



JGSCV

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

August, 2012

Volume 7 Issue 11

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope you had a pleasant July and are ready to return to JGSCV meetings for the rest of the year. We are continuing to finalize our programs through July 2013 and have speaker invitations pending for those months. See page 11 for the meeting schedule.

I am writing this on the train from Paris to Antwerp at the conclusion of a most successful IAJGS conference. Hosted by Cercle de Généalogie Juive, the conference attracted more than 815 attendees from 30 different countries. See page 6 for the highlights of this great conference! There were many new and exciting programs this year. With the conference being held in Paris, there were many attendees I had never met personally before. To me, one of the best things about an IAJGS conference is meeting-up with genealogy friends who I only see at the annual conference each year even though we e-mail throughout the year. Five JGSCV members attended the conference: Jan Allen, Tom Allen, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt and Dalya Dektor.

While in Paris I had the opportunity to
August 2012



JGSCV attendees at the IAJGS Conference, Paris, France (L-R): Warren Blatt, Debra Kay-Blatt, Jan Meisels Allen, and Tom Allen (Also attended, not in photo: Dalya Dektor)

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.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6052 Hackers Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-6616

Jan Meisels Allen, President
president@jgscv.org

Stewart Bernstein, Member
at Large stewart@jgscv.org

Debra Kay Blatt, Secretary
secretary@jgscv.org

Warren Blatt, Member
Education
education@jgscv.org

Dorothy Drilich, Member at
Large Dorothy@jgscv.org

Allan Linderman, Newsletter
Editor
newslettereditor@jgscv.org

Helene Rosen, VP
Membership
membership@jgscv.org

Len Shenkin, Treasurer
treasurer@jgscv.org

Marion Werle, Publicity
publicity@jgscv.org

David Oseas, Webmaster
webmaster@jgscv.org

Karen Lewy, Ralphs
Community Contribution
Coordinator
karen@jgscv.org

Tammy Williams-Anderson
Librarian librarian@jgscv.org

visit the La Rafle Du Vélodrome D'Hiver Les Archives de la Police on opening day. This is the 70th anniversary of the roundup of 13,000 Jews from Paris Vel d'Hiv that took place July 16-17, 1942. The police records of this event have just been released denoting the Jews taken by the Nazis from their homes and shipped to Camp de Drancy and then on to Auschwitz. I will be doing a brief presentation on this at our August 5 meeting: *Genealogy in the Round*, even though to my knowledge, I did not have any ancestors that were included in the round-up. I hope that more JGSCV members will contact me to participate in *Genealogy in the Round*. We have several speakers, but need more.

The 1940 census name-indexing continues and as of this writing these are the states that are name-indexed:

Ancestry.com: Alabama, Arizona, California, Washington D.C., Delaware, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Maine, Michigan, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Oregon, Washington State, and Wisconsin. [Remember, the indexers were in China so some "creative" name spelling may be required.]

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

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

MyHeritage.com Rhode Island and New York (partial)

Looking forward to seeing you at the August 5 meeting, *Genealogy in the Round*, where you get to share your genealogical success, breakthrough or artifact.

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.

SCGS WEBINARS

The Southern California Genealogical Society 2012 Jamboree may be over but the extension series of webinars remain in full swing. On Wed. August 15th Gena Philibert Ortega will present "Women's Work", a look at the occupations women held in 19th century America and the records they left behind. To register, go to <http://tinyurl.com/d43t7ds> and scroll to the date. The webinar is free to the first 1000 registrants.

NEW RECORDS FROM HUNGARY

JewishGen's Hungarian Special Interest Group announced the release of more than 12,000 vital records from the former Hungarian county of Maramaros – the first time such data has become available via the Jewish Records Project: <http://tinyurl.com/bw9wb3v>

PRESERVING JEWISH RECORDS

A recent Op-Ed article written by Jeff Rubin in JTA explained why it is important for Jewish groups to preserve historical records. To read his insightful and compelling thoughts go to <http://tinyurl.com/cgupcvp>

CALIFORNIA IN 1940

Release of the 1940 Census allows genealogists to find or continue to track family members. It also allows historians insights as well. Archives.com has compiled a fun and interesting overview of California in 1940 as derived from the census data. To see where Clint Eastwood lived or how much a bottle of scotch whiskey cost, visit <http://tinyurl.com/d3qqskd>

INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE REPORT

The International Tracing Service issued its 2011 Annual Report noting it has digitized images of:

- 18 million ghettos and prisons,
- 7 million displaced peoples' registration cards,
- 13 million documents regarding forced labor,
- 5 million documents from DP camps and WW II emigration and
- 42 million central name indices.

