

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

May 2020

Volume 15 Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

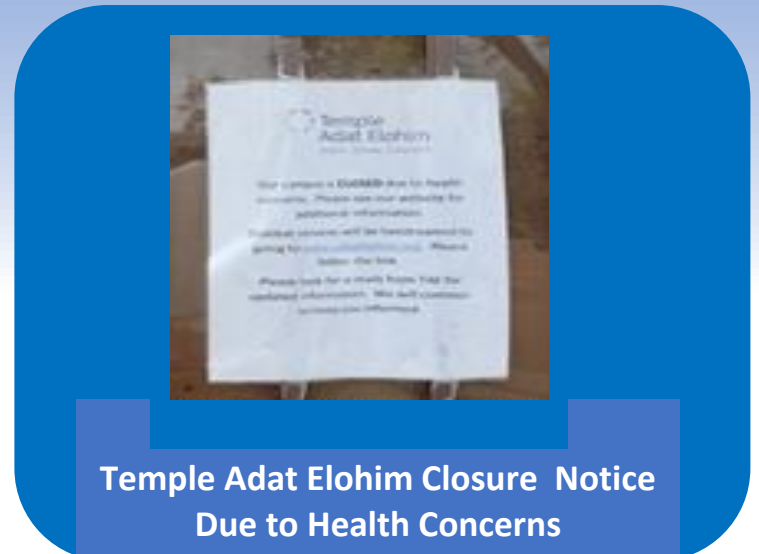
Note: May 3 Meeting is Canceled

I hope this finds you well and safe in these unusual times. It is a month since we have been told to be "safer at home" and it is a challenge but necessary to stay inside! Hopefully, the May 15th date to end the stay home will not be extended but that all depends on the statistics and medical experts. The JGSCV board members are fine.

I am again producing the newsletter as our wonderful newsletter editor is busy with his business. Please bear with me for layout and technical issues-I am not a techy!

I had not heard of Zoom until a few weeks ago—now I have a weekly family conference all with my nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and great-grandnieces and great grandnephews. This week I was also invited to a Zoom call with paternal cousins I met over 20 years ago—when I started genealogy and reached out...so genealogy keeps us in touch. Zoom is a new tool for our genealogy! The calls included people from around the world -not just in the United States. For Passover I know many celebrated with Zoom Seders so we all have something to write up in our family trees about the changes for this year.

Due to the Coronavirus we have canceled our May 3rd JGSCV meeting. It was to be our annual Yom Hashoah program with Michael Mark a Holocaust survivor. Yom Hashoah, the Day of Remembrance, is commemorated on April 21 and on page 14 is information on some virtual commemorations.



**Temple Adat Elohim Closure Notice
Due to Health Concerns**

Future Meetings
Our May 3 Meeting is **canceled**
June 6 Meeting Tentatively will Show
Sepharad
See page 18 for future Meetings
Information

NEXT MEETING CANCELED

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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Mission Statement:

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

The June 7th meeting we are playing by ear. The scheduled speaker will be rescheduled in the future, but if we meet on June 7th we will show *Sepharad*, known as the Portuguese Drefus Affair, which was scheduled to be our annual Sephardic program held in April. We will let you know if we will meet in June.

I hope all of you have filled out the 2020 US Census. The census is an important genealogical tool and it is important for future generations that we complete and preserve a copy! The results of the count are used to redraw voting districts and redistribute Congressional seats, Electoral votes and an estimate \$1.5 trillion a year in federal spending among the states. Mandated by the US Constitution, the US has held a decennial census starting in 1790, albeit the questions and amount of information collected has grown and then shrunk over the decades. This year's questions are a far cry from the information as genealogists we love to obtain from the older censuses. If you have not yet completed the census either online or mailed in the written form go to <https://my2020census.gov/> to fill out the form.

According to the US Census Bureau about 50.2% of the nation's households have responded online to the 2020 census. If you have not completed it then expect to receive a paper questionnaire in the coming days. If you would like to see how your city did with the response go to: <https://tinyurl.com/sry6vxy>. Select California under state and then find your city under "select city".

