The March program, the documentary video *Jewish Soldiers in Blue and Gray*, was attended by 70 members and guests. The video depicted the little known history of the Civil War Jews who fought on both sides of the battlefield—7,000 for the Union and 3,000 for the Confederacy. Included in the documentary was the remarkable story of Ulysses S. Grant’s infamous "General Order No. 11" expelling Jews from Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi; the rise of Sephardic Jew Judah P. Benjamin to Secretary of State of the Confederacy; the imprisonment of Confederate spy Eugenia Levy Phillips and the unlikely story of Abraham Lincoln’s Jewish doctor who moved through the South as a Union spy. See page 6 for highlights of the documentary.

Thank you to Werner Frank for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner.

While this is the April newsletter, it is distributed in March. March is Women’s History Month. This is a perfect time to reflect on the women in your life and write something about them in your family tree. Whether it was a mother, grandmother, aunt, daughter, niece or other female relative of whom you have fond memories. It could be watching her cook, when she took care of you when you were ill, a trip you took together, helping with homework or a myriad of other events that form our lives. Write something down that is important to you.

Hal Bookbinder’s series on Safe Computing continues with “What is GEDCOM?” on page 10.

**JGSCV’s Showing of “Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray”**

**NEXT MEETING**

**Sunday April 8th 1:30-3:30 PM**

Celina Biniaz, Schindler’s List Survivor

Called the youngest female survivor of Oskar Schindler’s list by the *Jewish Journal*, Ms. Biniaz will recount her fascinating, historic story. She will also take questions from the audience.
I have been in touch with those of you who have not renewed your membership. JGSCV’s membership year runs from January 1 - December 31 and according to our bylaws, dues for the current year were due by January 1st. Any member whose dues are in arrears three months or more, after notice from the Society, will be dropped from membership. We will welcome you back as members once we receive your 2018 dues. While our meetings are open to the public, we are a membership organization and have grown each year since our inception and we want YOU to renew. Your dues help to provide the excellent programming and research library with over 300 books and journals from around the world. There are benefits to membership that are more than attending meetings and you don’t want to miss out. A membership renewal form is on page 14.

We are still seeking volunteers to serve as our traveling librarian and to serve on the Financial Review Committee. Neither position is a board position but will be a great benefit to JGSCV. Traveling librarian entails being responsible for bringing the 3 out of 5 boxes (rotation of books) of traveling library books to each meeting from Jan’s house in Agoura Hills and returning them after each meeting. If desired and approved, the books may be stored at the Traveling Librarian’s home. This is a very important role since many members seek out our research tools at each meeting and our Traveling Library is a valuable resource. The current system, in place since JGSCV’s inception, is no longer sustainable. The Financial Review Committee will track JGSCV revenue and expenses to ensure that the society continues to maintain its extraordinary financial strength. A desire to help JGSCV is the main requirement as long as you remember how to balance a checkbook. Any business or financial acumen is a plus. See more on page 5.

The 38th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, August 5-10, 2018 will be the IAJGS’s first conference in Eastern Europe. Many of JGSCV’s members are attending. This is an excellent chance to visit your European ancestral homes either before or after the conference. Take advantage of the reduced registration fee during early bird registration which ends April 28. The program will be posted in the near future. See: http://www.iajgs2018.org/

In April, we commemorate Yom Hashoah—Holocaust Memorial Day. While the actual date this year is April 12th we are holding our meeting on April 8th. We are especially honored to have as our speaker, Celina (Karp) Biniaz who at 13, was the youngest female to be spared from death in the Holocaust by being placed on the list Oskar Schindler created to spare a group of Polish Jews. Celina says of “Schindler’s List” director Steven Spielberg, “You are my second Schindler. He gave me life, but you gave me a voice.” Celina will make a presentation on her wartime experiences and answer questions from the audience. See page 4 for more information. If you have not already completed Pages of Testimony, this is an appropriate time to do so. See page 15 for a Pages of Testimony form with instructions on page 16.

I look forward to seeing you on the 8th! 

