



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 2, Issue 8

May 2007

President's Message

This month our organization took part in the commemoration of Yom HaShoah in important ways. In addition to the moving documentary at our April meeting (see sidebar), our Society made available the Pages of Testimony forms for those who wish to remember family or friends killed in the Shoah. It is very important for each of us to complete these forms, which are for Yad Vashem's website — so that those lost, are still remembered. We are also supporting the creation of a wall hanging by Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Simi Valley to remember victims, survivors and liberators. In this regard we made available forms for the creation of these quilt squares. Additional forms will also be available at our next meeting. Finally, Temple Adat Elohim's Sisterhood made yartzheit candles available to light at sundown in commemoration of the Shoah.

Do you have a genealogical success story, brick wall or artifact that you or your ancestors brought over when you/they immigrated? We want you to share with us at our May 6th meeting, "Genealogy in the Round." Please let me know if you wish to talk for 5-10 minutes at the meeting (president@JGSCV.org).

Do not wait any longer to register for the IAJGS conference in Salt Lake City during July 15-20, 2007. (www.slc2007.org) since early registration (\$230) ends on May 1 and after that it goes to \$275.

Remember to look at our website (www.jgscv.org) since it is always updated. The most recent addition includes the holdings of our permanent and traveling library.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 6th!

Jan Meisels Allen



Rosalie Bell examines book "There Once Was a World: A Nine Hundred Year Chronicle of Shtetl Eishyshok"

FILM COMMEMORATES YOM HASHOAH

The award winning PBS documentary, "There Once Was a Town," was viewed by an audience of almost 100 at the JGSCV April 15 meeting commemorating Yom HaShoah. The film depicts the 1941 ravaging of the town when Nazi hordes caused the savage killing of almost all of the then 3,500 Jewish residents.

The film follows survivors and their families returning some 56 years later to reconnect their memories with places and people that were once part of their lives. This pilgrimage was led by Yaffa Elliach, author of the book which chronicled the history of the Eishyshok shtetl.

The film was narrated by actor Ed Asner, a descendant of an Eishyshok family.



Don't forget to make your plans to attend the 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City. It will be a genealogical trip of a lifetime! Go to www.slc2007.org for more information.

Conference attendees are invited to volunteer to serve at the registration desk and other areas. If interested, contact Jan Meisels Allen at jan@jgscv.org

SEE PAGE 4 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 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301. Obtain new membership or renewal forms on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

MORE SOURCES FOR YIZKOR BOOKS

The library at Yad Vashem contains 1,233 Yizkor Books covering 4,540 localities. Check website: www.isragen.org.il/ROS/ARCHIVES/AppendixA.html for a listing of these communities and the reference to the associated book. Likewise, check the availability of Yizkor books at JewishGen: www.jewishgen.org/yizkor, the NY Public Library: nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbookonline.cfm and at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library at: swc.legalinformationmanagement.com by entering "Yizkor Books" in the Subject/Keyword slot.

BREAKING NEWS FROM JAN...

The U.S.-Canada Border Crossing Records (St. Albans Lists) are newly available on Ancestry.com (a pay service). Steve Morse quickly expanded his One-Step Search System web site (found at <http://stevemorse.org>) to include access to this valuable resource.

I discovered some additional persons relevant to my genealogical research by using Steve Morse's newest feature. Heretofore, I was not aware that these individuals had come through Canada to the U.S.A.

For a full description of the U.S. — Canada Border Crossing Records, go to: www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2000/fall/us-canada-immigration-records-1.html

Jan Meisels Allen

World's Largest Searchable Archive of Historical Newspapers

Paper of Record has free registration and currently offers over 21 million pages of newspaper images and they are still building. The database includes newspapers from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, Central and South America, England, Europe, and some US papers — but NOT the majors. One caught this editor's eye, *The Israelite* of Cincinnati for the period 1859-1867, containing 3,340 pages. Searching for the name of one of my family's nineteenth century arrival in Cincinnati, I found ten references, including the announcement of his betrothal. See www.paperofrecord.com/

GENEALOGY AND TELEVISION

The recently introduced website Roots Television ("Where History Meets Television") provides topical information and links to genealogical relevant subjects that have visual content. Twenty categories of information are available including topics such as: Jewish Roots, Conferences, DNA and Immigration. Links to Blogs are provided, such as Schelly Talalay Dardashti's "Tracing the Tribe" and the topical Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter.

The site also includes a RootsTube feature allowing individuals to upload their personally produced videos with relevant genealogical content. One example stands out with the title "Beneath Los Angeles." Here we are treated to a portrayal of the tombstones of the more well known stars of stage, screen, TV and radio (many showing the Jewish presence in Hollywood by the inclusion of icons representing a menorah or a mogen david). See www.rootstelevision.com/index.html

SOURCES IN S. AMERICA AND BEYOND

A comprehensive source of Jewish genealogy information comes from our sister organizations in South America. Available in our own library are recent issues of TOLDOT, the Spanish language journal of the Asociacion de Genealogia Judia de Argentina. More information is available at the site: www.agja.org.ar

Furthermore, IAJGS provides a directory of all Jewish Genealogy Societies in fifteen countries worldwide with their associated website links at: www.iajgs.org/Member-Index.htm



27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Sunday, July 15—Friday, July 20

Hilton City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

**Network with international
researchers, experts and archivists, and
access the world's largest genealogical library**

World-famous speakers

Film Festival

Focused SIG programming

DNA & Genetics Track

Computer Workshops

Breakfast with Experts

Special Photo Exhibit

On-site Resource Room

Free WIFI Access

For all event details, program and registration

www.slc2007.org

JOIN YOUR FELLOW JGSCV MEMBERS IN ATTENDING THIS CONVENIENTLY LOCATED CONFERENCE FOR A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE WHICH WILL ALSO INTRODUCE YOU TO THE RICH GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AT THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE FAMILY HISTORY CENTER OF THE CHURCH OF THE LATTER DAY SAINTS (MORMONS) IN SALT LAKE CITY.

