

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

November 2014

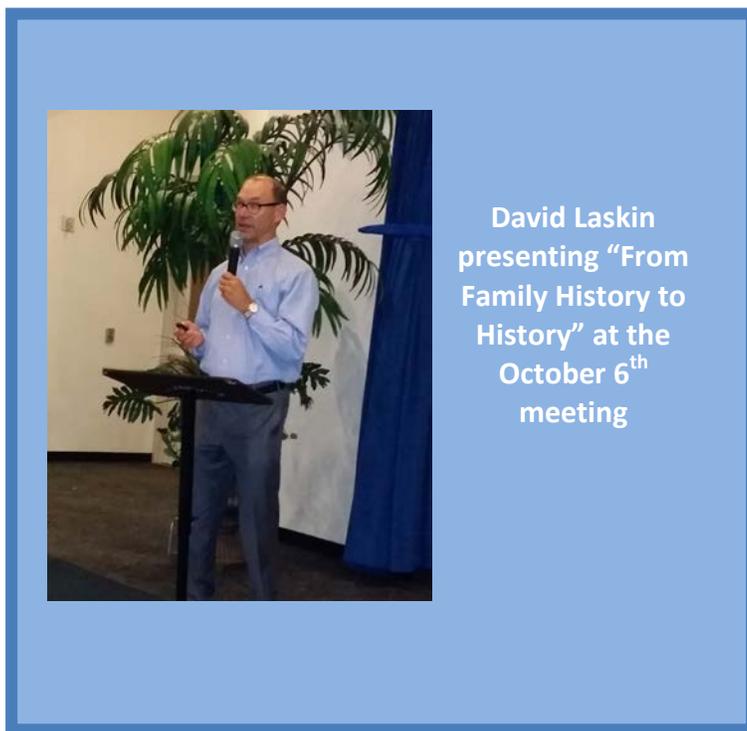
Volume 10 Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

David Laskin was the presenter at JGSCV's 9th anniversary program on October 6th. He was absolutely fabulous! David, who was also the keynote speaker at the IAJGS International Conference this summer in Salt Lake City, gave a presentation that was genealogical and very different than his IAJGS presentation. David's book, *The Family: Three Journeys into the Heart of the Twentieth Century*, is the story of one family that split into three branches (US, Israel and Eastern Europe). At the book's heart is the story of three extraordinary archetypal women: Sonia, the Pioneer in the Promised Land; Itel, --the Tycoon in New York; and Doba, the mother who remained in Lithuania and endured the onslaught of the Holocaust. To read the highlights of the program see page 6.

The schmoozing corner was facilitated by JGSCV founding member and former board member Werner Frank. Werner did "double duty" as he also presented the five-minute genealogical hint on "Stolpersteins"—memorial stones placed in front of the former homes of holocaust victims. For more about JGSCV's 5-minute genealogical hint and Werner's presentation on Stolpersteins see page 9.

At the October program we acknowledged and thanked all the JGSCV members who have helped us over our nine years. If you would like to get more active on a committee or other activity please let us know. JGSCV is



David Laskin presenting "From Family History to History" at the October 6th meeting

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, November 3rd 7:00-9:00 PM

The Margarine Moonshiners from Minsk

Tammy Hepps, creator of treelines.com and winner of RootsTech's 2013 Developer Challenge, takes us on a genealogical journey through story telling – and shows us how to do the same.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

6052 Hackers Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

818-889-6616

Jan Meisels Allen, President
president@jgscv.org

Stewart Bernstein, Member
at Large stewart@jgscv.org

Debra Kay Blatt, Secretary
secretary@jgscv.org

Warren Blatt, Member
Education
education@jgscv.org

Dorothy Drilich, Member at
Large Dorothy@jgscv.org

Allan Linderman, Newsletter
Editor
newslettereditor@jgscv.org

Helene Rosen, VP
Membership
membership@jgscv.org

Karen Lewy, Treasurer
treasurer@jgscv.org

Israel Perel, Librarian
librarian@jgscv.org

Jan Meisels Allen, Publicity
publicity@jgscv.org

Barbara Algaze, FHL
barbara@jgscv.org

David Oseas, Webmaster
webmaster@jgscv.org

only as strong as its members and your volunteering a few hours a month or less makes a BIG difference in what we accomplish.