The Annual Report is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/bnzd6f8>



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 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 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) will lead the Schmoozing Corner on August 5th.



TThe Genealogical Hint at the August 5th meeting will be “Citing Your Sources”, presented by Marion Werle.

If you have an interesting family history story you would like to share, please contact Allan Linderman, newsletter editor at newslettereditor@jgscv.org. Allan will do his best to get your story into “Venturing Into Our Past” even if it means helping you write it.

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>

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 32nd ANNUAL IAJGS CONFERENCE:

By Jan Meisels Allen

The 32nd IAJGS International Conference hosted by IAJGS member Cercle de Généalogie Juive attracted over 815 attendees from 30 different countries! There were many new programs and there were translation headsets so that regardless of native language all could enjoy the rich presentations.

IAJGS directors are elected in "even numbered" years and officers in "odd numbered years" and this year the six director positions were up for election. The Nomination Committee selections — the six current directors were unanimously reelected:

- Nolan Altman, President, JGS Long Island
- Daniel Horowitz, Board member, Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)
- Kahlile Mehr, Member of JGS Utah
- Mark Nicholls, Chairman, JGS of Great Britain
- Jay Sage, Board member, JGS Greater Boston
- Jackye Sage, member, San Diego JGS

IAJGS also gained four new members since last year: Documenting Maine Jewry, Michiana Jewish Historical Society, Orange County (CA) JGS, and Sephardic Heritage Project.

One of the most anticipated parts of the annual meeting is learning who was selected for the four prestigious IAJGS awards. This year the awardees were:

Lifetime Achievement Award:

Dr. Jeffrey S. Malka for his lifetime work



devoted to Sephardic Genealogy. His writing, websites and lectures have opened doors for researchers by making both methodology and information accessible to all, reminding the entire Jewish genealogy community of our diversity.



Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS: JGS of Great Britain, for Shemot.

Accepted by Bernard Valman editor (right in photo left). This three times yearly published high-quality journal with original articles are primarily of interest to individuals researching British roots and those whose families trans-migrated through Great Britain, they are relevant to all researchers.

Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product:
Logan Kleinwaks for the creation and management of his free website **GenealogyIndexer.com**.

Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy:

JewishGen's

Viewmate Project conceived by **Bernard Kouchel** - a widely-used tool which helps researchers understand



genealogy-related documents, photographs and artifacts (Warren Blatt accepting on left in photo).

The Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant was awarded to two worthy recipients each receiving \$1,500:

1. **American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee** to continue the printing, digitizing and indexing of records in their archives, particularly those focusing on the overseas rescue, relief and rehabilitation of Jews during the middle of the 20th century and are then made available on line world-wide.
2. **The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)** to speed the completion of a search engine able to handle both English and Hebrew searches, which will enable researchers not familiar with the other language to find the families they are searching.

Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS vice president, presented IAJGS president, Michael Goldstein a check for \$15,000 bequeathed from an estate with direction to use some of the funds for preservation of Jewish records. Jan, who had been contacted by the estate's executrix suggested IAJGS Rabbi Malcolm Stern Fund be a recipient. The \$15,000 will help fund additional grants and larger grants over the next several years. The Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant is supported totally by voluntary donations. The \$1.00 per member suggested donation that is part of every JGSCV dues form, is used solely for this purpose. Please consider donating again

when joining and renewing your JGSCV membership.

The International Jewish Genealogy Month Poster contest was won by Artists: Lynn Teichman and Tuvia Natkin, from JGS of Southwest Florida. International Jewish Genealogy Month is celebrated the Hebrew month of Cheshvan. For 2012 the civil dates are October 17 to November 14. See the poster on page 9.

