

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

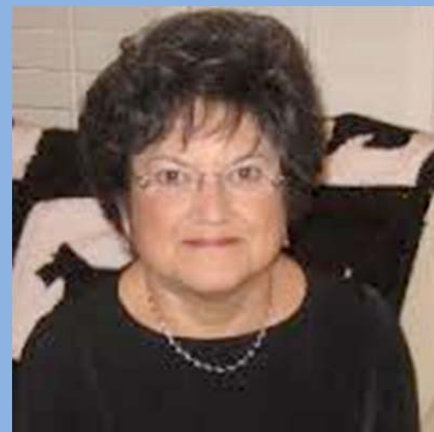
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

July 2017

Volume 12 Issue 10

It's been several years since JGSCV had a *How to Begin Your Genealogy* program. Our June 4th program was just that, and attracted five first timers along with our regular attendees! Even seasoned genealogists could get suggestions from the presentation's broad range of topics and tips. While our monthly programs typically provide in-depth information on just one genealogical item such as Censuses, Changing Borders, DNA Testing, Holocaust, immigration, Internet Sites, Naturalization or Newspaper Research, this was a *pot pourri* with a variety of techniques you can use to help in your genealogical research. It was my privilege to present the program. To see the highlights of the program go to page 6. Attendees received a handout, which included many of the genealogical websites mentioned during the presentation. The handout is posted to our website: <http://www.igscv.org/meetings/prior meetings/2017-06-04>. The best single source listing of genealogical Internet sites is on our website (under resources) where you will find more than 400 sites, in 25 categories. Our resources are updated several times a year thanks to our webmaster, David Oseas.

JGSCV founding member, Dalya Dektor informed the attendees at the meeting about the upcoming Ventura County Fair. Dalya volunteers during the 10-day fair at the genealogy booth. In the past, other JGSCV members have also volunteered. The booth is provided by the Ventura Family History Center and if you wish to learn more about the fair, the opportunity to enter genealogy craft competitions,



JGSCV President, Jan Meisels Allen, the June presenter on "How to Begin Your Genealogy"

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, August 6th 1:30-3:30 PM



Where YOU get to show and tell your successes, brick walls and artifacts. Contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@igscv.org to participate.

2017 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jan Meisels Allen, President
and Program Chairman**
president@jgscv.org

Helene Rosen, VP Membership
membership@jgscv.org

Diane Wainwood, Secretary
secretary@jgscv.org

Karen Lewy, Treasurer
treasurer@jgscv.org

Rosalie Bell, Publicity
publicity@jgscv.org

**Warren Blatt, Member
Education**
education@jgscv.org

**Julie Goldman, Community
Outreach** julie@jgscv.org

**Judy Karta, Community
Outreach** judy@jgscv.org

**Allan Linderman,
Newsletter Editor**
newslettereditor@jgscv.org

**Andrea Massion,
Member-at-Large**
Andrea@jgscv.org

Israel Perel, Librarian
librarian@jgscv.org

Barbara Algaze, FSL
barbara@jgscv.org

David Oseas, Webmaster
webmaster@jgscv.org

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.

and about volunteering see page 12.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his excellent series on *Practicing Safe Computing*. This month's article is on *Modems and Routers* is on page 11. After publication of this issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*, you may also find this Hal's current article as part of the entire series housed on our website: www.jgscv.org under "Noteworthy".

JGSCV acquires books for our two libraries throughout the year—both by donation and purchase. A list of books that have been added to our libraries since January is on page 13. Our website has a searchable list of our permanent library and a static list of our traveling library. See <http://www.jgscv.org/> go to library and then permanent or traveling.

The Board has been busy booking programs through August 2018. The list of updated programs is on page 18. As additional programs are added, they will be announced both in *Venturing Into Our Past* and on our website: www.jgscv.org under future meetings. Of course a current list will be available at all meetings. We are excited about the programs scheduled through December—with exceptional speakers and topics: Immigration and Naturalization; JewishGen; Visiting ancestral towns to understand the Holocaust impact on family; and how Jewish peddlers propelled a mass migration of Jewish families out of central and eastern Europe, north Africa, and the Ottoman Empire.

We are not meeting in July due to the 37th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. I hope to see many of you in Orlando. JGSCV returns on August 6 with our annual *Genealogy in the Round* where you get to share a success, brick wall or artifact. We need volunteers to participate. So far we have 4 participants and we should have at least 7-9. This is always a program that is a highlight of the year. Please don't make me worry until the last minute. Contact me with one sentence of what you want to share at president@jgscv.org.

