

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

February 2019

Volume 14 Issue 5

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Our January speaker was Marion Werle who gave an excellent presentation on a subject we can all relate to: *You Can't Find the Records—Now What?* Disasters may destroy records, the records may never have existed and privacy regulations may prevent access. The highlights of Marion's presentation are on page 6 and her excellent handout is posted to our website www.jgscv.org under: "Meetings" and "Prior" with the date January 6, 2019.

Fifty-nine people attended the meeting including 10 first timers and six new members. JGSCV's first international member joined as a result of a gift from a local member to a European cousin. If you would like to give a JGSCV gift membership, we offer a beautiful certificate with both the donor and recipient's names. Please contact Helene Rosen at membership@jgscv.org. We also had two guests from Scotland at our meeting, they were in town visiting their son and we hope they will return to JGSCV the next time they are visiting here.

Thank you to Stephen Weinstein for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner.

Following the last meeting, the board met for the annual reorganization meeting. A few changes occurred. Karen Lewy stepped down as treasurer and is now the publicity committee chairperson; Mike Sander is the new treasurer, and Irv Camhi has taken over as schmoozing corner coordinator. The masthead on page 2 has all of the assignments and email addresses.



Marion Werle,
JGSCV's
January
speaker on
"You Can't
Find the
Records, Now
What?"

NEXT MEETING

Sunday February 10th 1-5 PM

Annual Assisted Research Day LA FamilySearch Library

An opportunity for individual help with your personal research. FamilySearch Library volunteers and experienced JGSCV members will assist in using paid sites available for free at the LAFSL.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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

**2019 JGSCV BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

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

president@jgscv.org

Helene Rosen, VP Membership

membership@jgscv.org

Diane Wainwood, Secretary

secretary@jgscv.org

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treasurer@jgscv.org

Warren Blatt, Member

Education education@jgscv.org

Irv Camhi, Schmoozing Corner

Coordinator irv@jgscv.org

Judy Karta, Community

Outreach judy@jgscv.org

Karen Lewy, Publicity

publicity@jgscv.org

Allan Linderman,

Newsletter Editor

newslettereditor@jgscv.org

Andrea Massion,

Member-at-Large

Andrea@jgscv.org

Israel Perel, Librarian

librarian@jgscv.org

Barbara Algaze, FSL

barbara@jgscv.org

David Oseas, Webmaster

webmaster@jgscv.org

Mission Statement:

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

JGSCV had an excellent year! We ended 2018 with the highest number of members ever—185 members, 141 memberships. For 2019 we are at 142/107 members. There are 43 members (38 memberships) who have not yet renewed. One of the benefits of membership is attending our exclusive JGSCV annual assisted research afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library on Santa Monica Blvd. on February 10. Suggestions on how to prepare for the visit with directions are on page 11. Another membership-only benefit is to receive several emails a month from me about new databases, free access to subscription databases, free webinars and more! Please send in your dues now-- membership forms are on page 15, on our website, www.jgscv.org under "About" then "Membership". Forms will be available at the meeting. JGSCV has excellent programs. Your dues are what allow us to bring in our first class speakers, increase our library holdings, and have coffee/tea at the meetings and more.

JGSCV received a request from the National Library of Israel for copies of "family histories or other books written by members of your genealogical society, we would be so grateful if you could help us get them to the library. We are especially interested in your help finding books that are self-published and not commercially available." If you have written such a book, please let me know at: president@jgscv.org with the name, publisher etc. and I will send in the names as they want, "to look over lists and let you know what we are missing in the library, and to discuss how we can get the books to the library."

I am delighted to announce we have completed our programming through July 2019 with the addition of Daniel Horowitz, Genealogy Expert, MyHeritage for our June 2 program speaker. See the list of upcoming meetings on page 16. September 2019-August 2020 meeting dates will be announced in May.

We added several books to our permanent library (www.jgscv.org library/permanent). The permanent library is located at the Agoura Hills Library. See our website for location and hours. The Agoura Hills Library is also the Los Angeles County Library repository for the County's Holocaust collection. They recently added to their Holocaust collection, USHMM Vol 3 *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos*. Along with Volumes 1 and 2 Parts A and B it is located in their general reference collection.

Hal Bookbinder's next installment of "Practicing Safe Computing" '5G', Fifth Generation Cellular starts on page 10.

I hope you will attend the annual assisted research afternoon at the LA FamilySearch Library (LAFSL). Warren Blatt will be giving a presentation on how best to use the attributes of JewishGen. There will be senior members of JGSCV and missionaries available to assist you with your personal genealogy! Our sister society, JGSLA's extensive library is available at the LAFSL for us to use. The LAFSL is open exclusively to JGSCV members on the afternoon of February 10. For those who have not yet joined or renewed, please do so –as **this meeting is open only to current dues paid members**. (Note: the LAFSL does NOT permit comfort animals. *No one* will be admitted with a comfort animal.)

