PRESIDENT’S LETTER

JGSCV is still operating under the COVID-19 restrictions. Our second Zoom meeting was held on July 19 with Joel Weintraub speaking on a timely subject: *The 1950 U.S. Census for Genealogists*. Joel’s handout is on our website and may be accessed at: [https://tinyurl.com/y6nvk6su](https://tinyurl.com/y6nvk6su). See the highlights of Joel’s presentation on page 5.

We also held an Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner facilitated by JGSCV member Stephen Weinstein 20 minutes before our program which went very well. Thank you, Stephen!

While we are not meeting in August as the IAJGS will be holding its virtual conference, we do have our speakers set for the remainder of the year. Please see page 20 for our programs through the end of 2020. At our July board meeting the board decided to keep the Zoom programs only for JGSCV members - at least for the time being.

We have ongoing newsletter sections and need YOUR articles. Our commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II series is on page 14 with Helene Rosen’s article about her father, Milton C. Freedman. Our family series continues this month with two members’ stories beginning on page 17. The family stories were suggested by our June speaker, Joan Adler, and we really appreciate your submitting brief vignettes/memories about someone in your family.

Please submit your WW II and family stories to our newsletter editor, Allan Linderman newslettereditor@jgscv.org and me at president@jgscv.org. This is your society’s newsletter and we want as many of you as possible to write something to share in the newsletter. If you need assistance, Allan will be happy to help.

The IAJGS virtual conference is August 10-14. Please,

NEXT MEETING

Sunday Sept. 13th 1:30-3:30 PM
Members only ZOOM!

Rescue and Resettlement: Researching Refugees from Nazi Germany

Karen Franklin, Director of Family Research at the Leo Baeck Institute will discuss the challenges and creative solutions for uncovering our ancestors’ routes for fleeing Europe.
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.

see the online published schedule at the IAJGS website: https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2020/program_schedule.cfm. Note all times are given in the eastern time zone. See page 12 for more information. The terms of office for half of our board members are expiring at the end of December. All four: Jan Allen, Karen Lewy, Helene Rosen and Diane Wainwood are willing to continue to serve. Our board currently has 8 members, but our bylaws permit up to 12 members. A Nominations Committee has been appointed, chaired by Marion Werle with Carol Flesher and Andrea Massion as the board representative. Board eligible JGSCV members will be contacted by the committee in early fall to determine if there are others who are interested on serving on the board. The application is on the website at: https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/board_application_form.pdf

Hal Bookbinder continues with his series on Practicing Safe Computing on page 13. This month’s subject is: Ransomware in the age of COVID-19.

Have you written up in your family tree notes about what you and your family are doing and fairing during this pandemic? Our family stories are for future generations and what we are currently living through with COVID-19 is historic and something to be included in our family stories included in our family tree narratives.

Another item that is critical for our genealogy is family health history. I just got out of the hospital again—this week—the 4th time since January for diverticulitis. I have since learned that my maternal aunt and a maternal cousin has it. It is definitely genetic. It is very important to learn your family medical history going back collaterally as well as straight-line. When I submit testimony to legislators about the need for access to vital records (birth, marriage and death records) I mention the importance of medical history—while I mentioned other diseases as examples, I now can use this one as a personal example.

I know I have reminded you before, but it is very important that each of us complete the 2020 Census form. Its only 10 questions unlike previous censuses which have tens of questions. For your family’s future genealogists if for no other reason, please complete the questionnaire. 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 guidance on where they should state they should be counted: https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census/focus/grads.html. As of writing this letter, only 62.8% in the US have replied: California 64%, Los Angeles County 59.1%, Ventura County 71.7%, and Santa Barbara County 67.0%. To find your city go to: https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html

Our September 13 meeting (we are not meeting on Labor Day weekend so we are meeting one weekend later) Karen Franklin will be presenting Rescue and Resettlement: Researching Refugees from Nazi Germany. See meeting notice on page 4 for more information.

Stay safe and healthy.

