



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

Volume 6, Issue 7

April, 2011

President's Letter:

Did you feel the brick walls come crumbling down? The 40 avid JGSCV-member genealogists who participated in JGSCV's Exclusive Assisted Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library (LAFHL) experienced that wonderful genealogical break through—not everyone did—but those who did shared the joy! The LAFHL is the largest Family History Library outside of Salt Lake City and has 86 computers so everyone had their own computer to do research. In addition, they have many Jewish records on microfilms from across the globe. It is also the home of the JGSLA and Polish Genealogy Society of Southern California's libraries, which we were able to access.

JGSCV was privileged to have the opportunity to have the exclusive research afternoon at the LAFHL, where LAFHL volunteers gave up their Sunday afternoon to assist the JGSCV members. JGSCV also had the experienced hands of Barbara Algaze, JGSLA Librarian give us an overview to the newly reopened Library and the premium subscription sites that are available without charge at the LAFHL. In addition to the JGSCV board members assisting members, several of our senior non-board members came and helped: Hal Bookbinder, Werner Frank and Sonia Hoffman. A special thank you to Ted Gostin, professional genealogist, who also attended and helped out!

If you haven't renewed your JGSCV membership for 2011 or joined as yet, Membership forms are available on our website www.jgscv.org. By not being a member you could not participate in our exclusive research afternoon—you don't want to miss out on other member-only JGSCV services. Don't forget about supporting your JGS with purchasing on Amazon.com by entering their portal through our website and by shopping at Ralph's. See page 4 for more information.

April 30 is the deadline for early bird registration for the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by the JGS of Greater Washington. It's going to be a dynamite conference! Whether you are a newbie, intermediate or advanced in your genealogical research there is something for you....see page 6 for more reasons why you should register and attend!

Our April 3 meeting is "*Jews of the Pacific Coast*" with Ava F. Kahn. From the California Gold Rush of 1849 to the explosion of population centers in the Southwest in the 1980s, Jews have played a significant role in shaping the Pacific West. Kahn is affiliated with the California Studies Center, University of California, Berkeley and has published numerous articles and books on Jews in the West. There will be a book signing at the end of the program. This program is a jointly sponsored meeting with the Western States History Journal and of course Temple Adat Elohim.

Looking forward to seeing you on April 3rd!

Jan Meisels Allen



Barbara Algaze

FUTURE MEETINGS NOTICES PAGES 6, 9

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 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.

FREE DATABASES ON ANCESTRY.COM

Thanks to *Ancestry Insider*, here is a site with links to 260 free databases available on ancestry.com: <http://tinyurl.com/4hnz833> At some sites only the index is free and access to the images may require a subscription. The sites are listed in order of the number of available records from 'Ancestry World Tree' (467,671,004 records) to 'WWII News Newsreels, 1942-1946' (5 records).

LONDON SYNAGOGUE RECORDS AVAILABLE

Three volumes of 18th century London vital records have been compiled by Harold and Miriam Lewin and can be obtained for the cost of shipping from Jerusalem.

- Marriage Records of the Great Synagogue – London 1791-1885 (Shipping: \$84.20)
- Birth Records of the Great Synagogue (1791-18770 & Hambro Synagogue (1770-1905) – London Second Edition (Shipping: \$65.00)
- Birth Records of the New Synagogue (1774-1896) & Marriage Records of the New Synagogue (1790-1823, 1837-1860) & Hambro Synagogue (1797-1837 and post 1862) – London (Shipping: \$80.00)

For more information email Harold Lewin harmir908@gmail.com

FREE WEBINARS OFFERED BY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Southern California Genealogical Society announced the *Jamboree Extension Series* offering free live webinars for up to 1000 participants per session. Subjects are scheduled through October, 2011 and include topics such as "Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors" (May 18), "Remembering the Ladies: Researching Your Female Ancestors" (Oct. 1) and many more. Check the website <http://tinyurl.com/4hfy4u5> for details on how to sign-up as well as how to join.

DESTROYED JEWISH COMMUNITY OF MATTERSBURG (MATTERSDORF)

The history of Mattersburg and its Jewish roots is now online in Hannes Graf's "Destroyed Jewish Communities". You can access the story in three parts all from <http://tinyurl.com/6gj8xqy> Look for *Jewish Mattersdorf Part 1*, *Jewish Mattersdorf Part 2* and *Richard Berczeller* (the town's Jewish doctor).

GESHER GALICIA UPDATE

Gesher Galicia has updated its website to include the Tables of Contents of its newsletter "The Galitzianer" back to 1993 and a 'new' button for updates on data sources.

