

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

November 2016

Volume 12 Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Over 70 members and friends of JGSCV celebrated its 11th anniversary with an outstanding program by the Legal Genealogist, Judy Russell. Attaining eleven years as a society could not have been possible without the numerous JGSCV members who have contributed their time by serving on the board of directors, committees and working on special projects. Thank you all. Co-sponsorship of our meetings by Temple Adat Elohim has been invaluable. Thank you Temple Adat Elohim for all you do for JGSCV!

Our October program, *Through the Golden Door-Immigration after the Civil War*, was also co-sponsored by our sister society, JGS Los Angeles. Thank you to JGSLA Board Members Lois Rosen and Mort Rappaport for attending the meeting.

U.S. immigration laws became more restrictive during the time when many of our ancestors immigrated to the United States: 1875-1924. These restrictions and how they affected the immigrants was the focus of Judy Russell's lecture. Highlights of the program may be found beginning on page 6.

Thank you to the Ventura County Genealogical Society, and especially their vice president of programs, (JGSCV member) Pat Thomas for inviting us to join them in their request for Judy to speak to our respective organizations. By sharing travel costs, both societies may engage speakers not possible individually.

Thank you to Marion Werle for facilitating the schmoozing corner.



**Judy Russell, The Legal Genealogist,
speaking at the October meeting**

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY, November 7th 7:00-9:00

Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research

Janice M. Sellers will explain what is available online and ways to find the newspapers you seek.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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Mission Statement:

JGSCV is a non-profit organization run by enthusiastic volunteers dedicated to the sharing of genealogical information, techniques and research tools with those interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Members who include beginners and experienced genealogists share with each other.

I was delighted to learn that several members expressed interest in joining the JGSCV board of directors. To those who chose not to apply, I hope your interest continues to grow. We are as strong as our members and the more who get involved, the healthier the society! While institutional legacy is important, bringing in new members to the board is very healthy for the organization. The 2016 Nominations Committee has recommended 6 candidates for the slate. Following the meeting one additional person expressed interest in serving and if her application is received before the November meeting there will be 7 candidates for the slate. The Nominations Committee report may be found on page 3. Biographies of all candidates will be published in next month's newsletter.

Hal Bookbinder's series, "Practicing Safe Computing" continues with *Yahoo Email Services*. See page 12.

Last month we included a three questions in this newsletter. The questions were on programming, the newsletter and safe computing series. We did not hear back from anyone! We want **your** feedback. It will help us to improve and respond with what you want from **your** society. Please complete the questions and send your responses back to Allan or me. The questionnaire is reprinted on page 20.

The IAJGS sponsors the International Jewish Genealogy month during the month of Cheshvan (November 2-29). More on this can be found on page 11.

October started JGSCV's membership renewal for 2017. We already have 26 renewals. As usual, our December meeting will include a drawing for over 10 fantastic genealogical gifts for those who are eligible. Eligibility consists of renewing or joining for 2017 and attending that meeting. See page 21 for a 2017 membership form which will also be available at the meetings. Remember, Chanukah is approaching and a membership to JGSCV is a gift that gives all year long! We can provide a beautiful certificate with the names of the recipient and donor.

Our **November 7th meeting is on Monday evening 7:00-9:00 pm**. This is one of only two evening programs we hold each year. The topic is one which will help all of us with our research: *Read All about It! Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research*. The speaker is Janice Sellers, vice president, programs, San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society. Janice is a professional genealogist who specializes in both newspaper research and Jewish research.

Looking forward to seeing you on November 7th!

Jan Meisels Allen



Page Three is on vacation . . .

FORTHCOMING JGSCV ELECTIONS

Hal Bookbinder, Chairman, JGSCV Nominating Committee

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a Nominating Committee was formed consisting of board member Allan Linderman, general member Carol Flesher and general member Hal Bookbinder as chair. It recommends the following individuals be nominated for two year-terms starting January 1, 2017:

1. Jan Meisels Allen (current board member)
2. Rosalie Bell (current board member)
3. Karen Lewy (current board member)
4. Helene Rosen (current board member)
5. Julie Goldman (from the general membership)

And that the following individual be nominated for a one-year term:

1. Judy Karta (from the general membership)

The terms of four current board members continue through the end of 2017: Warren Blatt, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion and Israel Perel. The board is currently set at ten elected members. Five individuals are recommended for two-year terms and one for a one-year term so that the society will be in conformance with the bylaws which call for half the board terms to expire each year. A coin toss determined that Judy Karta would be recommended for a one-year term.

