EDITOR’S LETTER

(JGSCV President, Jan Meisels Allen is recovering from complications following orthopedic surgery. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her leading another JGSCV meeting soon. The ‘Editor’s Letter’ below will substitute for the President’s Letter that typically appears in this space.)

Attendees at the January 5th meeting were treated to an informative, compelling, fun and very worthwhile presentation by JGSCV board member and page 3 curator of this newsletter, Andrea Massion. This was Andrea’s first time presenting to our society but was highly recommended by former JGSCV board member Marion Werle who was present when Ms. Massion presented this same material at the recent IAJGS International Conference in Cleveland. The topic, The American Shtetl – Recreating a Jewish Community in the American West, was very well received. In fact, at the end of the meeting one member commented to me, “This was the best meeting I have ever been to!” See the highlights of this meeting on page 6.

Thank you to Marion Werle for leading the SCHMOOZING CORNER and for introducing our guest speaker. And, thanks to everyone who pitched in to make the meeting as smooth as possible. For those of us who were present, we can

NEXT MEETING

Sunday February 9th 1:00-5:00 PM

Annual Assisted Research Afternoon
At LA FamilySearch Library

All 2020 dues paid members are invited to the LAFSL where library staff and senior JGSCV members will help with your personal genealogical research including Russian translations. The day begins with a presentation on “Using the FamilySearch Library”.

Andrea Massion
JGSCV’s January speaker on Recreating a Jewish Community in the West
still hear Ms. Massion’s “ding” which alerted JGSCV board member and librarian Issie Perel to manually advance each slide.

JGCV requires lots of membership involvement to create programs, maintain and build permanent & traveling libraries and an incredibly meaningful website with an amazing amount of resources. The president may appoint up to 2 board members (with board approval) so if you would like to participate in managing your society please email Jan Meisels Allen (president@jgscv.org), Helene Rosen (membership@jgscv.org) AND Allan Linderman (newslettereditor@jgscv.org). (Yes, all three!) We welcome more help at the board level however, if you would prefer to help at the Committee level, you are welcome there as well. Please contact the board members noted above.

You can read Hal Bookbinder’s Practicing Safe Computing #51 on page 8. The subject is “USB Recharging Cord and Bluetooth Risks” and will offer up information that will surely help you to avoid potential risks when plugging in your mobile device for charging or connecting to an unknown wi-fi network at a public location.

February 9th is our Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the LA FamilySearch Library (LAFSL) which will be open from 1-5PM exclusively for JGSCV members that day. Elder Pugh of the LA FamilySearch Library will make a 30 minute presentation, “Utilizing the FamilySearch Library” to help you make the best use of your time. It is a very special opportunity that is only open to paid JGSCV members. If you have not yet paid your 2020 dues, you may do so at the door. Individual membership is $30; family membership is $35. Senior JGSCV members and library staff will be at the library for assistance with your personal genealogical research. Sister Semenyuk will also be onsite for Russian translations. JGSLA’s extensive library is also available at the LAFSL. The library is located at 1591 East Temple Way in Los Angeles. Please see pages 9-12 for directions and information that will help make your day a success.

We all look forward to seeing you on February 9th!
One day, Honi the Circle Maker was walking on the road and saw an old man planting a carob tree. “Do you think you will live to eat the fruit of this tree?” he asked. “Perhaps not,” the old man replied. “But when I was born into this world, I found many carob trees planted by my father and grandfather. Just as they planted trees for me, I am planting trees for my children and grandchildren so they will be able to eat the fruit of these trees.”

Taanit 23a

New Wedding Tradition?
A friend went to a Jewish wedding back east where the flower girls were none other than TWO BUBBES, (grandmothers) their walkers festooned with flowers.

Creating “Relative” Interest in Genealogy
Family Search.org and Family History Daily.com suggested activities to engage your extended family in your research. Here are ideas, as well as ways to share your research other than sending the occasional found document:

AT THE NEXT FAMILY GATHERING

• **Who Looks Like Who?** Display photos of some of your ancestors. Ask everyone to look for signs of similar features among anyone in the room.

• **Trivia Game or Jeopardy:** Create questions or answers from family vital records and stories. Divide the players into 2 teams and ask away! “She crossed the sea in 1903.” “They moved to California in the 50’s.” Which relative was married three times?” Their guesses may be interesting, as well.

• **Describe Yourself:** Ask each family member to write a paragraph about themselves for insertion in notes or files for your family records. Optional: Read them aloud and guess who wrote which one.