We have been asking for stories for World War II to commemorate its 75th anniversary. We are delighted that JGSCV member Holly Fleser Seery shared with us two stories her father told her which she wrote down. You may find them starting on page 6. We would like to continue with this series and hope more members will submit stories relative to World War II. If you have a story to contribute please contact our newsletter editor, Allan Linderman at newslettereditor@jgscv.org.

The emails I send to members-only had a number of available free webinars and other items of interest. Some other interesting items have come to my attention and they are included under Genealogy Odds and Ends on page 15.

Hal Bookbinder's series on Practicing Safe Computing continues on page 13 with this month's subject "credit card skimming".

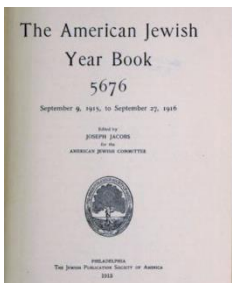
Stay healthy and safe!



Jan Meisels Allen

Anybody doing genealogy research during this Safe-at-Home season? Some of us have now used *Zoom*, the online video meet app. Masks are the norm and perhaps a fashion statement. And chores and to-do lists abound, whether they are checked off or not. Here are some ideas for genealogy-minded folks at home: Easy, Intermediate, and Advanced.

Easy: Read a book. Your public library has online audio and e-books. Time for a re-read? *Maus* by the American artist Art Spiegelman was the first graphic novel to win a Pulitzer Prize. In two volumes, Spiegelman retells his father's experience during the Holocaust.

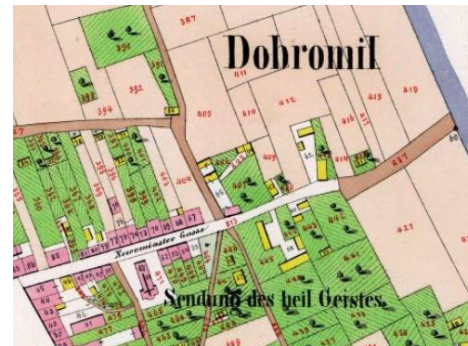


Internet Archive has an intriguing collection of data and family histories, including New York data post by *Reclaim the Records*. There are numerous editions of The American Jewish Yearbook. A 1916 edition has listings of pogroms in Russia, a list of Jewish sailors who served in the Spanish-American Wars and a record of the Jewish population of Maryland. Explore at <https://archive.org/>.

Intermediate: Be a gatekeeper, not an information vacuum. Jennifer Mendelsohn, a member of the Maryland JGS wrote on My Heritage: *the next time you sit down to work on your tree, try to change your mindset... think of yourself as an information gatekeeper: Be skeptical, and don't let any information through that gate and into your tree until you've done your best to confirm that it deserves to be let in.*

Review your tree. Clean up or verify connections. Look for duplicates. Attach vital records and footnotes.

Widen your perimeters: look for a map of the family's town or neighborhood. (Cadastral maps archived by Geshet Galicia can be accessed in their Map Room a <https://maps.geshetgalicia.org/>



Cadastral Map of Dobromil, 1892
Geshet Galicia's Map Room Online.

Hard! Still have drawers and notebooks of documents, copies of vital records, handwritten notes, unlabeled photographs and various journals from your years of research? Time to digitize, shred and recycle. Available data on the Internet grows exponentially. Do we need all that paper now?

Press Release

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, May 3, 2020 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362



The Program:



**MEETING
CANCELLED**

Michael Mark was taken to concentration camps. Mark lived in the Hungarian government. His family's Jewish identity was taken to the train—to Auschwitz. Mark now lives in Hashoah.

**Due to concern over the Coronavirus, for our members and friends, the board of directors of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) has decided to cancel our May 3, 2020 meeting/program.
The JGSCV Board of Directors**

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Speaker: Michael Mark is a survivor of 5 concentration camps during World War II and the death march. He has been married to his wife Sally for 65 years.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family. The meeting is open to the public.

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.

