



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (August 14-19) was sponsored by our sister Jewish Genealogy Society: JGS of Greater Washington. JGSCV had 10 attendees. During the conference the IAJGS, of which JGSCV is a member, conducted its bi-annual election for officers (the directors are elected in the even years and the officer positions elected in the odd years). The officers who were elected to the board are: Michael Goldstein - President (Jerusalem, Israel), Jan Meisels Allen - Vice President (Agoura Hills, CA); Joel Spector - Secretary (Cherry Hill, New Jersey) and Paul Silverstone - Treasurer (New York, NY). For more on the conference, including the IAJGS award winners see pages 4-5.

A subject of several programs at the Conference was the need to attract the 20-40 year olds as members. JGSCV needs to do this to perpetuate our society. If anyone would like to work on how JGSCV can be more attractive to the younger set, please contact me.

JGSCV member Diane Wainwood was appointed to the IAJGS International Jewish Genealogy Month Committee. Diane wants to assure everyone that schools are included in the promotion of the program. See page 8 for more information on International Jewish Genealogy Month and the winner of

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WELCOME NEW IAJGS BOARD!



Seated L-R Anne Feder Lee, Jackye Sullins, Michael Goldstein, Jan Meisels Allen; Standing L-R Paul Silverstone, Kahlile Mehr, Jay Sage, Daniel Horowitz, Nolan Altman, Joel Spector

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, SEPT. 12TH 7-9

JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder presents how the US Immigration and Naturalization process began and evolved. *And* why it is so important to genealogists today.

the 2011 Poster Contest.

It is time to renew your membership in Ralph's Community Contribution Program! Ralph's 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 <http://www.ralphs.com> starting September 1, 2011 even if you registered only in July or August this year. Please, if you are enrolled, re-register, and if you have not 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, as this is the only source of JGSCV funding other than dues income. We value your membership AND your purchasing tied to JGSCV.

The Ventura County Genealogical Society is holding their annual seminar on Saturday October 15 8:00 AM-4:00 PM in Ventura. The seminar is featuring Karen Clifford who develops and teaches multiple online genealogy courses at colleges in Utah. For more information including price and location go to: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~cavcgs/>

Our September 12, October 10 and November 7 JGSCV meetings will be held on Monday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM. On December 11th we return to our normal Sunday afternoon meetings from 1:30-3:30 PM. Varying the day permits those who are unable to attend on Sunday afternoons to also attend and participate on Monday evenings.

The September 12th meeting has founding JGSCV member, Hal Bookbinder talking on U.S. Immigration and Naturalization. One of the first things that the newly created United States of America did was to establish laws covering naturalization. These laws, however, were administered by the states with many variations. Over the years, the laws were repeatedly changed. Finally, in 1906 the Federal Government took control of the entire process. Come learn about naturalization and immigration laws as it can supply critical information on tracing one's roots.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 12th!

Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President	president@jgscv.org	Stewart Bernstein, Member-at-large	stewart@jgscv.org
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JGSCV UPDATES . . .

In case you didn't notice, this month's issue of *Venturing Into Our Past* marks the first time the JGSCV newsletter has been redesigned since its inception. Current technology allows for techniques not available 6 years ago making for a more contemporary look without a wholesale makeover. We hope you like the new format. Please feel free to send your comments to: newslettereditor@jgscv.org

Photographs are taken at all JGSCV meetings. These pictures are sometimes posted on our *facebook* page (<http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>) and/or included in the monthly newsletter. If for any reason, you would prefer NOT to be photographed, it is your responsibility to notify the photographer. More information on this subject will be posted at the sign-in desk at each meeting.



Don't forget **THE SCHMOOZING CORNER**. Open 15 minutes before each meeting, a JGSCV member knowledgeable in genealogy research will be available to answer questions, provide direction and maybe even a solution to some of your concerns. You will find THE SCHMOOZING CORNER at the front right corner of the meeting room at Temple Adat Elohim.



