This is the most difficult president’s letter I have ever had to write. When I first started to think about this month’s letter I was wondering what to say about the Pittsburgh massacre. Now in addition, we have the Borderline Bar and Grill massacre and the devastating fires in our area. Half of our board members were required to evacuate anywhere from one to 4 days not knowing until they returned if their homes withstood the ferocious flames and winds.

The Pittsburgh 11 massacre shook everyone to their core. This is the country where our ancestors immigrated to after fleeing pogroms and the Holocaust. This is the country of freedoms including religion. What happened could not happen here but it did. We live in the greatest country in the world but it still happened here. I could not stop crying for a week—then more tragedy hit our community.

I cry when I see the signs and T-shirts that say T.O. Strong. How could a local bar and grill filled with students from four local colleges be the target of a sick, deranged local? Our area is one of the safest in the United States. This does not happen here . . . but it did.

We are shocked by the local massacre of 11 young people. Their lives ended in such a brutal manner. And Sgt. Ron Helus, the Ventura County Sherriff’s
deputy who took multiple bullets wounds and died saving others. We were still reeling from this, when the very next day the two local fires – Hill and Woolsey fires took over.

The Woolsey fire was the largest and did the most damage, but that does not negate the destruction caused by the Hill fire. Over half of our board were under mandatory evacuation orders. Fortunately, none of the board members lost their property. We don’t know if any of our members’ property were lost or damaged. Please let us know. Our meeting co-sponsor, Temple Adat Elohim, did not suffer structural damage but did suffer smoke damage which they are actively addressing. By the time this letter is published all should be close to getting back to normal at the Temple. Rabbi Barry Diamond made the Jewish press running to the Temple in the middle of the night to save the four Torah scrolls—one from the Holocaust and one the Temple commissioned last year especially for their 50th anniversary. As he emailed me, it was like a “Cossack-less pogrom”. Our permanent library is housed in the Los Angeles County Library - Agoura Hills branch which was closed the week following the fire due to smoke. No structural damage was reported. The HVAC team worked on the smoke issues and by the time you read this newsletter the library is anticipated to be open again the Monday after Thanksgiving—November 26.

Our communities have suffered a great deal recently with many adopting the “Strong” motto: Agoura Hills, Bell Canyon, Calabasas, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Malibu, Malibu Lake, Newbury Park, Oak Park, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and West Hills STRONG! We have members from all these communities.

Our November 5 meeting on Privacy and Genealogy: What are the Rules? was well attended and an issue of great relevance. E. Randol Schoenberg and Jan Meisels Allen presented the critical issues facing genealogists today with restrictions imposed by governments, both foreign and domestic as well as what the online genealogy trees are facing. The program handout is posted to the JGSCV website: www.jgscv.org under meetings, prior and the November 5 date. Randy’s paper was the subject of a presentation published in Avotaynu Online and also appears on our website. To read the highlights see page 7.

Thank you to Carol Flesher for facilitating the Schmoozing corner.

JGSCV Board and Nominations Committee member, Issie Perel, presented the Nominations Committee report. The four current board members running for the board were all accepted by the membership: Jan Meisels Allen, Karen Lewy, Helene Rosen and Diane Wainwood. Two JGSCV members opted to be nominated from the floor when such nominations were opened: Irv Camhi and Mike Sander. The election by acclimation will be conducted at the December 9 meeting. To read the bios about all six candidates see page 14. (Continued on Page 4)
We sure could use some light after the challenges our community has met head-on this past month. Heroes surround us: rescuers, fire fighters, friends and family, and kind strangers. Hanukkah arrives early this year (December 2nd) and not too soon. The Maccabees’ story reminds us that with dedication, anyone can be a hero. Season’s Greetings to all and may dedication lead to light and joy.

Revisiting Your Photographs
There is a variety of ways to “revisit” the photos in your genealogy collection and meld the past with the present. Taylor Young started Dear Photograph, a project to “take a picture of picture from the past in the present.” His website became an overnight sensation that led to a book, and a movie.

The idea is straightforward — hold up an old photo so that it appears as part of the scene in a present day picture; and take a photo of the old photo in the scene. Example: your father’s family posing on the front porch of his childhood home photographed in front of the existing home or site today.

Postcards? Take the postcard back to the address of its receiver and pose. Here’s a true example on a trip to the Ukraine: Finding Grandmother’s address when she studied in Kiev to be a nurse. Hold the postcard and take the pic. The building still served the medical community. How about filming a tour of a home or building from your family’s past: it creates a living history for the next generation and renews memories for the story teller.

See examples of sharing old photos at http://dearphotograph.com/

Photos of New York City Buildings
Speaking of photographs, New York City Department of Records & Information Services (DORIS) announced that they have completed a project to digitize over 720,000 historical photographs of New York City buildings. These photos join a similar set of photos from the early 1980s which are also available online at the same location. It’s possible to view an online image of nearly every single building in the five boroughs of New York City from circa 1940. These images include photographs, maps, motion picture and audio recordings. To access these photos see: http://nycma.lunaimaging.com/luna/servlet/allCollections. You can sign up for a free newsletter and find instructions on using the online archive effectively.

Thank you to the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society for informing us about the online gallery. https://tinyurl.com/yct2jfdy. You can also access them through Steve Morse’s One-Step website: https://stevemorse.org/vital/nyctaxphotos.html

Podcast Highlight: Brooke Schreier Ganz founded “Reclaim the Records” a few years back as a non-profit organization that uses Freedom of Information laws at both state and federal levels to gain access to records. She then makes them available for free to all researchers. Hear her being interviewed on the “Ancestors Alive! Genealogy” podcast this past summer where she shares why, how and what’s available. Find your podcast app on your smartphone or download one. Search “Ancestors Alive! Genealogy” and subscribe to choose from an array of shows and topics. More about Ganz’s work at https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/
Our International Genealogy Month project is available for viewing at the Los Angeles County Library-Agoura Hills branch. They have extended the display through the month of December. To read more about the display see page 19.