JGSCV “officially” started its 2015 membership campaign at the October 6 meeting. Some people joined in late August and September and they were given 2015 status. We are at an all-time high for members and hope this trend continues! We are off to a great start with new members and renewals. See page 14 for the membership/renewal sheet—the form is also available at the registration desk at the meetings as well as on JGSCV’s website: www.jgscv.org. At our annual Membership/Chanukah Party meeting – this year on December 21—those who joined or renewed for 2015 and **attend the meeting** are eligible for fantastic genealogy gifts. Their names are placed in a bowl for a drawing. We have 10 gifts with the grand prize being Ancestry’s Worldwide Subscription which sells for over \$350; subscriptions to Family Tree Maker, FindMyPast, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com Legacy Family Tree, Legacy Webinars, RootsMagic, and more!

While this is the November issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*, it will be received during the month of October. This month is International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM)—the month of Cheshvan and on the civil calendar celebrated on October 25 to November 22. IJGM honors our Jewish ancestors through the pursuit of Jewish family history research. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) of which JGSCV is a member, sponsors IJGM. IAJGS took over IJGM from *Avotaynu* in 2007. For more about IJGM see page 12. What have you done to celebrate IJGM or Family History Month which is also celebrated in October in the United States? Have you written a memory, identified people in an old family photograph, looked at old newspapers at the library or on the Internet for articles about your ancestral town or family? Have you reviewed your research with a fresh eye to break down some brick walls? Next month’s 5-minute genealogical hint will be on the IJGM.

Our elections will be held in December. However, the Nominations Committee slate is presented to the membership at our November meeting with a call for nominations from the floor. After that all nominations are closed. To read more about this see page 8.

Our November 3rd meeting is the second meeting held on Monday evening from 7:00-9:00 pm —after this meeting we return to Sunday afternoons. Monday night meetings allow those unable to attend Sunday afternoon the opportunity to benefit from JGSCV offerings.

Our speaker is Tammy Hepps who will talk about *The Margarine Moonshiners from Minsk: Conducting Story-Driven Research*. This is a very funny while educational program. Hepps uses numerous historical and genealogical repositories to retrace her journey to get to the bottom of a long-concealed chapter in her family history. You will learn how you can better pursue the fascinating leads in your family trees when you think like a story teller.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Jan Meisels Allen



MISSION STATEMENT The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) is a non-profit organization, run by enthusiastic volunteers, dedicated to the sharing of genealogical information, techniques, and research tools with those interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Members, who include both beginners and experienced genealogists, share information with each other.

ABOUT JGSCV: The JGSCV 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.

2015 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 by selecting the membership button.

JEWISHGEN INDEPENDENT STUDY

From Oct. 31-Nov. 28, JewishGen will offer an independent study class specific to each participant: you choose the project and receive one to one guidance via responses to your questions from your JewishGen consultant. A maximum of 10 participants will be admitted after reviewing all completed applications. Start here <http://www.jewishgen.org/education/> and click on "Independent Study-Requires Application".

GENEALOGY OF . . . YOUR HOME?

Have you ever considered the history of your home as part of *family* history? Very helpful tips on what to look for and where to find it are at: http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/house_history.htm

NEW AT ANCESTRY.COM

- Massachusetts, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1949-1957
- California State Court Naturalization Records, 1850-1986
- UPDATED U.S. Passport Applications, 1795-1925
- UPDATED U.S. WW II Draft Registrations Cards, 1942

November, 2014

VIRTUAL GENEALOGY FAIR

The National Archives will host a live, three-day, virtual Genealogy Fair Oct. 28-30 via webcast on YouTube. The free program offers family history research tools for all skill levels on Federal records including census, American Indian, military, naturalization, and immigration. Other topics include overviews of online genealogy resources and more. For schedule and instructions, visit the Fair *website* <http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair>

