

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

September 2017

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Last month I was awarded the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award at the annual conference in Orlando. As my late sister would have said, "I'm busting my buttons". You can read more about this on page 14. Receiving this award for doing what I love for almost two decades is the icing on the cake. JGSCV is one of my crowning glories and I love being one of our society's leaders. JGSCV is special in many ways. For a relatively young and mid-sized JGS, we are exceptionally fortunate with some of the crème de le crème of Jewish genealogists: Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Werner Frank and Marion Werle. There are now three IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award winners in our society including Warren Blatt and Hal Bookbinder!

Nine JGSCV members attended this year's conference and 5 were presenters! See page 15 for the highlights from the conference. Save your pennies for next year when IAJGS will hold its first ever eastern European conference in Warsaw. What a wonderful opportunity to visit your ancestral towns before or after the conference! Save the dates: 6-10 August 2018.

Our annual *Genealogy in the Round* meeting on August 6 was excellent. Each year I always worry that we won't be able to fill the program with members' successes, brickwalls and artifacts—but each year the program is better than the year before. This year was no exception. See page 8 for a summary of the program.



NEXT MEETING

Sunday, September 10th 1:30-3:30

U.S. Immigration and Naturalization



Hal Bookbinder will explain the history of U. S. immigration and naturalization laws and how to access documentation.

September 2017

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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.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his excellent and most relevant series on *Practicing Safe Computing*. This month's topic is *The Internet is Forever* on 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 is updated monthly when the newsletter is posted to www.jgscv.org.

Whether we are hobbyist or professional genealogists we have certain responsibilities which are ethical as well as how we comport ourselves when doing genealogy and visiting repositories. Individual genealogists should respect requests made by persons asking that certain information about themselves or family members be kept private. Always evaluate recent data in light of sensitivities of the living vs. the importance of disseminating information. Recently, the IAJGS Board of Directors approved an updated version of their Code of Conduct/Ethics which was updated by the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee. I chair the Public Records Access Monitoring Committee for the IAJGS. To access the updated Code of Conduct/Ethics, go to the IAJGS website at: <http://www.iajgs.org/blog/code-of-conduct/>. This new version balances the right of privacy with the right of freedom of information in light of recent legislation and public discourse. The issue of the right of privacy is becoming more important in genealogy. During the recent IAJGS conference I had the privilege of participating in two programs concerning privacy, one with Dick Eastman, the dean of genealogy bloggers (author of the *Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter*, <https://blog.eogn.com>) and the other with Randy Schoenberg (former president of the Los Angeles Holocaust Museum, head of the JewishGen Austria-Czech SIG, on the JewishGen Board of Directors and subject of the movie *Woman in Gold*). The issue of the "right to be forgotten" started in the European Union with a court decision in 2014, but is spreading globally and knocking on the U.S. doors. For those who find this a subject of interest along with access to records, please consider subscribing to the IAJGS Records Access Alert which I also write. Records access, privacy and their effect on genealogy affect everyone. IAJGS Records Access Alert subscriptions are free: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/listinfo/records-access-alerts>

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 re-register as of **September 1st**. Thus far only 20 people participate . . . please read pages 10-11 and on September 1 – not before — register with Ralphs. It helps OUR society! See page 20 for more information.

Our September 10 program is "US Immigration and Naturalization" with Hal Bookbinder.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 10!

Jan Meisels Allen



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Lodz Ghetto Records at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Peter Lande of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum announced that they recently added 68,000 name records to the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database (HSV) taken from the collection "The Elders of the Jews in the Lodz Ghetto". You can request and immediately receive digital copies of the original documents in your email. Search at https://secure.ushmm.org/online/hsv/source_view.php?Sourceid=25274

Following the 2017 Orlando Conference:

Belarus SIG Lists Newly Uploaded Records

At the 2017 IAJGS conference in Orlando, the JewishGen Belarus SIG was pleased to announce the uploading of approximately 29,000 records to the JewishGen Belarus Database. More than 30 towns or areas are reflected in vital records, revision, lists and census data. These records are now searchable using the JewishGen Belarus Database search engine: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/belarus/>

JewishGen.org Announces NEW Grant Opportunities

JewishGen is the primary online tool for Jewish Genealogy. Hundreds of volunteers have created and added databases to the site for our use. Its SIG (Special Interest Groups) have grown and continue to provide us with new tools, resources and news. In a recent conference update and in order to stimulate growth, innovation, and access to records, JewishGen has announced that it will be offering **ignition grants up to \$5,000, and signature grants of up to \$25,000 for exceptional applications**. The application process opens on August 15. For more information, please visit: <http://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen/grantsflyer.pdf>.

Here are a few examples of possible projects: 1) A synagogue might wish to photograph and index their memorial plaques, Yizkor lists and burial records, 2) A community group may want to initiate an indexing project comprised of Jewish vital records from a particular city.

Best 50 DNA Blogs

Daniel Horowitz, IAJGS Board member, shared this: *Feedspot* recently announced their **Best 50 DNA Blogs**. The rankings were based on Google reputation and Google search ranking, influence and popularity on Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites, quality and consistency of posts as well as *Feedspot's* editorial review team. The list includes both individuals and DNA companies. See: http://blog.feedspot.com/dna_blogs/

In addition, check out the recommended Blogs list by DNA consultant CeCe Moore at <http://www.yourgeneticgenealogist.com/p/resources.html>

Reminder: LDS Library Microfilm Distribution Will Discontinue September 1, 2017

Here's the exact wording from Family Search.org about ceasing Microfilm sharing to regional Mormon libraries: The full article can be found at: <http://tinyurl.com/y8x2av7l>

"FamilySearch has made significant progress in the digitization of its vast collection of microfilm, making access to records easier than ever. This progress, coupled with changes in the microfilm industry, have made it possible and necessary to discontinue microfilm distribution services. These services discontinue on September 1, 2017. The last day for ordering microfilm will be August 31, 2017."



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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, September 10, 2017 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30pm

The Program: U.S. Immigration and Naturalization

One of the first things that the newly created United States of America did was to establish laws covering naturalization. These laws however, were administered by the states with many variations. Over the years, the laws were changed until 1906 when the Federal Government took control of the entire process. The standardized documentation after 1906 has proven invaluable to genealogical researchers. Similarly, laws controlling immigration have also changed over time, generally becoming more restrictive. As immigration and naturalization documentation can be key information in tracing one's roots, understanding how the process worked over time, understanding how the information was recorded and where it might be found is essential. This lecture will provide a short history of immigration and naturalization laws and provide general guidance in finding your ancestor's documentation.

