

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

December 2015

Volume 11 Issue 3

I am writing this two days after the terrorist act in Paris...our thoughts and prayers are with those in France and those who have loved ones there. JGSCV sent a personal condolence note to Bruno Bloch, president of our sister JGS, Cercle de Généalogie Juive. On 9-11, I remember I felt that our safety/security was violated and we would never be the same—just as it is now for those living in Europe and around the world. And of course our thoughts are always with our cousins in Israel who continually face this terrorist scourge on a daily basis. We wish them all shalom.

On November 2nd, JGSCV founding member, board member and Managing Director of JewishGen Warren Blatt gave an erudite, informative, comprehensive, and excellent program about "*Jewish Surnames: The History of Jewish Surnames – Their Origins, Types, and Etymologies*". Highlights of his presentation may be found at page 6.

Thank you to founding member Werner Frank for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner.

Our December meeting is also our annual board election. There is a slate of four persons being brought by the Nominations Committee to the membership for a vote. At the November meeting, JGSCV Board Member and 2015 Nominations Committee member, Rosalie Bell read the report and asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. Therefore, the vote at the December meeting will be by acclamation. See page 14 for bios



Warren Blatt, JGSCV's November speaker
on "The History of Jewish Surnames"

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, December 13th 1:30-3:30 PM

Jews, Liquor and Life in Eastern Europe
Glenn Dynner, Ph.D.
Will talk how the Jewish-run tavern in
pre-modern Poland, was the center of
leisure, and hospitality. See page 4

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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.

on the 4 nominees. Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for chairing the committee and Pat Fuller and Rosalie Bell for serving on the Nominations Committee.

Throughout 2015 *Venturing Into Our Past* has been running a series of articles by members regarding their own experiences or research into their ancestor's experiences to commemorate the centennial of World War I and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. This issue completes the series with my submission about my brother-in-law, Ed Goldberg, who fought in the Battle of the Bulge and was a prisoner of war in Germany. The story begins on page 8. I could not have done this story if Ed's children had not interviewed him while he was alive and saved the scrapbook of his wartime memories. This is a perfect example of why we must interview our older generation when possible, and when "we" are the older generation, permit the next generation to interview us. And as genealogists, we are "pack rats" with a purpose—keeping the history of the family alive by preserving photographs, documents and other memorabilia. Werner Frank, Sarah Applebaum, Barbara Algaze, Joanne Cadis, Hal Bookbinder, Allan Linderman, Stephen Weinstein, Dorothy Drilich, and Harold Arkoff have shared their stories. While the series is over, if anyone else would like to contribute a story we are always delighted to publish our members' submissions.

See future meetings on page 15 for the new Sephardic and Yom Hashoah programs.

October started JGSCV's membership renewal for 2016. We ended 2014 with 169 members, and thus far for 2015 we have 164 members. As usual, our December meeting will include a drawing for 10 fantastic genealogical gifts for those who are eligible. Eligibility consists of renewing or joining for 2016 (before or during the meeting) **and** attending that meeting. See page 17 for a 2016 membership form which will also be available at the meetings. These are great odds to win one of the ten prizes some of which are: an Ancestry World Wide Subscription; My Heritage Annual Subscription, Findmypast annual subscription, Family Tree Maker, Legacy Family Tree subscriptions and many more! Remember Chanukah is approaching and a membership to JGSCV is a gift they will remember all year long! We will provide a lovely certificate for you to give the recipient.

Our December 13 meeting is on Sunday afternoon from 1:30pm to 3:30pm with Glenn Dynner, Ph.D. speaking on *Jews, Liquor, and Life in Eastern Europe*. Many of us had ancestors from Eastern Europe and some ran taverns. This is an excellent opportunity to learn about our ancestor's lives. Glenn will be selling his book, *Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in Eastern Europe* for \$20 cash and checks only.

The traveling library with Categories A and C will be available starting at 1:00 PM.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday, December 13!

Jan Meisels Allen

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



Page Three: A light each night for our ancestors who won their religious freedom in those days at this time ...

Three Million Passport Applications Online at FamilySearch.org

If you have any ancestors or relatives who may have left the country at any point – even just on vacation – this is an excellent resource not to be missed.

In the United States, passports have been issued since October of 1795. They were not routinely required until 1941, yet almost half a million passports were issued before 1900. In total, FamilySearch.org has a collection of over three million passport applications available for the years 1795 – 1925. Many of those applications have been indexed and all of them can be searched [here](#).

Some have accompanying photos. Note that a lack of a passport document may indicate that, once in the U.S., our relatives chose not to wander.

