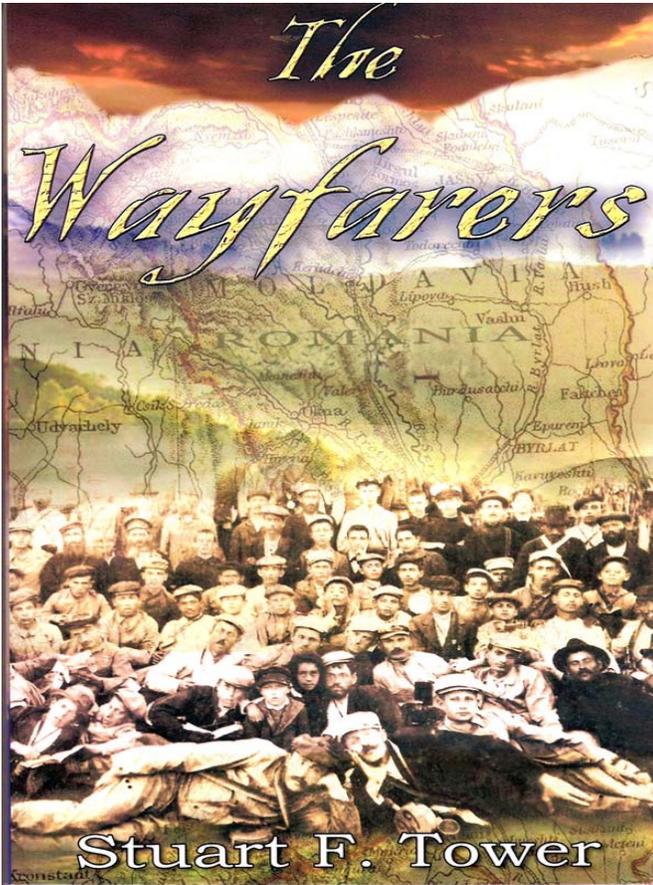


# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 1, Issue 10

July 2006



## JUNE MEETING FEATURES *THE WAYFARERS*

Stuart Tower gave an engaging and enlightening discussion of the *fusgayers* (those who went by foot), the focus of his historical novel *The Wayfarers*. Fifty-six attendees, including eight first-timers learned how the pogroms and harsh times of our ancestors incited the *fusgayers* to flee their homeland for America. The mass exodus began when Czar Alexander III ascended to the Russian throne and imposed terror, genocidal massacre and other atrocities on the Jews.

Taking real-life experiences of young Jews from Romania who walked the 1800 miles to the German ports, Mr. Tower inserted real personages of the era that "met" the *fusgayers* through their arduous travels. In addition to meeting welcoming people on their travels, they faced the armies of several countries, bandits and unsympathetic Jews.

The book gives us insight to what many of our ancestors endured in the times they lived. But, why walk? Because the cost of a train ticket from the Pale of Settlement to the German or Dutch ports was as costly as the steerage ship fees to travel to America!

Mr. Tower also showed photographs from his recent trip to Romania — tracing the route by visiting the towns mentioned in the book. Anyone interested in purchasing the book (\$20 plus postage) may contact Stuart Tower at 310-278-2055.

## President's Message....

It is hard to believe that summer is here. So much has happened in the past 10 months! We have grown from zero to 112 members. Administratively we have our 501-C3 tax-exempt status from the IRS through the group exemption under the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS); we incorporated within the State of California, registered as a California Charitable Trust and await our filing with the California Franchise Tax Board.

We are delighted that Temple Adat Elohim has extended its co-sponsorship of our meetings. Thank you Temple Adat Elohim! The JGSCV Board was recently advised by Temple Adat Elohim that we have meeting dates through June 2007- when their calendar year (July-June) ends. Temple Adat Elohim is a gracious, generous and wonderful partner in our programs and without their co-sponsorship we could not afford to bring you programs every month!

Knowing we have a home through at least June 2007 we will continue to plan interesting and diverse programs. Our programming has tried to bring something to the novice as well as the experienced genealogist. We would like to hear from you about topics you would like to have presented- no promises, but we will try. With your support and spreading the word about JGSCV we will continue to grow in membership and in our growth we get stronger. Contact me if you have any suggestions and or want to become involved with a committee or the board.

Jan Meisels Allen

**SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

## ABOUT JGSCV.....

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County meets once a month 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 a special shelf at the Agoura Hills Public Library.

Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email. Editorial and feature articles, as well as tips for pursuit of genealogical research are welcome. Send such material as a file attachment or message via email to [newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org)

2006 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send appropriate amount in check made out to JGSCV and addressed to Richard Munitz at 29633 Windsong Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

## A UNIQUE TRIP TO ISRAEL

If you are looking for a unique experience in Israel — a departure from the standard tourist tour of prominent places and institutions — here is a trip for you. Go on “The Ultimate Mission to Israel,” sponsored by Shurat HaDin, the Israel Law Center. See: [www.israelawcenter.org](http://www.israelawcenter.org)

My wife and I just completed a seven day experience of a lifetime by participating in a jam-packed 14-hours per day series of lectures and on-site inspections of military camps, civil and military courts, intelligence units (including ShinBet and the Mossad), border checkpoints, briefings by veteran war heroes and exposure to spokespersons for the Government as well as the political opposition, including the Israeli-Arab sector. The existential reality of Israel’s geo-political status was dealt with intellectual depth and breadth.

