

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



# JGSCV

September 2019

Volume 14 Issue 12

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

For those of you who attended the August 25 program you know I was not there—but was attending my husband Tom's family reunion in Iowa. In 14 years, I have only missed 5 meetings so my batting average is pretty good! JGSCV is very fortunate to have a strong board and Allan, Issie and Karen ran the meeting dividing up the different responsibilities. Thank you to all three for taking over and to the rest of the board for doing their usual meeting responsibilities!

Of the 14 JGSCV members who attended the recent 39<sup>th</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, 7 gave presentations at the August meeting. Although one presenter talked on a different topic entirely, she did attend the conference. See page 5 for the summaries of the 7 presentations.

We also tried something new at the meeting. Instead of a Schmoozing Corner we tried a panel of Ask the Experts, with Hal Bookbinder and Marion Werle leading. From all accounts it was a great success. The board will discuss how we might integrate both member help ideas in the future. JGSCV is exceptionally fortunate to have as members a number of genealogy experts who are willing to share their expertise! Thank you to Hal and Marion for being the first to try this new feature!



## JGSCV Members Report

## NEXT MEETING

**Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup> 1:30-3:30**

## How the 'Paper Brigade' saved Jewish treasures from the Nazis



Writer/producer Alix Wall discusses her documentary-in-progress about her grandmother, a member of the 'Brigade'.

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

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**Mission Statement:**

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

our 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our September 15 meeting! We are celebrating one month early as we will not be meeting in October due to all the Jewish holidays.

Hal Bookbinder's monthly Practicing Safe Computing article is on page 9. This month's topic is *Windows Updates*. I have personally implemented several of Hal's suggestions. If I had not taken Hal's advice and backed up on a "cloud" back-up service I would have been in a world of hurt when my PC hard drive crashed in July. I also incorporated his suggestion of adding a virtual private network (VPN) to my computer and smart phone after someone tried to access my computer when traveling last May. His insights are truly worthwhile and we appreciate his monthly articles

JGSCV relies on revenues from Ralphs to supplement your dues. Previously, Ralphs required everyone to list their charity of choice every September 1<sup>st</sup>. Now, **if you are already enrolled you will automatically be re-enrolled and you have nothing to do!** Ralphs is part of the Kroger family of food stores and all of their many different stores throughout the United States will also accept your Ralphs card. 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/>

*If you are not yet enrolled please do so.* Directions are both in this newsletter on page 15 and on our website under Noteworthy. JGSCV receives about \$130 each quarter. This year only 22 people enrolled with JGSCV as their charity of choice. With a membership of 180 and even more meeting attendees, there's lots of room for more people who shop at Ralphs, Food for Less or other Kroger's Markets outside California. And, remember when shopping on Amazon.com to start at our home page, [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon logo.

Our September 15 anniversary program is *How the Paper Brigade Worked to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis* with Alix Wall. Her grandmother was one of the group of Jews in the Vilna Ghetto tasked by the Nazis to sort through Jewish artifacts for their supposed "Museum of an Extinct Race." The paper Brigade smuggled books, paintings and sculptures past the Nazi's and hid them in various locations in and around the ghetto. Alix will be talking about her grandmother.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 15<sup>th</sup>!

*Jan Meisels Allen*



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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a general meeting co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, September 15, 2019 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Come celebrate our 14<sup>th</sup> anniversary with this special program! Light refreshments will be served!



## The Program: How the Paper Brigade Worked to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis

The Paper Brigade was a group of Jews in the Vilna Ghetto tasked by the Nazis to sort through Jewish artifacts for their supposed "Museum of an Extinct Race." Risking death, this group hid many of these artifacts or smuggled them back into the ghetto so that some aspects of Jewish culture would survive. Alix Wall will talk about her grandmother, Rachela Pupko-Krinsky, one of the women members of The Paper Brigade.