Members may nominate themselves or another at the 7 November 2016 general membership meeting. No second is necessary. If present, the person must agree to serve if elected. If not present, a written statement to this effect must be available for review. Nominees must be members in good standing for at least one year. Nominations will then be closed.

The names of all nominees with brief biographies will be published in the December issue of this newsletter. Elections will then be held at the 4 December 2016 meeting. Should additional individuals be nominated, or the membership chooses not to approve the slate by acclamation in December, then a secret vote will be taken. The five with the highest votes will be elected for two year terms and the person with the next highest will be elected for a term of one year.

At the initial 2017 board meeting the board will determine who will fulfill the various officer and non-officer board positions. This will be reported to the membership in the February 2017 newsletter.

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

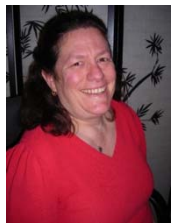


The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on **Monday, November 7th, 2016** at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 **7:00-9:00pm**

The Topic: Read All About It! Using Online Newspapers For Genealogical Research

Newspapers are valuable in genealogical research because you can find information about births, deaths, marriages, moves, business, naturalizations, court cases, and more. Millions of pages of the world's newspapers are now accessible online, but there is no one place to find them all. This presentation gives an overview of what is available online, ways to find the newspaper you are looking for, and techniques to help improve your chances of finding information about your relatives.

Speaker: Janice M. Sellers is a professional genealogist specializing in Jewish, black, forensic, and newspaper research. She is the editor of three genealogy publications, including "ZichronNote", the journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society (SFBAJGS). She is the vice president of SFBAJGS, board member of the California State Genealogical Alliance, and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy, and more. She gives presentations on many genealogical topics at the local, regional, state, and national and international levels. Her Web site is ancestraldiscoveries.com.



There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Our 2017 membership drive has already begun! Join JGSCV now and membership is good through December 2017.

The meeting is open to the public. Light refreshments will be served. The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in genealogy and family history.

JGSCV Updates

See page 18 for the program schedule through August, 2017. There are more fascinating speakers lined up who will surely answer some questions . . . and make you think of many more..

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at

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<http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic (like the one here). This takes you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. See “notices” on the JGSCV.org website for instructions for Ralphs Community Contribution Program, too. AND, if you shop at Food 4 Less and use your Ralph's card, JGSCV will benefit as though you shopped at Ralph's.



The SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 20 minutes before each monthly meeting is scheduled to begin. Just come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the “SCHMOOZING CORNER” sign where next month you will find an experienced JGSCV member waiting to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins. On the left in the photo left is Marion Werle helping a member at the October meeting.

Instructions for signing up (or re-signing) with Ralph's is on page 19. *It must be done every year starting on September 1.*

Learn about Yahoo Email from Hal Bookbinder's 13th article on “Safe Computing” on page 12.

Be sure to give us your feedback to the questions of page 20.

Genealogy Odds and Ends on page 15 has information on genealogy apps for kids..

JGSCV MEMBERSHIP Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership/\$30 for a household. To join, printout the membership form on our website www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button. Send it with a check in the appropriate amount payable to: JGSCV and mail to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Highlights from . . .

Through The Golden Door: Immigration After The Civil War

Judy Russell *The Legal Genealogist* Fills In The Blanks

By Jan Meisels Allen

Judy Russell was JGSCV's 11th anniversary speaker. Wow! Are we fortunate to have had Judy talk to us. She was fabulous! We had over 70 people attending including sixteen first time attendees!

America's doors were open to all before the Civil War, with few restrictions. Afterward the laws began tightening, with exclusions, quotas, even required visas. The presentation focused on how immigration laws affected our ancestors who immigrated after the Civil War and the hoops they had to jump through in order to enter America's "golden door".

There have been Jews in the United States since the mid 1600's with the first being Elias Legarde a Sephardic Jew, who arrived at Jamestown, Virginia on the HMS Abigail in 1621. Asser Levy is first mentioned in public records in Nieuw Amsterdam (today New York City) in 1654 in connection with the group of 23 Jews who arrived as refugees from Brazil. Until the 1830's the Jewish community of Charleston, South Carolina was the largest in North America. Most of Jewish immigration was in the era 1880-

1920's from Eastern Europe—Russia, Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, etc. Therefore, many of our ancestors were subject to the restrictions that Judy discussed.

