

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

December 2020

Volume 16 Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope you are well and safe and practicing social distancing and wearing a mask when appropriate.

JGSCV had the opportunity to learn about *A Master Catalog for Jewish Genealogy: The DoJR Project-What You Need to Know* from Marlis Humphrey who heads the project along with Stanley Diamond and Sallyann Sack-Pikus. DoJR is a project of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) of which JGSCV is one of its 93 global members. The goal of the *Documentation of Jewish Records Worldwide* project (DoJR) is to create a comprehensive, crowdsourced, on-line catalog of available record collections: a Jewish Catalog (JCat). JCat will answer the question, "What records are available for my town" and will provide a home for exposing record collections previously hidden or unknown. To read the highlights of the Zoom presentation see page 5.

Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for facilitating the *Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner* before the meeting. AESC is an opportunity to ask any genealogical questions while receiving responses from JGSCV members who may have helpful insights into that area.

We continue our commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II with the story of Morton E. Berger, JGSCV member Joanne Cadis' uncle on page 13. Our family stories continue with Ellen Gleimer-Hustead's story of her uncle Arnold Heyman on page 13. We plan to continue the series in 2021 to learn more about our members' family histories. Please send your stories to our newsletter editor, Allan Linderman at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and myself at president@jgscv.org. If you need assistance, Allan is eager to help.



Marlis Glaser Humphrey, JGSCV's December Zoom speaker on the DoJR Project

NEXT MEETING

Sunday Dec. 6th 1:30-3:30 PM

Members only ZOOM!

Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of Crypto Jews



Genie Milgrom, genealogist and renowned author and lecturer on crypto Jews, offers a fascinating lecture on how she traced her own crypto Jewish lineage back to the 1400's.

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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.

As of this writing we have 64% renewals. Like in past years our December 6 meeting will offer many valuable prizes donated by different genealogical organizations. All those who join/renew for 2021 will be eligible to have their names drawn from a bowl as a prize winner. We must **RECEIVE** your check mailed to the address on the Membership Form by **December 4**. Alternatively, you may pay with cash at my home by the same date (*with prior appointment only*). There are 14 prizes—all costing more than a JGSCV membership: Ancestry Worldwide Subscription, Fold3. Com, newspapers.com, Ancestry DNA test, 3 My Heritage subscriptions, 2 FT Maker Subscriptions, Findmypast subscription, FT DNA, Legacy Software, Legacy webinars, Roots Magic software. Please go to <https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf> to print off the membership form which is also on page 20 of this newsletter.

If you are thinking of holiday gifts, a membership to JGSCV is always a great idea. We can send a nice certificate to acknowledge the gift. We have members in Europe, Colorado, Idaho, New York as well as California. With the holidays coming up, if you shop at Amazon, please click on our Amazon smile logo available on every page of our website after registering at Amazon smile. For information see instructions under “noteworthy” on our website (<https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>). When shopping for groceries please shop- even if only on occasion at Ralphs or Food 4 Less. See page 11 for more information on how to register.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, “Ten Software Fixes” on page 12.

If you have been thinking of ordering any records from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) do it now at: <https://www.uscis.gov/records/genealogy>. While the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California issued a nationwide preliminary injunction enjoining (placing on hold until the matter is adjudicated) fee increases for citizenship and other immigration benefits, we do not know when this will be adjudicated. If/when the new fees are effective, they will be substantially higher than the current \$65.00 for an index search and \$65.00 for a copy of the documents. The new fee increases will **range from 146% to 308%—still quite substantial. The new fees will be** for Form G-1041, Genealogy Index Search Request. The new proposed fees when filed online the fee is \$160 (\$170 for paper. Filings). Proposed new fees for Form G-1041A, Genealogy Records Request are \$255 online and \$265 when filed by paper.

The IAJS 41st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held on August 2-5, 2021 in Philadelphia, PA. See: <https://www.iajgs2021.org>

JGSCV is still operating on the COVID-19 restrictions and our December 6 meeting will be by Zoom. Our speaker is Genie Milgrom presenting *Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of Crypto Jews*. See meeting notice on page 4 for more information.

Stay safe and healthy.

