

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

December 2017

Volume 13 Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV held its Fall Monday night meeting on November 13. We usually meet on Sunday afternoon's, but twice a year—once in the Fall and once in the Spring— we meet on a Monday evening so that those who are unable to attend on Sunday afternoons, may experience our genealogy programs. JGSCV is exceptionally fortunate that we have some members that are the crème de la crème in Jewish genealogy. Warren Blatt is a founding board member of JGSCV as well as the Managing Director of JewishGen.org. is one such member. From time to time, we all need a refresher about the wonders of JewishGen.org and that is what Warren provided at our November meeting: *All About JewishGen*. With many first timers in attendance it was an excellent introduction for them as well as a refresher for the rest of us. As always, Warren gave an excellent presentation. See page 6 for highlights of Warren's presentation.

Hopefully, everyone is a subscriber to JewishGen. As Jewish genealogists, that is the first place every one of us should be subscribed to and utilizing. It has a wealth of information, let alone the subscriber list registration for all the special interest groups (SIGs). While it is free to subscribe and access the data, it costs something to run the website, and those who could, should donate. JGSCV donates to JewishGen each year. The website is www.jewishgen.org

Thank you to Debra Kay Blatt for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner where a senior JGSCV

**Warren
Blatt,
JGSCV's
November
Speaker:
"All About
JewishGen"**



NEXT MEETING

Sunday Dec. 3RD 1:30-3:30 PM

1917: A Turning Point In American Jewish History

Prof. Hasia Diner will explain why America's short foray into WW I impacted U. S. Jews forever.



December 2017

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Mission Statement:

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

member provides specific help to individuals on their personal genealogy journey. The Schmoozing Corner opens 30 minutes before each meeting.

Hal Bookbinder's next installment of "Practicing Safe Computing" is: *Take Care When You Use Google* starts on page 13.

All four of the DNA testing companies are currently running specials for the holidays. Some run only until November 21 others continue into December. Details are on page 12. Speaking of the upcoming holidays, if you are looking for a gift, why not purchase a membership in JGSCV as a Chanukah or Christmas gift for your family and friends? JGSCV will create an attractive certificate with your name as donor.

Thank you to the person who returned the missing book from the Traveling Library. We were delighted that it "appeared" last meeting so this meeting it was available for the members' use. We now have no missing traveling library books! *Marranos* remains missing from our permanent library at the Agoura Hills Library.

October began JGSCV's membership renewal drive for 2018. As of this writing, 30 percent of our current members have renewed! We ended 2016 with 162 members (sadly, 7 members passed away that year) and thus far, for 2017 we have 168 members. We need some more of you to renew and join to continue our high quality programs! As usual, our December meeting, which is our annual Chanukah Party and Membership drive will include a drawing for 12 fantastic genealogical gifts for those who are eligible. Eligibility consists of renewing or joining for 2018 by/at the December 3 meeting **and** attending this meeting. See page 17 for a 2018 membership form which will also be available at the meeting. Gifts include an Ancestry World Wide Subscription as well as subscriptions to: Fold3.com, Newspapers.com, My Heritage (full subscription), Findmypast (2 world subscriptions), Legacy Family Tree, Legacy Webinars, Family Tree Maker and Roots Magic. Also, members attending can win DNA kits from Ancestry, FamilyTree DNA and MyHeritage! Each of these gifts are worth more than the cost of membership to JGSCV. Please renew or join JGSCV and remember you need to be in attendance to win!

Our December 3 program is a special treat! To commemorate the centennial of the United States entering World War I, Hasia Diner, PhD., will be talking about *1917: A Turning Point in American Jewish History*. She will explain how only 19 months of America's fighting in World War I left its mark on the Jews of the United States. The talk will offer insights of the war's impact on immigrants and native-born American Jews alike as well as clergy, soldiers, and defense organizations like the American Jewish Committee.

To our Jewish members and friends, I wish you a Happy Chanukah. And, Merry Christmas to our non-Jewish members and friends. Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, safe and genealogically successful New Year.

