PRESIDENT’S LETTER

Wow! What a meeting and program we had! Close to 300 people attended our Yom Hashoah program on April 8th with speaker Celina Biniaz, the youngest female on Schindler’s List. It was an exceptional program, and Celina is a remarkable person and excellent speaker. The outstanding publicity, and especially the interview with Celina posted in the Ventura County Star on the Friday before our meeting added to the unexpectedly high attendance. We also had the program announced in our usual publicity outreach including all 5 editions of the Acorn, Happenings, synagogue newsletters, library bulletin boards and local senior centers. It was also posted to three Counties Jewish Federations, and many other outlets. Thank you to the JGSCV Publicity Committee members for a fantastic job! While we expected a larger than normal turnout, we didn’t expect four times the norm and the Temple helped with getting us access to overflow parking at the school behind the Temple and providing us with the Social Hall. Thank you to our great meeting co-sponsor Temple Adat Elohim!

In addition to Celina’s presentation, JGSCV Librarian, Israel Perel, a child of Holocaust survivors, read a special Yom Hashoah prayer. We also lit 6 candles to remember those who perished in the Shoah. See page 6 for the highlights of the program.

Thank you to Warren Blatt for facilitating the schmoozing corner.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his excellent series, Practicing Safe Computing on page 11. This month the topic is Microsoft Word Tips & Tricks.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday May 6th 1:30-3:30 PM

Ferreting Out Family Stories

JGSCV member Marion Werle explains how to create a plan for capturing, analyzing and understanding family stories to better understand your family history.
May 2018

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

May is Jewish American Heritage Month, a national month of recognition of the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. See page 12 for more information.

Several of the ways to support JGSCV is by shopping at Ralphs or Food 4 Less. JGSCV is listed as one of their charities. Get your club affinity card at the store and then go to their website to sign up. See our website www.jgscv.org under “noteworthy” for instructions or ask JGSCV treasurer, Karen Lewy for help by emailing her at treasurer@jgscv.org or talk with her at a future meeting. Members have asked if other grocery stores have similar programs and so far I have not been able to find any other grocery chain that offers this community benefit. The other way to help JGSCV is when you are shopping online at Amazon.com first go to our website and scroll to the bottom of any page and click on the Amazon logo and then shop like you usually do. You pay the same as you usually would and JGSCV receives a marketing fee. Both the Amazon and Ralphs contributions are very important to the JGSCV annual budget as we do not collect enough in dues to do all that we do and the contributions from these two organizations constitute about 20-25% of our annual budget helping us make our budgeting goals. Remember there is a “tzedekah” (charity) box on the registration desk for any voluntary contributions by non-members and members alike.

JGSCV is still looking for someone to transport 3/5 boxes of our traveling library to each meeting. Either pick up and return the books to Jan’s home each meeting or with Board approval store and bring the books to the meetings. Please let Jan know if you are interested.

We hope to get the meeting dates from August 2018 through August 2019 from the Temple sometime in May and as soon as we have the dates they will be announced in this newsletter and posted to the JGSCV website.

JGSCV’s own Marion Werle is our May 6th speaker! The topic: Ferreting Out Family Stories: Fact, Fiction or Somewhere in Between. Marion will present a methodology for analyzing family stories creating research questions to focus our inquiries and developing a research plan, creating a timeline and more.

Looking forward to seeing you on the 6th!
Genealogy Terms in Hebrew

Philip Trauring, born in Brookline, MA., has lived in California, and now resides in Modi'in, Israel where he authors a blog and website called Blood and Frogs. There, you can find a complete list of family relationships in both English and Hebrew. (Nina means great-granddaughter.) Scroll to the bottom and find a slew of other topics including Belgium research and sound advice.

Regarding brick walls, Phillip writes “My advice is simply not to add more bricks to your walls. Make your research easier by not limiting the avenues you pursue...be willing to check variations in names and places, and never take any story at face value without multiple supporting documents.”

https://bloodandfrogs.com/

Online Archive of California
Isn’t Just About California

“Sometimes the photos a family historian needs to see are available in somewhat unlikely places,” writes Gail Dever, a Canadian family historian, genealogy news blogger, and webmaster of Genealogy à la Carte.ca. She wrote last month about the Online Archive of California. http://www.oac.cdlib.org/. The Online Archive of California (OAC) according to their website, provides free access to descriptions of primary resource collections maintained by libraries, special collections, archives, historical societies, and museums throughout California and collections maintained by the 10 University of California (UC) campuses.

