

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

August 2016

Volume 11 Issue 11

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV's annual Genealogy in the Round program was a great success! I am always nervous that we won't have enough volunteers, yet the members and friends always come through. This program is **your** program to share your genealogical success, brickwall, failure or artifact and everyone enjoys the group participation. Each story is different and it is a great way to get insight from the JGSCV family to help with suggestions of what to do next—especially when it's a brickwall! Brickwalls do come down, as you can read in my story and what happened since the program to turn my brickwall into a success! Highlights of the seven participants see page 6.

JGSCV is not meeting in August due to the IAJGS conference where 16 of our members will be attending and a number of them giving presentations: Jan Meisels Allen, Warren Blatt, Debra Kay-Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Andrea Massion and Marion Werle.

If you are not attending the 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in person, you can do so virtually by subscribing to LIVE! You will also be able to join LIVE! throughout the conference and afterward however by purchasing now, you can view the sessions as they are happening through LIVE! streaming. If you can't arrange your schedule to fit the sessions? No worries - LIVE! for those who purchase it, will be available after the conference is over, on demand for 90 days. That means you can choose the sessions you want to hear (maybe all of the ones on LIVE!) and listen to them as often as



NEXT MEETING

Sunday, September 11th 1:30-3:30 PM

Manifest Destiny – Ellis Island

Joel Weintraub will offer the deepest insights into passenger ship manifests and the Ellis Island experience as navigated by many of our ancestors.

2016 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mission Statement:

JGSCV is a non-profit organization run by enthusiastic volunteers dedicated to the sharing of genealogical information, techniques and research tools with those interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Members who include beginners and experienced genealogists share with each other.

you like for 90 days. Check out the conference program to see which sessions are LIVE! from the conference website. Go to the conference website at <http://www.iajgs2016.org/> and choose *programs* to check out what will be LIVE! Go to *registration* and choose *new registration* to purchase LIVE!

The Board appointed the 2016 Nominations Committee. The 2016 Nominations Committee members are: Hal Bookbinder, chairman; Allan Linderman, Board representative and Carol Flesher as general membership representative. An email will be going out to all eligible members from Hal in the near future. There are five board positions whose terms expire at the end of the year.

Debra Kay-Blatt who served on our board since its inception and is a founding member of JGSCV resigned from the board due to her work schedule. Debra remains a member and will continue to be our Facebook administrator, but the other JGSCV duties were interfering with her work priorities—she is a very busy family law attorney. See page 14.

The semi-annual listing of new library acquisitions can be found on page 15. JGSCV has a very rich library—two in fact: the permanent one located at the Agoura Hills Public Library and the traveling library that can be referenced at our monthly meetings. See our website for a listing of what is included in both libraries (www.jgscv.org and go to *libraries*.) All of the JGSCV books that were waiting to be catalogued by the County of Los Angeles, have now been catalogued and are on our bookshelves at the Agoura Hills Public Library. The updated listing is on our website. See the address, directions to and hours of the library can also be found at www.jgscv.org.

Don't forget the Ventura County Fair is August 3-14. While it partly overlaps with the IAIGS Conference, this annual event is one where JGSCV members have volunteered to help at the genealogy table which also has volunteers from the Ventura County Genealogical Society and the Ventura Family History Center. The Fair runs 10 days and volunteers are in 4 hour blocks. See page 17 on how you can volunteer.

Hal Bookbinder's series on safe computing has returned refreshed from vacation. See page 16.

While we are not meeting in August, don't forget that our next meeting is on September 11 with Joel Weintraub on *Manifest Destiny - Names at Ellis Island*.

Have a safe, pleasant, cool August and remember, if you are visiting family, ask your genealogy questions. Sometimes, it only takes one answer/clue to break down a brick wall! For me, it was someone who had not seen the family I was searching in 22 years, but remembered the first name of the son and his occupation which led me to find him.

Jan Meisels Allen



YIDDISHLAND

Carol Hoffman, president of the LitvakSIG shared that YIVO Institute for Jewish Research has made available a useful table of Eastern European shtetls by Yiddish name and current spelling of place. See *Yiddishland* at:

<https://yivo.org/yiddishland-topo>

TOGETHER AGAIN

The International Jewish Genealogy Conference 2016 is in Seattle this August. 7-12. Many of our members will be attending, and many of them will be presenting. We wish them a *Nesia Tova* - Good Journey and come home safely.

Next year's location is Orlando, Florida. If you have never attended, consider a future event. Topics and lectures are varied and absorbing. Being in a different city is refreshing, and the fellowship in the lobbies and throughout the week is a lovely experience.



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ACADEMIC INDEED!

Dianne Richard, editor of UpFront with NGS announced an issue on Genealogy and Family History.

