President’s Letter:

According to feedback from attendees, our annual “Genealogy in the Round” meeting was very successful due to participants sharing a success or brick wall. It was a great meeting for interaction!

Jan Meisels Allen, Hal Bookbinder, Cookie Diamont, Werner Frank, Fred Land, David Oseas, Helene Rosen and Stephen Weinstein each provided intriguing and helpful insights into their genealogy techniques. (Photos right) Details of each presentation are on page 4.

Hal Bookbinder facilitated the schmoozing corner where you can discuss your brick wall or latest genealogical find. Remember to come to the meetings 15 minutes in advance to take advantage of this new feature.

Fred Land gave the book report on the book version of *Who Do You Think You Are?: The Essential Guide to Tracing Your Family History* by Megan Smolenyak. He found the book very helpful with citations of where to go and how to do research.

Temple Adat Elohim has given us the meeting dates through August 2011. Please see page 6 for the dates and mark your calendars. The Temple will stage a Chanukah Musical as they did in 2008 resulting in rehearsals on Sunday afternoons—in the sanctuary- contiguous to the Social Hall where JGSCV meets. To avoid “sound” conflict between our meeting and the rehearsals, JGSCV will be meeting on Monday nights at 7:00 PM for the months of October, November and December. All other meetings will be our usual Sunday afternoons beginning at 1:30 pm. We are delighted that the Temple continues to invite us back and co-hosts our programs. They are wonderful partners and we could not provide the programs without them.

We need a volunteer for the Publicity Committee. It only requires one hour a month of your time to send out meeting notices—but it must be done at a time specific to meet publication deadlines. You need to have Word on your computer as the meeting notices are created in Word. It only requires you to e-mail to a given list of organizations, and attach the meeting notice to the e-mail.

If you have not yet renewed your membership or joined JGSCV, please go to our website: [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) to print or download a membership form and complete and submit it. We really want **you** as members! The more members we have the stronger the society.

The Ventura County Fair is August 4-15th and the Ventura Family History Center will have a booth on genealogy and JGSCV has again been invited to participate. The volunteering at the booth is usually in 4-hour blocks- more on that with a follow-up e-mail. There will be a hobbies, models and collections competition with a special one for genealogy. For details see page 9.

The June 6th meeting features Schelly Talalay Dardashti, talking on “Current Trends and Recent Discoveries in Sephardi and Converso/Bnai Anousim* Research” which will also include a discussion of the current state of Hispanics with Jewish roots (Conversos) in several Southwestern states. *Converso/Bnai Anousim: Bnai Anousim is the Hebrew term; Converso the Spanish term for Jews who were forced to convert to Catholicism due to the Spanish Inquisition in the 15th Century. Schelly is a journalist, a top-10 genealogy blogger with her Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog [http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com](http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com)

Looking forward to seeing you on June 6th!

*Jan Meisels Allen*
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 special shelves at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email.

2010 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 the new/renewal membership form on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

UPDATED BRITISH MILITARY RECORDS

Findmypast.co.uk, a subscription website, has expanded its collection of British military records. The record set provides a listing of all Royal Marines who received medals for their service in World War I, including those awarded the 1914 Star, the Clasp to the 1914 Star, the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

The new addition contains records of over 75,000 Officers, NCOs and other ranks, the Royal Marine Medal Roll 1914-1920 comprises both transcripts and images of the original WW I Campaign Medal Rolls for the Royal Marines. The records include name, rank, service branch, service number and also an explanation and description of where or to whom the medals were issued.

Go to: www.findmypast.co.uk and click on military. Searching the site is free, but to view the records and download them does require payment. One may purchase "units" rather than a month or year long subscription.

RALPHS COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Ralphs Community Contribution program helps JGSCV with making contributions to us every quarter, based on the purchases made by participants in the program. Please visit our website under "notices" for the easy step-by-step instructions to register and have JGSCV benefit from your Ralphs purchases.