Yet the content might be from around the world. For example, Page 3 found photographs of Jewish WWII refugees in Tabarin, Shanghai, China; papers from the Janet Haas collection on Jewish tuberculosis organizations including Denver, and Jewish cemeteries, 1934-1972. In California: Rosenberg Collection of Stockton and Sacramento Jewish History including Jews in the Gold Rush, 1849.

History vs. Genealogy

Historian John Sedgwick writes in the New York Times Sunday Review (4/12/2018) about finding relatives in the very research he was doing in preparation to write a historical book. He reveals how it changed his bleak views on genealogy, compared to the field of historical research.

“Obviously, history can’t depend on genealogy. But history shouldn’t scorn it, either. History can make use of the genealogical perspective and its transporting empathic power.” See the full opinion piece at https://www.nytimes.com/2018/04/12/opinion/sunday/historians-versus-genealogists.html

Relative Storyboards:
One Genealogist’s Tool for Archiving Family Research

Kay Bauman has a Master’s degree in Library and Information Studies (MLIS) and has been working in her local public library since 1982. She blogs to preserve and share her families’ stories as well as track her own research progress. Called “52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks,” each entry is fascinating, relaying a story of an ancestor, its sources and related content. In a recent March 2018 blog, she tells the story of her grandparent’s home, piecing together the layout, and sharing old 8mm film clips of the property as it evolved from a lean-to to a home. Using https://floorplanner.com/, to recreate the house, and photos to bring it alive, we get a real taste of “KayB’s” childhood. https://tinyurl.com/y9apzljt

Ancient Faces: Shared Photo Gallery

This online website is entertaining. Simply put, it’s a site that allows one to discover, explore and share old photos. A great resource for dating clothing, viewing U.S. soldiers, historical research and finding photos of regular folk from all 50 states and around the world from the advent of photography through the 1970’s. https://www.ancientfaces.com/
Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County* (JGSCV) (*and surrounding areas)
The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, 6 May, 2018 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 pm

The Topic: Ferreting Out Family Stories - Fact, Fiction or Somewhere in Between

Every family has its stories, some more colorful than others. Some seem too fantastic to be true. Others have the ring of truth, but don’t stand up to close examination. How do we tell the difference? Marion Werle will present a methodology for analyzing family stories - creating one or more research questions to focus our inquiries, developing a research plan, creating a potential timeline, and finally, analyzing each component of the story to separate fact from fiction.

Speaker: Marion Werle began family history research 23 years ago, researching family from Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus, who settled in the US, Canada, UK and Israel. She has been on the boards of JGSCV and JGSLA, and is a past president of the Latvia SIG. A retired IT professional with master’s degrees in both European History and Library Science from UCLA, she wrote The Skuders from Skud, about one of her Litvak branches, to share with family members. She recently completed the Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate and has an ongoing interest in applying general genealogical methodology standards to Jewish research.

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 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.

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. With all the activity before the April meeting you may not have had the opportunity to join the Schmoozing Corner. Sonia Hoffman will facilitate the “corner” on May 6th.

See “Noteworthy” on the [http://www.jgscv.org/](http://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.

When shopping at Amazon.com please go to our website and click the Amazon logo at the bottom of any page **before** you start to shop. It doesn’t cost you anything and JGSCV receives a marketing fee.

**HELP WANTED:** JGSCV is seeking TWO (2) volunteers from the membership to help in completing an annual Financial Review of JGSCV. 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. Please contact Allan Linderman at newslettereditor@jgscv.org with questions or to volunteer.

**JGSCV Welcomes New Members**

SUSAN STOCK HULBERT

MARK and LAUREN SCHWARTZBACH
Starting the evening of Wednesday April 11 through Thursday April 12 the United States and Israel commemorated Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance, remembering the 6 million Jews and 5 million others—Roma, homosexuals, Jehovah’s witnesses and more who perished in the Holocaust. Yom HaShoah is commemorated on the 27th of Nisan, a week after the seventh day of Passover and a week before Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers). It marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. JGSCV observed Yom Hashoah on Sunday April 8th.

