

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

September 2016

Volume 11 Issue 12

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Welcome back from your JGSCV vacation! We did not meet in August due to the IAJGS annual conference in Seattle. It was a great conference and Seattle is a beautiful city! JGSCV not only had 16 attendees, but some of our members were speakers: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Andrea Massion and Marion Werle. See the summary of the conference starting on page 6. In addition, JGSCV non-subscription database links were on each of the 25 computers for the conference attendees to research. If you have not made use of JGSCV's Resources listed on our website: www.jgscv.org under "resources" you are missing opportunities to help you with your research. Our resource links are updated twice a year thanks to our webmaster, David Oseas.

The JGSCV Nominations Committee has been contacting members who are eligible to run for the JGSCV Board later this year. As you may recall, our secretary has retired from the board and we are in need of a Secretary. I hope some of you who Hal Bookbinder contacted will reply affirmatively. The Board meets 6-8 times a year and many of the meetings are immediately following our programs on Sunday. There are also some evening board meetings including our critical planning and budgeting meeting each February. Most board meetings last about 45 minutes—there are exceptions, especially for the annual planning/budgeting meeting which may run double that time. We are extending the September 1st



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.

application deadline in the hopes that a volunteer will come forward. The application is located on www.jgscv.org website under both the "Welcome" tab and the "Contact Us" tab.

JGSCV relies on two outside sources for our budget—we do not collect enough in dues to pay for programming and other things we do each year. The two outside sources for revenue are Amazon.com and Ralphs Community Program. **September 1st every year, Ralphs requires all those previously registered to register again.** To read how to re-register, or register for the first time see page 20-21 or our website: www.jgscv.org under "notices". We rely on both members and non-members to support JGSCV through these two programs.

Hal Bookbinder's article as part of the safe computing series is on page 16. It's on Sharing Family Trees and Identity Theft.

If any JGSCV members helped out at the Ventura County Fair, please let me know and share your experience.

Our 2017 annual membership drive begins October 1st. For 2016 we are at 151 members—slightly behind where we were last year at this time. JGSCV membership renewal forms for 2017 are posted to the JGSCV website under "About JGSCV" and Membership. Forms will be available at our 11th anniversary meeting on October 16th and in *Venturing Into Our Past* starting with the October issue. There are many benefits to being a JGSCV member besides the obvious one of learning from and interacting with others who share a common passion for genealogy.

Please consider sharing a genealogical technique or insight at the beginning of a JGSCV meeting. Preceding most programs, a JGSCV member may present a "5-Minute Genealogical Hint" that would be helpful to others. Volunteers have made interesting presentations such as techniques for searching newspapers and using Yizkor books. Those interested please contact me at president@jgscv.org

Several of the JGSCV Board members who attended the conference, had the opportunity to hear our September 11th speaker, Joel Weintraub, give his presentation, "Manifest Destiny - Names at Ellis Island". We all learned a lot and it was an enjoyable and engaging program. Come to the next meeting and hear Joel give that presentation. Most of us fall into the category of "about 70% of immigrants to the U.S. during 1892 through 1924 came through the Ellis Island immigration station".

Looking forward to everyone attending on September 11th!



Jan Meisels Allen

Page Three: May it be written and may it be sealed that this new year brings health, prosperity, joy and happiness to all.



Genealogy Gems On YouTube

One could spend hours watching Lisa Louise Cooke's library of Genealogy Gems video tips on YouTube.

Tech Tip: Google Books Image Search for Genealogy and Family History Research demonstrates not only how to best use Google Books, but to use it to search for maps, photos or illustrations that are relevant to your research.

Other video Gems include interviews, tips, and technical advice. There's some on DNA analysis, and one on enticing young people to the world of their family history. Go to YouTube.com and search for Lisa Louise Cook or Genealogy Gems.

JGSCV president, Jan Meisels Allen has just announced that we will get more Google & Genealogy insights when expert Mary Kozy visits us on March 6th!

JewishGen offers class:
Brick Wall or Dead End?

Starting September 9, the education department of Jewish Gen is offering their popular class *Brick Wall or Dead End?* for researchers who are at a standstill in their research and need new ideas.

If you feel that you have exhausted all approaches and want new solutions, this class offers one-on-one mentoring in an educational forum setting open 24/7.

Requirements: Students must have done enough research to have reached a point where help is needed. Students should feel comfortable with computers and Internet searches.

The dates are September 9 - September 30. Tuition is \$125. An application is required. See course details at www.JewishGen.org/education

Organized Search for Inquisition Archives in South America Begins

Genie Milgrom, author of *How I Found My 15 Grandmothers*, Sallyann Sack, editor and co-owner of AVOTAYNU, and Ambassador Neville Lamdan, chairman of the board of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy (IJG) in Israel have founded the **Converso Genealogy Project**. At a panel discussion as part of the International Jewish Genealogy Conference in Seattle (August 2016), Milgrom and Sacks out-lined the goals for the Converso Project: to establish a comprehensive genealogical database of the diaspora of the New Christians, Jews who converted to Christianity more than five centuries ago in Spain and Portugal including their descendants up to the end of the 18th century. Wherever there were Inquisition Tribunals in South American and Mexico, there are records, announced the panel, which included Professor Abraham Gross of Ben Gurion University in Israel, head of the [Institute for Sefardi and Anousim Studies](http://www.institute-for-sefardi.org/) at Netanya Academic College.

