



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 5, Issue 2

November, 2009

President's Letter:

Daniel Patrick Brown, Dean, Social and Behavioral Science Division, Moorpark Community College spoke of his work with the Shoah Foundation's Holocaust survivors' testimonies, "*Remembering the Victims: The Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Project*. The testimonies are archived at USC (<http://tinyurl.com/y1b4f9r>) although not all are fully accessible since they are not completed. Brown also discussed that some youth, even today, are "attracted" to the Nazis because of their uniforms, symbols, etc. and the importance to educate people as to the holocaust's history as "education is not valid unless it serves some greater purpose". He also discussed Nazi women who were as evil as the men, but were not punished to the same extent-as they were not as easily identified (females were not tattooed with blood types). [His book, '*The Beautiful Beast: The Life and Times of Ss-Aufsherin Irma Grese*' was added to the JGSCV Holocaust collection in our traveling library].

JGSCV was privileged to have six holocaust survivors attend the October 5 meeting-and three spoke of their experiences: Max Safir, Clara Knopfler and Henry Klunower. The photographs of the different concentration and death camps that Dean Brown showed of his 2007 Poland trip stimulated discussion by the survivors as to their experiences in those camps. Mark and Cookie Dimant as well as other "Shanghai Jews" also attended. They noted that the Japanese refused the Nazi demands to murder the 20,000 Jews in the one square mile ghetto in the Japanese occupied Shanghai. They realized once the Jews were killed, they—the Japanese—would be next. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has documented 20,000 different places where murders of 6 million Jews and 5 million non-Jews occurred during World War II.

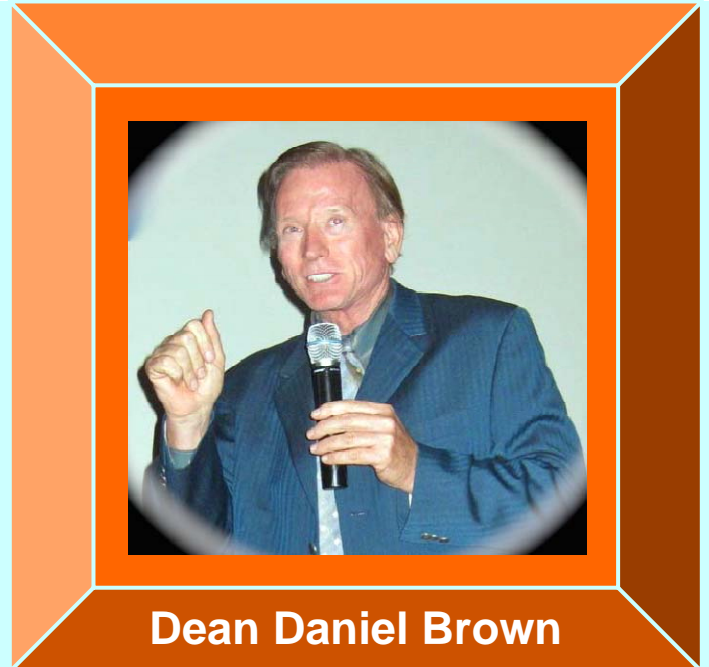
Because our October meeting notice was posted on the JewishGen Discussion Group, I received a request from Harold Z. Greenberg asking to share the drawings of his friend, Peretz Horshati. Both are from Eilat, Israel. The pen and ink drawings are Horshati's recollections of his time in the Warsaw Ghetto. The eyewitness drawings can be viewed here - <http://tinyurl.com/y1p5rnz> See page 4 for Mr. Greenberg's recollections of Mr. Horshati.

The Nominating Committee suggested, and the JGSCV Board agreed to have an informal "schmoozing" session at the meetings to discuss genealogical finds or problems. "Schmoozing" will take place 15 minutes *BEFORE* each meeting. Plan to arrive by 1:10 PM to participate!

Remember to join/rejoin JGSCV for 2010- dues paid now are good through December 2010 and you will be eligible for our annual Chanukah Party gifts drawing. We have some wonderful genealogical prizes.

Looking forward to seeing you on Nov. 8 for "Searching For Jewish Treasures" with JGSCV member, Rabbi Shimon Paskow. Rabbi Emeritus, Temple Etz Chaim. Details on Page 3.

Jan Meisels Allen



Dean Daniel Brown

Board Election Notice – Page 2

Future Meetings Notice – 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.

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.

FORTHCOMING JGSCV BOARD ELECTIONS

As per the By-Laws of JGSCV a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Hal Bookbinder (with members Helene Rosen and Diane Wainwood), has prepared the following slate of individuals to fill the five two-year terms on the Board of Directors that will become vacant as of January 2010:

Jan Meisels Allen
Stewart Bernstein
Warren Blatt
Dorothy Drilich
Allan Linderman

The first four candidates have served on the board for the past four years.