JGSCV is not a religious organization but it was appropriate to memorialize Yom Hashoah with a special prayer. JGSCV librarian, Israel Perel, Ph.D., a child of Holocaust survivors, read the prayer beside six candles provided by founding member Werner Frank. A moment of silence was observed. As a child Mr. Frank fled Germany following Kristallnacht.

The Jewish Genealogical society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County was privileged and honored to have as our Yom Hashoah speaker, the youngest female of Schindler’s List’s Jews: Celina Biniaz. Celina was a native of Krakow, Poland and she spent the war years in the Krakow Ghetto, the Plaszow Concentration Camp, Auschwitz and Oskar Schindler’s munitions factory in Czechoslovakia. Her parents lied about her age saying she was two years older than she was to permit her to work with them in the factory. Her true birth date is May 28, 1931, while she is listed on Schindler’s List as being born on May 28, 1929. JGSCV has a copy of the typed Schindler’s List in our traveling library.

This was a presentation like no other. The approximately 300 people in attendance were overcome with emotion with Celina’s story. She is a pillar of strength and her faith in humanity comes through strongly. Celina describes her story as a second chance for life.

May 9, 1945 the war in Europe was over. The departure from Czechoslovakia and the factory of Mr. and Mrs. Oskar Schindler was very emotional for all of Schindler’s Jews. They met on the factory floor saying goodbye. Schindler said he wished he had more money so that he could have “bought” more of the Jews to save them from the concentration camps. A goldsmith among them melted gold from their teeth and fashioned a ring for Mr. Schindler. In Hebrew the ring was inscribed, “he who saves the life of one man saves the entire world”. This saying is from the Talmud, the authoritative record of rabbinic discussions on Jewish Law. By the end of war Schindler’s fortune had been spent on bribes to keep his Jewish workers safe—and he was broke.

Schindler left 2 bolts of wool cloth and 5 pairs of scissors for each family, so the Jews could use them for barter. Celina was in possession of one the pairs of scissors, which she displayed.

With the Yalta Agreement- the agreement between the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union about Germany post war, the Russians came to Poland and Eastern Europe.
Oskar Schindler

Oskar Schindler was a member of the Nazi Party, an ethnic German, and factory owner. He had factories that manufactured enamelware and munitions. He saved about 1,200 Jews by employing them in his factories. Originally, his factory was in Poland, which is where he first knew Biniaz’s parents the Karps. They were accountants and friends with a Schindler client before the war. Later he moved his factory to Czechoslovakia. Schindler got permission to take 1,100 workers in all, 800 men and 300 women. He paid bribes to the Nazis to keep his workers safe.

As the war outcome became more apparent in July 1944, the easternmost concentration camps deported prisoners westward. Many Jews were killed in Auschwitz and Gross-Rosen concentration camps—both camps where Biniaz had been a prisoner. Schindler convinced the Nazis commandant of Krakow-Plaszow concentration camp to allow him to move his factory and his workers to Brunnlitz, Czechoslovakia. Biniaz and her parents were interned at that camp. Schindler’s Factory was a safe haven.

Biniaz talked about how Mrs. Oskar Schindler—Emilie—had also been very kind to the workers and especially the children. Mrs. Schindler was known to bring Farina (porridge) to sick children in the infirmary each day. Biniaz visited Mrs. Schindler in Argentina many years later, and learned of her bitterness about not being portrayed in the movie as someone who also helped the workers. She believed she did not receive the rightful recognition she deserved.

Once, at Schindler’s factory he told the Jews he sabotaged everything. Nothing made in the factory was to work. He had adjusted the calibration on the bullet casing machine to 1 mm smaller so the bullets would not work. And to “fool” the Nazi’s he also changed the calibration on the machine, so it still showed the “correct” calibration.

By the end of the war, Schindler was virtually penniless having spent his entire fortune on bribes and black market purchases of supplies for his workers. Schindler was living in West Germany after the war when Biniaz saw him again. He and his wife Emilie moved to Argentina where they became farmers. He returned to Germany in the late 1950’s, without his wife. Oskar Schindler was named Righteous Among the Nations by the Israeli government and a tree is planted for him in Yad Vashem. He died in Germany in 1974 and was buried in Jerusalem in a Catholic cemetery. Celina noted he is the correct answer to the trivia question: “Who is the only Nazi buried in Israel?”

