

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



# JGSCV

June 2017

Volume 12 Issue 9

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our annual Sephardic program had an outstanding attendance with 11 first timers and 5 new members! Our program with Marcia Fine, *Sephardic Journey, Story of Jews Who Were Persecuted around the World for Almost 400 years by the Inquisition*, focused on the Inquisition in the New World-Central and South America, as well as Mexico. Marcia is a story teller and writes historical fiction. To read about her presentation see page 6.

We have our new meeting dates through August 2018, thank you Temple Adat Elohim! Now the board is working on booking the programs. Mark your calendars and see the meeting dates on page 17. When the programs are finalized they will be publicized here, in *Venturing Into Our Past*, as well on our website, [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) under meetings/ future and on our meeting handout—future meetings.

I was at the recent National Genealogical Society conference in Raleigh, North Carolina. While there I had the opportunity to see the new Family Tree Maker 2017. See page 9 for the new features and update as to when it will be available.

Hal Bookbinder's monthly series, Practicing Safe Computing, is very timely. Hal has been prolific in his offerings and this month gives us TWO 'Safe Computing' tips. First, about the WannaCry Ransomware which has impacted hundreds of thousands of computers in over 150 countries, including the U.S. And second, interesting insights on why security breaches take place. See pages 13, 14. After publication of this issue of *Venturing Into Our Past* you may also find this month's articles as part of the series housed on our website: [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) under "Noteworthy" where you can



Marcia Fine presented *A Sephardic Journey* in May

## NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

### *How to Begin Jewish Genealogy*

JGSCV's president Jan Meisels Allen will help you get started in your family history research and offer a refresher for those with experience.



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[WWW.JGSCV.ORG](http://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.

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access the entire series in one location. The site will be updated monthly when the newsletter is posted to our website.

At the suggestion of JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder, one of the facilitators of our schmoozing corner, we have extended the schmoozing corner from 20 minutes to 30 minutes to allow for additional discussion. The schmoozing corner will now begin at 1:00 PM. Marion Werle will be facilitating the schmoozing corner for this meeting.

We have added some new books to our permanent library. Please visit the list of our permanent books on our website. Thank you to JGSCV librarian, Issie Perel for working with the County of Los Angeles Public Library - Agoura Hills branch getting the books processed and to JGSCV webmaster, and David Oseas for posting the updated searchable list of books. More books will be added shortly, after the Library processes them for their system. Our permanent library has well over 300 books and also all of our journals. See the lists of our collection on our website at [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) –permanent . Our traveling library is also listed and part of our collection is at every meeting. The June meeting will include categories A and C. See the website under library-traveling to see which books are under the various categories.

The IAJGS 37th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is fast approaching: July 23-28, 2017 at the Walt Disney World Swan Resort in Orlando Florida JGSCV will be well represented with Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Marion Werle and me all as speakers! Registration is open <http://tinyurl.com/n8prpmt>! The program is posted <http://tinyurl.com/m9clw5q> See page 16 for more information.

This is the place to meet your email genealogy friends researching the same ancestral names and towns. The program is very rich with special speakers. You don't want to miss this opportunity.

We are not meeting in July due to the IAJGS conference. We return in August for our annual Genealogy in the Round program. Please let me know if you have a success, brick wall or artifact that you would like to share at this annual program which is YOUR program!  
[president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)

JGSCV has not had a program on *How to Begin Your Genealogy* in a while and we are fortunate to have a number of new members in the past year. I will be the speaker at our June 4 program on "*How to Begin Your Genealogy*". This will be a potpourri as our monthly programs concentrate on one topic, and this overview will touch a little on many genealogical features such as: family documents, time lines, census records, immigration and naturalization records, family photos, interviewing techniques, newspaper research...and more! Whether you are new to genealogy or a seasoned genealogist there is something for everyone to learn in this program.

*Jan Meisels Allen*

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



### **Journal of Genetic Genealogy (JoGG)**

The first issue (Vol 8 #1) of the newly relaunched Journal of Genetic Genealogy (JoGG) is available online. Of special interest to Jewish genealogists is the article entitled, " *Evidence of early gene flow between Ashkenazi Jews and non-Jewish European in mitochondrial DNA haplogroup H7*, By Doron Yacobi and Felice L. Bedford, Ph.D.; pages 21-34, in PDF. "JOGG is a free open-access peer-reviewed journal providing a much-needed platform for publication of articles on all aspects of genetic genealogy."

