



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

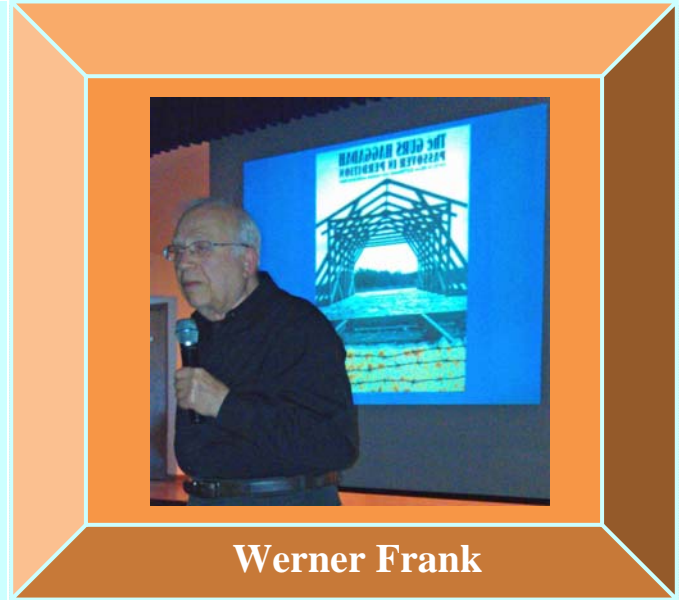
Volume 6, Issue 9

June, 2011

President's Letter:

The Yom HaShoah program on May 1 was well attended and generated many questions for our speaker, Werner Frank, JGSCV founding member and former board member, regarding his presentation "The First Massive Jewish Deportation: Camp de Gurs in 1940".

In 1933 there were an estimated 525,000 Jews in Germany. By the time hostilities began in 1939, 60 percent already left the country before Nazi policies changed to include ultimate liquidation. *Gauleiters* Robert Wagner and Joseph Bürckel, in an attempt to be the first among their Nazi cohorts to make their territories *Judenrein* (free of Jews) engineered a massive expulsion of over 6,500 Jews to Camp de Gurs, in Vichy France. This 'Wagner-Bürckel Aktion' was offered by the *Gauleiters* as their gift to the *Führer* on October 23, 1940. Frank lost members of his family at Camp de Gurs. Several meeting attendees had family who had been detainees in the camp. Werner is writing a book on the Camp de Gurs.



Werner Frank

We were also privileged to have JGSCV attendee and holocaust survivor, Clara Knopfler talk on her book: "I Am Still Here" My Mother's Voice".

Thank you to the anonymous person who returned our missing book to the library: *Jewish Voices of the California Gold Rush A documentary History 1849-1880!*

May is National Photograph Month. Photographs are an integral part of genealogy. If you look through some old boxes of photos you may be surprised to find clothing that are clues to the era the photograph was taken! Preservation of old photos is a "must". Don't forget to take some "current" family photos for future generations to enjoy.

Temple Adat Elohim has provided us with the future meeting dates September 2011-June 2012 please mark your calendars. See page 4. To avoid 'sound conflicts' with the Temple's Chanukah Musical, JGSCV will be meeting on Monday nights at 7:00 PM for the months of September, October, and November only, We are delighted that the Temple continues to invite us back and co-hosts our programs. They are wonderful partners and we could not provide the programs without them.

June 5th meeting brings back JGSCV favorite, and founding member Ron Arons with his program of "Wrongful [Jewish] Wraskels of the West". Jewish criminals have made their mark in the state of California for nearly 150 years. Above and beyond Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky, Ron found them in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and elsewhere in the Golden State. Along the way, he shows the large variety of genealogical sources available to research your black sheep ancestors. Following his presentation, you may purchase Ron's books & 'Black Sheep' products—including ties, toys, jewelry and t-shirts. To pre-order, go to www.ronarons.com. Print out your order receipt, he will hand deliver the products to the meeting. Cash or checks only.

