

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

July 2020

Volume 15 Issue 10

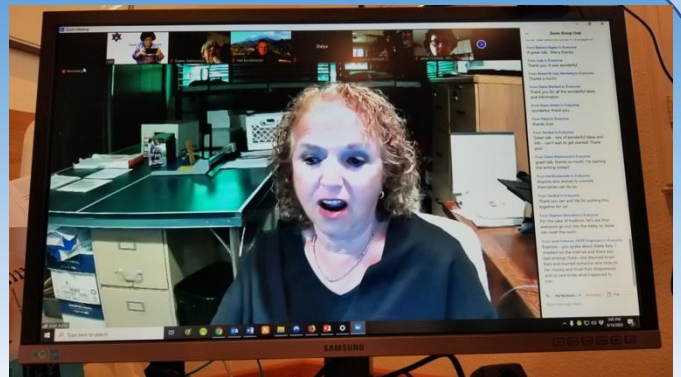
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone is well and safe and practicing safe distancing and wearing masks. It is a new "normal" that we are living in.

JGSCV held its first Zoom meeting on June 14 with Joan Adler presenting, *"My Family: I Could Write a Book - How Writing Helps You Learn About Your Family in New and Novel Ways"*. Joan's excellent presentation was very well received. We had 45 attendees which is close to the usual in-person meeting attendance. Joan's handout is posted to the JGSCV website at: <https://www.jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html> under the June 14 date. See page 5 for the highlights from the program.

We will continue to hold Zoom meetings with compelling speakers scheduled for July 19th and September 13th 1:30-3:30 PM. Mark your calendars! At Stephen Weinstein's suggestion made during the last Zoom meeting, we are resuming the Schmoozing Corner/Ask the Experts where members may ask genealogical questions of JGSCV experts. Stephen is hosting the one on July 19th starting at 1:10 PM. See page 18 for future programs. **Our Zoom programs are open only to current JGSCV members as a membership benefit.** We welcome new members and anyone who is interested in attending Zoom programs may join JGSCV. The membership form is on page 21.

As a result of Joan Adler's program on writing about your family, we are starting a new feature in the newsletter. We are inviting members to submit brief vignettes/memories

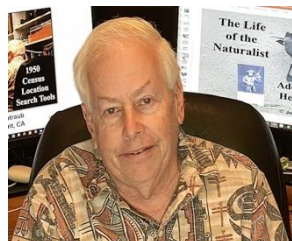


Joan Adler presenting at JGSCV's June meeting via Zoom

NEXT MEETING

Sunday July 19th 1:30-3:30 PM

Members only ZOOM!



Joel Weintraub, recognized expert on how best to use the US census as a genealogy tool, will discuss the 1950 census for genealogists.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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Mission Statement:

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

about someone in their family. As Joan noted, it is important to *start-not* to worry if it's at the beginning or the end—just do it! To start us off, JGSCV Secretary Dianne Wainwood has offered her father's (Harry Wain, MD) story "Family, Facts, Fables and History" which he passed on to his children and grandchildren. This is part of longer document. See "Family Stories" on page 17. Please submit your short memory stories to our newsletter editor Allan Linderman at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and to me at president@jgscv.org

As we are living in the COVID-19 era, there is an article on page 19 about *How Does COVID-19 Change the Way We Do Our Genealogy Research*, since we are NOT going to libraries and archives.

If you haven't completed your 2020 census form please do so. It is very important that everyone complete the form. This is a once a decade requirement, and it takes only moments to complete. Go to: <https://2020census.gov/> and complete the form. If you have students living at home or at school, there is official government guidance on where they should state they should be counted: <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census/focus/grads.html>.

IAJGS has announced their annual conference will be a virtual conference from August 10-13, 2020. Early bird registration is now open June 21-July 5. Primary Registrant \$250 until July 5, \$325 after; Spouse/Domestic Partner \$75.

For more information go to: www.iajgs2020.org. From the FAQ/INFO tab you can sign up for the conference discussion group and/or Facebook page. Brainstorming and Connectivity will be the focus of four days of live-streamed sessions on broad topics presented as plenary sessions, panels and webinars. The Pre-Recorded Video Archive available to conference registrants for up to 60 days after the virtual conference will offer an even wider range of specialized presentations beyond the scheduled, live sessions. See page 11.

We continue our series commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, by writing about our ancestors or selves who served in World War II. This month you can read about John A. Jackson, uncle of JGSCV member Tom Allen. See page 12. If you have a story to commemorate your service or a family member's service during World War II please send it to both our newsletter editor, Allan Linderman at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and me at president@JGSCV.org.

Hal Bookbinder continues his series on Practicing Safe Computing with this month's timely article on *Practicing Safe Zoom*, see page 16.

Stay healthy and safe! Have a great July 4th. Hope to see you on our July 19th Zoom program.

Jan Meisels Allen





Summer's here and the time is right to...

Take a Webinar: With our safe-at-home lifestyle, the world is at our feet VIRTUALLY this summer.

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) announced that its 40th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be a virtual conference for the first time, held Aug. 10-13, 2020. We can stay safe at home and still enjoy the speakers, SIG meetings, and classes. See further details in this issue.

