VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 2, Issue 6 March 2007

President's message….

The JGSCV Board allocated $300 from your dues toward purchasing new books for the library. They are currently in the traveling library so you may use them at forthcoming meetings. The new books are:

--A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation and Migrations – Alexander Beider,

--A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia – Alexander Beider

--A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland – Alexander Beider,

--Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy, – Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff.

(See page 5 for holdings at our permanent library located at the Agoura Hills Library)

We spend your membership dues advisedly for the betterment of the Society. Dues are allocated towards copying of meeting handouts, publicity and, if required, speaker expenses to get to our meetings. JGSCV also made contributions in 2006 to:

--JewishGen which posts our monthly meeting notices on their discussion groups and provides support for many JGSCV members who use its fantastic resources,

--Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), in support of their Archive Project for genealogical work, and

--Temple Adat Elohim in appreciation for hosting our meetings

If you haven't renewed your JGSCV membership yet, or made the decision to join, this is the time to do so. See page 2 to get information on membership.

Our May meeting will focus on individual member stories of genealogical successes or failures. If you wish to participate please contact me (president@JGSCV.org).

Jan Meisels Allen

SPEAKER RANDY THOMPSON OF NARA

Randy Thompson of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) addressed JGSCV at our February meeting. Randy is an archivist located at the NARA regional office in Laguna Niguel, CA.

While NARA regional offices are mostly known for their availability of both US Census data as well as Naturalization records, the focus of this presentation was on lesser known resources including court records (e.g. bankruptcy case files, criminal and civil case files), Federal land records, and records of aliens from enemy countries during WWI and WWII. Also discussed were two specialized databases available for search on the NARA website (www.nara.org): Archival Research Catalog (ARC) and Access to Archival Databases (AAD) offering researchers access to a number of specialized files which have genealogical relevance.

27TH IAJGS CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY JULY 15-20, 2007 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

Don't forget to make your plans to attend the 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City. It will be a genealogical trip of a lifetime! Go to www.slc2007.org for more information.

SEE PAGE 4 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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.

2007 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 Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

Celebrate Jewish Genealogy Month by attending the next meeting of JGSCV and making a further commitment to exploring your family history.

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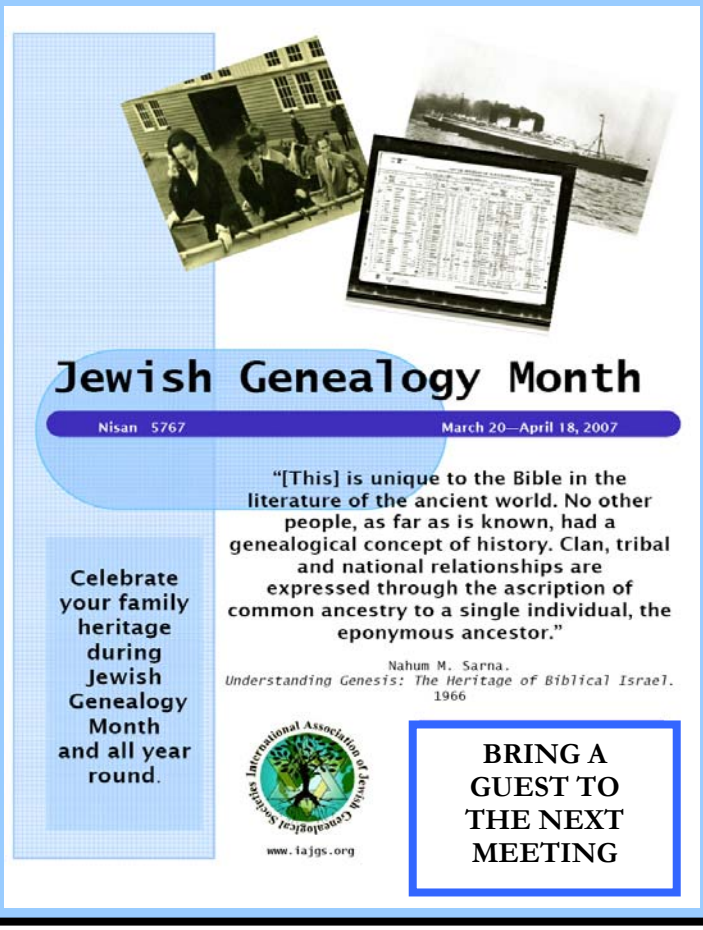

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS……

We are seeking volunteers to staff a committee devoted to outreaching to the community in order to further the objective of Yad Vashem (The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem) in completing Pages of Testimony (POT) on behalf of known victims of the Holocaust. JGSCV wishes to make community synagogues and other organizations aware of this effort to incorporate such names in the Shoah Victim's Database. If interested in joining such a committee please call President Jan Meisels Allen at 818-889-6616.

SPECIALIZED DATA BASE…..

