

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



## JGSCV

July 2019

Volume 14 Issue 10

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV was treated to an excellent presentation by Daniel Horowitz, Genealogy Expert at MyHeritage, on the *Latest New Features and Records Release* by MyHeritage. During the last months, MyHeritage made a series of new releases on their records and DNA: The Theory of Family Relativity™, AutoClusters, DNA Quest, the completion of the Israeli Cemeteries Digitizing project and millions of new records, among others. They recently entered the health market offering –for now– 29 health reports. See page 6 for highlights of the program.

Thank you to Sara Applebaum for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner. Each month a senior member facilitates this feature for you to ask questions and get general guidance. The schmoozing corner begins 30 minutes before our program begins.

Our July 14 meeting, *Genealogy in the Round* is YOUR meeting! This is when you tell of your successes and brick walls or share a genealogical artifact. There are still several slots available—up to 10 minutes per person. Please let me know if you want to participate at: [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org).

We have added programs for our September, November and December meetings. We are waiting for the title for December's program. See the updated list of programs on page 16. Remember we are meeting both in July and August this



Daniel Horowitz,  
MyHeritage  
Genealogy  
Expert,  
JGSCV's June  
speaker

### NEXT MEETING

**Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30 PM**

### Annual Genealogy in The Round



JGSCV members and friends share their genealogical successes, brick walls and artifacts and we all get to learn from them.

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

6052 Hackers Lane  
Agoura Hills, CA 91301  
818-889-6616

**2019 JGSCV BOARD  
OF DIRECTORS**

**Jan Meisels Allen, President and  
Program Chairman**

[president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)

**Helene Rosen, VP Membership**

[membership@jgscv.org](mailto:membership@jgscv.org)

**Diane Wainwood, Secretary**

[secretary@jgscv.org](mailto:secretary@jgscv.org)

**Michael Sander, Treasurer**

[treasurer@jgscv.org](mailto:treasurer@jgscv.org)

**Warren Blatt, Member**

**Education** [education@jgscv.org](mailto:education@jgscv.org)

**Judy Karta, Community**

**Outreach** [judy@jgscv.org](mailto:judy@jgscv.org)

**Karen Lewy, Publicity**

[publicity@jgscv.org](mailto:publicity@jgscv.org)

**Allan Linderman,**

**Newsletter Editor**

[newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org)

**Andrea Massion,**

**Member-at-Large**

[andrea@jgscv.org](mailto:andrea@jgscv.org)

**Israel Perel, Librarian**

[librarian@jgscv.org](mailto:librarian@jgscv.org)

**Barbara Algaze, FSL**

[barbara@jgscv.org](mailto:barbara@jgscv.org)

**David Oseas, Webmaster**

[webmaster@jgscv.org](mailto:webmaster@jgscv.org)

**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.

summer when we normally meet only one of those months—this is due to not meeting in October because of the Jewish holidays. We will be celebrating our 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary in September rather than October for that reason.

Security and safety is an issue that we are all aware is of more and more importance. This is also true for our “meeting home”, Temple Adat Elohim. The Temple has not received any threats, but is being prudent due to the violence and anti-Semitism in the world, and closer to home. When you come to the Temple a security guard will welcome you, coming out of the security hut and speak to you in your car. Just stop and tell him you are attending the JGSCV meeting. Please read the new security changes at Temple Adat Elohim on page 11.

Hal Bookbinder’s next installment on “Practicing Safe Computing”, *You Likely Need a VPN* is on page 12.

The Annual Ventura County Fair is July 31-August 11. See page 12 for details on the genealogy portion. If you have the time please consider volunteering at the genealogy table.

The IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held on July 28-August 2, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown <https://www.iajgs2019.org/>. The main hotel is totally sold out but back up hotels are available. The program is up and you can now sign-up for Breakfast with the Experts, SIG luncheons and the gala banquet. See page 17 for more information. Please let me know if you are attending. Our August 25 program is for JGSCV members and friends who attend the conference to share their experiences.

Remember that JGSCV will be honoring the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II starting in 2020. If you served or had a relative serve this is a good time to start reviewing your genealogy files to gather information. Andrea Massion’s tribute to her WW II veteran dad on page 14 is an excellent example of how to honor a deserving family member. If you need assistance with writing up your World War II story our fantastic newsletter editor, Allan Linderman will be able to assist you. Contact Allan Linderman at: [newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org).

The July 14<sup>th</sup> program is our annual *Genealogy in the Round: Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls*. Please share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall or genealogical artifact. We all learn from one another take this opportunity to share your genealogical story. Whether you are a JGSCV member or potential member we’d love to hear your genealogical story.

Have a happy and safe July 4<sup>th</sup>!



*Jan Meisels Allen*

## Sign the Declaration of Independence

On the website of the United States Archives, there is an opportunity to print out a copy of the U.S. Constitution with YOUR SIGNATURE added on it. What a great little item for the Independence Day host, a grandchild or a new citizen. Find the page online at:

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/sign-the-declaration>

## Video Testimony Techniques Shared by Yahad-In Unum and Three Other Centers

On June 6th and 7th, *Yahad - In Unum* participated in a conference entitled "Comparative Lenses: Video Testimonies of Survivors and Eyewitnesses of Genocide and Mass Violence" at the *American University in Paris*. *Yahad* is known for finding and documenting Nazi killing sites throughout Eastern Europe. The conference included lectures from leading experts from around the world, including *Yahad* educators. The conference was a collaboration between *Yahad - In Unum*, the George and Irina Schaeffer Center for the Study of Genocide, Human Rights and Conflict Prevention, the [USC Shoah Foundation](#) and the [AGBU](#) Nubar Library.