USING DIGITAL TOOLS

• Create a family Facebook group to share photos, documents, and ask questions. This would be separate from your personal timeline, with a focus to support your research and generate interest among your extended family, or whoever else to whom you allow access.

• Give a tree: print out a tree or chart for the Bar Mitzvah boy or newly-wedding cousin. A printed tree for a significant birthday is a thoughtful gift.

• Blog! Share your findings and brick walls on your own blog. Make it private, semi-private or public. There are loads of app choices. Here’s one starting point: https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/how-to-start-a-family-history-blog-in-5-simple-steps-the-ultimate-guide/

Page 3 is curated by Andrea Massion
Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County* (JGSCV) (*and surrounding areas)

The JGSCV will hold a meeting, on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library (formerly known as the LA Family History Library) 1591 E. Temple Way, West Los Angeles (on grounds of the LDS Temple) from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Parking is free. This special program is open only to current dues paid members of JGSCV! Anyone may join or renew their membership with JGSCV at the door.

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

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

This meeting is open only to current dues-paid members of JGSCV. Anyone may join at the door. JGSCV is open to anyone interested in researching their Jewish roots.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history.
Jan Meisels Allen, JGSCV’s first and only president underwent knee replacement surgery on December 10th. After being discharged to recuperate at home, Jan made a return visit to the hospital after complications. She’s back home now and has re-started that recuperation process. We all wish her a quick and complete recovery and look forward to her leading a JGSCV meeting soon.

JGSCV’s SCHMOOZING CORNER will be on vacation during our Annual Assisted Research Afternoon at the LA FamilySearch Library on Feb 9th. The SCHMOOZING CORNER will resume prior to the March 1st meeting.

Our meeting co-host, Temple Adat Elohim has instituted new security measures. When driving onto the Temple’s property for future meetings, 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.

Remember, if you are shopping at Amazon.com please 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”.

This year commemorates the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I. If you have a family member who served or even a story about your family during that tumultuous time, please share it with your JGSCV family. If you need assistance in bringing that story to life, we can help. To get started, contact ‘Venturing Into Our Past’ editor Allan Linderman (newslettereditor@jgscv.org).

JGSCV Welcomes New Member

Gillian Kaltman

February 2020 VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
Highlights from:

American Shtetl – Recreating a Jewish Community in the American West

By Marion Werle

Andrea Massion presented a vivid portrait of the Jewish Community of Iowa Center, near Chugwater, Wyoming, where members of her Massion family were among its founders. In a compelling and entertaining presentation, Andrea characterized her study as cluster genealogy, encompassing not just her family, but their lives within the context of their neighborhood, organizations, synagogues, etc. [Note that this is also known as the “FAN” club – Friends, Associates, and Neighbors – a term defined by Elizabeth Shown Mills.] Andrea used resources ranging from U.S. census records, newspapers and other publications, “human intelligence” (family lore, finding older relatives/former residents, other people's artifacts and photos), public and university libraries, museums and archival holdings. Following the Enlarged Homestead Act of 1909, which amended the original Homestead Act of 1863, ads appeared in newspapers to lure Jewish (and other) settlers to farming areas, with the promise of cheap public land for dry farming for those willing to cultivate the land within three years. One such destination was Wyoming.

Andrea began her research with the 1910 census, creating a list of individuals with Jewish-sounding names, places of birth, and years of arrival. She created a table of residents with surnames, names of adults, children, sources, and notes, to organize her research and keep track of individuals. She identified two Massions, laborers living in a boarding house, both of whom had migrated to Wyoming from Minnesota. Her family members included a metal craftsman and a carpenter, who utilized skills learned in Ukraine; other neighbors were laborers who assisted them. One of the photos Andrea showed was of a barn that her family members helped build in their first year in Wyoming. This barn served to house multiple families until they could build their own farms.

Andrea used newspaper research to add color to her portrayal. She used historical newspapers to find BMD (birth, marriage, death) information, stories about accidents and injuries, communal meetings, letters to the editor, social news, wills/probates, lists of new citizens, homestead information, court cases, crimes, arrests, and even advertising. Among other resources, she used the Library of Congress...
https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/ website, Newspapers.com (which requires a subscriber fee), Wyoming Newspapers archive, and the archives of the Yiddish Jewish Forward. She related one story detailing a lively lawsuit where a neighbor sued her grandfather. When the neighbor’s cow wandered onto the grandfather’s property and ate the family’s kitchen garden, her grandfather decided to keep the cow, and the neighbor sued. She also learned of the death of her great grandfather in a boiler explosion at the synagogue where he worked in Cheyenne, after leaving the Iowa Center community, as reported in a Cheyenne newspaper. The widow later sued the synagogue for support, but lost the case.