Jan Meisels Allen





Blog On: DNA and Genealogy on *My Heritage*

My Heritage is featuring a series of articles online detailing the science of DNA and Genealogic uses for non-scientists. The first article is simple and concise with graphics that enhance one's understanding of concepts. It's a great way to shore up knowledge no matter how much one knows, and the information is NOT limited to My Heritage DNA results only. The author, "Yael" prefaced the article thusly: *This series will explain DNA for non-scientists. Are you interested in learning about DNA in general, curious about your personal Ethnicity Estimate results, or are you looking for a deeper understanding of how this tool can take your genealogical journey to the next level? If the answer is yes, DNA Basics is for you.*

Find the first article at <https://blog.myheritage.com/2017/11/new-blog-series-dna-basics-begins-today/>

NYC's Tenement Museum Adds New Exhibit Location

If you've visited **The Tenement Museum** in Manhattan's Lower East Side, touring the apartments of 3 different families from the 1890's to the early 20th century is a walk into the past. Now the museum has launched a brand-new exhibit in another location at 103 Orchard Street. "Under One Roof," is the first time the museum has told the stories of relatively recent immigrants including a Jewish family during the 1950's, a family from Puerto Rico in the 1960's, and a family from China living on the Lower East Side during the 1970's. Take a virtual tour at the museum's website: <http://tenement.org/exhibit.php>

USCIS Genealogy Transition to the National Records Center

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) announced in October of this year that, in order to improve efficiency and shorten wait times for Genealogy Program customers, the program will be transitioning from Washington D.C. to the National Records Center (NRC) in Lee's Summit, Missouri. They hope to complete the move by January 1, 2018. Access their History & Genealogy webpage at <https://www.uscis.gov/historyandgenealogy>

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.*

The website for IAJGS Poland is <http://iajgs2018.org/>. The call for papers launched on 15 November, 2017. They urge us to start thinking about talks you'd like to present at the 38th annual conference slated for **August 5-10, 2018 in Warsaw, Poland**. It's co-hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, POLIN Museum of the History of the Polish Jews and the Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw. A great page to join is the **2018 IAJGS Warsaw Conference on Facebook.com**. Search for the group on Facebook and join. People are posting the towns and shtetlach they plan to visit, in case they would like to "join forces." There is also news from the planning committee. One can also join the conference discussion group. To learn more about the discussion group and to sign up see: http://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2018/discussion_list.cfm



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



The JGSCV will hold a meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on
Sunday, December 3, 2017 1:30-3:30 pm at
Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Dr. Thousand Oaks, 91362

The Program - 1917: A Turning Point in American Jewish History

This talk will tell the story about how the relatively short involvement of America in World War I - from April 1917 until November 1918 - left its mark on the Jews of the United States. It will explain how the U.S. engagement in WW I forever changed the way Jews would be viewed globally and how new bonds were created with both Jewish and non-Jewish Americans. The talk will tell of immigrants and native-born American Jews, clergy and soldiers, and the leaders of the well-established defense organizations like the American Jewish Committee. We will also learn of the landsmanshaftn, the home town societies made up of immigrants from hundreds of towns and cities across eastern Europe.

Speaker: Hasia Diner is the Paul S. and Sylvia Steinberg Professor of American Jewish History at New York University, with a joint appointment in the departments of history and the Skirball Department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies. She is also the Director of the Goldstein-Goren Center for American Jewish History. Professor Diner has been elected to membership to two scholarly societies: The Society of American Historians and the American Academy for Jewish Research.



Everyone attending this meeting who renews a JGSCV membership or joins for 2018 is eligible for the drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes. You must be present to win! Light refreshments will be served celebrating Chanukah and our membership drive. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. The meeting is open to the public. There is no charge to attend.

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

JGSCV Updates

Nominees to the Board of Directors are on Page 11. Please read the nominees' backgrounds and bios before casting your vote at the next meeting.

The Bylaws Committee chaired by Helene Rosen, has proposed changes to JGSCV Bylaws. Please read and understand the proposals (starting on page 14) which will be voted on at the next meeting on December 3rd.



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 facilitated the Schmoozing at the last meeting (photo left). Founding member Werner Frank will facilitate on December 3rd.

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.

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 (like the one below). This takes you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you.



JGSCV is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for sites to earn advertising fees by advertising and linking to Amazon.com

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 All About



By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV's November 13 meeting with Warren Blatt, Managing Director, JewishGen was "*All About JewishGen*", the primary and premiere website resource for researching Jewish genealogy. JewishGen is an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Warren's lecture offered a step-by-step process for some of Jewish Gen's features such as:

- JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF)
- JewishGen Communities Database and Discussion Groups
- KehilaLinks Websites
- Yizkor Book Project
- ViewMate

JewishGen hosts webpages for 27 special

charge for accessing more current data from their websites, but that is not through JewishGen. It is best to contact the specific Special Interest Group for information about their programs.