Hal Bookbinder’s next article in his continuing series on safe computing is ‘Practicing Safe ‘Tzedakah’ (Charity). See page 13.

We started our 2019 membership drive at our October meeting. Forms are available on page 20 of this newsletter, on our website www.jgscv.org under “About JGSCV” and will be available at our meetings. As of this writing, 36 percent of our current members have renewed! We ended 2017 with 170 members (and thus far, for 2018 we have 172 members). We need some more of you to renew and join to continue our high quality programs! Anyone who renews or joins from the October 7th meeting through December 9th and attends the December 9th meeting will have their name entered into a door prize drawing for one of more than 10 excellent genealogical gifts. The door prizes range from DNA tests to subscriptions for Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, Findmypast, Fold3.com, Legacy FamilyTree, Legacy Webinars, MyHeritage, Newspapers.com, Roots Magic and more! Each of these prizes is worth much more than the cost of an annual membership subscription. Please join or renew now!

A great holiday gift that keeps giving all year is a membership to JGSCV. We will provide a lovely certificate with the donors name as well the name of the recipient. See page 24

Our December 9th program is a special treat with the ‘Barefoot Genealogist’. Crista Cowan, Ancestry Corporate Genealogist returns to JGSCV after a four–year hiatus. She will be talking about What’s New At Ancestry.com. Light refreshments will be served. See page 5 for more information on the program.

To our Jewish members and friends, I wish you a Happy Chanukah. And Merry Christmas to our non-Jewish members and friends. Wishing everyone a very happy, healthy, safe and genealogically successful New Year. Looking forward to seeing you on December 9th! Stay safe.

Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

MICHAEL PERSHING

RONALD and SYLVIA WEISS
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, December 9, 2018 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served.

The Program: What’s New at Ancestry.com

Join Crista Cowan, the Barefoot Genealogist, for a look at some of the new tools Ancestry has rolled out in recent months to help you discover more about your family history. She’ll share new content, improved family tree tools, and new DNA methodologies Ancestry is supporting.

Speaker: Crista Cowan, Corporate Genealogist, has been employed by Ancestry since 2004. Her involvement in family history however, reaches all the way back to childhood. From being parked under a microfilm reader at the Family History Library in her baby carrier to her current career as a professional genealogist, Crista has spent thousands of hours discovering, documenting and telling family stories. She is known as The Barefoot Genealogist and has a weekly internet show, found on the Ancestry YouTube channel, designed to help people discover their family history.

Everyone is eligible for the drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes for those who renew their JGSCV membership or join for 2019. You must be present to win! Light refreshments will be served celebrating Chanukah and our membership drive. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are $25 for an individual and $30 for a family. The meeting is open to the public.

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. Our 2019 membership has begun! Join JGSCV now and membership is good through December 2019.
JGSCV Webmaster, David Oseas, has updated the resources on the JGSCV website. This is done periodically and it has been almost a year since the last update. There are over 400 resources divided into 25 categories. This includes new additions as well as updated links for organizations that have changed their urls. When you are researching your family history, remember to look at JGSCV’s fantastic resources to help you www.jgscv.org under resources.

The Schmoozing Corner awaits your questions on the right side at the front of the meeting room. Carol Flesher (photo right) got some help leading The Schmoozing Corner from guest speaker, E. Randol Schoenberg. Sonia Hoffman will lead the Schmoozing Corner beginning at 1PM on December 9th.

The JGSCV display at the Agoura Hills Library commemorating International Jewish Genealogy Month has been designed by JGSCV board members Andrea Massion and Judy Karta and will be on display through the end of December. The display coincides with International Jewish Genealogy Month of Chesvan on the Jewish calendar which is Oct. 10-Nov. 8 this year. These JGSCV members have provided family memorabilia for the display: Sara Applebaum, Joanne Cadis, Steve Feldman, Judy Karta, Karen Lewy, Andrea Massion, Steve Rothstein, Rose Topliss, Diane Wainwood, and Debby Wenkart. Remember to plan to stop by the library. And, bring some friends.

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

JGSCV’s Dec. 9th meeting is special not only because Crista Cowan of Ancestry will be the guest speaker but also because it is our annual meeting, with elections and membership renewal/Chanukah door prizes. Your society, (which started its 14th year at our October meeting), at the December meeting will be another special celebration including many, many genealogical door prizes for dues-paid members. Many are valued at more than our annual dues! Be sure to renew your membership before the meeting to be eligible for the special prizes. If you are friend of JGSCV, please join to be eligible for the great prizes.

When shopping at Amazon.com please go to our website first and click the Amazon logo at the bottom of any page before you start to shop. It doesn’t cost you anything and JGSCV receives a marketing fee.
Privacy remains a huge issue for many genealogists and their family members, and the legal landscape concerning records access is constantly changing. Personal genealogy websites, as well as online collaborative trees offer different levels of privacy protections. The panelists, E. Randol Schoenberg and Jan Meisels Allen, discussed the varied answers to the question of privacy, focusing especially on ethical considerations. California has a new Privacy Law effective January 2020 and the European Union has the General Data Protection Regulation which is already impacting access to records. While they agreed on most items, they did not necessarily agree on all items.