FamilySearch.org offers webinars during July on U.S. wills and Probate records, and how to find elusive items in their database. Go to https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/img_auth.php/6/66/July_2020.pdf

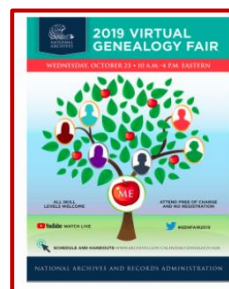
The New England Historic Genealogy Society presents *Jews in the Catskills During & After the Holocaust* on Tuesday, August 25 at 4:00PM EDT with Dr. Phil Brown. Dr. Brown's interest in this topic increased when he served on the advisory board for the film *Four Seasons Lodge*, a documentary of a bungalow colony collectively owned and run by Holocaust survivors. This is a Wyner Family Jewish Heritage Center Event and the cost is free.

<https://www.americanancestors.org/education/online-classes#jc>

Legacy Family Tree's list of **free** classes includes Shelley Dardashti's *Jewish Ethnicity & DNA: History, Migration, Genetics* with some wonderful historical photos, and the upcoming *50 More Websites Every Genealogist Should Know* with Gena Philibert-Ortega. Find more at https://familytreewebinars.com/archived_webinars_free.php

The United States Archives has been hosting a virtual genealogy fair annually since 2013. Every year is accessible at the Archives website for your perusal.

<https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair>



Page Three is curated by Andrea Massion, JGSCV Board member

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

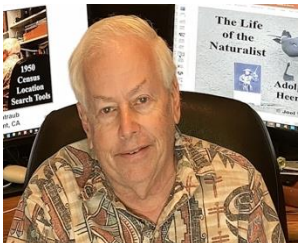


The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a **Zoom** meeting, Sunday, July 19, 2020 1:30-3:30 p.m. Open only to JGSCV members (see below for membership app). **Zoom link will be emailed to members a few days before the meeting.**

The Program: The 1950 U.S. Census for Genealogists

The U.S. 1950 census will become public on April 1, 2022. This talk includes information on what is a census, who uses the census, census caveats, the 1940 census, how the 1950 census was taken, training of enumerators, enumerator instruction book, census sampling, 1950 schedule, 1950 Housing Schedule, census questions, post enumeration codes, 1950 undercount, and a summary of the results. Actual census documents will be shown to the group (but only Joel will handle them!). Will you be on the 1950 Census? That will be the first for Joel and the first for his colleague Steve Morse.

Speaker: Joel Weintraub, a New Yorker by birth, is an emeritus Biology Professor at California State University, Fullerton and has won awards for his science teaching. He became interested in genealogy about 20 years ago and volunteered for 9 years at the National Archives and Records Administration in southern California. Joel produced locational tools for the 1900 through 1940 federal censuses, and the New York State censuses for NYC (1905, 1915, 1925) for the Steve Morse "One-Step" website (stevemorse.org). He, Steve, and their volunteers, are currently working on 1950 U.S. census tools. He has published articles on the U.S. census and the 72-year rule, the name change belief at Ellis Island, finding difficult passenger records at Ellis Island, searching records (and the geography) of NYC, and a biographical revision of biologist AL Heermann,



This meeting is open to MEMBERS ONLY. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV using the website (www.jgscv.org) or the form in this newsletter. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family.

Highlights from: *My Family: I Could Write a Book - How Writing Helps You Learn About Your Family in New and Novel Ways*

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV's first Zoom program on June 14 was with Joan Adler talking about, *My Family: I Could Write a Book ---How Writing Helps You Learn About Your Family in New and Novel Ways*. Joan (photo right on Zoom) has been working with the Straus family for 30 years and is the executive director of the Straus Historical Society. The Straus family owned Macy's and Abraham & Straus department stores. Oscar S. Straus served in President Theodore Roosevelt's Cabinet and Isidor and Ida Straus went down in the Titanic. Oscar was one of the founders and the first president of the American Jewish Historical Society. Levi Straus, the man credited with inventing jeans, is not a member of this Straus family nor is the family of Straus Dairies in northern CA. Joan's handout is posted to the JGSCV website at: <https://www.jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html> with the June 14 date.

She told us that what you do with genealogy is only one part of what we all should be doing. There is genealogical research, historical research and writing about what you know. Joan said, "It's not the information you have, or how much information you have, but what you do with it that counts."

Joan advised writing what you know. For example, were Jews hiding in fear of conscription or pogroms? This influenced why they immigrated. It will force you to think about what they were doing and why you are doing it. It will also force you to organize, show you what you don't know and what information is missing. This will stimulate ideas about where to go to find the answers.

Items that we can collect to help give context include documents (vital records, census records, ships manifests), newspaper clippings and other



ephemera. But these people were much more than just the information you can find in these documents. An example from Joan's family was about her grandmother's hands that were riddled with arthritis. The arthritic knobs' imprints showed when she made gefilte fish. Joan wrote this down so her children would learn about it because her grandmother died before they were born. It helps to bring her grandmother to life rather than being just some information on a census or other record.

If your family is concerned about their privacy, Joan suggests writing about their history such as how they lived, when they immigrated, when others followed their immigration, did they live together when they arrived, how they crossed borders, etc.

The critical thing according to Joan, is you only need to start! It is not necessary to have a goal. It doesn't matter how you do it, just do it!

