



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

December, 2011

Volume 7 Issue 3

Every 18-24 months JGSCV schedules a 'How to Begin Your Genealogy' program that offers our members and those interested in starting genealogy, an opportunity to become familiar with research methodology and techniques for their own genealogy research. November 7th was such a program which I presented. Based on the many questions at the end, it was well received. We had at least 8 first timers including members of the new Brandeis Genealogy Club headed by JGSCV's own Sue Geiger! Welcome!



JGSCV President Jan Meisels Allen

Topics covered in the presentation included: Expulsion of Jews from European countries [one has to know where the ancestors lived in order to find the records], Pale of Settlement, Napoleon's requirement to keep vital records and conduct censuses, timelines, US vital records, alternative records when there are no vital records, family papers [letters, bibles, etc.], newspaper articles, obituaries, family photos, DNA, interviewing relatives, military records and more. All websites mentioned are included on the JGSCV website under resources.

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, Dec. 11th 1:30-3:30PM

JGSCV favorite Steve Morse will present "From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted To Know But Were Afraid To Ask". Learn how DNA can help you trace your roots

November, 2011

Venturing Into Our Past

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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The meeting also remembered *Kristallnacht*, [November 9-10] the night of broken glass, which some believe was the beginning of the holocaust. We also thanked those who served in the military, keeping us safe, in celebration of Veteran's Day.

Hal Bookbinder, Nominations Committee chairperson, gave the recommendations for the five open board positions. With no additional nominees from the floor, nominations were closed and the Committee's recommendations will stand for election by acclimation at our December 11 meeting. See page 6 for candidate biographies. Others serving on the Nominations Committee were Sonia Hoffman and board member Sara Hyman.

Two bylaws amendments will be presented to the members for adoption relative to size of board of directors and deleting a duplicative provision. See page 5 for the bylaws amendments.

Our 2012 membership renewal drive is well on its way with almost 30 percent of the members already renewing their membership! A renewal/new membership form is on page 11. 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 11 meeting **and** attend our December 11 meeting are eligible to have their name drawn for great genealogical gifts. We have gifts donated from Ancestry.com, Family Tree Magazine, Fold3, Legacy Family Tree, 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.

The December 11 meeting brings back JGSCV favorite Steve Morse talking about: *From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask*. This talk introduces genes, chromosomes, and DNA, and goes on to show how DNA is inherited. That knowledge of inheritance can be used for finding relatives you didn't know you had, learning about your very distant ancestors. See page 4 for more information on this special program!

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors, have a Happy Chanukah. We are looking forward to seeing you at the December 11 meeting—remember we return to Sundays starting at 1:30 PM- but come 30 minutes early to use the traveling library. The schmoozing corner begins 15 minutes before the meeting.

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.

2012 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send a check in the appropriate amount payable 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.

WW I NURSING RECORDS IN THE U.K.

The National Archives of the United Kingdom has added over 15,000 WW I nursing records from 1902 to 1922. Data includes date and place of birth, training prior to and during the war references to their suitability as military nurses, hospitals, field ambulances, casualty clearing stations and other medical units they served in confidential reports containing their superiors' assessment of their performance. Free searching at: <http://tinyurl.com/89zvwjb>
A fee is required to view full transcripts and download documents.

POLICY CHANGE FOR JOURNAL OF THE ISRAEL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Monthly issues of "Sharsheret Hadorot" the Journal of the Israel Genealogical Society will only be available in the JGSCV permanent library upon publication of the following month's issue. Each month the most current issue will only be available to IGS members.

ARGENTINE JEWISH COWBOYS

Read and listen to NPR's story of Argentine Jewish Cowboys at <http://tinyurl.com/44sfztb>

AUTHOR STEVE LUXENBERG PODCAST ABOUT "ANNIE'S GHOST"

Former JGSCV speaker Steve Luxenberg offers additional insights into the discovery of his Aunt Annie as depicted in "Annie's Ghost": <http://tinyurl.com/75goeka>

FIVE MINUTE VIDEOS

FamilySearch offers a free series of "Five Minute Videos" on multiple topics. The 'Getting Started' series includes 16 individual videos that are excellent for beginners and offer the opportunity to brush up for more advanced genealogists. Get started at <http://tinyurl.com/7xdo8wc>

NEW ISRAELI GENEALOGY GROUP

The recently formed Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) will help individuals pursue their family history search using resources inside Israel. The website is under construction but you are invited to preview the All Israel Database at <http://tinyurl.com/75dxxw7>

FINDING SURNAMES ON FACEBOOK

A tip from "Blood and Frogs" (www.bloodandfrogs.com): If you go to www.facebook.com/family you can search all facebook profiles by surname.