I look forward to seeing you on February 10!

Jan Meisels Allen



EU Giving Grant for Cemetery Preservation

The European Union has granted 800,000 Euros (\$922,000 USD) to a project that will map and survey about 1,500 Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe. The initiative is called, the European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative (ESJF). The ESIF was established in 2015 with a German government grant and with that it helped 120 Jewish cemeteries in seven Central and Eastern European countries. There are over 10,000 Jewish cemeteries in Eastern and Central Europe that are in some degree of risk. The mapping process will employ state-of-the-art technology, including engineering drones and taking photographs from the air as well as centuries-old historical records research. To read about EJCI, see their website at: <https://www.esjf-cemeteries.org/>. More at: <http://tinyurl.com/yb9gfbt6>

Thank you to Saul Issroff for sharing the information on the EU grant with us.

Continuing On the Inquisition's Trail to South America

Last month, *The Atlantic Magazine* published an article about the genetic study of over 6,500 Latin American individuals that uncovered ancestry traced to North Africa and eastern Mediterranean from several centuries back.

"This study sampled the DNA of thousands of Latin Americans revealing the extent of their likely Sephardic Jewish ancestry, more widespread than previously thought and more pronounced than in people in Spain and Portugal today," writes Sarah Zhang, science writer. The study shows that Conversos came to the Americas in disproportionate numbers to escape the Spanish Inquisition.

"We were very surprised to find it was the case," says Juan-Camilo Chacón-Duque, a geneticist at the Natural History Museum in London who co-authored the study's paper. The researchers examined more than 500,000 autosomal SNPs typed in about 6,500 individuals who were born in Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. The study was reported in *Nature Communications* and be found at: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-07748-z>.

To read about the study see *The Atlantic* at: <https://tinyurl.com/yam25uhb>

Another Story of Preservation

The Conservation Center (TCC) repairs and reconstructs all kinds of art and artifacts. Their website is good reading along with photos of their projects. Heather Becker, TCC's Chief Executive Officer, tells the amazing tale of a colleague who brought in her father's childhood WWII journals, one from his *Kindertransport* experience, and another by boys at a rehabilitation center after the war.

"When an item comes in that literally takes your breath away, those are moments that remind us of how important and humbling our daily tasks are, and reinforces the importance of preservation and conservation." See some of the pages at:

<http://conservationcenter.squarespace.com/article/1855458-two-holocaust-journals-a-father-s>

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

The JGSCV will hold a meeting, on Sunday, February 10, 2019 at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library (formerly known as the LA Family History Library) 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles (on grounds of the LDS Temple) from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Parking is free.



This special program is open only to current dues paid members of JGSCV! Anyone may join or renew their membership with JGSCV at the door. NOTE: LAFSL does NOT permit comfort animals. Anyone with a comfort animal will not be admitted.

The Topic: Assisted Research Afternoon at the L.A. FamilySearch Library (LAFSL)

Experienced JGSCV members and FamilySearch Library volunteers will be available to help members get the most out of the L.A. FamilySearch Library's (LAFSL) resources, including computer assistance with many popular genealogical databases including Ancestry.com FindMyPast, Fold3.com, MyHeritage (Library edition), ProQuest Obituaries, World Vital Records, and more! The LAFSL has many computers so everyone can use them simultaneously. In addition, there are Jewish microfilms of Eastern Europe and a selection of others, including maps and gazetteers. Bring your research documents with you and bring a flash drive if you want to download electronic images of online images. Hard copying is also available. Our sister JGS, JGSLA's library is available for research at the LAFSL.

This meeting is open only to current dues-paid members of JGSCV. Anyone may join at the door. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. JGSCV is open to anyone interested in researching their Jewish roots.

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.

JGSCV Updates

There will be NO **Schmoozing Corner** prior to the February 10th meeting at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library. **The Schmoozing Corner** will re-open prior to the March 3 meeting at Temple Adat Elohim.

Remember: **No Comfort Animals are permitted in the LAFSL.** *Anyone bringing a comfort animal to the February 10th Assisted Research Afternoon will be turned away.*

See “Noteworthy” on the www.jgscv.org website (or see page 18) 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 Permanent Library at the Agoura Hills Library added several new resources. Go to www.jgscv.org and click on the ‘library’ tab to review the extensive resources available. Call 818-889-2278 to check library hours.

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.



JGSCV Welcomes New Members

BERNIE AND BARBARA BEHRENS **FAITH GOLDEN**
JANET GREEN **CAROL SELIGMAN FABI ISRAELS**
DAN AND SUSAN KAUFMAN **HANNA SCHUMANN**
ELIZABETH SHARP **LAURA SHARP**

Highlights from You Can't Find the Records – Now What?