To access the journal see: <http://tinyurl.com/mssv2uz>

### **Long Island Adds Federal Census Tips to Award-Winning Video Collection**

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island (JGSLI), winner of the IAJGS 2015 Outstanding Publication Award for its YouTube Channel, is pleased to announce its latest video, "8 Tips to Make the Most of Federal Census Reports". Genealogists should be very familiar with using federal census reports. Here are 8 tips to make the most of federal census reports. Access all 29 instructional videos via their website <http://jgsli.org/> or at <http://tinyurl.com/mamff83>

### **A Sephardic Journey: Portugal to Brazil to Jamaica to New York**

**Lorine McGinnis Schulze** is the Olive Tree Lady! Her website is devoted to free record access, advice and history, including lots from Ontario, Canada. She writes about the arrival of a Jewish community fleeing Recife, Brazil to New York in the 1600s: 23 people "big and small. *The Dutch West India Company's Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of all Dutch possessions in North America, feared the indigent newcomers would burden the colony but when he motioned to eject the Jewish newcomers, the Company refused his petition (many of the company's shareholders themselves being Jewish).*" [Library of Congress. <http://tinyurl.com/kqjthwg>] <http://tinyurl.com/n5ss6do>

### **Analysis of the Genealogy Industry**

With the advent of new technologies online, data analytics is big business. Now genealogy has been entered onto that radar due to DNA testing. A new intelligence report by Transparency Market Research (TMR) titled *Genealogy Products and Services Market - Global Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends and Forecast 2016 – 2024*. It focuses on the growth of the global genealogy products and services market across various geographical and application segments and the factors influencing it. See more at <http://tinyurl.com/mdtm54x>

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

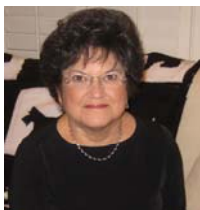
The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) and Temple Adat Elohim will hold a meeting on Sunday, June 4, 2017 from 1:30-3:30pm at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362



## **The Program: "How To Begin Your Genealogy"**

Have you been wondering how to begin your genealogy? Have you been working on your genealogy for a while and need some ideas of where to focus next? Whether you are new to genealogy or a seasoned genealogist there is something for everyone to learn in this program covering family documents, time lines, census records, immigration and naturalization records, family photos, interviewing techniques, newspaper research...and much more!

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



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Join now for 2017!

# JGSCV Updates

## **Librarian**

JGSCV is **STILL** seeking a librarian for our traveling library. The Traveling Library Librarian will be responsible for bringing the 3-5 boxes 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. The current system, in place since JGSCV's inception, is no longer sustainable. We need a volunteer to take over so these resources may continue to be available at every meeting.

## **JGSCV Welcomes New Members**

**MARGIE NOVEMBER and GEORGE VIDACOVICH  
HAL and JOAN WEXLER  
EARL ROTH**

## **Future Meeting Dates**

Meeting dates through August 2018 are now available. While many of the programs are not yet set, the dates are. Go to page 17 and then mark your calendars. When programs are determined, the schedule will be updated in *Venturing Into Our Past*, as well as on our website [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org)

## **Affiliate Programs**

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic. This takes you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. See "Noteworthy" on the JGSCV.org website for instructions for Ralphs Community Contribution Program, too. AND, if you shop at Food 4 Less and use your Ralph's card, JGSCV will benefit as though you shopped at Ralph's.

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# **Highlights from: A Sephardic Journey: Story of Jews Who Were Persecuted Around the World for Almost 400 Years by the Inquisition**

*By Jan Meisels Allen*

On May 7, 2017 JGSCV held its annual Sephardic program. This year Marcia Fine was the presenter. Marcia is a story-teller and writes historical fiction. The Sephardic Journey was the story of Jews who were persecuted around the world for almost 400 years by the Inquisition. While many were forcibly converted, others remained true to their faith by going underground. Still others left Spain and Portugal to venture to the New World. She focused her presentation on the Inquisition in Central, South America and Southwest United States.

Marcia discussed life in Spain and Portugal under the King and Queen of Spain. Those Jews who did not leave during the Inquisition became Crypto Jews or hidden Jews and wore a peacock feather so other “hidden Jews” would know they were Jews. The feathers were sown on pillows or clothing. Marcia also showed us a “hidden” Star of David on her necklace. When open the locket looked like butterflies, and when closed it was a Star of David. This depicted how people hid their being Jewish while secretly practicing the religion.

Marcia mentioned when Hitler was imprisoned and wrote Mein Kampf, he read and copied the Inquisition, which parallels the Holocaust.