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

(*and surrounding areas)

Come to the December 11, 2011 meeting of the JGSCV

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, December 11, 2011 at Temple Adat Elohim 1:30-3:30 p.m.
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

"From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything You Wanted to Know but Were Afraid to Ask"



The study of genetics that started with Gregor Mendel's pea experiments in 1865 has now entered the genealogy field with Megan Smolenyak's coining of the term "genetealogy" in 2000. To understand the genealogical aspects requires an understanding of some of the basic concepts.

This talk introduces genes, chromosomes, and DNA, and goes on to show how DNA is inherited. That knowledge of inheritance can be used for finding relatives you didn't know you had, learning about your very distant ancestors and the route they traveled, and determining if you are a Jewish high priest (Kohen). Examples presented include Genghis Khan's legacy, Thomas Jefferson's affair, and the Anastasia mystery.

Speaker: Stephen Morse is the creator of the One-Step Website for which he has received both the Lifetime Achievement Award and the Outstanding Contribution Award from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Award of Merit from the National Genealogical Society and more. Steve's one-step website has revolutionized how to do genealogical searches in large databases!

All JGSCV members whose dues are paid through 2012 are eligible for the drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes. You may renew or join at the door. 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.

There is no charge to attend meetings. Anyone may attend the meeting.

Traveling Library categories A and C will be at the next meeting.

Please check the website for the books included in each category <http://jgscv.org>. To request a book that is not in either category, please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER, is open 15 minutes before each meeting

where a JGSCV member knowledgeable in genealogy research will be available to answer questions, provide direction and maybe even a solution to some of your concerns. Warren Blatt (above) helps with advice prior to the November 10th meeting. You will find THE SCHMOOZING CORNER at the front right corner of the meeting room at Temple Adat Elohim.



Two bylaw amendments will be presented for approval by the membership at the December meeting: The proposed changes are in bold.

Amendment I.

Section 2

“The Board of Directors shall consist of ~~(eight)~~ **11** elected members, the most recent past president who agrees to serve, and up to two additional members appointed by the President with the approval of the board.”

Section 3

From time to time, the Board may adjust the number of elected Directors, but in no case, may there be less than six nor more than ~~10~~ **12** elected Directors. The term of office of elected directors shall be two years. One-half (1/2) of the Directors shall be elected each year. The initial slate of directors shall be divided into two groups with the terms of half expiring December 31, 2006 and the others’ terms expiring December 31, 2007. This division can be done in any way acceptable to the directors.

Reason:

The JGSCV board has been operating since inception with nine elected officers. We do not have to increase the board up to 11 board members. However, if a future Nominating Committee can find someone to join the board who would be willing to eventually become president we need the additional board slot(s) to be available.

Amendment II.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Add to Section 6 so that it reads:

The President may appoint, **with the approval of the Board of Directors**, an Editor of the Society’s publications, a Parliamentarian, a Special Events chair, an Archivist, a Publicity Chair, a Mailings Chair, a Hospitality Chair, a Webmaster and any other committee chairpersons as may be necessary. Except for the Parliamentarian, these appointees need not be board members.

Delete Section: 8B

Reason:

There is conflict between the two provisions. Article 6 authorizes the president to appoint committee chairpersons without saying with approval of the Board of Directors while Section 8B authorizes the president to appoint committee chairpersons with approval of the Board of Directors. By adding “with the approval of the Board of Directors” to Section 6 there is no need for Section 8B.

