

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

November 2017

Volume 13 Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our 12th anniversary speaker was outstanding! As one of the members wrote to me immediately following the meeting, *"The speaker today was EXCELLENT!!! I really enjoyed her talk. Entertaining, informative, captivating."* Another member wrote, *"Many thanks for bringing Deborah Long to us today. The content and her delivery of same were so helpful and inspiring. She is a treasure. Makes me think about going to the meeting in Warsaw next summer."* As I mentioned when I first announced that Debbie Long would be speaking to us, I don't easily cry and I cried the first time I heard Debbie give this program at the National Genealogical Society in Raleigh, NC earlier this year, and I cried at this program as well.

Our October program, *Three Guides, Four Countries: A Daughter of Holocaust Survivors Travels to Their Ancestral Villages*, by Deborah Long, recounts her shocking 2009 unearthing of family artifacts that compelled her to visit her ancestral villages in Poland and Hungary as well as to northern Germany to understand her parents' Holocaust history. This presentation served to inspire those researchers to never give up! See page 6 for the highlights of Deborah's presentation. Her handout is posted to our website, www.jgscv.org under meetings, prior with the October 1 date.

Thank you to Sonia Hoffman for facilitating the Schmoozing corner.

We could not be the success we are without the



Deborah Long, October's guest speaker

NEXT MEETING

MONDAY NOV. 13TH 7:00-9:00

All About JewishGen



Warren Blatt, JewishGen's Managing Director and JGSCV Board Member, will explain how you can use JewishGen more productively.

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.

strength of the members – we are very fortunate that we have people continuing to join our society each month. At this meeting three more new members joined. We owe a deep and heartfelt thank you to Temple Adat Elohim for co-sponsoring our meetings for the past 12 years. I forgot my opening notes for the meeting. I left them on my desk when I took them out of my folder to add a comment-- so I had to “wing” it. What I could not “wing” was the list of all members who have participated in the success of JGSCV through its 12 years, by volunteering and serving on various committees, the board and the original organizing committee. The list of names is on page 11. Again, my apologies for leaving the list home.

Thank you to Pat Fuller who contributed her copy of John Colleta’s book *They Came By Ships, revised third edition*, to replace the one that “went missing” from our traveling library.

The board met immediately following the program and accepted both the reports from the Bylaws Committee and the Nominations Committee. See page 10 for the report from the Nominations Committee. Both the biographies of all candidates and the proposed bylaws changes will be in the December issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*. The slate of candidates and adoption of the revised bylaws will be conducted at our December 3 meeting.

Hal Bookbinder’s next installment of “Practicing Safe Computing”: *What is the Dark Web* starts on page 12.

Did you know the correct term for your sibling’s grandchildren relationship to you is grandniece/nephew and not great niece/nephew. Read the article on page 15.

November 9-10 is the 79th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass". See page 19 for a commemoration.

Do you use the library edition of Ancestry.com? If so read some differences between the Ancestry.com and the Ancestry Library edition on page 13.

Remember we are in our membership campaign. Please renew or join by our December 3rd meeting to be eligible for excellent genealogical prizes. A membership form is on page 20, on our website, www.jgscv.org under “about” and at the meetings.

Our November program is on Monday night November 13 with Warren Blatt, Managing Director, JewishGen discussing, “All About JewishGen” THE genealogical website for all persons searching Jewish roots.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Jan Meisels Allen



Backup Considerations for Genealogists: Save Your Research

“Backup Considerations for Genealogists...and Beyond,” the latest YouTube video from the award-winning Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island (JGSLI) is now available for viewing. “Given the recent rash of natural disasters, all genealogists should address the topic of back-ups. This video will discuss the reasons for backing up data and some of the different ways to make sure you never have that awful feeling of turning on your computer and watching nothing happen,” announced past president Nolan Altman. Access all 32 short instructional videos directly from the JGSLI YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV8xttln93AwJX2_loAIAg/feed or from their website <http://jgsli.org/>

Our own Hal Bookbinder covers backups of your genealogy work in his series, *Practicing Safe Computing* #7: “Backing up your System.” Originally published in the April 2016 issue of *Venturing into our Past*, (JGSCV) it is available at the JGSCV website: <http://tinyurl.com/jqvk7a6>

DNA as a Tool for Rabbinic Court: Who is a Jew?

Back in 2006, the *Journal of Human Genetics* published a paper by Doron M. Behar and a team of others announcing that Ashkenazi Jewish women’s mtDNA can be traced back to four females whose lines were in Germanic and Eastern Europe for more than 1000 years, and had originated in the Near East. (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1380291/>) Early this October, rabbinic judges at the *Eretz Hemdah Institute for Advanced Jewish Studies* in Israel ruled that mitochondrial DNA can now be used to determine Jewish ancestry of a person from the former Soviet Republic. The ensuing discussions are rampant and the decision, historical. Read more at: <http://tinyurl.com/ya75nojn>



Preparing for Poland 2018: In anticipation of next summer’s IAJGS Jewish Genealogy conference, Page Three is including a series of interesting tidbits on Warsaw, and Jewish Poland, both historical and contemporary, leading up to the event.



