PRESIDENT’S LETTER

The newsletter is slightly late this month and it’s my fault. Writing up both our meeting on July 14, attending the IAJGS conference and writing those highlights for the newsletter after I returned from Cleveland delayed getting the articles to our newsletter editor, Allan Linderman. My apologies but as always Allan does a fantastic job with our newsletter so it was worth the wait!

We had an excellent program on July 14, our annual Genealogy in the Round where members and friends share their genealogical successes and brickwalls. See page 6 for the highlights of our 6 presenters: Carol Flesher, Pat Fuller, David Oseas, Suzanne Scarberry, Diane Wainwood and Tammy Williams-Anderson.

JGSCV was very well represented at the 39th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Cleveland. Six of our members presented and we had a total of 14 in attendance: Hal Bookbinder, Debra Kay-Blatt; Warren Blatt; Hal Bookbinder; Dalya Dektor, Karen Franklin; Pat Fuller; Susan Geiger, Bonnie Gould; Richard Hoffman; Andrea Massion, Suzanne Scarberry, Marion Werle, and me. For the highlights of the conference see 13.

If you are on JewishGen -- and all of us should be -- one of the major announcements made at the conference was their new landing page:
https://www.jewishgen.org/ If you post to

NEXT MEETING

Sunday August 25th 1:30-3:30 PM

HIGHLIGHTS and INSIGHTS from the 2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE

Expert JGSCV members who attended the Cleveland conference will share key learnings and takeaways. Next year is in San Diego. Get ready!
JewishGen make certain you register with the new website—all of this is in the highlights from the conference. The new landing page is in Beta testing, so if you wish many responses, continue to post in the existing JewishGen Discussion Groups. The SIG discussion groups have not yet been transitioned.

I previously advised JGSCV members and posted on JewishGen and IAJGS Leadership one of the other major announcements at the conference. Ancestry revealed a new partnership with Arolsen Archives (formerly ITS) on two searchable Unique Holocaust Record Collections: Africa, Asia & Europe Passenger Lists of Displaced Persons (1946-1971) and Europe, Registration of Foreigners & German Individuals Persecuted (1939-1947). You do not need an Ancestry subscription to access this treasure trove of Holocaust-related records. See: https://tinyurl.com/y2soehdn. To access the collection, go to: https://www.ancestry.com/alwaysremember.

Our August 25th program will focus on JGSCV members who will share their takeaways from the IAJGS Conference including some newly-learned genealogical tools. If you didn’t make it to Cleveland, you won’t want to miss this.

On August 25th we will be testing a new kind of SCHMOOZING CORNER. Instead of a single expert, there will be a panel of experts to answer your genealogical questions. The panel begins at 1:10 PM. JGSCV experienced members Hal Bookbinder and Marion Werle will conduct the panel. Bring your questions!

JGSCV relies on additional revenues from Ralphs to supplement your dues. Ralphs requires everyone to list their charity of choice every September 1st – and not one day before September 1. Please remember to do this so your purchases will count toward Ralphs donation to JGSCV. Directions are both in this newsletter on page 20 and on our website under Noteworthy. JGSCV received about $130 each quarter last year. Even if you are not a member of JGSCV you can help your society by shopping at Ralphs, Food for Less or outside California at other Kroger’s owned markets and listing JGSCV as your charity of choice. See page 5 on shopping at Amazon by clicking on the Amazon logo from any of our website pages (scroll down to the bottom of the page). While at the conference I spoke with many presenters and I am hopeful that several of them will speak to JGSCV during our 2020 programs. Stay tuned!

Hal Bookbinder continues with his series Practicing Safe Computing on page 11. This month’s article is entitled, “Apples are also Vulnerable.”

Our August 25 program is: Highlights from IAJGS 39th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy; and a Panel of Experts. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

Jan Meisels Allen

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.
Converso Memoirs from 14th Century Mexico Re-found and Returned
Three bound documents, recently recovered after going missing from the National Archive of Mexico more than seventy-five years ago, are believed to be the only extant writings by a Jew in Mexico during the Spanish colonial period. "Luis de Carvajal the Younger (ca. 1567-1596) was the nephew of Luis de Carvajal y de la Cueva, the governor of Leon, Mexico. The Carvajals are the best-known conversos ("New Christians") in colonial Mexico, largely owing to Luis the Younger's testimony at his trial before the Inquisition in 1595 where he denounced 120 Conversos before meeting his own death at the hands of his Inquisitors. The "Memorias" manuscript consists of Carvajal's memoirs, a book of psalms and commandments, and a collection of prayers, said Mexico's consulate in New York.
See the digital copy of the manuscript at https://catalog.princeton.edu/catalog/10013425#view

New York Times Reporter Discovers Her Converso Past
HaAretz, the Israeli newspaper has an online 2012 interview by David B. Green with Doreen Carvajal, the New York Times reporter who traveled to Spain to investigate the truth of her family ancestry. Doreen is a descendent of Luis de Carvajal and writes about her discovery of a Jewish heritage in her book, “The Forgetting River: A Modern Tale of Survival, Identity, and the Inquisition” Carvajal, 56, was raised in San Francisco, where she attended Catholic schools and grew up with stories of her family’s distinguished heritage in Costa Rica. She was posted to Spain where she began her genealogical research. Read more at: https://tinyurl.com/y6apt9qq
This is for information of the reader only. JGSCV does not endorse any products.

