



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 5, Issue 12

September, 2010

President's Letter:

JGSCV had the privilege of hearing Erwin Joos, Curator of the Eugeen Van Mieghem Museum, and President of the Eugeen Van Mieghem Foundation (Antwerp, Belgium) talk on "One Foot in America! The Jewish Emigrants of the Red Star Line and Eugeen Van Mieghem". The lecture was a composite of the history of Antwerp- an important city for both Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews, the artist Eugeen Van Mieghem who was probably the only artist in Europe who made a cycle of works of art about Jewish emigrants and the over 1.3 million Jewish emigrants who immigrated traveling on the Red Star Line. It is estimated 30-40 percent of our Jewish ancestors sailed with the Red Star Line.

JGSCV Board Member Werner Frank facilitated the Schmoozing Corner. The book report was postponed to our October 4 meeting, when Diane Wainwood will report on "The Thirteenth Tribe" by Arthur Koestler.

It is time to renew your membership in Ralphs Community Contribution Program! Ralphs requires everyone to renew **every** year on September 1st. If you are currently enrolled, your enrollment is good through August 31st. To renew, participants will be required to register for the new term at www.Ralphs.com starting September 1, 2010 even if you registered only in July or August this year. Please, if you are enrolled, re-register, and if you haven't yet enrolled, please do so starting September 1st - it is easy. Directions are listed on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under "notices". Even if you are only an occasional shopper at Ralphs your purchases will help JGSCV.

The Nominations Committee has been selected: Hal Bookbinder, Chairman; Werner mailing JGSCV members who have been a member for at least one year to determine their interest in serving on the JGSCV board. Two current board members are retiring from the board at the end of the year: Werner Frank and Fred Land. The application may be downloaded from the JGSCV website under 'contact us'. Please consider serving.

Thank you to Dalya Dektor, Jane Lovitts and Diane Wainwood for volunteering at the Ventura County Fair Genealogy Booth.

There is no September meeting due to the Jewish holidays. Next meeting is Monday, Oct 4th at 7:00 pm for our 5th anniversary celebration with Vincent Brook talking on "Ost Meets West: Immigrant Film Moguls, Émigré Directors, and the Rise of Film Noir". See page 5.

Our exclusive research afternoon at the Family History Library originally scheduled for Nov. 7 will now take place on March 6, 2011. The FHL is almost a year behind the published completion date for renovation with no new end date announced. We are fortunate to have Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen.org, JGSCV founding member and board member talk on Polish-Jewish Research on Monday November 8 starting at 7:00 pm

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors, have a very safe, healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

L'Shana Tova!

Jan Meisels Allen



Erwin Joos

FUTURE MEETINGS NOTICES PAGES 5, 6

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.

BEGINNING JEWISH GENEALOGY COURSE

Barbara Algaze, Librarian of JGSLA, is conducting a 3-session course in Beginning Jewish Genealogy at the American Jewish University. The course is on Tuesday mornings October 12, 19 and 26 from 10:00AM - 12 Noon. The classes will be held at the University. The charge for the course is \$80 plus \$15 registration [the \$15 is a one time per semester fee therefore, if you are taking other courses only one \$15 fee will be charged]. The course number is: **10FD2JBA**. While the University has not yet posted their fall catalogue of classes on the web – when they do, the link is <http://wcce.ajula.edu/> where you can register on line. Click on continuing education and the course is listed under “Jewish studies”.

The course will explore what types of records exist, what they can tell you about your family members, and where these records can be found. Discussion will include research using books, an introduction to microfilms, and help with looking for your family on the Internet.

American Jewish University is located at 15600 Mulholland Dr./Bel-Air. California 90077. For directions see: <http://tinyurl.com/38srybs>

**DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR RALPHS
COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM.**

SEE 'HOW-TO' UNDER NOTICES at

www.jgscv.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SOCIAL SECURITY!