Jan Meisels Allen
At Seder, Each Person Shall Be As If They Themselves Were Leaving Egypt

Just as the Haggadah is our remembrance of the Jewish people’s exodus from slavery to freedom, it is incumbent upon us to remember our loved ones who are no longer here — with words, with deeds, with stories and songs — at Passover and throughout the year. That is how we keep alive their memories, traditions, values and passions.

~ Meryl Ain
– from an article that originally appeared in the New York Jewish Week.

Place Names for Germany 1939
Roderick Miller, of Berlin, Germany has announced that in preparation for the upcoming release of the expanded version of the 1939 German Minority Census by Tracing the Past, a list has been compiled and posted with all communities, districts and states found for residences in the German 1939 Census. This list includes current names of the equivalent places, including those now in the Republic of Poland, the Czech Republic and the Russian Federation. There are 6,046 entries for place names with all columns alphabetically sortable, each with a direct link to the place on Google Maps.

Mr. Miller wrote, “We think this is probably the one of the most extensive cross-referenced, academically-sourced database of German place names ever published with links to maps. It has a very straightforward user interface and we hope that historians and genealogical researches find it useful.”

Link: http://tinyurl.com/y9ekukh9

New Source for Terezin Prisoners Terezin, the concentration camp 30 miles north of Prague in the Czech Republic during World War II was infamous for having a cultural arts program: orchestra, children’s poetry, art classes and more Daniela Torsh of Sydney, Australia reports that the Czech National Archives has a set of index cards for survivors of the Terezin concentration camp. The cards indicate where the prisoners lived. Write your inquiries to Mrs. Dvorakova at the Archives at ilona.dvorakova@nacr.cz. To view the Nazi propaganda film about Terezin, go to https://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn1001681

Recently Updated: Clearer Content Re: Free-to-Use and Public Domain Rights
Free to Use and Reuse: Making Public Domain and Rights-Clear Content Easier to Find

The Library of Congress http://loc.gov is working on several fronts to improve the visibility of public domain and rights-clear content. See their goals in the title link above. A new page features themed sets of content (such as travel posters, presidential portraits, Civil War drawings) that are all free to use and reuse, meaning there are no known copyright issues when we use them in PowerPoints, articles, in reports or just for fun.

Beider Discusses Ashkenazi Surname Theories About Women’s’ Names
Thank you to Judy Karta, JGSCV Board Member, for alerting us that Alexander Beider, the famed author of reference books in the field of Jewish onomastics, has an article in the current issue of The Forward that elaborates on the use of female names as the root of many Ashkenazi surnames. Entitled “Why Do So Many Jewish Last Names Come from Women?” you can find it at:

https://tinyurl.com/ybj76wtf

19,000 Survivor Records Added to File Collection at USHMM
Peter Lande, volunteer with the Registry of Holocaust Survivors, at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. (USHMM) reports that the USHMM Survivors and Victims Database (HSV) has added about 19,000 names into the collection entitled The File Regarding the Suffering of a Jewish Family, a General Investigation among Jews from Romania: Information for the Peace Conference. Each name record contains a 16-page questionnaire, including basic biographical information regarding the head of household and other family members. The records also include additional information regarding persecution. You can view and search for names within the collection at https://tinyurl.com/y8xm7kp5
The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) (*and surrounding areas) will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, April 8, 2018 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362. This program is our annual Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) program. The actual date of Yom Hashoah is April 12, 2018.

The Program: Celina Biniaz, the Youngest Survivor of Schindler's Jews

Celina Biniaz, now living in Camarillo, was as reported by the Jewish Journal, the youngest female on “Schindler's List.” A native of Krakow, Poland, she spent the War years in the Krakow Ghetto, the Plaszow Concentration Camp, Auschwitz, and Oskar Schindler’s munitions factory in Czechoslovakia. She was liberated by the Russians in 1945 from the Gross Rosen concentration camp and spent the next two years in Germany as a displaced person. She and her parents were sponsored to come to America in 1947. Her testimony appears in “Voices from the List,” part of the Schindler’s List DVD.

“I always tell Steven Spielberg (director of Schindler’s List) that he gave me a voice,” she said. “I say, ‘You are my second Schindler. He gave me life, but you gave me a voice. Because for 40 years, I never was able to talk about it because I didn’t think that anybody would understand.’ Celina will make a presentation on her wartime experiences and answer questions from the audience.