Happy Thanksgiving and Happy Chanukah

Jan Meisels Allen



Hanukkah 2020



Evolution of Hanukkah in America

Manfred Anson designed this Hanukkah lamp (at left) to mark the centennial of the Statue of Liberty in 1986. Anson, who escaped Nazi Germany as a teenager, later reunited with family who had immigrated to the United States. This one is in the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian. Dianne Ashton, professor of American Studies at Rowan University in New Jersey, writes in her 2010 book, "Hanukkah in America," that after the Civil War, the transformation of Hanukkah from a minor holiday to a major and beloved



The Hammer: Judah Maccabee
(יהודה המכבי) Created By and
Copyright Rik Offenberger

Jewish holiday began in the Diaspora.

NPR interview: <https://tinyurl.com/yykkgd5d>

A concise telling of Hanukkah: <https://tinyurl.com/y6s578yy>

Smithsonian Hanukkah at: <https://tinyurl.com/yybhadgk>

Displaced Jews at the end of the Second World War

Virtual JCC of Toronto in partnership with the Sarah and Chaim Neuberger Holocaust Education Centre, is presenting David Nasaw, author of *The Last Million: Europe's Displaced Persons from World War to Cold War* online Monday, November 23, 2020 at 8:00 PM ET. Mr. Nasaw explores what happened to the one million people, including between 200,000 and 250,000 Jews, who were left behind in Germany at the end of World War II, displaced person camps and the Mackenzie King government, along with strong advocacy from European-Canadians, that brought 120,000 displaced persons, including 15,000 Jews, to Canada.

For more info: <https://virtualjcc.com/watch/displacementafterthewar>

New Virtual Tours During Quarantine: POLIN Museum Online

Besides that incredible reproduction of the Gwoździec Synagogue's bima and ceilings, (PSB: Raise the Roof) the POLIN Museum has uploaded a virtual taste of each core exhibit. POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews is the first public-private partnership institution formed together by the government, the local government, and a non-governmental organization and won a Best Museum in Europe Award in 2016.

Link to POLIN virtual sites and more: <https://www.polin.pl/en/virtual-exhibitions>

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a **Zoom** meeting:

Sunday, December 6, 2020 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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

Also, **Annual Chanukah Gift Drawing** for attending dues paid members

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



THE PROGRAM

Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of Crypto Jews



After the Jews left Spain in 1492, all of their cemeteries, synagogues and other structures were destroyed yet somehow, they left enough breadcrumbs to follow that enabled their descendants to return and find their 500-year old lost heritage just like Genie Milgrom was able to. Join us for this fascinating lecturing on the *Footsteps and Remnants of the Hidden Jews of the Iberian Peninsula*.

About Speaker Genie Milgrom

Genie Milgrom is a genealogist and global speaker on crypto Jews. She was born in Cuba into a Catholic Family of Spanish Ancestry. In an unparalleled work of genealogy, she was able to fully document her unbroken Jewish lineage as far back as 1405 to Pre-Inquisition Spain and Portugal and has developed a method to trace Jewish lineages to the 1400's. She is the author of the books *My 15 Grandmothers* and *How I Found My 15 Grandmothers, Pyre to Fire and The Recipes of My 15 Grandmothers*. Winner of the 2015, 2018 and 2020 (for *Recipes of My 15 Grandmothers*) Latin Author Book Award; winner of the Literary Titan Silver award for the book, *Pyre to Fire* and in 2019 for the Best seller *Recipes of My 15 Grandmothers*. JewishGen.org has added *The Genie Milgrom Crypto Jewish Collection*. She is also recipient of a Genealogy Award from the State of Florida IAJGS.

There is no charge for members of JGSCV to attend this Zoom meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV from our website: <https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf>. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family. We welcome new members!

Highlights from *A Master Catalog for Jewish Genealogy: The DoJR Project- What You Need to Know*

By Jan Meisels Allen

The biggest barrier genealogists encounter is the absence of the records they need. The IAJGS has launched a project to address that need. The *Documentation of Jewish Records Worldwide* project (DoJR) is creating a comprehensive, crowdsourced on-line catalog of available record collections, JCAT. JCAT will answer the question, “What records are available for my town” and will provide a home for exposing record collections previously hidden or unknown. The program discussed the progress of the project and how you can help bring more of your town’s records to light. Marlis’s presentation in pdf format is posted to the JGSCV website at: <https://www.jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html> under the November 1, 2020 date.

We began the meeting with an “ask the experts” session facilitated by Hal Bookbinder. A question was posed about whether it is correct or not if one should just “tack on” information one finds on another person’s tree. Hal explained that while many people add on information they find in other’s trees, it devalues the family tree as it may lead to less belief in the family tree. Documentation such as census and vital records are always important to add to one’s tree to prove what is included in the tree.

