

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 1, Issue 5

February 2006

Newly Elected JGSCV Board of Directors Meet



Meet your new Board of Directors, starting at far right and going counter clock wise: Jan Meisels Allen, Werner L. Frank, Frank Tessel, Dorothy Drilich, Dalya Dektor, Deborah Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Richard Munitz and Stewart Bernstein.

Election and “How to...” Seminar featured at January JGSCV Meeting

JGSCV member Hal Bookbinder conducted the elections for the 2006 Board of Directors. The slate of nine candidates was elected by acclamation.

The program featured a panel consisting of Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay Blatt and Hal Bookbinder who covered three aspects of “How to Begin Your Genealogy Research.”

Techniques were presented of how and what data and objects to collect during the research phase of a genealogical pursuit, where to turn for certain types of records and information, as well as how data should be organized and preserved.

President’s Message

Thank you for the honor of being your newly-elected president! Our society held its first election on January 8th and the interim board was elected as JGSCV's first elected board. According to our by-laws, the board members then chose the officers, who are in addition to me: Richard Munitz, vice president-membership; Dalya Dektor,

and Dorothy Drilich, Secretary. The board also voted unanimously to incorporate and the paper work has been sent to the Secretary of State of California.

On behalf of the entire JGSCV Board of Directors, we express gratitude to Hal Bookbinder, JGSCV charter member and immediate past-president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) for his guidance, patience and willingness to sit with the interim board and provide his kind wisdom throughout our formation period.

Do not forget that the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is in New York this summer-August 13-18 (see the related article on page 2). Even if you are new to genealogy, you will have a fantastic time immersed in learning about your roots. I was a neophyte to genealogy when I went to my first seminar—also in New York in 1999 — and it was an experience of a lifetime — meeting researchers from around the world with whom I had exchanged e-mail, as well as attending lectures from morning to night. I hope many of you will decide to come to New York City in August.

Jan Meisels Allen, President, JGSCV

SEE PAGE 4 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING JGSCV MEETINGS



Jewish Genealogical Society (New York)
is hosting the
26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish
Genealogy
August 13-18, 2006
New York Marriott Marquis Hotel

Make your plans now to attend this exciting conference. Check the website for attendance and hotel registration details at www.jgsny2006.org.

The kickoff session will take place Sunday evening, August 13, 2006 with keynote speaker Dr. Allen Weinstein, Ninth Archivist of the United States.



Fran Entin, a charter member of JGSCV and publicity committee member, will be celebrating her 80th birthday on February 11-
Happy Birthday

Babel Fish Translation ...

is a website providing a reasonable first cut translation between almost any two languages – either a word, a phrase, a whole article, or even a web page. Enter a German or Russian web page address, and bingo! – there it is in English. It works for most languages, including even Chinese and Japanese, but unfortunately no Hebrew. See <http://world.altavista.com>

FROM THE PAGES OF GERSIG DISCUSSION GROUP OF JEWISHGEN
Holocaust expert Peter Landé has created a new research guide, *Major Sources of Information on German/Austrian Holocaust Survivors and Victims*. This resource has been added to the GERSIG website under Holocaust Resources. The direct link is:

www.jewishgen.org/GerSIG/majorsources.htm

While probably the overwhelming majority of German/Austrian Jewish Holocaust victims were deported directly from these countries, others had fled to neighboring countries in the vain hope that these would prove to be safe havens. Relatively few perished in their country of origin. Researchers should, therefore, examine non-German/Austrian sources of information.

SEPHARDIC GENEALOGICAL RECORDS BECOME AVAILABLE

The International Society for Sephardic Progress (ISFSP) is pleased to announce that one of the largest and most important collections of Jewish genealogical records, one that includes an extensive amount of Sephardic data, has been made available for public research. The material covers the period from 1870 to the present. The new online-accessible collection includes over 50,000 records, including more than 35 thousand Istanbul marriage records and some 15,000 death and burial records from other sources including the Chief Rabbinate of Turkey and the Ashkenazi and Italian community records. The data also comes from several Istanbul cemeteries. Researchers may visit www.isfsp.org/istanbul to access the new genealogical database.

Unusual Information Source

The American Battle Monuments Commission offers a website containing databases for almost 125,000 American casualties buried in 24 overseas military cemeteries plus identification of over 94,000 U.S. missing servicemen and women. A check for service personnel killed in action with surname Cohen identified 71. See www.abmc.gov

HELP.....We need a volunteer accountant to advise us on completing our tax-exempt organization's Federal and State tax forms. If you have the necessary qualifications to help us in fulfilling our obligations, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org or call 818-889-6616.