Summer in Warsaw includes numerous festivals that celebrate Jewish culture with some of the best performing artists from Israel, Europe and the Americas. For the past 19 years, the Shalom Foundation has been conducting numerous international projects promoting and promoting Jewish culture - **Singer's Warsaw Jewish Culture Festival** is one such project,

named after writer Isaac B. Singer. Their festival includes concerts, theatre, poetry, workshops and art installations all reflecting Yiddish and Jewish culture. Explore at <http://www.festiwalasingera.pl/>. Using Google Chrome as your browser will enable you to translate to English. Other options to translate include: <https://translate.google.com/>

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



will hold a meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on **MONDAY, November 13, 2017 7:00-9:00 PM** at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362

The Program- All About JewishGen

JewishGen.com is the primary Internet site for Jewish genealogy, an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Come hear a presentation by Warren Blatt on a guide to using JewishGen's most popular features:

- The JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF)
- JewishGen Communities Database, Discussion Groups
- Kehilia Links websites
- Yizkor Book Project
- ViewMate
- And, more

This session will take you step-by-step through the process of using JewishGen's features including how to search the databases, how to make inquiries and how to add your own data.

Speaker: Warren Blatt is Managing Director of JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org), an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. He is also a founding member and board member of JGSCV. Warren is the 2004 recipient of the 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 record and is the author of the *JewishGen FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about Jewish Genealogy and many other JewishGen InfoFiles*.



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

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

JGSCV Updates

Thank you to JGSCV Volunteers over the years. See Page 11.



Nominees to the Board of Directors on Page 10.

Remember, the Schmoozing Corner is open 30 minutes prior to each meeting. That is where a senior JGSCV member can provide individual help with your family search questions. Look for the sign on the right side of the room, near the stage. Debra Kay Blatt will facilitate at November 13 meeting.

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

We added our annual Sephardic program on June 3, 2018 with Schelly Talalay Dardashti. See page 20.

Affiliate Programs

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from the bottom of a  website pages. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the An  is 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 www.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 Three Guides, Four Countries: A Daughter of Holocaust Survivors Travels to Their Ancestral Villages

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV celebrated its 12th anniversary with an outstanding presentation by Debbie Long, founder and first president of the Triangle JGS (North Carolina). Debbie is the child of Holocaust survivors and recounted her unearthing of family artifacts that compelled her to visit her ancestral villages in Poland and Hungary as well as Northern Germany to understand her parents' Holocaust history. She had few names, no family artifacts and to her knowledge no living relatives. Her mother was from Poland and her father Hungarian. Her father's mother survived Auschwitz and Ravensbruck—but Debbie did not know of her other grandparents, aunts, cousins, or other relatives—they had all perished in the Holocaust.

Debbie wrote a book about her quest, *First Hitler, Then Your Father, and Now You* and donated a copy to JGSCV. Her presentation started with the reading of a passage from the book, and the comment, "Make no mistake: we children of survivors were there to replace what was lost, to make our parents happy, and to bring them back to life." Children of Holocaust survivors were there to "replace what was taken; anything less than perfection was not acceptable."

Debbie's parents met in a Displaced Person's Camp in Germany following the war. They entered the United States through New York, but not Ellis Island. The Hebrew Aid Society (HIAS) then relocated them to Minnesota. They were able to enter the United States due to President Harry Truman's executive order that set forth immigration quotas for 1946 to give preference to victims of Nazi persecution who were in U.S. zones of occupation during the time of the executive order.

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Debbie tried to find information about her parents' families from both the Red Cross and the International Tracing Service (ITS)—to no avail. The day before her mother died in 2008, she received an email from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) with the survivor register and attachments with documents from the ITS. If only this information had arrived earlier, her mother would have discovered the fate of some of her family members.



Debbie Starts to Research

Debbie is an adult educator in the real estate industry. In 2008, the real estate market took a negative turn and Debbie decided to use the "spare" time for family research. She started with the Internet and searched Ancestry and JewishGen.

On January 25, 2009, she came across the Krakow Ghetto information (on JewishGen) and searched her mother's maiden name of GALAS; two hits were returned. The two names that appeared in the Krakow Ghetto information base were Bluma and Izrael. She knew her mother had a brother named "Srulleak" which is a diminutive of the name Izrael. The records had links to the Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) in Warsaw. To Debbie's surprise, the JHI replied within 24 hours emailing her—at no charge—the document they had—including photographs. It was work cards with a photo of her mother's sister and brother—she

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had never seen any photographs of her mother's siblings before. Debbie was overwhelmed by the bittersweet discovery—seven months after her mother's funeral. As she said, genealogy is like a "drug addiction"—an obsession, not a hobby.

JewishGen announced the Łódź Ghetto ID cards on its website, and she found her mother's brother Menachem was listed there with a great deal of general information, including his address in the ghetto, birth date, and type of job in the ghetto. A transport stamp #69 indicated he was deported to another work camp, not an extermination camp. Her mother and parents were deported to Auschwitz where Debbie's grandparents were murdered; her mother was later taken to Bergen-

of her great grandmother's headstone in the Łódź cemetery!

First trip to Poland

Debbie's trip to Europe was three weeks long. The guides helped her with hotels and getting around and made the trip much easier. And as you see below, much more successful.

Stanley Diamond, executive director, of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (www.JRI-Poland.org) recommended she use the researcher/tour guide/interpreter Krzysztof Malczewski (Krys). Krys works as taxi driver and tobacco equipment salesman in addition to his researcher/interpreter/tour guide activities. Debbie benefited from his knowledge of the small

"The first stop was the Krakow Record Office . . ."

Belsen and Salzwedel.

Menachem's Łódź ghetto ID included a photograph. Not only did his photo bear a family resemblance to her mother, it also explained why her mother married her father: Debbie's father and Menachem looked alike.