Yad Vashem has uploaded a large set of scanned documents that were found in former USSR archives. The database is searchable and contains about 5 Million names of people from all the areas that were liberated by the Red Army. The database has a basic and advanced search engines and the documents are in PDF format. This information is an addition to the Shoah Victim's Database gathered from the Pages of Testimony. To get to the data base go to: www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/listoflist/?WT.mc_id=lolen

TRACING EMIGRATION FROM UK PORTS

It is now possible to trace ancestors emigrating from British ports to anywhere else in the world by searching online passenger lists. You may access the site at www.findmypast.com. Information was released by Britain's National Archives and the site is licensed by the Archives. By 2008, years 1890-1960 will be on-line; as of now the years of 1890-1909 are available. To access the site requires a no-fee registration. In order to obtain record details (ship's manifest, birth, marriage and deaths, census, military records etc) a charge is made. For ship records the researcher has the option to view (save/print) either an abstract or the actual ship's record.

CHECK JGSCV WEBSITE FOR RESOURCES

Be sure to recheck from time to time the RESOURCES link on our JGSCV website at www.jgscv.org for the latest information on genealogy related resources recommended for your research.

Coming to the Salt Lake City Conference? We need volunteers for the registration desk and other areas.
Spare two hours or more? Will train you. Contact jan@jgscv.org

Sources of Obituaries and Vital Records for New York City

(A FOLLOW UP TO THE JANUARY MEETING DEVOTED TO RESEARCHING NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES)

SOME ONLINE SOURCES OF NEWSPAPERS AND OBITUARIES

Contact information for New York City libraries with newspaper collections: www.jgsny2006.org/research.cfm

Brooklyn Eagle, 1841-1902 (full text of the newspaper) www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/index.htm

Links to death notices and obituaries in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island newspapers (older Long Island newspapers also covered Brooklyn and Queens): www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Newspaper/index.html

List of names of Brooklyn, etc. newspapers: www.rootsweb.com/~nynassa2/linewspaper.htm

New York State Newspapers on Microfilm at the New York State Library:
www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/city1.htm (click on a city);
www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/county1.htm (click on a county)

New York State Newspapers on Microfilm at all New York State Locations:
www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/city4.htm (click on a city);
www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/all/county4.htm (click on a county)

Early American Newspapers, Series I, (1690-1876) and NewspaperArchive Elite/Heritage Microfilm (available to members of Godfrey Memorial Library, www.godfrey.org). Read about it at www.readex.com/readex/ and www.heritagemicrofilm.com .

Newspapers on Microfilm at the Queens Public Library's Long Island Division, including Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens newspapers (older Long Island newspapers also covered Brooklyn and Queens): www.queenslibrary.org

Queens County Sentinel (marriage and death names and dates abstracted from the newspaper) www.nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/mainqueenscountysentinel.html

Index to the New-York Daily Tribune, 1875-1884, 1895 www.loc.gov/rr/news/news_research_tools/nytribindex.html

FINDING NEW YORK CITY BIRTH, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH RECORDS:

Contact information for obtaining death dates from wills and letters of administration from the Surrogate's (Probate) Court in each county in New York City www.jgsny2006.org/research.cfm

Links to Brooklyn (and Long Island) births www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Birth/index.html

Births from Queens County Sentinel www.nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/QUEENSBIRTH.html

Links to Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, etc. marriages www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Marriage/index.html

New York Marriage Records www.marriagedatabase.com/newyork/marriage-records.htm

Links to Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, etc. deaths www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Death/index.html

Online New York Death Records, Indexes, & Obituaries www.deathindexes.com/newyork/index.html

New York City groom index, bride index, and death index posted on the Italian Genealogical Group's and German Genealogy Group's websites (listed under "Births, Deaths, and other Vital Records") www.stevemorse.org

List of vital records at the Municipal Archives: www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/holdings.shtml
births: www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/birth.shtml
marriages: www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/marriage.shtml
deaths: www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/death.shtml

List of LDS Family History Library microfilms of New York City vital records and indexes www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/nycv-lds.html

Links to New York vital records www.worldvitalrecords.com/new-york-vital-records.htm

(Information compiled by Joy Rich, IAJGS Conference, NY 2006)

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

Meeting on Sunday, March 18, 2007 at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

"Navigating the New York and Federal Censuses with Fewer Tears…and More"

Joel Weintraub, Ph.D.

Census schedules are one of the most important resources for genealogists. The US census has been taken every 10 years since 1790. Many states, including New York State, have independent enumerations – (e.g.1905, 1915, and 1925) which are not online. In 1905, 1 out of 20 US residents and an estimated half of the US Jewish population lived in New York City – making these early 20th century censuses of vital interest to Jewish genealogists. Joel will discuss how the One-Step program created by Steve Morse is of critical help to genealogists in researching censuses.

Joel Weintraub is Professor Emeritus, Cal State University Fullerton. He became interested in genealogy several years ago and regularly volunteers at the National Archives. Working with Steve Morse of One-Step fame, he is responsible for database management for census conversion tables and searches on Steve Morse's website http://stevemorse.org. Dubbed the "Generic Dr. Morse," Joel's contributions to street finder aids for finding people on the census schedules have benefited all genealogists.

