PRESIDENT’S LETTER

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. I write this as I am getting ready to leave for Orlando for the IAJGS conference which starts on the 23rd! JGSCV will be well-represented as several of our members are speaking at the conference: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra-Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Marion Werle, and attending but not speaking (that I know about), Helene Rosen and Diane Wainwood. If I forgot anyone, my apologies. I will write a summary of the highlights for the next issue of Venturing Into Our Past. However, you may still attend virtually—without leaving home—by subscribing for IAJGS LIVE! (http://iajgs2017.org/iajgs-live/) which will have about 60+ lectures. See pages 3 and 8 for more information.

Hal Bookbinder’s excellent series on safe computing continues with this month’s article Phishing Email From Your Bank. See page 6. After publication of this issue of Venturing Into Our Past, you may also find this safe computing article on our website: www.jgscv.org under “Noteworthy” where you can access the entire series in one location. The site will be updated monthly when the newsletter is posted to www.jgscv.org.

JGSCV acquires books for our two libraries throughout the year—both by donation and purchase. The outstanding books for the permanent library have been catalogued by the Los Angeles
County Library and are now on our book shelves at the Agoura Hills branch of the County of Los Angeles Public Library. See: http://www.jgscv.org/ and go to Library and click on Permanent. We are always on the lookout to add more genealogically-relevant books. If you have some to donate, please first look at the inventory lists on our website for both the permanent and traveling library and then contact me to see if we can take them. There is a difference between Judaica books and genealogically-relevant books. We only accept genealogically-relevant books.

We have added another program for 2018. See our growing list of fantastic programs for 2017-2018 on page 12.

A reminder that the Ventura County Fair (August 2-13) will take place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds located at 10 W. Harbor Blvd. in Ventura. We had an article on this in the last issue which can be accessed on our website: www.jgscv.org under Newsletters 2017 and then July 2017. Volunteers are always needed. JGSCV members have volunteered in past years in the genealogy booth and enjoyed it! Genealogy volunteers are needed for each day. There are three shifts per day. Volunteers participate in 3.5 hour shifts 11:00a.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 is a sign-up form on the website of the Ventura Family History Library website. You need to provide your first and last names, email address and phone number. To read more and sign-up go to: http://tinyurl.com/jook6nf. Volunteers are admitted to the Fair free but there are no parking privileges.

JGSCV relies on both Amazon marketing fees and Ralphs Community Contributions to help with our annual budget—their contributions are equal to about 25% of our annual budget which is why we can provide such excellent programming year-round! Each year Ralphs requires everyone to reregister as of September 1st. Thus far only 20 people participate….please read pages 10-11 and on September—not before—register with Ralphs. It helps OUR society!

JGSCV returns on August 6 with our annual Genealogy in the Round program where you get to share a success, brick wall or artifact. We need volunteers to participate. So far, we have 7 participants and we would like to have 9. This program is always a highlight of the year. Please don’t make me worry until the last minute (grin). Contact me with one sentence of what you want to share at president@jgscv.org.

Looking forward to seeing you on August 6th!
The Next Best Thing to Being at the 2017 Conference

Those who are not traveling to Orlando for this year’s Annual IAJGS Conference might want to sign up for Live Viewing (streamed July 23-27, 2017) or On-Demand Viewing (until November 1, 2017) where you can hear and see many of the presentations. Enjoy from the comfort of your own computer and get inspired to research, explore and be motivated. Subscription information can be found at http://tinyurl.com/ybq6ts7k. For more about LIVE! See page 8.

“Silver Books” of the Pilgrim Genealogies are Uploading

CBS News and other news outlets are reminding us that the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims’ arrival in the New World approaches in 2020. According to Lea Filson, governor general of the Plymouth-based General Society of Mayflower Descendants, there are as many as 35 million people worldwide descended from that original group, yet the society has only about 30,000 members. Now, a partnership was announced this last month between the New England Historic Genealogical Society and the General Society of Mayflower Descendants that is making it easier to figure out if one is truly a descendent of that Pilgrim voyage to the New Land. They have been digitizing the “Silver Books” that are the accepted genealogies of the Pilgrims and hope to complete the process by the end of this year. According to the General Society, The Mayflower society’s records are so accurate and unimpeachable that tracing your roots to them automatically qualifies you for membership.

