

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

May 2016

Volume 11 Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our April 4 meeting with Emily Garber on *When It Takes a Village: Applying Cluster Research Techniques*, was exceptional. I am still receiving comments on Emily's presentation and how it helped some of our members. For the highlights of the program see page 6. We return to Sunday afternoon programs this month.

Thank you to Issie Perel, JGSCV Librarian, for filling in at the last minute and facilitating the Schmoozing Corner.

I hope many JGSCV members will be attending the 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle, WA August 7-12. The deadline for early registration is April 30. JGSCV members speaking include: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hall Bookbinder, Andrea Massion and Marion Werle. The program is posted at: http://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2016/program_schedule.cfm

Last year's members who have not renewed for 2016 will no longer receive JGSCV communications. We will be happy to welcome you back with full benefits when you renew.

April 10-16 is Volunteer Week in the US and April 20 is Volunteer Recognition Day. JGSCV could not run without volunteers. Thanks to all of you who have volunteered to serve on the board: Allan, Andrea, Debra, Helene, Issie, Karen, Rosalie and Warren. And, thanks to David Oseas our webmaster and to those who serve on the Publicity Committee:

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Emily Garber at JGSCV'S April Meeting

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, April 4th 7:00-9:00 PM

When It Takes A Village

Dr. Holli Levitsky will address "Creating New Witnesses to the Holocaust: Teaching the Holocaust Locally, Globally and Virtually"

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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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.

Barbara Levasseur, Judy Karta, Pat Fuller, Susan Falck and Marilyn Silva. And to those who have served in the past on the board and on committees.

*Volunteers don't get paid not because they are worthless,
but because they are priceless.*

--Sherry Anderson

Members-only opportunities for a reduced subscription rate for a Findmypast worldwide subscription and Legacy Family Tree Webinars have been sent to 2016 members. As new people join or we receive renewal fees, those people will receive new information.

How many of you have taken advantage of the wealth of resources on our website www.jgscv.org? We have over 300 links to genealogically relevant websites covering many areas of interest. With Yom Hashoah fast approaching, if you are doing any Holocaust related research you may wish to look under the Holocaust category and the 56 links. While this is not exhaustive of all Holocaust related websites, it is a very comprehensive list of museums, concentration camps, databases, Yizkor Book locales, Holocaust organizations worldwide. If you know of a site that you think should be added to the list, contact me at president@jgscv.org

May 1 is JGSCV's annual Yom Hashoah program. Holli Levitsky, PhD, will present *Creating New Witnesses to the Holocaust: Teaching the Holocaust Locally, Globally and Virtually*. She will discuss how the Holocaust was experienced in the Jewish Catskills and why she wrote a book about it; why the Shoah continues to be so important and how it is being made relevant to future generations.

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors, have a very Happy Passover.



Jan Meisels Allen

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HAPPY



PASSOVER!

In Every Generation, it is incumbent upon each Jew to tell the story as if they personally came out of Egypt. Enjoy your Seder & your research.

Telling The Story *Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA* was a Global eBook Awards gold medal winner and a Next Generation Indie Book Awards Finalist. It is **Richard Hill's** true and intensely personal story of how he pieced together the long-kept secret of his own origins. This highly suspenseful book is a page-turning saga of personal detective work that will appeal to anyone who loves a good mystery. It's an engrossing account of an adoptee trying to reclaim the biological family denied him by sealed birth records. This fascinating quest, including the author's landmark use of DNA testing, takes readers on an exhilarating roller-coaster ride and concludes with a twist that rivals anything Hollywood has to offer. ~Amazon.com



Proof: a fundamental concept in genealogy. According to the Board of Certification in Genealogy "In order to merit confidence, each conclusion about an ancestor must have sufficient credibility to be accepted as "proved." Acceptable conclusions, therefore, meet the Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS). The GPS consists of five elements:

- reasonably exhaustive research;
- complete, accurate citations to the source or sources of each information item;
- tests—through processes of analysis and correlation—of all sources, information items, and evidence;
- resolution of conflicts among evidence items; and
- a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

Find out more at <http://www.bcgcertification.org/resources/standard.html>

Partnership with Miriam Weiner & Bessarabia SIG Announced

Yefim Kogan of the Bessarabia SIG on JewishGen.org announced that Bessarabia SIG has become a partner with Miriam Weiner and *The Routes to Roots Foundation!* The SIG received a large amount of material Miriam Weiner collected over the last 25 years. She also gave the SIG unpublished information collected in Moldova, and to be processed for access. Yefim wrote, " In the next several month you will be able to get to many articles at our website and/or at the Kehila town websites. I will also ask you soon for help to process valuable information we received from a world-renown researcher and our friend, Miriam Weiner." www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia

Organize & Research Online Class (JewishGen)(starting April 21st) is for advanced beginners who have used Ancestry and other online databases and still have questions or want to really organize information. It focuses on your immigrant ancestors and their immediate families in the United States. Highlights include a one-on-one personal mentoring program, and self-pacing tempo where students post an ancestral branch, set goals for their research, and work with the instructor 24/7. We also offer one of our Basic courses, ***Lets Get Organized*** in May. This text based course with daily exercises is part of the *Value-Added Services program*, and we waive the tuition for those who have contributed \$100 to our general fund within the last 12 months. See the full description of the lessons on