Debbie found her mother's name, GALAS, listed in Jezow, in a town near Łódź, so she wrote to the nearest Polish State Archive. There was a fee to provide the Archive records but their correspondence to Debbie was in Polish. Debbie used Google translate (<https://translate.google.com/>) however, the records that arrived were in Cyrillic. She needed a professional translator--(after 1868 Polish records were recorded in Cyrillic Russian—until Poland became its own country again). Debbie now had materials for her to start to reconstruct the family tree. She wanted to learn what happened to all of her mother's relatives: her great grandfather had seven children and six out of the seven had children of their own. Could they all be dead? The Jewish cemetery in Łódź, Debbie thought, may be of help. Her maternal grandmother's maiden name was Dobryznski. She was sent photographs

towns he traveled to for his sales job.

The first stop was the Krakow Record Office but due to the vital records law in Poland (birth records are embargoed for 100 years) the local records clerk would not even let her look at the records with her family names. At the time of Debbie's visit, marriage and death records were also embargoed for 100-years. Since 2015, both marriage and death records now have an 80-year embargo period. In visiting a cemetery in a town near Krakow, they went to Zarki, but neither Debbie nor Krys could read Hebrew on the headstones.

Next, they went to Łódź where Debbie met with Marek Szukulak, the person who had researched for her and sent her photographs from the Łódź Cemetery. Marek found a 1939 "white pages" directory. When they went to the Łódź cemetery, Krys hired a Hebrew reader. Unlike other Polish towns, there were no mass graves and Łódź kept records. Debbie showed a photograph of the Jewish cemetery with plaques placed by Israelis who come annually—to give names to the deceased.

When Krys and Debbie went to the Polish State Archives in Łódź the records clerk was more receptive than the one in Krakow and brought out the books. With information such as the yellow pages she was able to find an advertisement about her grandfather. Debbie was jumping up and down to the point that the clerk asked if she was a kangaroo from Australia.

Next, Krys drove her to Jezow on the Warszawa Highway. As it was a Friday, Debbie was anxious to get there before City Hall closed. However, Krys stopped along the way for lunch at a gas station. It turned out to be a fortuitous stop as the gas station owner knew the person at the Jezow archives and called her to personally ask her to help. When they got there, the archivist was “slow” in getting the books out. She found one book with the child of her grandfather’s oldest son born in 1919 with the GALAS signature. Debbie wanted to look at the record, and remembering the clerk in Krakow not permitting her to see the book she asked if she could “touch” the records. The clerk motioned she could take photographs of the record. Then the clerk took down many more books and stayed way past closing time. The moral of this experience is that an act of thoughtfulness transformed the clerk. Since Debbie was understanding of the clerk’s position and only asked if she could *touch* the book, the clerk was willing to be more helpful. Especially when the clerk recognized she was feeling all the generations that went before her.

The only place where Debbie was involved with the rabbinate on her trip was in Łódź and they only had records for the cemetery.

Her parents did not return to Poland after the war as the Poles were murdering Jews who returned.

Hungary

Debbie then traveled to Hungary to research her father’s family. There Debbie employed the tour guide/researcher/ interpreter Karesz Vandor. Debbie and her father had traveled to Hungary years before. She went to the Ujpest Synagogue

where her father became a Bar Mitzvah and showed us a photograph of the Holocaust memorial which listed her father as dead at age 11. She went to see other “Monk/Munk” names and found a Lipot né Munk. It was this name listing where she realized that descendants of her great-grandfather’s twin Leopold might have survived the war.

When she visited with her father back in the 1980’s he explained that when he returned to Hungary after the war the Red Cross wanted to write down his name to help him reunite with any surviving family members. But he refused as the last time he had given his name to someone he was sent to a concentration camp.

Germany

Debbie then traveled to Hannover, Germany, near Calle, the epicenter of liberation. The town archivist, Rainer Voss, accompanied her. Debbie’s anxiety about being in Germany was much alleviated by the kindness of Mr. Voss. He took her to Bergen-Belsen and the surrounding labor camps. Her mother had been to Auschwitz and then transferred to Bergen-Belsen—and was there the same time as Anne Frank. Her mother said at Bergen-Belsen she didn’t know if she would survive to the next day. No one had names—no food, no barracks (just tents), and no work. It was a death camp.

Debbie also visited Dora Nordhausen where her father was enslaved. This is the same place where Wernher Van Braun worked on the V-2 rocket for Germany. Debbie explained Van Braun was a Nazi—stepping over bodies at Wernamunde and was in charge of slave labor. The slave laborers would have to go into tunnels to work on the rockets. Her father sabotaged every rocket he worked on. Her father became very ill and he was taken to a subcamp, Boelcke Kaserne where the Americans liberated him in April 1945. The U.S. troops found 1,500 bodies there, but then realized that some were alive when the “skeletons” began to move. Her father was sent to a hospital near where her mother was in a slave labor camp. Both

of her parents were taken to the same hospital in the town of Osterode am Harz.

The Swedish Connection

When Debbie returned from her trip, she immediately flew to Philadelphia where she attended the IAJGS conference. There she had the opportunity to meet with Megan Lewis and Jo-Ellen Decker from the USHMM. In their database, they found Jacob Galas on a Stockholm Memorial Wall. She could not understand why there was a listing for a Galas in Stockholm and who had placed his name there? The names on the wall were Jakob, Szifra, Szymon and Rose Marie Galas.

One of the archival records that Debbie received on her trip was a Łódz residents list that listed a Jakob and Szifra. Could these names be a possible match?

