



JGSCV

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

July, 2012

Volume 7 Issue 10

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At our June 3rd meeting, JGSCV was honored to host the premiere of the new program: *Ships of Our Ancestors* by Hal Bookbinder. This outstanding presentation gave us excellent insights into the ports where the majority of ships sailed from, how the people traveled, and their entry to the largest US Port-New York's Ellis Island.

There were 100 ports in Europe that had ships depart to Ellis Island. While 10 ship lines dominated the industry there were many more shipping companies. A list of ships, their origination ports, and the number of crossings is posted on the JGSCV website as a meeting handout (click on meetings, prior, and the June 3 date www.jgscv.org). Also presented was the evolution of ship travel including the requirement of ship manifests and improving immigrant protection and conditions on the vessels that originally took many weeks to cross the Atlantic compared to just a few days today. See page 6 for a brief summary of the presentation.



Hal Bookbinder at the June 3rd meeting premiering *Ships of Our Ancestors*

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, August 5th 1:30-3:30 PM

Genealogy In The Round

Your opportunity to share a success a brickwall or an artifact. Contact Jan Meisels Allen (president@jgscv.org) to participate.

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We have been including five-minute genealogical hints at the beginning of each meeting and we hope that you are finding them of assistance in your research. At the June meeting I did one on Researching US Military Records. The handout from the meeting is available on the JGSCV website for directions see page 1.

JGSCV received several unexpected and interesting communications—about the WWII Kindertransport in a Northern Ireland town of Millisle, and how our website's genealogical research links helped a class of students in New York with their Scotland/genealogy project. See pages 8,9.

I hope those with New York roots are enjoying the name indexing from Ancestry on the 1940 Census. As Chinese indexers were used, some creative genealogical thinking may need to be applied to the name spelling if you are not able to find your ancestor! As of writing this letter, the race is still on among the different genealogy companies and the list to date of name-indexed states are:

Ancestry.com: Colorado, Delaware, Washington DC, Maine, Nevada, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia

FamilySearch.org*: Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Utah, South Dakota, Vermont, Virginia, Washington State, Wyoming,

*included in the consortium with FamilySearch: Archives.com, findmypast.com, National Archives, ProQuest

MyHeritage.com: Rhode Island and New York (partial)

JGSCV will not be meeting in July due to the IAJGS annual conference in Paris, France. JGSCV meets again on August 5th and that program is **YOUR** program to talk about a brick wall, a genealogical success or an artifact. We need participants -- please contact me and tell me the topic you wish to talk about. This is always a fun meeting-but it only works if you participate!

Have a great July and looking forward to seeing you in August!

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 by selecting the membership button.

GERMAN GENEALOGY DICTIONARY

The Austro-Hungarian genealogy website www.genteam.at released a genealogical dictionary. It is available without subscription at <http://tinyurl.com/c28eq4s>. Listings are in German but may be translated via Google at www.translate.google.com

GENEALOGYINTIME MAGAZINE

The current issue of GenealogyInTime Magazine (www.genealogyintime.com) includes a link to their '50 Best Genealogy Brick Wall Solutions': <http://tinyurl.com/c9lthc6>

JEWISHGEN ADDS SIG

The Sub-Carpathia SIG has been established to focus on parts of pre-WWI Hungarian counties of Bereg, Maramoaros, Ugocsa and Ung which are now located in Sub-Carpathia, Ukraine. You may visit this new JewishGen SIG at: <http://tinyurl.com/6pmo359>

PRESERVING PHOTOGRAPHS

Excellent suggestions on preserving old photos and documents can be found at two sites: <http://tinyurl.com/6tbmj34> and <http://tinyurl.com/6s4kek2>.

JEWISH LIFE IN SHANGHAI

The New York Times' Travel Section on June 19th published an article describing how Jewish refugees gravitated to the Ohel Moshe Synagogue in Shanghai and its importance to the Jewish community in what was known as the Jewish Ghetto. The article may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/c98t8yb>.