Information from a Birth Certificate

Joan's examples used vital records from her grandmother Sera Heimowitz's birth certificate.

She showed the types of information one can glean from such a document: birth date, address, father's name and place of birth, mother's maiden name and place of birth, who delivered the baby and order of the birth.

until eight or nine days later. Often midwives kept the records in one batch and filed them after having made a number of deliveries.

The place where Sera's family lived when she was born was a tenement, what today would be called an apartment. The neighborhood was composed mostly of tenements with few private houses. Some of the buildings had stores on the ground floor and this was the case with their tenement.

When writing this up add information you know, such as hair color, curly or straight, if they had a nickname etc. In Joan's case her grandmother was known to be "klutzy."

From this, Joan researched and found a map showing the street where they lived at the time.

City of New York
 STATE OF NEW YORK
 No. of Certificate, 16334
 APR 27 1898
 Certificate of Birth
 Name of Mother, Sera Heimowitz
 Name and address of person making this report, Anna Ritter, Residence, 113 Lewis St
 Date of Report, April 26 1898

Name	Sera Heimowitz
Sex	girl
Color	white
Date of Birth	April 18 1898
Place of Birth	28 Goerck St
Father's Name	Sam Heimowitz
Address	28 Goerck St
Ethnicity	Hungarian
Age	30 years
Occupation	work man
Mother's Name	Fanni Heimowitz
Mother's Name before Marriage	Fanni Reis
Address	28 Goerck St
Ethnicity	Hungarian
Age	23 years
Number of previous children	none
How many now living (in all)	one
Date of Report	April 26 1898

NO DUPLICATED CERTIFICATE WILL BE RECEIVED



28 Goerck Street, NY



From this information a narrative can be written. This is an example of what Joan wrote upon learning this information:

My grandmother, Sera Heimowitz, was born on April 18, 1898 in Manhattan. She was the daughter of Sam and Fanni Reis Heimowitz. They lived at 28 Goerck Street.

Sam and Fanni were both born in Hungary. Sera, who we only knew as Sadie, was their first child. She was delivered by Anne Ritter, a midwife, who lived at 113 Lewis Street. Although she was born on the 18th, her birth certificate wasn't filed with the city

She was able to find a photograph of the building as it stands today. New York City Municipal Archives has a photograph collection as do other archives and libraries in every locality. (<https://www1.nyc.gov/site/records/historical-records/digital-gallery.page>).

By researching old newspapers you may also find a photograph of the building or street or information about the area where its located. Check with the reference librarians in the town you are researching and then speak to your local library about an inter-library loan of the microfilm with the time and stories you want to access if that newspaper is not digitized and available online. Look for society news, births, marriages, and deaths, and for context what was happening at the time of the event—locally as well as in the world, such a war, economic conditions such as a depression or recession, epidemic, fire, hurricane, tornado, national election, who was president, etc. Joan strongly suggested researching *Chronicling America* from the Library of Congress <https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>. (Look at the JGSCV website under resources as we list many newspaper sites: <https://www.jgscv.org/resources.html#Newspapers>).

Put what you learned about your family events into context. An example Joan provided was her great-grandfather died during the coldest freeze and they had to wait to bury him until the ground thawed.

To Get Started—List What You Know—Interviewing Relatives

Joan's suggestion: To get started, list what you know. If you have the documents, such as birth, marriage and death certificates, census records and more, take the information and list them. Very often this will reveal what documents you don't have but might also want to collect.

When interviewing relatives, always ask permission first if you may record audio or video. Bring a digital camera for this as well as a portable scanner as the



interviewee may have photographs, artifacts or documents you may wish to copy.

Promise not to show the transcript, photographs or other artifacts without their prior permission. Transcribe your notes and give it to them to review. The transcript may trigger additional memories. They may also want to remove something—remember it's their story so they can add to or remove from it.

Writing a Book

As a Straus Historical Society project, Joan has written several books or helped edit books written by Straus family members. It is not expensive to publish these books On Demand. While there are several Print On Demand publishers, Joan uses *Lightning Source* which creates professional looking books available in hard or soft bound, color or black and white and in many different sizes. There is no minimum number of books to be ordered and one can reorder if one needs more with no minimum requirement. Joan writes her books using Adobe InDesign, a desktop publishing program, but Word is fine. The finished product must be turned into a PDF for submission to *Lightning Source*.

The books Joan has written, or helped Straus family members write, include vignettes about the family with photographs. She told a story about mayonnaise as one member of the family, who had a Chinese cook, had it made in her own kitchen. Her friends wanted to know the secret for the mayonnaise as it was delicious. The cook would not share his recipe. One day the woman peeked

through the transom above the kitchen door and watched him make it. After mixing all the ingredients, he measured the oil into his mouth and opened his lips to allow only one drop into the bowl. Needless to say, the cook was let go and they didn't serve salads anymore!

Joan used this as a wonderful example of the kinds of things that will be lost if we don't write them down. She commented that not everyone has such interesting relatives. But your relative's stories will be interesting to your family because they are about their own family.

Another suggestion is to have several relatives write stories and you become the editor. Then you, as editor, can include or exclude what you want.