Speaker: Hal Bookbinder has been researching eight family lines for over 27 years, identifying 4,000 relatives and tracing two of these lines into the mid 1700s. A founding member of JGSCV, and former president of JGSLA and IAJGS, he created and continues to edit the annual Jewish Genealogical Yearbook. In 2010, Hal received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award for his various contributions to Jewish Genealogy. Hal was recently elected to the JewishGen Board of Governors. He has spoken at numerous conferences, synagogues and society meetings on topics from computing to geography to brick walls. Most recently, Hal is the creator and author of the "Safe Computing" series published monthly in *Venturing Into Our Past*.



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. (www.jgscv.org)

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

Help Wanted: JGSCV Publicity Committee

JGSCV needs an extra pair of hands to help with Facebook postings. No experience necessary, it is simple and easy to learn. More and more news outlets require postings to their Facebook timeline as they shrink their print editions. If you have about an hour per month to help JGSCV, please contact Jan at president@jgscv.org.

Board of Directors

Those who are eligible to serve on the JGSCV board of directors received an email from Sonia Hoffman, JGSCV 2017 Nominations Committee chairperson. If you are interested, you are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on our website at: www.jgscv.org under "about". The deadline for submitting an application is September 4th.

December 3rd Program

We changed the **topic, not the speaker** for our December 3 program. The board decided that Professor Diner's program, **1917: A Turning Point in American Jewish History** would be more meaningful while recognizing the centennial of the US entering WW I. Having heard Professor Diner present this at the recent IAJGS conference, it is not to be missed! See page 22 for a list of our meeting dates and programs through August 2018.

JGSCV Welcomes New Member

MICHAEL LICHSTEIN

New Permanent Library Hours

JGSCV's permanent library is housed at the Agoura Hills Public Library (<http://www.colapublib.org/libs/agourahills/>), a branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library. As of July 8, the County Library extended hours at all of their branches. The Agoura Hills branch is now open Monday-Wednesday 10AM-8PM and Thursday-Saturday 9AM-5PM. Adding 4 hours per week, by opening at 9 AM on Thursday-Saturday! The Agoura Hills Library has copy machines and with extended hours 6 days a week it makes our materials availability more convenient. The JGSCV library is non-circulating, therefore, one must use our resources at the library. For a current list of our permanent library holdings see: www.jgscv.org then click on Library, then permanent.

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Practicing Safe Computing: The Internet is Forever

24th in a series
By Hal Bookbinder



Some truisms to consider:

1. “Don’t email when angry”
2. “Anything you post may be viewed more widely than you intend”
3. “Deleted files may be recoverable” and
4. “The Internet is forever.”

Be careful what you text, tweet, email, post to Facebook, place on a webpage or even save to your computer. Copies may exist on your computer, on servers, in email archives and of course, in the recipient’s mailbox or message processor. Deleting or recalling an item does not remove copies and may not even remove the original.

When upset I often proceed to vent my anger in an email. I then set it aside and reread it the next day. Eighty percent of the time I delete it. When I do decide to send it, I generally tone it down. Emails can often convey a harsher tone than intended. Once sent, it is too late to change one’s mind.

Items erased from websites, and defunct websites, may not be gone forever. Check out the “Wayback Machine” at <http://archive.org/web/web.php> (if you forget the URL, just Google “Wayback”.) It periodically snapshots websites, preserving them forever. To date, it has saved over 300 billion web pages. For example, if you enter www.iajgs.org into the Wayback Machine search field you will find that it has snapshots of the website going back to 2000.

If you select 2001, a calendar will show that snapshots were taken on March 31st, April 3rd, July 20th and September 25th. If you click on the September 25th snapshot and select “Officers”, you would see that Hal Bookbinder was president, Anne Feder Lee was vice president, Joel Spector was secretary and Michael Posnick

was treasurer. The Wayback Machine began operation in 1996. It can be a great research tool. It can also preserve things that you wish would go away.

In the U.S. your employer has the right to monitor your use of company equipment, including your browsing, emails and instant messaging. Some believe that stricter privacy laws in Europe do not permit this. However, according to BBC News, The European Court of Human Rights ruled in January that a company had the right to check on a worker’s activities and may read his Yahoo Messenger chats sent while he was at work. It did caution against unfettered snooping.

Even your own computer may contain files you “deleted” and your surfing history. When you delete a file, what you are actually doing is removing the index entry for the item and freeing up the space for reuse. Until overwritten, it continues to exist on your hard drive. Utilities can retrieve such files. Sophisticated utilities may even be able to recover overwritten files. Internet browsers generally preserve your surfing history unless you consciously turn this feature off. You might also consider turning on your browser’s “private browsing” option to lessen the trail of crumbs you leave behind.

Be careful what you write, save, post, send and the sites you visit. You never know who may be watching – a family member, your company’s security department, a co-worker, a friend, an enemy or even a potential boss.

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

Genealogy Odds and Ends

The Fort Wayne (Indiana) Library's latest issue of *Genealogy Gems* (No. 161, July 31, 2017) includes Della Cothrun Bourne's blog on "Adoption Research Websites". Listed are four excellent websites that will surely be worthwhile for searching adoption records: <http://tinyurl.com/ydz8839k>, <http://tinyurl.com/kchfado>, <http://tinyurl.com/yhfbul8>, <http://tinyurl.com/27vzfuv>

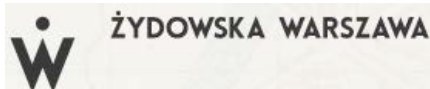


Gjenvick-Gjonvik Archives (<http://www.gjenvick.com/#axzz4qif2Z7wr>) offers an article worth reading before JGSCV's September 10th meeting: *How Immigrants Are Inspected at Ellis Island circa 1903*

(<http://tinyurl.com/y9ws7py9>).

Make Sept. 9-10 a Genealogy Weekend with Hal Bookbinder. Hal will be JGSCV's speaker on Sunday, Sept. 10th on *U.S. Immigration and Naturalization* (see page 4). AND, Hal will also be the featured speaker on Sept. 9th at the Southern California Genealogical Society and Family Research Library's "Lunch and Learn". Admission is free and all are invited to share genealogical stories and questions over their brown bag lunches as 12 noon. Hal's first program, "Ships of Our Ancestors" begins at 1PM. "The Changing Borders of Europe" will be presented by Hal at 2:15PM. The 9/9 SCGS venue is at 417 Irving Drive, Burbank, 91504. The SCGS provides monthly "Lunch and Learn" programs on the second Saturday. To see the line-up of programs go to: <http://tinyurl.com/npy9jnm>

Jewish Warsaw is an online exhibit about Warsaw's Jewish history as created by contemporary Jews.