IAJGS RESOURCES UPDATED

At <http://tinyurl.com/7tgejw9> the IAJGS has compiled a list of "Websites of Genealogical Interest". The list has been updated and the additions are noted. The links are separated in to 12 categories for easy of use. The sites are either completely free or have components that may be accessed at no charge.



Tell Everyone Of Your Genealogical Successes - Or Maybe Get Help Breaking Down A Brick Wall

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

(* and surrounding areas)

Sunday, August 5, 2012 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim

2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Genealogy In The Round:

Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls

Come and share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall, or genealogical artifact! This is YOUR meeting—we all learn from one another—take this opportunity to share your genealogical story—success or failure, ask questions about your brick walls, and more!

If you wish to participate in the program, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. Each participant will be given 5-10 minutes to share—depending on the number of presenters. Whether you are a JGSCV member or a potential member—we'd love to hear your genealogical story.

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.

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



JGSCV UPDATES . . .

Traveling Library categories A and C 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 5 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org.

THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 15 minutes before each meeting where a knowledgeable JGSCV member will be available to answer questions, offer direction and maybe even a solution to a brick wall or two. Werner Frank (center in photo above) led The Schmoozing Corner on June 3rd.



You can also help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com simply by entering the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page.

Start at www.jgscv.org and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one below). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



Join or renew your Ralphs Community Contribution Program membership at www.ralphs.com. Simple directions are also available on our website at www.jgscv.org under 'notices'. You may sign up for Ralphs Community Contribution at our meetings—but you **MUST** bring with you a Ralphs card obtained from any Ralphs store. For more information contact Karen Lewy (above) at karen@jgscv.org or look for her at the meetings. Remember, just by shopping at Ralphs, JGSCV receives a contribution at no cost to you.

Don't forget to 'friend' us on facebook and visit often for updates between meetings:

<http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBER
Lynne Geminder

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE JUNE 3RD MEETING:

SHIPS OF OUR ANCESTORS

By Jan Meisels Allen

As mentioned in the President's Letter on page 1, this excellent premiere presentation by Hal Bookbinder (right) covered many aspects of immigrant travel to Ellis Island from multiple ports throughout Europe. In addition to the ships and the ships' companies, the talk covered the evolution of trans Atlantic travel for immigrants including the requirement of manifests and passenger (immigrant) protections on the ships. Hal also discussed the evolution of the shipping vessels and conditions of the voyage that originally lasted many weeks compared with today's few days to cross the Atlantic to New York.

To the surprise of many, the European port that had the most sailings to Ellis Island between

Ports with > 1,000 Sailings to New York, 1892-1924

- Liverpool 5,212
- Naples 4,303
- Southampton 3,392
- Hamburg 3,256
- Bremen 2,923
- Genoa 2,851
- Rotterdam 2,705
- La Havre 2,654
- London 2,415
- Antwerp 2,353
- Glasgow 1,925
- Cherbourg 1,706
- Boulogne 1,450



1892-1924 was Liverpool, England with 5,200 sailings and the second largest number of sailings came from Naples, Italy with 4,300 sailings. [Third and fourth respectively were Southampton, England and Hamburg, Germany]. Trieste, Italy had 788 sailings to New York and those ships would likely have carried

passengers from the Ukraine, Turkey, and other countries in the south of Europe. Libau, Latvia was a port favored by many emigrating from Russia.

Hal also reviewed the changes in ships and the laws that first covered sailing ships and then steamships. Most notable issues facing the earliest immigrants: passenger safety, crowding, food and water issues. He discussed steerage class passengers—the class that most of our ancestors traveled—and what the passengers would encounter during their travel. Steerage class was improved over time, especially due to Albert Ballin, a German-Jew and general director of the Hamburg-America Line. Ballin improved the shipboard life for immigrants by providing kosher food, better living conditions and creating hostels for the emigrants to stay before the ship departed.