<http://www.jewishgen.org/education/description.asp?course=40046>

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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, May 1, 2016 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Annual Holocaust Memorial Day (Yom Hashoah) Commemoration

The Topic - Creating New Witnesses to the Holocaust:

Teaching the Holocaust Locally, Globally and Virtually

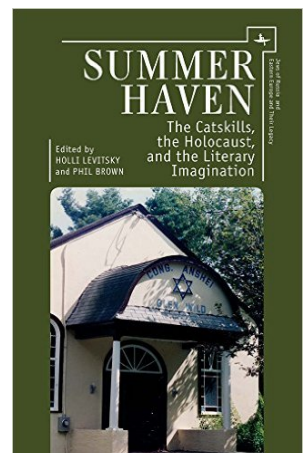
Dr. Levitsky will talk on how the Holocaust was experienced in the Jewish Catskills vacation areas and why she wrote a book about it; why the Shoah continues to be so important, and how the Shoah is being made relevant to the next generations. She will focus on the importance of teaching the Holocaust to new generations and how to make it relevant in a globalized, digitally connected world. Dr. Levitsky is the Co-editor of: *Summer Haven: The Catskills, the Holocaust, and the Literary Imagination (Jews of Russia & Eastern Europe and Their Legacy)*. Book purchasing opportunity.

(The book is a collection of writings that investigates the stories and struggles of survivors in the context of the Jewish resort culture of the Catskills through new and existing works of fiction and memoir by writers who spent their youths there.)

Speaker: Holli Levitsky, Ph.D. Dr. Levitsky is the Director of Jewish Studies and professor of English at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Her research and scholarship focus on Holocaust representation and questions of (Jewish) identity, especially as it relates to exile and displacement. Levitsky has been a Fellow at the Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and a Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Literature in Poland.

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

JGSCV Welcomes New Member JUDY FORMAN

See page 24 for the program schedule through October, 2016. There is something for everyone and a calendar rich in genealogy insights.

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.
All from Earth's biggest selection.



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 Warren Blatt waiting to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins. On the right in the photo left is Issie Perel leading the Schmoozing Corner prior to the April meeting.

Emily Garber offered multiple and varied ideas and suggestions for breaking down brick walls using a technique called FAN. To learn about FAN and how it might help you in your family research, read the highlights of the April meeting, “It Takes A Village . . .” beginning on the next page.

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

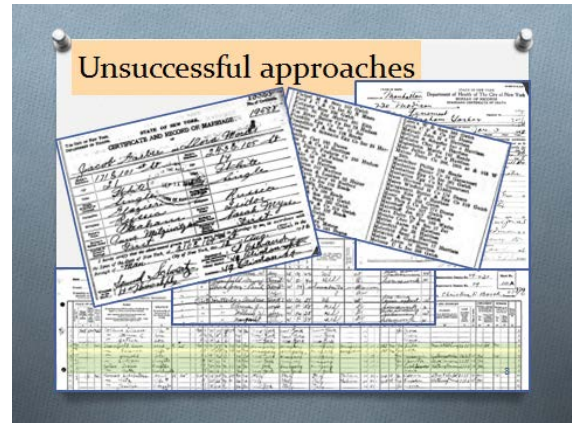
When It Takes A Village: Applying Cluster Research Techniques

By Jan Meisels Allen

Emily Garber gave an excellent presentation to a rapt audience on: *When It Takes A Village: Applying Cluster Research Techniques*. The program dealt with the challenge of identifying immigrant ancestors. Sometimes it requires broadening one's approach to include family members, associates and neighbors, known as FAN. This approach helps in identifying individuals, their origins, parentage, tracking them through time and constructing biographies to place them in their social context. The lecture



included cluster and collateral research techniques. Emily discussed appropriate applications, research planning, commonly used resources, documents and case studies from her family tracking



individuals from Europe to the United States.

For the program, Emily's example was a woman named Feiga Grunfeld/Grinfeld age 44 who was listed on the ship's manifest in 1922 coming from Poland to New York as Awrum Garber's wife. However, Feiga was not on Emily's family tree and her being listed as the spouse of Awrum was a quandary as he was known to have a different wife. Awrum Abe Garber was Emily's great grandfather, and in the 1925 New York State Census his wife was listed as Norma, age 53. The two women's ages did not match.

Emily started her quest to find out who was Feiga Grunfeld? She could not find a marriage record in New York between Awram Abe and Feige. She found a death certificate in 1928 for Awram Abe but the wife's first name was not listed. In the 1930 US census looking up the name Fannie Grunfeld she found 40 women with that name - but did not have adequate information to determine which of the 40

could be "this" Fannie Grunfeld. There were no records from the "old country".