Jan Meisels Allen is the chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee where she monitors issues of records access and privacy worldwide. It is in this role that Jan presented her position on privacy. Privacy is someone’s right to keep their personal matters and relationships secret. There are many people who value their privacy and wouldn’t dream of posting personal information about themselves or their family where everyone can see it. Some of those people are our cousins, but how could we hope to connect with them online given their concerns?

With a paucity of historical documents and sites and the lack of depth for knowledge regarding family occurrences, the privacy issue for genealogists boils down to a simple question: Is it more important to publish a true and accurate family tree or should one respect the wishes of a family member who chooses to be removed from a tree or otherwise keep an event private?

If governments and courts continue to limit our access to records, genealogists won’t have to worry if we should share, post, collaborate with or remove a person or a reference from our trees as there won’t be new information to include on our trees which could remain stalled at the point where we could do all those genealogically important searches.

Legally, the dead have no privacy rights. However, we see many government agencies embargo death records for a seemingly arbitrary number of years. Who are they protecting? Access to a death record may save lives by being able to trace back genetically-inherited diseases. The recent European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which became effective May 25, 2018, expressly states the “right to be forgotten” does not apply to the dead. Yet, in 2015 the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene promulgated a rule limiting which family members may access death records and recalled death and birth indices from the New York Public Library. In 2018, the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
Despite over 5,000 submitted comments, adopted a new rule establishing embargo periods of 75 years for death records and 125 years for birth. They did expand the family members who can have access without waiting for the embargo periods but that still prevents many people including genealogists who are not first or second degree relations from accessing the records. California does not have embargo periods for accessing birth, marriage and death records and there is no proof that a state without embargo periods has a higher incidence of identity theft than those jurisdictions that impose such limitations on the records. So what is the purpose of the embargo periods?

**What Do Genealogists Do That Contradicts Keeping Our Information Private?**

Genealogists post and search online. Our search history is archived by search engines. We post online; we blog; we use social media: Facebook, Twitter, Snapshot, etc. It is an individual choice to use Social Media and post what we do. Somethings posted are later regretted by the poster and once the post is “out there” it cannot be withdrawn.

By 2012, the US Library of Congress had acquired more than 20 billion tweets from Twitter. If they could figure out how do deal with them they would be made available to researchers.

Have you noticed that Facebook has changed its privacy settings more than once? Recently they reported a “glitch” so that your postings were open not only to “your family and friends”. Sometimes someone in “your” network shares your postings. Once it’s on the Internet it’s there forever, and you have no control as to who has access to them, reads them or where it may end up. Jan said she was not averse to social media postings but was imparting the guidance of ‘think before you post’ as once it is submitted it can’t be withdrawn. In the future you may regret what you shared.

**The US Constitution Does Not Mention the Right to Privacy**

While some state constitutions may include in their edict, that the individual has a right to privacy, there is no mention of the right to privacy in the US Constitution. The US Supreme Court has used the “liberty” clause in the 14th Amendment to make decisions guaranteeing a fairly broad right of privacy that has come to encompass decisions about child rearing, procreation, marriage, and termination of medical treatment. For example *Roe vs. Wade* was not about abortion, but the privacy of a woman’s body; *Loving vs Virginia* was not about interracial marriage but about the privacy of marriage; and the case which overturned the Connecticut law preventing married people from using contraceptives was not about contraception but about the privacy of procreation.

**European Union**

Most of the audience can trace their ancestral countries to one of the 28 countries in the European Union (EU). Therefore, following what is happening there and the fundamental differences between the EU and the United States are very important in understanding the access to information and vital records. In the EU privacy of the individual has precedence over freedoms of speech and the press. That is the exact opposite in the United States where the Constitution grants the freedoms of the press and speech over an individual’s privacy.

![European Union Members](image-url)
A court decision by the highest court in the EU in 2014 established the “right to be forgotten” or the “right to be erased” for search engines only! While we may say that is only in the EU, there is litigation brought by France before the EU’s highest court to make their ruling to remove a link from a search engine worldwide, not just in France but wherever the search engine operates globally. A decision will be rendered in 2019. But does the highest court in the EU have the authority to establish law in non-member countries? With 197 countries on our planet, this can lead to mass confusion at best. Canada’s Supreme Court already made such an extraterritorial edict in a split decision for one specific case only. The US District Court in Northern California found that Google did not have to follow the Canadian Supreme Court decision in the United States, as Google was protected under US law citing Section 230 of the Communication Decency Act of 1996, which relieves any platform from being liable as they are not the poster on the platform.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
Last May we all were inundated with emails asking us if we wanted to remain on mailing lists, accept cookies and more. Even though we are not in the EU, many companies we are involved with, genealogical and non-genealogical, are multinational companies and getting this permission was part of the requirements of the GDPR. Some EU archives and companies took this new regulation perhaps too much to heart and as a result we have lost access to records on the Internet. For example a Dutch Archive branch removed 450,000 records—family cards from 1920-1940. These cards are important to researchers and family historians to know which Jewish families lived in the area at the beginning of World War II. Other databases including some DNA related, also ceased operation at the time the GDPR became effective.

Litigation on Privacy vs US Based- Multinationals
There are a multitude of lawsuits brought by the EU data regulators and EU governments. One of the lawsuits is by nine EU news outlets who are demanding that social media companies, Facebook, Google, Snapshot, Twitter, etc. pay copyright fees to them each time someone accesses their news content. This would result in Google paying them a fee each time someone accesses a link from search results back to a news story. This proposal is also included in the EU’s proposed e-Privacy Regulation. We don’t know the outcome or how it will affect our searching. Without a search engine most of us would not know where to look for the original source to help in our research.