The Journal of Multidisciplinary Research has published a special issue on Genealogy and Family History. It is an internationally peer-reviewed open access journal. There are articles included by Jewish genealogists that we are familiar with. This issue is guest edited by Arnon Hershkovitz from Tel Aviv University. Arnon calls this issue "rigorous, multi-faceted research in a growing but underrepresented field of academic research."

There are six articles and reviews:

- Critical Family History: Situating Family within Contexts of Power Relationships by Christine E. Sleeter
- Memory and Belonging: The Social Construction of a Collective Memory during the Intercultural Transition of Immigrants from Argentina in Israel by Yaakov M. Bayer
- Recuperating Ethnic Identity through Critical Genealogy by Christine Scodari
- 200 Years of Scottish Jewry: A Demographic and Genealogical Profile by Kenneth Collins, Neville Lamdan, and Michael Tobias
- The Genealogist's Information World: Creating Information in the Pursuit of a Hobby by Crystal Fulton
- Review of Genealogía Cubana: San Isidoro de Holguín: Padrón de las casas y familias de este Pueblo de San Isidoro de Holguín hecho en el mes de Febrero del año del Señor del 1735, by W. Navarrete and M. D. Espino by Lourdes Del Pino

The Journal is available free. Download the journal at:

<http://www.jmrpublication.org/portals/jmr/Issues/JMR8-1.pdf>

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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will not be meeting in August 2016. JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on **Sunday, 11 September, 2016** at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362
1:30-3:30 pm



The Topic: Manifest Destiny - Names at Ellis Island

About 70% of immigrants to the U.S. during 1892 through 1924 came through the Ellis Island immigration station. The island's history including the Wall of Honor, and the changing questions on ship manifest forms will be shown. The pressures of the "Great Migration" eventually led to immigration quotas. The persistent myth of name changes at Ellis Island will be analyzed. About twenty percent of processed immigrants ended up on detention/special inquiry sheets, and will be shown where those can be found. Finally, all five (5) of the ship name indexes will be introduced. After this talk the audience should have a clear idea of the process the immigrants went through, and a greater appreciation of the manifest as a genealogy research tool. Be prepared to try to successfully negotiate the "Island of Tears" and avoid deportation by Joell! Original material will be displayed.

Speaker: Joel Weintraub is a New Yorker by birth, is an emeritus Professor at California State University Fullerton and won awards for his science teaching. He volunteered for nine years at the National Archives and Records Administration. Joel created search tools for the U.S. and New York City censuses that are freely available on the Steve Morse "One-Step" website. He and Steve are currently developing locational tools for the 2022 release of the 1950 federal census. Joel has written and talked on NYC and Federal census research, immigration and naturalization, Ellis Island, biographical research, and Jewish genealogy topics.



There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. The meeting is open to the public.

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 genealogy and family history.

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JGSCV Updates

See pages 19-20 for the program schedule through February, 2017. There are some extraordinary speakers lined up who will surely whet your genealogical appetite.

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and

scroll to click on graphic here).

SHOP. CONNECT. ENJOY.
All from Earth's biggest selection.



the bottom to the Amazon (like the one This takes you

to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. See “notices” on the JGSCV.org website for instructions for Ralphs Community Contribution Program, too.



The SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 20 minutes before each monthly meeting is scheduled to begin. Just come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the “SCHMOOZING CORNER” sign where next month you will find an experienced JGSCV member waiting to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins. On the left in the photo left is JGSCV's founding board member

Werner Frank helping a member at a prior meeting.

“Safe Computing” by Hal Bookbinder returns from vacation. See page 16.



Genealogy Odds and Ends

on page 18 has insights on obtaining passport information and more.

JGSCV MEMBERSHIP Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership/\$30 for a household. To join, printout the membership form on our website www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button. Send it with a check in the appropriate amount payable to: JGSCV and mail to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Highlights from . . .

Genealogy In The Round

By Jan Meisels Allen

Are you writing your family history and don't know if you are completed? Have you used or been the giver of an act of genealogical kindness? What do you use in your family tree to note if you have or have not proved a connection? What is the chance you'd find a baby's name changed when the mother remarried and now both are Irish Catholic but DNA tells the truth? What is the chance the clerk in the tax assessors' office was a friend of a relative and knew where the family lived decades ago? Have you looked at FAN's - Friends, Associates and Neighbors to find the missing relative? What is the chance of returning to your ancestral town and finding relatives? Too far-fetched? Welcome to last month's "Genealogy in the Round".

Each year JGSCV holds a program entitled, Genealogy in the Round. This program is the members' program as all are invited to share a genealogical success, failure, brickwall or artifact. I am always concerned that we won't have enough volunteers for the meeting, yet every year we have more than enough consistently making this program one of the best. This year was no exception! This program is always excellent and continues to get better annually.