Cluster Research

Emily then tried cluster research to broaden her research to confirm people using Elizabeth Shown Mills' FAN technique and collateral relatives - those not direct-line. This requires looking at records that are not from one's ancestors. The cluster approach helps to correctly identify individuals and often leads to records and information not kept by one's ancestors. It provides additional benefits such as information on the socio-economic context of the ancestor's life; understanding the geographical origins and migration patterns since neighbors may be relatives as many immigrants tended to live close to others that are family or from the same original town.

Showing a census record for her grandfather, Jacob Garber, Emily highlighted the socioeconomic information included in the document: immigration status, occupation, whether they owned the business or were working for someone else. In the 1920 census one of the questions asked was whether the person owned or rented their home. By comparing these attributes between the 1920 and 1930 censuses she discerned some very interesting facts. She compared the 20 families on each census before and after her ancestors and learned that in 1920 100% of them rented apartments in multi-family buildings. By 1930, 63% the 20 families surrounding her family owned a one-two family home. In 1920 17% of

that sample size owned their own business and by 1930 that number was 31%. Immigration also changed: 1920 93% were immigrants where in the 1930 census only 73% were immigrants. This may reflect the US policy in the 1920's of closing off/reducing the number of immigrants that could come to the US. Looking at her family she noted between the two censuses that the family had



expanded, and they lived next door to family.

Emily reviewed the chart above right for research planning. Who is the target of the research and what do you want to know about the person? Who were Feige's parents? How was Feige related to Awram Abe? Identify and analyze the information you already have! Start with objectives—identify the FAN club and identify the collections to search. Emily recommended using the Steve Morse Gold form (www.stevemorse.org) to search towns or others who might have traveled or lived with the person in question. Always cite your sources in your notes as part of your family tree and history.

Emily found two young women, Raya and Leja Grinfeld, on ships' manifests. They reported that they were going to different uncles in Kentucky. By looking in the 1920 census she found both uncles and that they had changed their names from Grinfeld to Greenfield. By using city directories, Emily was able to bridge gaps in time and places and by searching street addresses was able to identify the persons residing in the same household even with different names.

Another technique used by Emily to broaden her search was researching the wives of the two Greenfield uncles: Harry and Charles. She used a map to locate the different towns that were mentioned in census, marriage and death records—to find the four towns were not all that far away from each other.

Using newspaper research, she found articles that helped locate persons in cities she was previously unaware of. She trailed that information and went forward searching new names of children that were now married. Emily used obituaries—which mentioned siblings, children, etc., census records and death records to show relationships.

In the example Emily used, she found – Feige Grinfeld now Fannie Greenfield, but she still didn't know how she was related to her family. She had to analyze what she found, and determine if she had met her objective: how was Feige Grinfeld related to Awram Abe, then she had to revise her plan to achieve her objective.

Her revised plan included DNA analysis, which requires family members' DNA

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collection—and then comparing the results with the unknown relationships. She already had a comparative collection of Y-DNA from her brother's and father's



Emily helping a JGSCV meeting attendee following her presentation

first cousin's Y-DNA (father's, father's, father's DNA). She compared their Y-DNA results with that of the son of Fannie Greenfield's brother. The results indicated they were related through the paternal line. The test results did not show, however, exactly how closely they were related. The Y-DNA test is through FamilyTree DNA. Emily also used the autosomal test (Family Finder) which shows a range of relationships regardless whether they are maternal or paternal relationships. The autosomal test may be taken through any of the three major DNA testing companies: Ancestry.com, FamilyTree DNA, and 23 and Me. This test showed that Fanny's (Feige's) nephew was in the range of a first to third cousin.

A major clue came from letters and postcards written at the time of immigration. The postcard was written by Awrum Abe's brother shortly after arriving

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in New York City. Even though they were written in Yiddish, Emily had a professional translation for at least the first letter which gave key information-including an address to be contacted as the writer had recently arrived in the United States. Even with the translation, it takes some detective work as the words used by the writer-had to be understood that in Russia, where he came from does not have the letter "H" and uses a "G"- so Hirsh is Girsh which is Harry etc.

The mystery was solved! Feige Grinfeld was Awram Abe's niece! Based upon information collected from a variety of records, Emily concluded that they were likely not married, even though she was listed on the ship's manifest as his wife. One possibility is that they said they were married to avoid difficulties that single

immigrant women needed a sponsor to enter the US upon arriving.

Emily also talked about surnames and how they may be changed. She referred to the Alexander Beider Books (which are in JGSCV's traveling library). She also discussed the avoidance by some Jews of conscription in the Russian Army which at one time was for 25 years (1820-1826) and then reduced to 6 years. Some Jews were not averse to serving in the Russian military. Some people changed their surnames to avoid the draft as only sons were not conscripted - and changing the name was to "fool" the Russians that they were all only first sons.