ABOUT JGSCV.....

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Conejo Valley and Ventura County meets once a month 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.

News from the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center (LARFHC)

Our members are fortunate to have nearby access to one of the more significant Mormon Church genealogical repositories, the LARFHC, located at:*

10741 Santa Monica Blvd.
West Los Angeles, CA 90025
Tel: 310-474-9990
Website: www.larfhc.org

LARFHC has on site a large number of microfilms and microfiches which are catalogued and can be identified by searching on their website. Items requiring loan from the central library in Salt Lake City carry a circulation loan fee which has increased effective January 13, 2006 as follows:

1. Loan fees for microfilm will change from \$3.25 to \$5.50.
2. Microfiche fees will remain at 15¢ per fiche.
3. Renewals, including films ordered at the \$3.25 fee, will be renewed at the new rate of \$5.50.

*Local Family History Libraries are located throughout Ventura County as listed in JGSCV's Resources Directory included in the new member's kit.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

JGSVC is initiating a project to list Jews that are buried in cemeteries located in the Conejo Valley and Ventura County. This effort is part of JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR). Volunteers are needed to visit local cemeteries and record vital information of deceased individuals at the following locations:

- Mt. Sinai Park in Simi Valley
- Beth Olam Cemetery within Pierce Brothers Cemetery in Westlake Village
- Ivy Lawn Memorial Park in Ventura
- Cemetery Park in Ventura
- Beth Shalom within Conejo Mountain Memorial Park, Camarillo.

Two volunteer members, Helene Rosen of Agoura Hills and Carole Webber of Thousand Oaks, join Board member Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project Coordinator, in initiating this work. If interested in assisting this effort, please contact Frank Tessel at frank@jgscv.org.

Free Genealogy Search Help for Google

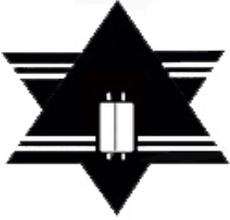
Google now provides a specialized genealogical searching aid. It puts some advanced Google features on one page with suggested key words and advice about how each feature is useful for genealogists. Just fill in the blanks for a small family tree, and this site will try to set up the best searches for you, based on what you enter. It will create a series of different searches that will likely improve your results in finding ancestry information on the Internet.

See www.genealogy-search-help.com

HOLOCAUST-ERA RESTITUTIONS DISCUSSION GROUP

The Holocaust-Era Restitutions Discussion Group is a Yahoo group related to Holocaust-era reparations and claims. It functions as a mutual help group, collecting and spreading information and tips on reparations and related procedures in all countries where reparation programs exist or are being implemented. Membership in the Group is recommended to Holocaust survivors and heirs. For more information check:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/h-justice>



Come to the next meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (and surrounding areas)

Sunday, February 5, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

"Jewish Treasures in the Ventura County Museum"

Charles Johnson, Librarian and Associate Director, Ventura County Museum, will discuss archives and resources of the Ventura County Museum related to the pioneer Jews of Ventura County, including where the pioneer Ventura County Jews are buried, the A. Levy Collection, and other collections of interest. Learn how to research your Ventura County pioneer ancestors as far back as 1873 from biographical resources. Mr. Johnson will present historical research, depicting time and place—providing "windows of our past."

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

For more information contact information@JGSCV.org See: www.JGSCV.org
Or call Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616

ADVANCE NOTICE OF FUTURE MEETINGS at Temple Adat Elohim, Thousand Oaks CA

March 5, 2006: Documentary *Children of Terezin*. The film depicts the return to Terezin of a few survivors, the young artists and poets who participated in the underground classes that encouraged the inmates with the power of music, poetry and painting and documents the horror behind the propaganda of the so called "paradise ghetto." Stewart Bernstein, a member of the Board of JGSVC and a producer of the film, will lead a discussion on the making of the documentary.

Also, mark the following dates in 2006 for future meetings: April 9, May 7 and June 11.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman	information@jgscv.org
Richard Munitz, Membership	membership@jgscv.org	Warren Blatt, Webmaster	webmaster@jgscv.org
Dalya Dektor, Treasurer	treasurer@jgscv.org	Werner Frank, Newsletter Editor	newslettereditor@jgscv.org
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary	secretary@jgscv.org	Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project	frank@jgscv.org
Stewart Bernstein, Speaker's Bureau		stewart@jgscv.org	

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