Also discussed was the earliest history of Jews in the United States from August 1654 when the first three Jewish businessmen arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam (New York) on the Peereboom from Holland. In September 1654 the St. Catrina arrived in Nieuw Amsterdam from Recife, Brazil via the Caribbean with 23 Jews. Also discussed was the growth of the Jewish immigrant population from the 1700's to the 1900s.



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL JAMBOREE

By Marion Werle

The SCGS Genealogy Jamboree has come and gone. Last year's Jamboree had a different set of headline speakers, and the choice of session topics had a different focus. Whereas the lectures I attended in 2011 were mostly about methodology, this year's talks were geared towards using technology in genealogical research. This was the first year I decided to attend the annual Family History Writers Conference, which took place the day before the main event. This article summarizes some of the Jamboree highlights.

There are two main points I learned at the Writers Conference, which was focused on learning to write interesting family histories. One concerned the use of detail. Detail should enhance the story, not detract from it, and to tell a good story, you need to know your audience and leave out detail that does not advance the story. The second point concerned the use of context to add interest to a story. As family researchers, we need to go above and beyond the bare facts of names and places of our ancestors. Even though we may not have met these individuals, we need to learn about the times they lived in. We need to research the social and political history of the times, their occupations, local history and religious customs, and include this information to place our ancestors into the world they lived in. We should imagine how our ancestors would have reacted to the events going on around them through their eyes, not from a 21st century perspective, and include that information to enhance our stories. In the case of memoirs and people that we actually knew, we should focus on painting a descriptive picture of their personalities, to make them come alive.

There was a lunch during the Writers Conference, sponsored by findmypast.com, July 2012

which is launching its U.S. website this summer. Josh Taylor gave an overview of their upcoming offering, which is clearly designed to compete with Ancestry.com. He showed some examples, and one thing that seemed to differentiate their site was the attention given to image quality, which, according to the examples he showed, is outstanding.

Steve Luxenberg, author of *Annie's Ghosts*, was the keynote speaker at the Writers Conference, and also gave several lectures during Jamboree. One of these sessions was a topic close to our hearts – family secrets – and I will be discussing his perspective on the topic when we hold our second panel discussion on ethics and genealogy this fall. The Friday morning sessions on Society Management were interesting, and it was good to learn that under Jan's guidance, we at JGSCV are following best practices for publicity and programming.

I attended two sessions on Legacy Family Tree, given by Geoff Rasmussen. For those who have heard Geoff speak before, either in person or in the free Legacy webinars (see

<http://tinyurl.com/33wr9yo> for the list of upcoming webinars, as well as what is available free or on CD), he is a compelling speaker who knows his product very well. Another interesting session was titled "Idea Generation and Preservation for the Baffled and Disorganized", by Drew Smith. This session covered three types of software, one called GenSmarts, which goes through your family tree database and comes up with suggestions for future research (Legacy Family Tree has a built-in product that does the same thing). He then turned to mind-mapping software, which is like an electronic

whiteboard that can be used for idea generation to assist in writing and research. Finally, he discussed software called Evernote, which is an amazingly useful product that can be used to save scattered notes, web clippings and photos. Coincidentally, a friend at the Writers Conference had introduced me to Evernote the day before, and it is a great tool. You can download the software for all platforms, PC, Mac, smartphone and tablet (available in both Apple and Android app stores). With Evernote, you can save notes, screen clippings, photos, videos, etc., and organize them by folder and/or tag. The data is stored out in the “cloud” and is synced and retrievable from any platform, wherever you are, as long as you have an internet connection. As someone who lives my life by Post-it notes, this is a great substitute, and it is especially useful as a genealogy tool.

