

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

December 2019

Volume 15 Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's hard to believe but we just commemorated the one-year anniversary of the Borderline Bar and Grill massacre and Woolsey fire. And last month, more fires in the area. We hope all of our friends and members did not suffer any further damage. The fires are now the "new normal" and we must be ever vigilant. Last week another school shooting north of us in Santa Clarita (Saugus) —unbelievable. Another "new norm" school active shooter drills are required from nursery school through high school across the country. We can only hope that 2020 will be a peaceful year and no more school shootings, massacres or fires.

JGSCV had an excellent meeting on November 4 with Janette Silverman talking on *When Gravestones Lie*. Her thought-provoking, educational and amusing presentation was excellently received as demonstrated by the question and answer period running one hour! See page 8 for the highlights of her presentation.

Thank you to Warren Blatt for conducting the schmoozing corner. This month instead of a schmoozing corner we will have another ASK THE EXPERT session with Hal Bookbinder starting just after 1:00PM. Please come prepared with your questions.

Mike Sander resigned from the board effective early November. Karen Lewy was elected by the board to resume the role of treasurer. We wish Mike the best and hope to see him at future JGSCV meetings and thank Karen for stepping in.



Janette Silverman,
Last month's JGSCV speaker

NEXT MEETING

Sunday December 8th 1:30-3:30

FamilySearch Shortcuts



Learn tips for accessing FamilySearch's Historical Collections from David Rencher, Chief Researcher at FamilySearch. AND, JGSCV's Annual Chanukah Party with prizes for members.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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

**2019 JGSCV BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

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president@jgscv.org

Helene Rosen, VP Membership

membership@jgscv.org

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treasurer@jgscv.org

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secretary@jgscv.org

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Judy Karta, Community

Outreach judy@jgscv.org

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Newsletter Editor

newslettereditor@jgscv.org

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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.

As I write this we welcome more new members so we are now at 186! So far 36 percent have renewed for 2020 and hopefully many more will by the December meeting. The December 8th meeting with a special speaker and elections will also be our Chanukah celebration and kickoff for JGSCV's membership drive. Attendees who have renewed their memberships or joined at or before the meeting, will be eligible for some amazing prizes including subscriptions to Ancestry worldwide, Fold3, newspapers.com, Findmypast, My Heritage and Legacy Webinars; software from Family Tree Maker, Legacy Family Tree and RootsMagic; and DNA kits from Ancestry and FamilyTree DNA and more. A membership renewal form is on page 16 and will also be available at the meeting as well as on our website at: <https://www.jgscv.org/membership.html> Remember dues increase by \$5.00 starting January 1 so it's best to join/renew before the end of the year.

JGSCV Board and Nominations Committee member Karen Lewy presented the Nominations Committee report. The four existing board members running for the board were all accepted by the membership: Warren Blatt, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion and Israel "Issie" Perel. Then nominations were opened from the floor and Tammy Anderson-Williams self-nominated after which, nominations were closed. The election by acclamation will be conducted at the December 8 meeting. To read the bios about all five candidates see page 6.

Board members Andrea Massion and Judy Karta worked on GET INSPIRED – WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT GENEALOGY display which is at the Agoura Hills Library through December 4. This is to celebrate International Jewish Genealogy Month. The display also includes some books from our library. See page 15 for information on the display.

If you are planning to order any genealogy documents from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) do it now. The article on page 7 explains their intent to dramatically increase their prices for these records.

It's not too soon to start planning to attend the 40th IAIGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy August 9-14 in San Diego at the Sheraton Marina. The deadline for submitting a presentation is November 27. See: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2020/index.cfm>

Hal Bookbinder's next article in his continuing series on safe computing is: "Data Management and Protection". See page 11

We are especially privileged with our speaker for our December 8 program, David E. Rencher, AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS, Director, Family History Library and Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. David will be talking on *FamilySearch Historical Collections Tips and Tricks*.

On behalf of the entire board of directors, have a very happy, safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving!