We had seven JGSCV members participate. The following are summaries of the presentations:

Carol Flesher

You might recall that Carol shared with us her first book, *From Russia with Love- a 25 Year Journey* at our Genealogy in the Round two years ago. That book included the ancestral shtetl, history of the town and daily life in the shtetl, immigration, maps, names, documents, family recipes, family names, medical genealogy, and DNA reports. At last year's *Genealogy in the Round* program Carol shared how she was going to fill in the blanks for her second book. She described how she brought the narrative to life.



Carol Flesher

This year, Carol asked, "How does she know if she is done?" There were still unsolved mysteries to solve! And she had access to new resources and information. Using an act of genealogical kindness she found information about a great-great uncle using will and probate information. Carol highly recommends the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* which is an online free access

newspaper covering 1841-1955 (<http://newsstand.bklynpubliclibrary.org/>). Carol searched these documents for Jacob Yanowitz, son of Mayer Yanowitz who died in 1937. The newspaper notice included a file number—the key to finding the records! When she was able to get the actual will and probate records she was able to find children’s married names. The will identified another mystery: Meyer Yanowitz wished to be interred where Lazer Sheftel was buried—but who was that? Another discrepancy was found between the will and the probate: Bella was listed as his daughter in one document but a step-daughter in another. Who was Bella’s father? In further research Carol found that Meyer and his wife Luba had each been married before, therefore, they had a blended family. While she has not yet uncovered the mystery of Lazer Sheftel, she knows why Meyer was not buried with the rest of the family.

Carol used both the Ancestry.com will and probate collection as well as FamilySearch’s index to probate records.

A second success was visiting the Baron de Hirsh cemetery on Staten Island, (borough of Richmond) New York. Carol had a day in New York City before her cruise departed and she used it to do some genealogy research by visiting the Baron de Hirsch Cemetery. She found her great grandfather’s gravestone with his father’s name as genealogical proof! She found a name on a gravestone which supported evidence of her great grandmother, and was able to obtain her father’s name and her second name. Carol went through her

evidence supporting and also not supporting that the person she found was indeed her great grandmother. As she still does not have absolute proof, she designates the information for her great grandmother with an asterisk (*) on her family tree. While she would not publish the connection or attach it to any online tree, she does include the connection in her books written for her family. She explains that the connection is not proven but is plausible in her family books.

A valid conclusion: we are never finished with our genealogical research—keep on looking as more records become available.

Dianna Rice

Dianna shared two successes with JGSCV. First, about her Uncle Harry Landsman who had been married for a very short time in Chicago and had one son named Alexander Landsman. The wife remarried and took Alexander (Alex) with her. She married an Irish Catholic with the last name of Shay. She was Jewish but converted to Catholicism and had Alexander’s last name changed to Shay. Both the mother and Alex were Jewish but the name change was a major “brickwall” for Dianna. No one in the family ever talked about the marriage and the child of Harry’s child, making it difficult for Dianna to trace them. How did Dianna find Alexander? A cousin of the uncle’s first wife doing their



family tree found the Chicago records and called Alexander's son who in turn called his Aunt, Dianna's first cousin, who didn't know she had a half-brother. She was 96 years old. Alexander, who was raised Catholic was not told of his Jewish heritage. A DNA test was done on Alexander by his son which showed him as 95% Jewish. The family resemblance is apparent, and now Alexander's sister knows her nephew who looks like his grandfather and Alexander looks just like his Landsman uncles. Dianna keeps in touch with her newly found second cousin.

Dianna also shared her second success which was about family in Israel. She knew that her grandmother's sister had moved to Israel in the early 1900s but had no idea of their name or where they lived. The family name she was searching was Sloan. Dianna was unable to find that name in Chicago or California. Dianna got a call from a cousin in California stating that he heard that a cousin from Israel



was living in Berkley for a year. She obtained the phone number and called Noa who was living in Berkley and who had been working on a family tree and wanted to know about the family in the

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United States. It happens that Dianna had a blueprint of a tree that one of the cousins had done years ago. Dianna found out that her grandmother's maiden name was Slonimsky. Noa's father and mother came to California from Israel and Dianna had a family reunion with all the family in California. Yaul, Noa's father, had a power point on the family from Israel and the kibbutz her family started in Israel in 1948. As a result of putting her family tree on My Heritage (www.myheritage.com) she found a lot of family in Israel. There is still family in the Ukraine.

