



JGSCV

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSVC's annual assisted research afternoon at the Los Angeles Family History Library (LAFHL) was very successful. JGSCV gained six new members! We were delighted that those who wanted or needed personal genealogical assistance received it from some of the best in the world of Jewish Genealogy: Warren Blatt, Debra Kay Blatt, Nancy Biederman, Stewart Bernstein, Hal Bookbinder, Werner Frank, Allan Linderman and Marion Werle. Virtually everyone found some document to add to their family tree information. All the first timers were successful and that is a great way to start off in your genealogy.

Barbara Algaze, volunteer at the LAFHL and JGSLA librarian gave an overview of the Library and also helped JGSCV members find records of interest. Barbara reviewed not only the records available at the LAFHL, but the many subscription sites, which are free at the LAFHL. Questions on the differences between the Ancestry.com library, FHL and individual subscriptions were addressed in the May 2011 issue of Venturing into Our Past - that is available on the JGSCV website:

March, 2012

Volume 7 Issue 6

ASSISTED RESEARCH DAY AT LAFHL



Helene Rosen and Len Shenkin welcome members to JGSCV's annual assisted research day at the Los Angeles Family History Library

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, March 4th 1:30-3:30 PM

Here Comes the 1940 Census!

Compelling insights on what to look for and how to access data from Joel Weintraub a genealogical census expert.

March, 2012

Venturing Into Our Past

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www.jgscv.org under newsletter and past issues with the specific month.

The Social Security Death Index (SSDI) is under challenge and Congress may prevent future access to the public. You are encouraged to continually look at the Records Preservation Access Committee (RPAC) website for updates and see the SSDI Call to Action Kit www.fgs.org/rpac. RPAC is the umbrella organization for genealogical organizations addressing records access and IAJGS is a voting member of RPAC. We know that the White House website, which is where the Stop Identity Theft NOW petition resides has been having some technical difficulties, but as all genealogists know persistence and patience pays off. If you have been having difficulty signing the Stop Identity Theft NOW petition, please continue to try. The direct link for that site is: <http://wh.gov/khE>. If the genealogical community does not get the required minimum 25,000 signatures in the next several weeks it will be perceived that we do not care about access to vital records including the SSDI. See page 8 for more on this.

JGSCV was contacted by the Leo Baeck Institute for assistance in trying to find the descendants of Walter Albert Heimann who died in Thousand Oaks in 2007. Please see page 7 for more information—it is time sensitive and important for an upcoming ceremony in Germany where they are commemorating the Heimann family members lost in the Shoah.

Our March 4th meeting is very timely—“Here Comes the 1940 Census”. Joel Weintraub will talk about the need for locational aides. When the census is released on April 2nd, it will NOT be name indexed—it will take many months before a name index is available on any genealogical website. Joel suggests getting a heads up go to the tutorial on the Steve Morse site: <http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php>.

Looking forward to seeing you on March 4th!

Jan Meisels Allen



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.

2012 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.

NEW H-SIG PROJECT FOR MISKOLC CEMETERY

H-SIG (Hungary) has started a project to create searchable databases of Miskolc's 18th and 19th century headstones and 20th century cemetery books. Volunteers are needed to transcribe the inscriptions and burial locations. To volunteer for this project please contact Nolan Altman naltman@jewishgen.org or John Kovacs j.kovacs@sbcglobal.net. Contributions may be arranged at <http://tinyurl.com/6no7z4a> click on H-SIG.

UPDATED ONLINE DEATH RECORDS, INDEXES, AND OBITUARIES IN U.S.

Records have been updated for the following states: Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Washington, Wisconsin. You can find them at: <http://www.deathindexes.com>

LIVE BROADCASTS FROM ANCESTRY.COM

Almost every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 AM Pacific, Ancestry.com produces live broadcasts on a topic of interest. The length is determined by the presenter and the topic and has been as short as six minutes and as long as 25. Usually, the presenter is available afterward for questions via live chat. You can participate at: <http://tinyurl.com/74baz9y>

FAMILYSEARCH ADDS 30 MILLION RECORDS

FamilySearch has added 16 million indexed names and 14 million images to its database. All are available at no charge. There are new collections from Canada, England, Germany, Italy, Micronesia, Slovenia and the U.S. See the list of new records alphabetized by country at <http://tinyurl.com/7p3th83>

