

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



## JGSCV

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

April 2016

Volume 11 Issue 7

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our Annual Sephardic Program was presented by Megan Lewis, reference librarian, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Megan offered many excellent insights into finding and accessing Sephardic *Records at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*. The Holocaust affected all the Jewish communities in Europe, including Sephardic communities in Greece, Bulgaria, and other parts of the Balkans, North Africa and the Netherlands. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) holds both wartime and prewar records for many of these communities. In addition, the Museum's library holds an extensive collection of rare books about Sephardic history, culture and language. Megan's handouts, *Sephardic Resources at the USHMM and Using USHMM Digital Resources* are both posted on the JGSCV website: [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) under meetings, prior with the date of the meeting—March 6, 2016. To read highlights of the program see page 6.

I presented the 5 minute-genealogical hint on Passport applications. The PowerPoint presentation is also available on the website in the same location as mentioned above. One may find Passport applications 1795-1925 on microfilms and online. Requirements for finding passports issued after 1925, may be found in the PowerPoint including how to apply under the Freedom of Information Act.

Thank you to Werner Frank for facilitating the schmoozing corner.

While this newsletter is dated April, 2016 it is being sent in mid-March. March is Women's History Month. This is a perfect time for you to reflect and write in your genealogy about a woman in your life. Your mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, niece or daughter. A memory of doing something together: cooking, on a trip, learning how to sew. My memory of my mother is about how



Megan Lewis at JGSCV'S March Meeting

### NEXT MEETING

**MONDAY, April 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00-9:00 PM**

#### ***When It Takes A Village***

Emily Garber will explain how using her Cluster Research model could help break down your brick wall.

6052 Hackers Lane  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
[818-889-6616](tel:818-889-6616)

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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.

she had to leave high school to help support her family when she was growing up. While she worked her entire life, raising three daughters by herself—she instilled in us the importance of higher education so that we would have a profession to support ourselves if necessary. Because education was so important to her—she always regretted not having a high school degree. At age 55 she went back to get her GED—and I was in high school at the time. As a science major I tutored her in the science area for her test. Her GED diploma was a VERY proud moment in her life. What memories of a woman in your life do you cherish?

JGSCV's webmaster, David Oseas, has completed and posted the semi-annual update on resources. We have over 300 links on our website in categories such as DNA, Europe, Genealogy Subscription Websites, Government Archives, Holocaust, Immigration and Naturalization, Israel, Latin American, Local/California, Maps, Military Records, Newspapers, Sephardic, South Africa, United States, Vital Records and more. When looking for sources for your genealogy searches don't forget to look at JGSCV's website.

Hal Bookbinder has been writing a monthly article on safe computing. This month's article is on page 14.

I hope a number of JGSCV members will be attending the 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle, WA 7-12 August. The deadline for early registration is April 30<sup>th</sup> after which the prices go up. JGSCV members will be amply represented with speakers: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Andrea Massion, and Marion Werle. See the latest update on page 12.

While we are doing better on membership renewals we are at the point in the year when those who have not renewed will be dropped from the membership rolls if they don't renew at the April 4 meeting. Our membership year is a calendar year—January-December. They are always welcome to return.

Our April 4 program is with family researcher, Emily Garber talking on *When It Takes a Village: Applying Cluster Research Techniques*. Sometimes tracking one's immigrant ancestors tests all one's research acumen. Identifying individuals, their origins, and parentage; tracking them through time; and constructing biographies to place them in their social context is best approached by broadening one's approach to include family members, associates and neighbors. This presentation will outline a research program for solving genealogical research problems via cluster and collateral research techniques. 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.

To our non-Jewish members and friends, have a very Happy Easter!

*Jan Meisels Allen*



## Cruises & Genealogy on Found: Records on the Seas

Genealogy is alive and well in the cruise industry. Just google genealogy cruises to find numerous choices.

*Unlock the Past Cruises* has programs in Europe, Australia and New Guinea on the docket.

The 13th Annual Millennia Legacy Family Tree Genealogy Cruise will be Sept. 2-9 on the Royal Caribbean's Radiance of the Seas cruise ship in Alaska.

Page Three of this newsletter has no affiliation with genealogy cruises, just a love of the ocean AND genealogy!