Hal provided information about local libraries: Los Angeles Library, LA County



Library, Thousand Oaks Library, and Ventura County Library System. These are listed along with other libraries in our area on our website under “resources/libraries” <https://www.jgscv.org/resources.html#Libraries>. The LA County library does not have genealogical resources such as Ancestry, but does have Heritage Quest and America’s Newspapers

(<https://lacountylibrary.org/database>).

Camarillo Library, LA City Library, Thousand Oaks Library and Ventura County Library System all have Ancestry but you need a library card from the library to access it remotely. All libraries are offering library cards remotely. You need to go to their respective websites for information. You may find their websites on the aforementioned link on our website. Currently, Ancestry is available remotely via

ProQuest through December 31, 2020 and will be reevaluated monthly as needed.

Hal also mentioned that our sister JGS, JGSLA for its members, and there are a number of JGSCV members that are also JGSLA members have subscriptions to My Heritage.com, JewishData.com and a section on Newsbank-Obituaries since 1977, and through Newsbank/ProQuest the *LA Times*, *San Francisco Chronicle* and the *NY Times*. A number of the libraries listed above also have certain newspapers including the *LA Times*, *NY Times* and other papers.

DoJR

DoJR is a project of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) of which JGSCV is one of its 93 members. It is headed by Marlis Humphrey with Stanley Diamond (JRI-Poland executive director) and Sallyann Sack-Pikus, editor of *AVOYAYNU*. They also have technical advisors.

Marlis began her presentation with a story of a young Jewish woman in the United States who wanted to meet her family in Russia in 1990. She found her grandmother listed in the Soviet Union telephone book on the shelves of the Library of Congress (<https://www.loc.gov/>). She wrote a letter to the Soviet Union and prepared for her trip: a tape recorder, a film camera, and a copying machine and as a result she met with third and fourth cousins. She wanted to find a birth certificate of her grandmother, but the archives prohibited copies being made. The researcher copied the document when the archivist had left the room. This was Miriam Weiner's grandmother for whom Miriam was named. Miriam founded Routes to Roots Foundation (<https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml>).

JCAT

In 2020 with advances in technology and access to archives, we can ask "what if we could create a catalog for Jewish genealogical records worldwide through crowd-sourcing for all types and forms of records whether paper, video, audio recordings or electronic media." That is the vision behind JCat —a catalog for what records are there for my town.

JCat is a place to record both "What records survived for my town?" as well as "What records were destroyed for my town?" JCat is a place to store information about newly discovered records before they are again lost or forgotten. JCat will help GIGS (genealogical interest groups); SIGS (special interest groups); and others who do digitization and indexing of records by providing information about record collections to inform their workplans – for



greater efficiency and effectiveness.

The majority of records found to date are vital records (birth, marriage, and death records). Yet there are many records hidden in plain sight. They developed the Iceberg Theory of Jewish Genealogy. The Iceberg Theory of Jewish Genealogy states that, to date, what they have visible in their sights record-wise is only the tip of the iceberg – visible above the waterline and yet the small part of the iceberg. Their theory is that, if

they could only look below the waterline, they would find the larger, and likely even richer, treasure trove of Jewish genealogical records.

They have observed 4 things: First, that for each vital record, there are many more other types of records. Second, that some or many of these records are genealogically richer than vital records (including photos, narratives with family details, and additional life facts) (think of obituaries, passport files, or notarial files). Third, that sometimes these records are all that exist for towns where the vital records were destroyed. And lastly, that sometimes these records (think of school entrance files) include copies of vital records – what may be the **only** surviving copies of vital records.

A catalog is not the actual records nor a search engine for the records. Rather, it is an inventory of what is available and where it is available.