Other items from the conference:

The opening session was a roundtable of "Jewish Genealogy in Europe" with representatives from Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom-most IAJGS members. All are different and have varying databases or special projects. IAJGS is making a concerted effort to increase their membership from countries and regions that currently do not have an IAJGS member. There are several very exciting possibilities for new IAJGS membership and this roundtable was an excellent forum for learning about the different ways in which European JGS's function.

The opening evening session speaker was David Marwell, Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, A Living Memorial of the Holocaust which is the parent of

JewishGen.org. Dr. Marwell noted that genealogy is the second most popular interest on the Internet and is "big business". JewishGen experienced two million visits on their 16 million pages by



one million unique users from July 2011 to June 2012. This number doubles if all pages had counters-including special interest groups, etc. The visits came from 214 countries plus the United States-indicating the universality of

interest in Jewish genealogy.

During another session where JGSCV board member, Warren Blatt, managing director of JewishGen spoke, he indicated that there were 694 (58 new this year) Yizkor books on JewishGen.org; the necrology database has 284,000 names from 302 Yizkor books and 42,000 entries, The Yizkor Book master name index has a potential of one million names. Michael Tobias, vice president of programming, JewishGen, reported that the Jewish On-line Worldwide Burial Records (JOWBR) added 27 new countries - with a new total of JOWBR entries from 80 countries on six continents with 165,000 new burial records. There are 2.5 million holocaust records on JewishGen. JewishGen has 25,000 new users from the United States and 14,000 new users from outside the United States. A new project entails photographing the memorial plaques in synagogues [JGSCV will be discussing this project for the synagogues in our geographic area and if you are interested in participating please contact the board].

The Gala keynote speaker was Father Patrick Desbois of *Yahad- in Unum*. He spoke of *Yahad*



going to speak to the locals in Belarus and Ukraine to interview those who might remember the Jews that were murdered

during the Shoah. *Yahad* focuses on the victims by asking the local inhabitants to remember events. Father Desbois stated that they interviewed 2,100 non-Jews who witnessed the deaths of Jews. *Yahad* has a staff of 25 people. Each year they perform 15 investigations that take 17 days and nine people on a team. The information *Yahad* learns is available at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in

Washington D.C. as well as in the *Yahad's* Paris headquarters. To learn more about Father Desbois and *Yahad* go to: <http://tinyurl.com/c5jrw2x>

Father Desbois's book *Holocaust By Bullets* is available in the JGSCV traveling library under Category D

IAJGS president Michael Goldstein announced future IAJGS conference sites:

2013 Boston, MA (USA); 2014 Salt Lake City, Utah, (USA); 2015 Jerusalem, Israel; 2016 Pacific Northwest- (USA) location to be announced; 2017 somewhere in Midwest or east coast of USA –location to be announced; 2018 probably Eastern Europe- not definite, but looking at Warsaw, Poland.

JRI-PL (Jewish Records Indexing-Poland) announced that no formal agreement has yet been adjudicated between them and the Polish State Archives for the resumption of the JRI-PL ordering system. However, individuals may continue to order records directly from the Polish State Archives–information is on the JRI-PL website (<http://tinyurl.com/3zbuex9>.)

Crista Cowan, "the barefoot genealogist" from Ancestry.com gave four lectures and she will be JGSCV's December meeting guest speaker. As always there is something new to learn from Crista and new databases on Ancestry.com-including Jewish databases such as chaplaincy records from the Jewish welfare board; US Jewish War correspondents 1917-1954; Galveston Texas Jewish Immigration Records 1901-1917 and more.

JGSCV members attending the conference included: Jan Meisels Allen, Tom Allen, Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt and Dalya Dektor.

We hope to see more JGSCV members in Boston in 2013!

2012-13 IAIGS BOARD



WINNER OF THE 2013 INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH POSTER COMPETITION

Designed by Lynn Teichman and Tuvia
Natkin, from JGS of Southwest Florida.