“A Written Monument to the Lithuanian Jews”
According to an article in the online magazine, Baltic Worlds, Grigory Kanovich is the last Lithuanian Jewish author with first-hand experience of the shtetls that vanished from the face of the earth in 1941. His literary works have been translated into fourteen languages. Apart from his ten novels, he has written more than twenty plays and made a number of translations. Now his book, Devilspel (2002) is available in English. “I have tried to create a written monument to the Lithuanian Jews”, says Grigory Kanovich in an interview with Baltic Worlds. Read the interview here: https://tinyurl.com/y2lg5nca

A TV Show That Celebrated New Citizens
“I’m An American,” a short-lived television show on NBC, debuted in 1940 with the goal of promoting patriotism and citizenship through interviews with newly naturalized Americans. The Immigration & Naturalization Services developed this format because, according to INS Commissioner James Houghteling, “the clear-seeing eye of some of our new citizens” would reinvigorate all Americans and remind them of the value of US citizenship...” Read the article on the INS website at: https://tinyurl.com/y36qgwhl

Albert Einstein appears on “I’m An American” the day he became a U.S. citizen in 1940. (INS website)
The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) (*and surrounding areas) will hold a meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, August 25, 2019 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362

The Program: Highlights from IAJGS 39th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and Panel of Experts

JGSCV members who attended the IAJGS Conference tell about what they learned from their favorite conference lecture, workshop, SIG meeting - and how it might help you in your family history searches.

In addition, prior to the meeting there will be a panel of experts available to all for help with individual genealogy questions. Bring your questions!

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.
Thank you to Dalya Dektor and Tammy Williams-Anderson for volunteering at the genealogy booth at the recent Ventura County Fair.

Bring your family history questions to the Panel starting at 1:10 PM on August 25th. The Panel will replace the SCHMOOZING CORNER for this meeting only. Available for your own specific genealogy questions will be Hal Bookbinder and Marion Werle. Hal is a renown and respected founding board member of JGSCV who has presented frequently to our society as well as other JGS’s and at several IAJGS annual conferences. Hal brings the prestige of receiving the 2010 IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award. Marion, a former board member of JGSCV, has also presented to JGSCV and other JGS’s as well as IAJGS annual conferences. A former technology professional with degrees in European History and Library Science, we are very fortunate to have her on the first Panel, as well. Everyone attending the August 25th meeting will have the opportunity to engage with Hal and Marion regarding their own family history questions.

In 2020, Venturing Into Our Past will be commemorating the 75th 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 XX 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)

If you are traveling outside of southern California and need to go grocery shopping remember Ralphs is part of the Kroger family of food stores. They have many different stores throughout the United States and all can accept your Ralphs card to give toward JGSCV’s community reward. If you are traveling outside of Southern California for a list of Krogers stores visit: https://tinyurl.com/y68uedlt

When shopping at Amazon.com please go to our website (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.
Highlights from:

Genealogy in the Round

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV’s annual Genealogy in the Round was a rousing success with 6 member presenters! DNA played a major role in several of the presentations. Other helpful hints included FAN (family, associates and neighbors), finding previously lost cousins and more.

Each year’s Genealogy in the Round is a members’ program for sharing a genealogical success, failure, brickwall or artifact. I am always concerned that we won’t have enough volunteers for the meeting, yet every year we have more than enough consistently making this program one of the best. This year was no exception! This program is always excellent and continues to get better annually. Visual aids for each presentation are uploaded to our website http://www.jgscv.org/ under prior meetings, the meeting date, July 14, 2019. Following are summaries of the presentations:

Dianne Wainwood

Dianne talked about her grandmother and trying to find out how she got to the United States from Ukraine. Diane related how she obtained help from someone she met on an Alaskan cruise who helped her discover what existed at the address where her mother and grandmother stayed on their one overnight in New York City.

Diane’s mother came over on the RMS Baltic arriving in 1913. It was a White Star ship which the company later merged into the Cunard ship line. The trip took four months from where they started in the Ukraine to finally arrive in New York City. They spent one night in New York City and then boarded a train. The one night they stayed at 1 Park Avenue –today it’s 7 Park Avenue. Looking online, Diane found the history of the place they stayed plus photographs. Searching on “The Real Deal” https://therealdeal.com/ a media company with a focus on New York City, South Florida and Los Angeles, Diane was able to find what was and is at the same location with a story of the building. In 1953 it was replaced by an addition designed by David Moed to the L-shaped apartment building, 7 Park Avenue.

The https://tinyurl.com/y3aly6np website has the history and photograph of the Ten Eyck house, later purchased by the Bacon family, which was One Park Avenue in 1922.

David Oseas

David presented about FAN club member Rabbi William Kronowitz. A FAN club stands for Family, Associates, and Neighbors. Using the FAN club principle is a process in which genealogists identify a...
identifying our ancestors FAN club is an effective tool for overcoming brick walls in genealogy research. David explained why one should use a FAN Club. It’s a way to break through brickwalls where you can’t find any information, where you find too many possibilities. FAN Club is a technique to separate entities with similar individuals to prove relationships. It’s also a mechanism to resolve conflicting evidence and expand timelines.

David shared with us a photograph of his grandparent’s 50th wedding and their marriage certificate (above).

In further research David found in a Jewish Community Register for 1917-1918 that Rabbi Kronowith’s shul was Ahavath Achim Anshei Hungary located at E 78th Street in New York City and also listed his home address on E 82nd street.

David then demonstrated his timeline for Rabbi Kronowith which included some missing information such as his birth and when he immigrated to the US. It included the marriage certificates mentioned above, his second and third marriages, his daughter’s birth, US census when he was included and his death.

The timelines David prepared gave him “an easy” way to which missing records he needed to find, as well as confirming possible records/relationships and what research he needed to do in the “old country”. One of his next steps is to use the New York City property shark and NYC 1940 tax photos.