Warren began his presentation with a brief history of JewishGen. It began in 1987 by Susan King, as an international electronic resource for Jewish genealogy (a FidoNet bulletin board) with approximately 150 users. About 1990 it moved to the Internet as a mailing list and online forum. In 1995 it had a website and by 2003 it was an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. JewishGen is a non-profit organization. Today, the JewishGen Database has over 20 million records in 14 separate

"Yizkor books are the best source for what your ancestral town was like in Eastern Europe"

interest groups (SIGS) each of whose interest is a geographic region of origin or special topic. JewishGen also hosts three independent SIGS websites: Geshet Galicia, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) and the Litvak SIG.

JewishGen relies on volunteers and donations. There are only three paid staff located in Simi Valley California, New York City and Glasgow, Scotland. JewishGen's databases have always been free. Everything is available without charge. The \$100 annual donation for "Value Added Services (VAS) provides "Advanced Database Search Features", which let you combine multiple search criteria, using Boolean 'AND/OR' searches. This results in more focused, targeted searches. For more detail, see: <https://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/ValueAdded.asp>. Several of the hosted private SIGS may

country databases.

Warren reviewed the following JewishGen features:

Yizkor Books

Yizkor books are the best source for what your ancestral town was like in Eastern Europe. These are books written by survivors or former residents of the towns and who gathered "landsleit" groups mainly in Israel, the United States and South America. They are a tribute to the hometowns and describe what it was like to live there. Yizkor books typically include the history and an account of Holocaust survivors and those who perished. Usually there are some photographs and maps. Most are written in Hebrew or Yiddish, but some are also in other languages, such a Greek, etc. Many of today's contemporary Jews require an English

translation. Of the 2,000 books published to date, 883 have been at least partially translated into English, with more added monthly. As of October, 140 complete books are online. To see which books are translated along with partially translated books go to: <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/>

Many of the books include a necrology of those who perished in the Shoah. Of course as these are written by the few survivors of the town, if the survivors did not know your family—even if they lived in the same town, they will not be mentioned. JewishGen started a Yizkor Book in Print program several years ago—currently there are 66 books in print (<https://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html>)

The Yizkor Book Master Name Index (YBMNI)

The YBYMI is a master index of all persons

“ViewMate is a feature that allows participants to post photographs and documents online and request help in translating or identifying information.”

mentioned in the translated portions of the Yizkor Books on the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project website. This database is only an index of names; it directs researchers back to the Yizkor Book itself, where more information may be available. Currently there are 105,000 names in the index, with a potential of one million names. Volunteers are needed to help with this important function.

Necrology Index

The JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database indexes the names of persons in the necrologies — the lists of Holocaust martyrs —

published in the Yizkor Books appearing on the JewishGen Yizkor Book Translation Project. This is only a list of names and directs researchers back to the Yizkor Book itself where more information may be available. See; <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor/>

KehilaLinks

JewishGen KehilaLinks (formerly "ShtetLinks") is a project facilitating web pages commemorating the places where Jews have lived. Once again volunteers create mini websites which include photographs, maps, the history of towns and memoirs. Currently there are 921 towns that have Kehila Links, predominately from Eastern Europe although there are some throughout the world where Jews once lived including Argentina and Brownsville, Pennsylvania. In the past 12 months 39 new KehilaLinks towns were created. For more information or if you are interested in creating a KehilaLink for your ancestral town go to: <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/>.

Education Program

JewishGen also offers education programs throughout the year. This past year there were 15 different courses offered. For first timers, JewishGen offers information on their education courses and webcast videos. To see the array of educational opportunities that JewishGen offers go to: <https://www.jewishgen.org/Education/>

ViewMate

ViewMate is a feature that allows participants to post photographs and documents online and request help in translating or identifying information. This is a collaborative effort and people around the globe volunteer to help. Once something is uploaded and confirmed it is posted. It is then the responsibility of the poster to notify subscribers by posting an email about the availability on the appropriate discussion group or SIG. This year there were over 54,000 images uploaded.

Discussion Files

Warren created the JewishGen Frequently Asked Question (FAQs). The FAQs range from

getting started to information on research topics, archives and names. There are 20 specific categories of files which may be accessed at: <https://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/faq.html>

DNA Genealogy by Genetics

JewishGen partners with Genealogy by Genetics for DNA testing. This is through FamilyTreeDNA. For more information see: <https://www.jewishgen.org/DNA/>

Note: In another part of this newsletter is a listing of special pricing for the holidays by different DNA companies, including FamilyTree DNA. Therefore the prices on the JewishGen website may not reflect the current special offer.

