

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

PRESIDENT'S LETTER January 2017

Volume 12 Issue 4

Our annual Chanukah and Membership meeting was a fantastic success! With 75 in attendance it was a great audience for our program, a true life story: *The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA: Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery* with Karen Franklin. The secretive life of Jesse Oppenheimer, alias John Stedman (1887-1950) was unraveled using family research techniques that are useful to all genealogists. In this talk, Karen reflected on the trajectory of research beginning with his son, Jon Stedman (1933-2009), whose papers she was hired to organize five years ago. Though his DNA was tested in 2001, an upgrade in 2013 helped an adopted child find her birth mother. Karen's lecture focused on the analysis of Jon's papers. A description of strategies developed to move forward on the project highlight the changing nature of family history research. Karen's handouts are on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under "Meetings"/ prior meetings/2016-12-04. To read the highlights of the program see page 6.

Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner.

Another highlight of the meeting was the annual membership renewal drive and Chanukah gifts for members—Karen randomly picked the winning names. JGSCV thanks the following genealogy companies for contributing the prizes: 23 and Me, Ancestry.com, Ancestry DNA, FamilyTree DNA, Family Tree Maker, Findmypast, Fold3.com, MyHeritage, Legacy Family Tree, Legacy Webinars, Newspapers.com, RootsMagic, and Janice Sellers.



Karen Franklin presenting 'The Stedman Story' at the December meeting

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, January 8th 1:30-3:30 PM

Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research

Warren Blatt, Managing Director of Jewishgen will open doors and break down brick walls in your Polish family research.

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.

See page 11 for a list and photographs of the winners!

Nominating Committee Chairperson Hal Bookbinder conducted the election for the seven board positions. The Nominating Committee brought to the November meeting a slate of six persons and there was one person who ran from the floor. The Nominations were then closed at the November meeting. At the December meeting the membership voted by acclamation for the seven candidates. The bios of each of the candidates were included in the December 2016 issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*. For continuity, we elect half the board every other year with board members serving terms of two years. To keep the board as close to even as possible, for this election, one person was elected for one year - determined by coin toss. The newly elected board members are: Jan Meisels Allen, Rosalie Bell, Julie Goldman, Karen Lewy, Helene Rosen and Diane Wainwood for two-year terms and Judy Karta for a one-year term. Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for chairing the committee and Carol Flesher and Allan Linderman for serving on the Nominations Committee. Per the bylaws, the board decides the role each board member assumes. Those decisions will be made at the January 8 Board meeting.

We are delighted with the excellent attendance at our December meeting which resulted in two new members. We are ahead of last year at this time with a 2017 63% renewal rate, and 161 members for 2016. Let's see if we can get to 100% renewal this month. A membership renewal form is on page 15. JGSCV is a 501(c)3 corporation and therefore your dues may be eligible for a tax deduction-check with your tax advisor.

We have booked our Yom Hashoah program for April. The list of meeting dates and programs through August 2017 is on page 14. In May, the Temple will advise us of meeting dates for September 2017-August 2018.

As I mentioned at the meeting, sadly seven JGSCV members died in 2016. That is more than any single year since we began. Their ages ranged from mid-50's to late 80's. The JGSCV family feels their loss as each member is also a friend and contributor who makes the society stronger. Most recently, we lost a founding member and organizing committee member, Nancy Biederman. See page 9 for a tribute to Nancy.

Our January 8th program is with JGSCV Board member and founding member, Warren Blatt on Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research. The discussion will include a history of Polish border changes, geography and place-name changes, how to find and locate your ancestral shtetl and historical information, the vital records-keeping system in Poland and how to find and translate birth, marriage and death records.

For all have a happy, healthy and safe 2017.

