



JGSCV

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

February, 2013

Volume 8 Issue 5

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV members and attendees were treated to a very important and thought provoking program on January 6: *Jewish Genetic Disorders Across the Diaspora: Including Tay Sachs, Gaucher, BRCA1 BRCA2 Mutations in the Ashkenazi Jewish Population and Genetic Screening for the Persian Jewish Community*. The presenters were Gary Frohlich, Certified Genetic Counselor for US Rare Diseases at Genzyme a Sanofi Company and Catherine Quindipan, Certified Genetic Counselor, Study Coordinator for the Persian Jewish Genetic Screening Program, Cedars Sinai Medical Center. There is an increased risk of inherited diseases in Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews. The discussion included BRCA testing (breast and ovarian cancer) as well as Tay-Sachs, Gaucher and Familial Dysautonomia as well as a novel genetic screening panel for the Persian Jewish community. See page 9 for a brief summary of the program.

Karen Lewy, JGSCV treasurer did the 5-minute genealogical hint on family pictures. One hint she shared was tracing an older family photo and numbering the people and then sharing the photograph with extended family asking to help identify names and relationships. See page 11 for more.

Following the membership meeting the JGSCV board of directors held their annual reorganization meeting. The officers for 2013 are as follows:

January 6th
Guest Speakers
on Jewish
Genetic
Disorders




Catherine Quindipan (above) and Gary Frohlich

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, February. 10th 1-5 PM

Annual Assisted Research Day at Los Angeles Family History Library

Gain help and insights from Family History Library volunteers and senior JGSCV members during an exclusive visit to LA's Family History Library.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Debra Kay-Blatt, Secretary
- Karen Lewy, Treasurer

Other board responsibilities remain unchanged and are listed to the left and under 'contact us' at www.jgscv.org.

I am delighted to inform you that JGSCV ended 2012 with its highest membership ever: 150 members with 122 memberships! With more renewals and more new members joining at the January meeting we are already at 73% of last year's membership. If you have not joined or renewed yet, a membership form is on page 16 as well as on our website. This did not happen by happenstance. Our fabulous monthly newsletter - thank you Allan - is one that any society would be envious of and is our best PR! Our programs attract more and more and our outreach through publicity - we can have a great program but if no one is there to hear it -to what avail -therefore, publicity is a key instrument in making our society a success. Thank you to the Publicity Committee members! Our website is an envy of others--due to the great and constant updates by David - ours is updated twice each month! We have a growing library and our permanent library with all the journals is an excellent resource for all our members and friends. Thank you Tammy for keeping it updated in a timely manner throughout 2012. Thank you to Temple Adat Elohim for its unwavering support for co-hosting our meetings since our inception. And most of all thank you to **our members** without whom there would not be JGSCV. This is truly a team effort!

Our Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library (LAFHL) is scheduled for Sunday, February 10th 1:00-5:00 p.m. This is where you get hands-on help from senior members of JGSCV and volunteers at the LAFHL. This meeting is one where **only** current dues-paid JGSCV members may attend. You can renew/join at the door. Barbara Algaze, JGSLA's librarian, LAFHL volunteer—and new JGSCV member will be at the meeting to help and give a new presentation starting at 1:30 p.m. reviewing the subscription databases, the microfilms and use of the FamilySearch databases. See page 6 for suggestions on how to prepare **before** you attend the meeting! We also will have access to both the JGSLA permanent library and the Polish Genealogy Society library therefore, we will not have the JGSCV traveling library at this meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 10!

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.

2013 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 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.