## Photos of Synagogues Throughout Poland

*Culture.pl* is the online flagship brand of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute – a national cultural institution promoting Poland and Polish culture worldwide. There is an article with numerous photographs on the varieties of architectural styles among historical Polish Synagogues based on the research of Polish synagogue experts Kazimierz and Maria Piechotka, from their book *Landscape with Menorah* (originally: *Krajobraz z Menorą*, published in English in 1959). It charts the area where Jewish synagogues were built including the vast Eastern territories (Ukraine and Belarus today) that saw the expansion of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Find photos at:

<https://culture.pl/en/article/the-un-lost-tradition-of-polish-synagogue-architecture>

## Fold 3: More Than Just Soldier Tributes

Military site Fold3.com (now owned by Ancestry) not only allows one to post tributes to veterans from all American wars, but has substantial digital collections of records, lists of names and documents. For example, at the end of WWII, The Wiesbaden Central Collecting Point held mostly German-owned material and objects subject to restitution. The records in this section relate to the activities of the collecting point during its time of operation, 1945-52. There are lists of stateless Jewish civilian prisoners from stalags, prisoners, including first and last name, year of birth, and the last residence. WWI service records of Jews are posted, as well as American grave registration cards from Ohio, also WWI. Vietnam Memorial names are listed with cause and place of death: search Jewish. <https://www.fold3.com/>

## Film: Finding Babel (2016)

Seventy-five years after iconic Soviet writer Isaac Babel's wrongful execution, his grandson Andrei Malaev-Babel returns to Moscow, Odessa and environs nearby to follow in the footsteps of the famed writer's life story and the inspiration for his fiction. The film allows us into the homes and neighborhoods of the Babel family and their friends, and feels much like the experience one has who has traveled to their own family shtetl. It also gives an account of life under Stalin's rule, and the last days of Isaac Babel. Found on Amazon Prime.

# 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 meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, July 14, 2019 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362

## The Program:

### "Genealogy in the Round":



## Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls

Come and share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall, or genealogical artifact! This is YOUR meeting. We all learn from one another. Take this opportunity to share your genealogical story—success or failure, ask questions about your brick walls, and more!

If you wish to participate in the program, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at [president@JGSCV.org](mailto:president@JGSCV.org). Each participant will be given 5-10 minutes to share—depending on the number of presenters. Whether you are a JGSCV member or a potential member—we'd love to hear your genealogical story.

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.

# JGSCV Updates

**CONGRATULATIONS.** to JGSCV founding board Member Warren Blatt who was named Senior Genealogist for JewishGen. According to Avraham Groll, Executive Director, JewishGen, in this newly created position Warren will be charged with “ensuring that the JewishGen website remains reflective of genealogical standards and that the archival transcriptions are as accurate as possible.” He will continue to represent JewishGen at speaking engagements as well as respond to media requests for comments on Jewish genealogical issues. Please congratulate Warren when you see him at a JGSCV meeting!

Bring your family history questions to the SCHMOOZING CORNER starting at 1 PM on July 14<sup>th</sup>. The SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 30 minutes before each JGSCV meeting where a knowledgeable JGSCV member is available to offer individualized help with your personal genealogy questions. The SCHMOOZING CORNER is located on the right side of the meeting room as you enter. Look for Stephen Weinstein facilitating at the next meeting.



In 2020, *Venturing Into Our Past* will be commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of WWII with a series of stories about our family members and the war. Start thinking about how you would like to recognize the exploits of someone in your family tree as they relate to that period. To get you thinking about your family’s WW II story, please see page 14 for JGSCV board member Andrea Massion’s tribute to her dad. If you’d love to tell a story about someone in your family tree but need assistance writing, please contact Allan Linderman ([newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org))

Traveling Library opens at 1:00 p.m. Books from Categories A & C will be available. See which books they are by looking at our website ([www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org)) under library-traveling.

When shopping at Amazon.com please go to our website ([www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org)) first and click the Amazon logo at the bottom of any page **before** you start to shop. It doesn’t cost you anything.



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

# Highlights from: Newest Features and Records Released by MyHeritage

By Jan Meisels Allen

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, JGSCV was treated to an excellent presentation by Daniel Horowitz, Genealogy Expert at MyHeritage, on the *Latest New Features and Records Release* by My Heritage. During the last months, MyHeritage made a series of new releases on their records and DNA: The Theory of Family Relativity™, AutoClusters, DNA Quest, the completion of the Israeli Cemeteries Digitizing project and millions of new records, among others. MyHeritage is a global discovery platform exploring family history, uncovering ethnic origins and finding new relatives. They recently entered the health market offering –for now– 29 health reports: 14 genetic risk reports and 15 carrier status reports (see below under DNA health test).

Currently, MyHeritage has 45 million family trees; 3.4 billion profiles, 103 million users, 9.7 billion historical records; sold over 3 million DNA kits; 42 ethnic regions and 29 health reports. They support 42 languages.

As part of the DNA Matches, MyHeritage also provides: Theory of Family Relativity™; Smart Matches™; Shared Ancestral Surnames; Shared Ancestral Places; Shared DNA Matches; Pedigree Charts; Shared Ethnicities; Shared DNA Segments and their new AutoClusters.

## DNA Results

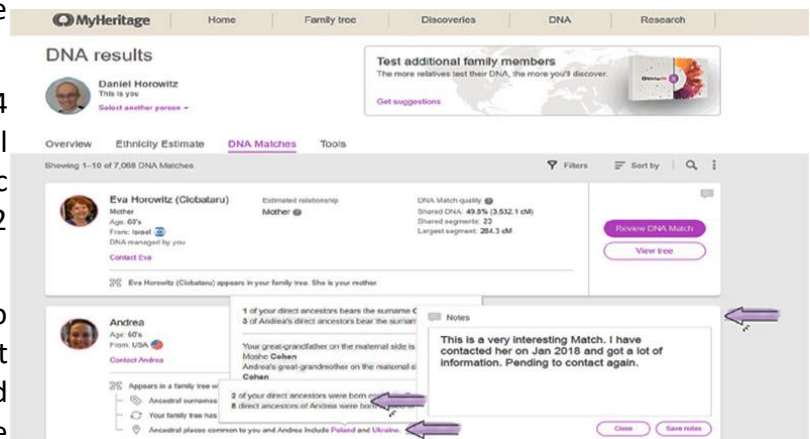
Daniel showed examples from his own DNA results. The results included his mother and a woman named

July 2019

“Andrea” who was estimated to be a third –fifth cousin. The results give the amount of shared DNA and shared segments as well as the largest segment. For his mother, as expected, the shared DNA was 49.8 percent (each parent would provide about 50 percent of shared DNA; grandparents 25 percent, etc.), and over 3,500 centimorgans (cM)\*.

