



JGSCV

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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

March, 2013

Volume 8 Issue 6

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV members-only assisted research afternoon was a smashing success! Many brick walls tumbled down due to the personal assistance by senior JGSCV members and the volunteers from the Los Angeles Family History Center. One very huge breakthrough was accomplished by Debra Kay Blatt's assistance to Judy Karta going through the Jewish microfilms of Polish vital records. As a result of the search, Judy found her great grandfather's birth and marriage record which gave his father's name - her second great grandfather - and she found his birth and marriage record which gave Judy her third great grandfather's name! She now has names and towns to research that she would not have found without attending the assisted research afternoon. There were many other success stories as well! This annual event is one of a growing number of member-only events for JGSCV members. If you have not yet renewed for 2013 or are a guest at our meetings, this is a great time to join to take advantage of some of our other member-only functions. A membership renewal form is located on page 11 and on our website at: www.jgscv.org under membership.

As announced in last month's newsletter a new program for members only is: "An Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases" computer workshop afternoon



Family History Center with Librarian Barbara Algaze (top right)

NEXT MEETING

SUNDAY, March 3rd 1:30-3:30 PM

Researching Your Canadian Family

Many of our ancestors traveled through Canada before reaching the U.S. JGSCV board member Marion Werle shares ideas, tips and insights she has uncovered while searching her Canadian roots.

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at the Conejo Valley Adult Education Center on March 10 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. This **free** to members JewishGen Workshop is limited to 39 JGSCV participants --advanced registration is required. Registrants will be accepted on a first come first served basis. Each individual wishing to attend must register even if using a family membership. To register, simply send an email to Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org including the following information:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone Number (cell or landline)
4. Birth date including year

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible to attend this free workshop you must:

- Be a JGSCV 2013 dues paid member. Members may not transfer or offer this benefit to *anyone*.
- Be proficient in basic computer skills such as operating a mouse including right/left clicking; opening and closing windows; accessing the internet, migrating through web pages.
- Be a registered user of JewishGen.org. Use of the site is free but requires registration. If necessary, help in registering will be available at the workshop.

There are a maximum of 39 places. At the time of writing this article we are at 50% and would like to have more members participate.

When you go to our website you will notice a difference in the url line. Now, you can go directly to a specific page and it will show, with our entire address. And, since we are hosted by IAJGS, their name is included as part of our address. For example if you want to go directly to the resources site you would see: <http://www.iajgs.org/jgscv/resources.htm> or if you click on a resource, the url of that resource will show. You can still type in www.jgscv.org and get directly to the site, and then you can click on the area you want to explore.

As noted many times recently, volunteers are needed for the synagogue memorial plaque project—going to the synagogues in our area and photographing the memorial plaques. We need a project coordinator as well as volunteers to do the photography. Started by the JGS of Long Island and hosted by JewishGen, this will capture much needed local genealogical insights. If you are interested, please contact me at president@jgscv.org.

Our March 3 meeting is on *Researching Your Jewish Family Roots in Canada* with JGSCV board member Marion Werle presenting. Many of us had family that first immigrated to Canada - especially when the US had "closed its borders" - and some family who moved to Canada after residing in the US. Marion will discuss a number of records that are available to help you in your research.

Looking forward to seeing you on March 3.

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.

2013 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 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.

JEWISH PIONEERS OF ORANGE COUNTY

Harriet Rochlin publisher of a Western Jewish History blog, has reviewed the above mentioned book and describes it as, "Edited by Dalia Taft, archivist for the Orange County Jewish Historical Society, *Jewish Pioneers of Orange County: The Jewish Community of Orange County, California from the 1850s – 1970s* is the first comprehensive book about the Jewish community in the area. The book includes updated versions of every article on Orange County from the *Western States Jewish Journal*, personal histories written by long-time residents, and a section showcasing Jewish ads and newspaper announcements from the 1870s to the 1960s. The book can be purchased through the Orange County Jewish historical Society, (by emailing) historical@jffs.org or calling 949-435-3484

GUIDE TO YIVO ARCHIVES ONLINE

YIVO Archives comprise an estimated 23,000,000 documents, manuscripts, printed materials, posters, photographs, films, sound recordings, art and artifacts. While the collections focus on Jewish life in the 19th and 20th centuries, the collection also includes materials from the 1300's through the 1700's. The Archives are categorized into Archives in *Vilna*, *WW II*, *New York* and *Post-War*. You can easily search the YIVO Archives at: <http://tinyurl.com/a6wccro>.

