



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

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August 2009

President's Letter:

Facebook, the "hottest" social networking website, was the centerpiece of the July 12th program. About half the audience said they were not on Facebook and indicated they had reservations about signing up due to privacy concerns. The other half were on Facebook or planned to be! Michael Gallop provided a live Facebook demonstration. He explained how two estranged parts of his family were reunited as well as how he found a cousin in Los Angeles that led to an aunt who then provided many familial missing pieces.

Debra Kay-Blatt, JGSCV board member, also showed Facebook attributes while focusing on how to use settings to keep information private. Debra has created the JGSCV Facebook page and showed how it works. See page 6 for more on the JGSCV Facebook page.

Helene Rosen, JGSCV VP Membership, also shared stories of how she found relatives through Facebook and how she discovered a distant cousin on death row! Helene and I created a PowerPoint presentation about Facebook which is also on our website under meetings- previous with the date of the meeting. For more on Facebook from the meeting see page 4.

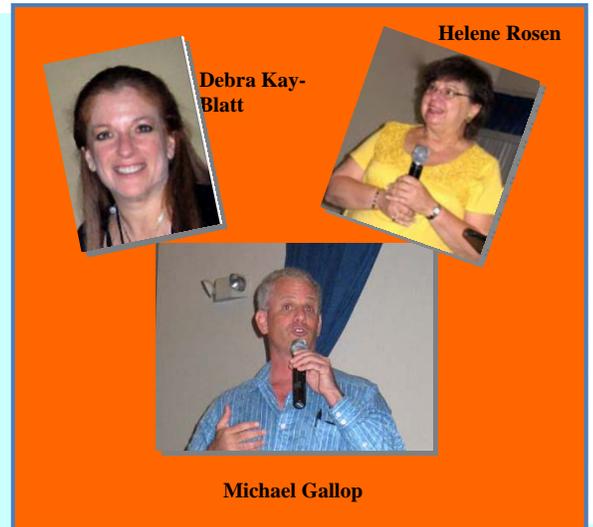
With Temple Adat Elohim's new Wi-Fi capabilities in the Social Hall we were able to do a live demonstration. The Wi-Fi availability gives us opportunities for other live programs! We are planning our 2010 programs and want to do a 'How to Begin Your Genealogy' program as we haven't done one in a while. Please let me know what topics you would be most interested in covering in that program. Our programs through the end of 2009 are now scheduled. See page 3 for the dates.

In August the board will appoint our Nominations Committee, to be chaired by Hal Bookbinder. Half of the board slots are up for election in December and it's not too early to start thinking about serving. Everyone who is a JGSCV member for at least one year will receive an e-mail in the fall asking if they want to serve. Board meetings usually are held immediately following our programs, and last about 30-45 minutes. About three times a year, including the meeting to set the budget, board meetings are held in the evening unconnected to a program. The budget meeting usually lasts a bit longer. Do think about serving on the board.

JGSCV founding member Harold Arkoff donated some of his genealogical library to the JGSCV. Those books (on Lithuania, Latvia, Odessa, Ukraine, Philadelphia, plus others) have been added to our traveling library. Thank you Harold! If you have books of genealogical interest that are in very good condition and you wish to donate contact me.

It's hard to believe that we are celebrating our 4th anniversary on August 30th. Remember, the meeting starts at 2:00 p.m. We are delighted that Warren Blatt, a JGSCV founding member, board member, and Managing Director of JewishGen.org will be our guest speaker discussing Jewish Given Names. We will also be entertained by the Klutzmer Band (all congregants of Simi Valley's Congregation B'nai Emet) playing Eastern European music—they were fantastic at our 3rd anniversary so we invited them back!

Jan Meisels Allen



SEE PAGE 3 FOR MEETING NOTICES

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.

2009 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 the new/renewal membership form on our website at www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button.

NEW SYSTEM IN CALIFORNIA

A new California system, Vital Records Image Redaction and Statewide Access (VRIRSA) started in April 2009 requiring redaction of Social Security numbers, any signatures or sensitive health information from informational copies of birth and death records. The system was mandated by legislation enacted in 2002 which authorized informational certificates and established a committee to make recommendations on protecting individual privacy, inhibiting identity theft, and preventing fraud involving birth and death certificates while providing needed access to birth and death record information to those seeking it for legitimate purposes. Those recommendations led to the new, automated system that redacts certain data from birth and death records. At this time marriage records are not included, but that may change in the future. For more information go to <http://tinyurl.com/lk5zm3>.