According to the By-Laws, anyone else wishing to be nominated to the Board can do so during the course of the November 8, 2009 meeting of the Society. Any person that is nominated from the floor must both be present and orally agree to serve on the Board if elected, or have signed a written willingness to serve if elected, which is available for inspection at this meeting. After this solicitation all nominations for the positions are closed. The names of all nominees with brief biographies will be published in the December issue of this newsletter. Elections will be voted on at the December 6, 2009 meeting.

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".



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. The JGSLA website is up and running: <http://www.jgsla2010.com> The *Call for Papers* begins on November 15th and registration will open on January 15th, but hotel reservations can be made now.

A conference newsletter will provide current information (this does not replace the conference discussion group which will start in January). To sign up go to: <http://tinyurl.com/yzrj645>

Upon signing up you will receive an e-mail that you must click on to confirm your subscription. While clicking may not take you to the site, you will receive an immediate e-mail reply confirming your subscription.

This is the premier event of the Jewish genealogical calendar. It is expected that more than 1,000 researchers from nearly 20 countries will gather in Los Angeles. In addition to 100+ lectures, there is a Film Festival, access to Los Angeles genealogical resources, Birds-of-a-Feather meetings, Special Interest Group meetings, luncheons and much, much more.

2009 IAJGS CONFERENCE IN PHILADELPHIA

All sessions in which speakers pre-approved audio recordings at the 29th IAJGS Conference held Aug. 2-7 in Philadelphia are available for purchase as a full set from the whole conference or by specific days, or individual sessions.

To order by phone please call (314) 487-0135, Mon - Fri.

To order online, visit <http://tinyurl.com/ykwmtdr> Then make selections from the various options: conference set, specific days, and specific presentations. Some of the presenters provided their PowerPoint presentations that are included along with the audio. (Note in order to view the presentations you must click on "handouts".) There were many excellent sessions at the conference that will enhance your research abilities and knowledge.



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting on
Sunday, November 8, 2009, 1:30 to 3:30 PM
at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks.

"Searching for the Jewish Treasures"

Shimon Paskow, Rabbi Emeritus of Temple Etz Chaim in Thousand Oaks has spent a lifetime looking for Jewish history in books and manuscripts. He will speak of his antiquities and show artifacts. For example, a Hebrew Haggadah printed in Venezia, Italy with a page of "approval" from the Inquisitor (from the era of the Inquisition); a Hebrew and Portuguese Sephardic prayer book including the names of the people who produced the book, which are as genealogically interesting as the book itself; and a prayer for parents on their child's scroll.

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

Dec 6 Sunday, 1:30-3:30 PM
Steve Morse, "Hodge Podge
of Lesser Known Gems"
and Annual Chanukah
Party

2010

Jan. 10 Sun. 1:30-3:30 PM JGSCV
board members, "How to
Start Your Genealogy"

2010

Feb. 1* Mon. 7-9 PM 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"

2010

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**

HORSHATI AND I – A Genealogist's Story

By Harold Z. Greenberg, Eilat Israel



After working for over 20 years in a small CPA office in Eilat, I was looking for something to do in my retirement. I was a volunteer policeman in the Civil Guard, and had been a volunteer for the last three years cataloguing [sic] Jewish cemeteries in India for JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry - website here - <http://picasaweb.google.com/shapurkar>

The Seniors' Club that my mother z'l belonged to needed another volunteer to help pack food parcels for needy elderly residents one morning a week, so I got the job. After we five volunteers pack the food parcels, the children from Kibbutz Yotvata – a rich kibbutz near Eilat – come into town, add milk products from the kibbutz dairy, and delivery the food parcels. Peretz HORSHATI is a full-time volunteer who runs the operation. He arranges for simple household repairs and other needs of

seniors too. (Photo above)

HORSHATI (everyone calls him that) was born Pavel SZENWALD in Warsaw in 1920. During the holocaust, he was thrown into the Warsaw ghetto. The Nazis took him to a forced labour [sic] camp from where he escaped. As far as he knows, he is the only one to survive from that camp. In fact, he believed that he was the only one of his family to survive the holocaust. After escaping, he joined the Jewish partisan group run by the BIELSKI [sic] brothers. He also appears in the History Channel program about the BIELSKI [sic] brothers called "Jerusalem in the Woods". HORSHATI did some consulting work for "Defiance". [ed note: *Defiance* is the recent movie starring Daniel Craig that told the story of the Bielsky Brothers and their saving of Jews in Belarus forest).

Later in the war his partisan group joined the Soviet Army and he was with it during the liberation of Berlin – but as he was in the cavalry on horseback, he could only get to the Berlin outskirts that day.

