



# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

## THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

October, 2011

Volume 7 Issue 1

JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder gave an outstanding presentation on U.S. Immigration and Naturalization. Hal demonstrated how the laws changed from inception of the US to current day—discussing how his grandmother, who was born in the US, lost her US citizenship when she married a non-citizen, and later was able to restore her US citizenship—all due to changes in the US Naturalization laws. This is a new presentation for Hal and JGSCV was privileged to host its premiere!

The September meeting was also the inaugural of our new feature, *Genealogical Tip of the Month*, a 5-minute talk at the beginning of the program. JGSCV board member, Marion Werle presented: "Periodically Reviewing Your Research and Notes". A handout of Marion's excellent presentation is on the JGSCV website, [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) under meetings, prior and the September 2011 date. If you would like to give 5-minute genealogical hint at a future meeting, please let me know.

Thank you to accomplished genealogist, Sonia Hoffman who facilitated the schmoozing corner.



HAL BOOKBINDER speaking on the US Immigration and Naturalization process at the Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, OCT. 10th 7-9 PM**

Crista Cowan, noted genealogist, will present "*Finding Your Jewish Ancestors on ancestry.com*". She will offer insights and tips available only to an ancestry.com insider.

## JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6052 Hackers Lane  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-6616

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[president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)

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[membership@jgscv.org](mailto:membership@jgscv.org)

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[publicity@jgscv.org](mailto:publicity@jgscv.org)

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Ravi Sagi, Librarian  
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If you are on Facebook, we hope you will “like” JGSCV Facebook  
<http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

October begins our 2012 membership renewal campaign. If you are a regular attendee and haven't yet joined, your membership will help JGSCV to continue it's excellent programs. For \$25 /\$30 per year, you get 11 programs, socialization, education, and fun! For members who renew and those who join October-December, at our December 11 meeting—you are eligible to have your name drawn for a wonderful genealogical gift...you must be present at the December 11<sup>th</sup> meeting. From past years, you know we have wonderful gifts, including a world deluxe subscription to Ancestry.com, Fold3 subscription, Family Tree Maker, Legacy Family Tree, Roots Magic software and more. A membership/renewal form is on page 9.

Remember to renew your Ralph's membership in the Community Contribution Program! Ralphs requires everyone to renew **every** year on September 1st. To renew, participants are required to register for the new term at [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com) starting September 1 even if you registered only in July or August this year. Please, if you are enrolled, re-register, and if you haven't yet enrolled, please do so it is easy. Directions are listed on the JGSCV website [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) under “notices”. Even if you are, only an occasional shopper at Ralphs your purchases will help JGSCV.

JGSCV celebrates our 6th anniversary in October! We would not have been so successful without you--our members, friends and Temple Adat Elohim. **Thank you!** Our October 10<sup>th</sup> (Monday 7:00-9:00 PM) meeting is a special program with Crista Cowen of Ancestry.com on researching your Jewish ancestors on Ancestry.com—and she will cover techniques useful for all searching on the site. Marion Werle will be conducting the *Genealogical Tip of the Month* on “How to Use Time Lines”. Don't miss this special program!

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors, have a very safe, happy and healthy New Year! L'Shana Tova!



*Jan Meisels Allen*

## 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.

2012 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send a check in the appropriate amount payable 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](http://www.jgscv.org) by selecting the membership button.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON HOLOCAUST EDUCATION

The International School for Holocaust Studies at Yad Vashem announced the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Holocaust Education to be held June 17-21, 2012 at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. Visit <http://www.yadvashem.org> for regular updates on subjects or to submit abstracts.

## FREE ACCESS TO 1930 MEXICAN CENSUS

Ancestry.com has added the 1930 Mexican Census (El Quinto Censo General de Población y Vivienda 1930, México) and made the records free to search in celebration of Mexican Independence Day Sept. 16. [www.ancestry.com/Mexico](http://www.ancestry.com/Mexico)

There are nearly 13 million records, but citizens from the Federal District, which includes Mexico City, are not named.