*\*centimorgans (cM) is a unit for measuring genetic distance for DNA. The more DNA you share with a match the higher the cM number will be and the greater the estimate of how closely related you are.*

If there are too many matches Daniel suggests looking to the quality of the match. If there is less



than 2%, it is not high quality and especially if there is endogamy. Endogamy is when small groups of people keep marrying distant cousins, even if they are not aware of the relationship. There is little genetic diversity when this occurs.

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Daniel suggested looking for ancestral surnames and ancestral places –remembering that borders changed- for example SW Ukraine was NE Romania, etc. Another suggestion was to use a log for notes with special matches.

New DNA matches appear at the top of the list. Review the DNA match. The theory of family relativity is using the DNA match, family trees and records within the data base. If family trees are also uploaded to the MyHeritage website, it is better than only DNA in finding family members. He also suggested to remove an outdated tree and upload a new current (larger) tree, and then keep it updated periodically.

### Smart Matching™

Smart Matching™ increases the confidence of DNA matches by matching individuals in your tree with people in other family trees hosted on MyHeritage. The trees are from all over the world. It compares names, facts and connections to the millions of family trees on MyHeritage to find out if your family tree intersects with any other trees and indicates matches. It works across differences in spelling, phonetics and relationships that may exist between trees to offer a large quantity of highly accurate matches. To read more about Smart Matching™ see: <https://tinyurl.com/y4p9bkr9>

Daniel advised that most of the Smart Matching™ is free if one uploads to or takes a DNA test. MyHeritage permits uploading DNA results from other companies. Some features are free while others require paid DNA tests of \$29/DNA kit or have a MyHeritage Premium, PremiumPlus or Complete membership.

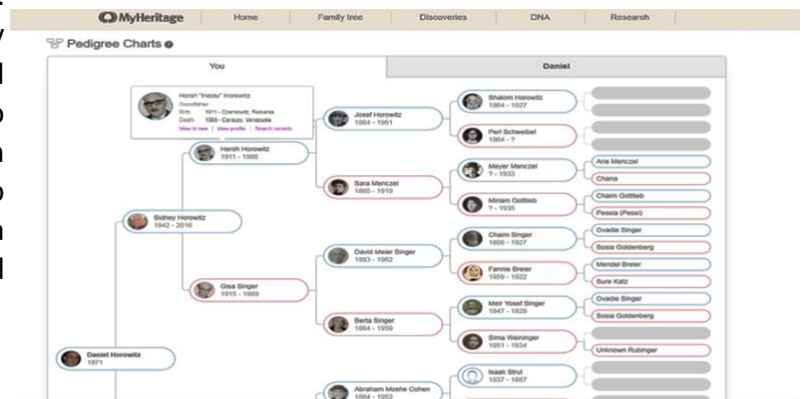
### Shared Matches

In the example of Daniel matching his mother, and cousin “Andrea”, both Daniel and Andrea show they are related to his mother. The next thing is to look for a common ancestor. Looking at both persons’ trees helps in this search. Of course if someone does not upload their tree the search is stymied. The results showed that Daniel and his mother shared 1,238 matches and there is a button that lets you

review all the matches, if you have a paid subscription.

### Pedigree Charts

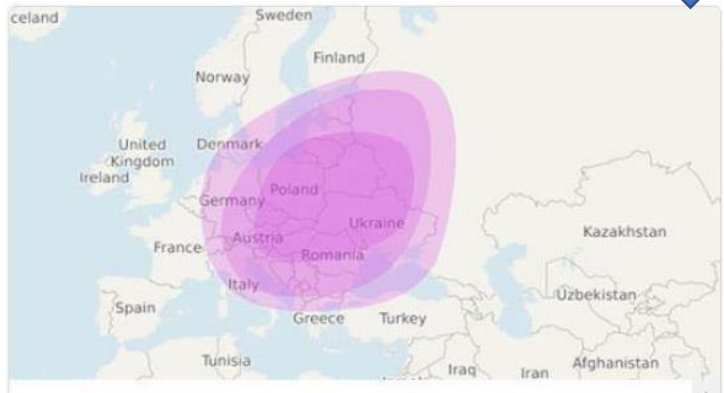
From the information provided in your tree,



MyHeritage can create a pedigree chart depicting your family members going back in time. The one above shows Daniel’s paternal side—both his paternal grandparents and their ancestors. MyHeritage allows you to compare this with your DNA Match Pedigree tree.

### Shared Ethnicities

The DNA test shows the shared ethnicities and provides information and a map from where the ethnicity derives. In Daniel’s case the DNA showed he is 88.1 percent Ashkenazi Jewish. (Ashkenazi Map) ↓



### Chromosome Browser

MyHeritage’s Chromosome Browser for shared DNA segments is a visual tool allowing you to locate the DNA segments you share with a DNA Match. Shared DNA segments are the sections of DNA that are the same between two individuals. To find the Chromosome browser for shared DNA segments go

to your DNA Matches page and click “review match” on one of the DNA matches. Then scroll down the page to find the Chromosome browser. There you will be able to see the DNA segments you share with the other person. The longer the shared segment is, the higher the probability that it was inherited from a common ancestor, which means the two people are genetically related. Of course, to use this you must have a DNA test results on MyHeritage’s website.