Seated from left: Paul Silverstone, Treasurer; Joel Spector
Secretary; Jan Meisels Allen, Vice President; Michael
Goldstein, President; Mark Nicholls, Director; Standing from
left, all Directors: Nolan Altman, Kahlile Mehr, Jay Sage, Jackye
Sullins, Anne Feder Lee, Daniel Horowitz

FIVE NEW DATABASES FROM THE ISRAEL GENEALOGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

According to Rose Feldman of The Israel Genealogy Research Association, the IGRA has uploaded four new databases based on material found in the National Archives in London dealing with various aspects of life under the British Administration of Eretz Israel. The British Mandate was from 1923 through 1948, and therefore the National Archive in London is a resource for genealogy material on Eretz Israel but found outside of Israel. In addition there is a fifth database of material published in the Hadassah Silver Jubilee Year Book in 1937.

- Births in African and Asian Protectorates for the Years 1916-1940 – an extract of those British Nationals born in Palestine
- Deaths in African and Asian Protectorates for the Years 1936-1940 – an extract of those who died in Palestine

- Refugees in Mauritius 1944-45 – 330 people who claimed to be Polish nationals or citizens of the Free City of Danzig.
- Swiss Aliyah Requests 1945 - 213 people requesting permission for aliyah to Eretz Israel, based on the microfilm found at the National Archives (UK) in London.
- National Youth Aliyah Committee of Hadassah 1937 – 76 members of the committee in the United States, published in the Hadassah Silver Jubilee Year Book. The databases can be accessed at <http://tinyurl.com/c64rb4y>

To search the databases you need to register (no charge).

THE ROAD TO THE PALESTINE POLICE FORCE

By Ray Savoy (with special thanks to Stew Bernstein)

It all began in 1916 when my dad returned home from school and met his mother's cousin in their parlor. This was in the East End of London. It seems that my grandmother's cousin lived in Alexandria, Egypt and somehow or another was attached to the Australian Army. He had been sent to London to bring back an army deserter, and decided to look up his cousin. He apparently looked quite dashing in his uniform complete with cape, Aussie hat, and pistol etc. During the course of his brief visit, he told my dad that if he was looking for adventure, when he was out of school he should visit the Middle East, although it was actually called the Near East by the Brits. Well my dad waited until he finished school and after a brief period in a boring apprenticeship with a lithographer, he decided to take his cousin's advice. This was post-war England and Britain had wrested Palestine away from the Turks (who had sided with Germany during WWI). Anyway, my dad left home (unbeknownst to his parents), went to the London docks, got a job in a saloon mopping floors etc. while waiting to get some merchant seamen to agree to smuggle him on board a ship headed for Alexandria. He eventually was able to get two guys to agree to do that for a sum of money, of which he gave them 50% on account. After about twelve hours at sea, and not having been brought any food, he turned himself in to the ship's captain. As a stowaway he was put to work in the boiler room stoking the fires. When the ship arrived in Alexandria, he avoided the two men who had smuggled him on to the ship, jumped ship, and found his way to his cousin's house. He trekked up to Jerusalem with some pioneers and there he joined the Police Force. As he spoke English, Hebrew and Yiddish, he gained some rank and became a mounted patrolman, also sometimes working undercover as a spy in the marketplace. (Ray's dad is second from left in the

dark shirt in the photo below.) He had a fairly swarthy complexion and with a suntan could easily pass as an Arab. He had a flair for languages and had learned to speak Arabic. I could go on and on about his meeting with Aircraftsman Shaw, also known as Lawrence of Arabia, and a Mr. Fox, the owner of the studio which would become 20th



Century Fox, but that would take many other pages. Suffice it to say that, some time in 1922, after getting shot out of the saddle while on patrol, he decided that things were getting a little too hot for him, so he resigned from the force and made his way home. All this took place by the time he was 19. After reaching England he embarked on a short career on the stage (much to the dismay of his parents) before he wound up in the garment industry, a career he pursued until he retired at the age of 78. He passed away in 1992, just short of his 90th birthday.

Ed Note: The author explained his dad's real name was Lewis Leiferman but changed it to 'Lou(is) Savoy' upon returning to the UK.

2012 FUTURE MEETING DATES

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 “*Getting The Most Out Of 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

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