To answer, “Why the Inquisition?”, she explained that Spain was divided: Catholic, Muslim—who had armies and were feared by the monarch—and the Jews who were quiet. To unify Spain the monarch threw out all Muslims and Jews, but the Muslims were not persecuted, that was left solely to the docile Jews.

The Inquisition spread to the New World in 1651—to New Spain.

## **Easter Massacre**

One of the persecutions against the Jews that Marcia talked about was the 1506 Easter Massacre, also known as the Lisbon pogrom or Easter Slaughter. It occurred in April in Lisbon, Portugal whereby a crowd of Catholics and foreign sailors who were on the ship Tagus, persecuted, killed and burnt at the stake, thousands of people guilty of heresy because they were Jewish. This happened 9 years after the forced conversion of Jews in Portugal under King Manuel I. When they were expelled from Spain in 1492 tens of thousands of



Jews fled to Portugal believing they would be safe as King Manuel I was more tolerant. However, in order to marry the daughter of Spain's monarchy, Queen Isabella required him to throw the Jews out or have them convert to Catholicism. Those Jews who converted to Catholicism were called New Christians.

The massacre began at a convent when believers were praying for the end of the drought and plague that Portugal had been suffering. Someone said they saw the face of Christ lit at the church's Lord's table. It was considered a miracle. A New Christian who attended the mass tried to explain this was a reflection of a light on the crucifix, was beaten to death. The Jews were then blamed for the drought, hunger and plague and the massacre lasted for three days during holy week. The massacre ended when a nobleman, also a New Christian, was killed by mistake and the royal troops restored order. Following the massacre many Jews fled to other European countries.

### **Kidnapping of Children**

In 1493, shortly after the Inquisition, about 2,000 Jewish children were kidnapped and baptized. Approximately 600 survived and were sent to the Portuguese Island of São Tomé. These children were not originally Portuguese, but belonged to the families of Jews from Castile Spain expelled by the Catholic Monarchs the previous year. These Jewish children belonged to those families who could not pay the required transit tax imposed by the Portuguese government and consequently were declared slaves of the king. After marrying with African slaves brought to São Tomé, the Jewish children produced a *mestizo* population. Still called New Christians well into the eighteenth century, they resisted rule from the

metropolis both by the Crown and the Church. The "slaves" were kept in camps before being trans-shipped to the New World or made to work on the sugar plantations or elsewhere. Brazilian records speak of "Jews", meaning New Christians, arriving from the island to set up and develop the incipient sugar industry in that colony. The descendants of the children of São Tomé decided to immigrate to the New World.

### **Recife, Brazil**

Recife, Brazil was the center for sugar production in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries. Portuguese New Christians were living there and worked in the sugar industry. The Inquisition dispatched an official inspector and commission in 1593-1595. New Christians were arrested and some sent back to Portugal.

The Jewish community of Brazil was established in Recife during the Dutch colonial period of 1630-1654. In 1654 the colony was surrendered leaving Recife to the Portuguese. In the capitulation protocol of January 26, 1654, all Jews, like the Dutch, were to leave Brazil within three months and had the right to liquidate their assets and take all their movable property with them. While the majority left for Amsterdam and some went to the Caribbean Islands, 23 Jews left Recife for Nieuw Amsterdam (New York), then under Dutch rule.

### **Lima, Peru**

Marcia also told of the Peruvian Inquisition that started in 1570. Converso Jews arrived in 1535, mostly during the unification of the Spanish and Portuguese crowns. In 1569, Phillip II, king of Spain, ordered the Inquisition of Lima to persecute the descendants of Jews and Judaizers. In 1595

the first auto-de-fé occurred—this was the burning alive of Jews. (Auto-de-fé means act of faith.)

### **Cartagena, Columbia**

The Palace of Inquisition, also known as the Inquisition Palace, was established by Philip III. Cartagena was the center of commerce; the city became the third in the Spanish empire to have a tribunal of the Holy Office of the Inquisition. Some merchants were Portuguese and suspected of being Crypto-Jews. When Cartagena declared its complete independence from Spain on November 11, 1811, the inquisitors were urged to leave the city. However, the Inquisition did not end until Spain surrendered to Simón Bolívar six years later.