She flew back home to Raleigh, North Carolina, that Friday night, where she found the Stockholm Synagogue phone number on the Internet—but it's Shabbat. She posts on JewishGen to see if anyone can help her in Sweden—and someone did! She discovered that Szymon and Rose Marie died in 1997/1998. But they had children! Szymon had a son Jacques and Rosemarie's children were Jossi and Sylvia. Debbie was so excited she could not wait to use the Internet phone directory. She called Jossi and left a message in English not knowing whether he spoke or understood it. Her message was "I have been looking for you my whole life". She received no response. Twelve hours later she called Sylvia who is a dentist identifying herself as, "This is Dr. Long calling for Dr. Galas." Sylvia got on the phone and said, "You are the woman who called my brother last night and I told him not to call you back." After briefly reciting the family tree, Sylvia was convinced Debbie was "not a crazy woman". They later spoke by Skype—Jossi, Sylvia and Debbie.

Debbie was also introduced to Sylvia's two children, one of whom bears the name of Debbie's grandfather. Since Debbie's mother had always said that the Galas's were tall "like Amazon's", she

was not surprised to see that Sylvia was more than six feet tall. Sylvia also showed Debbie a photograph of her own grandfather, which her mother hid in her hair when she was in Bergen-Belsen.

In May 2017, the descendants of Debbie's grandfather and his brother (the Swedish family) had a reunion of third and fourth cousins.

Debbie also indicated that she found descendants of her Hungarian Munk cousin-twins using the USHMM database. They are located in Canada.

Debbie also determined the fate of another one of her grandfather's brother's descendants. A young cousin who became one of the Children of Tehran, and fought for Israel, died during its War of Independence in 1948. (Children of Tehran were Polish war refugee children that were exiled to the USSR and then freed and fled to Central Asia. Some of the children made their way to Tehran. The last group of children reached Israel in 1943, after a three and a half years long journey.)

Ironically, Debbie discovered that her mother's brother, (Uncle Menachem) did not die in Buchenwald as she found him on a survivor list in Celle, Germany. Sadly, she has not been able to discover his fate since 1945.

She is asking one of her Swedish cousins to take a DNA test in case Menachem had any offspring.

When asked why she does what she does, she quoted Jewish genealogist Arthur Kurzweil from *Generation to Generation* (a copy of which is in the JGSCV library).

"...The fact of six million Jews being killed during the Holocaust is unfathomable to us. I don't know what to do with the Holocaust. Most people in the world don't know quite what to do with the Holocaust. But I think we genealogists have found out what to do with the Holocaust. We remember names. When the Nazis rounded us up, they took away our names and they gave us numbers. What we are involved with doing is taking away the numbers and giving them back their names."

The entire quote is included in Debbie's handout which is posted to the JGSCV website (www.jgscv.org) under meetings, prior and October 1st date.

In conclusion, Debbie said never "underestimate mazel/serendipity", having a supportive family, and the kindness of strangers. She emphasized the importance of writing our history for generations to come so that these stories are not lost.

Deborah Long has been researching her family history and searching for surviving family members since she was a little girl—for more than 50 years. Deborah is a professional educator and speaker, though typically her audiences are licensed professionals who are required to attend continuing education programs. She has written more than 20 books. She is the founder and first president of Triangle JGS in the Triangle area of North Carolina (Chapel Hill/Durham/Raleigh).

FORTHCOMING JGSCV ELECTIONS

Sonia Hoffman, Chairperson, JGSCV Nominations Committee

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, the Nominating Committee recommended the slate of individuals below to fill five positions for election. Only those currently serving on the board applied to be considered for the 2018-2020 board. Half the board is elected each year for a two-year term. The following individuals are nominated for election to the board for two year terms starting 1 January 2018:

1. Warren Blatt
2. Judy Karta
3. Allan Linderman
4. Andrea Massion
5. Israel Perel

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Sonia Hoffman and included board member Rosalie Bell and general member Marion Werle. The terms of five of the ten existing board members are expiring at the end of this year. The bylaws permit 6 to 12 elected members. In 2015, the Board voted to expand the board to 10 elected members.

According to the Bylaws, anyone else wishing to be nominated to the Board can do so during the 13 November, 2017 meeting of the Society. An individual may nominate him/herself or another. No second is necessary. Nominees must have been members in good standing of the Society for at least one year. Any person that is nominated from the floor must be present and orally agree to serve on the Board if elected, or if not present must have signed a written statement indicating their willingness to serve if elected. This statement must be available for inspection at this meeting. After this solicitation, nominations for the Board are 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 3 December, 2017 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 general membership votes for the persons to serve on the board, but the board decides on the roles of the board members. At the January board meeting the decision of responsibilities will be determined and reported in the following (February 2018) newsletter.

Thank You, Member Volunteers

In October JGSCV celebrated our 12th anniversary. Our society is strong due to our members who volunteer and help make the society as successful as it is.

Our deep appreciation also is extended to Temple Adat Elohim whose continued support of our programs permits us to do what we do.

The following people were on the Organizing Committee and are still members of JGSCV:

Jan Meisels Allen, Stew Bernstein, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Werner Frank, Hal Bookbinder, Richard Munitz, Dayla Dektor, Mike Markowitz, Raya Sagi

Our Current Board of Directors:

Jan Meisels Allen, Rosalie Bell, Warren Blatt, Karen Lewy, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion, Issie Perel, Helene Rosen, Diane Wainwood

The following people have volunteered to serve on previous boards or committees since our inception and are still members (not including those currently serving on the JGSCV board):

Barbara Algaze—FHL Volunteer, Sandy Banks, Stewart Bernstein, Sue Birdsall, Debra Kay Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Dalya Dektor, Dorothy Drilich, Susan Falck, Barbara Finstin, Carol Fletcher, Werner Frank, Pat Fuller, Julie Goldman, Sonia Hoffman, Sara Hyman, Ellen Kossoris, Fred Land, Barbara Levasseur, Richard Munitz, David Oseas –webmaster, Indy Rebhun, Pat Thomas, Marilyn Silva, Marion Werle, Tammy Williams-Anderson

Apologies if anyone was missed.