JOS-JewishGen Calculator Tools

This part of the JewishGen website contains several different functions: Soundex, Calendar conversion (to/from Gregorian and Jewish calendars) and the Jewish Calendar which displays all Jewish holidays for any Gregorian or Jewish year and distance and direction between towns in both kilometers and miles. See: <https://www.jewishgen.org/JOS/>

Success Stories

Since 1987 JewishGen has told of connections and reconnections of families on its website “Success Stories” where JewishGen was instrumental in achieving the success. If you have a story you want to contribute or read about the success stories see: <https://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen/testimonials/>

Databases

JewishGen is known for its databases. Currently, there are 20 million records in hundreds of databases. See: <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/>

These are a few of the key databases:

Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) includes over 7 million records from about 7,000 family trees. This is a static database as the trees on the FTJP are not like those on some other genealogical programs in that others may not change what you input. The FTJP is limited

to only Jewish people and neither photographs nor documents may be linked to the tree. The tree is a “simple GEDCOM”. See: <https://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/>

JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) is the oldest and most active of the databases which is comprised of ancestral towns and surnames

	JewishGen Gazetteer	JewishGen Communities Database
# of Localities	~1 million	~6,000
Includes	All localities	Only Jewish Communities
Synonyms	Official synonyms only	All known synonyms, with language identifiers, including Yiddish town names
Data Source	U.S. Board on Geographic Names	Experts at JewishGen have used multiple sources
Contents for each locality	Town Name, Country, Official Synonyms, Latitude/Longitude, Distance/Direction from reference point, Links to Maps and Radius Search	Everything that the Gazetteer has... plus: Historical names and jurisdictions, Links to JewishGen resources (JGFF, yizkor books, KehilaLinks, JOWBR), Jewish population figures, Inset maps, List of nearby Jewish Communities, Link to search JewishGen databases, List of applicable SIGs, and bibliographic resources.

currently being researched by Jewish genealogists worldwide. There are over 575,000 entries representing 18,000 towns and 135,000 people. It is cross-indexed allowing for searching by either surname or town. It is an interactive database as one is entering the surnames and towns and countries.

There are several types of searches that are possible in the JGFF:

1. *Exact* is essentially meaningless as names changed spellings frequently. Warren showed several examples of the various ways two surnames are spelled, which were substantial.
2. *Starts with* and the use of a wild card (*).
3. *Countries*
4. *Sounds like or soundex*

There are new features for the JGFF:

- Visual Fox Pro changed to MySQL and SolR
- Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching System replacing the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex
- Fuzzy Matching—“Fuzzy” allows for finding mismatched words or names, helps with town names and country changes.

Examples Warren used included town and country name changes:

Vilna, Russia (1795-1917)
Wilno, Poland (1918-1939)
Vilnius, Lithuania (1991+)

Lemberg, Austria (1771-1917)
Lwów, Poland (1918-1939)
Lvov, U.S.S.R. (1945-1991)
L'viv, Ukraine (1991+)

The JGFF Town Synonym Table examples included some of the above as well as Beregszasz, Hungary to Berehiv, Ukraine; Danzig, Germany to Gdansk, Poland.

JewishGen uses the native name such as Warszawa for Warsaw and Wien for Vienna. More information on the JGFF may be found at: <https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>

Gazetteer

The JewishGen Gazetteer contains the name of over one million localities in 54 countries in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Central Asia. It is based on the JewishGen Communities database. It includes the town names, country, official synonym, and the distance from the country capital. It will display coordinates in latitude and longitude and links to maps and the **current** country where the town is located.