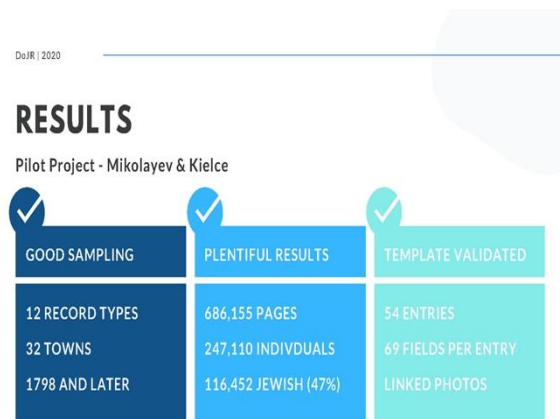
How is DoJR Catalog Different

- Any subgroup of Jewish
- Organization and individuals crowd source
- Online and not online record collections
- It includes an assessment of the record collection's genealogical value such as:
 - Number of and percent of Jewish records
 - Types of genealogical elements
 - Status of accessibility
- It includes connection information – to connect the researcher with the submitter of the catalog entry who is knowledgeable about the collection

as well as to a SIG or GIG which may be working on such collects so that the researcher might volunteer or donate to help get the collection digitized or indexed and searchable faster.

The Pilot Project

To determine if the Iceberg Theory was correct, the project sent two archivists to find records: one went to Kielce Archive in Poland the other to Mikolayev Archive in Ukraine. To validate their “Iceberg Theory” – the researchers were given the objective to uncover a meaningful number of “hidden in plain sight” useful record collections. They



were given an additional objective to validate the template. Can they collect the information we need? What are we missing? What is not clear?

They found 52/54 record collections were “hidden in plain sight”. By looking at JewishGen, JRI-Poland, FamilySearch and Routes to Roots they discovered that 52 of the record collections were unknown. Yet 8/52 had “Jewish” in their titles! It took both intuition and researcher work to discover this. If they could uncover this in four weeks what could they discover with more time?

DoJR | 2020

DOJR TEMPLATE

Pilot Project Mikolayev & Kielce

SECTION 1	SECTION 2	SECTION 3	SECTION 4
CUSTODIAL ORGANIZATION	FILE SYSTEM	CONTENT DESCRIPTION	ASSESSMENT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Name, Address, Phone, Website, Email Contact, Title Organization Mission Overall Holdings % Digitized General Accessibility (policies, restrictions) Primary Languages Method to Uniquely Identify Item 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Branch Identifier Title of Highest Level Asset Resource ID, Date Range/List # Lower Level Items Included General Description Author, Publisher, Date Published Format, Media Type, Language, Media Style Physical Location, Physical Condition, Access Restrictions Finding Aids, Sample Photos 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Description # Items/Records, Individuals, Pages, Bytes, Minutes Town names Fields/types information for an individual Rating Jewish genealogical relevance % records Jewish Other characteristics Digitized/Indexe/Translated and Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did you think this collections would be significant? What did you learn from examining it? Level of research on this collection?

This is a high-level summary of the template they used for the pilot project:

Other Accomplishments

The DoJR project has put best in class infrastructure in place using tools and platforms such as: Salesforce, Zoom, GoDaddy, Dropbox, WordPress, Canva, Mailchimp and others.

For the users of the catalog they “created” personas: an archivist-who stores the records, genealogy company -which makes the records accessible, researcher-who discovers useful records, and the curator who keeps the catalog in good order. These personas are being used to obtain feedback from their community on user requirements for the design of JCat.

There are four components to the DoJR project: catalog platform development, operations, catalog content acquisition, and automation. Automation will be important in the future as a way to address the reality that DoJR cannot have someone examining catalogs and record collections in every archive library, and museum holding relevant records worldwide.

As something of this nature has never been done before, it is really difficult to characterize how big a project it is and what difference it would make. Here is some December 2020

comparative data that starts to characterize the effort, time, and impact of DoJR.

The 52 hidden in plain sight (HIPS) collections uncovered within four weeks in two archives are a starting point. There is plenty more to be searched in those archives. The researcher in Mikolayev thinks there are at least 80 more collections that are HIPS. Just imagine what can be discovered across the thousands of archives worldwide.

The pilot project discovered records for 116,000 Jewish individuals. If each of those on average has five living descendants, nearly 600,000 people today can now have a new record of their ancestor. Once DoJR starts deploying 30 or so researchers working around the world, they will likely discover on average 9,000 new collections a year.

There are 1.8M people actively tracing their Jewish ancestry. 3.5M want to know and 8.1M want to know if it is easy to discover. JCat can help make it easy to discover records of their ancestors for those 8.1M wanting to connect *l'dor v'dor*.

Of the 1.9B collections in the FamilySearch catalog, 8,500 are part of those that come up with a keyword search for "Jewish". They don't know how many others are HIPS.