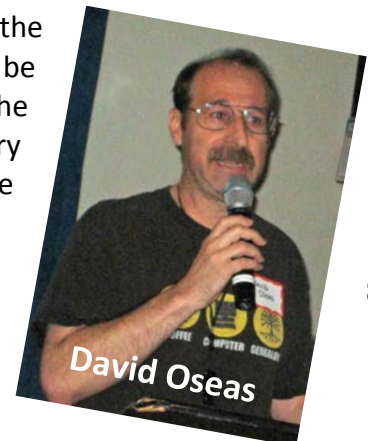
David Oseas

David is JGSCV's webmaster and he talked about how he got through his brick wall, or "don't believe everything you read."

David talked about his great grandmother Ida Schechter Sherman. Ida never talked about the "old country" and only spoke Yiddish. He showed us a photo of her home in Los Angeles, where she owned a four-unit apartment where other members of the family lived—including David and his parents.

The document that started it all was a receipt from the US District Court –Eastern District in Brooklyn NY for Ida's petition for naturalization. The receipt had the number...but David now wanted the actual naturalization papers.

Some years ago David went on a Salt Lake City genealogical trip sponsored by Gary Mokotoff, he requested the microfilm be brought into the Family History Library during the



week he was going to be there. However, when he was there, the incorrect microfilm was in the box—which had the correct number. He asked them to send in another microfilm to correct the mistake but for the second time they provided the correct box with the wrong microfilm!

David sent a freedom of information (FOIA) request to the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) now known as the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) (<http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>). While he did receive the petition for naturalization, it took over one year.

On the naturalization petition David found the incorrect dates of arrival. The papers said she arrived in 1906 on the Lusitania, but that ship's first voyage was not until 1907. By looking at Lusitania passenger lists he found her listed as Itte on a voyage sailing on 1 December 1907 Itte was traveling with Rochel, her mother and Chaike a previously unknown sister. The family was going to join Jahiel Polansky, the husband of Itte's eldest sister, Esther.

A genealogical hint that David shared was to go to the end of the passenger lists to see detention records. There he found Rochel and two children listed. They were released to Elias Shachter, a previously unknown brother, listed at 85 Essex Street in New York City. (Through research he found that Elias Shachter traveled to the United States with Jahiel and were brothers-in-law.)

David then started to search for Elias. First David searched the 1910 census assuming as they arrived in 1907 they would be

listed in that census. They were not listed in the 1910 US census. He was unable to locate Elias in the census either by name or by address. Further FOIA requests failed to turn up additional records for either Elias or Chaike, even though Chaike's passenger record had a notation indicating INS activity in 1941. David did not return to study this person for ten years. Using a wild card he found him on 86 Essex Street not 85 Essex Street. Census takers walk down one side of the street, therefore, the numbers are not necessarily contiguous as another census taker may be the person assigned to walk down the other side of the street—and each side of the street may be different enumeration districts.

David found is that Elias was not listed, but "Alex" was with a wife and child. The genealogical proof that David found the correct people, was on the marriage certificates which included the mother's maiden names. Ida Shcheter and David Sherman's marriage record compared to Alexandre Schachter and Ida—both parents' names were the same: Isador Schechter and Rochel Lichowetsky. David lined up all his documents and was pleased to find all his facts agreed.

What David learned:

- Don't believe everything you read. even official records contain errors and misinformation
- Don't give up. Additional records become available over time.

- Don't limit yourself. Use broader searches and wildcards and several different sources.
- Address next door may be in different electoral districts.

Joanne Cadis

When Joanne began her search for her Grandma Malvin Herskovits Berger family, all she knew was that they were from Hungary and she lost her whole family. She told me she was basically an orphan.

Her search began. Joanne found her grandmother's passport which had her emigrating in 1906 from Kassa, Hungary (today Košice, Slovakia.) She put down she was 16, from Recgec. She not only had her birth place wrong, but she never knew her correct birthdate. She made herself 1 year older.

Joanne knew her grandmother had two sisters and a brother. She told Joanne they all died from tuberculosis (TB) except her father, who was a rabbi, who died of a heart attack. It turned out she was born in Kis Tokaj, Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén Hungary.

Through Joanne's research, she found her grandmother's father died of TB too and she found records that he was a Rabbi as he officiated at many of his brothers' and sisters' marriages.

Joanne's grandmother had one sister who died at 17 and was buried in Jewish Neolog Cemetery in Kassa (Košice); her father was buried in the Orthodox Cemetery in Kassa. Joanne found both burials using [JewishGen \(www.JewishGen.org\)](http://www.JewishGen.org). Joanne was then

able to get the records with the help of Karesz Vander, a researcher in Budapest.

So many of the stories Joanne's Grandma told her about her family were incorrect but they were what she remembered.

Joanne found old letters (100 years old) and old photos that her Mother had saved from her grandparents. She was able to put together first names from a family photo and letters, and one Christmas card from 1947.

Joanne was able to find one living cousin, Judit Halmos and her family in Budapest. Judit's grandfather was a brother to Joanne's great-grandfather Moses Isak Herskovits.