Aug. 14 marked the 75th anniversary of Social Security, the federal program that gave us the Social Security Death Index and the SS-5 (Social Security application). On FamilyTreeMagazine's website you can learn how to access these genealogical resources: <http://tinyurl.com/29zt7qv>

MORE ON THE 1940 US CENSUS

To prepare for the release of the 1940 Census on April 2, 2012, NARA has created a page on its website that will simplify getting started. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/22uotcn> where you can 1. Get *General Information*, 2. Learn *How to Start Your 1940 Census Research*, 3. Access *Indexes and Other Finding Aids*, 4. Watch enumerator *Training Videos* and 5. Get *Informative Articles and Online Data*. There is also a very cool countdown clock to keep track of the release date!

“WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?” ON NBC

If you missed NBC's “Who Do You Think You Are?” this past spring - or you just want to relive the thrill of seeing celebrities do genealogy on primetime network television - you can watch the reruns Friday nights until Sept. 3 at 8PM on NBC.

ISRAEL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY (IGS)

- A database of name changes as published by the Israeli government since 1949 is being compiled and added to the IGS website as each volume is completed. A grant from the IAJGS to be used in conjunction with the 2014 annual conference will fund this project.
- IGS will launch a website for the 19th Century Montefiore censuses of the Jewish population of Eretz Israel, Alexandria, Beirut and Sidon (Saida). This data is considered to be unusually reliable since virtually all of the Jewish population participated in this census. Currently, the censuses of 1939, 1940 (Alexandria) and 1855 are online at <http://tinyurl.com/2a139gt>
- Also newly available: 1915 Tel-Aviv Census <http://tinyurl.com/279lh9p>



The following information was provided by the National Archives (US) in response to an inquiry made to the US Archivist at his "Meet the Archivist" meeting during the National Genealogical Society conference last May. The query was: "Despite the fact that the last World War I veteran died several years ago, the entire class of service and pension records from that conflict still requires paperwork and signatures of spouses or children before they can be accessed. Why is this and what can you do to change it?" [NB: One WWI Veteran is still alive: Frank Buckles, who he lives in West Virginia. He is 109.] This is posted with permission by the National Archives.

Additional military personnel records will be made available to the public each year, for individuals who served in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard who have been discharged, deceased, or retired for at least 62 years. For example, records for veterans who were discharged, deceased, or retired in 1948 will be opened 62 years to the day in 2010.

Date: May 14, 2010
To: Archivist of the United States
From: Maureen MacDonald
Subject: World War I Records in St. Louis

This is in response to the World War I question at the National Genealogical Society's annual conference in Salt Lake City concerning the availability of the service records.

The World War I official military personnel files (OMPFs) were opened in November 2007. The opening of these records allows genealogists, historians, and other members of the public full access to these records. Prior to the legal transfer, access was limited to the specific veteran, the primary next-of-kin, and Federal agencies.

Researchers can receive a complete copy of the file for a fee. These records are subject to a limited exemption under the Freedom of Information Act. All social security numbers are redacted before releasing the record to the public.

Records opened include:

- U.S. Navy Enlisted OMPFs with discharge dates beginning in 1885 through 1947;
- U.S. Navy Officer OMPFs with discharge dates beginning in 1902 through 1947;
- U.S. Marine Corps Enlisted OMPFs with discharge dates beginning in 1906 through 1947;
- U.S. Marine Corps Officer OMPFs with discharge dates beginning in 1905 through 1947;
- U.S. Army OMPFs with discharge dates beginning in 1912 through 1947; and
- U.S. Coast Guard OMPFs with discharge dates beginning in 1898 through 1947;

Additional military personnel records will be made available to the public each year, for individuals who served in the U.S. Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard who have been discharged, deceased, or retired for at least 62 years. For example, records for veterans who were discharged, deceased, or retired in 1948 will be opened 62 years to the day in 2010.

Researchers can access these records by:

1. Visiting the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC), Archival Research Center, in St. Louis, MO
2. Requesting copies of the records (for a copy fee) via mail, fax, or online. NPRC encourages interested individuals to submit requests via www.vetrecons.archives.gov or on a Standard Form 180, available at www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf.

The fee schedule for OMPFs is:

OMPF of 5 pages or fewer: \$20

OMPFs of greater than 5 pages: \$60 (Most OMPFs fall in this category.)

Persons of Exceptional Prominence OMPF: \$.75 per page.