By Jan Meisels Allen

Marion Werle (right), a JGSCV member for over 10 years, presented an excellent program that each of us has encountered: What do we do when the records we need do not exist or cannot be found? This is one of several lectures Marion has presented to JGSCV on methodology and each one is relevant to our research. To find highlights from Marion's previous lectures look at the past issues of *Venturing Into Our Past*—June 2015, February 2016 and June 2018. Past issues may be located on the JGSCV web site: <http://www.jgscv.org/> under meetings, prior.



Records may be destroyed by disasters such as fires, hurricanes, earthquakes, floods and war as well as the passing of time. In fact, all the records we need to trace our families may be destroyed. Maybe the records never existed or are restricted by privacy laws. Marion discussed how to explore alternate records to build our family histories when “traditional” records are not available. Her extensive handout is posted to the JGSCV website, www.jgscv.org under Meetings Prior with the meeting date.

Marion told us to be flexible in our searches and to look in a variety of locations—both offline and online- creating “a wide net” before deciding the record is missing. Remember to search in nearby

locations as events may occur in towns close to where you are researching.

The Genealogical Proof Standard (GPS) emphasizes quality not quantity. The GPS is a guideline, created by the Board for Certified Genealogists (BCG), for establishing the reliability of a genealogical conclusion with reasonable certainty. Sources that depend on information from other sources are not “original records”.

There are five components to the GPS (see: <https://bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards/>):

1. Reasonably exhaustive research.
2. Complete and accurate source citations.
3. Thorough analysis and correlation.
4. Resolution of conflicting evidence.
5. Soundly written conclusion based on the strongest evidence.

Marion reviewed the three kinds of sources: original, derivative and authored.

Original Sources: original documents, archival ledgers, letters, photographs, vital record registers, etc. The information is not obtained from another source, but from an original document. There is a disagreement within the genealogical community if copies of originals are the same as originals or derivatives.

Derivative Sources: copies, translations, transcriptions, abstracts, indexes, databases etc. These sources are copied, translated or transcribed from an original or previously existing source. Depending on the source, information

from a derivative source can be primary, secondary or unknown. All JewishGen and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) sources are derivative. JRI-Poland are indexes not records, therefore they too are derivative.

Authored Sources: compiled genealogies, biographies, research reports etc.

Information describes the contents of a source:

Primary information is reported by an eyewitness or participant. The fact that the person was present at the event does not automatically make the information accurate or correct.

Secondary Information is secondhand knowledge, but that does not mean it's wrong.

Unknown or indeterminate information means that the informant is unknown, as in most census records, Yizkor books, etc.

Use of indirect evidence

When you are unable to find the direct evidence such as records, use indirect evidence to answer research questions. Examples given could imply a death, for example a census record mentions the wife is a widow; or successive marriage records with the later one mentioning the wife is a widow. A substitute source could be an obituary or gravestone when the original source document such as a death record is not found. These records although not original sources with primary information, still enhance your research and should be included in the "reasonably exhaustive search".

Marion talked about alternate sources of death information, including obituaries, cemeteries, funeral home records, and wills and probate. There are positives and negatives to all of these alternate sources. The obituary may have an implied death date, age, may include family members, occupation and more. Obits may be found in newspapers, funeral homes, cemeteries, and obituary aggregators such as Legacy.com, as well as military memorial websites.

Most cemetery websites and gravestones provide valuable information such as death date/year, birth date/year, name and Hebrew name, father's name, marital or parental status and more. There are several cemetery websites that are of assistance:

Findagrave (<https://www.findagrave.com/>), Billiongraves (<https://billiongraves.com/>), JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) (<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/>), and JewishData (<https://jewishdata.com/>). All but the last are free and Jewishdata.com is available from the Los Angeles (City) Public Library—a library card is required to access the database. Another suggestion was to Google the cemetery website.

Funeral announcements do not have the same level of detail as a full obituary. Most cemeteries and funeral homes will provide information on the informant for burial information. Funeral homes can clarify between death dates and burial dates. You may call or email the funeral home or cemetery.

An example of what a cemetery headstone may provide was given in this unique example:

Researching this person Marion found the following: The 1921 Canadian census shows two children



enumerated in the family, Ethel Pauline age 4 and Gertrude age 3. Gertrude's headstone shows her birthdate as 27 May 1918. The birth record was not available due to the 100-year privacy laws. The JOWBR transcriber remembered that the sisters were about the same age. The funeral home provided information that the informant was her sister Gertrude, who was in her 80s at the time. When the privacy period expired and the Nova Scotia Vital Statistics Birth Register was available,

Marion discovered that Pauline/Paula was born 20 August 1916 not 1934 as on the headstone!

