



# JGSCV

## VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

January, 2013

Volume 8 Issue 4

#### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There was outstanding attendance for Crista Cowan's presentation, *Getting the Most out of Ancestry.com* on Sunday December 2. If time permitted, we could have gone on for at least another hour. Crista, *the Barefoot Genealogist* © is always a big hit with JGSCV members and friends! She showed you how to access key record collections to assist with our Jewish and other European family history research. She also shared some of her favorite search tips and site tricks. For a brief summary of Crista's comments, see page 14.

A highlight of the meeting was the annual Chanukah gifts for members. Crista randomly picked the winning names. See the winners on page 15. JGSCV thanks the following genealogy companies for contributing the prizes: Ancestry.com (grand prize), Family Tree Maker, FindMyPast, Fold3.com, Legacy Family Tree, and Roots Magic. There were also genealogically relevant books donated by the JGSCV board and members.

Nominating Committee Chairperson Hal Bookbinder, conducted the election for the four board positions. Three of the four board members with expiring terms were re-elected by acclamation [Debra Kay Blatt, Helene Rosen, and Marion Werle]. Joining the board is Karen Lewy. We thank Len Shenkin for serving as treasurer after being appointed this past year. At the January board meeting, as per our by-laws, the board will decide on individual responsibilities.

January, 2013



Crista Cowan of Ancestry.com on Dec. 2

#### NEXT MEETING

**SUNDAY, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

#### ***Jewish Genetic Disorders Across the Diaspora***

Genetic Counselors Catherine Quindipan of Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Gary Frohlich of Genzyme (Sanofi) discuss diseases specific to Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews.

## JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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We are still waiting to hear back from the County of Los Angeles Librarian with suggested changes to our proposal. Bureaucracies take time so our guesstimate of not transferring the majority of our traveling library until sometime during the first quarter of 2013 appears to be on target.

I mentioned in past Presidents' Letters that we would like to start a project of photographing the memorial plaques in the area's synagogues as part of a JewishGen project that was initiated by our sister JGS, JGS of Long Island. We have not heard back from anyone wishing to participate. This is a relatively "easy" project and will be a major genealogical addition to the information for both JGSCV and the JewishGen community. If you are at all interested, please contact me.

We are still in need of a new Librarian. The Librarian is asked to print outside electronic journals and newsletters (provided) and file them into binders at the Agoura Hills Library. JGSCV pays for the printer ink and paper. The Librarian is called upon for these duties 2-4 times per month. You must be able to receive Word and PDF files and print in color as well as black and white.

On page 16 is the list of traveling library additions since July. JGSCV continues to add to both its permanent and traveling libraries. Members and friends enjoy these major genealogical assets at the Agoura Hills Library that houses the permanent collection including JGS newsletters from around the world and the traveling library which comes to our meetings.

Thank you to Etti Hadar for volunteering to join the Publicity Committee to help with sending out our monthly meeting notices. Publicity is a very important to the success of JGSCV. Attendance at meetings is a measure of our success and membership growth. Even the greatest programs and speakers cannot educate and entertain an empty room.

While well over half of the members have renewed for 2013 if you have not yet made out your check and given it to JGSCV please do so. A membership/renewal application form is on page 17 of this newsletter and on our website under membership as well as available at the meetings.

Our January 6 meeting is very important for all of us – Ashkenazi and Sephardic. *Jewish Genetic Disorders Across the Diaspora: Including Tay Sachs, Gaucher, BRCA1, BRCA2 Mutations in the Ashkenazi Jewish Population and Genetic Screening for the Persian Jewish Community* with genetic counselors, Catherine Quindipan, Certified Genetic Counselor, Study Coordinator for the Persian Jewish Genetic Screening Program, Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Gary Frohlich, Certified Genetic Counselor for US Rare Diseases at Genzyme a Sanofi Company.

Have a very happy and safe New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2013!

*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.

2013 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 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](http://www.jgscv.org) by selecting the membership button.