An article at Avotaynu Online by Milgrom goes into further detail:

"To reach these goals, large swaths of data must be analyzed not only to follow the diaspora of the New Christians, but also to track their migratory patterns and genealogical data. To do this, we have analyzed the different sources and information that exist, but mostly have been hidden and/or unused by scholars. Among the sources are the original Inquisition records of Spain, Portugal and other outlying Inquisition tribunals in Mexico, Columbia, Peru and elsewhere."

Find the full text of Milgram's article and historical background at

<http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2016/08/launching-the-converso-genealogy-project-tracking-the-diaspora-of-the-new-christians/>



Above: Ventura Highway in Camarillo circa 1900's

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 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 Joel! 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.

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

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

at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one here). 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. Werner will facilitate the SCHMOOZING CORNER on Sept. 11.

“Safe Computing” by Hal Bookbinder is on page 16.



Genealogy Odds and Ends

on page 18 has insights on the release of NYC marriage license records.

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 . . .



The 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen

The IAJGS conference met for the first time in the Pacific Northwest: Seattle Washington. It was an excellent conference. The program and locale were great! The conference co-chairs: Janette Silverman, lead co-chair; Phyllis Grossman, local co-chair and Chuck Weinstein are rightfully kvelling! An app including an electronic daily planner provided easy access to the program and more. Sixteen JGSCV members attended the conference and several of our members were presenters: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Andrea Massion and Marion Werle.

Including LIVE!, there were approximately 1,100 attendees who enjoyed about 300 programs, workshops and luncheons. More than three out of every 10 attendees were first time attendees! That many new people interested in attending the conference is very rewarding for the growth of societies—potential new

members. There were attendees from 18 countries: Australia, Brazil, Canada, Columbia, Czech Republic, England, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Scotland, Slovenia, Sweden, Ukraine, and the USA. On Sunday there was also a SHARE Fair (SIGS and BOFs, Historical Societies, Archives, Repositories, Eminent local JGSs). This provided the opportunity for attendees to spend time at different tables to learn and mingle!

LIVE!

It is not too late to subscribe to LIVE offering over 40 sessions, including Devin Naar's keynote and Judy Russell's banquet talk. You still sign up for LIVE!'s on-demand service that will let you watch many of the best sessions of the conference. Online subscriptions remain available for 90 days of on-demand viewing for \$179. On-demand viewing is good through November 12, 2016. Go

to: https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2016/registration_form.cfm to subscribe if you were not registered for the conference. If you attended the conference go to your conference registration and log in with your conference password and email address. To see which sessions were recorded by LIVE go to the program and it will be listed next to the session: http://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2016/program_schedule.cfm

IAJGS Board

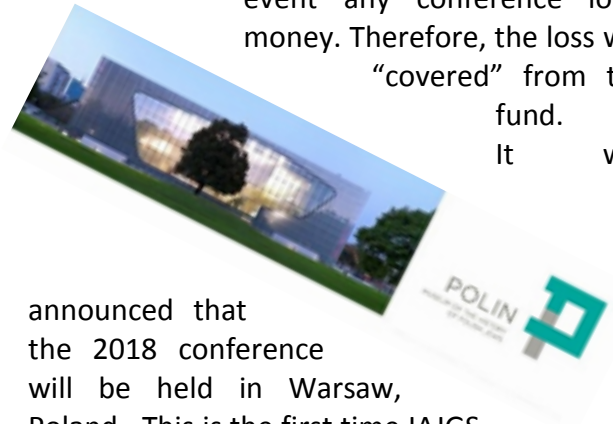
IAJGS Board elections for directors-at-large occur during even numbered years, while officers are elected during the odd-numbered years. This year’s election for directors at large was contested with two people running from the floor whose applications were not accepted by the Nominations Committee. One person on the Nominations Committee slate withdrew their name from consideration 24 hours before the election. There were six open slots and 7 people who were running (two from the floor). The results were all five on the slate were elected as was one person from the floor. The board members were elected for a two-year term. The 2016-2018 IAJGS directors-at-large are: Nolan Altman (JGSLI); Quinton Atkinson (JGS Utah), Jane Rosen Berenbeim (JGS, Inc. NY), Daniel Horowitz (IGRA), Binny Lewis (Yeshiva University Discovery Society) and Shipley Munson (JGS Utah).

A new JGS was added to the membership during the IAJGS board meeting preceding the beginning of the conference: JGS New Mexico. This brings the number of IAJGS Member societies to 74. Since the 2015 Annual conference, the Minnesota Jewish Genealogical Society joined in October 2015 and an associate member, Bene Israel Heritage Museum and Genealogical Research Centre in Mumbai India also joined IAJGS.