HOLOCAUST MUSEUM NATIONAL TOUR IN LA

The Twentieth Anniversary National Tour of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum will be at the Skirball Center (2701 North Sepulveda Blvd.) on Feb. 17th. The all day event begins at 10AM and is an opportunity to learn more about the museum and its resources as well as to pay tribute to local Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans. The event is free, registration is required and seating is on a first come first serve basis.. Each program offers opportunities for audience participation. For more information and a schedule of events go to <http://tinyurl.com/a9uqs22>

JEWISHGEN ADDS TO JOWBR DATABASE

JewishGen added approximately 94,000 new records and 40,000 new photos to its Online Worldwide Burial Registry:
<http://tinyurl.com/7b5rovb>

CANADIAN RECORDS RELEASED

A new version of the Northwest Provinces Census of 1906 has been released by the Library and Archives of Canada. Originally designed to capture population growth data in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, this census includes birth, marriage and family insights as well as immigration information. For more go to:
<http://tinyurl.com/d72uch2>

MISSING GREEK HEADSTONES FOUND

Fragments of marble headstones from Jewish graves destroyed during the Nazi occupation have been recovered in Thessaloniki. For more go to
<http://tinyurl.com/cywbq5c>

IAJGS 33rd CONFERENCE REGISTRATION OPENS



The 33rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will take place in Boston, MA Aug. 4-9. Discounted early registration is available until April 30th at
<http://tinyurl.com/adm2fgt>.

You can check for updates on the conference programs as they are made available at www.iajgs2013.org

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

The JGSCV will hold a meeting, on Sunday, February 10, 2013 at the Los Angeles Family History Library 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles (on grounds of the LDS Temple) from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Parking is free. This special program is open only to current dues paid members of JGSCV! Anyone may join or renew their membership with JGSCV at the door.

The Topic:

Assisted Research Afternoon at the L.A. Family History Library (LAFHL)

Experienced JGSCV members and Family History Library volunteers will be available to help members get the most out of the L.A. Family History Library's resources, including computer assistance with many popular genealogical databases including Ancestry.com (full access), Fold3.com, Heritage Quest, World Vital Records, Godfrey Memorial Library on-line resources and more!

The LAFHL has many computers so everyone can use them simultaneously. In addition, there are Jewish microfilms of Eastern Europe and a selection of others, including maps and gazetteers. Bring your research documents with you and bring a flash drive if you want to download electronic images of online images. Hard copying is also available. JGSLA's library is available for research at the LAFHL.

Barbara Algaze, volunteer at the LAFHL, and librarian for the JGSLA, will give an introduction to the resources at the L.A. Family History Library. This is a new presentation including using books to help with your Jewish Research, getting started on the Family History Library computers and navigating the Family Search website.

This meeting is open only to current dues-paid members of JGSCV. Anyone may join at the door. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. JGSCV is open to any one interested in researching their Jewish roots.

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.

JGSCV UPDATES . . .

JGSCV's Traveling Library will not be coming to the LAFHL on Feb. 10th. To request a book for a future meeting please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org.



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is now open 20 minutes before all meetings – except this month. The Schmoozing Corner will be on vacation this month as we travel to the LAFHL.

There will be no 5-Minute Genealogical Hint this month due to the special program at the Los Angeles Family History Library.

Israel Perel is the new JGSCV librarian. Thank you for volunteering. Israel can be reached at librarian@jgscv.org. Thank you Tammy Williams-Anderson, for serving as librarian for 2012, and for keeping our permanent library up to date.

See page 13 for information on how you can attend the special FOR MEMBERS ONLY computer workshop on Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases.

Ralphs requires everyone to reregister for their community contribution program. If you have a Ralphs card and are not yet signed up, please do so and include JGSCV as your 'community' charity. Your groceries cost the same but Ralphs will send JGSCV a contribution. See www.jgscv.org under "notices" for more information.

You can also help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com by simply 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 on right). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



YOUR 2013 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Standing L-R: Dorothy Drilich,
Warren Blatt, Debra Kay-Blatt,
Marion Werle, Jan Meisels
Allen



Seated L-R: Karen Lewy, Allan
Linderman, Helene Rosen
(Missing: Stew Bernstein)

Preparing For the Exclusive Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library February 10, 2013 1:00-5:00 PM

JGSCV members are privileged to have an exclusive research afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library (LAFHL). This meeting is open only to **2013 current-paid members**. Anyone may join or renew their JGSCV membership by paying their dues at the door—and if you prefer to pay before the meeting a form is on page 16 of this newsletter. The LAFHL is the largest Family History Library outside of Salt Lake City making this an opportunity to visit and receive assistance with your personal genealogy that is not to be missed!