Lessons learned from this example: The census was taken closer to time of Paula’s birth even though it is based on an unknown informant. The 1921 census showed both sisters alive then, making the 1934 headstone birthdate unlikely. The headstone was ordered by her aging sister, who should have known the birthdate, but did not, and the error was the same on the funeral home records. In general, birthdates on headstones are unreliable, although this example was an extreme example.

Wills and Probate

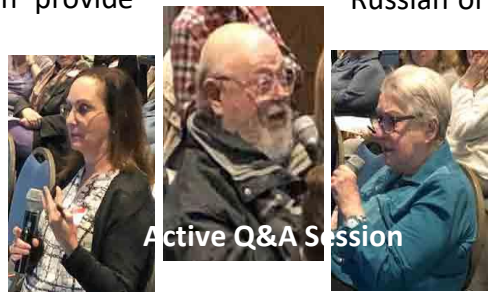
Not everyone has a will especially those who are poor with few possessions and no property. Probate is the judicial process whereby a will is “proved” in court and accepted as the last will and testament of the deceased and may contain an inventory of the deceased’s property. Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org both have probate collections. Probate can provide extensive information on financial status, family members and priorities of deceased.

Marion alerted us to be wary of newspaper summaries of probates by showing an example where one son appeared to receive much less than his siblings. The actual probate showed he was receiving a smaller amount “in addition to what he already received,” which was omitted from the newspaper version.

Historical Newspapers

Historical newspapers are a great source of birth, marriage and death information, as well as background and social information providing “texture” to the person’s life. The information requires verification. Historical newspapers include obituaries, birth and death announcements; probate and real estate trades; vacation news, military postings, social events and more. In addition to Jewish newspaper collections,

February 2019



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

there are overseas newspapers, Ancestry, MyHeritage, ProQuest (in local and university libraries); historical societies, newspapers.com and more. The JGSCV website resources have about 50 historical newspaper sites from around the world listed (www.jgscv.org resources then newspapers).

Holocaust Sources

There are a variety of sources about lives murdered in the Shoah as well as those who fled. These include Yad Vashem, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and other countries’ Holocaust memorial museums. There are also country-specific resources and Yizkor Books (<https://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/> and the NY Public Library Yizkor Book Collection <http://yizkor.nypl.org/> . There are numerous Holocaust sources listed on the JGSCV website under resources- Holocaust as well.

Yad Vashem’s Pages of Testimony may be filled out by family members or town memorial committees. The language is typically in Hebrew,

Russian or English although other languages

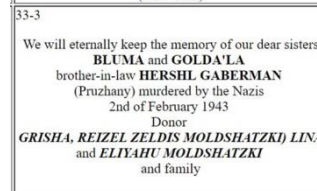
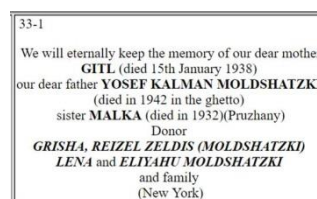
are also found. The Pages of Testimony website has digitized the original form, many of which include photographs, and it is best to look at the original rather than solely rely on the

summary. The form includes information on approximate ages, maiden name, birthplace, profession, information on family members and if known circumstances of death. To search the Pages of Testimony go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y7f5t9ly>

Marion also showed examples from a country-specific Names and Fates website which focuses on Latvia.

Yizkor Books

Yizkor Books are published by committees of people who survived



from the towns following the Holocaust. While they vary in format and content, they usually have a history of the town, institutions, personalities, information between the wars and what happened during the Shoah and some have a list of survivors and victims. As the book is written by those who fled before the Shoah or survived, the people named are those who they remember so not everyone who lived in the town is mentioned. Therefore, there may be errors of omission as well as possible confusion between siblings and attributing children to remarried parents.

City Directories

City and business directories are a source of residence addresses, occupations and other family members/neighbors. They may be found on Ancestry.com, university collections, public libraries, Internet archive (archive.org) and Logan Kleinwaks Genealogy Indexer and JewishGen. You can also search for them on Google by placing the city name and “historical city directories” in the search field.

Passport and Passport Applications

These may be found on Ancestry.com and FamilySearch.org. They contain name, birthdate, spouse, year of arrival, naturalization date and place, occupation and photograph. Foreign archives may hold foreign and internal passports.



(Left) From Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names," passport of Berka Minskis Collection of passports of Jews received at the Riga, Latvia prefecture, 1919-1940, LVVA, Riga, Latvia.

Voter Lists

Voter lists are available from many different jurisdictions, with information varying. Prior to women’s suffrage only males were listed. It provides at least the name and residence of the

voter. These are available not only for United States but also some European countries.