You can compare up to seven people to see how their DNA matches with the Chromosome Browser one to many.

To learn more about the Chromosome browser and schematics see: <https://tinyurl.com/y47es956>.

### AutoClusters

AutoClusters is a tool that organizes your DNA matches that likely descend from common ancestors. It helps you explore your DNA Matches more efficiently in groups rather than looking at many individuals. It is not built on the website. MyHeritage organizes the chart and emails it to you in a ZIP (compressed) file containing an HTML file which includes a visual representation of the AutoCluster

Each of the AutoClusters are broken into different clusters and may have as few as two or many people in the cluster.

Find the Chromosome browser, AutoClusters and Ethnicities map under the DNA Tools option from the DNA Heading in the top ribbon on the MyHeritage website.

### MyHeritage DNA and Health Test

Recently, MyHeritage started offering a DNA Health+Ancestry Test, where previously they offered the ancestry-only test. Both are available for purchase and if you have taken an ancestry-only test with MyHeritage then you can upgrade to the Health+Ancestry test for \$120. (Done separately, the Health and Ancestry tests cost would total \$199.) For upgrading one must have taken the DNA test at MyHeritage and not have it uploaded from another companies’ DNA.

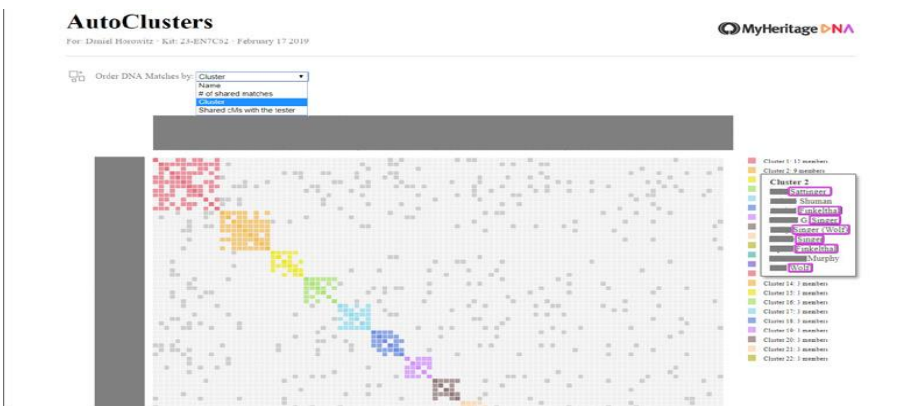
Currently, there are 14 genetic risk reports and 15 carrier status reports, for 29 conditions. The reports do not say you have or will get the disease, rather they say you may have a propensity for the disease or a genetic risk for developing the condition compared to the general population. Some of the

genetic risk reports are for heart disease, breast cancer, Alzheimer’s Disease and 11 others. The tests for heart disease, breast cancer and Type 2 diabetes are only available for people who are mainly of European ancestry.

The 15 carrier status reports provide insights into your potential to pass on genetic conditions to your children.

Carrier testing is recommended when planning a family so you can be aware of the risks if you and your partner are carriers for the same genetic disorder. Conditions tested include: Tay-Sachs, cystic fibrosis, Gaucher Disease and 12 others.

A 16 page questionnaire about your health history must be completed before taking the test. A physician confidentially reviews your answers. After the results are ready, the reports are reviewed by the



analysis, a CSV file which includes a spreadsheet version of the AutoCluster analysis and a ReadMe PDF file. A depiction of Daniel’s AutoCluster analysis is above. The different colors represent the different family members’ surnames. To learn more about AutoClusters see: <https://tinyurl.com/y2shtloo>

AutoClusters are a middle ground to see how people are related and are grouped with common matches.

clinical team from PWN Health who will determine if genetic counseling is advised. Genetic counseling is included in the PWN Health Services in the price of the test.

This is the only Health+Ancestry Test that has been launched internationally and is available in many different languages. More details are readily available and can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/y4xpheve>

The report you will receive for each condition gives your level of risk for the condition (how you compare to the general population); how your results were determined (explains which variants were analyzed); what you can do with your results (recommendations on who to contact to discuss your results) and information about the condition.

Privacy is of utmost importance to MyHeritage. Daniel explained that the testing is performed by a CLIA certified accredited laboratory in the United States. The only physician who may see the results is the one physician who reviews the results, and once approved no one else—not even he/she can see them. The individual owns the information. They may delete it at any time. It will never be shared with a third party without explicit consent. MyHeritage has pledged never to share the information with insurance companies.

### **Record Collections**

MyHeritage now has 9.77 billion records. On the MyHeritage website, you find it under the Research tab on the top ribbon. Below the search form, there is a world map that allows you to search by location. In the next six months the website for this area will be redesigned to enable a more efficient search. The searcher system transliterates names in the records from different languages and includes the transcription of the record in the result view.

### **SuperSearch™**

To search the records go to SuperSearch™ and fill in the name of the person you are searching. If you have a place or year of birth, marriage, death or other event, it's suggested to fill that in also. The results return with a variety of records including

census, voter lists, family trees, birth, marriage and death records and more.

If you find errors in the record, you can fix the mistakes as you encounter them. Your suggestions will not replace the errors but add as a synonym, for example in a misspelled surname. This is permitted in all structured records except family tree collections. While suggesting alternatives is free, that is only if you can access the record. Some of MyHeritage records are only available to subscribers with a Data or Complete subscription.

MyHeritage received an award from the Genealogy Podcast Guys for picturing all the tombstones in Israel. They are all available on Billion Graves, in the original language. If you search MyHeritage, you get the benefit of the transliteration technology. Two Israeli cemeteries are partially included in the database: the main Jewish cemetery in Haifa (<http://kdh.org.il> only in Hebrew) and Mount of Olives in Jerusalem. Mount of Olives has their own website <https://mountofolives.co.il/en/>

Daniel also mentioned that one can upload a GEDCom with no limitation of people in a tree for free. After a few days the website will require payment and will not allow you to modify or add information to this tree.