How many archives and libraries are there worldwide? 85,000 libraries and archives are in WorldCat from 123 countries. And that is not all of them worldwide.

And the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) has 60M pages of documentation in their archive. There is lots to catalog.

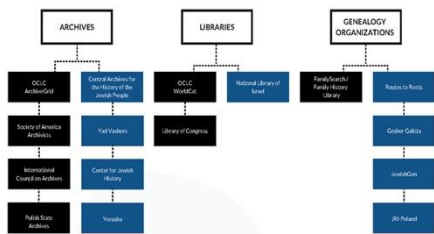
How significant is the potential impact of automation? By way of example, three years ago FamilySearch used automation to index 5M obituaries from Genealogy Bank. The

computers were able to index those 5M records in 10 hours. If done by humans, that indexing would have taken 150 human years. We know that Yerusha has sent researchers in to survey 500 archives across Europe for its catalog of items of Jewish historical and cultural interest. It has taken them seven years to produce 7,500 entries so far. We can only imagine the cost. The DoJR pilot project cost \$85 per catalog entry. Automation will help drive down the time and cost by several orders of magnitude. They hope to launch JCAT in December 2020.

4. IAJGS Cemetery database -review our entries for our region and update as necessary.
5. JCAT Entry- Create a JCAT catalog entry from data collected in steps 1&2. Submit catalog entries for collections that we know about.
6. Subscribe to JCAT <https://bit.ly/DoJRSubscribe> (don't be concerned when this URL converts to another one- you are on the correct URL.

STANDARDS & TAXONOMIES

Sources



They have applied for a grant from the Rothschild Foundation and are actively fundraising.

The project has received many testimonials.

How Can You Help

As a JGS society we can be a one of the first to work with the DoJR and create a template for other JGSs to follow.

1. We can survey our resources. Identify organizations in our area which have relevant record collections.
2. JGS catalog. Prepare an inventory list for the JGS library and website holdings for record collections.
3. Authority files (master file)—identify authority files for towns, names and organizations in our area.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

JGS Survey Project

LOCAL CUSTODIAL ENTITIES

Identify, survey, describe.

LOCAL JGS DATABASES

E.g. Obituary index projects, Cemetery projects, ...

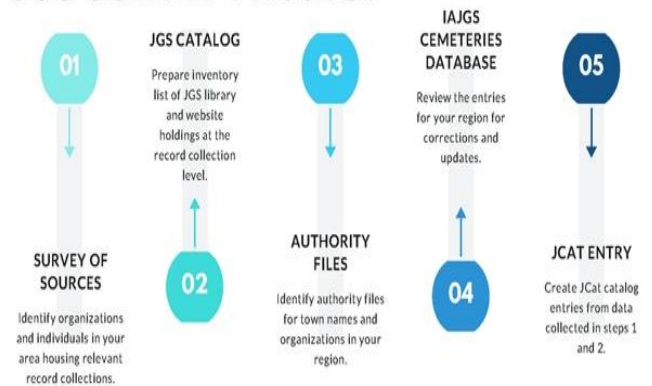
JGS NEWSLETTER

Articles referencing towns



DoJR | 2020

JGS SURVEY PROJECT



Individuals can join the JCAT team and even one hour a week or a month will help. You can help with research, development, marketing, translation and testing. If you are interested send an email to:

JCATCommunity@dojrww.org

Marlis mentioned two AVOTAYNU articles that address DoJR both of which are posted to our website

<https://www.jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html>

and then the November 1 meeting date:

AVOTAYNU Volume XXXV #3, Fall 2019
Documentation of Jewish Records Worldwide: An IAJGS Strategic Initiative
AVOTAYNU Volume XXXVI #1 Spring 2020
Work Underway on the DoJR Project

Marlis Glaser Humphrey is the industry's foremost expert on next generation family history publishing, a professional genealogist, and a frequent speaker at NGS, FGS, IAJGS, and RootsTech conferences. She is President of the Florida State Genealogical Society, Immediate Past President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Director at Large of the National Genealogical Society and Chairman of the Documentation of Jewish Records (DoJR) Worldwide Project. Marlis holds a MS in Management of Technology and a BA in Russian.

There was a question and answer period which followed Marlis's presentation.

One question was why the organizational focus on the town.—Answer: Because records are kept at the town, for example census records are by town, not by individual name. Ultimately they want to find records information for your town and your names, but it starts at the town level many steps before records are ever indexed at the individual name level.