## Glasgow Jewish Cemetery Restoration

Michael Tobias is trying to make contact with the Glasgow Jewish Diaspora in whatever ways he can to broadcast information about a cemetery project and hopefully gain some support.

Recently the *Glasgow Jewish Cemetery Restoration Project* completed photographing around 10,000 tombstones from Glasgow Jewish cemeteries and put them online. They also completed renovation of the oldest Jewish cemetery in Glasgow that dates from 1832.

The IAJGS Cemetery Project contains information about all of the Glasgow Jewish Cemeteries - link:<http://www.iajgsjewishcemeteryproject.org/scotland/glasgow.html>

## Hungarian WWII POWs

Vivian Kahn of the Hungary SIG shares that according to an article in a recent edition of *Hungary Today*; researchers have found information about 420,000 Hungarians who were POWs in Russia, many of whom were probably Jews in the Labor Battalion. The intent is to

### FREE RootsTech 2016 Sessions Online

RootsTech has now archived 27 select videoed sessions culled from the recent RootsTech event in Salt Lake City. The sessions are available at no charge. They may be accessed at:

<https://www.rootstech.org/video2/4739804696001>

The video library includes talks by Maureen Taylor on identifying original and historical photographs, as well as *Homespun and Calico: Finding Our Foremothers* with Peggy Lauritzen who shows newspaper ads from 1794 which illuminate the state of marriages back then.

digitize these records.

Several thousand Jewish and other refugees were stranded in the area along the borders. Michal Frankl, a visiting fellow at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, has been researching this period and has created a website with documents relevant to his work at: <http://tinyurl.com/gqo2z6p>



## 2016 Results:

### Top 100 Genealogy Websites

*Genealogy in Time* has announced its 2016 100-Top Genealogy Websites. They measure this Internet traffic for each website using Alexa. The rankings are based on three factors: visitors, content and time.

*Genealogy in Time* defines a genealogy website as a website whose primary audience is someone looking for their ancestors. Therefore, you won't find a national archives listed as they serve many audiences not just genealogy interests. The list is truly international in scope with sites from around the globe listed. All the honor to #38-JewishGen.org and #50-Steve Morse. Top 10:

1. Ancestry.com \*
2. Find a Grave \*
3. Family Search
4. MyHeritage.com #
5. Ancestry.co.uk \*
6. Geni.com #
7. GeneaNet
8. Newspapers.com \*
9. Ancestry.com.au \*
10. FindmypastUK

\*part of Ancestry family of websites  
#part of the MyHeritage family of websites

# 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 **Monday**, April 4, 2016 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 **7:00-9:00 p.m.**

## The Topic: When It Takes A Village - Applying Cluster Research Techniques

Sometimes tracking our immigrant ancestors tests all of our research acumen. Identifying individuals, their origins, and parentage. Tracking them through time and constructing socially contextual biographies is best attempted by broadening one's approach to include family members, associates and neighbors. This presentation will outline a research program for solving genealogical research challenges via cluster and collateral research techniques. 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.

**Speaker: Emily H. Garber** An archaeologist by training, Garber has been researching her Jewish ancestry since 2007 and holds a certificate from Boston University's Genealogical Research program. In 2013 she traveled to Ukraine to visit archives and family villages. She is a family history researcher, writer and speaker specializing in Jewish genealogical research and has worked with records from both German-Jewish and Eastern European Jewish immigrants. Emily is a blogger (<http://www.extrayad.blogspot.com>), chair of the Phoenix Jewish Genealogy Group and owner of Extra Yad Genealogical Services.

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 page 18 for the program schedule through October, 2016. There is something for everyone and a calendar rich in genealogy insights.

Genealogy Roadshow on PBS has released its airdates for the upcoming Season 3. JGSCV participated when they taped in Los Angeles. That show will air June 28<sup>th</sup>. For the six other dates, see page 17.

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 click on the Amazon graphic (like the one here).

**SHOP. CONNECT. ENJOY.**   
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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 a senior JGSCV member waiting to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins. At left is Werner Frank leading the Schmoozing Corner prior to the March meeting.

