PRESIDENT’S LETTER

JGSCV had 35 avid genealogists participate in our annual assisted research afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library. This was a great opportunity for individualized assistance with JGSCV member’s own family history. JGSCV member Barbara Algaze gave an excellent review of the FamilySearch website- see page 6 for highlights. Thank you to the LA Family History Library missionaries who gave up their Sunday to open for us and to provide assistance. A special thank you to JGSCV senior members who provided the personalized assistance: Hal Bookbinder, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Andrea Massion, Issie Perel and Marion Werle. JGSCV also had six new members join! This annual event is one of several members-only benefits. While we ended in 2014 with 169 members we are at 128 for 2015. If you have not renewed yet this is the time to do. A membership form is on page 13. 2014 members who have not renewed following the March 1 meeting will be contacted individually. Non-renewals will be removed from the membership rolls and will not be eligible for special members-only benefits. Don’t let that happen to you!

In addition to the annual assisted research afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library, only dues-paid members receive the personal emails from me —37— in 2014 on special genealogical issues and opportunities and only dues-paid members may attend our computer workshops. A new

NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, March 1st 1:30-3:30 PM**

**Ancient Texts and Genealogical Discoveries**

Dr. Janette Silverman of the Jewish Theological Seminary explores documents and techniques readily available for expanding family history and cultural research.
members-only feature started in January only for 2015 dues paid members: discounts for Findmypast Legacy Webinars (50% off), and 50% off a subscription to MyHeritage. The MyHeritage offer had a very short window of opportunity—10 days in January and there will be another 10-day opportunity later in the year. The other organizations’ offers are not as time-sensitive. Findmypast has increased their discount and information will be sent to 2015 members.

JGSCV treasurer Karen Lewy will be presenting the 2015 budget to the JGSCV Board at our March board meeting. It costs JGSCV to do all that we do about $5,000 a year. Membership dues do not cover our expenses. Therefore, we rely on outside sources to supplement our budget. The two largest outside funding sources are Amazon.com and Ralphs Community Program. Collectively, Amazon and Ralphs are 25 percent of our revenues. When you are shopping on Amazon.com please start at the JGSCV website and enter Amazon through our portal by clicking on the Amazon logo at the bottom of our home page. At no additional cost to you, JGSCV receives a marketing fee when you follow those simple steps. See “JGSCV Updates” on page 5 for more details. We have been averaging fees of about 6.5% of purchases and we need that revenue to maintain our level of services.

2014 was the 100th anniversary of the beginning of World War I and 2015 is the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. In early December, I sent out an email to members asking about any genealogical research you have done on your family who might have either fought in either war or were involved in the wars because of their locations. This includes the holocaust. The stories can be about you too if you served or are a survivor. We received and published several submissions from Werner Frank, Sara Applebaum – and on page 9 is this month’s by Barbara Algaze. Have you thought of writing an article about your family’s experience for either conflict or experience? If so please send an email with your story to Allan Linderman, our newsletter editor, at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and to me at president@jgscv.org

Our permanent library is located at the Agoura Hills Library a branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library. I urge everyone to see “JGSCV Updates” on page 5 and read about the serious problem discovered by JGSCV Librarian Issie Perel.

We are very fortunate to have Janette Silverman, Ph.D. as our March 1st speaker. Janette will be talking on Ancient Texts Lead to Genealogical Discoveries: The Lives Our Ancestors Led. The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York is often off the radar screen for many genealogists but the library is home to almost half a million volumes including manuscripts, rare books and archives. The archives are a treasure yet to be explored by so many of us and yet it is a rich repository of records of Jewish communities, institutions and prominent individuals in the US and Europe. We will take a digital trip and explore some of the treasures that can be found at JTS. Janette is also the Ukraine SIG coordinator and lead co-chair of the IAJGS 2016 Conference in Seattle!

Looking forward to seeing you on March 1st!