There were many name changes. Judit's grandfather changed his name to Josef Halmos from Herskovits. Another brother changed from David Herskovits to Armin Halmos. The rest of the family remained Herskovits.

Joanne met Armin's great-grandson in New York where they got in touch through the JewishGen Family Finder and they have shared many records.



Joanne knew nothing of her grandmother's brother or sisters. She found her Grandmother Malvin's and her brother Jenó's birth certificates.

Additionally, Joanne found birth and death records for Moses Herskovits, her grandmother's father, and sister Iren Herskovits. Joanne also found her

grandmother's mother Hani's death record, 1901.

Through her research, Joanne also found a ship's manifest for her grandmother's sister Gizelle who immigrated to New York six months after her little sister. Thus far, she has not been able to find a death certificate in New York. However, Joanne did find her great-grandmother's and great great-grandmother's death records.

Joanne went with her cousin Judit Halmos to Miskolc to visit Avas Hill Cemetery to look for her great grandmother and great great-grandmother's tombstones and other family. She not only found both the great-grandmother and great great-grandmother's tombstones, but she found Jenó's grandmother's brother in a large old book of records. This provided Joanne with his death date that she could not find anywhere else. The cemetery caretaker promised to find his plot and tombstone and photograph them for me. This record was not anywhere on line.

Joanne traveled with her guide Karez Vandor to Košice to visit the cemetery but there was no caretaker. They did enter through a hole in the wall, but the cemetery was such a mess it was difficult to move around or find anything.

Joanne also found, five families from Hungary living in Israel that she visited last year.

One cousin living in Pittsburgh from her grandmother's mother's side is a 97 year old survivor of Auschwitz. Joanne has visited her a couple of times and talks with her a few times a week.

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Rose Topliss

Rose talked about visiting New Jersey where her sister still lives. Her sister has dementia and wanted to visit where their parents had a chicken ranch. While Rose had visited it many years ago she no longer had the directions or address written down.

Rose looked at the 1940 US census and found her parents' chicken farm listed on Palatine Road in Vineland, New Jersey. She didn't know there was more than one Palatine Road. When they drove to the Palatine Road they remembered, they could not find the property. They went to the tax assessor's office for help. Unfortunately the tax assessor's records did not go back further than 1950. One of the workers in the tax assessor's office was a friend of Rose's nephew and mentioned that Palatine Road was subdivided into three roads and they had been looking in the wrong area.

Rose went to the local Family History



Center to look up the address and family on Ancestry.com and found them on the correct Palatine

Road. They then went back to the

tax assessor's office to get information on the correct location. Rose's suggestion: Always record when you find something of importance in

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family history as you never know when you need that information again. It is also important to do these types of finding trips for the living especially for a dementia patient to whom it brought back memories and peace of mind.

Mike Sander

Mike was born outside the U. S. and does not have a birth certificate. He needed to have something to prove he was his parent's son. Mike found his parents' naturalization papers on Ancestry.com but he was not able to find his own. He was listed but he needed a certified copy of his parents' naturalization application papers. Non-certified versions were readily available from Ancestry.com.

Mike contacted the Los Angeles District Court for a copy of the records, but was



Mike Sanders

referred to the National Archives. Mike's wife Jane is a docent at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Museum which is under the

National Archives, but she was told that obtaining such records had to be done at the National Archives regional office in Perris, California. Mike filled out the form online, under the genealogy division.

<https://www.archives.gov/riverside/genealogy.html>

In order to get his own application form, presumably filled out by his parents, Mike

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had to fill out a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request since he is living and focus of the request. Four months later he heard back that the documents do not exist. Mike went to the Perris National Archive web site, filled out the request form for a certified copy of his parent's papers, and got them in the mail in two weeks. He was very impressed. Mike showed us the documentation he received, beautifully signed by the Chief Archivist. He also mentioned that, in a phone call with an Archive representative, he was invited to go to the facility to do research as needed.

Jan Meisels Allen

Jan presented a brick wall she is working on for her Perlo family genealogy. Jan's mother Dorothy was married twice. Her first marriage was to Harry Perlo born in Suwalki -then Poland now Lithuania- and most of his family was from Lomza, Poland. Jan descends from her mother's second marriage. Harry met Dorothy in New York City and he died at 37 from a heart attack leaving her with a 4 year old and being 6 months pregnant. Jan does the Perlo family genealogy for her late sister's children, grandchildren and their Perlo cousins. Recently, one of the Perlo cousins in Australia asked Jan to update the family tree and she has been contacting the Perlo's on 4 continents: Africa (Israel and South Africa) , Australia, Europe, and North America (Canada, Mexico and the US) to update and help her contact missing cousins.