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, also known as the Joint or the JDC, is a Jewish relief organization based in New York City. Their archives have records from overseas rescue, relief and rehabilitation and holds records in over 90 countries from 1914 to the present. To search their millions of digitized pages of text and photographs, lists of World War II displaced persons and lists of World War I remittances sent to family members. For a name search, see: <http://names.jdc.org> ; for a database search, see <http://search.archives.jdc.org/>.

Genealogy Reports, Family Trees and Local Histories

The quality of the works will vary from personal family trees and genealogy reports. One major issue and what you should be asking about is what is the source of the information. Check whether citations are used, and if copies of the records include source information. Whether sourced or not, online trees may assist in tracing descendants. Be wary as some people copy other’s work without any verification or citations. Local histories may help add context to your research.

Miscellanea

Remember that Google is your friend. There are a wide range of books that have been digitized on various topics –look at Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) and Google Books (<https://books.google.com/>).

In summary, Marion said “never say never “ as the record you are searching may eventually be discovered or the information may turn up in another source. Be creative in finding and searching new sources to enhance your research.

Marion Werle began family history research 23 years ago, researching family from Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus, who settled in the US, Canada, UK and Israel. She has been on the boards of JGSCV and JGSLA, and is

a past president of the Latvia SIG. A retired IT professional with master's degrees in both European History and Library Science from UCLA, she wrote *The Skuders from Skud*, about one of her Litvak branches, to share with family members. She recently completed

the Boston University Genealogical Research Certificate, and has an ongoing interest in applying general genealogical methodology standards to Jewish research.



Practicing Safe Computing #40: '5G', Fifth Generation Cellular

Top Speed	1G	→	2G	→	3G	→	4G	→	5G
(characters/second)	3 hundred		4 thousand		3.4 million		7.2 million		50 million

by Hal Bookbinder

Welcome to 2019. Below are my top ten tips for practicing safe computing, along with references to past articles in this series which provide additional information on each item. Wishing you a year of safe and productive computer and Internet use.

This is the fortieth 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.

Verizon and AT&T are introducing the latest wireless cellular technology, labeled "5G" for Fifth Generation. In honor of this milestone, here is a short history of cell phone technology.

While car radio phones go back to the 1940s (remember Humphrey Bogart in "Sabrina"?), the first cell phone was demonstrated in New York City in 1973 by Martin Cooper of Motorola. It would be 10 years before cell phones would be commercially available in the U.S., and then at a very steep price. There are now more than 7 billion cellular capable devices, or approximately one for every person on Earth.



Cell phones were introduced commercially in Japan in 1979 and here in the U.S. in 1983. ARCO provided me with my first cell phone in 1987. It looked like this, weighed several pounds, cost over \$3,000 (equivalent to \$6,800 today), took 8 hours to charge and offered 30 minutes of talk time. With it, the folks at the ARCO data center that I was managing could reach me wherever I was (so long as I was within range of a cell tower).

1G was analog, meaning that sound traveled as analog radio waves to the nearest tower where it would be converted to a digital signal to travel to the tower serving
February 2019

the other party. It would then be reconverted to analog and be delivered to the target cell phone. This technology is no longer used in the U.S. nor most of the rest of the World.

2G came along in 1991. By providing encrypted digital transmission directly from the cell phone, it was more secure, faster and far more efficient. It supported text and picture messages. This technology has generally been replaced by 3G and 4G around the world. In the U.S., AT&T shut down its version in 2017. Verizon and T-Mobile plan to shutter their remaining 2G networks in 2019 and 2020.

3G was introduced in the U.S. by Verizon in 2002. It is faster than 2G, supporting mobile Internet access, video calls and mobile TV technologies. 4G was introduced in 2008. It replaced circuit-switched telephony service with full Internet Protocol. Though this and other technical enhancements it provides faster speeds for enhanced mobile web access, full IP Telephony, enhanced gaming, high-definition mobile TV and video conferencing.



Your cell phone is likely 4G capable, Most areas in and around Los Angeles support 4G. A few areas are still serviced by 3G networks. For example, much of western Malibu, including Point Dume, are serviced by AT&T with 3G. Either is probably sufficient for your use. When I was in Ukraine this past summer, I frequently found myself out of cell phone range. In checking cell phone coverage maps. I found that Ukraine has 4G in major cities, 3G

along major routes, and little coverage in much of the countryside. Google “worldwide cell phone maps” and you will see a number of sites offering such maps.

5G is not only faster than 4G, it is likely even faster than your home WiFi. It provides the speed necessary for

intense wireless applications, like self-driving cars. 5G is now available in limited areas. The major carriers plan nationwide 5G coverage by 2020. Of course, you will need a 5G capable device and a network plan that provides 5G. See <https://www.cnn.com/2018/12/18/tech/5g-mobile-att/index.html> to learn more about 5G.