Jan Meisels Allen

March, 2015
Poland: Change in Civil Law
Records Made Final
A new Polish law, to be enacted on March 1, 2015, reduces the embargo periods to 80 years for marriage and death records from the previous existing law of 100 years! This is a substantial and very welcome change. It does retain birth records embargo at the previously existing 100 years. For the Polish government announcement, use this link in Google Chrome to translate: Polish Gov't Records Law changed or read about it at JRI-Poland.org.

And in England...
A bill before the (UK) House of Lords has amended to allow for publication on birth, marriage and death certificates in England and Wales, to be issued in a manner other than certified copies. This is a great example of how genealogists can influence actions. If passed, there would be upgrades in the technology of the gov’t that would take a while. These changes were a result of the efforts by the Society of Genealogists. More at: Society of Genealogy U.K.

Litvak SIG Adds Records
Eden Joachim, President of the Litvak SIG hosted by Jewishgen.org has announced the addition of 47,469 new records to the All Lithuania Database (ALD). Many districts are represented and the new records cover several categories: Births, Deaths, Marriages, Divorces and Tax Lists. http://www.litvaksig.org/all-lithuania-database-ald

Please search even if you don’t think you’ll find anything. Some types of records fall into categories which don’t fully explain the type of record due to the template they use. For example, the new records include Real Estate Owners and different types of Savings Bank records.
Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County* (JGSCV) (*and surrounding areas)

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, March 1, 2015 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Topic: Ancient Texts Lead to Genealogical Discoveries - The Lives Our Ancestors Led

The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York is often off the radar screen for many genealogists but the library is home to almost half a million volumes including manuscripts, rare books and archives. The archives are a treasure yet to be explored by so many of us and yet it is a rich repository of records of Jewish communities, institutions and prominent individuals in the US and Europe. We will take a digital trip and explore some of the treasures that can be found at JTS. Included in these archives are transcriptions of notes, memos and correspondence between the State Department and offices in Vienna, St. Petersburg, Warsaw and Bucharest from 1863-1906 that concern the legal position and persecution of Jews; and correspondence and notes about the Jewish community in France from 1700's until after WWII. We will also explore a variety of ketubot and mohel books and talk about the way all of these materials help us in our research.

Speaker: Dr. Janette Silverman is the JewishGen Ukraine SIG Coordinator. She was the president of the Phoenix Jewish Genealogy Society for 5 years, and is active on the IAJGS Membership Development Committee. Since 2007 she has served as a Moderator for the JewishGen Discussion Group. Her doctoral dissertation, "In Living Memory" is about Jewish genealogical research. Janette has been researching family history for almost 30 years. Janette is the Outreach Director for the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education of The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

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 is open to the public and there is no charge to attend. Annual dues are $25 for an individual and $30 for a family.

March, 2015
Our permanent library is located at the Agoura Hills Library, a branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library. This location offers many conveniences including access during library hours (as compared to only during JGSCV monthly meetings). Users must remember it is a NON-CIRCULATING library which \textbf{does not} allow for borrowing. The contents are not permitted to leave the branch. While performing monthly library updates recently, JGSCV librarian Issie Perel noticed several missing journals including issues of \textit{FGS Forum} and \textit{The Kosher Koala} (JGS of Australia). We are certain that these materials were mistakenly borrowed and we ask that they be returned with no questions asked so our collections may be complete. We recognize that calling it a non-circulating library may have been confusing in the past. We hope that we have now fully explained that NO JGSCV LIBRARY MATERIALS are ever to leave the Agoura Hills Library under any circumstances.

\textbf{If you were unable to be at the Assisted Research afternoon last month, you can “ASK THE JGSCV EXPERT”. See how below.}

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from JGSCV’s home page. Start at \url{http://www.jgscv.org} and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one below). This takes you to the same page you always start at – at no cost to you. See “notices” on the JGSCV.org for instructions for Ralphs Community Contribution Program, too.