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

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are $25 for an individual and $30 for a family.
It’s been a year since JGSCV first announced the need for a traveling library librarian. **We still need a traveling library librarian.** A member who chooses to remain anonymous has offered a ‘Librarian Grant’ to JGSCV to pay a **stipend for this much needed service.** This entails bringing 3-5 boxes of books from Jan’s home in Agoura Hills to Temple Adat Elohim for the monthly JGSCV meetings. With board approval, the books may be stored at the librarian’s home. The traveling librarian would not be responsible for watching the books at the meeting. If you are interested in this position, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org. This is not a board of director’s position, and therefore no board meeting requirements.

Did you notice a “tzedekah” box (left) at the registration desk upon entering the meeting room last month? Voluntary contributions to your JGSCV from attendees and members are welcome. Don’t be shy. **The Schmoozing Corner** is located at the front right side of the meeting room. It is open 30 minutes before each meeting for one to one help from a JGSCV expert. At right is Werner Frank (left in photo) at last month’s meeting.

**HELP WANTED**

JGSCV is seeking TWO (2) volunteers from the membership to help in completing an annual **Financial Review of JGSCV.** In keeping with best practices, the Financial Review Committee will track JGSCV revenue and expenses to ensure that the society continues to maintain its extraordinary financial strength. A desire to help JGSCV is the main requirement as long as you remember how to balance a checkbook. Any business or financial acumen is a plus. Please contact Allan Linderman at newslettereditor@jgscv.org with questions or to volunteer.

See “Noteworthy” on the [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) website for instructions on how to help JGSCV by participating in Ralphs Community Contribution Program. AND, if you shop at Food 4 Less and use your Ralph’s card, JGSCV will benefit as though you shopped at Ralph’s.

When shopping at Amazon.com please go to our website first and click the Amazon logo at the bottom any page **before** you start to shop. It doesn’t cost you anything and JGSCV receives a marketing fee. We did have two days recently where the Amazon logo “disappeared” but it is back now. Amazon does this change annually and we are NOT notified about their administrative change until it happens and someone who is shopping through our site notices the missing logo.

April 2018  VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
Highlights from Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV’s March program was the showing of the documentary Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray. Brother against brother, Jew against Jew, 10,000 Jewish soldiers fought in the nation’s deadliest war, in numbers proportionally higher than other American groups. Jewish Soldiers in Blue & Gray explores the little known history of the Civil War Jews who fought on both sides of the battlefield—7,000 for the Union and 3,000 for the Confederacy. The film is narrated by American luminaries Jonathan Sarna (Jewish historian), Sam Watterston (actor), Robert Marcus (Civil War Historian), Eli Evans (biographer), Gary Zola (archivist), and Hollywood filmmaker John Milius—whose ancestors fought with the Missouri Partisan Rangers and Confederate irregulars. Old prejudices kept the 10,000 Jews from equal treatment although five Jewish soldiers in the Union Army received the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Allegiances during the War Between the States split the Jewish community as deeply as it did the nation at large. Some prominent Jews, including Jewish slave owners, cited the Torah to justify slavery. Others were leaders in the abolitionist movement or established their synagogues as stops on the Underground Railroad. Many Jews fought in the Union Army to demonstrate their loyalty to America or show their bravery to those who considered them cowards. The major lines of division in the South were racial, with blacks suffering substantially. Jews however, were used to being discriminated against in Europe along religious lines.

The Civil War was a turning point for Jews who fought for their beliefs whether north or south. They commanded troops and achieved many “firsts” for American Jewry. When the war began there were 150,000 Jews living in the United States. In the South, Jews had the competing complexity of coming from slavery (the story of Passover) and yet embracing slavery as owners and traders.

The United States was a haven for 19th century Jews whose ancestors had experienced bigotry for centuries. The documentary made clear that Jews, like the rest of the American populace, were bitterly divided over the issues of the Civil War and felt allegiance to each side of the conflict. By 1830, Charleston, South Carolina was home to the largest Jewish population in the United States. In the mid-19th century Louisiana was the home to one-third of all Jews living in the South. “Some Northern synagogues were stations on the Underground Railroad, but Northern rabbis and their congregations split over emancipation. One leading New York rabbi...
cited the Torah to defend slavery; an abolitionist Baltimore rabbi was driven out of town. Southern Jews, slaveholders or not, often felt they were repaying acceptance into the community by fighting for the Confederacy.” (Historynet.com).