A new, old resource right under your nose is our website <http://jgscv.org>. Clearly organized and easily accessible under *Resources* are the following categories (click below on any to go directly to that section on the website):

[Blogs](#)
[Cemeteries](#)
[Europe](#)
[Family History Centers](#)
[Genealogy Subscription Websites](#)
[General Interest](#)
[Government Archives With Documents/Index on-Line](#)
[Holocaust](#)
[Israel](#)
[Latin America](#)
[Libraries](#)
[Local/California Interest](#)
[Maps](#)
[Military Records](#)
[Miscellaneous](#)
[Museums](#)
[Newspapers](#)
[Search Websites](#)
[Sephardic](#)
[South Africa](#)
[United States](#)
[Vital Records](#)

Marion Werle will present the first of JGSCV's 'Genealogy Techniques' at the Sept. 12th meeting. This new feature replaces the 5-minute book reports at the beginning of the meetings.

SIGN UP OR RENEW RALPH'S COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTION PROGRAM. HELP JGSCV AT NO COST TO YOU. GO TO OUR WEBSITE <http://jgscv.org> and click on *Notices* for simple directions on how to sign-up.



Highlights From the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen, President, JGSCV

There were over 1100 attendees for the 2011 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by JGS of Greater Washington. There were representatives from 14 countries plus 39 states and the District of Columbia. JGSCV was represented with 10 members! Congratulations to our sister JGS, JGSGW and the three conference co-chairs: Marlene Bishow, Sue Isman and Vic Cohen for an excellent conference!

The annual IAJGS awards were presented at the closing gala:

IAJGS Lifetime Achievement:

MICHAEL TOBIAS, Vice President of Programming, JewishGen



Michael created and maintained free databases that provide access for hundreds of thousands of Jewish Genealogists to the records of their ancestors. He has been involved in Jewish genealogy over 15 years. JGSCV was one of several JGSs who submitted endorsements for Michael's nomination.



IAJGS Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print, Electronic Product:

PHYLLIS KRAMER, Vice President of Education JewishGen

Phyllis won the award for her role in the development and management of the JewishGen Learning Center provides online

interactive courses to help researchers organize their information and begin to trace their ancestral roots. The education program reached over 1400 people in the past 5 years.

IAJGS Outstanding Programming or Project that Advanced the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy:

Columbus (Ohio) Jewish Historical Society in recognition of the excellence of the "Legacy 2010: 170 Years of Jewish Life in Central Ohio" project. It consisted of an exhibit and seven programs exploring the roots of the Jewish Community and the families who settled here. Toby Brief, Project Director, accepted the award on behalf of the Society.

There were no nominations submitted for IAJGS Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS.

Malcolm Stern Grant:

The Stern Grant provides funding to encourage institutions to pursue projects, activities and acquisitions that provide new or enhanced resources to benefit Jewish genealogists. The voluntary \$1.00 contribution individual JGS members contribute when paying their annual JGS dues funds this award. JGSCV members generously contribute to the fund every year.

This year the Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant Committee recommended to the IAJGS Board, approved by the membership at the IAJGS Annual Meeting and presented at the gala two recipients:

- \$2,000 was awarded to Gesher Galicia to provide for the continuation of inventorying and indexing the Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project and will also provide for continuation of acquisition of records.

- \$1,000 was awarded to the American Jewish Historical Society for continuation of microfilming the Boston HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) records. The original files are in Boston, the microfilming project will provide greater access to usage by genealogists in both Boston and New York facilities.

U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero

U.S. Archivist David S. Ferriero was the Gala speaker and said their work was “mitzvah work”. He related the story of how in 1996 then Senator D’ Amato’s office contacted a number of organizations to determine if there were any records of Jewish people’s money in Swiss banks who fled or were murdered during the Holocaust. The only organization that replied was the National Archives where it was found to have a document of “Safe Haven” (1944) to stop the German flow of stolen assets, which led to \$1.25 billion settlement from the Swiss banks.