The presentation continued with so-called “HUMINT” examples of artifacts, stories, and photos. Andrea showed a letter from the Industrial Club of Cheyenne. She not only found photos, but she managed to find people who remembered the individuals and stories behind them, and was able to put the photos and interviews together to create a vivid picture community life. Her research took her to the Wyoming State Archives, which had newspapers, school records, and maps of agricultural parcels. She recommended preparing in advance before visiting archival sites, knowing the search terms to use in multiple languages to find additional materials.

Why did the Iowa Center succeed? Andrea said the founders came as skilled craftsmen, and were familiar with the weather and how to live with it. They vowed to be a chevra, but they befriended their neighbors and sent their children to the local schools. Ultimately, people left the community in the 1930s, due to the Depression, less demand for farm products, and drought – it was located at the upper edge of the Dust Bowl. Andrea’s research has shown that family history doesn’t have to be boring. It is about far more than names and dates – it is about communities.

If you have researched a community like Andrea has, whether in the U.S. or elsewhere, consider creating Kehililinks page on Jewishgen. Andrea may be reached at almassion@mac.com.
Catharine Hamm wrote a piece in the Los Angeles Times on December 1, 2019 entitled “Beware public USB ports.” The port might be infected with malware and your smart phone likely has little protection from the port passing the malware through the USB cord directly into your smart phone.

You can avoid the risk while at public locations (airports, hotels, restaurants, etc.) by carrying your own power bank to recharge your device or a USB cord with your own power plug to connect to an electrical outlet. For more info, see PC Magazine’s, “The Best Portable Chargers and Power Banks for 2019”.

Most smart phones, tablets and laptops include Bluetooth. It is intended for local data transfers within about 33 feet. By design, others can connect if your Bluetooth is set to “Discoverable”. They could send you messages, malicious functions or links to files containing malware. Be careful in opening any file or invoking any function sent to your smart phone.

Folks tend to be less careful in scrutinizing incoming SMS messages on their smartphone than incoming emails on their computer. Bluetooth hackers may rely on this. So, be just as cautious in responding to an SMS message as you would be in opening and clicking on the contents of an email.

There are a variety of ways a serious hacker could use Bluetooth to put you at risk. Your movements might be tracked, unwanted messages could be sent to your device, and malware could be implanted. Given the prevalence of discoverable Bluetooth devices, incidents of Bluetooth hacking will surely increase. Recently, attendees at a conference of security professionals were advised to disable Bluetooth to reduce the risk of a fellow attendee hacking their devices.

Consider turning off Discovery when you do not need it. To do so, go to your device’s Settings. Find “Bluetooth” and switch off Discovery. Switch it back on when you next need it. I generally leave my smartphone’s Bluetooth in Discovery mode as I routinely use it. So, I am especially cautious when handling or responding to incoming messages.

If you want to read more, see, “Could Your Bluetooth Devices Be Hacked in 2019?”
Preparing For the Exclusive Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library
February 9, 2020 1:00-5:00 PM

JGSCV members are privileged to have an exclusive research afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library (LAFSL). This meeting is open only to JGSCV 2020 current-paid members. Anyone may join or renew their JGSCV membership by paying their dues at the door—and if you prefer to pay before the meeting a form is on page 14 of this newsletter. The LAFSL is the largest FamilySearch Library outside of Salt Lake City making this an opportunity to visit and receive assistance with your personal genealogy that is not to be missed!

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

Directions:
The LAFSL is located at: 1591 E. Temple Way, in Los Angeles on the grounds of the LDS (Mormon) Temple. From the 405 freeway get off at Santa Monica Blvd. and go east to Manning Ave. Turn north on Manning Ave, make the first left into the LDS Temple compound, proceed right until reaching the Visitor's Center. Park along the fence. See map on page 12. The entrance to the library is on the right (east) side of the building. The library is on the lower floor, there are stairs and an elevator from the first floor.