She started with the most recent common ancestor, Izrael Wigdor Perla, who was her sister's great-grandfather and was married

three times. The first marriage to Dwerja Asz is from whom her sister descends. Jan is working on Izrael Wigdor's third marriage. The name of the wife is unknown to the family but what is known is that they had a daughter Hinda Rachel Perlo who married someone named Rozen (first name not known) and they had a son Victor Rozen. Victor was a physician and the General Secretary of Jewish Community of Uruguay in the mid-1970's. This was documented by a Google search which found translations of a document Victor sent to the American Jewish Joint Committee requesting funds for building a Jewish community center in Uruguay and his attending International Medical conferences in India and Mexico in the late 1970's and early 1980's. He also attended a Zionist Conference in Israel in the early 1970's. Victor's wife's name is not known but what is known is they had three children: Giselle, Dinorah and a son. Outside of Poland Jan found the name spelled both ways: Rosen and Rozen.

Jan is trying to get in touch with Victor's children. By posting on the JewishGen Discussion Group and the JewishGen Latin American SIG several people reached out to assist her. One person in Uruguay called a person listed in the Uruguay telephone directory named Giselle Rosen. This was not the correct



person, but she did say that she had known the family and did advise that the Gisele Jan was searching for was in Israel and had been for a number of years. Dinorah lived in Uruguay. She did not have any contact information nor the name of the son or either of the women's married names.

Jan tried to locate Dinorah via Facebook, asking two people to try to "friend" a Dinorah Rosen-Feldman who is an accountant...one writing in English the other in Spanish. This Dinorah, who may not be the correct person, never replied. Jan also tried to reach out to her on LinkedIn to no avail.

Also contacted was every synagogue and Jewish community center listed for Uruguay on Google. Jan wrote in English and one of the people who reached out to Jan from her JewishGen posting wrote in Spanish. No responses. There are approximately 10,000 Jews in Uruguay.

As Giselle was supposedly in Israel, Jan asked Michael Goldstein, a professional genealogist based in Israel, and IAJGS immediate past president if he could help. As we don't have her mother's name it is virtually impossible to search her immigration to Israel. From some of the Perlo cousins, we know she lived on a kibbutz established by people from Latin America in the 1970s. What Jan found is that there are many such kibbutzim. Jan also asked Daniel Horowitz of MyHeritage, based in Israel, if they had such a person was in their database, but unfortunately she was not included.

Jan asked JGSCV attendees for suggestions for other ways to find the descendants of

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Victor Rosen-Perlo (in Latin America the mother's maiden name is attached to the surname—a helpful tool for genealogists.) One of the JGSCV members who has a friend who used to live in Uruguay and has relatives there, was put in touch with Jan for information to see if they can help find Victor's children. Another member suggested she try to obtain the birth certificates for the children. But Jan is not certain that the government would provide those if they are still living. Evidently, Latin American birth certificates have information on both the parents and grandparents contained on the certificates.

Since the JGSCV meeting, Jan has heard back from the chief rabbi in Uruguay—he responded for the kehila, plus she found

him on LinkedIn. In searching the kehila records they have nothing for the children of Victor although the elders of the kehila remember Victor, before his death. One of the Mexican Perlo cousins responded and gave Jan the name of Victor's son and that he is a soccer coach in Europe. She found him on LinkedIn and wrote to him and he immediately responded and provided his sister Giselle's email in Israel where he was visiting. her and their mother! Now if they will answer her questions-time will tell. The brick wall has become a genealogical success!

It takes a long time to break down brick walls, but the key is not to give up as new information becomes available all the time.

Debra Kay-Blatt Retires from JGSCV Board

Debra Kay-Blatt is a founding member of JGSCV and an original board member first elected to serve in 2005. Debra has held various positions on the JGSCV Board of Directors over her almost 11 years on the board, most recently as Secretary and Information Officer. Debra also named our newsletter, *Venturing Into Our Past*, working Ventura into its name.



Debra has been researching her roots for 12 years and has lectured at IAJGS conferences internationally. She has presented to JGSCV and has facilitated our “schmoozing corner”. She has published in the *Kielce-Radom Special Interest Journal* and is a volunteer for JewishGen, JRI-Poland, and the Lodz Area Research Group.

In her non-genealogy life, Debra is a very busy family law attorney in Westlake Village. This is why she has found she has to resign before the end of the year—her business schedule is too busy to continue to be on the Board. Debra will continue to be in charge of JGSCV's Facebook Page and of course remains a member. Debra is married to JGSCV board and founding member Warren Blatt, managing director, JewishGen. She is the mother of three grown children.

August, 2016

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

New Additions to the JGSCV Libraries

Since we reported in February 2016's newsletter the following books have been added to the JGSCV library. If you have genealogically relevant books that you would like to donate, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. The books in the traveling library are categorized A, B, C or D. Those without a letter categorization are in our Permanent Library. The majority of our books are now housed at the Agoura Hills Library, a branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library. A full list of all of our permanent and traveling library holdings may be found on the website: www.jgscv.org.