MOBILE TREE UPDATES ON MYHERITAGE

You can now update your family tree on MyHeritage using your iPad, iPhone or other mobile device by downloading the app from Apple's App Store or from Google Play. For more information on the app and how to use it go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ahxrnrb>

\$500 GENEALOGY GRANT

Applications are being accepted for the 2013 Student Genealogy Grant awarded by The Suzanne Winsor Freeman Memorial Grant Committee. Genealogists between the ages of 18 and 25 who have attended school in the past 12 months are eligible. The recipient must attend the 2013 SCGS Jamboree in Burbank to receive the award. (Free three-day registration at the Jamboree is also provided.) For more information and a link to the application: <http://tinyurl.com/b73g589>.

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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with and located at Temple Adat Elohim, 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362

Sunday, March 3, 2013 1:30 p.m-3:30 p.m.

The Program:

Researching Your Jewish Family Roots in Canada



Were your ancestors Canadian immigrants? Did your family immigrate to the US and later decide to settle in Canada? Did your family migrate to the US via a Canadian port? If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, this program is for you. The speaker will discuss the major sources of Canadian genealogical records and will cover ship manifests, naturalization records, the Canadian census and census substitutes, city directories, voter registration records, 1940 residence records, Jewish sources, vital records and more, using her own research as an example. The focus of the program is on the major years of Jewish immigration to Canada after 1880. The talk will concentrate on the ever-expanding digital resources available to Canadian researchers, and the challenges of Canadian research.

Speaker: Marion Werle, is a board member of JGSCV. Her grandparents, from Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus, all settled in Canada after a brief stay in the US, in most cases to join extended family members already there. She has been researching her family's history in both the Old Country and Canada for over 17 years. She has discovered Canadian resources revealing data about family members who lived in both the Prairie Provinces and Montreal.

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 books in category A and C will be available at the March 3rd meeting. To request a book to be at the meeting that is not in either category please email Jan Meisels Allen at least 5 days in advance of the meeting at president@jgscv.org.



THE SCHMOOZING CORNER is now open 20 minutes before all meetings. Come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for a sign like the one on the right.

Ralphs requires everyone to reregister for their community contribution program. If you have a Ralphs card and are not yet signed up, please do so and include JGSCV as your 'community'. Your groceries cost the same but Ralphs will send JGSCV a contribution. If you need help setting this up, please ask at the front desk when you arrive at the next meeting.

See page 9 for information on how you can register for the special FOR JGSCV MEMBERS ONLY workshop on JewishGen using your basic computer and internet skills and providing the following:

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone Number (cell or land line)
4. Birth date (including year)

You can also help JGSCV when you shop at Amazon.com by simply 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 (like the one on right). This will take you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS:

SUSAN T. FALCK

JOYCE ROBERSON

33rd IAJGS CONFERENCE AUGUST 4-9 BOSTON

Registration has opened for the IAJGS Conference to be held in Boston August 4-9, 2013. Early registration is open and available until midnight eastern time on April 30th. Regular registration will be available after that until midnight August 2nd. To start the registration process visit www.iajgs2013.org and click on 'registration'. On-site registration will be available until the conference ends. Payment is expected via credit card or PayPal but if you plan to pay by check please follow the instructions here <http://tinyurl.com/adm2fgt>.

Elements of the conference are continuing to evolve. A Discussion List has been launched and will serve as a venue for questions related to the conference. For information on how to subscribe, view or post a message, go to <http://tinyurl.com/ao4h8bh>.



The keynote speaker at the conference will be Aaron Lansky, the founder and president of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, Massachusetts.

Mr. Lansky is responsible for revitalizing the study of the

Yiddish language and motivating hundreds of young scholars to study and teach Yiddish. He has saved over a million Yiddish books since he started collecting them as a 23-year old graduate student in 1980. His mission to rescue Yiddish literature earned him a MacArthur Foundation "genius grant" in 1985.



By collecting books once destined for dumpsters, Mr. Lansky has been able to establish or strengthen Yiddish collections at 700 libraries in 26 countries. With help from Steven Spielberg, his Yiddish Book Center has digitized most of its collection, including many Yizkor books, and posted them online. The Center now sponsors a range of educational and cultural programs that not only preserve Yiddish culture of

the past but also bring it to younger generations for the future. Mr. Lansky has told the story of his lifelong work in his best-selling book, *Outwitting History*, which was awarded the Massachusetts Book Award in Non-Fiction.

Mr. Lansky will speak at the opening plenary session on Sunday evening, August 4. He also will be available to meet with attendees at a "Breakfast with the Experts." There will be a special bus tour to the Yiddish Book Center offered during the conference.

