



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 5, Issue 1

October, 2009

President's Letter:

Our 4th anniversary was a smashing success due to our two program participants. First, The Klutzmer Band from Congregation B'nai Emet played nostalgic Eastern European music. The members of the Klutzmer Band are: Franklin Tessel, JGSCV founding member, Vincent Chang, Irwin Cohen, Gail Demirtas and Gail Matulaitis.

The main program was by our own founding member and board member, Warren Blatt, Managing Director and editor-in-chief, JewishGen.org. Warren presented in-depth explanations of how immigrants' given names shifted between Yiddish, Hebrew, their native language, biblical associations, calques and more. He reiterated that no names were changed at Ellis Island, but many chose to 'Americanize' them later. Warren's handout is available on JGSCV's website www.jgscv.org. Click on "meetings", "prior meetings", "August 30".

This newsletter begins our 5th year of publication! JGSCV is most fortunate to have as members our founding editor Werner Frank and our new editor, Allan Linderman—without them we would not have such a great publication! The newsletter is a great communication for our members, but are you aware that it is shared with many of our sister JGS's around the world? Their newsletters are located on JGSCV's dedicated book shelves at the reference desk in our non-circulation, permanent library at the Agoura Hills Library. To view the list of publications (updated monthly) in our permanent library visit the JGSCV website and click on 'library' and 'permanent'. These materials are available for your genealogy research at the library.

The Nominations Committee has been selected: Hal Bookbinder, Chairman; Helene Rosen, board member; Diane Wainwood, general member. The committee will be e-mailing all JGSCV members who have been a member for at least one year to determine your interest in serving on the JGSCV board. Application may be downloaded from the JGSCV website under 'contact us'. Please consider serving.

The October meeting we will begin our annual membership renewal drive for 2010—see page 5 (as well as our website) for the renewal form. As we have in the past, those who join or renew by or at our December meeting will be eligible for great genealogical prizes at our Dec. 6 meeting.

Our October 5th meeting is on a different day of the week and time: Monday, 7:00-9:00 p.m. The board decided to hold an occasional meeting on a weekday evening for the benefit of those who otherwise are not able to attend Sunday afternoon meetings—we return to Sunday afternoons in November. Dan Brown, Dean, Moorpark College will talk to us about his work with Stephen Spielberg's "Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Project". His book, *The Beautiful Beast: The Life and Crimes of Ss-Aufseherin Irma Grese* will be available for purchase.

Looking forward to seeing you on Monday October 5th.

Jan Meisels Allen

Warren
Blatt
speaking on
Jewish
given
names
(right)



The
Klutzmer
Band

Next Meeting:
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.

2010 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 YORK CITY BIRTH RECORDS

An index to New York City births, 1901 to 1907, is now online on Long Island's German Genealogy site <http://tinyurl.com/knljxx> and Italian Genealogy site <http://tinyurl.com/r2g88q>

When completed, the index will cover births from 1881 to 1909. Steve Morse has created a One-Step search tool for these records: <http://tinyurl.com/knl3vh>

Copies of the actual birth records can be viewed on microfilm located at NYC's Municipal Archives or ordered from the Archives online or by mail. See <http://tinyurl.com/lpdbqj>

Salt Lake City's Family History Library also has microfilm of NYC birth records that can be ordered for viewing at local Family History Centers. To identify microfilm roll numbers, do a keyword search at <http://tinyurl.com/yz5hqh> for Manhattan (or Bronx, or Brooklyn, or Queens) birth certificates. Once you have succeeded in finding the right records, click Film Notes to find film numbers.

YAD VASHEM

If you have not already commemorated those who perished during the Holocaust with a *Page of Testimony* on Yad Vashem, this is the time of the year of remembrance to do so by going to the Central Database of Shoah Victim's Names and complete a page of testimony: <http://tinyurl.com/5rt63>

RALPH'S COMMUNITY PROGRAM

Don't forget about Ralph's Community Contribution Program. It is a great way to help your JGS at no cost to you. Even if you are already registered, Ralph's requires all participants to reregister each September. Information on how to sign up is on our website: www.jgscv.org and click on "notices".

GOOGLE TRANSLATE ADDS YIDDISH

Yiddish has been included with the other 50 languages for online translation at <http://translate.google.com> Some other languages available include Galician, German, Hebrew, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian and Russian.

FREE FAMILY TREE MAKER WEBINAR

On Sept. 30th at 8PM eastern, Ancestry.com will lead a webinar to demonstrate the new features of *Family Tree Maker 2010*. Prior registration is required at <http://tinyurl.com/p3bj7m>

FINDING PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAITS

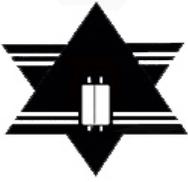
According to Steve Lasky, The Museum of Family History <http://tinyurl.com/mfozeq> maintains about 200 studio photographs from pre-World War I Europe; only a portion of these is on display. Many of the photos (mounted on cardboard) contain what could be important genealogical information.

The photographic studio name is most often imprinted under the photograph; usually a lithographic design covers most of the photo backing. Many of these designs contain graphics and medals the studio claims to have won at an exposition, or was supposedly awarded by a monarch.

After WWI, these attractive designs were generally replaced with a simple, non-descript stamp imprint with the name of the studio and the studio's address.

A collection of over 3500 photos with fronts and backs of such studio photographs can be found at <http://www.fotorevers.eu/>. This Polish and German language website documents the activities of photographers and their studios mostly during the years 1850-1914. (You may choose to use Google to translate.)

On this site, you can search for a particular photographer and studio by the surname of the photographer. If successful, you will be given a list of what photos exist on the site for a particular photographer. Then you can see if one of the surnames listed is the one you're looking for.



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

Note Different Day of the Week and Time

Monday, October 5, 2009 7:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

"Remembering the Victims: The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Project"



Daniel Patrick Brown will examine his work with Stephen Spielberg's "Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Project" as well as examine the memorials to the memory of those slaughtered by the Nazis during World War II. He will also address the need to educate today's youth to the dangers of hate groups. Professor Brown is a Holocaust instructor and Dean, Business and Computer Studies Division, at Moorpark College. He serves as a member of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust Advisory Board and has authored several books on the Holocaust.

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. No charge to attend. 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

<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2010</u>
Nov 8 Sunday, 1:30 -3:30 PM Rabbi Shimon Paskow, Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Etz Chaim, 'Searching for the Jewish Treasures'	Jan. 10 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM JGSCV board members, "How to Start Your Genealogy" Feb. 1* <u>Mon. 7-9 PM</u> Ron Arons "Mapping Madness" March 7 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM Steve Luxenberg, "Annie's Ghosts"	April 11 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM National Geographic Channel documentary "Hitler's Hidden Holocaust" May 2 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM TBA June 6 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM TBA

*Note: Feb. 1 Meeting is on a Monday Evening

YAHOO! GEOCITIES

Yahoo's GeoCities will be closing on October 29th this year. There are hundreds, if not thousands, of websites hosted on GeoCities that contain crucially important information for people researching their Jewish ancestry.

Avraham Groll, Administrator of JewishGen, announced that JewishGen will assume full responsibility - at no cost - for any existing GeoCities site that contains information valuable to people researching their Jewish roots. JewishGen will ensure that the data and information will remain accessible for generations to come.

If you have such a GeoCities website, (or know of others that exist), please notify JewishGen at info@JewishGen.org and you will be contacted quickly to make the easy transfer.

Please forward this message to anyone whom you feel can help in this effort.



LOS ANGELES REGIONAL FAMILY HISTORY CENTER

The LA Regional Family History Center, where we meet annually for an exclusive research afternoon, closed for renovations and expansion at the end of April. It was expected to reopen this Fall. We have been advised that the new re-opening date will be sometime in Spring 2010. No specific date was announced. When more details are available, we will share them with you.



Remember when shopping at Amazon.com to go through the IAJGS website portal to Amazon.com. This does not raise your costs and it helps IAJGS. Whether you are buying a gift card, books, music, software, electronics, household goods, clothes, and of course anything related to genealogy--remember to enter through the IAJGS website www.iajgs.org and scroll down to the bottom of the home page and click on the Amazon.com logo -- that takes you to the Amazon.com home page and shop as you normally shop!

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS SARA HYMAN, ANITA HYMAN, MARK A. STERN

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
Raya Sagi, Librarian: librarian@jgscv.org Frank Tessel, Cemetery Project: frank@jgscv.org

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

2010 Membership/Renewal Form
Jewish Genealogical Society of the
Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*

*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2010

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

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 payable to JGSCV and send along with application to:

**Helene Rosen
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301**

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Talents that you have to share (language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)