History of Statue of Liberty

Judy began the program by discussing the history of Ellis Island. The French made a gift of the Statue of Liberty to the United States for the country's 100th birthday. The Statue was designed by Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, a French sculptor, with structural design assistance from Gustave Eiffel (the same person who did the Eiffel Tower in Paris). An American team was to build the pedestal, and the French team was responsible for the Statue and its assembly here in the United States. It was supposed to be on an Island in New York Harbor—which required Congressional approval. President Grant approved the resolution on his last day in office



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and his successor President Hayes, decided which island it would be placed upon. Funding delayed the finalization of the statue and pedestal. On 28 October 1886, President Grover Cleveland oversaw the dedication of the Statue of Liberty - ten years late for the centennial. It was dedicated on what today is known as Liberty Island. Emma Lazarus, a Jewess born to Sephardic parents in New York City in 1849 authored the poem, *The New Colossus* which was written to help fund-raise for the pedestal. The poem's famous line ". . . **Your wretched refuse of your teeming shore**" became a clarion call for later immigration obstructionists, **when the US wanted to close its golden doors.**

Newspapers from various states used descriptions such as "European scum" coming to the U.S. as "paupers and criminals, hordes of immigration, crime against women and children" and "the Golden Door not really open".

The immigrants who came before or during the Civil War found the United States welcoming and open as the country needed manpower. The U.S. Congress passed legislation to encourage immigration by limiting the time required to pay off labor contracts to only 12 months compared to the previous longer period. Additionally, no immigrant would be subject to compulsory military service—unless they voluntarily renounced their previous country's leader in their citizenship filings. Not being conscripted was a big attraction to men from Europe.

By the 1870's the winds of change were noticeable. The United States was undergoing periodic economic recessions, resulting in tightening immigration restrictions from 1875-1924.

Statutes at Large

Judy taught us how to read federal statute citations. For example: 18 Stat.

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477 (1875)—which appears in The Statutes at Large.

- 18 –designates volume number which may vary
- Stat. means Statute at Large—not a variable
- 477 refers to the page which may vary
- (1875) the year of the statute which may vary

Anti-Immigrant Laws

The political cartoon magazine *Puck*, whose cartoons are located in the Library of Congress, Prints and Photograph Collection depicted the various anti-immigrant laws. To view the Puck political cartoons, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/hpay6u2>

The original anti-immigrant laws called out the Chinese and specifically outlawed labor contracts for immigrants from Asia - especially the Chinese. There was a feeling that Chinese women were brought to the United States to serve the heroin dens in San Francisco so a law barring importing women for prostitution was passed. However, that law was applied to any female arriving penniless; think of young, single Jewish immigrants arriving from Eastern Europe in the 1880's. The women were returned to

To access the Statutes at Large go to *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation* found at:

<https://memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lawhome.html> and click on the Statutes at Large on the left side of the graphic under statutes and documents.

their country of origin. Later statutes applied to native-born persons of Chinese descent who had to have papers to return to their country of birth, the United States. Judy suggested that we look at all records of immigration into San Francisco—not just those from China as other



Illustration shows James Garfield and Winfield S. Hancock nailing a Chinese man between two "Anti-Chinese" boards labeled "Republican Plank" and "Democratic Plank".

nationalities also entered

through San Francisco. The laws placing limitations on Chinese immigration were in effect until the 1950's.

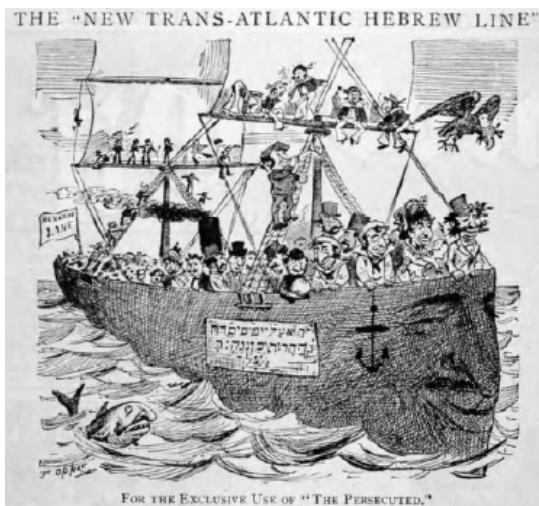
In 1882, the United States enacted a law establishing a head tax of 50 cents per passenger for non-citizens and required for the first time, medical examinations to enter into the United States. These were watershed criteria - looking for people who were convicts, lunatics or possible public charges. See (22 Stat. 214 (1882). There was an increased number of immigrants from Eastern Europe due to the deplorable conditions in Europe.