LANDSMANSHAFTN COLLECTIONS

Steve Lasky’s Museum of Family History reminds us that many of the ‘society’ records of our ancestors are available at the Lillian Goldman Reading Room within the Center for Jewish History (CJH), located inside the YIVO building at 15 West 16th St. in New York City. While an in-depth search may require a personal visit, you can get a detailed explanation of how to see if your ancestor’s town is listed as well as additional insights at http://tinyurl.com/384of7j

FAMILYSEARCH RELEASES RECORDS

FamilySearch announced it has released records containing 300 million names that can be researched online. The records include information from birth, marriage and death records, census records, census lists, migration and naturalization records and family trees that were submitted to Family Search, and more. The temporary website for the database is: http://fsbeta.familysearch.org/ Click on all collections to see what is available as you search.

“IMMIGRANT NUMBER ONE”

Anne Moore was the highly celebrated first arrival when Ellis Island opened in 1872. Author Jesse Green recounts her debarkation from the S.S. Nevada . . . and the mystery behind her life in America. Read the story in the recent New York Magazine: http://tinyurl.com/3yxaq8w

FREE FOOTNOTE NEWSPAPER DATABASE

For the remainder of May only, Footnote is allowing free access to its digitized newspaper collection. A basic (free) registration is required. Go to http://tinyurl.com/2wqtlw2

FAMILY TREE MAKER FOR MAC IN 2010

Users of Apple’s Macintosh computers will be happy to know FamilyTree Maker will be available in a MAC version in 2010. No date was announced.

2010 IAJGS CONFERENCE IN LOS ANGELES

Mark your calendars! July 11-16, 2010 -- the 30th IAJGS Conference will be hosted by JGSLA and held at the JW Marriott Hotel at LA Live near the Staples Center in downtown LA. The JGSLA website is up at: http://www.jgsla2010.com/ Conference registration is open and hotel reservations can be made now.

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

Sunday, June 6, 2010 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks
"Current Trends and Recent Discoveries in Sephardi and Converso/Bnai Anousim* Research"

In addition to discussing the current trends and recent discoveries in Sephardic Judaism, the program will also include a discussion of the current state of Hispanics with Jewish roots (Conversos) in several Southwestern states. Sometimes termed "hidden Jews," these very private and secretive families rarely talk to researchers.

Speaker: Schelly Talalay Dardashti, is a journalist, a top-10 genealogy blogger (Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com), online genealogy instructor and international speaker. A native New Yorker now based in Tel Aviv her personal and professional interests cover Ashkenazi, Sephardi and DNA genetic genealogy as well as Spain, Iran, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, Russia and more.

*Converso/Bnai Anousim: Bnai Anousim is the Hebrew term; Converso the Spanish term for Jews who were forced to convert to Catholicism due to the Spanish Inquisition in the 15th Century.

2010 JGSCV Meeting Dates
All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

June 6 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM
Schelly Talalay Dardashti, “Trends and Discoveries in Sephardi and Converso/Mnai Anousim Research”

June 27 Sun. 1:30-4:15 PM
Daniel Horowitz, “Genealogical Resources in Latin America” and “Genealogy Super Search Engine”

August 1 1:30-3:30 PM
Erwin Joos, "One Foot in America, the Jewish Emigrants of the Red Star Line"

Meeting dates through 2011 on page 6
Jan Meisels Allen reported on how she was able to find and use a National Archives (NARA) repository of captured German World War II photographs of her shtetls. Information on where to write and obtain the photographs is listed on page 5.

Hal Bookbinder reported on the methodology he used to track down missing classmates for his upcoming high school reunion. Twelve of the 117 class members, were “missing”— to date he found 11 of the 12. Hal used websites such as 411.com and Classmates.com to find information on where they went to college, or professional designations that aided him in his search. For “uncommon” surnames he searched for anyone with that name to find relatives of the missing classmate who might direct him to the person. If he had a birth date he found the birth date facility on Steve Morse’s website (www.stevemorse.org) very helpful.

Cookie Diamont related how her mother-in-law never talked about her holocaust experience. Cookie and her husband Mark learned about his mother's time in Dachau from documents that Peter Landé, provided from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum. The Diamont’s met Peter when he spoke to JGSCV in June 2009. Sandy Lebman, a member of their synagogue in Ventura, was just honored as one of the American Liberators of the concentration camps. He was the first American soldier to enter Dachau and liberated her mother-in-law—which they only learned of in April 2010 when Sandy was being honored by their synagogue for being one of the American liberators of concentration camps!

Werner Frank talked about Yad Vashem’s Pages of Testimony project which is aspiring to document 6 million Jews murdered in the holocaust—currently they have documentation on just over 3 million. He submitted information for Pages of Testimony on 493 people from his extended family genealogy of about 32,000. Werner was able to use reports generated from Family Tree Maker to export the required data elements into an excel file creating one table which he provided to Yad Vashem. As a result of his submission of his family information to the Pages of Testimony project, he was recently contacted by two different people resulting in adding more names to his family tree and “meeting” both direct and indirect relatives.

Fred Land related how the Sarah Jessica Parker episode of Who Do You Think You Are? led him to finding relatives due to this episode mentioning the name “Barker” (a name on his maternal family tree). Fred researched the name on the New England Genealogical and Biographical Society website, which he then joined. He also found on his father's (Jewish) side through documents on the NEGBS website, a previously unknown baby which died in infancy, and obtained the death certificate through www.pilot.familysearch.org resulting in finding additional family members buried in the same cemetery—albeit with a different surname spelling. Remember spellings vary!

David Oseas presented features of Google Maps and Google Earth, including “my maps” feature. The presentation included showing how he mapped where his great grandfather found residences in the US. He recommended using “pdf creator” a free program which aides in putting information from web browsers information into a pdf.

Helene Rosen related the story of the Alexander Family and her great, great, great grandmother. Her adventure took her to asking for a cookbook from the town in Texas, being published by the town's historical society, and in the cookbook she found photos of her family.

Stephen Weinstein related the experiences of his great grandfathers’ occupations reflected on today’s job hunting and changing occupations due to a changing economy.
THE SCHMOOZING CORNER was led by JGSCV Board Member Hal Bookbinder who fielded genealogy questions from JGSCV members like Judy Pine and Stephen Weinstein. Remember, you can find The Schmoozing Corner on the right as you enter the meeting room at Temple Adat Elohim; near the front of the room. Werner Frank will be facilitating on June 6. The Schmoozing Corner is open for 15 minutes immediately prior to the start of the meeting. Look for the sign up front.

CORRECTION: It was incorrectly reported that the IAJGS Conference, hosted by JGSLA, July 11-16 at the J.W. Marriott at LA Live, offers companion registration to two people in the same household. The companion registration is only for spouses and domestic partners who reside in the same household.

Traveling Library Books classification A and C will be at the June meeting. Visit our website at www.jgscv.org under library traveling for the list of books in these categories.

Here are some interesting background facts about “Who Do You Think You Are?” according to Anastasia Tyler, a research coordinator for the show: More than 20 trees were researched before settling on the final 7 due to schedules. A core of 30 genealogists —aided by many back up helpers—worked on the series. It took more than 425 hours of research to create each show. Filming the seven episodes took 9.5 months.

For WWII aerial photographs of European shtetls as presented by Jan Meisels Allen at JGSCV’s May 2 meeting, email carto@nara.gov and include the latitude and longitude of the shtetl (from either jewishgen.org/shtetlseeker or mapquest.com. You may choose to send your request via the US Post Office (Jan did both) at NARA/Cartographic and Architectural Research Branch (NWDNC)/Third Floor/8601 Adelphi Road/College Park/MD/20740. Be sure to list all variations of the spelling of the shtetl. Once found, you will have the choice of either selecting (and paying) a NARA contracted photographer to copy and forward the photos to you or having receiving them on a CD in a TIFF format.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President  president@jgscv.org  Steward Bernstein, Member-at-large stewart@jgscv.org
Warren Blatt, Member Education  education@jgscv.org  Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman information@jgscv.org
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary  secretary@jgscv.org  Werner Frank, Member-at-large werner@jgscv.org
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*********************************************************
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Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616
Website: www.jgscv.org
The New JW Marriott Hotel at L.A. LIVE

Something for all Genealogists -

How-to Sessions for everyone from newcomers to experts
Computer Classes for beginners through advanced
More than 130 speakers and over 250 programs
Jewish Film Festival and Programs on Yiddish theatre, klezmer music, vaudeville and Hollywood
Day trips to historic LA neighborhoods
And much, much more

To register and learn more visit:
www.jgsla2010.com

Registration is open for the 30th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Los Angeles from July 11-16. It is also possible to make hotel reservations from the conference site
http://www.jgsla2010.com
Conference Registration Fees are:
• Regular Registration (May 1-June 30, 2010):-Full-$310; spouse/domestic partner-$210
• On-Site Registration: Full-$340; spouse/domestic partner-$230
• Daily Registration Sunday (includes keynote and opening reception): $105; Monday-Thursday $85 per day; Friday morning $45
To be eligible for spouse/domestic partner registration, both parties must reside in the same household