Preparing For the Exclusive Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library February 10, 2019 1:00-5:00 PM

JGSCV members are privileged to have an exclusive research afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library (LAFSL). This meeting is open only to **JGSCV 2019 current-paid members**. Anyone may join or renew their JGSCV membership by paying their dues at the door—and if you prefer to pay before the meeting a form is on page 15 of this newsletter. The LAFSL is the largest FamilySearch Library outside of Salt Lake City making this an opportunity to visit and receive assistance with your personal genealogy that is not to be missed!

Car-pooling is best, so ask your friends from JGSCV about sharing. JGSCV will not arrange car pools.

Directions:

The LAFSL is located at: 10741 Santa Monica Blvd in Los Angeles on the grounds of the LDS (Mormon) Temple. From the 405 freeway get off at Santa Monica Blvd. and go east to Manning Ave. Turn north on Manning Ave, make the first left into the LDS Temple compound, proceed right until reaching the Visitor's Center. Park along the fence. The entrance to the library is on the right (east) side of the building. The library is on the lower floor, there are stairs and an elevator from the first floor. (See schematic below).

LAFSL has the largest holdings of any branch outside of Salt Lake City! Take a look at their website at: <http://www.lafhl.org/index.htm> or

https://www.familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Los_Angeles_Family_History_Library for a listing of the resources that are available. In addition to microfilms, microfiche, maps and books, they have 86 computers (PCs not Macs) that have access to many genealogical sites at no charge! These sites include: Alexander Street Press, American Ancestors,



LAFSL has the largest holdings of any branch outside of Salt Lake City!

Ancestry.com (full institution subscription); ArkivDigital Online (Swedish), FindMyPast.com (institutional version); Fold 3.com; The Genealogist-Gold Level; Geneanet; MyHeritage (Library edition); Newspaper Archive, ProQuest Obituaries; Newspaper Archive;-19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive; The American Civil War; Women and Social Movements in the United States, and more!

The number of microfilms, microfilm readers, microfiche, microfiche readers and books has been reduced, as many of these records and books are now digitized. However, the foreign vital records microfilms, including the Jewish ones are still available at the facility. JGSLA has a list of the Jewish microfilms on their website that are currently located at the LAFSL: <http://jgsla.org/microfilms-available-at-lafhl-2/>

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a presentation by Warren Blatt, Managing Director, JewishGen, on how to use the JewishGen website attributes. With all the computers at the FSL this is a great opportunity to practice what Warren shows us.

To make the best use of this experience you should prepare in advance and take your research papers with you. Be sure to bring with you: Copies of your family group sheets, documents, family time lines, and family trees!

Prioritize your research lists:

Foreign and state censuses, city directories, vital records (birth, marriage or death records), maps, naturalization records, WWI and WWII draft registration records.

For traditional methodology, bring:

Paper pads, post-it notes, pens, pencils and a magnifying glass.

For electronic methodology, bring:

Laptop computer, genealogy program, USB storage drives, digital camera—to use if making photos from microfilms.

There is wifi in the library. In addition, you can connect to the internet by using internet cables. These cables are available for rent from the library with a deposit of \$3.00. One can also connect to the Internet using Bluetooth. They sell 16 gig thumb drives (flash drives) for about \$4.00 each.



If you are planning to use the foreign microfilms, remember the records are in their native language. Unless you are knowledgeable in the language, it is best to bring some key-finding words in that language such as male, female, birth, death, marriage, wife, husband, father, and mother. While there are some foreign language dictionaries available at the LAFSL, the more you prepare in advance, the more your limited time will be used to its best advantage.

The JGSCV permanent library located at the Agoura Hills Public Library (see address on our website) has a number of foreign language dictionaries in addition to several books by Jonathan Shea and William Hoffman: *Following The Paper Trail A Multilingual Translation Guide*; *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide. Vol I: Polish* and *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents. Vol II, Russian and Vol IV German*. The books must be used at the Agoura Hills Library—our collection is not circulating. There are copy machines at the library. Many records are handwritten, are in chronological rather than alphabetical order, and may not be indexed. Bring a magnifying glass to help you read the handwriting.

An extra feature at the LAFSL is the availability of permanent libraries of genealogy societies including our sister society, JGSLA. The books are available for anyone to use. You may wish to look at the JGSLA website to see which books are available: <http://jgsla.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/JGSLALibraryIndex-update.pdf>.

The Polish Genealogical Society of Southern CA, also has their permanent library housed there and we can use their materials at the library. To see which books the Polish Society has, check out this link: http://www.pgscsca.org/Library_Directory.htm . Remember, all books, microfilms, microfiche, maps, etc. may only be used at the FSL. It is not a lending library therefore, **nothing is permitted to be removed from the facility**.