### UKRANIAN RECORDS AT JEWISHGEN

There are now 16,975 searchable vital records available in the JewishGen Ukraine database <http://tinyurl.com/c7637u2> .They are also searchable on JRI-Poland <http://tinyurl.com/buk8fkr> . Available records are for various years from 1870-1938 for the following towns:

- Kremenets
- Belozerka
- Katerinovka
- Vyshgorodok

### BETTER SEARCH ENGINE FOR IGRA

A new search engine is now in place on the Israel Genealogy Research Association website. This will ease the access to the more than 100,000 records available in both English and Hebrew. Access them at: <http://tinyurl.com/d6ap2kn> . You must be registered (free) to access the database.

### MORE BLOGS FOR GENEALOGISTS

Page 9 of this newsletter notes blogs of interest to genealogists at the Library of Congress. Google's Cultural Institute also maintains blogs of interest. View them at: <http://tinyurl.com/9aans5x>

### BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Millions of historical newspaper articles have recently been made available on Findmypast: <http://tinyurl.com/ce5v88l>

### FOR AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN QUESTIONS

GenTeam is ready to enlist its 1200 members to help with genealogy questions about the former Austria-Hungarian Monarchy. It is bi-lingual: <http://tinyurl.com/bo28q9j>



*The Righteous Among the Nations served as a beacon of light in the darkness of the Holocaust, when moral values collapsed and Jews were denied basic human rights. To date, Yad Vashem has granted the title of Righteous Among the Nations to some 25,000 individuals those courageous people who took extraordinary risks to rescue Jews, to*

To learn about the Righteous and the men, women and children they rescued, visit the yad vashem website: <http://tinyurl.com/c3b8a9e>

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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with and located at Temple Adat Elohim, 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362



**Sunday, January 6, 2013 1:30 PM-3:30 PM**

## **The Program:**

*Jewish Genetic Disorders Across the Diaspora: Including Tay Sachs, Gaucher, BRCA1, BRCA 2 Mutations in the Ashkenazi Jewish Population and Genetic Screening for the Persian Jewish Community*

Certified genetic counselors will be talking about various Jewish genetic disorders that affect different Jewish populations. They will discuss the importance of knowing our family health history—an integral part of genealogy—and the increased risks of inherited diseases of Ashkenazi (Eastern European) Jews. Included in the discussion will be BRCA testing (breast and ovarian cancer) as well as Tay-Sachs, Gaucher and Familial Dysautonomia in the Ashkenazi Jewish community and a novel genetic screening panel for Persian Jewish community. Find out why some Jewish families would benefit from education, screening and testing for certain disorders.

**Speakers:** Catherine Quindipan, Certified Genetic Counselor, Study coordinator for the Persian Jewish Genetic Screening Program, Cedars Sinai Medical Center and Gary Frohlich, Certified Genetic Counselor for US Rare Diseases at Genzyme a Sanofi Company.

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 the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Dues paid are good through December 2013.

# JGSCV UPDATES

Traveling Library categories A and B 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](mailto:president@jgscv.org)



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is now open 20 minutes before each meeting. It will be available to answer questions, offer direction and maybe even a solution to a brick wall. Look for the sign at the right front of the meeting room. Marion Werle, JGSCV board member, will facilitate the Schmoozing Corner on January 6, 2013 starting at 1:10 PM.

This month's five Minute Genealogical Hint will focus on Family Pictures and will be presented by newly elected JGSCV Board Member Karen Lewy.

Ralphs requires everyone to re-register for their community contribution program. If you have a Ralphs card and are not yet signed up, please do so and include JGSCV as your 'community' at [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com). Your groceries will cost the same but Ralphs will send JGSCV a contribution. Directions on how to sign –up are on our website: [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) and click on "notices". Contact Karen Lewy with questions: [Karen@jgscv.org](mailto:Karen@jgscv.org).

