

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

September 2020

Volume 15 Issue 12

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope you are well and safe. As we continue to safe distance and wear masks we have more time at home to do our genealogy. I know a number of JGSCV members took advantage of being home and attended IAJGS's first virtual conference either as fully paid registrants or for the limited access—SIG/BOF meetings and the annual session. Several JGSCV members were speakers either live or on demand (pre-recorded): Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Karen Franklin, Marion Werle and myself. The sessions are all recorded and are available. An article on the highlights of the 40th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is on page 5.

We have ongoing newsletter sections and need YOUR stories. Our commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II series is on page 18 with Tom Allen's article on his uncle Glenn E. Allen. There is also an article on the 75th anniversary of Victory in Japan Day (V-J Day) on page 22.

Adding to our series of family stories, this month we learn about Ruth Pollock growing up in Oakland. See page 25. The family stories series began at the suggestion of our June speaker Joan Adler. Your brief vignettes/memories about someone in your family will help continue this interesting, meaningful series. 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



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.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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

**2020 JGSCV BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

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president@jgscv.org

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Education** education@jgscv.org

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Newsletter Editor**
newslettereditor@jgscv.org

**Andrea Massion, Page 3
Curator**
Andrea@jgscv.org

Israel Perel, Librarian
librarian@jgscv.org

Barbara Algaze, FSL
barbara@jgscv.org

Pat Fuller, Publicity
publicity@jgscv.org

David Oseas, Webmaster
webmaster@jgscv.org

Mission Statement:

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

meaningful series. 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 gladly help.

Remember, the United States Citizenship and Information Service (USCIS) rates are going up to an obscene amount on October 2, 2020. If you are thinking of ordering any genealogical records, you will save a significant amount of money if you do so before then.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his series on Practicing Safe Computing on page 17. This month's subject is "Vishing (Voice phishing)".

I know I have reminded you before, but it is very important that each of us complete the 2020 Census form. It's only 10 questions unlike previous censuses which have had dozens 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 how they should be counted: <https://2020census.gov/en/what-is-2020-census/focus/grads.html>. As of writing this letter, only 64.7% of the US population have replied: California 66.9%, Los Angeles County 62.2%, Ventura County 74.5%, and Santa Barbara County 69.0%. To find your city go to: <https://2020census.gov/en/response-rates.html>

The Census Bureau estimates it will need to visit about 56 million addresses to collect responses in person. Starting earlier in August, up to 500,000 census takers across the country will go door to door to assist people in responding to the 2020 Census.

JGSCV is still operating on the COVID-19 restrictions and our September 13 meeting (we are not meeting on Labor Day weekend therefore, we are meeting one weekend later) will be by Zoom. Our speaker Karen Franklin's topic is *Rescue and Resettlement: Researching Refugees from Nazi Germany*. See the meeting notice on page 24 for more information.

Stay safe and healthy,
Happy New Year, L'Shana Tova

Jan Meisels Allen

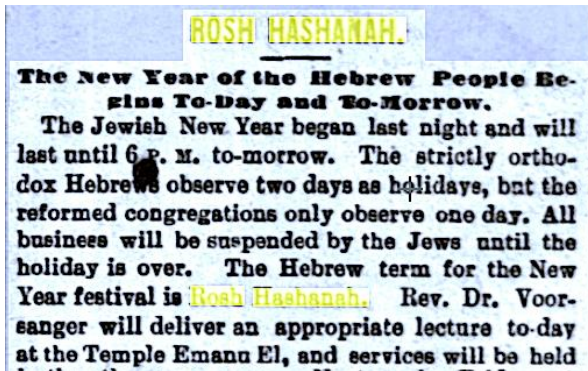


May the Sound of the Shofar Stir Us to
Find Health, Safety and Peace.

For the Children in your Family

As the celebration of High Holy Days will be mostly digital, people may feel secluded from festivities. Sending a tree or a story from your genealogical research to grandchildren and younger cousins (of any age) may bring a smile and instill interest in their family history.

California Newspapers Ready to Browse



-Above: Daily Alta California, Volume 41, Number 13546, 30 September 1886 in the CDNC collection. "Rosh HaShanah Begins Today..."

University of California at Riverside is the home of the **California Digital Newspaper Collection**, a project of the *Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research*. Researchers with family who resided in California can search and browse the Western state's newspapers ranging from 1846 to the present era. These include some Spanish language newspapers, and at least one newspaper from each California county. The Collection also provides an opportunity for a registered user to correct the content of articles that did not "translate" to text correctly. Use of the site is free with registration. Explore at <https://cdnc.ucr.edu/>

National Library of Israel Loses Funding and Closes Its Doors for Now

The Times of Israel and other papers reported that the **National Library of Israel** suspended its public services and put its 300 employees on unpaid vacation leave as of August 17, 2020. According to library staff, the closure is due to a cut by the government in the library's budget along with a "drastic drop" in income and donations. They hope to reopen in the near future. The library's board chair, David Blumberg, and director Oren Weinberg called on Israel's education and finance ministers to help the library. The Times wrote that every ministry is supposed to get 90 percent of the money budgeted in 2019, but apparently the library did not get its share. The library possesses some of Isaac Newton's manuscripts and the personal archives of philosopher Martin Buber. The National Library librarians have been acquiring books on genealogical research and Jewish communities from around the world.

For details on the library's origins to national status, go to : <https://www.jpost.com/israel-news/national-library-of-israel-and-the-books-of-the-people-639223>

What's a **Grass Widow**? Originally a term for a pregnant woman with no husband or mate, it's a woman whose husband is temporarily away from her, or a woman divorced or separated from her husband. A similar German phrase translates to **Straw Wife**. There is a term, Straw Husband in German.

Page 3 is curated by Andrea Massion, JGSCV Board Member

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>

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.

*<https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf>

Highlights From: IAJGS 40th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen

IAJGS held its first virtual conference on August 10-13, 2020. Originally scheduled for San Diego, the current pandemic prevented a face-to-face conference and 2,322 registrants from 28 countries- the majority from the United States-42 states were represented. Israel, Canada and the United Kingdom were the countries with the next largest registrations after the United States. While we could only “chat” with our friends on the “chat” side bar during the various sessions, this was an outstanding conference. Kudos to Robinn Magid, conference chair and Judi Missel and Dan Oren. For those who registered, remember if you missed a session or want to hear one again the On Demand feature is available for two months from the end of the conference. If you did not attend its not too late, as you can join for \$325 and watch over 100 great recordings until October 13, 2020. Visit <https://www.IAJGS2020.org> and register (you will then be redirected to a new page: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2020/index.cfm>)

As this “highlights” article reflects only the sessions I attended, please do not assume your area of interest was not included. There were multiple concurrent sessions which is why the on-demand sessions are so valuable enabling us to reap the wealth of the information even if we did not attend the actual session.

Next year's conference will be in Philadelphia PA August 2-5, 2021 at the Sheraton Downtown

Hotel. The call for papers will be in October. Mark your calendars now! This recap of highlights does not do justice to the exceptionally rich schedule of over 38 live programs as well as many "on-demand" pre-recorded programs. Yes, there were technical glitches with the internet connection from the conference going down at times or freezing but that was overcome by the program and chats with friends.

