SPEAKER CHARLES JOHNSON ARRANGES HIS BOOKS AND ChATS WITh JGSCV MEMBERS

Charles Johnson speaks to JGSCV....

Guest lecturer Charles Johnson is the Librarian and Archivist of the Ventura County Museum of History and Art. Providing examples of the museum’s holdings and publications, Mr. Johnson gave an illustrated lecture of the history of Ventura County and its various archival holdings. Of particular interest to JGSCV were illustrations of Jewish pioneers such as Abraham Levy, founder of the A. Levy Bank.

Among the treasures brought to our meeting was an 1883 photo album of vintage family pictures which was inscribed “Token of Affection” by Lucy Levy to her friend Mrs. H. Cerf.

Mr. Johnson offered attendees a copy of the Ventura County Historical Society Publication “Ventura County, Garden of the World.” This volume recorded the landowners of the county during the period 1878-1879. A copy will also be placed in our permanent library at Agoura Hills Public Library and available in our traveling library at our meetings.

President’s Message...

There is a phenomenal growth in interest for genealogy and family history. A 2005 poll performed by Market Strategies, Inc. and MyFamily.com, Inc. shows 73% of Americans are interested in discovering their family history. This reflects a 13% increase over a similar study in 2000.

JGSCV acceptance by our community reflects this interest since in a few short months we went from “zero” to over 100 members! To keep us strong we need to continue to build our membership ranks. We look to you to refer friends to become members of our society. Do invite them to attend our meetings. We have great programs planned for the remainder of the year.

Looking forward to seeing you at the March meeting.

Jan Meisels Allen

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING JGSCV MEETING
RESEARCH TIPS……..

IMMIGRANT ARRIVALS

Ports of entry for most of our immigrant ancestors are New York, Boston, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Galveston and San Francisco as well as border crossings from Canada. Free online Internet help is available for New York at:  
www.ellisisland.org (for period 1892-1924)  
www.castlegarden.org (for period 1820-1891)  
and for Galveston (1844-1948) at:  
www.tsm-elissa.org/immigration-login.htm

Information for other ports may be available through commercial vendors and other aids. For such assistance check any search engine such as Google and enter the name of the port modified by arrivals (e.g., Baltimore arrivals). For an excellent summary of known databases (free and for fee) check:  
http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/onlinelists.html

SURVIVORS OF THE SHOAH

With the transfer of the Survivors of the Shoah Foundation to the University of Southern California, online access to over 50,000 testimonies is now available at:  
www.usc.edu/schools/college/vhi/.

Privacy restrictions on the Internet limit the search parameters to the use of given name with surname initial.

EASTERN EUROPEAN JEWISH RECORDS

The Jewish Family History Foundation is a website dedicated to the dissemination of Jewish records from archives in Eastern Europe. This is accomplished by creating translated online databases and digitalized images of original documents. This website provides information suitable for genealogical and academic historical research. The focus is primarily on the Grand Duchy of the Lithuania-Kingdom of Poland Commonwealth in the 18th century: the early Russian Empire Revision Lists and 1765, 1784 census/tax lists of the Jewish communities. This area later became Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine, the ancestral homeland of 80 percent of the Jews alive in the world today. See  
www.jewishfamilyhistory.org

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.
See the Documentary
"The Children of Terezin"

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

Sunday, March 5, 2006 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Terezin was the Third Reich's "show-place," a model camp conceived for propaganda, deceiving the world into believing that the relocation of millions of Jews did not mean they were being liquidated but "merely" resettled all over Europe. Terezin was also special in producing artists and poets, part of an organized movement of resistance within the camp. The resistance was accomplished through an extensive underground network of secret activities that encouraged and taught inmates to use the power of music, poetry and painting to document and expose the façade of the "paradise ghetto."

Following the film, Stewart Bernstein, a producer of the documentary and JGSCV board member, will discuss the making of the documentary — the return to Terezin with a few survivors who were those young artists and poets participating in the underground classes and playing music in secret recitals. Stewart, has been in the entertainment industry for 30 years as a Producer, Director and Film Editor, and has twice been awarded National Emmys.

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

Are you interested in the relevance of DNA to genealogical research?
We hear more and more about the use of DNA in the pursuit of genealogy research. Can DNA testing really help in establishing if two individuals have a common ancestry? Can it provide information regarding genetic diseases?
You can check out current thinking by reference to an excellent article in the 6 February 2006 issue of Newsweek (p. 46 - 55). Also, refer to the National Geographic Society’s Genographic Project at https://www3.nationalgeographic.com/genographic/index.html and the relevance of DNA to Jewish genealogy at www.jewishgen.org/dna.
CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS:

JGSVC has initiated 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 five local cemeteries and record vital information of deceased individuals. If interested in assisting, please contact Frank Tessel at frank@jgscv.org.

This NEWSLETTER seeks material for publication
Send articles, tips, advice and questions related to genealogical research to the editor@jgscv.org

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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
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Dorothy Drilich, Secretary  secretary@jgscv.org  Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project  frank@jgscv.org
Stewart Bernstein, Speaker's Bureau  stewart@jgscv.org

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