California’s New Privacy Law
In June, 2018 California enacted the strongest privacy law in the United States. It becomes effective January 2020. The regulations will be effective in July 2020 if further legislation in the 2019 legislative session doesn’t amend the law. The law:

- Grants the consumer the right to request a business to disclose pieces of personal information that it collects;
- Grants the consumer the right to request to delete personal information and for the business to delete that information upon request. Note: This does not apply to search engines;
- Permits the consumer to opt out of the sale of personal information and prohibiting the business from "punishing" the consumer; and
- Defines "personal information" as something that identifies and relates to the consumer including biometric information, geolocation information audio, electronic, thermal information and more.

Issues for Genealogists
Genealogists need to be able to locate stories about people, places and events that are important to our family history research.
Some of our information should not be shared or posted, such as Social Security Numbers. Some government agencies have placed embargo periods on birth, marriage and death records far into the future while other jurisdictions have placed no limitations. There is no documented difference in the rate of identity theft in those states that have open information vs. those with embargo dates. Not one case of identity theft has ever been traced the release of genealogical data.

Justice Louis Brandeis addressed the right to privacy in “the most influential Law Review article ever”...

Find a compromise. If someone does not want information in the tree, what is more important, preserving your relationship with your family or posting something in the tree? Jan gave examples of how she handled sensitive issues with her family and requests not to include information at least while a family member was still living. Just because you can include something in your tree does not make it a requirement to do so. This is especially true when it may cause friction in the family. Sharing a tree with family that does not include “sensitive” information that has not been granted approval to share retains good family relationships.

Genealogy is Changing—Gender Identification

Options for gender selection on documents will have an impact on genealogy; family group sheets; corrected birth certificates; delayed gender identification; genealogy database software. Birth records are a staple for genealogical research. “Family descent is number one priority in genealogy.” “Once vital records become politicized, the records will lose their reliability.” If someone doesn’t want their sexual orientation revealed, it’s not our place to “out” them, but with the social changes we need to be able to address the options in our genealogy when they are public. Legislators and regulators are impeding our access by:

- limiting which relatives may obtain the records
- imposing lengthy embargo dates to access records

Jan suggested to keep abreast of what is happening by subscribing to the free IAJGS Records Access Alert by going to: www.records-access-alerts.iajgs.org and following the directions. Jan writes the Alerts.

E. Randol (Randy) Schoenberg presented Privacy Issues with Online Family Trees. Randy’s presentation was originally published in Avotaynu Online an online “journal” which is free to access. His paper is entitled Online Privacy Trees and Privacy and can be found at: https://www.avotaynuonline.com/2015/07/privacy-issues-with-online-trees/. As the paper is his full presentation, only a short summary is presented here as the reader may read the full presentation at the link above.


Randy addressed four areas of protection to the right of privacy:

1. Appropriation
2. Intrusion
4. False Light in the Public Eye

There is no right of privacy unless a new law is enacted therefore; genealogists are free to disclose dates and objectionable information to the public. Regular genealogical data regarding name, date and location of birth, marriage and death, the names of parents, siblings, spouses and children should seldom give rise to any claim for invasion of privacy, since these facts are usually not private, but are known by a wide range of people, and further are not offensive or objectionable to a reasonable person. He said to use caution with publishing embarrassing private facts.

Would a reasonable person find the following objectionable: adoption, out of wedlock birth, gender change or sexual orientation? These are no longer objectionable in Randy’s opinion. However, if a birth was a result of rape or incest it may be sufficiently objectionable, and may give rise to a potential for liability. A genealogist should use his or her best judgment in these cases, but there is no hard and fast rule to rely on.

The objection of the individual concerned is not relevant to the legal question, so long as the fact itself is neither private nor objectionable to an ordinary, reasonable person.

- Genealogical facts are ordinarily not private.
- Irrational and unreasonable fears (e.g. Identity theft) are not relevant

Identity theft is fraud, and accomplished without the use of genealogical data. This type of fraud usually occurs from a computer breach not from a family tree. We have yet to verify any identity theft from a family tree. If someone applies for credit in your name, that is a crime.

Randy stated as genealogists committed to public genealogy, we should feel free to ignore the objections of those with irrational fears about the disclosure of commonplace genealogical facts. From a legal perspective Randy asserted that genealogists have the right to disclose those facts. Private facts do not include information that has been voluntarily disclosed to a third party or knowingly exposed to the public. One cannot make an otherwise public fact private merely by wanting it to be private. As a result, with few exceptions, ordinary genealogical data may be published without giving rise to any potential claim for invasion of privacy.

Randy explained that in Germany when one moves, the law requires the person must register their new address with the government. Europeans appear not at all concerned with a potential government monopoly on information, but are apparently very concerned that their neighbors and large corporations might be collecting data.

It is possible that the GDPR may ultimately restrict publishing family trees online, just as they are restricting the ability of Google to provide links to old news stories. The right to be forgotten and the right to erasure are more than private facts. Randy said it is permissible to publish family trees, in both the United States and Europe. There is no law that prohibits anyone from placing a fully public family tree, including living people and minors on the Internet. The EU does not yet restrict genealogy information.

Are there legal limitations on a family tree? As the dead do not have rights we see on all family trees online that the deceased are listed, and living are listed as “private”. Randy discussed privacy online family trees and the differences in privacy settings on Ancestry, MyHeritage, and Geni. 