Highlights From: *Los Angeles Family History Library Assisted Research Afternoon*

Thirty-seven JGSCV members traveled to the LA Family History Library (LAFHL) for the annual assisted research day. Each year JGSCV arranges for a members-only event at the library where senior members of JGSCV, library volunteers and JGSLA librarian Barbara Algaze devoted the afternoon to assisting JGSCV members. This is one of the most significant benefits of JGSCV membership.

After checking-in at the front desk with board members Stew Bernstein and Karen Lewy, participants spent a brief time being oriented in the main library area where the computers are located (more than enough desktops for everyone). Some examined the book stacks and microfilm library. Ms. Algaze then presented a review of the library resources and described the path to access those resources through the library computer databases—subscription databases are available at no cost at the LAFHL. Barbara, a JGSCV member, has volunteered this service for our annual research visits for the past several years.

As noted in the President's Letter on page 1 of this newsletter, Debra Kay Blatt's knowledge of genealogy resources and microfilm dexterity resulted in significant family history discoveries for Judy Karta. Debra will be sharing more of those skills March 3rd at the first, MEMBERS ONLY Workshop on JewishGen. (See page 9 for information on how to register for the workshop.)



JGSCV MEMBER BENEFITS

- Annual assisted research afternoon at the Family History Library (See above)
- Members-only emails from the president announcing special events and free opportunities with Ancestry and other genealogical organizations and other items of genealogical interest
- Use of the traveling library at president's home – with an advance appointment
- For the first year of membership, JewishGen's Warren Blatt will assist with one concise question per month. He won't do your genealogy but with well thought out questions, he can help you on your genealogical journey.
- NEW! Members-Only Workshops on valuable genealogy tools

GENEALOGY AND THE GOVERNMENT

JGSCV President and founding member Jan Meisels Allen is also IAIGS Vice President. Her role as Chairperson, IAIGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee has her constantly seeking out and reporting on government genealogical touch points. Following are several of her most recent reports.

HR 295 –Limiting Access to Death Master File and Its Commercial Version the SSDI Bill Introduced

The first bill of the new Congressional session regarding identity theft and the Death Master File (DMF) and Social Security Death Index (SSDI) was introduced on January 15, 2013 by Representative Richard Nugent (R-FL). The bill is called: “Protect and Save Act of 2013”. The provisions of greatest concern to the genealogical community include Section 7: “Restriction On Access to the Death Master File”. Here, the Secretary of Commerce is prohibited from disclosing any information contained in the DMF regarding any individual who died in the previous two calendar years unless the person is certified under a specific program where the person has a “legitimate fraud prevention interest” in accessing the information described in the DMF. There is no definition of what a “legitimate fraud prevention interest” is and any one violating this provision is subject to substantial monetary penalties. This bill also provides an exemption from the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) for the Social Security Administration as they would not be compelled to disclose information to someone who is not certified under this provision of the bill. You can read the bill by clicking: <http://tinyurl.com/al3pb4y>

HR-466- Death Master File SSDI Bill Introduced

The second bill introduced this session addressing access to the DMF and the SSDI was introduced in Congress on February 4. You can read the bill by clicking: <http://tinyurl.com/bze6vdu>. HR 466 was introduced by Congressman Capuano (D-MA) and is called: “Social Security Death Master File Privacy Act of 2013”. At the time of introduction there were no co-sponsors. The bill was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee. At this time no hearings are scheduled. We are expecting more bills to be introduced that affect access to the SSDI and the genealogists/public access to Social Security numbers of deceased individuals.

HR 466 prohibits the Commissioner of Social Security from publishing the death master file or any public database that includes the Social Security numbers of any deceased individual. The bill permits the Commissioner to share information with the appropriate federal or state agency which pays federally funded benefits regarding the deceased. The bill also states the Commissioner would not be compelled to release the information under the provisions of providing information to the public-Freedom of Information Act (<http://tinyurl.com/b3l2pl8>).

NY Court of Appeals Starts Online Publicly Searchable Database

The New York Court of Appeals launched on February 1, 2013 their enhanced on-line system called: The Court of Appeals Public Access and Search System (Court-PASS). It will provide a new method for the filing of records and briefs in digital format on appeals to the Court of Appeals and universal online access to these documents through a publicly-searchable database for cases filed or decided on or after January 1, 2013. Court cases may of assistance in your genealogy research-- albeit the system starts with 2013. You may search or browse the Court-PASS database free of charge, and may view or download documents from every stage of the case at the Court of Appeals, including motion papers for civil motions in which leave to appeal has been granted by the Court of Appeals, and briefs and records in civil and criminal appeals.

