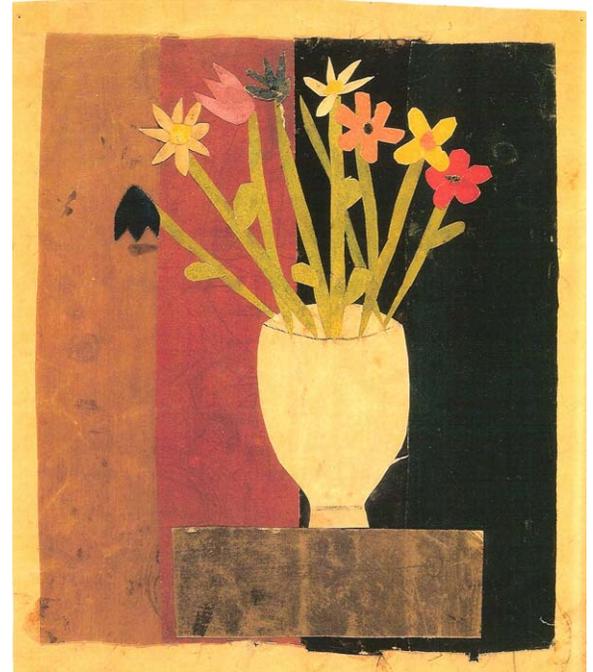


VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 1, Issue 7

April 2006



ART WORK FROM TEREZIN

President's Message...

The total silence that followed the viewing of the emotionally-charged documentary, "The Children of Terezin", spoke of its impact on the 73 attendees at our March 5 meeting. The documentary showed the return of survivors to Terezin (Theresienstadt), which was the Third Reich's "show place" — a so-called model camp conceived by propaganda to deceive the world into believing that the relocation of millions of Jews did not mean they were being liquidated, but "merely" resettled all over Europe. But the truth lay in the tens of thousands transported from Terezin to their death in Auschwitz, many after the inspection of the camp by the International Red Cross.

While not considered a "death camp," nearly one-third of the 140,000 prisoners died in Terezin. Terezin was also special, as it produced artists and poets who were part of an organized movement of resistance within the town. The

resistance was accomplished through an extensive underground network of secret activities that encouraged and taught inmates to use the power of music, poetry and painting to document and expose the façade of the "paradise ghetto."

Once children in Terezin, the returning survivors told of the power of the arts to keep the legacy alive. Expressions of the Holocaust were most moving in the children's drawings. A survivor said she "sees death living between the walls."

Emmy-award winner Stewart Bernstein, JGSCV board member and a producer of the film, told the audience of the difficulties of going to then Communist Czechoslovakia in order to make the documentary and that it was his most personally rewarding achievement. Stewart shared with the audience copies of documents and some of the children's art produced in Terezin.

JGSCV was honored that several holocaust survivors attended the meeting.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS



Jewish Genealogical Society (New York)
is hosting the
26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish
Genealogy
August 13-18, 2006
New York Marriott Marquis Hotel

Make your plans now to attend this exciting
conference. Check the website for attendance and
hotel registration details at www.jgsny2006.org.

The kickoff session will take place Sunday
evening, August 13, 2006 with keynote speaker
Dr. Allen Weinstein, Ninth Archivist of the
United States.

The 2006 IAJGS Program Committee has
announced the initial set of lectures and speakers
on website: www.jgsny2006.org/sessions.cfm.
There are many more lectures to come. When you
click on the lecture title the lecture abstract will
open up in a separate pop-up on your computer.
When you click on the speaker's name, the
speaker's biography will appear.

JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH....

March 30 to April 28
(corresponding to the Hebrew
month of Nisan) has been
designated Jewish Genealogy
Month by sponsor, Avotaynu.
A specially designed poster
carries this year's theme of "I
will dwell in the House of the
Lord forever."



The poster depicts a Jewish marriage ceremony
with ancestors viewing the ceremony on one
side and future descendants on the other. More
about Jewish Genealogy month and the poster is
found at: www.avotaynu.com/poster.htm

RESEARCH TIPS.....

Understanding other languages

Genealogical research almost always ends up in
discovering a document written in a foreign
language. A great Internet site which explains a
large number of written languages is Omniglot,
found at www.omniglot.com. It is an online guide to
written languages featuring hundreds of idioms and
dialects with excellent explanations, spellings,
special alphabets decoding and handy links to
related information. Here are some languages which
may be of specific interest to our members:

Czech www.omniglot.com/writing/czech.htm
German www.omniglot.com/writing/german.htm
Hebrew www.omniglot.com/writing/hebrew.htm
Slovak www.omniglot.com/writing/slovak.htm
Hungarian
www.omniglot.com/writing/hungarian.htm

(Thanks for this tip to Tom Venetianer)

ABOUT JGSCV.....

The Jewish Genealogical Society of 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

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.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS:

Susan McElvaney
Sally Goodman
Faye G. Rosenberg
Susan and Herbert Eckerling
Joni and Cory Edelman

NEXT MONTHLY MEETING:

"How To Begin Your Genealogy Research: Part II"

Continuing with our successful Part I (January 2006) on how to begin your genealogy research, JGSCV's April 9 meeting will further help you with your genealogy research. Even if you did not attend Part I, you can learn from Part II. Members of the JGSCV board: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay Blatt and Warren Blatt will try to answer your questions by demonstrating what and where to research on various Internet sites.