KRISTALLNACHT COMMEMORATION

November 9-10, 2014 will be the 76th anniversary of Kristallnacht. (See page 13 for more.) Among the commemorations in southern California is a program at Loyola Marymount on Tuesday, Nov. 4th at 7PM. The program features **Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger**, author of "A German Life: Against All Odds, Change is Possible," which describes his struggle growing up in the shadow of his Nazi officer father. Dr. Wollschlaeger eventually converted to Judaism, emigrated to Israel and served in the Israel Defense Forces as a medical officer. Loyola Marymount is located at 1 LMU Drive, Los Angeles, 90045.

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on **Monday**, November 3, 2014 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 7:00-9:00 p.m.



The Topic

The Margarine Moonshiners from Minsk: Conducting Story-Driven Research

Tammy Hepps takes a journey through story-telling that is funny and yet a genealogical journey that teaches us how to research. Hepps' routine search on her great-grandfather revealed the shocking surprise that he had been incarcerated in Leavenworth, which led her to trace a group of brothers and brothers-in-law recently emigrated from Minsk, who set out to sell margarine as butter in defiance of the law. Hepps uncovered the hijinks of her great-grandfather, who fled with his family repeatedly before the feds finally nabbed him, the brother-in-law he fingered who was excommunicated for selling lard as butter, another brother-in-law who was arrested for threatening to kill a witness, and more. Hepps uses numerous historical and genealogical repositories to retrace her journey to get to the bottom of this long-concealed chapter in her family history. You will learn how you can better pursue the fascinating leads in your family trees when you think like a story teller.

Speaker: Tammy A. Hepps is the creator of Treelines.com, a family story-sharing website and winner of the RootsTech 2013 Developer Challenge. She has fourteen years of experience in digital media with a degree from Harvard. Hepps has been working on her family tree for more than twenty years and combines in Treelines.com her depth in genealogy, technology, and storytelling. She serves on the Board of Directors for JewishGen and the Philadelphia Jewish Archive Center, and the Board of Advisers for the NY Family History School and the Board of Advisers for the NY Family History School.



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. Join now for 2015! Light refreshments will be served.

JGSCV UPDATES . . .



JGSCV really, really needs an assistant editor for our newsletter, “Venturing Into Our Past”. The assistant editor will need to devote only about of 2 hours (at your own pace) throughout each month researching and accumulating the records updates and insights that appear on page 3 of this publication. Help in writing will be provided if necessary. **Please contact** Allan Linderman if interested: newslettereditor@jgscv.org.

THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is available If you would like individual insights for your genealogical pursuits from an experienced JGSCV member. JGSCV Secretary Debra Kay-Blatt will lead the Schmoozing Corner before the November 3rd meeting. Come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the SCHMOOZING CORNER sign 20 minutes before the meeting is scheduled to begin. **And, if you can't be at the SCHMOOZING CORNER this month, see “ASK THE JGSCV EXPERT” on page 8 and submit your own question to: newslettereditor@jgscv.org.**



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



We recently discovered that some ‘ad blockers’ remove the Amazon graphic. That can easily be disabled for the JGSCV site while it remains in effect on all other sites.

Believe it or not, registration is open for the **2015 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy** to be held July 6-10 in Jerusalem. The preliminary website already includes a ‘call for papers’ and hotel and travel information as well as registration forms. The discounted conference rate is available from July 2-12 to accommodate attendees who plan to stay longer. Visit <http://www.iajgs2015.org/>

If you enjoy and are enriched by JGSCV programs, please remember to renew your membership or join for the first time. JGSCV dues help defray the costs required to develop such a full schedule of fertile programs and speakers to enhance your genealogical research and experience. A membership form can be accessed and completed from the website www.jgscv.org and page 16.