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

Kari Kriser

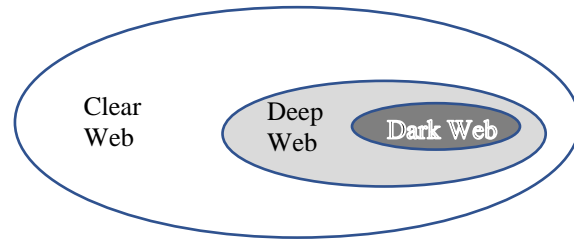
Susan Schwartz

Debby Wenkart

Practicing Safe Computing #26:

What is the ‘Dark Web’?

World
Wide
Web



by Hal Bookbinder
26th in a series

The Internet connects you to the World Wide Web (WWW). This comprises all of the sites on the Internet accessible through their Uniform Resource Locators (URLs). Search engines (like Google or Bing) index only a small portion of the WWW, likely less than 5%. The portion of the WWW visible to these search engines is called the “Clear Web” (or “Surface Web” or “Clear Net”).



The 95% that is not indexed is referred to as the “Deep Web” (aka “Invisible Web” or “Hidden Web”). The Deep Web includes database, email and private messaging content. When you access your bank account, download a video on demand, search for your surname in Ancestry, or your town on JewishGen, you are accessing the Deep Web. While your bank’s main website, a video sharing site, Ancestry.com and JewishGen.org are public forms and part of the Clear Web, digging into the data underneath takes you into the Deep Web.

The “Dark Web” is that portion of the Deep Web that requires special software to access. Traffic on the Dark Web is typically transmitted through numerous intermediary sites and encrypted multiple times, providing anonymity. This includes small friend-to-friend networks as well as large networks such as “Freenet”, “I2P” and “Tor”. The Tor Network is the most widely used Dark Web browser. Its URLs end with “.onion” (rather than “.com” or “.org”). Hence, it is sometimes referred to as “the Onion Domain”.

If you are in Los Angeles and accessing a Dark Web site hosted in New York you might be routed through Belgium, Russia and Jamaica. New York sees the sending site as Jamaica and you see the send-to site as Belgium. These landing points, or nodes, are referred to as “botnets.” They forward your traffic from one node to another, repeatedly encrypting it along the way. This frustrates discovery of who you are, what you are accessing and what you are communicating. A user of the Dark Net can take further steps to hide his/her browsing. While I cannot attest to its accuracy, you might check out <https://darkwebnews.com/help-advice/access-dark-web/>.

Significant legitimate traffic exists on the Dark Web, including discussion groups, in which peers simply wish to confidentially message, blog or share files. Another use is for “Bitcoin” exchanges and anonymous searching. However, due to its anonymous nature, it is also used for illegal trading, buying and sharing by extremists, drug dealers, hackers, pedophiles and terrorists.

We are all aware of the major hacks of personal data that have occurred in recent months, including the enormous one at Equifax. Some data from these hacks is certainly available for purchase on the Dark Web. To make it more difficult for criminals to gain access to your personal data, maintain strong passwords that you regularly change and instruct the credit bureaus to limit the use of your information. Carefully monitor your financial statements and take quick action when you notice something is amiss.

This is the twenty sixth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAIGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAIGS Lifetime Achievement Award and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under Noteworthy.

November 2017

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Which Version of Ancestry Is Best for Your Jewish Genealogy Research?

By Jan Meisels Allen

Ancestry.com and the Ancestry Library Edition Vary in what are Included and the Jewish Family History Collection

For those who do not have a personal Ancestry subscription, many public/university libraries make available the Ancestry Library Edition (ALE). The ALE is different than the Institutional edition located in Family History Centers. This is a brief summary of the differences of the ALE and especially the Jewish Family History Collection on the ALE vs. the Ancestry.com subscription.

Jewish Family History Collection

Ancestry has a Jewish Family History Collection which from a regular subscription may be accessed directly at: <http://www.ancestry.com/jewishfamilyhistory>. With the exception of some of the American Jewish Historical Society collections, there is free access without having to go to the ALE edition in a public library. The list of what is or is not free is listed on the page in the above-mentioned URL. Ancestry partnered with JewishGen, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the American Jewish Historical Society and the Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation. For those searching records on JewishGen, I would recommend also searching directly on JewishGen, especially for Special Interest Group records, such as Jewish Records Indexing-Poland. JewishGen updates these records more frequently than Ancestry.



On the Ancestry.com Jewish family history collection, one may search geographically by North America, Europe and by country.

Separate Holocaust records are also available. You can start your search on the Jewish Family History Collection from the URL

<http://www.ancestry.com/cs/jewishgen-all>. Be aware on the right hand side is an offer for a free-14-day trial. That requires you to provide a credit card number for a subscription and remember before the end of the 14 days to advise Ancestry that you do not want to subscribe. To access some of the other Jewish attributes such as the Jewish Community Locator and Jewish Name Variations, an Ancestry free guest account is required. Registering for the free account requires your first and last name, email address and password. No credit card information is required for a free guest account.

A list of all Jewish collections may be viewed at: <http://www.ancestry.com/cs/jewishgen-all>. Those without the green "FREE" means they are premium and require a paid subscription.