Have a safe and Happy July 4th! See you on August 6th!

Jan Meisels Allen





Postcard Collection of European Synagogues Online

Marilyn Isenberg of Beverly Hills posted on the JewishGen Yizkor SIG that Frantisek Banyai, of Prague, Czech Republic has updated his website featuring his extensive collection of postcards of Polish and other European synagogues. In addition, there are street scenes and group photo postcards. Mr. Banyai also shares a collection of pins and medals from Maccabi events in the early 20th century. (Maccabi is the Jewish sports organization still producing event for Jewish youth.) You can browse this collection at <http://www.judaica.cz>

American Postcards Online

Penny Postcards Online is a link on U.S. Gen Archives webpage. The archives, established in 1996 by volunteers, provide free information by state and county. *Penny Postcards* is also organized by state and county with hundreds of vintage postcards. Enjoy browsing! <http://www.usgarchives.net/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>

Jewish Life in Inter-War Łódź

Halina Goldberg, Professor of Musicology and at the Borns Jewish Studies Program at Indiana University–Bloomington, announced that ***Jewish Łódź***, an archival website, is up and running at <http://tinyurl.com/ybyq5gu6>. Professor Goldberg pays loving tribute to her parents' life in Bałuty, the Jewish section of Łódź, pre-WWII. Check out the 360° tour of the Goldberg kitchen from her installation at Muzeum Włókiennictwa, advertisements for entertainment including an Al Jolson concert, and cinema theatres, their designs and ads.



Papercut Family Tree by
Anna Dąbrowicz, Lodz DSC

UK Cemetery Re-Discovered

Randy Fishbein recently led us to this amazing re-discovery of an 18th century cemetery in Devon, England. The original plot of land for the cemetery was given at around 1745 by a Sarah Sherrenbeck, wife of Joseph Sherrenbeck, who are both buried there. Around this time, it is known there were sufficient Jews in Plymouth to hold services inside their homes. Sources reveal the presence of only five Jews in the town, including the Sherrenbecks, but the synagogue account book shows that there were at least 52 male members in 1759. Read more at <http://tinyurl.com/y7keqw9j>

To Those Going to Orlando FL this August

Nesia Tova! A safe and good journey to those members who will attend the IAIGS 2017 in Orlando FL. May you be inspired by stories, learn new techniques and generate ideas as you engage in lectures, meet other genealogists from around the world, and enjoy the fellowship that permeates the event. Come back to tell us of your adventures.



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, August 6, 2017 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, CA 91362 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Topic: Genealogy In The Round



Come and share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall, or genealogical artifact! This is YOUR meeting. We all learn from one another. This is an opportunity to share your genealogical story—success or failure, ask questions about your brick walls, and help others who may be facing similar challenges.

If you wish to participate in the program, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. Each participant will be given 5-10 minutes to share—depending on the number of presenters. Whether you are a JGSCV member or a potential member—we'd love to hear your genealogical story.

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 Jewish genealogy and family history.

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

JGSCV Updates

CORRECTION: The May issue of *Venturing Into Our Past* included the article “Highlights from: The Film *Persona Non Grata* and Director, Cellin Gluck” beginning on page 6. On page 9 of that issue the following incorrect sentence was published, “There were multiple ships that transported the Jews to Japan, however, the film depicted only the Asakusa Maru.” The film’s director, Cellin Gluck reached out to alert us that the ship was actually Amakusa-Maru. The sentence should read, **“There were multiple ships that transported the Jews to Japan, however, the film depicted only the Amakusa-Maru”**. We regret the error.

Library

Don’t forget to look for the new additions to the library starting on page 13 or on our website www.jgscv.org

Remember

There is no JGSCV meeting in July due to the 37th Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held this year in Orlando, FL. Next meeting, Genealogy In The Round is August 6th at 1:30 PM. Be sure to contact Jan Meisels Allen (president@jgscv.org) with your genealogical success, failure or artifact to share. This is the meeting where we all learn from each other.

Affiliate Programs

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. This takes you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. See “Noteworthy” on the JGSCV.org website for instructions for Ralphs Community Contribution Program, too. AND, if you shop at Food 4 Less and use your Ralph’s card, JGSCV will benefit as though you shopped at Ralph’s.