Please submit your genealogy questions in advance, such as: Where or how can I find my ancestral shtetl? If I don't know the shtetl, what can I do to find it? Do records exist for one's ancestors and where do I look? What street did my uncle live on in Brooklyn? On what ship did Bubbie emigrate? How can I order my parents' marriage certificate? We will also discuss how city directories and WWI and WWII records can assist in your research.

Your questions need to be submitted by April 1 to president@JGSCV.org.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim
at 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks CA
Sunday, April 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, see www.JGSCV.org or call Jan Meisels Allen at 818-889-6616

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates Through June 2006 All Meetings are held 2:00 - 4:00 pm at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

May 7, 2006: "The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe," by Hal Bookbinder, IAJGS past president & JGSCV founding member. Eastern European border changes occurred over the past millennium, interspersing Russian views about Jews in their midst — including those in the Pale of Settlement. One's ancestral home may have been under the rules of several countries at different times. Recognizing which government was in control at various times can help genealogists understand the environment in which their ancestors lived, events that stimulated migration, languages in which records were kept and likely locations where records might be found.

June 11, 2006: "The Wayfarers," Stuart Tower will talk on his historical novel which chronicles the emigration, *on foot*, of thousands of Jews from Romania across Europe and to America during the period 1899-1914. In Yiddish, these wayfarers were called *fusgeyers* — those who went by foot. There will be an opportunity to buy the book at the meeting.

Agoura Hills Library, County of Los Angeles
Resources on Jewish Genealogy, Holocaust and Jewish Americans
Located in the Agoura Hills Branch.

There are many books of interest to Jewish genealogists located at the Agoura Hills Library, which is part of the County of Los Angeles Public Library System. The Agoura Hills Library also has an extensive Holocaust collection of books and videos, some 2,087 items and the Los Angeles County system-wide has a collection of 6,895 items. A selection of Jewish genealogy and Holocaust books are listed below. We hope that you will visit the Agoura Hills Library to use the JGSCV library of books and journals as well as the Library's own collection. While the JGSCV library is not circulating, and therefore, must be used at the library, the Agoura Hills Library resources of interest are circulating and may be checked out by anyone with a County of Los Angeles Public Library Card.

You can access the library's resources via the internet at www.colapublib.org. The County of Los Angeles Public Library also has access to HeritageQuest, which L.A. County Library Card holders can access by computer from home or at the library. HeritageQuest includes the U.S. Census from 1790-1930, the last year the US census has been released to the public, as well as PERSI, an index of over 1.5 million genealogy and local history articles, 20,000 books of family and local history articles and selected Revolutionary War Era Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application fees.

Another great genealogy tool available through the Agoura Hills Library on-line is NewsBank, which allows one to research over 500 US newspapers for information on family members. There are more resources on-line and available at the Agoura Hills Library, so plan to visit soon and often!

Selected Books Available at the Agoura Hills Public Library

Bierman, Carol. Journey to Ellis Island: How My Father Came to America. 1998
Blumenthal, W. Michael. 1926. The Invisible Wall: Germans and Jews: A Past a Personal Exploration. 1998
Brietman, Richard, 1947. Official Secrets: What the Nazis Planned, What the British and Americans Knew. 1st ed. 1998
Eliach, Yaffa. There Once Was A World: A 900 Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok. 1998
Epstein, Helen, 1947 Where She Came From: A Daughter's Search For Her Mother's History. 1st ed. 1997
Frank, Werner L. Legacy: The Saga of a Jewish German Family Across Time and Circumstance. 2003
Ioanid, Rader. The Holocaust in Romania- The Destruction of Jews and Gypsies Under the Antonescu Regime 1940-1944. 2000
Jewish-American Heritage [Video recording] 1997
Jewish Americans [video recording] 1993
The Jewish Americans: A History in Their Own Words, 1659-1950. 1st edition. New York 1982
Kahane, David. Lvov Ghetto Diary. 1990
Kurzweil, Arthur. From Generation to Generation: How To Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History. 1st edition 2004
Mokotoff, Gary. Where Once We Walked. 1991
Muggamin, Howard. The Jewish Americans {Rev. Ed.} 1996
Oshry, Rabbi Ephraim. The Annihilation of Lithuanian Jewry. 1995
Press, David Paul. Jewish Americans. 1995
Roseman, Kenneth. The Other Side of the Hudson: A Jewish Immigrant Adventure. 1993
Rosenbloom, Joseph R. A Biographical Dictionary of Early American Jews, Colonial Times Through 1800. 1960
Rottenberg, Dan. Finding Our Fathers: A Guidebook to Jewish Genealogy. 1995
Schmitt, Hans A. Lucky Victim: An Ordinary Life in Extraordinary Times, 1933-1946. 1989
Spector, Shmuel ed. The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust 3 Vol. 2001
Stille, Alexander. Benevolence and Betrayal: Five Italian Jewish Families Under Fascism. 1991
Tokyer, Marion and Swartz, Mary. The FUGU Plan- the Untold Story of the Japanese and Jews During World War II. 1979

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