Jan Meisels Allen



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Hungary SIG Announced New Entries

Sarah Feurstein, Hungarian Vital Records Coordinator of the Hungarian SIG on Jewishgen.org, announced recently that there are now **13,000 new entries** in the Hungarian databases. The material contains place names from three countries: **Slovakia**: births from Kassa (Kosice) and surrounding towns, Kisszeben (Sabinov), as well as BMD registers from Tiszolcz (Tisovec) and Raszlaviczka (Raslavice); **Hungary**: Mezokeresztes and Dombrad; and **Romania**: the rest of the previous Bihar acquisitions of which only Margitta is still in the works. Included are Szekelyhid (Sacueni), Erkenez (Voivozi), Mezotelegd (Tileagd), Tenke (Tinca), Nagybarod (Borod), Elesd (Alesd), with Bihar (Biharea) and Szentmarton (Sanmartin) from just outside Nagyvarad. The most interesting additions are to Nagyvarad, with two other death registers (1933 and 1947) from the Chevra Kadisha books of Roger Adler's cemetery project.

France and the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Accord

An historic agreement was signed on December 8, 2016 between France and the French Shoah Memorial and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) allowing the two Holocaust museums to digitize the French Defense Ministry's archives regarding World War II persecution of Jews. The digitization project will help uncover war criminal information and anti-Semitic crimes committed in France. The agreement also permits the public to access the records. A number of archivists will be performing the digitization. No time frame for when the records will be available online was mentioned in the article.

To read more see: <http://tinyurl.com/z4tzcly>

20,000 Jewish Names

Margarit Ashira Ir, Project Leader: Lodz Registration Cards Extraction Team for JRI-Poland announced last month the following:

“It is with great excitement that we announce the first 20,000 Jewish names from the Lodz Registration Cards 1916 -1921 are now live and searchable on the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland website at <http://www.jri-poland.org>.

These Jewish names are found in 63 different reference codes; within each reference code, surnames are not necessarily in alphabetical order, but rather in familiar groupings and similar sounding surnames. To see if your family name has been extracted, visit the Lodz Residents Card page at <http://www.jri-poland.org/psa/lodz-registration-card-scans.htm> and scroll down to the table listing all reference codes and associated surnames. If there is a Yes in the On-Line column, the data for that reference code is now on-line and searchable.

Researchers should note that there are more than 1,000 towns of birth -other than Lodz - mentioned in the cards extracted to date. They include towns and villages near and far.”

They say a family tree will wither if nobody tends its roots,
Our members are the gardeners of their families' histories.
Why do you do Jewish genealogy? Let us know at
andrea@JGSCV.org

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

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 Sunday, 8 January, 2017 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 pm

The Topic: Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research

The presentation will provide a general overview and introduction to researching your Polish-Jewish ancestry. The discussion will include: a history of Polish border changes, geography and place-name changes; how to find and locate your ancestral shtetl and historical information; the vital records-keeping system in Poland; how to find and translate birth, marriage and death records; Polish-Jewish surnames and given names, language spelling and grammar issues; Yizkor books and landsmanschaftn; business directories; Polish Archives and Civil Registration Offices; using Mormon microfilms, Internet sources, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for Jewish genealogical research in Poland.

Speaker: Warren Blatt, Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief, JewishGen, (www.jewishgen.org), an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage and founding



member and board member of JGSCV. In 2004, Warren received the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author of *Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area*; and co-author of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*. Warren has over 25 years

of research experience with Russian and Polish Jewish records, and is the author of the "JewishGen FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about Jewish Genealogy," as well as many other JewishGen InfoFiles.

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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in genealogy and family history.

JGSCV Updates

Library

Upon completion of JGSCV's annual permanent book inventory at the Agoura Hills Public Library, Issie Perel, JGSV's Librarian, reported two missing books. After searching, the library concluded the books were not misfiled. The missing books are: *Guide to Jewish History of Oświęcim* (English and Polish) from the Auschwitz Jewish Center and *Marrano* by Martin H. Ross.

For a list of our permanent library books go to: <http://www.jgscv.org/> then library-permanent. For a list of our periodicals, you may click on the link above. The periodicals list is updated monthly.

Website

JGSCV's webmaster David Oseas completed the semi-annual update of resources on the JGSCV website, www.jgscv.org. There are over 400 helpful links to sites on: Blogs, Canada, Cemeteries, DNA, Europe, FamilySearch Centers, Genealogy Subscription Websites, General Interest, Government Archives, Holocaust, Immigration and Naturalization, Israel, Latin America, Libraries, Local/ California Interest, Maps, Military Records, Miscellaneous, Museums, Newspapers, Search Engines, Sephardic, South Africa, United States and Vital Records.