SEASON 3, FINDING YOUR ROOTS, RETURNS TO PBS

Ben Affleck's appearance on PBS' **Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.** last fall didn't include the revelation that his great, great, great grandfather was a slave owner. Why? Because Affleck asked for it to be edited out. Actually, it was alluded to by Gates in the episode and "balanced" with the mention of the activism of Affleck's mom in volunteering during the 1960's Civil Rights era. But since the omission was revealed, PBS put the genealogy show on hold and began an investigation. Now it's back.

Originally slated to begin airing in September of this year, the PBS show is scheduled for January 2016. Included in the genealogy research line-up are television's Julianna Margulies and Shonda Rhimes.

Genealogy, the law and so much more

www.LegalGenealogist.com has a great blog on the history of Ellis Island long before it became an immigration depot. It began, of course, as "Kioshk" or Gull Island in the language of the local native tribes.

"It didn't become Ellis Island until after Samuel Ellis became the owner in the 1770s and, by then, it had been called everything from Kioshk to Oyster to Dyre to Bucking to Anderson's Island. And it developed "from a sandy island that barely rose above the high tide mark, into a hanging site for pirates, a harbor fort, ammunition and ordinance depot named Fort Gibson, and finally into an immigration station." There's more at the link above.

Found: Documents from the Budapest Ghetto

Thousands of documents from 1944 cataloging the Jewish population of Budapest were found when an apartment was being renovated. The papers date from before the Hungarian Jews were confined in the Budapest ghetto when the City's officials drafted a list of the city's population separating the Christians from the Jews. Archivists are looking as to who lived in the building during the time the papers were placed in the walls.

To read the article see: <http://www.timesofisrael.com/thousands-of-holocaust-papers-found-in-budapest-apartment/>

Gesher Galicia Regroups After President's Passing

The leaders of Gesher Galicia have been busy regrouping since the sudden death of their whirlwind President, Pamela Weisberger who died on September 25 in Santa Monica after a brief illness. Go to their website for the details of the reorganization. GG's map room alone is worth the visit. Find it at: <http://www.geshergalicia.org/>



Hanukkah and Jewish Genealogy

Let everyone who has any zeal for the Law...come out and follow me.

I Maccabees 2:27

Yes, Judah and his gang were a guerrilla group who fought the Syrians of the Seleucid Empire to recapture the Temple in Jerusalem. More importantly, they won back their religious freedom: the right to worship as observant Jews.

Now the city of Paris reels from the attack planned in Syria by Isis. All the more reason to remember Matityahu and his sons this December, and to add that all peoples have the right to practice their religion, without threat of harm, violence and death. AM

Jews & Russian Army

This from Martin Davis in London (UK)

Pauline Rosenberg asked, "If a Jewish man (Congress Poland) who had served in the Russian army married, would it indicate on his marriage record that he was a soldier?"

The short answer is 'possibly' - but their primary trade or profession would have to be 'soldier'. So rather than having 'served', I think he would have to be a serving soldier at the time of marriage.

The best source of general information on Jewish service in the Imperial Russian Army can be found at

http://www.yivoencyclopedia.org/article.aspx/Military_Service_in_Russia.

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

The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 1:30-3:30 p.m.



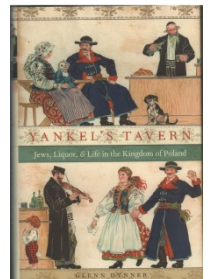
Come Join Us For Our Annual Chanukah/Membership Renewal Party!

The Topic: Jews, Liquor, and Life in Eastern Europe

In the pre-modern Poland the Jewish-run tavern was often the center of leisure, hospitality, business and even religious festivities. As liquor became the region's boom industry, Jewish tavern keepers became integral to both local economies and local social life. Nevertheless, reformers and government officials sought to drive Jews out of the liquor trade. Newly discovered archival sources demonstrate that nobles often helped their Jewish tavern keepers evade fees, bans and expulsions. The result - a vast underground Jewish liquor trade - reflects an impressive level of local Polish Jewish co-existence that contrasts with the more familiar story of anti-Semitism and violence. Book purchasing opportunity.



Speaker: Glenn Dynner is Professor of Judaic Studies and Chair of Humanities at Sarah Lawrence College. He has been the Senior NEH Scholar at the Center for Jewish History and is a Member of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. Among his publications is *Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor and Life in the Kingdom of Poland* (Oxford University Press, 2013).



Everyone is eligible for the drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes for those who renew their JGSCV membership or join for 2016. You must be present to win! Light refreshments will be served celebrating Chanukah and our membership drive. 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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VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

JGSCV UPDATES

JGSCV Welcomes New Member SUSAN E. COHEN

It is bittersweet that the JGSCV Board will be saying goodbye to founding member Dorothy Drilich. Dorothy has been a board member since JGSCV's inception and has served as the society's Secretary for five years. You can usually find her at the traveling library in the rear of the meeting room assisting with the books. Dorothy has been a consistent contributor to the JGSCV and while we will miss her on the board, she will continue to be a member. Through genealogy, Dorothy and JGSCV'S President Jan Meisels Allen discovered they are cousins.