An earlier written version of Emily's talk has been published in *Avotaynu* Summer 2015 issue on "*When It Takes a Village: Applying Cluster Research Techniques*"

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 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.*





Yom Hashoah Holocaust Remembrance Day

Yom Hashoah, the day commemorating the victims of the Holocaust, is marked on the 27th day in the month of Nisan, a week after the end of the Passover holiday and a week before Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers). It marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. In North America, we find it more practical to hold commemorative ceremonies on the closest Sunday to Yom Hashoah while others celebrate the day on April 19, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. This year we will celebrate Yom Hashoah on May 5 and eruv Yom Hashoah starts at sundown on May 4.

This is different than International Holocaust Memorial Day which is declared by the United Nations and was commemorated on January 27 this year. The United Nations and the European Union recognize the same anniversary with an event called International Holocaust Remembrance Day which started in 2005 when the United Nations marked the 60th anniversary of the end of the Holocaust.

In addition to JGSCV's program on May 1st, *Creating New Witnesses to the Holocaust: Teaching the Holocaust Locally, Globally and Virtually* with Holli Levitsky (see page 4) the following area organizations are also holding commemoration activities:

Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust—May 1, 2016 Ceremony at 2:00 pm in Pan Pacific Park. Special exhibits and learning sessions from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. See:

<http://www.lamoth.org/news--events/events/yom-hashoah/>

Temple Israel of Hollywood—Wednesday May 4 at 7:00 pm A memorial candle lighting in memory of the 6 million Jewish Holocaust victims and a 40 minute film with questions and answers. Film: *Claude Lanzmann Spectres of the Shoah*.

See: <http://www.tioh.org/nomenuarticles/555-yom-hashoah-2016>

UC Santa Barbara May 5, 2016 at 8:00 pm with Eva Mozes Kor who survived the deadly genetic experiments conducted by Dr. Josef Mengele. See:

<http://jewishsantabarbara.org/community-calendar/yom-hashoah-commemoration-at-ucsb-with-speaker-eva-mozes-kor>

There may be additional programs which are not yet posted.



Avoiding Becoming A Victim of Ransomware

Eighth in a series

By Hal Bookbinder

Ransomware is a form of malware that encrypts files on your computer and then demands payment in exchange for the passkey to access them.



In February, Hollywood Presbyterian Medical Center became the victim of a ransomware attack. Cybercriminals took control of the hospital's computers and encrypted data so that the hospital could not access or record patient notes. The cybercriminals demanded a payment to provide the hospital with the necessary passkey to unlock its files. The hospital paid \$17,000 in bit coins, an untraceable way to pay the cybercriminals who likely accomplished this attack from a country with weak extradition treaties. The cybercriminals provided the passkey and Hollywood Presbyterian was back in business. They insist that no patient was at risk during the episode. But, they redirected emergency patients to other hospitals while dealing with the attack.

Cybercriminals target individuals as well as institutions. Playing the numbers, they likely make more money at \$200 to \$400 per attack against individuals who tend to focus less on protecting their systems than institutions. Most people will readily fork over a few hundred dollars to regain control of their system and data. When the cybercriminals take

control, they display a warning screen letting you know you have been hacked and instructing you to purchase bitcoins or a cash card and then go to a site on the untraceable "dark web" to make your payment. The passkey to unlock your data is then provided. The cybercriminals want to maintain their reputation for honesty after the payment is made.

"Locky" is the nickname of one strain of ransomware. It encrypts and then renames all your important files so that they have the extension .locky. It generally arrives as an email attachment. When you open the attachment, it appears scrambled and you are instructed to "enable macros" to unscramble the message. In actuality, this will run code to implant the ransomware on your computer. "Jigsaw" is another new ransomware program which actually starts destroying files if you delay in obtaining the bitcoins to pay off the cybercriminals. It displays a countdown clock on your screen to let you know that you have one hour to make the payment and if late, you will not get back all of your data files.

To protect yourself:

- Be cautious about unsolicited attachments. If in doubt, do not open it.
- Avoid going to sites on the Internet that you do not know to be safe.
- Don't enable macros in document attachments received via email.

- Consider installing the Microsoft Office viewers. They let you see what documents look like without opening them in Word or Excel and do not permit macros.
- Maintain current virus protection and automatically download security patches for your various programs (like Office, Flash and Chrome).

choice of paying the cybercriminals for the passkey or paying your computer support person to reinstall your system and files. Such is life in the cyber age!

This is the eight 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.

Finally, backup regularly and keep a recent copy off-site. You will then have the unhappy



36th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy

The Conference schedule has been posted! It contains some 325 events during the week– lectures, presentations, meal events and computer workshops – nearly 250 of them hosted by a speaker or panel. Click here to view it: http://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2016/program_schedule.cfm It’s an interactive listing you can use to search by title, keyword, speaker’s name and session date, or just to scroll from A to Z – or rather, from Saturday, August 6, to Friday, August 12.

And the mobile Conference application will launch soon. The app will let you browse and search the list, build and update your personal daily schedule, get in touch with other conference goers and receive updates about new developments and schedule changes.

The schedule is preliminary, and changes are likely over the next few months – even up to the day of the event – so be sure to watch for announcements and check back from time to time.