You can view this exhibit at <http://warsze.polin.pl/en>, the POLIN Museum of the History of Jews in preparation for next year's IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Warsaw.

JGSCV is STILL seeking a librarian for our traveling library. The Traveling Library Librarian will be responsible for bringing the 3 out of 5 boxes (on a rotating basis) of traveling library books to each meeting from Jan's house in Agoura Hills and returning them after each meeting. This could be divided between several members. If desired and *approved*, the books may be stored at the Traveling Librarian's home. This is a very important role since many members seek out our research tools at each meeting and our Traveling Library is a valuable resource. We need a volunteer to take over so these resources may continue to be available at every meeting.



JewishGen announced the continuation of its relationship with FamilyTreeDNA by adding a new page on DNA at www.jewishgen.org/DNA. Visitors to that page will have access to more insights into DNA research and be able to purchase a test. JewishGen expects to post additional explanatory files about DNA testing in the coming months.



Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter (EOGN) has published "Genealogy's Often-Misspelled Words". Dick Eastman's blog published August 15, 2017 (<http://tinyurl.com/ycvuqzqx>) is fun and interesting. And, worth reading to avoid misspellings.

Highlights from: Genealogy in the Round

By Jan Meisels Allen

Have you used a variety of resources to aid in breaking down your genealogy brick wall? Have you placed your information in the JewishGen Family Finder so previously unknown to you relatives can find you and help you “fill in the blanks”? Has the Internet assisted you in providing resources at your fingertips, previously only available if you personally went to remote libraries and archives? Has newspaper research solved a century old mystery in your family? Have you researched distant relatives using books or information on line and found the relative was famous and traced the ancestor’s ancestral home and stayed there recently? Have you taken a trip to your ancestral towns to find out what was and what is? Have you used eBay.com to find family heirlooms? Welcome to last month’s “Genealogy in the Round”.

JGSCV’s annual “Genealogy in the Round” invites members and guests to share a genealogical success, failure, brickwall or artifact. I am always concerned that we won’t have enough volunteers for the meeting, yet every year we have more than enough presenters which consistently making this program one of the best. This year was no exception!

Seven JGSCV members and friends participated. Following are the summaries of the presentations:

Barbara Algaze



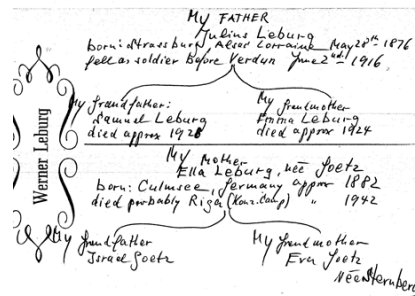
Barbara talked about breaking down brick walls by using a variety of resources and discussed the step-by-step process she used in constructing one branch of her family tree.

The resources she used are well known and available to all of us. It’s how she used them to break down the wall that is the key to her story. The resources she used were:

- Ancestry.com
- FamilySearch.org
- FamilySearch microfilms
- Writing letters
- Interviewing relatives
- Calling in favors
- Writing away to archives
- Using Special Interest Group (SIG) archives
- Using JewishGen’s Viewmate
- Checking the Yad Vashem Database
- Dumb Luck!

Barbara showed the sketch of the Leburg family tree

she had from her father (above right) that started with his grandparents’ births. Barbara suggested contacting family members to obtain information and ask for photographs.



She joined the discussion group for the JewishGen SIGs. (One must sign-in first.) To do this go to the JewishGen List Manager at:

http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_list.asp

Once subscribed one can search the SIG archives at: <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?ig~jgsys~sigspop>

In order to search the JewishGen Discussion List Archives, go to: <http://data.jewishgen.org/wconnect/wc.dll?ig~jgsys~archpop>

On the JewishGen Discussion Group, Barbara found a posting about researching in one of the towns mentioned on the family tree: Heidelberg. Barbara wrote to the archives for information providing them with information she already had. She was amazed when she heard back quickly and they sent her more information than what she requested. They provided her with a death certificate which included birth

and death vital records. One of the unexpected results from her inquiry was a photograph of the headstone with inscriptions. She also used maps to find places mentioned on the death certificate. In Barbara's case the town which was originally in Germany is now part of Poland due to border changes after wars. The documents while found in Poland would be written in German, the language of the area at the time the record was created. Barbara wanted more information.

Once she knew the town from the archives' records she used Family History Library microfilms for the time frame appropriate the person's life. Using the microfilms for the ancestral town, she was able to find records for more family members and fill in some of the blanks such as location of birth. Barbara reminded the audience that borrowing microfilms ceases on August 31, therefore if you wish to borrow a microfilm from Salt Lake City this is the time to order it at one of the local Family History Centers.

In 2016 Barbara found a green leaf for Ancestry when using Family Tree Maker. The leaf hint was about a marriage record that was indeed for the person she was searching. The record provided the names of the parents of the couple. This was "luck". She also obtained a death record that she uploaded to JewishGen's Viewmate for help with translating.

When she searched Pages of Testimony on Yad Vashem's website at <http://yvng.yadvashem.org/index.html?language=en>, Barbara found the name of a 99 year old person living in Israel. She reached out to her contacts in Israel to call the number on the Page of Testimony, not knowing if the person was still alive, let alone could speak and understand English. Yes, her luck held out, and the woman was alive and could speak some English! The elderly woman gave Barbara her niece's U.S. phone number to help her understand better what Barbara wanted to learn, which enabled her to break through her brick wall.

Helene Rosen

While at last year's IAJGS conference in Seattle, Helene received an email from someone she did not know and put him off as she was busy at the September 2017

conference. The person contacted her again a week later.

She gave him a name and date and found out they were 4th cousins sharing the same third great grandfather in the Ukraine! They helped each other by sharing trees. Helene had everything except his line, and he had everything except her line. By sharing she was able to add 300 names to her tree.



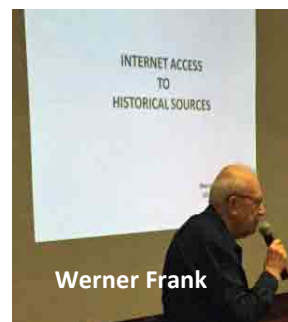
This newly found cousin lives in Westwood, and they agreed to meet for lunch. He turned out to be a delightful, interesting person.

Helene's newly found cousin found her through Jewish Gen. It is another example of how important it is to fill in your information on the JewishGen Family Finder.

