



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 6, Issue 3

December, 2010

President's Letter:

On November 8, over 70 attendees were treated to the comprehensive and educational presentation on *Polish-Jewish Genealogy* with Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen.org, an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and a founding member and board member of JGSCV! Warren's handout and list of on-line slides is available on the JGSCV website: www.jgscv.org under meetings, prior with the meeting date. The excellent presentation reviewed the need to know Polish spellings, Yiddish and secular names, the history of Poland's geography and its partitions, where to find vital records and more. Before WWII, Poland had the world's largest Jewish population, today the largest Jewish population is in the United States.

In lieu of the monthly book report, Phoebe Frank, founding member of JGSCV gave a brief presentation on *Preserving Heirlooms for Future Generations*: How she took a family heirloom—a challah cover—and reproduced it for current and future generations. An article by Phoebe on that may also be accessed on the JGSCV website under "newsletters"[Nov].

The schmoozing corner was facilitated by Werner Frank.

Werner Frank, a member of the Nominations Committee, announced the Committee recommendations for the four board positions, and called for nominations from the floor. With no additional nominees, nominations were closed and the Committee's recommendations will stand for election by acclamation at our December 6 meeting. See page 2 for candidate biographies.

JGSCV webmaster, David Oseas, updated the libraries and resources section on the website—take a look!

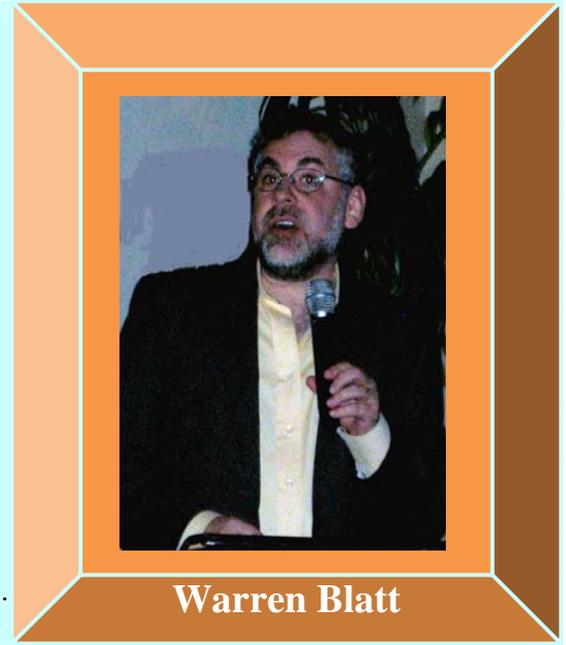
Our 2011 membership renewal drive is well on its way with over 1/3 of the members already having renewed their membership! A renewal/new membership form is on page 8. Your dues pay for our library, speaker travel costs, honorariums when required, and more... We need your dues to continue providing outstanding programs and services! As in past years, those who join or renew between October and our December 6 meeting **and** attend our December 6 meeting are eligible to have their name drawn for great genealogical gifts. We have gifts donated from Ancestry.com, Family Tree Magazine, Footnote, Legacy, Roots Magic and more!

Looking for a Chanukah gift? JGSCV will provide a lovely Chanukah certificate made out to the person of your choice when you purchase a gift JGSCV membership.

Remember to sign up for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. Ralphs requires annual registration on their website www.ralphs.com. Sign in and scroll down to community contribution. JGSCV is number 84732 that you insert under charity of choice. Even as an occasional Ralphs' shopper it helps JGSCV with no cost to you!

Our December 6 meeting is on a topic many of you requested—"Genetic Genealogy Demystified -- Understanding and Interpreting Your DNA Results" with Elise Friedman, JewishGen's DNA Projects Coordinator, who also manages several DNA studies through Family Tree DNA. Elise is a professional genealogist, specializing in Jewish genealogy, genetic genealogy, and technology.

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors, have a Happy Chanukah. We are looking forward to seeing you at the December 6 meeting—remember it is Monday night at 7:00 PM- but come 30 minutes early to use the traveling library. The schmoozing corner begins 15 minutes before the meeting.



Warren Blatt

Jan Meisels Allen

FUTURE MEETINGS NOTICES PAGES 5, 7

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.

2011 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.

BOARD NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

Debra Kay-Blatt

Debra Kay-Blatt is a founding member of JGSCV. She has been searching her roots for over ten years. In addition to giving presentations at annual IAJGS conferences over the last five years on JewishGen and Polish research, she has been a volunteer for JewishGen, JRI-Poland, and a contributor to the Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal.