The documentary relates stories of Jews with family and friends fighting on both sides, brother against brother, and neighbor against neighbor. When war was declared, Jews in the North raised funds and volunteered. In Indiana, Frederick Neffler became the highest ranking Jew in the Civil War—a union general. Southern Jews also answered the call. Adolph Proskauer an immigrant Jew in Mobile (AL) did not believe in slavery but felt he owed the townspeople his allegiance for their welcoming ways. Despite facing anti-Semitism in the military, Proskauer rose to the rank of Major. He was also in the battle of Gettysburg leading his troops against the Union soldiers. Following the war, he became a member of his state’s legislature. Many southern Jewish soldiers died defending the south’s capital during the burning of Richmond.

The watershed incident of the Civil War was when the Confederates won the battle at Fort Sumter in Charleston (SC) harbor resulting in the Confederate flag being raised over a U.S. military installation. Many Jews were in the Confederate Army, and local Charleston Jews fought with the Confederate Army. As a result, on April 15, 1861 President Lincoln proclaimed war.

New Orleans was the largest city in the South. With access to the Mississippi River, New Orleans was critical for shipping supplies. Once the Union soldiers took New Orleans, the war was all but over. Jewish women also took part in the South’s war against the Union soldiers. Eugenia Levy moved from Charleston to New Orleans and was disruptive enough to be sent to an island for months.

Abraham Lincoln’s words were woven throughout the documentary through the voice of Sam Waterston.

General Ulysses S. Grant and General Order 11
Expelling Jews from the Department of Kentucky

General Ulysses S. Grant trying to dismantle the thriving black market in Southern cotton in his Department of the Tennessee (Kentucky, Tennessee and Mississippi), issued General Order No. 11, which expelled all Jews from the region within 24 hours and warned that “any one returning ... will be arrested and held in confinement until an opportunity occurs of sending them out as prisoners.” Lest anyone try to change his mind, Grant made clear that “no passes will be given these people to visit headquarters for the purpose of making personal application for trade permits.”

On Dec. 17, 1862, Grant issued the order that read: “The Jews, as a class violating every regulation of trade established by the Treasury Department and also department orders, are hereby expelled from this department within 24 hours from the receipt of this order.”

While this mandate conformed to Grant’s pattern of associating Jews with illicit business activities, the exact reasons for his action are anything but clear. What is clear is that on Jan. 4, 1863, one week from the day (Dec. 28, 1862) on which Paducah (KY) Jews were actually
expelled, President Abraham Lincoln ordered Grant to revoke the controversial edict.

Fortunately, General Order No. 11 had little direct impact on most Jews who were driven out of Paducah, and some towns in Mississippi and Tennessee. There were accounts of Jewish travelers being imprisoned and roughed up. But a breakdown in military communications slowed the spread of Grant’s directive, and at least some officers had qualms about enforcing it.

The order’s flagrant racism raised an outcry. Eminent Jewish Unionists immediately intervened directly with President Lincoln, knowing Lincoln had a sympathetic ear. Instantly grasping the constitutional implications, Lincoln had General in Chief of the Army Henry Halleck countermanded Grant’s order. Lincoln was a wonderful wordsmith which was displayed in his wording of countermanding General Order No. 11: “A paper purporting to be General Orders, No. 11, issued by you December 17, has been presented here. By its terms, it expells [sic] all Jews from your department. If such an order has been issued, it will be immediately revoked.” It let Lincoln avoid a direct rebuke of his most effective general. Grant took his cue and rescinded the order three days later.

On January 6, a delegation led by Rabbi Isaac M. Wise of Cincinnati, called on Lincoln to express gratitude that the order had been rescinded. Lincoln received them cordially and expressed surprise that Grant had issued such a command and stated his conviction that “to condemn a class is, to say the least, to wrong the good with the bad.” He drew no distinction between Jew and Gentile, the president said, and would allow no American to be wronged because of his religious affiliation.