AND, if you cannot see the Amazon ‘smile’ graphic at the bottom of JGSCV’s home page, it may be because you have enabled an ad blocker. If you disable the ad blocker (for amazon.com only) it will allow you to see the graphic at the bottom of the page. Just click on it to begin your Amazon shopping with a benefit to JGSCV at no cost to you.

Remember, the SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 20 minutes before the monthly meeting is scheduled to begin. Just come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the “SCHMOOZING CORNER” sign where you will find Warren Blatt this week. Warren will field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins.

JGSCV board member Karen Lewy will present this month’s ‘5 Minute Genealogical Hint’: \textit{Finding Interesting Information on Death Certificates.}

\textbf{Do you have questions about your family history research you would like to have answered by an expert? Send questions to: newslettereditor@jgscv.org for an expert’s answer. All names will be withheld upon request if preferred.}

March, 2015
Each year JGSCV is privileged to hold an exclusive assisted research afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library. The missionaries at the LA Family History Library give up their Sunday to open the library for us and help with providing direction to JGSCV members. In addition to the missionaries, senior JGSCV members provide personal hands-on assistance to JGSCV members to help them with their family history research. We had 35 avid genealogists make the long drive to take advantage of this special program available only to JGSCV members.

Barbara Algaze, a JGSCV member, and librarian of our sister society, JGS Los Angeles, presented an informative talk on “Exploring the Family Search Website”. Her handout is posted to the JGSCV website, www.jgscv.org under “meetings/prior” with the February 15, 2015 date. Barbara prepares a different lecture each year and this one focused solely on the FamilySearch website, www.familysearch.org.

The presentation reviewed search functions and historical records. Barbara demonstrated how to complete the search questions, the differences between exact (clicking on the square box next to the name) and using the default phonetic spelling. She also demonstrated how to search relationships—which is very useful, especially when searching a common name such as Harry Schwartz. Adding location, such as Brooklyn, is helpful in narrowing the search. Location is where the person was at a particular time, Location is where the person was at a particular time, it is different than the birthplace.

Barbara also explained the Soundex Code. It was developed by the US Government to help them find names on records. The first letter of the name and only the next three consonants, not vowels, are used to combine into one code the variations of spelling of a name. Barbara’s surname A-L-G-A-Z-E would be A lgz and the l, g, z would each have a numerical designation and would be A 422. (To learn more about Soundex see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Soundex

Every member received a new member kit when they joined JGSCV and included is a
Soundex explanation from the National Archives).

Searching on FamilySearch is free. You need not register on the FamilySearch website unless you want to upload your trees or order microfilms to be borrowed.

Another attribute of the FamilySearch website are the “collections” module. This will help you organize your searches – for example you can place births, marriages and Social Security Death Index numbers all into different collections. One can also refine their search. Other attributes are copy and print.

If you are using your own computer at home vs. the computer in the Family History Library, you can download the copy to your computer. You can view the document and print it as well.

One of the websites that will be of great assistance in researching graves is http://findagrave.com/ which has 120 million graves worldwide, listed on their site. Ancestry.com acquired FindAGrave and it remains a free site. Ancestry.com is one of the subscription sites that are available for use at no charge when visiting a Family History Library.

Barbara showed us how to do a “search by location.” By searching an historical collection, she chose Continental Europe and then Germany.

A collection listed with a camera icon in front of the name indicates there is a copy of the record available to be viewed. Those collections listed with a numerical number of records, indicates that the collection is searchable by name. Those collections listed with “browse images” indicate that the microfilm can be viewed on line, but that the records have not been individually indexed and you will have to go through the uploaded microfilm as if using a microfilm reader. With FamilySearch adding millions of records a week it is good to look back in a few weeks as the image may be added to the website.