The references David used in preparing his FAN presentation are included on his power point which is posted to the JGSCV website [http://www.jgscv.org/](http://www.jgscv.org/) under prior meetings July 14, 2019.
Suzanne Scarberry

Suzanne said her maternal side was well documented as they have been in the US for 4 generations—her quandary was her paternal side. All of Suzanne’s father’s siblings survived the war but she wondered what happened to the other relatives. Her father never talked about what happened to his aunts, uncles and cousins on his father’s side. All the aunts, uncles and cousins on his mother’s side fled to England, Sweden or Denmark. She knows all about all of them. But the mystery was about her father’s father’s relatives. Suzanne’s father’s father was one of eight children and she has not found any living descendants from any of those cousins.

Her presentation included family photographs, including some about relatives who perished in Theresienstadt and then Auschwitz. This document (above) shows what happened to one of Suzanne’s father’s aunts. She found other documentation that showed that almost all the cousins, aunts and uncles on that side perished due to the Holocaust.

So, then Suzanne began to see if she could find third cousins who survived. It was this quest that led her to genealogy. Suzanne calls herself the “accidental genealogist”.

Suzanne saw that her father’s grandfather’s tree was quite well documented on Geni and she was very surprised. She has a handwritten tree of her father’s grandfather’s siblings which she shared (above right).

She learned he was one of eight children and she discovered that two of his siblings have living descendants. Three of the third cousins are avid genealogists and were thrilled to discover an unknown cousin and Suzanne is in contact with them. One lives in Boston and the others live in England. Presently, Suzanne is trying to see if there are any third cousins on her father’s grandmother’s side, but that information is not there, so she fears there are no surviving third cousins on that side.

Suzanne’s power point with her family photographs are on the JGSCV website under the meeting photographs.

Tammy Williams-Anderson

Tammy started out explaining that her “non-Jewish sounding name” is from her paternal side. Maternally she is Ashkenazi Jewish.

Tammy’s story starts with a DNA relationship that was on Ancestry. She received an email through Ancestry from a woman who saw the DNA relationship and asked if she was related to Robert Fuchs. Tammy replied, yes, he was her maternal grandfather. They exchanged photographs and family knowledge and continue to do so. Through this contact Tammy has been introduced to other Fuchs relatives and descendants of her grandfather’s siblings—loosening the Fuchs family brickwall! Tammy’s mother never knew any of the relatives—or so her mother says—that she is now in contact with. While her mother is not really interested in these newly-found relatives, both Tammy and her sister are. Both Tammy and her sister hope to travel to Philadelphia and/or New York to meet as many as possible. Finding these new relatives, has opened a new world for her- and they are very welcoming. Both Tammy and one of her new-found cousins in Philadelphia are busy finding documents to corroborate their family history. This includes trying...
to find the town in Austria that Adolph Fuchs, Tammy’s great grandfather came from as well as information on Adolph’s wife Celia Bienenstock. Working with her new cousins Tammy is certain she can burst through the Fuchs brickwall now that they have loosened up the mortar.

Tammy’s narrative may be found on the JGSCV website under the meeting date.

Carol Flesher

Carols’ presentation is about “Finding Hillel” the Chaslavsky family. She showed her father’s handwritten family tree showing Hillel and what appeared to be his nephew Sasha and “Sasha’s father.” Carol reported that her second cousin Jerry had a cousin—Sasha Chaslavski— who lost his first family in the Holocaust and then immigrated to Israel. Sasha then changed his name to Gendlin, derived from his mother’s maiden name. Jerry also said Sasha had a brother Leib whom the family brought to the US for a visit in the 1970s. Leib told Jerry’s parents that the son of one of the Chaslavskis was a mechanical engineer who served in Cuba during the missile crisis—on the Russian side. Carol determined that Jerry was talking about the Sasha on Carol’s father’s tree! Jerry later sent an article from 1979 about the two brothers: Lev Chaslavsky of Moscow and Sasha Gendlin from Haifa being reunited after 43 years each thinking the other had perished in the War. From the article, Carol determined that Sasha and Leib are the sons of Hillel and Dvora showing that the Hillel on her father’s tree is Sasha’s father (above).

Suggestions Carol made for all of us:
- Never throw anything out
- Pay attention to random bits of information. Read and take notes and pay attention.
- Think outside the box
- Keep in touch with family no matter how distant
- Take advantage of resources, including conferences, hire researchers, JGSCV, IAJGS and commercial sites
- Don’t discount peripheral information

Carol was curious about what happened to them, and at the IAJGS conference in Seattle (2016) she asked the Yad Vashem representative to search the name Chaslavsky. He found Pages of Testimony for Hillel and Dvora Chaslavsky. (Ed. Note: If you have not searched or filled out Pages of Testimony go to: https://tinyurl.com/y28wzhhr. Following the conference, the research revealed that Hillel and Dvora were called Ilya and Vera in Russian. Carol shared photos of the gravestones of both Ilya/Hillel, buried in Russia, and in Israel, the Matzevah of Sasha bar Devora Gendlin.

As we know genealogy is never done! A tree from a second cousin has a Dora Hendlin marrying a Haslavsky! Carols’ great grandmother’s sister Ida married a Joseph Handlin—and their parent’s names seemed very familiar. She saw their names on the Yad Vashem Page of testimony. Hendlin and Gendlin are the same as there is no “H” in Russian and that is written as a “G”—making Dora Hendlin Dora Gendlin! Havlasky is Chaslavsky—she found Hillel...or did she? Hillel is listed as dead in Russia in 1945, but a 1923 ship’s manifest lists Hillel Haslavsky and his family coming into the US. Not uncommon in those years, a family member would travel under the name of another relative in this case Carol’s’ great grandmother’s “sister” used” Hillel’s name when he was hiding after swindling the Bolsheviks.