For more information contact: information@JGSCV.org or call

May 2020 Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616 See: www.JGSCV.org

JGSCV Updates

JGSCV has cancelled its May 3 meeting date due to the Corona Virus situation and our requirements to stay home and not be in groups of more than 9. If we have a meeting on June 7 it will be our annual Sephardic program with the video *Sepharad*.

We have contacted all 2019 members who had not paid their dues by end of March and after numerous reminders, if they did not pay have been dropped from membership. They are always welcome to renew their membership. Membership renewals were due January 1st. Members in arrears for 90 days or more are not in good standing and after due notice are dropped from membership-a bylaws requirement. We are sorry they did not renew and will miss them.

I am getting nervous that only two people have contacted me for our annual Genealogy in the Round scheduled for **July 19**. Please let me know if you will share a genealogical success, brickwall or artifact by emailing me at president@jgscv.org

GREAT NEWS! If you access Amazon.com with an app from your mobile device, just open your browser on your mobile device and go to www.jgscv.org. Like on your laptop or desktop, scroll to the bottom of our home page and tap the Amazon logo (see below). This will open your Amazon app and you can shop/order as if you opened the app directly. Your cost remains the same. Many of our younger friends and family members order directly from the app. Please suggest they take this ONE small step to open the Amazon app from our home page.

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 purchased *Tracing Immigrants through the Port of New York Early National Period to 1924* By Anne Sibert Buiter. It will be placed in our permanent library housed at the Agoura Hills Library.



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 we have asked JGSCV members and friends to contribute 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 member, Holly Fleser Seery, submitted two stories that were told to her by her father, Ted Fleser. Holly wrote down the two stories as they were told to her. Below are those two stories.

Ted Fleser was a World War II U.S. Army Ranger 1-D, Cannon Company, and member of the First Special Service Force (FSSF) during WW II. The First Special Service Force was the predecessor to the current day Green Beret. The FSSF was the only Army unit in history to be a dual country fighting unit –American and Canadian.

The Surrender

By Ted Fleser as told to Holly Fleser Seery

This is a story about a WW II Army Ranger who had a way with words.

Prior to joining the US Army, Ranger Harold Monash was a German Jew from Berlin, whose parents sent him to the U.S. in the early to mid-1930's. I first met him in the Cannon Company of Darby's Rangers on the Anzio Beachhead after Cisterna. I missed the fighting at Cisterna due to having been a casualty at Venafro, just prior to the Rangers going in to Cisterna. In Cisterna, the Ranger 1st and 3rd Battalions were wiped out on the Anzio Beachhead and the 4th Battalion was decimated. Later, the Ranger Cannon Company was absorbed into the First Special Service Force (FSSF) as a unit.

While in Italy, as part of a Ranger Rifle Co. and before becoming a part of the Ranger Cannon Company, the Rangers detected a German scout patrol. Ranger Monash spoke to them in his native Berlin accent. The distinctive Berlin accent demonstrated that Monash was a native German, not

someone just speaking German. After some discussion, he was able to convince the Patrol to surrender without any casualties on either side. The patrol just gave themselves up.

In Southern France, while part of the FSSF Cannon Company, Monash had an opportunity to repeat the performance on a larger scale. A German Company would not surrender to the French Partisans. The French Partisans (French Underground) passed word to the FSSF Cannon Co., who went to see what they could do about the Germans. After we had taken up our positions, Monash spoke to the German forces, and again, his Berlin accent facilitated the surrender of the entire company of Germans. Again, no casualties on either side.

After WW II, Harold Monash was active in bringing people into what is now Israel. When the United Nations created the State of Israel in 1948, he joined the Israeli forces. With his Ranger background he went into the Palmach (Israeli Commandos).