In 1891 the number of immigrant exclusions increased to cover those convicted of misdemeanors and felonies, polygamists (Mormons) and one whose ticket was paid by someone else. This later exclusion was difficult as many immigrants were having their transportation paid by relatives already in the United States.

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While we are used to looking at ships' passenger manifests, in the earlier times, there were no passenger lists, but custom lists. A spate of new laws made it increasingly more difficult to immigrate to the United States including:

- By 1896 information was added for the ship's manifest including name, age, sex, occupation, country of citizenship, country where born, number of pieces of luggage, class of travel (i.e. steerage, first class, etc.)
- By 1904 the following information was added to the ship's manifest: marital status, race, literacy (whether the person could read and write), final destination, who paid for the ticket, if the immigrant had \$50 USD, who they were joining in the United States, and their health condition.



Puck magazine cartoon lampooning Jewish immigrants from eastern Europe in 1881

Judy suggested to look at records of the INS district offices which contain registers of immigrants. It would say if the person was deported, the place in the US where they entered the country—NY, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore etc. Note that the Philadelphia office has the deported immigrants' records for not only Philadelphia but also Boston, Baltimore and New York City.

As immigration continued to increase, in 1917 the U.S. Congress enacted more immigration laws to bar undesirables, increased the head tax, required literacy, medical examinations and more (39 Stat. 874 (1917). Children under age 16 not

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traveling with parents were also barred from immigrating.

Between the period of the two world wars, the laws restricting immigration continued and were expanded to include things such as the “eye” test. At immigration stations, the immigrant was required to submit to a test with a hook to raise the eyelid to look for contagious eye diseases.

What did immigrants do? What do you do if you wanted to immigrate and one of your children was ill and would not meet the health requirements for entry? Families waited in Europe until the child was well enough so they would not be sent back.

There was great “push and pull” after World War I. Congress wanted further limitations on immigration.

In 1921 they limited the number of immigrants to the United States—the quota system began. Quotas were connected to the 1910 census which measured those born outside of the United States. Immigrants were limited in number to no more than 3% of their country’s population living in the U.S.

In



Note the 3 percent limit at the shorter end of the funnel of European immigrants.

1924 Congress established preferences where
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people were from and what they believed. 43 Stat. 153 (1924). This kept Jews out of the United States during the 1920’s and 1930’s.

Records

Visas are excellent sources of information. They show dates and preferences and non-preferences. They list the length of time the visa was valid, and include a photo of the person.

Record Group 85 (INS—Immigration and Naturalization Service) today the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) has records from 1787-1993. Since many INS records are not archived at the National Archives one must apply for them at the USCIS. Visa files are available for 1924-1944.

Everyone not a United States citizen had to register in 1940-1945. This is a different registration than for those considered enemy aliens. These are the AR-2 files, available at USCIS. “A” files (alien) pre 1951 and “C” files (citizen files) 1906-1956 are available at USCIS. For A files after 1 May 1951 a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request is required.

As the USCIS is currently considering a substantial increase in their charges, Judy encourages those who want to get the records from the USCIS to do so now. She suggests you pay for the record search to see *all* the records available at USCIS. If you request a specific record at first, you may not learn about other records in their files. Once you review the full record search, you still may order whatever records you choose – for an additional fee. A record search is currently \$20 but is proposed to increase to \$65. Go to: <http://tinyurl.com/jhp37lv> for the application and more information on the records held by USCIS.

Questions and Answers

During the question and answer period, JGSCV members and guests asked about situations relative to themselves or their families. They also told their personal stories. Werner Frank talked about how in 1937 he and his family went to the American Consulate in Stuttgart.

There, it was determined that he (at age 7) had a heart condition and failed his medical exam. His parents took him to a private physician who found nothing wrong with him and wrote that in a letter to the Consulate. They were then permitted to immigrate.

JGSCV member Sara Applebaum immigrated in 1952 under the quota system where she and her family were directed to Pittsburgh, PA but ended up in Kentucky. Sara and her family immigrated under the refugee act. Her parents were born in Poland, she was born in Kyrgyzstan during World War II and they

and visa are the same, but have different requirements. For example, the 3 percent limit imposed in 1921 is different. When the USSR was cracking down, there was an administrative (not legislative) change that permitted increased numbers of Soviet citizens to immigrate.