If you are already registered for the conference, log in to the Attendee Service Center with your e-mail address and the password from your registration confirmation, and update your registration. If you are not registered, now is a good time to do so, because **early-registration fee discounts expire** at the end of April. See the Program Schedule for details, or read the separate pages on [computer workshops](http://www.iajgs2016.org/computer-workshops) (<http://www.iajgs2016.org/computer-workshops>) and [luncheons](http://www.iajgs2016.org/sigluncheons/) (<http://www.iajgs2016.org/sigluncheons/>).

JGSCV and IAJGS

For a suburban genealogical group, JGSCV is among the most prominent of all Jewish Genealogical Societies in the US. For example, we have six members who will be speaking at the 36th Annual IAJGS Conference this August in Seattle. Among our members is Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen, one of the most significant resources for anyone searching their Jewish roots. And Hal Bookbinder (see his article on 'Ransomware' on page XX) is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award.

Jan Meisels Allen, President of JGSCV, is a former Vice President of IAJGS and current Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee. Jan's record access 'alerts' are among the items she passes along to JGSCV members-only each month via special emails. Many JGS's in the US and globally regularly publish 'record access' columns or sections attributing all the content to Jan.

You can subscribe (it's free) to the IAJGS Records Access Alert by going to: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/listinfo/records-access-alerts>. You will receive an email response that you have to reply to or the subscription will not be finalized. It is required to include your organization affiliation (genealogy organization, etc.) Archives may be accessed at: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/private/records-access-alerts> You must be registered to access the archives.

Here is a peek at Jan's Record Access Alert from March 28th:



The Isle of Man is a self-governing British Crown dependency in the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. The Isle of Man was a base for alien civilian internment camps in both the First World War (1914–18) and the Second World War (1939–45) During World War I the British government interned male citizens of the Central Powers, principally Germany, Austria-Hungary and Ottoman Turkey. They were held mainly in internment camps at Knockaloe, close to Peel, and a smaller one near Douglas.



During World War II the Isle of Man was used as the primary site for the internment of civilian enemy aliens, both male and female. The camps were predominantly in commandeered hotels and boarding houses in seaside towns on the island. Around the camps for males, barbed wire fences were erected and military guard was brought over from England. The low-risk internees were, however, allowed to work on farms on the island and to go on excursions such as for walks or to swim in

the sea. The camps were in operation from 27 May 1940 to 5 September 1945. The largest recorded number of internees on the island was 10,024, reached in August 1940. There were ten camps on the island:

- Mooragh Camp, Ramsey
- Peveril Camp, Peel
- Onchan Camp, Onchan
- Rushan Camp, Port St Mary and Port Erin (for female and family internees only)
- Central Camp, Douglas
- Palace Camp, Douglas
- Metropole Camp, Douglas
- Hutchinson Camp, Douglas
- Granville Camp, Douglas
- Sefton Camp, Douglas

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_concentration_and_internment_camps#Isle_of_Man

The Isle of Man Museum website has recently been relaunched and includes photographic evidence of people interned there during WW1. There are about 12,000 WW1 internment images of which about 3,000 images show life at camp. When I put "Jewish" in search box 241 results appeared—not all with photographs. There were many more non-Jewish internees. Go to: <http://www.imuseum.im/>

To read their blog about this collection see: <http://www.imuseum.im/?p=411>

First World War 1 internees

Jewish Dining Room

Douglas Camp

Isle of Man

Date(s) : ?1917

Scope & Content: Dining room of the Jewish camp.

NB: the 'high table' with the Rabbis and senior officials of the camp.

Also elaborate candelabra on table.

Item name: photograph

Collection: Photographic Archive

Level: WHOLE

ID number: PG/7870/36780A

Courtesy of Manx National

Heritage

Photo is on page 13 above.

Not all people have photographs attached to their file. By typing in the name Cohen and looking through the various people and selecting one with first name Harry I obtained the following information:

Harry Cohen

Epithet: Douglas Camp internee, Isle of Man

Record type: First World War Internees

Biography: Released from Douglas Camp 8.3.1916 by order of the Secretary of State, to go to Salford.

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Douglas Camp internee number: 3183. (MS 09310 Douglas Alien Detention Camp administration and discharge register; page 100. MD 1528/1 (MS 06465) 9.3.1916.)

Nationality: Austrian

Gender: Male

Courtesy of Manx National Heritage

From those results from “Jewish” inquiry:

Adolf Ziskind

Epithet: Douglas Camp internee, Isle of Man

Record type: First World War Internees

Biography: Received at Douglas Camp from Stobs 15.11.1915. One of 15 Jewish internees transferred from Douglas Camp to Knockaloe Camp, Peel in the morning of 26.11.1915. Douglas Camp internee number: 4177. (MS 09310 Douglas Alien Detention Camp administration and discharge register; page 131. MD 15028/1 (MS 06465) 26.11.1915.)