Megan Lewis, USHMM Research Librarian provided multiple resource tools for accessing not only Sephardic materials (the subject on which she spoke in March), but also genealogical research tools in general – including tools for planning a research visit to the museum. See page 15 for Sephardic tools and page 11 for other digital tools.

**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](http://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

# Sephardic Records at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

By Jan Meisels Allen

Megan Lewis, Reference Librarian, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum was JGSCV's special Sephardic Program speaker on March 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Holocaust affected all the Jewish communities in Europe, including Sephardic communities in Greece, Bulgaria, and other parts of the Balkans, North Africa and the Netherlands. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) holds both wartime and prewar records for many of these collections. In addition, the Museum's library holds an extensive collection of rare books about Sephardic history, culture and language. Megan Lewis discussed the USHMM's Sephardic collection and how to best research the records.

The USHMM Sephardic records cover the countries of: Algeria, Bulgaria, Bukovina and Herzegovina, Croatia, Greece, Italy,

Macedonia, Morocco, the Netherlands, Romania, and Tunisia.

## Salonika/Thessaloniki

The Salonika/Thessaloniki (Greece) records are scattered: The Jewish Community Archive of Thessaloniki, the Greek State Archives in Thessaloniki, YIVO located in New York City, the Czech National Archives in Prague, Osobi Archive in Moscow and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish

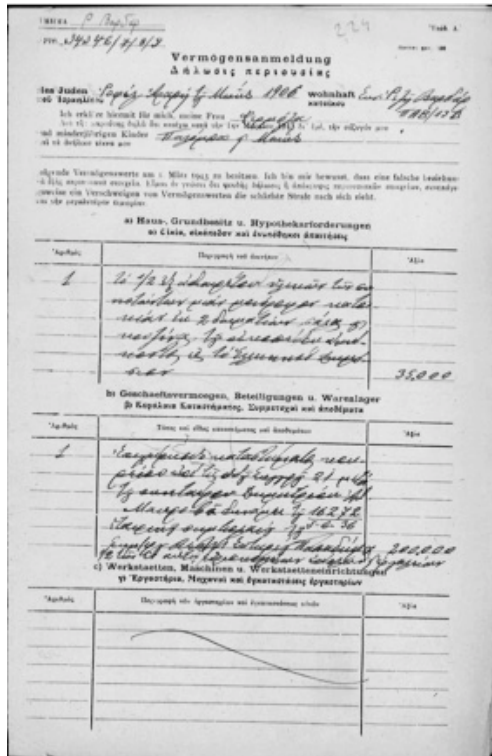


People in Jerusalem. Megan showed examples of records from several of these archives.

One of the missions of the USHMM is to collect records from around the world and locate them in one place. With the rise of Holocaust denial, the power and authenticity of their collection assumes ever greater urgency. An example is in Belarus where the USHMM copied records. This is fortunate as it is currently impossible to access records from Belarus, but people can access them through the

USHMM. The Museum searches what other archives and museums have and makes copies of them for the USHMM.

Another example is the population register of surnames in Ladino—the Sephardic language—from YIVO which the Museum copied permitting both organizations to have copies of these records. Other examples that Megan showed included a copy of deportation declarations with lists of all property the person had—in both Greek and German. Historian Aura Recanati has translated and transcribed the records and published the results as *Jewish Community of Salonika*



**Salonika Property List**

1943.

The records located in Osobyi (Moscow), were originally taken by the Nazis to April, 2016

Germany then the Russians took them, however, they did not admit they had the records until 1991. An example of the records from Osobyi, were a list of candidates for emigration in May 1935. The list includes names, ages, spouses, and children listed along with occupations, when the person applied for emigration, all in “Latinized” Ladino. As the characters are Latin it makes the records readable for those who are not familiar with Ladino.

**Macedonia**

When Bulgaria occupied Macedonia, the Macedonian records were taken by the Bulgarians. The copies of records the Museum has now, are from ones located in the archives of Macedonia, Serbia, Bulgaria and Israel. While Bulgaria protected its Jews during World War II, Jews taken there from Macedonia were taken to Treblinka, an extermination camp, where most Macedonian Jews were murdered.

The USHMM has over 2,000 photographs with translations on the backs with names and addresses. Most of the photographs are passport photos. These are in the Collections Catalogue that may be able to be accessed in the resource room at the IAJGS conference this summer.

