

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY (JGSCV)

Volume 1, Issue 11

August 2006

President's Message

Our first anniversary is fast approaching and we will celebrate this event at the next meeting scheduled for September 17. To date, we have successfully attracted 115 members and thank you for your support.

The JGSCV board is initiating in September a membership renewal campaign for 2007. When you renew your membership now, your dues will cover the period through December 2007 — 15 months for the price of 12! A copy of the renewal form is on page 4. Anyone who has not yet joined JGSCV can also use this form and benefit from the extended coverage through December 2007.

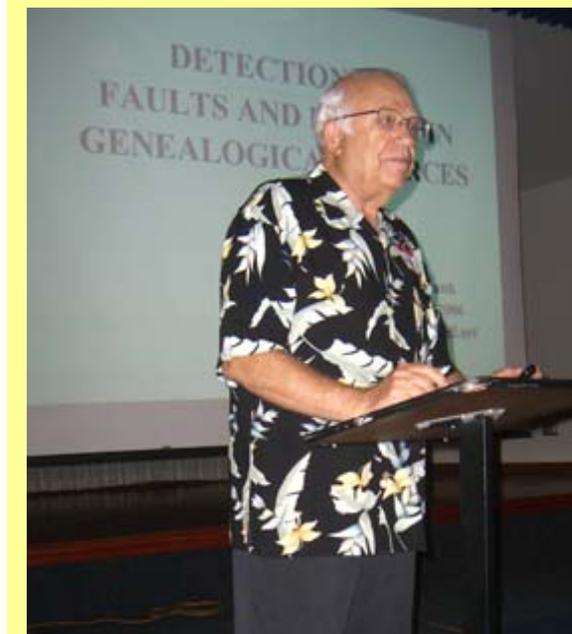
The nominating committee for forthcoming JGSCV Board vacancies has been appointed. Chairing the committee is Hal Bookbinder, immediate past president of the IAJGS, Richard Munitz and David Stelman.

Four positions are up for election. Terms are for two years. The board application is on our website and Hal will be contacting every member asking those who wish to run for the board to complete the application and submit it to him. We hope many of you wish to get more actively involved in the society.

I hope to see all of you at our first anniversary program, which is a special one — please see page 3 for more information.

Jan Meisels Allen, President JGSCV

Werner Frank Presents Talk: “Detection of Faults and Errors in Genealogical Research”



The July 9 meeting of JGSCV focused on surprising and unsuspected faults and errors that creep into the research of genealogists. Werner Frank illustrated the point by providing five examples from his own work that showed how photographic material may be suspect, that tombstone data must be checked for accuracy, how personal names may be recorded in different formats and spelling, how lines of descent may end in controversy and why secondary sources, such as biographies, must be taken with a grain of salt.

The presentation sensitized the audience to question all resource material and encourages validation and confirmation of conclusions that are reached.

[Genealogy Goes Mainstream in the Wall Street Journal](http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB115093951770087066-FDS4dezC_NL9VHKitDikCrDTU_20060721.html?mod=tff_main_tff_top) — Check out the article *New Ways to Dig For Your Roots Online* at: http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB115093951770087066-FDS4dezC_NL9VHKitDikCrDTU_20060721.html?mod=tff_main_tff_top

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

SEE PAGE 4 FOR 2007 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INSTRUCTIONS

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 a special shelf at the Agoura Hills Public Library.

Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email. Editorial and feature articles, as well as tips for pursuit of genealogical research are welcome. Send such material as a file attachment or message via email to newslettereditor@jgscv.org

2006 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send appropriate amount in check made out to JGSCV and addressed to Richard Munitz at 29633 Windsong Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

THE JEWISH VIRTUAL LIBRARY

The Jewish Virtual Library is the most comprehensive online Jewish encyclopedia in the world, covering everything from anti-Semitism to Zionism. So far, more than 10,000 articles and 5,000 photographs and maps have been integrated into the site. The Library has 13 wings: History, Women, The Holocaust, Travel, Israel & the States, Maps, Politics, Biography, Israel, Religion, Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress, Vital Statistics and Reference. Each of these has numerous subcategories. The Reference section has bibliographies of more than 1,000 books and 1,000 web sites, and a glossary of more than 1,000 words and a time-line for the history of Judaism. Web address is www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/index.html.

(Contributed by Ilan Ganot)

Ancestry.com announced that it has completed the digitization of the entire U.S. Federal Census, from 1790 to 1930, making every U.S. Census record available and searchable online. While Ancestry.com is available on a subscription basis, many public libraries provide free access.