Nationality: Turkish

Gender: Male-

Courtesy of Manx National Heritage

Recently, they also introduced a subscription database website for Newspapers and Publications <http://www.newspapers.gov.im>. Manx Newspapers and Publications from 1792 to 1960 amounting to nearly 400,000 pages of newsprint are available to browse and search. The Museum also added the German language WW1 internment camp newspapers. These have been translated and can be searched in either German or English to reveal details of internees in Knockaloe Registration to use the site is free but to access publications costs (a 24 hour subscription is £7 - approximately \$10 US Dollars). The newspaper database covers far more than World War 1. In the search box I put in “internment” and World War II as well as World War I articles came up—titles only as I do not have a paid subscription. Articles also included births, marriages and deaths, court cases, visitors to the islands and other usual commentary for those who resided in the Isle. The blog article on their newspapers and publications can be read at:

<http://www.imuseum.im/?p=41>

Thank you to Jeanette Rosenberg, OBE, Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain for informing us about this very interesting website.

Jan Meisels Allen

Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

What's New At



New York Wills and Probate Records, 1659-1999

New Jersey Wills and Probate Records, 1739-1991

Ohio Wills and Probate Records, 1786-1998

Netherlands, Genlias Death Index 1796-1960 (in Dutch)

May, 2016

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

If you are not familiar with 'Reclaim The Records', this is a good time to start. Who are they? From their website:

RECLAIM THE RECORDS

Public data for public use

*We're **Reclaim the Records**, a not-for-profit group of genealogists, historians, researchers, and open government advocates who are filing Freedom of Information requests to get public data released back into the public domain. We're collecting information about archivally important data sets that are not available online or on microfilm, and we're using state and Federal FOI laws and Open Data initiatives to get copies of this information released back to the public.*

We're starting our work in archives in New York City and New York State, and will be expanding into different parts of the country, based on demand from people like you. Along the way, we'll be documenting everything we've learned about filing Freedom of Information Act requests, and creating a Do-It-Yourself guide for genealogists, open data fans, and others who want their state, local, and Federal records made more available.

*Our goal is to get these record sets **put online, for free, for everyone**. Want to learn more? [Read our Frequently asked Questions](#).*

Below is their seventh and eighth newsletters reprinted in their entirety.

Our seventh newsletter:

The New York City Clerk's Office gets served

Once upon a time, in a mighty state called New York, the Gannett chain of regional newspapers liked to publish details about any upcoming marriages in the little communities whose news they covered. Their reporters would go to the local city clerks' offices and look at the log books of everyone who had recently applied for marriage licenses, so that they could write about the impending or recently completed nuptials in their newspapers: "*Local teacher Miss Jane Doe to wed local butcher Mr. John Smith*". You get the idea.

Well, also once upon a time, the Rochester City Clerk's Office was Not Having It. They blocked the Gannett newspaper reporters from seeing the Rochester marriage log books, claiming that this information was infringing on the privacy of the couples. After all, marriage certificates in New York State, as in most states, have privacy restrictions. In New York, marriage certificates are usually not open to the public for at least fifty years.

Well, the people at Gannett were Not Having That either. They were not going to just sit and wait around for fifty years to report the weekly news. And so, in 1993, they took the Rochester City Clerk's Office to court under everyone's favorite law, the New York State Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), to enforce public access to the names in the marriage log books. And they won.

(For the legal nerds out there, the full citation is *Gannett Co. v. City Clerk's Office*, 596 N.Y.S.2d 968 [N.Y. Sup. Ct. 1993].)

The legal nuts and bolts

In *Gannett*, the New York court reasoned that since a marriage license is a state-granted license, much like a business license or a fishing license, then most of the information in such a marriage log could be considered open to the public, even if the actual marriage certificates were restricted. But the court also conceded that any really private information in the log had to be omitted.

For example, the couple's names and the license date and the county where they were applying for a license were clearly all public information, while other details such as the couple's exact street addresses or their parents' names were clearly private information, as they were irrelevant to the question of whether or not the couple were qualified for such a license in the first place.

That 1993 Gannett case was later upheld by a higher court.

In other words, it has been the law in New York for going on twenty-three years now, that marriage "logs" or indices are *supposed to be open to the public* under FOIL, as long as all of the this-is-too-personal data gets stripped out first. And yet...

In 1998, the New York State Committee on Open Government (COOG) [wrote a pivotal memorandum known as FOIL-AO-f10608a](#) concerning the rights of public access to marriage logs in New York. Relying on the 1993 *Gannett* case, COOG delineated the probable legal status of marriage information in the state under the state Freedom of Information law -- which is to say, they agreed that most of the information should be open.

COOG's memo did point out that some items of information which might be contained in a marriage log were never explicitly ruled to be either available or unavailable by the courts. Some of these items were things like the applicant couple's ages, or their dates of birth, or places of birth. These pieces of information were probably private, unless the person who was making a FOIL request for the marriage log could show a "proper purpose" for wanting to see that data. This left the availability of these bits of information open to the discretion of the city clerks, and possibly for future judges to interpret.

Finally, COOG made a note at the bottom of this memo: *"The New York State Department of Health has agreed to use the parameters described in this memorandum as the basis for its consideration of requests for marriage records."* In other words, the state knew that most of this information was supposed to be open to the public. And yet...