A. Levy A History by Bank of A Levy The Donning Company Virginia

Guess Who's Jewish In American History: From Wyatt Earp's Wife to Sandy Koufax. Lionel Koppman and Bernard Postal New American Library New York, NY 1978

Jews In the Great War: Family Histories Retold Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles Lois Ogilby Rosen Los Angeles, CA 2015

Jews on the Frontier: An Account of Jewish Pioneers and Settlers in Early America Rabbi I. Harold Scharfman Henry Regnery Co Chicago, IL 1977

New York Family History Research Guide and Gazetteer Additions and Corrections published January 2015 Second edition. NY Genealogical and Biographical Society NY May 2016

Popular History of Jewish Civilization:Germany Compiled by: Stuart Cohen Leon Amiel Publisher New York 1974

Ruby of Cochin: An Indian Jewish Woman Remembers Ruby Daniel and Barbara C. Johnston Jewish Publication Society, Philadelphia, PA 1995

Summer Haven: The Catskills, the Holocaust, and the Literary Imagination Ed Holli Levitsky and Phil Brown Academic Studies Press, Boston, MA 2016

The London Committee of Deputies of the British Jews Generally Known as the Board of Deputies of British Jews Annual Report for 1933 London, England Woburn House 1934



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VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Safe Computing: Passwords

Tenth in a series

By Hal Bookbinder



We all know that we should be careful about selecting, protecting and changing passwords. But, how can you do this when you are told to

maintain different passwords for your various websites, that they must be long and complicated, that you should not write them down and you should change them frequently. Impossible! Right? While this may be an annoying challenge, it is not nearly as bad as suffering an attack in which your accounts are emptied or critical personal information is stolen.

Passwords should not include any information that could be found about you. You mention that “blue” is your favorite color on Facebook. Your bio says you were born in the “Bronx”. You occasionally mention your dog “Scoobie” in emails. These bits of information provide a great start in guessing your password. Don’t use family names, pet names, towns or streets where you now or have ever lived, phone numbers or favorite colors, foods, songs, movies or drinks. Simply putting a “1” at the end won’t help. Hackers will use automation to try all these things and will add digits and special characters.

Don’t use simple sequences like “ABCD”, “4321”, “1111”, “1a2b3c4d”, or “1234ABCD”. Don’t use “QWERTY”, “14789” or any other simple string of characters from your keyboard or phone keypad. If it is simple to remember, it is simple for the hacker to crack. The hacker’s automated tool will attempt all of these predictable sequences.

The best passwords are random collections of upper and lower case letters, numbers and

special characters. But these are generally impossible to remember. So, your best bet is to choose a couple of unrelated words and combine them, with a digit or two and a special character or two. So, say you choose “Home” and “Spring” and make the password “Home4Spring5!” or the slightly more complicated, “HoMe4SpRiNg5!”.

Realistically, if you have a half dozen or more of these you will have a hard time remembering them. But, if you write them down, this list could fall into the wrong hands. I record them in a password-protected file on my encrypted computer. So, I just have to remember one complex password, the one to open this file.

This is a low tech version of a password wallet - an online tool which keeps all of your passwords and provides them as needed directly when needed. Better wallets will even generate new complex passwords as required. Then, you could have a hundred complex passwords, all different. You will need to remember just one password, the one to authorize and access your password wallet.

While you can pay for an encrypted USB stick or a software based password wallet, there are excellent free services as well. One is “dashlane.com”. But, you still have the challenge of remembering that one complex password to get into your password wallet. Ok, write it down, just in case you forget, and store it in a safe place, like your safe deposit box - and not on the back of a business card in your wallet!

This is the tenth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding Board Member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and his online skills are well documented.

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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IAJGS LIVE!

Watch some of the best programs from the 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle, August 7-12, 2016, brought to you LIVE! over the Internet for viewing on your computer, tablet, or smartphone. IAJGS Conference LIVE! uses the latest in video broadcast technology to stream lectures in real time from the conference to your computer or mobile device. You'll hear lectures presented by Jewish genealogical experts from around the world. LIVE! video displays each speaker's presentation interlaced with the speaker's slides.

Don't worry if you miss a LIVE! streamed session. On-demand access is available for up to 3 months after the conference (until Monday, November 10, 2016). Handouts, when provided by the speaker, are also available for download.

Sessions scheduled for LIVE! will be available just before the conference. Actual number of programs will be determined at broadcast time. Go to www.iajgs2016.org click on *LIVE AND RECORDINGS* at the top.