August 2019

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
- Don’t ignore coincidences
- Keep returning to documents, online databases, trees, email and family
- There are often explanations no matter how strange.
- Most important do not give up!

Carols’ power point is on the JGSCV website under the date of the meeting.

**Pat Fuller**

Pat gave us the story of the Stripper and the Rabbi DNA Success Story.

Pat received an email from her cousin who had just received her DNA results from 23andMe. Her cousin is a second cousin on her Nathanson side—her mother’s father side. Included in her top three matches was a Stephen Kaufman whom neither Pat nor her cousin knew who he was. Interestingly, his four closest matches were Nathanson’s who predicted first or second cousins. Pat knew them all, but Stephen did not know any of them.

Pat did not have her DNA taken by 23andMe but by Ancestry, FamilyTree DNA and GEDMatch. Stephen agreed to upload his DNA to GEDMatch. To Pat’s amazement on GEDMatch Pat and her sister were his two closest matches out of thousands!

She learned things about Stephen—such as he was born in Minneapolis the home of the Nathanson family as was his father, Leo Kaufman, who was a rabbi and had a mysterious Jewish grandfather, a Charles Kaufman, that he knew nothing about. The only record for Charles Kaufman was on his son Leo’s birth certificate. The mother listed was Bessie Bellman—born in “Russia” and lived about ½ mile from the Nathansons and her father was a rabbi.

Now the stripper—In a cigar factory a stripper strips the center vein out of tobacco wrapper leaves. The Nathanson Brothers owned a cigar factory in Minneapolis. The hypothesis was that one of Pat’s Nathanson’s great-uncles fathered Leo Kaufman. If true, then Stephen would be Pat’s second cousin as predicted by the DNA test. Pat’s quest to find which Nathanson fathered Leo.

While it could have been any of the Nathansons, Pat created a chart to see where each one was in 1914.

Pat focused on one particular Nathanson: Ike. Ike’s

Where were the Nathanson brothers in 1914?

(Source: Mpls. City Directories; Articles about Nate)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Marital Status</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Employed by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lewis</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>Nathanson Bros., Cigar Mfg. Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ike</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>Nathanson Bros., Cigar Mfg. Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben L.</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>Nathanson Bros., Cigar Mfg. Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collie</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>Nathanson Bros., Cigar Mfg. Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nate</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>Toronto</td>
<td>Nathanson-Wadsworth Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henry</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>Nathanson Bros., Cigar Mfg. Company</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moe</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>University of MN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pat created a tree with Ike’s sons and inserted Stephen:

Pat’s power point is in the JGSCV website under the date of the meeting.

Following the presentations, the audience shared their stories. Like the presenters, DNA helped in a number of stories, as did finding documents on Ancestry. One comment for everyone, when looking at other people’s tree be wary of copying the information. You must have documented sources to prove what you are espousing.
Practicing Safe Computing #46: Apples Are Also Vulnerable

By Hal Bookbinder (46th in an ongoing series)

On May 26, 2019, Forbes published an article entitled, “Unpatched Apple macOS Vulnerability Lets Malicious Apps Run - - What You Need To Know”). As of the end of June, this flaw was still being reported in various technical publications, including Wired and techradar.

MACs are less susceptible to malware than PCs. PCs have significantly greater market share and the MAC operating system carries with it less old code that hackers search for vulnerabilities. As of June 2019, Windows is running on 87% of all desktops and laptops while MAC OS is on 10%. While MACs are less likely to be hacked, they remain vulnerable. MAC users should remain alert and have current antivirus software installed, current and running.

https://www.cvedetails.com tracks identified vulnerabilities by vendor, hardware and software. While intended for security professionals, it is interesting to look up any product to see the number of vulnerabilities over time. You can even drill down for a description of each. The chart below summarizes data from this website. It shows the number of vulnerabilities found (and presumably fixed) in the Apple and Microsoft operating systems and in the four most common browsers. The 2019 data is through June. The number of vulnerabilities should concern us all.

Apple OS with Safari has had 184 vulnerabilities during the first six months of 2019. Microsoft Windows with Firefox has had 696.

While there are far more vulnerabilities in Microsoft Windows, there were plenty of vulnerabilities to exploit in the Apple OS and in its browser.

Application software (such as Microsoft Word or Apple Pages, Microsoft Excel or Apple Numbers) also contains vulnerabilities. Whatever your device, OS, browser and applications, maintain current anti-malware software and definitely practice safe computing.

Apple users may be overly complacent as to their safety and not realize that along with malware, they are at risk of phishing, where criminals attempt to steal data through trickery. Phishing does not discriminate between MacOS and Windows users. There has been dramatic growth in phishing attacks. Be wary whenever asked to share personal data, to “confirm” your login ID and password, or to, “just answer a few questions for our survey”. More about phishing in a subsequent article.