### **Cuba**

Jews have been associated with the island of Cuba dating from the discovery of the island by Columbus in 1492. Several Jews accompanied Columbus on that voyage. Jewish women, forcibly baptized, and sent to the West Indies by the Spanish authorities, seem to have been among the earliest settlers. According to Marcia, more women were accused and put on trial and killed than men. This was because women prepared the food, and they had to be careful of servants and neighbors who would turn them into the Inquisitors. When Jews fled Brazil due to the Inquisition some went to Cuba. About this time the number of charges of Judaizing increased, and commercial relations with Jamaica and Curaçao further augmented them. The prosecution of Cubans on the charge of Judaizing continued into the 1700's, including auto da fé in 1717. The Inquisition claimed victims well into the late 1700's.

While there were neither rabbis nor kosher butchers, the recipes of Jewish women were involved in the Inquisition trials. The conversos used different spices than the Spanish, used garbanzo beans, and cooked with nuts. In killing of animals, they used a sharp knife to cut the neck of the animal and let the blood drain out. The blood stains on the ground revealed they were Jewish. The absence of smoke arising from the chimneys on Fridays and Saturdays also gave away that the household was Jewish.

### **Mexico**

The Spanish Inquisition also extended to Mexico. The Mexican Inquisition began in 1571 with the establishment of the Holy Office of the Inquisition which lasted to 1820. The actual number of victims is unknown but it has been estimated over 300 people were prosecuted for practicing the Jewish religion and about 30-50 people executed as "Judaizers". In 1642, one hundred fifty Crypto-Jews were arrested within three or four days, and the Inquisition began a series of trials. On April 11, 1649 the vice regal state staged the largest ever auto de fé in New Spain.

The most well-known Crypto Jew prosecuted by the Inquisition was Luis de Carbajal. He was a New Christian, and practiced his faith secretly. He was burned at the stake in 1596. His extended family, including his wife, children and others were tortured and burned at the stake.

The yellow garment worn at the burning was called a San Benito. If marked with half of a red "X" it meant the person was accused of being Jewish. A complete "X" meant the person was convicted.

### **Epigenetics**

Marcia talked about "epigenetics" which she defined as how the environment results

in the physical alterations in genes. That genes adapt their function while the DNA sequence remains unchanged. In discussing this, Marcia used the example of eating disorders which she said was 40 percent genetic and 60 percent environmental. She mentioned Rachel Yehuda at Mt. Sinai Hospital who interviewed children of the Holocaust and women who were pregnant during the 9/11 attack. Dr. Yehuda noted the



similar post-traumatic stress to the injured minds. Dr. Yehuda seeks to identify mechanisms by which traumatic stress may permanently alter the physiology of survivors that are passed onto their descendants. She has not studied Sephardic Jews.

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Marcia Fine has a BA from Florida State University and a Masters from Arizona State University. She has written seven novels including several related to the Inquisition and one on Ashkenazi immigrant legacy. To read more about her books see: <http://www.marciafine.com/>.

## ***Update: Family Tree Maker 2017***

*By Jan Meisels Allen*

While I was at the National Genealogical Society conference in Raleigh, North Carolina last week I had the opportunity to see the new Family Tree Maker 2017. I was delighted that it looks and operates the same as the Family Tree Maker 2014 that I have been using; therefore, I don't have to learn a whole new system! There are four new enhancements with Family Tree Maker 2017:



1. TreeSync is now New FamilySync. This is when you synchronize your tree on your computer with your tree on Ancestry.com
2. Color Coding for filtering tools up to four colors on a single person.
3. In addition to the leaves for hints on Ancestry, there is a blue box for hints from FamilySearch. You will be able to match their suggestions and search their billions of records and merge them into your tree. You have to register with Family Search... it's free.
4. For photograph enhancement they have a photo darkroom- with three easy tools to enhance an old photo and restore it.

Software MacKiev, owner of Family Tree Maker 2017, reports they are 98.2% completed. There are tens of thousands of users in beta mode and they are focusing on 'fixing' the VERY large files for synching. To monitor progress and learn when FTM 2017 will ship, go to: <http://tinyurl.com/lybjwgb>

# Exploring the Ethnicity of Our Ancestors

*by Curt B. Witcher*

Many may be familiar with the adage, “Doing the history eliminates the mystery.” So often in our genealogical research we can benefit dramatically from pausing for a bit from surname-focused searching and shift to engaging in learning some history relative to our ancestors’ and potential ancestors’ geographic areas of residence, occupation, religion, and country of origin. This research tactic can make one aware of more records and even different places to find those records.

Focusing on ethnicity can be a great guide in determining where our ancestors may have decided to settle and live. That focus may also point to unique record groups and organizations that will benefit our research. We find over and over again that people of like ethnic groups tended to migrate together, settle together, and move again on this continent together. When individuals are moving into larger cities and urban areas, they tend to cluster in ethnic neighborhoods. New immigrants from a particular country will often settle and move in and along the same areas as previous generations’ immigrants from that same county--a form of chain migration.