You can also help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com by simply entering the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one below). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



Hal Bookbinder conducted elections for the Board of Directors. Karen Lewy will join the Board starting with the January meeting



# FRANK FAMILY LEARNING CENTER IS DEDICATED



Werner and Phoebe Frank have donated much of their significant genealogical collection of books, periodicals and artifacts to the American Jewish University (AJU). **The Phoebe & Werner Frank Family Learner Center**, dedicated December 9<sup>th</sup>, is committed to genealogical research and intergenerational learning. It is one of several newly opened sections of the revitalized AJU library. Mr. and Mrs. Frank donated their collection of 700 books of genealogical material largely focusing on the German/Alsatian/Swiss areas, together with a number of genealogy reference books, periodicals and especially dealing with

the genealogy of rabbinical families. In addition, the collection consists of dozens of Yizkor books reflecting the once thriving Jewish communities in the German State of Baden as well as volumes dealing with the Holocaust and especially the deportation to Camp de Gurs. The Franks also donated a number of family heirlooms, which decorate the Family Learning Center including Mr. Frank's Wimpel (see page 7), and an assortment of ritual objects. Commenting on the dedication Mr. Frank said, "It is my hope that the AJU will serve as a Los Angeles area community focal point for Jewish genealogy and that others in our community when reaching their senior years will find the AJU the proper place for bequeathing their own collections."

Werner Frank is a founding member of JGSCV as well as creator of this newsletter, "*Venturing Into Our Past*". Phoebe Frank designed the JGSCV logo.

JGSCV is very fortunate that Mr. Frank remains an active and involved member. He can be seen at most meetings casually offering help to anyone with questions or more formally conducting the 'Schmoozing Corner'.



## JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

**SHEILA HANLON**

**MARIAN AND STEPHEN ROTHSTEIN**

**JUDEE WELLS**

# THE WIMPEL STORY

By Werner L. Frank



Saturday morning it was *Schulen gehen*, off to the synagogue. I would sit next to my father, amusing myself by twirling and twisting his *tallis* (prayer shawl) fringes through my fingers and around my hand. Sometimes my younger sister would also sit with us even though women were restricted by tradition to the upstairs balcony. I eventually learned that little girls do not yet count as women and thus they were able to temporarily enjoy some of the male “privileges.”

At the service, I waited impatiently for the first moment of real action – the opening of the ark and removal of the *Torah*. Maybe this point in the service was doubly engraved in my mind since my mother has often stated, even to this day, that this was her favorite moment of the prayer ritual.

I am sure that what really appealed to me was the opportunity for us little ones to take part in the proceedings. We joined the *Torah* carrier in the procession of the scrolls among the congregation, through the aisles of the synagogue. It was a good excuse for some needed movement and exercise.

Then came the big thrill. The mantle was removed from the *Torah* and the *Wimpel* was unraveled. The *Wimpel* was approximately a ten-foot-long decorative cloth binding that held the two posts of the *Torah* together. Disheveled and crumpled, this binder was thrown to the crowd of waiting boys who had gathered at the foot of the *bimah*. The boy lucky enough to catch it would have the “honor” (actually, it was something to do and passed the time) of rolling it up as is done

with a bandage. This prepared the *Wimpel* for the later *Torah* wrapping ritual after the Scripture reading was concluded.

I cannot remember that I ever had that *Wimpel*-rolling honor since my time in Eppingen ended when I was eight years old when we immigrated to the United States. Eventually, however, I was to have a much more significant experience regarding *Wimpels*.

\*\*\*

The *Wimpel* in the role of *Torah* binder was the product of a ceremony peculiar to Jews of southern Germany and nearby areas. The event took place when a boy reached his first birthday and was brought to the synagogue for a formal introduction to the community.

The *Wimpel* was an expression of folk art and was constructed by cutting the swaddling clothes used during the *Brith Milah* ceremony into thirds. The three pieces were joined together to form an elongated banner on which was stitched or painted a standard formula: the child’s name, date of birth, and the Hebrew admonition that the boy should be led to: *Torah*, that is learning the Five Books of Moses); to *Chupah*, which connotes marriage under the canopy; and to *Ma-asim Tovim*, the performance of deeds of kindness.