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

KAREN FRANKLIN

BARRY LEAFMAN

Schmoozing Corner



The Schmoozing Corner is open 20 minutes before each monthly meeting scheduled to begin. Just come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the "SCHMOOZING CORNER" sign. This month Debra Blatt will be available for individual questions and one-to-one help. Photo left shows Hal Bookbinder leading last month.

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic. This takes you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. See "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.

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Highlights from The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA: Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery

By Jan Meisels Allen

Karen Franklin regaled us with the story of mystery, intrigue, bigamy, abandonment, adoption, DNA and a rascal named Jesse Oppenheimer who changed his name to John Stedman. The current research adventure began four years ago when the executrix of the Jon Stedman estate contacted me asking for a recommendation for a genealogist to arrange his papers and write a book. I recommended Karen to the executrix. There was a sizable amount of money designated for this task, and Karen and Jan agreed that a portion of the funds should be donated to several genealogy organizations, including the IAJGS. The IAJGS used their donation to create the John Stedman Award, presented annually under the Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant to increase the availability of resources for Jewish genealogical research.

How This Came About

Jon Stedman (1933-2009) was born in Oklahoma but lived in Denton, Texas. He was interested in genealogy—a passion he shared with his mother, Sallie Ardath Tolson. Through his research he found that his father John Stedman was originally named Jesse Oppenheimer. His father was a scoundrel with German-Jewish roots who abandoned his first wife Ella May Palmer, and three sons in New York City in the 1930s. He left for Oklahoma to start a new life with a new wife (Jon's mother), but never divorced his Ella May! Ms. Palmer reverted to her maiden name and so named the children after John deserted them.

Jon was the sixth child of John Stedman/Jesse Oppenheimer. John left Jon's mother shortly

after he was born and married a third time. John died when Jon was a teenager. Although Jon had not spent much time with his father, he did commit much of his adult life to learning about his father and mother's family by doing genealogy.

The Family Story

The Stedman story is extremely confusing. John's first two sons were both named Jesse but they died in infancy. A third son, also named Jesse, had a daughter, Loretta who we later learned was the mother of Kelly. This generation was told their grandfather had died, so they never knew of him.

When Jesse/John moved to Oklahoma and took the name John Stedman, he then named his son Jon Stedman, the fourth son to be named for himself.

When Karen went through Jon's papers, she found correspondence going back over 50 years including archives in Germany dating back to the 1960's. She also discovered research about the family in the 18th and 19th centuries as well. Early on Jon copied records by hand. Jon was not wealthy, but he was dedicated. One of the documents Karen found was a note from his mother in the 1970s including a check for \$10 so he could "eat one good meal a week and avoid the McDonalds and the Kentucky Colonel". He turned right around and sent it off to a researcher in Germany.

Jon was a major contributor to the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, and to Rabbi Malcom Stern's *First American Jewish Families*:

600 Genealogies 1654-1988. Jon worked with Rabbi Stern starting in the early 1970's. Jon collaborated with him not only on his families: Oppenheimer, Goldschmidt and Davis II, but with other non-related trees as well.

DNA Solves the Mystery

When DNA was in its "infancy" in 2001, Jon decided to take one of the first DNA tests available from FamilyTreeDNA—he was number 68! Today, FamilyTreeDNA counts almost a million people who have tested with them. In 2014 Karen took some of the funding and upgraded Jon's early DNA tests- taken before there was even a Family Finder test (autosomal). Karen had listed herself as the contact for Jon's DNA results. Shortly thereafter, she received a call from Kelly Moore, who told Karen she was an extremely close match to Jon. Kelly had been adopted through Catholic Charities, and was looking for her birth mother.

Kelly first submitted her DNA test to Ancestry and then had the results added to the FamilyTree DNA database, too (this is something anyone may do for a fee of \$39 from another DNA testing company). The results came back from FamilyTreeDNA as a close match with Jon Stedman: 262 shared centiMorgans (cM) and 62 as the longest block. FamilyTree DNA defines shared cM as: the sum of the autosomal DNA given in centiMorgans that is shared between you and your genetic match.