Venturing Into Our Past © is the newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley (JGSCV). All rights reserved. Permission is granted to reproduce any original content for non-profit use with prior notification to the editor and proper attribution."

Highlights from: How to Begin Your (Jewish) Genealogy

JGSCV had not had a program on *How to Begin Your Genealogy* in several years and with new members joining the society almost monthly it was time to give this program again. The JGSCV website resources area shows almost 400 links divided into 25 categories and it should be the first place you look when trying to research any genealogical subject www.jgscv.org/resources.htm. A handout of the most used genealogy sites is posted to the JGSCV website at: <http://tinyurl.com/y9fl2at9> under the June 4 date. The Internet sites mentioned below may all be found on the JGSCV resource list and therefore, their urls are not repeated below.

It is difficult to briefly summarize 117 slides therefore the following is truly only the highlights.

1. There are three myths:

- MYTH ONE: Names were changed at Ellis Island

This is not true, as the ship's manifest has to match the names that were given when the passenger boarded the ship in Europe. The person writing the names on the manifest "heard" the name through the filter of their own language, so in many cases the spelling of the name was not "accurate", but was what it "sounded" like to the ship's clerk.

- MYTH TWO: All records were destroyed

This also is not true. After the Iron Curtain came down many records became available, which continues to this day. Some records may have been destroyed during the two World Wars, but not all records. There are records, other than vital records, which may be of assistance in tracing family, such as local utility bills and other town/city records that a local archive may have in its files.

- MYTH THREE: Families do not talk about the past

While Holocaust survivors may not easily speak of their experiences, it has been shown they may be willing to share some stories in the right environment. For example, with other survivors at a Holocaust museum, they may "open up". Older generation immigrants may not be willing to speak at first, wondering why you want to know their "old country" experiences. However, when interviewing and asking the non-threatening questions, you will be able to learn about their lives in their homeland.

2. To know where to locate the records where your ancestors lived, one has to know the history of the geographic area. A video was shown depicting how the European borders changed from in the year 1000 to the present. The video (screen shot on next page), which lasts three minutes and 15 seconds, may be viewed at: <http://tinyurl.com/yamul354>.

When watching the video, focus on the countries you are researching to see how borders changed over time. Some countries completely disappeared for years.



Embed Code

Plays

3. The Pale of Settlement is a region in western Imperial Russia that existed from 1791 to 1917, where Jews were required to live. The great migration of Jews to the United States, Canada, South Africa, and Israel (then-



Palestine) between 1881-1917 started from this area.

4. Napoleon had influence on Jews as he marched across Europe conquering nations. Not only did he provide civil rights for Jews, he mandated civil records, birth, marriage, death and census records, which still survive today. He required the vital records to know whom to tax and whom he could conscript into the military.

5. Jewish Surnames and Naming Patterns. Other than rabbinical families, Jews predominately did not have surnames before the early 1800's. Surnames were mandated by Prussian-Austrians in 1787 and the Russian Pale in 1804, but not enforced until 1835-1845. Despite family lore, Jews did not purchase their names to get a "better" name. Prior to taking surnames, we used patronymic names, such as Abram son of Israel, i.e. Abram ben Israel, or Abramowicz. When we were required to take surnames we took names such as:

- Toponyms: names from a town where the family once lived, such as Wilamowsky from the town of Wilamo.
- Names based on occupations such as Kaufman = tradesman, or Schneider = tailor.

If you are Ashkenazi the naming pattern is for an ancestor who is deceased. If you are Sephardic, you are named for a living relative with a specific naming pattern.

6. Neither spelling nor dates mattered until the 20th century. Therefore, broaden your view of how names could have been spelled. Previously, dates of

birth did not matter. The ancestor would say they were born on the third night of Chanukah or the 7th night of Passover rather than a specific date and month.

For those with ancestry in the Russian-influenced geographic areas, you may find “double dating” in the vital records, as there were two calendars in effect. The Julian and Gregorian calendars were both in use and have a 12-day difference. The earlier date is based on the Julian calendar used by the Russians, and the later date is according to the Gregorian calendar, used by other European countries

7. When starting your genealogy, start with what you know and work from the present to the past.

8. As the family detective you have certain responsibilities. You will undoubtedly uncover some family secrets whose disclosure may upset some living relatives. It is not your job to reveal what might be hurtful. While today many people are more open about what was considered inappropriate only a generation ago, careful consideration should be given before deciding what to share. Some people will truly appreciate learning their grandfather was not their biological grandfather, while others will be offended. Ethics is an important element in genealogy.