Records from Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, include names and addresses but still need to be translated.

**Romania**

The Museum has a copy of the *History of Sephardic Jews in Romania*—which is in

Romanian. It is eight pages in length and the Museum can scan it and send a copy to interested parties. The report is part of a larger file about the Sephardic Community of Romania. Additional records are also available at the Museum.

### **North Africa**

Many Sephardic Jews entered North Africa. The Museum has photographs of Algerian Jews that were deported as well as Moroccan Jews that were not deported—the difference of being deported or not was not solely based on country, but the likelihood of being deported was higher in Algeria. The Museum has copied records from the National Library of Morocco. An example that was shown included a marriage certificate with a list of children.

The Museum has records from the French archives about North Africa. In addition, the Museum has copies of Helen Benatar’s papers from the Central Zionist archives Ms. Benatar was a Moroccan Jew who provided aid to interned Jews.

### **Netherlands**

The Netherlands was home to a significant Sephardic population that was originally expelled from Spain as a result of the Inquisition in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. The oldest synagogue in the Netherlands is the Portuguese Synagogue which is Sephardic. The Portuguese Synagogue is a late 17th-century Sephardic synagogue in Amsterdam, completed in 1675.

The Museum has over 100,000 photographs—not all of them are Sephardic. About 37,000 of the photographs are located on the USHMM website. <https://www.ushmm.org/>

*The Genealogy of Portuguese Jews*, written in Dutch is the “origin of the so-called Portuguese Jews” from a 1942



**Speaker Megan Lewis**

report. The report itself was trying to prove that Sephardic Jews were more Western Mediterranean than Jewish in an anthropological sense and thus should be exempted from deportation. (In the end the Nazis didn’t buy the argument.) Attached to the 40 page report are 80 pages of names. Each page has 50 Sephardic people, with names ages, addresses, typed alphabetically—at total of 5,000 names.

## **Former Yugoslavia**

The Museum has a Belgrade registration book of Jews of the community—written in Serbo-Croatian.

The Museum also has an extensive collection of newspapers which include articles on people and includes events and advertisements. The Museum newspaper collection includes Jewish newspapers of Morocco and Romania—a source of genealogical information.

## **International Tracing Service (ITS)**

By agreement, only one archive per eleven member states of the International Commission countries may have a copy of the ITS records. In the United States, the one repository is the USHMM. The archives have been digitized and are name-based, organized by locale. There are some Sephardic records in the ITS collection. The further east in Europe, the fewer the records in the ITS. Background information on the ITS may be found at:

<https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/international-tracing-service/about-the-international-tracing-service/its-frequently-asked-questions>.

A partial inventory of the ITS records at the Museum may be found at:

<https://www.ushmm.org/online/its-inventory/simple.php>

## **Haïm-Vidal Sephiha**

Haïm-Vidal Sephiha was an expert on Ladino. The Museum has books, music, and films in multiple languages, history, language and culture of Sephardic Jews around the world. From the Sephiha Collection alone, the Museum has 684 titles and 933 titles are at the University of Maryland in College Park McKeldin Library. The University of Maryland Library, being a state library is open to the public.

## **Records at the USHMM**

As time permitted, Megan also discussed how to find a record at the Museum—one stop shopping at the archives. In addition, to the large photographic collection, the Museum has over 8,000 oral histories. While only 30 percent of the digital photographs are online, the oral histories are available through Collections Search which may be accessed

at: <http://collections.ushmm.org>. Additionally, the Museum has historic film clips of pre-war and wartime home movies. There are finding aides and attachments with a built in geographic thesaurus. Some host archives do not permit the actual records to be online; therefore, the finding aide is the best online resource.

## The Shappell Center

The Museum is building an 100,000 square feet new facility in Bowie, Maryland—the Shappell Center— about 15 miles from the Museum. The new Center will support acquisitions, preservations and educational use of the collection. As of September 1<sup>st</sup>, off site collections will not be able to be accessed as they will be packed up and ready for the move.