"A centiMorgan (cM) is a measurement of how likely a segment of DNA is to



recombine from one generation to the next. A single centiMorgan is considered equivalent to a 1% (1/100) chance that a segment of DNA will crossover or recombine within one generation. The Longest Block in the autosomal

Family Finder test refers to the longest continuous segment of autosomal DNA that is shared between two individuals." The matches Kelly had with Jon Stedman were significant. How would the Stedman files help her find her parents?

Adoption

Karen sent Kelly the Malcolm Stern family chart (see graphic). Kelly always knew she was adopted and looked for almost 10 years to find her mother. She had searched in vain but recently she had been assisted by "Adoption Search Angels". These volunteers provide their time and talents to help adoptees. Generally,



Kelly and Loretta meet in 2014

they are not professional detectives or people finders, although some have developed exceptional search skills.

Because she had been adopted through Catholic Charities, Kelly had made the assumption that her mother was Catholic and her father Jewish. The Search Angel working with Kelly that found her mother helped her figure out she was the parent with Jewish roots. This key concept helped Kelly identify her mother on the Jon Stedman tree. Within a few weeks Kelly had a reunion with her mother, Loretta.

Loretta told Kelly that she had married a Jewish man. Kelly informed her mother that she had Jewish ancestors, which Loretta had not known.

In November 2016 Kelly met her birth father for the first time (photo left). The resemblance between them is amazing.

From having no family, Kelly now has three half-siblings from her mother's side and three half-siblings from her father's side. When this presentation was given at the 36th IAJGS

International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle, WA the summer of 2016, and the slide of Kelly's



DNA matches was shown, one person in the audience announced that she too, had a connection. Jeanette Rosenberg, the daughter of Ruth Rosenberg (the second person listed) was in the audience. Soon, several *others* in the audience saw that they, too, were related. Kelly Moore and her newly found family shared an emotional reunion.

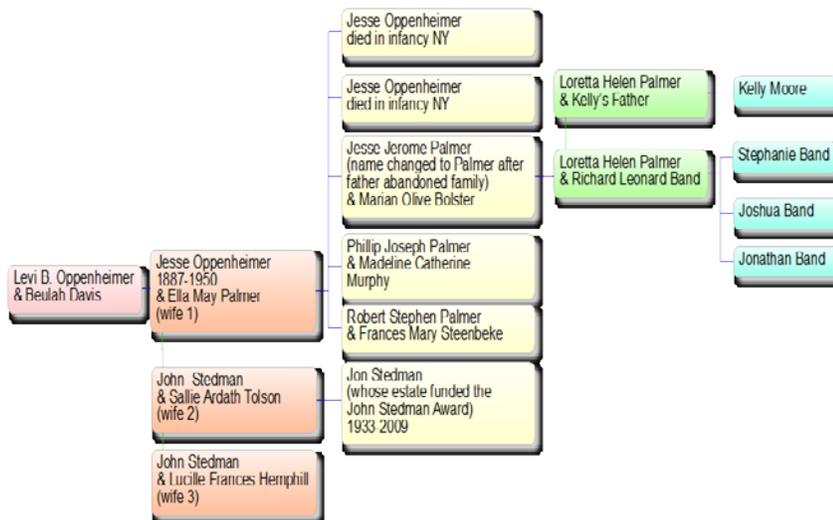
Karen's presentation identified a variety of genealogical techniques that any genealogist may use—not only those searching for their birth parents. These included: archival research, internet research, newspaper research, reviewing documents pertaining to the family that the principal—in this case Jon Stedman had in “boxes”, and DNA testing.

Adoption records have historically been closed to protect the birth mother. In more recent

times there is an effort on the part of the adoptees to open these records. American Adoption Congress lists the nine states that have opened their adoption records, the seven states that are open with restrictions and the remaining states on their website: <http://www.americanadoptioncongress.org/state.php>.