Jan Meisels Allen
Permission to Access a Killing Site
The European Jewish Congress undertakes to protect and defend Jews and their communities throughout Europe. Included in their list of tasks are: combating anti-Semitism, preserving the memory of the Shoah, protecting Jewish life, and connecting Jewish communities. They also monitor legislation and support communication between all religious organizations. Recently, they reported that bodies of 286 Jewish people, mostly women and children, were found in a basement below the town square’s marketplace in Sataniv, Ukraine, victims of a Nazi killing during WWII. Yad Vashem’s website writes: “On May 15, 1942 the Gendarmerie and Ukrainian auxiliary police locked up about 200 Jews, who died of suffocation or starvation.”

“It took the local Jewish community several legal battles in order to finally gain ownership of the basement,” states the article. Remains will be taken to the Jewish cemetery in Sataniv. More at https://eurojewcong.org/news/communities-news/ukraine/bodies-of-286-jews-murdered-in-holocaust-found-in-ukraine-basement/
The Great Synagogue in Sataniv was renovated and restored to its 16th century glory when in 2012, the Khmelnytsky Regional Jewish Community, took control of the building in 2012.

How Our Ancestors Stayed Safe at Home
Online exhibits and theatre performances are becoming the norm during the COVID-19 pandemic. Penn State Libraries website presents “The Jewish Home,” from its Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. Discussion and descriptions of Jewish ritual items, art and books used in a Jewish home fill the website, from the Ancient Roman period to Medieval times to the 19th century. One item is a small book of Jewish medical knowledge published in 1701 in Venice and found in numerous Jewish homes in Italy. An illustration of the human body depicted as a house is fascinating. “Ma’aseh Tuviyah is an apt artifact for thinking about Jews, bodies, health, and houses,” writes Joshua Teplisky in the commentary. https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/online-exhibits/jewish-home

Celebrating the Centennial of the 19th Amendment: Voting
The right to vote and to use that vote is more important than ever before. Virtual events abound in the month of August to remember how the 19th U.S. Amendment of 1920 affected all American families and their life stories. Here are a few resources to celebrate voting rights for all genders:
• Onward into the Light: https://www.archives.gov/news/19th-amendment-centennial-events
• Nineteen Facts about the 19th: https://theconversation.com/19-facts-about-the-19th-amendment-on-its-100th-anniversary-134517
• National Park Service Stories of the 19th: https://www.nps.gov/wori/2020.htm
• Jewish Women’s Archive: https://jwa.org/blog/jewesses-for-suffrage

Page Three is curated by Andrea Massion, JGSCV Board member
The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a Zoom meeting:

**Sunday, September 13, 2020 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

Open only to JGSCV members (*see below for membership application)*

Zoom link will be emailed to members a few days prior to the meeting.

**THE PROGRAM:**

**Rescue and Resettlement:**
**Researching Refugees from Nazi Germany**

Researchers may face challenges in documenting relatives who were refugees from Europe during and after World War II. Not all those who fled followed well-worn routes, so identifying and tracking them involves the kind of creative sleuthing important for all historical research.

Exit routes and countries of refuge covered in this presentation include British Guiana, the Dominican Republic, Brazil, Morocco and Egypt among others. This session is organized around case studies in which unusual as well as tried and true sources will be discussed. For more information: [https://jgscv.org/meetings.html](https://jgscv.org/meetings.html)

**About Speaker Karen Franklin**

Director of Family Research at the Leo Baeck Institute; Co-founder and Director of Outreach for the Obermayer Awards; Board Member of the National Association of Retired Reform Rabbis; Past co-chair of JewishGen's Board of Governors; Past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award; Past-chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums.

There is no charge for members of JGSCV to attend this Zoom meeting.
Anyone may join JGSCV.
Annual dues are $30 for an individual and $35 for a family.

Highlights from: The 1950 U.S. Census for Genealogists

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV held a Zoom meeting on July 19 with speaker Joel Weintraub for the timely program of, 1950 U.S. Census for Genealogists. The U.S. 1950 census will become public on April 1, 2022. This very detailed presentation included the definition of a census, explanations of 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. Joel’s handout is posted to the JGSCV website under meetings, prior, with the July 19 date, [https://www.jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html](https://www.jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html) or you can go directly to: [https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/handouts/The%20U.S.%20Census%20of%201950_handout.pdf](https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/handouts/The%20U.S.%20Census%20of%201950_handout.pdf)

Joel’s talk was a hybrid that included a power point presentation from his YouTube video “JDW Talks” plus in-person (via Zoom) comments and additions. Even though Joel’s presentation was very comprehensive, it was only part one of a 2-part presentation. The second part is about locational search tools. When the census becomes public one will be able to find the targets you are searching with those tools if you have a 1950 address.