More information is available at https://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx

FYI for Jewish Research in New England

The New England Historic Genealogical Society also supports a Jewish Heritage Center with a database online at https://www.americanancestors.org/jhc

Finding the City Directories You Need

City Directories are valuable resources for tracing the whereabouts of relatives. They provide home addresses, who lives with whom, job sites, alternate name spellings and are great for tracing changes in these categories of information from year to year. If you’re not finding the city directories you need, Family Tree Magazine has a great article by its Genealogy Librarian entitled Six Free Places to Look for Old City Directories. Of course, this may entail some travelling if you insist on looking personally. Enjoy your journey. The informative article can be found at: http://tinyurl.com/y9cb3jub

Summer smiles:

Some family trees have beautiful leaves, and some have just a bunch of nuts.
Remember, it is the nuts that make the tree worth shaking.
~Author Unknown

My ancestors wandered lost in the wilderness for forty years because even in biblical times, men would not stop to ask for directions.
~Elayne Boosler

August 2017
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.
CORRECTIONS: On page 3 of the July issue Madeleine Isenberg was incorrectly identified as Marilyn Isenberg. On page 13 of the same issue, in the listing of the newly acquired library book, Six Years Forever Lost: The Testimony of Manya Frydman Perel, Marc Joel Adelman and Manya Frydman Perel—self Published 2011, Manya Frydman Perel’s name was incorrectly shown as Manya Frudman Perel. Venturing Into Our Past regrets the errors.

COMMITTEES
The board has recently appointed two committees. The By-Laws Committee will review the society by-laws for the first time since 2011. The committee will be chaired by Helene Rosen, Vice President, Membership. Joining her on the committee will be JGSCV general members Hal Bookbinder and Pat Thomas. The Nominations Committee will be chaired by Sonia Hoffman and will include Marion Werle from the general membership and Rosalie Bell from the board.

ELECTIONS
Each year one-half of our board positions are up for election. Julie Goldman, who was elected last December, and has been on sabbatical since February has advised the board that for personal reasons she will not be returning to the board. We appreciate her assistance for the time she served. Julie worked on community outreach. General members who are eligible to serve will receive an email from Sonia by the end of July. If anyone eligible is interested in serving please contact Sonia at Sonia@jgscv.org. Forms for applying to serve on the JGSCV board are posted to our website at www.jgscv.org under “About JGSCV” and also under “Contact Us”. Applications need to be received by Sonia by September 4. Per our bylaws, the Nominations Committee needs to report to the Board at their October Board meeting and share their recommendations with the general membership at the November meeting when we also call for nominations from the floor. The election is at our annual meeting on December 3 which is also our early Chanukah party.

JGSCV Welcomes New Member
E Judy Mannaberg Goldman

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Practicing Safe Computing: Phishing Email From Your Bank

I recently received the email snapshotted below. Note that the sending email address looks legitimate and the Bank of America name and logo do as well. The “To” address is mine and there are no obvious spelling or grammatical errors. It tells me that my account has been locked which is certainly something I would want to fix quickly. Yet, this is a phishing email sent to obtain my personal information, including my Bank of America ID and Password. It is assuredly not from Bank of America.

Hovering my cursor over the Notification@bankofamerica.com address, the actual source address, “waqar.hussain@descon.com”, displayed. Try hovering over the supposed bankofamerica.com link and you will see this. Further, this is likely not even the real address. It is certainly not from Bank of America! Be assured that, if I were to click on the “Get Started” button, I would be taken to a website that looked like a legitimate Bank of America login screen. I will be asked to log in with my ID and Password. However, I will not be identifying myself to Bank of America. Rather this will be sent to “Waqar Hussain” or whoever is actually behind this email. They could then use this to access and drain my account.

Your bank would never send you such an email. DO NOT click on the link. Not only will you be taken to unsafe pages that likely will appear legitimate, but just clicking on the link may result in malware being installed on your computer. If you feel that this warning might be legitimate, call or log in to the bank using your normal method of doing so. NEVER click on a link in such an email.

Most readers will say that they “would never be fooled” by such an email. This is likely true if they thought about it. However, we often go ahead and click on links before thinking them through. Each time we do so we open ourselves to risk. Undoubtedly, thousands or even hundreds of thousands received this email. Some actually have accounts at Bank of America, and some percentage of these will fall for it making it a profitable scam. Think before you click!

This is the twenty third 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.
“Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates Jr.” will return for its 4th season on Oct. 3rd. Guests scheduled this season which will end December 26th include Aziz Ansari, Scarlett Johansson, Ted Danson, Larry David, Ava DuVernay, Bryant Gumbel, Garrison Keillor, William H. Macy, Suzanne Malveaux, Ana Nararro, Amy Schumer Mary Steenburgen Christopher Walken and more. Check your local station for time.