The family history of John Stedman's bigamy that Kelly learned about in her search for her birth parents was troubling, but her reunion with her mother was ever so sweet. She summed it up in an email to Karen: “Don't forget a piece of sand in a clam makes a pearl.”

Karen Franklin is the director of family research at the Leo Baeck Institute, past chair of the Memorial Museums Committee of ICOM (the International Council of Museums) and president of the Obermayer German Jewish History Awards. She has served as chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums and president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, as well as Co-Chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen.



Nancy Kalish Biederman z'l



Nancy Kalish Biederman was one of JGSCV's founding members and organizing committee members. She died on December 1st. Nancy was one of the original 12 people who met for several months to see if we should start this society, along with Stewart Bernstein, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Dalya Dektor, Dorothy Drilich, Werner Frank, Mike Markowitz, Richard Munitz, Raya Sagi, and myself. She helped with getting our organizational and legal papers filed with various state agencies. Nancy was always calm and helpful to everyone. Nancy was an accomplished genealogist specializing in Lithuanian research. She was on the board of the Jewish Family Research Foundation-Grand Duchy of Lithuania project, and was involved in translation projects of Yizkor books for one of her shtetls. When I spent years trying to find my maternal grandmother's ship's manifest to no avail—Nancy found it.

Nancy was also the chief financial officer and treasurer of our sister society, JGSLA where she and I first met. In late May she was diagnosed with leukemia and underwent treatment which

we thought was helping. She was active in both societies, JGSLA and JGSCV. She was on the JGSLA Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture Committee with Hal and myself, and on the JGSLA website committee.

In more recent years her passion was the Motion Picture Home and was the leader of Saving the Lives of Our Own—Keeping the Promise, and the leader in the fight to keep the Motion Picture & Television Fund Long-Term Care Facility open when it was threatened with closure. Of course she won and the long-term care facility is open and operational. She was eagerly awaiting the imminent birth of her first grandchild.

JGSCV will miss her guidance and knowledge and I will miss a dear friend.

Jan Meisels Allen

I just returned home on the evening of December 4th and was able to read the sad, disheartening news of Nancy's passing. To me, Nancy was not only a JGSCV Founding Member as I was myself; as I also knew Nancy well from the Motion Picture Health Center where I saw her often. Her enduring spirit and tenacity led to a reversal of elderly retirees being moved from the Motion Picture Country Home. Nancy was tireless in her devotion to a cause she felt was unjust and she made the "powers that be" see the light!

Deeply saddened,
Stewart K. Bernstein

Yahoo! Again – Biggest Hack Ever!!!

*Fifteenth in a series
By Hal Bookbinder*



In mid-December Yahoo announced that they had discovered another hack in which 1,000,000,000 (one billion) accounts were compromised. The hack

occurred in 2013 and so the hackers have had three years to exploit the information. This is twice the size of the hack that they announced just a few months ago (see article in November 2016 newsletter).

In addition to IDs and passwords the hackers retrieved challenge questions answers. (like, “What is your mother’s maiden name?”) People tend to use the same password and/or challenge questions on their accounts. With the information from Yahoo, hackers can use programs which generate various combinations until they are able to access your other accounts. Challenge question answers may also be discoverable or guessable – especially if they are true.

While Yahoo claims that the breach did not include financial information, identifying your bank and other financial institutions is relatively easy using services available on the Internet. Or, the hackers can simply try to access your accounts at a series of financial institutions until they find the one that works.

Previous articles have provided recommendations to secure your account access. But, they did not address the issue of challenge questions being compromised. Here are steps you should take:

- 1) Have different, complex, passwords for each of your accounts, especially ones that are sensitive, like financial and medical sites. (August, 2016)
- 2) Use a password manager to generate your complex passwords. I use LastPass. Complex passwords that you build yourself

may still be able to be guessed. (October, 2016)