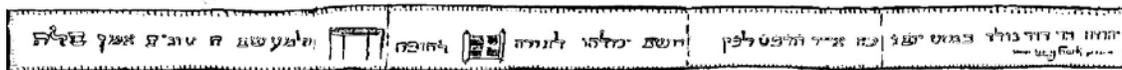
In essence, this decorative piece of cloth was a Jewish form of a birth certificate and became one more addition to a synagogue’s collection of *Torah* binders during the child’s naming ceremony. The *Wimpel* would be used again years later as the *Torah* binder during the boy’s *Bar Mitzvah*, as well as at the time of a young man’s *Aufruf*, his *aliyah*, or call to the reading of the *Torah* on the Sabbath before his wedding. Thus, the

*Wimpel* typically remained in the collection of the synagogue, waiting for these special life cycle occasions.

I participated in the first of these three ceremonies, although I obviously do not remember the event. I experienced the other two occasions later in a faraway land and, sadly, without my *Wimpel*. Nevertheless, all was not lost and today, this *Wimpel* has a renewed meaning for me and, I hope, for all of my family – a family much limited in size as a consequence of the Holocaust.

In the spring of 1987, I received an unexpected letter from a former resident of Eppingen who also immigrated to the United States, albeit a year after our own departure. Hanna Hamburger (née Marx), a fourth cousin through the Heinsheimer branch, revealed the surprising information that one of the *Torahs* from our beautiful Synagogue had been fortunately placed in the Nathan Marx family *lift* (cargo container) in early November 1938 and had been brought to New York. “Rescued” might be an apt description since only one week later the *Torah’s* sanctuary was desecrated and burned during the infamous *Kristallnacht* destruction.

This *Torah*, the letter went on to say, had been preserved for these fifty years in a Bronx closet and had now been removed and opened in preparation for delivery to a new sanctuary, a young congregation in Berkeley, California. The correspondence concluded with an electrifying announcement, informing me that this *Torah* had been wrapped with the *Wimpel* of



*Yehudah ben Dovid*, born 4 Juni 1929. Did I wish to have my *Wimpel* returned to me?

An offer one could hardly refuse! But my spouse Phoebe asked out of curiosity, “Why would your *Wimpel* of 1929 still be on this *Torah*, rescued in 1938, and not found again until 1987?” In that question and answer lay the whole tragic story of the thirties and forties. The Jewish population of Eppingen dwindled from seventy-one in 1925, to sixty in 1933, to thirty-two in 1938, to seven in 1939, to five in 1940, and finally to a single Jewess, married to a Gentile, who survived the war. **During the thirties and from then on, there simply were no more Jewish babies born in Eppingen. There were no babies to be brought to the Synagogue and no new *Wimpels* to replace my *Wimpel* of 1929.**

Restored and properly protected, my *Wimpel* was displayed above the expanse of our bay window, in the front room of our home in Calabasas, California for many years. It has found a new home as a central visual piece hanging in the Phoebe and Werner Family Study Center at the American Jewish University. Phoebe’s sketch of this legacy follows:

Lest this be the end of the road, this tradition refused to die. Upon the birth of our first male grandson in 1999, Phoebe designed and executed a contemporary *Wimpel* in the name of *Caleb ben Daniel* and presented it at the time of Cal Frank's *Brit Milah*. This *Wimpel* is shown below:



# BLOGS FROM OUR NATIONAL TREASURE

Reprinted with permission: *The Legal Genealogist* ([www.legalgenealogist.com](http://www.legalgenealogist.com)), November 29, 2012

**NOTE: IN THE FOLLOWING STORY, ALL BLUE WORDS (EXCEPT THESE) ARE HYPERLINKS. A CLICK WILL TAKE YOU TO THE WEBSITE**

## Blogs from Our National Treasure

### LOC Blogs

Yesterday's (November 28<sup>th</sup>) blog about **Executive Orders** mentioned one of *The Legal Genealogist's* favorite blogs, **In Custodia Legis: Law Librarians of Congress**. Almost immediately, a regular reader responded that she hadn't been aware of that blog.