## LIST OF ALL U.S. GENEALOGICAL LIBRARIES

For a state-by-state listing of all genealogical libraries in the U.S. go to <http://tinyurl.com/3bom47k>

## NEW PROCESS FOR ORDERING FHL FILMS

The process for ordering films from the Family History Library has changed. Films can now only be ordered online. After creating a user id on <https://familysearch.org> and verifying the film number from the FamilySearch catalog, go to <https://www.familysearch.org/films/>. You must enter the film number and type of loan you are requesting (short-term, extended or renewal) for each film before adding it to your shopping cart. Upon checking out, you must choose a default FamilySearch center where you will retrieve your film then complete the personal and payment information.

## NEW ONLINE DATA FROM SOUTH AFRICA

After completing your free registration at <http://tinyurl.com/3urqnnn> you will have access to an index to trusts, liquidations, curators and deceased people as of 2000. This data was compiled by the South African Judicial System and made available through its web portal integrated Case Management System (ICMS).

Avotaynu also reports major updates to the South Africa Jewish RootsBank at <http://tinyurl.com/445vdq8>. These record updates include thousands of new cemetery records from Johannesburg and Queenstown as well as the Germiston marriage register.



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on

**Monday, October 10, 2011 7:00: p.m.-9:00 p.m**

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

**Come Celebrate JGSCV's 6<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **Finding Your Jewish Ancestors On Ancestry.com**

Do you have an Ancestry.com subscription? Are you thinking of subscribing but suspect that you are only using a fraction of what can be done with the powerful tools and resources available on this website? We will focus specifically on using the Ancestry.com resources to locate your Jewish ancestors. Join us to learn more about unleashing the full potential of Ancestry.com on your family history. Even if you've been using Ancestry.com for years you are sure to learn something new!



**Speaker: Crista Cowan, Community Alliance Manager for the Ancestry World Archives Project, Ancestry.com. Previous positions at Ancestry.com include European Content Acquisition Manager and Document Preservation Indexing Manager. She has**

**been employed at Ancestry.com since 2004, and has completed her second term as president of the Utah Valley Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Crista has been involved with family history research for over 20 years and is the owner of Legacy Family History Services, specializing in descendency research, Jewish immigration, and sharing family history with the genealogically challenged.**

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](http://www.jgscv.org))

# JGSCV UPDATES . . .

**T**raveling Library categories A and D will be at the next meeting. Please check the website for the books included in each category <http://jgscv.org>. To request a book that is not in either category, please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 3 days in advance of the meeting at [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)



**D**on't forget **THE SCHMOOZING CORNER**, open 15 minutes before each meeting where a JGSCV member knowledgeable in genealogy research will be available to answer questions, provide direction and maybe even a solution to some of your concerns. Sonia Hoffman is helping Jerry Escover (above) prior to the Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. You will find THE SCHMOOZING CORNER at the front right corner of the meeting room at Temple Adat Elohim.



**V**isit JGSCV on Facebook and tell us what you think about meetings, brick walls or genealogy in general. <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>



**A** new element at each monthly meeting, JGSCV board member Marion Werle presented the first 'Technical Tip'. Actually, a series of helpful tips that start with:

1. Periodically Review Research & Notes
2. Fill In Blanks With New Research
3. Keep Current On New Sources

If you would like a copy of Marion's presentation with many more useful insights, please it is posted on the JGSCV website (<http://jgscv.org>) under meetings, prior meetings and the date of the meeting



**JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBER  
MARSHALL A. LEHMAN**

**T**he Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston Special Collections recently launched the A Synagogue A Day Tumblr website program. Developed over time by bloggers, this website features prints, photographs, and postcards of synagogues around the world from the William A. Rosenthal Judaica collection. A Synagogue A Day- Tumblr may be visited by going to <http://asynagogueaday.tumblr.com/>

## **FUTURE MEETING DATES**

**2011-12**

**Monday, Oct. 10<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00 PM**

Crista Cowan, FINDING YOUR JEWISH ANCESTORS ON ANCESTRY.COM *and* JGSCV'S SIXTH ANNIVERSARY!