In demonstrating the catalog, Barbara used the word “Jews” and found there were 2,161 items including books, microfilms, etc. An example of place, Barbara used US, CA and LA and for vital records under California births, she found 42 films, however, only six were in the Los Angeles location. If the film wanted is not available in the Los Angeles Family Library you can put in Salt Lake City and order the film on-line. A short term loan of 30 days is $7.50 but if you want the film on permanent loan in the LA Family History Library its $18.75. Again, one must register to be able to borrow films.

While foreign records will be in the native language (German, Polish, Dutch etc.) the index is in English which tells you what is included in the collection.

The JGSLA permanent library is housed at the LA Family History Library, located on the north side of the room. All the books are indexed. To see what is included go to the catalog and type in the name of the book or JGS and what is available will come up.
The FamilySearch “wiki” only has genealogy and one can search on any item. For example, the term “immigration” has 2,926 listings and the word “Ukraine” has 223 items.

There are entire books digitized online and out of copyright. There are 150,000 digitized genealogy and family history publications from selected sites that are listed under “books”. Many family genealogies are listed in books that are out of copyright and it was recommended to search the books with your family names.

Barbara volunteers most Tuesday afternoons at the LA Family History Library. She strongly encourages that an appointment be made in advance so that she can spend adequate time with you. You may reach Barbara at barbara@jgscv.org. (More photos below)

Photo top left, Issie Perel helping Herb Weisberg. Photo right, Warren Blatt helping Helene Volkman as David Oseas looks on. Below left, LAFHL classroom

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

EARLE ALDEN

BARBARA and ARTHUR HARRIS

SUZANNE KRAMER

DIANNE and RICHARD RICE

March, 2015
By Barbara Algaze

My Grandfather, Julius Leburg, was born in May of 1876 in Strassbourg, Alsace, France, when it was part of Germany and was called Straßburg, Elsaß-Lothringen, Germany.

As early as 1901 he was married and living in Berlin, Germany. His only son was born in Berlin in 1903. In 1910 he had his own business with a partner, selling furniture and antiques. When WWI began he was already in his late 30s but he signed up to defend his country.

He was killed on 2 June 1916 at the Battle of Verdun, very close to where he was born. His son was 13 years old when he was killed. On 25 Jan 1942 the Nazis rounded up his widow and her sister and shipped them off to the Riga Concentration Camp in Latvia. In spite of her son’s pleas, she had refused to leave Berlin because she could not believe that the Germans would harm the widow of a War Hero.

There is no specific burial place where my Grandfather’s remains rest, however, his name is mentioned on the very bottom of his parents’ joint tombstone, which is located in the Jewish section of Bergfriedhof Cemetery on Rohrbacher Strasse in Heidelberg, Germany.

Barbara Algaze
Los Angeles, California
Algaze3@gmail.com

“He was killed on 2 June 1916 at the Battle of Verdun . . .”
The 35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will take place in Jerusalem, Israel from July 6-10, 2015. Registration is open and can be completed online at http://iajgs2015.org. You are invited to visit the website often as updates are occurring almost daily. The program is still being finalized but you can see the Ramada Hotel and learn about additional opportunities like the scheduled Shabbaton and Exploration Sunday.

International Jewish Genealogy Poster Month Contest

The IAJGS International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM) Poster Competition started on Tu B’Shevat (February 3 & 4, 2015), appropriately the Jewish New Year for Trees.

The IJGM occurs every year during the month of Cheshvan, this year corresponding to October 14 to November 12, 2015. To help celebrate and promote IJGM, an annual poster competition is held with the winning poster to be used by organizations and individuals to promote IJGM and any individual activities that they run during Cheshvan.

Full details of the competition requirements and rules can be at http://www.iajgs.org/blog/ijgm/poster-competition/

Any entries must be submitted by the closing date of June 20, 2015 and must be submitted through an IAJGS Member organization, though the artist does not need to be a member of the organization.
Records Access Alerts

As many of you surely know, our own Jan Meisels Allen wears many hats in the world of Jewish genealogy. She is not only President of JGSCV but among other roles past and present, she has been an officer of IAJGS and currently serves IAJGS as Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee. Without records genealogists would be unable to trace family histories. The most typical of Vital Records, birth, marriage and death records, would be unavailable, hidden or otherwise blocked. City directories allowing us to trace family locations would be a mystery. Jan has been diligent in reporting the release and availability of new records globally. And, she is active around the world in legislative and political actions relevant to accessibility of such records to ensure genealogists can continue researching their family history by retaining and gaining access. These are postings from February 2-February 18, 2015.