ROOTSTECH DEVELOPER CHALLENGE WINNERS

At the RootsTech Conference Feb. 2-4 in Salt Lake City, winners of the Developer Challenge were announced. First prize winner in developing new genealogical software is Jimmy Zimmerman whose NoteFuser connects Evernote to geni.com or new.familysearch.org among other things for easy access to notes. Brooke Schreier Ganz was awarded second prize for LeafSeek which converts historical records into searchable databases. [Brooke is webmaster for Geshher Galicia and JGSLA.] Third prize was shared between Brigham Young University's Computer Science Dept and Ellie Rasmus. BYU created a twenty minute Genealogist site that visualizes a family tree based upon new.familysearch.org. data. Ellie Rasmus's Facetree uses GEDCOM files to improve facial recognition for genealogical purposes. For more information visit www.rootstech.org and scroll down.



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

(*and surrounding areas)

Come to the March 4, 2012 Meeting

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim
Sunday, March 4, 2012 1:30-3:30 p.m.
2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

The Program: Here Comes the 1940 Census

The 1940 U.S. census will be available to the public on April 2, 2012, 72 years since it was taken. This census introduced sampling, organized publicity, and an emphasis on economic questions. Some standard questions were dropped, while new ones were added. The changes were not without controversy. The census has been digitized by the National Archives and will be available online. However, there will not be a name index on opening day, therefore, initially, locational techniques for finding people will be necessary. Joel will discuss the 1940 enumeration and its questions and the online 1940 locational tools that are available at the National Archives and the Steve Morse "One Step" websites.

Speaker: Joel Weintraub: Joel volunteered for nine years at the National Archives and is an emeritus Biology Professor. He has produced census tools since 2001, and in 2002 teamed up with Stephen Morse. Joel has been working on finder aids for the 1940 census since 2005, and has given talks on that census starting in 2006. These utilities, for searching federal and NY State censuses by location, are freely available at stevemorse.org in the census folders.



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. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV.

Traveling Library categories A and B will be at the next meeting. Please check the website for the books included in each category <http://jgscv.org>. To request a book that is not in either category, please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 3 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org.



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER, is open 15 minutes before each meeting where a knowledgeable JGSCV member



will be available to answer questions, offer direction and maybe even a solution to some of your concerns. Warren Blatt will conduct the March "corner".

Join or renew your Ralphs Community Contribution Program membership at www.ralphs.com. Simple directions are also available on our website at www.jgscv.org under 'notices'. Remember, just by shopping at Ralphs, JGSCV receives a contribution at no cost to you.

You can also help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com simply by entering the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at www.jgscv.org and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic. This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive marketing fee at no cost to you.

IAJGS CONFERENCE PARIS JULY 15-18

Registration is open to attend the 32nd IAJGS International



Conference in Paris to take place July 15-18. SIG's and BOF's already signed up include South Africa, AustriaCzech, Belarus, Bukovina, Canada, GersSIG, Gesher Galicia, Kremenets District Research Group, Latvia, Sub-Carpathia, Svencionys District Research Group, Yizkor Book Project, Lodz Area, UK, Tunisia.

Some of the sessions already set include Jewish Genealogy in Europe and Mediterranean Areas, Use of the International Tracing Service (Yad Vashem), Origins of Ashkenazi Genetics and Demography and much more.

For additional information on what else is already set, visit www.paris2012.eu

Don't forget to 'friend' us on facebook and visit often for updates between meetings: <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

MICHELLE BUTTERBAUGH

ETTI HADAR

ANNE JAMES

MICHAEL SANDER

MARILYN SCHWADRON

PAT WILLIAMS

JGSCV's ASSISTED RESEARCH DAY

The annual Assisted Research Day for dues paid JGSCV members was a huge success. None of it would have been possible without the cooperation of the Los Angeles Family History Library and its volunteers. JGSCV appreciates and offers our sincere thanks to: Sister Carmen Wise and Sister Cheryl Edginton (not pictured) who welcomed members at the inside desk, answered questions about the library and its resources and even offered a tip or two on searching. Mary Alequin Sosa's help in finding and setting up films was invaluable.