ESTONIAN RECORDS ONLINE

The State Archives of Latvia referred to a project of the Estonian State Archives to place digitized images online. It does not include Jewish vital records but does appear to include revision lists, 1782–1858. The site is at <http://tinyurl.com/ljtj8rh>.

ELLIS ISLAND VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

There are a number of original films of the Ellis Island experience on YouTube.com. Search for "Ellis Island Immigration." One of the more interesting ones, is a 29-minute documentary at <http://tinyurl.com/5drtro>. Even with high speed, broadband access you may have to wait for it to load.

RALPH'S COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Don't forget to sign up for Ralph's Community Contribution Program. We just received another quarterly check for about \$91 and that is from only 9 people participating...this is great way for you to help your JGS, at no cost to you! Even if you are only an occasional shopper at Ralph's, it will help JGSCV! Information on how to sign up is on our website: www.jgscv.org and click on "notices".

UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA EXPULSIONS – 1938

The University of Vienna has created an online "Memorial Book Dedicated to the Victims of National-Socialism at the University of Vienna 1938". The site's English version is at <http://tinyurl.com/leu3yk>.

A searchable database lists expelled students and dismissed staff, as well as graduates whose academic credentials were rescinded after the German Anschluss. The database includes names and biographical information of over 2,000 people, mostly Jews, several hundred of whom were from Galician towns.

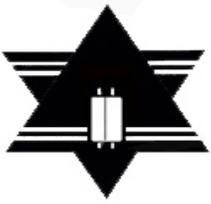
Enter your town name in the Full Search field to find names of students/faculty who were born or were residents ("heimatberechtigt") there. The search assumes a wild card; so, for example, writing Tarno brings up people from Tarnobrzeg, Tarnopol, and Tarnow.

NEW INFORMATION FOR YAD VASHEM

The ITS (International Tracing Service) recently presented Yad Vashem with some 180,000 "CM1" (care and maintenance) questionnaires from German DP camps. The documents provide information on the fate of Jews and non-Jews who survived the concentration camps, forced labor and, in some cases, war captivity. Yad Vashem also received copies of lists of Holocaust survivors, compiled after WWII mostly by Jewish organizations from different countries. The 55,000 documents helped the Tracing Service clarify individual fates and reunite families. The remaining documents from DP camps in other European countries as well as emigration lists will follow at the end of the year, once digitization of that part of the ITS collection at Bad Arolsen, Germany has been completed.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE MARRIAGE INDEX

United Synagogue Marriage Authorization Index has been updated by an additional two years and now identifies records from 17th February 1880 to the 31st December 1891. The index contains 8,236 records for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is located at <http://tinyurl.com/m98tto>. It is updated whenever an additional year is indexed.



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting on
Sunday, August 30, 2009, 2:00 to 4:00 PM
at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

NOTE: Meeting begins 30 minutes later at 2:00 PM

"Jewish Given Names"

Learn why "Mordechai Yehuda" is also "Mortka Leib" is also "Max". An introduction to Jewish given names (first names), focusing on practical issues for genealogical research. Our ancestors each had many different given names and nicknames, in various languages and alphabets -- this can make Jewish genealogical research difficult. This presentation will teach you about the history and patterns of Jewish first names, and how to recognize your ancestors' names in genealogical sources.

Speaker: Warren Blatt, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, JewishGen, (www.jewishgen.org), an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage and founding member and board member of JGSCV . He is the author of *Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area*; and co-author of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*.

Also: Be entertained by the Klutzmer Band (no, not Klezmer), playing Eastern European music.

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

2009

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| Oct. 5 | <u>SPECIAL DAY and TIME Monday 7-9 PM:</u>
Dan Brown, Holocaust instructor, author and Dean, Moorpark College "Remembering the Victims: The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Project" |
| Nov 8 | Sunday, 1:30 -3:30 PM Rabbi Shimon Paskow, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Etz Chaim, 'Searching for the Jewish Treasures' |
| Dec 6 | Sunday, 1:30-3:30 PM Steve Morse, "Hodge Podge of Lesser Known Gems" and Annual Chanukah Party |

2010

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|----------|-----------------------|
| Jan. 10 | Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM TBA |
| Feb. 1 | Mon. 7-9 PM TBA |
| March 7 | Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM TBA |
| April 11 | Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM TBA |
| May 2 | Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM TBA |
| June 6 | Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM TBA |