Judy recommended the JewishGen info file on passenger lists See: <http://tinyurl.com/hr5flx6> 1906 was a watershed year. That was the year

Until 9-11 there was no requirement that a person wanting to change their name had to do so through any legal process.

immigrated from Belgium. Her parents were concerned about their background and considered lying, but decided it was worse to lie than tell the truth. They learned that lying on immigration applications was cause for deportation back to their home country.

Other questions included:

- If one has the naturalization papers from Ancestry is it worth requesting the file from USCIS? Judy encouraged all of us to get the papers from USCIS as they may have additional information in the file that is not on a genealogy site.
- Does one have to specify the A file when contacting USCIS? The answer is not in the record search, as USCIS will tell you what records they have.
- Is the 1924 quota law still in effect? Yes, although it has been tweaked over the years. The concept of quota

that immigration became a federal responsibility, where previously it belonged to the states. Even after 1906 there were state courts that did naturalizations until the-1970s and the creation of the INS. The records created before 1906 are not necessarily at the USCIS but are in the state courts or National Archives. Some of our ancestors were held at the US port for special inquiry. Those who made the decision as to whom would be held were immigration officers who served on the Board of Special Inquiry.

The Act of 1918, the Enemy Aliens Act was due to World War I regarding citizens of the German Empire who were not naturalized. Unfortunately, only the records from Kansas and California survived. During World War II there were two registrations. Individuals who had relatives in the US but were not U.S. citizens had to comply with the Alien Registration of 1940. The Enemy Alien Registration was for those of Japanese and German descent and put in place after

December 7, 1941. This included Jews being swept up as enemy aliens because of being German nationals.

People in Europe were desperate to leave and with the United States closed to many, they went to Canada, Cuba and Brazil. In 1930 Canada also closed its doors to immigrants.

Name Changes

Until 9-11 there was no requirement that a person wanting to change their name had to do so through any legal process. As long as the purpose was not to defraud, no one cared what the name was. Many immigrants once in the United States wanted their names to sound more “American” and changed them. Some did so through the courts but many just changed them without reporting the change to any authority.



To check if someone did the name change “legally” Judy suggested checking the “court of record” closest to where the person lived. Look for the lowest level of court, as their charges would be less—usually a county court, or a probate court. Courts have different names in different states, so check the names for the states you are researching.

To dispel the oft-repeated myth, names were not changed at Ellis Island. Read the New York Public Library article on this at:

<http://tinyurl.com/jazon18> This tells the one story where the name was changed. A woman (“Mary Johnson”) disguised as a man used a man’s name (“Frank Woodhull”) but when discovered was required to take her original female name.

Also read Marian Smith, USCIS, article on why names were not changed at Ellis Island at: <http://tinyurl.com/j4u9pco>

Judy G. Russell is a genealogist with a law degree. She writes, teaches and lectures on a wide variety of genealogical topics, ranging from using court records in family history to understanding DNA testing. A Colorado native with roots deep in the American south on her mother’s side and entirely in Germany on her father’s side, she is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the National Genealogical Society and numerous state and regional genealogical societies. She has written for the National Genealogical Society Quarterly and National Genealogical Society Magazine, among other publications. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Board for Certification of Genealogists, from which she holds credentials as a Certified Genealogist® and Certified Genealogical LecturerSM. Her blog appears at The Legal Genealogist website (<http://www.legalgenealogist.com>).

International Jewish Genealogy Month— November 1-30, 2016 Cheshvan 5777

This year the dates for International Jewish Genealogy Month are the evening November 1 to November 30, 2016 coinciding with Cheshvan 5777 in the Jewish Calendar. Each year IAJGS holds a competition for a Poster to help celebrate IJGM . The Winning entry for 2016/5777 came from Jillian Beroza of Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island.



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Safe Computing: Yahoo Email Services

Thirteenth in a series

By Hal Bookbinder



You are all likely aware of the mass theft of user data from Yahoo in which information for over 600 million customers was stolen in 2014, coming to light only in the last few months. (If you have a Yahoo account and have not changed your password since 2014, do so immediately. If you use the same password on other accounts, change them as well.)

Yahoo is reeling and playing defense in trying to retain its business. The LA Times reported in the following link to its 11 October 2016 edition that Yahoo has quietly shut down the ability of users to turn on mail-forwarding services: (<http://tinyurl.com/zsx7xv7>). According to the article, Yahoo claims that this is temporary while they “improve” the service. This is a standard function that permits you to receive email in one mailbox and immediately forward a copy to another, permitting one to consolidate all email into one mailbox.