Thank you also to Sandy Malek, president of JGSLA, for participating in our November meeting by offering her very insightful descriptions and explanations about *Jews in the Great War: Family Histories Retold*. This new JGSLA publication is based on the World War I centennial commemoration from the IAJGS 2014 conference. For those who did not obtain a copy while at the meeting, it may be purchased at <https://www.lulu.com/shop/search.ep?contributorId=1372473>. While available elsewhere, this is the best price at this time.

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 the bottom to graphic This takes you 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.



click on the Amazon (like the one here) you to the same page always start at –



Remember, 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 a senior JGSCV member waiting to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins.

JGSCV MEMBERSHIP Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership/\$30 for a household. To join, print out 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

Jewish Surnames

By Jan Meisels Allen

Warren Blatt, founding member and board member of JGSCV spoke to JGSCV on November 2nd on “Jewish Surnames: The History of Jewish Surnames – Their Origins, Types, and Etymologies”. The presentation dispelled myths, such as names being changed at Ellis Island—which they were not; and taught us about classifications such as patronymic/matronymic, toponymic, occupational, and others.

Myths Dispelled

Warren began his presentation by dispelling common myths - many of which we grew up hearing from our parents and grandparents.

1. There are “Jewish” surnames. False. Names are not Jewish, people are Jewish, and therefore, you cannot tell someone’s religion based solely upon their surname. In Alexander Beider’s research, he found that 40% of surnames used by Jews were also used by non-Jews.
2. Everyone with the same surname is related. False. Jews taking surnames is a relatively late requirement, generally in the early 19th century. Not all relatives took the same surname, and unrelated people could take the same surname.
3. Names were changed at Ellis Island. False. There was never any opportunity or means to change names at U.S. ports of immigration.

4. Most surnames are meaningful. False. Genealogy is about people, not surnames. Jews are less attached to surnames than other ethnicities.

History of Jewish Surnames

Jews have had surnames for less than 200 years. Prior to surnames, Jews used **patronymic names**, such as “Chaim ben Shlomo”, meaning “Chaim son of Shlomo”; or “Leah bat Chaim”, meaning “Leah daughter of Chaim”.

In Frankfurt-am-Main, houses in the Jewish ghetto had painted signs, depicting the name of the house, since many people were illiterate. Those who lived in the house gradually took the symbol on the sign as their surname. Examples include Adler for eagle, Apfelbaum for apple tree etc. But if the inhabitants moved, the name of the house stayed and the new residents took the name of the house.



Mandates

The mandates for Jews to take surnames varied by country and region.

Austrian Empire 1787

Russian Pale 1804 but not enforced until 1835/1845

Congress Poland 1821

Western Galicia 1805

Frankfurt, Germany 1807 and other German cities had different dates.

Romania 1870’s

Turkey 1934

It was not until the late 19th-early 20th centuries that we first started to see surnames on Jewish tombstones, before then only patronymic names were included.

Names varied greatly, and usually Jews picked their own name with official permission.

The changing borders of Eastern Europe – 300 years of border changes – also affected taking surnames. Poland, the largest country, went through three partitions starting in 1772 – partitioned by Prussia, Russia and the Austrian Empire. Prior to the first partition, Russia had less 1,000 Jews, after the partition there were 60,000 Jews were in Russia. The second partition in 1793 and third partition in 1795 further changed where Jews lived. In 1797 Jewish surnames were required in Western Galicia and Prussia.

Categories of Surnames

Above, we mentioned the patronymic names that Warren talked about. Also covered were matronymics - named for the mother; toponyms: the name of a place - such as Berliner – someone from Berlin; berg = mountain; wald = forest. Occupational names such as: Beker = baker, Gerber = tanner, Kantor = cantor.

There were also “artificial” names which did not mean anything. Warren gave an analogy using street names – there are “organic” names such as Main Street, River Street, South Street – all for actual reasons. These varied from “artificial” names such as Forrester Court, Ranch Creek Court, etc., all made up by the local developer. Other artificial names include names of animals, plants, food and jewels.

Those who were Kohens or Levites sometimes carried surnames to recognize their class, such as Kogan, Kahn, Kaplan or Levy, Lewy, Levin, Segal.

Warren suggested several books on the study of names, including the Alexander Beider books which are all in the JGSCV traveling library, Category A, which come to each meeting. In

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addition to the surname, Beider includes information on the locations, and the theory of the etymology of the surname. Warren also mentioned William Hoffman’s book *Polish Surnames: Origins and Meanings*, and several other works.