Car-pooling is best, so ask your friends from JGSCV about sharing-JGSCV itself is not putting together any car pools.

Directions:

The LAFHL is located at: 10741 Santa Monica Blvd in Los Angeles on the grounds of the LDS (Mormon) Temple. From the 405 freeway get off at Santa Monica Blvd. and go east to Manning Ave. Turn north on Manning Ave, make the first left into the LDS Temple compound, proceed right until reaching the Visitor's Center and park along the fence. The entrance to the library is on the right (east) side of the building. The library is on the lower floor, reachable by stairs and an elevator from the first floor. (See layout on next page.)

LAFHL has the largest holdings of any branch outside of Salt Lake City! Take a look at their

website at: <http://tinyurl.com/byk7le> or <http://tinyurl.com/aozrevf>

for a listing of the resources that are available. In addition to microfilms, microfiche, maps and books, they have 86 computers (PCs not Macs) that have access to many genealogical sites at no charge that are available on their computers! These sites include: Ancestry.com (full institution subscription); FindMyPast.com, Fold 3.com (previously known as Footnote.com), Godfrey Memorial Library (godfrey.org), Heritage Quest Online, Historic MapWorks Library Edition, Paper Trail, WorldVitalRecords.com, 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive, Alexander Street Press-The Civil War, Origins.net, and Access Newspaper Archive.

Remember, due to the recent concerns of Congress about Social Security numbers being on the Internet, Rootsweb and Genealogy.com have removed the SSDI index entirely—including the versions on the FHL computers, and Ancestry.com, Fold3 and other genealogy websites have suppressed all Social Security Numbers within ten years following someone's death. FamilySearch has suppressed it for three years. At the time of writing this article, some genealogy websites still have the SSDI with Social Security numbers included. That does not mean they will be listed by the time we visit the LAFHL. Therefore, you may wish to do some research on-line before our visit if you are requiring the Social Security Numbers.

The number of microfilms, microfilm readers, microfiche, microfiche readers and books has been reduced, as many of these records and books are now digitized. However, the foreign vital records microfilms, including the Jewish ones are still available at the facility. JGSLA has a list of the Jewish microfilms on their website that are currently located at the LAFHL: <http://tinyurl.com/arshhw8>

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a presentation on “How to get the most out of the computers, the microfilms, and the JGSLA book collection” by Barbara Algaze, volunteer at the LAFHL and JGSCV member. Her presentation will include:

The computers: Ancestry.com (including census, military, and immigration records), Footnote.com, and the LAFHL website, The microfilms (what they contain, how to find them, how to order them, how to use them), and The JGSLA book collection (what it contains, how to locate individual resources and the journals).



In addition to Barbara, there will be several volunteers from the LAFHL to help you with the resources to help you to do your research.

To make the best use of this experience you should prepare in advance and take your

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research papers with you. Be sure to bring copies of your family group sheets, documents, family time lines, and family trees with you!

Prioritize your research lists: Foreign and state censuses, city directories, vital records (birth, marriage or death records), maps, naturalization records, WWI and WWII draft registration records.

For traditional methodology, bring: Paper pads, post-it notes, pens, pencils and a magnifying glass.

For electronic methodology, bring: Laptop computer, genealogy program, USB storage drives, writable CD Rom, digital camera—to use if making photos from microfilms. There is wifi in the library. In addition, you can connect to the internet by using internet cables. These

cables are available for rent from the library with a deposit of \$3.00. They sell thumb drives (flash drives) for about \$7.25 each.

If you are planning to use the foreign microfilms, remember the records

are in their native language. Unless you are knowledgeable in the language, it is best to have some key-finding words in that language such as male, female, birth, death, marriage, wife, husband, father, and mother. While there

are some foreign language dictionaries available at the LAFHL, the more you prepare in advance, the more your limited time will be used to its best advantage. Many records are handwritten, are in chronological rather than alphabetical order, and may not be indexed. Bring a magnifying glass to help you read the handwriting.