If you have relatives who died in the Holocaust, you can start a list of people with names and where they died. Joan wrote a biography of two of these people from the Straus family Holocaust victims list. It was not a long write-up— only one page, but it resulted in several people contacting her as a result and shared their own family stories. One never knows what triggers a memory or contact!

Joan also suggested submitting a Page of Testimony to Yad Vashem <https://yvng.yadvashem.org/>

<https://www.yadvashem.org/archive/hall-of-names/pages-of-testimony.html>. This is a great way to remember those lost in the Holocaust and is an aide for others trying to research the person or find others who are also researching the same person.

Joan also posted an inquiry on JewishGen about someone who had not been heard from since 1948. The next day she heard from a first cousin's son and contacted him. One never knows where a contact may be made so it is good to cast a wide net.

You can also write a family newsletter. Joan has done this for the Straus family since 1993. All issues are posted to the SHS website <http://www.straushistoricalsociety.org/>. To find them, go to Archives and then Newsletters on the drop-down menu on the left on the Home Page.

Everything you write tweaks a memory. Look at homes owned by your family and find out who owned it before them. Joan related a story about Nathan Straus, Driftwood, and pasteurization. Nathan had two children that had died from tuberculosis, and questioned if it was from the milk they drank since the cow died of tuberculosis. He researched this possibility and in the early 1890's he opened a pasteurization plant for milk. When he found it worked, he opened pasteurization laboratories and milk depots for distribution of the pasteurized milk across the country and then the world.

In researching and finding previous land owners it is helpful to query the county land office, local historical societies in that town and local libraries. Joan contacted the current owners of Driftwood; the Straus family didn't live there in 1890s, when the cow died. She was able to find the grandson of the person who owned the property in the 1890s and, ironically, his grandfather had also been on the Titanic and had dined with the Straus family. He thought he was dining with R. H. Macy, and so she was able to correct misinformation he had. She learned, from writing this story, that she had made an incorrect assumption for twenty years. It was only by writing what she thought she knew that she



learned it was not possible. Writing about it helped her to see that.

A family cookbook is another way to write down memories. Copy the recipes as you find them, even if they are written in your ancestor's Pidgeon English. And then "translate" them into better English. Our ancestors didn't use measurements, rather a pinch of this or that. Joan had a home economist help her figure out the measurements. If one of the recipes is someone's favorite, add who it was and if you know why it was their favorite. Short stories like this from family members make the book more interesting.

Don't worry about grammar, style, relevance, or getting everything down in chronological order. You can fix that later. Write everything down and then go back, remove what is not relevant, change the wording, correct the punctuation, move things around until it makes sense and suits what you are trying to convey.

Joan related about her ancestral trips to Ukraine and Hungary. Not everywhere has electronics so remember to bring a notebook and extra supplies. Adding photographs to your stories helps jog memories. She added history of the towns and posted about the people who lived there. Taking photographs of gravestones may be the only way to

preserve the information as the gravestones are disintegrating. Joan recommended submitting the photographs to JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) <https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/>

Writing is a reward to enhance your genealogy research.

In Summary

Summarizing Joan's suggestions:

- It's not necessary to begin your writing at the beginning.
- Write about what you know.
- Don't worry about the end result .
- You don't need to have a goal.
- You only need to start.

Joan Adler is executive director of the Straus Historical Society and has been working with the Straus family for 30 years. She has researched and written about the lives of many amazing people. Not only has she done genealogical research for the Straus family, she has been able to reconstruct the lives of Straus family members within the context of their social, political, historical and religious environment.

JGSCV Updates

Your JGS has been exceptionally busy these past few months working on continuing to offer unique programs with compelling speakers while managing the personal, professional and health challenges facing us all. JGSCV meetings will be a **MEMBERS ONLY** benefit offered via Zoom until further notice.

Don't forget when shopping at Ralphs or Food for Less to have JGSCV listed as your charity of choice. See Noteworthy for instructions. <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.

Please read about the newest relationship between JGSCV and Amazon on page 10. Amazon's unilateral decision to modify our relationship is resulting a considerable loss of revenue to JGSCV. Please, learn why we need your help even more and how you can do it.

Amazon and JGSCV

For many years JGSCV has been an Amazon Affiliate and we benefited from the clicks on the Amazon link on our website. Unfortunately, without notice, Amazon has cancelled our Affiliate status and we do not know how we were not in compliance. We are unable to reach anyone at Amazon to discuss this. Several other JGSs have also been dropped, not this month, but in the past without explanation.

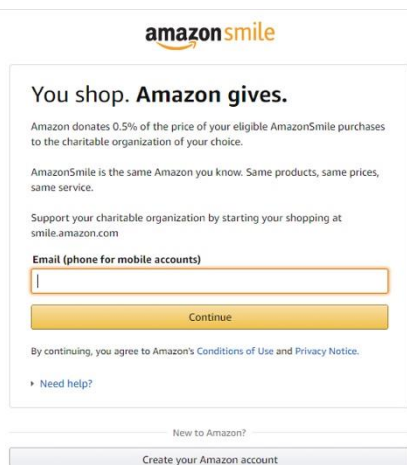
Now, we have added AmazonSmile to our website. We have been an AmazonSmile participant for years but did not promote it as we received more revenue from the other program. The AmazonSmile program provides 0.5% to us for every purchase that is covered by the SMILE program. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges.

