

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE....

Robert Sherins, M.D. treated the JGSCV to a very erudite and enjoyable presentation on the importance of maps in locating records for your genealogical research. Due to the changes in country borders this task is not trivial. The map lecture emphasized the importance of knowing location in order to contact the correct archives in ascertaining if they have records of interest about your ancestors.

The importance of cadastral maps (a map showing the boundaries and ownership of land parcels) was discussed. Some cadastral maps show additional details, such as survey district names, unique identifying numbers for parcels, population and identify specific buildings. Such maps were used by the Russians for census purposes. Dr. Sherins suggested "googling" one's town and ancestral names in their native/foreign language as well as "googling" the word for "map" in the foreign language.

Dr. Sherins also suggested exploring the country of origin in order to appreciate the culture in which your family lived. The importance of Kahal (Jewish autonomous area granted by the government, usually headed by the local rabbi - in the Council of the Four Lands) records was cited, reflecting data of who went into the military, who was buried in Jewish cemeteries and other attributes affecting local Jewish life. A copy of the 6-page handout of Internet sites concerning maps is posted on our website: www.JGSCV.org, under past meetings and the meeting date of February 10, 2008.

The JGSCV board held its annual reorganization meeting in late January. Our by-laws require the board members to determine the officers on an annual basis. The officers for 2008 are Jan Meisels Allen, President; Helene Rosen, Vice President Membership; Dorothy Drilich, Secretary and Fred Land, Treasurer. The board accepted the resignation of founding member Dalya Dektor with appreciation for all her efforts as initial publicity chairperson and first treasurer, both positions having helped to make the JGSCV the strong organization it is today. We are also very appreciative of JGSCV webmaster Michael Gallop who has served us for the past 18 months. Due to business time constraints, Michael has had to step down. We are delighted that JGSCV member David Oseas has volunteered to accept the role as webmaster. This change does not alter our website address at www.JGSCV.org.

If you have not renewed your membership for 2008, please do so now. A renewal membership form is available on our website at www.jgscv.org under membership: renewal. New membership forms are also available on the website.

Jan Meisels Allen



DR. ROBERT SHERINS

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.

AVAILABLE HISTORICAL SUBSCRIPTION

Please note the availability of issues of the *Western States Jewish History Journal* due to a new JGSCV subscription. Copies of this journal are located in our permanent library at the Reference Desk at the Agoura Hills Library, branch of the County of Los Angeles Public Library. Additional back copies as early as 1982 have been contributed to JGSCV by Werner Frank.

SHOPPING FOR GENEALOGICAL STUFF

Check out a convenient shopping opportunity on the JewishGen website for items related to genealogy research including books, videos and software. See www.jewishgenmall.org

MORE ARCHIVAL OPPORTUNITIES

Filled with more than a million documents and hundreds of movies and radio shows, the New York-based American Jewish Committee Archives houses an extraordinary range of resources on the past century of American Jewish history. This web site, launched as part of AJC's centennial celebration in 2006, makes an ever-expanding portion of its archives instantly accessible at <http://ajcarchives.org>.

To preserve Florida history, The Jewish Museum of Florida is compiling a database of all Florida Jews, both past and present. This will aid genealogy researchers to find family data and possible links to living descendants. You are invited to submit the "Database Entry Form" which can be found on the website: www.jewishmuseum.com/new_search.htm.

The information will be included in the Jewish Family Database — which is available for perusal on a touch-screen computer in the Museum's Core exhibit hall.

NEW FACILITY FOR HISTORIC NEWSPAPER RESEARCH

The Library of Congress and the National Endowment for the Humanities announced that "Chronicling America: Historic American Newspapers" has debuted with more than 226,000 pages of public-domain newspapers from California, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Utah, Virginia and the District of Columbia published between 1900 and 1910. The fully-searchable site is available at www.loc.gov/chroniclingamerica.

"Chronicling America" is produced by the National Digital Newspaper Program (NDNP), a partnership between the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the Library of Congress created to develop an Internet-based, searchable database of U.S. newspapers with select digitization of historic pages as well as information about newspapers from 1690 to the present.

Ultimately, over a period of approximately 20 years, NDNP will create a national, digital resource of historically significant newspapers from all the states and U.S. territories published between 1836 and 1922. Supported by NEH's "We the People" program and Digital Humanities Initiative, this rich digital resource will continue to be developed and permanently maintained at the Library of Congress.

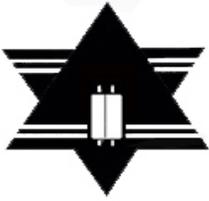
THE STEVE MORSE WEBSITE ENHANCED

Steve Morse's website has undergone a major change to make it easier to use (See www.stevemorse.org). Added on the home page is a menu at the top left corner which serves as a two-level index to the famous one-page forms. This feature facilitates finding the right tool with which to pursue one's research.