Ancestry—the default privacy setting is public for deceased profiles but other subscribers may not view tree information about living people and notes. Ancestry offers two additional levels of privacy settings that can make the tree more
private. Trees designated private cannot be viewed by other subscribers, but limited information about deceased individuals in the tree (name, birth year, and birthplace) will appear in search results within Ancestry.com sites. For added privacy one can chose the tree not to be indexed nor found in searches, or can be listed as totally private. The tree owner can invite others to share the tree, and also decide whether to allow invited members to see living people. MyHeritage has similar privacy settings to Ancestry’s. Each tree has a webmaster and a site manager who can invite others to join the tree as members or guests. Living profiles have their first names, dates of birth, gender and photos hidden unless the user has been given access to the tree as a member. However, unlike Ancestry, MyHeritage users without access rights can still see the last name of a living person on the tree.

Geni was acquired by MyHeritage in 2012. It is an online collaboration tree with 127 million connected profiles and 4 million users all working on the same tree. Other users can change a deceased’s setting (including a person) and change a private tree to a public tree. Profiles are divided into two groups: public and private. In general, living people are private and deceased are public. Geni will permit users to make even deceased profiles private, but they may be made public again by other users re-adding them to the tree—a limited “right to be forgotten”. Private profiles can be viewed by 4th cousins or less. Curators must agree to keep information confidential. In contrast with Ancestry and MyHeritage, public profiles on Geni are fully indexed and searchable on Google.

The only “fully” public tree is one which is built on someone’s own website. There is no law that requires any family tree to be private. No law prohibits what types of information may be placed on a family tree.

Online genealogy companies are protected against litigation for publishing information as they are a platform and not responsible for what people place on their platform (This is the same law as Jan mentioned in the Google case above.)

It is time to start thinking about what it is we are doing when we give people the right to erase and hide facts about their lives, and prevent other people from finding them. Randy ended his presentation with the following statement, “Outside of the publication of objectionable private facts, there really is no such thing as privacy in the context of a family tree. Nor should there be.”

E. Randol Schoenberg, J.D. Attorney E. Randol Schoenberg has handled numerous cases involving looted art and the recovery of property stolen by the Nazis, including the successful return of five paintings by Gustav Klimt, as featured in the 2015 film Women in Gold. Schoenberg graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and a certificate in European Cultural Studies and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Southern California. Schoenberg served as President of Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust from 2005 through 2015.

Jan Meisels Allen - is the President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV). She serves as the chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee (PRAMC) since 2003. Jan served on the IAJGS Board of Directors from 2004-2013, and since 2004 represents IAJGS on the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC). In 2017, she was awarded the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2015, the IAJGS Volunteer of the Year award. In 2013, the National Genealogical Society awarded Jan the President’s Citation. She speaks on records access at national genealogical conferences.
Practicing Safe: ‘Tzedakah’ (Charity)

By Hal Bookbinder (#38 in an ongoing series)

As December 31st approaches, phony charities ramp up their solicitations through mailers, TV ads and online. Do you know whether a charity is legitimate, and even if it is, how much of the collected funds actually go to the cause you support and how much is eaten up in fundraising and administration? Commercials and mailers are often unclear or misleading about how the money is spent.

We have all heard the Kars4Kids jingle innumerable times. But, do you have any idea how much of the collected funds go to help kids? Do you know what programs are offered, where they are offered and for what kids? This charity is operated by an Orthodox Jewish community in New Jersey, primarily to support its Jewish camps and youth activities. While there is nothing wrong with this, you wouldn’t be aware of it from the charity’s incessant jingle which was recorded in 1999.

Kars4Kids has a “D” rating from Charity Watch due to the fact that 63 cents of every dollar collected goes into fundraising and overhead. They have been sued by several states for misleading advertising and insider business deals. Per Charity Watch, comparable Jewish and youth development charities spend, on average, 15 to 21 cents per dollar on fundraising and overhead.

If this isn’t enough to give you pause, on November 13, 2018, HackenProof reported that a Kars4Kids database, containing information on 21,612 individuals (one week’s worth of data) was found unsecured and with evidence that it may have been copied by cyber criminals. The report details the difficulty they had in getting Kars4Kids to secure the database.

Often there is confusion about exactly what a charity does. For example, the Association for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) focuses most of its programs in NYC. When they mention “our shelter”, that is where it is located. Your local animal shelter is likely not associated with the ASPCA and derives little benefit from your donations to it. This in no way disrespects the great work of the ASPCA. But, if you want to help animals here, consider giving to your local shelter.

To research a charity, you might check its annual IRS 990 filings. These can be accessed through the Foundation Center’s “990 Finder”. If you search for Kars4Kids, you will find information on its income, expenditures and programs for several years up to 2016 (the most recent year available). You will also find that most of the funds raised are transferred to Oorah, Inc., a sister charity that operates its programs. If you then look up Oorah you will find that it spends millions on management and overhead.

Don’t give to a charity just because the name and mailer or commercial seems appealing. Rather, understand how much of the funds actually go into programs you want to support. Ask the solicitor to mail you this information; read their website; Google their name; review their IRS 990 filings and check their reviews and ratings on the various charity monitoring websites. These include Charity Watch, Charity Navigator, Consumer Reports and the Better Business Bureau’s Wise Giving Alliance.

This is the thirty-eighth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under Noteworthy.
Forthcoming JGSCV Elections

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Sonia Hoffman (with board member Israel Perel and general member Marion Werle) has recommended the following slate of individuals to fill the four 2-year positions on the JGSCV board effective January 2019:

Jan Meisels Allen, Karen Lewy, Helene Rosen, Diane Wainwood

At the November 5th JGSCV meeting a call for additional nominations from the floor resulted in two responses: Irv Camhi and Mike Sander. Each floor nominee agreed to serve if elected. Following the nominations from the floor, all nominations were closed.