**Speaker:** Alix Wall is a freelance writer and a writer/producer of a documentary-in-progress called *The Lonely Child*. Written during the Holocaust about her mother and grandmother *The Lonely Child* has taken on a life of its own. Alix also writes extensively about food and Jewish topics and is the founder of The Illuminoshi: The Not-So-Secret Society of Bay Area Jewish Food Professionals.



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

*Thank You's* to Hal Bookbinder and Marion Werle for an outstanding job as our Panel of Experts preceding the August 25<sup>th</sup> meeting. While replacing the SCHMOOZING CORNER that day, our Experts responded to individual questions to the benefit of all meeting attendees. Implementing a Panel of Experts at future meetings is under consideration. Feel free to voice your opinion on the subject via email to any board member. All email contacts can be found on page 2.

The SCHMOOZING CORNER will be back on September 15<sup>th</sup> at 1PM. Look for the sign on the right side of the meeting room as you enter.

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. Think about how you would like to recognize the exploits of someone in your family tree as they relate to that period. If you have a story to tell but need assistance in writing it, please contact Allan Linderman ([newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org))

The board will be meeting in early September to discuss some very important issues. Upgrading website security is an item as well as plans for the possibility of the Temple imposing meeting security fees in 2020. Many societies across the country that meet in synagogues are being assessed security fees as synagogues implement new, costly security measures. Any board decisions on these matters will be shared at the next meeting and in the October newsletter.

When shopping at Amazon.com please remember to 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.



## Highlights from:

# Reports From JGSCV Members About the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Cleveland, OH



By Karen Lewy

### Bonnie Gould



This was Bonnie Gould's third IAJGS conference. After traveling for 50 years with her husband to attend his conferences, she brought him to attend several sessions. There was a program of Beginners sessions, one each day taught by Rhoda Miller, a Certified Genealogist. Even though Bonnie has been working on genealogy for 22 years, she found the classes taught by Rhoda to be extremely valuable as an excellent refresher. The 4 classes covered the analysis of evidence, organization, online research including how to read gravestones, census records and name changes, naturalization records and manifests. From these sessions, the best tip she heard was to compare the signatures on the documents if there are two people with the same name, dates, etc. This tip helped Bonnie confirm which records belonged to an ancestor she was researching.

Another highlight for Bonnie was to see and hear Yuri Dorn, a researcher from Belarus who has done significant research on her paternal side of the family.

He and his wife, Irina, presented an overview of the availability of records in the Belarus archives. Bonnie also met a woman who was a DNA match to her. The woman also was a match to Bonnie's husband. Bonnie encouraged everyone to attend the next IAJGS conference in San Diego.

### Hal Bookbinder



Next Hal Bookbinder shared a hint that MyHeritage had strengthened its passenger list search to include the names of the person to whom the passenger is traveling. He was aware that his paternal grandparents had sponsored a niece and nephew in immigrating in the early 1920s and confirmed this using the new search facility. He then tried other grandparents and great grandparents and found that a great-grandfather had apparently sponsored a "cousin" surnamed "Szyber" in 1904. He had not previously known of this individual and will proceed to research him and determine exactly how he fits into the family tree. There is no separate field to enter the name of the person to whom the passenger is

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traveling. Dalya Dektor added that in Ancestry.com she has searched for a person and found the result to be from the field for the person left behind on a Passenger list. Hal suggested searching both Ancestry and MyHeritage as well as other sites as their indexing and search criteria may differ.