Joel began by going over the basics so we all would be working from the same knowledge base on terminology.

- **Census**: a count of persons
- **Enumerator**: the person doing the count
- **Enumeration**: taking the count
- **Schedules**: questions asked of the people by the enumerator and their reply—what we want to see as they are the answers written down on the forms

**History**

The US Constitution mandates a census of all residents be taken every ten years. The first US census was done in 1790. Questions and parameters have changed over time. For example, the first census only included free white males, whereas today every resident is counted.

Why the 72-year rule for US Census privacy? It is an agreement reached in 1942 between the then-Archivist of the United States, and the then-Director of the Bureau of the Census that the early population records, 1780 to 1870 would be open to all researchers immediately. This was memorialized in [1952](https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/grover-8-26-1952.pdf) when Census Bureau Director Roy Peel proposed a transfer of materials to the National Archives, with the requirement, “after the lapse of 72-years from the enumeration date of a decennial census, the National Archives and Records Service may disclose information contained in the records of the use in legitimate historical, genealogical or other worth-while research provided adequate precautions are taken to make sure that the information disclosed is not be used to the detriment of an of the persons whose records are
involved.” Then-U.S. Archivist Wayne Grover agreed to the terms and records and added some conditions of legitimacy of the researcher.” This established the 72-year precedent for restrictions on population census records. As the number of years, by law, is an agreement (made in 1952), it can be changed at any time.

Privacy and confidentiality which are “issues” today were not when the agreement was made. However, in 1970 there was a concern about invasion of privacy and confidentiality. As a result, the National Archives postponed the release of the census in 1972 until the U.S. Attorney General validated the 72-year closure period with a compromise with the Census Bureau: the 1900 US Census would be made available to the public in 1973 with certain restrictions. At about the same time a bill was introduced in Congress that would have eliminated all public access to further U.S. census schedules. However, after historians and genealogists testified, the bill went no further. To read more about the history, further attempts to close or open the census and more, see the paper that Joel wrote in RootsKey Journal of the JGS Los Angeles which is posted to the Steve Morse website at https://stevemorse.org/census/rule72.html.

The census determines apportionment in the states for the House of Representatives, 435 members since 1913, and distribution of billions of federal funding to the states, cities and towns. An example given was during fiscal year 2015, that 132 federal programs used the Census Bureau data to distribute over $675 billion in funds.

**Who Uses the Census:** Many use the census but the largest group using the census are genealogists. The information is as reliable as the informant who could be someone in the household, a neighbor or, who knows? We don’t know if the person providing the information is honest or truthful. Did the census taker hear the answers correctly? Did the census taker write down the answers as the answers were given? Is the answer sheet the one taken in the field—the original—or a corrected copy?

The 1950 census covered the continental United States (48 states), Alaska, American Samoa, Guam and Hawaii. Also covered was the Panama Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, US. Virgin Islands, Military & Consular services abroad; naval services abroad or in American waters but not at a fixed station and Americans abroad (military families and federal workers).

President Truman and Family Counted in 1950:
Key West FL, April 1
Mrs. Eileen M Nolte (left) census enumerator for the area takes census information on the presidential family here today. Left to right: Mrs. Nolte, Mrs. Truman, the President, and Margaret Truman. Mrs. Truman points to an item for the census taker.

In 1950, the Census Bureau also tried an experiment of mail-in forms in Lansing, Michigan and Columbus, Ohio. The people were handed the forms to be completed and mailed back. In 1970, the Census went to a full mail-out, mail-back census.