Looking forward to seeing you on June 5th!

Jan Meisels Allen

FUTURE MEETINGS NOTICES PAGES 4, 7

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.

2011 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.

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY OFFERS HELP WITH GENEALOGY

The LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY is offering a brief orientation to their genealogy collection May 21, June 18, July 16 and August 20. On each date the Central Library will offer a department tour and tips for searching their catalogue and database. A librarian will be available to offer assistance in helping you plan your research strategy.

Meet at 11AM in the History & Genealogy Department. No reservations are necessary for groups of six or less. Larger groups should call for an appointment: 213-228-7400.

MULTIPLE FAMILYSEARCH HISTORICAL RECORDS UPDATED

Records as diverse as U.S. Social Security Death Index and Lima, Peru Civil Registrations (1874-1930) have been updated and/or added to FamilySearch Historical Record Collections. There are sixty nine updated records of which 21 are new. You can access these records at <http://tinyurl.com/4odzr28>

NATIONAL ARCHIVES UPDATES FROM GENEALOGY FAIR

The National Archives Research Center held its Seventh Annual Genealogy Fair April 20 and 21 in Washington, D.C. Copies of presenters' handouts are available at: <http://tinyurl.com/3jn97av> You can download 1940 Census Research, Questions and Symbols as well as the Form Template. Also available are guidelines on using footnote.com and ancestry.com as well as insights on how to access many, many other NARA records such as Court Records, Criminal Records, Federal Employee Records. Other data available include Revolutionary War and Civil War Era information and Leavenworth Prison Records and much, more.

POSTER COMPETITION

The IAJGS holds an annual competition for a poster or flyer to announce and celebrate International Jewish Genealogy Month. The winning design is unveiled each year at the IAJGS International Conference. The artist creating the winning entry will receive free registration for that conference. For more information and an entry form go to: <http://tinyurl.com/3o4un6c> Entrants need not be members but entries must be submitted by JGSCV by June 15.

NYC TOMBSTONES INDEXED

JewishData.com (<http://jewishdata.com>) has added more than 25,000 indexed photographs of tombstones from New York City's Mt. Lebanon Cemetery. JewishData.com is a subscription site. To search the cemetery directly for burial records without photographs and without fees go to <http://tinyurl.com/3hw8el7>

UPDATED LIST OF NEW YORK CITY SYNAGOGUES

The Museum of Family History has updated its list of synagogues that formerly existed in New York's Manhattan. The updates come from Trow's New York City 1905-6 (Directory) and include synagogues mostly located on the Lower East Side. There are now 177 new entries which brings the list to more than 800 Manhattan synagogues: <http://tinyurl.com/3shj69k>

JEWISH TELEGRAPH AGENCY BACK ISSUES

Articles dating back to 1923 are available on the Jewish Telegraph Agency website at no charge. The JTA estimates they have published more than 250,000 articles since its inception in 1923. Go to <http://jta.org> and click on the brown 'archive' tab at the top then type your search term into the keyword box.

JUNE GENEALOGY PROGRAMS FROM THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

The National Archives will hold a series of genealogy related programs in the Washington, D.C. area beginning June 1st and running through the month. Some topics include Dept. of State Records, Researching the 1940 Census, Online Resources and Military Casualty Records. For a full list of programs go to: <http://tinyurl.com/42dz5ry>

PENSION FILES FROM WAR OF 1812

Subscription site Footnote.com has published the War of 1812 Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Applications in a free database: <http://tinyurl.com/4ybhfk2> The files include the veteran's name, age, rank and service dates as well as marriage date, place of residence and information related to acres of land granted as a reward for service.

Footnote.com is digitizing millions of records from this period (and making them available for free) as part of a project with the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Archives.



Look for the SCHMOOZING CORNER sign (left) fifteen minutes before our regular meetings at Temple Adat Elohim where you will find a JGSCV expert who can help you overcome a genealogical brick wall or maybe just answer a question. Warren Blatt will facilitate on June 5th.