The Jewish Communities Database only includes Jewish communities, JGFF, yizkor books, kehila links, JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR), Yizkor Book Necrology Database and more data set that pertain to the focus of the country. It also includes all known synonyms including Yiddish town names and links to JewishGen resources

All Country Databases searches all relevant JewishGen databases. There are 14 "All Country Databases", the most recent added this year is the JewishGen France Database which covers, France, Belgium and Switzerland. The searches in the All Country database are through all relevant JewishGen databases such as the JGFF, JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry
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(JOWBR), the JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database, as well as all other datasets which pertain to the focus country. See: <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/documentatio/n/databases.htm>

The All Poland Database includes Jewish Records Indexing-Poland and the JewishGen data bases. This year, they added 500,000 records from Gesher Galicia. One can filter by region or gubernia. To see an example of the myriad of databases for one country, view the All Poland Database at: <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Poland/>

JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry – JOWBR

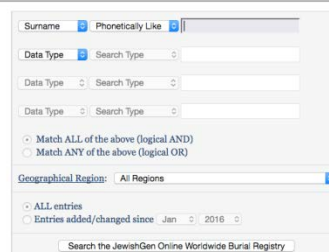
This database started in 2004 and now contains more than three million records. Almost 260,000 were added this year from 38 countries. This database uses names and other identifying information from cemeteries and burial records worldwide. There is a total of about 3.1 million records. One can search by soundex/exact/starts with /contains, phonetic and Fuzzy. This database searches all surnames, not just primary names. One can also search by given name. There are filters for global, country and state/province.

Memorial Plaques Project

JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) is a database of more than three million names and other identifying information from cemeteries and burial records worldwide. [Click here for more information about JOWBR, its goals, and how you can contribute.](#)

Cemeteries: See the [Contents of the Database](#), which lists all the cemeteries included in this database.



A companion to the burial registry is the Memorial Plaques Database. This project started out by being adopted by the JGS of Long Island. These are the plaques placed within synagogues to remember those who

have died. In some instances this might be the only resource available to find a deceased person.

As synagogues are closing, The Memorial Plaques Project becomes critical to retaining the information which may otherwise be lost. While the type of information varies by synagogue, ALL plaques contain at least some genealogically-relevant information such as patronymics (father's Hebrew name) and dates of death. Warren related a personal story about memorial plaques that his grandfather had placed for his parents' which included names taking Warren back to the 1820's.

Recent Data Acquisitions

Warren explained that JewishGen acquires about one million items every month. Such as,

Belarus 26,000 records;

Czech Republic 3,000 from 1784 and 1843;

France the All Country Database which included 22,000 Jewish marriages in Alsace region during 1792-1899.;

Hungary 680,000 birth, marriage and death records from areas that also included the former Czech Republic, Romania and Ukraine. The H-SIG contribution resulted from 200 volunteers from 18 countries and 31,000 from FamilySearch microfilms;

Ireland Irish Records Database from the Irish Jewish Records on JewishGen and JGS Great Britain. This dataset was created by Stuart Rosenblatt who individually gathered all Jewish Irish records into 19 volume set of books representing 60,000 records. The database is

searchable on both JewishGen and the JGS Great Britain.

Latvia added 62,000 records from 24 towns. **JGSCV's own Stephen Weinstein** was responsible for this remarkable feat.

Lithuania added 26,000 birth, marriage and death records to the 500,000 vital records online. Lithuania also added 15,000 internal passports, added 26,000 tax records and added 26,000 birth, marriage and death records.

Following the presentation Warren accepted questions from the JGSCV audience. He noted that in partnership with Ancestry since 2008, the more current records are only on JewishGen and since 2011 JewishGen has not updated current records with Ancestry. The records provided by JewishGen to Ancestry were always available to Ancestry users without charge. Ancestry provides the hardware that JewishGen servers operate.

JewishGen is developing software that will allow for access across all databases. This will take one year to complete.

FamilySearch has microfilmed all of the Estonian Jewish Records, what is needed are volunteers to translate so they can be placed on the JewishGen website.

Note: Warren gave this presentation at the IAJGS 37th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (August 2017) and some of the numbers included above today may have changed since the original presentation.

Warren Blatt is Managing Director, JewishGen, an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage and founding member and board member of JGSCV. In 2004, Warren received the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author of *Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area*; and co-author of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*. Warren has over 25 years of research experience with Russian and Polish Jewish records, and is the author of the "JewishGen FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about Jewish Genealogy," as well as many other JewishGen InfoFiles.



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VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

FORTHCOMING JGSCV ELECTIONS

By: Sonia Hoffman, JGSCV 2017 Nominations Chairperson

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Sonia Hoffman (with board member Rosalie Bell and general member Marion Werle) has recommended the following slate of individuals to fill the 5 two-year positions on the JGSCV board effective January 2018:

Warren Blatt
Judy Karta
Allan Linderman
Andrea Massion
Israel "Issie" Perel

At the November 13th JGSCV meeting a call for additional nominations from the floor resulted in no additional volunteers willing to serve. Nominations were then closed.