General Order No.11 also greatly strengthened America’s Jewish community. The successful campaign to overturn the order made Jews more self-confident. The tempestuous 1868 election, where so much ink was spilled concerning the “Jewish vote,” taught them much about politics, and about the power—real and perceived—of a well-organized minority group. President Ulysses S. Grant gave Jews hope for the future by selecting Simon Wolf to be Recorder of Deeds for the District of Columbia and appointing a series of Jews to public office (including Edward S. Salomon, governor of Washington Territory, and Dr. Herman Bendell, superintendent of Indian affairs for the Arizona Territory). Significantly, Grant also attended the dedication of a synagogue.

President Lincoln’s Jewish Foot Doctor: Spy and Personal Peace Emissary

President Lincoln asked his chiropodist, Issachar Zacharie, to spy on the south and negotiate with them for a potential peace. New Orleans had fallen to the Union forces, but the local population rebelled against “Beast Butler,” the harsh leader of the occupation forces. General Benjamin Butler was openly anti-Semitic and regularly jailed and insulted Jews. As Zacharie had connections to the 2,000-member New Orleans Jewish community, President Lincoln sent Zacharie as his personal envoy to assess the situation and to spy on the rebel forces. By this time General Butler had been replaced by General Nathaniel Banks.

Zacharie was also sent to negotiate a peace treaty with the south and there he met Judah Benjamin. The two Jews tried and failed to find a way to conclude the conflict.

Judah Benjamin- Confederate Leader and Secretary of State for the Confederacy

Judah Benjamin was a lawyer, politician, US Senator from Louisiana and Secretary of State of the Confederacy. He was also a Sephardic Jew. Benjamin declined an appointment to the US Supreme Court. At the end of the Civil War he escaped to England and became an English
barrister. Benjamin was the first Jew to be elected to the United States Senate who did not renounce his religion, and the first of his faith to hold a Cabinet position in North America. He became a wealthy slave owner and served in both houses of the Louisiana legislature before being elected to the US Senate. He left the Senate when Louisiana seceded from the Union and moved to Richmond when appointed Attorney General of the Confederacy and later appointed Secretary of War, then Secretary of State. He was Jefferson Davis’s “right hand man”.

Following the end of the Civil War, unconfirmed rumors implicated Benjamin in the assassination of President Lincoln, preventing him from ever returning to the United States. War rumors prevailed that Jews did not serve in the war—or if they served they did not see battle. A Washingtonian, Simon Wolf, wrote a book, *The American Jew as Soldier and Citizen* listing over 7,000 Jews who served on both sides of the conflict, to dispel the rumors— including those put out by Mark Twain. Following reading Wolf’s book, Twain recanted his anti-Jewish rhetoric.

**Civil War Firsts**
- **First Jewish military clergy appointed to US Army:** Existing regulations required only Christian clergy in the military. November 1861 soldiers elected Arnold Fichel to be first Jewish clergy—he was assigned to Pennsylvania Fifth Cavalry-First Dragoons, headed by a Max Freedman. The position was rejected by the Secretary of War. This was a fight about religious character of the United States: was the U.S. to be a Christian country or a religiously pluralistic one? Fichel met with President Lincoln who promised to get Congress to change the law. On September 18, 1862 —nine months after Fichel met with Lincoln— Jacob Frankel was appointed as first Jewish chaplain in US Army. This changed Jewish military chaplaincy for all times.
- New York rabbi Morris J, Raphall, was the first Jewish clergy to deliver the opening prayer to Congress —1861. He caused uproar when he uses the bible to defend slavery, saying it was also mentioned in the Ten Commandments and therefore it is permitted. His argument in favor of slavery was used in the South as the “finest defense of slavery”. Northerners and other rabbis disagreed about Jewish tradition and law mandate.
- President Abraham Lincoln appointed the first Jewish officer in the U.S. military: Chaim M. Levy as Assistant Quartermaster, Union Army November 4, 1862.
- Moses Ezekiel was the first Jewish Cadet to enroll at Virginia Military Institute.
- Upon Lincoln’s assassination, Kaddish was said in synagogues. This is considered to be the first time Kaddish was said in a US synagogue for a non-Jew.
- Richmond created a Jewish Civil War cemetery where 30 are buried. This was the only Jewish military cemetery in the world until the founding of the State of Israel
- Created the Hebrew Union Veterans Association to counter the rumors that Jews did not serve in the military. This was the precursor of today’s Jewish War Veterans.