Those willing to volunteer to do some "leg work" "computer research" in the JGSCV area please let me know and DoJR will put you to work!

One question was why the organizational focus on the town.—Answer: Because records are kept at the town, for example census records are by town, not by individual name. Ultimately they want to find records information for your town and your names, but it starts at the town level many steps before records are ever indexed at the individual name level.

Those willing to volunteer to do some "leg work" "computer research" in the JGSCV area please let me know and DoJR will put you to work!

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JGSCV Updates

REMINDER: The December 6th meeting includes Chanukah Prizes for paid 2021 JGSCV members. The names of all members viewing the Zoom meeting will have their names placed in a bowl to be chosen by Tom Allen. Be sure your 2021 dues is either received by mail or hand delivered to Jan Meisels Allen's home – with a prior appointment – by Dec. 4th in order to qualify for the prize drawings. Winners must be present at the meeting. All of the prizes cost more than the annual dues.

Your JGS has been exceptionally busy these past few months working on continuing to offer unique programs with compelling speakers while managing the personal, professional and health challenges facing us all. JGSCV meetings will be a **MEMBERS ONLY** benefit offered via Zoom until further notice.

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

The upcoming meeting on December 6th will also include a virtual vote for board members. Review the backgrounds of the four members running for board seats: Jan Meisels Allen, Karen Lewy, Diane Wainwood, Debby Wenkart. Please see page 17 of this newsletter for details.

JGSCV Welcomes New Member

JILLIAN KUHN



Practicing Safe Computing #61: “Ten Software Fixes”

By Hal Bookbinder (Number 61 in a series)

If you are experiencing a computer problem like a function that is no longer working, a page that you cannot access, a website that is acting strangely, or a program that is frozen, one of the following ten fixes may resolve the problem.



1. If you have a more than a handful of windows open, close those that you do not currently need. Each open window reserves a portion of memory and problems sometimes result from a lack of available memory.
2. Clear the cache related to the browser you are using. Recently used data is stored in cache. Sometimes this creates problems when the cached data is out of date. For more see, <https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/how-to-clear-your-cache-on-any-browser>.
3. Close the browser and open a different one, say Chrome to Firefox or Firefox to Edge. Each browser has its own cache. Additionally, a specific browser may become corrupted and need to be reinstalled. Having an alternate browser is free and easy to install.
4. If a specific application is frozen, press CNTL-ALT-DEL and select “End Task” for any application that you would like to force to close.
5. Restart your PC. This resets all transient values. Cache that is stored on disk is not deleted. Restarting your PC solves a multitude of problems and so often is the first thing that support folks suggest.
6. Clear your cookies. They contain data used by websites that you visit and are generally not cleared when you close your browser or restart your computer. The link to instructions for clearing cache above also provides instructions for clearing cookies.
7. Run a virus scan to see if it identifies any malware that might be lurking in your PC and creating problems. Your anti-virus software likely has the ability to run an immediate scan at your request. If not sure how to do this, check with your anti-virus vendor.
8. If the problem seems specific to a particular application, uninstall and reinstall it. This will result in a clean copy, reset to default values. Search “Programs” to uninstall. Be sure to retain the application’s installation key so that you can reinstall the application.
9. Check for any displayed alert symbols indicating that access is being blocked. Click on the symbol. It may inform you that the site does not appear to be a trusted one and ask you to confirm whether it can be trusted always, just this once, or not at all.
10. When the computer is running well, take a snapshot of its security settings. If you are having problems, see if the settings have changed. Sometimes they are adjusted behind the scenes. To view these settings, search “Settings” and then select “Security”.

Cache hint: If you suspect that the web page you are viewing is out of date, you may be looking at an older version in your cache. To load the current page, press the F5 key.

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



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

A Series of Remembrances

This year is the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II and JGSCV members and friends are contributing stories about themselves or their ancestors who fought in the war. If you have a story to share, please let Allan know at newslettereditor@jgscv.org.



JGSCV member Joanne Cadis writes about her uncle.

Lt. Morton E. Berger (1920-2004), Navigator for B-17 Bomber Crew

He enlisted in New York City in the Army Air Corps on November 13, 1942. Morty and crew left the United States Jan 26, 1944, arriving in England, Saturday, January 29, 1944. On the nose of the plane was painted "Jake's Jerks". It was on a B-17 42-31707 and also known as Haughty Hazy Crew.