9. Clues can be in newspaper clippings, obituaries, and advertisements. Newspaper advertisements, articles help to locate people in certain time frames. Search you ancestral towns and surnames in Google and in historical newspapers, including the Jewish and Yiddish newspapers.

You can find newspapers in libraries, microfilms, interlibrary loans and on Internet sites.

Clues can also be in old letters, backs of photographs, family bibles, cemeteries, school year books, copies of documents, birth, marriage and death records, passports, safe deposit boxes and more.

10. Cemetery headstones (metzevahs) provide useful genealogical information. The inscription will include the father’s Hebrew name, the Anglicized name of the deceased, birth dates or years. Symbols may indicate whether the deceased was a Kohan or Levite. Check with cemetery offices as to who is listed as next of kin or responsible for paying for upkeep. Others in the family may be buried in the family plot. In older cemeteries, especially in the East, there are landsmannschaften plots. Landsmannschaften were immigrant benevolent organizations formed and named after the members' birthplace or East European residence, for mutual aid that included cemetery plots. The JGS, Inc. (New York City) has a listing of landsmannschaften on its website: <http://tinyurl.com/yamox8zd>.

11. Where to search on the Internet was discussed. The list of urls on the JGSCV website under resources is the best, most extensive list: www.jgscv.org/resources.htm. The handout lists the most popular sites such as JewishGen, JRI-Poland, IAJGS, Ancestry.com/jewishfamilyhistory, Ancestry, FamilySearch, National Archives, United States Immigration and Citizenship Service (USCIS), and more.

12. Census is a very valuable tool to learn about the family in a specific time period.

There has been a decennial census in the US since 1790—albeit who was counted has changed over time. It gives information on age, marital status, housing, occupation, family members residing in the same location. US censuses may be found on Ancestry.com a subscription service that is also available at the public libraries in Ventura County, Thousand Oaks, and LA City as well as local Family History Centers.

13. Ships Manifests listed the passengers who came into the United States by ship. There were ports in addition to New York: Baltimore, Boston, Charleston, Galveston, Miami, Philadelphia and San Francisco. There were also border crossings from Canada into the United States. These records are on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch. A finding aid for ships manifests, census and more may be found on the One-Step website by Steve Morse (www.stevemorse.org).

14. City Directories existed before there were telephone directories and people paid to be listed, both for their businesses and personal residences. Directories are a way to analyze residential patterns – where and when people lived. It is a way to compare names and status, such as if someone is married or widowed. It is a helpful tool in identifying neighbors and occupations.

15. Our ancestors had a variety of ways to travel. They rode a wagon, took a train or walked to one of the European ports (Germany, Belgium, France, Italy or the United Kingdom).

16. The United States has had naturalization laws since 1790. Originally the naturalization laws were

administered by the states with no consistency. As of 1906, the federal government took control of the naturalization process. There have been many acts addressing naturalization since 1906 with the most recent amendments in 2006.

17. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is a place to obtain naturalization certificate files between 1906-March 31, 1956; Alien registration forms between August 1, 1940-March 31, 1944; registry files between March 1, 1929- March 31, 1944; and Alien files numbered below 8 million and documents dated prior to May 1, 1951.

18. Use of timelines is a great genealogical tool to help relate to current events during the same time frame as you are researching. Time lines also aid in replacing the absence of some vital records, by using alternative sources, such as City Directories, advertisements, use of children’s birth records to place a person in a certain time and place.

19. In researching the Holocaust, look at the International Tracing Service (ITS) and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Yad Vashem, Israel’s memorial to the Holocaust has many records online including in the Hall of Names, Pages of Testimony. If you know someone who perished in the Holocaust you should complete a Page of Testimony.

20. Military records are an excellent resource for researching those who served in the military. Most countries have military records. In the United States the records are available at the National Archives and Records

Administration National Personnel Records Center in St. Louis, Missouri. However several decades ago a massive fire destroyed most of the Army and Air Corps records. It is still worthwhile to contact them to see if they have anything pertaining to those you are researching. The National Archives has access to the Archival databases by military conflict and those records are online.

21. Interviewing your relatives is an important part of your research. It is important to be respectful of their wishes and not overwhelm them. Write up your interview and share it with them and ask for corrections. Never argue with them about their remembrances or they will cease sharing information. Most families have disagreements among family members. If family members do not agree on a story, note all variations and assign attribution to each person. It is best to record (audio or video) when interviewing—however as on occasion technology fails, take notes. Always ask permission, if you are going to record the interview.