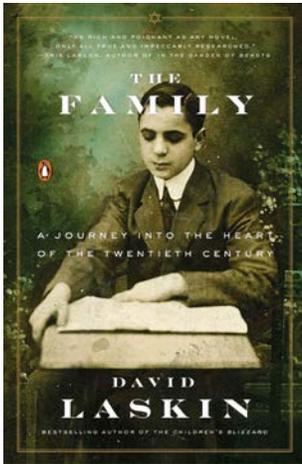
Beginning this month, *Venturing Into Our Past* includes an “Ask the Expert” column with answers to questions YOU HAVE ASKED regarding your specific family history or genealogy in general. Start thinking about what questions you would like to have answered by an expert. To see this month’s question and expert answer, see page 8.

If you have your own, specific question related to your own research, please send it to: newslettereditor@jgscv.org for an expert’s answer. Names will be withheld if preferred.

Highlights from- Family History to History: Bridging the Gap Using Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen

David Laskin, an award-winning non-fiction writer, gave a mesmerizing presentation on his new book, *The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* (Penguin paperback). It



is the story of one family that split into three branches (US, Israel and Eastern Europe). At the heart of the book are three extraordinary archetypal women: Sonia, the Pioneer in the Promised Land; Itel, -- the Tycoon in New York; and Doba, the mother who remained in Lithuania and endured the onslaught of the

Holocaust. Laskin addressed particular genealogical issues that he encountered in the course of research and writing, including archival research in the US, Israel and Eastern Europe. He sold the paperback edition of his book—and ran out of copies. Anyone who wishes may purchase the book from Amazon.com.

Itel (Ida Rosenthal, photo right), the founder of Maidenform Bra Company, started out in Eastern Europe as a member of the Bund—she was a socialist revolutionary before she became a capitalist tycoon. Family lore has it that she was forced to flee Russia during the 1905 uprising because of her Bundist activities. In the US, Itel worked as a seamstress and by the 1920s, she was running a fancy dress shop off New York's Fifth Avenue. In 1922, Itel, her husband William and a partner started the



Maidenform Bra Company; their first customers were Broadway showgirls who were not afraid to “uplift”—but the product soon caught on with women nationwide. The Rosenthals’ lives were not without tragedy as their only son died in his early twenties.

Laskin recalled that as a boy he saw the early ads in the Maidenform “Dream” campaign (“I dreamed I went shopping in my Maidenform Bra” was the first one). It was his preadolescent exposure to the mysteries of women’s bodies and left a lasting memory.

Sonia (photo right), the pioneer, was first cousin to Laskin’s grandfather and to Itel. She emigrated from Europe to what was then called Palestine --today Israel-- in the early 1930’s where she met up with her first cousin Chaim, a Socialist Zionist, - who had arrived 8 years earlier. They married in 1933 and lived on a moshav (a collective farm) on territory that was previously owned by Bedouin farmers. They had to deal with tensions between the Jewish settlers and Bedouins as well as the travails of life under the British Mandate.



Sonia’s sister Doba was from Rakov and then moved to Vilna. She and her husband and sons remained in Europe and became prisoners of the Third Reich in June, 1941. Through JewishGen resources Laskin was able to learn that in 1942 Doba, her two sons and her brother-in-law were living in the Vilna Ghetto. Her husband had already been shot at the killing pits at Ponar, outside the city. On a trip to Israel, Laskin was fortunate to meet a Vilna ghetto survivor who knew the family. JewishGen was

mentioned several times as an invaluable resource for his genealogical research.

The presentation told of the horrors of Ponar where Nazis took able bodied men to be shot and buried. Also discussed was the Estonian labor camp Klooga where Doba's oldest son Shimon spent the last year of his life. The USC Shoah Project videotaped survivors and Laskin was able to watch the two the videos by the survivors from Klooga. When the Nazi's recognized the war had turned against them, they attempted to hide the evidence of their crimes at Klooga by building pyres of logs and the corpses of prisoners and setting them on fire.

While the European branch of the family was being murdered or forced into labor, their American first cousins were serving in the US Army and fighting in Europe.