Hal also gave an overview of the trip he took last year when he traveled to Warsaw for the 2018 IAIGS conference. He shared this at the 2019 conference. Hal showed on a map the locations he visited including Krakow, Auschwitz, Lviv, Dubno, Rivne, Lutsk, Kyiv, Khmelnytskyi, Medzhybizh, Letychiv, Snitivka, Derazhnya, Kyiv (again), Chernobyl, Prypyat, and Kyiv (3<sup>rd</sup> time). He spoke highly of Kyiv and its phenomenal subway system. On August 24, 2018, he attended the Ukraine Independence Day military parade and festivities in Kyiv. He also wore a Geiger counter when he visited Chernobyl and Prypyat. He showed pictures of Snitivka with its unpaved roads, farm animals in the streets and a resident drawing water from the village well. As the man returned home with buckets of water, Hal noticed a satellite dish on his home. Medzhybizh was the seat of Rav Israel Ben Eliezer (known as the Baal Shem Tov) and later of his disciple Avraham Yehoshua Heschel (known as the Apter Rav). They are buried in the old Jewish Cemetery in Medzhybizh in a stately tomb near one another. Hal shared pictures of the tomb and the gravestones. The Apter Rav is Hal's 5<sup>th</sup> great-grandfather. Hal also showed what remains of the Great Synagogue of Dubno, first built in the 1580s. Dubno is the ancestral home of Hal's Bookbinder ancestors.

### Helene Rosen



Helene Rosen loves to go to the IAIGS conferences and explore the host city as well as the conference. She presented a slide show of pictures with highlights of her Lolly the Trolley tour, the Rock and Roll Museum, the waterfront, Playhouse Square and Euclid Ave (Millionaire's Row). She shared some interesting facts

about Cleveland including the fact that Lifesavers were invented there.

### Andrea Massion

Andrea Massion has been researching her hobby, genealogy for more than 20 years. At the conference in Cleveland, she gave a presentation entitled "American Shtetl: Recreating a Jewish Community." (Andrea will give that presentation to JGSCV at the meeting on January 5, 2020). Andrea shared why the annual conference is worth attending. Firstly, the fraternity of like-minded genealogists from around the world is a pleasure. In addition, exploring the host city is a means to travel. She enjoyed her time at the Rock and Roll Museum and also the Cleveland Museum of Art. And lastly, learning something new: Two sessions that stood out for her were "Records of Sephardic Jews in Amsterdam", and "The Register of Baghdadi Jews Who Lost their Iraqi Nationality in 1951". Meeting the speaker allowed her to find records for a friend whose family came to Israel from Iraq via an Israeli rescue mission. She had never expected to find interest in Arabic!

### Dalya Dektor

After Dalya Dektor attended the Cleveland conference, she returned home to volunteer at the Genealogy table in the Hobby Building at the Ventura County Fair every day for 9 days. She has done this for 13 years. This year, she was able to help a person by finding Louisiana Slave records, thereby documenting the location of her mother's birthplace in Nigeria; and a Presidential pardon for someone's relative, for taking part in the rebellion against the Republic. She finds helping others at the fair to be rewarding and encouraged everyone to try it next year for one 3-4-hour session.

Dalya has submitted exhibits to be judged for ribbons and small monetary prizes. She encouraged JGSCV members to submit an exhibit next year. The exhibit types are 1) Family Pedigree chart, 2) a 75 year or older heirloom, 3) a 75 year or older portrait, 4) a minimum of 5 items telling a story. In the past, Dalya won a blue ribbon for a story with photographs and

documents about her great uncle fighting in WWI in Palestine.

### Marion Werle



At the conference, Marion Werle presented a talk called "From Liepaja to Latgale – Beginning Latvian Jewish Research" as well as presenting/meeting with the Latvia SIG group. However, she was also able to attend several sessions, including "Shoah-Era Lists in the JDC Archives Names Index and Other Online Offerings for Jewish Genealogists" given by Jeffrey Edelstein. Since its inception in 1914, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has been dedicated to Jews in need and to the reconstruction of Jewish communities overseas. The holdings in the JDC Archives (<https://archives.jdc.org/>) include correspondence, reports, speeches, logs, passenger lists and photos. There are also files on geographical areas and localities, *landsmanschaften*, internment camps and DP centers. The JDC operated in wartime areas, even after they were captured by the Nazis, but between 1939 and the entry of the U.S. into the war, they were not allowed to operate in Soviet territory (after the U.S. entered the war, we were allies), but did so "under the radar." The JDC also had its own tracing service, but tracing information was handed over to the ITS (now Arolsen Archives). The JDC turned over its emigration and tracing cards. The ITS has returned some of these digitized records to JDC, but they are not yet indexed. These emigration service cards are part of Names database - as batches are completed, they are uploaded. The speaker emphasized that there are extensive help files on the Archives' website, and that much of the Shoah-related material is accessible through the Names database.