Schindler’s List

Julius Madritsch, a German friend of Schindler, had a sewing factory in Krakow which he moved into the Plaszow concentration camp. Biniaz got on the Schindler list as her parents who were accountants, worked for Madritsch. Trucks came in with bales of fabric that were hiding extra food and medications for the workers. When the Nazis closed the Krakow area factories they deported the Jews to Auschwitz and Gross Rosen where Madritsch had no factories. Schindler agreed to take some of Madritsch’s Jews for his new munitions factory in Czechoslovakia.
While they thought they were going to Czechoslovakia, they were fooled and were sent to Auschwitz. There they were lined up and Biniaz had her hair cut off/shaved. They were taken to the barracks where it was 5 to a bed. When one turned they all turned. Then totally naked, taken to the showers. By this time-1944- the Jews had heard about the gas showers and that Auschwitz was an extermination camp. Until the water came out of the spigots they had no knowledge if they were being killed or showered for cleanliness.

While at Auschwitz, Biniaz also encountered Josef Mengele, the SS physician and SS officer who was responsible for the selection of victims to be killed in the gas chambers. She was underdeveloped and he sent her to the death area, before he brought her back. Her mother was not with her, and she had enough strength to confront him and say “lassen Sie mich” let me go, which he did.

Poland was cold in the winter and snowy. Three times each day they had to stand for two hours to be counted. They spent their day cleaning latrines and potatoes. They had a little soup at lunch time. This lasted for five weeks. When they were taken to have numbers tattooed on their arm, they knew they would survive! From the barracks they were taken to the railroad station and box cars where Schindler met them. He bribed the commandant to let the Jews on the trains. He saved 300 females that day. When they arrived at the factory they learned the men had also survived.

Following the War
Following the war there was a list of priorities: the first priorities were to find family; notify the Red Cross and Jewish services organizations. Secondary priorities were education and to hire a tutor for Celina. She had not been in school since 2nd grade. During the summer and fall of 1945 Celina studied with tutors and took entrance exams for gymnasium (high school). It was the first time she attended regular class with children of her own age.

Returning to Poland was not an option as pogroms (an organized mass murder of Jews by the locals) started in eastern Poland. The virulent anti-Semitism continued and they decided to emigrate to the United States. The borders closed so they left at night and ended up in Bratislava (Czechoslovakia). When the Russians liberated them, they had the protection of the Czech people. The Karp family received documents labeling the family as concentration camp survivors. It took them two weeks to traverse Czechoslovakia and crossed into Germany during the night.

When they arrived in the American zone in Germany, they had the option to go to a displaced persons camp but her mother said no, they had been in enough camps. Instead they went to Mindelheim, a small town, located in Bavaria, Germany. There the Karp family received ration cards and the United Nations relief agency helped them. Celina had qualified for school in Poland, but not in Germany so she was tutored.

Mater (Mother) Leontine
In Mindelheim, girls were schooled in a convent. Celine’s tutor was a retired 90-year old nun, Mater Leontine. This Catholic nun, being cloistered did not know about Hitler and the Jews; that she was supposed to “hate” Jews or what horrific experiences Celina endured. Instead Mater Leontine, who had been cloistered for more than 70 years, saw a young, traumatized girl who needed help. She taught Celina German and English and helped her catch up with the education she’d missed since 2nd grade.

During the question and answer
period Biniaz was asked if she lost her faith in G-d. She related a story of how the Nazis took the children up a hill to watch them murder others with gun shots to the head. Upon returning to the concentration camp she asked her mother how there can be a G-d if he permits this type of actions. She was then asked if she recaptured her faith in G-d and responded she has faith in humanity—thanks to Mater Leontine.

Leaving for United States
After waiting for two years Celina and her parents obtained their affidavits and took the S.S. Marine Marlin to the United States. Her one remaining relative, an uncle, drove to New York City to meet the family and take them back to Iowa. She was incredibly shocked at how large and beautiful the United States was.

Although she had not been in school since second grade, her test scores placed her in 12th grade at North High School. She needed to catch up on American History and was tutored in that subject.

One of the teachers took a liking to Biniaz and was a graduate of Grinnell College in Iowa. Through her efforts, Biniaz was accepted at Grinnell and was granted an academic scholarship worth $1,200 per year. Without the scholarship, her parents could not have afforded to send her to college. She entered Grinnell as a freshman in 1948.