An extra feature at the LAFHL is the availability of permanent libraries of genealogy societies including our sister society, JGSLA. The books are available for anyone to use. You may wish to look at the JGSLA website to see which books are available: <http://tinyurl.com/b4xc8y7>. The Polish Genealogical Society of Southern CA, also has their permanent library housed there and we can use their materials at the library. To see which books the Polish Society has, check out this link: <http://tinyurl.com/axtnbu4>. Remember, all books, microfilms, microfiche, maps, etc. may only be used at the FHL it is not a lending library therefore, **nothing is permitted to be removed from the facility.**

There is a small lunchroom with vending machines. There is a refrigerator in the

lunchroom where you can store your bag lunches and drinks. We don't know what/ if food will be available on a Sunday. If you want to bring a snack or lunch you may eat and drink **ONLY** in that designated area.

There are lockers with keys available at no fee for members to keep their valuables. There is a coat rack for coats, jackets, and sweaters. Sometimes they forget to ask maintenance to turn on the heat on Sundays (when they are usually closed) and it gets very cold down there--especially in the classroom. **You might want to bring a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket**—just in case!

If you wish to print a document off a computer, microfilm or microfiche reader, or copy machine, you make your copies and pay at the front desk (10 cents per page). **We don't know how much change they will have so it would be appreciated if you bring change and small denomination bills.**

Have a very successful research trip!

JGSCV MEMBER BENEFITS

- Annual assisted research afternoon at the Family History Library
- Members-only emails from the president announcing special events and free opportunities with Ancestry and other genealogical organizations and other items of genealogical interest
- Use of the traveling library at president's home – with an advance appointment
- For the first year of membership, JewishGen's Warren Blatt will assist with one concise question per month. He won't do your genealogy but with well thought out questions, he can help you on your genealogical journey.
- Workshops on valuable genealogy tools

Highlights From: *Jewish Genetic Disorders Across the Diaspora: Including . . . the Ashkenazi Jewish Population and Genetic Screening for the Persian Jewish Community*

On January 6th JGSCV was very fortunate to host Gary Frohlich, Licensed Certified Genetic Counselor for US Rare Diseases at Genzyme a Sanofi Company and Catherine Quindipan, Certified Genetic Counselor, Study Coordinator for the Persian Jewish Genetic Screening Program, Cedars Sinai Medical Center. In addition to two very stimulating and educational presentations there were many questions at the end of the presentations.

Gary began his presentation with an overview on genetics: what are cells, genes, chromosomes, and enzymes. We inherit 23 chromosomes from our parents for a total of 46 chromosomes per cell. Most of the disorders that are more common in the Ashkenazi Jewish population are single gene disorders, or enzymatic deficiencies, and most are inherited in a recessive manner. He informed us that 1:1000 Ashkenazi Jews have the most common Ashkenazi Jewish disease, Gaucher disease, but that only 10-15 percent of affected persons have been identified. Approximately one in four persons of Ashkenazi ancestry is a carrier for one of the recessive diseases known to be more prevalent in our group.

Genetic disorders are inherited differently but this program's focus was on recessive disorders. Gary informed us that although 1:1000 Ashkenazi Jews have one of four most common inherited genetic diseases only 10-15 percent have been identified in the Jewish population. All Ashkenazi diseases are recessive (where the genetic makeup of both parents shows the disease). When only one parent has the gene they are considered a carrier. About 75 percent of the US Jewish population is Ashkenazi.

A very important aspect of Ashkenazi Jewish genetic diseases is the "founder effect". In the founder effect, a mutation occurs in an individual who leaves that community and procreates elsewhere. As this new, small population flourishes or regenerates, the mutation increases in frequency. When, as with Central and Eastern European Jews, many cousins married within the same shtetl or geographic area resulting in the mutation becoming even more concentrated. Four women have been traced as the progenitors of 42 percent of Ashkenazi Jews.

Because of the founder effect, individuals with just one Jewish great, great grandparent have a 1:25 chance of having Tay Sachs; 1:26 of having cystic fibrosis; 1:30 of having familial dysautonomia, etc.

