

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 3, Issue 2

November 2007

President's Message

Debra Kay Blatt and Warren Blatt presented "How to Begin Your Genealogy Part IV: Using the Resources at the Family History Centers." They discussed and showed examples of the types of Jewish records available on LDS microfilms, and showed how indexes on JewishGen.org can help facilitate finding the information on the LDS microfilms. The program was videoed and a CD may be borrowed by current members.

Over 300 people, including many middle school students, attended the Conejo Recreation and Park District sponsored-meetings to help educate the community about the Holocaust. (See last issue of newsletter for background). The speaker was Elane Geller a Holocaust survivor who related her tale of being captured at age 4 and liberated at age 8 ½ along with a few surviving members of her family. It was a riveting presentation. Most disturbing was the large number of people who raised their hands when asked if they heard there had been no Holocaust. In response, Ms. Geller reminded the audience that we know all about the Holocaust from German records. Many of the students' "innocent" questions were indicative that the Holocaust is not being studied in schools with the necessary depth.

The average age of Holocaust survivors is 83, with 100 dying daily. In the next 12-13 years there will be virtually no one left with first-hand knowledge of what transpired during this horrific time. Only the Jews were targeted for genocide — six million were murdered. Our recording of family histories, especially of those murdered in the Holocaust, becomes even more important as time moves on. Our family histories may be the only documentation available to our future descendants that record who we lost and their stories. Interview your family members who experienced WWII or are Holocaust survivors now, before it is too late.

The JGSCV Nominating Committee, consisting of Richard Munitz, Helene Rosen and Hal Bookbinder (Chair), submitted their report to the Board. Via email, all members of the JGSCV who have been members sufficiently long to serve on the board, were invited to submit applications. On reviewing the applications, the Nominating Committee submitted six recommendations for election to the board: Jan Meisels Allen, Stewart Bernstein, Warren Blatt, Dalya Dektor, Dorothy Drilich, and Fred Land.

The Board recommended that all six be placed on the slate for election at the December meeting notwithstanding that only 5 positions will now be vacant. The JGSCV Board of Directors voted unanimously to expand the size of the board from nine elected directors to 10, with the proviso that the new position be for an initial one-year term, so that in the future five board positions will stand for election in each 2-year cycle. Any qualified JGSCV member wishing to run from the floor, may submit their nomination at the November meeting. The December newsletter will include a brief bio of each nominee. Elections will be held at the December meeting.

Please remember to join or renew your membership (see page 4 for an application). If you haven't yet joined JGSCV, please do so now. Remember to register with Ralph's and use your Ralph's card when shopping so that JGSCV may benefit for your purchases (see page 4).

Jan Meisels Allen

FOR SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING MEETINGS, SEE PAGE 3

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CYCLE FOR 2008 IS IN PROCESS, SEE PAGE 4

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.

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.

Remember, signing up at this time provides membership valid for all of 2008.

RESEARCH TIP

Ron Arons will make a presentation to our Society in December on "Using the Internet beyond JewishGen and Steve Morse's Website." In this connection he offers a helpful list of websites that are of special help to the genealogy researcher. These sites are listed in:

pw2.netcom.com/~reaxprs/InternetGenLinks.doc

Now is a good time to become familiar with these sites in anticipation of hearing this talk.

SEEKING JEWISH LOS ANGELES PIONEERS

The History of Jewish Los Angeles Project is undertaking the publication of a second volume in a series to be titled: "Pioneers of Jewish Los Angeles: 1850-2007." The project, a program of Jewish Life Foundation, is seeking contributions for this endeavor in the form of a short story, anecdote, photographs and reminiscences about any "pioneers," be they historical or contemporary. This volume follows an earlier book available in our JGSCV library, "Wrestling With the Angels: A History of Jewish Los Angeles."

For further information call 818.786.4000 or email info@jewishlifefoundation.org.

DO YOU HAVE A CATSKILL CONNECTION?