When interviewing, remember to ask about family medical history for genetic or hereditary issues.

22. DNA testing is an important part of today's genealogy research. Test results may help determine where your ancestors came from. There are three types of tests: Y-DNA (male lineage) and mtDNA (mitochondrial DNA)—female lineage; and autosomal tests. Only Family Tree DNA performs all three tests. Four DNA companies do the autosomal testing: 23andMe; Ancestry DNA, FamilyTreeDNA and MyHeritage DNA. One can transfer their autosomal tests to My Heritage from the other testing companies at no charge. FamilyTree DNA also will accept autosomal tests transferred from the other testing companies for free. Each company uses different algorithms for their test results. In trying to find "cousins" each company can only search others in their own database, i.e. those who have tested with that company. Therefore, testing with multiple companies will result with different matches for relatives as they all have different customers.

Enjoy your genealogical journey!

Jan Meisels Allen is the President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV). Jan is the chairperson of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Public Records Access Monitoring Committee (PRAMC) since 2003. She served on the IAJGS Board of Directors from 2004-2013, and since 2004 represents IAJGS on the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC). In 2015 she was awarded the IAJGS Volunteer of the Year award. In 2013, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) awarded Jan the President's Citation. She speaks on records access at national genealogical conferences and has spoken at a number of organizations on Jewish genealogy. She has been researching her Polish, Hungarian and Galician roots for over 19 years.

Practicing Safe Computing: Modems and Routers

22nd in a series
By Hal Bookbinder



A modem (**mod**ulate and **demod**ulate) is a device that accepts a series of analog signals (tones) and converts them into their digital equivalents (represented as 0's and 1's) and vice versa. Digital to analog is “modulation”. Analog to digital is “demodulation”. Your telephone typically sends and receives analog signals. Your computer recognizes ‘digital’ streams. The cable or telephone vendor provides you with a modem to interface between the communications line and your digital devices. It is the first device into which you would connect the cable coming into your home.

A router is a network device that takes a digital signal (after being converted by the modem), and intelligently distributes or suppresses it. It may connect directly to a desktop computer and broadcast via Wi-Fi for your wireless devices (laptops, smartphones, tablets etc.). Routers can have rules, including what signals to permit (for example you might bar adult content or specific websites), passwords (to restrict which devices can access it), encryption (to protect transmissions) and a built-in firewall (to protect your devices).

Most routers include built-in firewalls. This article provides easy instructions to check if yours does and, if so how to turn it on: <http://tinyurl.com/mt6cfml>. Check the user guide that came with your router or the vendor’s web page for router-specific instructions.

Wireless routers are those that transmit digital data via Wi-Fi for use by your wireless devices. While not all routers provide wireless transmission, virtually all that are relevant to a home user do. Such routers offer one, two or even three “bands.” Bands are the radio frequencies over which the router transmits Wi-Fi signals. If it only provides one band, it may be competing with other wireless devices (e.g. Bluetooth). Most offer two bands, 2.4 gigahertz (2.4 GHz) and 5 gigahertz (5 GHz). A few, offer three. Two is normally adequate. The router automatically switches as needed.

You generally do not need the fastest and most expensive routers since these likely far exceed the data rate from your Internet service provider (ISP). Older routers may be slow and use protocols that do not keep up with today’s devices. A current or recent generation router providing 300 million bits per second (300 Mbps) is likely more than sufficient. Consider faster speeds if you are a “gamer”, concurrently share several wireless devices, or stream videos.

Wireless routers will generally have one or more antennae. More antennae typically correlate to wider coverage. So, if you have a large area to cover, consider a router with several antennas. If you need to cover an especially large area or need Wi-Fi to go through certain types of walls and doors, you might need a separate range extender. Such a device amplifies the signal to reach additional areas.

Routers will have one or more USB and Ethernet ports for directly attached devices. This can include a computer, shared storage and printers. If you are connecting a USB 3 capable device, be sure the router has available USB 3 ports. USB 3 devices connected to USB 2 ports will transfer data more slowly.

Review the features before you buy a router and check objective online articles. For comparisons of the best current-generation wireless routers see <http://tinyurl.com/n63a3f3>, <http://tinyurl.com/hoon5gg>, or <http://tinyurl.com/8xjrafp>.