There is a small lunchroom with vending machines. There is a refrigerator in the lunchroom where you can store your bag lunches and drinks. There is a microwave that is also available for use. The vending machines only sell snacks, cookies and drinks—no “real” food. We don’t know what/if food will be available on a Sunday. If you want to bring a snack or lunch you may eat and drink **ONLY** in that designated area.

There are lockers with keys available at no fee for members to keep their valuables. There is a coat rack for coats, jackets, and sweaters. Sometimes they forget to ask maintenance to turn on the heat on Sundays (when they are usually closed) and it gets very cold down there—especially in the classroom. **You might want to bring a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket**—just in case!

If you wish to print a document off a computer, microfilm or microfiche reader, or copy machine, you make your copies and pay at the front desk (10 cents per page). **We don't know how much change they will have so it would be appreciated if you bring change and small denomination bills.**

Have a very successful research trip!

The following story about Temple Adat Elohim's Cantor David Shuklar was originally published in the 1/9/2019 edition of the Jewish Journal (<https://jewishjournal.com>). It is reprinted in its entirety with permission.

Saving a Shul From the Woolsey Fire

By [Esther D. Kustanowitz](#) | [Jan 9, 2019](#) | [Mensches](#)

Photos by Cyndi Bemel



The Conejo Valley community was still reeling from the Borderline Bar and Grill shooting in Thousand Oaks in November 2018 when the Woolsey Fire broke out. Cantor David Shukiar of Temple Adat Elohim (TAE), a Reform Congregation of the Conejo Valley, received a frantic call from a congregant who had seen smoke near the temple building. Shukiar headed to the temple, called the facilities manager, and for three hours, the pair used hoses to put out hot spots at the campus and at the elementary school.

“I was shocked at how much water it took,” Shukiar said in a phone interview. When members of the fire department came through, they explained that under the ash, the embers were still hot, “resulting in a creeping fire that works its way slowly and has the potential to reignite. The fire department said they were grateful for our firefighting ability. I was grateful she [the congregant] called. I don't know what made her call us.”

Regarding the fires, Shukiar said, “there was a lot of heroics around our community,” including TAE Rabbi Barry Diamond who ran into the temple to rescue their Torahs, and the congregants who organized right after the fire.

“Within two days, we had reached every member to figure out what they needed [and] how many congregants lost homes. It was a pretty heroic couple of days for the whole community,” Shukiar said.

Shukiar's road to becoming a cantor was far from traditional. While growing up in Canoga Park, Shukiar was “disillusioned with organized Judaism,” but loved musical theater. In 1995, he moved to New York to try to make it on Broadway. His then-fiancée, Leasa, who was studying Judaism, urged him to find a temple for the High Holy Days. He chose Congregation Rodeph Sholom on Manhattan's Upper West Side, which welcomed them as members. Rodeph Sholom also premiered his original Hanukkah musical, “Benjamin and Judah.”

“Seeing Leasa's excitement and being welcomed by a community — that started my journey home to Judaism,” he said. “Seeing the beauty through her eyes was really what enabled me to come back for myself.”

The two were married in 1996, spent six months performing on a cruise ship, and returned to Los Angeles. Facing a house payment and preparing for a child, Shukiar realized spending five years at cantorial school wasn't an option, so he studied privately at TAE. He became choir director at TAE in 1997 and then spent five years at Beth Shir Shalom in Santa Monica, where Rabbi Neil Comess-Daniels gave him what he called “a foundation that I continue to build upon.”

For the past 13 years, Shukiar has been back at TAE, where he oversees and facilitates all aspects of the music program, including Shirei Elohim, the junior choir; the junior cantors; the Temple Adat Elohim Chorale; The Band of Milk and Honey; and the TAE Community Orchestra. He also wrote "Chamilton," a Purim parody of "Hamilton," and "The Shushan Schlepper's Purim Chai Club Band," the story of Purim through 21 Beatles songs. And he's a member of the Guild of Temple Musicians, which has twice awarded him the Ben Steinberg Young Composer's Award.

"As much as the sermons our rabbis give are meaningful and powerful, I don't think there's any vehicle that can express the power of a moment more than music," he said. "Music takes a moment and elevates it so people can connect through something higher."

Genealogy Odds and Ends



IGRA (Israel Genealogy Research Association) has posted a new article on its website, "The Urban Jewish Population in Eretz Israel from 1839-1948: Censuses and Voters' Lists"- by Rose Feldman.

Under the British Mandate of Palestine the Jewish population had its own ruling bodies that were responsible for their self-government.