For those of you that have a connection with the once Jewish life in the Catskills, you may wish to access <http://catskills.brown.edu>. The website is sponsored by The Catskills Institute, an organization promoting research and education on the significance of the Catskill Mountains for American Jewish Life. Photos, memoirs, history, and institutions are all covered in this unusual preservation of what was once a popular location for New York Jewry.

TIP FROM SUSAN LEDERER GEIGER

For our members who have ancestors who lived in the New York area, a great place to research are the online articles in the New York Times Archives. Access at www.nytimes.com for the years 1851-1980 is now free. This led me to a huge breakthrough in my research.

My 2nd great grandfather, Isaac Posner, emigrated from Posen, Germany, about 1848, and I thought that I would never know more about his forbears. Then, in the New York Times Archives, I searched for his name and found an article dated April 13, 1888, entitled "Over A Hundred Tears." It was about a New York City resident named Florence Schlamm who was celebrating her 102nd birthday. She was born February 25, 1786 in Jerkow, Germany, a small town near the Russia border. She recalled that as a girl she had seen Napoleon pass by on his way to Moscow! The article said that she had 135 living relatives including her oldest grandson, himself a grandfather, named Isaac Posner of New Brunswick, New Jersey! My 2nd great grandfather! Other relatives were mentioned in the article including a daughter, her youngest son who was born when she was 52 and brothers of my great grandfather, one of whom was a drummer boy in the Civil War! I had never considered that my ancestor, his parents, and grandparents might have emigrated at the same time. Besides Shlamm, I added to my research other relatives mentioned in the article (Taylor, Silberstein, Simon, Berliner, and Graetz).

CENSUS CONFUSION

Confused because there's not a ten year difference in the age of your ancestor in successive censuses. Take a look at the date the census was taken and you might even determine the month your ancestor was born.

1790: Aug 2, first Monday in August

1800: Aug 4, first Monday in August

1810: August 6, first Monday in August

1820: August 7, first Monday in August

1830-1880: June 1

1890: First Monday in June

1900: June 1

1910: April 15

1920: January 1

1930: April 1 (Alaska: Oct 1, 1929)

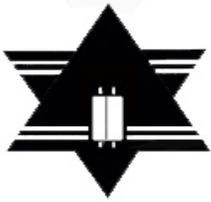
(Newsletter of the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society)

COURT RECORDS IN LA COUNTY

If someone wanted to search Los Angeles County court records, criminal as well as civil lawsuits, they may do so on-line. There is a charge of \$4.75 for each name searched and a fee of \$7.50 to view a document of up to 10 pages, additional pages cost 7 cents per page.

www.lasuperiorcourt.org/onlineservices/laecourtonline.htm

**Come to the JewishGenealogical Society of the
Conejo Valley and Ventura County*
(* and surrounding areas)**



**Sunday, November 11, 2007 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks**

**"HOW THE JEWS WON THE WEST:
How the Documentation of Western Jewish History Began
and Why This is Such a Hot Topic Today"**

The Western States Jewish History Journal documents the early life of Jewish pioneers, the contributions Jews have made to the settlement of the West, their impact on cultural, political and economic life.

Guest Speaker: Gladys Sturman, publisher and editor of *Western States Jewish History Journal*, an academic quarterly journal in its 40th anniversary year. Mrs. Sturman, has a degree in Jewish History from the University of Judaism and was selected as their outstanding alumna in 2006. She is a multi-award winner and author and an active participant in the Los Angeles Jewish Community for over 49 years.

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**

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

January 6, 2008, "Documenting Immigrants to America: 1882-1954," presented by Marian Smith

February 10, 2008, "Using Maps in Genealogical Research," presented by Robert Sherins, MD

March 2, 2008, "100 years of the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring," presented by Eric Gordon

Subsequent meetings in 2008: Apr 6, May 4, Jun 1

PLEASE PRINT THIS PAGE AND SUBMIT TO THE TREASURER
CONSIDER GIVING A JGSCV MEMBERSHIP AS A CHANUKAH GIFT TO A FRIEND

2008 Membership Renewal Form

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)

2008 Annual Dues:

Dues paid now are good through December 2008!