- 3) Store all of your login information in a password manager secured with its own complex password which you will need to remember. (October, 2016)
- 4) Keep a copy of the password to your password manager in a safe place, possibly your safe deposit box and definitely not on a slip of paper in your wallet! (October, 2016)
- 5) Set up your challenge questions with false and varied answers. Consistent, accurate challenge answers are discoverable. But, how can you now remember them? (new)
- 6) Record the challenge questions and answers in the notes area associated with each login in your password manager. (LastPass provides a visual “card” for each account). (new)
- 7) Change your passwords periodically - every 90 days is a good rule. (October, 2016)
- 8) Never click on an email link to what you think is your account. It may take you to a simulated page which simply captures your login information. Type the address yourself. (October, 2015)
- 9) Be careful when sharing personal information and never share login information. (June, 2016)
- 10) Immediately change your password if you suspect your password may have been compromised. (August, 2016)

The Yahoo breaches were not discovered for three years. So, do not wait for an announcement that your account may have been compromised. Take action now!

Think it is too much trouble to take these steps? Compare it to the trouble if your financial, medical or even social accounts are hacked. At a minimum, secure your most critical accounts.

This is the fifteenth 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.

Congratulations Chanukah Gift Winners!



January 2017

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

New Additions to the JGSCV Libraries

Since we last reported in the August 2016 newsletter, the following books have been added to the JGSCV library. If you have genealogically relevant books that you would like to donate, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org. The books in the traveling library are categorized A, B, C or D. Those without a letter categorization are in our Permanent Library. The majority of our books are now housed at the Agoura Hills Library, a branch of the Los Angeles County Public Library. A full list of all of our permanent and traveling library holdings may be found on the website: www.jgscv.org

And Prairie Dogs Weren't Kosher Jewish Women in the Upper Midwest Since 1855
Linda Mack Schloff Minnesota Historical Press St Paul MN 1996

Beyond Hitler's Grasp The Heroic Rescue of Bulgaria's Jews Michael Bar Zohan Uncorrected Proof
First Edition Adams Media Corporation Holbrook, MA 1998

Genetic Genealogy in Practice Blaine T. Bettinger Debbie Parker Wayne National Genealogical Society
Arlington, VA 2016

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia Second Ed. June 2006

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia Arlene Baere 2016 JGS Great
Britain , London England B

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania Second Ed. JGS Great Britain (Revised July
2011)

Lublin Henryk Gawarecki and Czeslaw Gawdzik Arkady Warsaw 1959 (in Polish) B

New York City Municipal Archives: An Authorized Guide for Family Historians Aaron Goodwin New
York Genealogical and Biographical Society NY 2016

Our Litvak Inheritance Volume One Our Litvak and South African Jewish Inheritance The History, Life
and Times of South African Jews Originating in Eastern Europe David Solly Sandler Australia 2016

The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy Blaine T. Bettinger
Family Tree Books Cincinnati Ohio 2016

Betty Isbell Elected to SCGS Board

Congratulations to JGSCV member Betty Isbell for being elected to the Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS) Board of Directors. Betty has been a member of JGSCV since 2012. She is currently the Director of the Canoga Park Family Search Center and serves as the librarian at the SCGS. Her specialty is descendant research, and worked for a forensic research company locating missing and unknown heirs. Betty also worked for UCLA School of Public Health and Cancer Center identifying and locating persons involved in medical studies.



Temple Adat Elohim Celebrates 50 Years

JGSCV's program co-sponsor kicked off its 50th anniversary on December 4th! JGSCV sends our congratulations to the leadership of the Temple on such an auspicious occasion. There are many events scheduled to commemorate this momentous event.

Robin Hirsch, Communications Co-Chair at Temple Adat Elohim, provided the following:

As part of the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of its founding, Temple Adat Elohim is embarking on a journey to write a new Torah scroll. The Torah, the most important document in Judaism, lies at the heart of the Jewish people. In writing the new scroll the Temple congregation will enjoy the blessing of passing on its own traditions and the traditions of the Jewish people, to future generations.

To guide the congregation in this venture, the Temple has engaged the services of Linda Copleston, world renowned scribe or *sofaret*, to hand write the new scroll. With fewer than twenty Torahs inscribed by women globally, Ms. Copleston is one of a select group qualified to carry out this sacred practice. The new Torah itself will be one of the first Sofaret-written scrolls in the greater Los Angeles area. Congregation members, their families and guests will be able to touch the scribe as she writes, and witness the individual Hebrew

letters, words and wisdom come to life on the blank parchment.