**Monday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00 PM**

Jan Meisels Allen, HOW TO BEGIN YOUR GENEALOGY

**Sunday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

Steve Morse, FROM DNA TO GENETIC GENEALOGY and Chanukah/Membership Renewal Party

**Sunday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3/30 PM**

Panel, ETHICS, SENSITIVITIES, SENSIBILITIES AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

**Sunday, Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> 1:00-5:00 PM**

Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Library-Current Dues Paid Members-only

**Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

Joel Weintraub, HERE COMES THE 1940 CENSUS

**Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

Arthur Benveniste, THE HOLOCAUST AND SEPHARDIC COMMUNITIES

**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

VISITING YOUR ANCESTRAL SHTETL TOWNS

**Sunday June 10, 2012 1:30-3:30 PM**

TBD

July no meeting - IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Paris, France July 15-18, 2012



A great source for newspaper archives is Google News—both for domestic and international newspapers. Unfortunately, a few months ago, Google News announced that its News Archive initiative would be halted . . . however, the 60 million pages scanned over the past 250 years to date were to be left intact. While they are still on the Google site, they have made it more difficult to find the archive. These are two ways of accessing Google news archives:

- Go to <http://tinyurl.com/3hmtdx7> and under “date” click on “Return articles added to Google News between” and fill in the date going back as far as 250 years, with the information or key words you filled in under “find results” you will be able to search.

OR

- Go to <http://Google.com> and click on “news” at the top of the page and type in your search term (family name, town etc) and click, then, on left side “archives” appears. You can also set the custom dates you want with clicking on custom range beneath “archives”

At <http://news.google.com/newspapers>, all the newspapers that Google has included in its archives are listed with the dates for those newspapers—including international newspapers, and Jewish newspapers. You can also type in the name or location you are researching under “search archive”. For some articles there is a minimal charge.

# BOOK REVIEW

“Rediscovering Traces of Memory: The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia”

[*This book is in the JGSCV Traveling Library Category B. See *Venturing Into Our Past Vol. 6 #8 (May 2011)* for JGSCV trip to see Photo exhibit of this book*]

By Nancy Schlegel

(Reproduced from *The Galitzianer*, May, 2011)

This book is a collection of 74 haunting photographs selected from the permanent exhibition “Traces of Memory” at the Galicia Jewish museum in Krakow. The images in the exhibit were in turn selected from roughly 1,000 photographs taken over a decade between 1993 and 2002 during the collaboration of author Jonathan Webber and photographer Chris Schwarz. The museum was created in 2004 by Schwarz after a diagnosis of terminal cancer, and the book was published two years after his death in 2007.

From 1993 to 2004, author and photographer collaborated on identifying and photographing traces of Jewish heritage remaining in what had been Galicia, amassing a collection of roughly 1,000 images, and creating a book outline of five themes. The first three themes capture the destruction and loss of both human life and Jewish Galician culture:

- Jewish life in ruins
- Jewish culture as it once was
- Holocaust sites of massacre and destruction

while the final two themes demonstrate physical preservation and human remembrance in present-day Poland:

- how the past is being remembered
- people making history today

Far more than a collection of photographs, I found the images in this book to be like art, crafted to convey the messages of both author and photographer, yet evoking personal reaction and interpretation. Three photographs

have especially stayed with me:

image 5: “a lone Jewish tombstone ...”

The aloneness of a single stone, dark against the large empty snowy field, for me encapsulates darkness and bleakness.