Copies of individual OMPF documents made in the Archival Research Room: \$.75 per page

These records have been opened for several years now, and more records are released every year. But the information has been slow to get to the researchers. The St. Louis web site does not mention that these records are now open to all researchers. St. Louis has already revised their web site, but there is a freeze on any web site updates at the moment. As soon as the freeze is lifted, they will be able to update their pages.

Besides getting up-to-date information on the web site, a blog posting could definitely help spread the word about the availability of these records, especially to the genealogy community.

A new brochure for NPRC might also help researchers understand what records are open for military service. This brochure could be handed out at NARA research facilities and conferences to get the correct information out there to researchers. NPRC is working on a brochure, but they do not want to print anything since they are moving next year. In the interim, they are doing a rack card which gives basic information about the facility, hours of operation, phone, and address. It does not address what records are there and the availability to the public.

The OMPF information for St. Louis is available in Reference Information Paper 109 Military Service Records at the National Archives. Also, NPRC has created a handout to explain what records are now open and how much it costs to get copies of these records. Distribution of this handout in all research facilities would help spread the word.

JGSCV UPDATES . . .

JGSCV's Werner Frank (right with Frank Tessel) led THE SCHMOOZING CORNER at the August 1 meeting. 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.



Traveling Library Books classification A and B will be at the October 4 meeting. Visit our website at www.jgscv.org under library traveling for the list of books in these categories.

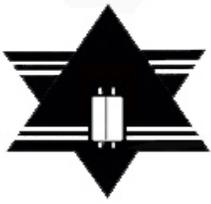
AND, with the LA Family History Library still under renovation, remember Ventura County offers eight Family History Centers that remain accessible. The Ventura FHC is located at 3501 Loma Vista Road (805-643-5607) with regular hours of 10 AM-8PM Tues/Thurs; 10AM-5PM Wed; 10AM-2PM Sat. It is suggested you call ahead to confirm hours as the schedule may change. (Note, each FHC has its own hours. A list of all Ventura County FHC's is on our website at www.jgscv.org under 'resources'.) All Ventura County Family History Centers offer free access to the following paid genealogy sites:



- 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archives
- Footnote.com
- The Genealogist
- Godfrey Memorial Library
- Heritage Quest Online
- Historical Map Works Library Edition
- World Vital Records
- Alexander Street Press-The American Civil War
- Find My Past (British censuses and more)

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Miriam Albert
Pat Fuller
Gigi Lyons-Sims



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

(* and surrounding areas)

Come celebrate our 5th anniversary
Monday, October 4, 2010 7:00-9:00 p.m.
at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E.Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Note: Different day of week and time!

Ost Meets West: Immigrant Film Moguls, Émigré Directors, and the Rise of Film Noir



A group of Eastern European Jews, who headed most major American film studios, founded the Hollywood film industry. Another influx of German/Austrian Jewish Film directors were driven to the US by the Nazis in the 1930s. A number of them, such as Fritz Lang, Billy Wilder, Otto Preminger, and Edward G. Ulmer would play a determining role in the rise of what was later called "film noir"*. The speaker will examine the ethnic origins of the two groups and how their different backgrounds enabled their considerable contributions to the

cinema, and in particular "film noir".

Speaker: Vincent Brook has a Ph.D. in film and television from UCLA and teaches media studies at UCLA, USC, Cal-State LA, and Pierce College. He is the author of *Something Ain't Kosher Here: The Rise of the "Jewish" Sitcom* and dozens of journal articles, essays, and reviews. Brook's book, *Driven to Darkness: Jewish Émigré Directors and the Rise of Film Noir* will be available for purchase for \$20. Please bring cash or check to purchase the book.

* **Film noir** is a cinematic term used primarily to describe stylish Hollywood crime dramas, particularly those that emphasize cynical attitudes and sexual motivations. Hollywood's classic film noir period is generally regarded as stretching from the early 1940s to the late 1950s. Film noir of this era is associated with a low-key black-and-white visual style that has roots in German Expressionist cinematography.

Meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. New members are welcome.