It was while we were visiting Israel for its 50th anniversary that my wife, Miriam, and I, learned more about his postwar activities. We were visiting a fort called Latrun, overlooking a highway near Jerusalem. Latrun had been a British Forces Base when the area was a British Territory from 1917 through 1948, when Israel became a State. When the British left in 1948, Latrun was occupied by the Transjordanian Arab Legion until the 1967 war. In the 1967 war, after severe combat, the Israelis gained territory that included Latrun. After the 1967 war, the Israelis erected a memorial wall at this site, similar to our Vietnam Wall. I asked the tour guide if he could find the name Monash on the wall. His name was there, and the guide was able to provide me with a printout of Monash's background, where I learned about his activities after WWII. He was killed in the Israeli War of Liberation in 1948, and was posthumously awarded the rank of Lieutenant.



Zvi 'Harold' Monash

Birth: 1 Jan 1924 Berlin Germany

Death: 22 Apr 1948 (aged 24) Israel

Burial Kiryat Anavim Military Cemetery,
Kiryat Anavim, Yerushalayim, Israel

Plot: Section 1, Row 2, Grave 33

Inscription: Son of Golda and max

Gravesite Details Fell in action at Neby Samuel on 14 Nissan Tashach at the age of 24 years.

Find a Grave

The Half-Track Story

As told by Ted Fleser, WW II Ranger 1D,
to Lynn Towne, RBA WW II Western Chapter Secretary
and daughter, Holly Fleser Seery

Tell us about the postcard that you received and the story behind it.

“The postcard is of a photo taken by a civilian photographer of our half-track and crew in Nice, France.”



Pictured: Top left – Emmett (Bill) Bailey (Assist. Gunner), Top right – Ted Fleser (Gunner), Above door – Bill Cain (Track Cmdr. and Loader), Inside window – Bill Ketchens (Driver), On hood – Lt. Owen R. Haines (“Hitch-hiker”) circa Aug./Sept.1944 Nice, France

The following is the history of the photograph: It represents a point in time for a First Special Services Force (FSSF) Half Track* crew that came together from different Ranger units.

“I served with Bill and Joe Cain (Joe is not pictured), in North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. The Cain brothers had gone into the Ranger Cannon Company before Venafrò from “D” Company of the First Ranger Battalion.

We had all been wounded. The Cain brothers were wounded at Anzio. While still part of the Ranger “D” Company, I had been wounded at Venafrò, near San Pietro, Italy. With a mortar bomb fragment in the jaw, and trench foot, I was sent to North Africa for hospitalization.

After “D” Company of the First Ranger Battalion was wiped out at Cisterna on the Anzio Beachhead, we got together at Lucreno, the Ranger rear. Since there was no longer a “D” Company, and the Cain brothers had transferred from the Ranger “D” Company to Cannon Company, the three of us hitch-hiked on a Landing Ship Tank (LST) to the Anzio beachhead. I then joined their Company, the Ranger Cannon Company at Anzio.

May 2020

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

While on the Anzio beachhead, we had been absorbed as a Company into the First Special Service Force. We broke out of the Anzio Beachhead and drove on to Rome. Not much later came the invasion of Southern France. The postcard photo pertains to the invasion in Southern France.”

Can you tell me about the half-track, how you got the half-track?

“The half-tracks were acquired by Colonel Darby in Sicily during the early part of the Sicilian Campaign. These vehicles were originally tank destroyers that became ineffective as German tanks were improved. The Ranger Cannon Company was formed after the Sicilian Campaign was over. Cannon Company originally consisted of four half-tracks, each named after one of the four suits in a deck of cards. Each half-track mounted a French 75 mm cannon, a 50-caliber machine gun, and a 30-caliber machine gun. All of which are displayed on the half-track in this postcard picture. Since we operated in mountainous terrain, in fact, all sorts of terrain, we also carried an 81 mm mortar. You can see it on the side rack by the bipod. That is what I refer to as the bipod and the mortar tube.”

Who is standing in front?

“In the foreground are the civilians who lived in the vicinity of Nice, France. Lt. Owen R. Haines is sitting on the hood of the half-track. He was just hitch-hiking along with us. Haines joined the Ranger Cannon Company on the Anzio Beachhead. He and a number of personnel came in as replacements at Anzio. All of the officers had been lost at Cisterna.”

What is his hand on?