GENEALOGY IN THE ROUND ON JULY 17TH



JGSCV's July meeting will feature members helping members by sharing genealogy triumphs and brick walls. Please help others by explaining how you shattered a brick wall or just uncovered an intriguing family tidbit. Or maybe describe your brick wall and learn how someone else has overcome something similar. Perhaps you found a family heirloom you would like to share. July 17th is YOUR meeting. Each voluntary participant will have 5-10 minutes. Please contact Jan Meisels Allen for more information and to be placed on the Agenda: president@jgscv.org

Traveling Library Books classification A and D will be at the June 5th meeting. Visit our website www.jgscv.org under library/traveling for the list of books in these categories. If you would like an unscheduled book to be brought to the meeting please send a request to Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting (president@jgscv.org)



JUNE 5TH BOOK REPORT BY SARA HYMAN

Dan Waddell is a journalist in the UK who turned to writing books about sports and popular culture. After the birth of his son in 2003, he decided to learn more about his own family history and was asked to write the companion book for the BBC-TV series "Who Do You Think You Are?". Between the stories he was learning in his family tree, and what he learned about genealogy, he got the idea for a mystery novel that involved family history. The first book is called "The Blood Detective" (published 2008) and "Blood Atonement" came out in 2009.



Clara Knopfler on her book "I Am Still Here" My Mother's Voice"



Perusing the Traveling Library



Debra Kay-Blatt and Len Shenkin at the Schmoozing Corner



Warren Blatt leading the meeting



Janice Seller's blog *Ancestral Discoveries* (<http://tinyurl.com/3aplmd8>) reports that the Angel Island Immigration Station Foundation is seeking help in locating Jewish refugees or their descendents who entered America via Angel Island in San Francisco in the late 1930's and 1940. Considered by many to be the Ellis Island of the west thousands of immigrants from Australia, New Zealand and Asia came here through that location. If you know someone who qualifies, please visit the website and follow the links.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE VENTURA COUNTY FAIR AUGUST 3-14

The Ventura County Fair is August 3-14. For the past few years, JGSCV participated by volunteering at a booth during the Fair along with the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society, the Ventura County Genealogical Society, and the Ventura Family History Center. Volunteers are needed every day of the fair; shifts are 4 hours: 10:30 AM - 2:30 PM; 2:30 - 6:30 PM and 6:30 -10 PM. It is best if you are familiar with Ancestry.com and to some extent FamilySearch.org and other popular programs to show the Fair attendees how genealogy is researched. Volunteers will have admission for free. There is a \$10 parking fee that is not waived for volunteers. You may wish to take the bus or train (if convenient for where you reside). The website for the Fair is: <http://www.venturacountyfair.org/pages/3441/> --many of the functions are yet to be posted so check back on the site if what you are interested in is not yet available.

If you are interested in volunteering, please e-mail president@jgscv.org and your names will be forwarded to the appropriate people.

2011 JGSCV Meeting Dates	
All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks	
2011	2012
<p><u>Sunday June 5th</u> 1:30-3:30 PM: <i>Wrongful (Jewish) Wraskals of the West</i> – Ron Arons, west coast criminals</p> <p><u>Sunday July 17th</u> 1:30-3:30 PM: Genealogy In The Round-Share your successes, brick walls, and artifacts.</p> <p><i>NO AUGUST MEETING: IAJGS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON, DC AUGUST 14-19, 2011</i></p> <p><u>Monday, Sept. 12th</u> 7:00-9:00 PM: TBD</p> <p><u>Monday, Oct. 10th</u> 7:00-9:00 PM: TBD</p> <p><u>Monday, Nov. 7th</u> 7:00-9:00 PM: TBD</p> <p><u>Sunday, Dec. 11th</u> 1:30-3:30 PM: TBD</p>	<p><u>Sunday, Jan. 8th</u> 1:30-3/30 PM: TBD</p> <p><u>Sunday, February 12th</u> 1:00-5:00 PM Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Library-Current Dues Paid Members-only</p> <p><u>Sunday, March 4th</u> 1:30-3:30 PM: TBD</p> <p><u>Sunday, April 1st</u> 1:30-3:30 PM: TBD</p> <p><u>Sunday, May 6th</u> 1;30-3;30 PM: TBD</p> <p><u>Sunday, June 10th</u> 1:30-3:30 PM</p> <p><i>NO JULY MEETING: IAJGS CONFERENCE IN PARIS, FRANCE JULY 15-18, 2012</i></p>