Time and time past to remedy that, for sure. The LOC blogs are among the best offerings the Internet has.

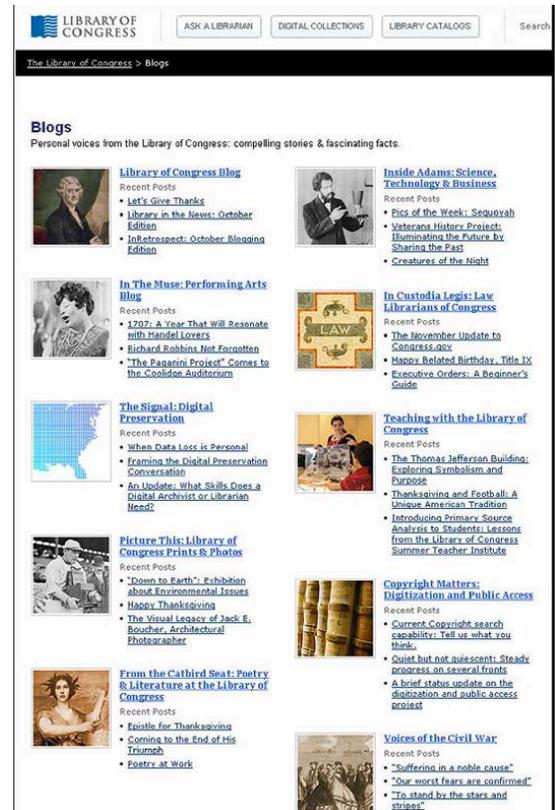
The LOC blogs. Sounds like a disease, doesn't it? "The LOC blogs are coming to get you!"

Never fear. The only thing contagious about the LOC blogs is their enthusiasm for teaching all of their readers about neat things and our enthusiasm for learning about them.

Because, you see, the LOC blogs are the blogs of the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., where librarians and archivists can strut their stuff online and share all kinds of information that, in the past, required a visit to the Nation's Capital.

There are, at the moment, 10 blogs published on the Library of Congress website, and every last one of them has a subscription feature; you can have each new post delivered to your e-mail box, or you can send it to your online RSS reader. So there's really no excuse for not adding these gems to your reading list.

And there's bound to be one or more of those 10 that's just right for you, no matter what your particular interests are, since they cover everything from music and art on one side to science and technology on the other. If you're a teacher, there's a LOC blog for you. A poet? Yep. Got you covered. Interested in digitization? That too.



No matter what facet of life in America you might want to learn about, to see how you might add a tidbit here or there to your family history, take a gander through the LOC blogs, offering “Personal voices from the Library of Congress: compelling stories & fascinating facts”:

## **Library of Congress Blog**

This is the main blog of the Library of Congress. It doesn’t have a description on its About page but posts cover a wide variety of topics and categories range from Abraham Lincoln to Washington DC.

### **Recent Posts**

**[Let’s Give Thanks Library in the News: October Edition](#) [InRetrospect: October Blogging Edition](#)**

## **In The Muse: Performing Arts Blog**

“The Performing Arts Blog will showcase treasures in the Music Division’s collections of Music, Theater and Dance, from works of the great masters to long forgotten slices of our musical heritage. This blog will also highlight events in the Library’s concert series in the Coolidge Auditorium.”

### **Recent Posts**

**[1707: A Year That Will Resonate with Handel Lovers](#) [Richard Robbins Not Forgotten](#) [“The Paganini Project” Comes to the Coolidge Auditorium](#)**

## **The Signal: Digital Preservation**

““The Signal” is meant to elicit two images. The name sounds a bit like a town newspaper, one that has timely information that people can put to practical use. That is our basic intent—discuss digital stewardship in a way that is informative and appealing. “Signal” also associates with computer technology, most especially management, transmission and use of data. Technology is moving fast, and we cover exciting new developments that have an impact on digital preservation and access.”