Sara Hyman

Sara Hyman is a Mission Assurance Manager at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. A native Angelino, she graduated from Fairfax High and UCLA. She has been working on her own family history with her sister, Marsha Hyman Rapp, who lives in Israel, for the past several years, and together they have managed to contact most known branches of the family. Sara served on the JGSLA Board of Directors for one year, and has acted as the Layout Editor for *Roots-Key* for the past 3 years. Earlier in her life, she was active in Science Fiction conventions and served as the Treasurer for Aquacon (a non-profit group that put on 2 conventions in the Southland). Sara has been a member of JGSCV since August 2009.

Helene Rosen

Helene Rosen is the membership vice president and a founding member of the JGSCV and was an active participant during the JGSCV cemetery project. Helene wrote articles for JGSCV's *Venturing Into Our Past* on finding a relative in Australia and using Steve Morse's site to find her grandmother's steamship record. On several occasions, she has presented her research findings during JGSCV's *Genealogy in the Round* meetings. Her family tree contains over 1250 names. She is a graduate of UCLA, has worked for the County of Los Angeles in data processing, and is the mother of three fine young men.

Marion Werle

Marion Werle has been researching family from Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus for over fifteen years. She has served on the board of JGSLA and is a past president of the Latvia SIG. She has written articles for *Avotaynu* and *RootsKey*, and published a review of her research on her Latvian family in the *FEFFHS Journal*. Marion has recently embarked on a long-range project to scan, organize and restore her family photos, and is also documenting her past research. Her professional background is in IT, although her degrees in European history and library science have been helpful in enhancing her genealogical research skills. She has been a member of JGSCV since July 2009.

JEWISHGEN OFFERS SHTETLINKS COURSE

If you have basic computer skills, you can create a shtetl web page. JewishGen's course will provide the tools and insights required to create your own Shtetlinks site allowing you to share genealogical materials online.

The free, downloadable web page editor is compatible with all versions of Windows as well as Mac OS X 10.2 or later making it possible for virtually everyone to use it.

If you can devote 4-5 hours per week for reading and practical design, click on 'enroll' at www.jewishgen.org/education Course begins December 1st! There is a \$36 tuition charge.

If you have any questions email:

JewishGen-Education@lyris.JewishGen.org

“WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE” TO RETURN TO NBC’S LINEUP

Along with several other mid-season replacements, NBC announced the return of *Who Do You Think You Are* on Friday Jan. 21 at 8PM. Details to come.

1927 CZERNOWITZ DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

An additional 18,754 records from 1927 have been added to the existing Czernowitz directory database. The total is now 109,509 and may be accessed at <http://czernowitz.blogspot.com/> .

Researching Holocaust Victims



Henny Moed Roth

Henny Moed Roth, a holocaust survivor, and member of JGSLA, has offered the following service to JGSCV: Henny will look up names in the following four volume set of books *Mecheln-Auschwitz 1942-1944* which deals with the destruction of the Jews and gypsies from Belgium from the *SSSammellager* in the Dossin Barracks in Mecheln to Auschwitz, during the German occupation 1940-1945. From 1942 until 1944 the Dossin Barracks were used as a transit camp for Jews and gypsies from Belgium and the North of France, assembled there to set out on their journey of no return to Auschwitz. The books are written in English, French, and Dutch.

<http://tinyurl.com/2dtbtpg>

Book I deals with the Kazern/Caserne Dossin in Mechelen/Malines (Belgium), the German occupation, the various raids, and the history of each of the 29 transports to Auschwitz-Birkenau, Oswiecim, Poland.

Book II and Book III singles out one or two families in each transport, followed by photos of most of the people making up each transport. Married women are shown next to their husband in those instances when both were in the same convoy.

Book IV lists alphabetically by last name each individual transported on the convoys. It gives their place and date of birth and gives their concentration camp number, only available if they were not immediately sent to their death upon arrival at Auschwitz-Birkenau. NOTE: married women are listed under their maiden names. It also shows the rare instances when the persons survived the war. If women were picked up singly or were widows, of course, husbands are not shown.

If you wish to ask Henny to look up names for you please contact her directly at: hennynow@pacbell.net



**DON'T FORGET, JGSCV MEMBERSHIPS
MAKE GREAT CHANUKAH GIFTS!**

JGSCV UPDATES . . .



Look for the SCHMOOZING CORNER sign (left) where you will find a JGSCV expert who can help you overcome a genealogical brick



wall or maybe just answer a question. Werner Frank helps Janet Fishman (left in photo, right) attending her first JGSCV meeting on Nov. 8th. The Schmoozing Corner is open for 15 minutes immediately prior to the start of the meeting. Hal Bookbinder will be the facilitator on Dec. 6th.



- ### Agenda
- Introduction
 - History and Border Changes
 - Finding Your Ancestral Town
 - Polish Language and Names
 - Vital Records in Poland
 - Mormon (LDS) Microfilms
 - Special Interest Groups
 - Other Sources

Topics covered by Warren Blatt (left) during his talk on Polish-Jewish Genealogy.