A new section devoted to Genetic Genealogy and DNA has been added which includes six DNA-related tools. In addition, there is now available an English language front end to the new database that has recently gone on-line providing data about the fallen Soviet soldiers in World War II. This website is in Russian, so not only was it impossible to read the instruction but one could only enter the query in Cyrillic. Steve's front end takes care of both of these problems, and he also transliterates the results found into readable Latin characters. This tool appears in two places on Steve's site — in the Foreign Alphabets section and in the Holocaust and Eastern Europe section.

Another new feature in the latter section is a search capability of records from the Dachau Concentration Camp. Unlike many of his other search utilities that search data on other websites, in this case the entire database is on his own website. He received this data from Peter Lande, a volunteer at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington.

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



Sunday, March 2, 2008 2:00 p.m. -4:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

"100 Years of the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring"

Many of our ancestors belonged to the Workmen's Circle- learn about what records they might have to help research your ancestors who belonged. When the Yiddish-speaking immigrant Jews came to America, they found overcrowded tenements and hazardous sweatshops. With poverty inevitably came disease. They founded the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring in New York City in 1900 as a refuge from oppression. They established schools and camps for children and adults, published books, operated a famous Medical Department for their members' care and sanitariums for the infirm, ran credit unions for their members, and bought tracts of land for cemeteries, and they founded the garment workers' unions that agitated for better conditions, The Los Angeles Chapter celebrated its 100 anniversary January 2008.

Guest Speaker: Eric A. Gordon, Ph.D. has served as Director of the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring Southern California District since November 1995. He serves on the Western Region Administrative Committee of the Jewish Labor Committee, and sings with the *Mit Gezang Yiddish Chorus* of the Workmen's Circle, and with *Voices of Conscience*, the social action chorus of Los Angeles.

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

April 6, 2008: Research Day at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center for paid-up members

May 4, 2008: Film "Hiding and Seeking: Faith and Tolerance after the Holocaust," a documentary commemorating Yom Ha Shoah Day (Holocaust Memorial Day)

June 1, 2008: "Genealogy in the Round: Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls"

June 29, 2008: "The International Tracing Service Records at the United States Holocaust Museum Memorial" by Peter Lande

SPECIAL WEBSITE DUE TO LOGAN J. KLEINWAKS

Have you ever wanted to contact the submitter of a Page of Testimony? Have you ever wanted to find relatives of a victim documented on a Page of Testimony?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, then there is a new tool that can help you. A free website at www.ShoahConnect.org makes it possible to associate email addresses with Pages of Testimony, and automatically matches people associated with the same Pages, facilitating semi-private contact between them. "Semi-private" means that your email address is only revealed to matches who contact you through the site, and only if you choose to respond to them through a service provided by Yad Vashem's website (www.yadvashem.org), where Pages of Testimony can be viewed.

Here are example uses of this new tool:

- Searching Yad Vashem's website, you found a Page of Testimony about a relative of yours, submitted by his daughter. You would like to contact her, but have not found her current contact information -- perhaps, she no longer lives at the address on the Page, has since died, or has married and changed her name. You can associate your email address with this Page, and, if she or a close relative of hers does the same, you will receive a notification email and be able to write to her through ShoahConnect. If she chooses to respond, you will be in contact, normally via email.
- You found a Page of Testimony about a relative of yours, and you wonder whether any other relatives of yours have also been looking at that Page. If so, you would like to contact them. When you associate your email address with the Page, you can choose to be notified not only when the submitter associates himself with the Page, but also when other relatives access the Page.
- A relative of yours disappeared from a small town. Nobody submitted a Page of Testimony about him and nobody seems to know what happened to him. However, you notice that a Page was submitted about someone else, unrelated, from the same small town. You would like to ask the submitter whether he also knows about your relative from that town. There is an option on ShoahConnect for indicating your interest in the town, and you will be notified of a match, if the submitter also uses ShoahConnect and chooses to allow contact from unrelated "town researchers."
- You submitted a Page of Testimony, or your parent, sibling, uncle, or other close relative did. You have heard that there are sometimes dramatic reunions of siblings who find each other through Pages of Testimony. You would like to give yourself the chance to find lost relatives in the same way. You can associate yourself as a submitter, and, if any relatives associate themselves with the same Page, ShoahConnect will allow them to write to you -- without your email address being revealed. If you choose to respond, you will be in regular email contact.
- You know someone who submitted a Page of Testimony, but does not have Internet access. If he gives you permission, you can associate yourself as "submitter" for the Page, and, if a match is eventually made, share the email you receive with the submitter.