For the first time in IAJGS conference history, the 2015 Conference in Israel lost money. Previous conferences either broke-even or made money. Lessons learned are being adopted so this does not reoccur. An extensive discussion on this was held during the annual

meeting. IAJGS has a conference fund to help prepay conference expenses as IAJGS is involved with three conferences concurrently: the current conference and the next two years. The fund was also developed in the unlikely event any conference loses money. Therefore, the loss was

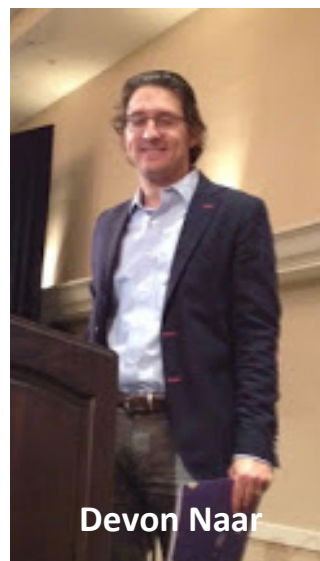
“covered” from this fund. It was



announced that the 2018 conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland. This is the first time IAJGS will be holding a conference in Eastern Europe and we are all thrilled. Partners for this conference include the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews and the Jewish Historical Institute. The conference will be held within the POLIN Museum. Hotels and dates will be announced shortly.

(Next year’s conference will be held in Orlando, FL see: <http://www.iajgs.org/blog/orlando-2017/>)

Keynote Speaker Devan Naar, University of Washington



Devan Naar

Seattle has the third largest Sephardic population in the United States, after Miami and New York City. Professor Naar gave an erudite and interesting discussion of his family’s history stating with the Inquisition to Amsterdam to Curacao. His family

tree is at the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, OH. Professor Naar found a manuscript in Amsterdam from the 1600’s. His

family started in 1492 in Lisbon then went to Southwest France, Antwerp Belgium, then to Amsterdam, the Netherlands which became the capitol of conversions who fled the Inquisition and reclaimed their Jewish history.

His genealogical journey started with studying two different Naar families from New Jersey – originally one from the Caribbean and the other from Salonika. Salonika, also known as Thessaloniki, had the highest Jewish death rate in World War II. Almost all of the 60,000 Jews of Salonika were transported to Auschwitz-Birkenau and by the end of the war only 1,200 were still living. He has yet to make the connection but believes eventually with the help of DNA they will turn out to be related.

There were a number of programs devoted to Sephardic genealogy at the conference.

The following tidbits from different programs are based on some of the sessions I attended. There were many concurrent sessions and it was difficult to select which to attend.

JewishGen

Warren Blatt, managing director of JewishGen and founding member and board member of JGSCV, made several announcements that may be of interest to JGSCV members. JewishGen started a new data sharing initiative with Gesher Galicia. When searching the All Galicia Database at <http://search.geshergalicia.org/> you can find links to matching search results in relevant databases at JewishGen. If you search the All-Ukraine Database or All-Poland Database at the bottom of their page of results you will see relevant matches in the All Galicia Databases.

Warren also talked about JewishGen's databases ranging from the Family Finder with 100,000 researchers worldwide and 500,000 surnames and towns listed. He also talked about the one million historical records they acquired over the past year bringing the number of records added to JewishGen to almost 2.5 million records including JRI-Poland and Gesher Galicia. The website has 150,000 webpages and a database listing 20 million records. Some of the highlights included:

- Yizkor Book Project added 27 new book translations; and continued 316 translations
- Yizkor Book in Print added 8 books this year for a total of 47 books representing 3,500 copies sold
- Kehila Links added 31 new communities, 81 are in progress with almost 900 communities online
- JewishGen Education program has 15 courses; thus far they offered 99 courses with 3,000 students
- Viewmate had 500 images submitted over the past year and has archived over 40,000 images
- JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) where one can connect with people researching the same name and/or ancestral towns has 500,000 ancestral towns and surnames representing over 100,000 researchers worldwide
- JOWBR the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry added 438,000 records from 964 cemeteries
- The Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) now had 6,000 GEDcom trees

Michael Tobias, JewishGen' staff in Glasgow Scotland also updated us about new data bases and "fuzzy matches"- actual spelling is incorrect by one or two letters - as well as links to Family History Library images and more.

JGSLA-Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture

Hal Bookbinder, Nancy Biederman and I represent the JGSLA Pamela-Weisberger Memorial Committee. We are also all members of JGSCV. Pamela died unexpectedly last September, and was a major force in Jewish genealogy. In conjunction with Pamela's family, It was decided that an appropriate method to perpetuate her memory would be a lecture series. JGSLA, where she was VP of Programming for 10 years at the time of her death, will hold a series of lectures at IAJGS and

other genealogical conferences Pamela participated. This conference included the first lecture in her memory.

Professor Samuel Kassow, a distinguished historian and professor of history at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut was the lecturer. He was superb! His talk, *History and Catastrophe: The Secret Warsaw Ghetto Archive*



Professor Kassow

of Emanuel Ringleblum.