Werner Frank

JGSCV founding member, Werner Frank, gave his *Internet Access to Historical Sources* presentation. When Werner started his research he had to go to libraries as the Internet has not yet been created. His research culminated in a 900+ page book, *Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family across Time and Circumstance*. The book is in JGSCV's permanent library. He is working a new project, resources available from home that were not previously readily available.

World Cat is the world's largest library catalogue— which may be accessed at: <https://www.worldcat.org/> by looking up the book one can find where the book is located close to you which can then, in most instances, be borrowed through Interlibrary Loan. This is a program where one may borrow books, microfilms, CDs etc. from another library through your local library, at little or no cost to you.



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search by word. By placing the name of the book or the name of a person into Google, it takes you to the website where the book/name is located and may be downloaded. If the book is out of copyright, or the publisher has given its permission, you will be able to see a preview and in some cases the entire text. If it's in the public domain, you are free to download a PDF copy. In the search bar, enter the title, author, ISBN, or keywords. Click a book. Hover your mouse over eBook - Free. If you don't see this, you might have to pay for the book, or it might not be available. To use Google books go to: <https://books.google.com/>

Werner also showed how to search international libraries by the example from the Goethe University in Frankfurt Am Main, Germany for a 1912 book: *Old Jewish Cemetery in Vienna* by Bernhard Wachstein. The book having been digitized was not only downloadable; it contained photographs and background in old Jewish headstones, which helped with his genealogy.

Compact Memory –Digitle Sammlungen is a portal with 199 most important Jewish newspapers and journals of the German speaking area of the years 1768-1938. This is also on the Goethe University Library website: <http://tinyurl.com/yd93mdns>

Leo Baeck Institute is a New York City based library and research center devoted to the history of German-speaking Jews. Werner demonstrated what was available citing the example of the Berthold Rosenthal Collection. There is a finding aide on DigiBaeck where by placing in a name of a person, town or document, facilitates the search. One can research the DigiBaeck digital collections from their website at: <https://www.lbi.org/>

When Werner downsized, he donated over 700 of his books and genealogical materials to the American Jewish University in Los Angeles. The Phoebe & Werner Frank Family Learning Center is dedicated to the exploration of Jewish communities around the world. Werner also donated his personal files to the Leo Baeck Institute and a finding aid is available via the DigiBaeck search engine.

Paula Poll



Paula spoke about the family story told about her second great grandfather who in 1869 was shot in the back in church in eastern Jackson County, Missouri. She found reference to a petition signed by 100 members of the rural community in 1871 to prevent carrying fire arms. Paula did a lot of genealogical research to determine if this family story was true: it was and it wasn't! This area was heavily involved in the Civil War with family and neighbors who fought on both sides of the conflict.

Her first question was why the petition in 1871 when he died in 1869? This took place in a small community where everyone knew everyone who lived there and would hardly take two years for a petition to be signed. She found there were four deaths involved and two shooting events 2 years apart: She looked at the *Kansas City Star* microfilms and found her family.

According to the newspaper account, the second great grandfather was reported to have been drinking with friends at a tavern in 1869 and ended up shooting at someone, perhaps having to do with civil war feelings. He went home and holed up in the barn and refused to come out. A posse went after him and shot him dead in the barn. The posse leader was described as a fine upstanding Confederate soldier, while Paula's second great-grandfather was a Union man. An innocent bystander at the original event took a bullet in his arm that resulted in his death a couple of months later perhaps by tetanus.

The second shooting took place in 1871 was the son of the great-grandfather who went to church to avenge the person who headed up the posse that killed his father. A stray bullet shot was taken by another innocent bystander that resulted in his death as well. Both the son and the posse leader survived this event.

The son who did the shooting fled to Arkansas, took an alias and the family knew nothing about him.

One of his descendants researched the great-grandfather and determined that he regularly shot at

carpetbaggers which is why he was shot at the church. This story is not pretty and one can understand why the family story was changed. It helps to understand the context of the time and place where these events occurred. The newspaper articles were very helpful in bringing together the facts of this story.

Keep on researching and newspaper research is an excellent genealogical tool.

Carolyn Carradine



Carolyn is a friend of JGSCV and attends our meetings. JGSCV member Sandy Hall got Carolyn started into researching her family. Carolyn's great-grandmother, Ernestine Schumann-Heink, born Ernestine

Roessler, was a famous, independent woman whose first husband, Ernst Hienk, was "disowned" by his family as she was a "woman of the stage"—she was an opera star, who was hailed as the "world's greatest contralto". She was born in a town in Bohemia which today is part of Prague, the Czech Republic. At the time, it was part of the Austrian empire so she was considered Austrian. Her mother was Jewish, and she was close to her Jewish grandmother. Her first marriage was to Johann Georg Ernst Heink with whom she had four children, one being Carolyn's grandfather.



At right is a great photo of Ernestine with German composer Johannes Brahms. She also worked with Mahler, Strauss, Wagner and others originating many classic opera roles.

Heink left Ernestine after he was disowned. They were divorced in 1893. That year she married widower Paul Schumann with whom she had three more children, and adopted his son. Her last child was born in the United States and was given the name George Washington Schumann. This marriage lasted until Schumann's death. At this point Ernestine left for the United States and sang in the Metropolitan opera, and became an American citizen.

She performed at the Metropolitan Opera until the early 1930's.

She married for a third time in the early 1900's, to her manager, which ended in divorce in 1914. The German government confiscated her home and bank accounts for marrying an American. The German government required her sons to serve in the army before they would be allowed to leave the country. She took the government to Court which allowed her to retain one-third of her money in Germany as she, not her deceased husband, had earned it. The Court also permitted her sons to accompany her to the United States (without serving in the German military). Her adult daughter was married and chose to stay in Germany. Ernestine's home in Germany (Villa Tini) was confiscated and she had to buy it back. She then gave the house to her daughter.

Carolyn found an old photo reproduction of the Schumann-Heink house in Dresden with her grandfather Heinrich



standing in front. Carolyn located the

Photo reproduction with Ernestine's son Heinrich (Carolyn's grandfather). See comparison on next page.

house (now a bed and breakfast) and stayed there with her family this past June! She was able to obtain documents about the house from the current owner. Carolyn's son Henry, named for her grandfather, now lives in Vienna and is a classical composer.

Ernestine toured the United States and she became even more famous.

“. . . she sang at the Hollywood Bowl and helped raise funds for its construction.”