In addition to assisting during the war, the JDC provided postwar assistance. Survivor lists are typically not indexed, however - the only names in the database are people whom the JDC assisted. The JDC has parcels lists - names of people and recipients who received packages sent by relatives. IGRA (the Israel Genealogy Research Association) has translated some of these lists into Hebrew, but only for those living in

Palestine who sent packages to relatives. Packages were also sent to Displaced Persons. JDC emigration service index cards will be added soon to MyHeritage; this comprises almost half of Names index. JRI-Poland has the index cards for Poland - actual images on JDC website. JDC case files aren't online but can be requested by family members.

Marion also described how to find unindexed Jewish Gen Litvak SIG records on Family Search. FamilySearch is now filming the contents of the Latvian State Historical Archives, which is a huge development for those interested in Latvian research. The archives has its own website, called Raduraksti, (<http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html>) which contains a virtual archives. There are a number of problems with it, as 1) it was a one-time offering, and hasn't been updated in years; 2) it is not complete (for our purposes, it contains what has survived from the 1897 All Russian Census in Latvia, as well as surviving vital records, including Jewish records - there are no post-World War I records included); and 3) the quality of the scanned images is not very good. The major collections in the JewishGen Latvia database contain archival designations beginning with "LVVA." Some have links to the images on the Raduraksti; in other cases, you need to find the item on the Raduraksti website.

Now that FamilySearch has been filming (and this is ongoing), researchers who find vital records in the JewishGen Latvia database can now look up the original records on FamilySearch (ultimately, this will be true for census records as well, but filming is still in progress). The FamilySearch copies are clearer and more legible, but finding them is a bit of a challenge, as they are part of an unindexed collection. For the Latvia SIG meeting, she prepared a short PowerPoint presentation called "Finding Unindexed Latvian Vital Records on FamilySearch," which is uploaded to the JGSCV website under Meetings prior with the August 25 date. In addition, there are records that may be found in the FamilySearch catalog that include Latvian passport application books during the interwar period and various house registers. Filming of the 1897 census is in progress, but not yet complete, and there

will be other files of interest to Jewish researchers as well. For those interested in finding out more about these records and opportunities to participate in district research group projects, please contact Latvia Research Group coordinator Paul Cheifitz at [pcheifitz@jewishgen.org](mailto:pcheifitz@jewishgen.org).

### Pat Fuller



The last speaker was Pat Fuller who talked about the tips she gleaned from the conference. She thought that the conference was fantastic and the hardest thing was choosing which presentation to attend. Her tips include to never give up and never throw anything away because you will need to revisit past research. Pat reviewed a presentation by Bennett Greenspan from Family Tree DNA called “Discover the Wonderful World of the Y Chromosome”. She learned more about the most frequent haplogroup for Jewish males. Another presentation she reviewed was “All the Ins and Outs of Ancestry Online Trees” given by Crista Cowan from Ancestry. It included tips about only including maiden names in the surname field for a woman rather than her married name which will impact the search. New features such as Tree Search

on Profile Page, My Tree Tags where you can group people into various categories such as DNA match, immigrant, brick wall, or custom tags. Then, you can search by the tag. Ancestry has a YouTube Channel: <https://tinyurl.com/yxcumly3>

Pat really liked the presentation “Organize Your Research into a Family Document (or Descendant Tree)” given by Phyllis Kramer, VP for Education of JewishGen. A Descendant Tree is vertical and includes siblings rather than a Pedigree chart which does not. The Family document includes goals, tasks, the descendant tree and supporting documents and charts. It should start with your immigrant ancestor and there will be one document for each branch and surname. Another presentation Pat found valuable was given by Nancy C Levin, a Professional Genealogist, called “Immigration is More than a Manifest”. Research every piece of the journey and understand the reasons for the immigration as well as more about the passenger experience. Suggestions for learning more are to look at the immigration laws of the period, read newspaper articles, learn more about the steamship company and the history of the ship.