NEW SHETEL DATA AND YIZKOR BOOK PROJECTS FOR THE UKRAINE

New Ukraine ShtetLink pages have been created:

- Barysh (Barysz) <http://tinyurl.com/45qo2d2>
- Okopy (Okup, Swietej, Trojcy) <http://tinyurl.com/4hwaael>

Two new Ukraine Yizkor Book Projects have been started:

- Gusyatin (Husyatin and Kopyczylnce) <http://tinyurl.com/4ou6uq>
- Zborov (Zborow) <http://tinyurl.com/4k73tmn>

NEW IJG PAPERS AVAILABLE

The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy has added several papers previously presented in July, 2010 at the 9th Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies as well as research reports made available through grants. You can access them at <http://tinyurl.com/4kj5h56>

FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE'S 'BEST BLOG' WINNERS

Blogs remain an excellent vehicle for sharing genealogy tips, stories or other information. *Family Tree Magazine* readers have voted for the 'Best Genealogy Blogs'. You can see them at <http://tinyurl.com/4u363vv>

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT AT PEPPERDINE

Traces of Memory: A Contemporary Look At The Jewish Past in Poland is presented by the Diane and Guilford Institute of Jewish Studies in conjunction with the Pepperdine Library's new Wavelengths series.

The late British photojournalist Chris Schwarz and scholar Prof. Jonathan Webber gathered material that offers a completely new way of looking at the Jewish past that was destroyed in Poland. The resulting photographs and text of "Traces of Memory," the permanent exhibition at the Galicia Jewish Museum in Krakow, Poland, piece together traces of Jewish life and culture still visible in Polish Galicia today.

The Traces of Memory exhibition is on loan from the permanent exhibition of the Galicia Jewish Museum, Krakow. (www.galiciajewishmuseum.org)

For more information including directions go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/4rgdyhq>

GENEALOGY AND THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE



On March 25, 1911 New York City's deadliest industrial disaster occurred at the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory located in the Asch Building near Washington Square in Manhattan's Greenwich Village. As the workday was winding down that Saturday afternoon a fire developed under a cutter's table on the eighth floor – the lowest of the three floors occupied by the company. The Fire Marshall concluded a match or cigarette butt in the scrap likely started the fire.

On the eighth floor, a bookkeeper used a telephone to alert colleagues two floors above. But, there was no way to warn anyone on the middle floor. There were multiple exits including two stairways, a fire escape and two freight elevators: one stairway was locked (to prevent theft) and the other was quickly enflamed. Dozens of workers used the fire escape to reach the roof. Others survived by using the elevators while still available. As more and more employees raced to the fire escape, it collapsed sending hopeful victims to their death 100 feet below.

At the end, 146 garment workers (including 17 men) died that day – either directly due to the fire or having jumped or fallen from the burning building. Most of the victims were young, Jewish immigrants. Until last month, only 140 of the victims were identified. It took almost 100 years and a dedicated genealogist to learn the identities of the last six.



Site of the fire.
Now, The Brown Building.



Monument at New York's Evergreen Cemetery commemorating the previously unidentified victims

As reported by The New York Times on Feb. 20, 2011 <http://tinyurl.com/494hwnj> Michael Hirsch, an amateur genealogist and historian researched the subject for more than 4 years after learning that one of the victims had lived on his street. Mr. Hirsch is also co-producer of the upcoming HBO documentary "Triangle: Remembering the Fire". Using tools common to genealogists such as newspaper archives, census, death and burial records as well as conversations with descendants he was able to identify the last, previously unknown victims almost a century after their deaths.

JGSCV
UPDATES . . .

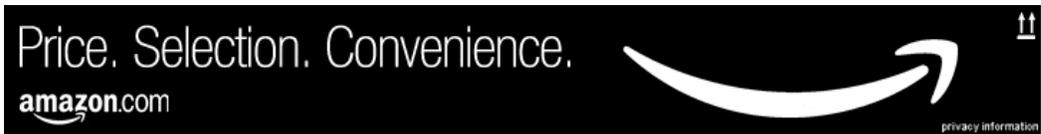


Look for the SCHMOOZING CORNER sign (left) fifteen minutes before our regular meetings at Temple Adat Elohim where you will find a JGSCV expert who can help you overcome a genealogical

brick wall or maybe just answer a question. The SCHMOOZING CORNER was on hiatus last month as we met at the LAFHL. Hal Bookbinder will facilitate on April 3rd.

NOW TWO WAYS TO HELP JGSCV

1. JGSCV has now partnered with amazon.com to help raise funds at no cost to you. Just use our website to access amazon.com and we automatically receive credit. Start at www.jgscv.org and click on the Amazon banner at the bottom of the page (like the one below). This will take you to Amazon's home page where you can begin your shopping. *You will not pay any more for any item you purchase in this manner.*



2. Remember to sign up for the Ralphs Community Contribution Program. Ralphs requires annual registration on their website www.ralphs.com. Sign in and scroll down to community contribution. JGSCV is number 84732 that you insert under charity of choice. Even as an occasional Ralphs' shopper, it helps JGSCV with no cost to you!

