



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

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President's Message

I just returned from four days in Salt Lake City participating in the planning of the 2007 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy of which I am the registration chairperson. By accessing the conference website at www.slc2007.org you will be able to track the plans and program for this meeting. Please mark your calendars now for July 15-20, 2007 at the Salt Lake City Center Hilton.

A first for these IAJGS conferences will be a photographic exhibit, "Lives Remembered: A Shtetl Through A Photographer's Eye". Jewish genealogist and third-generation photographer, Michael Marvins, has collected photographs taken by his grandfather in Szczuczyn, a small town in North-Eastern Poland. The photographs depict the life style representative of any small town in Eastern Europe. The photographs show a modern and vibrant society from 1898-1939.

This conference is geographically close to us, and the prices are right! Early registration is \$230 plus \$140 for a spouse/companion. Hotel rates are very reasonable: \$119 per night (plus tax) for 1 to 4 persons in a room. The Family History Library — the largest genealogical library in the world with extensive Jewish records — will have extended evening hours to accommodate conference attendees.

Don't forget to renew your JGSCV membership for 2007. At this point we are at the 50% renewal mark! If you renew or join for 2007, you are eligible for the drawing of genealogical prizes at our December 10 meeting. You must be at the meeting to participate.

Don't forget that this meeting will feature Ron Arons, who will regale us with stories about famous Jewish gangsters: Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky. Learn how to do your genealogy while being entertained by Ron.

Jan Meisels Allen



SPEAKER VALERY BAZAROV

HIAS CASE FILES: NOVEMBER MEETING TOPIC

Valery Bazarov, of the HIAS Location and Family History Service, presented: Genealogist As Detective: Solving Mysteries Using HIAS CaseFiles. Participants from Santa Barbara to Van Nuys attended the

meeting and asked questions about how they could access some of the HIAS files concerned with Jewish immigrants. Attendees shared a number of personal stories of how HIAS helped their families immigrate.

HIAS started in 1881 and has been helping Jews emigrate from "difficult" places since then. By 1920 there were 3.5 million Jews in the United States — the great influx was due in part to the assistance HIAS provided Jews from Eastern Europe. HIAS not only assisted Jews in leaving their homelands in Europe since the 1880s, but also from other areas such as more recently from Iraq. HIAS also has interceded when the immigrant had difficulty entering the new country, whether it was the United States or other countries. There are 150 HIAS offices around the world.

Valery explained that one can apply to HIAS for a fee in order to have staff assistance in reviewing the HIAS records and to help find "long lost" relatives. The form for this service is located at: http://www.hias.org/programs/listings/location_files/location_search_form_eng.pdf.

For more general information on HIAS go to www.HIAS.org.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

SEE PAGE 4 FOR 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

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.

CANADIAN GENEALOGY RESEARCH

Opportunity to research one's genealogy in Canada has been furthered by a new website offered by the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) at www.collectionscanada.ca/immigrants.

Two major objectives have been met by this online exhibition "Moving Here, Staying Here. The Canadian Immigrant Experience." The system facilitates improved access for genealogists and other researchers to some of LAC's frequently used immigration documents, such as passenger lists and land grants. Researchers can get tips on how to find documents related to an individual immigrant in "Find an Immigrant" and access information on some of LAC's major immigration collections by selecting "The Documentary Trail."

SEPHARDIC GENEALOGY RESEARCH

If you are searching your family's Sephardic roots, check out www.sephardim.com. This website offers a number of background topics which illuminate the history of the Sephardic community. A name search feature contains about 35,000 names, derived from indexes of published books, databases and other sources. The Web site offers a very active discussion group with 1,700 forum members worldwide.

Board of Directors Elections for JGSCV

JGSCV By-Laws call for the election of four expiring Board of Director seats at the forthcoming meeting on 10 December 2006. Questions concerning these elections can be addressed to president@JGSCV.org.

JGSCV BOARD CANDIDATES

The following individuals have agreed to stand for election to the Board of Directors of JGSCV for the two year period beginning January 2006.

Debra J. Kay-Blatt, currently information officer and member of the original organizing committee of JGSCV. Debra has been researching her family history for the past eight years. She has been a volunteer for JewishGen and has published in the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal. debjkay@msn.com

Werner L. Frank is the editor of the JGSVC newsletter and member of the current board. Werner has spoken at a number of IAJGS conferences and written articles for *Stammbaum*, *Avotaynu* and *MaaJan*. He has authored his family's 800-year history in "*Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance*" published by Avotaynu. wlf Frank@pacbell.net

Helen Rosen is a native Californian who has been interested in genealogy her entire adult life. Her family tree contains over 1,100 names. She is a graduate of UCLA, worked for the County of Los Angeles in data processing, and is the mother of three boys. Her other interests include playing Mah Jong and pan, traveling, and going to movies. hjr555@sbcglobal.net

Frank Tessel, cemetery project coordinator and current member of the Board of JGSCV. Frank started a networking group in Simi which he ran for two years. He has been working with the Jewish community for thirteen years. His knowledge of computers and genealogy extends over many years. frankintessel@sbcglobal.net

By-Laws Change Needs Approval

At the December 2006 meeting, the membership will also be asked to approve a By-Laws change acted on by the Board in January 2006 which removed a phrase in Article VII Dissolution, Section 1 to wit "as last formally amended and filed with the Secretary of State." This stipulation was inoperative at the time since we had not yet filed our By-Laws with the Secretary of State.

Learn How to Research Your Genealogy By Hearing An Amusing Genealogy Story on Famous Jewish Gangsters!

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

(* and surrounding areas)

Sunday, December 10, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

"Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky: The Men Behind the Flamingo Hotel"

Bugsy and Meyer were two of a kind. Raised on the Lower East Side, they chose to live on the other side of the tracks. They both helped put Las Vegas on the map. Learn more about the lives of two of the most notorious gangsters through both standard and non-traditional genealogical records-focusing on how and where to get these types of records (vital records, census, newspaper stories, FBI records, and more). Ron Arons, a founding member of JGSCV and an accomplished nationally known speaker, will provide an entertaining, humorous, yet educational discussion.

Drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes for those who renew their JGSCV membership or join for 2007. You must be present to win! Light refreshments celebrating Chanukah and our membership drive.

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 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

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.

February 11, 2007: Randy Thompson, Archivist, NARA, "Lesser Known Resources at the National Archives and Records Administration"

March 18, 2007: Joel Weintraub, "Navigating the New York and Federal Censuses with Fewer Tears"

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:

David Gorelick, Frances and Joseph Levy, Bonnie Raskin, Rochelle Wallach

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
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