During the December 4 program, Ms. Copleston wrote the very first letter in the Torah. TAE Rabbi Andrew Straus commented, "This project will help us all to be engaged, excited and enriched. Torah is the book that connects our community with Jews throughout the world and across the centuries. To help write a scroll that will be read next year, one



hundred years, even five hundred years from now will be truly an amazing experience."

You need not be a member of Temple Adat Elohim to participate in the Torah scribe project. Subscriptions are available for various levels of dedication from individual letters, to words, verses, paragraphs or more. A full list of dedication opportunities may be found at the Torah Project page: <http://adateloheim.org> and click on "Our Torah Project". An individual letter is only \$36 and prices go up from there.

Genealogy Odds and Ends

More on Family Tree Maker--RootsMagic.



Last January, when Ancestry announced it was no longer going to support Family Tree Maker as of December 31, 2016, it found that it needed to make some options for Family Tree Maker users. In February 2016 Ancestry announced that Software MacKiev was acquiring Family Tree Maker and that has been reported on in *Venturing Into Your Past* previously.

The second option Ancestry offered was RootsMagic. Ancestry made a separate agreement with RootsMagic, to connect Ancestry with RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. This option will allow having RootsMagic as your desktop software while still having access to Ancestry hits, Ancestry searches and the ability of saving your tree on Ancestry. RootsMagic will be the only desktop software besides Family Tree Maker to search Ancestry's collections of historical records and be able to download records to your own file.

Earlier this month, Bruce Buzbee, president of RootsMagic announced in *the RootsMagic Blog* that they are not able to make the year-end self-announced deadline. As Bruce said they underestimated the time to have the API—the system that lets Roots Magic and Ancestry communicate with each other—up and working. This will be a new API—one that neither company worked with previously.

Bruce says the interface will be working “soon”. They are in beta testing and if those who want to be a beta tester are invited to participate. To read Bruce’s posting see: <http://blog.rootsmagic.com/?p=2873>



Sylvia Asmus, German National Library (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek), Head of German Exilearchiv 1933 – 1945 sent an email to interested parties informing the public that the Library decided to put the digitized Exile press (*Exilpresse*) back online. This is very important to German-Jewish family researchers for including such publications as the *Aufbau*, the journal for German-speaking Jews around the globe.

The purpose of the project of the German exile archive. *The Deutsche Exilarchiv 1933-*

1945 of the Deutsche National Library, was to digitize selected exile newspapers and exile magazines from its own collection, supplemented by the collections of the Exile Literature 1933-1945 collection of the Deutsche National Library in Leipzig and other libraries.

The holdings can be accessed via the portal of the German National Library (www.dnb.de). Should copyrights be infringed, we ask the rights holders to notify us accordingly.

To access the collection. If you do not speak or read German, use the Chrome browser as it will translate into English: <http://www.dnb.de/EN/DEA/Kataloge/Exilpresse/exilpresseDigital.html> which lists all the German exile press journals. Note, they are only in German.

If you want some general information on the collection go to:

<http://www.dnb.de/EN/Wir/Projekte/Archiv/exilpresseDigital.html>

If you have questions on how to use the website click on the “contact” link in the upper left corner.

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2017

Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. **Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendars. As soon as additional programs are finalized they will be added to this list and the website.

2017

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

February 12, 2017 Sunday **1:00-5:00 PM** Assisted Research Afternoon
LA FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

March 6, 2017 MONDAY 7:00-9:00PM Speaker: Mary Kozy "Google for Genealogists"

April 2, 2017 Sunday **1:30-4:15 PM** Movie: *Persona Non Grata*.
Japanese film about Chuine Sugihara vice-counsel of Japan in Lithuania and how he saved 6,000 Jewish lives. English subtitles.

May 7, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Speaker: Marcia Fine "A Sephardic Journey" Story of Jews who were persecuted around the world for almost 400 years by the Inquisition.

June 4, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Speaker: Jan Meisels Allen "How to Begin Jewish Genealogy"

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

August 6, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Genealogy In the Round
Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts

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



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 _____ Zip code + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

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