Ancestry Library Edition

First, the ALE is free-access in public/university libraries, versus the paid-subscription edition that individuals purchase. Recently, a member of JGSCV asked about accessing the Jewish Family History Collection from his access of ALE through a university library. I contacted Ancestry and the following is what I learned.

There is a different URL for accessing the Jewish Family History Ancestry Library Edition from the ALE. If you are starting from a fresh browsing session, trying to get to the Jewish collection page right from the start would bounce you to the homepage since you are not logged in. Use this link: <http://tinyurl.com/yan83g6d>

This would log the user in and redirect them to the page they're after all in one motion, thus saving a step.

ALE is IP authenticated and does not require a username/password. The library will have a link to open the ALE homepage either as a shortcut on the desktop of their machines or as a link on some internal resource page. For help with this you have to ask your librarian at the public/university library. For this Jewish Family History Collection page, there are no links to DNA nor prompts to create trees. Please note that some of the group pages are not available on ALE since they contain links to other parts of the website which would break the "sandboxed experience". A group page must be specifically designed to work on ALE before it can be activated on that site.

What I learned is that the Jewish Family History Collection does not include census records before 1900 or 1940. Neither are there any New Jersey or New York census collections. According to Ancestry, this is due to the absence of those collections including the "Jewish" flag on them. Therefore, there is no clear way to determine if someone is Jewish. In the 1900 census there is some specific indication that a person might be Jewish based on the language spoken (Yiddish or Hebrew). This field does not exist in the collections before 1900 or in the 1940 census. Ancestry only includes collections if there is a clear way to identify people as Jewish. While there is no reference to the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex or any type of Soundex program on the Jewish

Family History Collection page filters, Ancestry did not drop the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex system. What I was advised is that if you are prioritizing Jewish Collections first, they would automatically chose the Daitch-Mokotoff phonetic algorithm. This is slightly different in accessing the Soundex algorithm if one goes to the Ancestry.com, and under name click on exact and Soundex, one may use Soundex to search the name. This is slightly different in accessing the Soundex algorithm. One may use Soundex in Ancestry.com by clicking on *exact* under the name being searched and then *Soundex*

Ancestry will be relooking at the U.S. census records not included in the Jewish Family History Collection to see if it makes sense to add them to the Jewish collection.

I did mention to Ancestry that since the mass migration from Eastern Europe occurred between 1880-1920, the 1880 census would be appropriate to add. (Remember, the 1890 census was destroyed.) Of course if the 1860 and 1870 census were added they could capture the German-Jewish migration that occurred during that time period. Additionally, many Jews were fleeing Europe with the rise of the Nazis in the late 1930's, and therefore, the 1940 US census would also be appropriate to add.

Note: The libraries in our area that have subscriptions to the Ancestry Library Edition, include:

Camarillo, Thousand Oaks, Simi Valley Libraries, City of Los Angeles and Ventura County Public Library System. The County of Los Angeles Public Library does not have a subscription.

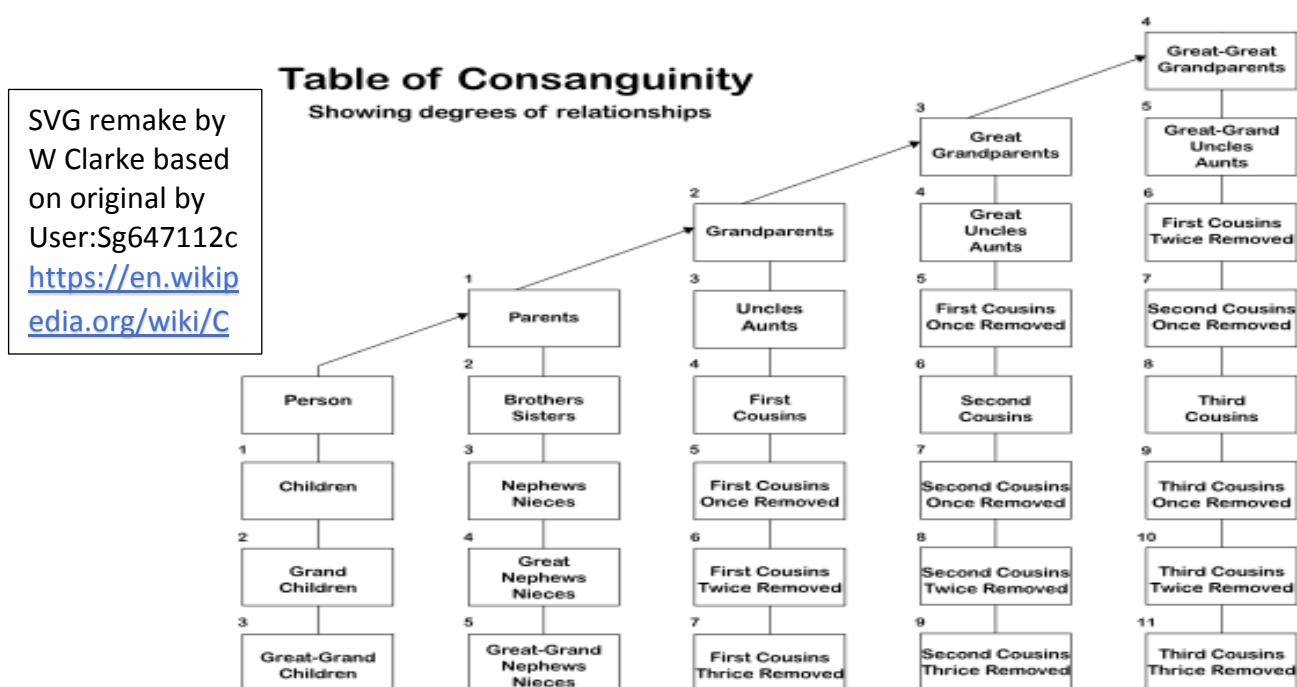
The Family History Centers- regional as well as the Los Angeles Family History Library, offer free access to Ancestry with the Institutional version—different than either the personal or ALE subscriptions.