Geni is owned by MyHeritage. On My Heritage you control what is on your tree, whereas on Geni others may change your tree. You will obtain matches from both Geni and MyHeritage databases.

Daniel also shared a number of new collections that will be added to the database soon, both from Europe and the United States.

Following his presentation, Daniel spent over 45 minutes answering questions, which was an indication of the great interest in this subject.

---

Daniel Horowitz is the Genealogy Expert at MyHeritage providing key contributions; liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers and media; as well as lecturing, and attending conferences around the world. Dedicated to Genealogy since 1986, he was the teacher and the study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. Daniel is involved in several crowdsource digitization



# Practicing Safe Computing #45: You Likely Need a VPN



By Hal Bookbinder (45<sup>th</sup> in an ongoing series)

You have likely heard of Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) and may even use one for your work. Consider obtaining and using a VPN, especially if you use public WiFi on a bus, train, or plane, or in a coffee shop, restaurant, airport, hotel. While your home WiFi poses less of a risk, it can also be compromised.



A “Private Network” is one that is self-contained, typically within one building or physical campus. VPNs provide an encrypted “tunnel” from a PC outside this network into it so that the PC becomes a “virtual” member of the network. Businesses use this so that employees can work remotely and access systems and data as if they are within the building or campus. A non-business VPN typically provides no systems or data. It does, however, provide a secure, encrypted connection so that no one can spy on you.

Without a VPN, entering the URL itself is unencrypted and subsequent traffic is only encrypted if you attach to a secure website. With minimal technology, an individual can view keystrokes and data that are transmitted over public WiFi without encryption. You can recognize whether a website is secure by looking at the URL displayed in the address field. A secure website will begin with <https://>, rather than <http://> and display a tiny lock symbol. Most sites to which you attach are secure.

If you type in “wellsfargo.com”,  Wells Fargo & Company [US] | <https://www.wellsfargo.com> is displayed in the address field. Notice both the lock symbol and “https”. Subsequent traffic is encrypted. Now, type in “iajgs.org”.  Not secure | [www.iajgs.org/blog/](http://www.iajgs.org/blog/) will be displayed. Both the message and the lack of an “https” show that your traffic is not secure. Pay attention to the “https”!

If you are not passing sensitive information to an unsecure website, it may not concern you that someone could be spying on you. But, you might not want folks to even know what sites you are visiting. You can avoid this by using a VPN. VPNs encrypt all outbound and inbound traffic, including your initial connection to a web location. You are effectively hidden making spying on you and surreptitiously accessing your PC or laptop significantly more difficult.

There are numerous options for VPN services. Your Internet Service Provider (ISP) likely offers one. You may be able to find a better, cheaper one with a little research. Take a look at these recent articles in PC Magazine: [The Best VPNs for 2019](#) and [The Fastest VPNs for 2019](#). Five VPNs appear on both 10-best Lists: NordVPN, Private Internet Access VPN, TunnelBear VPN, IPVanish VPN, and TorGuard VPN.

To invoke a VPN once you have installed it on your computer, you would typically click on its icon and enter your password. It then connects to the physical location of the VPN, encrypting all traffic, including the initial connection. Additionally, the sites on the Internet to which you connect will not see your location. Rather, they will see the physical location of the VPN.

If you connect through a public WiFi, you need a VPN.

*This is the forty fifth 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](http://www.jgscv.org) under Noteworthy.*

# New Security Changes at Temple Adat Elohim

*By Jan Meisels Allen*

For the fourteen years JGSCV has been in existence we have been privileged that our “home” has been at Temple Adat Elohim. They are our meeting co-sponsors and have made us part of their adult education program even though we are our own 501(c) (3) non-profit organization. The Temple has been, and continues to be, an excellent partner in our meetings, providing the space and AV equipment as well as maintenance staff—all at no cost to JGSCV.

Today, we are all too familiar with violence and anti-Semitism in the world, including here in the US. It was reported last week that the Calabasas Civic Center was victimized by anti-Semitic graffiti which prompted that city to spend \$125,000 to engage private security at the Center.

Therefore, it is not unexpected that Temple Adat Elohim is planning to take extra steps to protect its congregants, children in their school, and groups that meet there such as JGSCV. On June 23, I was invited to attend a special town hall meeting for their members on security for their temple community.

The temple is 52 years old and this was the first security meeting they ever held. As one of the original Temple members mentioned, before they had the current building and were in the “A” frame building they had one anti-Semitic graffiti incident and nothing since. The Security Committee members in attendance made it very clear that Adat Elohim has received no direct or indirect threats and planning for increased security measures is solely due to concerns over the marked increase in violence and anti-Semitism in general.

The Security Committee is tasked with recommending changes considering what is reasonable for the community. The committee has spoken with 60 synagogues/temples in the greater LA area and especially with our neighbors. They learned the security measures range from 24/7 guards, to guards only when the building is active. They have also spoken with the Jewish Federation, the Thousand Oaks Sheriff, and have done site walk-throughs. The Security Committee will propose to the board what they consider to be a balance.

You will notice greater security as soon as you enter the campus. At the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> I personally experienced this and was VERY impressed. Instead of the previous security company guards sitting in the security “box” reading, looking at their phones, etc. guards from the new company are more professional. **Now, the guard will have you stop your car, approach and greet you.** The new guards are from 360 Group International which hires only off-duty police officers, retired police/sheriff officers, retired military or retired secret service. Some will carry concealed weapons but we won’t know who or when. They are on duty when the school is in session, including the nursery, when there are services, meetings such as JGSCV, and events at the campus.