Saturday, Jamboree was very crowded, and if you didn't get to a session early, it was impossible to find a seat. I was unable to get into a session on Google searching, and instead attended an interesting presentation by Daniel Horowitz about genealogy apps available for mobile devices. The next session was about Ancestry searches, given by John Bacus, a product developer for Ancestry.com. Having heard Christa Cowan's presentation at JGSCV last year, I was interested in hearing his approach. Unfortunately for many of the people in the audience, his presentation was very technical, discussing how the different fields in the Ancestry search box are weighted in the search algorithm. With an IT background, I was able to follow him, but when I actually tried to use some of his suggestions, it didn't seem to make any difference in the search results. One major difference from Christa is that he always starts with a high-level search, and then moves downward. Among the things he discussed was the use of “Any event”, which will retrieve documents with any event that occurred on that date, the use of keywords to

add additional family member names (that might show up, for example, in a census record) and the fact that if you enter a person's birth year, Ancestry assumes that the person lived for 100 years.

In the afternoon sessions, Megan Smolenyak discussed “Reverse Genealogy: Finding the Living”, about strategies and sources for tracking living descendants. As with most of the sessions, the concentration was on digital sources. The last session I attended was given by Nancy Loe, head Archivist at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (and author of the Sassy Jane blog <http://tinyurl.com/c6rw8sd>), titled “Managing Your Digital Environment”. Her filing and organizing system applies archival principles to digital organization, with an emphasis on being able to locate and retrieve your data. One of her important points was to create what librarians call an *authority file*, which is a consistent list of naming conventions, for instance place names (choose a single spelling and don't use variants) and documents. Her document naming scheme follows the format SurnameFornameDateRecord.fileformat, e.g., LastNameFirstNameBirth.jpg, SurnameGroomMaidenBrideMarriage.jpg, LastnameFirstNameDeath (for death certificate). She also uses the name of the person as of when the record was created, for example, a woman's married surname at the time of her death. Her filing system seems counterintuitive. High-level folder names are Administrative Files, Family Tree Application Files (tree file, charts, thumbnails, multimedia), Family Photographs, Primary Sources, Secondary Sources and Surnames (which includes notes and reports, but this is not a major file). Under Primary Sources, she uses subfolders named Birth, Census, City Directories, Marriage, etc. She has an ebook that fully describes her system, called *Organizing Your Genealogical Research Using Archival Principles*, available through her website (see above).

As usual, Jamboree had an active and

crowded Exhibit Hall, which gave attendees a chance to interact with various vendors. I found it useful to be able to discuss an Ancestry indexing issue regarding naturalization records with a product expert, and ask Geoff Rasmussen a question about preferred names in Legacy Family Tree. I also noticed that the Ancestry employee I was

speaking to was sporting a pin with a Canadian flag logo, and was pleasantly surprised to find that he had grown up in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, the same town in Western Canada where my mother was born!

In all, the 2012 SCGS Jamboree was worthwhile, and gave me plenty of things to add to my genealogy “to-do” list in Evernote.

JGSCV WEBSITE RESOURCES HELP LONG ISLAND STUDENTS IN THEIR GENEALOGY PROJECT

JGSCV received an email thank you from Karen Murphy, a history teacher at Elwood Union Free School District (Long Island, NY): *“Thank you from the students in my class and myself for providing the resources on your page (<http://www.jgscv.org/resources.htm>) My students just completed their Scottish history/genealogy projects and your page proved to be a great reference for them, so from Mrs. Murphy's class - thank you for your help”.*

Included in JGSCV's European resources is the link for United Kingdom Special Interest Group <http://www.jewishgen.org/JCR-UK/> that includes information on Scottish Jewry.

In addition, Ms. Murphy sent along several Scottish-non-Jewish websites that her students found in case we would like to add them to our resource list. If they are added, the students may get extra credit. One of the three sites: <http://tinyurl.com/6pva6mm> will be added the next time the resources are updated—while the site is not a Jewish site, doing a search on “Jewish” several references were found.

If you have not looked at the JGSCV resources pages—what are you waiting for? There are over 130 website links local as well as international sites to help you with your genealogy research.

