



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 2, Issue 11

August 2007



The Museum of Tolerance, Simon Wiesenthal Center, see p. 5

President's Message

The 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is now a pleasant memory. Over 700 participants enjoyed the Salt Lake City accommodations, especially the access to the LDS Family History Library main facility. Highlights of the conference include:

Re-election of IAJGS officers for two-year terms: Anne Feder Lee, President; Michael Brenner, First V.P. Membership; Joel Spector, Secretary and Michael Posnick, Treasurer.

IAJGS Lifetime Achievement was awarded to Mathilde Tagger of Israel for her 20 years of Sephardic research. The IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product was awarded to Lars Menk for his masterful book, "*Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames.*"

Malcolm Stern Award (in the future to be known as the Stern Grant) of \$2,000 to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) for acquiring, digitizing and indexing material from the International Tracing Service (ITS).

Opening session key-note speaker, Paul Shapiro, Director of Center of Advanced Holocaust Studies at USHMM, talked of the 8 years it took to get the 11 member countries of the ITS to agree to release tens of millions of records of WWII Nazi victims.

Stanley Diamond, president of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-PL) <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/> announced there have been on-going discussions with the Polish Government and newly appointed Polish State Archives Director and are optimistic that the JRI-PL indexing project will be permitted to continue. Available records up to 1905 have been indexed.

Banquet speaker was Dan Rottenberg, author of the pioneering genealogy book "*Finding Your Fathers.*"

JewishGen unveiled a new opening page which provides easier access to search your ancestral names and towns. www.jewishgen.org

Come to our August 19 meeting for more information on the conference presented by JGSCV members who attended the conference.

Jan Meisels Allen



Resource Room at Conference



JGSCV attendees at Conference



Werner Frank meets Dan Rottenberg

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, 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 a special shelf at the Agoura Hills Public Library. Members also receive our monthly newsletter which is circulated by email.

2007 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 Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountain wood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

Helping in Researching Boston

Tufts University has a web site that will interest most anyone researching ancestors or studying history in the city of Boston. "Boston Streets" combines city directories, maps, and photographs to tell the story of Boston over the last 160 years. Searchable Boston City Directories are available for the years 1845, 1855, 1865, 1870, 1872, 1875, 1885, 1905, and 1925.

See <http://dca.tufts.edu/features/bostonstreets>

Unique Research Library in Burbank

The Immigrant Genealogical Society (IGS) was founded in 1982 to help Americans trace their ancestors' origins, particularly in the German speaking areas of Europe and the places in the world to which they migrated. The society maintains a genealogical research library, publishes a newsletter and two periodical journals, and offers searches of its holdings for users worldwide immigrantgensoc.org/welcome.html

Where to Go for Research on Polish Ancestry

Jewish Records Indexing – Poland is the key website of searchable database of indices to Jewish records of Poland found at www.jri-poland.org. Collateral information regarding Polish Jewry is available at www.museumoffamilyhistory.com

Jewish Genealogical Research at the DAR Library

A basic collection of materials for Jewish genealogical research is available at the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Library. The DAR library is located in Washington DC (see www.dar.org and for the online catalog at www.dar.org/library/onlinelib.cfm)

The interests of Jewish genealogists are served at www.dar.org/darnet/forms/LG-1004.PDF where the following description is found:

“In the Library's General/Religion section are various sources such as collected family genealogies, research guides, histories of Judaism in the United States and major genealogical and historical journals. For the latter, the Library owns a largely complete set of the periodical publications of the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Jewish Historical Quarterly and American Jewish History (with indices), as well as an incomplete run of American Jewish Archives between volumes 6 (1954) and 47 (1995). In other sections of the Library, researchers will encounter studies of Jewish participation in the American Revolution and on Jewish communities around the United States, particularly those which date from the colonial period. Histories of Jewish settlements in specific states are also available. In the General/Names section are several recent and important volumes on the origins of Jewish family names.”

Ancestry.com Launches Online US Military Records Collection

Ancestry.com has announced the availability (for a fee) the largest collection of U.S. military records available and searchable online, featuring more than 90 million names that span more than four centuries of American history from the 1600s through Vietnam. This U.S. Military Collection includes exclusive record sets such as the only complete collection of WWI draft registration cards and commemorative military yearbooks and newspapers. Combined, the records bring to life the stories and sacrifices of the millions of brave men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. See www.ancestry.com/military



**Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society
of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County***

(* and surrounding areas)

**Sunday, 19 August 2007, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

The Topic:

**"Highlights of the 27th IAJGS International Conference
on Jewish Genealogy"**

Come and listen to JGSCV members who attended the 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City) who will share the highlights of the program, activities of the Special Interest Group (SIG) meetings, report on the 44 films in the Jewish Film festival, and have experienced a genealogical break through found doing research at the Family History Library and more!,

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 @ 818-889-6616

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates

**All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

September, 2007, no meeting due to the Jewish holidays

October 14, 2007, "How to Begin Your Genealogy Research — Part IV," focused on using the resources of the Family History Centers, presented by Debra Kay Blatt and Warren Blatt

November 11, 2007, "How the Jews Won the West," presented by Gladys Sturman

December 9, 2007, "Using the Internet beyond JewishGen and the Steve Morse Website," presented by Ron Arons

January 6, 2008, "Overview of Records at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service," presented by Marian Smith

Subsequent 2008 meetings: Feb 10, Mar 2, Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1



Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County

Ralphs Community Contribution Program

Help support JGSCV by enrolling in **Ralphs Community Contribution Program!**

Join Ralphs' Club and they will contribute a percentage of what you purchase to JGSCV! It's easy and helps your local Jewish genealogy society!