*JGSCV rented the documentary from the National Center for Jewish Film.*
Practicing Safe Computing:  
What is GEDCOM?

by Hal Bookbinder
31st in a series

GEDCOM (Genealogical Data Communication) provides a set of rules for exchanging data between genealogical software. The LDS Church created GEDCOM in 1984, with its final update in 1999 (version 5.5.1) offering it freely to the genealogical community. The LDS Church now sponsors the ‘GECCOM X’ Project. More about this later.

When you create an EXPORT file from your family tree program to share or upload family data, it is created using the GEDCOM standard. GEDCOM is a “Hypertext” language. Hypertext languages include level numbers, descriptors and data, all in plain text, which can be read by different programs running in various operating systems on different computers. The level numbers and descriptors define the subsequent data so that the receiving program knows how to handle it.

HTML (Hypertext Markup Language) is another hypertext language which is used to define every page on the World Wide Web. If you hold down the CNTL key and press “U” while viewing a web page you will see the underlying HTML code. Don’t worry, this will do no damage. XML and HL7 are other hypertext languages. XML (Extended Markup Language) is used to share data and HL7 (Health Language) is used to share medical information.

Below is some typical GEDCOM code (on the left) and what it means (on the right).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GEDCOM Code</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 @1@ INDI</td>
<td>Indicates that the following data relates to individual #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 NAME John /Smith/</td>
<td>Provides the name of individual #1, denoting the surname with “/”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 SEX M</td>
<td>Indicates that the sex of this individual is male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 FAMS @F1@</td>
<td>Indicates that this individual is a member of family group #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 @I2@ INDI</td>
<td>Indicates that the following data relates to individual #2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 NAME Mary /Jones/</td>
<td>Provides the name of individual #2, denoting the surname with “/”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 SEX F</td>
<td>Indicates that the sex of this individual is female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 FAMS @F1@</td>
<td>Indicates that this individual is a member of family group #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 @I3@ INDI</td>
<td>Indicates that the following data relates to individual #3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 NAME Sam /Smith/</td>
<td>Provides the name of individual #3, denoting the surname with “/”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 SEX M</td>
<td>Indicates that the sex of this individual is male</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 FAMS @F1@</td>
<td>Indicates that this individual is a member of family group #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0 @F1@ FAM</td>
<td>Indicates that the following data relates to family group #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 HUSB @I1@</td>
<td>Indicates that the husband in this family group to be individual #1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 WIFE @I2@</td>
<td>Indicates that the wife in this family group to be individual #2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
There are 134 GEDCOM descriptor tags, including BIRT (birth), MARR (marriage), DEAT (death), BURI (burial), EMAI (email), PHON (phone), RESI (address or place of residence), OCCU (occupation), RELI (religion), BARM (bar mitzvah) and BASM (bas mitzvah). For a listing of all of the tags, see http://tinyurl.com/lah2stk.

Some programs are designed to read data directly from other program’s files. For example, RootsMagic can directly import a FamilyTreeMaker (FTM) data file. However, FTM will not directly import a RootsMagic file. To transfer data from RootsMagic to FTM, you must first export it as a GEDCOM file.

GEDCOM has some limitations. Pictures, Videos and links to web pages will generally not transfer through GEDCOM. A program may have unique fields or might be using a proprietary version of GEDCOM, such as GEDCOM 5.5 EL (Extended Locations). Nonstandard fields may not be transferred.

A program may permit you to create your own tags, sometimes by replacing standard ones with ones you define. Say you replace “Christening” with “Brit Milah”. This may work just fine in your program. But, when transferred, the underlying tag may still be the one for christening.

Generally, when you are creating an export to GEDCOM, your program will permit you to identify which fields to export. Be sure to carefully review this to ensure you are exporting only the desired fields. For example, you may not want to export your notes, sources or some data you wish to keep private.

Sometimes a receiving program has rules which block certain data. For example, it might not accept information on living individuals. So, when transferring data, be sure to understand both the exporting rules of your program and the importing rules of the receiving program.