From their fabric collection, Megan described a wedding dress made from a parachute that was used by multiple women in a DP camp in 1946. Cigarettes and coffee were traded for the silk parachute. The first woman to use the wedding dress traded her cigarettes to a seamstress

who made the dress out of the parachute. One of the JGSCV members in the audience said her mother was one of the DP women in the Bergen-Belsen DP camp who wore the dress. She informed us that the



extra silk was used for men's shirts for the grooms to wear at the wedding. The Museum has one of the shirts in their collection as well. For the story see: <http://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn13648>

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An exhibit, *America and the Holocaust* is expected to open in 2017. It will include materials from before and after the Holocaust and how America reacted to the Holocaust. The initiative is seeking materials illustrating how the Holocaust affected America.

## World Memory Project

The World Memory Project is an effort with Ancestry.com and the USHMM. The World Memory Project is indexing records from millions of documents containing details about victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution during World War II. Through the World Memory Project, the victims' records become searchable online. To learn more go to:

<https://www.ushmm.org/online/world-memory-project/>. To volunteer to index go to: <http://www.ancestry.com/wmp>



If you are planning a trip to the USHMM, Megan encourages you to contact the staff ahead of time to be successful. For reference questions, email [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org).

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Megan Lewis started working at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in 1998. She spent 12 years conducting research on individuals working for the Museum's Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center. Since 2010 she works as a reference

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librarian in the Museum Library and Archives reading rooms. She has a BA in history and a Masters of Library Science, and has given presentations about the Museum's genealogical resources at IAJGS Conferences,

numerous genealogical societies, the American Library Association conference, and several conferences/workshops about Nazi looted art.

# Using US Holocaust Memorial Museum Digital Resources

## For Your Research or to Plan a Research Trip

Museum's Collections Search: <http://collections.ushmm.org>

Most digital resources are available through the Collections Search

### Electronic Resources

- Archival Collections
- Oral Histories
- Photographs
- Historic Film Footage
- Names Indices
- Rare Books

### Archival Collections

- 1500+ archival collections in electronic format but only 300+ available on the internet
- Many collections not online have electronic finding aids to help plan research
- Collection Search search function includes finding aids and other attachments

### Oral Histories

- 8600+ oral histories available online through Collections Search
- Many oral histories not available online have full transcripts or summaries available online through Collections Search
- Collection Search search function includes transcripts and summaries

### Photographs

- Only 30% of digital photographs available online
- Photograph catalog records, especially for personal photo collections, can include detailed biographical information about the donor or the people in the photograph

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Historic Film Footage

- USHMM has extensive collections of pre-war and wartime home movies

Names Indices

- Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database
  - <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/holocaust-survivors-and-victims-database>
- World Memory Project
  - [http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/USHMM\\_Collection](http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/USHMM_Collection)
- JewishGen Holocaust Database
  - <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/>

Rare Books

- Very new project in conjunction with the Internet Archive
- For copyright reasons, most digitized rare books are not available online
- Internet-accessible rare books are at <https://archive.org/details/usholocaustmemorialmuseum>

Library Electronic Resources

- Most of the Library's electronic resources are subscription databases that allow access only onsite at the Museum
- However, there are freely available resources for newspapers, geographic resources and dissertations
- <https://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/search-the-collections/electronic-resources>

For reference questions, please email [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

Information on planning a research trip:

<https://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/research-visit>

# 36<sup>th</sup> IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy

If you've not registered for the 36<sup>th</sup> Annual IAJGS Conference in Seattle (August 7-12, 2016) yet, consider doing so, remember the conference's **Early Registration** period, which runs until April 30, offers the lowest fees, with savings of \$55 for the full conference. The conference website, <http://www.iajgs2016.org/>, has complete details on how to register for all levels of the conference. Once registered, you can make reservations at the Sheraton Hotel at a reduced rate.



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The conference focus is The Wandering Jew. Tracks will include:

- The Sephardic Experience in the United States
- European Migrations
- South American, Australian and South African Branches
- Westward Ho! Jews in the Western US
- Coming Home to Israel

You are invited to follow the conference on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/IAJGSConference>), subscribe to the discussion list (<http://www.iajgs2016.org/2015/07/sign-up-for-the-seattle-iajgs-2016-discussion-list>) and follow the blog (<http://www.iajgs2016.org/2015/07/subscribe-to-the-iajgs2016-blog/>).