### **Recent Posts**

**[When Data Loss is Personal](#) [Framing the Digital Preservation Conversation](#) [An Update: What Skills Does a Digital Archivist or Librarian Need?](#)**

## **Picture This: Library of Congress Prints & Photos**

“The *Picture This* blog invites you to share our love of pictures and the stories they can tell. You’ll see special images that caught our eye and also learn about entire collections as we explore the vast holdings of the Prints and Photographs Division at the Library of Congress—more than 14.5 million

photos, posters, cartoons, architectural designs, and historical and fine art prints.”

### **Recent Posts**

[“Down to Earth”: Exhibition about Environmental Issues](#) [Happy Thanksgiving](#) [The Visual Legacy of Jack E. Boucher, Architectural Photographer](#)

### **From the Catbird Seat: Poetry & Literature at the Library of Congress**

“A blog celebrating the Center and the wealth of literary resources at the Library of Congress, as well as engaging with current topics in literature.”

### **Recent Posts**

[Epistle for Thanksgiving](#) [Coming to the End of His Triumph](#) [Poetry at Work](#)

### **Inside Adams: Science, Technology & Business**

“*Inside Adams* will point readers to the Library’s large and diverse collections of books, journals, prints, photographs, digital collections, finding aids, and Webcasts related to science, technology, and business. This blog will give us the opportunity to highlight the bibliographies, research guides, and special pages that have been developed by staff, as well as share the history, art, and architecture of the John Adams Building. Come with us on this journey *Inside Adams*.”

### **Recent Posts**

[Pics of the Week: Sequoyah](#) [Veterans History Project: Illuminating the Future by Sharing the Past](#) [Creatures of the Night](#)

### **In Custodia Legis: Law Librarians of Congress**

“In Custodia Legis is Latin for “in the custody of the law,” a nod to the fact that the Law Library of Congress is a custodian of law and legislation for both the nation and the world. Our team of bloggers covers current legal trends, developments and enhancements in THOMAS, issues in collecting for the largest law library in the world, legal history and arcana and a range of international perspectives including New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Israel, Eritrea and Mexico.”

### **Recent Posts**

[The November Update to Congress.gov](#) [Happy Belated Birthday, Title IX](#) [Executive Orders: A Beginner’s Guide](#)

## Teaching with the Library of Congress

“Discover and discuss the most effective techniques for using Library of Congress primary sources in the classroom. Teaching strategies, outstanding primary sources, lesson plans, teacher resources, and current thinking on effective classroom practice are all open for discussion. The Library of Congress has millions of primary sources available for free online. Teaching with primary sources is powerful way to help students engage with content, build their critical thinking skills, and construct knowledge.”

### Recent Posts

**The Thomas Jefferson Building: Exploring Symbolism and Purpose Thanksgiving and Football: A Unique American Tradition Introducing Primary Source Analysis to Students: Lessons from the Library of Congress Summer Teacher Institute**

### Copyright Matters: Digitization and Public Access

“Welcome to the blog for the Copyright Digitization and Public Access project, a long term effort to convert non-digital records of copyright ownership and transfers and assignment of rights and to make them widely available online via the web. We’re planning periodic posts with information about plans and progress and we welcome your input and comments.”

### Recent Posts

**Current Copyright search capability: Tell us what you think. Quiet but not quiescent: Steady progress on several fronts A brief status update on the digitization and public access project**

### Voices of the Civil War

“This blog complements *The Civil War in America* exhibition, displayed on site at the Library of Congress between November 12, 2012, and June 1, 2013, and online <http://myloc.gov/exhibitions/civil-war-in-america> . Posts are written by more than forty individuals featured in the exhibition and are excerpts from their diaries, letters, and published memoirs—all eyewitness accounts to the events of the war. To place these excerpts in context, click on the direct link to The Civil War in America embedded at the end of each entry.”