She supported the United States in World War I and raised money for war bonds, entertained the troops and helped raise money for wounded veterans. She



was known as "Mother" to all the servicemen. Her oldest son went to Germany to fight for the "fatherland" and her other five sons fought on behalf of the

United States. While a naturalized American citizen, during the war the US government suspected she was a German spy and broke into and ransacked her home. She had two homes in the San Diego area—Grossmont, and one no longer standing in Coronado.

In addition to singing at the Metropolitan Opera, European opera houses and other US opera houses and concert halls, she sang at the Hollywood Bowl and helped raise funds for its construction. She loved the movies and had a contract with Fox at the end of her life. She was very ill but completed one film: *Here's to Romance*.

She died of leukemia at age 75 in Hollywood, California and is buried in San Diego.

Links to her recordings can be found by Googling *Ernestine Schumann-Heink*. More of her interesting life may be read on the Jewish Women's Archive at: <http://tinyurl.com/y7lss3ss>

Carol Flesher

Carol Flesher spoke about her recent ancestral trip to the Ukraine, "To Brigadoon and Beyond". Carol started by talking about a town her father's mother came from but no one ever heard of. She called it "Brigadoon" but was eventually found to be Derenkovets. She started her research before she left and looked online at *The History of Jewish Communities in the Ukraine* (<http://jewua.org/>).



She found a museum in the town of Korsun-Shevchenko next to Derenkovets. This is where her ancestors would have taken their cattle to market.

Her trip to the Ukraine started in Kiev where she found a lively Jewish environment with a number of synagogues including one she visited which was run by Chabad. They shared a congregational dinner. A search for her paternal grandfather's family took



Carol (back right) with her cousins Olga, Leonid and Leonid

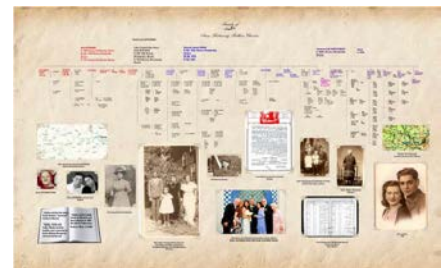
them to Mena and Sosnitsa in Chernigov Gubernya.

Although there is no visible Jewish life there, Carol took photos of 19th century buildings that would have

existed in her grandparents' world. When they went to Derenkovets, in Kiev Gubernya, she found flocks of geese and villagers herding cows like those raised by her merchant ancestors—scenes her grandparents would have recognized.

Carol said it is important to have a tour company hired to "make things happen". The company coordinated with the woman who runs the Jewish museum who found two families living in the area with Carol's grandmother's family name. The company arranged a meeting at Carol's hotel and, indeed, the two families are descendants of their common 5th great grandparents who would have been born in the 17th century. Prior to the trip Carol had no knowledge of these family members. They all met in the hotel and arrived with family trees, photos and documents to share—and kept the tour guide very busy translating in four languages. Needless to say this was the highlight of the trip!

One of the descendants is a poet who had written a poem called "Ancestors." He gave Carol an inscribed book containing the poem which Carol



had translated. It is in a copyrighted book so we are unable to reproduce it here.

Carol used Ancestry's *My Canvas* (see page 12) to make a family chart of her maternal grandmother's family with photographs and depicting the family back to the 1830's.

Jan Meisels Allen

This past January Jan received an email from eBay saying they would close her account in 30 days due to inactivity. Jan does not sell on eBay but occasionally does purchase some item of genealogical interest. In order to maintain her account, she did a search on family names to see if there was anything she wanted to buy. To her surprise, she found what appeared to be a family heirloom. Her story is *e-Bay Helps with Finding a Family Heirloom*.

When she typed in "Meisels", her maiden name, up came a "Milk Bottle with Meisels Dairy Farm from 1928". It was only \$14 plus shipping so she took a chance.

Jan's paternal grandparents lived in Hunter Village, NY (Greene County) from 1908-1933 where they had a dairy, farm and hotel. After purchasing the milk bottle she wrote to the seller informing him the bottle arrived in excellent condition but with questions. These included that the milk stopper said Chabot's Dairy Chocolate flavored drink from New Hampshire and that did not "fit" with the Meisels on the bottle. Also, Jan wondered if there were additional insights since he had assumed the milk bottle came from Jan's grandparents' farm.

The seller sent back a copy of a posting Jan did in 1999 on an Internet site in Greene County asking for any information about her grandparents and mentioned they had a dairy, hotel (Idle Hour Park) and farm in Hunter Village from 1908 to 1933. Old postings never die!

Further, the seller noted that the people who originally published a book to which the seller owned the rights, "were not good at typing" and listed the dairy as *A. Meisegels Center Creamery*. The seller thought it was probably a typo. He only deals with milk bottles from NY State but it believed it may have been one of a number of bottles he purchased from

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Greene and Westchester Counties in New York State. As he did not have a Meisels milk bottle cap he used one that would fit the Meisels bottle.

He went on to explain the markings on the bottle. There is 'TMC' on the heel of the bottle which stands for the Thatcher Manufacturing Company and an 'E' in the center of the bottom of the bottle which indicates that it was manufactured at the Elmira, NY plant of the glass company. The '28' on the bottom lip would be the year the bottle was made.

Jan used Google to search the Thatcher Glass Manufacturing Company and its company marks. They made glass milk bottles for dairies across the United States with the dairy name embossed—raised lettering in the front. They had many logos over the years, but the one on Jan's bottle was the mark used between 1923 and the 1950's.

As her grandfather's first name was Alexander, the A. Meisels fits.

Jan next contacted some of her paternal first cousins to tell them of her find. To her surprise two of her first cousins had the identical bottles inherited from their own fathers (who were brothers to Jan's father) and sent her photographs—they are the same.

Jan is 99.99% certain the milk bottle is from her grandparent's dairy farm because:



1. It probably came from Greene County where the Meisels Dairy Farm was located.
2. The 1928 date on the bottle fits the time they were in Hunter Village, Greene County, NY 1908-1933
3. The markings from the glass manufacturer and logo of the period fit the time period the grandparents had the farm.
4. The A. Meisels/ Meisegels fits her grandfather's name—Alexander Meisels
5. Her first cousins' have the identical milk bottles with the same markings including the embossed Meisels name from their fathers.

Have a genealogically-successful year so that you may share your success, brick wall or artifact at next year's Genealogy In the Round.

IAJGS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO JAN MEISELS ALLEN



JGSCV President Jan Meisels Allen was recognized with the 2017 IAJGS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD at the 37th Annual Conference in Orlando, FL. In announcing the award, IAJGS noted “In recognition of many years of service to genealogy, both Jewish and beyond, IAJGS presented their 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award to Jan Meisels Allen. Jan is the founding president of the JGS of Conejo Valley and Ventura County, presently its programming chair, and she has been the program chair of the JGS of Los Angeles. She has served as board member and vice president of the IAJGS and chairs its Public Records Access Monitoring Committee. Jan writes almost daily posts for the IAJGS Leadership List that keep the genealogical community well informed of current items of interest.