Jan Meisels Allen



Little Poland in Mexico, WWII

Javier Lopez, our go-to facilities staff where JGSCV meets at Temple Adat Elohim monthly, shared this article with us at our recent meeting: “Little Poland” in Mexico: History of Refuge and Hospitality (1943-1947) posted on the Mexican Embassy in Poland’s website. <https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/polonia/index.php/la-historia-de-los-ninos-de-santa-rosa/16-sin-categoria/45-la-pequena-polonia-en-mexico>. (See page 12 for an excerpt of the article.) Peter Lande, who posts databases from the U.S. Holocaust Museum’s collections writes about WW II Polish refugees who were sent to Mexico via India and Los Angeles in his introduction to the database *Polish Refugees to Mexico in 1943*. https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/JG0465_Polish%20Refugees%20to%20Mexico.html

Music Genealogy: The Progenitor of a Violin Piece

Violinist extraordinaire Joshua Bell gave a recital to an admiring audience at the Oxnard Civic Auditorium here in Ventura County on November 3rd. Near the end, Bell performed a solo piece by Eugene Ysaye (1858-1931) who wrote exclusively for the violin. But first Mr. Bell told a story: Bell’s violin teacher and mentor was Josef Gingold. (1909-1995) After World War I, Gingold immigrated to the United States from Brest, Belarus with his family. In 1927, he traveled to Belgium to study with the legendary Eugene Ysaye, whom he considered the “master of masters.” Ysaye honored Gingold to premiere Ysaye’s *Third Sonata for Unaccompanied Violin*. Gingold went on to teach at Indiana State University’s renowned music school in Bloomington. Here, a 12-year-old Joshua Bell came to study with Gingold and learned Ysaye’s *Third Sonata* from him. After this story, Mr. Bell performed the sonata for the appreciative audience.

Brush-up on Genetics and Genealogy

Since the arrival of DNA testing within the Genealogy community, lay folk have had to brush up on the science of genetics, DNA matches, and the like. Lectures at meetings and conferences have informed and explained how access to our DNA can provide insight into one’s family tree. Here’s another source of assistance: *The Genetics Science Learning Center* at the University of Utah provides accessible explanations to understanding DNA, chromosomes, inheritance, and everything else you may want to know when it comes to genes and genealogy online at their *Learn.Genetics* website. Well-organized and concise, the website can be accessed at <https://learn.genetics.utah.edu/content/basics/>

Jewish Medical Students of Galicia

Andrew Zalewski, Project Coordinator of the Jewish Medical Students Records at Gesher Galicia (<https://www.geshergalicia.org/>) posted an update on upcoming indexes and additions to the medical students project. “We welcome receiving additional biographical details and records on Jewish medical students found in our database,” wrote Zalewski. The project focuses on the period 1784 to 1939, as Galician Jews traveled long distances from home to gain a medical education. Read about the project at: <https://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/galician-medical-students-doctors-project/>.

Page Three is curated by Andrea Massion

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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, December 8, 2019 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 Light refreshments will be served



The Program: FamilySearch Historical Collections - Tips and Tricks

FamilySearch is one of the premiere genealogical research sites. This session shares tips and tricks to searching record collections in FamilySearch. Learn new techniques for searching the collections, compiled genealogies, and the Library Catalog.

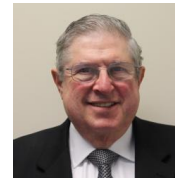
Speaker: David E. Rencher, AG®, CG®, FUGA, FIGRS, is the Director, Family History Library and Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. A professional genealogist since 1977, he is one of the rare few who have earned both credentials: Accredited Genealogist® with ICAPGen in Ireland research and Certified Genealogist® with the Board for Certification of Genealogists. He is a past-president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.



ALSO at this meeting: JGSCV's Annual Chanukah Celebration and Membership Drive! To be eligible for the drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes you must renew your JGSCV membership or join for 2020. And, you must be present to win! Light refreshments will be available. The meeting is open to the public and there is no charge to attend. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history.

JGSCV Updates



On December 8th JGSCV's SCHMOOZING CORNER will be replaced by **Ask the Expert**. At 1:05 PM genealogy expert Hal Bookbinder will be fielding your genealogical questions in an open forum so that everyone can benefit from his insights. Hal is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award. Be sure to arrive early and bring your questions!

Speaking of genealogy experts, did you know your society boasts 2 IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award Winners in addition to Hal Bookbinder! In 2017 JGSCV President Jan Meisels Allen was so honored while board member Warren Blatt was recognized in 2004. In addition, many other JGSCV members have presented at the annual IAJGS Conferences including Deborah Kay Blatt, Andrea Massion and Marion Werle. Their knowledge and availability enhance the learning experience of JGSCV.

Holiday shopping is upon us! Whether a member or friend of JGSCV, when you shop at Amazon.com remember to start by clicking on our website www.jgscv.org. There is an Amazon link at the bottom of each JGSCV web page (see below). It is a simple first step that costs you nothing.



A way to support JGSCV is to shop at Ralphs and list JGSCV as your charity of choice. If you are already registered and have selected JGSCV as your charity of choice you have nothing to do. If you have not registered with Ralphs or selected us as your charity of choice, go to our website www.jgscv.org under "Noteworthy".