Though secondary source materials, exploring the town, county and regional histories of any geographic area for information on the ethnic groups that settled in the area are often of significant benefit in determining exactly where the group lived, where they came from, and the path they took to settle in the area. These histories may identify particular churches (ed. note: and synagogues) and schools

your ethnic group attended as well as pointing out any aid societies or other groups that may have been in operation to directly benefit the particular ethnic group.

In addition to these general geographic histories, increasingly researchers will find comprehensive ethnic histories organized by state. The Wisconsin Historical Society has published quite a number of noteworthy compilations, one each for many of the ethnic groups that settled in the state. Those researching in Michigan will find the same type of publications available for that state. Indiana, through its state historical society, chose to publish one tremendous tome titled, “Peopling Indiana.” This work thoroughly discusses, complete with section bibliographies, every ethnic group that touched-toe in Indiana from its earliest times to the twentieth century. Look for these compilations in the states where you are researching. The detail you will find in the excellent contexting information, the actionable data provided about your particular ethnic group living, working, worshiping, and moving in and through the area, and the identification of data sets to search will positively impact the course of your research.

Searching the catalogs of libraries in one’s area of focus

is one way to identify a wide range of



histories. Another excellent way to identify a large number of histories is to search OCLC’s WorldCat at [WorldCat.org](http://WorldCat.org). This free online catalog contains more than two

billion records from more than ten thousand libraries around the world. One cannot claim to even come close to a thorough search for histories without using WorldCat. In addition to its enormous coverage, there are a number of features that are beneficial to researchers. Among those features are clickable subject links that draw similar materials together from across the database into a new result set, and the ability to click-through from WorldCat to the owning library's catalog, which might provide more descriptive data than the WorldCat database. Another benefit is that more and more digitized works are linked to bibliographic records found in WorldCat.

A wonderful complement to area histories is newspapers. Frequently newspapers are given only a modest amount of attention by researchers, yet they can offer amazing details about ethnic groups important to one's research. Newspapers are quite literally the chroniclers of the lives and times of the people of an area, an ethnic group, a denomination, or an institution. Access to every newspaper potentially touching the lives of our ancestors should be sought. In geographically based newspapers, so many details beyond birth, marriage, and death notifications can be found. Newcomers, special events, visiting families, activities of the area's institutions, news from nearby towns and organizations, and anniversaries and other celebrations are among the items one can find in these publications. Depending on the time period and where one is searching there might also be ethnic newspapers. Often these newspapers are in the native language; however, that should not be a deterrent to their use. There are many opportunities to have sections of these publications translated.

Getting access to online newspapers literally gets better all the time. There are two large newspaper databases that one can find in many libraries—Newspapers.com (part of the Ancestry.com family of databases) and NewspaperArchive.com. These enormous full-text searchable newspaper databases can be a boon for researchers. It's always a good idea to be creative with your search terms, engaging "advanced search" options whenever possible. There are other options



to the above-mentioned subscription databases that are free. One of the better known free databases of newspapers is the Library of Congress' "Chronicling America." Millions of pages of newspaper from all over the country—including ethnic newspapers—are discoverable on that site. It is also a good strategy to see if your state of research interest includes any type of "memory" project that has digitized and made available newspapers published in the specific state. The web sites of state libraries and state historical societies should be explored. A large number of colleges and universities also are scanning and indexing their respective school newspapers, and making those digital images available for free.

Another type of regularly published work that positively impacts ethnic research are the newsletters, quarterlies, and other journals of historical, genealogical, and ethnic societies literally all over the world. Time and time again researchers find excellent articles detailing migration, settlement, indices and transcriptions of records, and contributions of particular ethnic groups in the genealogical and historical societies that are published in a

particular area. Most state genealogical and historical society periodicals also devote many pages each year to the history of particular peoples and the records those groups generate in various regions of the state. Couple those publications with the ethnic periodicals published across the country and one has access to amazingly rich sources of data.

A good resource for identifying relevant data published in periodical literature is the "Periodical Source Index (PERSI)" compiled by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center and published online by our technology and content partner FindMyPast.com. To find historical relevant articles about a particular ethnic group, one can search on "history" as a record type, refine by geographic location, and then enter the ethnic group of interest in the keyword field. PERSI is approaching three million index records from thousands of periodical titles. In addition to that large database, findmypast continues to work with publishers of the periodicals to craft agreements that will permit the actual scanned periodical articles to be linked to PERSI. The amount of great historical data found in periodicals is almost unbelievable.