AmazonSmile offers a simple and automatic way for you to support JGSCV every time you shop, at no cost to you.

To shop at AmazonSmile go to: <https://smile.amazon.com/> from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. **Purchases made at amazon.com will not generate an AmazonSmile donation for JGSCV.** Our unique AmazonSmile link is: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0957875>

When you scroll to the bottom of any page on our website <https://www.jgscv.org/> you will see the AmazonSmile for which we ask you to click on which takes you to the AmazonSmile website.

First, you need to create an Amazon account or sign-in to an existing one: <https://tinyurl.com/oycgnyl>



Mobile users need to register in the Amazon Shopping App for the Smile Program. You must set up the app for AmazonSmile shopping. In Android, this is done from the app's "hamburger menu". For iPhones and iPads purchases made on the shopping app are eligible for SMILE. Purchases made from any Kindle E-reader device through the Kindle E-readers using the iOS operating system are **not** eligible for donations.

Then click through to our unique charity link: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0957875> (This is JGSCV's AmazonSmile link)

If you have already designated a different charity, you will see a pop-up box from Amazon asking you to change your charity to Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County. Please note that if you are already supporting JGSCV, the link will not ask if you would like to change your organization

Click the button to "change my charity".

You will receive a confirmation email from Amazon.com with instructions.

After you specify an Amazon.com charity and shop at smile.amazon.com instead of www.amazon.com, Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to JGSCV at no cost to you.

You can read more about the Amazon smile program by clicking on this link: https://smile.amazon.com/gp/chpf/about/ref=smi_se_cdsu_lm_saas

The instructions are also on the JGSCV website under noteworthy <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>

Thank you for supporting JGSCV by using AmazonSmile for your Amazon purchases.

The IAJGS Virtual Conference 10–13 August 2020

From the Comfort of Your Own Chair

By Robinn Magid

Registration is off to a good start for the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Conference on Jewish Genealogy that will be held 10–13 August 2020 in the middle of a pandemic instead of a hotel in San Diego. Being adaptable and blessed with electricity and dedicated volunteers, we have quickly converted to a virtual conference that will still feature intriguing topics ranging from DNA testing to the “How To” sessions that our attendees have come to love.



Recognizing our diaspora across time zones, this conference will feature a “Video Archive” of recorded presentations – selected from the 100+ speakers who were accepted to speak in San Diego. The Video Archive will be available for the convenient viewing by paid attendees for up to 60 days following the end of the online conference.

Our deep content may be primarily pre-recorded, but this special 40th anniversary conference will feature four days of live, streamed events including plenary sessions, panels and game shows to provide an interactive and entertaining learning environment with sufficient breaks to combat “viewer fatigue”. Topics include choices for all levels of genealogists and the tentative program appears on our website.

Arthur Kurzweil, the founding father of our movement in many ways, will be on hand with Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, editor of *Avotaynu*, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, in a conversation about the evolving story of these Jewish Genealogy Conferences. Arthur served as co-chair of the first “seminar” on Jewish genealogy and authored the inspirational classic, *From Generation to Generation*, regarded by many as “The Bible” of Jewish genealogy. Sallyann co-chaired more than one of these conferences (back in the day when hundreds of people could meet in person). What a great year to explore how Times Have Changed! – They’ll even honor the person or people who have attended the greatest number of these Jewish Genealogy Conferences. Join us to find out who that is!

Our speaker roster includes some of the biggest names in genealogy, including Kitty Munson Cooper (blog.KittyCooper.com); Janine Cloud (FamilyTreeDNA.com); Crista Cowan (Ancestry.com); W. Todd Knowles (FamilySearch.org); Daniel Horowitz (MyHeritage.com); Shelly Talalay Dardashti (MyHeritage.com & Tracing the Tribe); Randy Schoenberg (Geni.com & Jewish Genealogy Portal); Adam Brown (AvotaynuDNA) and Stanley Diamond (JRI-Poland.org).

We’ll provide meeting time for the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Birds-of-a-Feather Groups (BOFs) which are groups that share topical or geographical interests. Come visit our website at: www.iajgs2020.org where you can register for the conference. Join the discussion on Facebook by requesting membership at “IAJGS Conference Discussion.” Early Bird Discount Pricing is available until July 5, 2020! See you online!

Robinn Magid serves as the volunteer chair of the IAJGS 2020 Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Robinn also served as the chair of the IAJGS 2018 Warsaw Conference and lives in Berkeley, California. She can be reached at chair@iajgs2020.org or Robinn.Magid@gmail.com

John took the Civil Service Exam in June 1941 and went to work for the Government Oct 11, 1941 as a typist. He soon became a teletype operator until beginning military service in February, 1943.

He joined the Army Air Corps as an Aviation Cadet and took basic training at Miami Beach, FL at 8th and Ocean Drive, across the street from the beach. He was only there for three weeks before going to North Carolina State where he received 10 hours of training in a piper cub. After 9 weeks in college, John was sent to Nashville, TN for classification which he did not make. He was then sent to Jefferson Barracks, MO for more basic training.