During World War II Jews resisted not only with guns but also with pen and paper. Even in the face of death they left "time

capsules" full of documents that they buried under the rubble of ghettos and death camps. The Ringelblum archive in the Warsaw Ghetto buried thousands of documents. But of the 60 people who worked on this national mission, only three survived. The archive known as "Oneg Shabbas" ("Sabbath pleasure") archive, the largest such archive, began in 1941 and placed the essays in milk cans.

The writings describe what happened to the people in the Warsaw ghetto –how they lived—the good and bad "actions" of the people. It was Ringleblum's mission to record this history to write everything down –"don't wait as we don't know if tomorrow we are alive or be the same person." In 1942, Ringleblum was caught and sent to the Trawniki Labor Camp where he escaped, but in 1943 he went back to South Warsaw where his family and 34 other Jews were hiding. The hideout was found in March 1944 and he, his family and the other Jews were taken to the ghetto ruins and murdered.



Finding the Cache

The archive was kept in three milk cans. The first was found in 1946 the second in 1950. One cache is still not found—it is assumed to be buried under the Chinese Embassy. There are 25,000-30,000 documents and the 500-page catalogue is at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Professor's Kassow's book on his research of the Archive is "*Who Will Write Their History*" and is available from Amazon.com.

Roberta Grossman and Nancy Spielberg are currently working on a documentary film based



There were a number of non-JGSCV-member speakers at the

conference that JGSCV has had speak to us in the past: Ron Arons, Crista Cowan, Schelly Talalay Dardashti, Emily Garber, Daniel Horowitz, David Laskin, Genie Milgrom, Steve Morse and Joel Weintraub. There were speakers that are going to speak to JGSCV during the forthcoming year: Karen Franklin, Judy Russell, Janice Sellers and Joel Weintraub and some to be announced.

Banquet Keynote Speaker: Judy Russell the Legal Genealogist

Judy gave her presentation, *Don't Forget the Ladies: A Genealogist's Look at Women and the Law*. In early America, women were all too often the people who just weren't there: not in the records, not in the censuses, not on juries, not in the voting booth. The common law relegated women to "protected", second-class status and understanding how they were treated under the law provides clues to finding their identities today. This was based on the English legal system which was not germane to women. Females could be given in marriage at age 7, have dower rights starting at age 9 and consent to marriage at age 12, and be a

guardian of property at age 14. Women were not free to remarry after divorce, nor could

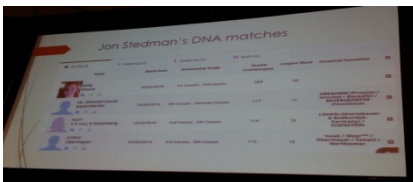


they sue on their own need. Judy added some Jewish relevant records to her lecture which turned out to be of interest to one of the attendees! Judy was showing a New York City death record of a Sarah Morris who died in 1956 which included three

generations of women's names on the death certificate: the deceased, her mother's name and her daughter's married name. Coincidentally, the death certificate was that of Emily Garber's great grandmother. Emily was a speaker at JGSCV earlier this year. Judy will be our speaker for our 11th anniversary on October 16—giving a different program.

Karen Franklin: DNA Leads an Adopted Daughter to her Birth Mother: Kelly's Story.

I won't tell you much about this excellent presentation as Karen will be giving it to us for our December program. However, talk about serendipity! A slide with the three closest DNA matches to her relative,



Jon Stedman showed a

'Ruth Rosenberg'.

At that point, Jeanette Rosenberg OBE from England, arose from the audience to announce *it was her mother*—who is still living. Shortly thereafter others in the audience stated their DNA test results showed they were also distantly related to Stedman. Kelly, the adopted daughter of a granddaughter of Stedman who also presented, had her birth mother and other relatives in the audience, as well. By the time the presentation was over, a number of previously unknown relatives, got to meet! A very moving experience for all.

Joel Weintraub: Manifest Destiny-Names at Ellis Island

I won't say much on this excellent presentation either as Joel is our September 11 program speaker giving this lecture. Having heard it at Seattle I know you will enjoy and learn from this engaging program. Guaranteed you will learn something about Ellis Island that you did not know before hearing Joel.

Sub-Carpathian SIG

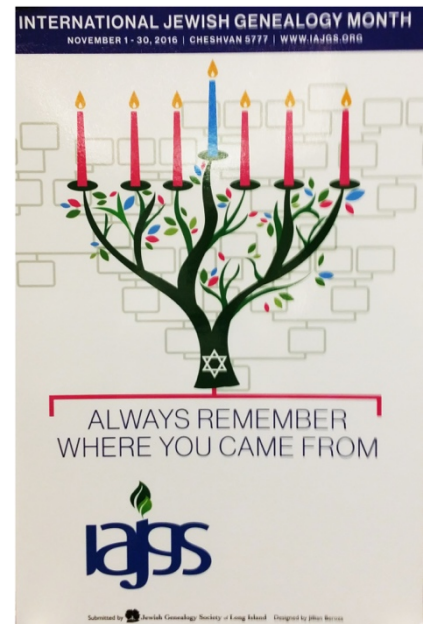
A new SIG coordinator was announced: Lara Diamond, who is the president of the JGS of Maryland.