This is the forty sixth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAIGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAIGS Lifetime Achievement Award and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under Noteworthy.
If you are thinking of taking a DNA test or purchasing a kit for a gift this is the time to do so. **It is DNA Sale Time!**

**Ancestry.com** - $59 through August 26, 11:59 PM ET  
[https://www.ancestry.com/](https://www.ancestry.com/)

**FamilyTree DNA** – Family Finder $59 through August 31; Y-DNA starting at $129; mTDNA $149  
[https://www.familytreedna.com/](https://www.familytreedna.com/)

**MyHeritage** - $59 through August 19  
[https://www.myheritage.com/dna](https://www.myheritage.com/dna)

**23andMe** is not on sale. Ancestry test $99  Health and Ancestry test $199  
[https://www.23andme.com](https://www.23andme.com)

*JGSCV has no affiliation with any of the DNA testing companies and this is included in the newsletter solely for the information of the reader*

According to Peter Lande in Washington, DC, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) has added digitized documents for 37,476 name records in the collection "The German Towns Project" to the Holocaust Survivors and Victims (HSV) database. You can search/request and immediately receive digital copies of the original documents in your email. Search at  

Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr. has announced their upcoming series dates beginning Oct. 8, 2019 at 8:00 PM ET on PBS. Check local listings. There will be two new episodes in October 2019 followed by five encore presentations. Eight new episodes will begin January, 2020 and another six new episodes in October, 2020. Some of the episodes will revisit previous celebrities.

All told, there will be 27 celebrity stories. At least four will have Jewish roots: Diane von Furstenberg, Jeff Goldblum, Marc Maron, and Zac Posen.

The 27 celebrities are: Melissa McCarthy, Jordan Peele, Issa Rae, Justina Machado, Sasheer Zamata, Isabella Rossellini, Anjelica Huston, Gayle King, Nancy Pelosi, RuPaul, Zac Posen, Terry Gross, Marc Maron, Jeff Goldblum, Eric Stonestreet, Queen Latifah, Jeffrey Wright, Sigourney Weaver, Amy Ryan, Sterling K. Brown, Jon Batiste, Diane von Furstenberg, Norah O’Donnell, Questlove, Jimmy Kimmel and more.

To read more and see which episode features which celebrity see:  

August 2019  
VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
By Jan Meisels Allen

The IAJGS held their annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Cleveland, Ohio on July 28-August 2. The conference was co-hosted by the JGS of Cleveland. An app including an electronic daily planner provided easy access to the program and more. JGSCV had 14 members attend: Andrea, Bonnie, Dalya, Debra, Hal, Helene, Karen, Marion, Pat, Richard, Susan, Suzanne, Warren and me. Andrea, Debra, Hal, Marion, Warren and I were also presenters. It was an excellent conference. To me the best part is always catching up with genealogy friends I do not get to see except at the conferences.

There were 850 registrants between full, daily and students attending the conference. If you add in volunteers, exhibitors etc., over 1,000 people participated in the conference. Attendees were from 16 countries and 34 states. About 35 percent of the attendees were first-timers.

The election of IAJGS officers occurred by electronic vote prior to the conference. These are two-year terms which begin at the Annual Meeting which was held on July 31, 2019. Elected were:

President: Ken Bravo
Vice President: Jane R. Berenbeim
Treasurer: Douglas M. Cohen
Secretary: Avraham Groll

IAJGS Awards
The annual IAJGS Banquet included the following awards:

**Lifetime Achievement Award:** Karen Franklin. Karen is a member of JGSCV living in the Greater-New York City area. Karen wears or has worn many hats.

**Volunteer of the Year:** Judi Missel who lives in Arizona and has volunteered to help the annual conferences for many years.

**Outstanding Project:** Philip Trauring, whose website, “B&F (Blood and Frogs): Jewish Genealogy and More”. Is a compendium of Jewish Genealogy. B&F serves as a gateway, organized by country and region, to over 25,000 resources for Jewish genealogical research. B&F is listed on JGSCV’s website under resources/general interest

**Outstanding Publication:** Doro, Jewish Genealogical Society (NY)

**The Rabbi Malcom Stern Grant** for $3,000 for research (what your voluntary $1.00 contribution on the membership form is donated toward) was given to the Israel Genealogical Research Association (IGRA) for their Mediterranean Basin Project.
The John Stedman Memorial Fund Grant which is a donated amount to be given annually in the memory of John Stedman by his son’s bequest went to: Center for Jewish History Historical Synagogues Map Website. This was also a $3,000 grant.

IAJGS Annual Meeting
The conference itself included an extraordinary wealth of information at virtually every session. It is impossible to give justice to all the new learnings shared. Following is a recap of just some of the key items discussed at the Annual Session:

Membership grew to an all-time high thanks to IAJGS Board member Nolan Altman who is responsible for membership on the board of directors. Currently there are 89 Jewish Genealogical Societies and Jewish Historical Societies worldwide which are members of IAJGS. This was a gain of seven new members and a loss of one member. In 2009, there were only 67 members! The new members are: Jewish Genealogical Society of Nashville (TN); Jewish Genealogical Society of South Australia (Adelaide); Jewish Genealogical Society of Central Maryland (Columbia); Miami Valley Jewish Genealogical and Historical Society (Dayton, OH); Sociedad Genealógica Judaica São Paulo (São Paulo, Brazil. New associate (non-voting) members are: Anyksciai Cousins’ Club and JewishGen, Inc.

While this year there was no On-Demand for purchasing the video of selected presentations, there is still the opportunity to purchase audio tapes—some of the sessions include the power points used by some of the speakers. To see the list of the programs that were audio taped go to: https://www.iajgs2019.org/pdfs/Audio-SlideRecording_2019-07-22.pdf. To learn more about the pricing see: https://www.iajgs2019.org/audio_recordings.cfm

The financial report reflected that three out of the past four conferences lost money: Israel, Orlando and Warsaw. Seattle was profitable. Conferences outside the United States have a different model and it is not unusual to lose money. IAJGS President Bravo said while all expenses were not in yet he felt that that there would not be a loss of revenues for Cleveland.