Rosalie Bell whose term ends December 2018 has opted not to run for reelection. The terms of five current board members Warren Blatt, Judy Karta, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion and Israel Perel continue through the end of 2019.

The board is currently set at ten elected members. In October, the JGSCV Board voted to expand the board to 11 members. The JGSCV By-Laws permit 6-12 elected board members with two appointed board members with the consent of the board. Six individuals are recommended for two-year terms.

Elections will be held at the December 9, 2018 meeting.

At the initial 2019 board meeting the board will determine the various officer and non-officer board positions. This will be reported to the membership in the February 2017 Venturing Into Our Past.

JAN MEISELS ALLEN currently serves as President, JGSCV and is a JGSCV founding member. She served on the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies [IAJGS] board 2004-2013. She continues to serve as Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee and serves as the IAJGS sponsoring representative on the Records Preservation and Access Committee (FGS/NGS/IAJGS). In 2013, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) awarded Jan its President’s Citation in recognition of her outstanding and continuing contributions for vigilance in support of records preservation and in defense of public access to public records. In June 2014, Jan was invited to speak to committee members of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in Berlin, Germany on access to holocaust records. In 2015 Jan was awarded the first IAJGS Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2017 Jan was awarded the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award. She has written articles for Avotaynu, Avotaynu Online and JGSCV’s Venturing Into Our Past. Jan served in various administrative capacities for nine IAJGS conferences. Prior to helping found JGSCV, Jan was a 5-year board member and first vice president-programming of JGS Los Angeles. She served on the JGS Los Angeles Board of Directors most recently with the portfolio chairing the Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture Committee for two years. Jan lectures at the national and international genealogy conferences and to genealogy societies. She began her genealogy research in 1998 tracing her Polish, Galician and Hungarian roots. She is married to Tom Allen (another JGSCV founding member) going on 39 years. Jan is a retired lobbyist.

IRV CAMHI is a member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County since 2012 and the Conejo Valley Genealogical Society since 2010. He started manually tracing his family genealogy in the mid 1980’s using any automated tools that were available at that time. Information was gathered from the 1980’s to 2010 as time outside of business permitted. From 1983 to 2010 when he retired he started and ran an IT consulting firm providing solutions to professional practices and small to medium businesses. He is a...
Microsoft Partner and to date has used his expertise in his hobby of genealogy. He is an active member of the Cloud Consortium, and has presented computer and cloud related programs to three genealogy societies in Los Angeles in addition, since retiring he has written and published two books on his family history plus an active web site for updates for his family members.

**KAREN LEWY** is the current Treasurer of JGSCV. Karen spent her career as a global project manager in banking after graduating from college with a degree in Russian Civilization. Being able to read the Cyrillic alphabet has helped in her research. She started her genealogical research activities in 2010, and joined JGSCV in October 2011 after moving from Baltimore, MD to the Conejo Valley to be closer to her adult children and grandchildren. She maintains family trees containing over 1800 people and is continuing to research ancestors from Germany, Lithuania, Russia and Poland. Most recently, she has started DNA testing and research as well as finding new cousins in Israel. She likes to be a detective and learn about the geographies where her ancestors lived.

**HELENE ROSEN** is the current Membership Vice President and a founding member of JGSCV. Helene has attended eight IAJGS conferences, written articles for JGSCV’s *Venturing Into Our Past* on finding a relative in Australia, using Steve Morse’s site to find her grandmother’s steamship record and her genealogical visit to Texas. On several occasions, she has presented her research findings during JGSCV’s Genealogy in the Round meetings. She was also an active participant in the JGSCV cemetery project. Her family tree contains over 1500 names. She is a graduate of UCLA, has worked for the County of Los Angeles in data processing, and is the mother of three fine young men and grandmother of two.

**MIKE SANDER** retired from Caltech’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in November, 2011 after spending 44 years working on seven different planetary flight projects, three Shuttle radar missions and leading the upgrade of the JPL Space Flight Operations Center in the mid 1980’s. He was Director of JPL’s Technology and Applications Directorate, Deputy Director of the JPL’s Space and Earth Science Programs Directorate and manager of the Explorations Systems Program Office. In the early 1980’s he worked for 5 years at NASA Headquarters in Washington D. C. He joined JPL full time in 1963 working on the first mission to Mars, Mariner Mars ’64. He is a three time recipient of the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal (for Voyager, Spacelab-1, and the Shuttle Radar Missions), an elected member of the International Academy of Astronautics and an Associate Fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Since his retirement in November, 2011, he was selected for two consecutive one year terms on the Ventura County (civil) Grand Jury from July 2014 to July 2016. He has been a member of the JGSCV for 5 years.

**DIANE WAINWOOD** a member of JGSCV since 2007, is currently recording secretary of JGSCV, has been a regular attendee of meetings, and for several years assisted on the Publicity Committee, sending notices of coming meetings to various media. She has been actively engaged in her Jewish genealogy since joining JGSCV, and attended 3 IAJGS conferences (LA in 2009, Washington DC in 2011, Orlando in 2017) where she’s learned enough about research and accessing records to learn more about the Jewish side of her family. In 2008, she was able to visit Kherson, Ukraine, her mother’s birthplace and early childhood home, and visit the local synagogue which helped her locate rabbinical records of her family. She holds a B.Sc. and MA in foreign language education from The Ohio State University (fully bi-lingual in French and Spanish), and is retired from 25 years of California school teaching; prior to moving to California, she also spent 12 years as a marketing/public relations manager for several companies, including a tourism/travel operator, and 3M Co. Diane has also served as Recording Secretary for the Conejo Valley Quilters Guild, and on the board of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (Call sign: KJ6JEJ).
Who Do You Think You Are? Returns

TLC’s *Who Do You Think You Are?* returns on December 3rd at 7PM pacific time. The schedule includes Mandy Moore (Dec. 3), Josh Duhamel (Dec. 10), Matthew Morrison (Dec. 17) and Regina King (Dec. 24).