### Recent Posts

**“Suffering in a noble cause” “Our worst fears are confirmed” “To stand by the stars and stripes”**

# HELP WANTED

JGSCV has one open position available. You can help your JGS immensely by volunteering to help with the *Library*.

The **Librarian** is asked to print outside electronic journals and newsletters (provided) and file them into binders at the Agoura Hills Library. JGSCV pays for the printer ink and paper. The Librarian is called upon for these duties 2-4 times per month. You must be able to receive Word and PDF files and print in color as well as black and white.

The Library is one of JGSCV's most valuable resources. This is a behind the scenes function that helps make your JGS a strong, vibrant organization. Please contact Jan Meisels Allen to offer your help: [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)

## 2013 FUTURE MEETING DATES

**Sunday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM *"Jewish Genetic Disorders Across the Diaspora"* Gary Frohlich, Genzyme and Catherine Quindipan, Cedars Sinai Medical Center

**Sunday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>** 1:00-5:00 PM  
*"Annual Assisted Research Afternoon"*  
– LA Family History Library

JGSCV Members only

**Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM  
*"Researching Your Canadian Family"* –  
Marion Werle

**Sunday, April 7<sup>th</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM Yom Hashoah Day *"Holocaust Survivors and March of the Living"*, JGSCV Members

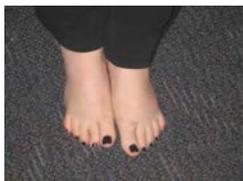
**Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM  
*"Obscure Records of Citizenship and Nationality"*, Marion Smith, USCIS

**Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM *"Lodz, The Manchester of Poland"*, Debra Kay Blatt

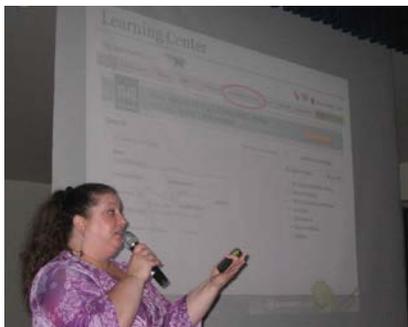
**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>** 1:30-3:30 PM  
*"Genealogy In The Round"*

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM *Getting the Most out of Ancestry.com*

JGSCV was delighted to host Crista Cowan, The Barefoot Genealogist ©, Community Alliance Manager, Ancestry.com on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Crista's enthusiasm bubbles over to everyone in the audience! If we were not restricted in time allotted for the meeting room for another synagogue function later in the afternoon, we could have continued past our usual end time for at least another hour! Crista was most gracious and stayed after the meeting to talk with the attendees in the lobby area.



Crista started out by asking the audience for questions so she would know how to focus her remarks. She suggested giving feedback to Ancestry.com but do your homework first when writing to [feedback@ancestry.com](mailto:feedback@ancestry.com). Less than 10 percent of genealogical records worldwide are digitized. Representatives of Ancestry and Family Search meet regularly so that neither organization duplicates resources to digitize.



Ancestry.com data content includes census, military, immigration and vital records. Ancestry's rich content includes maps, postcards, yearbook

collections and more. Member contributed content such as family trees and photographs are included. Crista advised that one could share their family tree on Ancestry even if they do not have a subscription. She explained the three levels of sharing: guest—who can only see the tree;

contributor—who can add information and editor—who can actually change items you placed on your tree—you decide the level of sharing for each person you invite to view your tree.

Ancestry's Learning Center offers free helping aides including webinars:

<http://tinyurl.com/6wyux3k>. You can also find under the Learning Center the Family History 101 area with a number of "how to" articles. Included in this area are links to their facebook [you do not have to have a facebook account to get a list of events], twitter and You Tube page. I would encourage you to go to the You Tube area and browse the many videos: <http://tinyurl.com/cazhu66>. [I found when watching some of the video shots of documents and screen shots of various ancestry pages that they were not "crisp"—maybe its my computer... and Crista and the other Ancestry staff who narrate the programs are excellent and provide may helpful hints.]