Gaucher Disease carrier frequency is 1:15 the most common of the Jewish Genetic diseases and the only one for which specific therapies are available. The incidence of disease is approximately 1:850. Symptoms include an enlarged liver and spleen, anemia with low blood counts and low platelets, recurrent infections, and easily broken bones. Carriers for Gaucher have an increased incidence of Parkinson's disease.

Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews lived in large cities where Jews had more choices for mates. Additionally, many Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews were traders and traveled north from their homelands and some

married outside their faiths having second families to where as traders they traveled to for parts of the year. This resulted in fewer genetic diseases being inherited within the family than with Ashkenazi Jews. This does not mean that Sephardic and Mizrahi Jews do not have inherited genetic diseases, just that they are less likely to have them.

Examples that Cathy mentioned include for Sephardic Jews Familial Mediterranean Fever with a carrier frequency of 1:5-1:13 and disease incidence of 1:100 to 1:675. Persian Jews have hereditary inclusion body myopathy with a carrier frequency of 1:20 and a disease incidence of 1:1600.

Cathy reviewed how cancer happens and emphasized that **only 5-10 percent of cancers are inherited** (germline). Most cancers are somatic, that is caused by radiation exposure, lifestyle and environmental exposures, aging and infections. A mutation in one cell may lead to cancer. BRCA proteins play a part in DNA repair by protecting cells from injury. A germline mutation in *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* predisposes to breast and ovarian cancer as well as other cancers. Both men and women pass on the predisposition. Individuals with a BRCA mutation have a 40-80% chance to get breast cancer-usually early age onset; 40-60% contralateral breast cancer and 15-40% chance of ovarian cancer. Men have an elevated risk of both breast cancer and prostate and pancreatic cancer. A woman with who tests positive test for BRCA has several alternatives: increased surveillance, lifestyle changes, chemo prevention and prophylactic surgery (removal of breasts and or ovaries before cancer occurs). A questioner from the audience asked if the national screening procedures for breast cancer needed to be changed. Cathy's response noted that with 90 percent of cancer not being genetic it does not make sense to have an entire population tested for genetic cancers as that is a poor use of limited resources.

For Jews with Persian ancestry there are four Genetic Diseases:

Pseudocholinesterase deficiency (anesthesia sensitivity disorder) 1:10 are carriers; congenital hypoaldosteronism (salt-losing disorder) 1:30 are carriers; polyglandular deficiency (multiple disorder deficiency) 1:50 are carriers; and hereditary inclusion body myopathy (hereditary muscle disorder) 1:20 are carriers. All are autosomal recessive disorders and each result from a single mutation in the Persian Jewish population. Many of the diseases may be treated or as with the anesthesia sensitivity disease an alternate type of anesthesia may be used.

Both Gary and Cathy emphasized the importance of genetic counseling—even if someone tests negative for example for the BRCA genes for breast cancer- and there is cancer in the family it might be another form of a genetically inherited cancer. This is true for non-cancer diseases as mentioned above. Genetic counseling allows a couple to know if they are at risk of having an affected child or they themselves have a genetic disease.

Gary is willing to talk to other groups.

Gary S. Frohlich, MS, CGC

Senior Patient Education Liaison | Licensed Certified Genetics Counselor

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More Highlights from Jan. 6th: FAMILY PHOTOS

At JGSCV's Jan. 6th meeting board member Karen Lewy presented the 'Five Minute Genealogical Hint' on the subject of *Making Use of Family Event Pictures*. Karen showed how to make genealogical use of those photos from long ago weddings and bar mitzvahs. Karen showed how the typical family photo like this at right:



Can be transformed into a family historical data point by simply tracing the outlines like this (at right) and having family members fill in the names and relationships creating a priceless keepsake for future generations.