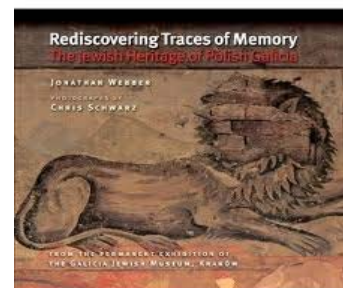
image 31: “mass grave in a forest for eight hundred Jewish children”

Completely surrounded and hemmed in by tall dense shadowed foliage, an overgrown patch that seems too tiny to hold 800 children—just as the concept of killing any child, times 800 in this case, seems too enormous to grasp—highlighted by just a bit of daylight.

image 65: “girl expressing her grief at the ruins . . . in Auschwitz- Birkenau”

Without including any physical reminder of the horrors of Auschwitz, this image is focused solely on the obvious grief in the covered face, slouched back, and drooped Israeli flag in hand, posed against a tranquil and beautiful background of leafy trees and green grasses.

Each photograph is accompanied by a few lines of description by the author, and further detail is found in the “Background Notes” section, with the specific page reference included with each photo. The book begins with a map of Polish Galicia, annotated with places photographed and places referred to in the text. An extensive bibliography is included, a mix of English and Polish literature.



*Rediscovering Traces of Memory: The Jewish Heritage of Polish Galicia.* Jonathan Webber; photographs by Chris Schwarz. Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2009. 192 pages. ISBN 9780253221858.

# שֵׁם טוֹב SHEM TOV

## **A Child's Perspective on Genealogy Why My Family History Project was Important to Me**

by Eden - Age -9 years

*Reprinted with permission from the September, 2011 issue of 'Shem Tov', newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)*

This article is based on the Family History project that was assigned in my Language Arts class. My project was very important to me because I learned about the members of my family -- my Great-Grandma Jeannie, Great-Grandpa Irwin, Great-Great-Grandma Mary, Great-Great-Grandpa David, Great-Uncle Ben, and of course my Grandma Elaine. I created a family tree of my ancestors. I saw how my family stayed close to each other even when they went through tough times. I was very excited to learn about my Great-Grandma Jeannie and my Grandma Elaine because they are both very interesting people. My top priority was to learn about my Great-Grandma Jeannie. I heard so much about her, and I was disappointed that I never met her.

One of the highlights of this project was studying my Great-Grandma Jeannie's birth certificate. Everyone in the family thought that her given name was Zelda, but since she did not like this name she changed it to Jean or Jeannie. However, the birth certificate confirmed that her given name was "Janie" i.e. Jean. Since her father's (my Great-Great-

Grandfather David's) first language was Yiddish, her given name was incorrectly spelled in English. By coincidence, on May 18th, 2011, I discovered that the date of her birth was May 18th, 1908. We always thought that her birthday was in January. She would have been 103 years old. It was most interesting to see on the birth certificate that the name of the attending physician was not filled in. I could not believe that she was born at home. From this document, I learned that her address was on Taylor Street. I checked a 1907 map to see the area of Toronto where her family and perhaps other Jewish families lived. I feel a close connection to my Great-Grandma Jeannie because I am named after her. I learned that we share many of the same interests such as needlecrafts and shopping.

This project was very exciting and fun for me to research. Everything that I learned about my ancestors and grandparents is truly amazing! I feel closer to my great-grandparents and great-great grandparents after completing this project. I hope one day to pass on to my kids the many fascinating stories, photos and facts that I learned. These are my family's roots.



*Eden is the granddaughter of JGS Toronto's Librarian, Elaine Cheskes.*





**2012 Membership/Renewal Form**  
**Jewish Genealogical Society of the**  
**Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)\***

\*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

**www.JGSCV.org**

**Dues paid now are good through December 2012**

Check one:

This is a New Membership \_\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_\_\_\_

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 application to: Helene Rosen,

28912 Fountainwood St.

Agoura Hills, CA 91301

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Are you on Facebook? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

What is your Facebook Name \_\_\_\_\_

Link to Facebook by <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

Talents that you have to share (language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)

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