Traveling Library Books classification A and B will be at the April 3rd meeting. Visit our website www.jgscv.org under library/traveling for the list of books in these categories. If you would like an unscheduled book to be brought to the meeting please send a request to Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting (president@jgscv.org)



March 6
**JGSCV
 MEETING!**



JGSCV members learning about LAFHL



Barbara Algaze helping JGSCV members



Genealogist and volunteer for the day, Ted Gostin



JGSCV member Werner Frank flanked by volunteers Joy Mecham and Sister Vee Gibson (right)



Signing in members at the front desk



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County*

(* and surrounding areas) and

Western States Jewish History Journal

Meeting Co-Sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

Sunday, April 3, 2011 1:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

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

“Jews of the Pacific Coast”

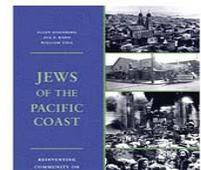


From the California Gold Rush of 1849 to the explosion of population centers in the Southwest in the 1980s, Jews have played a significant role in shaping the Pacific West. In the process, they have reshaped themselves, as individuals and as communities. Through their mercantile networks and cultural innovations, their philanthropic institutions and political leadership, western Jews created a distinctive identity.

Using historical photographs from her new co-authored book *Jews of the Pacific Coast: Reinventing Community at America's Edge* Ava F. Kahn will explore the

nature of the Jewish experience in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Seattle and Portland and the small towns of the West. She will explain the important differences among these cities, as well as highlighting the ways in which the western Jewish experience has echoed and deviated from the familiar story of American Jewish history.

Speaker: Ava F. Kahn, Ph.D is affiliated with the California Studies Center, University of California, Berkeley. Kahn has published numerous articles and books on Jews in the West including: *Jewish Voices of the California Gold Rush*, *Jewish Life in the American West* and *California Jews*. Dr. Kahn will do a book signing following the meeting.



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. (www.jgscv.org)

Western States Jewish History Journal is a quarterly journal dedicated to discovering, chronicling, and making available to the general public information on the Jewish participation in the pioneering and development of the American West, Canada, Mexico, and the Pacific Rim. (<http://www.wsjhistory.com/>)

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. For more information Contact information@JGSCV.org ; www.JGSCV.org Or call Jan Meisels Allen 818-889-6616



The 31st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Hosted by JGSGW

"The hands-down best conferences I get to go to are the annual International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS) summer conferences...These events routinely boast a worldwide roster of speakers, usually including a substantial contingent of state archivists from many of the countries of eastern Europe and other speakers and researchers from pretty much everywhere in the Jewish diaspora."

Meredith Hoffman, APG Public List Digest March 6, 2011

The 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by JGS of Greater Washington (JGSGW) August 14-19, 2011 (www.dc2011.org) is fast approaching and the early bird registration ends on April 30th! The conference is being held at the Grand Hyatt Washington—it even has a metro stop accessible from the hotel and is only six blocks from the White House and a half mile from the National Archives.

Whether you are a newbie, intermediate or advanced in your genealogical research there are sessions for you! A few highlights to entice you to fly across the country during the heat and humidity of August in DC.

First, Washington DC has a wealth of repositories you may research to your hearts content: The National Archives (NARA), Library of Congress (LOC), United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) will *each* hold three orientation sessions on the first full day of the Conference.

As our nation's capital, all countries have an embassy in Washington DC. The 2011 conference co-chairs and the conference committee have a very special and unique treat for those who attend: They have arranged with some embassies for visits to them for subjects related to the Jewish experience in their countries!

On Monday Night, August 15 there will be a performance by Theater J of *The Moscows of Nantucket*—a brand new play limited to 400 tickets sold at \$12 each.

There were almost 400 requests to speak at the Conference with only 150 slots, so the final list includes dynamic speakers with compelling topics. The speakers were notified on March 15th as to which presentations were accepted or declined and the program will be posted in early April. Rest assured there will be programs covering Europe, Israel, South Africa, South America, and Australia as well as North America. By the way if you are researching the Southern US this is one of the subthemes of the conference!

As usual, there are JGSCV connections including speakers Jan Meisels Allen, Sara Applebaum, Ron Arons, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, and Hal Bookbinder. Also, speakers who were “hits” at previous JGSCV meetings will be speaking on new topics at the conference: Bennett Greenspan, Steve Luxenberg, Steve Morse, Joel Weintraub, and more!