**At this time when attending a JGSCV meeting, stop the car at the security gate and tell the guard that you are going to the JGSCV meeting. They will have the synagogue calendar and will confirm we are meeting.**

There will probably be additional security measures since most of our members are not members of the Temple who have parking stickers. At the time of writing this, other measures for our non-TAE members, including me, are not known. As soon as this new step is announced, I will send out an email. We are hoping this will happen before the July 14 meeting. At today’s meeting I brought this up and the Temple’s Security Committee said for our group not to worry just be prepared to stop and tell them you are attending JGSCV.

The Temple has done other security measures including facility upgrades:

A keyless entry system is presently only on some gates. New gate at front arch at the top of the entrance is not yet installed, but it is planned.

Lock-down devices on campus are being planned.

New signs that state there is security on campus and to report to security.

Security drills for the children in classes.

Members to get new parking stickers

More is planned as well.

**The Temple did not discuss what the fees would be for anyone including JGSCV.** This is scheduled to be discussed at the Temple’s next board meeting which will have taken

place by the time you read this. Being proactive, the JGSCV board is already discussing how the annual budget may be revised to accommodate a potential fee. Nothing will be finalized until we are contacted by the Temple. Do not worry! (Cont'd)

If you have any questions please contact me ([president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)) and I will try to answer to the best of my ability. I do not know all the security measures as not everything is being shared. It is better that only those in charge know all the particulars to maintain the safety of the community.



# VENTURA COUNTY FAIR

The 2019 Ventura County Fair (July 31-August 11) "A Country Fair with Ocean Air" will take place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds located at 10 W. Harbor Blvd. in Ventura. JGSCV has participated at the genealogy booth in past years at the Ventura County Fair. Genealogical awards and prizes are offered as part of the Hobbies Department. For more information visit Division 465 – GENEALOGY on page 5 at <https://tinyurl.com/y2vxmv7c>.

If you wish to compete for prizes, you can enter online up to 10:00 PM on July 15, 2019 at [www.venturacountyfair.org](http://www.venturacountyfair.org). Or, you can bring your items to the Gem & Mineral building at the fairgrounds on July 26-28, 2019 between 10 am -5 pm and enter onsite. You do not have to enter online to exhibit at the fair – just bring your items on July 26-28, 2019 between 10:00 am and 5:00 pm. The entry guide may be found at <http://www.venturacountyfair.org/fair/entryguides/>. Click on the blue rectangle for the online entries.

The genealogy booth is located at the same corner of the Gem & Mineral/Hobby building as in the past. JGSCV members have enjoyed volunteering at the genealogy booth over the years and volunteers are needed for the three shifts each day this year, too.

Volunteers may select more than one shift. Each shift lasts 3.5 hours: 11:00a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; 2:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. To sign up as a volunteer, go to <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0a49acaa23abf85-ventura> and create an account. You may choose to sign up without creating an account, but an account allows you to make changes online. There are no parking passes for volunteers. It is suggested the best park and ride option is at the Stanley Avenue exit off the 33 which is small, well-lit and does not have a waiting line! As 'Fair Time' draws nearer, more information will be sent to volunteers about shuttle buses and picking up tickets for free admission at the 'Will Call' desk.

It is best if volunteers are familiar with Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org as well as other popular programs to show the fair attendees how genealogy is researched. Training sessions will be held for those needing an update on the latest programs. Volunteers are admitted to the Fair free but there are no parking privileges.

For general information about the Fair see: <https://www.venturacountyfair.org/fair/>

If you have any questions about volunteering contact Bettye Berg by email, phone or text at [bettyeberg@yahoo.com](mailto:bettyeberg@yahoo.com) or 805-797-7084. You may also contact JGSCV founding member, Dalya Dektor who has been a volunteer at the Fair's genealogy area for a number of years and is also good source of information. You can contact Dalya with questions at: [dilly@roadrunner.com](mailto:dilly@roadrunner.com)

# Genealogy Odds and Ends



For a better understanding of early modern European Jewish history, the Israel National Library has digitized a collection of communal ledgers (*pinkasim*) that kept track of financial transactions, political happenings and relations with non-Jewish governmental bodies. All Jewish communities with a governing body at that time kept such a ledger. Visit the Israel National Library at: <https://web.nli.org.il/sites/nli/english/pages/default.aspx> For the blog with more information about this collection go to: <https://blog.nli.org.il/en/>

A new online exhibition has been posted by The National WWI Museum and Memorial American Field Service Intercultural Program. The exhibition, "The Volunteers: Americans Join World War I" is the story of the volunteers who engaged in the war before the United States entered the conflict. View the exhibition at <http://exhibitions.theworldwar.org/volunteers/#1/>

According to Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, France has launched a project to return cultural artifacts stolen from Jews during World War II. A new task force was created to "shed light on cultural assets of dubious origins held by public institutions." The assets were stolen between 1933 and 1945. It is estimated that about 2,000 artifacts were sent from Germany to France after World War II. They are held in French museums under "special status" as their owners are not yet identified. Their status also means they should never leave France.

Last month France and Germany signed an agreement to improve cooperation in returning the seized objects to their rightful owners.

Researchers will work with libraries, archives and the French Foreign Office to examine the cases individually, whether claims were filed by family or uncovered during the investigation.

For more: <http://en.rfi.fr/contenu/20190605-france-ramps-bid-return-stolen-ww2-jewish-assets>

According to Dick Eastman's recent "Daily Online Genealogy Newsletter" (<https://blog.eogn.com/2019/06/27/beware-of-the-websites-selling-fake-dna-kits/#more-29995>) the Better Business Bureau is warning unwitting consumers of an "epidemic" of counterfeit DNA products being sold online that is duping millions.

In addition to JGSCV founding board member Warren Blatt's new role at JewishGen (see page 5), Scott Seidenstock was appointed Database Administrator at JewishGen. Scott will be responsible for the day-to-day database operations, updates, fixes and augmentation as well as improving the existing database setup, enhancing security and more.