“As conference Database Chairperson, Jan has been responsible for the resource room at IAJGS conferences for many years. Beyond Jewish genealogy, she has been a regular speaker at FGS and NGS conferences, at the invitation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and the US Holocaust Memorial Museum she spoke on access to Holocaust records, and has spoken on records access at European conferences. Her dedication to the cause of genealogical research and drive to work on its behalf has a continual far reaching effect. We are honored to name her as the recipient of this year's award.”

Ken Bravo, the newly elected President of the IAJGS commented, “A very well deserved mazel tov to Jan. She is a tireless worker and advocate for Jewish genealogy. I look forward to working with her going forward in my new role as President.”

JGSCV offers a hearty *CONGRATULATIONS* and now boasts 3 IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award winners including Warren Blatt and Hal Bookbinder.



Jan, accepting her award as presented by Marlis Humphrey, outgoing IAJGS president



37TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
JEWISH GENEALOGY
23-28 JULY 2017 • WALT DISNEY WORLD SWAN RESORT ORLANDO, FL

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES • JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

37th Annual IAJGS International Conference On Jewish Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen

The IAJGS conference met for the first time in the South: Orlando, Florida. Despite the heat and humidity, it was an excellent conference. The conference co-chairs: Adam Brown, lead co-chair, local co-chairs: Diane Jacobs and Dennis Rice are rightfully kvelling! An app including an electronic daily planner provided easy access to the program and more. Nine JGSCV members attended the conference and five of our members were presenters: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, and Marion Werle.

Including LIVE! there were approximately 1,000 attendees from 34 states and 15 countries—225 first time attendees! The attendees enjoyed over 350 events, including 225 lectures and panels, 33 films, 19 computer workshops, 42 BOF/SIG –Birds of a feather /Special Interest Groups, plus breakfasts and luncheons! Over 60 hours of LIVE! are available if you missed the conference or could not attend multiple sessions at the same time. The cost for the full package is \$149. They are available on demand until November 1, 2017. Go to: <http://live.iajgs.org> for more information. To see which programs were videoed for LIVE! go to: <http://tinyurl.com/ybq6ts7k>

If a session was taped for LIVE! it was not audio taped. Lectures not on LIVE! were audio taped. These may be purchased at: <http://tinyurl.com/vc8jzsga> .

On Sunday there was a SHARE Fair, (SIGS, BOFs, JGSs and more), providing an opportunity for attendees to spend time at different tables to learn and mingle! Also Sunday the conference opened up the exhibit hall to the local community—a first at the IAJGS conference.

IAJGS Annual Meeting

IAJGS Board Elections

IAJGS Board elections for officers occur during odd numbered years, directors-at-large are elected during even numbered years. This year's election for officers was not contested and was done by acclamation. The officers are elected for a two- year term. The new officers of IAJGS are:

Ken Bravo, President (JGS Cleveland)

Jay Sage, Vice President (JGS Greater Boston)

Avraham Groll, Secretary (JGS NY, Inc., Director, JewishGen)

Douglas Cohen, Treasurer (JGS Greater Boston)

Marlis Humphrey (JGS Orlando) who served for two-2 year terms is now the immediate past president. We extend a very deep gratitude to outgoing president, Marlis Humphrey, for her tireless efforts and vision for bringing the IAJGS into the 21st century with new focus and administrative tools for members and board members, which enhance our effectiveness.

Michael Goldstein (IGRA) completed his term as immediate past president and is no longer serving on the IAJGS Board of Directors.

Other Items Discussed at Annual Session

It was mentioned that the 2016 Seattle Conference made money, more than the Israel 2014 conference lost!

The issues that brought the most discussion during the IAJGS Annual meeting were suggested changes to the by-laws. The two issues were:

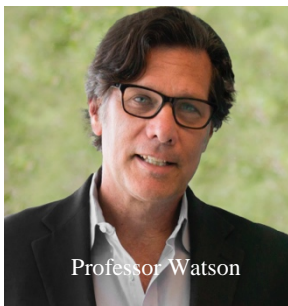
1. The creation of an executive committee, which did not specify the number of people on the executive committee and that their actions taken between board meetings could be overturned by the full board except “if rights of a third-person would be prejudicially affected.” As IAJGS signs contracts regarding conferences that would require a third-party signature, such as a hotel or audio-visual firms, which are worth in the hundreds of thousands of dollars, a number of the voting representatives expressed concern about that provision. The proposed Executive Committee addition did not pass.

2. The other provision that failed was the proposal to remove the 6-month time limitations for those societies who are delinquent in paying their annual dues and leave to the discretion of the board, when a delinquent member is dropped from membership.

The other proposed by-laws provisions were accepted. Future voting will be electronic and the timetable will change based upon when a Nominating Committee is appointed and must report back to the IAJGS Secretary. Members will receive the information 100-days before the Annual Meeting, petitions for additional candidates must be received by the Secretary with signatures of four voting representatives no later than 65 days in advance of the Annual Meeting. All electronic voting must be completed not less than 35 days in advance of the Annual meeting with results announced at the Annual Meeting.

The 2018 conference will be held in Warsaw, Poland, August 6-10. Co-hosts for the conference are the POLIN Museum of the History of the Polish Jews and the Warsaw Jewish Historical Institute. This is the first time IAJGS will hold a conference in Eastern Europe. It was announced (following the Annual Session) that Robinn Magid will be the lead conference co-chair. Robinn serves on the Board of Directors of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, and is a member of the San Francisco Bay Area JGS.

Keynote Speaker: Robert Watson, Ph.D. Alexander Hamilton, the Jews and the American Revolution



Professor Watson

Professor Watson has been voted the most popular professor at the university where he teaches. After hearing him, one can understand why. He is erudite, professional and funny! He is an award-winning author and historian at Lynn University in Florida. He regaled us about

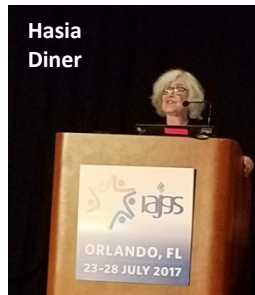
Alexander Hamilton, who was born in Nevis, in the West Indies. James Hamilton a Scottish merchant and his partner Rachel Fawcett a “woman of disrepute” because she had been married previously to Johann Levine a Sephardic Jew, who left her without divorcing. Levine ended up in debtors’ prison and he even had Rachel imprisoned after testifying that she was a prostitute. Her “common-law” marriage to Hamilton resulted in two sons, the youngest being Alexander. Hamilton senior abandoned his family. Rachel died when Alexander was young as did his father. Prior to Rachel’s death they were living on St. Croix—without Hamilton the father. His mother had schooled him well, and he worked as a clerk in a general store showing exceptional talent. He studied at a Jewish day school— he was barred from regular school due to his mother being a “woman of ill repute”. After his mother died, he was “fostered” by the large Sephardic community on Nevis.