HORSHATI is an artist and has drawn hundreds of pen and ink pictures of his time in the Warsaw ghetto and with the partisans. A book of his drawings is available at Yad Vashem and here in Eilat. I have decided to set up a website to show some of his drawings – <http://picasaweb.google.com/horshati>

As my wife and I are deep into genealogical research, I asked HORSHATI about his family history. He was born Pavel SZENWALD - Wald means woods – so he took the Hebrew surname HORSHATI which means forest or woods. His father was born in Czestochowa, Poland. My mother's mother– Fanny HYMAN – was born Frajdl WIDAWSKA in the community of Klobuck, district of Czestochowa in 1873. So HORSHATI and I have something in common – we both have roots in Czestochowa, Poland.

As a genealogist, I am a member of the Czestochowajews group on the internet <http://www.czestochowajews.org>. A member from Yerres, France – Amos ZEZMER – stated under his signature that he was searching for SZENWALD. I emailed him, and after research of original documents, Amos established that not only is he a cousin of HORSHATI, but that HORSHATI has a number of cousins living in Israel! Amos also sent me HORSHATI's family tree. From the tree, I learned that HORSHATI had a great grandmother named Fajgla WIDAWSKA born in 1826. Compare this with my grandmother's name - Frajdl WIDAWSKA. It is possible that I am related to HORSHATI and Amos.

During his visit to Israel in March, 2009, Amos took a day off from his research at Yad Vashem to come down to Eilat, the most southern point in Israel, to meet and visit with his "new" cousin. I was present at the meeting when HORSHATI gave Amos a book of his drawings. Two days later the thought hit me – why not set up a website of HORSHATI's drawings? So I did.

In April, 2009 Mary KOOREY of Melbourne Australia asked the JewishGen group "why isn't there data for the Warsaw Ghetto." I wrote her back saying that I don't have any data, but she might be interested in the above-mentioned website of Warsaw Ghetto and Partisans – eyewitness drawings. Mary sent the site to her life-long friend in Melbourne – Fay MORRIS. Fay wrote me as follows - "I know it is highly unlikely that Horshati knew them (my family) but there are a few similarities and I was wondering if you could ask Horshati if he can shed any light on the family or if I can contact him directly." HORSHATI was not familiar with the surnames, but told me that some of the given names appeared in his family. I wrote Fay back and added that his mother's surname was GROSGLIK.

Fay wrote - "My father - Szulim PELL - was sponsored to come out to Melbourne, Australia by his uncle - Mr Grosklik."

(Continued Next Page)

Fay contacted her distant GROSLIK relatives, and in early June, 2009 I received an email and then a phone call from Francis and Paul PEARL of Ottawa Canada, formerly of Australia. The PEARL's are both descendants of HORSHATI's grandfather's brother. The PEARLs emailed me photos of the tombstones of HORSHATI's GROSLIK grandparents, and a descendant chart of Fischel Efraim GROSLIK – HORSHATI's great grandfather.

Post note:

After arriving in Israel, HORSHATI fought in most of the wars. He was chief military officer of Eilat (katzin ha-ir), head of Magen David Adom in Eilat and head of the Eilat fire department. Sadly, at the end of May he took two bad falls. June 1 he was admitted to the Eilat hospital with little hope. They patched him up and he was sent to the Beit Rivka Rehabilitation Hospital in Petach Tikvah. He is making slow but steady progress. He is presently convalescing in Eilat and making an excellent recovery

JRI-POLAND EXPANDS RECORDS

By virtue of a new agreement, the full extracts for tens of thousands of records from all towns, originally published in the Kielce-Radom Journal, as well as thousands more extracts that had not yet been published, will be integrated into the JRI-Poland database and will be freely available online. In addition, the Kielce-Radom SIG web pages have been integrated into the JRI-Poland website that may be accessed via this link: [Kielce-Radom Project](#)

Data for the following towns is now searchable online:

Bodzentyń	Birth, Marriage, Death 1885-1904	Checiny	BMD 1885-1903
Daleszyce	BMD 1897-1904	Grojec	BMD 1878~1902
Konskie	BMD 1885-1904	Ksiaz Wielki	B 1869-71,87-99 M 1862-1880 D 1869-71,97-99 (includes some Krakow Archives data)
Lopuszno	BMD 1874-1904	Miechow	BMD 1870~1903+1872-74 (includes some Krakow Archives data)
Mogielnica	BMD 1878-1901	Radoszyce	BMD 1885-1904
Radom Books of Residents		Wloszczowa	BD 1824~1903
Warka	BMD 1878-1901,1903 M1823~1903		
Wolanow	BMD 1878~1903		

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS
JUDY ADLER
MARK and COOKIE DIMANT