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

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

April 15, 2007: "There Once Was A Town" – award winning PBS documentary on a visit to an ancestral shtetl. In 1941 Nazis invaded the small town of Eishyshok, Poland (now Lithuania), and brutally murdered nearly all 3,500 Jewish residents. Fifty-six years after the massacre, four survivors and their families return to their childhood home led by Israeli scholar Yaffa Eliach.

May 6, 2007: "Genealogy In the Round: Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls." 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!

June 10, 2007: "Jewish Genealogy and DNA Testing" presented by Bennett Greenspan, president and founder FamilyTree DNA. The lecturer will explain how DNA is used for genealogy—what it can do for the modern genealogist and what it is unlikely to accomplish. Examples of DNA tests will be presented showing how a genealogist can look at the results and have a sound understanding how it is applies to your specific family for genealogy purposes. Both the Y (male) and the mitochrondrial (female) chromosomes will be discussed.

JGS Conejo Valley and Ventura County Library Holdings

Electronic Newsletters

Atsmi Uvsari (My Bone and My Flesh) JGS Utah No. 9, 10, 14, 15
Branches JGS Greater Miami Sept. 2005, Dec. 2005, March 2006, June 2006, Dec 2006
Chronicles JGS Greater Philadelphia Vol 25 #1 January 2007
Discovery JGS San Diego (CA) Vol 20 No.4 Fall 2005, Vol 21 #1 Winter 2006, 21#2 Spring 2006, Vol 21 # 4 Fall 2006)
Illinana Jewish Genealogical Society (Winter 2005-6; Spring 2006, Summer 2006, Winter 2006-7)
JGS-NYT JGS Denmark Vol 1 (4 issues) 2004; Vol 2 (3 issues) 2005 Vol 3 (2 issues)
Kosher Koala Australian Jewish Genealogical Society Vol. 12 # 4 Dec. 2005 Vol 13 #1 March 2006 VOl 13 # 2 June 2006
Looking Back JGS Tampa Bay (Vol 1 # 3&4 2005, 2 #1 Winter 2006; 2#2 Summer 2006, 2#3 Fall 2006)
Mishpacha JGS Greater Washington(Vol. 24 # 4- 2005, 25#1 2006, Vol 25 # 3 2006, #4 Fall 2006, Vol 26 #1 2007)
Mishpochology JGS Southwest Florida (Vol. 10 No. 3, 4 2005, Vol 11 #1 2006, #2 2006, #4 2006)
Montreal Forum JGS Montreal (Vol. 1-1 Sept. 2005; 1-2 December 2005, 3-4 June 2006)
Newsletter JGS Great Britain (#33 2005, # 34 2006, #35 2006, #36 2006, #37 2006, #38 2007)
Quest Newsletter of JGS of Connecticut
Scattered Seeds JGS Palm Beach County (#viii-3, Nov 06, #xiv-1 Feb 2007)
Toldot JGS Argentina (no. 26 July 2005, No. 27 November 2005, No. 28 April 2006)
Venturing Into Our Past JGS Conejo Valley & Ventura County (No#1. 1-12 2005-2006; #2 1-3 2006, #2 4-5 2007)
Zichron Note JGS San Francisco Bay Area # 25 N. 4 (November 2005), # 26 Nos 1-4 (2006)

Journals

Avotaynu:International Review of Jewish Genealogy (Vol 22 # 1 Spring 2006, #2 Summer 2006, #3 Fall 2006, #4 Winter 2006)
Dorot: Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society (NY) Vol 25 (#2 2003; #3-4 2004) #26 (#3 2005, # 4 2005/Vol 27 # 1 2005); Vol27 (# 2 2005-2006; # 3 2006)
Stammbaum, Journal of German-Jewish Genealogy (# 25, Summer 2004, #26 Winter 2005, #27 Summer 2005)
Ventura County Historical Society: Early Settlers (Early Jewish Families of Ventura County) Vol. 29 # 4 Summer 1984

Pamphlets

"Jewish Communities in Slovakia"- *Nase Rodina* Czechoslovak Genealogical Society, Dec. 2006
"Jewish Residents of San Buenaventura & Vicinity," Sue Silver, State Coordinator California Saving Graves, October 2005

Books

A Century of Ambivalence: The Jews of Russia and the Soviet Union 1881- present (1998), Zvi Gitelman
California: Earthquakes and Jews, Kramer, William, editor, 1995
Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy, Dan Rottenberg, Random House, 1977
Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area—Ed. Estelle Guzik, 2003, Jewish Genealogical Society
Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy, Gary Mokotff and Warren Blatt, Avotaynu, 2000
IAJGS Syllabus, 26th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, 2006
Jewish Heroes & Heroines: Their Unique Achievements, Darryl Lyman
Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance, Werner Frank, Avotaynu, 2003
My Destiny: Survivor of the Holocaust, Georgia Gabor, 1981, Amen Publishing Company
The Wayfarers. Tower, Stuart, Lighthouse Press 2003
Ventura County: Garden of the World, Ventura County Historical Society, 2002
Old Town, New Town: Enjoyment of San Diego Jewish History, Kramer, William, 1994

- **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: Joan Lerea and Rachelle Mikk

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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