A further explanation of PERSI and a link to search the database are provided further on in this e-zine under "PERSI Gems."

An outlier resource often not used by genealogists is the National Union Catalog of Manuscript collections, known in the library and archive space as NUCMC. This free database is a special initiative of

libraries and archives of all sizes and collection foci to robustly catalog manuscript materials found in every corner of this country and beyond. As one might guess, searching this free database can bring amazing resources to light. The user interface, though, leaves much to be desired. It certainly doesn't look or act like a Google search, or an Amazon or eBay search either. It is worth the challenge to fight through the search interface, though, due to the vast quantities of information indexed. Similar to many web sites, the best search experience is hidden under an "Advanced Search" link. Conducting an advanced search allows one to build a search statement by linking three terms or phrases together with one's choice of Boolean operators (e.g. and, or, not).

Among the things unique about NUCMC is the extremely robust cataloging. With many of the searchable manuscript descriptions, one can find what I call "actionable information" in the cataloging record. Such information might include a rich biographical statement about the author of a diary; a short genealogy of a farmer, soldier or business owner; and a listing of all the surnames found in a particular Bible record. While it is best to try to obtain access to, or copies of, images of the original sources, while you are engaged in doing that you can use data in the catalog record to continue your research.

With so many ways to search for ethnically-based information and records, and the benefits of using the discovered records so meaningful to most research efforts, we should all make using these records a regular part of our research process.

Curt B. Witcher is the Senior Manager for Special Collection at the Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, IN. Among many other accomplishments, he is a past president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society.

# Practicing Safe Computing: Protection from WannaCry Ransomware

*Twentieth in a series*

*by Hal Bookbinder*



The WannaCry ransomware has been all over the news as it has infected hundreds of thousands of computers worldwide, impacting major institutions as well as individuals. While all of the information below is available online, I have not found it written in nontechnical terms in a single place. Hope you find this helpful.

What is the issue?

- The WannaCry (or WannaCrypt) ransomware exploits a vulnerability in all versions of the Windows Operating System (OS).
- Microsoft issued the following to explain this exploit, <http://tinyurl.com/me8rx8g>.
- The above bulletin contains a link to Microsoft Security Bulletin MS17-010, which includes the security patch to fix this vulnerability.

Do I need to worry?

- If your computer is running a supported version of the Windows OS (7, 8.1 or 10) AND is set to automatically accept security patches from Microsoft, you should be protected.
- If you are running Windows 10, automatic updates are turned on and cannot be turned off by the home user, so you should be protected.
- If you are running a supported version but it is not set to automatically accept security patches, you are at risk.
- If you are running a non-supported version Windows OS (8.0, XP or earlier), you are at risk.

What if I do not know which version of Windows I am running?

- A quick facility to check what Windows OS you are running is <http://tinyurl.com/zmk89k4> (this is not a Microsoft site). It will display your OS at the top of the page and give you instructions if you want more details.
- Alternatively, you can find instructions at <http://tinyurl.com/hd645o6>. Though not quite as convenient and only covering supported versions, this is a Microsoft site.
- What if I am running Windows 7 or 8.1 and do not know if automatic updating is turned on?
- For instructions, see the following Microsoft publication, <http://tinyurl.com/z6t342p>. Go down to the portion entitled "Turn on and use Automatic Updates".
- If you find that you do not have automatic updating turned on, you are strongly advised to turn it on.

What do I do if I am at risk?

- The Microsoft bulletin cited in the first section, <http://tinyurl.com/me8rx8g>, contains links to download the MS17-010 patch
- In a highly unusual move, Microsoft has issued security patches for several unsupported Windows versions, including XP and 8.0, which are otherwise not supported with any fixes. Microsoft also offers a patch for Windows Server 2003. However, this is primarily a business installation and it is highly unlikely you have it on your home computer. Links to these downloads are at the bottom of the bulletin.
- If you are running an earlier version of Windows, no fix is available from Microsoft.
- If you are on an unsupported version of Windows, it is highly recommended that you upgrade.