**The Enumerators**
Joel is a collector who collects information about enumerators. Joel showed us a brochure explaining what was required to be an enumerator: US citizen,
high school education or equivalent, ability to write neatly and legibly, possessing a working fountain pen, good eyesight (to read the small print), good physical condition (walking and walking upstairs) and talk easily with people. (See example next page)

Enumeration District Description

The enumerator had many forms to complete and if the family was not at home they were required to track down the family to complete the census. There was concern about counting infants. To ensure accuracy for this cohort, enumerators were given an extra-pay incentive to complete the form that included infants. Each enumerator was given a large portfolio to protect the privacy of what he or she was writing on the schedule. The portfolio cover was used to mail in the schedules. They wanted the truth for answers. In 1940, if the enumerator did not think the answer was truthful, the enumerator had the authority to enter alternative answers he/she considered truthful. This provision permitting the enumerator to fill in what they thought appropriate comes from the enumerator manual.

The 1950 enumerator manual instructed the enumerator to decline any statement they believed was false and to probe tactfully, for an honest answer. If the enumerator failed to obtain an honest answer, they were instructed to enter what they—the enumerator—believed was honest. The 1950 schedule had space for notes to enter explanations for unusual entries. The Census Bureau thought that school teachers could be good enumerators, and used Fort Worth Texas for their experimental city in 1950. The 1940 Population Census schedule had 30 lines of which six with red rectangles, were for sample questions. If your name was on the lines in red rectangles, (a 20 percent sample) then you were asked additional questions. There were five forms of the schedule and the sample lines vary from sheet-to-sheet.

Sampling
The 1940 Census introduced sampling. Sampling permits additional questions: the speed of field work increased; fast analysis of the sample vs. regular questions and permitted the publication of data that otherwise would not be possible. The 2020 census has only 10 questions, much of the genealogical information contained in the previous censuses, such as the 1950, was lost. Due to asking fewer census schedule questions but more sample questions For a closer look at the 1950 census schedule see: https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1950_population_questionnaire.pdf
In the 1950 Population Schedule there are 30 lines of which 6 are samples. Sample line numbers 1, 6, 11, 16, 21 and 26. This is a 20% sample and one person is asked additional questions creating a sample of a sample.

Sampling—a small percentage of the public is now sampled through the American Community Survey. It is sent out monthly to 295,000 addresses or 3.5 million households annually. It gathers information of what used to be in the long form of the decennial census. It asks questions on ancestry, citizenship, educational attainment, income, language proficiency, migration, disability, employment, and housing characteristics.

There was also a housing schedule in 1950. One question asked was: *Do you own a television set?* Only 9% responded affirmatively.

Fifty thousand cities had a housing pamphlet of which 26 are missing block maps. Joel was able to obtain the missing block maps and are available on the Steve Morse website: [https://stevemorse.org/](https://stevemorse.org/)

On the back of the population schedule is the housing schedule. A clear view of the schedule may be found at: [https://www.census.gov/library/photos/1950a.html](https://www.census.gov/library/photos/1950a.html)

With the housing schedule you are able to get information about your block—however, you must be one of the 213 cities with over 50,000 population to have a housing pamphlet.

The difficulty in counting transients was also discussed. Transients included people in hotels, “Y’s” and tourist courts. Another night covered missions and cheap one-night lodging houses or “flophouses”. For both of these counts the letter “T” was used for transients.

Numbering of schedules could be confusing. First sheet 1A and 1B (back side) for each side of schedule in 1940. For 1950, there are no A or B sheets. In 1940, “A” pages were stamped with the
prefix of the county number sequence. Joel is presuming the same thing will occur for the 1950 census.

There was a shift from 100% questions to sampling. For example, some interesting questions sampled include addressing school attendance, educational attainment, place of previous year’s residence, duration of unemployment and more. They also added new questions on duration of marriage, number of years widowed, divorced or separated and emphasized economic questions.

In 1940, we knew who gave the information but that is not true for any other census year. In 1940, the enumerator could get information from a neighbor or other family members. Such sources would be noted on the schedule.

In 1950, if the enumerator couldn’t get information and the person was not coming back during the enumeration period, then they could add a footnote, or place comments in the remarks section. The enumerator was advised to get the information from the best possible source available. College students were considered a resident of the ED (electoral district) in which they lived while attending college not their home ED—even if the student is at home during the time of the enumeration.

There are questions important for genealogists such as age. Age could not be rounded, and if not known, the enumerator had to use a best guess and note that. The birthplace question however, was different. If the person was born in a hospital in one state but home was in another state, the enumerator was instructed to enter the name of the state where the family lived, not where the child was born.