When a search produces too many results, Crista also showed what to do by tweaking and using filters, and how "shaky leaves" on the tree assist you in doing further research. Wildcards are helpful but must contain three consecutive characters.

Other helpful search hints:

1. Census results will not appear if one puts down city as census is by state.
2. Check the drop down box when you get results from "sort the result by relevance" to "summarized by category".

To contact Crista go to [ask@ancestry.com](mailto:ask@ancestry.com) one of several people at Ancestry.com will answer your questions.

# JGSCV MEMBER BENEFITS

- Annual assisted research afternoon at the Family History Library
- Members-only emails from the president announcing special events and free opportunities with Ancestry and other genealogical organizations and other items of genealogical interest
- Use of the traveling library at president's home – with an advance appointment
- For the first year of membership, JewishGen's Warren Blatt will assist with one concise question per month. He won't do your genealogy but with well thought out questions, he can help you on your genealogical journey.

## THIS YEAR'S CHANUKAH PARTY GIFT WINNERS



L-R Top Row: Bob Zaas, Etti Hadar, Judy Karta, Alissa Brownstein, Karen Lewy

L-R Middle Row: Eva Cox, Judy Forusz, Israel Perel, Len Shenkin, Sheila Hanlon

L-R Bottom Row: Jerry Escover, Crista Cowan and Jan Meisels Allen

# NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TRAVELING LIBRARY

Since we reported in June 2012's newsletter the following books have been added to the JGSCV traveling library. If you have genealogically relevant books that you would like to donate, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at [president@JGSCV.org](mailto:president@JGSCV.org). The books in the traveling library are categorized A, B, C or D determining which come to which monthly meeting. All A books come to every meeting. Categories B, C and D alternate which month they are brought to the meeting. When we transfer the majority of our traveling library to the Agoura Hills Library to our permanent library, the majority of any books donated and those listed below will also be transferred to the permanent library. A full list of all of our permanent and traveling library holdings may be found on the website: [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org).

- A Dictionary of Jewish Names and their History** Benzion C.Kagonoff Shoken Books NY 1977 (Category B)
- David Franks: Colonial Merchant** Mark Abbott Stern Pennsylvania State University Press 2010 (Category C)
- Following The Paper Trail A Multilingual Translation Guide** Jonathan Shea and William Hoffman Avotaynu NJ 1994 (Category B)
- In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide Vol I : Polish** Jonathan S. Shea and William F. Hoffman 2007 Language and Lineage Press CT 2007 (Category B)
- My Fifteen Grandmothers** Genie Milgrom Charleston,. SC 2012 (Category C)
- Russian-Jewish Given Names** Boris Feldblyum Avotaynu NJ 1998 (Category A)
- Searching For Your Ancestors** Gilbert H. Doane 1960 U of MN Press (Category B)
- The Curse of Gurs: Way Station to Auschwitz** Werner L. Frank California 2012 (Category D)
- The Galitzianers: The Jews of Galicia, 1772-1918** Suzan Wynne Kensington MD 2006 (Category B)
- The Jew in Canada** Arthur Daniel Hart Now and Then Books Canada 2010 (Category D)
- The Jewish Community of Eichstetten in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century** Cristina Weiblen and Ulrich Baumann 2001 Gemibde Eichstetten Hamburg, Germany 2001 (Category D)
- The Jews of Germany A Historical Portrait** Ruth Gay Yale University Press New Haven CT 1992 (Category D)
- The Unbroken Chain : Biographical Sketches and Genealogy of Illustrious Jewish Families from the 15<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> Century Vol I, II** Neil Rosenstein The Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy NJ 1990 (Category D)
- Until "The Final Solution": The Jews in Belgrade 1521-1942** Jennie Lebel Translated from Serbian by Paul Münch Avotaynu NJ 2007 (Category C)
- Velodrome D'Hiver Police Archives, DRANCY** Organisation De L'évenement, France; Venturing Into Our Past and more 2012 (Category D)



## 2013 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 2013**

Date of form \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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