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MILLISLE, IRELAND KINDERTRANSPORT

By Jan Meisels Allen

In March, JGSCV received a letter from Rosana McConica, of Ventura who learned about us from reading in the newspaper about our then-upcoming Holocaust memorial (Yom Hashoah) Day commemoration meeting (April 1). In her letter, Mrs. McConica enclosed an article on the Kindertransport to Millisle, Ireland during WWII. Millisle is located in Northern Ireland ¹.



While the Kindertransport is a well-known part of trying to save the children during World War II, the participation by Millisle, Ireland is not as well-known. The article was added to our traveling library holocaust collection (see www.jgscv.org Traveling Library- Category D for the Holocaust collection). A letter of thanks was written to Mrs. McConica.



In early June, Mrs. McConica wrote again to JGSCV. Mrs. McConica sent the story of the Kindertransport to her niece who lives in Northern Ireland and she drove down to Millisle. Her niece took photographs of the beach area where the Kindertransport landed and the plaque of the school they attended and also the plaque on the beach commemorating the Kindertransport (above).

[Part of the historic narrative on the large mural at Millisle Beach Park—is difficult to read due to the size of the photograph—here are two of the relevant paragraphs]:

In Ballyrally townland (the name derives from Rolle the Dane, a Viking who had a camp there) at the southern end of Millisle is a farm with little known history. After Kristallnacht - night of the broken glass in 1938, when Jewish synagogues and businesses were burned and looted, the London-based Refugee Children's Movement developed a plan to evacuate as many Jewish children as possible—later known as the Kindertransport.

Belfast's small Jewish community responded by establishing a hostel in Belfast. In 1939 they leased the derelict Ballyrally Farm where they erected dormitories, creating a small community. By the time it closed in 1948, over 300 adults and children had passed through the Farm. Veterans of Kindertransport later planted a grove of trees in the Peace Forest outside of Jerusalem in tribute to their saviours [sic] in Belfast and Millisle. Millisle Primary School has a Holocaust Memorial Garden, developed by the pupils to mark the Jewish presence during World War II.

¹ Millisle is a village on the [Ards Peninsula](#) in [County Down, Northern Ireland](#). It is mostly within the [townland](#) of Ballymacruise, about 3 miles (4.8 km) south of [Donaghadee](#). According to Wikipedia: the [British Jewish Refugee Committee](#) organized [sic] [Kindertransport](#) with the help of the British government. About ten thousand unaccompanied children aged between three and seventeen from Germany, Austria and Czechoslovakia, were permitted entry into Britain without visas. Some of these children were sent to Northern Ireland. Many of them were looked after by foster parents but others went to a farm on the Woburn Road owned by the Magill family, which took refugees from May 1938 until its closure in 1948. [Wikipedia]

How To Engage the Next Generation of Genealogists (JewishGen Projects - A Model for Student Involvement)

By Nolan Altman

How are we going to get younger generations interested in genealogy? Where are the future genealogists going to come from? Is there a unique method that we can employ to share with younger generations the importance documenting our family histories? How can we let them experience the satisfaction of helping others?

Whether it's at Board meetings of my local Jewish genealogical society (JGSLI), the IAJGS umbrella organization Board, academic institutions or providers of genealogical information, such as JewishGen, conversations on ways to engage younger generations have not yielded the tangible results we all wish for. However, I recently



had the opportunity to help design a very successful effort that engaged college students in a genealogical project, elicited very positive student responses and resulted in more than 4,000 new records for JewishGen's JOWBR and Memorial Plaque databases. I'd like to share this program with you in hopes that you may consider whether you could replicate the program in your local institutions.

I am currently JewishGen's Vice President of Data Acquisition and coordinator for the JOWBR and Memorial Plaque databases. I also serve on the State University of New York at Albany's Center for Jewish Studies Advisory Board. On one of my trips to Albany, I discussed with Interim Director



Prof. Barry Trachtenberg how we might be able to craft a project that would give students hands-on experience with creation of historical indices and also benefit the greater Jewish genealogical community. Having the students help to index and photograph three local cemeteries and catalogue memorial plaques from two local synagogues fit the bill exactly.