Why does Shurat HaDin sponsor this “judicial, military, humanitarian, historical, religious and political reality check?” In order to highlight the critical issue of terrorism which continues to confront and threaten the well-being of the State of Israel and to tell the story of how non-profit Shurat HaDin undertakes a program of undermining terrorism by bringing judicial proceedings against terror networks on behalf of its victims.

Werner L. Frank

## SPECIAL COURSE IS OFFERED BY LDS

The Los Angeles Regional Family History Center of the Latter Day Saints (LDS), located at 10741 Santa Monica Boulevard in West Los Angeles, is offering a series of computer classes in Family History/Genealogy for a nominal fee. Subjects include: Passenger Lists, Naturalization, US Census Records (including Soundex and Computer Indexes), Research Guidance, Overview of Ancestry.com and Wills, Probates, and Deeds. Generally the same subjects will be covered in each series, the difference is the days and times of each series.

The first is a "Three Day Intensive Family History/Genealogy Course," running Wednesday August 2, 2006 thru Friday August 4, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day (\$20.00 including the workbook). Check it out at:

<http://www.larfhc.org/threedaycourse.html>

The second is the "Silver Certification Course," a series of three classes, running on three consecutive Fridays, July 7th, July 14th and July 21st, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The cost for this series is \$15.00. Check it out at: <http://www.larfhc.org/silver.htm>

The third option is a series of six classes, running on Sunday nights, 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. starting on June 25th. The cost for this series is \$10.00. Check it out at: <http://www.larfhc.org/silveradvanced.htm>

Additional classes will be offered starting in September 2006. Keep an eye on the Library website for these classes. They should be posted shortly at [www.larfhc.org](http://www.larfhc.org)

For further information contact Barbara Algaze at [Algaze@comcast.net](mailto:Algaze@comcast.net)

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## New Books on Genealogy at Agoura Hills Library

The Agoura Hills Public Library of the County of Los Angeles has added two volumes to its genealogy collection (see Venturing Into Our Past Vol 1 # 7, April 2006 for more information on their collections): *Immigration in United States History* Vol I A-I, edited by Carl Bankston III, Salem Press, February, 2006. Vol II J-Z is expected in the library shortly.

# NEXT MONTHLY MEETING, July 9:



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

## Detecting Faults and Errors in Genealogical Sources

Many times family lore or information on documents leads genealogists to incorrect conclusions. Werner Frank, founding member and newsletter editor of JGSCV, author and lecturer, will discuss potential problems inherent in genealogical research found while "digging" for his own family roots. The presentation will focus on controversies in line of descent (using rabbinical lines as an example); confusion in representation of names (format differences when names were recorded); reliability in tombstone inscriptions (errors in translating from Hebrew lettering); biographical fuzziness (questionable secondary sources) and photographic authenticity (does the camera lie?). The presentation sensitizes the genealogist's questioning of resource materials and encourages validation and confirmation of their conclusions.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim  
at 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks CA  
Sunday, July 9 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

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

For more information contact [information@JGSCV.org](mailto:information@JGSCV.org), see [www.JGSCV.org](http://www.JGSCV.org) or call Jan Meisels Allen at 818-889-6616.

### Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

All Meetings are held on a Sunday afternoon at Temple Adat Elohim  
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Future 2006 meetings are scheduled as follows: September 17, November 12 and December 10. There will be no meeting in August due to the IAJGS Conference in New York City, nor in October due to the High Holy Days.

September 17 meeting will be JGSCV's First Anniversary Celebration:

Gary Frohlich, Patient Care Liaison and Certified Genetic Counselor with Genzyme Therapeutics, will speak on "Our Heritage and Our Health," issues with respect to Genealogy, DNA and Ashkenazic Diseases. Also reports from the IAJGS Conference. Light refreshments and a DVD for all attendees. This meeting will begin at 1:30 P.M.

## A CONUNDRUM FOR ALL GENEALOGISTS: WHEN TIME STOOD STILL IN THE U.S.A.

Are you aware that the United States retained the convention of the Julian calendar until September 1752 while most other countries, especially in Europe, adopted the Gregorian calendar in as early as the 16<sup>th</sup> century. As a result of this American calendar conversion, the month of September 1752 is missing 11 days as shown in the following:

### Calendar for September 1752 (United States)

[<August](#) | [All of year 1752](#) | [October>](#)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Phases of the moon: 15:☉ 23:☾ 30:☉						

Thus, Julian dates shown in original US vital records and tombstones before this conversion point in time should be translated to a Gregorian format if consistency is to be maintained between European sourced data and later American data. This problem will be discussed at the forthcoming meeting of JGSCV on July 9, 2006 in the presentation “Detecting Faults and Errors in Genealogical Sources” by Werner L. Frank.

- We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at [newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org) .
- Members who are able to provide genealogical research services (for fee) are urged to contact President Jan Meisels Allen at 818-889-6616 for a possible assignment.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER:**

Jerome Escover

### JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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