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE FACEBOOK PRESENTATIONS

- Facebook was started at Harvard in 2004 for students, by student Mark Zuckerberg
 - Facebook was so popular that many tried to purchase the company for millions of dollars- in fact they turned down \$1 billion from Yahoo in 2006
 - 2006-Facebook opened to anyone with an e-mail address
 - Facebook is the 6th most trafficked website in the US
 - Facebook is the #1 photo-sharing site
 - Facebook is now the 5th most valuable Internet company with Microsoft purchasing less than 2% of the company
- Source: www.Crunchbase.com

Some attributes of Facebook:

It's free and easy to set up. It's a way of meeting/reconnecting with new family and friends. It's a day-to-day real time "social" contact with those you found. What you put on your "wall" (home page) is up to you. It's a way to share photographs and communications. Adjusting your *settings* lets you make as much or as little information public.

At your request, Facebook will go through your list of "friends"—the term Facebook uses for the people you connect with—and compares your friends with people on their network. They take the information from your "page" such as where you went to school and compare their other subscribers to find others who went to the same school. The Facebook search engine can find people, and affinity groups, like school alumni or people who grew up on a certain block, etc. The search engine can also search women's maiden names.

To join Facebook go to: www.facebook.com . While you don't have to provide all the information they request, you must provide them with your birth date so they can confirm you are of an age to be on Facebook. However, you are able to hide your birth date from being seen by others. If you provide a photo, it need not be a current one, or one of yourself...some have placed cartoons, or pets or other people instead of themselves.

Facebook will send you an invitation suggesting you be a "friend" to someone with a similar point of information, such as attending the same high school or college. Both parties have to accept/agree with the invitation. Individuals may also send you an invitation to be a "friend", which you have the option to accept or not. If you are on Facebook and invite someone to be your "friend" it is recommended to explain who you are- for example a third cousin as your great grandfather was this person's great grandfather's brother, etc.

You do have the option to reject or ignore an invitation to be a friend, whether it is sent directly by the person or by Facebook. On a Facebook sent invitation you have the option to advise them to not send any more invitations. This works only for those invitations sent by Facebook, not individuals. It is not unusual that some people receive invitations from people they never knew as some people like "collecting" as many "friends" as possible. (Cont'd)

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Stewart Bernstein, Member-at-large	stewart@jgscv.org
Warren Blatt, Member Education	education@jgscv.org	Debra Kay Blatt, Information Chairman	information@jgscv.org
Dorothy Drilich, Secretary	secretary@jgscv.org	Werner Frank, Member-at-large	werner@jgscv.org
Fred Land, Treasurer	treasurer@jgscv.org	Helene Rosen, VP membership	membership@jgscv.org

Allan Linderman, Newsletter Editor newslettereditor@jgscv.org
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Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616
 Website: www.jgscv.org David Oseas, Webmaster: webmaster@jgscv.org



MORE ON FACEBOOK (Continued from previous page)

An option on Facebook is to permit them to compare your e-mail address book with their subscribers to suggest that some may be related or friends of friends. This is something they can do only if you check off that option.

If you are concerned about having too many Facebook e-mails sent to your regular e-mail address, you can set up a separate e-mail address that you use only for Facebook. A free e-mail subscription may be obtained from Yahoo.com or Google's g-mail.

You also have the option to "filter" your friends' conversations so you do not follow all of their communications with other "friends".

For genealogy the "We're Related" is a great tool...You can get to that by typing it in the search box. Facebook may suggest that certain of their other subscribers are related, placing them in the "possible relatives" area but you decide and reply or not. If you type in "genealogy" in the search box it will take you to a World Vital Records page. A new social network specifically for genealogy, GenealogyWise.com has recently been started by World Vital Records.

JGSCV has started its own Facebook page...so type in the search box "JGSCV" or "Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County". This page is open to members and friends and is moderated, so anyone requesting to be in this group has to be approved. Debra Kay Blatt is the Facebook coordinator for JGSCV. If you are on Facebook and a JGSCV member or meeting attendee sign up!

Those concerned about security should note that the information is "open" and the speakers suggested staying away from third party applications. While you have the option under the security tab to make your information open only to your friends so others may not see it, if you join a network, everyone in the network will be able to see your information, even those who are not listed as your friends. An article entitled *10 Privacy Settings Every Facebook User Should Know* may be of interest <http://www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/> . Other concerns include:

- Privacy concerns by letting "strangers" know about you and your family?
- Opening up to potential identity theft?
- Inability to delete account content permanently- Since February 2008 this is permitted by contacting Facebook
- .Unmoderated content-including in 2009 permitting Holocaust deniers
- Censorship controversies

Source: www.wikipedia.org

On July 16, 2009 Canada's Privacy Minister stated Facebook breached federal privacy law by keeping users' personal information indefinitely even after members close their accounts and raised concerns about the sharing of users' files with the almost one million third-party developers scattered across the globe who create Facebook applications such as games and quizzes. Facebook has replied that it is introducing a number of new additional privacy features and is working with the Commission to address its privacy concerns.<http://www.thestar.com/news/canada/article/667167>

What ever your decision, it's a personal option whether to belong to Facebook or not.

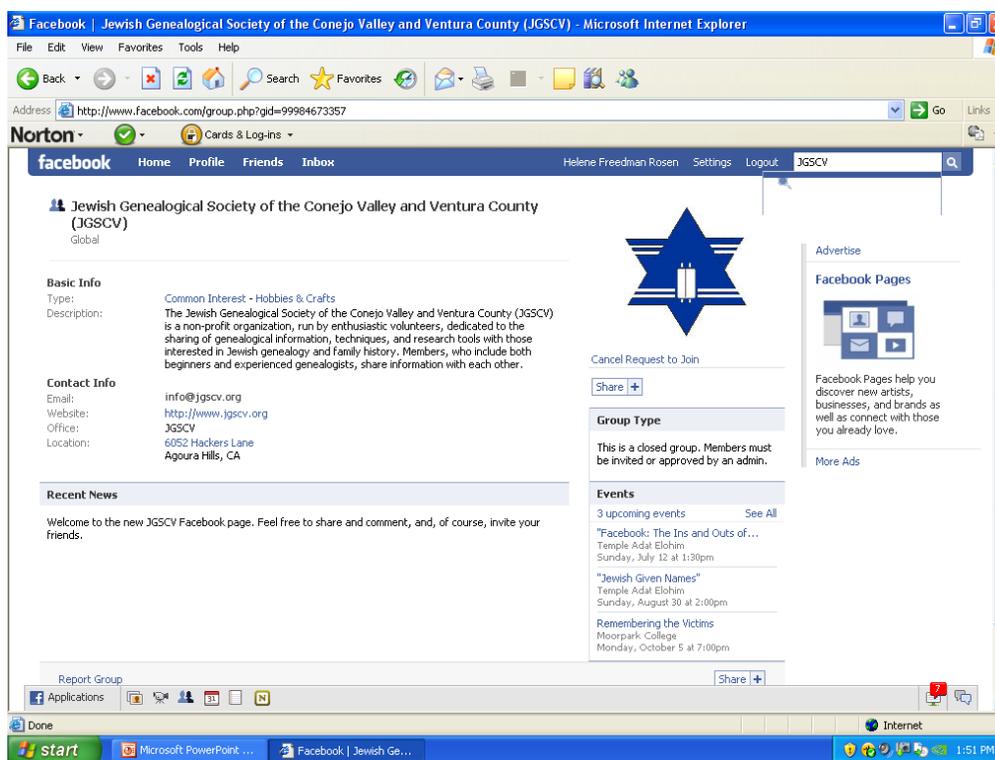
Visit JGSCV's Facebook page and join the group!

A big "Thank You" to Debra Kay-Blatt for establishing the JGSCV Group and creating the page on Facebook. You must have a Facebook account to join the JGSCV group on Facebook.

If you do, once you are on Facebook, *search* JGSCV. When you get to our page ask to join.

If you do not have a Facebook account and would like to establish one, follow the directions on page 5 of this newsletter.

Either way, the JGSCV website will remain available to all. Facebook does not replace our website www.jgscv.org which includes many more items of interest such as our resources list, newsletters, past and current handouts from our meetings and more. The Facebook and JGSCV websites are complimentary. Facebook is totally voluntary. For those who are on Facebook or plan on joining a social network, this an extra added feature of JGSCV.



CAN YOU HELP ISRAEL PICKHOLZ?

Israel, who lives in Jerusalem, has posted 2 photographs of his California family circa 1963 at <http://tinyurl.com/17hwa2>. If you recognize anyone in the photos, please let us know and we will put you in touch with Israel. Please email newslettereditor@jgscv.org and include 'Israel Pickholz' in the subject line.