The terms of five current board members continue through the end of 2017, Warren Blatt, Judy Karta, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion and Israel Perel. The board is currently set at ten elected members, with the bylaws permitting not less than six nor more than twelve elected Directors, plus the most recent past president who agrees to serve. In addition, up to two additional members may be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board.

Elections will then be held at the December 3, 2017 meeting.

Nominee Biographies

Warren Blatt - founding member of JGSCV has served on the JGSCV Board for the past 12 years. Warren is the JewishGen Managing Director (2008-date) as well as author of many JewishGen databases. Warren has been involved in genealogy research for over thirty-five years. He is a winner of the IAJGS' Lifetime Achievement award. He is a presenter at many JGSCV meetings, and an annual presenter at the IAJGS conferences. He is the author of two books and numerous journal articles.

Judy Karta – began her family genealogy research 10 years ago, and to date has uncovered her great-great grandfather born 1823 in Ozorkow, Poland. She has also traced many of his descendants to Hull, England where one of his sons settled with his 11 children. As of today, she is trying to connect with these descendants, but so far has run into that "brick wall". Judy has always been interested in Jewish history. She holds a degree in Judaic Studies from Rutgers University and is also a government licensed tour guide in Israel. After raising her three daughters in Israel, Judy moved to the Conejo Valley in 2003 and began teaching Hebrew school at Temple Beth Haverim in Agoura Hills. She taught there until the synagogue closed, specializing in bar mitzvah tutoring for autistic children. Along with her interest in serving on the Board of the JGSCV, Judy also serves as Secretary on the Board of the Friends of the Agoura Hills Library.

Allan Linderman - is a member of JGSCV since 2008 and became JGSCV's newsletter editor in the Spring of 2009. He has been engaged in genealogy for seven years. A New York City native, Allan received his undergraduate degree from Baruch College and an MBA from Loyola University, Chicago. Allan is an advertising and media consultant and is president of The Linderman Media Group and brings to his role his writing and editing skills.

Andrea Massion - has been researching family history for over 20 years. A native of Los Angeles, she has found cousins in Argentina, Canada, Ukraine, Israel and Belgium since joining JGSLA, and JGSCV. For the past few years she has been helping Allan Linderman with the JGSCV newsletter's page 3-highlighting genealogical news from around the world. Andrea is a living resource for the Jewish Farming Community of Iowa Center, outside Chugwater, Wyoming where her family homesteaded for 20 years. This year she presented the Museum of Chugwater with a large format book about their Jewish history.


Andrea is retired after over 30 years as a Jewish music educator and family program specialist, and from school library management for LAUSD. See her website for the Massion shtetl, Ananiev, UKR which strives to document its Jewish community, after a visit there in 2005. Her current project is DNA matching of Massion's separated during the Inquisition who are not Jewish. Visit it at: http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/ananyiv/Ananiev/Ananiev_Introduction.html


Israel "Issie" Perel, Ph.D. - is on the JGSCV board as well as JGSCV librarian. Issie has been involved in family genealogy research for six years. He recently returned from France where he met with cousins discovered through his genealogy research. Issie received his B.Sc. degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada and his PhD degree in Psychology from University of California, Santa Barbara. He is on the board of the Ray Hosford Foundation at UCSB. He is a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.


'Tis the Season for DNA Test Discounts

If you have been thinking about doing a DNA test, now is the time. All 4 DNA testing companies are offering sale prices! (Sales tax and shipping fees may be added to the test kit prices below.) All four companies offer autosomal testing. FamilyTree DNA also offers both mt-DNA and Y-DNA testing. The following are listed below alphabetically and imply no preference.

 Autosomal test reduced to \$79. It's a holiday sale and the expiration of the sale is not listed. See: <https://www.ancestry.com/dna/>

 On sale is mt-DNA (from \$169), Y-DNA (from \$129) and autosomal DNA testing (Family Finder \$59) See: <https://www.familytreedna.com/>

 Offering for Thanksgiving their autosomal test for \$59. See: <https://www.myheritage.com/dna> Offer ends November 23.

 Two kits for \$49 each or one kit \$69 for their DNA ancestry test. Their health and ancestry kit is not reduced and is available for \$199. See: <https://www.23andme.com/>

JGSCV does not imply preference for one company over another and is informing only about each of the DNA testing companies' holiday specials.