The JewishGen Family Finder (<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>) has 100,000 different surnames, and the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index (CJSI) on Avotaynu’s website (<http://avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.htm>) has 700,000 surnames.

Showing that spelling does not matter, Warren showed 150 variations of the surname Lifshitz. To overcome these variations, the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System was developed, coding names by sound not by spelling. The code converts a name into a numerical format. Examples given by Warren included the P, B and K and G which are interchangeable. In the Russian language there is no “h” instead a “g” sound is used-an example is Hersh is Gersh. In Hebrew there is a variation of the “sh” sound.

Warren concluded by showing surname changes in his own family:

Blattyta became Blatt.

Czapnik became Chapman.

Mamrot became Goldman.

The above shows that names can change by a simple truncation or a complete transformation.

In remarking about the “most common Jewish Surnames” based on demographics in 1982 vs. those who said they were Jewish and also commented on Jewish surnames in Israel.

To study the history of your surname you need to trace back to the place and origin of the name. Census, naturalization papers and passenger manifests, Beider’s books and using the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex are all tools to help you with your research.

Ephraim “Ed” Goldberg (1921-2008)

WW II Prisoner of War

By Jan Meisels Allen, JGSCV President

My brother-in-law always teased me that he joined the family before me—that is when he came to Torrington, CT to meet his future mother-in-law, my mother. He was right—the day after he arrived, when he awoke, no one was home— as my mother was in the hospital giving birth to me.

Ed had just recently returned from Europe on 8 July 1945 where he had been a prisoner of war, being captured in the Battle of Bulge in Belgium on 19 December 1944—three days after the Battle began. Ed was given a 72-day recuperation furlough and was now visiting family and then to his “soon to be family”.



Ed and Natalie’s Engagement Photo 1945

Family Genealogy

Ed’s mother, Anna Rosenbaum Goldberg, had asked two young female cousins to write to her two sons who were in the Army during the war. One of those female cousins was my sister, Natalie Perlo (we shared the same mother but different fathers). Anna’s maternal grandfather was Dawid Isak Asz who was married two times. His second wife was Gajla Eljaszowna Urwicz and one of their daughters Badona , was Anna’s mother. With Dawid’s first wife, Maryum Berkowna Golczewicz, one of their daughters was Dwerja (Deborah) Asz who married Izrael Wigdor Perla and one of their sons was Szloma Perla, Natalie’s paternal
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grandfather. Dawid Ick Asz was Natalie’s great grandfather while being Ed’s grandfather.

He met Natalie in August 1944. The letter writing carried on throughout Ed’s service in the Army and they became very close. When he returned to the US he proposed to Natalie—they married in November 1946.

Ed’s Induction into the Army and Early Training

Ed was studying accounting at New York University when he received his draft notice and induction papers. The first order to report was sent in January 1943 for Ed to report in April 1943, after completing the “present semester”. In mid-April he was told he had been granted a postponement. On 28 June



1943, he was told he could continue until 27 August 1943, permitting him to complete his studies. On 7 June 1944 he attended New York University’s commencement while on a 3-day pass home from Camp Atterbury.

He left for Camp Upton, Long Island, NY on 17 September 1943 and for Fort Benning, Georgia on 1 October 1943 for his 13 week basic training. Basic training was designed to prepare some of the draftees to go to college—which Ed had done. At the end of the 13 weeks training, someone looked at his record and noticed he had a college degree, saying “how did you get here, you have a degree”, and assigned him to the 106th Infantry Division at Fort Jackson, South Carolina where he was sent in January 1944. As the division was on maneuvers he was

then sent to join them at Camp Forrest, Tennessee where he joined the 106th Division and was assigned to Company C, 423rd Infantry Regiment 3rd platoon. The company clerk needed help and since Ed had an accounting degree, he was made assistant Company Clerk— a non-existent position in the military, however, he served in that capacity until he went to Europe. Before being shipped overseas he was sent to Fort Knox, then to Camp Atterbury in Indianapolis, IN, Camp Myles Standish in Maryland and in 16 October 1944 left for Great Britain on the troop ship, the RMS Queen Elizabeth out of New York harbor.

Ed arrived at Camp H, Sandywell Park, Andoversford, Gloucestershire (Cheltenham), England 25 October 1944. The Captain was not happy with the supply sergeant, demoting him and sending him to another unit; promoting the

forts and tank defenses built by the Germans in Northern France in 1916-1917, was a term also used in World War II for a defensive line built further east during the 1930s opposite the French Maginot Line.