He announced that April 2, 2012 NARA will release the 1940 US census free online from any computer. One question the census asked was where the person lived April 1, 1935 as well as April 1, 1940 to determine displacement due to the great depression.

Future IAJGS Conferences

It was announced that the Israel Genealogical Society notified the IAJGS that they would be unable to host the 2014 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. It is hoped they will apply to host another future IAJGS International conference in the near future. The IAJGS announced the 2014 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The 2012 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held July 15-18, 2012 in Paris, France hosted by the Cercle de G n ologie Juive <http://www.paris2012.eu/>. Visit the website for more information including a list of speakers

who have been invited and agreed to participate—a truly international flavor!

By-Law Change

During the IAJGS Annual session a by-law change was adopted by the membership under Article III Section 10 “to foster creation of Jewish genealogical organizations in the new geographical areas”. It replaced a provision on 501-C3 IRS code for US members- that was duplicative to what is stated in Article II of the IAJGS by-laws.

JewishGen

JewishGen announced that ShtetLinks was renamed to KehilaLinks. Kehila means “Jewish Community” anywhere in the world and is more inclusive to include those communities inside as well as outside of Eastern Europe [shtetl is a Yiddish word relevant to those countries in Eastern Europe, not reflective of Sephardic or other non-Eastern European Jewish communities].

<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/>

The JewishGen ShtetlSeeker has been renamed the JewishGen Gazetteer. It increased from 45 to 54 countries-all countries in -Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia. This includes 3.1 million places in the 54 countries, with 1.8 million unique places. One may search by using both the Beider –Morse Phonetic Matching and the Daitch –Mokotoff Soundex systems.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocToWn.asp>

JRI-Poland

It was announced that JRI-PL is in final contractual discussions with the new Polish State Archives Executive Director to restart the indexing and new ordering processing system. This program started in 1997 and was terminated in 2006 by the then executive director of the Polish State Archives. It is anticipated that the new agreement and ordering process will start later this year.

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.

2011 dues are \$25.00 for a single membership and \$30.00 for a household unit. To join, please send a check in the appropriate amount payable 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.

FREE ACCESS TO 1940 U.S. CENSUS ON ANCESTRY.COM

Soon after the 1940 U.S. Census is released on April 2, 2012 all images and indexes will be accessible for free on ancestry.com through the end of 2013. The exact date of availability will be based upon when the streaming of the data begins. That date will be announced closer to the actual release of the data.

The data will be made available in sections as each is converted digitally to be available online. Upon completion, more than 3.8 million original document images with over 130 million records will be available. Fields that may be searched include name, gender, race, street address, county and state.

HOW TO FIND DIFFICULT ANCESTORS

About.com's Kimberly Powell recently posted eight tips for tracking down hard to find family members: <http://tinyurl.com/3gw2nl2>

FOOTNOTE IS NOW FOLD3

Footnote.com has changed its website name to fold3.com signifying a new concentration on its collection of U.S. Military records. The name is derived from the third fold in a traditional military flag folding ceremony to honor a departing military veteran.

From www.fold3.com users can access more than 74 million images of documents and photos from the Revolutionary War to today.

ISOGG OFFERS FAQ'S ON DNA

The International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) has posted a list of Frequently Asked Questions on the subject of Genetic Genealogy at <http://www.isogg.org/ggfaq.htm>. The ISOGG's mission is to educate individuals on the subject of genetics in genealogy. The home page <http://isogg.org>

JEWISHGEN UPDATE FOR 2011

JewishGen published a comprehensive update for 2011. The document updates Resources and Databases, Special Interest Groups (SIG's), Hosted Organizations, Support and more. You can view the Update at <http://tinyurl.com/3l73mfs>

FAMILYSEARCH TIP

When viewing a digital image in FamilySearch use the toolbar option "invert" to convert the image to a negative. Viewing white images on dark backgrounds is more readable. (From JGSCV board member Marion Werle)