IAJGS Board

The new IAJGS Board took over at the end of the conference:

Ken Bravo, president; Jane Berenbeim, vice president; Doug Cohen, treasurer, Avraham Groll, secretary and Nolan Altman, Crista Cowan, Lara Diamond, Emily Garber, Eli Rabinowitz, Jarrett Ross and Marlis Humphrey, immediate past president.

Leaving the IAJGS Board are: Shipley Munsen, Sarina Roffé and Janette Silverman

Annual Awards

Lifetime Achievement Award: Hadassah Lipsius and Robinn Magid

Volunteer of the Year: Gary Perlman

Future Leader of the Year: Jarrett Ross

Outstanding Project: JGS of Greater Boston Research Sunday Program, Judy Izenberg, outgoing chair, Jonathan Rappaport, new chair

Outstanding Publication: Society newsletter: *Chronicles*: Jewish Genealogical and Archival

Society of Greater Philadelphia, Evan Fishman, editor, Edward Flax, graphics editor

Outstanding Publication: Book: *Ketubbot Registers of the Jewish Nation of Livorno* (Leghorn), *Genealogies and Family Itineraries* by Alain Nedlar, Gilles Boulu, Lilane Nedjar and Raphael Attias

IAJGS Salutes: Shalom Bronstein and Yocheved Klauser

Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant: Tsal Kaplun Foundation. The Rabbi Malcolm Stern grant is helped funded by your voluntary \$1.00 donation when you pay your JGSCV dues. The Tsal Kaplun Foundation (TKF) collaborates with other organizations, groups and individuals to share knowledge about history, past and present life of Jewish communities in former USSR territories.

No Stedman Grant was awarded this year.

Finances and Membership

Doug Cohen, treasurer of IAJGS, gave the annual financial report. The Cleveland conference earned a profit of \$146, 000 (more than any prior conference) due to very high attendance and donations. That is meaningful since three past conferences lost money. The “profit” from the 2020 conference helps defer the past losses.

Nolan Altman reported that this year IAJGS added four new members: Central New York (Greater Albany area); Columbia, New Hampshire and New Zealand. There are now 91 Jewish genealogical/historical societies that are members of IAJGS. For a list of IAJGS members and contacts see: <https://www.iajgs.org/membership/member-societies/>.

Nolan Altman also announced the IAJGS is reinstating a liaison program where one IAJGS Board member will be assigned as contact to each JGS/JHS to enable direct communication between the JGS/JHSs and the IAJGS.

Ken Bravo reported on the Ad hoc Committee on Conferences which was chaired by JGSCV’s own Hal Bookbinder. I also served on one of the

subcommittees. Some of the recommendations were:

- Keep the registration fees commensurate with other genealogical conferences
- Hold a 4-day conference - as it was this year
- Determine if also holding some of the conference virtually- such as a video option for the IAJGS annual meeting and look at special remote speakers such as Eastern Europe archivists
- Starting with 2021, speakers to provide their own laptops and projectors (something other national genealogical conferences already require)
- Starting with 2021, provide speakers with an honorarium, travel and meal allowance and hotel lodging. Those living within 50 miles of the conference hotel will not get a travel allowance or lodging. The new provisions will not include luncheon speakers or people speaking at the board meeting. These provisions are still being worked on.

At the annual session I presented an update of what records access activities occurred since my June 22, 2020 report that was sent to the presidents and posted to the IAJGS website. To read the original report go to: <https://www.iajgs.org/legislation/> and scroll down until you see the annual report: <https://iajgs.org/pramc/PRAMC.Annual.Report.2020.pdf>

Several JGSCV members gave full programs: Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Karen Franklin, Marion Werle, and myself.

Documentation of Worldwide Jewish Records (DoJR)

Marlis Humphrey spoke about the Documentation of Worldwide Jewish Records (DoJR). DoJR will be similar to a JCAT Wikipedia (similar to WorldCat) for Jewish records. It will be a catalog of where the records may be found – not the actual records. DoJR has completed the pilot project and found the “iceberg theory of genealogy” where the records are in plain sight except they are hidden.

The core team of DoJR are Marlis Humphrey, Gary Mokotoff and Sally Ann Sack-Pikus.

For the pilot program, two researchers in the Ukraine and Poland were sent to find as many Jewish records as possible. They found 54 record collections of which 52 out of the 54 were not listed in catalogues; the other two were known from Miriam Weiner's *Routes to Roots* Foundation. Only 8/54 record collections had "Jewish" in the title and 44 did not have Jewish in the title so one had to know more to find the Jewish records. This was across all record types. They browsed 700,000 records of which 250,000 were individual and, 50 percent were Jewish. In each record collection there are 69 fields of information.

Eighty more hidden record collections were found in Ukraine, although they had "Jewish" in the title. The researchers have started to collect information from users like archivists/researchers and genealogy companies.

Marlis Humphrey also gave a full program on DoJR during the conference.

As genealogists we require records so this is a vitally important project. Marlis will be JGSCV's virtual speaker at our Sunday, November 1, 2020 program starting at 1:30 PM PT. Mark your calendars!

Opening Session Speakers: Arthur Kurzweill and Sally Ann Sack-Pikus

The opening session speaker was Arthur Kurzweill who also spoke at the first IAJGS conference- then known as AJGS conference about 40 years ago. His program was *Retrospective Travelers A Conversation on Changes in Jewish Genealogy*. Kurzweill believes we are a like bees in a garden pollinating flowers. As genealogists we are not just names and dates—we are a spiritual group. Genealogy is a spiritual quest as we ask the same questions as the spiritual seeker: Who am I? Where am I going? Where did I come from? etc. Genealogists make pilgrimages to cemeteries and bring our ancestors alive through names. Genealogy

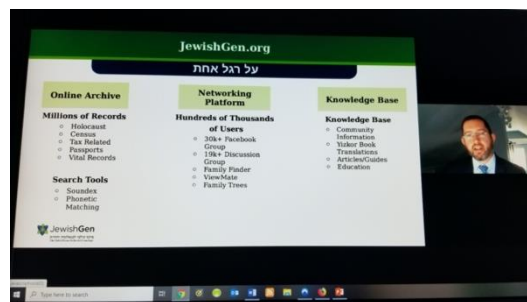
is transformative as every time we learn something in Jewish genealogy, we come alive.

Genealogy came "alive" with Alex Haley's *Roots* in the 1970s'. Before then genealogy was associated with the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Sally Ann Sack-Pikus, editor of *Avotaynu*, gave an historical overview of Jewish genealogy and society and conference development. She began by talking about Rabbi Malcom Stern who as a past president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS), also called for the creation of Jewish genealogical societies as the FGS focused on Early America. And, while there were Jews in the United States at that time, it did not focus enough on Jewish genealogy. He started the JGS of Greater Washington and then JGS New York began. The first international conference was held in Jerusalem in 1984 where Rabbi Stern called for the need for an umbrella group. The Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies began in 1988 which became the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies in 1997 in order to avoid confusion with the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (AJGS) when it was formed.

Introduction to JewishGen- and Second Session on Jewish Gen Annual Meeting --Avraham Groll

Executive director of JewishGen, gave an overview of JewishGen activities.



JewishGen is an online archive of millions of records on a network platform with hundreds of thousands of users and a knowledge base.