Laskin's single most important genealogical aide was a cache of 281 letters from the Eastern European family that the Israeli branch of the family—Sonia's descendants-- had saved. The letters were written in Yiddish and the Israeli family had not read them. The letters were translated into both English and Hebrew so the remaining family members could read and appreciate what hardships the family left in Europe faced. The letters stopped in April 1941, six weeks before the Nazis entered the towns where the family lived.

Shalom Zvi - uncle of Itel and the father of Doba and Sonia -came from Europe to visit his brother in New York in the summer of 1939 and was unable to return due to the war breaking

out. His travel visa kept being extended but eventually after the US entered WW2, Shalom Zvi was able to go to Canada to obtain an immigration visa so he could reenter and stay in the United States. Again, saved letters between Shalom Zvi and his daughter Sonia in Israel tells the plight he endured in the United States and what was happening with the US branch of the family. Shalom's application to reenter the US from Canada lists his wife Beyle as next of kin—residing in Rakov—indicating that he was not aware that she had been burned to death eight months before.

In order to better understand what happened in what is today Belarus and Lithuania, Laskin visited the family towns—Rakov, Volozin and Vilna accompanied by his oldest daughter and two of his Israeli cousins and their oldest sons. Together they visited the places where the third branch of the family lived and died. They found the gravesite of their common ancestor. It was, Laskin noted, a truly emotional trip.

Laskin learned that his grandfather, great grandfather, second great grandfather and third great grandfather were Torah scribes—and perhaps there were even more scribes further back on the family tree. Laskin as a writer may have “inherited” the scribe gene although his writings are not sacred. He counts himself as a person of the “book”. Writing the book about the family and the research it took to be able to tell the family story changed how he looked at himself as a Jew. “ I have come to love and revere the Judaism that sustained my family through the generations... They were giants; wittingly or not, they enacted epics...”



Above, Portrait of the Cohen family; Right, Sonia and Chaim



Sam, Harry and Hyman outside their NYC store

FORTHCOMING JGSCV ELECTIONS

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a duly appointed Nominating Committee recommended the slate of individuals below to fill the five positions for election to two-year positions on the JGSCV board effective January 2015. The Nominating Committee was chaired by Hal Bookbinder and included board member Israel Perel and general member Sara Applebaum. The terms of four of the nine existing board members are expiring at the end of this year. In addition, Stewart Bernstein has decided to retire and Marion Werle resigned earlier this year. The bylaws permit 11 elected members. With the approval of the board, the president may fill a vacancy by appointment. While we did function for part of the year with 10 board members, previously we operated with 9 board members and with this slate we will again function with 9 board members.

The five candidates are:

- Jan Meisels Allen
- Rosalie Bell
- Debra Kay-Blatt
- Karen Lewy
- Helene Rosen

Four of the five nominees, currently serve on the

board: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay-Blatt, Karen Lewy and Helene Rosen. Rosalie Bell currently serves on the Publicity Committee. According to the Bylaws, anyone else wishing to be nominated to the Board can do so during the November 3, 2014 meeting of the Society. An individual may nominate him/herself or another. No second is necessary. Nominees must have been members of the Society for at least one year. Any person that is nominated from the floor must be present and orally agree to serve on the Board if elected, or if not present must have signed a written statement indicating their willingness to serve if elected. This statement must be available for inspection at this meeting. After this solicitation, nominations for the Board are closed. The names of all nominees with brief biographies will be published in the December issue of this newsletter. Elections will then be held at the December 21, 2014 meeting.

According to the JGSCV bylaws the general membership votes for the persons to serve on the board, but the board members decide on the roles of the board members. At the January board meeting the decision of responsibilities will be decided and reported in the following (February 2015) newsletter.

ASK THE JGSCV EXPERT

Question: “How would I go about finding someone ‘in country’ to help me with local records in Ukraine, Romania, Poland or any eastern European country?”