2010-11 JGSCV Meeting Dates
All Meetings are held at Temple Adat Elohim
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

2010

No September meeting due to the Jewish Holidays

October 4 – MONDAY, 7-9 PM, Celebrating JGSCV'S 5th Anniversary, **Vincent Brook**, Ost Meets West:
Immigrant Film Moguls

November 8 – MONDAY 7-9 PM, **Warren Blatt**, Managing Director, JewishGen and JGSCV Board
Member, An Introduction to Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research

December 6 – MONDAY, 7-9 PM, **Elise Friedman**, Genetic Genealogy Demystified: Understanding and
Interpreting Your DNA Results. AND, Annual Chanukah Party and Membership Renewal
Party.

2011

January 9 – SUNDAY, 1:30-3:30 PM, Authors! Authors! Authors! Five JGSCV members speak about books
they have written: **Warren Blatt, Werner Frank, Erica Miller (including signing), Helene
Rosen and Mark Abbott Stern**

February 13 – SUNDAY, 1:30-3:30 PM, **Hal Bookbinder**, Why Did Our Ancestors Leave A Nice Place
Like the Pale?

March 6 – SUNDAY, 1:30-3:30 PM, **Exclusive Research Day at the LA Family History Library**

Future Programs TBD (ALL SUNDAY) 1:30-3:30 PM: April 3, May 1, June 5, July 10

NOTE: No meeting August 2011 as 31st IAJGS Conference will be hosted by JGS Greater Washington
August 14-19 in Washington, DC

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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From . . .



Leaving a Genealogical Legacy – A Tutorial for JGSGB Newsletter June 2010 Continuing with No. 4 in the series

by Jeanette Rosenberg *Reprinted with permission from JGSGB Newsletter Issue 52 July, 2010*

Like most of us, you've spent a great deal of time and money on your genealogy and family history research. Have you ever thought about what will happen to it all when you're gone?

Have you considered how you might be able to preserve your research for the future, so that it will be available to help others? More importantly, what are you doing now to prevent your genealogy and family history research from destruction in future?

It is really important to consider what happens to your genealogy and family history research along with making plans for your other most precious possessions. Naturally, you will want your research, books, photos and other documents go to someone who wants them and will take care of them, especially if your immediate family are uninterested in taking care of your treasured collection of old photos letters and papers.

OK I know this is not the nicest thought in the world, but we can't plan for this time and we will never know when it will happen to us and we will no longer be able to care for our own genealogical research.

So what can you do now?

Here are a few ideas of some things you can do now to make sure your research survives.

1. Plan Ahead! - Find someone who would be willing to carry on your research

Maybe there is a clear candidate within your family? If not, get together with your relatives and see if someone emerges as the most likely candidate. After all, they do say that genealogy is becoming increasingly popular, so maybe someone will emerge with just a little encouragement!

Tell the rest of your relatives that you're making plans for what happens to your research, so it isn't a surprise to them when the time comes.

2. Add a Genealogical Codicil to your Will

This should legally safeguard what happens to your research.

A number of websites, mainly those based in the USA, suggest wordings for a genealogical codicil to be added to wills so that you can ensure your research and valued family heirlooms are preserved the way you want. These are easily located online.

Several UK examples of codicils and advice on how to plan for after you have completed your research can also be found online. One example is on the Society of Genealogists website. (SoG Info Leaflet 30 is SoG Welcomes your research! See:

www.sog.org.uk/leaflets/depositresearch.pdf) and another

option is published in the Guild of One Name Studies Member's Handbook.

You may also need to appoint someone who will be responsible for carrying out the instructions in the codicil, and of course you will need to consult with and agree with that person, that they are willing to take on this role.

Don't forget that you must keep a copy of the codicil with your will or other important papers. Alternatively, you can ask your usual legal representative to include the information within your will when it is next updated.

You may prefer instead to donate your research before you pass away. If you decide to leave your information to an organisation, they will usually ask that you do so without strings attached, and donors are always asked to sign an affidavit transferring ownership and copy right to them. Failure to sign will mean that your donation could be declined, so now you know!

3. Publish the fruits of your research

Publishing your family history can help to make your research more accessible to those in your family who are not interested in genealogy. You can get creative, if you wish, maybe producing scrapbooks or other documents and personalised trees for relatives.

Numerous books exist offering advice on producing a good quality family history and advice about how to publish, or self publish, as is frequently more common these days.