JGSCV Board elections are coming up. See the bios of the nominees on the next page.

Our meeting co-host, Temple Adat Elohim has instituted new security measures. When driving onto the Temple's property you will encounter a security guard. Be sure to tell the guard you will be attending the JGSCV meeting whereupon the gate will be opened and you will be admitted and directed to the appropriate parking area.

JGSCV Welcomes New Members
Janet Brasler Janet Fishman
Debbie and Harry Enenstein

Forthcoming Elections

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Marion Werle (with board member Karen Lewy and Carol Flesher general member) has recommended the following slate of individuals to fill the four 2-year positions on the JGSCV board effective January 1, 2020:

Warren Blatt
Allan Linderman
Andrea Massion
Israel "issie" Perel, Ph.D.

At the November 4th JGSCV meeting a call for additional nominations from the floor resulted in one response: Tammy Williams-Anderson agreed to serve if elected. Following the nominations from the floor nominations were closed.

The terms of four current board members Jan Meisels Allen, Karen Lewy, Helene Rosen and Diane Wainwood continue through the end of 2020.

The board is currently set at nine elected members. The JGSCV By-Laws permit 6- 12 elected board members with two appointed board members with the consent of the board. Five individuals are recommended for two-year terms.

Elections will then be held at the December 8, 2019 meeting.

At the initial 2020 board meeting, the board will determine who will fulfill the various officer and non-officer board positions. This will be reported to the membership in the February 2020 *Venturing Into Our Past*.

Warren Blatt, a founding member of JGSCV has served on the JGSCV Board for the past 14 years. Warren is the JewishGen Senior Genealogist) as well as author of many JewishGen databases. Warren has been involved in genealogy research for over thirty-five years. He is a winner of the IAJGS' Lifetime Achievement award. He is a presenter at many JGSCV meetings, and an annual presenter at the IAJGS conferences. He is the author of two books and numerous journal articles.

Allan Linderman is a member of JGSCV since 2008 and became JGSCV's newsletter editor in the Spring of 2009. He has been engaged in genealogy for nine years. Allan is an advertising and media consultant and is president of The Linderman Media group and brings to his role his writing and editing skills.

Andrea Massion has been researching family history for over 20 years. A native of Los Angeles, Andrea is retired after over 30 years as a Jewish music educator, family program specialist, and from school library management for LAUSD. She writes for JGSCV newsletter's page 3. Andrea is a living resource for the Jewish Farming Community of Iowa Center, outside Chugwater, Wyoming where her family homesteaded for 20 years. Visit her shtetl page at https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/ananyiv/Ananiev/Ananiev_Introduction.html

Israel “Issie” Perel, Ph.D. is on the JGSCV board as well as JGSCV librarian. Issie has been involved in family genealogy research for eight years. He visited France where he met with cousins discovered through his genealogy research. Issie received his B.Sc. degree from McGill University in Montreal, Canada and his PhD degree in Psychology from University of California, Santa Barbara. He is on the board of the Ray Hosford Foundation at UCSB. He is a member of the California Health and Human Services Agency Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects.

Tammy Williams-Anderson has been a member of JGSCV since 2008—eleven years! She served for one year in the role of Librarian in 2012. She has been doing genealogical research on her family tree for twenty years, primarily North American research on my paternal family pre-Civil War and early Colonial time periods, and on my maternal side two Jewish lines going back to Austria-Hungary and Poland-Russia.

She is a recent career transitioner, having interrupted academic goals until 2011 until graduating from Cal State Northridge with a Bachelor of Arts in Urban Studies and Planning. Tammy is currently seeking her next opportunity in public service. She is accustomed to modern technology and computerized methods of storing, researching, retrieving, and organizing data. She is well-versed in reading and interpreting handwriting, and is geographically literate, and good with identifying time periods of clothing in old photos.

Tammy is a cooperative individual who enjoys hearing about other people’s family histories and would love to participate further in this genealogical group, to further its endeavors.

USCIS Genealogy Program Proposes to Raise Fees Substantially

If you have been thinking about but delaying requesting searches or actual records from the USCIS Genealogy Program this is the time to do it. The



USCIS published in the November 14 Federal Register their intent to substantially increase their fees very soon. The deadline for comments on their proposal is December 16 and the increase can happen soon after then. Please read: <https://www.recordsnotrevenue.com/> and send in your comments to the portal or snail mail as listed on the recordsnotrevenue website. There is nowhere else these records may be obtained. The price increase after one only three years ago is obscene to say the least. Write your comments -thousands of letters are needed to get their attention!