Yizkor books depict what life was like—experiences before and during the Holocaust. The Yizkor books are written predominately in Hebrew or Yiddish

which stimulated JewishGen to start a project to get the Yizkor books translated into English and place the translations on the website.

The Family Finder has 110,000 researchers; 594,000 towns/surnames; 141,000 unique surnames and 18,000 towns with 500,000 searches per year. There are millions of family trees and the archival database. By going to the home page: <https://www.jewishgen.org/>, click on “search” where you can search by surname, given name or town.

In the JewishGen.org annual session, Avraham Groll reviewed JewishGen. There are currently 20,000 subscribers on the JewishGen Discussion Group. The discussion group has rolled all the JewishGen Special Interest Groups (SIGS) into this one group. There are three independent groups: Geshet Galicia, JRI-Poland and Litvak SIG. It was announced that Geshet Galicia will be rolling their discussion group into the JewishGen Discussion group in the future—while the other two independent SIGS continue with their own discussion groups (See below for a more detailed discussion of upcoming changes to JRI-Poland.)

Avraham did a memorial to the late Phyllis Kramer z”l who died shortly after the 2019 Cleveland conference. Phyllis was the director of Education for JewishGen for many years. Nancy Holden is now the director of education.

The archival database had to surmount the challenge of technology, proprietary software and dependence on key individuals with a result of 70 datasets. Currently, there is more data than in the previous two years due to a new data loading tool developed by Logan Kleinwaks—who you may know as he has developed a number of tools to make datasets workable. The loading tool is named “Joyce” in honor of Joyce Field who prior to her retirement was the long-time vice president of research for JewishGen.

The new discussion group migrated all former subscribers from the older discussion group and

discussion postings going back to 1990. The new discussion group is far advanced as it does not require plain text, can accept attachments of photos or records, is mobile responsive so one can access it on their mobile phone, and more. Last month alone there were 2,000 messages posted to the discussion group.

JewishGen also has a genealogy portal <https://www.facebook.com/groups/jewishgenealogyportal>. You can access the portal without being a Facebook subscriber, but you must be a Facebook subscriber to post or respond to a post.

New editions to JewishGen include a partnership with Miriam Weiner for her *Routes to Roots* collection which can be accessed at <https://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/pr/RTR/>.

Another new feature is Dan Hirschberg’s Krakow Collection with records from the 18th and 20th century- with the records from the National Archives in Krakow. More than 160,000 records have been uploaded, which include census records, vital records, marriage intentions/banns records, along with progressive and religious marriage records. The Dr. Dan Hirschberg - Kraków Collection can be searched via the JewishGen Unified Search (<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/all/>) or the JewishGen Poland Collection (<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Poland/>).

Another announcement is that Genie Milgrom will spearhead JewishGen research on Crypto Jews. Genie is JGSCV’s virtual speaker on December 6 speaking on “*Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of the Crypto Jews*”.

JewishGen also publishes the translation of Yizkor Books-currently they have published 99 books, 12 in the last year.

The Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Records (JOWBR) update: 220,000 records, 145,000 photos and 1,120 cemeteries. There are also 206,000 memorial plaques records, 146,500 photographs and 38 cemeteries. The Holocaust

database takes information from 15 datasets and has 105,600 names.

In a recorded presentation, all the JewishGen heads of departments spoke on each of their areas of responsibility. For many this was the first time the attendees were able to put face to name of the volunteer research and data heads they have worked with for many years.

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland—Stanley Diamond and Bryan Langer

JRI-Poland is an independent non-profit tax-exempt



organization. This session gave a sneak peek to the new JRI-Poland website. Currently, there are 6.2 million records online and 500,00 in the pipeline. JRI-Poland has raised \$2.5 million over 25 years and more than 90 percent of the funds go for the creation of data.

Poland has a 100-year privacy requirement for birth records. By the year 2045 the World War II records will no longer be protected. JRI-Poland started in 1995, therefore, 2045 will be 50 years since it was started.

JRI-Poland is expanding its volunteer circle and getting in younger volunteers to refine the processes and to support the organization. Currently, there are 200 active volunteers in 25 countries. “NextGen” is the term used for the next generation project preparing JRI-Poland for the next 25 years. This is a ground-up rebuild with the goal of improving JRI-Poland for all users.

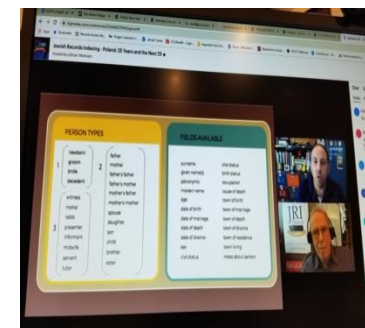
Stanley said it was a puzzle one piece at a time. The new website will have towns, records, sources, projects with every part connected. They



are restructuring all the record data with an information base. All data points will be connected to the person to whom it relates. This will eliminate the uncertainty of sources for the researcher. They showed a 4½ minute video of the new website which will be launched this December. There will be training and tool tips.

It was also reported that Michael Tobias demonstrated results with DNA testing in tandem with JRI-Poland and in several weeks following the DNA trial was able to create a family tree with significant DNA hits. When someone wrote to Michael with a quandary he was able to tie into four half siblings- all had the same father but four different birth mothers. The person who initiated the request did not know about all the half-siblings. Michael created trees going back to 1700’s.

JRI-Poland will be introducing a registration and log-in system. An annual membership fee will be announced in September. No



prices were shared at the conference. JRI-Poland membership will be required to access the new website.

Stanley thanked the many different organizations that helped JRI-Poland over the years including: Family Search for their microfilms of Jewish vital records which opened the eyes of what JRI-Poland could do; JewishGen which until last year was the

home of JRI-Poland but moved when they obtained their own server in preparation for NextGen; and other organizations such as the Jewish Historical Institute, Foundation of Documenting Jewish Cemeteries and the Joint Distribution Committee.

Facial Recognition Tools by Scott Genzler

Scott discussed the various programs that do facial recognition and their short comings. Facial recognition is another tool to break down brick walls. He took photographs and used the facial recognition technology to identify people in photos. We all have old photos that are not marked on the back as to whom the people in the photograph are, and this tool helps solve that problem.

Several of the programs mentioned include: Microsoft Azure; Google AI; and Amazon Rekognition. Amazon Rekognition is easy to use and inexpensive but not one where Scott found Jewish ancestors. You can get 1,000 images per month for free. After that, there is a minimal cost. However, there are false positives and negatives since the programs are not trained to our type of photographs. Scott also mentioned beards cause a problem and the software does not do well with babies.

Because of the problems with existing programs, Scott suggested one build their own model but one needs to know how to code to do this. He also admitted it is very time consuming to build one's own model. This is not intended for lay people which is why so many are using commercial software. What the programs do is find "landmarks" such as distance between eyes, the forehead, nose and mouth to compare.

To start, one needs photographs—the more the better. Scott wishes the Jewish community would build a custom model which would require 10,000-50,000 photographs.

There are also ethical considerations so one needs to pause before using this technology. Are you risking the privacy of living descendants? What if an anti-semitic person "found" this online depository

of Jews? Could this program exacerbate Jewish facial stereotypes?