Mary Alequin Sosa



Barbara Algaze

Of course, no JGSCV Assisted Research Day would complete without the tips and insights provided by Barbara Algaze. As an LAFHL volunteer and JGSLA librarian, Barbara is uniquely qualified to offer direction as she has each of the last several years. Barbara started the day with a presentation detailing specific highlights of how to maximize the library's resources.



Sister Carmen Wise

Below are photos of JGSCV members hard at work at the LAFHL.



DID YOU KNOW WALTER ALBERT HEIMANN FROM THOUSAND OAKS?

JGSCV has been asked to help the Leo Baeck Institute regarding a former resident of Thousand Oaks: Walter Albert Heimann. The Leo Baeck Institute [www.lbi.org] a New York City-based research library devoted to the study of the history and culture of German-speaking Jewry, contacted JGSCV. Leo Baeck Institute was contacted by someone from the board of the City of Schwaebisch Gmued, Germany, looking for the family of the late Walter Albert Heimann, who lived in Thousand Oaks and died in Thousand Oaks in 2007.

If you know the descendants of Walter Albert Heimann please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org immediately so that we can provide the information to the City of Schwaebisch Gmued in Germany. The community in Germany is interested in finding his children or relations, as they would like to invite them to Germany and to their community for the ceremony of placing the Stolperstein stones in the ground in memory of the Heimann's who perished in the Shoah.

A Stolperstein is a small stone placed in front of the home address of a Jewish victim of the Holocaust. The stone includes the name of the person, the date of birth, and the date and place of their death. There is one stone for each person killed who lived at a particular address. When the stones are first placed at the former addresses of the victim or victims, there is often a commemoration ceremony, in which the community has a small program about the individuals. Often the community invites the living descendants of these Holocaust victims.

Background

“The City of Schwaebisch Gmued board is currently preparing a “Stolperstein” ceremony for April in Schwaebisch Gmuend. They are placing a “Stolperstein” for SOFIE HEIMANN (*1877), maiden name Gutmann, FANNY HEIMANN, (*1870) sister in law of Sofie and HERMANN HEIMANN (*1880), brother in law of Sofie, brother of Fanny. Both were single, both died in Auschwitz. We do not know when and how Sofie died. Sofie's son LUDWIG (*1900) married HERTA (*1905). Their son, WALTER ALBERT, (*1932) emigrated together with his parents Ludwig and Herta to Los Angeles in 1938.”

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JEWISH GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY PLANNED

For the 20th consecutive year, veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen



Polakoff will be offering a research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from

October 18-October 25, 2012. To date, more than 400 Jewish genealogists from the U.S., Canada, South America, Australia, Israel and Europe have taken advantage of this program.

The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of research at the Library under the guidance and assistance of professional genealogists who have made more than a four dozen trips to Salt Lake City. Each person has access to trip leaders

each day except Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Library for on-site assistance and personal consultations. There is also a planned program that includes a three-hour class at the beginning of the trip introducing the new participants to the facilities and resources of the Family History Library; a mid-week informal group discussion of progress and problem-solving.

Social events include a mid-week Sunday brunch for camaraderie and discussion of successes (and failures); attendance at the Sunday morning broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and informal group dinners. Participants stay at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel that is adjacent to the Family History Library.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>. Or, you may contact Gary Mokotoff by email at gary@mokotoff.net or call 201-387-7200.

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL JGSCV MEMBERS AND THE GENEALOGY COMMUNITY AT LARGE

Recently, Jan Meisels Allen, JGSCV President sent this message to all JGSCV members. It is reprinted here to reiterate the importance of this issue to all genealogists and hope that you will forward this message to other interested parties who may not be aware of the criticality of this issue. Jan is also IAIGS Vice President, Chairperson of the IAIGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee and Member of RPAC. As you will see, she is very passionate about this subject.

Subject: Genealogists Under Attack – Sign the Stop Identity Theft Petition

Dear JGSCV Member:

The House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee on Social Security is proposing to completely shut down use of the Social Security Death Index (SSDI) by genealogists as well as other industries such as banking and insurance that rely upon its information. Such an attempt is short-sighted and runs counter to the original purpose of the SSDI: to actually combat fraud.