Beyond The Conejo Valley

What's happening at other JGS's Around the Globe?

From The Jewish
Genealogy Society of
Cleveland - Spring, 2011



By Ken Bravo

From the JGS Cleveland website:
Ken Bravo has been researching his family since the mid-1970's. More recently, he has added the families of his children's spouses, meaning he has now researched thousands of people and their families. He has also been a frequent speaker on a number of Jewish genealogy subjects.

In Ken's opinion, the greatest Bubbemeises of Jewish genealogy (or any ethnic genealogy for that matter) is some variation of the theme "Our family's name was changed at Ellis Island."

In late 2009, Ken saw an obituary in the New York Times which lamented that the deceased's family name had been lost to time and had been changed at Ellis Island. This led to an exchange of emails with the Times during which Ken sent them naturalization records, a ship manifest, Census and other records, all proving that the family name was neither lost nor changed at Ellis Island. The correspondence ended when the Times finally e-mailed "I am not prepared to try to set decades of history straight by running a correction on one specific family name, regardless of the records."

This led Ken to search for other Times obituaries with similar claims on name changes at Ellis Island. While not an exhaustive search, Ken came up with four additional obituaries plus one letter to the editor with the name change claim.

When Ken began his talk (to the JGS of Cleveland), he quoted Mark Twain, who said, "Never pick a fight with someone who buys ink by the barrel," and added, "...or newsprint by the truckload." Ken has had some difficulty getting *The New York Times* to acknowledge that it has misreported the origin of some family names. Greg Brock, Senior Editor of Standards at *The NYT* e-mailed Ken that they have to be "200 per cent certain" that something is a fact to issue a correction.

Ken said that the problem begins with the situation that death notices are advertisements and that the family can write whatever they want. Obituaries are both news and advertising, because the family has to supply some of the information.

There is the hard-to-change mistaken idea that names were changed upon immigration. Think of the scene in "The Godfather" when the young boy, Vito Andolini from Corleone, is renamed "Vito Corleone" by the immigration official. This has been accepted by many people as the true way that families acquired their "American" names. *The NYT* has printed family stories that follow that impression.

Some of the cases that Ken has been able to disprove are the 2010 obituary of Sol PRICE, founder of The Price Club. The sources that Ken used were the 1920 and 1930 U. S. Census, the W. W. I Draft Registration form for Sol's father, and a *Washington Post* obituary written by Peter Eisner, a former *WP* editor who is writing a book about Sol Price. Ken spoke to Eisner and found out where to find the father's naturalization records. After obtaining the naturalization records, Ken saw that the father arrived in 1905 at Ellis Island as "Susche PRUSS". Ken compared the death notice of Sol Price's brother in San Diego, California, to make sure that he had the right family. Even when Ken sent proof to *The NYT*, the paper would not run a correction.

Another case was the photographer Arthur ZINN, who died in 2003. The name the family used on the census was ZINBERG.

There was a thought that Arthur was born Abrasha CHOODISMAN, but when Ken used the Steve Morse One- Step site, he could not find CHOODISMAN. He was able to use Morse's Ellis Island Gold Form with phonetic matching and eventually found them on the Ellis Island passenger arrival list where Ken found that they entered as CHUSIDMAN. Ken used

Footnote.com to find the naturalization record from Brooklyn, New York, in 1927, to confirm the name change.