If you are wrestling with how to choose the DNA test that is best for you, Family History Daily offers a guide on their website, “Which Genealogy DNA Test is the Best? A Detailed Comparison Guide to Help You Decide”: http://tinyurl.com/mjyy43d

To increase user control over their data, Ancestry now requires everyone who takes a DNA test to activate the test on their own account. They have also updated the roles available to people with whom a test is shared. For FAQ’s: http://tinyurl.com/ydbulku2

The last day to order microfilm at the Family History Libraries is fast approaching. The recently noted, discontinuation of microfilm distribution by Family History Libraries will take effect September 1, 2017. The last day to order microfilm is August 31, 2017. FHL says this change is due to the substantial progress made in their digitalization of records and the resulting obsolescence of microfilm.

Family Tree Maker 2017 was released on July 16, 2017, nineteen months after Ancestry.com’s announcement. For a review on genealogytools.com, click here: http://tinyurl.com/yckc2owp

Updated records for 26 states have been added to the Online Searchable Death Indexes and Records. At http://www.deathindexes.com/. In addition to each state and the District of Columbia, separate Death Records are available for Chicago, Detroit, Los Angeles, New York City and St. Louis. Also, there are links to the Social Security Death Index, an Obituaries Guide and Genealogical Records & Resources.

Last month, JewishGen announced its partnership with The Jewish Genealogy Portal on Facebook. To enter the portal and join the group, search Jewish Genealogy Portal on Facebook and request to join. (Or, you may click here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/JewishGenealogyPortal) You will be asked 3 simple (non-invasive) questions about your genealogical searches.

The Portal will integrate JewishGen resources for Jewish genealogy researchers in order to access information from the JewishGen knowledge base. JewishGen will post news, updates and announcements on the Portal as well as on its other platforms.

The Jewish Genealogy Portal is moderated by volunteers and is dedicated to the free and open discussion of all Jewish Genealogy topics.

August 2017

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
IAJGS LIVE!:
The Next Best Thing to Being There

LIVE! is the system put in place by the IAJGS Conference that allows individuals the opportunity to view sessions as they are happening – without actually being in the room. One must purchase a package (more about that below) after which a link will be provided which allows for viewing the session on any internet connected device. So, for example, you can watch Hal Bookbinder present “Ships of Our Ancestors” (updated from the version he presented to JGSCV) on Sunday July 23rd at 7:30 AM PDT on your iPad without getting out of bed. Or, maybe you’ll be busy on Tuesday, July 25th at 11:00 AM PDT and unable to watch Jan Meisels Allen and Dick Eastman present “Records Access and Privacy: At a Crosswords” Your subscription allows you to watch it (and any other LIVE! session) at your convenience, anytime thereafter until November 1st. The complete list of sessions currently scheduled to be LIVE! is here: http://iajgs2017.org/iajgs-live/iajgs-live-schedule/ Remember, the list is subject to change.

IAJGS offers a “Guide to LIVE!” with 3 sections for ease of use.

1. Subscribing to LIVE! explains the process of subscribing including payment
2. Accessing the LIVE! Video simply explains the log in process and how to view videos
3. Questions and Issues offers troubleshooting suggestions if there are any questions after the first 2 steps

Subscribing to LIVE! also allows for interacting with the speakers in Orlando by Tweeting questions, for those familiar with Twitter.

The cost to subscribe to all the available sessions (LIVE! Full) is $149 USD. At this time, more than 60 sessions are scheduled to be streamed but the final number and selection will be determined at the time of broadcast. LIVE! Full also includes a multi-session DNA Track.

LIVE! also offers a choice to subscribe on a daily basis. LIVE! Daily costs $89.00 USD and of course, is for single days’ sessions. Clearly, if there is interest in sessions that occur on more than one day, a “Full” subscription is worthwhile.

IAJGS includes the following notice, which anyone using LIVE! should fully understand:

IMPORTANT NOTICE ON COPYRIGHT AND REBROADCAST PERMISSION: Your LIVE! subscription is for your individual use only and cannot be shared. You may not share the viewing of LIVE! with others or take screen casts or screen recordings of LIVE! sessions — to do so is a copyright violation.
Lodz Registration Cards

According to Margalit Ashira Ir, Team Program Leader, coinciding with the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Conference July 23rd - 28th in Orlando, Fl., the Lodz Registration Cards Extraction Team announced that additional Jewish names have been uploaded to the JRI-Poland website (www.jri-poland.org). There are now a grand total of 54,000 Jewish names on this list.

