the current political boundaries of Poland.

## **HAMBURG, GERMANY: MAJOR PORT OF EMBARKATION**

Hamburg, Germany was the most significant embarkation port for millions of German, Russian and Eastern European emigrants who came to the U.S.A. To recall the experience of these migrants and their assembly at the portside village of BallinStadt, the city of Hamburg has recently opened a museum in three reconstructed halls known now as Balinstadt-Port of Dreams.

BallinStadt was originally named after Albert Ballin, General Manager of the renowned German shipping company HAPAG, which had built mass accommodation at the Port of Hamburg for the many thousands of people from all over Europe who arrived in the city weekly. Ballin came from a local Jewish family. See [www.ballinstadt.de/en](http://www.ballinstadt.de/en)

An important online database of passenger lists is linked from this site to [www.ancestry.de](http://www.ancestry.de), providing access to names of emigrants for the period 1850-1934. At this time, the available online lists (some gratis, most for a fee) are limited to the period 1890-1913 with additional entries underway. However, the staff of the museum is available (for a fee) in providing assistance to other parts of the database.

The Hamburg emigrant list is important to the genealogy researcher since it adds significant additional information to what is available from the Ellis Island arrival manifests. For the most part, it includes the specific location from where the emigrant came and may have other collateral data.

There are other paths to the Hamburger Passenger Lists as, for example, the many roles of microfilm held by the LDS Family History Library at [www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/guide/Hamburg\\_Pass\\_List1.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/eng/search/RG/guide/Hamburg_Pass_List1.asp)

## **YOUR PLACE IN HISTORY**

Check out [www.ourtimelines.com](http://www.ourtimelines.com) and see how your life (or that of any ancestor) fits into world history. By providing a name and associated life span, a personalized timeline is generated showing historical events, people, inventions, etc. that occurred during that time. One can also submit up to 10 personal events which will be integrated in the printable or storageable matching timeline.

# Learn How to Use the Resources at the Family History Centers

## Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County\*

(\* and surrounding areas)

Sunday, October 14, 2007 2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim

2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

### "How To Begin Your Genealogy Research-Part IV"

(It is not necessary to have attended Parts I, II or III to understand or learn from Part IV)

Millions of European Jewish records from the 19<sup>th</sup> century (and before) have been microfilmed by the Mormon Church and are available through Family History Centers (FHC). In addition, millions of American records including census, draft registration records, birth, marriage and death records have been microfilmed. The FHCs also offer free on-line access to many databases useful for family research. There are small FHCs in Newbury Park, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks & Ventura and other cities in our area, as well as the regional center in Los Angeles. Learn how to find out what records are available on-line, how to order films and how to use the information in tracing your family.

JGSCV Board members, Debra Kay Blatt and Warren Blatt, editor-in-chief and vice president of JewishGen.org will lead the discussion.

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.

#### Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.

For more information contact [information@JGSCV.org](mailto:information@JGSCV.org)

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

#### Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim  
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

November 11, 2007, "How the Jews Won the West," presented by Gladys Sturman

December 9, 2007, "Using the Internet beyond JewishGen and the Steve Morse Website," presented by Ron Arons

January 6, 2008, "Overview of Records at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service," presented by Marian Smith

Subsequent meetings in 2008: Feb 10, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1

## Announcement of Additional Half Million New Records to the JewishGen Holocaust Database.

### Jewish Refugees in Tashkent

Data on 152,000 Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union who were evacuated to Tashkent and other localities in Uzbekistan in 1941-1942.

### Claims Conference - Hungary

List of over 135,000 Hungarian Jews collected by the Conference on Jewish Material claims Against Germany, whose names appear in records held in the Central Zionist Archives and Yad Vashem.

### Claims Conference – Romania

List of over 140,000 Romanian Jews, collected by the Conference on Jewish Material claims Against Germany, whose names appear in records held in the Central Zionist Archives and Yad Vashem.

### Flossenberg Prisoner Lists

Data on over 18,334 prisoners interned in the Flossenberg Concentration Camp in Germany. The prisoners include Jews from Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland.

### Polish medical questionnaires

Data on 2,000 Jewish medical personnel in Galicia and surrounding areas in 1940-42 collected during the German occupation, containing extensive information about family, occupation, and education.

### Who Perished on the Struma?

Data on more than 700 Jewish refugees attempting to get to Palestine who perished when the Struma sank.

### Hungarian Jewish Survivors in Buchenwald

Data on 707 Hungarian Jewish survivors from Buchenwald concentration camp.

### The Twentieth Train

Records of 567 deportees who boarded a transport train ambushed on the way to Auschwitz in 1943.