The Crew flew some 20 missions before they were shot down. In his words: *I remember meeting my crew. I was on an airplane (I was the navigator) and we had practiced flying together. I remember getting ready to fly across the Atlantic Ocean to England. When we flew across the Atlantic I wasn't allowed to sleep because I was the navigator. I navigated by the stars. I couldn't use the radio because the German's would pick up our radio signals. I was very happy when we broke through the clouds because I was 15 miles off course (which is VERY good for navigating by the stars). Over the years I flew 20 different missions over Germany, but on one particular flight our plane was hit badly by flak (shells shot from enemy guns), which knocked out two of our four engines.*

We couldn't keep up with the other five planes in our formation. After engines were hit, we turned around to try to fly back to England. When we were fifty miles outside of Kiel, Germany our plane caught on fire and we were afraid it was going to explode. Our pilot said, "Fellows, we need to get out of this ship!" I was the first one out of the plane. I had never parachuted out of a plane before, and we were about twenty thousand feet in the air. During our training one of the things we were taught to do was not to pull the shoot until we were eight or nine thousand feet from the ground because the Germans could use us for target practice. When I did open my shoot I felt terrible. Here I was, a Jewish man about to land in a country that hated Jews. (According to B-17



Fortress Master Log by Dave Osborne, the plane took "flak and enemy aircraft KO'd three engines, crashed at Wennemanns Wisch, four miles west of Holstein, Germany".)

I realized that In the USA my family were about five thousand miles away and I was all by myself. When I got down my whole plane crew was separated. I landed so hard I hurt both feet. My first thought was to escape from the Germans. However, before I could, local German policemen rode up to me on bicycles and captured me. They took me as their prisoner to the nearest town. I stayed in prison for ten days, they wanted to get information out of me, about my crew and where we were flying to. The only thing I told them was my name rank, and serial number (that's what we were ordered to do in training) (Morty was put in solitary confinement; as a result he never slept through the night after that).

*After ten days the Germans put me back with my crew (which all were captured). They drove us all to a prison camp (Moosburg). * In the prison camp they put ten or twelve men in a barrack (my crew were separated) . I was at that camp for six months.*

** Moosburg : POW Camp Stalig VII A was known as Kriegsgefangenen-Mannschafts-Stammlager, just north of Mossburg. While it was planned for 10,000 prisoners, by the end of the war it had over 70,000 Allied soldiers in the main camp and labor commandos. A total of 150,000 POWs passed through Stalag VII A. (<https://www.moosburg.org/info/stalag/indeng.html>)*

At this time the war was coming to an end, we knew this because we had made and hid radios in the camp. The Germans decided to move us because the Russians were coming. We went on a forced march. It was the middle of winter and we were not dressed properly for the cold. We were on the forced march for 3-4 days. Finally, we were sent to another camp for 1 or 2 days. They put us in cattle cars for 3 nights and days to move us to southern Germany. The train cars were so crowded that there was no room for us to sit down, we could only stand. When we finally got to southern Germany they put us in a camp there. One day we looked over the hills and saw the United States Army coming to free us, we were so happy.

TIMELINE

May 22, 1944 Morton and crew bailed out over Germany

June 5, 1944 received Official Telegram: Missing June 21, 1944 received letter: was seen bailing out

June 23, 1944 –received Telegram "Prisoner in Germany July 6, 1944 received letter Confirming Prisoner of War.

Aug 7, 1944 received ADDRESS

Aug 18, 1944 received Morty's Card

Sept. 5 1944 received card

Sept 18, 1944 received 1st letter

April 29, 1945 Morton was liberated from Mooseburg

May 17, 1945 Morty arrived home

On the nose of the plane was painted Jake's Jerks. There is now a Face Book page called "Jake's Jerks" started by Grandson Shaun O'Conner. He has connected many families of this crew. We owe a lot to all our Armed Forces that suffered and fought to keep freedom in the United States.

Morton was born on 28 December 1920 in New York City. He was married to Doris Jaffe who died in 1987 and he had a daughter Joan and a son Michael. Morton died in New Jersey 28 May 2004 at age 83.

Genealogy Odds and Ends

JewishGen offers a series of very informative 'Talks'. The next one is scheduled for December 2nd at 11AM PST. Adam Brown will discuss *The Genetic Origins of the Jewish People-Hanukkah 2020 Edition*. You can register at www.jewishgen.org/live. Also, you may view recordings of the two most recent talks on their YouTube channel.