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

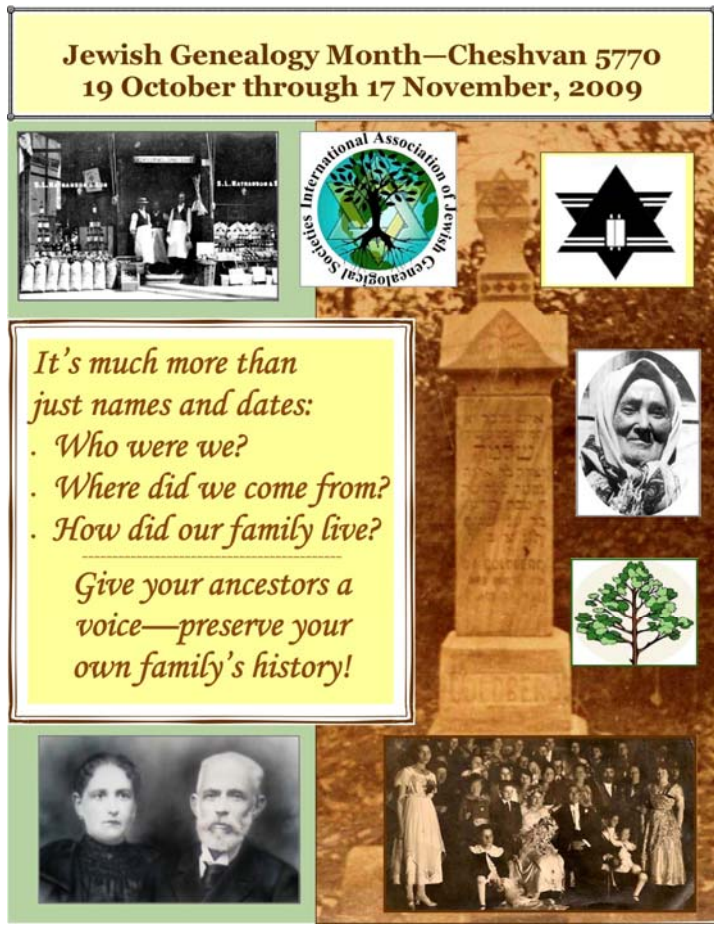
Mailing address: 6052 Hackers Lane, Agoura Hills, CA 91301 Phone: 818-889-6616

Website: www.jgscv.org David Oseas, Webmaster: webmaster@jgscv.org

JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH:
OCT. 19-NOV. 17, 2009

Merle Kastner, Montreal, Canada Program Chair, JGS Montreal created the award winning design below commemorating Jewish Genealogy Month. Note our JGSCV logo in the upper right space provided to personalize each poster.

Jewish Genealogy Month—Cheshvan 5770
19 October through 17 November, 2009



It's much more than just names and dates:

- Who were we?
- Where did we come from?
- How did our family live?

Give your ancestors a voice—preserve your own family's history!

VENTURA COUNTY STAR

The newspaper's coverage of Family History Month includes multiple mentions of JGSCV as well as photos from the Oct. meeting: <http://tinyurl.com/yfbn3s7>

TRACING THE TRIBE



<http://tinyurl.com/2dgmwn> is an excellent blog to check on what's happening in Jewish genealogy. Shelly Talalay Dardashti publishes the site and has tracked her family history through Belarus, Russia, Lithuania, Spain, Iran and elsewhere. A current blog "Film: Wild Jewish Roots" discusses how the Jewish background of Maurice Sendak led to the Spike Jonz movie 'Where the Wild Things Are'. A journalist, Dardashti's articles on genealogy have been widely published. In addition to genealogy blogging (since 2006), she speaks at Jewish and general genealogy conferences, co-founded and teaches online genealogy at GenClass.com.

Have a genealogy question? Send it to ask@tracingthetrib.com

VITAL RECORDS RESEARCH TIPS

US vital records access and coverage varies from state to state. Each state has its own rules and regulations, but for privacy reasons, death records are usually closed to the public for around 50 years, and birth records for 75 to 100 years. But you can sometimes get these records for genealogical purposes if you can prove a relationship.

Some states started state-level vital record keeping later than others—in certain cases, well into the 1900s. But many counties started recording vital statistics decades or even centuries before the state mandated it. Look for those records at state archives and through the Family History Library.

VINTAGE NEW YORK
Wired New York

An excellent compilation of vintage photos of New York City dating back to the late 19th century can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/ygh9r5d> Expect to find an uncommon blend of artistic photography, traditional snapshots and historical perspective.

From...

familytree magazine

101 BEST WEBSITES FOR 2009

Family Tree Magazine has compiled the 10 best genealogy websites in each of 10 different categories – and one more for good luck. See if you agree at <http://tinyurl.com/yhbk9b7>

FREE MONTHLY PODCASTS

This month's podcast includes 'Tracing Your Immigrant Roots'. Listen at <http://tinyurl.com/yffsou7>

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.)

Give a JGSCV Membership as a Chanukah Gift