# Does Your Family History Material Have An Afterlife?

Ever wonder what to do with your genealogy research and papers once you die? Who do you leave them to? Is anyone in your family the next generation of genealogists?



The following are three

possible repositories for you to mention in your will or trust:

1. If you need a home for your Holocaust related family papers and artifacts, our March speaker Megan Lewis, USHMM Reference Librarian, suggested the new United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Conservation Center which will open in Bowie Maryland, about 15miles from the USHMM. The USHMM website is: [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)

2. The Genealogy Department of the City of Los Angeles Public Library is accepting donations from private individuals and families. You need not be a resident of the City of Los Angeles, nor a notable person. Documents being accepted include photographs, family trees (items that fit into manila folders). Remember this is the City

of Los Angeles Public Library NOT the County of Los Angeles Public Library. The contact person is:

Jullie Huffman, Genealogy Librarian  
History & Genealogy Department  
(Lower Level 4)  
630 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90071  
[jhuffman@lapl.org](mailto:jhuffman@lapl.org)

3. The American Jewish University- Phoebe and Werner Frank Family Learning Center  
Familian Campus  
15600 Mulholland Dr.  
Bel-Air. California 90077  
(310) 476-9777

Jacqueline Benefraim  
[j.benefraim@gmail.com](mailto:j.benefraim@gmail.com)

The Center is dedicated to the exploration of Jewish communities around the world.

If you have genealogy books – not Judaica - that you would like to donate to JGSCV's permanent library, first please check our list of permanent and traveling libraries to ascertain that we do not already own those book(s). We are grateful for donations that are not duplicative of resources already owned by JGSCV.

# REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016

Go to [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org)

*Seventh in a series*

## Backing Up Your System

*By Hal Bookbinder*

We all know that we should be regularly backing up our data. But, the fact is that many of us do not



back up our data frequently enough, if at all. Some think it is complicated or expensive and many have

become complacent after years of using computers without problems. Don't wait for a data loss to shake this complacency.

We all need to frequently back up our data and store these backups in a different location from the computer on which it normally resides. Many purchase an external hard drive and set it up so that automatic backups are taken daily. This is good as far as it goes. But, what happens in a disaster where there is a fire, flood, or earthquake and both the computer and its local backup are destroyed?

This can be avoided by using one of the available commercial services through which your data is automatically backed up to the cloud. These services are relatively inexpensive. Alternatively, you could set up a cloud back-up yourself by placing a cloud storage device at another location

and backing up to it using software which performs regular backups, daily or more frequently.

Recognize that backing up everything on your computer is not necessary. The Operating Systems and computer software can be re-installed. Downloaded music and movies can be re-downloaded. But your own pictures, family information, research, financials and more should be backed up off site.

Consider setting up a logical drive or directory on your computer dedicated to the data which is to be backed up. You can routinely copy the contents of this drive or directory onto a USB "thumb" drive and keep it on your key chain as I do. So, I have my data wherever I happen to be, whether or not I have Internet access.

This is not a substitute for regular, scheduled backups, but an additional step you may consider. If you have a particularly important file that you have just created and cannot afford to lose, you could copy it to the thumb drive or attach it to an email and send it from your home to office or vice-versa.

Most of us have experienced that horrible feeling when our computer loses power after we have put a great deal of time into creating or updating a file and just before we were going to save it. To avoid this, set your system to regularly save your files as

you are updating them. Consider setting this to occur every five or ten minutes. Additionally, consider taking a back-up of any critical file before you start modifying them.

Another approach is to keep your data in the cloud. These cloud services routinely back up your data for you. But, as I never **like** leaving anything to chance I would want to have two physical backups under my own control as well, in two different

physical locations. If I sound paranoid, I am a little. Once you experience a painful data loss you may become a bit paranoid as well.

*This is the seventh in 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 his online skills are well documented.*

# Sephardic Resources at the USHMM

As per Megan Lewis, USHMM Research Librarian, JGSCV's March guest speaker, following is an overview of Sephardic resources available from the museum's collections.