Check one:

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00 Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$2.00****

*family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund \$5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV

**Mail to: Helene Rosen
28912 Fountainwood st.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

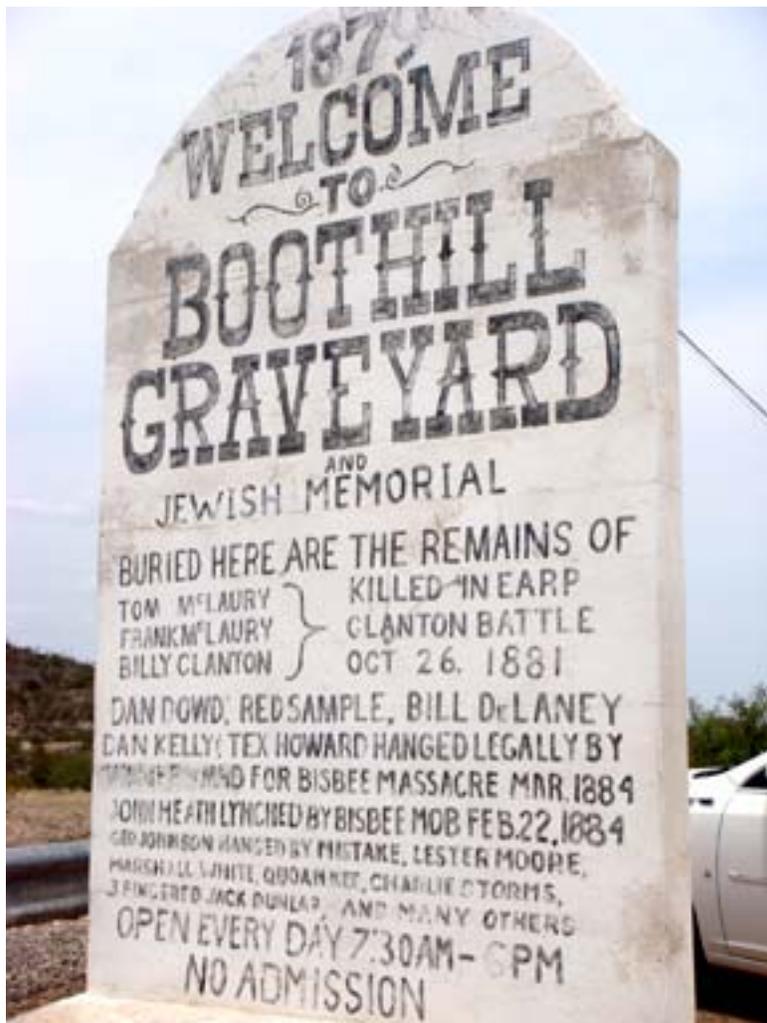
E-mail address _____

(This is very important as all communication is done by e-mail!)

REMINDER TO REGISTER

Ralphs Community Contribution Program will support JGSCV through your purchases of goods at Ralphs markets, and at no cost to you. Please register for this community outreach program by following the steps outlined on our website: www.jgscv.org and click on "notices."

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



IN ANTICIPATION OF OUR NEXT MONTHLY MEETING ON THE HISTORY OF THE JEWS OF THE WEST, WE FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN BY FRAN MOSSBERG DURING A RECENT VISIT TO TOMBSTONE, ARIZONA. A HISTORIC SITE IS BOOT HILL CEMETERY WHERE VICTIMS OF THE SHOOTOUT AT THE OK CORRAL ARE BURIED. A MEMORIAL TO JEWISH PIONEERS IS ALSO PRESENT AS FOLLOWS:



THE LEGEND ON THE MEMORIAL PLAQUE READS:
 "DEDICATED TO THE JEWISH PIONEERS AND THEIR INDIAN FRIENDS
 ERECTED BY THE JEWISH FRIENDSHIP CLUB OF GREEN VALLEY, 1984"

- 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: Joanne Goldsmith, Nancy Jacobs, Daniel Kutt,
 Deborah and Joel Rogosin

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Dalya Dektor, Treasurer
 Dorothy Drilich, Secretary

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