Consanguinity: What is the Correct Relationship Term?

By Jan Meisels Allen

Recently, I was on a conference call when the issue of consanguinity arose. Consanguinity is the degree of relationship relative to the given person. For example, from yourself, the first degree of relationship is to your parents, second to your grandparents, and third to your great grandparents, etc. The degrees may be more confusing for other relatives.

Below is the table from Wikipedia on consanguinity: (the small numbers 1-7 show the degrees of relationship)

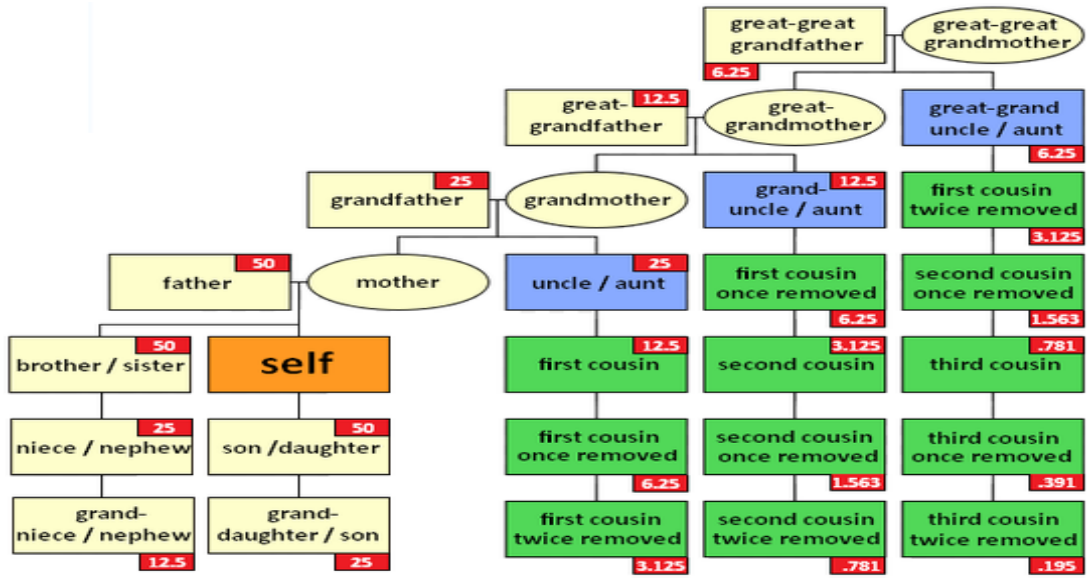


For years, I have called myself a great-aunt and a great-great aunt. Then I read an article in the current issue of *Dorot* (The Journal of the Jewish Genealogy Society [NYC]) by Robert Kern, “*Am I a Great-Uncle? Or a Grand-Uncle? What Controversy.*” Evidently, the correct term is grand-aunt (in his case grand-uncle) and great-grand aunt/uncle. I looked at the consanguinity table above, and it says great aunts/uncles and great-grand aunts and uncles. I was confused!

I Googled Great vs. Grand and found Ancestry has a blog post on this: <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2013/10/25/great-and-grand-aunts/...> “Grand” shows that it is one generation away; “great” is supposed to be added to generations beyond “grand.”

Judy Russell, *The Legal Genealogist*, also has a blog post on this: <https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2015/02/25/great-versus-grand/>.

I then went to the International Society of Genetic Genealogists (ISOGG) chart on autosomal DNA inherited by up to third cousins and they use grand-aunt/uncle and great-grand aunt/uncle. The red numbers express the DNA percentage one would assume they have from the specific ancestor.



Courtesy Dimario, Wikimedia Commons https://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_statistics

Consanguinity (Related By Blood)				G-great Grand Parents
			Great Grand Parents	G-grand Uncles & Aunts
		Grand Parents	Grand Uncles & Aunts	First Cousins twice removed
	Parents	Uncles & Aunts	First Cousins once removed	Second Cousins once removed
You	Brothers & Sisters	First Cousins	Second Cousins	Third Cousins
Children	Nephews & Nieces	First Cousins once removed	Second Cousins once removed	Third Cousins once removed
Grand Children	Grand Nephews & Nieces	First Cousins twice removed	Second Cousins twice removed	Third Cousins twice removed
Great Grand Children	Great Grand Nephews & Nieces	First Cousins thrice removed	Second Cousins thrice removed	Third Cousins thrice removed

It makes sense that the “proper” term should be “grand and not “great” if one looks at what we call our parent’s parents: grandparents and their parents’ great-grandparents. In googling “consanguinity charts” I found several, all of which use the grand versus great. Here is another chart on consanguinity also uses the grand versus great:

<http://tinyurl.com/y74pq6pz>

FORTHCOMING JGSCV ELECTIONS

Sonia Hoffman, Chairperson, JGSCV Nominations Committee

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, the Nominating Committee recommended the slate of individuals below to fill five positions for election. Only those currently serving on the board applied to be considered for the 2018-2020 board. Half the board is elected each year for a two-year term. The following individuals are nominated for election to the board for two year terms starting 1 January 2018:

1. Warren Blatt
2. Judy Karta
3. Allan Linderman
4. Andrea Massion
5. Israel Perel

The Nominating Committee was chaired Sonia Hoffman and included board member Rosalie Bell and general member Marion Werle. The terms of five of the ten existing board members are expiring at the end of this year. The bylaws permit 6 to 12 elected members. In 2015, the Board voted to expand the board to 10 elected members.