## Free Webinar: Civil Law Concepts and Genealogy

Civil law—as opposed to common law—is a legal system that governs private relationships and interactions in most non-English speaking countries. Rooted in principles derived from ancient Roman law, it is the legal system that governs an estimated sixty percent of the world’s populations, including most European countries. Consequently, researchers tracing ancestral lines outside the United States frequently encounter records created in a civil law tradition. Proper interpretation of those records requires understanding the underlying civil law principles. In the United States today, only Louisiana is ruled by Civil Law.

The live webinar by Claire Bettag, CG, FUGA, FNGS, presented by the Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) in conjunction with Legacy Family Tree Webinars, is free to the public. It will be presented on Tuesday, 17 September 2019, at 8 p.m. U.S. Eastern Daylight Time. **Please note that this is a live webinar only; no recording will be available for future viewing.**

Claire Bettag, CG, FUGA, FNGS, is a professional genealogist in Washington, D.C., focusing on Louisiana French and Acadian families. She has lectured nationally and was a contributing author to *Professional Genealogy: A Manual for Researchers, Writers, Editors, Lecturers, and Librarians* (Elizabeth Shown Mills, ed., 2001). She has published in the *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, the *Association of Professional Genealogists Quarterly*, and elsewhere. Currently she is writing a book about her paternal line for private publication. She has served as the director of the National Institute on Genealogical Research (now Gen-Fed), as a ProGen mentor, and on the boards of NGS, APG, and BCG. She is on the NGSQ editorial board and volunteers at the National Archives.

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Register for “Civil Law Concepts and Genealogy,” by Claire Bettag before 17 September 2019. BCG receives a commission if you register by clicking their affiliate link: <http://legacy.familytreewebinars.com/?aid=2619>.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. For more information, contact [office@BCGcertification.org](mailto:office@BCGcertification.org).




# Practicing Safe Computing #47: Windows Updates

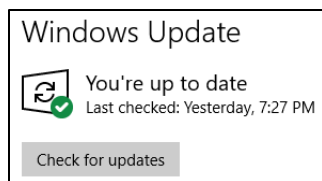
By Hal Bookbinder (47<sup>th</sup> in an ongoing series)

When hackers find a new Microsoft vulnerability, they quickly release malware to exploit it. When Microsoft learns of the new vulnerability, they create patches to fix it. When anti-virus companies learn of new malware, they update their rules to trap it. The race is on. You are at serious risk if the malware gets onto your computer before you install the needed patches and anti-malware updates.

Generally, your computers are set up to automatically check for and install Microsoft patches and anti-malware updates. If this does not work, or work quickly enough, your computer is at risk.

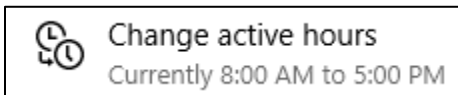
Recently, Microsoft announced that serious vulnerabilities had been found in Windows operating systems, including Windows 7, 8.1 and 10 that could permit hackers to take control of your computer without your knowledge or permission. They strongly advised owners of the 1.5 billion Windows devices Worldwide to download the latest Windows security updates to lock down these vulnerabilities.

 You can easily check if you have the latest Windows updates. First, right click on the Windows 10 icon at the bottom left corner of your screen. Select “Search” and a search box will appear. Enter “Windows” in the search box. As you type, you will see the option “Check for updates” appear in a list of relevant links. Click on it and a “Windows Update” window will appear.

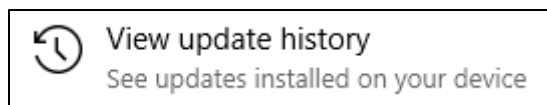


You will see a message like this one that confirms when your computer last checked and obtained the latest Windows updates. If you like, you can have it check now by clicking on the button shown. The check will take several minutes during which time you will be watching a series of green dots chasing each across the screen.