JGSCV EXPERT ANSWERS: As with so much in Jewish Genealogy, JewishGen is a very worthwhile resource. Their page, “Finding a Professional Genealogist”, was compiled by Peter Haas and Phyllis Kramer and contains a long list of in-country, for-fee professional genealogists. The name and email of the individual who recommended each genealogist is included. JewishGen strongly recommends you do your due diligence before hiring anyone for this purpose. JewishGen takes no responsibility for the completeness or accuracy of the data on the page and in fact has an entirely separate page listing all of the caveats you can imagine. <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Researchers.htm>. You should probably start here.

Inside JewishGen you can also, reach out to the specific SIG of each country and post your query there where other SIG members are likely to respond with more names of recommended professional genealogists. Go to <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/sigs.htm>.

Send your question to newslettereditor@jgscv.org for an expert answer next month.

Highlights from: The 5-Minute Genealogical Hint About “Stolperstein”

By Jan Meisels Allen

Several years ago JGSCV initiated the 5-minute genealogical hint to be given at the beginning of each meeting. We have them at many meetings but not all. Our meetings are richer for these tidbits of how to enhance our genealogy research and they may be given by any member or guest. The only requirement is to contact the president, Jan Meisels Allen for approval by letting her know the topic and about 1-2 sentences of what you are going to talk about. While most of the 5-minute genealogical hints have been given with power point presentations that is not a requirement. We hope that you might have something to share in the near future—about a technique or genealogical find that would help others.

The most recent 5- minute genealogical hint was given by founding JGSCV and former board member, Werner Frank (above right) on “Stolperstein”. Stolperstein, which means “stumbling block” was created by Gunter Deming. They are small, cobblestone-sized

memorials for an individual holocaust victim—both dead and survivors. Each stone is placed in front of the former home of a holocaust victim. Thus far there are 48,000 markers of holocaust victims placed in front of homes. When the Stolperstein is placed, the town holds a ceremony attended by the townspeople. Today 16 countries have adopted the Stolpersteins: Austria, Hungary, the Netherlands, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Russia, Croatia, France, Poland, Slovenia, Italy, Norway, Ukraine, Switzerland, Slovakia and Luxembourg. The towns’ local historical society or Jewish historical society or high school would have the history of the person for whom the Stolpersteins were created. Local Christians created the documents.



Stolperstein above; right Local Stolperstein person’s data

Datenblatt zur Aktion „Stolpersteine“		Stolperstein	
Name:	S ü ß k i e d geborene Wallach Jenny (Jenny)	11. Suchtraie 42 Rotenburg“ 12. 10. 1942 an 8.5. 1943 für 18 abtät.	geboren am 28. November 1900 in Neeswörden / Suchweg / Heusen - Neuen; wohnhaft in Heuchelheim, Bats und Neeswörden
Vorname:	Jenny (Jenny)	SA 64/1950/1942 vor	gemeinsam mit Ehemann
geb:	28.11.1900 Neeswörden, Kreis Eschwege	geb: 1900	deportiert am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
gebOrt:	Walach, Moses, geb. 9. Handwerker W. Janetta, geb. Walldorf, geb. 1900	geb: 1900	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Ehem:	Walach, Moses, geb. 9. Handwerker W. Janetta, geb. Walldorf, geb. 1900	geb: 1900	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Wohnst:	Holzhausen Str. 1, Neeswörden (F. Haus Nr. 28) wohnhaft nach Heuchelheim + Bats	geb: 1900	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Bauf:	Ohne Bauf	geb: 1900	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Eheheft:	28.01.1911 SA, Neeswörden (F. Haus Nr. 28)	geb: 1900	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Ehemann:	Süßkind, Sally, Bauf, Vaterhaus geb. 21.10.1885 in Heuchelheim-Heusen	geb: 1885	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Kinder:	Süßkind, O. und Siegfried (Kleinbrat) geb. 21.10.1885 in Heuchelheim-Heusen 1942 abtät in Heusen-Neuen, Jerusalem geboren: 000; abtät in Jerusalem nach seinem Tod eine besondere Anwesenheit; 3 Kinder, siehe Anhang 777 weitere Kinder 777 * 1, geborene * geb. 1910 * 1	geb: 1885	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Wohnst zur Geburt:	Wohnst nach Angabe	geb: 1885	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Bemerkung:	Karteikarte soll vorhanden sein, es wird danach gesucht! Die Eltern verstarben 1902/27 bei Anwesen Holzhausen Str. 1 an Julius Reimbach Theater, Autruwe Reimbach) und zogen zur Tochter nach Bats. Ehemann war ein „großer“ Kaufmann in Bats, er soll seine Haggens gekauft haben (Zinsgegenstände) Ehemann wurde am gleichen Tag nach Sobibor deportiert. Der Todestag ist mit Jenny identisch.	geb: 1885	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor
Gedenkbuch:	Die jüdischen Gemeinden in Preußen und Neeswörden (Scheuflinger, 1988, S. 204, 205)	geb: 1885	ermordet am 28. November 1942 in Sobibor