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

VENTURA COUNTY FAIR: AUGUST 2-13



The Ventura County Fair (August 2-13) will take place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds located at 10 W. Harbor Blvd. in Ventura. This year's theme is: "Rooted in Tradition." Genealogical awards and prizes are offered as part of the Hobbies Department. For entry details go to: <http://www.venturacountyfair.org/hobbies/> and scroll down to below the photograph. **You can enter Online until July 17, 2017** or bring your items to the Gem & Mineral building at the fairgrounds on July 28, 29 & 30, 2017 between 10 am - 5 pm. You do not have to enter online to exhibit at the fair – just bring your items on July 28, 29 & 30, 2017 between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm.

Go here for instructions for online entry: <http://www.venturacountyfair.org/fair/entryguides/> then click on the blue rectangle. Scroll to the bottom of that page and click on *Hobbies, Models & Collections* to enter online. Genealogy is division 465 (page 5 of the entry guide). There are 8 genealogy entry classes.

JGSCV members have volunteered in past years in the genealogy booth and enjoyed it! Genealogy volunteers are needed for each day. The genealogy booth location is in the same corner of the Gem & Mineral/Hobby building as it has been in the past several years. There are three

shifts per day. Volunteers participate in 3.5 – 4 hour shifts 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. There are no parking passes for volunteers. It is suggested the best park and ride is at the Stanley Avenue exit off the 33, which is small, well-lit and does not have a line!

It is best if volunteers are familiar with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org as well as other popular programs to show the fair attendees how genealogy is researched. Training sessions will be held for those needing an update on the latest programs. Volunteers are admitted to the Fair free.

For general information about the Fair see: <https://www.venturacountyfair.org/fair/>

There is a sign-up form on the website of the Ventura Family History Library website where you will need to provide your first and last names, email address and phone number. See: <http://tinyurl.com/jook6nf>

JGSCV founding member Dalya Dektor has been a volunteer at the genealogy area of the Fair for a number of years and is a good source of information. You can contact Dalya with questions at: dilly@roadrunner.com. For general questions about volunteering contact Bettye Berg at bettyeberg@yahoo.com.

New Additions to the JGSCV Libraries

Since we reported in January 2017's newsletter, the following books have been added to the JGSCV library. If you have genealogically-relevant books that you would like to donate, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. The books listed below that are in the traveling library are categorized with an *A*, *B*, *C* or *D*. Those without a letter categorization are in our Permanent Library. The majority of our books are now housed at the Agoura Hills Library, a branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library. A full list of all of our permanent and traveling library holdings may be found on the website: www.jgscv.org.

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Mediterranean Region Volume 1: Maghreb, Gibraltar and Malta Alexandre Beider Avotaynu New Haven CT 2017 A

A History of the Jews Abram Leon Sachar Fifth Revised and Enlarged Edition Alfred Knopf 1967 **(replacing and updating 4th edition which is in the collection)**

Britain and the Jews of Europe 1939-1945 Bernard Wasserstein Institute of Jewish Affairs, Clarendon Press Oxford 1979

Jewish Baseball Hall of Fame Erwin Lynn Shapolsky Publishers New York 1987

Jewish Pioneers of New Mexico Tomas Jaehn Santé Fe Museum of New Mexico Press 2003

Jews in Germany from Roman Times to the Weimar Republic Nachum T. Gidal Köneman Verlagsgesellschaft mbH Köln Germany 1998 (English Language Edition)

Judenhaus Small Ghetto at Grosse Merzelstrasse 7 Werner L. Frank CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform; Thousand Oaks, CA February 2017

Golem Eduard Petiška Translation Jana Švábová Martin Publishing House Prague, Czech Republic 1991

Lithuanian Jewish Culture Dovid Katz Baltos Lankos Lithuania 2004

Mastering Genealogical Documentation Thomas W. Jones National Genealogical Society Special Topics Series National Genealogical Society Arlington VA 2017

Materials on the Memorial to The Murdered Jews of Europe Foundation for the Memorial to the Murdered Jews in Europe Third revised edition English Nicolai Berlin, Germany 2009

Six Years Forever Lost The Testimony of Manya Frydman Perel Marc Joel Adelman and Manya Frudman Perel—self Published 2011

Sources of Belgium Jewish Archives from Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries (Sources or l'histoire des Populations Juives et du Judaïsme en Belgique Xix-XXI Siècles) Pierre-Alain Tallier, Gertjan Desmet, Pascale Falek-Alhadeff National Archives of Belgium, Avant—Propos Waterloo, Belgium 2017 (In French and Flemish)