## **JGSCV Commemorates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the conclusion of WW II**

*Beginning in 2020, JGSCV will commemorate the end of WW II with stories of family members who served. Consider recognizing your family member by recounting his or her service. As an excellent example, below is the story of the father of JGSCV board member Andrea Massion.*

# **HONORING THE VETERAN DAD**

By Andrea Massion

In the permanent exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History, there is a section entitled *Returning Home*. My dad's homecoming was typical for a G.I in World War II. He returned with pride that the Allies were pushing back the Nazis but was somewhat disoriented upon stepping into daily life in California. In 1945, after four years overseas, Nate Massion was discharged as a technical artillery sergeant. He traveled home by air via Naples, Italy; Casablanca, Dakar (Africa), Brazil, British Guiana and Miami Florida where he was put on a Civil War troop train arriving at Fort MacArthur, California.

Port Arthur was a U.S. Army post guarding the Los Angeles harbor in San Pedro from 1914 to 1974. Nate remembered that his dad was waiting at the entrance and they drove the 40 miles back to Van Nuys, to the home and gardens his parents had homesteaded back in the 1930's when they drove from Wyoming. Having heard about food rationing, he was afraid to eat too much of his family's food at dinner and was teased mercilessly by his sister since food was plentiful. Sitting at his first meal home, he noticed that no one asked about his four plus years away. Nate's fraternal twin brother Arnold was still serving as an Army engineer in Europe, having started after Nate to complete studies at USC.



Nate Massion served as an Artillery Sergeant in the Red Bull Division of the 5th Army under command of Gen. Mark C. Clark. He was overseas for 4 years.

Fifty years later we asked him why *he* didn't offer to tell about it. "It was a tough transition back. I thought I'd be burdening them." Joining Jewish War Vets provided comrades. He attended for a while until work and family life took precedence. Badgered by friends to come back to meetings while in his seventies, Nate was able to get replicas of his Bronze star and lost service medals. Since much of the archived documentation of his service was burned in the disastrous National Personnel Records Center fire July 12, 1973, he made sure that his service record was correct in the army archives. The fire had destroyed approximately 16-18 million official military personnel files.

Enlisting in March of 1941, Nate Massion was the rare Californian assigned to the National Guard

unit of Duluth, Minnesota, perhaps because he was born in Wyoming. Nate served with his artillery battalion for fire control as an Artillery Sergeant in the 5th Army under command of General Mark C. Clark. Sent to Army Administration School and trained on WWI vintage French 75 mm canons at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, he was now a member of the Red Bull 34th Infantry Division, 125th Field Artillery Battalion of the U.S. Army. The Red Bulls Division was shipped overseas to Ulster County, Northern Ireland to prepare with the 1st Armored Division where they received British commando training. Nate was assigned to the 125th's anti-tank platoon with a command of a section (15 soldiers) and two 37mm anti-tank guns. They shipped to North Africa to participate in the Allied Invasion, landing in Algeria and Tunisia, and continued on to Sicily and Italy, including the battles at Anzio and Mt. Cassino against Nazi German forces. The Red Bulls are considered the first Americans to enter the European theatre of operation.

In the attic of our home was a cardboard box containing papers, letters, mimeographed notes and Red Bull news, and in a metal box, photos given and taken, collected and stored away. Some were notated, most were not. The greatest bulk was from sites in Italy: Nate outside his pup tent in winter awaiting the Mt. Cassino battle, fellow soldiers taking a swim at the beach, Nate on the streets of Pisa and Florence near the end of his service...When he was 80, he finally showed us the box and we coerced him to make an album of selected photos. Only a few names came to him.

But memories percolated up. Like a lot of veterans, war time storytelling became his pastime until his death in 2001. Among the stories was one that kept him laughing: Nate found a cow that needed milking and obliged her. He drove a Jeep with that milk to a boarded-up Italian storefront with a gelato sign. He found the owner and convinced or scared him into making ice cream—in the midst of war. His battalion was very happy.

There were reunions of the WWII Red Bulls every summer in Minnesota. We would have loved to go, but Nate never attended nor told us about them. He was so proud of his service but

maintained no friendships from that experience. Nor did he attend Jewish services, except when he needed a break.

My dad was a good father, a provider for his family, a fun guy, generous and caring to those he loved and adored, and a veteran of the War that stopped the Axis of Evil from taking over the world. Genealogy and technology informed me how to make sure that his proud service would not be forgotten. Nate and his brother are posted on [Fold3.com](http://Fold3.com). His war items will be donated to an archive. There is a commemorative brick in memory of him and his wife, Rivi at a beach in

**Members:** Do you have a World War II story to share? Please email [newslettereditor@jgs](mailto:newslettereditor@jgs)

wrote something that reflected our loving gratitude and the measure of this man:

Nate Massion

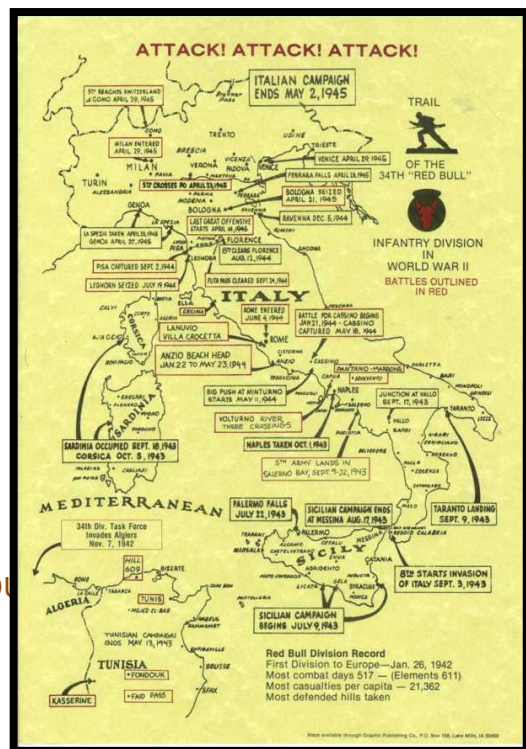
נתן בן דורה והיים

A man of the soil who fought for his country,  
& whose loving hands & devotion to his ideals  
made our family whole.