AUFBAU INDEXING PROJECT MAKES FIRST AVAILABILITY

For the past several years a group of volunteers have diligently entered raw data collected from the pages of Aufbau, a German language weekly published between 1934 and 2004. The reader constituency was primarily the German-Jewish emigration which supported the publication of this community's announcements of birth, engagement, marriage, death and other special occasions.

To date, more than 27,000 of the likely 150,000 records have been entered into an online database at www.calzareth.com/aufbau, with focus on the period 1975-2002. Searches can be conducted by last name, first name, maiden name and location of origin in Germany. Field qualifiers include: exact spelling, sound-like, starts with, contains and ends with. This is an early version, subject to further validation to correct possible misspellings and formatting of names and dates. Each record points to a particular issue of Aufbau whose availability in full text is also searchable at the German language site <http://deposit.ddb.de/Harvest/brokers/exil/query-glimpse.htm>.

Of special interest to this contributor is the on line availability of the full text pages published in Aufbau of alphabetized deportation lists of the Jewish inmates held in the Vichy located concentration camps Gurs and Rivesaltes since October 1940. These Jews were transported for the most part to Auschwitz during the course of 1942. The lists of deportees from Gurs were sourced from HIAS and those from Rivesaltes were provided by the World Jewish Congress. The lists were published in a six installments during the period from November 8, 1942 to December 25, 1942.

One hesitates to ask today what American Jews did at the end of 1942 upon being informed of the thousands of named Jews who were deported and disappeared in the East.

Pioneer Jews of Los Angeles

A special archival issue of *Western States Jewish History*, dated Spring/Summer 2006/5766, is now available covering early Jewish pioneers of the nineteenth century who settled in Los Angeles. The 300-page book includes biographies of merchants, bankers, civic and spiritual leaders, and covers the establishment of community institutions. Copies are available for \$25 by contacting the Isaac Nathan Publishing Company in Woodland Hills at 818-225-9631.

NEXT MEETING, September 17:

(Note that there is no meeting in August)



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

! Celebrate JGSCV's First Anniversary

Light refreshments and a gift for all attendees

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting on Sunday, September 17, 2006 co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim at 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 1:30-4:00 p.m. (note time change)

The Topic:

"Our Heritage and Our Health"

Genealogy, DNA and Genetic Conditions Among the Ashkenazi Jews

Gary S. Frohlich, MS, CGC, patient care liaison/certified genetic counselor, Genzyme Therapeutics will talk about the importance of knowing our family health history—an integral part of genealogy—and the increased risks of inherited diseases of Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews. Details taken from interviews and family documents can create a medical history of the family. Gary will teach us why some diseases such as Tay-Sachs, Gaucher, Familial Dysautonomia and others are more common to our families. Come on the journey from the "fertile crescent" (historical region in the Middle East) to the fields of Bavaria! Find out why some Jewish families would benefit from education, screening and testing for certain disorders.

In addition, JGSCV members will report on the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Conference held in New York City.

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. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

For more information contact: publicity@jgscv.org or Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616
6052 Hackers Lane Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

November 15, 2006: Special Wednesday evening 7:30 PM meeting featuring Valery Bazerov of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society discussing HIAS archives of interest to genealogists.

There will be no meeting in October due to the prevalence of the Jewish Holy Days.

December 10, 2006: Back to Sunday afternoon 2:00 PM schedule featuring Ron Arons, "Bugsy Segal and Meyer Lansky — The Men Behind the Flamingo Hotel"

2007 Membership Renewal Form

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

2007 Annual Dues:

Dues paid now are good through December 2007!

Check one:

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 upon recognizing 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 to: Richard Munitz
29633 Windsong Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

(This is very important as all communication is done by e-mail!)

- We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at newslettereditor@jgscv.org .

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Hal and Leona Hertzberg

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President
Richard Munitz, Membership
Dalya Dektor, Treasurer
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary

president@jgscv.org
membership@jgscv.org
treasurer@jgscv.org
secretary@jgscv.org

Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman information@jgscv.org
Warren Blatt, New Member Education education@jgscv.org
Werner Frank, Newsletter Editor newslettereditor@jgscv.org
Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project frank@jgscv.org

Stewart Bernstein, Speaker's Bureau stewart@jgscv.org

Website: www.jgscv.org Michael Gallop, Webmaster: webmaster@jgscv.org Raya Sagi, Librarian: librarian@jgscv.org
Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616