The Jews of Lithuania A History of a Remarkable Community 1316-1945 Masha Greenbaum Gefen Publishing House Jerusalem 1995

The Last Jews in Berlin Leonard Gross Simon and Schuster NY 1982

The Story of an Underground: The Resistance of the Jews of Kovno in the Second World War Dov Levin and Zvie A. Brown Gefen Publishing Jerusalem 2014

Written in Memory: Portraits of the Holocaust Jeffrey A. Wolin Chronicle Books, San Francisco, CA 1997

Update on Family Tree Maker 2017

By Jan Meisels Allen

History and Current Status

As mentioned in previous issues of *Venturing Into Our Past*, Ancestry announced it would cease selling Family Tree Maker as of December 31, 2015, while it would continue to support the desktop software through at least January 1, 2017. In February, 2016 they announced Software MacKiev acquired Family Tree Maker. (Mac users, are familiar with Software MacKiev as they were the developer for the previous Mac versions of the software.) This provided the ability to purchase new versions of Family Tree Maker and receive Ancestry hints and save updates on existing trees in Ancestry, with Family Tree Maker.

Ancestry also has an agreement with RootsMagic . . .

It had been anticipated that the new software would be available early in 2017.

Ancestry also has an agreement with RootsMagic that also allows tree sharing. RootsMagic is also in Beta testing with Ancestry for synching, which is delayed.

As with many computer conversions, unexpected “glitches” occurred especially with synching one’s tree to Ancestry. Software MacKiev’s FamilySynch® has replaced Ancestry’s TreeSynch™.

Ancestry’s TreeSynch™ was officially discontinued on March 29, 2017 when Software MacKiev’s



FamilySynch® was brought online. However, due to problems synching large trees—defined as more than 15,000 people—FTM 2017 did not launch as expected on March 31. At this time, Ancestry will maintain all services except synching while they work with MacKiev to modify the system. Existing users will continue to receive hints under their older versions of FTM. **Once FTM 2017 is available, Ancestry’s search, merge, and hints will only work with this edition, not previous editions.**

As of this publication, Family Tree Maker is still in “Test Drive” and is currently offering

a new build to test drivers who are using a build released on April 20th. It will be offered to those who pre-purchased a copy of FTM 2017 or are getting one for free. If the new test Drive 2.0 is successful, Software MacKiev expects to release FTM 2017 in mid-July. Their support website which is the best place to find out current status: <http://tinyurl.com/lybjwgb>.

Ancestry Hints Only Available if You Upload Your Tree to Ancestry

I recently learned from Ancestry that when Family Tree Maker was acquired by Software MacKiev, a change on leaf hints would occur. Due to new system changes at Ancestry with the leaf hints, they will only work in the future on “live” trees, in other words, **if one uploads their tree to Ancestry**. This is a major change, as previously one could receive the leaf hints on their desktop Family Tree Maker software without having to also upload their trees to Ancestry.

If you upload your tree to Ancestry and then change your mind at any time, you can delete your tree once it is uploaded. In response to an inquiry, Ancestry advised me, “When you click the delete button and confirm that you want to delete a tree, it is completely deleted from all of their systems and is no longer accessible by the public, other users, or even Ancestry itself.” Additionally, references to the tree will remain for up to a month in “search” if the tree had been listed previously, but if a user attempts to access the tree, they are informed that it has been deleted, and the search indexes are usually updated pretty quickly to remove that reference.

Ancestry, further commented, for those concerned whether their data will be accessible to others, that if you mark the tree as private and unindexed, no other users on the site will ever know anything about the tree unless you invite them to access it. Ancestry advises they take security and privacy extremely seriously and your trees are completely secure on them.

Suggestion: If you do not plan on uploading your tree to Ancestry, and like the leaf-hints, work on the leaf hints **now**. When the actual release occurs, which may be as



early as mid-July, leaf-hints will only be available on the uploaded tree that is synched with the tree you have on Ancestry, not your desk-top tree that is not uploaded to Ancestry.

Suggestion: Back-Up Your Tree Before You Try the New Software.

It is always sage advice for any new program, not only genealogy desk top software, to make a backup copy of your data (tree) and save it on an external hard drive or offsite back-up program. This “extra step” helps if you run into a problem, as now you still have your database intact.

I have no affiliation with either Ancestry or Software MacKiev and am sharing this information solely to educate what the current status is about this very popular desktop software.