Currently, the G-1041 Index Search Request is \$65 and form G-1041A Genealogy Records Request is \$65. The USCIS proposes to raise the fees to \$240 and \$385 respectively. These are a 269 percent and 492 percent change respectively (if I did my math correctly). They are based on the projected costs and volumes of the genealogy program. The search fee is non-refundable if nothing is found in their search.

If you plan to request either the search or file form go to:

<https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/requesting-records>

Please read their Frequently asked questions before submitting a request:

<https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/requesting-help/record-requests-frequently-asked-questions>

To order the search or records, the current forms are available at: <https://genealogy.uscis.dhs.gov/>

Highlights from:

When Gravestones Lie

By Jan Meisels Allen

On November 4 JGSCV was privileged to have Janette Silverman, DSIS, as our speaker. Her excellent presentation on *When Gravestones Lie* was educational, thought provoking and entertaining. The interest in the program was evident by the number of questions the presentation evoked...the q/a period lasted for one hour!

As Jewish genealogists, we depend on gravestones to provide certain information which might not appear anywhere else: the Hebrew names of the decedent and his/her father. What happens when the information on a gravestone is incorrect? What if we can't find the gravestone? Silverman's presentation focused on two case studies and the research involved in finding the correct information in one case and why the gravestone in the second case could not be found.

Gravestones and Death Records

Gravestones provide essential information such as: who is buried in the grave (name of person), when the person died (death date), how old the person was (age and in some cases birth and death years), did the person have family (beloved father, grandfather, son, brother, etc.) and whom may be buried nearby that is family. For someone who did not have children it might say beloved aunt or uncle—all clues for the genealogist. A gravestone may show the husband and wife, and in some cases, extra generations may be shown on the back of the gravestone.

If one calls the cemetery for information, patience is required-which genealogists are used to in researching their endeavors.

A death certificate also gives a lot of information, such as name of the deceased, name of spouse, birth and death dates, cause of death and informant. It is also a way to verify relationships between what is on a

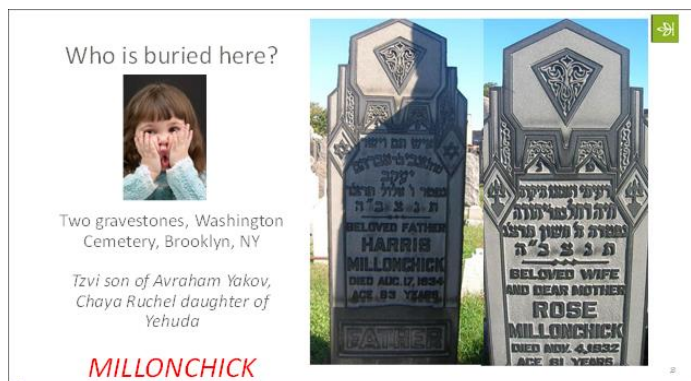
gravestone with information on the certificate. The problem is we should not believe anything we read on the certificate. Examples were given such as no parents' names, wrong maiden names of mother, listing of the incorrect cemetery—so one has to keep looking.

What does one do if there is no record and have a gravestone or have a death record and the grave is not where it is supposed to be.

First Case:

Names and spelling of surnames may be a problem. As genealogists are aware "correct" spelling of names are a 20th century phenomenon. Silverman showed examples using the family name of M-I-L-L-E-R. "Proof" of the name was included in the U.S. Census which explicitly said the name was Miller and the birth date was 1905 or 1906. But in checking the male head of household's (Max) paternal records (Harris and Rose) on other U.S. Census records the name was spelled M-E-L-L-O-N in the 1910 U.S. Census and M-I-L-L-I-N in the 1920 U.S. Census and -M-E-L-L-I-O-N in the 1930 U.S. Census.

During the 1930's Harris and Rose died and they had a great granddaughter named for Rose born in 1935 named Chaya Ruchel. Silverman was not able to find their death records in New York City and the



gravestones were not in the family plots. Then Harris and Rose's granddaughter—Max's daughter Sylvia—died in 1991. Before her death she said "M-I-L-L-I-O-N-C-H-I-K. What did that mean? After much research in Washington Cemetery in Brooklyn, New York two gravestones were found: Harris and Rose M-I-L-L-O-N-C-H-I-C-K.

In King's County (Brooklyn, NY) Surrogate's Court Harris' last will and testament was found in probate court and on it gave several names by which the deceased was known by : *In the last will and testament of: Harris Melon, also known as Harris Mellon, Hershel Miller, Harris Miller, Herschel Millen and Hershel Milianchik.* This finding was genealogical gold for researching.