### Bergen-Belsen to Philippeville, Algeria (UNRRA Camp)

Data on 200 Jews who arrived at the UNRRA refugee camp in Philippeville, Algeria in 1945 as part of a prisoner exchange. Most held passports from countries in North and South America.

The JewishGen Holocaust Database is a collection of over 100 datasets, containing 1.6 million entries about Holocaust victims and survivors. It can be searched at

[www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust)

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Amazing connections happen when you begin to network with other researchers and read the newsletter! I just received the August edition and was looking forward with anticipation to news of the IAGJS Convention when I saw, "Re-election of IAGJS officers for two-year terms: Anne Feder Lee, President." Anne is a cousin I have only met on the internet, and I knew only that she lived in Honolulu and that I hope we'd meet one day; I had no idea that she was so deeply involved in Jewish genealogy!

Several years ago Anne found my 2nd great grandmother, Marie Abeles, in an entry I'd placed on Jewishgen. This was Marie and her husband Samuel Lederer about whom I spoke at the May meeting, describing her as a cousin I met at Temple Anshe Emeth in New Jersey. Anne told me that she was descended from Marie's sister, Lotti, who had remained in Bohemia. We compared family stories, and they meshed, and we exchanged family trees.

When I saw Anne's name, I sent her a copy of the JGSCV newsletter and said I was a bit embarrassed by my amateur mistakes now that I knew of her prestige in the genealogy world and that perhaps I'd meet her at the convention in Chicago next year. She answered modestly "not to worry" there was no reason I should have known. She added that she'd be in the LA area at the end of October, and we might meet. I'll find out exactly when she'll be here. It's probably too early, but I'd love to invite her to the JGSCV meeting.

Thanks again for the great newsletter!

Sue Geiger

[sueaew@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sueaew@sbcglobal.net)



## Ralphs Club News - Annual Sign-Up Date Coming Up

Thanks to all of the JGSCV members and friends who joined the Ralphs Community Contribution Program supporting the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV). Ralph's has increased their "pot of money" to \$3 million for their community contribution program, and JGSCV would love to receive some of it!

While JGSCV was accepted (July) into the Ralph's program, we have been notified by Ralph's that they require participants to re-join the program every year (their year begins September 1). If you registered **BEFORE** August 1, 2007, you need to re-register at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com). -- You will remain active until August 31, 2007, and need to re-register for the term beginning on September 1. For those of us who signed up between August 1-31, 2007 you need **not** register for this upcoming year, as your registration will become effective on September 1! We have posted how to register on our website [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) and click on "notices" . For your convenience the process is listed below:

### For those who have a Ralph's Card on or before September 1:

1. Go to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com)
2. On the far left side of the page, scroll down to where it says: "Community Contribution"
3. Click "Community Contribution"
4. You'll see two boxes - one "Organization" and one "Participant"
5. Click on the "Sign Up" button in the "Participant" box.
6. Certify that you are the Ralphs cardholder.
7. Fill in the blanks on the Participants Enrollment Form For the NPO number for JGSCV that is, 84732—this goes into the first box on the enrollment form. We are listed as "Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &" . Your Ralph's Club card number- found on the back of the card below the UPC code goes into the second box.
6. Click submit.

### If you do not yet have Ralphs Club Card:

If you do not have a Ralphs card as yet, you can easily obtain one by either going to a Ralphs near you at their customer service desk or signing up on-line [http://www.ralphs.com/ralphscard\\_signup.htm](http://www.ralphs.com/ralphscard_signup.htm)- don't forget once you have signed up for the card to sign-up for the community contribution following the steps outlined above.

Now whenever you shop at Ralphs, JGSCV will receive a percentage of what you spend.

- We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at [newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org) .

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Lina Boardman

### JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Helene Rosen, Membership  
Dalya Dektor, Treasurer  
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[president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)  
[membership@jgscv.org](mailto:membership@jgscv.org)  
[treasurer@jgscv.org](mailto:treasurer@jgscv.org)  
[secretary@jgscv.org](mailto:secretary@jgscv.org)

Stewart Bernstein, Speaker's Bureau [stewart@jgscv.org](mailto:stewart@jgscv.org)

Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman [information@jgscv.org](mailto:information@jgscv.org)  
Warren Blatt, New Member Education [education@jgscv.org](mailto:education@jgscv.org)  
Werner Frank, Newsletter Editor [newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org)  
Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project [frank@jgscv.org](mailto:frank@jgscv.org)

Website: [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) Michael Gallop, Webmaster: [webmaster@jgscv.org](mailto:webmaster@jgscv.org) Raya Sagi, Librarian: [librarian@jgscv.org](mailto:librarian@jgscv.org)  
Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616