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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on

Monday, September 12, 2011 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

The Program: US Immigration and Naturalization

One of the first things that the newly created United States of America did was to establish laws covering naturalization. These laws, however, were administered by the states with many variations. Over the years, the laws were repeatedly changed. Finally, in 1906 the Federal Government took control of the entire process. The standardized documentation after 1906 has proven invaluable to genealogical researchers. Similarly, laws controlling immigration have also changed over time, generally becoming more restrictive. As immigration and naturalization documentation can be key information in tracing one's roots, understanding how the process worked over time, understanding how the information was recorded and where it might be found is essential. This lecture will provide a short history of immigration and naturalization laws and provide general guidance in finding your ancestor's documentation.



Speaker: Hal Bookbinder has been researching eight family lines for over 27 years, identifying 4,000 relatives and tracing two of these lines into the mid 1700s. A founding member of JGSCV, and former president of JGSLA and IAJGS, he created, and continues to edit the annual Jewish Genealogical Yearbook. In 2010, Hal received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award for his various contributions to Jewish Genealogy. Hal was recently elected to the JewishGen Board of Governors. He has spoken at numerous conferences, synagogues and society meetings on topics from computing to geography to brick walls.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (www.jgscv.org) is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Anyone may attend meetings.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JGSCV PRESIDENT JAN MEISELS ALLEN

I am pleased to report that at our IAJGS Annual Meeting Jan Meisels Allen was elected Vice President. She joins me; Joel Spector, secretary; and Paul Silverstone, treasurer as an officer. Michael Brenner has completed his service as Vice President after a number of years of devotes service as a board member and officer for which we are indebted. Michael will continue to be active and together with Hal Bookbinder is negotiating the hotel contract for our 2014 IAJGS International Conference to be held in Salt Lake City.

Michael Goldstein
President
IAGJS

FUTURE MEETING DATES

2011

Monday, Sept. 12th 7:00-9:00 PM:

Hal Bookbinder US IMMIGRATION and
NATURALIZATION

Monday, Oct. 10th 7:00-9:00 PM: Crista Cowan,
FINDING YOUR JEWISH ANCESTORS ON
ANCESTRY.COM and JGSCV'S SIXTH ANNIVERSARY!

Monday, Nov. 7th 7:00-9:00 PM: Jan Meisels Allen,
HOW TO BEGIN YOUR GENEALOGY

Sunday, Dec. 11th 1:30-3:30 PM: Steve Morse,
FROM DNA TO GENETIC GENEALOGY and
Chanukah/Membership Renewal Party

FUTURE MEETING DATES

2012

Sunday, Jan. 8th 1:30-3/30 PM: Panel, ETHICS,
SENSITIVITIES, SENSIBILITIES AND PROPERTY
RIGHTS

Sunday, February 12th 1:00-5:00 PM

Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los
Angeles Regional Family History Library-Current
Dues Paid Members-only

Sunday, March 4th 1:30-3:30 PM: Joel Weintraub,
HERE COMES THE 1940 CENSUS

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

Sunday, May 6th 1:30-3:30 PM: VISITING YOUR
ANCESTRAL SHTETL TOWNS

Sunday June 10, 2012 1:30-3:30 PM TBD

July no meeting- IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy Paris, France
July 15-18, 2012

IAJGS ANNOUNCES THE INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH POSTER WINNER: JILLIAN BEROZA OF JGSLI (NY)

Jillian Beroza of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island (NY) is the 2011 winner of the International Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Contest conducted by the IAJGS. Of her motivation, Jillian said, "The tree symbolizes the tall and ever growing family trees that we have. The twisting of the tree is to represent both the DNA double helix and the combining of ALL of our family trees."

The International Jewish Genealogy month is celebrated during the Hebrew month of Cheshvan, which is Oct. 29-Nov. 26, 2011.