Since ShoahConnect is brand new, you should not expect a match to be made immediately. However, your Page associations will remain (unless you choose to remove them), and, if there is ever a match -- it could be weeks, months, or years from now -- you will be notified. You can even help increase the odds of there being a match by spreading the word to other genealogists, Page of Testimony submitters, Holocaust researchers, etc.

BULLETIN: On January 17 the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) began providing information from the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive, formerly located only in Bad Arolsen, Germany. The archive contains information on about 17.5 million victims of Nazism, Jews and non-Jews, and consists of 100 million images of documentation. The archive is not machine searchable. Researchers from the Registry of Holocaust Survivors will assist persons seeking information from this file. Requests may be made by email, regular mail, or fax. Researchers can also visit the Museum to access the material. Information on the collection is available at www.ushmm.org/its or by calling 866-912-4385.

28th IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy

CHICAGO

Chicago, Illinois, August 17-22, 2008

Where: Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel

When: August 17 – 22, 2008

Who: Hundreds of individuals from all over the globe interested in learning more about Jewish Genealogy and sharing what they know.

Why: Because it is fun and educational at the same time, and,
Because you will meet lots of people, make new friends, and see old ones.
Because you will network with people searching for ancestors from the same country, town or area.
Because you will hear experts and learn new research tools, and much more.
Because Chicago is a great city with research resources and wonderful sights.
Because you love, are addicted to, just starting, or an expert on the challenges posed by doing genealogy.
Because you believe passing your family history on to future generations is a mitzvah.

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



The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is proud to co-host the 2008 conference with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and the Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society

Future IAJGS Conferences

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.

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. Also, the 2011 conference will be in Washington DC during the summer of 2011 and hosted by the JGS of Greater Washington. Specific dates have not yet been announced. No announcement has yet been made for 2010.

GEDENKBUCH NOW ON-LINE

The Bundesarchiv of Germany has announced the availability of content from the enhanced four volume 2006 published "Gedenkbuch" (*Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933-1945*) on the web at <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html> . This historic document lists victims of the Holocaust providing where possible, the family name, given name, married name, city of birth, city of living, deportation point and ultimate fate of the individual. Searches can be conducted by any of these parameters. Dates can be stated exactly for birth or deportation, or by a time range, or by month and year. In my own case, I was interested in finding names of victims from my town of birth in Eppingen, Baden and readily obtained the following list of 24 victims and their birth date by simply specifying the town name:

[Ancona, Marta](#) (* 14.08.1920)
[Bauer, Irma](#) (* 22.12.1893)
[Bravmann, Elka](#) (* 29.03.1892)
[Dreifuß, Hertha](#) (* 09.11.1880)
[Erlich, Herman](#) (* 06.06.1893)
[Ettlenger, Abraham](#) (* 13.05.1886)
[Ettlenger, Adele](#) (* 22.03.1882)
[Ettlenger, Julius](#) (* 15.01.1870)
[Ettlenger, Löb](#) (* 30.10.1874)
[Fechenbach, Emma](#) (* 08.12.1872)
[Frank, Ernst](#) (* 13.09.1897)
[Friedmann, Johanna](#) (* 29.01.1864)

[Goldschmidt, Karoline](#) (* 05.07.1888)
[Groß, Emma](#) (* 07.09.1888)
[Hinfeld, Lieselotte](#) (* 18.09.1923)
[Hirschler, Rosl](#) (*14.04.1895)
[Isenberg, Selma](#) (* 25.02.1881)
[Krämer, Frieda](#) (* 21.02.1880)
[Levi, Betty](#) (* 16.03.1892)
[Levi, Martha](#) (* 12.07.1902)
[Regensburger, Eduard](#) (* 13.03.1860)
[Schlessinger, Selma](#) (* 28.05.1893)
[Siegel, Bertha](#) (* 09.07.1873)
[Sternweiler, Julius](#) (* 07.07.1869)

While most listed victims are former residents/citizens of Germany, this new issue also includes names of individuals who were regarded as Polish citizens and deported to the Polish border from October 27, 28 and 29, 1938, mostly to what was then the border station Bentschen (now Zbaszyn), but also to Konitz (Chojnice) and Beuthen (Bytom). The website also includes the extensive timetable of and chronology of the deportations that took place in Germany, Belgium, the Netherlands and France. Direct contact for providing edits or additional names to the editors of the book is possible through the email address gedenkbuch@barch.bund.de .

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: Lucy Ableser, Lawrence Hapner

ERRATA: In the February 2008 issue of this Newsletter we inadvertently showed the incorrect Steve Morse web address as www.stevemorse.com instead of the correct one at www.stevemorse.org .

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