



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 2, Issue 2

November 2006

President's Message

I have just experienced a great genealogical breakthrough— all due to the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/> and Yad Vashem Data Base. If you have not yet registered ALL the names you are researching with JGFF, I encourage you to do so! It is also extremely useful to check the pages of testimony on the Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/IY_HON_Entrance.

A year ago, someone contacted me about one of the names I posted on the JGFF and we could not connect — then. Recently I went back to the Yad Vashem database and found a reference to the name the person contacted me about — Szlang, my maternal grandmother's maiden name. I posted this additional information to my family tree and then looked up the earlier email and discovered that the correspondent was the individual who contributed this data to the Yad Vashem database. At this point, I found the connection! Before obtaining his information, I had not known about a second marriage of my great grandfather's grandfather — the common ancestor for both us.

Two important reminders:

1. Our November 15 meeting is on a Wednesday evening. Anyone not driving at night and needing a ride can contact one of the board members (see page 4). We will do our best to set up car-pooling. Please let us know as soon as possible.
 2. Renew your membership or become a new member of JGSCV. At our December 10 meeting, we will have genealogical prize drawings for those who either renew or join by or during the December meeting. You must be present at the meeting to be eligible.
- Looking forward to seeing you on November 15!

Jan Meisels Allen

FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS...

As per the By-Laws of JGSCV a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Hal Bookbinder, has prepared the following slate of individuals to fill the four two-year terms on the Board of Directors that will become vacant as of January 2007:

Werner L. Frank, wlf Frank@pacbell.net
Debra J. Kay-Blatt, debjkay@msn.com
Helene Rosen, hjr555@sbcglobal.net
Frank Tessel, franklintessel@sbcglobal.net

Werner L. Frank, Debra J. Kay-Blatt and Frank Tessel have served on the Board during the present term. Helene Rosen joined JGSCV during 2006 and has volunteered to serve.

According to the By-Laws, anyone else wishing to be nominated to the Board can do so during the course of the November 15, 2006 meeting of the Society. Any person that is nominated from the floor must either be present and orally agree to serve on the Board if elected, or have signed a written willingness to serve if elected that is available for inspection at this meeting. After this solicitation all nominations for the positions are closed.

The names of all nominees with brief biography will be published in the December issue of this Newsletter. Elections will take place at the December 10, 2006 meeting. In addition, the membership will be asked to ratify a slight change in the By-Laws as modified by the Board of Directors.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

SEE PAGE 4 FOR 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

A wonderful gift idea: In honor of Chanukah give a membership in JGSCV to a family member or special friend. They will enjoy this present during all of 2007. We can provide a certificate for the recipient with the donor's name. Contact membership@JGSCV.org

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 Richard Munitz at 29633 Windsong Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT SUMMER PROGRAM MAY BE RIGHT FOR YOUR TEENAGER

It is not too early to plan a gratifying 2007 summer activity for the teenager in your family. The Samberg Family History Program is offered by the Center for Jewish History located in New York City. This Center houses five important organizations: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

These academically oriented fellowships for high school students allow for researching one's own family history, visiting NYC area historic institutions, and engaged in workshops and cultural programs. Participants receive a full-tuition scholarship. Travel and housing is individually financed.

For further information check with: Samberg@cjh.org, or (212) 294-8324.

Information is available at the website: www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy/samberg.php

The Samberg Family History Program is co-sponsored by the Center for Jewish History's Genealogy Institute and the American Jewish Historical Society and funded by the Samberg Family Foundation.

TIDBITS FOR GENEALOGISTS....

From Family Tree Newsletter on-line:

<http://1837online.com> is the website of the organization 1837online.com. Having completed its British vital-records indexing project, it is on to something even bigger: AncestorsOnBoard, a 30 million-name database of people leaving the British Isles from 1890 to 1960. You'll be able to download images of the passenger lists—which include not just Britons, but those from all over Europe who boarded ships in Liverpool, London, Southampton, Hull and other British ports. No launch date yet, but keep an eye on <http://www.ancestorsonboard.com>.