And yet...

And yet, to the dismay of genealogists and researchers everywhere, New York State *still* does not have a public statewide marriage index. And neither does New York City, which is a totally separate vital records jurisdiction because of a weird historical quirk, but still subject to the same statewide Freedom of Information law. We're not even talking about public access to the actual certificates, which still have that fifty-year privacy restriction; we just mean the plain basic marriage index: *who (x 2), where, and when*.

Sure, a few years of the statewide index are available to researchers on *scratched-up microfiche*, but only if that researcher is also physically inside a select few upstate libraries. And yes, a little bit of the City marriage index exists, but only up through 1937, and that online searchable version is only available due to the kindness of the hundreds of volunteers who work with awesome non-profit groups like [ItalianGen](#).

There are still millions and millions of records out there, *decades* worth of data from one of the most populous states in the country, and from its biggest city, and they've *never* been available to the public.

At least, not yet. But then, one day, [Reclaim The Records](#) found out about the *Gannett* case, which had just been sitting there unnoticed by the genealogical community for twenty-three years.

It's On Like Donkey Kong

In the middle of 2015, [Reclaim The Records](#) had a short phone call with the New York City Clerk's Office, inquiring about the possibility of *finally* getting a copy of the New York City marriage index, up through the present day, released to the public as open data. We talked to their FOIL Officer, Mr. Patrick Synmoie, who is also their attorney. We specifically asked them about the *Gannett* case.

He seemed to have never heard of it, and insisted that *all* marriage-related records, including marriage indices, were closed for at least fifty years in New York. We knew that was probably bogus, but [we were busy dealing with a case against the NYC Municipal Archives \(part of DORIS\) at the time](#), and let it slide.

In September 2015, we filed our case against DORIS and then quickly won a settlement of all the records we had requested, forty-eight microfilms. Forty-six of them arrived quickly and the final two followed a few months later, since they had to be pulled from a different vault.

On December 14, 2015, we sent a friendly "heads up" e-mail to the City Clerk's Office, reminding them of our previous phone conversation, and pointing them to the 1993 *Gannett* decision, and to COOG's website. We let them know we'd be submitting a FOIL request soon, asking for the full NYC marriage index under the *Gannett* case and the 1998 COOG memo, plus their follow-up Advisory Opinions that referenced the case and the memo. [You can read that whole e-mail we sent to them](#), because we also posted it publicly to our Facebook page.

Mr. Synmoie at the City Clerk's Office never responded to the e-mail.

On December 30, 2015, we submitted our FOIL request to the City Clerk's Office, asking for the entire New York City marriage index, 1930-2015. That's eighty-five years worth of data. [You can read our request](#), because we also posted it publicly to our MuckRock page.

Under New York State FOIL, an agency must at least acknowledge the receipt of your records request within five business days of receiving it. The New York City Clerk's Office never even managed to make it past that first step.

On January 14, 2016 and January 29, 2016 we sent follow up letters to the City Clerk's Office. They did not reply to those either. We called their office a few times and left voicemails. They did not reply to those either.

At this point, their *refusal to acknowledge the FOIL request at all* meant that our request was as good as denied (i.e. "a Constructive Denial"). That meant that we could move on to our FOIL Appeal.

So we called our attorneys at [Rankin & Taylor](#), the same awesome group who had handled [our successful case against DORIS last year](#). (Hint: their specialty is governmental misconduct, and they particularly like going after agencies that withhold public records from the public. Not that we know anyone like that.)

Our attorney called the City Clerk's Office, and left voicemails, and also received no reply. So on February 10, 2015, our attorney drafted our Appeal, and sent it in. The City Clerk's Office now had ten business days to reply.

And on February 23, 2016, literally the day they were about to run out of time, Mr. Patrick Synmoie, who is the attorney for the City Clerk's Office and their FOIL Officer, *finally* called us back.

Offering only 25% and thinking that's a good deal

And this is where it gets pretty interesting. Mr. Synmoie offered up to our attorney that maaaaaybe **Reclaim The Records could get the 1930-1951 microfilm indices to the NYC marriage index under FOIL**, in exactly the same format as the 48 films we won from DORIS last year. This would be about 67 new microfilms, never before released to the public.

He said that once that was taken care of, we could *then* discuss the possibility of acquiring the index for the other years, meaning 1952-2015.

In other words, this was a possible offer for twenty-one years of data, rather than the full eighty-five years of data, or about one quarter of what we believed we were entitled to under the law.

Our attorney asked what we thought of that proposal. We told her that it would work for a start, but that:

1. The City Clerk's Office needed to absolutely **confirm** to us whether or not there was any form of already-digitized images or searchable database format they could give us for any of those twenty-one years of data, instead of these 67 microfilms. We would take the microfilms if

that's really all they had, but access to scanned images or a searchable text database would probably be better.