It was announced that the IAJGS Board approved a proposal for the Documentation of Jewish Records Worldwide (DoJR). The lead on this is IAJGS Immediate past president, Marlis Humphrey. Joining Marlis on this project are Stanley Diamond and Dr. Sallyann Sack. The DoJR will create a collaborative Master Registry for all existing Jewish genealogically relevant data resources. The DoJR website will house a searchable master registry for family history, academics researching demographics and Jewish history and organizations. It will prioritize future indexing and transcription projects, as well. Patience is necessary since the resources, need to be digitized, indexed, translated and transcribed.

The Opening Session
Being in the hometown of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame it was only fitting that the opening session speaker, Daniel Goldmark spoke on Jews and Rock and popular music. Daniel Goldman, is a professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio where he is the head of the Popular Music Department and the Director of the Center for Popular Music Studies. He spoke about the history of Jews in American popular music and rock and roll. From Irving Berlin to Carole King to the Beastie Boys, Jewish songwriters, producers, and performers have long been a foundational element of rock and pop.

Professor Goldman started out by discussing what makes Jewish music. Merely having a Jewish creator or content provider doesn’t make music Jewish. He used the example of Eartha Kitt singing “My Yiddisha Mama”. The
The most famous song written by a Jew is *White Christmas* by Irving Berlin. The Shubert Brothers owned a chain of theaters to which they could put on their own shows.

When Rock began it was predominately people of color but the large record labels were not interested in Black artists. Smaller labels, owned by Jews, took an interest in records for rock and rhythm and blues.

That evening there was the opportunity to tour the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

**Ancestry Announces Two New Holocaust Related Databases**

During the conference Ancestry announced a new partnership with Arolsen Archives, formerly known as the International Tracing Service (ITS). The partnership provided two new Holocaust-related databases that are indexed and are **free access**—i.e. you do not require a subscription to access these databases, however, you do have to register with name, email address and password.

The two databases are:

1. **Lists of Those Persecuted 1939-1947:** This collection includes everyone known to be persecuted by public institutions, social securities and companies during those years. The records may also include information on those who died, including burial information. The documents were assembled according to the Zones of Occupation - American, British, French and Soviet - by the Allied forces within Germany. Areas outside Germany were also recorded. These initial records are from the American sector. The other sectors will be added at a later date.

2. **Passenger Lists 1946-1971:** These are lists of displaced persons mostly traveling from a resettlement camp to a final destination, often the United States. This collection consists of passenger lists of immigrants leaving Germany and other European ports and airports between 1946-1971. The majority of the immigrants listed in this collection are displaced persons - Holocaust survivors, former concentration camp inmates and Nazi forced laborers, as well as refugees from Central and Eastern European countries and some non-European countries. Many of the immigrants listed in the collection fall outside the ITS (International Tracing Service) mandate.

The records in this collection are organized by Resettlement Camp location where immigrants began their journey. These centers were the first step in their long journey.

The Africa, Asia and Europe, Passenger Lists of Displaced Persons, 1946-1971 and Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees, 1939-1947 are predominately in German with some English. Go to: [https://www.ancestry.com/cs/alwaysremember](https://www.ancestry.com/cs/alwaysremember)

**JewishGen Premieres Its New Website**

At the conference, JewishGen announced their new website [www.JewishGen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org). They commissioned the creation of a new landing page to serve as a launching point for the main components of the website. Go to: [https://www.jewishgen.org/](https://www.jewishgen.org/) The original page is available by clicking on "search" the dropdown menus of the original layout.
The site is built on a modern, secure platform, which is beneficial for a number of reasons, including:

- It has a more intuitive and user-friendly design,
- It is mobile-responsive, and
- It has a more familiar platform, which will make it easier to find qualified consultants, contractors and volunteers for help in the future.

This is not the final plan. It's a stop-gap redesign that addresses some of the website shortcomings by creating a visually appealing, mobile-friendly, and easy to navigate homepage that researchers can more readily utilize to find key components on the site.

While JG attracted approximately one million unique visitors to the JewishGen site last year, only a small portion of this group actually registered or became regular users. They anticipate that an enhanced website will improve these results. Specifically, they hope the new landing page will help guide researchers to:

* Search the online collection
* Locate ancestral communities
* Explore life in their ancestral communities
* Join our discussion groups
* Volunteer

The new website will be able to use graphics, accept diacritical marks and accept html postings.

Over the next two months, JewishGen will begin crafting a proper technology strategy, which will include the website and databases. In the meantime, however, this new landing page will immediately help researchers, while also demonstrating JewishGen's strategic focus.

You can wait until you receive a JewishGen announcement or to subscribe go to: https://jewishgen.groups.io/register

Other JewishGen items of interest mentioned at the conference included the naming their volunteer of year award for Susan E King the founder of JewishGen. As a special treat Susan was in attendance. The first Susan E King JewishGen Volunteer of the Year Award was given to Chuck Weinstein who has been a volunteer for JewishGen since 1994. JewishGen has 1,000 volunteers.

At the Museum of Jewish Heritage, located in lower Manhattan, of which JewishGen is an affiliate, currently has an exhibit on Auschwitz. Following the exhibit which will run through early January, the Museum plans to build a JewishGen center focusing on migration patterns.

Avraham Groll, executive director, also mentioned partnerships with different groups. They absorbed the Jewish Genealogy in Bavarian Swabia collection. Additionally, Dr. Steven Lasky from the Museum of Family History has over 100,000 photographs of tombstones which were donated to JewishGen’s Online Worldwide Burial Record (JOWBR) project. He also mentioned new personnel, Scott Siedenstock, database administrator, Anne Vaccari associate, volunteer manager, Karen Leon and communications coordinator, Nancy Siegel. JGSCV’s own Warren Blatt is now the Senior Genealogist who will also coordinate research efforts.