- (Canada) A Second Bill Addressing Changes in the Canadian Census
- (Canada) DEFEATED Bill Before Parliament to Reinstate the Mandatory Long-Form Census
- (Canada) Library and Archives Canada Increases Digitization of WWI CEF Service Files
- (Canada-British Columbia) New Bill on Digitizing Government Archives
- (European Union) NY Times Editorial on "Right to Be Forgotten" and Its Attempt to Expand Outside its Borders
- (Ireland) Early Irish Birth Records Index
- (UK) Government Accepts Amendment on Deregulation Bill Allowing Other than Certified Copies of B,M,D Certificates
- (UK) Weiner Library Refugee Family Papers Digitized and AJR Refugee Voices
- (US-Maine) Update on Proposed Regulations on Access to Vital Records
- (US-NYC) New York City Board of Health Limits Access to Death Records 1949- to Present
- (US-OK) Legislation to Amend Access to Death Records
- (US-RI) BillIntroduced Proposed to Provide Free Access to Death and Marriage Certificates

If you want full details of the postings please go to the Records Access Alert and access the archives—http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/private/records-access-alerts/. You must be a registered subscriber to access the archives. To register go to: http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/listinfo/records-access-alerts and follow the instructions to enter your email address, full name and which JGS/JHS/SIG/JewishGen is your affiliation. You will receive an email response that you have to reply to or the subscription will not be finalized.

March, 2015
Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2015

Sunday afternoons starting at 1:30 p.m. Monday evenings starting at 7:00 p.m.

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

March 1, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Ancient Texts Lead to Genealogical Discoveries: The Lives Our Ancestors Led Janette Silverman, Ph.D. Jewish Theological Seminary archives a rich repository of records of Jewish communities, institutions and prominent individuals in the US and Europe from the 1700's until after WWII. Silverman is Outreach Director for the William Davidson Graduate School of Jewish Education of The Jewish Theological Seminary in New York.

April 12, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM “Remembering the Holocaust Through Family History Using the Resources of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum” Megan Lewis, Research Librarian, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: Looking at ways genealogists can use the resources at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum such as oral histories to find the details of their ancestor’s lives that show the history on the human level. Ms. Lewis will demonstrate how to use the Museum’s online resources to do research from home. Annual Yom Hashoah Program (actual Yom Hashoah is April 16)

May 3, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM You’ve Found Some Records Now What? Marion Werle Evaluating the information you have, reconciling discrepancies, what is a reliable source?

June 7, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM DNA From A Users Perspective. JGSCV Member Mike Markowitz will talk about DNA testing- autosomal as well as mTDNA and Y-DNA from a Users perspective and what the test results mean.

July 2015 No Meeting—IAJGS Conference Jerusalem July 6-10, 2015

August 2, 2015 Sunday Genealogy in the Round 1:30-3:30 PM 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!

Programs are subject to change—check JGSCV website www.jgscv.org
2015 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 2015
Date ________

Check one:
This is a New Membership________ Renewal________
Single $ 25.00_____+$1.00** Family* $30.00 ______+ $2.00**

*family defined as two people living in the same household
** $1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:
Library Acquisition Fund $_______ Programs Fund $________
(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund $5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____________________________________________________
Address _________________________________________________________
City ___________________________________________________________
State ___________________________________________________________
Zipcode + 4 ______________________________________________________
Day telephone ______________ Evening telephone _______________________
E-mail address ___________________________________________________
Talents that you have to share (accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________