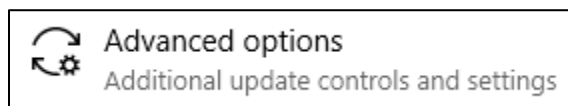
While you are here, check out the other options available on the page.



You can change the hours when you are likely to be using the computer. The computer will then schedule checks for Windows updates outside of these times.



You can view recent updates. I checked and found that there had been 10 during the month of August. Keeping your computer safe is an ongoing challenge!



Under Advanced Options, you can instruct it to check for other Microsoft updates when it checks Windows (like Word, Excel and Explorer). If off, turn it on!

Check out the various **Update & Security** settings. Click on **Windows Security** to turn on the Defender Firewall (see the May, 2017 article in this series, “Malware Protection” for a short discussion about the value of firewalls). Click on **Backup** to schedule automatic backups to attached storage devices. Click on **Recovery** to learn how to reinstall Windows – which may speed up your computer.

If you are on an earlier version of Windows and are not sure how to get to the **Windows Update** screen, Google, “how to bring up the windows x update screen”, replacing the “x” with your version.

*This is the forty seventh in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) under Noteworthy.*

*Reprinted with permission from <https://blog.eogn.com/2019/09/03/still-another-update-to-randy-majors-genealogy-mapping-web-site/#more-31360>*

# Still Another Update to Randy Majors’ Genealogy Mapping Web Site

[Dick Eastman](#) · [September 3, 2019](#) · [Online Sites](#) · [One Comment](#)

Randy Majors continues to turn Google Maps into a service with many more features than what the Google software engineers ever dreamed of. (See <https://tinyurl.com/eogn190903> for my earlier articles about Randy’s many additional features for Google Maps.) Now he writes:

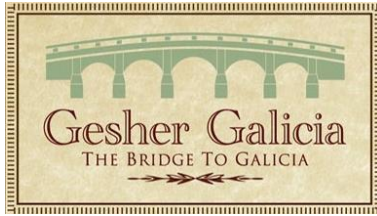


Now feel free to **add City Limits to your County Maps** — and actually see what's going on! (I've added automatic coloring to the City Limits so their much easier to see what's going on.) See <https://www.randymajors.com/p/city-limits-on-google-maps.html>.

New Tool shows **Elevations on Google Maps**, all over the world (a geogek tool for sure, this one has some cool features like ability to show Elevation Profiles and to see areas of same elevation, etc). See <https://www.randymajors.com/p/elevation-on-google-maps.html>.

How to link to an **HISTORICAL County Lines map for any Year and Geographic Area of Interest** — overlaid on Google Maps (this one is good for genealogy websites, bloggers etc that want to include a link to a map of a specific area and timeframe). See <https://www.randymajors.com/2019/08/how-to-link-to-historical-county-lines.html> for instructions on how to use this.

## Gesher Galicia Expands Database to Include Gratz College



Dr. Steven Turner, President, Gesher Galicia announced a partnership agreement with Gratz College. Located in Melrose Park, PA, Gratz is the oldest independent and pluralistic college for Jewish studies in North America (<https://www.gratz.edu/>).

Under the agreement, Gesher Galicia will provide access to its archival expertise and its database of Jewish records, while Gratz College will make its collections available, along with the expertise of its faculty. The two organizations may partner in public education programs and other projects relating to Galician history, genealogy, literature and more. In addition, Gratz will extend a 25% reduction in enrollment fees for online classes to active members of Gesher Galicia.

Commenting on the new agreement, Andrew Zalewski, vice president of Gesher Galicia, said: "Closer ties with Gratz College reflect our commitment to public education and partnerships with educational and cultural institutions worldwide. The exchange of expertise and archival information will undoubtedly enhance what we can offer to students and genealogists interested in Jewish Galicia."