Alexander Hamilton was sent to New York and entered what was Kings College which is now Columbia University. He favored women’s rights and was an abolitionist. When the Revolutionary War began, he dropped out of college and joined the military. He demonstrated great skill and intelligence in his military duties and was brought to the attention of General George Washington who named him Aide-de-Camp in 1777 at age 20! Professor Watson continued his historical view of Hamilton including his problems with John Adams and Hamilton’s support of a different candidate for vice president. This support resulted in Thomas Jefferson becoming vice president—not Hamilton’s choice. Some of Hamilton’s achievements which were called out: putting down the Whisky Rebellion; writing Washington’s Farewell Speech and the John Jay Treaty; working with Haim Solomon to pay for the Revolution; and serving as the First Secretary of the Treasurer. His longtime rivalry with Aaron Burr resulted in the infamous duel where Hamilton was killed.

Professor Watson spoke later in the conference on his book, *The Nazi Titanic*, about the German ocean liner SS Cap Arcona, a celebrated luxury liner that was seized by the Nazis, and used by Goebbels in his epic propaganda film about the sinking of the Titanic. What was startling was the story Professor Watson found in the Royal British archives—after being sealed away for decades: in the Third Reich’s final days the ship was packed with thousands of concentration camp prisoners, and thousands more awaiting boarding on the shores when the British Royal Air Force mistakenly bombed all the prisoners—killing almost all of them.

Hasia Diner—Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture

Another outstanding program was given by Professor Hasia Diner, New York University, who was the Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture speaker, sponsored by JGS Los Angeles. The lecture, *1917: A Turning Point in American Jewish History*. As 2017 is the centennial of the United States entering World War I, this program focused on the major transformation World War I played and set the stage for World War II. Professor Diner will be giving this lecture to JGSCV for our December program so I won't spoil it by giving much detail.



The entry into the World War for Jews resulted in those who had left Europe to avoid the draft by the Russian czar and other heads of state, were now fighting for their newly adopted homeland. Immigration became restricted in 1918 by Congress, immigration had linguistic implications. The American Joint Distribution Center was founded by American Jews in 1914, and sent representatives to Europe to help rebuild...and undertook great fundraising drives.

About one-quarter of a million Jews served in the Army and Navy. It was the first time Jews had an immersion into American society by serving in the military—as those who had never seen Jews and had preconceived notions now served with them in fox holes and trenches and each relied on the other for survival. The non-Jews learned not all Jews were wealthy, not "crafty" in business and did not have horns and tails. Orthodox Jews met reform Jews and

"JewishGen will also take over the IAJGS Cemetery Project"

found they had more in common with each other than previously thought.

The National Jewish Welfare Board started three days after the war began by recruiting and training rabbis. This was the first time the U.S. Government recognized Judaism as a distinct religion—about 4 percent of the population. Due to non-agreement between Jewish orthodox and reform groups the US government formed the US Welfare Board and worked with the Jewish community for home hospitality for Shabbat dinners, JCC's for community dances and was charged with finding

Jewish chaplains to appeal to soldiers while serving in the military.

JewishGen

Avraham Groll, director, JewishGen, said that JewishGen had over 1,000 volunteers active in the past year.



Rebecca Schaeffer, assistant to the director, was introduced as a new JewishGen employee. Avraham announced grants to be awarded by JewishGen's and its parent the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Ignition and Signature Grants will support the inception and/or completion of Jewish Genealogy projects that expand records to family historians. The size of the grants varies from up to \$5,000 for Ignition grants and up to \$25,000 for Signature grants. JewishGen is undergoing a system wide modernization and Phase 1 should be complete in Spring of 2018. Phase 2, an efficiency user experience, will require some databases being taken off line which they realize is never a good time for this, but must be done to modernize.

JewishGen will obtain Miriam Weiner's Routes to Roots Foundation records pertaining to Belarus and Bessarabia research.

It was announced The Irish Jewish Records.com, with Stuart Rosenberg, will gift his entire website to JewishGen when he is no longer wants to continue maintaining the database.

It was also announced that the JewishGen and Jewish Genealogy Portal on Facebook will work together. This does not replace the Jewish Gen Discussion Groups as the discussion groups and Facebook have different audiences.

JewishGen will also take over the IAJGS Cemetery Project.

In the exhibit hall, conference attendees were introduced to the new Exhibitor Booth which will expand JewishGen's marketing and promote themselves to a wider audience. The booth also debuted "booth talks" whereby JewishGen representatives offered conference attendee five- minute presentations on a particular topic such as the JewishGen Family Finder, Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR), Yizkor Books and more.

Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen reported that there are 59 Yizkor books in print. Thirteen were added this year and 4,700 copies have been sold. JewishGen began 29 new book translations and continued translating an additional 296 other books.

Viewmate had 5,000 searchable requests this year with 44,000 translations archived.

The JewishGen Database has over 20 million records in 14 separate country databases, the newest being the All France Database. JewishGen has added one million records to the All Country Databases in the last year.

The Jewish Gen Family Finder has 500,000 searches per year towns and family names worldwide representing 110,000 researchers and 578,000 towns and surnames.

Warren also reported on a revamp that started last year going from Visual FoxPro to MySQL and SQL. He also discussed other technical changes for corrections, deletions and insertions.

While a number of volunteers assisted in getting these records available for JewishGen, JGSCV's own Stephen Weinstein was cited for 62,000 getting birth records into database format for the Latvia SIG.

JewishGen Volunteer of the Year Award: Janette Silverman

Janette Silverman, coordinator of the JewishGen Ukraine SIG, is the recipient of this year's JewishGen award. Over the years, Janette has devoted an enormous amount of time to JewishGen's important work. In addition to serving as the coordinator for the JewishGen Ukraine SIG, she serves as a moderator for the JewishGen Discussion Groups, has previously served on their operations committee, and is someone who consistently tries to help in any way that she can. The results of her hard work are readily apparent to users, and her organizational skills are admired by her many co-volunteers.