The question on education was if the person had a high school diploma in 1950—only 1/3 of population 25 years of age or over had a high school diploma. In 2000, that amount increased to 4/5 who had a high school diploma. People in the western part of the United States had much higher percentage of education.

A very controversial question on the 1940 census was how much income was earned in 1939. If the person earned over $5,000 they only had to put down $5,000+ not the true amount of earnings.

If a person refused to answer a question, the person was given the opportunity to answer confidentially and return the form to the enumerator in an envelope personally sealed.

There were six questions that they knew would cause problems:
31a: in 1949 how much money did you earn working as an employee for wages or salary?
31b: Last year how much money did you earn working in his own business, profession, practices or farm?
31c: Last year how much money did he receive from interest, dividends, veteran’s allowance, pensions, rents, or other income?
32a: In 1949 how much money did his relatives in this household earn working for wages, or salary?
32b: Last year (1949) how much money did his relatives in this household earn for working for wages or salary?
32c: Last year (1949) how much money did his relatives in this household receive from interest, dividends, veteran’s allowance, pensions, rents or other income aside from earnings?

Note that the pronoun used in all questions was masculine.

Part of the enumerator’s handbook included a detailed response for when people objected to the questions. Instead, they were instructed to tell the informant to use the Confidential Income Report Form (CIRF). The person could mail it to the census bureau, but the enumerator had already filled in the ED and line and page number from the schedule on the form. The enumerator would note if the person had refused to fill in the questions (see above) before the CIRF was put into the envelope.

People who are missed make up the census “undercount”. They could be missed because they moved, refused to participate, inaccurate enumerator maps/addresses, crowded and isolated areas difficult to count and human error. In
July 1950, the Census Bureau said the loss was within 1% of truth, but the post-count showed 1/25 people were missed for an undercount of 4.4 percent.
The Census Bureau was the first non-military area that used computers. UNIVAC was used to do the analysis of the 1950 economic data.

Findings of 1950 Census
1. Population had migrated to the west, southwest and Florida increasing representation from those areas.
2. Increase of women in the work force with an upsurge in population growth. The suburbs were growing with a corresponding decrease in the farm population.
3. Americans were living longer.
4. One out of 20 Americans earned $5,000 or more in 1940 and in 1950 one out five earned more.
5. For the first-time women outnumbered men.

Joel summarized an article by Tom Mooney. The 1950 era saw people take advantage of new jobs, many of which were far from where they lived, as the economy boomed. It showed military veterans take advantage of GI bill including GI Loans for housing. The Baby boom generation was under way as population growth in the suburbs and planned communities grew.

Joel entertained a number of questions from the JGSCV members.

For the 1940 US census Family Search led the consortium for developing a name index. They had 160,000 volunteers where everyone had a sheet and used computer generated translations. If two people reviewing the same sheet did not agree then, the sheet of a third person would make the decision. Subscription services obtained hard drives the same day, but it was a race to see who could put it up on their site first.

For the 1950 US census the National Archives has 3,000 maps online. The current number is about 8,000 or so they state. One can even get to the enumeration district now – ahead of the release of the census. Joel and Steve Morse and their volunteers put together a 1950 database where one can obtain the enumeration district for any city greater than 5,000 people. You can enter the street name, but you will have to figure out where your family lived.

The National Archives used Joel’s and Steve’s databases for the release of the 1940 census. Thus far, the National Archives has not contracted with them for the 1950 census. Joel and Steve require that use of their work is free on the site and it is offered free to the public. For the 1940 census the New York Public Library digitized the phone directories and Ancestry used the data base.

Another question was about income. The census schedule asked about wages, so it is not known about self-employment income.

Race is looked at by enumerator manuals and the definition changed over the years. Hebrew used to be considered race. This varied by census over the years.

The 1950 census was the first census after World War II.

For the 1950 census, the enumerator had to live in the district they were enumerating.

A person asked if someone in the 1950 census who does not want their age known, would be able to prevent the census from being online. This is not possible!