Scott wrote about this in *Avotaynu* which appeared in Fall 2019 Vol XXXV #3. (JGSCV has *Avotaynu* in its permanent library housed at the Agoura Hills Library.

Using MyHeritage Search Engine for Jewish and Eastern Europe Research



Daniel Horowitz, My Heritage chief genealogist gave the presentation. Daniel has been a guest speaker at JGSCV several meetings in the past. MyHeritage has 50 million family trees and 12.5 billion historical records. They have sold 4.2 million DNA kits and support 42 languages and ethnic regions- it is the only genealogy software that supports that many languages. They also have exclusive databases.

The search engine started in 2012 with their innovative online research system with name matching and multiple languages. Originally, it was called SuperSearch. Daniel said since July 2020 there is a new functionality which allows a better and faster search. The Intelligent Search Form enables spelling variations, initials and beginning of names, and birth dates. To access the collection catalogue go to the research menu where you can search for key words.

You can select different types of records: vital records, school yearbooks, etc. From the results page you can see the records and save the record to your family tree. If there are other records that mention the subject (person) of the search you can go to those affiliated records. There are 14 categories of records. Go to the research menu and then go to the collection catalog and you can sort by collection name, what is most recent additions etc. You can search in your language and get results in any of the 42 supported languages.

MyHeritage also has global name translation into English, Hebrew, Russian/Cyrillic, Greek, Latin Characters and Ukrainian. It can transliterate the

record from the original language to your language such as Russian to English.

Israel Records

MyHeritage has many Israeli records. It has a subset of the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA) records and one can find some records and then the person is referred to IGRA- where you have to register. Some records IGRA requires membership to view.

The obituary website *Avelim*, is a free website: Other Israeli records include Eretz Israel Telephone Directory of 1944; Mandatory Palestine Naturalization Applications 1937-1947 and more. If one puts “Jewish” in the collection search box, all the Jewish records will appear.

While Billion Graves is not a MyHeritage company, the two firms have a partnership. One can search on MyHeritage and view a Billion Graves index in any language. Through the Billion Graves website, one is able to see who is buried in the neighboring plots. My Heritage employees photographed 95% of all cemeteries in Israel and most of the images have been recorded and transcribed—the Billion Graves website is free to access. Go to: <https://billiongraves.com/>

Daniel discussed several other collections which may be of interest including: Jewish Holocaust Memorial of Jewish Residents in Germany 1939-1945; German Minority Census 1939; Auschwitz Death Certificates 1941-1943 (65,000). MyHeritage also has by OCR, *The Jewish Chronicle*, the largest Jewish newspaper in England since 1841. MyHeritage includes, GENI family trees indexes, as GENI is a member of the MyHeritage family of companies. In order to match records from the Arolsen Archives, one must have their family tree on MyHeritage. The Israel Immigration database, which has 1.5 million records has been transcribed by MyHeritage. Most of the Jewish related databases are free, but you do have to register. With the Litvak SIG partnership they have transcriptions of internal passports for movement

within Lithuania. They are by family, not by person, enabling the researcher see other family members. Daniel gave a sneak peak of a few upcoming collections to be released on MyHeritage: Due to the partnership with the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC)

- Index of Jewish Displaced Person and Refugee Cards 1943-1959
- Emigrant registration cards from Munich and Vienna from 1945 to the mid-1950s.
- Refugee case cards from Barcelona from 1943-1945
- Refugee registration cards from Hungary from 1956-1947
- Emigration case files from Warsaw from 1945-1949.

Other partnerships with upcoming releases include IGRA for the Jeff Malka Sephardic Heritage—available through MyHeritage for free; Yalkut Hapirsumim a gazette of public announcements in Israel which covers the years 1949-1963. One can search in English and get information in Hebrew. MyHeritage is transcribing and making searchable the Israel Immigration Database; and the Vienna Jewish Community Emigration requests from 1938-1940.

You can correct any “alternate information” in a record by completing an online form. They will add the correction but not remove the original information.

You can register for free on MyHeritage: <https://www.myheritage.com/>

To contact Daniel go to: Facebook: daniel.horowitz.5205 and Instagram: Horowitz_Daniel.

The Jewish Records Collection on Ancestry.com



Crista Cowan, the Barefoot Genealogist, gave the presentation. Crista has also presented to JGSCV several times previously.

Ancestry has 27 billion records and adds about 2 million new records per day and has more than 100 million family trees created on Ancestry. **If you have taken an Ancestry DNA test or were a previous Ancestry subscriber you have a free Ancestry registered account with that email address and password and you can build, store and access your tree on their website- however, the records you may have attached to that tree are not free.** Ancestry has a robust privacy policy whether tree or DNA data. They do not share your data with any third parties—such as law enforcement, insurance companies, etc. The new equity firm that recently purchased part of Ancestry, also does not have access to your data.

If you drop your subscription, the records may not be accessed—accessing records is behind their paywall -that is the only time you need to have a subscription to Ancestry. Subscriptions have the option of country-based only, such as US, Canada, UK, Australia-New Zealand, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico or Sweden; or a worldwide subscription which gives access to all records on Ancestry. They provide various time periods for subscriptions. An all-access subscription gives access to all the different websites under the Ancestry umbrella: Ancestry.com, Newspaper.com (several tiers of membership), Fold3.com (military records predominately) , Find A Grave and Rootsweb.com (totally free). Each of these websites require separate subscriptions unless it the All Access Subscription. You do not need a subscription to access the card catalog. If the record requires a paid Ancestry subscription when you go to view the record you will hit a paywall”.

They do have some records that are free to access. That includes the JewishGen record collection; indexes from JRI-Poland (however for current indexing it best to go the JRI-Poland directly) and they have indexes for the USHMM on their site.

Crista mentioned that she prefers one tree but recognizes that many of us divide our trees or may

have multiple trees for different clients, if one is doing genealogy for others.

She reminded us that every record is different. As an example, she mentioned the censuses for 1920, 1930, and 1940 meaning the indexes for each census is different. When doing a global search from Ancestry –that is a “catchall” for everything- she mentioned it should not be the last step one takes. If you have a tree on Ancestry they will use the information from your tree to match to information on Ancestry resulting in a “hint”. A hint is just that, a hint. It does not a guarantee that the link is the person you are searching for. Crista said to look at database specific searches for a realistic research. Crista emphasized to use the card catalog under the search mechanism. An example is death date, which is not included on the 1940 US Census therefore, the death date field should not be used in that search.

Using the card catalog by typing in “Jewish” in the keyword search box results in a reply with hundreds of collections that have Jewish records. When you find a record that is of interest, right click on the link and open it in a new tab. Crista finds it best to use single word searches. As an example, type “Poland” in the search field and “Jewish” in Keyword to filter the type of records. She also reviewed using wild cards. A “?” replaces a single character. An “*” replaces several characters. F?ed for Fred or Fred* for Frederick, etc.

Ancestry discovered that Jewish records may be disbursed within Catholic Church records from eastern Europe. This may be because the local rabbi wanted to protect the records during the beginning of WW II or it might be poor indexing by the local archive. Don’t discount records for a place your ancestors may have lived, just because the name does not say “Jewish”.