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

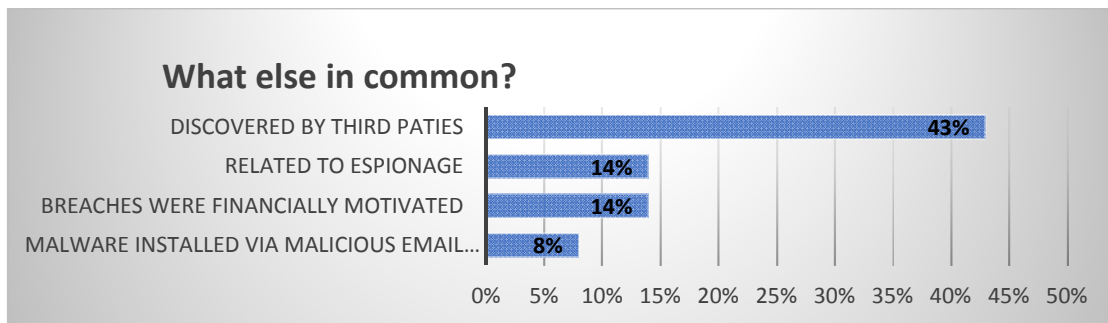
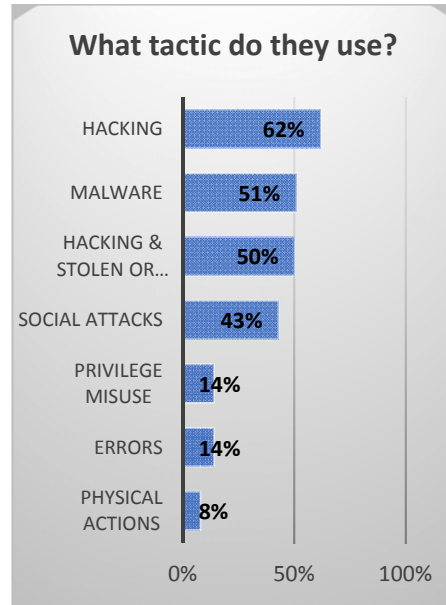
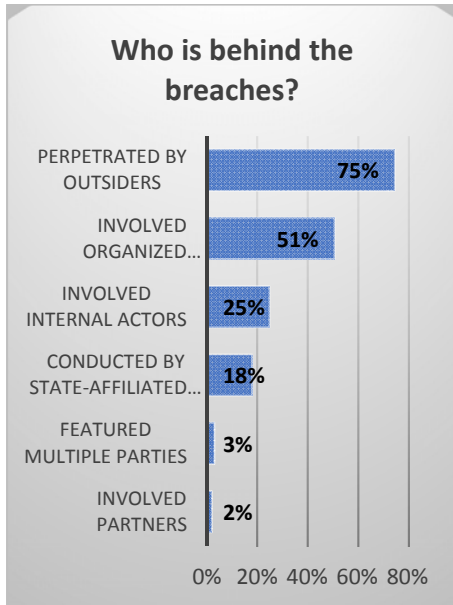
# Practicing Safe Computing: Verizon 2017 Data Breach Report

*Twenty first in a series*

by Hal Bookbinder



For the past 10 years, Verizon has issue an annual Data Breach Report. Here is a quick For the past 10 years, Verizon has issue an annual Data Breach Report. Here is a quick summary, with thanks to the University of California Information Security department. As the Verizon report is based on actual investigations, it is one of the best sources for data on what is happening.



So, most breaches are perpetrated by criminals outside the organization using a combination of hacking and malware and relying on poor password practices. Most were NOT financially motivated or related to espionage. So, this would imply that most were motivated simply by malicious intent, likely as a challenge. It is also interesting to note that 43% (2 in 5) were not discovered by the targeted organization but rather by outside parties. Bottom line, recognize that your data is at risk and so be careful what you share, practice good password management and keep your virus protection up to date. If interested in reviewing the entire report (which is 73 pages) please go to. <http://tinyurl.com/kec3ho5>

# Genealogy Odds and Ends

Family Tree Magazine is available at no cost from the Camarillo Public Library according to The Ventura County Genealogical Society (VCGS). Access to Family Tree Magazine as well as digital copies to more than 100 other magazines is available from the library's website, <http://tinyurl.com/44su3hb>

According to Megan Lewis, Reference Librarian at The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and a former JGSCV speaker, the Museum has made the first two volumes of their Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos 1933-1945 freely available on its website at <http://tinyurl.com/m9qat2t>. Volume I includes the major concentration camps, their sub-camps, SS construction brigades, and early camps set up by the police, SA and SS shortly after the Nazis seized power. Volume II includes ghettos in German-occupied territories. Each volume matches the physical format of the book, and each consists of two pdf files. The place name index is in the back of the second part of each volume. Each signed article includes citations and bibliographies for further research. Overview articles provide additional information, and are worth reading. Future volumes will be made available online after the print volume has been available for a few years. Volume III- camps and ghettos in countries allied with the Nazis- is scheduled to be released in print this year.