## Communities:

- Greece
  - Salonika
- Italy
  - Venice, Ferrara, Florence and Livorno
- Romania
  - Bucharest, Braila, Timisoara, Craiova
- Macedonia
- Former Yugoslavia
  - Sarajevo, Belgrade
- Netherlands
- North Africa
  - Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria

## Resources:

- Archives-before, during and after the Holocaust
- Publications-books, documentaries, music
- Oral Histories
- Photographs
- International Tracing Service (ITS)

Materials held at University of Maryland, College

Park: <http://collections.ushmm.org/artifact/image/library/sephiha%20collection%20uofm.pdf>

## *How To Find Resources*

Museum's Collections Search

<http://collections.ushmm.org>

- Search all resource types – archives, books, oral histories, etc.
- Built-in geographic thesaurus-searching Bitola finds Monastir
- Searches include catalog records as well as attachments such as finding aids and oral history transcripts
- Can search by personal names
- Can search by language using advanced search – 140 items in Ladino
- In addition to Sephardic, Sefardic, Sephardim, etc. try “Spanish Jews” or “Portuguese Jews”

Please send reference requests to [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

# Digital Resources at the USHMM

## Or, For Planning a Research Trip

Museum’s Collections Search: <http://collections.ushmm.org>

Most digital resources are available through the Collections Search

### Electronic Resources

- Archival Collections
- Oral Histories
- Photographs
- Historic Film Footage
- Names Indices
- Rare Books

### Archival Collections

- 1500+ archival collections in electronic format but only 300+ available on the internet
- Many collections not online have electronic finding aids help plan research
- Collection Search search function includes finding aids and other attachments



to

### Oral Histories

- 8600+ oral histories available online through Collections Search
- Many oral histories not available online have full transcripts or summaries available online through Collections Search
- Collection Search search function includes transcripts and summaries

### Photographs

- Only 30% of digital photographs available online

- Photograph catalog records, especially for personal photo collections, can include detailed biographical information about the donor or the people in the photograph
- Historic Film Footage
- USHMM has extensive collections of pre-war and wartime home movies
- Names Indices
- Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database
  - <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/holocaust-survivors-and-victims-database>
- World Memory Project
  - [http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/USHMM\\_Collection](http://search.ancestry.com/search/group/USHMM_Collection)
- JewishGen Holocaust Database
  - <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/>

#### Rare Books

- Very new project in conjunction with the Internet Archive
- For copyright reasons, most digitized rare books are not available online
- Internet-accessible rare books are at <https://archive.org/details/usholocaustmemorialmuseum>

#### Library Electronic Resources

- Most of the Library's electronic resources are subscription databases that allow access only onsite at the Museum
- However, there are freely available resources for newspapers, geographic resources and dissertations
- <https://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/search-the-collections/electronic-resources>

For reference questions, please email [reference@ushmm.org](mailto:reference@ushmm.org)

Information on planning a research trip:

<https://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/research-visit>

# Genealogy Roadshow Season 3

## Dates Released

PBS's Genealogy Roadshow travels about the US each year helping individuals understand their family history and giving advice on resources and brick walls. In January, the Roadshow stopped in Los Angeles and JGSCV members manned a table on behalf of JGSCV and IAJGS at Union Station offering insights and help to attendees with questions about Jewish family history. (See "Venturing Into Our Past", February, 2016)



April, 2016

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

JGSCV volunteers included Jan and Tom Allen, Nancy Biederman, Sue and Ken Birdsall, Judith Cohen, Sally Goodman, Barbara Harris, Ilena and Jeff Hogan, Fred Land, Susan McElvany, Dianna and Richard Rice, Helene Rosen and Shel Winston. Will you see any of them on the telecast?

They saved  
for last: Los  
on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

|             |        |
|-------------|--------|
| Albuquerque | May 17 |
| Miami       | May 24 |
| Houston     | May 31 |

|                |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Favorite Shows | June 7  |
| Boston         | June 14 |
| Providence     | June 21 |

our Roadshow  
Angeles will air  
The others are:

## Future Meeting Dates through October 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

**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 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 Speaker: Geoff Rasmussen  
*Exploring Legacy Family Tree Software*  
July 10 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Genealogy in the Round Members and  
guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts  
August No Meeting IAJGS International Conference August 7-12  
Seattle, WA  
September meeting date to be announced  
October 16 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Judy Russell, "The Legal  
Genealogist". Topic TBA. JGSCV's 11<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Programs are subject to change - check JGSCV website [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org)