Ancestry announced that they have completed all zones from the Arolsen Archives for the records of those who were displaced after World War II. The International Tracing Service held these records and last year Ancestry announced they were

indexing the records for the four World War II zones in Germany: US, UK, France and Russia and those who were displaced post the War. Ancestry published the US zone records last year. Crista announced Ancestry has completed the indexing of the remaining three zones. The data base is: *Europe, Registration of Foreigners and German Persecutees 1939-1947*. When you view the database, scroll down and it will provide additional information as to where the records originated.

This dataset is fully searchable except for the Russian records written in Cyrillic. The images are there but they are not searchable as they are not yet indexed. Crista was not able to give a time table when the Cyrillic records would be indexed.

The second new set of records Crista announced, are those with which they partnered with USC Shoah Foundation (started by Steven Spielberg) and have the index—not the actual testimonies—of 55,000 testimonies in 56 different languages from 32 different countries. Fifty-two thousand are from the Holocaust. The Shoah Foundation has expanded beyond Holocaust testimonies to genocides from different parts of the world. In 1994, the Shoah Foundation started to video tape the witnesses to have their stories told and preserved. The collection is called, *USC Shoah Foundation, Holocaust-Jewish Survivor Interviews*. The original interview may be accessed through a link to the USC Shoah Foundation on the Ancestry collection page.

You can correct any “alternate information”. They will add the correction but not remove the original information.

Ancestry has a free mobile app where you can access your tree on any Android or IOS device. They have an active Facebook Community, YouTube channel and blog. You can find Crista at <https://www.facebook.com/TheBarefootGenealogist> and on Instagram at <https://instagram.com/cristacowan>.

Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims New Interface was presented by Serafina Volkovitch and Alex Avram.



There are 4.8 million records related to 4.8 million Jews murdered and hundreds of thousands of Jews persecuted whose fate is still be determined. Their new interface was launched in December 2019. By searching the central database it shows the victim of the Holocaust not necessarily their final fate.

One can search by family name, maiden name, middle name and uses synonyms for names. Using an advance search permits the researcher to find who submitted the name which is very helpful to see whom else is researching the same person you are.

Yad Vashem has 217 million pages of documents; 133,000 testimonies, 170,000 photographs. The 4.8 million names are registered in the Hall of Names: <https://www.yadvashem.org/museum/holocaust-history-museum/hall-of-names.html>

They do not change any historical document such as a Page of Testimony. If there is additional information, then it was suggested that a new Page of Testimony be submitted. That way both the Pages of Testimony are available to be searched. To complete a Page of Testimony online go to: <https://forms.yadvashem.org/pot-online-form> or you can download a form from: <https://www.yadvashem.org/downloads.html#pot> They also have documents related to the murder of Jews. You can search by name for the Righteous Among the Nations.

There are video testimonies in their resource center and YouTube channel.

Yad Vashem is an official holder of the Arolsen Archives and have 30 million documents; 3,200 effects and 50 million index cards. To contact Yad Vashem go to: ref@yadvashem.org.il.

Yad Vashem has been approached by JewishGen and they are working on an agreement to share data.

They have 55,000 testimonies from the USC Shoah Foundation which are available only in the Yad Vashem reading room, not available on the Internet. One has to apply to the USC Shoah Foundation for a copy of the testimony.

Genealogy Death March

One of the most intriguing presentations was the Genealogy Death March with Jarrett Ross and Randy Schoenberg. They each showed family documents going back centuries. It was a knockout in the 12-generation level as Jarrett could not go beyond the 12th generation, and Randy could go back 14 generations. How many of us can go back more than 4-6 generations with documents? This showed what is available for those who are fortunate enough to have their family records going back so far. Jarrett was able to research in the Netherlands and Randy in Austria. Jarrett is a new IAIGS Board member and Vice President of the Triangle JGS in North Carolina. Randy is located in Los Angeles and has spoken to JGSCV previously.

JDC Archives-New Material for Jewish Genealogists



Linda Levi, Executive Director, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC's) Global Archives at the JDC gave the presentation. The JDC was founded in 1914 at the onset of World War I. It assists vulnerable Jewish communities in 90 communities worldwide. The archives have 40 million pages, 100,00 photographs, 1,000 audio records and 250 oral histories from care givers, longtime staff and lay leaders. The archives also have 1,500 films and videos.

Websites for accessing the JDC are:

<https://archives.jdc.org>

<http://search.archives.jdc.org/>

<https://names.jdc.org>

Facebook: <https://facebook.com/jdcarchives>

The records of the organization are what comprise their archives. The JDC helped to communicate with and provide relief or rescue to behind-the-lines relatives of Americans. They have digitized about 3.4 million pages and 78,000 photographs which are searchable online.

The List of Lists is that of indexed lists. This list is organized chronologically. Some of the lists include: Remittance list with name of sender and recipient; Palestine Remittances 1918; List of Children for first postwar convoy from France to Palestine, 1945; And List of Jews in Poland who received parcels as per orders via JDC's Jerusalem office; List of German Jews in Lisbon for whom JDC covered Emigration Lists; and Jewish orphans who immigrated from Warsaw to France with JDC help 1947-1948.

The records in Archives are JDC only and are not found elsewhere.

What's new:

Linda reviewed the new records that are available: Index of 11,000 emigration service case files from JDC Prague office 1945 - January 1950 when the JDC was expelled from Czechoslovakia. The copy of digital records from USHMM and relative Czech Office were given to JDC in last year. JDC Paris emigration service cards ~ 30,000 cards-shared with JDC by Arolsen Archives; Index of transmigrant case files 1968-1989—Jews from former Soviet Union and decided not to go to Israel but to come to western countries and the Yeminite Aliyah to Israel—known as "Magic Carpet" flight lists, and Egyptian refugees from 1956.

If you find the name of the person you are researching you can contact the JDC and they will send you a copy of the record. Contact: archives@jdc.org.

Examples of the different types of records and photographs were shown. Also discussed were the JDC work during World War II for Germany, Poland and Vilna, Hungary, France, Spain and Portugal, Tangiers, Shanghai and US War Refugee Board.

The JDC is “one stop shopping” for researchers who had to travel to the International Tracing Service and to Prague to view document and where more complete stories can be pieced together.

The sessions covered above were a selection of those I attended. In no way is this a full coverage of this excellent conference.

My story blog posts can be accessed at <https://archives.jdc.org/my-story> It is available to do a Soundex and fuzzy search. In the advanced search in the database one can search by town and name.



Free Resources For Teachers, Students and Parents

According to Ancestry.com, “research shows that family history research is a powerful tool for building resilience, connection and understanding for all ages”. They have announced their willingness to take on this challenge by offering tools they believe will make this school year easier for teachers, students and parents.

- K-12 teachers in the US can access World Explorer at no charge for 6-months.
- K-12 in classroom schools and students may continue to utilize AncestryK12 services for lesson plans with educational topics.
- Parents and tutors will continue to have access to the Ancestry Library Edition through participating local libraries.

For more information go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y6hcrsmw>

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.

JGSCV is a participant in Ralph's and Food for Less Community Awards. We have been advised that you need not reregister this year. If you are already registered and have JGSCV as your charity of choice there is nothing more to do. If you are not yet registered please go to our website to learn how to participate: <https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/Ralphs%20Community%20Contribution%20Program.pdf>.

