

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 3, Issue 10

July 2008

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At our June meeting, 8 JGSCV members and friends participated in the Genealogy in the Round, sharing success, failure, artifact or brick wall. Great presentations were given.

Herb Eckerling shared his search for the family and location in England with whom he stayed for a year in 1939 as a toddler. Herb has written his story, *My English Connection* and has graciously donated a copy to the JGSCV library.

Ellen Kossoris talked on old family photos that began as mysteries to her and how she unraveled the mystery.

Bonnie Raskin gave an excellent presentation showing how genealogical research answered the question of three Russian adopted children being detained at Ellis Island for 6 months and discussed who they were and what happened during their detention.

Len Shenkin shared his brick wall of trying to find out about family who perished in the Holocaust. He received many suggestions of where to research next to try to find what happened.

Werner Frank gave a case study in networking and showed the Missouri vital records that are available free on the Internet.

Larry Hapner shared how in a short four months since joining JGSCV he expanded two sheets of genealogical data to two comprehensive files of information about his family, mainly as a result of visiting the LA Regional Family History Center.

Jane Lovitts spoke on how her road block resulted in a genealogical success story as a result of asking her terminally ill father questions on the family history.

Jan Meisels Allen discussed obtaining WWII Nazi still and aerial photographs of one's shtetls from NARA.

Our June 29 meeting is indeed special! With the International Tracing Service (ITS) Bad Arolsen records on Holocaust victims and survivors being released after 60 years, they offer a new window for those seeking information on the fate of family members. Peter Landé of the US Holocaust Museum will talk about what to expect and not to expect from the records. Remember this meeting starts at 3:00 PM, one hour later than usual.

JGSCV is privileged that Temple Adat Elohim has again offered to co-host our meetings through June 2009. The meeting dates are on page 3. Celebrate our third anniversary with us on September 7 with JGSCV Board member, Warren Blatt, managing director and editor-in-chief, JewishGen, talking on Jewish Given Names. JGSCV Board member Frank Tessel and his Klezmer band will also entertain us!

Jon Entine, author of *Abraham's Children: Race, Identity and the DNA of the Chosen People*, will talk to us on Monday evening November 10. Due to a "sound conflict" with another Temple function during our regular meeting time, we changed our December meeting to Monday night December 8 in the Sanctuary. For December, we have the incomparable Steve Morse, the creator of the *one-steps* that has revolutionized genealogy, as our guest speaker. JGSCV member and great story teller, Ron Arons will be talking to us on January 4 with his new presentation, *The Musical "Chicago" and All That Genealogical Jazz*". More programs will be announced soon.

While we won't be holding meetings during July and August we have a great response to holding a Dutch-treat luncheon for members-only in July, to discuss their genealogy and get-to-know each better. Watch for more information in an e-mail from membership vice president, Helene Rosen.

Jan Meisels Allen



SPEAKER BONNIE RASKIN

FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, SEE PAGE 3

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

2008 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. Send changes in your contact information to: membership@JGSCV.org

MEMORIAL DATABASE NOW AVAILABLE

The Jewish Genealogical Society of New York has announced the availability on its website of the searchable "Memorial Database of Jewish Soldiers, Partisans and Workers Killed in Action during the Nazi Era." The database was created using the memorial books published in Moscow, Kiev, Zhitomir and other cities and regions of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldavia, Khazakhstan and elsewhere, containing the names of soldiers and officers killed or missing in action. The names of partisans and workers who fell during the Nazi era are also included. Access to the website is:

www.jgsny.org/russianintro.htm

The answers to questions about this database can be found in the FAQs at the website.

TRACING YOUR FAMILY ROOTS

You can see episodes of the Washington, DC area public access genealogy TV series "Tracing Your Family Roots" on your own computer. There is an index of all the shows that are available and you can click on to any of them that interest you. Each show is about 1/2 hour long. The shows are produced by hosts Arline Sachs and Sallyann Amdur Sack at <http://tracingroots.nova.org/>

Barbara Algaze

FIRST AMERICAN JEWISH FAMILIES

Researchers now have access to the complete text of Rabbi Malcolm Stern's monumental volume that was published in 1991 as the updated and revised 3rd edition entitled: *First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies, 1654-1988* at www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/FAJF/intro.html

The search facility allows for entry of surname with optional given name. A list of hits is then provided with indicated page numbers in the book where the selected names appear. Upon selection of a page number, a PDF image is provided which shows the genealogical chart wherein the sought after name appears. Since the emphasis of this book are the early Jewish families in America, it is to be expected that the overwhelming representation will be Jews who migrated from Germany to the United States as well as some Sephardic families.