If data you expected to be transferred seems to have been dropped, check the ‘Notes’ field. Sometimes, receiving programs will dump the data that they could not interpret into Notes. Another thing to check is your export settings. The default settings may not have included the missing data.

As noted at the beginning of this article, GEDCOM has not been updated in over 17 years while a lot of technological advances have occurred. With all of these limitations, why isn’t someone doing something about it? And, this is where GEDCOM X comes in. Family Search (the genealogy arm of the LDS Church) launched the “GEDCOM X” Project in 2011. The GEDCOM X Project invites a diverse community of developers to create new specifications which, once approved, grow the product. If you want to read more about GEDCOM X, see http://www.gedcomx.org. For now, however, your programs likely continue to use the GEDCOM 5.5.1 standard.

This is the thirty first 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.
JGSCV Refresher

To operate our society and maintain financial health, the Board seeks out revenue in addition to member dues. JGSCV’s modest dues alone will not support the excellent programming, libraries and additional services provided for the membership. Our role is to support members’ family history research. For the cost of about one visit to Starbucks per month, this is accomplished with superior programs, two excellent libraries along with a newsletter and website with hundreds of resources. Members also receive 2-3 emails monthly about new opportunities and genealogical resources. The Board constantly seeks additional revenue streams so that dues can remain low.

There are 3 alternative resources that JGSCV relies upon for revenue beyond dues. You can help your society by participating in any or all of the three listed here.

- Our new “tzedekah” box at the registration desk where any voluntary donation is gratefully accepted.
- Amazon shopping through the JGSCV website. Just go to any page at www.jgscv.org and scroll to the bottom of the page and click on the Amazon link. JGSCV receives a marketing fee and you do not pay anything more.
- Ralphs Community Contribution Program where listing JGSCV as your charity of choice results in JGSCV receiving a percentage of your eligible purchases while you pay the same as always at checkout. Directions are on our website under ‘Noteworthy’.

IAJGS 2018 Warsaw Conference
August 5-10, 2018

If you are still wavering about attending the 2018 IAJGS Warsaw Conference, consider this:

According to THE NEW YORK JEWISH WEEK, “It’s Not The Warsaw You Think It Would Be”. Recent estimates of more than 3,000 Jews living in Warsaw are just a ‘whisper’ of the pre-war numbers yet, according to this story, “Warsaw has more kosher restaurants than Washington, D.C.” Read about Warsaw’s Jewish community and what it offers visitors attending the 2018

IAJGS Warsaw Conference: http://tinyurl.com/yc9ve3sm

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Gesher Galicia added new records to the All Galicia Database (AGD) available to all at https://search.geshergalicia.org/.

The following indexes have been added to the searchable database (AGD):

-- Jagiellonian University: Jewish medical students and graduates (1802-1850)
-- Jagiellonian University: Jewish medical students and graduates (1851-1918)
-- Jagiellonian University: Jewish midwifery students (1802-1850)

Advantage Preservation has 527 collections from 39 states with over 50 million pages that are incorporated into Ancestor Hunt and their collection of historical newspapers. The Advantage Preservation collections come from individual libraries, library systems, historical societies and other institutions to obtain and digitize the newspapers. For a list of the recent update see: https://tinyurl.com/ybehqjvy Note: while virtually all collections are accessible online, several are only available at the library and they are so noted.

For those researching their Canadian roots, the following may be of interest:

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police Graves website has thousands of Mountie graves, monuments and headstones. Access to the website is free. The website is located at: http://www.rcmpgraves.com/index.html. Searching the database is easy: http://www.rcmpgraves.com/database/search.html. You can search by name, range, history, by crime and punishment (murders, robberies etc.) If you have relatives who served in the RCMP the website list of links to other sites may be of assistance.