The Battle of the Bulge began on 16 December 1944 and ran through 25 January, 1945. It was a major German offensive campaign launched through the Ardennes Region of Belgium, France and Luxembourg on the Western Front of World War II. The US forces bore the brunt of the attack and incurred their highest casualties for any operation during the war. The Battle of the Bulge was named by the contemporary press to describe the way the Allied Front bulged inward on wartime maps. The Germans achieved total surprise on the morning of 16 December. Due to many reasons the Allies were not able to counter the attack. For the

“ . . . the Americans turned themselves over to the Germans.”

existing Company Armorer to Supply Sergeant and Ed to be the new Company Armorer. Ed departed from Southampton for France 30 November 1944 arriving in Le Harve 2 December 1944. During this time Ed was promoted from private, to private first class to corporal (T-5). He was bivouacked in Vivouf, France then in Born, Belgium 9 December 1944.

Siegfried Line and Battle of the Bulge

On 12 December 1944 Ed was moved into the Siegfried Line in the Schnee Eifel in Belgium, near St. Vith, Malmedy and Vielsalm, Belgium and Schönberg and Bleialf, Germany. Remarkably, this was replacing his brother Al Goldberg's Second Division. The Siegfried Line—originally named in World War I for defensive

Americans, 610,000 men were involved in the battle of which 89,000 were casualties including 19,000 who were killed—23,000 were captured including Ed Goldberg . This was the bloodiest and largest battle fought by the United States in World War II. (see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_the_Bulge).

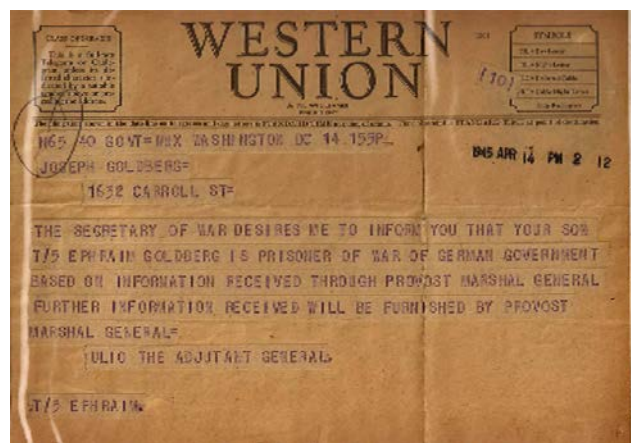
Ed was in the 106th Infantry Division and two of its three regiments were overrun and surrounded in the initial days of the Battle of the Bulge. While one division is usually responsible for no more than 5 miles of front, on the eve of the Battle of the Bulge the 106th was covering 26 miles. Ed's division, the 423rd Infantry Regiment (and the 422nd) were encircled and cut off from the remainder of the Division near Schönberg. The officers received

word for the regiments on the Line to pull back into Belgium and found they were surrounded. Ed was in a jeep convoy with the supplies, which came under shelling and everyone jumped out of the jeeps and got down on the ground and stayed down, digging foxholes for four-five hours. Despite regrouping they were blocked and lost on 18 December 1944, both regiments surrendering to the Germans on 19 December 1944. One of the officers who was in radio contact with command got up and waved a white handkerchief and said they had orders to surrender. Previously, they had captured a group of about ten German soldiers, and the Americans turned themselves over to the Germans. They marched through several towns until they arrived at a train depot.

The Family and American Public Notification

Secretary of War Stimson told the American people—over a month later—that the 106th suffered 8,663 casualties—416 killed and 1,246 wounded—most of the division’s 7001 missing men were presumed to be prisoners—in one of the largest mass surrenders in American military history. (*Brooklyn Daily Eagle* 18 January 1945).

Ed’s parents received a telegram that he was missing in action on 11 January 1945 and three months later, 14 April 1945, first learned that he was alive but a prisoner of war. The waiting



to learn if he was alive was very difficult on them. Ed’s parents had last heard from Ed December, 2015

while he was still in England (November 1944), before going to Belgium and fighting in the Battle of the Bulge. The process of notifying the US government who is a POW was explained in a letter by Ed’s father to Ed’s brother Al. The Nazis inform the International Red Cross which in turn notifies the US government and then the War Department sends out the telegrams to the next of kin about their son being a prisoner of war. Ed’s father, Joseph Goldberg, was the Executive Director of the Brooklyn Jewish Center, and his letters to Al relate the joy at the synagogue when everyone learned Ed’s parents received the first letter from Ed saying he was a prisoner and feeling fine. While everyone was focused on Ed being found, alive and then a prisoner of war held by the Nazis, we sometimes don’t focus on the concerns of the loved ones at home not knowing if their son is alive or dead.

Stalag IV B Mülhberg, Germany

On 20 December 1944 Ed and the other captured soldiers were marched to Gerolstein, Germany and the next day boarded boxcars.