According to the Bylaws, anyone else wishing to be nominated to the Board can do so during the 13 November, 2017 meeting of the Society. An individual may nominate him/herself or another. No second is necessary. Nominees must have been members in good standing of the Society for at least one year. Any person that is nominated from the floor must be present and orally agree to serve on the Board if elected, or if not present must have signed a written statement indicating their willingness to serve if elected. This statement must be available for inspection at this meeting. After this solicitation, nominations for the Board are 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 3 December, 2017 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 general membership votes for the persons to serve on the board, but the board decides on the roles of the board members. At the January board meeting the decision of responsibilities will be determined and reported in the following (February 2018) newsletter.

Free Yiddish Films to Download

My Jewish Learning announced the availability of five Yiddish films:

1. Menahem-Mendl from Tel Aviv (2016)
2. Yiddl Mitn Fidl (1936)
3. Zay Gezunt, Jerusalem (2015)
4. Tevye (1939)
5. Samuel 613 (2015)

You can download the films for your personal viewing at: <http://tinyurl.com/ybbp9fx8>

November 2017

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Genealogy Odds and Ends

The *Tablet* (<http://www.tabletmag.com/>) a daily online magazine of Jewish news, ideas and culture recently posted two stories of interest.

1. "The Converso Comeback" about the role of social media in reconnecting Hispanic Crypto-Jews with their heritage: <http://tinyurl.com/y8t2xeh9>
2. "Inside Ellis Island's Immigrant Hospital" is about saving the old buildings. This was the first public health hospital in the U.S. Between 2-10 percent of the 12 million immigrants were hospitalized there: <http://tinyurl.com/ybe36aap>



To access the entire Safe Computing series by Hal Bookbinder, go to:

<http://tinyurl.com/jgvk7a6> You can click on any one single article or view them in order.

An Interactive map of Lviv and the nearby Janowska concentration camp was created by Waitman Beorn and the University of Virginia's Scholars' Lab. Read the fascinating story of how this came about and what can be gained from this map in Science Blog. It is expected to be released in 2018: <http://tinyurl.com/y7p98pw5>



New and Updated Records on Ancestry.com

- New York City Births, 1910-1965
- U.S. Obituary Collection, 1930-2017
- U.S. Homestead Records, 1863-1908
- U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600's – Current
- Ohio, Soldier Grave Registrations, 1804-1958
- North American, Family Histories, 1500-2000
- Pennsylvania, Birth Records, 1906-1910
- U.S., Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection, 1888-2017
- California, County Birth, Marriage and Death Records, 1849-1980



Note first day of IAJGS Conference has changed to August 5 . Conference August 5-10, 2018

Kristallnacht 79th Anniversary November 9-10

Night of Broken Glass

This year marks the 79th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht, "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass" took place on November 9 and 10, 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 November 7, 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 had now moved into the overt destruction of all Jewish life in the Third Reich.

To read more about Kristallnacht see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristallnacht> 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. For example, in Los Angeles, Loyola Marymount's Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts and the Jewish Studies Program annually commemorate Kristallnacht.

Held this year at the Roski Dining Room, University Hall on Nov. 6 at 7 PM, it will feature a photography exhibit by Clifford Lester entitled, "A Celebration of Life". Lester's mother is a Holocaust survivor, while his father witnessed an attempt to burn down his synagogue during Kristallnacht. Loyola Marymount's Main Campus is located at 1 LMU Drive in Los Angeles. See: <http://tinyurl.com/ybhkfcfo>

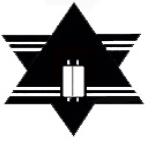
Chapman University is having an interfaith service on November 9 at 7:00p.m. See: <http://tinyurl.com/y9qu683t>

On November 9, 7:00 pm, the Museum of Tolerance will have keynote speaker Daniel Jonah Goldhagen author of *Worse than War: Genocide, Eliminationism, and the Ongoing Assault on Humanity*. See: <http://tinyurl.com/yajhu5zc>



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





2018 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 2018

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.)

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura
County (JGSCV) www.jgscv.org



Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2018

Sunday starting at 1:30 p.m. Monday starting at 7:00 p.m.
Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

NOVEMBER 13, MONDAY 7:00-9:00 pm Warren Blatt, "All About JewishGen". How to get the most out of the foundation of online Jewish genealogical research.

2017

December 3 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Annual Meeting, Chanukah Party. Hasia Diner, "1917: A Turning Point in American Jewish History"

January 7 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Werner Frank "Push and Pull Genealogy: A Methodology for Finding Deeper Roots"

February 11 Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM Annual Assisted Research Afternoon LA Family History Center

March 5 Monday 7:00-9:00 pm TBA

April 8 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Celina Biniarz, "A Second Chance at Life" The Youngest of Schindler's Jews Annual Yom Hashoah Program

May 6 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Marion Werle, "Ferretting Out Family Stories - Fact, Fiction or Somewhere in Between?"

June 3 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Schelly Talalay Dardashti, "The Other Side of Jewish Genealogy: Sephardic Research"

July 15 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Genealogy in the Round Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts

August no meeting IAJGS Conference Warsaw, Poland August 6-10

2018

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