International Jewish Genealogy Month Poster

Each year IAJGS runs a contest for design of the International Jewish Genealogy Month poster which is celebrated during the month of Chesvan.

This year's poster contest was won by

Jillian Beroza from JGS Long Island.



Awards

One of the activities at the annual banquet is the presentation of IAJGS awards.

Lifetime Achievement: Ron Doctor

In recognition of his lifetime of service to Jewish genealogy through his leadership as president of the JGS of Oregon and the Kremenets District Group, Ukraine SIG leader and service on IAJGS committees. He has worked tirelessly to elevate and enhance the Ukraine SIG; energizing volunteers, nurturing the formation of numerous town research groups, made hundreds of thousands of vital records accessible and provided online availability of

Ukrainian information available through an agreement with the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) in Jerusalem. So many individuals are indebted to Ron for his help in discovering their ancestors. JGSCV submitted a letter in support of Ron's nomination for this award.

Outstanding Project/Resource/Program: Lance Ackerfeld JewishGen Yizkor Book Project

In recognition of being the coordinator of the JewishGen Yizkor Books Project for the past 17 years and for the last seven years, as Yizkor Book Project Manager, utilizing his skills in software development and database programming, and allocating and coordinating the work of translating and editing these books. These books are a vital component for genealogists and historians to learn about so many lost Jewish communities. Today there are around 800 books in the project and many are being translated and/or edited and regularly updated. One can tell from Lance's regular monthly updates on the JewishGen forum how much work is being done and in such a highly professional manner.

Outstanding Project/Resource/Program: Shelly Talalay Dardashti For Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog and Facebook website.

In recognition of Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog and Facebook website. These electronic media resources have become a mainstay of Jewish genealogy information and education on the web, leading the way in the medium, pointing out new resources, popularizing less known ones and keeping us informed of IAJGS conference proceedings and news, as well as other essential Jewish genealogy news.

Outstanding Publication: Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island's Photographic history of the Jewish Community of Long Island.

In recognition of JGS of Long Island's photographic history of the Jewish Community of Long Island in the Images of America series of books. Taking the reader from the 1800s through to the present, the gorgeous series of

photographs with well researched captions captures the ebb and flow of the community from growth through to decline and even the severe challenges of prejudice in the era of the KKK and American Nazi party. This is a classic publication that is sure to spur greater research of the Jewish communities of Long Island.

IAJGS Member of the Year: Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island

In recognition of the society's numerous successful efforts in a variety of areas, gaining a reputation for an active board and membership that is willing to try new ideas to promote and educate those interested in Jewish genealogical research. This includes innovative resources and tools (including their YouTube channel) non-traditional, creative programming, development of databases and use of electronic media such as JGSLI Online and Lineage, a redesign of its website and its recent publication, the Jewish Community of Long Island.

Volunteer of the Year 2016: Marelynn Zipser

In recognition of her knowledge of Hungarian genealogy and her accomplishment transcribing all the Jewish vital records from Pozsony, now Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia. She has now transcribed close to 150,000 records that comprise more than 14 percent of a very large multi-source database. She has worked on numerous other towns and has proofed many of the most difficult records the Hungarian SIG has encountered. In total, she has transcribed over 65,000 vital records and an equal amount of census records. She sets the highest standard for contributing to Jewish genealogical research.

Stern and Stedman Awards

Each year the IAJGS awards grants that advance the work of Jewish genealogy. There were seven applicants this year and the Committee awarded two grants-the maximum permitted. One grant in the amount of \$3,000 is to honor the late Rabbi Malcolm Stern, widely considered to be the dean of American Jewish genealogy. Funding is by voluntary donations

from the IAJGS members. (The voluntary \$1.00 contribution requested per member listed on the JGSCV membership form is how JGSCV contributes to this fund.) This year the awardee is the A Nação Hebrea for a Relational Prosopographic database of the Portuguese Jewish Nations 1500-1800. (Prosopography is an investigation of the common characteristics of a historical group, whose individual biographies may be largely untraceable, by means of a collective study of their lives, in multiple carrier-line analysis.)

The second award is The John Stedman Memorial Grant also for \$3,000. IAJGS was a recipient of a gift from the estate of Jon Stedman to honor his late father, John Stedman. This year's awardee Romanian Special Interest Group (ROM-SIG) for Iasi Death Records Acquisition and Transcription.

IAJGS Salutes!

IAJGS Salutes! Regularly provides recognition of noteworthy projects, activities and accomplishments relating to Jewish genealogy in addition to the annual IAJGS achievement awards.

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

As genealogists and family historians, we can all appreciate the importance of access to records from archives, libraries and other institutions around the world. We would like to recognize the dedication and enthusiasm that the members of the IAJGS' Public Records Access Monitoring Committee (PRAMC) put forth for the benefit of researchers to keep access to vital records open to the public. The members of PRAMC are not only our eyes and ears as to what restrictions in access might be planned; they also assist the Board of the IAJGS in responding to the activities and proposals of libraries and other repositories, and to pending legislation, through public and private activities. In addition, they communicate their findings and updates via bi-monthly Records Access Alerts to registered parties. (Interested individuals can register at

<http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/listinfo/records-access-alerts>). The Committee is led by long time Chair Jan Meisels Allen (Agoura Hills, California) and includes Teven Laxer (Sacramento, California), David Ockene (Mount Vernon, NY), Kenneth R. Ryesky, Esq. (Petach Tikva, Israel), Paul Silverstone (New York, New York), Joel Spector (Cherry Hill, New Jersey), Amy Wachs (Lyndhurst, Ohio), Catherine Youngren (Coquitlam, British Columbia, Canada) and ex officio member Marlis Humphrey (Melbourne Beach, FL).