“Bill Cain, (who by the time he went home from Menton, had five years of continuous overseas service, his brother, Joe, went home after Rome with four- and one-half years of service), has his hand on the French 75 mm cannon, which dated back to well before WW I. In fact, when our barrels were replaced, at least one of them came back with an I.C. on it, “Inspected and Condemned”. But it was better than the ones that we had. Sitting inside, you can see the arm of the driver of the half-track. His name was Bill Ketchens. He was really the one responsible for our having this picture. After the war, he went back to a town we had liberated and married a girl from that town. She now lives in Florida. Her sister saw the postcard in France, recognized the people in the picture, and sent it to the Ketchens. It was taken by a civilian photographer. Bill then sent it on to me. I received this photo from Ketchens almost twenty years ago.”

Why had you taken this out after all these years?

“My family had the postcard enlarged as a surprise Father’s Day gift. We keep it on the wall of our home. I thought I would bring it to our meeting for all to see.

I was the gunner sitting on the gun shield in the center of the half-track. Bill Cain was Commander, and Emmett Bailey was the assistant gunner sitting behind me on the gun shield. Since we were always shorthanded, as you see, there are only four of us that would be operating the half-track The Commander

would act as loader for the gun; it took three of us to operate the gun. Ideally, we would have liked to have six of us working the half-track.”

Can you tell me the story about how the half-track became the “Ace in the Hole”?

“The half-tracks of Cannon Company had been referred to as “Darby’s Ace in the Hole.” Therefore, we had an insignia on the side of the gun shield, a picture of a hand pulling an ace out of his sleeve. Over it you can see the Ranger scroll.”

You had this sort of thing because you couldn’t have Ranger insignia on you so this was a replacement for that?

“We had been told that we would have to get rid of the Ranger insignia. We obliged by obliterating the lettering, but leaving the scroll.”

This is because you were First Special Service Force?

“Yes, this was a Canadian – U.S. outfit. Similar capabilities of the Rangers, so they were happy to absorb the Cannon Company as a unit into the First Special Service Force. The other Rangers, as they came out of hospitals, etc., were absorbed into the First Special Service Force also, but were dispersed throughout the organization.

As you can see, the machine guns have canvas covers to protect them from the elements. Normally, we would have a canteen cover over the muzzle of the 75 mm gun barrel. If the gun was being fired, the air that was in the barrel would be compressed and blow the canvas cover off. So even if it was left on, or someone forgot to take it off, it would be blown off.”

After this picture was taken, did all of you men stay together in Cannon Company?

“Yes, until they were wounded or something else happened to them. This picture was taken in Nice, France. We continued taking various towns up to the French / Italian Border (Menton, along the Riviera, and the Maritime Alps).”

Is there another story you would like to tell me?

“We would get fire missions. In other words, make a nuisance of ourselves and draw fire. A battery of American 90 mm cannons would counter battery, that is, fire on the artillery that was firing on us. One such firing mission was in Menton, France. Using the 75 mm gun, we picked off a “jerry” (German) forward artillery observer who was operating on the skeleton work of a hotel’s external elevator in Ventimiglia, Italy. The elevator ran from the building on down to the beach. We had to position ourselves so that our projectile would hit him, or the skeleton work of the elevator structure, otherwise the projectile would continue on parallel to the cliff. Each of the steel skeleton structure sections were about 6 inches wide. We managed to hit our target at 900 yards. However, the next time we went to use any of our firing positions, we could see that they had been zeroed in on.

We had a change of personnel. Emmet Bailey (aka Bill Bailey) wasn’t with us. He would be operating with us when available; he had been wounded during the Anzio breakout. Bailey was no longer part of our normal crew. Bill Cain had gone home after 5 years. I then became Track Commander as well as gunner. Bill Ketchens was being introduced to the position of replacing Bill Bailey as assistant gunner. Ketchens was also

breaking in a new driver as he was being broken in as assistant gunner. We had a replacement aboard as a loader.