2. If there are indeed only microfilms available for 1930-1951, we needed to know from their office an **exact description of what is on each of those 67 rolls**. The reason is that there may be a tiny bit of content overlap between the data/years on these films and the ones we already won from DORIS last fall; remember that two of the 48 rolls we won from DORIS were quite late in coming to us last fall because *those two had been pulled from a different location, the City Clerk's Office's vaults*. Obviously we don't want to have to pay for the same data/years twice, so they needed to send over a full inventory so we could double check everything first.
3. Then, once we determine how many of those 67 rolls we actually needed to get (perhaps only 65?), we wanted the City Clerk's Office to **send an itemized invoice right away and provide an easy way to pay**, preferably via credit card, and then immediately send us the rolls, via expedited and insured shipping.

We thought this was pretty reasonable. And that's what we told the City Clerk's Office that same day that they had finally called us back, February 23, 2016.

But the City Clerk's Office never responded again. As our attorney put it:

11. Between February 23 and March 7, 2016, Petitioner Ms. Ganz made requests over the telephone and four (4) requests over email to Respondent City Clerk and Mr. Synmoie for written and specific details regarding records to be produced, or alternately, for confirmation that the requested records would be produced in full.

12. Petitioner also made three (3) requests for a detailed description of the contents of the microfilm rolls dated 1930 through 1951 and for information regarding the manner of production.

13. Respondent City Clerk failed to respond to these requests, and therefore to respond to the December 30, 2015 request made pursuant to FOIL.

14. Respondent City Clerk should have made a written determination regarding the Administrative Appeal within 10 business days of receipt by the agency.

It was like *déjà vu*, a flashback to dealing with DORIS last September. Although the exact circumstances of the case were different, this was yet another New York City government agency that had decided to blatantly ignore their duties under New York's forty-year-old Freedom of Information law, in an attempt to withhold genealogical records from the public.

It wasn't even that they were disagreeing with the release of the records on some specific legal point, or expressing a concern for privacy. They just *couldn't even be bothered* to follow the required timeline of how to interact with a member of the public (and their attorney) who were making a public records request. They just blew us off.

Well, you can guess what happened next. (And really, the City Clerk's Office should have guessed, too.)

We filed our "Article 78" legal petition in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York (Manhattan) last Wednesday, March 16, 2016, and served the City Clerk's Office with the papers the next day. [You can read our entire twenty-five page legal petition here.](#) It includes copies of our FOIL request, the 1993 *Gannett* case, and the 1998 COOG memo, among other things.

The index number is *100397/2016*, in case you want to follow the case through automatic alerts from New York's online court tracking system [eCourts](#).

Our first court date is scheduled for April 7, 2016. We'll let you know how it goes, of course. But for now, we'll let the Dowager Countess have the last word:



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Our eighth newsletter:

The 1908-1929 NYC marriage index goes online for free public use

It took one Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request, one modification of that FOIL request, one FOIL Appeal, one Advisory Opinion issued by the New York State Committee on Open Government, one "Article 78" legal petition filed in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, one legal settlement with the City of New York, 46 brand new microfilm copies created from the master films held in one city agency's vault and another two films from another city agency's vault, one portable hard drive full of high-quality digital scans of the 48 films donated by a kind non-profit organization, several days working in the headquarters of another non-profit to borrow their Internet bandwidth and hard drive space, and sixteen months.

But we did it. Today, Reclaim the Records is very pleased to announce that the index to the New York City Clerk's Office marriage records (the application, affidavit, and license) for 1908-1929 **is now online** and open for public use.

There are no logins required, no paywalls, no copyrights, and no usage restrictions. The index is now free and open data, forever.

Here's the link! <https://archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex>

This includes (so far) 48 items scanned from 39 microfilms:

- MANHATTAN 1908-1929
- BROOKLYN 1908-1929
- BRONX 1914-1917

Coming soon are the final nine microfilms:

- BRONX 1918-1929
- QUEENS 1908-1930
- STATEN ISLAND 1908-1938

Details about how to join a new volunteer-led transcription project for these images, to turn them into a free online searchable database, will be announced shortly.

Quick notes and updates

- Our first court date in our Article 78 legal petition in the Supreme Court of New York against the New York City Clerk's Office, seeking the first-ever public copies of the 1930-2015 NYC marriage index under the New York State Freedom of Information Law, has been pushed back one month, to May 9, 2016. We will let you know how it goes.
- Our case to be reimbursed our attorneys fees by the New York City Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS, parent agency of the NYC Municipal Archives) is scheduled to have its oral arguments on May 25, 2016. We'll let you know how that goes, too. Last month, Reclaim The Records was one of the organizations that was a signatory to a letter to Senators Grassley, Leahy and Cornyn, all of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for the [Endorsement of Immediate Passage of FOIA Improvement Act of 2016](#). Yup, Reclaim The Records is going to start getting involved in governmental lobbying efforts to improve FOIA and strengthen state Freedom of Information laws.

Future Meeting Dates through October 2016

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

Check the website and this newsletter for future updates

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*". Through the Golden Door-Immigration After the Civil War"
JGSCV's 11th Anniversary

Note: Dates later in 2016 and first half of 2017 will be publicized as soon as we learn the dates from Temple Adat Elohim

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