JGSCV Meeting Dates Through August, 2015*

At Temple Adat Elohim

November 3, 2014 Monday 7:00-9:00 PM Tammy Hepps, *The Margarine Moonshiners from Minsk: Conducting Story-Driven Research*. Hepps takes on a journey through story telling that is funny and yet a genealogical journey that teaches us how to research. Hepps' routine search on her great-grandfather revealed the shocking surprise that he had been incarcerated in Leavenworth, tracing a group of brothers and brothers-in-law recently immigrated from Minsk, who set out to sell margarine as butter in defiance of one the stranger pieces of legislation ever passed. Her desire to tell this story in its entirety led to uncovering the hijinks of her great-grandfather, who fled with his family repeatedly before the feds finally nabbed him, her great-grandmother, whose pleas to the warden still survive, the brother-in-law he fingered who was excommunicated for selling lard as butter, another brother-in-law who was arrested for threatening to kill a witness, the soon-to-be-famous inspector who was hot on their tail the entire time, and more. Hepps uses numerous historical and genealogical repositories to retrace her journey to get to the bottom of his long-concealed chapter in her family history.

December 21, 2014 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Crista Cowan, *Smart Search Tips and Genealogy Methodology "The Barefoot Genealogist"*[®], returns with hints on how to best use Ancestry.com, new records and more! Annual Membership and Chanukah Party

2015

January 4, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 Stuart Tower, author of *Branko*

February 15, 2015 Sunday 1:00-5:00 Annual Assisted Research Afternoon- Los Angeles Family History Library Members Only

March 1, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 Janette Silverman, *Ancient Texts Lead to Genealogical Discoveries: The Lives Our Ancestors Led*

April 12, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 TBA Annual Yom Hashoah Program (actual Yom Hashoah is April 16)

May 3, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 Marion Werle, *Evaluating Evidence, Genealogical Proof Standard, What Is A Reliable Source?*

June 7, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30

August 2, 2015 Sunday 1:30-3:30 *Genealogy In the Round*

*All programs subject to change. Check website www.jgscv.org

Ralphs Community Contribution Program To Benefit JGSCV



JGSCV's partnership with Ralphs is an important part of our revenue. Your Board relies on fees received from **Ralphs Community Contribution Program** to help defray the cost of many of our programs, speakers, books and more. The Community Contribution program makes a contribution to JGSCV each time you shop at any of the

Ralphs stores with no cost to you. It is the least expensive and easiest way to help fund your JGSCV. Everyone, even people you know who are not JGSCV members, can help by signing up for this program.

First, join Ralphs' Club. **September 1st each year you must re-join (even if you are already a member).** Besides helping JGSCV, Ralphs Club members also receive special discounts on featured purchases.

If you are already a registered participant, you only remained active until August 31, 2014 at which time you will have to re-register. You can re-register for the new term at www.Ralphs.com starting **September 1, 2014**. Even if you registered as recently as July you will be required to register again starting September 1st!

Remember: You can renew or register for the first time at the JGSCV's meetings—but you must first have a Ralph's Card. You can easily obtain a card by going to the customer service desk at any Ralphs store. For more information contact Karen Lewy at Karen@jgscv.org.