Unfortunately, you see how in the photo there are archways in buildings; there was an archway that we had to go through to get into firing position. It was too narrow for a ¾ ton weapons carrier, similar to a pickup truck to go through. The archway was just barely wide enough for a half-track to go through with our bogey nuts (the nuts on the wheels that you can see) cutting grooves in the wall. It took close maneuvering to get through the archway. Unfortunately, the replacement driver, after we had pulled a firing mission, panicked when the half-track got hung up and they were firing on us. It was a tight squeeze going through the archway.

A shell landed behind us. Bill Ketchens, who was assistant gunner at the time, was wounded in his thigh. He didn't know it at the time. The replacement loader received a piece of shrapnel in his kidney. He had a ship tattooed on his chest which was dismasted by the shrapnel. I received a hip pocket wound and now have a dimple on my cheek. Another piece ricocheted off the wall, and hit my glasses at an angle. The cross-sectional density of the lens deflected it somewhat, lacerating the area around the glasses, but saved my eye. Bill Ketchens got back in the driving position, the replacement driver had panicked and left the vehicle, so Ketchens went over the gun shield into the driver's position and got the vehicle moving ahead again. I tended the wounded replacement loader on the way to the aid station. He later died at the aid station. This occurred in Menton, Southern France, on the French / Italian Border."

*Ed note: A **half-track** is a civilian or military vehicle with regular wheels at the front for steering and continuous **tracks** at the back to propel the vehicle and carry most of the load. The purpose of this combination is to produce a vehicle with the cross-country capabilities of a tank and the handling of a wheeled vehicle.

According to armyhistory.org, the FSSF was also known as the "Devil's Brigade." From armyhistory.org:

"The origins of the First Special Service Force (or the Force, as its members referred to it) began at the highest levels of the Allied Command in World War II. The basic concept, which came from the staff of Lord Louis Mountbatten's Combined Operations Command, called for a force able to fight on land, on the sea, in the air, and in winter conditions. Planners intended to use the force to attack hydroelectric plants in occupied Norway, oil fields in Romania, and even targets in Russia. Because neither Britain nor Norway could supply the troops, this new unit would be comprised of American and Canadian soldiers. MG Dwight D. Eisenhower, head of the War Plans Division, gave one of his staff officers, LTC Robert T. Frederick, the assignment of studying the idea, codenamed Project Plough. On 16 June 1942 Eisenhower gave Frederick the task of organizing and commanding the unit that would become known as the First Special Service Force."

After returning to the U.S., from Kiska in the Aleutian Islands the First Special Service Force was reassigned to the Mediterranean Theater and the fighting on the Italian peninsula. The Force arrived in Naples on 19 November 1943 and went into the line at Santa Maria with the 36th Infantry Division. In early December, the Force stormed and captured Monte La Difensa, a major hill mass blocking the Fifth Army's advance which had been unsuccessfully assaulted by a number of other Allied units. In late December 1943 and early January 1944, the Force captured Monte Sammucro and Monte Mojo and held them against heavy odds.

After a brief rest, the Force was sent into the Anzio Beachhead on 2 February and took up positions on the Allies right flank. Despite being forty percent understrength, the Force effectively held thirteen kilometers of front for ninety-nine continuous days and even penetrated the German main line of resistance on occasion. It was at Anzio that the Force earned its nickname, the “Devil’s Brigade,” for their fierce style of fighting in blackened faces. An entry from a diary found on the body of a German officer read, “The Black Devils are all around us every time we come into line, and we never hear them.” To read more about the brigade see: <https://armyhistory.org/first-special-service-force/>

New DNA-Genealogy Television Show To Premiere May 19th

The Genetic Detective

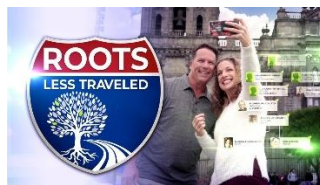


CeCe Moore

The American Broadcasting Company (ABC) announced a new program, *The Genetic Detective*, which follows investigative genetic genealogist CeCe Moore using her research skills for crime solving. The program premieres on ABC on May 19th at 10 p.m. ET/PT. Check your local listings.