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum Project

With *History Unfolded*, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is asking volunteers to search old newspapers online and in local archives to locate



HISTORY UNFOLDED
US NEWSPAPERS AND THE HOLOCAUST

articles and opinion pieces covering specific Holocaust related events. As of June 18, 2017 participants from across the United States have submitted more than 10,600 articles from their local newspapers. The submissions include political cartoons, advertisements, news articles and editorials. The 32 specific Holocaust-era events that are being requested are listed at: <https://newspapers.ushmm.org/events/events-all>. These events took place in both the United States and throughout Europe between the years 1933 and 1945.

To learn more about the project and how you can participate and upload your results to the database go to: <https://newspapers.ushmm.org/about/project?from=global-nav#>

STANLEY DIAMOND AWARDED CANADA'S MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL

As reported in *Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter* (www.eogn.com) and later in *Nu? What's New?*, Stanley Diamond (right), co-founder and Executive Director of JRI-Poland was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal of Canada. As highlighted in the letter from the Governor General's Office, the honor was for "your work in documenting Jewish genealogy, and particularly for establishing and directing Jewish Records Indexing – Poland. The impact of your work has indeed been far reaching."



Diamond is one of 49 recipients from various sectors across Canada who were recognized in the ceremony which was held in Ottawa on Friday, June 23.

According to the Governor General's website, "The Meritorious Service Decorations recognize extraordinary people who make Canada proud. . . . The best candidates are those who inspire others through their motivation to find solutions to specific and pressing needs or provide an important service to their community or country."

Genealogy Odds and Ends

As reported in *Nu? What's Nu?*, the LDS Church will discontinue its microfilm distribution services effective September 1, 2017. According to the LDS website, "The change is the result of significant progress made in FamilySearch's microfilm digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology.

When approved by priesthood leaders, centers may continue to maintain microfilm collections already on loan from FamilySearch after microfilm ordering ends. Centers have the option to return microfilm that is available online or otherwise not needed. As more images are published online, centers may reevaluate whether to retain microfilm holdings.

The Israel Genealogy Research Association has now released more than 1 million Eretz Israel records from the Ottoman Empire through the British Mandate to the State of Israel. A preview of the databases is available at <http://tinyurl.com/y886k5mq>

New databases added include Hashomer Hatzair Youth (1946-47), Petach Tikva Marriage and Divorces (1928-31), 1940 Prohibited Immigrants, Members of Histadrut Hamorim (Teachers Union, 1940).

Updated databases include Jerusalem Marriages (1931-40), Palestine Marriage/Divorce Certificates, Engagements (2016), Name Changes (1954).

You must register at no charge, to view the databases: <http://genealogy.org.il/>

Yahad In Unum's Interactive Map (<http://www.yahadmap.org>) indicates the sites of mass executions located by Yahad research teams, where the Nazis and their allies murdered Jews throughout Eastern Europe. Each site includes a link to a brief village profile and research results for each location. The site includes information concerning the killings of the Jewish population of the localities as well as prewar Jewish life and Jewish residents.

**Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and
Ventura County (JGSCV) www.jgscv.org**

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2018

Sunday starting at 1:30 p.m. Monday starting at 7:00 p.m.

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

July no meeting IAJGS Conference July 23-28, 2017 Orlando, FL

August 6 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Genealogy In the Round Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts

Sept 10 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Hal Bookbinder "Immigration and Naturalization"

October 1 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm JGSCV 12th Anniversary Deborah Long: "Three Guides, Four Countries A Daughter of Holocaust Survivors Travels to Their Ancestral Villages"

November 13 Monday 7:00-9:00 pm Warren Blatt "All About JewishGen"

December 3 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Annual Meeting, Chanukah Party. Hasia Diner, "Roads Taken: The Great Jewish Migrations to the New World and the Peddlers Who Forged the Way "

January 7 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Werner Frank "Push and Pull Genealogy: A Methodology for Finding Deeper Roots"

February 11 Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM Annual Assisted Research Afternoon
LA Family History Center

March 5 Monday 7:00-9:00 pm TBA

April 8 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Celina Biniaz, "A Second Chance at Life" The Youngest of Schindler's Jews Annual Yom Hashoah Program

May 6 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm TBA

June 3 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm TBA

July 15 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Genealogy In the Round Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts

August no meeting IAJGS Conference Warsaw, Poland

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

2017

2018