The Lodz Registration Cards for the years 1916 - 1921 appear to be listed in alphabetical order which is the order the extraction team is following. However, cards have often been noted out of order. Hence, a family surname may not appear where one might expect. When the project is completed, users will be able to instantly find the family being searched. In the meantime, individual researchers requesting priority extraction of their family name can be helped by the Cards Extraction Team. For a donation of $54 per family surname, the Cards Extraction Team will create an individual, customized spreadsheet. One per surname.

There are more than 270,000 cards that need to be reviewed and Jewish names extracted. It is a long process and the Cards Extraction Team is seeking volunteers to help complete this challenging and worthwhile task. Please contact Margalit Ir, Project Leader at Margalit.a.ir@gmail.com with all requests to prioritize the family name or to volunteer your time to help extract these names.

Introducing The Schmoozing Corner (Again)

Several years ago, JGSCV added “THE SCHMOOZING CORNER” to its monthly meetings. Designed to be a way to offer meeting attendees one-to-one genealogy expertise from JGSCV seasoned experts, THE SCHMOOZING CORNER has grown in popularity – and why not? It has provided interested genealogists the opportunity to get individual help specific to one’s own genealogy from a recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award (Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder) or the author of multiple books on Jewish genealogy (Werner Frank, Warren Blatt), or the Managing Director of JewishGen (Warren Blatt) or a former board member of JGSCV AND JGSLA who has a 20 year history of genealogical research who also lectures at IAJGS annual conferences (Marion Werle). It is an excellent opportunity for attendees to bring their research, records and questions to a true expert in the field – and get sound advice for moving forward. THE SCHMOOZING CORNER has become so popular it is now open a full 30 minutes before each JGSCV meeting. Look for the sign at the front, right of the meeting room and step right up. Werner Frank will be hosting THE SCHMOOZING CORNER before the August 6th meeting.
Help support JGSCV by enrolling in Ralphs Community Contribution Program!

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

If you are already a registered participant, you will remain active until August 31, 2016 at which time you will have to reregister starting September 1, 2016. You can reregister for the new term at www.Ralphs.com starting September 1, 2017. Even if you registered as recently as July you will be required to register again starting September 1st!

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

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE
NOTE: Ralphs has a secured website, these procedures apply to everyone who has not entered their email address and assigned a password.

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

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

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

JGSCV has been receiving about $100 per quarter from Ralphs which is equal to 4 JGSCV memberships per quarter!

Help support JGSCV by also enrolling in Amazon’s Affiliate Program!

Amazon.com has offered an Affiliate Program since 1996. JGSCV is an Affiliate Member and continues to participate in this generous and beneficial program. Simply, anyone who enters the Amazon site from JGSCV’s home page is considered a ‘referral’ by JGSCV and Amazon pays a marketing fee for such referrals. The user who enters amazon.com from jgscv.org pays the exact same prices for the exact same products as if they entered without JGSCV. The full marketing fee Amazon pays JGSCV comes from Amazon. Helping JGSCV by entering through our home page is simple: Start at http://www.jgscv.org and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one above). This takes you to the same page at amazon.com you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.
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.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>no meeting</td>
<td>IAJGS Conference July 23-28, 2017 Orlando, FL</td>
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<td>August</td>
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<td>Genealogy In the Round Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and</td>
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<td>Sept</td>
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<td>Hal Bookbinder &quot;Immigration and Naturalization&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
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<td>JGSCV 12th Anniversary Deborah Long: &quot;Three Guides, Four Countries A Daughter</td>
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<td>of Holocaust Survivors Travels to Their Ancestral Villages&quot;</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>13 Monday</td>
<td>Warren Blatt &quot;All About JewishGen&quot;</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>3 Sunday</td>
<td>Annual Meeting, Chanukah Party. Hasia Diner, &quot;Roads Taken: The Great Jewish</td>
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<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Migrations to the New World and the Peddlers Who Forged the Way</td>
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<td>January</td>
<td>7 Sunday</td>
<td>Werner Frank &quot;Push and Pull Genealogy: A Methodology for Finding Deeper Roots&quot;</td>
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<td>February</td>
<td>11 Sunday</td>
<td>Annual Assisted Research Afternoon LA Family History Center</td>
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<td>March</td>
<td>5 Monday</td>
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<td>April</td>
<td>8 Sunday</td>
<td>Celina Biniaz, “A Second Chance at Life” The Youngest of Schindler’s Jews Annual</td>
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<td>Yom Hashoah Program</td>
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<td>May</td>
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<td>Marion Werle, “Ferreting Out Family Stories – Fact, Fiction or Somewhere in</td>
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<td>July</td>
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<td>Genealogy In the Round Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
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Programs are subject to change – check JGSCV website for updates

www.jgscv.org