By working with police departments and crime scene DNA, Moore is able to trace the path of a violent criminal’s family tree to reveal their identity and help bring them to justice. “*The Genetic Detective*” is a co-production with ABC News and XCON Productions.

Ancestry-Sponsored New Television Series “Roots Less Traveled



The series features relatives as they set out on an adventure to solve mysteries in their family tree. From rumors of ancestors aboard the Titanic to stories of homesteaders forging a new path for future generations, the duos discover the truth behind the tales that have been passed down for generations, revealing the inspiring lives their ancestors led. Its on NBC. In Los Angeles it has aired on Saturday afternoons. Check your local listings.

I have no affiliations with ABC, The Genetic Detective, NBC, Ancestry or Roots Less traveled and am posting this solely for the information of the reader.

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By Hal Bookbinder

Practicing Safe Computing: “Credit Card Skimming”

(Number 54 in a series)



Even if you hide your keystrokes you are still at risk of credit card skimming. A few years ago, I found unknown charges on a Visa credit card. I contacted the bank. They removed the charges, cancelled my card and issued a new one. Within weeks, unknown charges showed up on the new card. The bank again reversed the charges, cancelled the card and issued me yet another one. Almost all of the legitimate charges on that card were for gasoline purchases at a specific service station. Figuring there might be a connection, I stopped using the service station and had no further illegitimate charges.

I later learned that some of the pumps at the station were found to have skimming devices. While still around, this is stone age skimming. More modern variants steal your credit card information as it travels through cyberspace or by compromising the records as they are received by a vendor. With the current COVID-19 pandemic we are stuck at home and doing more of our shopping on the Internet. Some are shopping for the first time on-line. So, there is more opportunity for skimming mischief.

Digital credit card skimming happens when malware is injected into a shopping payment page with the goal of stealing credit card information. On March 26, 2020, Security Week reported that, per Malwarebytes (a cybersecurity firm), cybercriminals apparently hacked the Tupperware site and planted malicious code designed to steal payment card information. The malware may have been active for two or three weeks before it was detected and removed.

“According to Malwarebytes, the credit card skimmer planted on the Tupperware website displayed a fake payment form during the checkout process. The form asked unsuspecting users to provide information such as name, billing address, phone number, credit card number, card expiry date, and CVV. Once the information was handed over to the hackers, a ‘session timed out’ message was displayed and the victim was directed to the legitimate checkout page. However, by that time the attackers already had their information.” You can read the full article at <https://www.securityweek.com/credit-card-skimmer-found-tupperware-website>

You can minimize the risk of digital skimming by not entering payment information into numerous sites, sticking instead to one or two major portals that already have your information stored in your account profile. If something seems amiss when entering credit card information, monitor charges on that card carefully.

If your credit card information is skimmed it may be posted on the dark web for sale and then used some time in the future. To read more about the dark web see, “What is the ‘Dark Web’?” in the November 2017 issue of *Venturing into our Past*. Closely monitor all credit card charges as you do not know if and when you may have been skimmed. Typically, you have 60 days to challenge fraudulent charges. But the faster you recognize and deal with them, the better.

This is the fifty-fourth 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.

Yom Hashoah

Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day begins at sunset on Monday April 20 and is commemorated on Tuesday April 21. It corresponds to the 27th day of Nisan on the Hebrew calendar. It marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. In Israel, it is a national memorial day and public holiday. It was inaugurated on 1953, anchored by a law signed by the Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion and the President of Israel Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.

Due to the worldwide pandemic rather than hold the usual commemorations many places are holding virtual commemorations. Some were held before this newsletter was published. Here are a few of them with advance dates:



This year Yad Vashem is creating a global name-reading initiative to mark Yom Hashoah. This is a way to ensure that the names of Holocaust members are read out loud and remembered. The campaign, #RememberingFromHome #ShoahNames calls on the international public to record themselves reciting the

names of Holocaust victims and share the video on social media using the campaign's hashtags. Videos should be no longer than 15 seconds. See:

<https://www.yadvashem.org/downloads/name-reading-ceremonies.html> if you want to read names of adults or access the database of the Shoah Victims' for names you want to recite and remember. <https://yvng.yadvashem.org/>



On April 21, 2020 at 11 AM ET The USHMM is having a virtual commemoration to reaffirm their commitment to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive. It will take place on the Museum's Facebook Live channel. You do not need a Facebook account to participate. You will receive an email shortly before our programming begins on April 21, at 11 a.m. ET, reminding you to watch.