JewishGen is also a partner with the Jewish Genealogy Portal with 30,000 members; and Miriam Wiener’s Routes to Roots maps are on the JewishGen homepage.

Their Yizkor Book Project has 166 translated books online—only 8 percent of all books. Completing the translations of all the books...
would take 74 years. To expedite this, JewishGen is prioritizing translations with a goal to conclude all translations in ten years. They will be using OCR on the non-translated books, recognizing this is only 70 percent accurate.

JOWBR now includes cemeteries in 470 cemeteries with 206,000 records added in 100 countries.

The JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) has 100,000 researchers, 602,000 towns, 143,020 unique surnames and 19,000 unique towns.

**Jewish Records Indexing -Poland (JRI-Poland)**

Stanley Diamond, JRI-Poland founder and chairman, gave the annual presentation on what is new at JRI-Poland in the 25 years since its founding in 1994. They have 5.8 million records online, covering more than 1,000 towns and villages in Poland. While their data is included in the JewishGen All Poland Database, JRI-Poland is an independent 501 (c)(3) organization. Recently, they announced their own website on their own server and management system while the URL remains the same: [https://jri-poland.org/index.htm](https://jri-poland.org/index.htm).

Searching online one can:

- Search by Surname and or given/names
- Search by “Your town” pages, surname mapper and Jewish communities’ databases can help you identify town(s) where family lived
- Contact town leaders or archive coordinators

If you become a qualified contributor, you get an excel file with all your family entries, information before it appears online, priority attention.

Stanley also reviewed the JRI-Poland data sources:

Birth, marriage and death records, alegata (vouchers), banns, etc.; raptularz (diaries) and registry notes, books of residents, registration cards, census; military records; school records; cemetery burials, passports, ghetto death records, newspaper announcements and legal announcements and more.

Also mentioned was the new policy on privacy laws by the Polish State Archives. Records up to 1938 in town civil records are up to the discretion of the local registrars’ interpretation of the law for obtaining records. Millions of record scans are not yet uploaded to the website. The Polish State Archives has a new website, however, we were cautioned to continue to use the existing website for the time being. Polish State Archives branches will upload the records and then email JRI-Poland monthly the new scans which will find Jewish records.

**Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture Sponsored by JGS Los Angeles**

The 2019 IAJGS conference also hosted its fourth Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture. In addition to IAJGS there have been Pamela Weisberger Memorial lectures held at the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society.

This year’s program was *The Nature and Consequences of Jewish Migration*, by Zvi Gitelman, professor emeritus of political science and Preston Tisch Professor Emeritus of Judaic Studies at the University of Michigan. Jews have been a migratory people. Migration and dispersal have influenced Jews’ culture, political behavior and economy. In many times and places, many Jews have acculturated and assimilated, overwhelmed by more powerful and attractive cultures. But because of the power of other cultures, other Jews have chosen to isolate themselves from them as far as possible. In between these diametrically opposed reactions to cultural encounters is
cultural borrowing, sometimes an exchange and sometimes a one-way process. Words, ideas, food, clothing, art, music and humor are among the items exchanged or adopted. The consequences of migration and dispersal are profound.

Professor Gitelman talked of three types of migration: forced, voluntary and frustrated.

**Forced migration** began before the common era with the ten lost tribes. Jews experienced ethnic cleansing thousands of years ago. There is a different understanding between a Christian’s understanding of wandering Jews than what Jews believe. Cain was punished for killing Abel and then wandered. Professor Gitelman also reviewed the exile of Jews from different countries starting in 1290 from England through the Nazi era.

**Voluntary Movement**—Jews desiring betterment on many levels including economic, political, financial, and family were all reasons for movement.

**Frustrated Migration**

X won’t let the Jews move and Y won’t accept them. An example given was the ship the St. Louis with over 930 Jews fleeing Nazi Europe and was turned away in Cuba; appeals to the United States and Canada for entry were denied. The passengers were forced to sail back to Europe, where they were distributed among several countries including Great Britain and France. By the end of the war over 250 had died in the Holocaust.

In the largest single migration to the United States from the USSR, 80% were from Eastern Europe. We were told they came due to anti-Semitism/pogroms which was probably not true. Most likely, the motivation was economics. Some migrated to avoid conscription, many came as part of “chain migration” to reunite with family who had already migrated.

Professor Gitelman also described remigration 1908-1925—people who went back to the “old country”. However, only 5 percent of Jews went back compared with:

- 67 percent Romanians
- 64 percent Hungarians
- 55.8 percent Italians
- 50.6 percent Russians
- 25.4 percent Lithuanians
- 15.3 percent Germanic
- 19 percent English
- 17.3 percent French
- 16.7 percent Ruthenians

Two-thirds of Russian Jews immigrated. Israel received 1.6 million Jews from the former USSR. Of those in the later migrations 45 percent came with higher education. Earlier migrating Jews had their own language and their own religion. The earlier wave experienced upward mobility while present migration has a downward mobility.

The first wave from USSR in the 1970’s went to Israel; in the 1980’s they came to the United States. In 1989, then Attorney General Meese required Soviet Jews applying for refugee status in both in Moscow and in Rome to prove a well-founded fear of persecution. Professor Gitelman also discussed the “secret” deal with Israel and the United States in 1999 for Russian Jews’ immigration to Israel. By 2022 Israel will have more Jews than any other country in the world.

There was further discussion about erosion of Jewish identity especially among the younger generation. Over the last 20 years greater than 50 percent of American Jews intermarried, and children from those marriages do not practice Judaism. Furthermore, oligarchs in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus have homes in Israel and in their native countries.