1837online.com is based in London, England and is part of an independently-owned business that is dedicated to providing high quality genealogical services to professional and non-professional researchers. The organization asserts that it has faithfully scanned images of original documents, enabling you to make informed decisions based upon skill, judgment and experience.

MyFamily.com offers Family Tree Maker 16

This new version, while available for license can also be obtained as a free upgrade to current users of Family Tree Maker 2006 — just download a free patch at <http://www.familytreemaker.com>.

<http://www.historicmapworks.com/>

Interesting site of old city and town maps for New York City and Portland, Maine. County maps are also available for nearly every county from Maryland north to Maine. The maps are address-searchable for 19th and early 20th century America. The collection includes over 35,000 high quality, fine art reproductions of antique property maps using either place names or addresses. The collection of contemporaneous directories can be searched by family name to find the addresses you will need to locate the homes of relatives who lived in these areas over the past 250 years.

<http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com>

Tracing the Tribe is the newly available Jewish genealogy blog authored by journalist Shelly Talalay Dardashti and sponsored by the Jewish Telegraph Association (JTA). New postings include Roots Television, Crimea resources, fixing errors in Pages of Testimony on the Yad V'shem database, Sephardic Website and its millionth visitor, Hawaii's Jews, Czech discoveries and restoring Polish cemeteries. Books include researching Latvia and Estonia, the Jewish Victorian and the new Sangre Judia with 6,000 Sephardic names, cities and dates of documents located. Pointers to articles related to Jewish genealogy are also included. Readers may post queries and offer comments.



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

Wednesday, November 15, 7:30-9:30 p.m.*

**at Temple Adat Elohim,
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

*** different day of week and time for this month only**

**Genealogist As Detective:
Solving Mysteries Using HIAS Case Files**

Valery Bazarov, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS)— Location and Family History Service, will speak on HIAS activity from the first flood of the Eastern European Jews in the 1880s, to rescuing the last Jews of Iraq during the recent conflict— HIAS has been instrumental in bringing about four million Jews to the US. The discussion includes bringing thousands of Jews displaced after WWII, and the massive exodus of Soviet Jewry in the 1970s. By using case studies, with the help of archival documents, Valery will discuss the scope of HIAS and YIVO archives "where to go for what" and that reconnecting with family past becomes possible.

Valery is a Russian émigré, coming to the US in 1988, the same year he joined HIAS, is currently responsible for the HIAS Location and Family History Service. Over the next decade, he assisted with the arrival of more than 200,000 Jewish refugees who came to the United States under HIAS auspices. Valery is helping immigrants of different generations in finding family members and friends - often in other countries - whom they lost contact with over the years, sometimes decades.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim

There is no charge to attend.

All are welcome to join the JGSCV.

For more information contact information@JGSCV.org See: 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**

December 10, 2006: Back to Sunday afternoon 2:00 PM schedule featuring Ron Arons, "Bugsy Segal and Meyer Lansky — The Men Behind the Flamingo Hotel"

January 7, 2007: "How To Begin Your Genealogy Research--Part III," JGSCV board members will address how to research newspapers, Yizkor books and how to fill in the gaps in your family tree with various resources.

2007 Membership Renewal Form

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)

2007 Annual Dues:

Dues paid now are good through December 2007!

Check one:

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$2.00**

*family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually upon recognizing institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

(Suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund \$5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV

Mail to: Richard Munitz
29633 Windsong Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

(This is very important as all communication is done by e-mail!)

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Miriam Mandell

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman	information@jgscv.org
Richard Munitz, Membership	membership@jgscv.org	Warren Blatt, New Member Education	education@jgscv.org
Dalya Dektor, Treasurer	treasurer@jgscv.org	Werner Frank, Newsletter Editor	newslettereditor@jgscv.org
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary	secretary@jgscv.org	Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project	frank@jgscv.org
	Stewart Bernstein, Speaker's Bureau	stewart@jgscv.org	

Website: www.jgscv.org Michael Gallop, Webmaster: webmaster@jgscv.org Raya Sagi, Librarian: librarian@jgscv.org
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