The genealogical community has started a campaign: Stop Identity Theft NOW essentially stating that the IRS has the tools already to stop identity theft, no closure of SSDI is necessary. I encourage you to go to the website and become involved and sign the "White House "We the People Petition" now posted at <http://wh.gov/khE>.

When on the "We the People" petition website you have to create an account name, e-mail address, location and password. The only information showing on the petition, is first name and first initial of last name and location. The White House requires 25,000 signatures within a month to act! Please have your voice counted!

History

The House Ways and Means Committee Social Security Subcommittee held a hearing on the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), the commercial name of the Death Master File (DMF) on February 2nd. The genealogical community was told they were not invited to testify, unfortunately the Committee members and those invited to testify made the genealogy community the scapegoat for identity theft, by focusing on the public access to the SSDI on genealogical websites. One of the witnesses was a grieving father whose deceased child's social security number was stolen and used fraudulently for tax refunds by the identity thieves. He was very concerned that his deceased daughter's Social Security number could be seen on the internet by anyone. The Social Security Administrator spoke on behalf of the Administration and during the question and answer period stated, genealogists do not need the SSDI, they can get their information in other ways, and can wait as they do for the release of US census for "75" years. It was reported that the Administration is very concerned with who has access to the SSDI and the Office of Management and Budget is working on the issue.

The hearing held on February 2nd video is posted to the Subcommittee's website:

http://waysandmeans.granicus.com/MediaPlayer.php?view_id=2&clip_id=133.

I suggest you watch the entire video as the questions and answer session is very telling where everyone is on this issue. The most telling is the Social Security Administrator answering questions on the genealogical community {starting at 28:00 minutes} which has been clipped by Michael John Neill and his blog has the 5 minute clip: <http://tinyurl.com/7hfs7m>

The written statements of the five invited witnesses may be read at <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=276835>

The "Legal Genealogist" posted a summary of the hearing which may be read at: <http://www.legalgenealogist.com/blog/> Scroll down to February 3 posting.

The subcommittee members indicated that this is a bi-partisan issue and both the Democrats and Republicans will be working together to address this in upcoming legislation.

Because of the negativity given the genealogical community at the hearing the genealogical community, through the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC) [a joint committee whose voting members are the Federation of Genealogical Societies, IAJGS and the National Genealogy Society with participating members: APG, BCG, ASG, Ancestry.com and ProQuest.] is responding with a campaign to "Stop Identity Theft NOW".

Please see <http://fgs.org/rpac> for information on what the genealogical community is doing. There are updates frequently posted to the website. In addition, IAJGS, FGS, NGS and RPAC submitted statements for the record before the February 16 deadline for the record closure. The IAJGS statement and letters to the Subcommittee members may be accessed on the IAJGS website included in the Legislative Alert: <http://www.iajgs.org/pramc/legislation.html> and click on Latest Alert.

Do not forget this is an issue where "you" need to contact your Congressional representatives so that they hear us- access to public information should not be the casualty in this fight! Only when we help our elected representatives understand that using public records is the way to stop fraud, not closing those records, can we protect all of the interests we all have here.

To see who is on the House Ways and Means Committee Subcommittee go to: <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/About/Members.htm> and scroll to the subcommittee. The link by the Members name on the full committee roster connects to the Members home page.

To find out your US House of Representative go to:

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

To find out your US Senator go to:

http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm

Please share this with your genealogical friends If you have any problems with signing the petition, please let me know.

Jan Meisels Allen

President, JGSCV

IAJGS Vice President

Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Member, RPAC

FUTURE MEETING DATES 2012

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

Sunday, April 1st 1:30-3:30PM Arthur Benveniste, THE HOLOCAUST AND SEPHARDIC JEWS OF THE BALKANS AND NORTH AFRICA

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

Sunday June 3rd 1:30-3:30PM ,,,,,,,,,,,,,, Hal Bookbinder, SHIPS OF OUR ANCESTORS

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

Sunday, Aug. 5th 1:30-3:30 PMGENEALOGY IN THE ROUND, share your successes, failures, brick walls and artifacts.

2012 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 2012

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$2.00**

Date of form completion _____

*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 out to: JGSCV Mail 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 _____

Are you on Facebook? Yes ___ No ___

What is your Facebook Name _____

Link to Facebook by <http://tinyurl.com/4yqs7bk>

Talents that you have to share (language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)