The terms of half of JGSCV's board members are expiring at the end of December. All four are willing to continue to serve: Jan Allen, Karen Lewy, Helene Rosen and Diane Wainwood. The 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 their interest. To be eligible, a nominee must be a member in good standing and must be a JGSCV member for at least one year. The application is on the website at: https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/board_application_form.pdf.

Sad News:

JGSCV's founding member and first Secretary, Dorothy Drilich, passed away on August 23, 2020 at age 93. She moved to Michigan several years ago to be near her son Neil.





Practicing Safe Computing #58: “Vishing (Voice phishing)”

By Hal Bookbinder (Number 58 in a series)

Scammers are after your personal information and your money. Whether it is phishing on your computer or vishing on your phone, the goal is the same. You likely think that you would never be fooled by such obvious cons. However, more folks than you imagine have been taken and are too embarrassed to admit it. We were brought up in a more trusting time. Scammers are experts in human engineering. They know how to connect, to build trust and create urgency and fear. They are very good at what they do. Do not underestimate them.

- **Relationship** – Scammers may use their skills to create an apparent bond. They may share their own fears and hopes. They may share things that they have in common with you. Maybe they have a Jewish-sounding surname or drop a Yiddish expression. The goal is for you to let down your guard.
- **Known Entity** – Scammers may represent themselves as being from a company, governmental entity or other organization that you know and trust (or fear). They are usually quite convincing. Anyone may say that they are an IRS or postal investigator or from the fraud alert group at your bank.
- **Fear** – Scammers “from the IRS” may threaten you with a huge penalty or jail. Scammers “from the power company may threaten to cut off your power. Scammers from “the police of a foreign country” may threaten to jail, or not to release, a friend or relative. The goal is to rattle you.
- **Greed** – A scammer may inform you that you have a government payment on hold, that you have a

package at FedEx, that you will be paid \$100 to complete a survey or help them catch a bank employee who has been stealing. or of course, that you have won some prize.

- **Urgency** – Scammers almost always rely on urgency. Action must be taken immediately or there will be dire consequences or an amazing opportunity will be lost. By creating this urgency, they hope you will not stop and question things.
- **Immediacy** – Scammers demand payment now, using purchased cash cards, debit cards, wire transfer or bitcoin. Credit cards, checks and the US Mail are too slow. Of course, the alternatives they require mean that your money will not be recovered and they will likely not be caught.
- **Identification** – Being asked to identify yourself by providing information such as birth date, account number, address, social security number, “your secret word”, or any other personal information should alert you that you are being reeled in. Do not fall for it.
- **Verification** – Scammers know that you may be suspicious and want to check them out. So, they may provide you a phone number to call. The automated call tree and eventual “representative” sound legitimate. They are not. Always verify by looking up the number yourself.
- **Confidentiality** – You may be informed that this is a special, delicate situation that demands confidentiality. If you bring anyone or any organization into the picture, the opportunity will be gone or there will be dire consequences. They want to be your only source of “truth.”
- **Repetition** – Once a scammer has taken you, they may well return in the guise of an official to help you recover what you lost or as the same person with a convincing story as to why things did not work out before but with some more effort, and money, they are guaranteed to work out now.

The scammers are experts at manipulation. They have done this successfully with uncounted smart and sophisticated people. Be careful. Step back and whatever you do, do not provide personal information or money. Do not try to outsmart them. Just focus on not getting reeled in.

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



Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the End of World War II

A Series of Remembrances by JGSCV Members

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 founding member Tom Allen writes about his paternal uncle, Glenn Allen.

Glenn Edwards Allen (1916-1995)

Glenn Edwards Allen entered service during World War II on 31 August 1942 in Des Moines, Iowa although he was living in Lorimer, Union County, Iowa. Glenn was a school teacher. He was discharged from service on 5 November 1945. According to his World War II Bonus Cases documents which are too poor a quality to reproduce here, he departed for foreign service on 27 September 1944 and returned from service on 28 October 1945.

During his time of service he served in Des Moines, IA, US Naval Hospital in the Great Lakes, IL, US Naval Hospital, Newport, Rhode Island, US Naval Hospital Corps School Portsmouth, VA, Corps Evacuation Hospital, Unit#1 Camp Lejeune, South Carolina and Pacific, Iwo Jima, Japan. Glenn served as a medical corpsman.

Originally, Glenn was rejected when first called up to serve, but he did not know why he was rejected. Glenn knew he would be called up again. During that time he distributed ration books in addition to teaching. He also took some chiropractic training but never graduated as a chiropractor. After being rejected by the military he married Jean Moffitt.

He and his wife Jean knew he would be happier in the Navy and he joined as a Pharmacist Mate Second Class—this was a better rating than being a seaman second class or private in the Army. He
September 2020

Marriage certificate for Glenn Edwards Allen and Jean Alberta Moffitt, May 27, 1941

The penalty for neglect to make return to Clerk of District Court, within 15 days by the person solemnizing marriage is \$50. Code, Section 3346.

IOWA STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH 88 48
RETURN OF MARRIAGE TO CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT
UNION COUNTY

1. Full name of GROOM *Glenn Edward Allen*
2. Place of residence *Lorimer, Iowa*
3. Occupation *Teacher*
4. Age next birthday *26* years. Color *White*. Race *Caucasian*
5. Place of birth *Lorimer, Iowa*
6. Father's name *Frank C. Allen* HARRY DAWSON
7. Mother's maiden name *Myrtle St. Gardner* MAY 27 1941
8. Number of groom's marriage *First*
9. Full name of BRIDE *Jean Alberta Moffitt*
- Maiden name if a widow *S.*
10. Place of residence *Lorimer, Iowa*
11. Age next birthday *22* years. Color *White*. Race *American*
12. Place of birth *Lorimer, Iowa*
13. Father's name *William M. Moffitt*
14. Mother's maiden name *Leona R. Raska*
15. Number of bride's marriage *First*
16. Witnesses to marriage *Tom B. Baska* *Willie Barbara Moffitt*

N. B.—At Nos. 8 and 15 state whether 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc., marriage of each. At 16 give names of subscribing witnesses to the marriage certificate. If no subscribing witness, give names of two persons who witnessed ceremony.

WE HEREBY CERTIFY, That the information above given is correct, to the best of our knowledge and belief.
Glenn E. Allen Groom
Jean Moffitt Bride

I hereby certify that the above is a correct return of a marriage solemnized by me,
 At *Lorimer, Iowa* *M. P. Summerhill*
 this *24* day of *May* 1941. *Leona R. Raska*
Methodist Minister

SERIAL NUMBER <i>1040</i>	1. NAME (Print) <i>GLENN EDWARDS ALLEN</i>		ORDER NUMBER <i>1571</i>
2. ADDRESS (Print) <i>LORIMOR UNION IOWA</i> <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
3. TELEPHONE <i>LORIMOR 119</i>	4. AGE IN YEARS <i>24</i>	5. PLACE OF BIRTH <i>LEON IOWA</i> <small>(Town or village) (State or territory)</small>	6. COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP <i>U. S. A.</i>
7. NAME OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS <i>MR. FRANK P. ALLEN</i> <small>(Mr., Mrs., Miss) (First) (Last)</small>		8. RELATIONSHIP OF THAT PERSON <i>FATHER</i>	
9. ADDRESS OF THAT PERSON <i>LAMONI DECATUR IOWA</i> <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
10. EMPLOYER'S NAME <i>Lorimer Independent School</i>			
11. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS <i>Lorimer Union Iowa</i> <small>(Number and street or R. F. D. number) (Town) (County) (State)</small>			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.			
REGISTRATION CARD D. N. S. FORM 1 <small>(over)</small>		10-17100 <i>Glenn E. Allen</i> <small>(Registrant's signature)</small>	

was sworn in in Des Moines, IA and he was assigned to Great Lakes Navy Hospital, just north of Chicago. As a country boy he had never been to Chicago before and was quite apprehensive about the trip. After about six weeks he was ordered to Newport Naval Hospital in Newport, Rhode Island.