Brooklyn Daily Eagle
February 4, 1945

The box cars were designed for 40 men or 8 horses known as 48s, but this time they carried 80 men. En route to Stalag IV B they were bombed by the RAF near Limberg, Germany. Ed arrived at Stalag IVB, Mülhberg on 30 December 1944. The camp was situated between the

small villages of Burxdorf and Neuburxdorf about 6km east of Mülhberg. Stalag IVB was a huge camp, holding up to

16,000 men. The camp became overwhelmed as the war neared its end and the numbers of POWs suffered—lack of bunks, bedding, clothing and food.

Being a prisoner in a German POW camp was not easy—and even more difficult for those who were Jewish. Ed’s dog tags had an “H” for Hebrew marked on it. Ed chose not to throw away the dog tag, despite the “H” out of concern that his parents would be told he had likely died. He also thought that the dog tags with the “H” saved him. Ed wrote that there were always more US soldiers arriving in the camp than leaving. "After a while, we realized that no Jewish soldiers had left Stalag 4B, all the Jewish soldiers were in the group that remained. I had not thrown away my dog tags, so it was known that I was Jewish. One rumor was that the German commander of the camp



was not a Nazi but an old line soldier who said that in his camp the Jews would be safe and as long as he was not able to send out all the Americans he would hold

the Jews as long as he could."

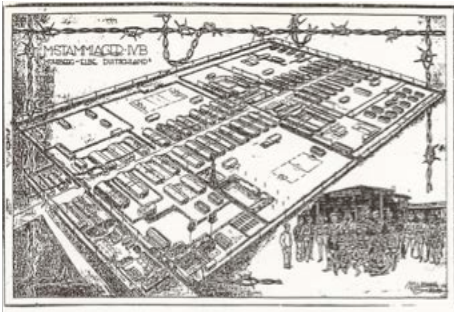
Ed was a smoker during that part of his life, as his *kriegsgefangenenlager* letters home to his parents showed as he was asking for cigarettes. When he could get cigarettes he could trade them for food. The Red Cross supplied the prisoners with cigarettes. When there was no more food, this was the first time he quit smoking. (He quit smoking for good decades before he died).

He suffered frost bite on his feet and a hearing loss as a result of the War. There were 350 other Jewish POWs who were sent from another Stalag—Stalag IX-B --to a concentration camp—Berga— where 21 percent died in 10 weeks, the highest rate of attrition among American prisoners of war.

Ed was liberated by the Russians on 23 April 1945. The night before the Russians arrived all the guards disappeared. The POWs, including Ed hiked to a German Luftwaffe Academy in Riesa on 2 May, just before V-E Day –8 May 1945. Ed was malnourished and weighed less than 100 pounds by the time he was liberated. A Russian dietician arrived at the camp, and men not under any restrictions could leave camp and walk into town. On 15 May, Ed left Russian Control in Riese for Halle by hitching a ride on a Russian Army truck to get to the US lines, and two days later, was flown from Halle to Reims, France on a hospital plane. On 18 May he left Reims for Camp Lucky Strike, St. Valery France and on 28 May was admitted to a the 77th Field Hospital with hepatitis. About three weeks later he left the hospital and



arrived at Camp Wing in Le Havre and on 22 June 1945 he boarded the Liberty Ship, SS Walter Reed which sailed for the United States the next day. Ed arrived at Hampton Roads, VA on 7 July and debarked and entrained to Fort Dix, NJ the following day. On 10 July he arrived home for a 72-day recuperation furlough. He traveled to Torrington, CT to meet his future mother-in-law (my mother) on 17 July. Ed was promoted to Sergeant on 11 October 1945 and discharged from the US Army on 19 November 1945.



A fellow prisoner at Stalag IV-B, a Dutch artist, sketched the prison camp on a piece of toilet tissue. After liberation the Dutch artist had prints made and sent copies to each of the prisoners that were in the barracks with him.

Note: The information on the time line was compiled from: 1. Ed Goldberg's own records that included a detailed listing of where he was when; and 2. An audio interview Ed gave his

grandson of his military experiences. I checked the spellings of the names of the towns and found all but one, Vivouf, France. As Ed included it in his notes I have kept this town listed, it may no longer exist or he may have misspelled the town. His binder of notes is lovingly kept by his children who shared it with me for this article; as is the DVD of his military experiences' interview.

One can search for prisoner of war records available online at the National Archives by going to:

<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=644>.

Ed's record which I have, but for this article wanted instead to focus on his scrapbook and interview may be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/pbgwcm3>

Original url:

<https://aad.archives.gov/aad/record-detail.jsp?dt=466&mtch=1&cat=all&tf=F&q=Ep+Hraim+Goldberg&bc=sd&rpp=10&pg=1&rid=68930>

Carly Shukiar To Share *Remember Us* Experience at Dec. 13 Meeting

Inspired by JGSCV founding board member Werner Frank, current board member Rosalie Bell is coordinating JGSCV's initiative to introduce young people to the world of genealogy. Our first guest speaker in this initiative will be Carly Shukiar describing her experience while participating in the *Remember Us* project.

