



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...

On March 2nd, Eric Gordon, Executive Director of the Los Angeles branch, treated the JGSCV to an interesting history of the Workmen's Circle/Arbeter Ring (WC/AR). Many of us had Yiddish-speaking immigrant ancestors, who were involved with the WC/AR. It established schools and camps for children and adults, published books, operated a famous medical department for members and sanitariums for the infirm, ran credit unions for members, purchased land for cemeteries, and founded the garment workers' unions that agitated for better working conditions. Others joined for the insurance that was offered. The Los Angeles Branch began in January 1908, and is celebrating its centennial year. During its early years, the Los Angeles branch founded the City of Hope and raised money for free medical care.



As genealogists, we were interested in knowing if there are records that still exist. Unfortunately, we learned that pre-1930 records from various existing branches have been discarded. For those branches that have closed, their post-1930 records ended up at YIVO in New York City. For Los Angeles, going back to the 1940's, there are some books, receipts, photos, plaques, cemetery plot information in file cabinets, but no index of what is contained in them. For more information on the LA Workmens' Circle go to <http://www.circlesocal.org/>

March is Women's History Month. It is definitely more challenging to research our female ancestral lines because women changed their names when they married. Historical records usually favor the male family line over females. In the past women were "hidden behind the scenes". What better way to honor our female ancestors than to research their lines, including writing their stories, and incorporating them into your genealogy and memorializing those who perished in the Shoah with a Page of Testimony. This will provide future generations with something to remember, passed down, and shared again and again. For example, a recipe passed down from one generation to another, or a story of how a mother, sister, aunt, grandmother cared for you when you had the flu or measles—all goes to recalling and honoring them.

I hope you're planning on attending our first exclusive research afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center (LARFHC) on April 6. Only current JGSCV dues-paid members will be admitted that afternoon and we will be the only ones there. This is an opportunity too good to be missed! If you haven't renewed or joined as yet, you can do so at the door. Please read the suggestions for preparing for your trip on page 5.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Family History Center on April 6th.

Jan Meisels Allen

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 Fountainwood 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

GLOBAL INCIDENT MAP

An amazing near real time worldwide incident map is available at: www.globalincidentmap.com/home.php Upon selecting this website, a world map is shown with indicators that show strange & dangerous events that are happening at the moment in every country in the entire world. The status of events is automatically updated every few minutes on a 24/7 basis. You can move the map around, zero in on any one area and identify the story of what is going on right here in the U.S., sometimes right in your own state or even your own city.

JEWISH TV STATION NOW AVAILABLE

A newly established Jewish Television Network known as Shalom TV has gone national and is available in the Ventura area through cable provider Comcast with likely future broadcasting on Times Warner. Jewish content will include films, kids' shows, arts, and news from Israel. For more information see <http://venturacountystar.com/news/2008/feb/02/jewish-television-network-goes-national-on/> A second offering is provided by the Los Angeles based Blazer Media Group which broadcasts a Jewish hour every Sunday on KSCI, Channel 18 at 9 A.M. See www.nationaljewishnews.com/jewish_life.shtml. In addition, a Jewish TV channel is offered by the Blazer organization in certain markets as well as available 24/7 directly on the Internet at www.jltv.tv

CHILDREN DEPORTED FROM POLAND

A website provides a list of children deported from Eastern Poland to Siberia in the early 1940s. Jewish children are included. See www.polonica.net/Lista_Polskich_Dzieci_deportowany_ch_4.htm

STEVEN SPIELBERG JEWISH FILM ARCHIVE

Check out the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive housed at the Jerusalem campus of the Hebrew University at www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il making it possible to view online vintage film relating to the history of the Jewish people during the last two centuries.

KRAKOW JEWISH COMMUNITY

The Jewish Community of Krakow has established its own website: <http://krakow.jewish.org.pl> It is available both in Polish and English. The website includes information on the community's activities, a gallery of Jewish sites in Krakow, and tourist information on kosher hostels and restaurants.

JEWISHGEN OFFERS EDUCATION COURSES

JewishGen offers online interactive courses in Jewish genealogy to help organize your information and begin to trace one's ancestral roots. Most courses will be eight sessions and in addition to the "lecture", will contain optional reading material and helpful links to JewishGen resources, as well as other genealogical web sites. Opportunities for questions and answers will be provided via forums and/or news items. All courses are tuition based and require enrollment. See the individual course descriptions at www.jewishgen.org/education for details and technical requirements. For example, the course on "Basic Genealogy" has a tuition cost of \$50 but can be obtained free for a donation of \$100 to JewishGen.

RARE HEBREW BOOKS ONLINE

Over 11,000 Hebrew books are available for viewing and free download at (www.hebrewbooks.org). The classical rare and out-of-print collection began with 2000 works of American authors of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. These books offer a fascinating glimpse of the issues facing American Jews during that era. Recent additions have expanded the scope of the collection to include the broad range of Jewish tradition, law and custom, including commentaries, legal analysis and rabbinic journals published in Hebrew, English and Yiddish, by Jewish scholars all over the world. A very helpful guide in the Support option shows how to use the browsing system as well as the search option for specific text.

