



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

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President's Letter

The JGSCV members had a very successful trip to the LA Regional Family History Center (LARFHC) on April 5. We are most grateful to the LARFHC for making this opportunity possible before it closes for at least six months for renovations later this month. Thank you to Barbara Algaze, volunteer at the Center and JGSLA Librarian for her excellent overview of the LARFHC and for coordinating the LARFHC volunteers who gave up their Sunday to help the JGSCV members: Hal, Janete, Liz, Mara, and Mary. We are also very appreciative of JGSLA for waiting until after our assisted research afternoon before they packed up their outstanding library housed at the LARFHC (due to the impending renovations). We hope to return next year after the Center reopens in their remodeled and larger center!



March was Women's History Month and May includes Mother's Day. It is usually more challenging to research our female roots due to women's name resulting from marriage, and in the past, many of our female ancestors were more "hidden behind the scenes". What better way to honor our female ancestors than to research their lines, and honor those who perished in the Shoah with a Page of Testimony, by writing down a story about them in your genealogy, so that future family members have something to remember, passed down and shared again. Examples include a recipe passed down from one generation to another, a story of cooking or baking with mother, grandmother or aunt, or a story remembered how they cared for you when you were ill with the flu or measles- all goes to remembering and honoring them.

Our meetings co-sponsor, Temple Adat Elohim has been honored for its educational program. It will receive the Irving J. Fein Social Action Award from the Union of Reform Judaism Commission on Social Action for outstanding action in bringing the importance of community responsibility to children in kindergarten through third grade. Congratulations Temple Adat Elohim!

Our June 7th meeting is YOUR meeting! Do you have a genealogical success story, brick wall or artifact that you or your ancestors brought over when you/they immigrated? We want you to share with us at our June 7th meeting, "Genealogy in the Round". This is your meeting-please let me know if you wish to talk for 5-10 minutes at the meeting (president@JGSCV.org).

While Yom Hashoah Day (Holocaust Memorial Day) is commemorated on April 21st, the JGSCV will be commemorating it on May 3rd by showing the poignant documentary, *The World Was Ours: The Jewish Legacy of Vilna*. The film focuses on the pre-war life of this vibrant culture, narrated by Mandy Patinkin. Following the video, we are honored to have former Vilna resident Esther Meisler, talk briefly about her life in Vilna and how she survived the Holocaust.

I look forward to seeing you on May 3rd.

Jan Meisels Allen

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MEETING NOTICES

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 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 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain the new/renewal membership form on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

JASENOVAC RESEARCH INSTITUTE

The Jasenovac Research Institute, based in Brooklyn, N.Y. has a very extensive web site concerning the Holocaust in Yugoslavia. In particular, they maintain a Victims List at

<https://cp13.heritagewebdesign.com/~lituchy/victimlist.php>

They state that it consists of data originally collected by the Yugoslav government's Federal Bureau of Statistics for the 1964 Yugoslav State Census of War Victims. I have found names there that are not in the Yad Vashem database.

Also visit the website and check out the All-Hungary Database at www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary/ For back issues, search the H-SIG message archives at <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?jg~jgsys~sigspop>

Ed Zwieback (Long Beach, California)

JEWISH SURNAME SELECTION

The text of the decree by Emperor Josef II demanding of each Jew to select a constant surname can be found at: www.shoreshim.org/en/infoEmperorJoseph.asp

This Austrian Empire edict was effective beginning January 1, 1788. There is an excellent searchable database of documents from Krakow and some other towns at www.shoreshim.org/en/dbSearchKrakow.asp.

Rivka Schirman (Paris, France)

COLLEGE RECORDS

Check this article for information concerning access to college/university individual's academic records:

www.familytreemagazine.com/article/college-records

LIFE PHOTOS ON GOOGLE

Google is hosting old Life Photos--from the 1750's to today — just type in the year or subject where it says search. "Poland, WWII" finds photos of the Warsaw ghetto and more. A shtetl search such as "Brody, Ukraine" provides photos and maps. The searches are not limited to Life Photos but can extend to Google's entire photograph gallery. Adding "source:life" to any Google image search and search only the LIFE photo archive. For example: "Poland, WWII source:life" see <http://images.google.com/hosted/life>

U.S. STATE RECORDS

Ancestry Magazine's March-April 2009 issue has an article by Paul Rawlins, "Wired States of America: A Look at Digital Records Near You" Starting on page 2 there is a listing of URL's for those U.S. states that have some records available. The records listed are those supported by the state (i.e. not private organizations unless its an official part of the state as are some historical societies) The records are not only vital records (birth, marriage and death) but many are historical records or records of cultural significance. Not all states that are listed have their vital records on line or digitized; you will have to go to the individual state site to see exactly what is available. www.ancestrymagazine.com/2009/02/features/state-records-online

PRESERVING JEWISH CEMETERIES

The Heritage Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Cemeteries (HFPJC) has a website at www.hfpjc.org that lists the status of 402 Jewish cemeteries by name of location in the following countries: Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, France and Austria-Germany. The condition of each of these cemeteries is notated using sixteen status symbols.