Ken used BERK* (asterisk) for a wildcard search of census records to show that Irving BERK's name had not been changed from BERKOVIC upon arrival, contrary to a 2006 report in *The NYT*. In one of those name changes that makes it so hard to trace family, Ken proved that an official did not change Sascha UBSUSHONE's name to his mother's maiden name, causing him to become Charles ZIMMERMAN. Ken found Sascha Ubsushone coming alone through Ellis Island, and he was still using Ubushone when his mother and brother entered the U. S. He did find that when Sasha/Charles re-entered the U. S. later, he had changed his name to ZIMMERMAN. When he re-entered he had to declare when he was naturalized, so Ken could check that file to see what name he was naturalized under.

(*Ed. note* - Charles had become a labor leader in the garment industry and merited quite an obituary in *The NYT* on June 5, 1983, p. 32. To show how these things perpetuate themselves, Wikipedia picked up the story and put it online, "Sasha emigrated to the United States in 1913 at the age of 16... Sasha had his name changed to Charles Sasha Zimmerman by an official at Ellis Island upon arrival and he was thereafter known by this new moniker.")

A letter to *The NYT* from Naomi KARP questioned what name to put on the Ellis Island plaque that she was ordering for her grandfather. Ken used the Stephen Morse site, www.intelius.com, America's Obituaries and Death Notices website (see below), Biography and Genealogy Master Index, *Marquis' Who's Who* online, *The Historical New York Times* 1851- 1980 and the 1900 and 1930 U. S. Censuses to track Naomi's grandfather, Jacob FRIEDMAN back to 1900. He found a possible arrival date of 1891 for a FREIDMAN who he thinks matches Jacob.

Ken has proven that it is possible to find the truth about name changes, if one is willing to do some research.

Reprinted with permission

Is Kate Middleton Jewish?



A partial genealogy of Kate Middleton researched by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder, discovered her great-great-great-great grandparents, John (b. ~1783) and Rebecca Goldsmith (b. ~1796). Kate's mother was born Carole Elizabeth Goldsmith. There is no indication of the religion of her great-great-great-great grandparents and their son, John Goldsmith, married Esther Jones in a Baptist Church. John and Ester's son, also named John Goldsmith, married Jane Dorsett in a Catholic Church. But, it is delicious to think that Kate, and future British royalty, may have some landsman in their heritage. Hal's source: <http://tinyurl.com/3o4un6c>



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*

(* and surrounding areas)

Sunday, June 5, 2011 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

The Program: Wrongful [Jewish] Wrascals of the West

And you thought Jewish criminals were just on the East Coast (mainly New York), the Midwest (Chicago, Cleveland Detroit) and Las Vegas! Well, West Coast Jewish criminals are in this talk as Ron continues his genealogical quest to understand the lives of American Jewish criminals. Above and beyond Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky, Ron has found them - in Los Angeles, San Francisco, and elsewhere in the Golden State. Along the way, he shows the large variety of genealogical sources available to research these characters. Ron will show you how to track down your black sheep ancestors! Purchase of books & 'Black Sheep' products will be available after the presentation.



This is Ron's 6th return appearance at JGSCV—due his popularity and humorous and educational presentations- you won't want to miss this program!

Speaker Ron Arons: Ron has researched his roots for more than a dozen years. In the process of doing so, Ron learned that one of his ancestors served time "up the river" at Sing Sing Prison. Along the way, Ron has become an expert on how to research historical criminals. Ron has given numerous presentations across the country and internationally on conducting genealogical research, especially research on criminals. In January 2008, Ron appeared on the PBS TV series, *The Jewish Americans*, discussing criminals who operated on Manhattan's Lower East Side. His book, *The Jews of Sing Sing*, was published in June, 2008. In 2009, Ron published *WANTED! U.S. Criminal Records*, a reference book listing where criminal records are located across the U.S.

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. (www.jgscv.org)

Meeting co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.
There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.