In August 1943, he was at Grinnell College, IA for Army Special Training as an Engineer. The program was canceled in October and John was then shipped to Lincoln, NE for evaluation. Then he was sent to Las Vegas, NV for Gunnery School, December 1, 1943-January 30, 1944, where they had female pilots on B-17's. He then was home on leave to Kellerton.

11

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after January 1, 1922 and on or before June 30, 1924)

SERIAL NUMBER 510 I. NAME (Print) John A. Jackson ORDER NUMBER 13021
 N. 114 5th St. N.E. Wash. D.C. (Street, township, village, or city) (State) (Last)

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print) (Number and street) (Town, township, village, or city) (State)

3. MAILING ADDRESS Same (Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same)

4. TELEPHONE Tr. 1574 5. AGE IN YEARS 19 6. PLACE OF BIRTH Kellerton Iowa (Town or village) (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS W. M. Jackson, Kellerton, Iowa (Name) (Street or number) (Town or village) (State or country)

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS U.S. Govt. War Dept. Arlington, Va. (Name) (Street or number) (Town or village) (State or country)

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS (Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town or village) (State or country)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. FORTH I (Revised 9-1-42) (over) 616-21630-3 John A. Jackson (Signature)

John A Jackson's WW II Young Men's Draft Registration Card

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION
White	5'9 1/2	170	Sallow
Negro	EYES	HAIR	Light
			Ruddy
Oriental	Blue	Blonde	Dark
	Gray	Red	Freckled
	Hazel	Brown	Light brown
Indian	Brown	Black	Dark brown
	Black	Gray	Black
Philippine		Bald	

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: None

I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Registrar for Local Board: J. R. Griffin (Signature of Registrar) (Number) 18 (City or ward) Wash. D.C. (State)

Date of registration: June 30, 1942 (Day or month) (Year)

Local Board No. 17, 300 21st Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C.

(STAMP OF LOCAL BOARD)

(The stamp of the Local Board having jurisdiction of the registrant shall be placed in the above space)

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-21630-4

John was sent to Plant Park, Florida then to Avon Park, FL for crew assignment. The crew was a varied group of ten from all different states. After training they picked up a new B-17 in Savannah, Georgia.



Boeing B-17, Flying Fortress ©Air Force Historical Research Agency

The Eighth Airforce was established on 22 February 1944 by the redesignation of [VIII Bomber Command](#) at [High Wycombe Airdrome](#), England, 8 Airforce was a [United States Army Air Forces](#) combat air force in the [European Theater](#) of World War II, engaging in operations primarily in the Northern Europe AOR; carrying out strategic bombing of enemy targets in France, the Low countries, and Germany; and engaging in air to air fighter combat against enemy aircraft until the German Capitulation in May 1945. It was the largest of the deployed combat Army Air Forces in numbers of personnel, aircraft, and equipment. (https://military.wikia.org/wiki/Eighth_Air_Force)

The 93rd combat Bombardment Wing was inactivated in August 1945. The wing was a command and control organization for Eighth Air Force. It had no groups until April 1944. They flew in combat in the European theater from 2 June until 14 August 1944 when its groups were reassigned. Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/93rd_Combat_Bombardment_Wing

John later went to radar School in England to learn how to jam electronically Anti-Aircraft Radar. John did not fly with a crew but flew on a ship that had the equipment regardless of the crews. He did 18 missions with seven different crews. Three of those crews were shot down, thankfully when John was not flying with them.

According to John's application to State of Iowa for World War II Compensation he left the U.S. on July 25, 1944 and returned on October 27, 1945. In the *Des Moines Register* (Des Moines, IA) newspaper clipping dated October 26, 1945 it says he arrived in New York, NY aboard the Lake Champlain as a staff sergeant.

When he returned home, he went back to Iowa where he stayed for three months before going back to work in the Pentagon.

John enlisted in the reserves while waiting to see about his application to be a railway mail clerk in Iowa. In September 1950 he got a notice from the Air Force to report to Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. By then the Army Air Corps became the US Air Force. They had changed his Army military occupational specialty code (MOS) from Radar Jammer to an Air Force Radar Operator. They decided they needed those to detect Russian planes coming from Canada.

He got shipped to Bangor, Maine. When he got there the Captain said, "Jackson, I've been reading your 201 File (military personnel file), and I don't see a damn thing in there that says you know anything about radar". I say captain, "You got that right, that's what I tried to tell them down at Langley and they said you are going anyway." Then one day in December a message came in wanting his Air Force Specialty Code (AFSC number) at a Filter Center in Buffalo, NY. He went to the "Buffalo Filter Center" as it was a place where Civil Defense trained Civilians to spot and plot Aircraft. They sent GI's out looking to recruit civilians. He was there until May 1952 and then went back to Washington DC area.

John married Hallie Lawrence May 19, 1961 and they had two daughters: Deborah and Donna. John is buried in Annandale VA

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Practicing Safe Computing #56: “Practicing Safe Zoom”

By Hal Bookbinder
(Number 56 in a series)



The use of video conferencing and especially Zoom has skyrocketed. In December 2019, Zoom reported 10 million participants in Zoom meetings each day. By the end of April, they were claiming 300 million. By now, most of us have participated in Zoom meetings and have seen the stories about uninvited individuals disrupting meetings, often with outrageous and offensive behavior. There have also been concerns about hackers silently spying. Zoom has a number of features to mitigate these issues. The three key features are passwords, waiting rooms, and encryption.