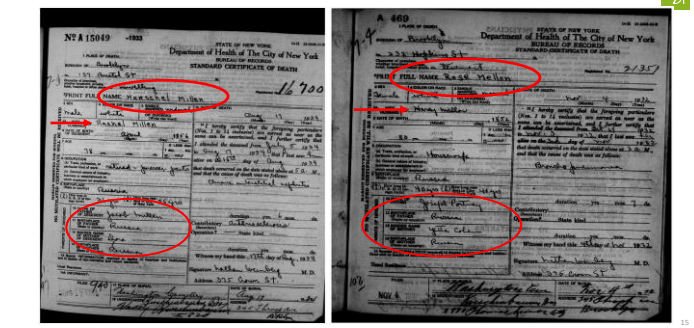
Silverman said to be persistent and ever questioning. By doing so she found the New York City Death certificates of Hershel Millen and Rose Mellon. Information on both certificates of the spouse's names and parents' names verified these were the two people she was looking for. Both certificates said they were each buried at Washington Cemetery. But the online data base for Washington Cemetery could not find either with the spellings as they were listed on the death certificates. Remember, that the gravestones were found at Washington Cemetery but under the name Millonchick!

Second Case:

In the second case Silverman presented, they knew who the person was, and was buried in a double gravestone with a photograph which verified it was the correct person The person: Ida Maslon (1866 – 1926), Mount Zion Cemetery, Los Angeles, Los Angeles County, California, photograph online was posted to Find A Grave in 2012.

It was important to find the facts to unravel this mystery!

Chaya is known as Ida. Her maiden name was Kronberg, her father was Abraham, she was born in Minsk and she married Hyman Maslon. They lived in Minneapolis and moved to California before 1926



where she died in 1926. When Hyman died in 1949, he was buried alongside her. Minsk was the undisputed place Chaya was born and lived before her immigration. A search in Minsk turned up a Kronberg family with a daughter Chaya, but no male named Avraham. The father in that family was Aizik. (Hyman the husband's name on the gravestone is the kinnui [secular name] for Chaim, the name on the petition for naturalization.)

In the 1930 U.S. census they have Hyman back in Minneapolis but listed with wife Libby. Was this the same Hyman who is buried in California? But wait, there is an Ida Maslon who died in 1926 buried in the Minneapolis Jewish Cemetery—also posted to Find A



Grave! There is a death certificate issued in Minnesota for an Ida Maslon whose father was listed as Isaac Kronberg and husband Hyman Mason. How could they be buried in two different places? Remember the gravesite in

California has their photograph on it so we know it's the correct people.

And what about Libby? Their marriage certificate says they married in 1930 and her gravestone says she died in 1936.

Now the 1940 Minneapolis City Directory had Hyman with wife Rose listed living in Minneapolis. Mount Zion Cemetery in Los Angeles has her gravestone listed as a Rose Pollock Maslon with a death date as September 1943. Apparently, Hyman married wife number three Rose Pollock in California in 1937.

Research found that Rose Pollock Maslon registered to vote in 1942 so there they became California residents.

The mystery solved!

Wife number one, Ida is actually buried in Minnesota, where she died not as originally thought in California. There are double plots—one in California the other in Minnesota!

In researching this, Silverman called both cemeteries. Hyman only had children with Ida. The children erected a headstone indicating that parents are buried together. Although the father is buried in

California, and the headstone indicates that Ida is buried next to him, her side of the grave is empty.

During the question and answer period, one of the attendees who works for the Mt. Sinai Cemetery (Los Angeles and Simi Valley) mentioned that their policy is to place "in memorium" on the gravestone if the person is not actually buried there—such as for someone who died in the Holocaust to show and prove the person is not physically buried in the grave.

Others in the audience added to the discussion about their findings with errors on death certificates and gravestones, with dates of birth and death being almost impossible to comprehend—a 111 year spread; names of mother's maiden name being incorrect due to the informant not having the correct knowledge and more.

It was also mentioned that Hebrew dates change at sunset so there may be a difference between dates of death on a death certificate and that on a Jewish gravestone.

There was a discussion on name changes, which are not required to be done through the courts. This may be frustrating to genealogists when researching especially in the 19th century when many immigrants changed their names once arriving in the United States to sound more Americanized.



The conclusion was to do your research and keep on looking when things don't "seem correct."

Dr. Janette Silverman is a Senior Genealogist Research Team Manager at Ancestry ProGenealogists, specializing in Eastern European and Jewish genealogy. Janette's doctoral dissertation, *In Living Memory*, explored her family's background in Eastern Europe and their immigration to the United States from 1885-1925. Janette serves on the IAJGS Board of Directors since 2018 and was lead chair of the 2016 IAJGS conference in Seattle Washington. She served as Ukraine SIG coordinator 5+ years.