BIOGRAPHIES OF BOARD OF DIRECTOR NOMINEES

JAN MEISELS ALLEN- currently serves as President, JGSCV and is a JGSCV founding member. She is the vice president of the International Association of the Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee and serves as the IAJGS representative on the Records Preservation and Access Committee (FGS/NGS/IAJGS). Jan has made presentations at the JGSCV, local organizations and at the annual IAJGS conferences. She has also coordinated speaking tours for out-of-town speakers on behalf of multiple JGS's. For over seven years she has also been assistant to the editor of Annual Jewish Yearbook on Genealogy. Jan served in various administrative capacities for the past five IAJGS conferences. Prior to helping found JGSCV, Jan was a 5-year board member and first vice president-programming of JGS Los Angeles. She began her genealogy research in 1998.

STEWART K. BERNSTEIN- has been involved in genealogy for seventeen years. He is the Co-ordinator of the English Translation Project for the Pultusk, Poland Yizkor Book. Currently retired, after having spent thirty-five years in the Motion Picture and Television Industry, he was recognized with two National Emmy Awards and numerous additional nominations. He provided the original suggestion to Jan Meisels Allen for JGS serving the Conejo Valley and Ventura County. Stewart currently serves on the JGSCV Board of Directors.

WARREN BLATT- founding member of JGSCV has served on the JGSCV Board for the past six years. He is the JewishGen Editor-in-Chief (2000-date) and Managing Director (2008-date) as well as author of many JewishGen databases. Warren has been involved in

genealogy research for thirty-five years. He is a winner of the IAJGS' Lifetime Achievement award. He is a presenter at many JGSCV meetings and an annual presenter at the IAJGS conferences. He is the author of two books and numerous journal articles.

DOROTHY DRILICH- is a founding member of JGSCV, member and Secretary of the Board for the past six years. Dorothy has had a long time interest in her family history and has started her genealogy research in recent years.

ALLAN LINDERMAN- is a member of JGSCV since 2008 and became JGSCV's newsletter editor in the Spring of 2009. He has been engaged in genealogy for five years. Allan is an advertising and media consultant and is president of The Linderman Media group and brings to his role his writing and editing skills.



Hal Bookbinder announcing nominees at the November meeting

FUTURE MEETING DATES

2011-12

Sunday, Dec. 11th 1:30-3:30PM

Steve Morse, FROM DNA TO GENETIC GENEALOGY and Chanukah/Membership Renewal Party

Sunday, Jan. 8th 1:30-3/30PM

Panel, ETHICS, SENSITIVITIES, SENSIBILITIES AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Sunday, Feb. 12th 1:00-5:00PM

Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Library-Current Dues Paid Members-only. Anyone may join at the door.

Sunday, March 4th 1:30-3:30PM

Joel Weintraub, HERE COMES THE 1940 CENSUS

Sunday, April 1st 1:30-3:30PM

Arthur Benveniste, THE HOLOCAUST AND SEPHARDIC COMMUNITIES

Sunday, May 6th 1;30-3;30PM

VISITING YOUR ANCESTRAL SHTETL TOWNS

Sunday June 3rd 1:30-3:30PM

TBD

July no meeting - IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Paris, France July 15-18, 2012

Sunday, Aug. 5th 1:30-3:30 PM

GENEALOGY IN THE ROUND

ANCESTRY.COM ADDS 50+ MILLION VITAL RECORDS

Ancestry.com added 53 new historical vital record collections to its nearly half billion U.S. vital records. Civil vital records – recordings of births, marriages and deaths – were typically created at or near the time of the event and serve as an essential resource for the millions of Americans who are beginning or continuing their family history research. The new additions encompass 23 states, include more than 50 million historical records dating from the 1600s (some of the oldest U.S. records available) through to 2010 and have been made available through partnerships with state and local archives, county offices and newspapers. Although a paid site, ancestry.com is free for 14 days to new users. Some of the new vital record collections now available on Ancestry.com date well back into the 17th Century including:

- **Connecticut, Deaths and Burials, 1650-1934:** Town clerks began recording births, marriages and deaths by 1650. These records are derived from microfilmed records of deaths and burials. This collection includes legendary names such as P.T. Barnum of circus fame and dictionary pioneer Noah Webster.
- **New Hampshire, Marriage, Death and Burial Records, 1637-1949:** New Hampshire's earliest records were in the mid-1600s, though laws requiring a statewide compilation of records were not passed until 1866.
- **New Jersey, Births and Christenings, 1660-1931:** This collection is comprised of more than 2.3 million birth, records.