Hochschild Files Reveal Bolivian Schindler

Files found in the headquarters of a tin mining company run by a German Jewish tin baron Mauricio Hochschild reveal that he helped thousands of Jews fleeing Nazi Europe to Bolivia. The documents include work contracts, a kindergarten for housing children in LaPaz asking for help to expand the facility, a letter from French authorities asking him to receive 1,000 Jewish orphans, letters from the British embassy with black-listed companies linked to Axis powers who he was forbidden to do business with.

In 1938, Hochschild estimated he had brought 2,000-3,000 Jews to Bolivia, but by 1939 he calculated the number to be 9,000. Hochschild convinced the then president of Bolivia to open the country to immigrants in 1938. He told the president the measure would bring laborers to Bolivia to help its agricultural development. Hochschild paid the Jews’ passage to Bolivia and housed them to begin with after they arrived.


23andMe Gets FDA Approval

On October 31st 23andMe became the first genetics company to get Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval for reporting information on how a person’s genetics may impact certain drugs. The approval comes with some caveats and safety controls, including that results are should not be taken as medical advice and the need to consult with one's doctor before using the findings before adjusting medications. Some experts say the information should be approached with caution. Some of the drugs that may be affected by a person's genes include blood thinners and antidepressants. 23andMe will look for 33 genetic variants which may influence how a person metabolizes some medications. This report will be part of the 23andMe existing $199 Health and Ancestry service but at this time it is not known when it will become available.

The FDA also issued a consumer warning urging consumers to be wary of similar tests being sold that have not yet secured FDA approval.

To read the FDA press release regarding the authorization for 23andMe see: [https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm624753.htm](https://www.fda.gov/NewsEvents/Newsroom/PressAnnouncements/ucm624753.htm)
Preparing for a Natural Disaster

Do As I Say, Not What I Did

By Jan Meisels Allen

Even knowing that a mandatory evacuation was more probable than not, I did not pack up my genealogical binders with papers, nor my family photos - and many have not been scanned as they are professionally framed. I do have an offsite back-up system, that runs several times a day (Mozy/Carbonite) so everything on my computer could be downloaded to another computer if necessary after the fires.

When the call came from the Agoura Hills City Manager as part of their outstanding e-notification system, we were out of the house in less than 15 minutes. My husband and I each packed a suitcase with clothes for 3 days, medications, list of medications and the dog’s food and medications. I took my travel laptop with connections so it could be charged, cellphones and chargers. We took the “important” papers like passports, social security cards, will, trust, credit cards etc. but not the genealogy documents I have been working on for 20 years. We were lucky that the house was not damaged. I grabbed my hotel affinity cards on the way out and that helped us find a hotel 50 miles away. We also have two HEPA filters in the house due to allergies and one of the smartest things we did was to them on while we were gone. When we returned there was no smoke odor in our homes, unlike some of our neighbors.

So this is what I recommend we all do before the next disaster hits whether it is fire, earthquake, mud slides, or hurricane:

Choose a central meeting place in case of disaster and remind family members several times a year

All family members may not be home when the disaster strikes. Be sure all family members have each other’s phone contacts programmed into their phones.

Make a list of items you absolutely must take

Include things like medications, important legal papers, credit cards, hotel affinity cards, additional cash—small denominations (ATM’s may not work in a power outage), insurance policy and contact number list, cellphone and laptop/tablet and their chargers, extra set of car and home keys, safe deposit box keys, jewelry, first aid kit/supplies-bandages, antibiotic ointment, glasses, maps—(Waze may not be working in an emergency), family and emergency contact information, scissors, manual razor, matches, plastic –large garbage bags if that is all you can get, work gloves, masks especially those for particulate matter (we got ours from Home Depot before we returned home) and blankets if you can!

Backup Battery

Last year, after the Florida Hurricanes, on recommendation by Dick Eastman in his newsletter, I purchased a backup battery that
has outlets for both USB and 120 Volt. Keep this charged and in the trunk of your car. The USB port lets you back up your phone when the electricity is down; the regular outlets lets you charge other items including having the capability to charge the car battery. We took my husband’s car so the back up battery stayed home—but it was all charged and ready to go. Next time if we take only one car the battery goes with us! We just forgot about it as it was in my car.

**Scan Family Photos**

Start scanning in your family photos because you may not have the time to take them from throughout the house when you have to evacuate.

**Have an Offsite Backup System**

Make certain that you have an offsite back-up system so that at least your computer work is stored offsite. If your home is destroyed you can salvage your computer documents.

**Sustainables**

Set up a large container with canned and dry foods, individual containers of fruit juice and bottled water, paper plates and disposable forks, knives and spoons. A rule of thumb is one gallon of water per person per day and food for three days per person. For an emergency you can place this container in your car and have at least a few days of supplies. In that container include extra batteries, flashlight, a manual can opener, baggies, and toiletries including a brush/comb, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand mirror, toilet paper and paper towels, manual razor and matches. I also include Yahrzeit candles and a battery operated portable radio. If you have a pet keep extra dry pet food and a portable dish for food and another for water. If you can, bring the pet’s bed or blanket. Keep a case of bottled water next to your evacuation kit to take with you. At least twice a year look for the expiry dates on the canned and dry foods and bottled water, so that the food and water are “edible” when it is necessary to be used. Restock at least 1-2 times a year depending on expiry dates. While we have all of this we did not take it for the fires as we felt we would be able to find shelter. Fortunately we did.