Practicing Safe Computing #27: Take Care When You Use Google


by Hal Bookbinder
27th in a series



We all use search engines like Google and Bing multiple times each day and generally trust that the algorithms they use are taking us to legitimate pages on the Web. We know that the first few links pay for this placement. So, we skip over these and go to the first or second link after the advertisements.

Some malware experts have devised ways to trick the search engines and get their own sites at or near the top. You click on the link and think you are on a legitimate site. After all, you searched for it and used a great tool like Google or Bing. The site then directs you to another and maybe another site. You are still not suspicious.

It now presents you with a button to download a Word document with the information you want. You have no reason to suspect anything and so click on the button. When you open the Word document, it asks you (usually in a banner at the top of the page) to “enable macros”. You have come this far and everything looks legitimate and so you do so.

 Microsoft Word defaults to not allowing macros because they can be dangerous. A macro is an executable script that could do almost anything, including installing malware on your computer. You finish your reading and do not realize that you are now infected with software that may be recording and transmitting your keystrokes, displaying adware or deleting your files.



My purpose is not to make you paranoid about search engines. But, when you do search, look at the URL. Does it appear legitimate? If it redirects you several times, be suspicious, never providing personal information. Most importantly, think twice before downloading a file, and if you do and are asked to “enable macros”, run for the nearest exit. This is rarely a good sign.

A class of malware called “Zeus Panda” uses this clever way to cause you to let your guard down. It has been implanted into certain web pages which are designed to display near the top in a Google search. These pages appear completely legitimate, but are infected. You are then directed to a site that asks you to download a Microsoft Word document which contains macros.

Once you agree to “enable macros” they are active and you are at risk. These same Word documents are distributed as attachments to SPAM email. Most of us are rightfully wary of downloading files from SPAM email or agreeing to “enable macros”. However, the hackers know that by offering this after a search you initiate, you might let down your guard. Never agree to “enable macros” unless you are confident that the document is legitimate and permitting it to run scripts is safe.

Want to read more about Zeus Panda? Just Google it. (Yes, I see the irony. Do not abandon Google; just to careful.)

This is the twenty seventh 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. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under Noteworthy.

Proposed JGSCV Bylaws Changes

To be voted on at December 3, 2017 Meeting

Helene Rosen, Chairperson JGSCV 2017 Bylaws Committee

The JGSCV Bylaws Committee members are: Helene Rosen, Chairperson, Hal Bookbinder and Pat Thomas. The Committee is recommending the following changes to be adopted at the annual meeting on Sunday, December 3, 2017. A copy of the existing JGSCV Bylaws, last amended on December 11, 2011 is available on the JGSCV website at: www.jgscv.org under "about".

Suggested changes include removal of redundant wording and clarifications. Below are the suggested changes highlighted in red. ~~Strikethroughs~~ are recommended to be deleted.

ARTICLE II. MEMBERSHIP

Section 2. Membership shall be classified as follows:

c. Family: two ~~persons~~ **family members or partners** residing at the same address.

Rationale: to clarify that members must be of the same family or partners.

ARTICLE III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall consist of ~~eleven elected members,~~ **no less than six or more than twelve elected members, as determined by the Board including** the most recent past president who agrees to serve, and up to two additional members appointed by the President with the approval of the Board.

Rationale: to clarify the range of numbers of people serving on the board.

Section 3. ~~From time to time, the Board may adjust the number of elected Directors, but in no case may there be less than six or more than twelve elected Directors.~~ The term of office of elected Directors shall be two years. One-half (1/2) of the Directors shall be elected each year. The initial slate of directors shall be divided into two groups with the terms of half expiring December 31, 2006 and the others' terms expiring December 31, 2007. This division can be done in any way acceptable to the directors.

Rationale: This is redundant to the provision in Section 2.

Section 7. Board members are required to attend **in person or electronically** at least half of the board's regular meetings each year. Directors unable to attend should notify the President whenever possible far enough in advance so that the meeting may be canceled if a quorum will not be present.

Rationale: To permit board members to attend electronically if they are traveling or otherwise not able to attend the board meeting in person.

Section 9. During their term of office, each officer or director shall promptly send or give a copy of any correspondence initiated by him or her concerning the Society to the ~~President~~ **Secretary**. Directors shall turn over all properties, materials, records and correspondence pertaining to their respective offices to their successors within fifteen days after their terms of office expire or at the first regular board meeting of the calendar year.