The Ralphs Community Contribution program will pay JGSCV quarterly for **monthly** qualifying purchases per **household**:

Up to \$200: 1%;

Between \$350-\$500: 3%

Over \$500: 4%

Follow these very easy steps:

If you already have a Ralph's Club card, you can register on line:

1. Go to www.Ralphs.com to register on-line
2. Click on the "Community Contribution" - left hand side in blue box about halfway down the page
3. You'll see two boxes in the middle of the screen. One says "Organization" and the other says "Participant". If you have a Ralphs Club card, click on the "sign up" button in the "Participant" box.
4. Click on "I agree" to the terms of appropriate use of the Ralphs Card
5. Fill in the participant's Enrollment form- name, address, telephone number and e-mail address. The NPO number for JGSCV is **84732** — **this goes into the first box on the enrollment form.** We are listed as "Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &". **Your Ralph's Club card number**- found on the back of the card below the UPC code goes into the second box.
6. Click submit.

If you do not yet have Ralphs Club Card:

If you do not have a Ralphs card as yet you can easily obtain one by either going to a Ralphs near you at their customer service desk or signing up on-line
http://www.ralphs.com/ralphscard_signup.htm - don't forget once you have signed up for the card to sign-up for the community contribution following the steps outlined above.

Now whenever you shop at Ralphs, JGSCV will receive a percentage of what you spend.

If you are over 60 years of age and would like to get your Senior Rewards Card or need a replacement card, please visit the customer service desk at your local Ralphs. Senior Rewards Card is valid in Southern California locations only.

Thank you on behalf of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County.

The JGSCV Board of Directors

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AT THE SIMON WIESENTHAL CENTER LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

The Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives in Los Angeles, California collects and makes available historical and contemporary resources focused on the Holocaust and more recent issues of human rights and acts of genocide. The library has a special interest in facilitating Jewish genealogy through a variety of resource volumes, its collection of Yizkor/Memorial books and by making available online access to its Digital Archives as well as digitized summaries of Holocaust Registry submissions. The Library and Archives is a division of the Museum of Tolerance (MOT) and the Simon Wiesenthal Center (SWC).

At the SWC Library, the genealogist has access to approximately 100 books dealing specifically with family history plus the availability of several hundred Yizkor/Memorial books. Included here are basic books such as *Where Once We Walked* (Mokotoff & Sack), a number of volumes of the series *Pinkas Ha-Kehilot* (Yad Vashem), *Jewish Family Names and their Origins* (Guggenheimer); *Jewish Personal Names* (Gorr), *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* (Kurzweil & Weiner) and *The Unbroken Chain* (Rosenstein). Close to one thousand volumes are concerned with the lives of victims and survivors of the Holocaust as well as rescuers and liberators including the recent edition of the *Gedenkbuch* (published in 2006, 4 volumes) listing victims of the Holocaust, facsimile of the original 1939 directory *Immigrant Address Book for Shanghai*, deportation lists and related books issued by the Beate Klarsfeld Foundation, the most recent *Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors* (2000), list of Lodz ghetto inhabitants (1940-1944), series of volumes known as *Nevek* listing the Jews of Hungary in the year 1944, and volumes of *The Holocaust in Lithuania, a Book of Remembrance* recording names of localities and victims. The researcher is able to browse the availability of resources through Internet access (<http://www.wiesenthal.com/library>) or by utilizing the SWC Library's on-site computers for direct access.

The most unique aspect of the SWC Library and Archives holdings with relevance to genealogical research is the Digital Archives and its Holocaust Registry. These records have been digitized and are searchable. Documents and photos contained in the Digital Archives have been scanned and are available for online viewing. Photos are linked to Holocaust Registry records where appropriate. For a reasonable fee, high-resolution copies of the photos are also available. At this time, access to the Archives holdings is temporarily limited to the Library's onsite computers. Plans are underway to restore Internet access.

The library is located at:

1399 South Roxbury Drive (third floor)
Los Angeles, CA 90035-4709
Tel: 310-772-7605
E- mail: library@wiesenthal.net
Hours: Monday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Friday: 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Closed on Jewish and legal holidays
Free parking available at the Museum of Tolerance

- We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Submit your story to this Newsletter at newslettereditor@jgscv.org .

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