Try to keep your car’s gas tank *at least* half-filled at all times. We filled up both cars earlier in the day just in case.

Homeland Security has a blurb on *Preparing My Family For A Disaster* with suggestions of what to do in advance and when the disaster hits:  [https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/prepare-my-family-disaster](https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/prepare-my-family-disaster)

Read the FEMA Advice Sheets on:

*Advice after the fire: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures*  
[https://tinyurl.com/y8njwm4f](https://tinyurl.com/y8njwm4f)

Original url  
[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1452020463438-03d4365a46c620bdd1ad1e854379c237/Fire_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1452020463438-03d4365a46c620bdd1ad1e854379c237/Fire_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508.pdf)

*After the flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures*  
[https://tinyurl.com/y7wtfwj](https://tinyurl.com/y7wtfwj)

Original url:  
[https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1537903646474-713c46c9f75fc24d3184cfc95ab98260/Flood_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508_rev_092418.pdf](https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1537903646474-713c46c9f75fc24d3184cfc95ab98260/Flood_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508_rev_092418.pdf)

Be safe!
JGSCV’s International Jewish Genealogy Project

International Jewish Genealogy Month is celebrated during the Hebrew calendar month of Chesvan—this year October 10-November 8. We are celebrating it during the month of November and December. JGSCV members provided family memorabilia to be displayed in the Los Angeles County Library-Agoura Hills Branch starting October 27 through the end of November. However, the Library has extended the exhibit through the month of December 2018. This is very much appreciated as the library was closed due to the Woolsey fire and then until at least November 26 for the smoke abatement treatment. Judy Karta and Andrea Massion are the JGSCV Board members who coordinated the project and put the display together. The JGSCV members who supplied family memorabilia are:

Sara Applebaum, Joanne Cadis, Steve Feldman, Judy Karta, Karen Lewy, Andrea Massion
Steve Rothstein, Rose Topliss, Diane Wainwood
Debby Wenkart

December 2018  VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
2019 Membership/Renewal Form
Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*
Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)
www.JGSCV.org
Dues paid now are good through December 2019
Date ______

Check one:
This is a New Membership________ Renewal________
Single $ 25.00____+$1.00** Family* $30.00 _____+ $2.00**

*family defined as two people living in the same household
** $1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:
Library Acquisition Fund $________ Programs Fund $________
(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either fund $5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV   Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
28912 Fountainwood St.  Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) ______________________________________________________
Address __________________________________________________________
City   _____________________________________________________________
State _____________________________________________________________
Zipcode + 4 _________________________________________________________
Home phone _________________ Mobile phone _________________________
E-mail address _____________________________________

Talents that you have to share (accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)
_________________________________________________________________

December 2018   VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2019

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

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Speaker(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>JANUARY 6</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>“You Can't Find the Records Now What? What to do When the Records You Need Don't Exist”</td>
<td>Speaker, Marion Werle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>FEBRUARY 10</td>
<td>1:00-5:00 PM</td>
<td>Members Only: Annual Assisted Research Afternoon</td>
<td>LA Family History Library (Anyone may join at the door)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>MARCH 3</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>“Success In-And In Spite of Endogamy”</td>
<td>Speaker, Lara Diamond, President, JGS Maryland and Coordinator, JewishGen Sub-Carpathia SIG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MONDAY</td>
<td>APRIL 8</td>
<td>7:00-9:00 PM</td>
<td>“Branching Out from Sephardic-Solving a Converso Mystery”</td>
<td>Speaker, Sarina Roffe, founder Sephardic Heritage Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>MAY 5</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Annual Yom Hashoah Program - Program, Documentary, “The Forgotten Ones: The Story of Yugoslav Jewry”</td>
<td>(Yom Hashoah actual date: May 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY</td>
<td>JUNE 2</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>TBD</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUNDAY*</td>
<td>JULY 14*</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Genealogy in the Round</td>
<td>JGSCV members and Friends share brick walls, successes and artifacts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE JULY 28-AUGUST 2 CLEVELAND, OH

Check [www.jgscv.org](http://www.jgscv.org) for updates

December 2018

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

No Need To Reregister for 2018-2019 If Already Registered
Note: Ralphs Changed our NPO Number Please use the one listed below when searching for JGSCV: RG981

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

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


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

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE
(This means that you have already entered your email address and assigned yourself a password)
1. Log in to www.ralphs.com
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:
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:

December 2018
VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
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 over $100 per quarter, or equal to 4+ JGSCV memberships per quarter!
Thank you on behalf of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County.

GIVE A JGSCV MEMBERSHIP FOR THE HOLIDAY

Thinking of a unique Holiday Gift? JGSCV offers a gift membership to announce your generosity. Anyone would be proud to give or receive 12 months of genealogy learning commemorated by a beautiful, high quality certificate suitable for framing. Please contact Helene Rosen at the sign-in table at the next meeting for details.

BRCA Study Open for Volunteers

The BRCA Founder Outreach Study (BFOR) seeks to increase access to testing for one of the most common tests for hereditary cancer, BRCA genetic mutations. These mutations of BRCA genes are associated with greater risks for several types of cancer, including breast, ovarian, and prostate cancer.

The study will offer women and men of Ashkenazi Jewish (Eastern European) ancestry, age 25 or older, genetic testing for common BRCA mutations. This group is at least ten times more likely than the general population to inherit certain kinds of BRCA mutations. Participation in testing is free.

For more information visit www.bforstudy.com or call 1-833-600-BFOR to find out if you are eligible to participate.

There is limited time remaining to take advantage of this unique opportunity.