GeneaBloggers is making changes. The site to post your genealogy blogs or read those of others has announced revisions that will reduce its content offerings. *The Daily Blogging Beat*, *Genealogy Blogging Events* and *New Genealogy Blogs* have not been published since May 1 and will not reappear. *May I Introduce You* and *The Archive Lady* features will end on May 31. Thomas MacEntee, owner/manager of GeneaBloggers will concentrate on his new site: DNA Bargains (formerly National DNA Day) and readying a free genealogy site with resources for all levels of genealogy. To read more about the changes, go here: <http://tinyurl.com/m2mg3l9>

New records at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com):

U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

U.S. General Land Office Records, 1776-2015

Minnesota Birth Index, 1935-1995

U.K. Naturalisation Certificates and Declarations, 1870-1912

Ireland, Royal Irish Constabulary Pensions, 1873-1903

Texas Marriage Index, 1824-2014

Texas Divorce Index, 1968-2014

Monchengladbach, Germany Births, 1798-1903 (in German)

June 2017

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



37<sup>TH</sup> 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

The IAJGS 37<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is fast approaching: July 23-28, 2017 at the Walt Disney World Swan Resort in Orlando Florida. The preliminary Conference schedule is available and up to date. As always, you can expect some changes as presentations are added and some maybe deleted. It will continue to be updated. In addition, prior to and during the Conference, an App will be freely updated with any program changes. To review the Program Calendar with more than 310 Lectures, Panels, Films by over 150 Lecturers, start here: <http://tinyurl.com/m9clw5q> Remember, there will be hands-on workshops with leading experts, a film festival, luncheons with distinguished speakers and a banquet. The Resource Room will offer *free access* to dozens of databases – many of which typically require a fee.

To begin the Conference registration process: <http://tinyurl.com/n8prpmt>

The Conference will be held on the grounds of Walt Disney World at The Disney World Swan Resort where many restaurants, shopping and entertainment venues are readily available. If you have already registered at the Swan Resort and know you will not attend the Conference in its entirety or wish to cancel certain nights, it is requested that you NOT cancel via the hotel but rather contact [adam@iajgs.org](mailto:adam@iajgs.org) so IAJGS can re-assign that reservation to another Conference attendee. Not following that process will result in the hotel offering that room to a non-IAJGS guest. If you are not registered at the hotel, you can begin that process here: <http://tinyurl.com/k7xxtsb>

Special Conference room rates are available from Thursday, July 20 – Friday, July 28. Based on space availability these rates will be extended for three days prior (July 17) and three days following (August 2). The daily Conference rates (for up to 2 adults per room) are listed below. Additional guests are charged at \$25 per night. Children under 18 are free using existing bedding. Note, a daily Disney Resort Fee of \$20 applies to all rooms.

- Standard Room: \$189
- Alcove Suites: \$279
- One Bedroom Executive Suites: \$389
- One Bedroom Grand Suites: \$429

Room Tax of 12.5% will be added to the total rooms charge. If you plan to use either a company credit card which is not in your name, or you will not have the credit card present at check in for the duration of your stay, please ask for a credit card authorization form prior to arrival.

**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](http://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**

**Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2018**  
Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.  
Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

**June 4, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Speaker: Jan Meisels Allen "How to Begin Jewish Genealogy" Whether you are new to genealogy or a seasoned genealogist there is something for everyone to learn in this program covering family documents, time lines, census records, immigration and naturalization records, family photos, interviewing techniques, newspaper research...and much more! *Schmoozing Corner starts at 1PM***

**July 2017 no meeting IAJGS Conference July 23-28, 2017 Orlando, FL (See page 17 for more information)**

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

**September 10, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM TBA**

**October 1, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM JGSCV 12<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, TBA**

**November 13, 2017 **MONDAY 7:00-9:00 PM** TBA**

**December 3, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM TBA Annual Meeting, Chanukah Party, TBA**

**January 7, 2018 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM TBA**

**February 11, 2018 Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM Annual Assisted Research afternoon at the LA Family History Center**

**March 5, 2018 **MONDAY 7:00-9:00 PM** TBA**

**April 8, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Annual Yom Hashoah Program TBA**

**May 6, 2018 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM TBA**

**June 3, 2018 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM TBA**

**July 15, 2018 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Genealogy In the Round, Members and Guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts**

**August 2018 No Meeting IAJGS Conference Warsaw, Poland**