The 31st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Hosted by JGSGW

The 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by JGS of Greater Washington (JGSGW) August 14-19, 2011 (www.dc2011.org) is fast approaching. The conference is being held at the Grand Hyatt Washington—it even has a metro stop accessible from the hotel and is only six blocks from the White House and a half mile from the National Archives.

Last month's newsletter (<http://jgscv.org>) included an overview of many of the highlights of the conference. More recently, the keynote speaker was announced: Sara Bloomfield (right), the Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. Her impressive background may be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/3zk7bbw>



Whether you are a newbie, intermediate or advanced in your genealogical research there will be sessions for you.

If you haven't already done so, to keep current on the conference, please sign up for the conference discussion group. You may subscribe to it through the JewishGen Discussion groups service by clicking on this link below or copying the URL into your browser's address field http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp

When prompted, log in to JewishGen, and you will be taken to the page titled, "Subscribe to JewishGen Mailing Lists." In the Hosted Projects section, find the 2011 DC Conference and click Subscribe at right. Watch your inbox for a welcome message, and you'll be all set to receive and post messages.

Please join your fellow JGSCV members at this fantastic IAJGS conference, which will be rich with treasures to help you in your genealogical adventure.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Stewart Bernstein, Member-at-large	stewart@jgscv.org
Warren Blatt, Member Education	education@jgscv.org	Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman	information@jgscv.org
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary	secretary@jgscv.org	Sara Hyman, Treasurer	treasurer@jgscv.org
Allan Linderman, Newsletter Editor	newslettereditor@jgscv.org	Helene Rosen, VP Membership	membership@jgscv.org
Marion Werle, Publicity	publicity@jgscv.org	*****	
David Oseas, Webmaster:	webmaster@jgscv.org	Raya Sagi, Librarian:	librarian@jgscv.org
Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616			
Website: www.jgscv.org			



THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS AND SONY MUSIC ANNOUNCE THE ‘NATIONAL JUKEBOX’

The Library of Congress and Sony Music Entertainment unveiled a new website of over 10,000 rare historic sound recordings available to the public for the first time digitally. The site is called the "National Jukebox" (www.loc.gov/jukebox/).

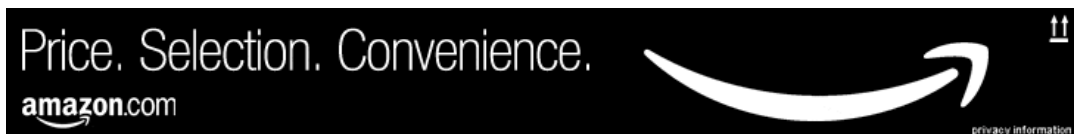
Developed by the Library of Congress, with recordings provided by Sony Music Entertainment, the National Jukebox offers free online access to a vast selection of music and spoken-word recordings produced in the U.S. between the years 1901 and 1925.

The collection includes Sony Music's entire pre-1925 catalog comprising thousands of music recordings produced by Columbia Records, Okeh, and Victor Talking Machine Co. among others. It also includes the presidential speeches of Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt, as well as presidential aspirants. It represents the largest collection of such historical recordings that has been made publicly available for study and appreciation online.

A quick search of ‘Jewish’ returned 128 selections including many in Yiddish. A specific search of ‘Yiddish’ returned 75 selections beginning with *Marry a Yiddish boy* by American Quartet from 1911. Listen for yourself: <http://tinyurl.com/3n3vqe2>

NOW TWO WAYS TO HELP JGSCV

1. JGSCV has now partnered with amazon.com to help raise funds at no cost to you. Just use our website to access amazon.com and we automatically receive credit. Start at www.jgscv.org and click on the Amazon banner at the bottom of the page (like the one below). This will take you to Amazon’s home page where you can begin your shopping. *You will not pay any more for any item you purchase in this manner.*



2. Remember to sign up for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. Ralphs requires annual registration on their website www.ralphs.com. Sign in and scroll down to community contribution. JGSCV is number 84732 that you insert under charity of choice. Even as an occasional Ralphs’ shopper, it helps JGSCV with no cost to you!