Banquet Speaker: Henry Louis Gates, Jr.



Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

IAJGS was privileged to have as the banquet speaker Professor Henry Louis "Skip" Gates, Jr. the host of *Finding Your Roots*, the popular genealogy program in the United States which airs on the Public Broadcasting System. Professor Gates is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the Hutchins Center for African and African American Research at Harvard University. His program was *Genealogy and Genetics in America*.

Professor Gates said this was the first genealogical conference he had been invited to speak at! He also said it was one of the best times he had speaking to our group.

He regaled the group with his story of how he got into genealogy himself, when one of his grandparents died and he, his brother and father went through their belongings finding family photos, and learning about their ancestors. When he decided to promote genealogy on television his view was solely for African – American stories and he began with the program, *African American Live*, the first documentary series to use genealogy and genetic science to provide an understanding of African-American history. It was during this series that he learned he had 50% European ancestry and 50% African ancestry. While he was hosting this show he received a letter stating he was racist as he did not include white people or Jews on the program. At the time Coca Cola was the sponsor and he contacted them. The response was there were more white people drinking Coke than black people so the program changed to one of diverse backgrounds, *Faces of America*. This program examined the genealogy of 12 North-Americans of diverse ancestry. Since 2012 he hosts *Finding Your Roots*.

He said 30-35% of all Black men have Y-DNA from Europe.

Professor Gates wants to use the power of genealogy "to reawaken the love of learning".

Banquet attendees were shown a trailer for the upcoming season of *Finding Your Roots*. To see the trailer go to: <http://tinyurl.com/y8nf9pgv>

It was announced that Professor Gates donated his honorarium to Nadia Lipes for her Ukrainian research.

Awards

One of the activities at the annual banquet is the presentation of IAJGS awards.

Lifetime Achievement: Jan Meisels Allen (see more on page 14)

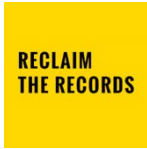
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for many years. Beyond Jewish genealogy, she has been a regular speaker at FGA and NGS conferences, at the invitation of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and has spoken on records access at European conferences. Her dedication to the cause of genealogical research and drive to work on its behalf has a continual far reaching effect.

Outstanding Project: Reclaim the Records

This year's IAJGS Outstanding Project Award is given to Reclaim the Records. Under the leadership of Brooke Schreier Ganz this group has advocated for governmental agencies to release public data into the public domain. Using Freedom of Information laws (FOIL) and Open Data initiatives, in just a brief time, the organization has secured the release of thousands of vital records indices and voters lists, with continued efforts ongoing for records throughout the U.S.



Volunteer of the Year 2017: Rose Avigael Feldman

This year's IAJGS Volunteer of the Year Award honors Rose Avigael Feldman's dedication, encouragement, creativity, and achievements in the world of Jewish genealogy. Rose was an active volunteer in the organization of two past IAJGS conferences. As a result of contributing her time and energy to a records scanning project, documents from Israeli archives will be accessible to researchers worldwide.

Other Awards

Rabbi Malcolm Stern and John Stedman Memorial Grants

Each year the IAJGS awards grants that advance the work of Jewish genealogy. The Committee awarded two grants-the maximum permitted.

Rabbi Malcom Stern Grant:

One grant in the amount of \$3,000 is to honor the late Rabbi Malcolm Stern, widely considered to be the dean of American Jewish genealogy. Funding is by voluntary donations from the IAJGS members. (The voluntary \$1.00 contribution requested per member listed on the JGSCV membership form is how JGSCV contributes to this fund.) This year the awardee is the Subcarpathia SIG to obtain photographs of vital records from what is now Subcarpathian Ukraine (but at the time the records were created was part of Hungary and then Czechoslovakia).

John Stedman Memorial Grant:

The second award is The John Stedman Memorial Grant also for \$3,000. IAJGS was a recipient of a gift from the estate of Jon Stedman to honor his late father, John Stedman. This year's awardee was Reclaim the Records

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for assistance with legal fees for their litigation against the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services for the Missouri birth index 1910-2015 and the Missouri Death Index 1965-2015.

IAJGS Salutes!

IAJGS Salutes! Regularly provides recognition of noteworthy projects, activities and accomplishments relating to Jewish genealogy in addition to the annual IAJGS achievement awards. While this year's Salutes were given earlier in the year they were mentioned at the banquet:

San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogy Society (SBAJGS)

The Society encourages donations from members in addition to dues, and uses these donations to make the contributions to other organizations. The society's philanthropic efforts will ultimately help the donee organizations to make additional resources available and increase participation in Jewish genealogy. Over the life of their charitable program, the SFBAJGS has donated more than \$26,000 to groups that promote Jewish genealogical research. The Society makes the donations in order to "give back" to other not-for-profit organizations whose work helps their members and the greater genealogical community with their research. SBAJGS leadership and membership are recognized for their charitable acts, and they wish to encourage other IAJGS members to do what they can to help similar organizations.

JOWBR Database Volunteer Corps

JewishGen's JOWBR Project recently passed the 3 million record mark. The popular database includes records from more than 125 countries word wide. The success of the database could only have been achieved with the time and effort of a dedicated group of volunteers.

Eric Feinstein, the lead volunteer helps to find material from websites, discussion list postings, newspaper articles, word of mouth and any other leads. He also coordinates many of the volunteers.

A key group of devoted data entry volunteers, Ann Meddin Hellman, George Jiri Goldschmied, Hans Nord, Harriet Mayer, and Maurice Kessler, take material in various forms and then create the standard JOWBR Excel templates.

When we receive photos of headstones that need transliterating from Hebrew to English, Gilberto Jugend does the transliteration and prepares the template. And last but not least, Max Heffler html's all the non-headstone photos and descriptive material that accentuates the cemetery descriptions.

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

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 August 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.

Missing Books From Traveling Library

The annual inventory of the traveling library results were disturbing. Two of our "Category A" books are missing:

Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy. Mokotoff, Gary, and Blatt, Warren Avotaynu 1999

They Came in Ships A Guide to Finding Your Immigration Ancestor's Arrival Record 2nd ed.

John P. Colletta 1993

If you inadvertently took them home, please return them—**no questions asked**. These are books that all members and guests want to have access to at our meetings. None of our books are to leave the meeting.



**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.

2017

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, "1917: A Turning Point in American Jewish History"

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 Marion Werle, "Ferreting Out Family Stories - Fact, Fiction or Somewhere in Between?"

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 August 6-10

2018

Programs are subject to change -check JGSCV website for updates

www.jgscv.org