Rationale: To clarify that the Secretary is the holder of all materials of the society and any correspondence should be given to and held by the Secretary.

ARTICLE IV. OFFICERS

Section 5. The Board of Directors shall have the power to adjust the number of established elected officer positions. ~~from time to time as determined by the Board. as a result of vacancy or special circumstance.~~

Rationale: To remove unnecessary language and clarify that the Board has the power to adjust number on board at any time for any reason.

~~Section 7. Any officer may resign at any time by giving written notice to the Board of Directors or to the President of the Society. Any such resignation shall take effect at the date of the receipt of such notice or at any later date specified therein, and, unless otherwise specified therein, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.~~

Rationale: Redundant to Article III Section 12 which covers all board members.

Renumber existing section 8 to section 7; renumber existing section 9 to section 8; renumber existing section 10 to section 9.

Section 10. The Secretary shall have charge of all of the records, books, archives, seals, papers and corporate records of the Society. He/she shall keep current, true and correct records and tapes of all of the proceedings of the Board of Directors, and the general membership meetings. He/she shall maintain the master file of Society correspondence. ~~Quarterly, the Secretary shall prepare a list of significant motions passed by the Board of Directors. This list shall be made available to the general membership.~~

Rationale: Renumber existing section 11 to section 10 and delete list of significant motions passed by Board of Directors. Any member in good standing may request copies of the minutes.

Renumber existing section 12 to section 11.

ARTICLE VI. OPERATIONS AND BUDGET

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the control and management of the affairs and funds of the society. The Board shall cause ~~audits~~ **financial reviews** to be made of the Society's receipts, disbursements, assets and liabilities annually and at more frequent intervals if deemed necessary. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the ~~auditor~~ **financial reviewer** shall prepare a financial report for each fiscal year, including an income statement and a balance sheet with a list of investments. This report shall be distributed to all board members and shall be made available to non-institutional members upon request.

Rationale: "Audit" conjures up CPA's and a large, unnecessary outside expense. The term "financial review", redefines it as a managerial issue which can be completed by anyone—not necessarily a CPA...unless there is reason to believe there is a problem

Section 3. The Board of Directors is authorized to purchase insurance on the Society's personal property and any liability insurance that it deems necessary or convenient. ~~The Secretary shall conduct an annual~~ **An inventory of the Society's library and archives shall be conducted annually.**

Rationale: Anyone may do the annual inventory of the Society's library. Usually performed by JGSCV librarian and president.

Genealogy Odds and Ends

Recently, the MyHeritage blog included a guest post by Andrew Koch, an editor and content producer for FamilyTreeMagazine.com. He and a team of editors also publish how-to genealogy books, webinars and online courses. This link <http://tinyurl.com/y87a7sqh> will take you to a blog by Mr. Koch that clearly describes the 5 *Important Events* that shaped Europe and why they are so important to genealogists.



The Hungarian SIG (H-SIG) has announced the addition of more than 16,000 entries into their database. Most of the additions are the civil birth records for Kassa (1895-1915) and the birth records for Nyitra – part of a much grander project that will eventually also include marriages and deaths.

IAJGS 2018 Warsaw Conference August 5-10, 2018

Good News, if you are planning to do onsite research while in Warsaw for the 2018 IAJGS Annual Conference. The General Director of the Polish State Archives (PSA) system announced that all branches will be open during the summer months. While there may be instances of reduced staff due to vacations, they will nevertheless remain open. There are also civil records in thousands of town halls throughout the country. These offices are independent of the PSA and access to those records will vary from town to town.

The program committee has announced the Call for Papers is now open. Proposals for panel discussions as well as 60 and/or 30 minute lectures are encouraged. The conference will be within walking distance to the city center. There will be easy access to the Nozyk synagogue and Kosher restaurants. Sites that may be of interest to genealogists such as Mila 18, the Warsaw Ghetto and the Zookeeper's Villa are also nearby.

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

PATTY (PAT) DOWDEY
SUZANNE EPSTEIN
SAMUEL TALMIDGE



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.

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

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

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

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

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

**May 6 Sunday 1:30-3:30 pm Marion Werle, "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

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

GIVE A JGSCV MEMBERSHIP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Thinking of a unique Holiday Gift? JGSCV offers a beautiful, high quality gift certificate to announce your generosity. Anyone would be proud to give or receive one. Please contact Helene Rosen, VP Membership at membership@jgscv.org. Or stop by at the sign-in desk before the next meeting.