Genie Milgrom

Genie Milgrom, a descent of forced converts from Judaism to Catholicism, has been assisting countless others in researching their lineage and ultimately reconnecting with their Jewish roots as descendants of Jewish Spanish and Portuguese communities. Last fall, Genie participated in the Inaugural Session of the Knesset Caucus for the Reconnection with the Descendants of Spanish and Portuguese Jewish Communities and the conference, The Anousim Diaspora Today: Jewish Challenge and Hope. Genie both speaks as a voice of these descendants, the bnei anousim, making the case to accept them back and helping them to discover their lineage, but also assists them in their research. Genie has published three books (My 15 Grandmothers, How I found My 15 Grandmothers and Mis 15 Abuelas) detailing her personal research over 15 generations and instructing others in the methods of researching their Jewish Ancestry through 500 years under and through the records of the Catholic Church. She has authored dozens of articles on this topic in both English and Spanish. She gives lectures worldwide at her own expense. She is known for the wealth of information that she freely shares. Many bnei anousim are not even sure they are bnei anousim. They don't know where to start with their research. Genie has helped turn on the lights, open the door, and provide a methodology and path for them to follow – reconnecting generation to generation.

Brooke Schreier Ganz & Reclaim the Records

Brooke Schreier Ganz, genealogist, has become an open government advocate. She is collecting information about archivally important data sets that are not currently available online or on microfilm and is using Freedom of Information laws and Open Data initiatives to get copies of this information. These record sets are then put online, for free, and for everyone. Brooke started working in archives, libraries, and government agencies in NY, NJ, and Missouri, and her “Reclaim the Records” initiative is expanding further into different parts of the country. She is documenting everything she has learned about filing Freedom of Information Act requests and has created a Do-It-Yourself guide for genealogists, and others who want their state, local, and Federal records made more available. Brooke’s first filing was for access to the Index to New York City Marriage Applications, Affidavits, and Licenses, 1908-1929. This very important record set, originally kept by the New York City Clerk’s Office, is the index to a three-page document that is generally dated a few weeks before the actual marriage took place and contains more information than the 2-page marriage certificate. Brooke won access and has since digitized and uploaded 48 rolls of microfilm containing an estimated 450,000 records. A subsequent request to the NJ State Archives produced approximately 445,000 vital records indices on microfilm for 1901-1903 and 1901-1914. These records are also being prepared for digitization and uploading. Brooke has 5 more records request underway and she is only just getting started.

Peter Strauss

Peter Strauss has been a consistent force in the ongoing maintenance of the IAJGS International Jewish Cemetery Project. Peter has worked on the project as a volunteer for nearly ten years. Peter has contributed his talents specifically: assisted in the transition of the underlying technology, responsible for burial sites in Germany, and posting of all cemetery photos. The project’s mission is to document every

Jewish burial site in the world. The database can be searched by locality and, where available, provides details describing the contact information for the burials or cemetery, their policies, extent of burial card information, local Jewish community information, town history, any photos available, topographical information, age, number of, and condition of gravestones, current use of the property, maintenance and care of the property, cemetery structures, and recommendations and threats. The database currently documents 25,000 burial sites worldwide. This information is a critical resource for Jewish genealogists seeking to find headstones and burial records identifying ancestors – especially for those burial sites that cannot be readily visited by the researcher.

Kitty Cooper Munson

Kitty Munson Cooper has been responsible for implementing, converting, and maintaining the database technology underlying the IAJGS International Jewish Cemetery Project. Kitty has worked on the project as a volunteer since 1994 – more than 20 years - and has demonstrated remarkable dedication, generosity of time, and warmth of spirit.

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Ellen Sadove Renck

Ellen Sadove Renck developed the IAJGS International Jewish Cemetery Project (conceived by Sid and Arlene Sachs in 1990) and launched it in 1992. Ellen was inspired and motivated by not wanting towns and people to disappear without a trace. She wanted to help people find their families, but moreover, even if it was virtual, for people and towns to not be forgotten and to not let the perpetrators of crimes against those that perished win. Ellen assembled the team, developed the scope and structure of the information to be included, and has contributed and maintained much of the database's content. She has been the core force behind the project for almost 25 years. Through her efforts, countless genealogists have been able to learn about their ancestors' burial sites. It simply would not exist without her.

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Restoring Family Photos With Photoshop

According to *Genealogy a la carte*, if you own old family photos that could use some retouching – and have Photoshop installed on your computer, you should look into MakeUseof's article, "How to Easily Restore an Old Family Photo Using Photoshop" at <http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/easily-restore-old-family-photo-photoshop/>

The article is written for people who have a basic understanding of Photoshop. You will learn how to make old photos that are discolored, faded and scratched look good as new.