DNA testing wins again! There are many stories of long-lost family members connecting due to DNA tests. Here is one from MyHeritage where 2 half-sisters from Holland and Australia were brought together. You can read their story here: http://tinyurl.com/yaqtxrub And watch a video of their reunion here: http://tinyurl.com/yc3dbxzu

New at Ancestry.com

- U.S. Obituary Collection, 1930-2018
- Canada Obituary Collection, 1898-2017
- U.S. Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection 1847-2018
- Australia and New Zealand, Obituary Index, 2004-2017
- Caribbean, Obituary Index, 2003-2009

To all our members and friends:
Have a very Happy Passover
and to our non-Jewish members and friends,
Have a very Happy Easter
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.)
_________________________________________________________________

April 2018

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
Pages of Testimony commemorate the Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust – Shoah. Please submit a separate form for each victim, in block capitals. **Fields outlined in bold are mandatory.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim's photo</th>
<th>Please write victim's name on back. Do not glue.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**The Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Law 5713-1953** determines in section 2 that: "The task of Yad Vashem is to gather into the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives, who fought and rebelled against the Nazi enemy and his collaborators; and to perpetuate their names and those of the communities, organizations and institutions which were destroyed because they were Jewish." 

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim's family name:</th>
<th>Maiden name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim's first name (or nickname):</th>
<th>Previous / other family name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title:</th>
<th>Gender: Male / Female</th>
<th>Date of birth:</th>
<th>Approx. age at death:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of birth (town, region, country):</th>
<th>Citizenship:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First name of victim's father:</th>
<th>Family name of victim's father:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First name of victim's mother:</th>
<th>Maiden name of victim's mother:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim's family status and no. of children:</th>
<th>First name of victim's spouse:</th>
<th>Maiden name of victim's spouse:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Permanent residence (town, region, country):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Victim's profession:</th>
<th>Place of work:</th>
<th>Member of organization or movement:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Places and activities during the war – arrest / deportation / ghetto / camp / death march / hiding / escape / resistance / combat (circle relevant):

Residence during the war (town, region, country):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Circumstances of death: prison / deportation / ghetto / camp / mass murder / death march / hiding / escape / resistance / combat or unknown - Shoah:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place of death (town, region, country):</th>
<th>Date of death:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

---

I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this testimony is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this Page of Testimony and all the information on it will be publicly accessible.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Smitter's first name:</th>
<th>Family name:</th>
<th>Previous / maiden name:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Street, house no., Apt.:</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>State / Zip code:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country:</th>
<th>I am a Shoah survivor: Yes / No</th>
<th>My relationship to the victim (family / other):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

During the war I was in a camp / ghetto / forest / in hiding / had false papers / the resistance (circle relevant):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Place:</th>
<th>Signature:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

See Instructions, bottom of page 16
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.

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

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

Instructions for Submitting Pages of Testimony

Pages of Testimony commemorate Jews who were murdered DURING the Holocaust, or in the months following the liberation of the camps. You do not have to be a relative of the victim to complete a Page of Testimony for him or her.

How to fill out a Page of Testimony:

• Complete a separate Page of Testimony for EACH victim, including children.
• Please write in pen, in clear, block capital letters.
• Write the names of people and places as close to their original spelling as possible, in Latin characters.
• Additional forms may be photocopied, downloaded from the website or requested from Yad Vashem.

Information Fields:

• Fields in bold are mandatory: family name (or maiden name), first name, gender, permanent residence before the war (or place of birth), circumstances of death, relationship to the victim and signature.
• Please fill out all additional identifying information you may have (parent’s name, etc.).
• If circumstances of death are unknown, write: Holocaust.
• If the first name of the victim is unknown, then write “unknown” in the “victim’s first name” field, and specify gender as well as parents’ names.

Please Note:

• It is advisable to search the online Names Database before filling out a Page of Testimony. If the name of the victim you searched for does not appear in the database, or is included only as an archival listing, please submit a Page of Testimony to honor his/her memory. If the name of the victim has already been recorded on a Page of Testimony there is no need to submit an additional page unless you have new information to add.
• To fill out a Page of Testimony online, enter the Names Database and click “Submit Additional Names”.
• If you possess a photograph of a victim please attach it to the Page of Testimony. Alternatively you may send a high-resolution scan of the image (up to 2 Megabytes).
• Sign and date each completed Page of Testimony and return the original signed copy, unfolded, to your local representative or mail to: Yad Vashem, Hall of Names, POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel.

• Victims of anti-Jewish persecution who survived the war may complete a Survivor Registration Form, available online.
• For a free community outreach guide and information on initiating a local names recovery campaign, please contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il