ANCESTRY.COM ACCESS AT LIBRARIES

The Ventura County Library (VCL) has added the Library Edition of Ancestry.com to their databases. The genealogical database may only be accessed at local branches. To find the nearest VCL go to www.vencolibrary.org.

Thousand Oaks Public Library also has Ancestry.com access for use in the library. See www.toaks.org/library

The Los Angeles Public Library (<http://www.lapl.org/>) also has in-branch access on their computers to Ancestry.com. The closest LAPL branch to our area is the Woodland Hills Branch. The County of Los Angeles Public Library does not have a subscription to Ancestry.com



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting on
Sunday, May 3, 2009, 1:30 to 3:30 PM
at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

"The World Was Ours" The Jewish Legacy of Vilna

"The World Was Ours" is a documentary film dedicated to the memory of Jewish Vilna. Vilna, often referred to as "the Jerusalem of Lithuania" was one of the great cultural centers of Eastern European Jewry. It wasn't the largest Jewish community, nor the most affluent; but the culture of Vilna's Jews, their pride, scholarship, and determination made Vilna unique. It was a community with a deep religious heritage and a highly developed sense of social responsibility.

The film focuses on the pre-war life of this vibrant culture depicting its hopes, dreams and remarkable achievements, a cultural atmosphere producing many illustrious figures. Award-winning actor Mandy Patinkin does the voice-over narrations weaving together interviews, diaries, letters, poems, archival photographs and footage. Vilna was destroyed in the holocaust. Following the documentary, Esther Meisler, a former resident of Vilna will talk about her life in Vilna and how she survived the Holocaust.

Even though Yom Hashoah Day is remembered on April 21st, come join us
for this moving memorial to the holocaust on May 3rd.

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

June 7, 2009: Genealogy in the Round: Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls.

July 12, 2009: "Facebook: The Ins and Outs of the On-Line Social Networking Way to Find Relatives and Others" Michael Gallop

Future meeting dates will be announced after we receive commitments of dates from our meeting co-sponsor.

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

And

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia

Are proud to co-host the



SHERATON CITY CENTER HOTEL-PHILADELPHIA

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Computer classes, beginner to advances

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Jewish Films

Archivists from different countries

Tours of Jewish Philadelphia

Philadelphia historical sights

& much more...

To register and find out more, please go to:

www.philly2009.org

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has announced that registration is now open for the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Philadelphia from August 2–7. It is also possible to make hotel reservations at this time from the conference site at <http://www.philly2009.org>.

Conference registration rates are:

- Early Bird Registration (through April 30, 2009): Full-\$250; Companion-\$150
- Regular Registration (May 1-July 24, 2009: Full-\$295; Companion-\$195
- On-Site Registration (after July 25, 2009: Full-\$325; Companion \$225.
- Daily Registration: Sunday (including Opening Reception: \$95; Monday-Thursday; \$75 per day; Friday morning: \$40.

To be eligible for companion registration, both parties must reside in the same household.

IIJG Web Site Shows Progress of the Institution

The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy has updated its web site at <http://iijg.org>. With the interests of Jewish genealogists in mind, the site now describes the Institute's activities on both the research and teaching fronts. There are descriptions of nine research projects that are under way, together with progress reports on most of them. To display a detailed description of each of the projects, click on the "Projects," "Standards" and "Resources" links at the IIJG site.

If you have always wondered how to standardize notation for names of individuals, dates and locations the check out the informative article, "A Proposed Standard for Names, Dates and Places in a Genealogical Database" which was published in the Fall issue of AVOTAYNU. It can be found at the IIJG site at www.iijg.org/home/lists/AVOTAYNU_XXIV_3.pdf

JOWBR 2009 Update

JewishGen is pleased to announce the first 2009 update to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Records database. This update includes over 55,000 new records and close to 25,000 new photos from 17 countries. This brings JOWBR's holdings to over 1.125 million records from over 2,100 cemeteries / cemetery section from 45 countries! Although the burial records are now "live" additional description files, maps and overview photos for these new cemeteries will be made available shortly.

For help in using JewishGen services visit the JewishGen Support Center at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/Support.htm>

Repositories of Primary Sources

A listing of over 5000 websites describing holdings of manuscripts, archives, rare books, historical photographs, and other primary sources for the research scholar. All links have been tested for correctness and appropriateness.

<http://www.uiweb.uidaho.edu/special-collections/Other.Repositories.html>

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