After graduating Grinnell College, Biniaz moved to New York’s Columbia Teachers College. She taught for 37 years on Long Island specializing in children with learning disabilities. She married and had children. She became a naturalized US citizen in New York.

After 1982
In 1982 Thomas Keneally published his historical fiction novel, Schindler’s List. Looking at the New York Times book review article she found the book accurate. Fellow Schindler’s List member, Leopold Poldek Pfefferberg, also known as Leopold Page, inspired Mr. Keneally to write the book which was the basis for the Academy-Award winning movie by Steven Spielberg.

Keneally visited “Paul” Page in Los Angeles where he had a leather goods store. Biniaz related the story that Keneally was attending a conference in Los Angeles where he broke a handle on a leather goods piece and the hotel suggested he go to Page’s leather goods store for the repair. When they talked, Keneally asked about an account of a survivor and Page told him “do I have a story for you!” During 1980-1981 Keneally talked to Page and wrote the book. The book first came out in Great Britain as Schindler’s Story and when it was released in the United States it was renamed Schindler’s List.

Stephen Spielberg
At the time, Biniaz’s son was working at Universal Studios and he called his mother to say he was at a meeting where they were trying to get Steven Spielberg interested in making a movie about Schindler’s List. She could not believe it, and asked her son, “are they crazy?” who would want to see such a movie. As Spielberg had just finished ET he wanted to wait before undertaking this project. It took ten years between the book being published and the movie coming out in 1993.

Spielberg filmed the movie in Poland and the survivors told their stories. Spielberg said going to Poland was transformative and changed his life. As a result, he started the Shoah Foundation using $50 million of his own earnings from the movie. The Shoah Foundation collected 56,000 testimonies in 30 different languages while translating each testimony. Biniaz’s testimony was given in English and translated into Polish and German.

The Shoah Foundation archives are located at USC. It is an institution of learning and also includes the Armenian, Rwanda, Cambodian and Guatemalan genocides, and Nanjing Massacre by the Japanese in World War II.

Due to the rise of Holocaust deniers, Spielberg felt it important to release the movie in DVD format 10 years after the original release. One
side is the movie itself while the other side includes testimony from members of the “list” in order to counter the deniers. Her testimony appears on the “Voices of the List” side of the DVD.

Biniaz says that she told Spielberg, “Spielberg gave me a voice, you are my second Schindler, he gave me life but you gave me a voice. For forty years she was never able to talk about it because she didn’t think anybody would understand.”

Celina brought a number of artifacts to display for the audience.

We are very grateful to JGSCV member Paula Poll for putting us in touch with Celina Biniaz. Without Paula’s introduction we would not have had this remarkable experience.

Celina declined an honorarium to talk with us and instead, JGSCV made a contribution in her honor to the charity of her choice, the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

(Artifacts on display)

(At right) Munich Displaced Persons Card for Celina Karp
American Joint Distribution Committee
Emigration Dept. May 7, 1947 Departure
Accompanied by: Issak Szyja Karp and Feiga Karp
Emigration Location: Mindelheim, Germany
Practicing Safe Computing: Microsoft Word Tips & Tricks

by Hal Bookbinder
32nd in a series

Do you routinely spell a particular word incorrectly and wish Word would automatically correct it rather than just flagging it as misspelled? Do you wish it would stop automatically correcting the spelling of another word? This kept happening to me when I would type ‘EHR’, (Electronic Health Record). Word kept ‘helping’ me by changing it to ‘HER’. It also kept helping me by changing 501(c)(3) to 501©(3).

To fix such annoyances, click ‘File’ (in the upper left hand corner of the Word page and then ‘Options’, ‘Proofing’ and ‘AutoCorrect Options’. You will see two fields under the titles, ‘Replace’ and ‘With’. If you type ehr in the ‘Replace’ field you will see that it displays her in the ‘With’ field. I deleted this entry and can now type EHR without it being changed. As I want ucla to be automatically converted to UCLA, I added an entry to do this. When I type resume, I usually mean résumé. So, I added this as well.