Gratz expressed similar enthusiasm for this new partnership. Monika Rice, director of the Gratz College Holocaust and Genocide Studies Program, said that it will enable "students to use primary documents from the Old Country for their research on rich and



multiethnic Central-European heritage." Paul Finkelman, president of Gratz College, also weighed in on the new relationship between Gesher Galicia and Gratz, describing it as "a perfect partnership." He added, "For more than a century, Gratz has been committed to Jewish history. In the last half-century, we have also been committed to Holocaust studies. This partnership helps Gratz fulfill both missions. As the grandson of two immigrants from Galicia, I am particularly proud of this collaboration."

For more information on the new partnership, please contact Gesher Galicia: [info@geshergalicia.org](mailto:info@geshergalicia.org)

# Genealogy Odds and Ends

On September 1, in commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II, the UK National Archives is making available their video series, *War on Film*. The series of 6 videos was originally produced for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II and features excerpts from records available at the National Archives: <https://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category/war-on-film-2/>

Yad Vashem is also marking the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of World War II. On their website you may view a new, free online exhibit, *1939: Jewish Families on the Brink of War*. The exhibit describes the war's progression using its archives' Holocaust-era documents, photographs and artifacts. The exhibit includes personal reflections, stories of the Kindertransport, and stories told by survivors in their own voices.



To access the exhibit go to: <https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/1939/index.asp>

To read about the exhibit go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y4noflxe>



FamilySearch is offering more than three dozen free webinars in September. Classes will include beginner content about DNA, US resources, merging duplicate ancestor data, indexing, using the wiki, and searching records. Intermediate courses will center on British Isles research (England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales), including Jewish research in England.

If you have Irish heritage, keep Monday, September 23 clear for the FamilySearch webinars. September 24 is the day scheduled for Scottish research, September 25 and 26 for English, and September 27 for Welsh.

Attend in person or online. No registration is required.

All class times are in Mountain time. Join the September webinars [here](#).

If you cannot attend a live event, most sessions are recorded and can be viewed later online at your convenience at [Family History Library classes and webinars](#). Online classes are noted on the schedule as webinars.

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



## BBC Opens Up World War II Archives to Show How They Shaped the Experience of War

The British Broadcasting Company (BBC) opened up their archives to show how the BBC shaped the experience of war and how the war transformed the BBC. The BBC role was one of "informant, morale-booster and propaganda weapon. "The archives "revealed the corporation's role in secret activities during the Second World War, including sending coded messages to help European resistance fighters."

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To access the "100 Voices" go to: <https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/100-voices/ww2>

If you are old enough to remember WW II and listened to the BBC, you can tell the BBC what you liked/disliked about broadcasting in wartime by going to:

<https://www.bbc.com/historyofthebbc/100-voices/ww2/memories>



### **80th Anniversary of WWII Outbreak and 20th Anniversary of European Day(s) of Jewish Culture**

In commemoration of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary (September 1<sup>st</sup>) of the outbreak of World War II, Jewish Heritage Europe posted a number of photographs of before and after (restoration) of synagogues from the Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia. It is also the 20th anniversary of the European Day(s) of Jewish Culture which is a Pan-European festival of tourism and education which focuses on Jewish culture and history celebrated in many European countries.

To see the photographs, go to:

<https://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/2019/09/01/september-1-80th-anniversary/>

European Days of Jewish Culture (EDJC) begin on September 1<sup>st</sup> is being celebrated in 34 countries by opening doors of historic synagogues and 400 cities engaging local communities. EDIC focuses on Jewish tradition before and after the Holocaust.

To read more about what the history of the EDJC and what different countries are doing see:

<https://tinyurl.com/y4hh8ust>

Original url:

<https://forward.com/culture/430555/european-days-of-jewish-culture-celebrates-20-years-of-opening-doors-to/>



### **Germany Relaxes Nationality Law for Descendants of Nazi Victims**

Germany announced that descendants of those who were persecuted by the Nazis will find it easier to regain Germany citizenship. Plans were announced late this week to revise the Nationality law creating new categories of eligibility. They went into effect on Friday August 30. The new categories include descendants of women who were forced to emigrate after marrying non-German men. This is being done by decree rather than legislation by the German interior Minister.