For a local farm area boy, this trip on the train to New York City Grand Central Station and Pullman cars was a major event! It was also the first time he had eaten lamb as they served lamb chops on the train. He

thought lamb was for shearing and the wool for shirts and underwear.

When they arrived in Newport Naval Hospital the Navy did not know what to do with Glenn and the rest of the 56 pharmacist mates. They were there for a year and as the need for men had increased many of the previous rejectees were now being taken into service. Glenn served in the outpatient department where they also treated the dependents of service members: army, navy and coast guard. One of his jobs was to pick-up the doctor on call when a woman went into labor and assist in the delivery.

In the Fall, he received his orders to report to Norfolk Naval Hospital, Corps School, a school that trained hospital medical personnel. He was in school for 12 weeks and graduated as a hospital apprentice second class—H A Dueces. The rank would be equal to seaman second class. He and his wife Jean lived ashore, and Jean worked at the US Navy yard and he went to Corps school.

The Corps school was converted into an independent duty school—to train medical people to go to the fleet as the medical person on LSTs or small craft.

Glenn received name orders to the Corps Evacuation Hospital, units 1, 2, and 3 all told to report to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina. The Marine Corps did not have a Medical Corps and therefore relied on the Navy to supply this need. There they received equipment such as portable x-ray machines powered by small generators, portable operating buildings, large tents etc. They underwent field training with the Marines trying to infiltrate at night and spent a week at the rifle range. This is not what they expected.

The medical department in Washington D.C. concluded the Marines were losing too many men on the beaches so they would duplicate the field hospitals of the US Army. He was issued Marine clothing and wore a Navy insignia.

Following the training they were put on a train to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California. They even cooked their own meals on board the train. At Camp Pendleton they “became Marines” walking over a mile to the mess hall. They could not have liberty until they had completed Combat swimming—a necessary skill if they had to abandoned ship. As someone who only knew how to dog paddle this was an important skill- jumping off towers which



Glenn Edwards and wife Jean Moffitt Allen in Portsmouth, VA before deployment to Pacific Theater in 1944

were 33 feet tall and then when he hit the water had to paddle over to the edge and shed his pack, shoes, helmet and anything else permitted.

They loaded out of San Diego on a merchant ship bound for Hawaii. It was not a great experience on that ship. They disembarked in Pearl Harbor and quartered at Tent Camp or Transient Camp-six to a tent which had electricity. They were stenciling the logo of the Corps Evacuation Hospital, Unit One on all their gear. Shortly after New Year's they were on their way- in a Victory ship the USS Lenawee.



USS Lenawee, a victory ship named for Lenawee County, Michigan

The Lenawee sailed from the Hawaiian Islands on 27 January 1945 for Saipan. In the Marianas, the final rehearsals for her entrance into the battle zone were held, and 1,503 troops of the 5th Marines and the 62nd Naval Construction Battalion embarked. After a 3-day voyage, she arrived at Iwo Jima on 19 February; her boats helped place the first wave of Marines ashore before debarking her own troops 3 days later. Learn more about the Lenawee at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Lenawee_\(APA-195\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Lenawee_(APA-195))

Glenn's diary says they were on the ship for 6 weeks with some short stops to refuel or bring supplies on board. Their next real stop was Saipan and they laid off Saipan and Tinian, an island in the Mariana Islands. Their commander decided they needed training in getting off the larger ship and into landing craft- which was disastrous due to wearing full gear and packs on their backs and 10-foot swells causing the smaller craft to bounce up and down. Some of Glenn's company ended up with broken limbs and then the exercise was called off.

The 5th amphibious corps was bound for Iwo Jima. En route they recognized they were playing for keeps when they had warnings of attack planes. They were below confined to their space while the deck guns were dancing on the deck above. All you could do was keep cool and pray.

They laid off Iwo Jima in deep waters the Pensacola came to them and they tied up to her. The Pensacola had taken some hits had had damage to her bridge. They passed heavy ammunition to her and were in a vulnerable position. They were told to make smoke with the smoke maker to help hide the ships. They cut the lines and began to get under way with a portion of their rail carried away. The actual assault began on 19 February 1945—he was in a transport laying off the island. They had three days of bombardment before the landings. The day of the landing was small craft in the sea circling about. Glenn stood watching on the deck the small craft circling about and the destroyers and other craft shelling the beach and Mt. Suribachi.

The corps Evacuation Hospital unit was to land on red beach or green beach—they were at the base of Mt. Suribachi. Evacuation Hospital #2 was headed of Okinawa. Their equipment was loaded and unloaded in its turn on the beach. This was 19 February and, in a few weeks, there would be heavy casualties from the center of the island fighting. The order was given all craft was went to the beaches they were assigned. By the third wave heavy fire hit the landing troops- the first two waves did not encounter the heavy artillery. Glenn now understood the need for the combat swimming as the troops were being unloaded by landing craft with full gear and if they landed too far out the troops

would find themselves in water over their heads. Many of the landing craft became disabled which resulted in delaying some landings until the debris could be cleared. Glenn and as part of the Corps Evacuation Hospital were still on the troop ships watching.

The hospital ships were filled to capacity and departed to the Mariana's particularly Guam. To assist with the wounded many were transferred to vessels like the one Glenn was on. Transport vessels are not equipped to handle a large number of casualties. There was no triage on the beach and the point was to get the wounded off the beach. The receiving ships were not equipped to take in many wounded so they improvised as major surgery was not possible. For sucking wounds of the chest they used the cellophane from cigarettes over the wound and tape it down if no major blood vessel had been broken there was a good chance of recovery.

When the famous Iwo Jima flag raising was done on 23 February 1945, the Corps Evacuation Hospital was still in the transport vessels.

They set up a hospital at the base of Mt. Suribachi and divided into three sections. One was setup on the beach, one to stay at the airfield and one at the front. He survived the war and was discharged 5 November 1945.

In his diary of his wartime experiences, written 50 years after the war, Glenn said the Iwo Jima assault "was an assault by a large number of individuals against an enemy that was dug in, on higher ground and with the assault area sighted in. Also, it lasted for a great deal longer time. The assault force did carry the day but with great casualties. I am proud of the care that we were able to give the suffering and dying". I was a medical corpsman, wearing a Red Cross and unarmed. He could not say they gave succor to the enemy because he did not see any live enemy except on rare occasions.