Prior to the class starting their project, I was invited to give a general genealogical presentation to the community sponsored by SUNY Albany's Center for Jewish Studies and the local Albany Jewish Federation. We attracted over 80 people in a city that does not currently have a JGS. This was a good entre into the community and also gave those students that attended a better understanding about genealogical research

and family research.

The next day, I visited Prof. Trachtenberg's class. The course focused on local Jewish history and the genealogical component was one of three month-long sections. In the first, the students read several overviews of the history of Albany's Jewish community. The students were required to visit several local landmarks and become familiar with the neighborhoods and their history. They learned about settlement patterns (which helped us to understand where Jews buried their dead, and why they were organized the way they were--by occupation, synagogue, etc.) The second component was the genealogical one and the third was an Independent Research project by each student that would help them to understand a component of local Jewish life in detail. The class was also accompanied by a lecture series, "Jews Along the Hudson".

I gave a presentation to the students on the genealogical value of Jewish cemetery records. We explained the importance of Hebrew patronymics, how to read a Jewish headstone, and prepared them for the unique engravings and symbols they would find in their fieldwork.

The class was broken up into 9 teams of 3 for this one-month project. We weren't sure how students would accept "cemetery work" and we had to be sensitive to particular restrictions and skills among the students. For example, were there any Kohens in the class who could not visit cemeteries but could work on the memorial plaque projects? Could each group include 1 student who was comfortable with transliterating Hebrew names and dates with some instruction?

Under Professor Trachtenberg's supervision, the students began their fieldwork by photographing the headstones at the local cemeteries. Professor Trachtenberg also received permission from 2 local synagogues



to gain access to their memorial plaques or Yizkor cards so those teams could proceed with their indexing. The students used the standard excel templates provided on the website for download. Professor Trachtenberg taught the students the basic Hebrew numbering system and worked with those groups who had difficulty with the Hebrew. Using Dropbox, students were able to upload a test template of 10 entries that I could edit and make corrections. When completed, the class was responsible for adding more than 4,000 records to JOWBR's 2011 year-end update and the inaugural roll-out of the Memorial Plaque database. They were also able to enter the first entries from Albany, NY into the database.

One of the criteria the professor and I spoke about was getting feedback from the students at the conclusion of their assignment. I was somewhat surprised as to how many of them gained a sincere appreciation for the work they did and that they were responsible not just creating indices, but for memorializing lives that future generations could learn about. Compared to other school projects, they came away with a real sense of satisfaction for creating something that was useful and had some historical permanence to it. Here is a sample of some of the student responses:

This was more than a school project that we would be graded on. The information we would be collecting and analyzing was going to one day help those that wanted to know more about their family and their ancestors. G.O.

Genealogical research was never a field

of study to which I paid much attention. I never thought of the importance of knowing about my own genealogical history, let alone that of others; however, after completing the readings and lectures about genealogy and the role it plays in history, I realize that it is important to do this type of work. R.S.

The efforts our class put in to carry out this project in a complete way has not only allowed us to grow and learn, but also serves a greater purpose by giving people who want to connect to their past, the opportunity to do so. J.S.

It is a great way to give back to the community and unlike other projects I've had to complete throughout my educational career, at no point did I feel as though it were a waste of time. There is a sense of satisfaction knowing that your efforts can affect others in a positive way by helping them find their family history. J.M.

Upon completing my genealogical project, I cannot deny that I was quite relieved. This project was one of the more time consuming projects I have been assigned at the University, but the thing that separated this time consuming project from the other ones was that I didn't find myself rushing to finish in the end. I found that I truly wanted to complete this project in the most accurate and best way I could. The thought that the information I recorded could be of use to at least one person attempting to trace their history, gave me the desire to try my hardest. When you know that your work will be helpful to another, it gives you that extra drive do your best. Every time I would get frustrated with translating a tombstone and was just about ready to give up (which was quite often) I remembered that the

tombstone wasn't just a rock, it was a life. M.L.