FULL TEXT BOOKS ON GOOGLE

Google Inc provides a service that enables users to download and print a variety of out-of-copyright books free of charge using its Book Search service. The company is digitalizing books into PDF format and makes them available at <http://books.google.com>. The specialized book search engine allows for selecting books in three categories: all books, books with limited previews and full views, and books with full view only. A sample check requesting books that satisfy the query "Jewish genealogy" for these three categories yielded a choice of 3,280, 1,689 and 966 items respectively (in May 2008). Requesting "Jews of Iowa" selected a 359 page, 1904 publication authored by Rabbi Simon Glazer. Upon achieving a hit, a sidebar is provided which allows for a number of useful options including downloading a PDF version of the book, obtaining the table of contents, providing "memorable or popular passages" contained in the book and performing a word search of the entire text.

GALVESTON IMMIGRATION DATABASE

Another port of entry for European immigrants aside from the East Coast of the United States is in Galveston, Texas. The Texas Seaport Museum provides online access to manifests of ship arrivals: www.galvestonhistory.org/immigration-login.asp



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, June 29, 2008 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 3:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Note one hour later start time!

The Topic:

"Genealogical Records from the Holocaust - The Breakthrough??"

All efforts to collect information on individuals persecuted during the Nazi regime, including in the Holocaust, were centralized through an international agreement establishing the International Tracing Service (ITS) in 1955, located in Bad Arolsen, Germany. The international opening of the ITS archives, the largest collection of records on Holocaust victims and survivors, offers a new window for those seeking information on the fates of family members. While a tremendous step forward, researchers should not expect a panacea and there are still major holes in information on Eastern Europe.

The presentation will cover what is (and isn't) in the collection and how to access it given that it is not on the web. With 50 million name-cards, providing information on about 17 million people, there is much to do.

Presenter, Peter Landé is a volunteer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and has been involved in a major project to identify and collect in a single computerized database the names of all Holocaust victims and survivors, whether Jewish or non-Jewish, as well as an inventory of thousands of sources of information on Holocaust victims and survivors. He was active in the ultimately successful international effort to open for public access the records of the ITS.

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.

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**

We will NOT meet in July 2008 since we met twice in June (June 1 and June 29). Neither are we meeting in August, as many of us will be attending the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Chicago.

Our future schedule is as follows: September 7, 2008; October 5, 2008; November 10, 2008; December 8, 2008; January 4, 2009; February 8, 2009; March 1, 2009; April 5, 2009; May 3, 2009; June 7, 2009

LAST CALL FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy



Where: Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel

When: August 17 – 22, 2008

How: Go to www.Chicago2008.org for more information.

To get a head start on research possibilities in Chicago go to Mike Karsen's website www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago. A Google search for "Jewish Chicago" will also lead to many interesting items.

Future IAJGS Conferences

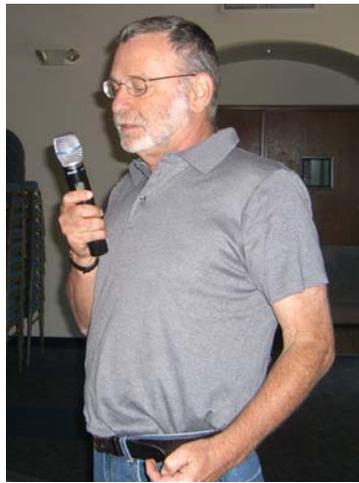
The 2009 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be in Philadelphia, PA in the period August 2-7, 2009 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel. The 2010 conference will be held in Los Angeles from July 11-16 at the JW Marriot Hotel in downtown LA Live. Also, the 2011 conference will be in Washington DC during the summer of 2011, specific dates have not yet been announced.

OUR MEMBERSHIP AT THE ASSISTED RESEARCH DAY AT LARFHC





Ellen Kossoris



Len Shenkin



Larry Hapner



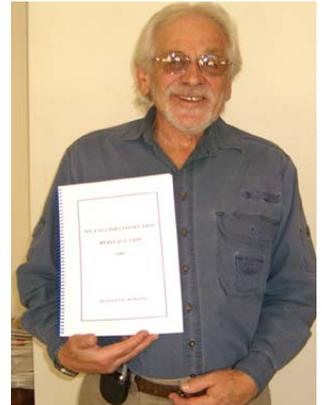
Jan Meisels Allen



Jane Lovitts



Werner Frank



Herbert Eckerling

Additional Presenters at the June 1, 2008 meeting of JGSCV devoted to "Genealogy in the Round"

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

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS: Len Shenkin

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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