I have email accounts in Gmail, Yahoo, MSN, UOP (University of Phoenix), UCLA Bruin and Roadrunner (Times Warner Cable) and consolidate them all into my primary UCLA Medical Center account. So, if you send an email to me at hal@jgscv.org or hal.bookbinder@ucla.edu, you will likely get a response from hbookbinder@mednet.ucla.edu. This is the account that I monitor.

Along with consolidating email, forwarding is also used to facilitate moving from one email service to another and Yahoo clearly does not want to help you do this. Once you set up a new email service, by setting up forwarding, email from those who use your old email

automatically shows up in your new mailbox. By using an “out of office” notification in your old mailbox you can let them know that this mailbox will shortly close. Alternatively, you can just notify those you want to be aware of the change.

You then can opt to close your old email or not. If you close it, those who use it will get a message that it is not a valid address. If you leave it active but simply stop using it, emailers, including spammers, will have no awareness that it is now dead. Some family or friends may wonder why you are ignoring them.

If you had forwarding turned on in your Yahoo email before they took this action, the Times reports that it should still work. Yahoo simply turned off the ability to invoke this feature. This is presumably a defensive move to make it more difficult to move away from Yahoo. Likely, the blowback they will get will result in Yahoo restoring the function. With their mass-hacking, bleeding money (reported loss of \$5.19 per share as of 7/18) and anti-customer actions such as these, one might question whether to remain with Yahoo it all.

Of course there are issues with other email services as well. Many are concerned about the scanning of emails reportedly done by Gmail and what other free services are doing with your information. Email has become a lifeline. Pay attention to your email service and have an escape plan.

This is the thirteenth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding Board 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.

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Kristallnacht: Night of Broken Glass 78th Anniversary

November 9-10

This year marks the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht, "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass" took place on 9 and 10 November 1938 throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia that were occupied by German troops. At least 91 Jews were killed in the attacks, and 30,000 were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked. The attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned (95 in Vienna alone) and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.

According to the Free Dictionary, Herschel Grynszpan a 17-year-old Jew, assassinated the third secretary at the German embassy in Paris on 7 November 1938, to avenge the expulsion of his parents and 15,000 other Polish Jews to German concentration camps. This gave the Nazis the excuse they were waiting for and Goebbels urged Storm Troopers to stage violent reprisals which resulted in Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht marked the transition in Nazi policy. It was the first violent pogrom (riot) on Western European soil in hundreds of years. Immediately after Kristallnacht, a fine of one billion marks was levied, not upon the criminals, but upon the victims, the Jewish community of Germany. Nazi policy



The shattered stained glass windows of the Zerrennerstrasse synagogue after its destruction on Kristallnacht. Pforzheim, Germany, ca. 10 November 1938. — *Stadtarchiv Pforzheim*

had now moved into the overt destruction of all Jewish life in the Third Reich.

To read more about Kristallnacht see <http://tinyurl.com/jgdek> and <http://tinyurl.com/29k38qn> for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum write up.

While there are commemorations throughout the US and other countries, it is best to Google for this to find out what is happening closest to you to commemorate Kristallnacht. The next page begins a list of locations of nearby Kristallnacht Commemorations.

Kristallnacht Commemoration in or Near Our Region

November 9-10, 2016 will be the 78th anniversary of Kristallnacht. (See page13 for more.)

- **November 6, 2016 Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust**

55 Years 2016 Gala Diner

Beverly Wilshire Hotel

Honoring the film Denial and Gary Foster, Producer

With special remarks by Deborah E. Lipstadt

For more information and to purchase tickets go to: <http://tinyurl.com/hlspgwg>

- **November 7, 2016 The Jewish Studies Program at Loyola Marymount University presents the 10th Annual Kristallnacht Commemoration: How One Man Tried to Stop the Holocaust – 6:30 PM**

Roski Dining Room, University Hall

Loyola Marymount University

Film Screening: "Jan Karski & the Lords of Humanity"

Directed by Slawomir Grünberg

Introduced by Mariusz M. Brymora, Consul General of Poland in Los Angeles

The film documents the incredible story of Jan Karski, a Polish Catholic and underground courier who crossed occupied Europe to bring eyewitness accounts of the unfolding atrocities of the Holocaust to Allied powers in the west.

Panel Response

Slawomir Grünberg, director, "Jan Karski & the Lords of Humanity"

Edward Gaffney, Professor of Law, Valparaiso University

Kosher dessert reception to follow.