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 A.L. Heermann.
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

![AmazonSmile Banner]

Remember when shopping at Amazon go to:
AmazonSmile https://smile.amazon.com/ from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.
Our unique AmazonSmile link is: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0957875
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.
The instructions are also on the JGSCV website under noteworthy https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html

JGSCV’s unique AmazonSmile link is: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/47-0957875

**Newly Elected IAJGS Board**

IAJGS held an election for their non-officers on the board. The presidents of their 91 societies voted by email. The results were announced, and the results are as follows:

- Nolan Altman
- Crista Cowan
- Lara Diamond
- Emily Garber
- Eli Rabinowitz
- Jarrett Ross

They will serve two-year terms beginning at the IAJGS Annual Meeting on August 12, 2020 and running through the Annual Meeting during the 2022 IAJGS Conference.

Outgoing board members are Shipley Munson, Janette Silverman, and Sarina Roffé.
The IAJGS Virtual Conference 10–13 August 2020
From the Comfort of Your Own Chair

Some presentations are live, others are Zoomed-recorded and can be accessed on demand. Jan Meisels Allen’s lecture on records access is On Demand. JGSCV members Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder and Marion Werle are giving On Demand talks as well. The registration fee is $325 as of July 6th. However, according to Robinn Magid, Volunteer Chair of the IAJGS 2020 Conference, there is FREE ACCESS to IAJGS Annual Meeting & Awards, the IAJGS Leadership Seminars, the JewishGen Annual Meeting and best of all, the Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Birds-of-a-Feather Groups (BOFs).

There is now a "Free Limited Access" option on the registration form at: www.iajgs2020.org. You must use it to tell us who you are (that keeps us all safe). And, it gives you the amazing opportunity to share up to 8 Surnames and 8 ancestral towns in our conference Family Finder with us.
(You can always upgrade to full conference attendee later if you want to.)

Brainstorming and Connectivity will be the focus of four days of live, streamed sessions on broad topics presented as plenary sessions, panels and webinars. Meeting rooms will be provided for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Birds-of-a-Feather (BOFs) to help gather the worldwide audience. The Pre-Recorded Video Archive will be available to conference registrants for up to 60 days after the virtual conference and will offer an even wider range of specialized presentations beyond the scheduled, live sessions. 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.

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
Practicing Safe Computing #57:
“Ransomware in the Age of COVID-19”

By Hal Bookbinder
(Number 57 in a series)

This is an update to my May 2016 article on Ransomware. Ransomware has shifted over the past four years from locking down data and threatening to keep it locked up or even to destroy it pending receipt of an untraceable payment. Ransomware today does this and also exports a copy threatening to expose the data. This is generally more of an issue for businesses than individuals.

Payments by individuals to release their data continue to run $300 to $400. But businesses and government agencies have paid hundreds of thousands. On June 26, UC San Francisco confirmed that it paid $1.14 million after ransomware locked down several of its School of Medicine servers. Full disclosure: While I recently retired from UCLA, this article is based on publicly available information.

The UCSF ransomware attack used NetWalker. This malware was first noted in 2019 and has been active in attacks at least from March 2020. A number of these attacks have been against medical institutions including those like UCSF heavily involved in COVID-19 research and treatment. NetWalker first exports a copy of the data, then removes shadow copies (also called snapshots) and encrypts the compromised data. So, even if the target organization quickly discovers and halts the encryption, they would not be able to restore it from the now-useless shadow copies and the hackers would already have copies.

The operators of NetWalker then reach out to the victim and demonstrate that they have copies of the data by pointing the victim to a location on the dark web where a partial copy can be viewed. Once payment is received, often using untraceable Bitcoin, the hacker “returns” their copy of the targeted data and provides the victim with the necessary instructions to unlock it. The hackers are generally true to their word as trust is critical to the success of this RaaS (Ransomware as a Service) business model.

While the FBI discourages organizations from paying the demanded ransom, it recognizes that at times when faced with “an inability to function,” payment might be the only option, and “victims should first evaluate all options to protect shareholders and other impacted parties”. For a statement from UCSF on the attack, see https://www.ucsf.edu/news/2020/06/417911/update-it-security-incident-ucsf

In most cases, ransomware gets onto your computer through email attachments or websites that you visit. To lessen the likelihood of becoming a victim, follow standard, safe computing practices, including deleting suspicious emails, not clicking on links unless certain that they are safe, staying away from dangerous websites and maintaining current antivirus software. Do not let your guard down.