The German constitution states descendants of Jews or others who were persecuted either religiously or politically, have the right to have their German citizenship reinstated. However, many have been told they are not eligible because their parents or grandparents were forced to flee abroad and their claims were made through a female descendant or because of adoption. Until 1953, German citizenship could only be passed on through the paternal line. The new provisions cover individuals with a German mother and foreign father having their citizenship restored, provided they were born before April 1953.

This change in policy is partly due to a UK-based group that lobbied the German government for liberalizing the citizenship laws for descendants of those persecuted by the Nazis. Article 116 is that part of the German nationality law regarding whom may restore their German citizenship. Part of the issue is for those who due to BREXIT want to maintain their ties to continental Europe and after the BREXIT referendum were denied but now would be able to reapply and get approval. See:

<https://forward.com/fast-forward/430529/germany-eases-citizenship-for-families-who-fled-nazis/>

# RALPHS COMMUNITY PROGRAM HELPS JGSCV



Help support JGSCV. Enroll in **Ralphs Community Contribution Program!**

Join Ralphs' Club register online and choose JGSCV as your 'charity of choice' and they will contribute a percentage of your purchases to JGSCV *at no cost to you!* Joining is easy and helps your local Jewish genealogy society! Ralphs Club members also receive discounts on purchases and their website **saves you money** too by offering coupons. Follow the step-by-step directions below.

If you are already a Ralphs Club member and registered participant, you have nothing to do! You will be automatically reregistered.

## WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

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

You can easily join at the Customer Service Desk at any Ralphs. And, you can also register for the Community Contribution Program at JGSCV's meetings—but you must first be a member. For information contact Karen Lewy at [Karen@jgscv.org](mailto:Karen@jgscv.org).

### IF YOU JOINED BUT HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE . . .

1. Log in to [www.ralphs.com](http://www.ralphs.com)
2. Click on 'No Account' Register
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 [www.ralphs.com](http://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.

**Remember even if you are only an occasional Ralphs shopper, your purchases still help JGSCV!** Ralphs has contributed approximately \$130 per quarter equal to 5 JGSCV memberships!

September 2019

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



## 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 September 15<sup>th</sup>, 1:30-3:30 PM** How the Paper Brigade Worked to Save Jewish Treasures from the Nazis, Writer/Producer Alix Wall

OCTOBER NO MEETING DUE TO JEWISH HOLIDAYS				
<b>MONDAY</b>	NOVEMBER 4	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	When Gravestones Lie	Janette Silverman, Senior Genealogist Research Team Manager, Ancestry ProGenealogists
Sunday	DECEMBER 8	1:30-3:30PM	FamilySearch Historical Collections – Tips and Tricks AND Annual Chanukah Party!	David Rencher, Chief Genealogist, FamilySearch
Sunday	JANUARY 5, 2020	1:30-3:30 PM	American Shtetl: Recreating a Jewish Community	Andrea Massion, JGSCV Board Member
Sunday	FEBRUARY 9	1:00-5:00 PM	Annual Assisted Research Afternoon LA Family History Library	
Sunday	MARCH 1	1:30-3:30PM	Comparing Jewish Resources on Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, JewishGen	Ellen Kowitt, professional genealogist
<b>MONDAY</b>	APRIL 6	<b>7:00-9:00 PM</b>	TBA	
Sunday	MAY 3	1:30-3:30 PM	Annual Yom Hashoah Program	
Sunday	JUNE 7	1:30-3:30 PM	TBA	
	JULY			
<b>AUGUST NO JGSCV MEETING</b> <b>IAJGS CONFERENCE AUGUST 9-14, 2020 SAN DIEGO, CA</b>				