Once you have a Ralphs Club card, register for the Community Contribution Program by going to www.Ralphs.com and clicking on register/sign-in. This will register your Ralphs card so you will be entitled to discounts on featured items throughout each store. Include your email and create a password.

Once You Have Registered Your Ralph's Rewards Card you can sign-up for the Community Contribution Program and help JGSCV by following these simple steps

1. Log-in to www.ralphs.com:
2. Sign-in with your email address and the password you created
3. Click on "My Account" (it's the top right hand corner)
4. View all your information and edit as necessary
5. Scroll down to bottom of page where it says community awards and click edit or enroll my community contribution
6. Follow the instructions and remember to click on the circle to the left of our organization's name
7. Type in the first words of our organization i.e. "Jewish Gen" (if you only type in "Jewish" a number of organizations appear including ours, so by typing in the first few letters of our second name only we appear) and click on "search" and our name will pop up: "Jewish Genealogical Society of the

Conejo Valley &". Or key in our 5 digit NPO number 84732 and click 'Search'. Make certain it is our Society as there are other Jewish Genealogy Societies registered!

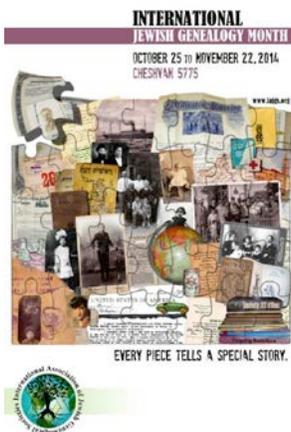
8. In the 'Select Your Organization Section', click on the bubble next to our name

9. Click on 'Save Changes'. Our name (Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &.) will appear on the right side of this page. You have now completed your Online rewards card registration AND your Community Contributions registration.

10. Click on 'Logout' at the top of the page

JGSCV has been receiving from Ralphs between \$50-\$90 per quarter, or equal to 2-3 JGSCV memberships per quarter. Only 19 JGSCV members/friends are participating—why not you?

IAJGS INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH POSTER CONTEST WINNER



International Jewish Genealogy Month is celebrated during the Hebrew month of Cheshvan (Oct. 25-Nov. 22, 2014). The IAJGS holds an annual Poster Contest to commemorate this celebration and recognize artistic talent. The 2014 winner is Marcia Hirsch of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois.

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

SANDI BANKS
ANDREA MASSION

JILL MEYER
ALBERT YORK

Kristallnacht: Night of Broken Glass 76th Anniversary November 9-10

This year marks the 76th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht, "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass" took place on November 9 and 10, 1938 throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia that were occupied by German troops. At least 91 Jews were killed in the attacks, and 30,000 were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked. The attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned (95 in Vienna alone) and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.

According to the Free Dictionary, Herschel Grynszpan a 17-year-old Jew, assassinated the third secretary at the German embassy in Paris on November 7, 1938, to avenge the expulsion of his parents and 15,000 other Polish Jews to German concentration camps. This gave the Nazis the excuse they were waiting for and

Goebbels urged Storm Troopers to stage violent reprisals--which resulted in Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht marked the transition in Nazi policy. It was the first violent pogrom (riot) on Western European soil in hundreds of years. Immediately after Kristallnacht, a fine of one billion marks was levied, not upon the criminals, but upon the victims, the Jewish community of Germany. Nazi policy had now moved into the overt destruction of all Jewish life in the Third Reich.

To read more about Kristallnacht see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristallnacht> and <http://tinyurl.com/29k38gn> for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum write up.

While there are commemorations throughout the US and other countries, it is best to Google for this to find out what is happening closest to you to commemorate Kristallnacht.



The shattered stained glass windows of the Zerrennerstrasse synagogue after its destruction on Kristallnacht. Pforzheim, Germany, ca. November 10, 1938. — *Stadtarchiv Pforzheim*



2015 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 2015

Date _____

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 _____

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