More information see:

<http://tinyurl.com/z9wcbob>

- **November 13, 2016 4:00-7:00 PM LaVerne University**

Campus Center Ballroom A

La Verne, CA 91750

Lecture by Jonathan Kirsch, book editor and book columnist for the *Jewish Journal*. A member of the California State Bar since 1976, he earned a Juris Doctor degree cum laude at Loyola University School of Law.

For more information see:

<http://tinyurl.com/gwvc6us>

- **November 13, 2016 Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara 1:00-3:00 pm**

524 Chapala St.

Santa Barbara, CA

Art at the JCC Reception: Portraits of Survival Kristallnacht Commemoration. For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/jzcaex>

There may be additional programs, however, at the time of writing this announcement there was nothing else posted.

Genealogy Odds and Ends

Family Tree Magazine's Facebook page has a free download of an old Germanic Alphabet. It can be accessed by anyone at <http://tinyurl.com/hpotmsa>

JewishGen will again offer a class in publishing your research. Concentrating on short reports, this is a great way to create a quick summary to send on to relatives or other researchers and to remind you of where that project left off. It requires 8-10 hours per week for 3+ weeks from Nov. 4 – 27. The class is limited to 10 students for a fee of \$125. For more details contact Nancy Holden: JewishGen-Education@lyris.JewishGen.org



According to Dick Eastman (<http://tinyurl.com/jtnjfuk>), Yellow Fork Technologies LLC released a major update to their 'Little Family Tree' app which makes it FREE to download. The app teaches children about their family history through interactive games and activities from information obtained by accessing an online family tree. It teaches children to identify family members by name, relationship and photo. It helps them understand where they came from and navigate a family tree in a fun and engaging way. It provides a connection to their ancestors. Little Family Tree is available for IOS and Android smartphones and tablets and may be downloaded directly from the respective App stores. More information and tutorials can be found at <http://www.littlefamilytree.com>

JGSCV Welcomes New Members
DAVID and LOUISE LISTON
PAULA POLL

“My Most Memorable Yom Kippur”

By Hal Bookbinder

As I write this on the eve of Yom Kippur, 2016 I am reminded of my most memorable Yom Kippur. I served on active duty in the US Air Force from 1971 to 1975 working in Cheyenne Mountain, a solid granite mountain towering several thousand feet over Colorado Springs, Colorado. The center of the mountain about 1,000 feet above the city had been hollowed out and numerous three story all-steel buildings sitting on giant springs had been installed. This served as the headquarters of the North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and Space Division (which would later become Space Command). This complex sat behind two 50-ton steel doors and was designed to withstand a direct nuclear attack.

My role was as a computer programmer and mathematician supporting our tracking of all objects in earth orbit as a part of Space Division. These objects included over 2,000 satellites and over 6,000 pieces of debris. On a typical peacetime day more than 2,000 Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine and Canadian Forces worked in the granite mountain. In wartime, the number would be reduced to about 300.

My family attended chapel at Fort Carson, an army post that housed the 5th Mechanized Infantry Division. The chaplain/rabbi there was orthodox which matched my upbringing. I served as the Jewish lay leader for Ent Air

Force Base (now Peterson Air Force Base) and for Fort Carson. In 1972 the chaplain was transferred. No replacement was immediately named. So, I took over running the services.



Months went by and no replacement was named. Finally, nearly one year later, a new orthodox chaplain was named. He arrived days before the High Holidays, 1973.

As he had a beautiful singing voice and I did not, I acted as rabbi and he filled the role of

cantor for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Of course, the Middle East erupted into war on Yom Kippur day, 1973 with Egypt and Syria launching attacks on this holiest of days when substantial numbers of Israeli troops were with their families in synagogue. During breaks in the service, we would go to the chaplain's office where his assistant was listening to the war reports and would provide an update. The updates were depressing as the Egyptians and Syrians were advancing into the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights.

In about three days Israel was able to get its forces in place and turned the tide. They recaptured the territory that had been lost, surrounded the Egyptian 3rd Army in the Sinai, crossed Suez Canal and were on the road to Cairo and shelling the outskirts of Damascus. As both the Israelis and Arabs were running low on supplies we rushed to resupply Israel and the Soviets rushed supplies to the Arabs. Israel continued to advance.

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Anwar Sadat turned to Leonid Brezhnev and demanded more direct assistance to stop the unfolding disaster, pointing out that they were



using Soviet equipment, training and tactics.