As reported last month, Rabbi Shmuley Boteach will be the Shabbat Scholar for the pre-conference Shabbat on August 12th and will lead a discussion on Saturday afternoon and lecture again after Havdalah dinner Saturday evening. Arrive early—the conference begins Sunday morning and registration will be available starting Saturday night after Shabbat ends.

Eleven SIGs (special interest groups) will have luncheons and many SIGs and BOFs (Birds of a Feather) groups will have meetings, too. In addition, there will be a SIG/BOF Fair on Sunday afternoon.

The Resource Center will have selected volumes from the JGSGW library, an extensive map collection and more. There will be people available to help with translations of your documents. In addition the 35 computers –both PCs and MACs will have many subscription databases available at no charge. These include:

Accessible Archives

Ancestry.com-Worldwide Subscription

British Library Newspapers Database

FindMyPast/Ancestors on Board

Footnote.com

GenTeam (Austria- Czech database)

Godfrey Library (Gold level—includes World Vital Records US Collection)

Guardian and Observer Digital Newspapers

JewishGen.org

MyHeritage.com

NewspaperArchive.com

ProQuest * on Wednesday August 17, 2011 only

- ProQuest Historical Newspapers
- ProQuest Sanborn Maps Geo Edition
- Ethnic NewsWatch
- Historic Map Works Library Edition
- HeritageQuest Online
- Gannett Military Newspapers
- Canada's Heritage from 1844- Globe and Mail
- Canadian Newsstand
- Toronto Star
- ProQuest Dissertation and Theses
- American Periodicals Series Online 1741-1900

The Forward

There will also be links to almost 100 free sites on-line (a number of them are included on JGSCV's website www.jgscv.org under resources)

There will be an additional 5 computers dedicated to the USHMM databases not including the International Tracing Service materials that may only be viewed only at the Museum.

Of course, one of the best reasons to attend an IAJGS conference is networking- when you meet up with others who are researching the same shtetls, countries, family names and DNA haplogroups— —and to spend time with your fellow genealogy mavens you only “speak’ with by E-mail, Facebook or tweet with the rest of the year.

If you haven’t already done so, to keep current on the conference, please sign up for the conference discussion group. Subscribe to it through the JewishGen Discussion Group’s service by clicking on this link or copying the URL into your browser's address field

http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp

When prompted, log in to JewishGen, and you will be taken to the page titled, "Subscribe to JewishGen Mailing Lists." In the Hosted Projects section, find the 2011 DC Conference and click Subscribe at right. Watch your inbox for a welcome message, and you'll be all set to receive and post messages.

Please join your fellow JGSCV members at this fantastic IAJGS conference, which will be rich with treasures to help you in your genealogical adventure.

2011 JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

ALL MEETINGS SUNDAY 1:30-3:30 PM

April 3 **Jews of the Pacific Coast** Ava F. Kahn Jewish experience in Seattle, Portland, SF, LA and small western towns. Program Co-sponsored with the Western States Jewish History.

May 1 **Yom Hashoah Day Commemoration, The First Massive Jewish Deportation: To Camp de Gurs in 1940** Werner Frank Thousands of Jews were expelled to Camp de Gurs on the way to the ‘Final Solution’. Frank describes these actions and others as they relate to his family in Baden.

June 5 **Wrongful (Jewish) Wraskals of the West** Ron Arons West coast criminals including research tools and methodology.

July 17 **Genealogy in the Round: Share Your Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls**

August 14-19 **IAJGS hosted by JGS Greater Washington**
No JGSCV meeting in August

Lou's Tips for Tracing Your Roots

By Lou Szucs, Vice President,
Community/Executive Editor at Ancestry.com



Start with the living

“Maybe your mother kept a scrapbook or maybe there’s a cedar chest or a box in the closet that has letters and old newspaper clippings.”

“The Census is my first step and my first suggestion, because it’s the first place that you’re going to find families in an identifiable unit,” she said.

Make sure you’re not barking up the wrong “tree”

“You don’t want to add anything to your family tree at face value. Make sure everything is sourced, and find out what those sources are.”

Reprinted from “Medill Report
Chicago” March 3, 2011

Branch out, but don’t get ahead of yourself

“It’s good to focus. Take one family at a time and try and put that together before you go in too many directions, because it can bog you down otherwise.”

Use a timeline

“Put a timeline together for the family that you’re working on. That way you can spot the gaps in information.”

I’m going to add one of my own: Leave more than footprints

Take advantage of genealogical societies and use all the information that’s out there already to your advantage, but be sure to do your part to preserve your little corner of history -- whether it’s by going out to a local cemetery and adding photos to <http://www.findagrave.com> or uploading scanned images of primary documents to your ancestor’s file on Ancestry.com or another online family tree site.

And start documenting what you know about yourself. After all, you’re going to be someone’s ancestor somewhere down the line.

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