JGSGB even has a number of authors among our members, some who have already published their work and some who are still writing. Any authors among our members who would like to be put in contact with other authors and those who are still writing genealogy and family history books are invited to contact me, so I can put you all in contact with each other.

4. Get Organized!

This is of course the one thing that every one of us invariably needs to do! There are also books that offer advice on how to do this, including JGSGB's own "A Guide to Organising your Family History Records" by Rosemary Wenzelul. You can buy a copy of the book by contacting JGSGB Publications, publications@jgsgb.org.uk

a. Label your pictures

So many of us have old photos that we have carefully collected as a part of our genealogy, and countless families throw away old photos, because they don't know the names of the people on them

b. Tidy and sort your papers

The SoG leaflet (mentioned above) advises:

- Clearly labelling your research notebooks and folders with your name and a description of their contents will make them far more appealing to a librarian or archivist, especially when libraries are invariably short of space or resources

Labelling any disks and DVDs with your name, the date the disk was produced and the family history programme used to make them, dates and locations of the families on the disk also help

- Making sure your notes are in folders and not envelopes or boxes
- Not using sticky take, paper clips or staples to keep papers together because these can damage them
- Only offering original research and documents if donating papers to an organisation

c. Taking Care of Old Documents

The Wiener Library are particularly happy to accept collections of papers and artefacts that are

1920 Tutorial JGSGB Newsletter Issue 52. July 2010 relevant to their collection, see www.wienerlibrary.co.uk/collections.aspx If you have items

to donate, you can contact their archivist. For example, Several years ago, JGSGB donated the Sauer and Waller collection to the Library. Further information about that collection can be found on the JGSGB website at the following reference: www.jsgsb.org.uk/waller/index.shtml

d. Donate your unwanted UK Birth Marriage and Death Certificates to the JGSGB Library

You can send them by post to JGSGB's Library in London, so they can be added to our collection. Please send them addressed to The Library Committee. Please make sure you enclose a note with your contact details, so we know who to thank for the donation!

e. Sort out your books

You'll want to make contact in advance with organisations to make sure they will be happy to accept your books and any other donations. It's never too early to start doing this, and maybe you have resources at home now that you don't need and which may be more useful to others. If you're planning on donating books to JGSGB's library, please check first with the JGSGB Library Committee, so they can make sure you are not going to duplicate our existing resources.

5. Think about where and how your electronic research is stored

We all know that technology changes over time. If your research is stored electronically, you may need to consider the format in which it is stored and to make backup copies regularly.

Certainly there are many genealogists who consider everything should be printed on paper for long-term storage because tomorrow's technology won't be able to read today's systems. Whilst this may not be the case, because computer programmes can frequently act like older program to read and access data, it is probably more important to consider that today's storage media degrades quickly and that we won't always be able to read the information we carefully store away. The shelf life of a floppy disk (if your computer still uses them) is a year or two according to some experts and data starts to deteriorate from even archival quality CDs and DVDs after 2-3 years.

6. Consider Your Online Presence

In today's digital age, our data will remain online after we've gone, especially if we're involved in social networking, and it's all too early to know how our digital self can be passed on to others. If we have our own website and domain name, or if we tweet, money will certainly be involved, so it may also be worth creating a will that considers your digital presence.

Bloggers have already realised that the web is also becoming a place to remember the dead and that online memorials are becoming new cemeteries, and most of the more popular sites like Facebook and MySpace have memorialisation facilities for people who pass away. Facebook's

"Memorialisation" feature allows existing friends continued access but blocks new ones and removes information such as contact details. They consider this the "new form of mourning" because it allows people to keep in contact by posting memorial messages for them as if they are still alive and logging on from an internet cafe. For further information and links about this, see the BBC Radio 4 i-Shrine broadcast from 21 May 2010 at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/8691238.st>

Families for iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad

Families is a new app for the Apple iPhone, iPod Touch and iPad that works in conjunction with the windows-based family tree program Legacy Family Tree. You can transfer Legacy family files from your PC to your mobile device, then view and edit them. (You'll need to download a free program called Families Sync to your PC in order to transfer the files.) Families is available at the Apple App store for \$14.99.