Three types of documents can be found for this period: censuses, voters' lists on the national level for Knesset Israel and voters' lists on the local level. This article includes a limited survey of these documents in places that are considered to be "urban settlements" today. This information is based on the collection in IGRA's "All Israel Databases" where most of these documents are already searchable in either Hebrew or English on the IGRA website. To view article: <https://tinyurl.com/ybpvqhb8> Non-members can view this article until Feb. 18, 2019. To register: <http://genealogy.org.il/>

New at Ancestry.com



- New York, NY Marriage License Indexes 1907-2018
- U.S. Obituary Collection 1930-2018
- U.S. Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection 1847-2018
- U.S. WW II Draft Cards Young Men 1940-1947
- U.S. School Yearbooks 1900-1990



JewishGen Offers Brick Walls or Dead End Class February 9-February 28, 2019

For researchers who are at a standstill in their research and need new ideas, JewishGen Education offers the popular class, Brick Wall or Dead End.

Take a class to help review and analyze your data with a personal instructor. If you feel you have exhausted all approaches and want new solutions, this class offers one-on-one mentoring in a private educational Forum open 24/7.

Requirements: Students must have done enough research to have reached a point where help is needed. Students should feel comfortable with computers and Internet searches. Student need to send in an application. Details on the Education Page: check Requirements & Course Details

www.JewishGen.org/education. Questions? Contact: Nancy Holden

JewishGen-Education@lyris.JewishGen.org



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 telephone _____ Mobile telephone _____

E-mail address _____

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



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

**Sunday, February 10th 1-5 PM Assisted Research Afternoon
at the LA FamilySearch Library for MEMBERS ONLY***

*Anyone may join at the door

2019

SUNDAY	MARCH 3	1:30-3:30 PM	“Success In-And In Spite of Endogamy”	Speaker, Lara Diamond, President, JGS Maryland and Coordinator, JewishGen Sub-Carpathia SIG
MONDAY	APRIL 8	7:00-9:00 PM	“Branching Out from Sephardic-Solving a Converso Mystery”	Speaker, Sarina Roffe, founder Sephardic Heritage Project
SUNDAY	MAY 5	1:30-3:30 PM	Annual Yom Hashoah Program - Program, Documentary, “The Forgotten Ones: The Story of Yugoslav Jewry”	(Yom Hashoah actual date: May 2)
SUNDAY	JUNE 2	1:30-3:30 PM	“MyHeritage New Features and New Records”	Speaker, Daniel Horowitz, Genealogy Expert, MyHeritage
SUNDAY	JULY 14	1:30-3:30 PM	Genealogy In The Round	Members and Friends share successes, brickwalls and artifacts

2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE JULY 28-AUGUST 2 CLEVELAND, OH

February 2019

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Check www.jgscv.org for updates

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.

You can register for the new term at www.Ralphs.com starting **September 1, 2018**.

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:
 - a. Community Rewards – Re-Enroll
 - b. **Type JGSCV's NPO number: RG981 or Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &" OR:** Type in the first words of our organization i.e. "Jewish Gen" (if you only type in "Jewish" a number of organizations appear including ours, so by typing in the first few letters of our second name only we appear) and click on "search" and our name will pop up: Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &" **Make certain it's our Society as there are other Jewish Genealogy Societies registered!**
 - c. Remember to click on the circle/bubble to the left of JGSCV's name
 - d. Click in save changes
- Our name Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &..) will appear on the right side of this page
- e. Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process

Remember even if you are only an occasional Ralphs shopper, your purchases help JGSCV!

JGSCV has been receiving from Ralphs 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.

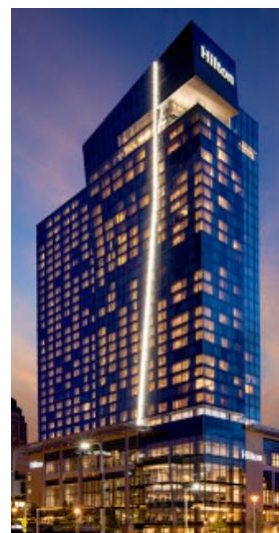
2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE

CLEVELAND, OH

JULY 28-AUGUST 2



The IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held on July 28-August 2, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. It is relatively new opening in 2016. If you are planning on attending and want to make your hotel reservations go to:



http://www.iajgs2019.org/hotel_reserve.cfm. They require one night's deposit at the time of reservation which is refundable up to three days before check-in, if you must cancel. Conference registration has not yet opened but you might find the conference website something to review: <http://www.iajgs2019.org/> There is a discussion list you can subscribe to learn as things are announced: http://www.iajgs2019.org/discussion_list.cfm There is also a Facebook group: http://www.iajgs2019.org/facebook_group.cfm. As Jan is on the conference committee and will be

February 2019 VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

coordinating and obtaining the databases for the resource room, you will hear more from her about the conference throughout the year!