Passwords – Most Zoom meetings now include passwords. Without passwords, a hacker who has learned, or has guessed, the 9 to 11-digit meeting ID can jump in as an uninvited participant. With passwords that differ for each meeting this becomes more difficult. Risks remain as the password for the meeting is a shared one. However, it does reduce the risk. Although you may be asked to enter the password displayed on the invite, I generally see it being incorporated directly into the invite link, making it less of a burden.

Waiting Rooms – When this feature is activated participants appear to the host in a “waiting room” and must be invited in individually or all at once. If the host does not recognize the individual, they can leave the person in the waiting room. The person cannot see, hear, or otherwise communicate with others. Meetings can be set up to allow predefined participants to bypass the waiting room. However, this is more appropriate to business than our avocation.

Encryption – Through encryption, the data streams containing the Zoom meeting are protected from snooping eyes. Zoom has long had strong encryption in its core components (that is, between the Zoom servers). But they only offered end-to-end encryption (between your computer and the first Zoom server) for corporate customers. After significant criticism, Zoom announced that end-to-end encryption would be offered to all Zoom account holders in July.

Other steps a host can take to maintain control include requiring pre-registration, muting some or all of the meeting participants and ejecting unwelcome individuals. The host can disallow muted participants to unmute themselves. Ejected participants cannot reenter that meeting again.

Zoom is popular as it is full featured, easy to use and free for most. However, Zoom security enhancements have, at times, been disruptive. On several occasions, I have been unable to start a meeting, finding that a change had been made since I scheduled the meeting. If you are a meeting host, log in and open the meeting at least 10 minutes early and ensure that everything works.

The widespread use of online conferencing facilities is here to stay. Security will need to keep up with ever more creative hackers. To read more about what Zoom is doing to enhance security, see <https://zoom.us/docs/doc/Ask-Eric-Anything-6-10.pdf>. For a review of Zoom security issues and tips, see <https://www.tomsguide.com/news/zoom-security-privacy-woes>.

This is the fifty-sixth 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.

FAMILY STORIES

JGSCV's June speaker Joan Adler advised genealogists to write down whatever you know about your ancestor(s) and not worry about the style, chronology or even whether it seems to make sense. Just do it! We think that's a great idea and *VENTURING INTO OUR PAST* begins a new series of "FAMILY STORIES" this month. Please read about Dr. Harry Wain and Jacob Flower.

Harry Wain, MD (1907-1981)
Father of JGSCV Member Diane Wainwood:

One day in a small Russian Village, the tailors came to a house where a young boy was desperately ill. He had apparently found a hive of honey bees and had eaten huge quantities of comb honey, bees-wax and all. His abdomen was grossly distended and he apparently had an intestinal obstruction.

After a discussion, the tailors decided that the bees-wax the boy had eaten had congealed and was causing the blockage. They therefore built a huge roaring fire in the stove. They sat the boy before it and wrapped him in blankets. Apparently, the heat melted the bees-wax and the intestinal blockage was relieved.

My grandfather Moses was apprenticed off to an itinerant tailor at the tender age of eleven.

The life of an itinerant tailor during the mid-19th Century in Russian was a hard one and at best afforded a precarious livelihood. Itinerant tailors would travel from one small rural village to another by horse and wagon in the summer and by sled in the winter. They would set up shop and stay from a week to a month or more, making clothes for the villagers and then move on to the next village.

My father told that his father and tailor he was apprenticed to were traveling across the desolate frozen steppes of Russia one bitter cold winter's day when they were attacked by a pack of starving wolves. As the tailor frantically drove the sleigh, whipping the horse in an attempt to outrun the wolves, my grandfather leaned from the sleigh and with a scythe slashed at (Continued next page)

My grandfather Moses was
and had children of his own, he apprenticed ~~my grandfather~~ off to an itinerant
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My father told me that his father and the tailor he was apprenticed to were travelling across the desolate frozen steppes of Russia one bitter cold winter's day when they were attacked by a pack of starving wolves. As the tailor frantically drove the sleigh, whipping the horse in an attempt to outrun the wolves, my grandfather leaned from the sleigh and with a scythe slashed at the viscious, snapping wolves. Each time he slashed a wolf and drew blood, the pack would pause and cannibalistically devour the wounded wolf.

Another grandfather story is how one day in a small Russian village, the tailors came to a house where a young boy was desperately ill. He had apparently found a hive of honey bees and had eaten huge quantities of comb honey, bees-wax and all. His abdomen was grossly distended and he apparently had an intestinal obstruction.

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(Continued from previous page) the vicious, snapping wolves. Each time he slashed wolf and drew blood, the pack would pause and cannibalistically devour the wounded wolf.

Jacob Flower (1874-1939) maternal grandfather of Jan Meisels Allen, JGSCV President:

My maternal grandfather, Jacob Flower, was a woman’s dress and coat manufacturer in Louisville, KY 1902-1907. The story I heard from my eldest aunt was he would go to the Kentucky Derby and sketch the wealthy women’s dresses and then go and copy them and sell them for less money. Today, that is common after a star is seen at an award show etc. but the story is as a result of his design "knock-offs" he was “asked” to leave Louisville by the authorities. This would have been 1906-1907. While I have searched the Louisville newspapers I can’t find mention of this ... but I do have a newspaper advertisement for the company he ran in Louisville, listing him as the manager and his next (twin) children were born in New York City in January 1908 (my mother born in Louisville in June 1906).