According to "The Yom Kippur War" by Abraham Rabinovich,

Brezhnev notified the U.S. that, "I will say it straight that if you find it impossible to act jointly with us in this matter, we should be faced with the necessity urgently to consider taking appropriate steps unilaterally. We cannot allow arbitrariness on the part of Israel."

It is reported that Brezhnev agreed to dispatch tens of thousands of soviet troops (to join the several thousand that were already there). As they gathered at Soviet air bases, President Nixon called all American forces to high alert. According to Rabinovich, Nixon's response was, "...it was decided to increase the Defense Condition (DEFCON) from four to three. Lastly, they approved a message to Sadat (again, in Nixon's name) asking him to drop his request for Soviet assistance, and threatening that if the Soviets were to intervene, so would the United States".

The Cheyenne Mountain Complex where I worked tracking satellites in peacetime had wartime missions as well. My wartime role was to calculate and provide the telemetry for an anti-satellite weapons system which would target Soviet command and control satellites. In the case of an all-out war, a high priority was rapidly taking down their command and control equipment while preserving ours. So I was locked into a solid granite mountain behind two 50-ton steel doors with about 300

other soldiers, sailors and airmen ready to accomplish our missions.

Again according to Rabinovich, "Brezhnev decided that the Americans were too nervous, and that the best course of action would be to wait to reply. The next morning, the Egyptians agreed to the American suggestion, and dropped their request for assistance from the Soviets, bringing the crisis to an end." It is reported that flights with Soviet personnel turned around and returned to the Soviet Union. The Soviets continued to send supplies but held back on troops. While Algeria, Cuba, North Korea, Pakistan, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Morocco, Tunisia, Lebanon and the Sudan contributed material and about 100,000 troops, these supplies and forces were ineffective in stopping the Israeli counterattack.

Nixon lowered the U.S. DEFCON status while we continued sending massive supplies to Israel, via Portugal and the Netherlands (the only two European countries which would



permit this resupply to pass through their territories). But, for about 12 hours I was locked in that granite mountain with no outside communications awaiting instructions and nervously watching the DEFCON levels as my only indicator as to how close we were to war.

Going from military "rabbi" to "anti-satellite warrior" in less than one week will make Yom Kippur, 1973 the most memorable of my life.

Future Meeting Dates through August 2017

Sunday afternoons at 1:30 **Monday evenings at 7:00**

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

Check the website and this newsletter for future updates

2016

*November 7 **MONDAY 7:00-9:00** pm Speaker: Janice Sellers, "Read All About It: Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research"

*December 4 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Annual Chanukah Celebration and Membership Meeting Speaker: Karen Franklin "The Stedman Story - Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA: Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery"

2017

*January 8 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Warren Blatt "Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research"

*February 12 Sun **1:00-5:00** pm Assisted Research Afternoon at LA FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

*March 6 **MONDAY 7:00-9:00** pm Speaker: Mary Kozy "Google for Genealogists"

*April 2 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Yom Hashoah Commemoration, TBD

*May 7 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Marcia Fine" A Sephardic Journey"

*June 4 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Program To Be Announced

*July No Meeting - IAJGS Conference 7/23-28 Orlando, FL

*August 6 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Genealogy In the Round where members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts

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

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, 2016**. 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: We have 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 organizations' 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

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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 from Ralphs about \$100 per quarter, or equal to 4 JGSCV memberships per quarter!

Thank you on behalf of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County.

The JGSCV Board of Directors

JGSCV WOULD LIKE YOUR FEEDBACK

Your JGS works very hard to fulfill the needs and interests of its members. But unless you tell us, we only do what we THINK you want. Please let us know by responding to either Jan Meisels Allen, JGSCV President at president@jgscv.org or Allan Linderman, editor of *Venturing Into Our Past* at newslettereditor@jgscv.org.

1. The Programs you are most interested in hearing
 - a. Do you like the current schedule of speakers?
 - b. Which past speakers have you enjoyed the most?
 - c. Which past speakers have you least enjoyed?
2. Do you like the newsletter "Venturing Into Our Past"?
 - a. What do you like most about it?
 - b. How can it be improved?
3. What do you think of the series on "Safe Computing" written by Hal Bookbinder?
 - a. How could it be improved?
 - b. What do you like most about the series?



2017 Membership/Renewal Form
Jewish Genealogical Society
of the
Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*

*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2017

Date _____

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$2.00**

*family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund \$5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Talents that you have to share (accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)