Practicing Safe Computing #49: Data Management and Protection

By Hal Bookbinder (49th in an ongoing series)

Protecting your data is not optional, so...



1. Maintain meaningful file names and logical folders.
2. Password protect sensitive data files and folders.
3. Back up data files automatically and frequently.
4. Maintain both local and remote backups.
5. Periodically, test data restoration from backups.
6. Protect backed up data from exposure.
7. Automatically back up files as you work.



If you find yourself spending time trying to find a specific document, spreadsheet, or picture, consider giving them meaningful, differential file names and grouping them into logically named folders. You might further group all of your data files into one master data folder.

If a family member, employee, guest, workman or intruder were to get into your computer, are there files you would not want them to be able to access? If so, you should password-protect them. Remember the password or you will not be able to open the file. Consider encrypting your files for even more protection (However, Windows 10 Home does not support encryption ☹️). To learn more, Google “How to password protect” or “How to encrypt”.

Sometimes, programs have hidden components that are created upon installation. So, it is best to reinstall them rather than restoring them from a copy. Focus on backing up data and not programs. Be sure to record the program registration keys that you will need to complete the installation. Record your keys and back them up along with your other files.

Files created or changed since your last backup will not be on the backup and therefore will not be recoverable. So, it is best to have a frequent automatic backup. Backup software is included with external backup disks and backup cloud subscriptions. If you are a bit more adventuresome you can use Windows Backup to set this up yourself. To learn more, Google “Windows backup”.

Typically, genealogy program backups are placed on the same internal hard disk as the original. This is worthwhile if the original becomes corrupted. But it is of no use if the disk crashes or the computer is stolen. Maintain a local backup on an external hard drive and a remote backup, preferably in the cloud. To read PC Magazine’s comparison of online backups, Google “PCMag Best Cloud Backups”.

Periodically test restoring files from your backup, both to verify that the backup is working and that you know how to recover your data. Take reasonable steps to protect your backups. I periodically back up important files to a USB drive which I keep on a keychain. This drive is encrypted and password protected so if lost, my data is not at risk.

Finally, set up rules to automatically save files as you work. Then, if you close the file without saving it, your system freezes or loses power, your work will be preserved. To learn more, Google, “Autosave Word 2016”, “Autosave Excel 365” or simply “Autosave.” Important! If creating a new file, be sure to save it when you start your work to trigger the Autosave feature.

This is the forty ninth 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.

Mexico Offered Refuge and Hospitality to Polish Jews

Excerpted From: "Little Poland" in Mexico: history of refuge and hospitality (1943-1947).

Authors: Celia Zack de Zukerman and Gloria Celia Carreño A.

“ . . . Poland, defeated and divided, expressed its hopes of continuing to exist as a country and having a voice in the concert of nations through the government in exile that was formally constituted on October 2, 1939 in Paris, with Wladislaw Raczkiwicz as president and Wladislaw Sikorski as prime minister. This government obtained the support of the English government because that way it could dispose of Polish reservations against Germany.

Although at first the Soviet government acted cautiously, once it had all the threads in hand it introduced drastic political, socio-economic and demographic changes: it established the ruble as official currency, dismantled factories and transferred them to the USSR along with the employees and owners, as well as hospitals and schools. That was the beginning of a series of mass deportations of the Polish population to the east and north of the USSR. The exact number of deportees is unknown, the estimate of the Polish authorities is 1.2 million people.

These Polish citizens were sent in the most hostile regions, mainly Siberia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan; where they remained under severe climatic and work conditions.

When taking a turn of the war with the invasion of Soviet territories by Germany and the response of the USSR joining the conflagration as part of the Allies, the fate of thousands of Polish citizens took a turn, since one of the England's conditions to support Stalin's military strategy, was the liberation of Polish citizens.

England convinced the Soviet government to create a Polish army within the Soviet Union itself with the thousands of deported Poles who were in the forced labor camps and among which there were many officers and soldiers. This gave hope to Sikorski and the government in exile.

The Polish army was under the direction of General Anders but subject to the command of the Red Army General Staff and sadly it was found that there were no Polish officers because they had already been annihilated by the Soviet government mainly in the forests of Kathyn.

The people who were able to leave to join the Polish army were in very bad physical condition. Finally on March 18, 1942, Stalin agreed to relocate the Poles in a more benign climate, thus, 40 thousand Polish soldiers with women and children were evacuated to Iran. In September of the same year about 71 thousand were evacuated to the Middle East.

The stay in Iran could not be prolonged and the refugees were taken to Karachi in India. Finally, six East African countries, belonging to the British Commonwealth, offered refuge to 20,000 refugees while the war lasted.