Remember Us is the Holocaust B'nai Mitzvah program, where every child preparing for a bar/bat mitzvah remembers a child who was lost in the Holocaust. Carly and her parents were able to make contact with a living cousin of her assigned Holocaust 'twin', Sophia Van Hassel. Carly's parents arranged for the family to travel to Holland and meet the cousin at

Sophia's childhood home in Waskemeer, a small village in Netherlands. Carly and her family got to spend time with the current owners of the home who have done extensive research on the Van Hassel family. They toured the school where Sophia's father was the head master that now bears his name. Carly will share her experience meeting Sara, Sophia's living cousin who survived the war by being hidden with a non-Jewish family as an infant.

Carly Shukiar is the daughter of Temple Adat Elohim's Cantor David Shukiar and his wife Leasa.

(Read about another JGSCV Youth Initiative on page 16)

December, 2015

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Third in a series on Safe Computing. . .

A Free Scan of Your Computer

By Hal Bookbinder

You are surfing the web when a screen pops up telling you that you have 23,179 instances of



malware (or viruses or worms) or porn on your computer. It offers to scan your computer and remove these at a low

cost or even for free. Never take these people up on their offer to protect you through a one-time cleaning of your computer. They are great at scaring you. Do not take the bait.

The pop-up has no idea how many instances of bad stuff you have on your computer (though it is a pretty good bet that even with anti-virus software, you have some), If you give the soliciting message the authority to scan or to fix the problem you are giving them control of your computer. And you have no idea what they will actually do with that authority. One thing for sure, it will benefit them and not you.

In a similar scam, the pop up informs you that you are infected with some specific virus (often one that you have recently read about in the news). This message is likely being spammed to hundreds of thousands of others expecting that some percentage will pay to be “cleaned.” If you pay, at best there will be a faux cleanup letting you know that everything is now Ok.

At worst, the spammer, once given control of your computer will install new viruses, steal your information, or even freeze your computer with ransomware (a topic for

another article). The company name displayed often mimics well known and trusted brands. But, these trusted companies do not operate in this way. If you give these con artists control, nothing good will come of it.

If the message scares you, this is not all bad. You should be concerned to keep your computer free of malware. Close the message without responding. Do not click on the box in the popup asking to be taken off the contact list. This just confirms to the spammer that you are real and you will result in even more spam.

Allay your concerns by running your antivirus software to check the current state of your computer. If your virus protection is out of date, get a current subscription. Consider going to a trusted site (like www.microsoft.com or www.mcafee.com) and see what tools they offer to check the health of your computer. But, under no circumstances give control to strangers who, unsolicited, reach out to you.

Similarly, don't fall for emails that you receive offering free or low-cost scans and cleanup of your computer. Again, you really do not know with whom you are dealing. Do not accept the offer no matter how tempting, scary, or trustworthy it seems. And, as before, never click on the request to receive no further emails. This will instead result in you being placed on even more spammers' lists.

This is the third of a series of articles by JGSCV founding Board Member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also an Immediate Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and is very skilled in the use of online websites.

December, 2015

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Forthcoming JGSCV Elections

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Hal Bookbinder (with board member Rosalie Bell and general member Pat Fuller) has recommended the following slate of individuals to fill the four 2-year positions on the JGSCV board effective January 2016: Warren Blatt, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion and Israel Perel.

The terms of four of the nine existing board members expire at the end of this year. Warren Blatt, Allan Linderman and Israel Perel informed the nominating committee that they would like to continue. Dorothy Drilich, advised that she did not plan to run for reelection. We thank Dorothy for her 10 years of service on the board. Marilyn Silva had submitted an application to serve on the board, which was accepted by the Nominations Committee. For personal reasons, Marilyn has since withdrawn her board application but will join the JGSCV Publicity Committee.

At the November 2nd JGSCV meeting a call for additional nominations from the floor resulted in no responses. Therefore, nominations were closed and the election will be by acclamation at the December 13th meeting. Nominee biographies are below.

Warren Blatt - founding member of JGSCV has served on the JGSCV Board for the past ten years. Warren is the JewishGen Editor-in-Chief (2000-date) and Managing Director (2008-date) as well as author of many JewishGen databases. Warren has been involved in genealogy research for over thirty-five years. He is a winner of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement award. He is a presenter at many JGSCV meetings and an annual presenter at the IAJGS conferences. He is the author of two books and numerous journal articles.