EMMA LAZARUS EXHIBIT AT THE MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE



The Museum of Jewish Heritage in lower Manhattan has unveiled a new exhibit: *Emma Lazarus: Poet of Exiles* in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty. Known as the creator of the

words on the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses, yearning to breathe free . . . " the exhibit explores the world of the author including her Jewish roots as a fourth generation Jewish American and her Sephardic background.

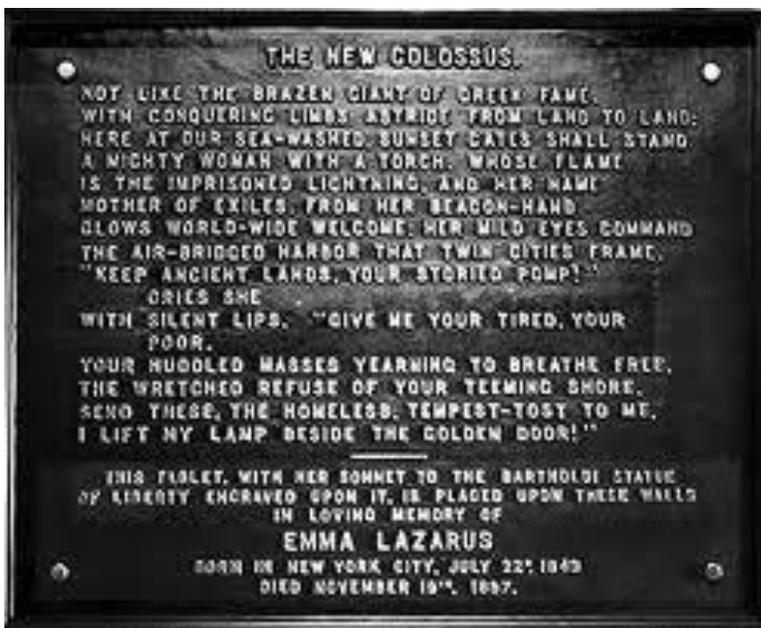
This is the first major museum exhibit about Lazarus and includes artifacts that explore her unique story and message. The exhibition will be on view through the summer of 2012.

The Museum has launched a companion website that includes commentary about the exhibition and glimpses into her New York life: www.mjhnyc.org/emma

There is also a mobile walking tour created by the Museum. Narrated by actress Julianna Margulies and features a reading of "The New Colossus" by Meryl Streep. The mobile walking tour features sites instrumental in shaping the life of Emma Lazarus. The downloadable app is GPS enabled and is available for iPhone and Androids from the website.



Emma Lazarus



Above: Statue of Liberty

Left: "The New Colossus" plaque dedicated to Emma Lazarus

The 150th Anniversary of The U.S. Civil War: Jews and the Civil War

By Jan Meisels Allen

This year, 2011, the United States is celebrating the 150th anniversary of the U.S. Civil War (1861-1865). While many of us may not have had ancestors in the U.S. during the Civil War (1861-1865) some did . . . just as there were Jews here in the 1700's and served in the U.S. Revolutionary War.

By 1860 there were 150,000 Jews living in the United States. "At least 8,000 Jewish soldiers fought for the Union and Confederacy during the Civil War. A few served together in Jewish companies while most fought alongside Christian comrades. Yet even as they stood "shoulder-to-shoulder" on the front lines, they encountered unique challenges." ¹ According to *The Jewish Americans* ² approximately 3,000 Jews fought on the Confederate side and 7,000 fought on the Union side. Jews also played leadership roles on both sides. [Judah P. Benjamin](#) served as Secretary of State and acting Secretary of War of the Confederacy. Several Jewish bankers played key roles in providing government financing for both sides of the Civil war: Speyer and [Seligman family](#), for the Union, and [Emile Erlanger and Company](#) for the confederacy.³

In the Confederacy, there were 23 Jewish staff officers including Surgeon-General David C. de Leon, who also served in the "Mexican War", J. Randolph Mordechai, an assistant adjutant-general and Colonel Raphael J. Moses, of Longstreet's command who was chief commissary for Georgia. On the Union side, there were 17 staff officers and 11 who held commissions in the United States Navy. In total, for both sides, there were nine generals, 18 colonels, eight lieutenant colonels and 73 adjutants and surgeons. Of note is 14 families both North and South who alone contributed