JGSCV Will Be 11 Years Old This October!



September, 2016

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Just Read This!

By Judy G. Russell (*The Legal Genealogist* www.legalgenealogist.com)

Plagiarism versus copyright infringement

Sometimes, *The Legal Genealogist* understands, it's just hard to wrap our heads around the differences between plagiarism and copyright infringement.



We know, or we think we do, that plagiarism is when we pass off someone else's work as our own.

And we know, or we think we do, that copyright infringement is when we violate the legal right of the author of a creative work to copy, distribute or otherwise publish all or part of that creative work.

And we know, or we think we do, what the difference is between those two. When it's an ethical violation (plagiarism). And when it'll get us sued (copyright infringement).

And we know, or we think we do, what the consequences are in each case.

We try to do what's right, we cite our sources as genealogists, we don't use more than what we think is reasonable... and yet we *still* have questions.

So read this: [The Difference between Copyright Infringement and Plagiarism—and Why It Matters](#).

It's a great clear explanation by Rick Anderson, Associate Dean for Collections & Scholarly Communication at the University of Utah's J. Willard Marriott Library, posted August 17, 2016, at the online [Library Journal](#). He gives specific examples... and he tells us why this is important.

So... read [this](#).

Really.

It'll help.

Just read [this](#).

NOTE: Judy G. Russell, a keynote speaker at the recent IAJGS conference, will be JGSCV's guest speaker on October 16th!

September, 2016

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Safe Computing: Sharing Your Family Tree & Identity Theft

Eleventh in a series

By Hal Bookbinder



Some choose not to share their family trees out of concern about identity theft. Your tree does contain personal data of interest to identity thieves such as birth date and place, address, phone number, email and mother's maiden name. But, it does not contain the information they most want including social security number, credit card, bank account and investment account numbers and passwords.

At the recent IAJGS conference, Randy Schoenberg stated that there are "zero instances of identity theft resulting from shared family trees" and that most identity theft is perpetrated by those familiar with the person, especially the family. While it would surprise me if there are truly no instances of identity theft related to the sharing of family trees, a quick Internet search did not turn up much.

According to Bruce Kennedy in CBS Moneywatch, "Numbers vary, but a study quoted by credit information firm Transunion revealed that nearly one-third of identity theft victims later determined that a family member or relative was responsible for the crime."

Posting your family tree can vastly increase it as you link up with others and identify possible relatives about whom you knew little or nothing. There is simply no better way to expand your tree than through the cooperative effort of others, some whom you may not yet know.

You may find some or all your tree already posted by others and this may contain incorrect or private information. You may also see information on

living relatives. Some sites suppress such information, others permit it. There is no legal obligation to hide such information. While this may disturb you, you have little legal right to force its removal.

Before you upload your tree, read the "terms of use" for the site. You may find that by uploading your data you are "contributing" it and the company has ongoing rights to its use, even if you no longer want it exposed. Check on what privacy is offered and what rights you have. You may not like what you find. But you may conclude that the tradeoff is something with which you can live. Identify thieves have other ways to get the personal information they need. They do not need access to your family trees.

To lessen the likelihood of identity theft, use and regularly change complex passwords, password-protect the logon to your home computer, log off when you walk away, do not provide other users "administrator" rights, shred your paid utility bills and carefully review all credit card and bank statements. Take note if you do not receive an expected statement, periodically review your credit report and consider tightening the rules pertaining to getting credit under your name with the credit agencies. All of these steps were discussed in prior articles in this series.

There are legitimate reasons for not sharing your family trees. But, there are more important steps to take to protect yourself from identity theft.

This is the eleventh 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

Happy Birthday, U.S. National Census

By Dick Eastman reprinted from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter <http://eogn.com>



Happy 226th birthday!

One of the most valuable tools for US genealogists is the National Census that is enumerated (created) every ten years. Census results were never intended to benefit genealogists. That is simply a side benefit. The primary purpose is to reapportion seats in the House of Representatives and to realign congressional districts. Over the years, the Census numbers also have become important for the formulas that distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funds each year.

The first national census took place on August 2, 1790, when marshals under the direction of Secretary of State Thomas Jefferson canvassed the original 13 states plus Maine, Vermont, Kentucky, and the Southwest Territory (Tennessee). They asked six questions: name of the head of the household, and number of persons in each household in these categories: free white males over 16; free white males under 16; free white females; all other free persons; and slaves.

A total of 3,929,214 were counted. Compare that to 2010, when the count was 308,745,538. In what would become a decennial dissatisfaction, not everyone was happy with that very first count; both President George Washington and Secretary Jefferson expressed skepticism about the total, believing it was too low.

For anyone interested in the history and the impact of the cCensus, the US Census Bureau has created a web site where you can learn about legislation related to the censuses, the efforts to improve the count, and the technical innovations introduced to improve data collection, processing, and publication. You can start at https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/.