Even if careful, you may still be a victim. So, be sure to regularly backup your data to devices physically separate from your computer. Also, create and maintain a recovery drive so that, if necessary, you can reestablish a clean computer onto which you can reinstall your programs and download your backed-up data. While this will not be quick or fun, it is best to be prepared. Not sure how to do this? See https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/4026852/windows-create-a-recovery-drive

This is the fifty-seventh in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under Noteworthy.
This year is the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and JGSCV members and friends are contributing stories about themselves or their ancestors who fought in the war. If you have a story to share, please let Allan know at newslettereditor@jgscv.org.

JGSCV board member and Vice President-Membership, Helene Rosen submitted a story about her father Milton Carl Freedman.

**Milton Carl Freedman (1907-1997)**

Milton Carl Freedman – (1907-1997) Father of JGSCV Vice President-Membership—Helene Rosen

*By Helene Rosen*

Initially, my father, Milton Freedman, was reluctant to serve in the armed forces. By the time that the U.S. entered the war, he was already 35 years old and had poor eyesight. For additional leverage to avoid being drafted, he left a job he loved at Western Costume, dressing cowboy stars for movie roles, and took a defense job in the shipyards. All to no avail because the draft caught up with him.

He reported for service at Ford Ord, south of San Francisco, and was assigned to the Signal Corp. He told his superiors that his eyesight was below the Army standard and he was sent with a note to the appropriate authority to see what they would say. He was given a note to take back to his superiors saying in effect, too bad, he stays.

Eventually, his unit was given orders to ship out to the South Pacific. Before departing, he was given leave to come home to Southern California to see my mother, Lillian Loevner Freedman, now pregnant with me. When he got to Union Station, he happened to run into another soldier he knew who had authority to change his orders. So instead of going to the South Pacific, he was transferred...
to Los Angeles and was able to be present at my birth. He later found out his original unit suffered significant causalities and the transfer may have saved his life.

Milton Freedman WWII Draft Registration Card
Courtesy of Ancestry.com
Milton wrote an anecdote about his service which he typed himself:

While taking basic training at Fort Ord, California it was a regular procedure for our entire Company to take a ten to fifteen mile hike every Friday—full field pack plus all portable communications equipment. Evidently our C.O. figured that if he wore us out sufficiently on Fridays we wouldn’t be able to do too much cutting up in town over the weekends. If you’ve ever walked even a few miles in the sandy soil of Fort Ord you’d know he wasn’t far wrong. We were always pretty well bushed by the time we returned to the barracks. That is all of but one of our scrawny little Second Lieutenants always seemed to be able to make these jaunts without too much strain and he was always considerably fresher than any of the rest of us.

This was always a mystery to the outfit and it wasn’t until I was assigned as orderly to the officer’s quarters that I found out the reason why. On these hikes, where our packs were all puffed out with about twenty-five pounds of field gear, this Second Lieutenant’s pack was all puffed out with six rolls of toilet paper.

After the war, he always spoke fondly of his army days. He loved the camaraderie of the men and the justness of the cause. In my mind he was indeed part of the Greatest Generation.
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 began a new series of “FAMILY STORIES” last month. Please read about Sam Sonenreich as well as Rohma and Ab (Albert) Allen.

Sam Sonenreich (1883-1950) maternal grandfather of Allan Linderman, JGSCV board member, newsletter editor:

My maternal grandfather, Sam Sonenreich is an enigma. We have lots of stories about him but little verification. The main family story is that when he sailed alone to the US on the S.S. Francesca on May 19, 1906, he left behind a wife and children in Wishnitz. We have been unable to uncover any records that would confirm or refute this story. His New York Certificate of Marriage (right) appears to show widowed in the “Single, Widowed or Divorced” space. But, even that is obscured. Further, Sam took his mother’s surname as Milton Freedman Good Conduct Medal Award August 7, 1945

He was released from the military on 11 October 1945 per the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs BIRLS Death file, 1850-2010

Milton died in Los Angeles, California on February 13, 1997
was common for Jews in that region at that time - but, no one in the family ever knew that while he was alive. Clearly, when supplying information for his Certificate of Marriage, he gave his father’s surname as “Stanger” whereby that name was carried through for the rest of the Certificate. So, while my grandmother Bertha legally married Sam Stanger, she and all their 7 children took the surname Sonenreich. Sam was so unclear about the “Stanger” surname, he never crossed the “t” when he signed that Marriage License (page 2, right).