Surprisingly another place that was offered for political exiles was Mexico. The Mexican policy regarding immigration at the end of the 20s was restrictive, it became more rigid from 1933, so it is surprising that President Manuel Ávila Camacho has agreed to negotiate the permit for 20 thousand visas for the entry of refugees.”

(To read the complete story in English, go to: <https://embamex.sre.gob.mx/polonia/index.php/la-historia-de-los-ninos-de-santa-rosa/16-sin-categoria/45-la-pequena-polonia-en-mexico> to copy the article in Spanish and paste it into 'google translate' (www.translate.google.com).

Genealogy Odds and Ends



Per Jan Meisels Allen, JewishGen has changed the designation of SIGS (Special Interest Groups to JewishGen (Name of Area) Research Division. For example, if you subscribe to the Ukraine digest it is now called the JewishGen.org Ukraine Research Division digest. Belarus is now JewishGen Belarus Research Division.

The SIGs are still the same, only the name differs with the new process at JewishGen. You do not need to do anything to your subscriptions to continue to receive the postings either by digest or individually due to name changes. Some of the SIGs are in the process of the changeover so you may not see all of the JewishGen SIGS "renamed" as yet.

Vivian Kahn, JewishGen Hungarian Research Director in Oakland, CA was contacted by Peter Lande at the USHMM regarding a collection he discovered that would be of interest to Hungarian researchers: a list of 1944 transports from Auschwitz to Mauthausen, many of whom were Hungarian. The transports themselves are not on the web but the Mauthausen records are available on the Arolsen site. Peter says that the Polish Government is unlikely to permit the transport lists to be put on the web but one can still access the information on individuals.

Vivian searched the USHMM and Arolsen sites and identified these links: The list:

<https://www.ushmm.org/search/results/?q=Liste+der+Zugange+1944>

Original site: <https://eguide.arolsen-archives.org/en/>

The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) houses one of the most significant collections of modern Jewish history. Comprising the organizational records of the JDC, the Archives includes over 3 miles of text documents, 100,000 photographs, a research library of more than 6,000 books, 1,100 audio recordings including oral histories, and a video collection. They have more than 150 additions to their historic film, video and audio collection from the 1920s through the early 2000s depicting the JDC's relief operations throughout the 90 countries where they worked over the past century. The archives have audio as well as videos in their collection. You can search the film, video and audio collection by going to: <https://archives.jdc.org/our-collections/film-video-and-audio-collection/>

The JDC has begun to digitize their audio-visual materials. A sampling of the digitized materials may be found at: <https://archives.jdc.org/our-collections/film-video-and-audio-collection/list-of-digitized-films-videos-and-audio-recordings/>

While visiting the JDS website don't forget to check their Names Index which has 500,000 names found in their historic documents and client lists at: <http://names.jdc.org>

Members: Do you have a World War II story to share? Please contact newsletter editor, Allan Linderman- newslettereditor@jgscv.org

JewishGen Updates Education Courses

According to Nancy Holden, Director of Education at JewishGen, JewishGen Education has updated its classes and its formats for 2020 with a new range of courses.



1. Three-week Mentored Classes with personal instruction based on helping a student progress with research projects.
2. Home Study classes which are delivered electronically
3. Workbook courses which are Free. Tuition is waived for Value Added members of JewishGen who have donated \$100 to the General Fund in the last 12 months.

The three-week classes are taught in a unique FORUM, a personal mentoring experience, where students have the opportunity to share their story and work one step at a time with the instructor. Students are encouraged to post one branch, set goals for their research and work interactively. Instructors are familiar with a wide range of resources and offer text lessons to accompany the research process.