To read more about the Court-PASS system go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ae3vtco>

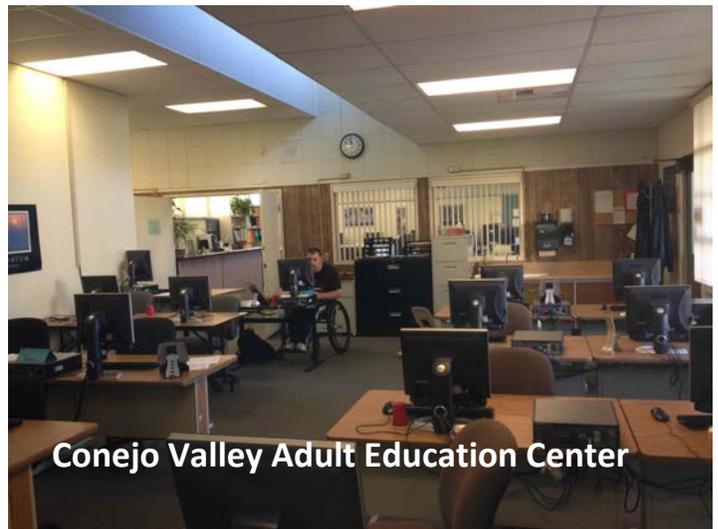
NEW FOR JGSCV MEMBERS ONLY

Three Workshops in 2013 Starting with JewishGen

In addition to our regular monthly programs at Temple Adat Elohim, JGSCV is delighted to announce up to three new and unique computer workshops this year at the **Conejo Valley Adult Education Center in Thousand Oaks**. The first workshop, “An Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases” will be led by Warren Blatt and Debra Kay Blatt - both JGSCV board members. As you know, Warren is the managing director of JewishGen and Debra has conducted JewishGen computer workshops at the past 5 or more IAJGS conferences. We couldn’t ask for better workshop instructors! Whether you are a sophisticated user of JewishGen or a beginner you will surely learn something from this free workshop.

A maximum of 39 JGSCV members may participate. Computers and internet access will be available for each member participant. **THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS WORKSHOP** (although there may be a fee for future workshops). If you have not yet renewed or joined JGSCV for 2013 this is an excellent reason to do so now!

The date is **Sunday, March 10 from 1:00-4:00 p.m.** The class will start ***promptly at 1:00 p.m.*** Late arrivals will have to catch up on their own so please plan accordingly. **The Conejo Valley Adult Education Center is located at 1025 Old Farm Road in Thousand Oaks.**



“An Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases” will be available on a **first-come first-serve basis for those who register through JGSCV**. You will **not** be able to register through the school directly—only through JGSCV. If you are interested, contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org . (Note, only Conejo Valley Adult Education Center computers will be used for this workshop. Please do not bring your own laptop.)

How to Register for “An Introduction to JewishGen and its Databases”

Only emails to Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org with the following information will be accepted (Do Not Contact The School Directly):

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone number (cell or landline)
4. Birth date including birth year (this is the unique identifier used by the school)

NOTE: If you have a family membership to JGSCV and both members wish to attend, you **MUST** provide the above information separately for each family member.

The school assures us that this information will not be used for solicitation or other purposes unless you give them permission to contact you following the class.

Eligibility Requirements

1. Be a JGSCV 2013 dues paid member. Neither spouses nor friends that are not current JGSCV members may attend and those who are current members need to be individually registered.
2. **You must be proficient in basic computer skills:** how to use a mouse - including the difference between right and left clicking, opening and closing a window, getting on the internet, migrating through web pages and **following directions**. The computers use the Windows 7 operating system. **This is not a class on how to use a computer.** (The only assistance offered will be on usage and navigation of jewishgen.org.)
3. Using jewishgen.org requires registration. If you are not already registered, you must do so at the workshop. Help will be available for this step.

The limited number of spaces will go quickly so please sign-up now! Additional information will be provided to registered participants. If you have any questions contact Jan at president@jgscv.org

2013 FUTURE MEETING DATES

Sunday, March 3rd 1:30-3:30 PM
“Researching Your Jewish Family Roots in Canada” – Marion Werle

Sunday, April 7th 1:30-3:30 PM Yom Hashoah Day *“Holocaust Survivors and March of the Living”*, JGSCV Members

Sunday, May 5th 1:30-3:30 PM
“Obscure Records of Citizenship and Nationality”, Marion Smith, USCIS

Sunday, June 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM *“Lodz, The Manchester of Poland”*, Debra Kay Blatt

Sunday, July 14th 1:30-3:30 PM
“Genealogy In The Round”

NO MEETING IN AUGUST DUE TO
IAJGS CONFERENCE IN BOSTON
AUGUST 4-9



2013 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 2013

Date of form _____

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 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 _____

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