Following the war, he attended the University of Iowa under the GI bill where he received a Juris Doctorate.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

RACE	HEIGHT (Approx.)	WEIGHT (Approx.)	COMPLEXION	
White	5'10"	175	Sallow	
	EYES	HAIR	Light	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Negro	Blue	Blonde	Ruddy	
	Gray	Red	Dark	
Oriental	Hazel	Brown	Freckled	
	Brown	Black	Light brown	
Indian	Black	Gray	Dark brown	
		Bald	Black	
Filipino				

Other obvious physical characteristics that will aid in identification: *See on right thumb*

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: *Wm. W. Williams* (Signature of registrar)
Wm. W. Williams (Printed name) (Ward) *2672* (City or county) *Iowa* (State)

Date of registration: *Oct 16, 1940*

UNION COUNTY LOCAL BOARD

OCT 21 1940

IA. STATE SAVINGS BLDG. CRESTON IOWA

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

16-17108

Glenn practiced law for 45 years and resided in Madrid, Iowa. Glenn and Jean had three children: Patricia, James and Rebecca.

On 2 October, 1955 Glenn and Jean were killed in an automobile accident returning home from a trip from Missouri when a truck went over the divider and hit them head on.

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75th Anniversary of Victory in Japan Day (V-J Day)

By Jan Meisels Allen

World War II officially ended on the day Imperial Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945. The formal surrender ceremony took place on the USS Missouri in Tokyo Bay on September 2nd. Due to time zone differences it was announced in the United States and the rest of the Americas on August 14, 1945. August 15 is the official V-J day in the United Kingdom.



Representatives of the Empire of Japan aboard the USS Missouri at the surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945

After the death of President Roosevelt, President Truman had four options to conclude the war:

1. Continue the conventional bombing of Japanese cities that had started in 1944;
2. An invasion of Japan that would cost millions of lives on both sides;
3. A demonstration of the newly developed atomic bomb on an unpopulated island; or,
4. Drop the atom bomb on an inhabited Japanese city. Ultimately Truman and the interim committee he had formed felt that only a direct military use of the atomic weapons would force a Japanese capitulation, with the committee stating that "We can propose no technical demonstration likely to bring an end to the war. We can see no acceptable alternative to direct military use."

New York Times front page announcing Japan's surrender September 2, 1945



(the 14th in the Western Hemisphere), President Harry S. Truman announced that Emperor Hirohito had accepted the terms of unconditional surrender.

More than 400,000 Americans—and an estimated 65 million people worldwide—had died in the conflict. As historian Donald L. Miller, PhD, wrote in his book *The Story of World War II*, “It was too much death to contemplate, too much savagery and suffering; and in August 1945 no one was counting. For those who had seen the face of battle and been in the camps and under the bombs—and had lived—there was a sense of immense relief.” The war was over. <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/v-j-day>.

To read more and see photos and links to motion pictures go to: <https://unwritten-record.blogs.archives.gov/2020/08/11/vj-day-75th-anniversary/>



General Douglas MacArthur signing the Japanese Surrender along with Japanese foreign minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and Japanese Army chief of staff Yoshijiro Mmezu

To commemorate this occasion, the US National Archives Moving Image and Sound Branch presents films from their holdings documenting the tremendous moment in world history. The United States knew that any invasion of the Japanese main islands would exact a high price. The U.S. military planners estimated that American forces would sustain over 1 million casualties and estimated that Japan might suffer over 10 million in defense of its home islands. In preparation for the



President Truman announces the end of World War II from the White House
(© Keystone-France/Gamma-Keystone/Getty Image)

anticipated invasion, the government ordered over 1.5 million purple hearts, a citation given to U.S. service members wounded in combat.

JGSCV has a founding member that served in the US military in the Pacific during World War II, Harold Arkoff. His story of serving appeared in the November 2015 issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*, https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing_V11_N2.pdf see pages 10-12.

Genealogy Odds and Ends

Ancestry partnered with the USC Shoah Foundation to release 50,000 Holocaust records, to be placed in a searchable database, but some survivor families do not want their histories public. The Ancestry records with the USC Shoah Foundation are an **index** to survivor video interviews. One would still have to go via a link to the USC Shoah Foundation to access the actual interview. They are free on the USC Shoah Foundation website (<http://sfi.usc.edu/>). Ancestry also added nine million records from the Arolsen Archives that Ancestry digitized this year. Much of the Arolsen Archives records are free to search on the Arolsen Archives website (<https://arolsen-archives.org/en/search-explore/search-online-archive/>). However, as reported by the *New York Times*, during a soft launch trial run, some survivors and their family members already concerned about such sensitive information made public, are wondering what is free and what is not.

The formal announcement of the partnership and media rollout that was set for August 26 has been postponed to September 2nd. To read the Ancestry blog post see: <https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2020/08/26/our-commitment-to-preserving-the-memory-of-the-holocaust/>

The LA Family History Library has a full schedule of Zoom classes. Visit [https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Los Angeles FamilySearch Library/Online Class Registration %26 Schedule](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Los_Angeles_FamilySearch_Library/Online_Class_Registration_%26_Schedule) to register.

Effective August 17 the National Library of Israel suspended services due to budget cuts and drop of income and donations, halted book lending, closed reading rooms and ended teacher trainings and online events. It also placed its 300 employees on unpaid leave.

Online cultural events that have been held throughout the coronavirus crisis will be canceled as well

Reminder: On October 2nd USCIS will substantially raise fees for all records requests including genealogy. As note in last month's newsletter, some fees will increase by more than 300%. The forms may be found at: <https://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>

A website has compiled depression-era tax photographs of every building in New York City. Photos were taken between 1939-1951 by the City Tax Department and the New Deal- era Works Progress Administration. This historic page may be found at <https://1940s.nyc/map#13.69/40.7093/-73.99397>

In 2018, the NYC Department of Records and Information Services digitized 700,000 of the functional black and white photos in 35 mm film. To purchase high quality print or digital copies go to: <https://www1.nyc.gov/doittshoppingcart/photoform.htm>.

JGSCV MEMBERS'

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. JGSCV member Ruth (Steres Pollack shares a special remembrance.

My fond memory:

As a young girl growing up in Oakland, California, I did something people were not supposed to do.

My dad had a business in East Oakland on Foothill Blvd. Almost daily, I would sit on the curb in front of my Dad's store and watch the "convoys" of military vehicles pass by.

These vehicles were made several miles away at the Ford Company and were then driven to the ships waiting for them in Alameda to take them to assignments overseas.

Not only did I "watch" the vehicles pass by, I "counted" the vehicles, as well, something we American citizens were told not to do. I was perhaps 8 or 9 years old and no one paid attention to me sitting on the curb.

My Dad was also an "air-raid warden" who patrolled the street (one block) where our house was located. My grandmother used her black "wedding skirt" she had brought from Europe to cover windows during the black-outs.

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

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

Sunday	Oct. 4	1:30-3:30 PM	Jennifer Mendelsohn	Think Like a Reporter to Avoid Genealogy Mistakes
Sunday	Nov. 1	1:30-3:30	Marlis Glaser Humphrey	A Master Catalog for Jewish Genealogy: The DoJR Project-What You Need to Know
Sunday	Dec. 6	1:30-3:30 PM	Genie Milgrom	Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of the Crypto Jews"



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.)