If you wonder how to enter é or any other special character, click on the ‘INSERT’ tab on the top of the Word screen and the ‘Symbol’ icon all the way on the right. A short list of popular symbols will be displayed. If you do not see what you want, click on ‘More Symbols’ and select from a wide array of special characters.

We have all experienced the frustration of having our PC freeze while creating a document. You can have Word save your work periodically (every minute if you like) so that you will never lose too much of it. Similar to Proofing, select ‘File’ and ‘Options’. Now select ‘Save’. You will be able to define where and how often you would like backups taken.

These are just two of many helpful features you can find within ‘File’ and ‘Options’. Choose ‘File’, ‘Options’ and ‘Customize Ribbon’ to display more or fewer icons in the ribbon across the top of the page). You can add ones you would like to have handy and remove ones that you never use. If you have not explored ‘File’ and ‘Options’, I encourage you to do so. There are literally hundreds of things you can set to make your Microsoft Word experience more pleasant and efficient.

The other Microsoft Office products (like Excel and PowerPoint) each have an array of preferences you can set under their ‘File’ and ‘Options.’ Understand, however, that options you set are only effective for that product. So, if you set your automatic save option to preserve copies every minute in Word and want this in Excel as well, you will need to set it directly in Excel.
Celebrating Jewish American Heritage Month in May

By Congressional resolution and Presidential proclamation May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM). A national month of recognition of the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture, JAHM acknowledges the achievements of American Jews in fields ranging from sports and arts and entertainment to medicine, business, science, government, and military service. The 2018 theme is Jewish Contributions to American Music.

JAHM’s 2018 theme provides an opportunity to recognize the many American Jews who have helped create the nation’s soundtrack, from patriotic anthems and classical compositions to Broadway scores and rock and roll. There are numerous examples of composers, conductors, lyricists, musicians, and singers who have been shaped by American life, society, and culture, and in turn enriched America’s musical repertoire. These include: Irving Berlin, Leonard Bernstein, Fanny Brice, Barbara Streisand, Bob Dylan, Carole King, Paul Simon, Regina Spektor and more. There are some surprises in the list of Top 100 Jewish Singers and Songwriters according ranker.com: http://tinyurl.com/y84zhf4y

The brochure for this year’s theme ONLY IN AMERICA (right) may be downloaded at: http://tinyurl.com/ya9yc1l68

History
On April 20, 2006 President George W. Bush proclaimed May to be Jewish American Heritage Month. JAHM was an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida community leaders that resulted in Congressional resolutions introduced by Congressman Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and then-Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) urging the president to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. Since 2006 JAHM programs have taken place across the United States. To see the past presidential proclamations on the subject, go to: https://www.jahm.us/about/ and scroll down to proclamations. This is being published before May therefore the 2018 presidential proclamation is not yet available.

The JAHM Coalition was formed in March 2007 and convened by United Jewish Communities (now The Jewish Federations of North America), The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) and the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS). The JAHM Coalition was composed of the directors of major national Jewish historical and cultural organizations including the AJA, AJHS, Jewish Women's Archive, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the Council of American Jewish Museums, Jewish Museum of Florida, and the Jewish Historical Society of Washington, D.C. In the fall of 2010 JAHM incorporated as a tax exempt public charity with a Board of Directors and oversight by the JAHM Advisory Committee.

Activities
For a list of activities and other resources across the US see: https://www.jahm.us/activities-resources/. Click on 50 states/50 stories to learn how every US state has been impacted by the accomplishments and contributions of American Jewish men and women.

For more information about JAHM see: https://www.jahm.us/about/
Yefim Kogan, Project Leader for Miriam Weiner Archival Database Project, announced the opening of the “Miriam Weiner Archival Database”. At this time there are 942 records with 67 images of the Republic of Moldova representing about half of the collection donated by Miriam Weiner to the Bessarabia SIG. Included are documents such as Army Registrations, Zionist Lists, School Documents and more. The rest of the records will be uploaded in the following months. These databases are accessible at http://www.jewishgen.org/bessarabia. Go to Databases/Miriam Weiner Collection.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) recently added 75,244 name records relating to prisoners held at the Stutthof concentration camp to its Holocaust Survivors and Victims database (HSV). These records provide information on camp registrations, death certificates, personal documents and other material. Digital copies will be emailed immediately upon request. Search at http://tinyurl.com/yc3juhyh

JewishGen.org and The Museum of the Jewish People at Beit Hatfutsot announced a strategic partnership this week, bringing together two of the Jewish world's most iconic names for innovation in advancing online genealogy and identity exploration. The partnership envisions that the family tree collections held by both parties, accounting for nearly 20,000 trees in total, will be completely accessible to visitors of both JewishGen.org and The Museum of the Jewish People. Beginning in the late Fall 2018, researchers will be provided with unprecedented access to vital Jewish family history information that is available in no other facility. This new search platform is expected to increase the likelihood that researchers will find information they are seeking.