Traveling Library Books classification A and B will be at the December 6th meeting. Visit our website at www.jgscv.org under library traveling for the list of books in these categories.

JGSCV member Stephen Weinstein has created a game for amateur genealogists to compete in solving real family history challenges. At <http://tinyurl.com/33ck5ek> you will find instructions on how to play and win. Ask him about it at the next meeting.



This month's book report will be given by Werner Frank on the book "From the Golden Gate to the Black Forest: The Odyssey of a New American in Search of His Parents' Fate" by Louis Maier.

Monique Sperling (left in photo, right) enjoying the refreshments at her first JGSCV meeting before hearing Warren Blatt speak on Polish genealogy.



Left, Phoebe Frank describing how her 'challah cover' project grew from a germ of an idea into preserving a family heirloom for future generations. (See last month's newsletter for more details.)



Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*

(* and surrounding areas)

Monday, December 6, 2010 7:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim

2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

"Genetic Genealogy Demystified -- Understanding and Interpreting Your DNA Results"

Genetic genealogy is a cutting-edge tool that genealogists have been using to supplement traditional genealogy research for the last 10 years. Using DNA for genealogy may seem daunting at first, but you definitely do not have to be a geneticist to make use of this great tool. Join us to learn about the major types of genealogical DNA tests in use today, the genetics behind them, how to read your results, and how to use those results to identify genealogical connections.



Speaker: Elise Friedman, is a professional genealogist, specializing in Jewish genealogy, genetic genealogy, and technology. Ms. Friedman is very active in the field of genetic genealogy, where she volunteers as JewishGen's (www.jewishgen.org) DNA Projects Coordinator, manages several DNA studies through Family Tree DNA, and co-authored a genetic genealogy case study that was published in the *AVOTAYNU* and *FORUM* genealogy journals. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and the International Society of Genetic Genealogy.

And don't forget, everyone who has joined or renewed their JGSCV membership for 2011 is eligible for a drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes. You must be present to win! Light refreshments will be served celebrating Chanukah and our membership drive.

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.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.

year's top 40 are listed here <http://tinyurl.com/2ugr7kn> and you can nominate your favorite for next year here <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VWJZHKC>

Once again, Family Tree Magazine will be compiling votes for the Best Genealogy Blogs: *The Fab Forty*. Last

year's top 40 are listed here <http://tinyurl.com/2ugr7kn> and you can nominate your favorite for next year here <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VWJZHKC>

31st IAJGS Conference Call For Papers



The 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by JGSGW has opened the call for papers. The conference will be held August 14-19, 2011 in Washington DC at the Grand Hyatt Washington DC. The website is www.dc2011.org. Anyone interested in presenting a paper should select the "Call for Papers" tab on the left side of the conference website; read the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) before selecting "Submit a Proposal" to begin the process. Each person may submit up to 8 proposals. The conference committee suggests that the required bio and program description should be written on a word processor with spell-check, then copied and pasted into the submission software.

Alice Herz-Sommer

Considered to be the oldest living holocaust survivor, Alice Herz-Sommer will be 107 years old on November 26th. To learn her story, celebrate her life, listen to her play the piano and send her birthday wishes, visit <http://www.nickreedent.com/>



From . . .

Museum of Family History

“It seems that the organization that runs Montefiore Cemetery (St. Albans/Springfield Gardens, Queens County, NY) has redone their website which now includes a searchable database. It has done the same for its sister cemetery, New Montefiore, in Pinelawn, Suffolk County, NY. Just use the links below and click on the "Locator" link at the top of the page to begin searching. You should know that the databases have only been online for about two months. They still have plenty of burials to enter and there is still some tweaking to do, so be patient. Search now for people of interest, and if you can't find them on the database, try again at periodic intervals when the databases might be updated.

The searchable fields include first name and last name, month and year of death. The search results include first name, last name, age and date of death, grave location and society name.

Here are the links:

Montefiore Cemetery: <http://tinyurl.com/29t8wky>

New Montefiore Cemetery: <http://tinyurl.com/2ffp6fn>

You might be better off using the link www.montefiores.com/index.html, and simply click on the photo of either cemetery office which will take you to the particular cemetery's website.”

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

Christine Goodman Nuttall

Paula Osterbrink

Israel and Beth Perel

2010-11 JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

2010

December 6 – MONDAY, 7-9 PM, **Elise Friedman**, Genetic Genealogy Demystified: Understanding and Interpreting Your DNA Results. AND, Annual Chanukah Party and Membership Renewal Party.

2011

January 9 – SUNDAY, 1:30-3:30 PM, Authors! Authors! Authors! Five JGSCV members speak about books they have written: **Warren Blatt, Werner Frank, Erica Miller (including signing), Helene Rosen and Mark Abbott Stern**

February 13 – SUNDAY, 1:30-3:30 PM, **Hal Bookbinder**, Why Did Our Ancestors Leave A Nice Place Like the Pale?