WARSAW JEWISH CEMETERY BURIALS

A most fascinating website is now available with a growing number of entries of burial sites at the Warsaw Jewish cemetery on Okopowa Street, including photos and descriptions to the extent possible of the tombstones. Some 250,000 graves will ultimately be recorded dating back to 1806. Approximately 30% of the graves have so far been identified on the website: www.cemetery.jewish.org.pl .

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



The JGSCV will hold a meeting, on Sunday, April 6, 2008 at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles (on grounds of the LDS Temple) from 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Parking is free. This special program is open only to current dues paid members of JGSCV! Anyone may join or renew their membership with JGSCV at the door.

**The Topic:
Assisted Research Afternoon at the L.A. Regional Family
History Center (FHC)**

Experienced JGSCV members and Family History Center volunteers will be available to help members get the most out of the L.A. Family History Center's resources, including computer assistance with many popular genealogical databases including Ancestry.com (full access), Footnote.com, Heritage Quest, World Vital Records, Godfrey Memorial Library on-line resources and more! The FHC has an extensive collection of microfilms, including U.S. and international census records, Eastern European and other international and domestic vital records, maps and gazetteers. Bring your research documents with you and bring a flash drive if you want to download electronic images of online images. Hard copying is also available.

Barbara Algaze, volunteer at the LAFHC, and librarian for the JGSLA, will give an introduction to the resources at the L.A. Regional Family History Center.

We encourage car-pooling for this event.

See Page 5 for more information regarding this event.

For additional 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**

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 State Holocaust Museum Memorial" by Peter Lande

Meetings July 2008-June 2009 will be announced in May when we receive the dates from Temple Adat Elohim.

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.

Preparing For the Exclusive Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center

JGSCV members are privileged to have an exclusive research afternoon at the Los Angeles Regional Family Center (LARFHC). This meeting is open only to 2008 current-paid members. Anyone may join or renew their JGSCV membership by paying their dues at the door. Car-pooling is best, so ask your friends from JGSCV about sharing a ride. JGSCV itself is not organizing any car pools.

Directions:

The LARFHC is located at: 10741 Santa Monica Blvd, in Los Angeles on the grounds of the LDS (Mormon) Temple. From the 405 freeway get off at Santa Monica Blvd. and go east to Manning Ave. Turn north on Manning Ave, make the first left into the LDS Temple compound, proceed right until reaching the Visitor's Center. Park along the fence or in the lot next to the Visitor's Center. The entrance to the FHC is on the right (east) side of the Visitor's Center. The library is on the lower floor of the FHC –there are stairs and an elevator from the first floor.

LARFHC has the largest holdings of any branch FHC. Take a look at their website: www.larfhc.org/ for a listing of the resources that are available. In addition to microfilms, microfiche, maps and books, they have about 50 computers (PCs not Macs) that have access to many genealogical sites at no charge. These sites include: Ancestry.com (full institution subscription); CastleGarden.org; Stevemorse.org, EllisIsland.org, Footnote.com, Godfrey Memorial Library (godfrey.org), Heritage Quest/ProQuest (Heritagequestonline.com), WorldVitalRecords.com and more!

At 1:30 P.M. there will be an introduction to the Los Angeles Regional Family History Center by Barbara Algaze, volunteer at the LARFHC and the Librarian for JGSLA. In addition to Barbara, there will be several volunteers from the LARHC to help you with the available resources applicable to your research. To make the best use of this experience you should prepare in advance and take your research papers with you.

Be sure to bring with you: copies of your family group sheets, documents, family time lines, and family trees. Prioritize your research lists: Foreign and state censuses, city directories, vital records (birth, marriage or death records), maps, naturalization records, WWI and WWII draft registration records.

For traditional methodology bring: Paper pads, post-it notes, pens, pencils and a magnifying glass.

For electronic methodology bring: laptop computer, genealogy program, USB storage drives, writable CD Rom, digital camera.

It is suggested, that visitors bring quarters and dimes to facilitate making copies from microfilms and the use of the copy machines. If you plan on ordering microfilms from Salt Lake City the cost is \$6.05 per microfilm for a 30 day loan. For an extended loan, the charge per microfilm is \$17.96. Only exact change or checks will be accepted for ordering microfilms. For more information on ordering see: <http://www.larfhc.org/microorderform.html> For the convenience of library visitors, there is a lunchroom available, with some vending machines, and where you may eat your brown bag lunch.

As with the regular operating days, the policy of the LARFHC is that everyone's bags (attaché cases, pocketbooks, laptop carriers) will be inspected when leaving, as nothing may be taken from the library.

Have a very successful research trip!

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: Claudia Aposhian, Ilena and Jeffery Hogan,
Barry and Elaine Kelman

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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