**Comparing Genealogy Giants**

Sunny Morton and Ellen Kowitt gave an excellent presentation Comparing Jewish
Resources on Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast and MyHeritage. They also spoke about research tools for each platform. Sunny mentioned that free access may be available—each of the companies provide some free access throughout the year.

Each company offers features such as: records, trees, DNA and cost. Ancestry lists 10 billion historical records; Family Search lists 7 billion records indexed and 2.3 million not yet indexed, Findmypast has 9 billion records and MyHeritage has 9.6 billion however each company has a slightly different way of counting what is a record. For example, on each baby’s birth certificate the record includes the parents’ names as well as that of the baby. Ancestry counts the one birth

-Another hint is to determine where in the globe they have their strongest ties and which languages they support. All four share public records, and the Social Security Death index (SSDI).

Some of the programs have special schedules, especially Ancestry. There are also submitted trees and individual trees which are searchable.

Members: Do you have a World War II story to share? Please contact newsletter editor, Allan Linderman- newslettereditor@jgscv.org

Millions of Books in the Public Domain for the First Time

The New York Public Library has taken advantage of a loophole in the copyright law that allows millions of books to be available for free to anyone. A

Up to 1964 there was a 28-year copyright term for all books. In order to automatically extend that term, authors or publishers were required to complete a separate form which many chose to ignore. The Library of Congress did its job by publishing the Catalog of Copyright Entries throughout the 1970’s. The Catalog included all the registrations and renewals of America’s books. While there were digital copies available, computers could not read everything nor determine which books were in the public domain. It was an almost impossible task to decide which books could be legally uploaded.

In what has been described as a ‘massive undertaking’, the NY Public Library converted the registration and copyright information into a usable format which allows them to be searched for copyright activity. It was determined that about 80% of all books published between 1923-1964 are in the public domain. To read why this was possible go here: https://www.nypl.org/blog/2019/05/31/us-copyright-history-1923-1964

The Internet Archive https://archive.org/search.php has digital copies of the books. I entered into the search bar “Jewish” (54,000 entries); “Jewish Genealogy” (435 entries); and “Genealogy”(146,000 entries).
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

Do Not (Re)Register until September 1, 2019

Note: Please use Ralphs NPO number listed below when searching for
JGSCV: RG981

Help support JGSCV by enrolling in Ralphs Community Contribution Program!
Join Ralphs' Club (required to rejoin each September 1) 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.

If you are already a registered participant, you will remain active until August 31, 2019 at
which time you will have to reregister starting September 1, 2019. You can reregister for the
new term at https://www.ralphs.com/ starting September 1, 2019. Even if you registered as
recently as July you will be required to register again starting September 1st!

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.

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE

NOTE: Ralphs has a secured website. These procedures apply to everyone who has
not yet entered their email address and assigned a password.

Log in to https://www.ralphs.com
2. Scroll near the bottom and click on “Create an Account”
3. Follow the easy steps to create an online account
4. You will be instructed to go to your email inbox to confirm your account
5. After you confirm your online account by clicking on the link in your email, return to
https://www.ralphs.com/ and click on ‘Sign In’, enter your email address and password.
6. View all your information and edit as necessary
7. Link your card to JGSCV’s participation by clicking on:
   a. Community Rewards on the left side of screen-- Enroll
   b. Type JGSCV’s NPO number : RG981 or Jewish Genealogical Society of the
   Conejo Valley &"
c. Remember to click on the circle to the left of our organizations’ name
d. Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process.

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ON-LINE
(This means that you have already entered your email address and assigned yourself a password)
1. Log in to https://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 Community Rewards listed on the left side of the screen:
   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 JGSCV!

JGSCV has been receiving from Ralphs about $130 per quarter, or equal to 5 JGSCV memberships per quarter!

Ralphs is part of the Kroger family of food stores. They have many different stores throughout the United States and all can accept your Ralphs card to give toward JGSCV’s community reward. If you are traveling outside of Southern California for a list of Krogers stores visit: https://www.thekrogerco.com/about-kroger/our-business/grocery-retail/

Thank you on behalf of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County.

The JGSCV Board of Directors

August 2019
# 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 August 25th, 1:30-3:30 PM** Highlights from the IAJGS Conference AND the Expert Panel

## 2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE JULY 28-AUGUST 2 CLEVELAND, OH

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>SEPTEMBER 15</th>
<th>1:30-3:30 PM</th>
<th>How the Paper Brigade Worked to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis</th>
<th>Alix Wall, writer/producer of “The Lonely Child”</th>
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**OCTOBER NO MEETING DUE TO JEWISH HOLIDAYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>NOVEMBER 4</th>
<th>7:00-9:00 PM</th>
<th>When Gravestones Lie</th>
<th>Janette Silverman, Senior Genealogist Research Team Manager, Ancestry ProGenealogists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>DECEMBER 8</td>
<td>1:30-3:30PM</td>
<td>FamilySearch Historical Collections – Tips and Tricks AND Annual Chanukah Party!</td>
<td>David Rencher, Chief Genealogist, FamilySearch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>JANUARY 5, 2020</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>American Shtetl: Recreating a Jewish Community</td>
<td>Andrea Massion, JGSCV Board Member</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>FEBRUARY 9</td>
<td>1:00-5:00 PM</td>
<td>Annual Assisted Research Afternoon LA Family History Library</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>MARCH 1</td>
<td>1:30-3:30PM</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MONDAY</strong></td>
<td>APRIL 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>MAY 3</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Annual Yom Hashoah Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>JUNE 7</td>
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<td>July</td>
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**AUGUST NO JGSCV MEETING**

IAJGS CONFERENCE AUGUST 9-14, 2020 SAN DIEGO, CA