FUTURE MEETING DATES . . .
Monday, Oct. 4 7-9PM (JGSCV’s 5th Anniversary)          Monday, Nov. 8 7-9PM
Monday, Dec. 6 7-9PM (Chanukah and Membership Renewal Party)   Sunday, Jan. 8, 2011 1:30-3:30PM
Sunday, Feb. 13 1:30-3:30PM                                          Sunday, March 6 1:30-3:30PM
Sunday, April 3 1:30-3:30PM                                         Sunday, May 1, 1:30-3:30PM
Sunday, June 5 1:30-3:30PM                                         Sunday, July 10 1:30-3:30PM

NOTE: No meeting August 2011 as 31st IAJGS Conference will be hosted by JGS Greater Washington August 14-19 in Washington, DC
JGSCV Presenters at The 30th IAJGS
International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Los Angeles, California  July 11-16, 2010

WARREN BLATT:

(1) Jewish Given Names from Avram to Zlata
   Sunday July 11, 11:00AM-12:15PM

(2) Introduction to JewishGen’s Databases: A Beginner’s Guide
   Monday, July 12, 10:45AM-12:00PM

(3) JewishGen LIVE at L.A. LIVE
   Tuesday, July 13, 7:15PM-8:30PM

(4) Jewish Surnames from Abramowitz to Zeidler
   Friday, July 16, 9:15AM-11AM

Warren Blatt, founding member and board member of JGSCV, is the Managing Director of JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org), an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. He is the author of Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area (Boston: Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston, 1996) and co-author of Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy (Avotanu, 1999). Warren was chair of the 15th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy. In 2004 he was awarded the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award.

A recognized expert of Jewish names, Warren will share his research and insights of given names on Sunday and surnames on Friday. First, learn why our ancestors had many different given names and nicknames resulting in unique Jewish genealogical challenges at Jewish Given Names from Avram to Zlata. This Sunday session will describe how to recognize given names in genealogical sources by including religious and secular names; name origins; patronymics; Ashkenazic naming traditions; statistics; spelling and more.

What better way to learn the basics of JewishGen than through its Managing Director’s presentation: Introduction to JewishGen’s Databases: A Beginner’s Guide. Warren will describe the most popular databases like JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF), JewishGen Communities Database, the Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) and JewishGen Discussion Group message archives. Participants in this session will get step-by-step direction for using JewishGen’s online databases to access data from more than 450,000 towns and surnames. JewishGen LIVE at L.A. LIVE will describe what’s new at JewishGen.org.

Jewish Surnames from Abramowitz to Zeidler is a ‘must attend’ session for learning all about surnames. Warren will explain their origins, types and etymologies as well as their transformation upon immigration. And, you will learn which Jewish surnames are most common in the U.S. Eastern Europe and Israel.

ATTN JGSCV MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:
If you are attending the conference banquet on Thursday July 15th (additional fee, not included in registration) and would like to sit at a JGSCV table, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org.
The objective of this talk is to make the Jewish genealogical researchers aware of the existence and importance of the virtual Jewish community in Germany. This talk will provide examples of noteworthy projects and available databases due to non-Jewish German researchers who contribute to the quest for Jewish family information having genealogical value. In addition, references will be provided of key German contributors to the GERSIG Discussion Group who are always helpful to those of us conducting genealogical research.

Today there are two Jewish communities flourishing in Germany, a real community and a virtual community. The real Jewish community is approaching 200,000 individuals, primarily immigrants of Russian origin, for the most part uninformed Jews with some even questionably Jewish. These Russian Jews have no historical roots in Germany and hence no penchant for pursuing or promoting local Jewish genealogical research.