March 6 – SUNDAY, 1:00 -5:00PM, **Exclusive Research Day at the LA Family History Library**

Future Programs TBD (ALL SUNDAY 1:30-3:30 PM): April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10

NOTE: No meeting August 2011 as 31st IAJGS Conference will be hosted by JGS Greater Washington August 14-19 in Washington, DC

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Stewart 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
Fred Land, Treasurer	treasurer@jgscv.org	Allan Linderman, Newsletter Editor	newslettereditor@jgscv.org
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David Oseas, Webmaster: webmaster@jgscv.org Raya Sagi, Librarian: librarian@jgscv.org
Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616
Website: www.jgscv.org



2011 Membership/Renewal Form
Jewish Genealogical Society of the
Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*

*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2011

Check one:

This is a New Membership_____ Renewal_____

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 when it recognizes 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 payable to JGSCV and send with this completed form to:

**Helene Rosen
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Please tell us what talents you can share (language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.).



Military service records are among the most often requested records at The National Archives. They are valuable genealogical tools. Most veterans and their next of kin can obtain free copies of military and medical records as well as the Report of Separation either through (1) NARA's eVetRecs system or (2) by postal mail or fax using Standard Form SF-180.

eVetRecs System

For a **military veteran**, or next of kin of a **deceased**, former member of the military

- The **next of kin** can be any of the following: surviving spouse that has not remarried, father, mother, son, daughter, sister, or brother.

If you are **not** the veteran or next of kin, you must complete the [Standard Form 180](#) (SF 180). See [Access to Military Records by the General Public](#) for more details.

How to Initiate a Request for Military Personnel Records:

1. Click on the "Request Military Records" button at <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/>
2. Enter the required information in the system to create your customized request form. There are 4 steps that you need to navigate. The system will guide you through the steps and tell you exactly which step you are on.
3. In Step 2 of the on-line request form, you will be asked to make selections from drop down menus about the nature of the request and the types of documents you are requesting. If these menus do not include the items you wish to request (for example, "all documents in the Official Military Personnel File"), you will have the opportunity to expand your request in the **Comments section in Step 3**. If you want to request multiple items from the menu selections in Step 2 (such as "Outpatient Treatment Records", "Inpatient Treatment Records", and "Mental Health Clinic Records"), choose one of the items from the menu and then use the **Comments section in Step 3** to ask for the additional documents. Please do NOT create multiple, separate requests for each of the menu selections available in Step 2 as that may delay the handling of your request.
4. **Print, sign and date** the signature verification area of your customized form. If you don't have a printer, have a pen and paper handy and we will guide you through the process. This is important because the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) requires that all requests for records and information be submitted in writing. **Each request must be signed and dated by the veteran or next of kin.**
5. **If you are the next of kin of a deceased veteran**, you must provide proof of death of the veteran such as a copy of death certificate, letter from funeral home, or published obituary.
6. Mail or fax your signature verification form (with proof of death, when applicable) to us, and we will process your request. **You must do this within the first 20 days of entering your request**, or your request will be removed from our system.

Postal Mail or Fax Using SF-180

1. **There are several ways to obtain an SF-180. You can:**
 - a. **Download and print a copy of the SF-180 in PDF format at <http://tinyurl.com/7t72o>**
 - b. **[Contact Us](#) (NARA) to order the form through the mail.**
 - c. **Write to The National Personnel Records Center**
9700 Page Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63132

You may also be able to obtain the SF-180:

- d. From Federal Information Centers
- e. From [local Veterans Administration offices](#)
- f. From veterans service organizations

Forms may be copied. Please submit a separate SF 180 for each individual whose records are being requested.

2. Write a Letter to Request Records

If you are not able to obtain SF-180, you may still submit a request for military records. Requests must contain enough information to identify the record among the more than 70 million on file at NPRC (MPR). Certain basic information is needed to locate military service records. This information includes:

- The veteran's complete name used while in service
- [Service number or social security number](#)
- Branch of service
- Dates of service
- Date and place of birth may also be helpful, especially if the service number is not known
- If the request pertains to a record that may have been involved in the [1973 fire](#), also include:
 - Place of discharge
 - Last unit of assignment
 - Place of entry into the service, if known.
- While this information is not required, it is extremely helpful to NPRC staff in understanding and fulfilling your request:
 - The **purpose or reason** for your request, such as applying for veterans benefits, preparing to retire, or researching your personal military history.
 - Any **deadlines** related to your request. We will do our best to meet any priorities. For example, you may be applying for a VA-guaranteed Home Loan and need to provide proof of military service by a specific date.
 - Any other specific information, documents or records you require from your Official Military Personnel File (OMPF) besides your Report of Separation (DD Form 214).

Please submit a separate request (either SF 180 or letter) for each individual whose records are being requested.