**Share Your Genealogical Successes & Failures
Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society
of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*
(* and surrounding areas)**



**Sunday, May 6, 2007 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

**"Genealogy In The Round:
Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls"**

Come and share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall, or genealogical artifact! This is YOUR meeting—We all learn from one another—take this opportunity to share your genealogical story—success or failure, ask questions about your brick walls, and more!

If you wish to participate in the program, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. Each participant will be given 5-10 minutes to share—depending on the number of presenters. Whether you are a JGSCV member or a potential member— we'd love to hear your genealogical story.

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.

**Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim
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**

June 10, 2007: "Jewish Genealogy and DNA Testing" presented by Bennett Greenspan, president and founder FamilyTree DNA. The lecturer will explain how DNA is used for genealogy—what it can do for the modern genealogist and what it is unlikely to accomplish. Examples of DNA tests will be presented showing how a genealogist can look at the results and have a sound understanding how it applies to your specific family for genealogy purposes. Both the Y (male) and the mitochondrial (female) chromosomes will be discussed.

**No JGSCV meeting in July due to the IAJGS Conference July 15-20, 2007 in Salt Lake City, Utah
Meetings beginning in August 2007 will be announced in the next issue of the Newsletter.**

UPDATE ON THE JOWBR PROJECT:

Our first Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) project was to identify the almost 400 Jewish individuals that are buried at Ivy Lawn Cemetery in Ventura, California. There are three Jewish Sections. Photos were taken of each of the Jewish graves, such as the examples shown herewith:



We listed every interment by section, space and lot number where available and entered the data on a spreadsheet based on the information available from the tombstone. Further data fields are provided for subsequent research of the individual's family history. This information will be submitted to the JOWBR registry of JewishGen. Here is a look at a small portion of our efforts:

Plot location	Surname	Given Name(s)	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Place of Death	Date of Death (English)	Date of Death (Hebrew)	Age at Death	Date of Burial	Hebrew Name	Spouse's Name	Father's Name	Mother's Name	Other Surname
	ADELMAN	Paul		1926							Janita Haver			
	ADELMAN	Philip S		1939		1985								
	ADELMAN	Rachel Rae M		1914		2003					Robert Bruce			
	ADELMAN	Robert Bruce		1949		1986					Racchel Rae M			
	ADLEN	Robert N		1938		1995								
	ADLER	Greta		1905		1977								
	ADLER	Lillian C		1912		2002								
	ADLER	Milton C		1906		1984								
	ADLER	Rudolph		1896		1983								
	ALPERT	Bessie G		1896		1986								
	ALPERT	Theodore N		1886		1959								

The project team is headed by Frank Tessel with members Helene Rosen and Carole Webber. Plans are to record data in other local cemeteries. Additional assistance is required and volunteers are encouraged to get in touch with Frank Tessel at frank@jsgcv.com to offer their services.

[Reported by Frank Tessel and Helene Rosen]

RECORDS IN THE FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY CATALOG OF SIGNIFICANCE TO JEWISH GENEALOGISTS

In July 2000, during the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City, Utah, a special database containing citations in the Family History Library Catalog of interest to Jewish genealogists was presented as a gift by The Genealogical Society of Utah to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). The material for this database was compiled by Nancy Goodstein. Subsequently, the database was made available on JewishGen at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/>

This database, "Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog", is an inventory of the microfilms, microfiche and books in the LDS *Family History Library Catalog*[™] (FHLC) which are specifically Jewish genealogical sources. It is a valuable finding aid for persons researching their Jewish ancestry, but is not intended to be a replacement for the FHLC which can be consulted at <http://www.familysearch.org>.

Now Nancy Goldberg Hilton (formerly Nancy Goodstein) has announced the availability of Nechama's List, an update of Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog. This list can be accessed at the following web site: www.nechamaslist.com. Nechama's List includes 635 new specifically Jewish records that have been added to the Family History Library Catalog between the dates of January 8, 2001 to November 8, 2006. It thus adds to the listing done previously for IAJGS. It is available on line free of charge for any researcher who would like to access it. Anyone who wants to order the microfilms identified in this list should go to their local Family History Center and make the request.

It is timely to be offered Nechama's List since the next International Conference of IAJGS will again be held in Salt Lake City this coming July 2007. Those of you planning to attend this meeting can now plan your research at the LDS Family History Center by doing a preliminary search in the two databases cited here.

YOM HA-SHOAH COMMEMORATION IN SIMI VALLEY

On April 15, 2007, JGSCV members participated in the commemoration of Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, at the Mount Sinai Memorial Park in Simi Valley. A panel discussion was moderated by Daisy Miller, who was a child hidden in Italy during WWII. She is currently a director of the Shoah Foundation/USC. On the panel were Bernie Simon, a survivor of Dachau and a Nazi hunter, Mike Furstenberg, who was present at the liberation of two concentration camps, and Bernd Leno, a survivor and soldier from Denmark. Those present were invited to participate in the preparation of squares for the Mount Sinai Quilt to commemorate the Holocaust, which will be unveiled on Yom HaShoah 2008.

JGSCV volunteers also assisted in passing out forms for filling out Pages of Testimony, information that will be entered into the database at Yad V'Shem in Jerusalem to preserve the names of Holocaust victims.
Report by Debra Kay Blatt

We welcome contributions from our members regarding their genealogical research experience. Please submit your story to this Newsletter at newsletereditor@jgscv.org.

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