Allan Linderman - is a member of JGSCV since 2008 and became JGSCV's newsletter editor in the Spring of 2009. He has been engaged in genealogy for seven years. Allan is an advertising and media consultant and is president of The Linderman Media group and brings to his role his writing and editing skills.

Andrea Massion - has been researching family history for over 20 years. A native of Los Angeles, she has found cousins in Argentina, Canada, Ukraine, Israel and Belgium since joining JGSLA, and recently, JGSCV. For the past year Andrea has been helping Allan Linderman with the JGSCV newsletter, responsible for page 3- highlighting genealogical news from around the world. She has served on sub-committees and presented at conferences. Andrea is a living resource for the Jewish Farming Community of Iowa Center, outside Chugwater, Wyoming where her family homesteaded for 20 years. She is retired after over 30 years as a Jewish music educator and family program specialist, and recently from school library management for LAUSD. Andrea created a website for the Massion shtetl, Ananiev, UKR which strives to document its Jewish community both historically and currently. Visit it at Jewishgen.org or at <http://tinyurl.com/kw64vhw>.

Israel "Issie" Perel, Ph.D. - currently serves as JGSCV librarian. Issie has been involved in family genealogy research for four years. He recently returned from France where he met with cousins discovered through his genealogy research. Issie received his B.Sc. degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada and his PhD degree in Psychology from University of California, Santa Barbara. He is currently on the board of the Ray Hosford Foundation at UCSB and was appointed by the Secretary of the California Health and Human Services Agency to serve on the statewide Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through June 2016

Sunday afternoons starting at 1:30 Monday evenings starting at 7:00
Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

Check the website and this newsletter for future updates

December 13, Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Glenn Dynner, Ph.D.
Jews, Liquor, and Life in Eastern Europe. In Pre-modern Poland the Jewish-run tavern was often the center of leisure, hospitality, business, and even religious festivities. As liquor became the region's boom industry, Jewish tavern keepers became integral to both local economic and local social life. Also, Annual Chanukah Party with Membership prizes

2016

January 3, Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program Marion Werle *Never Give Up - Strategies for Taking Your Genealogy Research to the Next Level and Finding the Previously Unfindable*

February 14, Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM Annual Assisted Research Day at LA Family History Library. JGSCV Members only.

March 6, Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program Megan Lewis, USHMM, Sephardic Records at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

April 4, Monday 7:00-9:00 PM Program Emily Garber. *When It Takes A Village.* This presentation will outline a program for solving genealogical research problems via cluster research techniques including FAN (family, associates, and neighbors). Topics will include: appropriate application, research planning, commonly used resources and documents, and case studies successfully tracking individuals from Europe to the United States, overcoming name and residential changes.

May 1, Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Annual Yom Hashoah Program Holli Levitsky, Ph.D. "*Creating New Witnesses to the Holocaust: Teaching the Holocaust Locally, Globally and Virtually*". Dr. Levitsky will talk on how the Holocaust was experienced in the Jewish Catskills vacation areas and why she wrote a book about it; why the Shoah continues to be so important, and how the Shoah is being made relevant to the next generations. Co-editor of: *Summer Haven: The Catskills, the Holocaust, and the Literary Imagination*. There will be a book purchasing opportunity. Dr. Levitsky is the Director of Jewish Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University. Her research and scholarship focus on Holocaust representation and questions of (Jewish) identity, especially as it relates to exile and displacement.

June 5, Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

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

JGSCV and Temple Beth Torah's 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th Graders

Temple Beth Torah in Ventura, invited JGSCV to speak to their 7-10th grade students on Jewish Genealogy. Jan Meisels Allen, president of JGSCV, accepted the invitation and spoke on the evening of November 18 to students and members of their congregation. In addition to the presentation, the audience had the opportunity to look through 10 of JGSCV's Category A books (Beider, Faiguenboim, Feldblyum, Menck and Tagger), so they could search the derivation of their family names, and to view one of Jan's family trees posted around the room. This family tree had 8 generations starting in 1812 graphically depicting how many descendants emanated from two people. Part of the presentation included an interactive discussion asking the students: "You are emigrating to the US in 1880 and can only pack one suitcase. What do you pack knowing you may never see your family again?" We also discussed types and origins of family heirlooms. And, we talked about ethnic foods. Providing this program focused on the youth is part of JGSCV's outreach to get the younger generation involved. The program was enjoyable and JGSCV appreciated the opportunity to speak to the Temple Beth Torah students and congregants.

**Next Meeting: Sunday, December, 13th
1:30-3:30 pm at Temple Adat Elohim**



2016 Membership/Renewal Form
Jewish Genealogical Society
of the
Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*

*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2016

Date _____

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

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

*family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund \$5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
 28912 Fountainwood St.
 Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

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