*Andrea Massion is proud to be Nate's daughter (best youngest) and serves on the JGSCV Board of Directors as a member-at-large where she curates Page Three of JGSCV's newsletter. See her website for Ananiev, UKR at [Jewishqen's Kehillah page](http://Jewishqen's Kehillah page).*

**Links**

- History of Fort McArthur, California <http://www.ftmac.org/index.htm>
- National Museum of American Jewish Military



Illustrated record of the Red Bulls record during WWII.

VENTURING INTO O

History <https://nmajmh.org/>

- Red Bull Division History

<http://www.mnopedia.org/group/thirty-fourth-red-bull-infantry-division>

## Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2020

Sunday at 1:30 p.m. OR **Monday at 7:00 p.m.**

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim



**Sunday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30 PM "Genealogy In The Round"**

**Members and friends share successes, brickwalls and artifacts**

<b>2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE JULY 28-AUGUST 2 CLEVELAND, OH</b>				
Sunday	AUGUST 25	1:30-3:30 PM	Highlights from IAJGS Conference	Expert Panel
Sunday	SEPTEMBER 15	1:30-3:30 PM	How The Paper Brigade Worked to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis	Alix Wall, writer/producer of "The Lonely Child"
OCTOBER NO MEETING DUE TO JEWISH HOLIDAYS				
MONDAY	NOVEMBER 4	7:00-9:00 PM	When Gravestones Lie	Janette Silverman, Senior Genealogist Research Team Manager, AncestryProGenealogists
Sunday	DECEMBER 8	1:30-3:30PM	Program TBA and Annual Chanukah Party	DAVID RENCHER, CHIEF GENEALOGIST, FAMILYSEARCH
Sunday	JANUARY 5, 2020	1:30-3:30 PM	TBA	
Sunday	FEBRUARY 9	1:00-5:00 PM	Annual Assisted Research Afternoon LA Family History Library	
Sunday	MARCH 1	1:30-3:30PM	TBA	
MONDAY	APRIL 6	7:00-9:00 PM	TBA	
Sunday	MAY 3	1:30-3:30 PM	Annual Yom Hashoah Program	
Sunday	JUNE 7	1:30-3:30 PM	TBA	
Sunday	JULY ??	1:30-3:30 PM	TBA	
AUGUST NO JGSCV MEETING IAJGS CONFERENCE AUGUST 9-14, 2020 SAN DIEGO, CA				

July 2019

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

# 2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE

## July 28 - August 2

## CLEVELAND, OH

From Cleveland Conference Co-Chair Jay Sage:

### If You Have a Reservation That You Plan to Cancel

**We ask that you NOT cancel directly with the Hilton**, as the room will no longer return to our discounted pool of rooms.

Instead, please write

to [waitlist@iajgs2019.org](mailto:waitlist@iajgs2019.org) requesting that we cancel your reservation. We will confirm by email and transfer your room to the IAJGS account. We can then offer it to another conference attendee who is looking for a room.

Your deposit will be refunded to you by the hotel just as if you had canceled directly. (Refunds may take 5–10 business days.)

### If You Are Seeking a Room at the Hilton

If you wish to be placed on the Waiting List, please write to [waitlist@iajgs2019.org](mailto:waitlist@iajgs2019.org) asking to be added and providing the following information:

- your arrival and departure dates
- your phone number
- any special needs (ADA, bed size preference, etc.)

When a room becomes available, you will be contacted by email. Once you confirm that you accept the room, IAJGS will place the room under your name. **You must then call the hotel within 24 hours and give them a credit card.** If not done within 24 hours, you will lose the reservation and be removed from the Waiting List.





## WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

### No Need To Reregister for 2019 If Already Registered

**Note: Ralphs Changed our NPO Number Please use the one listed below when searching for JGSCV: RG981**

Help support JGSCV by enrolling in **Ralphs Community Contribution Program!**

This year only! Those registered do not have to reregister as Ralphs rolled everyone over. They are updating their system and felt it easier for this year not to require. For those who have not yet enrolled in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program please follow these directions:

Join Ralphs' Club and they will contribute a percentage of what you purchase to JGSCV! Registration is easy and helps your local Jewish genealogy society! Having a Ralphs card also helps you with discounts on purchases and their website **saves you money** too by downloading coupons. See the step-by-step directions below.

**Remember: You can renew or register for the first time at the JGSCV's meetings—but you must first have a Ralph's Card. You can easily obtain a card by going to a Ralphs near you at their customer service desk. For information contact Karen Lewy at [Karen@jgscv.org](mailto:Karen@jgscv.org).**

### IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE

**(This means that you have already entered your email address and assigned yourself a password)**

1. Log in to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com)
  2. Click Sign In
  3. Enter your email address and password that you registered with.
  4. Click on person icon (in top right hand corner)
  5. Click on My Account
  6. View all your information and edit as necessary
  7. Link your card to JGSCV by clicking on:
    - a. Community Rewards – Re-Enroll
    - b. **Type JGSCV's NPO number: RG981 or Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &" OR:** Type in the first words of our organization i.e. "Jewish Gen" (if you only type in "Jewish" a number of organizations appear including ours, so by typing in the first few letters of our second name only we appear) and click on "search" and our name will pop up: Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &" **Make certain it's our Society as there are other Jewish Genealogy Societies registered!**
    - c. Remember to click on the circle/bubble to the left of JGSCV's name
    - d. Click in save changes
- Our name Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &...) will appear on the right side of this page
- e. Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process

**Remember even if you are only an occasional Ralphs shopper, your purchases help JG**

July 2019

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST