



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 5, Issue 10

July, 2010

President's Letter:

Schelly Talalay Dardashti “wowed” the attendees at our June 6 meeting on “Current Trends and Recent Discoveries in Sephardi and Converso/Bnai Anousim Research”. Purely coincidental, but relevant, the meeting took place on the anniversary of the anti-Jewish riots in Seville in 1391. Instigated by Ferrand Martiniz, the riots soon spread across the country, decimating the Jewish populations of major communities and resulting in mass forced conversions to Catholicism. Those who refused were massacred — this was 100 years before the later Inquisition and expulsion from Spain.

Schelly discussed that many with Ashkenazi roots may actually have Sephardic roots and so “we don’t know who the heck we are”! The Iberian-Ashkenazi DNA project with FamilyTreeDNA found a match of Sephardic names, traditions or medical

background with 75% of the DNA already stored. A list of Sephardic websites Schelly mentioned during her presentation is now linked on the JGSCV website (www.jgscv.org) under meetings, prior with the date of June 6-handout. Many of the books that were recommended reading are in the JGSCV traveling library (category C). Schelly stressed that the mantra of the “Hidden Jews” is “secrecy above all”. They will not give up or share their artifacts, Judaica or records. They know more than they share publically but with centuries of hiding their “Jewish roots” it is not easy to change.

With the intense interest in DNA, JGSCV has booked Elise Friedman to talk about “Genetic Genealogy: Understanding and Interpreting Your DNA Results”. The date is Dec. 6th and will coincide with our annual membership renewal drive and Chanukah party.

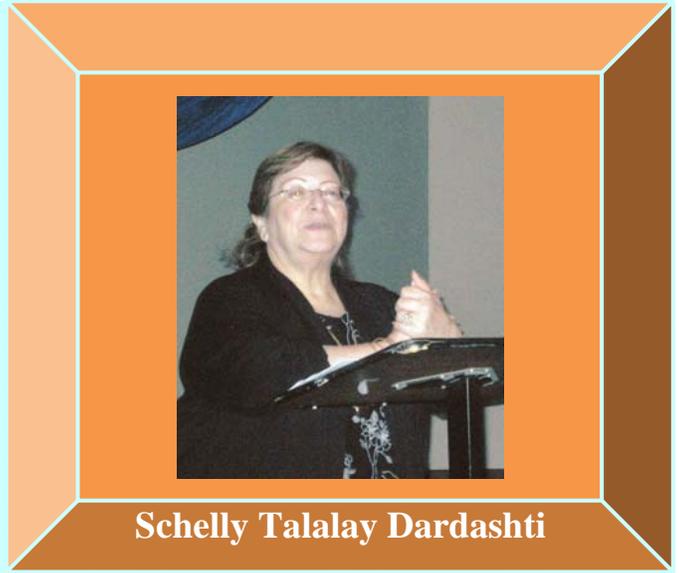
Our book report was given by JGSCV vice president, Helene Rosen on the two autobiographical books by Harry Bernstein, “*The Invisible Wall*” and “*The Dream*”. The first book is about his childhood in England and the second on life in America. The books are available from the public library.

The Los Angeles Regional Family History Center has been re-named The Los Angeles Family History Library –one of only three such designations in the US outside of Salt Lake City. The Library is expected to move into the renovated site at the end of June with an anticipated opening in August. We will announce the actual move in date when it occurs since they are already 9 months behind the original schedule.

June is a unique month for programming with a second meeting on June 27. Daniel Horowitz will be talking on two topics: Genealogical Resources in Latin America and MyHeritage: Genealogy Super Search Engine. Due to the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (July 11-16) hosted by our sister JGS, JGSLA, JGSCV will not hold a July meeting. Hopefully we will see many of you at the conference.

See you on June 27th

Jan Meisels Allen



Schelly Talalay Dardashti

FUTURE MEETING DATES
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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.

SALE ON DNA TESTING

Through June 25th, FamilyTreeDNA is offering DNA test kits at sale prices. This is an opportunity for those who have wanted to test their genealogical DNA but were put off by the cost. To participate in sale price you must be invited by an administrator representing your name, geographical area or topical interest. To get started, go to www.familytreedna.com and click on projects/name of the project/contact group administrator e-mail.

MUSEUM OF FAMILY HISTORY FILMS

"The Films of Tomek Wisniewski": You can now view forty-six short films created by Bialystok native Tomek Wisniewski. More films have been added over this past month, including films about Bransk, Piaski and Szczuczyn. The complete listing is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/2wyzr2z>. More films will be added to this series as they are produced and placed online.

RALPHS COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS

The Ralphs Community Contribution program helps JGSCV with making contributions to us every quarter, based on the purchases made by participants in the program. Please visit our website under "notices" for the easy step-by-step instructions to register and have JGSCV benefit from your Ralphs purchases.

2010 IAJGS CONFERENCE IN LOS ANGELES

Mark your calendars! July 11-16, 2010 -- the 30th IAJGS Conference will be hosted by JGSLA and held at the JW Marriott Hotel at LA Live near the Staples Center in downtown LA. Details of the jam-packed programs, speakers and events can be found at: <http://www.jgsla2010.com/> Conference registration is open and hotel reservations can be made now. See page 7 for more Conference information.

YIVO ENCYCLOPEDIA OF JEWS IN EASTERN EUROPE

The only resource of its kind, the YIVO ENCYCLOPEDIA provides an in-depth picture of the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe from the beginnings of their settlement in the region to the present. This website makes accurate, reliable, scholarly information about East European Jewish life accessible to everyone. You can explore individual topics such as Arts, Daily Life, Language & Literature and more at: <http://tinyurl.com/35rqa5o> And, it is free.

A DIRECTORY FOR LOCATING DIRECTORIES

Google's online Historical Directories website has organized directories from the U.S., Canada, U.K, Ireland and Thailand in one place. It is a work in progress but already includes some directories dating back to the 1600's. The U.S. link allows you to search by state although not all states are available: <http://tinyurl.com/njmnvx>

FREE ACCESS TO FOOTNOTE'S CIVIL WAR COLLECTION IN JUNE

Footnote.com, a paid subscription service, is offering free access to their Civil War collection for the month of June. Go to: <http://go.footnote.com/civilwar/>. The collection includes: personal accounts to historic writings, Union and Confederate soldier service records, pension files, and more. Also included are Civil War maps and subversion investigations. You must register to access the files- registration is free. The documents are part of the agreement between the US National Archives (NARA) and Footnote to digitize part of their overall collection.



Come to the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*

(* and surrounding areas)

Sunday, June 27, 2010 1:30 p.m. -4:15 p.m.

at Temple Adat Elohim

2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Two lectures:

" Genealogical Resources in Latin America"

"MyHeritage Research-Genealogy Super Search Engine"

The *Genealogical Resources in Latin America* lecture will present a brief history about the countries, their origin, government and community institutions, cemeteries, organizations and records. How to do research in these countries, what to look for and how to ask for information in 14 Latin American countries.

MyHeritage Research is an advanced tool for online genealogical research. It searches across more than 12 billion records to provide the most extensive genealogy search available on the Internet. Learn how to use *MyHeritage Research* to search efficiently in more than 1,500 genealogy databases and websites on the Internet.

Speaker: Genealogy and translation manager, *MyHeritage.com*. Daniel Horowitz was born and raised in Caracas, Venezuela, and has a BS.c. in computer engineering. Daniel was a founding member and lecturer of the *Jewish Genealogy Society of Venezuela*. He lives in Israel since 2005, is a member and webmaster of the *Israel Genealogical Society (IGS)* and the *Horowitz Families Association*. Daniel serves on the board of directors of the *International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)* since 2008.



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.

Follow-Up on Military Morning Reports- As a Genealogical Resource

By Jan Meisels Allen



Steve Luxenberg, author of *Annie's Ghosts*, and JGSCV's March 2010 speaker, related that he was able to obtain the US Army Morning Reports* for his father's military service even though he –and most people—thought 80 percent of US Army (and 75% US Air Force) records were destroyed during the fire in 1973 at the National Personnel Records Center (St. Louis, MO). The Morning Reports were not destroyed! Steve did comment that one has to know the unit and the time frame the person served. (See *Venturing Into Your Past* May 2010).

The US Army produces a Morning Report (MR) every morning of the year for every basic unit of the Army, by the unit clerk, detailing personnel changes for the day. However, Steve indicated he had to obtain written permission from the US Army Freedom of Information Officer (FOIA) to permit him or his researcher access to the record.

I recently had the opportunity to meet with US Archivist David Ferriero (right) and inquired as why the necessity of the FOIA request when the St. Louis Personnel records are under NARA's jurisdiction. I received a reply to my inquiry with in two weeks and this is the advice given (with permission to share the information):



"Unit records (morning reports & rosters) are available for public viewing if they are 62 years old or older. They mature on a monthly basis because the MR's for each unit is on it's own reel of microfilm which was compiled monthly. For example, MR's for April 15, 1948, would not be archival public records until May 1, 2010, when the entire month of April is 62 years old."

"A researcher may view these MR's by contacting the archival records specialists to schedule an appointment (see below attachment for who to contact). Archival unit records do not require special permission from the Army's FOIA office."

"Unit records that are not yet archival (not yet 62 years old), do require permission from the Army's FOIA office. After permission is obtained, the researcher will need to contact the Lead Technician, Organizational Records Section at NPRC to schedule an appointment." (See attachments referenced below for contact information,)

Three documents that will be of assistance to you have been posted to the JGSCV website under meetings: prior and the March 20, 2010 date:

1. Microfilm Unit Records Onsite Review information sheet. The National Personnel Record Center provides this information sheet to persons interested in researching unit records (morning reports and rosters);
2. Arch Brochure updates" which provides an overview of the most recent archival accessions available at NPRC; and
3. ARR brochure (14 May 2010) which has the basic information for on site review of archival personnel records older than 62 years.

e-mail communication to Jan Meisels Allen from Reginald Washington

Access Programs Staff, National Archives and Records Administration May 12, 2010, June 3, 2010

*The morning report details changes in the status of soldiers in the unit on the day the change occurs, including for example, transferring to or from the unit, temporarily assigned elsewhere (TDY), on leave, AWOL or deserted in custody, promoted or demoted, and other such information. When a soldier is transferred to or from another unit, his or her orders specify an [EDCSA](#) specifying the exact date that the soldier is counted as leaving one unit and officially entering the other. The morning reports of the respective units will show the soldier transferred out, or in, on that date, as the case may be. This also handles the tracking of any dead and missing soldiers, as they cannot be present at roll call. From [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morning_report\(United_States_military\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morning_report(United_States_military))

2010 JGSCV Meeting Dates
All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

June 27 Sun. 1:30-4:15 PM

Daniel Horowitz, "Genealogical Resources in Latin America" and "MyHeritage: The Genealogy Super Search Engine"

August 1 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM

Erwin Joos, "One Foot in America, the Jewish Emigrants of the Red Star Line "

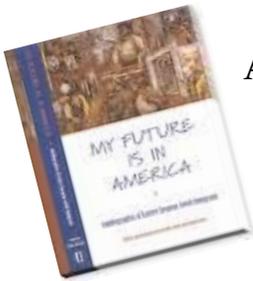
THE SCHMOOZING CORNER was led by JGSCV Board Member Debra Kay Blatt who helped many JGSCV members with their genealogy issues. Remember, you can find The Schmoozing Corner on the right as you enter the meeting room at Temple Adat Elohim; near the front of the room. The Schmoozing Corner is open for 15 minutes immediately prior to the start of the meeting. Look for the sign up front.



CORRECTION: In the last issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*, a report on 'Genealogy In The Round' incorrectly showed the website used by Fred Land to access a family death certificate as www.pilot.familyserach.org. The correct link is www.pilot.familysearch.org.

Traveling Library Books classification A and B will be at the June 27 meeting. Visit our website at www.jgscv.org under library traveling for the list of books in these categories.

(Warren Blatt left in photo right reviewing library books at June 6 meeting)



At the June 27th JGSCV meeting Marion Werle will report on the book *The Future is in America: Autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish Immigrants* (New York University Press/YIVO, 2006). The book is based upon a 1942 contest seeking the best immigrant autobiography. The compilation of essays were chosen from more than 200 entries and translated from Yiddish.



The Agoura Hills Library, a branch of the County of Los Angeles Public Library, will close on Mondays effective July 12 as a result of the Los Angeles County Supervisors Emergency Budget cuts passed on June 10. The JGSCV permanent library is housed at the Agoura Hills Library, located at 29901 Ladyface Court, Agoura Hills (off Agoura Road, between Reyes Adobe and Kanan Road on the south side of the street).

Library hours starting July 12 will be: Tuesday and Wednesday 10AM-8PM; Thursday: 11AM-5PM, Friday and Saturday 10AM-5PM. The JGSCV non-circulating, permanent library is located at the reference desk. The library has computers and copy machines for your convenience. To see what we have in the permanent library please look at our website: www.jgscv.org under library, permanent. The journals and newsletters are added to each month and have a wealth of information for your genealogical research.

JGSCV WELCOMES
NEW MEMBER

Lois Friedman



The 30th IAJGS

International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Los Angeles, California

11-16 July 2010

Hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles

The New JW Marriott Hotel at L.A. LIVE

Something for all Genealogists –

How-to Sessions for everyone from newcomers to experts
Computer Classes for beginners through advanced
More than 130 speakers and over 250 programs
Jewish Film Festival and Programs on Yiddish theatre,
klezmer music, vaudeville and Hollywood
Day trips to historic LA neighborhoods
And much, much more

To register and learn more visit:

www.jgsla2010.com

Registration is open for the 30th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Los Angeles from July 11-16. It is also possible to make hotel reservations from the conference site

<http://www.jgsla2010.com>

Conference Registration Fees are:

- Regular Registration (May 1-June 30, 2010):-Full-\$310; spouse/domestic partner-\$210
- On-Site Registration: Full-\$340; spouse/domestic partner-\$230
- Daily Registration Sunday (includes keynote and opening reception): \$105; Monday-Thursday \$85 per day; Friday morning \$45

To be eligible for spouse/domestic partner registration, both parties must reside in the same household

Conference Information



JGSCV has over 25 members attending the conference! This is wonderful!!

Remember if you are attending the banquet Thursday evening July 15 and want to sit with JGSCV let us know: president@jgscv.org. There is an additional charge of \$86 for the banquet.

To access information on the conference read the Conference Digest at JewishGen.org

You will have to log-in at www.jewishgen.org with your user name and password. (If you do not have one, you may create one at the log-in screen.) Once logged in, scroll down to the bottom of the screen and click on the 'select SIG' drop-down box where the Conference is listed as Los Angeles 2010. (Of course, you can also access any SIG archive using this site.)

If you are subscribed, and missed any of the digest postings, you may access the archives for this or any SIG from:

<http://tinyurl.com/2w7rxdj>

Please bookmark these url's in your favorites for future use.

Arrival and Parking

The Conference Discount for overnight parking at the hotel is \$33 per day. Valet Parking for Daily Drive-Ins is available at the front of hotel for a reduced rate of \$25/day (this rate does not apply for overnight valet).

While the conference co-chairs are looking for alternative parking- below are some suggestions for a more economical way to travel to the conference:

NOTE: JGSCV is **not** putting together car pools - but you may do so privately.

Self-Parking for Daily Drive-Ins is available in the LA Live West Garage (Lot W, Gates E & F). The reduced rate for conference attendees is \$15/day, with validation, and the rate is valid from 6:00 am- 12:00am daily. Overnight parking in this garage will be subject to the full rate of \$55/night. Parking validation machines will be placed in the Platinum Ballroom Foyer for guests to use.

Overnight options:

1. Hire a car service that will pick you up and take you to the conference for your stay. Pre-arrange for a return trip from the conference at the conclusion of your time there. Other JGS members are doing this from San Diego and it makes sense for a group of 3-5 people.
2. Have a friend or relative, who is not attending the conference take you to the hotel and pick you up at the end of the conference.
3. Take the train! Trains leave from Camarillo, Chatsworth, Moorpark, Oxnard, or Ventura Stations to Union Station. From there either take a taxi to the hotel or take the metro. The cost of the train one way is less than \$25. See www.amtrak.com

Parking alternative:

Joe's Auto Park lot at 831 S. Francisco is \$7/day with no in and out privileges. Every new entry is another \$7. For overnight parking, there is no attendant on duty overnight (they arrive around 6 am) - but overnight parking is allowed. This is a large open lot (no structure) with a tall fence (cyclone with inserted metal strips) enclosing it. There is no access when no attendant is on duty (overnight). Overnight parking is available, but *there is no overnight attendant on duty*, **so please leave your car at your own risk**. It would take 5-8 minutes to walk to the hotel from this lot depending on your walking speed. If you are arriving at the hotel with luggage, you might consider parking your car at the hotel (valet only) and moving your car to the less expensive overnight lot after removing your luggage and checking in.

JGSCV Presenters at The 30th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Los Angeles, California July 11-16, 2010



HAL BOOKBINDER:

- (1) Locating Lost Classmates
Monday, July 12, 8:00AM - 9:15AM
- (2) The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe
Wednesday, July 14, 11:15AM - 12:30PM
- (3) Why Did Our Ancestors Leave a Nice Place Like the Pale?
Thursday, July 15, 2:15PM-3:30PM

Hal has been researching eight lines for over 27 years, identifying 4,000 relatives and tracing two of these lines into the mid 1700s. A former president of JGSLA and IAJGS, he created and continues to edit the annual Jewish Genealogical Yearbook. Hal has spoken at numerous conferences, synagogues and society meetings on topics from computing to geography to brick walls.

Attendees at the 'Locating Lost Classmates' session will learn how Hal utilized his genealogy skills to locate high school classmates who otherwise could not be located for their reunion. Name changes and re-locations notwithstanding, Hal has found all but one of the *lost* classmates. And, he's pretty sure he knows where that last one is, too. Learn how on Monday.

The shifting borders of Eastern Europe can make ancestral searches daunting. Knowing what government was in control at any specific time can help in understanding migration trends, language, etc. Hal's ancestral town of Dubno will serve as the example for 'The Changing Borders of Eastern Europe' on Wednesday as he explains how placing experiences into context will help in pursuing research.

Hal's Thursday session, 'Why Did Our Ancestors Leave a Nice Place Like the Pale?' will provide background on the 120 years of the Pale when many of our ancestors participated in the mass exodus to the west. Hal will attempt to explain why our ancestors chose to leave everything they had and knew behind in order to create new lives in the west.

FUTURE MEETING DATES . . .

Monday, Oct. 4 7-9PM (JGSCV's 5th Anniversary)

Monday, Nov. 8 7-9PM

Monday, Dec. 6 7-9PM Elise Friedman "Genetic Genealogy" and
Chanukah and Membership Renewal Party

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2011 1:30-3:30PM

Sunday, Feb. 13 1:30-3:30PM

Sunday, March 6 1:30-3:30PM

Sunday, April 3 1:30-3:30PM

Sunday, May 1, 1:30-3:30PM

Sunday, June 5 1:30-3:30PM

Sunday, July 10 1:30-3:30PM

NOTE: No meeting August 2011 as 31st IAJGS Conference will be hosted by JGS Greater Washington



JAN MEISELS ALLEN:

- (1) BOF: Yizkor Book Project
Wednesday July 14, 8:15AM-9:30AM
- (2) IAJGS Workshop – Affordable Creative Programming
Thursday, July 15, 9:45AM-11:00AM

Jan is a founding member, board member and President of JGSCV. She also functions as Chair of the Programming Committee. Jan was a board member of JGSLA for 5 years prior, also serving as its Programming VP. Jan’s long list of genealogy roles and accomplishments include Board of Directors of the IAJGS, Chair of the Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, FGS-NGS-IAJGS Records Preservation and Access Committee.

Jan was the translation coordinator for JewishGen.org’s Sochaczew and Stawiski Yizkor Books. That experience will serve as the background for her Wednesday session: ‘BOF: Yizkor Book Project’ which will be very insightful for anyone seeking information regarding Yizkor books, arranging a translation project or just seeking more information about books in general.

Programming is the foundation of a successful JGS. Strong programs that respond to member interests result in new members and retention of current members. Jan has demonstrated an uncanny ability to bring world reknown speakers to the JGSCV. In her Thursday session: ‘IAJGS Workshop – Affordable Creative Programming’ she will share some strategies and reveal some of her secrets of what programming works and what doesn’t. And, how to do it on a limited budget.

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ATTENTION JGSCV AUTHORS! PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE AUTHORED A BOOK ([PRESIDENT@JGSCV.ORG](mailto:president@jgscv.org)). UNDER CONSIDERATION FOR 2011 IS A PROGRAM FOR JGSCV AUTHORS TO TALK ABOUT THEIR BOOKS INCLUDING A BOOK SALE AND SIGNINGS.