**Rohma and Ab (Albert), parents of JGSCV member Tom Allen:**
My parents, Rohma and Ab (Albert) Allen were married in Kellerton, Iowa in 1929, before the stock market crash. They received as a wedding gift from Ab’s parents, a cow. The cow was sold and Ab bought a small truck with the money. Then the stock market crash hit and both Kellerton banks closed. Ab was able to load a local farmer’s cattle in his truck and took it to Chicago, IL. At the stock yards, he sold them for cash and returned with the cash to Kellerton. This was the only cash coming into Kellerton at the time. The farmer used the money to pay some of his bills. The people who received the money were able to pay their bills, and that money circulated within the town about 4-5 times.

Kellerton, Iowa is a small, rural town in south central Iowa. In 1930 it had a population of about 500 but in the 2010 census it’s census was 315. It has only one black top road through the town, the rest of the roads are unpaved.
**USCIS RAISES FEES SUBSTANTIALLY**

Currently, the G-1041 Index Search Request is $65 and form G-1041A Genealogy Records Request is $65. The USCIS proposed to raise the fees to $240 and $385 respectively. These were a 269 percent and 492 percent change respectively. The USCIS published the final rule on July 31 which will become effective on October 2, 2020. These fee increases range from 146 to 308 percent—still quite substantial. For more information, see: https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2020-16389.pdf.

![Table showing USCIS fee increases](image)

### Ancestry Extends Remote Access

Jan Meisels Allen tells us that Ancestry has partnered with ProQuest to temporarily expanded access to its Library Edition during the pandemic. This temporary extension applies to library card holders working remotely. Remote access will be available until the end of September and will be re-evaluated monthly after that. Check with your library in advance to determine if they have an Ancestry Library Edition. You will need a library card from that library to access remotely.

**New Holocaust Database from JewishGen**

Nolan Altman, JewishGen Holocaust Database Coordinator announced the addition of a new data set to its Holocaust Database (https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/).

Beginning in 1933, the German Government revoked German citizenship for tens of thousands of German Jews as well as persons seen as political opponents, e.g. communists. This revocation also affected persons who had left Germany and were residents in other countries. It also included the revocation of business licenses or seizure of firms which had been owned by Jews or political opponents. These public actions, totaling nearly 90,000 names of persons and firms mixed together, were regularly published in the *Reichsanzeiger*, the German equivalent of the *Federal Register*.

The information contained in the JewishGen database came from Herbert Birett, a German researcher. The original data can be found at https://tinyurl.com/y7w4ue6j and reformatting was done by JewishGen volunteers. To learn more about this data set, please see https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/RevokedGermanCitizenship.html
VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through October 2020

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

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, September 13th 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom
Leo Baeck Institute Director of Family Research, Karen Franklin will help us discover and search the exit routes and countries of refuge used by many of our ancestors as they fled Europe during and after World War II

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Oct. 4</th>
<th>1:30-3:30 PM</th>
<th>Jennifer Mendelsohn</th>
<th>Think Like a Reporter to Avoid Genealogy Mistakes</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Nov. 1</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Marlis Glaser Humphrey</td>
<td>A Master Catalog for Jewish Genealogy: The DoJR Project - What You Need to Know</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>Dec. 4</td>
<td>1:30-3:30 PM</td>
<td>Genie Milgrom</td>
<td>Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of the Crypto Jews&quot;</td>
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All future JGSCV meeting dates will be posted as soon as confirmed

Brooklyn (NYC) Historical Society Adds Maps

The Brooklyn Historical Society (New York City) placed online almost 1,500 digitized maps including maps for other New York City boroughs, Long Island, New York state, New Jersey and areas throughout the Eastern United States. The collection includes maps from 1562 to 2015, including transit maps, topographical maps, cultural maps and nautical charts, as well as plans for Central Park and Prospect Park. More maps will be added over the coming months.

To view the map collection go to: https://mapcollections.brooklynhistory.org/
To read more see: https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/16/arts/new-york-historical-maps.html

August 2020
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.)
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

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