LAFSL has the largest holdings of any branch outside of Salt Lake City! Take a look at their website at: http://www.lafhl.org/index.htm for a listing of the resources that are available for you. In addition to microfilms, microfiche, maps and books, they have 86 computers (PCs not Macs) that have access to many genealogical sites at no charge! These sites include: Alexander Street Press, American Ancestors, Ancestry.com (full institution subscription); ArkivDigital Online (Swedish), FindMyPast.com (institutional version); Fold 3.com; The Genealogist-Gold Level; Geneanet; MyHeritage (Library edition); Newspaper Archive, ProQuest Obituaries; Newspaper Archive; 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive; The American Civil War; Women and Social Movements in the United States, and more! When you click on the FHC icon on the desktop of any computer at the FamilySearch

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Library you will see a list of the “Premium Family History Websites” you may access – at no cost. (See below)

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

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a presentation by Elder Pugh of the LA FamilySearch Library, on “Utilizing the FamilySearch Library”. This is sure to make it easier to access the most meaningful data relevant to your personal genealogical research.

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

**Prioritize your research lists:**

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

**For traditional methodology, bring:**

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

**For electronic methodology, bring:**

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Laptop computer, genealogy program, USB storage drives, digital camera—to use if making photos from microfilms. There is wi-fi in the library. In addition, you can connect to the internet by using internet cables. These cables are available for rent from the library with a deposit of $3.00. One can also connect to the Internet using Bluetooth. They sell 16 gig thumb drives (flash drives) for about $4.00 each.

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

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

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

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

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

There are lockers with keys available at no fee for members to keep their valuables. There is a coat rack for coats, jackets, and sweaters. Sometimes they forget to ask maintenance to turn on the heat on Sundays (when they are usually closed) and it gets very cold down there--especially in the classroom. You might want to bring a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket—just in case!
If you wish to print a document off a computer, microfilm or microfiche reader, or copy machine, you make your copies and pay at the front desk (10 cents per page). We don’t know how much change they will have so it would be appreciated if you bring change and small denomination bills.

Have a very successful research trip!

The Los Angeles Family History Center

DIRECTIONS:
Exit on the San Diego 405 Freeway to Santa Monica Bl. and go east 13 blocks. Turn left from Santa Monica Bl. onto Manning, make first left onto Eastbourne and the entrance to Temple Hill.
Follow the signs to the Temple Visitor's Center.

From the Santa Monica Freeway (10), exit on Overland going north to Santa Monica Boulevard. Turn right on Santa Monica Boulevard then an immediate left on Manning Avenue, first left on Eastbourne and the entrance to Temple Hill.
Follow the signs to the Temple Visitor's Center.
As posted by ResearchBuzz, *New website shows how German industry used Auschwitz prisoners as slaves*. "The site pulls together more than a decade of research on some 45 sub-camps or 'kommandos' located on the periphery of the most notorious site of the Nazi Holocaust. Based on first-hand accounts and research in the archives of the Auschwitz-Birkenau museum and others, the site contains more than 3,500 photos, documents and maps. It tells the story of each sub-camp, including lists of the survivors and SS guards and information about their personal stories. The site also lists the industrial organisations implicated in exploiting prisoners at the camps."

New Records available at Ancestry.com include:

- U.S. WWII Hospital Admission Card Files, 1942-1954
- New York State, Card Index to Supreme Court and Court of Chancery Documents, 1648-1848
- U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014
- New York State Census, 1925
- Washington, Marriage Records, 1854-2013
- Washington, Divorce Index, 1969-2017
- U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

Updated Records available at Ancestry.com include:

- Germany Find A Grave Index, 1600’s-Present
- Italy Find A Grave Index, 1800’s-Present
- U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600’s-Present
- Germany, Select Births and Baptisms, 1558-1969

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

February 2020

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
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

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.)
_________________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________________
Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2020

Sunday at 1:30 p.m. OR Monday at 7:00 p.m. NOTE:
SPECIAL PROGRAM ON FEB. 9TH (see below)
Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

Sunday February 9th, 1:00-5:00 PM Annual Assisted
Research Afternoon, LA Family Search Library

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<tr>
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<td>MARCH 1</td>
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<td>Ellen Kowitt, professional genealogist</td>
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<td>MONDAY</td>
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<td>This is known as the Portuguese Dreyfus Affair. Sefarad tells the sweeping story of Jews in Portugal across 500 years</td>
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AUGUST NO JGSCV MEETING
IAJGS CONFERENCE AUGUST 9-14, 2020 SAN DIEGO, CA

See You at the LA FamilySearch Library!