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through October 2020



ALL MEETINGS WILL BE RESERVED FOR MEMBERS ONLY VIA ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, July 19th 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom
Renown genealogist and U.S. Census expert Joel Weintraub will explain the genealogical implications of the 1950 U.S. Census which will be released in 2022.

Note: There will be no JGSCV Meeting in August due to the 2020 IAJGS Virtual Conference August 10-13

Sunday	Sept. 13	1:30-3:30 PM	Karen Franklin	Rescue and Resettlement: Researching Refugees from Nazi Europe
Sunday	Oct. 4	1:30-3:30 PM	Jennifer Mendelsohn	Think Like a Reporter to Avoid Genealogy Mistakes
November to be Announced				
Sunday	Dec. 6	1:30-3:30 PM	Genie Milgrom	Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of the Crypto Jews"

All future JGSCV meeting dates will be posted as soon as confirmed

How COVID-19 Has Changed the Way We Do Our Genealogy Research

By Jan Meisels Allen

If we use online websites and databases, not much will change as we are home and “social distancing”. The difference is that libraries and archives are closed to visitors.

Until further notice, we will not be permitted into our local libraries and archives and we don’t know how long that will be the “new norm”. In other communities, some libraries are opening with appointments for genealogy research, but not close by which raises the issue of disinfecting the materials (books, journals) the patrons may access. A librarian who wrote an article in nj.com said, “According to recent literature, the best way to “disinfect” books and other materials is by quarantining them for up to three days, effectively “waiting out” the virus until it dies. That’s why it may be best to let only staff handle materials until a vaccine is found or the risk of spreading the virus is much closer to zero than it is now.” <https://www.nj.com/hudson/2020/06/what-will-genealogy-research-look-like-post-covid-19-tracing-our-roots.html>. Of course, that then creates a risk to the staff handling the materials.

Some libraries may offer virtual visits with a librarian



by Zoom or Microsoft. Both of these technologies are free to use. Teleconferencing apps have the added advantage in that screen sharing will allow both librarian and patron to share material in the research interview and in offering results.

According to LA County Librarian Skye Patrick, County libraries began a library material pick up service on June 8, 2020. The “Sidewalk Service” for Express Holds Pickup will begin at 24 of the 86 library locations which includes Agoura Hills but not Westlake Village. Although book drops will be reopened at all locations for customers to return their library materials, they are still not accepting donations of books. Customers can contact their local library Monday – Friday, 9 am – 6 pm for more detailed information about, services, and resources during the closure. <https://lacountylibrary.org/coronavirus/>

Many libraries are offering offsite access to their databases. You might want to contact the library you are interested in to inquire as to what they have available. You may need a library card for that library which is available in any California public library to any California resident. Contact information for the local libraries and the Los Angeles City Library may be found on the JGSCV website under resources:

<https://www.jgscv.org/resources.html#Libraries>

Ventura County Libraries are still closed as of this writing but have information on their website about walk-up holds and phone services.

See:

<https://www.vencolibrary.org/walk-holds-pick-during-closure>

Camarillo Library is still closed. For information on ask a librarian or their digital services go to: <http://www.camarillolibrary.org/>



CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

Moorpark Library is closed. Staff is available by phone Monday through Friday between 10am and 5pm to answer any questions and assist you with digital resources. It started curbside pickup on June 1st to pick up physical library materials that have been placed on hold while the library building is closed.

<https://www.moorparkca.gov/933/Curbside-Pick-Up>

Simi Valley Library is doing a phased reopening. On June 1st they began curbside hold pickup, where library users can put items on hold online or by phone and then come by the library to pick them up. During that time, the library itself will still be closed for general use. It will reopen on July 1st

<http://simivalleylibrary.org/library-closure/>

The Grant R. Brimhall Library in Thousand Oaks offers Curbside Pickup. [Learn how to use Curbside Service](#). The Drive-up Book Drop is also open.

The Newbury Park Library is not offering Curbside Service or book returns at this time: <https://www.tolibrary.org/services/about-us/library-update>

Virtual Library Cards

For the Thousand Oaks Library go to <http://bit.ly/tolibrarycard> to be directed to a form to complete which is good for 60 days. Once you have it, log in to your account to set your notification preferences. The library's

phone number is (805) 449-2660. Librarians are there to answer questions even though the library is closed to the public.

[The Los Angeles Public Library \(City\)](#) has posted how to obtain a temporary virtual library card if you live in the city of Los Angeles. Go to: <https://www.lapl.org/about-lapl/contact-us/e-card/e-card-registration>.

For the LA County Library go to <https://lacountylibrary.org/coronavirus/> where you can sign up for a virtual library card. <https://tinyurl.com/yb4zxse>





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

**Join/Renew Dues Increased Effective January 1, 2020 by \$5.00.
Dues paid now are good through December 2020**

Date _____

Check one: New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 30.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$35.00 _____ + \$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 \$ _____

Security Fee Fund \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for any 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 _____

Your talents to share (i.e. accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, etc.)