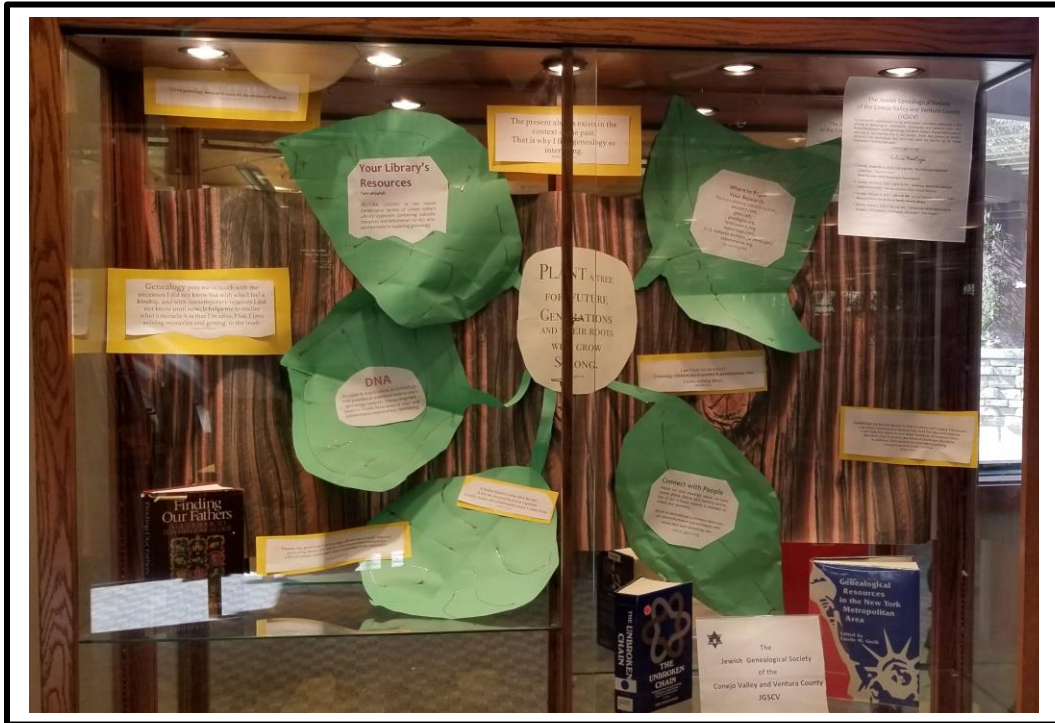
Home Study consists of PDF lessons. Consider the beginning course for organization and basic research skills (census, vital records, manifests) then move on to the Complex U.S. course which covers naturalization, military, governmental records, and local archival research.

Workbook Basic Courses are self-paced text-based PDFs with exercises covering genealogical tools to enhance research skills. Tuition is waived for Value Added members of JewishGen who have donated \$100 to the General Fund in the last 12 months.

We strongly encourage researchers to look at the course details, instructor's credentials and student requirements (time, fee, prerequisites) on the updated education web page: www.jewishgen.org/education. Course Registration opens two weeks before the course start date. If, after reviewing the education page, you have some questions, please email JewishGen-Education@lyris.JewishGen.org and happy sleuthing!

Get Inspired What We Love About Genealogy

To celebrate International Jewish Genealogy Month, JGSCV Board members, Judy Karta and Andrea Massion, worked on GET INSPIRED – WHAT WE LOVE ABOUT GENEALOGY display which is at the Agoura Hills Library through December 4. The display also includes some books from our library. These are some photos of the display.



Family Heirlooms: Did You Inherit or Obtain? A 2020 program for our newsletter.

What are your most cherished possessions that were owned or created by an ancestor or relative? They could be photographs, letters or documents, a diary, an audio or video recording, books, jewelry, clothing, quilts, needlework, drawing or painting, toy or doll, collectibles, musical instrument, furniture, something else?



Write something for our newsletter.

Contact Allan Linderman at newslettereditor@jgscv.org



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 Now! Dues Will Increase Effective January 1, 2020 by \$5.00.

2020 Dues received before then remain at current rate!

Dues paid now are good through December 2020

Date _____

Check one: New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$2.00**

*family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

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.)

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2020



Sunday at 1:30 p.m. OR **Monday at 7:00 p.m.**
 Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

Sunday December 8th, 1:30-3:30 PM FamilySearch Historical Collections – Tips and Tricks with David Rencher, Chief Genealogist, FamilySearch AND *Annual Chanukah Party!*

Sunday	JANUARY 5, 2020	1:30-3:30 PM	American Shtetl: Recreating a Jewish Community	Andrea Massion, JGSCV Board Member
Sunday	FEBRUARY 9	1:00-5:00 PM	Annual Assisted Research Afternoon LA Family History Library	
Sunday	MARCH 1	1:30-3:30PM	Comparing Jewish Resources on Ancestry, FamilySearch, Findmypast, JewishGen	Ellen Kowitt, professional genealogist
MONDAY	APRIL 6	7:00-9:00 PM	Annual Sephardic Program: Movie” Sefarad”	This is known as the Portuguese Dreyfus Affair. Sefarad tells the sweeping story of Jews in Portugal across 500 years
Sunday	MAY 3	1:30-3:30 PM	Annual Yom Hashoah Program	
Sunday	JUNE 7	1:30-3:30 PM	TBA	
	JULY			
AUGUST NO JGSCV MEETING IAJGS CONFERENCE AUGUST 9-14, 2020 SAN DIEGO, CA				