On the same subject recently Steve Lasky of the Museum of Family History (<http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com>) published the following blog regarding preservation of family photos and documents:

Food for Thought: Preserving Your Family Photos, Documents Before the Next Disaster

Courtesy of Steve Lasky, Museum of Family History <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com>

The recent hurricane here on the East Coast and subsequent wind and water damage that occurred to tens of thousands of homes and businesses has compelled me to write to you with a worthwhile suggestion, as well as some food for thought.

As I have thousands of your precious family photographs already on my museum website, I am constantly reminded of the value of the material possessions that help us preserve and recall our own family's history.

I know that many of us do not "back up" our photos or documents, as we generally do not anticipate natural (and some unnatural) events affecting us so severely, a tragedy that may occur to one's property, not only from wind and flooding, but from disasters such as fire, earthquakes (or bombs, G-d forbid).

Many received extensive damage to their homes, especially their ground floors and basements. One can only try to imagine all that was lost, and the emotional impact it had on those who suffered because of it. I come to you here as one who strives to help you preserve your own family history, who has a vast, genealogical interest in his own family history, with a wish that you – perhaps as the fulfillment of a resolution for the New Year – make a full effort in the coming year to preserve and protect your own family legacy.

Can you imagine having all your precious family photographs, etc. destroyed, with absolutely no hope of recovering them? Surely we care more about our own personal well-being and that of our family members, our home itself, etc., but I am talking here solely about photographs and documents, and perhaps other material, family “mementos”.

It is my suggestion that each of us find some way of saving our precious photographs in at least a secondary location, e.g. on an external hard drive, thumbnail drive, CD, etc. Or one can save them to one’s computer, put them online to a photo-sharing program, e.g. with Flickr, or on other such websites.

One must remember, however, that only saving one’s photos to the same relative location is not a good idea, as your precious family photos, etc. can also be destroyed along with your photo backup, e.g. if your house’s first floor floods, and that is where you keep your family albums, as well as your computer where you may back up your files. So perhaps saving your photos (and documents too, let’s not forget) to an outside location (perhaps in a different part of the country) is probably the best bet, whether one backs them up online or in some other physical location. I could go on, but I think I made my point. Many of us care very much about our family history and the preservation of physical remembrances, etc., so we should make this a priority to back up our precious photos and documents to a safe place. We don’t want to lose valuable family “heirlooms”, nor have to go back and do all our family research over again.

A similar suggestion can also be made with regards to preserving one’s own personal history, either by writing it down or recording it for posterity, before one’s memories fade or worse. Here time is the enemy, not any natural disaster. But that’s for another discussion....

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

BARBARA ALGAZE

JOANNE CADIS

NEW FOR JGSCV MEMBERS ONLY

Three Workshops in 2013 Starting with JewishGen

In addition to our regular monthly programs at Temple Adat Elohim, JGSCV is delighted to announce up to three new and unique computer workshops this year at the Conejo Valley Adult Education Center in Thousand Oaks. The first workshop, “An Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases” will be led by Warren Blatt and Debra Kay Blatt - both JGSCV board members. As you know, Warren is the managing director of JewishGen and Debra has conducted JewishGen computer workshops at the past five or more IAJGS conferences. We couldn't ask for better workshop instructors! Whether you are a sophisticated user of JewishGen or a beginner you will surely learn something from this free workshop.

A maximum of 39 JGSCV members may participate. Computers and internet access will be available for each member participant. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS WORKSHOP (although there may be a fee for future workshops). If you have not yet renewed or joined JGSCV for 2013 this is an excellent reason to do so now!

The date is **Sunday, March 10 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** The class will start **promptly at 1:00 p.m.** Late arrivals will have to catch up on their own so please plan accordingly. The Conejo Valley Adult Education Center is located at 1025 Old Farm Road in Thousand Oaks.



“An Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases” will be available on a **first-come first-serve basis for those who register through JGSCV**. You will **not** be able to register through the school directly—only through JGSCV. If you are interested, contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org . (Note, only Conejo Valley Adult Education Center computers will be used for this workshop. Please do **not** bring your own laptop.)