Ventura County Fair



Once again the Ventura County Fair (August 3-14) will take place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds located at 10

W. Harbor Blvd. in Ventura. This year's theme is: "A Country Fair with Ocean Air." Genealogical awards and prizes are offered as part of the Hobbies Department. For entry details go to: <http://www.venturacountyfair.org/hobbies/>.

While it is too late to enter for genealogical awards, it is never too late to volunteer. JGSCV members have volunteered in past years in the genealogy booth and enjoyed it! Genealogy volunteers are needed for each day. Volunteers participate in 4 hour shifts 10:30

a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. There are no parking passes for volunteers. It is suggested to use the park and ride at the Stanley Avenue exit off the 33. They say it is small, well lit and does not have a line!

It is best if volunteers are familiar with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org as well as other popular programs to show the fair attendees how genealogy is researched. Training sessions will be held for those needing an update on the latest programs. Volunteers are admitted to the Fair free but there are no parking privileges.

If you are interested in volunteering please email Bettye Berg at bettyeberg@yahoo.com

Genealogy Odds and Ends

Passport applications hold information of interest for genealogists. Those that are available online are 1906 to 1925 and may be found on Ancestry and FamilySearch. The U.S. State Department has passport applications on microfilm for the years 1795 to 1905 and January 2, 1906 –March 31, 1925. Lisa Louise Cooke recently posted about this in her *Genealogy Gems* blog see: <http://lisalouisecooke.com/2016/07/find-recent-genealogy-records/>.

What about passport applications after 1925?

The Passport Services maintains U.S. passport records from 1925 to the present, which are protected by the Privacy Act of 1974. For more information see:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports/services/obtain-copies-of-passport-records.html>

If you are a third-party who is making the inquiry it falls under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) which can be ordered by mail. Send your request to:

U.S. Department of State
Office of Law Enforcement Liaison
FOIA Officer
44132 Mercure Cir
P.O. Box 1227
Sterling, VA 20166

JRI-Poland has acquired more vital records from the Tarnow branch of the Polish State Archives from the town of Dabrowa Tarnowska.

The index of Dabrowa PSA data, which previously covered Births in years up through 1913, has now been extended to the new limit of the recent Polish privacy law changes. For the first time we have Marriage and Death records from this town, since no records of these types seem to have survived from the earlier years. JRI-Poland now has the index of surviving records of those types up through 1935, and has also acquired one more year of Births, from 1915. This update adds about 1500 new vital records from Dabrowa Tarnowska.

While not every year is present in this new data, many are.

Until JRI-Poland recovers the cost incurred to acquire these records, this new data will not be available online. However, a qualified contribution of \$75 allows access.

This is a new Dabrowa Tarnowska PSA Project (B 1915, MD 1915-1935).

The Qualifying Contribution required to access the data before it has been fully funded (and becomes available online) is \$75.

Information about various ways of contributing can be found at: <http://jri-poland.org/support.htm>

You can also track the project status online: http://jri-poland.org/town/dabrowa_tarnows.htm

Please indicate the allocation of your contribution as "Dabrowa Tarnowska PSA".

Please contact Howard Fink, JRI-Poland Tarnow Archives Coordinator if you would like to know if a (short) list of your specific family members are present in this new data: genKnowHow@gmail.com

Future Meeting Dates through August 2017

Sunday afternoons starting at 1:30

Monday evenings starting at 7:00

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.
Remember to check the website and this newsletter for
future updates

2016

*August No Meeting IAJGS International Conference August 7-12 Seattle, WA

*September 11 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Joel Weintraub
"Manifest Destiny - Names at Ellis Island"

*October 16 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Judy Russell, The
Legal Genealogist". "Through the Golden Door - Immigration After
the Civil" JGSCV's 11th Anniversary

*November 7 **MONDAY 7:00-9:00** pm Speaker: Janice Sellers,
"Read All About It: Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical
Research"

*December 4 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Annual Chanukah Celebration
and Membership Meeting Speaker: Karen Franklin "The Stedman
Story - Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA: Jewish Genealogy
Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery"

2017

*January 8 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Warren Blatt "Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research"

*February 12 Sunday 1:00-5:00 pm Assisted Research Afternoon at LA FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

*March 6 MONDAY 7:00-9:00 pm Program To Be Announced

*April 2 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Annual Yom Hashoah Commemoration, Program To Be Announced

*May 7 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Program To Be Announced

*June 4 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Program To Be Announced

*July No Meeting - IAJGS Conference 7/23-28 Orlando, FL

*August 6 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Genealogy In the Round where members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts

Programs are subject to change - check JGSCV website www.jgscv.org

Remember

No Meeting in August! Next Meeting is
September 11th at 1:30PM

If you're not attending the IAJGS Conference in Seattle,
you can follow along at LIVE! Details on page 17