The web site even includes complete **Census Instructions** for each decennial census. When the information recorded about your ancestor doesn't make sense or seems to possibly be in error, a quick look at the Census Instructions will clear the mystery. Census instructions may be found at https://www.census.gov/history/www/through_the_decades/census_instructions/.

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Genealogy Odds and Ends



Family Tree Magazine has announced it's 101 Best Websites for Genealogy in 2016. There are many newcomers to the list. Those designated with a star (☆) have that symbol next to their name. Those with \$\$ (dollar signs) next to their name require payment to take advantage of their offerings. To make room for the new additions, the state-specific sites have been omitted from this list, as they now have their own "best" list which will appear in the December 2016 *Family Tree Magazine*.

To access the list of websites go to: <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/101-best-websites-2016>

RECLAIM THE RECORDS announced a successful outcome for their Freedom of Information lawsuit in the Supreme Court of New York, resulting in the first ever public copy of the New York City marriage index 1930-1995. For more information go to: www.reclaimtherecords.org

According to Brooke Schreier, **Gesher Galicia** is proud to announce a new data sharing initiative with JewishGen.org!

Now when you search for a person or a place in the All Galicia Database (freely available at <http://search.geshergalicia.org/>), you'll see links at the bottom to matching search results in relevant databases at JewishGen. And when you do a search in JewishGen's All-Ukraine Database or All-Poland Database, you'll see links at the bottom of the page to relevant matches in the All Galicia Database.

This data sharing is accomplished using Gesher Galicia's new API (Application Programming Interface), which allows the data to stay solely on Gesher Galicia's servers, but still allows other organizations' computer systems to quickly check for appropriate matches while generating the direct links when appropriate. Similarly, JewishGen's data holdings remain solely on their own servers, but will generate deep links to relevant data sets, where appropriate.

This important data sharing work was first discussed a few years ago, with the support and cooperation of Gesher Galicia's late President Pamela Weisberger z"l, and we are proud to finally be able to bring this work to fruition in her memory. Her name remains as a co-author on the data sharing agreement that was signed by the two groups.

JewishGen's Warren Blatt and Michael Tobias worked very hard to turn this idea into reality.

Gesher Galicia hopes to use this new API to share its data – which currently stands at 455,115 records from 294 different data sources with more non-profit organizations. Happy searching!

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

*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** "Google for Genealogists" Mary Kozy

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

*May 7 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm "Hidden Ones: Sephardim and Trauma" Marcia Fine

*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

WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS



Help support JGSCV by enrolling in **Ralphs Community Contribution Program!**

Join Ralphs' Club (required to rejoin each September 1) and they will contribute a percentage of what you purchase to JGSCV! Registration is easy and helps your local Jewish genealogy society! Having a Ralphs card also helps you with discounts on purchases and their website **saves you money** too by downloading coupons. See the step-by-step directions below.

If you are already a registered participant, you will remain active until August 31, 2016 at which time you will have to reregister starting **September 1, 2016**. You can reregister for the new term at www.ralphs.com starting **September 1, 2016**. Even if you registered as recently as July you will be required to register again starting September 1st!

Remember: You can renew or register for the first time at the JGSCV's meetings—but you must first have a Ralph's Card. You can easily obtain a card by going to a Ralphs near you at their customer service desk. For information contact Karen Lewy at Karen@jgscv.org.

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE

NOTE: We have a secured website, these procedures apply to everyone who has not entered their email address and assigned a password.

1. Log in to www.ralphps.com
2. Click on 'No Account' Register
3. Follow the easy steps to create an online account
4. You will be instructed to go to your email inbox to confirm your account
5. After you confirm your online account by clicking on the link in your email, return to www.ralphps.com and click on 'Sign In', enter your email address and password.
6. View all your information and edit as necessary
7. Link your card to JGSCV's participation by clicking on:
 - a. Community Rewards - Enroll
 - b. Type JGSCV's NPO number : **84732** or **Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &** Remember to click on the circle to the left of our organizations' name
 - d. Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ON-LINE

(This means that you have already entered your email address and assigned yourself a password)

1. Log in to www.ralphps.com
 2. Click Sign In
 3. Enter your email address and password that you registered with.
 4. Click on 'Your Name' (In the top right hand corner)
 5. View all your information and edit as necessary
 6. Link your card to JGSCV by clicking on:
 - a. Community Rewards – Re-Enroll
 - b. **Type JGSCV's NPO number: 84732 or Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &** **OR:** Type in the first words of our organization i.e. "Jewish Gen" (if you only type in "Jewish" a number of organizations appear including ours, so by typing in the first few letters of our second name only we appear) and click on "search" and our name will pop up: Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley & **Make certain it's our Society as there are other Jewish Genealogy Societies registered!**
 - c. Remember to click on the circle/bubble to the left of JGSCV's name
 - d. Click in save changes
- Our name Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &..) will appear on the right side of this page
- e. Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process

Remember even if you are only an occasional Ralphs shopper, your purchases help JGSCV!

JGSCV has been receiving from Ralphs about \$100 per quarter, or equal to 4 JGSCV memberships per quarter!

Thank you on behalf of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County.

The JGSCV Board of Directors