How to Register for “An Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases”

Only emails to Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org with the following information will be accepted (Do Not Contact the School Directly):

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone number (cell or landline)
4. Birth date including birth year (this is the unique identifier used by the school)

NOTE: If you have a family membership to JGSCV and both members wish to attend, you **MUST** provide the above information separately for each family member.

The school assures us that this information will not be used for solicitation or other purposes unless you give them permission to contact you following the class.

For those who register, it will be helpful if you bring a USB (flash) drive with you to copy and bring home any documents you may create or want to download.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a JGSCV 2013 dues-paid member. Neither spouses nor friends that are **not** current JGSCV members may attend and those who are current members need to be individually registered.
2. **You must be proficient in basic computer skills:** how to use a mouse - including the difference between right and left clicking, opening and closing a window, getting on the internet, migrating through web pages and **following directions**. The computers use the Windows 7 operating system. **This is not a class on how to use a computer.** (The only assistance offered will be on usage and navigation of jewishgen.org.)
3. Using jewishgen.org requires registration. If you are not already registered, you must do so at the workshop. Help will be available for this step.

The limited number of spaces will go quickly so please sign-up now! Additional information will be provided to registered participants. If you have any questions contact Jan at president@jgscv.org

2013 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, Feb. 10th 1-5 PM *“Annual Assisted Research Afternoon”* – LA Family History Library

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 *“Holocaust Survivors and March of the Living”*, JGSCV Members

Sunday, May 5th 1:30-3:30 PM *“Obscure Records of Citizenship and Nationality”*, Marion Smith, USCIS

Sunday, June 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM *“Lodz, the Manchester of Poland”*, Debra Kay Blatt

Sunday, July 14th 1:30-3:30 PM *“Genealogy in the Round”*

Emanuel (Ami) Elaysaf New Executive Director, International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center

By Jan Meisels Allen

Emanuel (Ami) Elaysaf is the new executive director of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy (IIJG) beginning in 2013.

Ami has a deep commitment to academic Jewish genealogy. He is a researcher of family histories and rabbinic lineages in Galicia and Hungary and is active in Gesher Galicia. Ami has done extensive research with Brody (formerly Galicia today Ukraine) vital records (80,000) and has been instrumental in photographing, translating and indexing 6,000 of Brody headstones as the project coordinator for the Brody Cemetery project within Gesher Galicia.* Ami is a member of the Israel Genealogical Society (IGS).

Ami is an applied physicist specializing in electro-optic systems with tens of patents to his name. Before taking on the role of executive director of IIJG he, was an engineer working and living in Rehovot, Israel.

An internationally known group of genealogists founded The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy (<http://www.iiig.org/>) in 2004. It was opened in 2006 in the National Library of Israel in Jerusalem. Its primary goals are to:

- to advance the academic status of Jewish Genealogy within the field of Jewish Studies, through teaching and research;
- to contribute to the Jewish continuity, on the premise that an individual's - and a people's - future is only assured if it is firmly grounded in its roots.



Since IIJG opened, it has made progress toward its goals by:

Elaborating "Academic Guidelines" for BA and MA courses in Jewish Genealogy and launching 11 groundbreaking research projects.

The Institute has an honorary advisory board of directors. One of the members of the advisory board is Congressman Henry Waxman, the Congressman for the 33rd Congressional district, which includes several of the cities in our genealogy society area: Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Westlake Village and more.



In addition to Ami, being appointed the IIJG executive director Professor Michael Silber was appointed Academic Director of the Institute. Professor Silber is a professor of East European Jewish history at the Hebrew University, with a specialty in the Jews of Austro-Hungary and a strong belief in Jewish genealogy as a valuable prism through which to examine Jewish history.

Neville Lamden was the founding executive director for the first seven years, stepping down effective the beginning of 2013. Director Lamden was pivotal in getting IIGS accepted in the genealogy and academic community.

* It is through the Brody Cemetery project that I have gotten to know the excellent work of Ami as Brody is one of my ancestral towns. I first met Ami at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in 2010 in Los Angeles when I listened to his presentation on Brody records.



2013 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 2013

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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:

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Make check out to: JGSCV Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
28912 Fountainwood St.
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