Join from your home: see: <https://engage.ushmm.org/dor-livestream-thank-you.html>

The ceremony will be simulcast on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

There are several videos and audios that can be accessed:



Commemorative Ceremony, on Monday, 20 April 2020 at 8:00 (Los Angeles) 11:00 (New York), 17:00 (Brussels), 18:00 (Jerusalem).

https://www.facebook.com/WorldJewishCong/live_videos

They have produced a [selection of videos and films](#) (<https://yomhashoah.aboutholocaust.org/>) to help people across the globe observe Yom HaShoah online from the safety of their homes.

“Virtual Community Holocaust Remembrance” April 20, 2020 5PM PDT

The program is complimentary, but registration is required.

Zoom link emailed upon registration.

To register and learn more see:

<https://www.davidlabkovskiproject.org/holocaust-commemoration-2020.html>

Genealogy Odds and Ends

Portland State Harold Schnitzer Family Program in Judaic Studies

Free Course:

Creativity and Resilience: Jewish Life in Eastern Europe 1500-2020

Professor Natan Meir. Courses held by Zoom on Tuesdays 5:00-6:15PM PDT April 28-June 2 Registration is required

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/webinar-creativity-and-resilience-jewish-life-in-eastern-europe-1500-2020-registration-102117777020>



Yad Vashem Online Exhibit

Yad Vashem has an online exhibition, *Rescue by Jews* "One for All". Throughout the Holocaust, in the shadow at the hands of the Nazis there were Jews who attempted to save their fellow Jews despite difficult conditions. Not all were successful. Jews saving Jews was accomplished by forging documents, locating hiding places, smuggling, providing food, clothing and medicines. Rescuers worked in camps, ghettos, partisan ranks on their own and in communities. Non-Jews who helped them were later recognized as Righteous Among the Nations.

The exhibition is based on survivor testimony and tells the stories of the "Nasza Grupa" ("our group in Polish) and other rescuers and features 11 stories of Jews saving Jews, from Belarus, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary, Slovakia, Poland, France, Croatia and Romania.

Click on the photograph of one of the 11 persons featured at :

<https://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/rescue-by-jews/index.asp> and you will be able to read their stories.

Gathering of Fragments is a campaign to rescue personal items from the Holocaust. Yad Vashem is asking survivors, family members and the general public to search for documents, photographs or objects from the years before the war, during the Holocaust, life in DP camps and immediate post-war period and submit them to Yad Vashem so they may be preserved for posterity. For more information email them at:

collect@yadvashem.org.il

There is an exhibition, *Gathering the Fragments: Behind the Scenes* but that is only available at Yad Vashem not virtually. To read more: <https://www.yadvashem.org/gathering-fragments/about.html>

Jewish Burial Records from São Paulo, Brazil

The São Paulo Chevra Kadisha Association has a database containing details of tens of thousands of Jews buried in all four Jewish cemeteries in São Paulo. They may be searched for free. They are not in JOWBR.

In order to search their database, go to <http://chevrakadisha.org.br/>, close the pop-up window that appears initially, find the "LOCALIZE" section on the right-hand side and click on "Encontre uma sepultura".



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.)

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



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|--|---------|--------------|---|---|
| Sunday | JUNE 7 | 1:30-3:30 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 | JULY 19 | 1:30-3:30 PM | Annual: Genealogy in the Round | Members and friends share their genealogical successes, failures and artifacts |
| AUGUST NO JGSCV MEETING IAJGS CONFERENCE AUGUST 9-14, 2020 SAN DIEGO, CA | | | | |
| New Meeting Dates Will Be Announced When the Temple Provides us with Meeting Dates September 2020-June 2021 | | | | |