53 fighting men to the war. There were several Jewish military who went on to successful careers in military and politics, such as, [Frederick Knefler](#), a native of Hungary, who went to war as a private in the Indiana Regiment Volunteer Infantry and rose to major general—the highest ranking Jew in the Civil War. [Edward Salomon](#), colonel of the 82nd Volunteer Infantry Regiment of Illinois was brevetted brigadier general in recognition of his personal valor at the engagements of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. After the war, he served as governor of the Washington Territory by appointment of President Ulysses S. Grant.⁴

By the time of the Civil War, tensions over race and immigration, as well as economic competition between Jews and non-Jews, combined to produce the worst outbreak of anti-Semitism to that date. Americans on both sides of the slavery issue denounced Jews as disloyal war profiteers, and accused them of driving Christians out of business and of aiding and abetting the enemy.

Major General [Ulysses S. Grant](#) was influenced by these sentiments and on December 17, 1862 issued [General Order No. 11](#) expelling Jews from areas under his control in western Tennessee, Mississippi, and Kentucky:

- "The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from the Department within twenty-four hours from the receipt of this order.
- Post commanders will see to it that all of this class of people be furnished passes and required to leave, and anyone returning after such notification will be arrested and held in

confinement until an opportunity occurs of sending them out as prisoners, unless furnished with permit from headquarters.

- No passes will be given these people to visit headquarters for the purpose of making personal application of trade permits”⁵

The order was issued as part of a campaign against a black market in Southern cotton, which Grant thought was being run “mostly by Jews and other unprincipled traders”.

This order was rescinded by President Abraham Lincoln on January 3, 1863, but not until it had been enforced in a number of towns. [The rescission can be viewed at: <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/loc/abe2.html>]

Grant also issued an order “that no Jews are to be permitted to travel on the road southward”.⁶ He ordered “all cotton speculators, Jews, and all vagabonds with no honest means of support”, to leave the district. “. . . they are such an intolerable nuisance that the department must be purged of them.”⁷

Despite thousands serving in the U.S. Civil War, confederates Spotsylvania Court House and Fredericksburg denied burying the Jewish Confederate soldiers along side other slain soldiers killed in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Wilderness. As a result of anti-semitism, the only Jewish cemetery outside of Israel was created to bury the fallen Confederate soldiers in the Hebrew Confederate Cemetery, located in Richmond, Virginia. They were buried in five rows, with six bodies in a row, in a self-contained

hallowed area within the larger Hebrew Cemetery. Those buried came from Mississippi, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Louisiana. To read more about this go to: http://www.fau.edu/library/confederate_cemetery.htm

A Jewish Civil War Veterans Database is available at: <http://www.jewish-history.com/civilwar/Default.htm>

In the Civil War, Jews responded to the call of duty whether it be from the North or the South. Jews’ response to serve in the War was in greater proportion to their percentage of the US population. For the 150th anniversary we should recall those who participated in this American defining moment.

1. Jews and the Civil War: A reader edited by: Jonathan Sarna and Adam Mendelsohn. New York University Press 2010
2. The Jewish Americans Director. David Grubin. PBS Home Video, 2008. Disc 1, Episode 1, Chapter 5, 0:30:40
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_in_the_United_States
4. History of Jews in America: The Jews and the Civil War Albert M. Friedenberg. *The American Hebrew & Jewish Messenger* November 22, 1918 ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The American Hebrew & Jewish Messenger (1857-1922)
5. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/loc/abe2.html>
6. <http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/anti-semitism/grant.html>
7. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/General_Order_No._11_%281862%29

TWO WAYS YOU CAN HELP JGSCV

1. Do your Amazon.com shopping beginning at JGSCV. By starting at www.jgscv.org and clicking on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the page, you will go to the same Amazon.com site you are used to – except that Amazon.com will donate a portion of your purchase to JGSCV as an affiliate. Simple. Easy. No cost to you.
2. Join/renew your Ralphs Community Contribution Program membership at www.ralphs.com. Directions are also on the JGSCV website under ‘notices’.



2012 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 2012

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 out to: JGSCV Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Are you on Facebook? Yes ___ No ___

What is your Facebook Name _____

Link to Facebook by <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

Talents that you have to share (language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)