There is also a virtual Jewish community comprised of philo-Jews, a cadre of German gentiles who quietly operate in almost all cities and towns, universities and gymnasium. While there is no formal connection between these geographically separated individuals, they share a remarkable similar program of recalling and attempting to reinstate the once present (ehemaligen) Jewish communities through reconstruction of institutions such as synagogues and cemeteries, as well as fostering Jewish cultural expression despite the absence of any Jews. This group, toiling for the most part in obscurity, seeks to identify and memorialize the once local historical Jewish presence and thereby offers great hope and assistance to contemporary Jewish genealogists who are pursuing their personal family history in Ashkenaz. For example, there is a Jewish Genealogical Society of Hamburg founded by non Jewish Germans. Another noteworthy example is the extraordinary website focusing on the history of Jewish life in Baden-Württemberg and neighboring areas of the southwest portion of Germany at www.alemannia-judaica.de/index.htm.

There is a remarkable difference between Jewish genealogists who pursue their family origin in Eastern Europe versus Western Europe. The former group outweighs the latter by an order of magnitude on every count. For example, the programs offered by the annual International Jewish Genealogical Conference favors overwhelmingly the interests of researchers dealing with Eastern Europe. This group of like-minded genealogists are also better organized with special interest groups and focused Internet sites, the most exemplary being the Jewish Records Indexing Poland (JRI POLAND) at www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl which has embraced projects compiling a variety of databases dealing with vital records, census and cemetery data and the publication of scores of Yizkor books.

In contrast, the researchers dealing with Western European family histories pursue their interests in a more personal and disjointed manner, with far less identification with a local community. This difference is most vividly seen in the passion by East European researchers for their Shtetl (e.g. ShtetLinks, SchtetlSchleppers at www.jewishgen.org), as contrasted with the Western European researcher’s detachment.
WHEN TO ENTER:
Friday, July 30
Saturday, July 31
Sunday, August 1
10AM-5PM

JUDGED:
TUESDAY AUGUST 3

WHEN TO PICK UP
ENTRIES:
Monday, August 16
9AM-7PM

Exhibits must remain in place for the duration of the Fair. All items not claimed on Monday, August 16 become the property of the Ventura County Fair and will be disposed of.

DEPARTMENT RULES

1. Competition is limited to residents of the Tri-County area of Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles.
2. Adult exhibitors shall be 18 years of age or older.
   A junior exhibitor shall be designated in the following age group at time of entry:
   i. 6, 7, 8, 9 years
   ii. 10, 11, 12, 13 years
   iii. 14, 15, 16, 17 years
3. Hobbies and Models: Limit two (2) entries per class.
   Collections: Limit two (2) entries. One (1) entry per class.
4. No Tinker Toys, Lincoln Logs or magnets will be accepted.
5. Entries will be accepted in classes for 'All other' only when the item represents a substantial difference from the entries for which separate classes are offered.
6. No article will be entered in more than one class.
7. No entry that has won a first place in prior fair may be entered for competition.
8. All entries in competition must be constructed or assembled by the individual under whose name they are entered.
9. Non-competitive displays may be entered in any Division or Class as space allows and so noted on entry form.
10. A card or label no larger than 3”x5” should be used to explain special details, research, history, etc. of the model or collection. Exhibitor’s name shall not be placed anywhere on display or card.
11. Two or more entries must compete against each other for designated premiums. If there is only one entry in a class, a point system as indicated, will be used to award the premium.
12. All school project Dioramas must be entered in the Youth Expo Building along with California Missions.
13. Working train layouts must have prior approval of Fair Management for size of layout. Call: (805) 443-0673.

POINT SYSTEM

First Place  86-100 points (Blue Ribbon)
Second Place 71-85 points (Red Ribbon)
Third Place 55-70 points (White Ribbon)
Fourth Place below 55 points (Pink Ribbon)

ADULT DIVISIONS

Premiums offered per class:

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DIVISION 712 GENEALOGY

Entries must be ready for hanging. Charts should be no larger than 24”x36”. Charts must have no less than 4 generations. To reserve a case for class 7 call Superintendent: (805) 443-0673. Reservations accepted May 25-June 30, 2010.

Class:
1. Family Pedigree Chart, needlework
2. Family Pedigree Chart, Painted, Calligraphy, Watercolor or Stamped
3. Family Pedigree Chart, all other
4. Family Heirloom, 75 years or older
5. Family Portrait/Photograph, 75 years or older
6. Historical Photograph or Document, 75 years or older.
7. Family Heirloom Collection, over 75 years (must consist of no less than 5 items and should include a variety of the above classes
8. Family History Story (1 facing page, font size 14 or 16 no more than 250 words. NO surnames may show in story)
9. All other