When I was growing up, my grandparents would tell me stories of when they were growing up and how they lived. They were able to tell me so much about their parents and showed me pictures of my great-grandparents. They even showed me the letters they wrote to each other before they got married. I realized that I am very lucky to be able to know the history behind my family. The genealogical project showed me that there are many people out there who do not always have someone there to tell him or her about their ancestry. Many people are essentially in the dark about who their grandparents are and it keeps getting darker the further they try to track their family. A.J.

Due to the success of this project, we have already talked about repeating it for other classes in the upcoming semesters. (Two students that took part in the project and presentation are currently designing genealogically related independent study projects.) The project worked well for this college class and I can imagine it could be replicated on other campuses with the right direction. I would suggest considering other schools with Judaic Studies departments, history departments with Jewish studies courses or Hillel chapters. Although the cemetery work takes a certain amount of independent work, I think we should also consider high school aged students or younger that could donate time to work on their synagogue's memorial plaque projects. I've already had a few students submit indexed sections of cemeteries for their bar / bat mitzvah projects. And did you know that the Boy Scouts of America have a genealogy merit badge that I've had two individual earn by submitting cemetery photos and indices?

The above model combines hands-on project work with an opportunity to experience one aspect of genealogical research. Reading the students' comments, it is clear that they understood the importance of what they were doing and developed an appreciation for genealogy at a young age. Whether they become active or not the greater genealogical community, the exposure they received to the

study of genealogy resulted in a positive experience that they may choose to build upon in the future. And isn't that the first step towards what we really want to achieve?

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VENTURA COUNTY FAIR: AUG 1-12

Once again the Ventura County Fair (August 1-12) will take place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds located at 10 W. Harbor Blvd. in Ventura. Genealogical awards and prizes are offered as part of the Hobbies Department. For entry details go to <http://tinyurl.com/54wupq> click on *Ventura County Fair* and then use the drop down menu on the left to click on *Hobbies and Collections*. On the lower right of that page you can download the *Entry Guide* for Genealogy.

Genealogy volunteers are needed for every day of the Fair. Shifts are 4 hours: 10:30 a.m to 2:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 6:30 to 10. It is

best if volunteers are familiar with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org and other popular programs to show the fair attendees how genealogy is researched. Training sessions will be held for those needing an update on the latest programs. Volunteers will be admitted to the Fair free. Unfortunately there is no free parking for volunteers. The website for the Fair is: <http://www.venturacountyfair.org/>. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org.

2012 FUTURE MEETING DATES

No July meeting due to IAJGS Conference in Paris July 15-18

Sunday, August 5th 1:30-3:30 PM
"Genealogy In The Round", Share your successes, failures, brick walls and artifacts

Sunday, Sept. 9th 1:30-3:30 PM *"Ethics, Sensitivities and Property Rights – Part II"*
– Hal Bookbinder, Rabbi Richard Spiegel,

Adam Wills, Marion Werle

Sunday, Oct. 7th 1:30-3:30 PM *"Jewish Surnames"* – Warren Blatt

MONDAY, Nov. 5th 7:00-9:00 PM Program
TBD

Sunday, Dec. 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM *"What's New and What's Old on Ancestry.com"* –
Crista Cowan, 'The Barefoot Genealogist'

2013 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, Jan. 6th 1:30-3:30 PM
TBD

Sunday, Feb. 10th 1-5 PM
Annual Family History Library
Assisted Research Day

Sunday, March 3rd 1:30-3:30 PM
Researching Your Canadian Family
Marion, Werle

Sunday April 7th 1:30-3:30 PM
Yom Hashoah Day TBD

Sunday, May 5th 1:30-3:30 PM
TENTATIVE TBD

Sunday, June 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM
TBD

Sunday, July 14th 1:30-3:30 PM
TBD