



# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 4, Issue 3

December 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On Nov 10, Jon Entine gave an erudite presentation to the JGSCV reflecting his book: *Abraham's Children: Race, Identity and the DNA of the Chosen People*. Meeting on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Kristallnacht* was appropriate for this presentation. Leading to WWII, the Nazis fostered a rage over race concerning the Jewish people, which became a weapon contributing to the genocide of the Holocaust. Currently, with DNA testing becoming more prevalent, science is again making "race" a matter of focus.

Jon reviewed Jewish genetic history starting 3,300 years ago as estimated by the Cohanim gene found amongst certain Ashkenazim and Sephardim Jewry. He also referred to the Bubu clan of the Lemba tribe in Africa whose DNA shows a high incidence of the Cohanim gene. Jon, reviewed twelve specific diseases linked to the gene make up of Jews.

Our December 8 (Monday evening) program with Steve Morse is certain to be a hit! We will be celebrating our annual membership and renewal drive that evening with those present, who have joined/rejoined for 2009, eligible to win some great genealogical prizes.

At our November meeting no additional candidates were proposed for the five open positions to the Board of Directors of JGSCV. Hence, the five nominees as shown in the sidebar and recommended by the Nominating Committee will stand for election at our December 8 meeting.

A By-Laws Amendment will also be presented for approval by the membership at the December meeting to be added to Article III, in a new Section 12 :

"Any member of the board of directors may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors or the President of the Society. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or any later date specified therein. The acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective. "

Reason: There is a corresponding section for Officers Resignations (Article IV. Section 7) but no provision for members of the board resignations.

Jan Meisels Allen

## Debra Kay Blatt

Debra Kay-Blatt is the information chairperson for the JGSCV and has been researching her family for the past ten years. She is a founding member of the JGSCV and has been on the Board for three years. She has lectured on Beginning your Genealogy and on topics related to Polish research, both for the JGSCV as well as at IAJGS International conferences. She has published articles in the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal, and has been a long-time JewishGen volunteer.

## Werner Frank

Werner L. Frank is the editor of the JGSVC newsletter and a founding member of the board. Werner has spoken at IAJGS conferences and written articles for *Roots-Key*, *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.

## Fred Land

Fred Land is the treasurer of JGSCV. He discovered his father was Jewish shortly before he died in 2002. That discovery piqued his interest in his roots, and he has researched his ancestry back to his great-great-grandparents in Lithuania, as well as finding many living relatives he never knew about. He also found articles on Jewish issues published by his great-grandfather. He has made a presentation on his genealogical discoveries to the JGSCV.

## Helene Rosen

Helene Rosen is the membership vice president of the JGSCV and an active participant in the Cemetery Project. Helene published several articles in JGSCV's *Venturing Into Our Past* on finding a relative in Australia and using Steve Morse's site on finding her grandmother's steamship record. She has made a presentation on her research to JGSCV. Her family tree contains over 1,250 names. She is a graduate of UCLA has worked for the County of Los Angeles in data processing, and is the mother of three boys.

## Sharon Rosenthal

Sharon Rosenthal became involved with genealogy as a result of a class offered by Rabbi Greenbaum (Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Adat Elohim) called "From Generation to Generation". Ever since she has been fascinated by the process and when JGSCV began, she joined at the first meeting. She is planning to become more involved as she looks forward to retirement and felt one way to increase her knowledge and share what she learned is to become more involved in JGSCV.

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CYCLE FOR 2009 BEGINS NOW, SEE PAGE 4**

## 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 shelves at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email.

2009 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.

## EMIGRATION/IMMIGRATION DATABASES

Check out the Polish Roots website at [www.polishroots.org/immigration.htm](http://www.polishroots.org/immigration.htm) for the following databases dealing with emigration and immigration:

- Primer on Emigration, Immigration This guide helps clear up the confusion about leaving the Old Country and arriving in the New World
- Antwerp Alien Registrations The site is in Flemish. If your ancestor came on a ship from Antwerp then they may appear in these indices.
- Bremen Passenger Lists 1920-1939
- Hamburg Emigration Lists The site has records from 1890-1902. This site has changed to a FEE based service for basic searches.
- Hamburg Hafen (Harbor) Images These images are courtesy of Edward David Luft
- Hamburg: European Rates of Fare A list containing the prices from many European rail heads to Hamburg
- Boston Passenger Records This site lists the NARA and FHL film numbers for indexes and the actual passenger records
- Ellis Island Passenger Records The Official website of the Ellis Island Foundation and the index to the ship arrival lists for 1892-1924 when most of our immigrant ancestors arrived in North America.
- History of Castle Garden and Ellis Island
- Immigration History Research Center A useful source on immigration and ethnic history in America
- Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Annotations made on passenger lists at time of arrival of immigrant
- Index of 1890 New York Immigrants from Austria, Poland, and Galicia

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## NEW CEMETERY DATA IN GERMANY

The Salomon Ludwig Steinheim-Institute for German-Jewish History in Duisburg, Germany, recently finished its documentation of 47 Jewish cemeteries in the Rhine-Maas-region, which comprises part of North Rhine Westfalia and part of the Dutch province of Limburg.

The database, which is available online, contains more than 3400 gravestone inscriptions, the oldest from the year 1715, with German translations, commentaries, biographical details and photographs. It will be continuously complemented (additions and corrections, particularly those of biographical details, are welcome!). The names, years of death, the Hebrew, German and Dutch inscriptions and their translations into German are fully searchable both in German and Hebrew. Access to the database is via the main page [www.steinheim-institut.de:50580/cgi-bin/epidat](http://www.steinheim-institut.de:50580/cgi-bin/epidat) covering the cemeteries of AROLSEN, the old cemetery of FRANKFURT/Main (Battonnstrasse), HAMBURG-ALTONA, MUELHEIM an der Ruhr and WINSEN.

The database is constantly being extended to include more cemeteries and inscriptions. To access the database one or more of the cemeteries has to be chosen under "Auswahlmenue." Searching can then be carried out in German or Hebrew (change language by [alt]+[shift]). If you do choose only one cemetery, you can go to "Inschriften", where you can access chronologically ordered inscriptions. You can look at them one by one or select a particular year under "Jahr". Information about the documentation funding as well as conventions for illustration of the Hebrew inscriptions is found under "Information" (a translation into English is planned).

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- New York Passenger Lists 1820-1897 A list of microfilm numbers available from the LDS for the listed period
- Texas Seaport Museum Listing of immigrants to Galveston, Texas between 1844-1954.
- U.S. Passenger Arrival Lists A list of microfilm numbers for passenger arrival manifests available at the US National Archives, including Canadian border crossings
- Immigration to Canada lots of information about ships arriving in Canada during the 19th century along with info for other countries
- Immigration Records (1925-1935) from Library and Archives Canada
- Pier 21 at Pier 21 on the Halifax waterfront, 1.5 million immigrants first set foot on Canadian soil



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting on **Monday**, December 8, 2008  
at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks,  
**7:00-9:30 p.m.**

**Note different day of week and later start time!**

## "One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools"

The One-Step website started out as an aid for finding passengers in the Ellis Island database. Shortly afterwards it was expanded to help with searching the 1930 census. The tool has continued to evolve and today includes over 150 web-based tools divided into 14 separate categories ranging from genealogical searches to astronomical calculations to last-minute bidding on e-bay. This presentation will describe the available tools and give the highlights of each one. It is a must meeting for all researchers interested in genealogy.

Speaker: Stephen Morse is the creator of the One-Step Website for which he has received both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society and more. Steve's one-step program has revolutionized how to do genealogical searches in large databases!

Everyone is eligible for the drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes for those who renew their JGSCV membership or join for 2009. You must be present to win! Light refreshments will be served celebrating Chanukah and our membership drive. All attendees receive a genealogical gift!

## 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

The JGSCV was very saddened to learn of the passing of Paul Armony z'l, the founder and president of our sister JGS the Asociacion de Genealogia Judia de Argentina. Paul was a passionate genealogist and a friend to all JGSs. Our heartfelt sympathies to his family and the members of the Asociacion de Genealogia Judia de Argentina.

### Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

- January 4, 2009 (Sunday at 1:30 PM): Ron Arons speaking on "The 'Musical' Chicago and All That Genealogical Jazz"
- February 8, 2009 (Sunday at 1:30 PM): Arthur Benveniste speaking on "Secret Jews: History and Culture of Crypto-Jews"
- March 1, 2009 (Sunday at 1:30 PM): Sonia & David Hoffman speaking on "Town Wide Research: Recreating Our Ancestral Shtetl- Ariogala, Lithuania"
- April 5, 2009 (Sunday 1:00 to 5:00 PM): Exclusive Assisted Research Afternoon at the LA Regional Family History Center

**PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND SUBMIT TO THE TREASURER**

**2009 Membership Renewal Form**

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

**2009 Annual Dues:**

**Dues paid now are good through December 2009!**

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 when it recognizes 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: Helene Rosen

28912 Fountainwood st.

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!)**

**SPECIAL ONE TIME OFFER:**

**GIVE A CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP IN JGSCV AS A  
CHANUKAH GIFT TO ANYONE OF YOUR CHOICE**

**JEWISHGEN BLOGSPOT**

**Do you want to keep up to date on what is happening in the Jewish  
genealogy world, check periodically <http://jewishgen.blogspot.com>**

**REMINDER TO REGISTER**

Ralphs Community Contribution Program will support JGSCV through your purchases of goods at Ralphs markets, and at no cost to you. Please register for this community outreach program by using our identification code: 84732. Ralphs has updated it's website and community contribution program. The new website also saves you money with discounts and coupons. The step-by-step procedure to enroll is outlined on our website : [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) and click on "notices."

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

## JEWISH HISTORY IN INDIANA

In a quest to continue its public recognition and preservation of Indiana's history and historic sites and structures, the Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology, in partnership with the Midwest Regional Office of the National Park Service, has intensified its commitment to the interpretation, preservation and representation of the Hoosier State's historic Jewish communities. To better understand this nearly-forgotten Indiana history, the DHPA has created the Indiana Jewish Heritage Initiative, a project designed to encourage the preservation of remaining Jewish cultural sites and with them the history of these waning communities.

The project's web site at <http://www.in.gov/dnr/historic/11274.htm> currently has links to 23 county histories, each of which describes the development of Jewish life in a particular county in Indiana. Additional county histories will be added in the future. The essays, ranging in length from one to 25 pages, include photos, lists of residents and businesses over the last 150 years, and reference notes. The site should prove useful for anyone researching Indiana Jewish history.

## JEWISH HISTORY IN MAINE

<http://www.davidkrut.com/pj/index.php> is a community-based history project providing information on Jewish citizens of Maine through a state of the art genealogical and historical resource reflecting the Jewish traditions of memory, remembrance and inter-generational learning. The website database now has records of 23,040 people with significant Maine ties and information on 96 Maine-based religious organizations, 170 Maine-based community organizations 254 businesses important for Maine Jews, 15 Jewish camps, 2600 headstone images, as well as 10 scanned commemorative books and documents.

Access to this data is through a city/town/county search function which requires a one time sign up at no cost. There are also the beginnings of home pages for Jewish areas within the state. In addition there is map software that serves as a complement to the local area homepages and permits access to information on the immigrants areas and emigrant destinations. Various maps can be found at:

[www.davidkrut.com/pj/indexgeo2.php](http://www.davidkrut.com/pj/indexgeo2.php)

[www.davidkrut.com/pj/indexgeoFW.php](http://www.davidkrut.com/pj/indexgeoFW.php)

[www.davidkrut.com/pj/indexgeoTOC.php](http://www.davidkrut.com/pj/indexgeoTOC.php)

- The Hungarian Tourist Agency has published a full-color brochure including information about the history of Hungarian Jewry and sites of interest. The brochure includes names addresses and phone numbers for shuls and Jewish community organizations. Download at [www.ungarn-tourismus.de/shalomE05.qxd.pdf](http://www.ungarn-tourismus.de/shalomE05.qxd.pdf)

- Check out the Museum of Family History website at [www.museumoffamilyhistory.com](http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com). Its links include [Genealogical Resources \(within U.S.\)](#), [Foreign Resources \(outside U.S.\)](#), [Shtetl-Associated Sites](#), [Jewish Museums](#), [Yiddish Resources](#), [Jewish Music](#), [Cemetery Information/Restoration](#), [Searchable Cemetery Database](#), [Telephone and City Directories](#), [Media Organizations](#), [Other Sites of Interest](#)

- We welcome new members: Barbara Hoff, Arthur M Wilkof, Cherie Wrigley

## JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President

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Stewart Bernstein, Member-at-large

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