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island (JGSLI) announced the posting its latest video to its YouTube Channel: “My Ancestors Came from Ivangorod…I Mean Deblin! (Dealing with Country, City, and Street Name Changes)”. According to Nolan Altman, past president of JGSLI, this video will remind genealogists to consider changes in the names of countries, states, counties, cities and streets when reading documents. Things change. And then they change some more. Even now we see changes in Crimea or new countries like South Sudan. Genealogists should consider that when identifying a country, city or street on a document, that information belongs to a point in time. Information captured as of any point, may have since changed. You can access this as well as all 38 of JGSLI's short instructional videos directly from their YouTube Channel at http://tinyurl.com/z8kpgka or from their website http://jgsli.org/
Because of the postwar economic boom, by 1947 Canada found itself in the midst of a labor shortage. In addition, Canadian immigration policy was extremely restrictive and displaced people who had lost everything in World War II received no special status. Canada responded by amending its immigration policy.

Garment manufacturing was one of the industries suffering due to the labor shortage. Garment industry leaders devised a tailor "scheme" whereby tailoring firms agreed to hire skilled laborers on one year contracts. Jewish community organizations pooled their funds to bring the workers from Europe to Canada and to house them. Many were not "tailors" and had to qualify by sewing a button or using a thimble. The scheme would spirit war weary Europeans out of the displaced persons camps and stock the much needed labor force of the Canadian garment industry.

The Scheme: The Tailor Project AKA Garment Workers Scheme

In 1948 Max Enkin, a Jewish businessman from Toronto, led a delegation of Canadians to the European displaced persons camps, wanting to find tailors and help Holocaust survivors find a new home and a fresh start in Canada. He became the leader of what was called the Tailor Project, formally known as the "garment workers scheme". It brought 2,000 people (of whom 1,000 were Jewish displaced persons) from Europe to Canada to work in the clothing industry. By April 1949 the tailors and their families had arrived in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver and were provided with housing and jobs. This was the first program that permitted large numbers of Jewish adults to immigrate to Canada following the Second World War.

Today, Max Enkin’s son Larry wants to document the history of these immigrant tailors. He wants to locate and contact the children of the tailors who were brought to Canada. Read more in a story from CBC: http://tinyurl.com/yc9f6c67 To learn more about the Tailor Project visit https://tailorproject.ca/. See if your friends or family were part of this history. You are encouraged to share stories.

Southern California Genealogical Jamboree

The Southern California Genealogical Jamboree (https://genealogyjamboree.blogspot.com/) will be held in Burbank May 31-Jun 2. JGSCV was given a free exhibitor table for Saturday June 2. If any member is attending the Jamboree and would like to volunteer to answer simple questions at the table and hand out our material, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org. This is an excellent way to access the Exhibit Hall without paying the registration fee although it does not allow for session attendance. Our table will be in the main walkway in front of the doors to the exhibit hall. While there are classes on Saturday from 8:30 AM-6:00PM, the table will be available from 9:00AM-3:00PM. Please let me know if you can volunteer. Even an hour will help promote our society!

May 2018
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.)
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________

May 2018 VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
May 6th Sunday 1:30-3:30 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

IAJGS 2018 Warsaw Conference

August 5-10 2018

We will have a number of JGSCV members attending the IAJGS conference in Warsaw in August. If you have been thinking of going, but not yet made up your mind, the early bird registration fee expires midnight April 28 (central time). For more information, see the conference website: http://www.iajgs2018.org/. This is the place to meet your email genealogy friends researching the same ancestral names and towns. It is also an opportunity to visit your ancestral towns either before or after the conference. To see a webinar on Polish research and IAJGS 2018 conference preview published by IGRA go to: https://tinyurl.com/ydaxnv7f