- The History of the Geography of New York City with Stephen Morse
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kgZs5LWR2xU&feature=youtu.be>
- Introducing the New JewishGen Crypto Jewish Collection with Genie Milgrom (JGSCV's December 6th speaker) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RD6rtHS53To&feature=youtu.be>

The GenTeam has posted 500,000 new records to their website bringing their total to approximately 21.2 million records. Data access is free but registration is required at <https://www.genteam.eu/>. Note, the GenTeam site uses autofill for names and locations which is a simple solution if you are certain of the spelling.

For all Latvian researchers: The Latvian State Historical Archives has ceased all Genealogical Research as of November 1st. They are short of Staff and cannot provide the Service in an acceptable time frame.

Ted Gostin of Sherman Oaks, CA discovered new digitized records on the Ukrainian State Archives' website <https://archives.gov.ua/en/> that have been posted to the various websites of the regional archives branches. Mr. Gostin further reports that the Central State Archives of Ukraine in Kiev has digitized most of the same Jewish vital records through 1901 that noted researcher Alex Krakovsky had not yet digitized. The list of digitized Jewish vitals in Kiev can be viewed at: https://cdiak.archives.gov.ua/full_files/1164_0001.php. To visit and view Alex's website click here: <https://tinyurl.com/Alex-Krakovsky-site>). Alex's list of Kiev Jewish vital records is available here: <https://tinyurl.com/yyzttewt>

JGSCV MEMBERS' FAMILY STORIES

JGSCV's June speaker Joan Adler advised genealogists to write down whatever you know about your ancestor(s) and not worry about style, chronology or even whether it seems to make sense. Just do it! We think that's a great idea and VENTURING INTO OUR PAST began our FAMILY STORIES series as a result. This month, JGSCV member Ellen Gleimer-Hustead shares her family story.

Family Background

My mother's mother came from Poland by herself as a teenager, following her mother, during the days of the Russian Empire before WWI. Her father, four sisters, and two brothers had to wait until after the war but luckily arriving before immigration was halted, as I've learned from our JGSCV speakers. By then, my grandmother was married and had moved from Philadelphia to Newark to Brooklyn. All new arrivals stayed in my grandmother's little apartment at first. I have been able to trace my ancestors on my maternal side back to 1799 in Zambrow, Poland, towards Bialystok. My paternal side is from Mogelnitzer, Poland, where all but two brothers, who were already in the US, died in Auschwitz, as far as I know. I mention this in case anyone reading this might have some information about that area.

Each of my parents came from a family of four children - three boys and a girl. During WWII, two of my mother's brothers were already in medical school and therefore not conscripted. My father tried to enlist early but when they wouldn't take him because of his hay fever, he went to medical school, too. The youngest brother on each side of the family served. My father's brother, Jack Gleimer, drove a tank in North Africa during his 4 years' service. He became a physical therapist after his service in the war even though he also wanted to go to medical school, but his wife pressured him to make a living, thinking they didn't have time to be students in their 20's. He is now 101; and she also lived a long life.

My Uncle in WWII

Until last month I knew only that my uncle, my mother's brother, had been in Iwo Jima and that he had brought home a pair of decorative Japanese clogs and a colorful set of dishes that were marked, "Made in Occupied Japan". His son recently found his father's photos in a box and made a book from which I learned the details that follow.

Arnold Heyman had just turned 19 when he enlisted in April, 1944. His training was at Camp Upton in Yaphank, New York, in Suffolk County, Long Island. One photo shows him marching with the "medical corps" past Quonset huts. In a photo labeled *September, 1945, Iwo Jima*, he is wearing corporal stripes, kneeling with someone named Phil under a sign that says: Command Post Combat Staging Center XXI Bomber Command, which was a unit of the 20th Air Force in the Mariana Islands.



Another photo shows him in front of the sign 232 General Hospital speed limit 10 mph. Also, in September of 1945, "standing under a B-29 with M. Weiss, Phil, and Edelstein." Another photo shows a ceremonial awarding of a citation with his sergeant stripes. In December 1945, he takes a picture of the bulbous nose of the plane that carried him to Guam. From January, 1946 we see Schofield Barracks, Oahu, Army Univ. Center, Quad 2, Main Administration Building "with little theater combined." Several photos of planes, runways, barracks and bunkers, jeeps, trucks, cars, and of course, Mt. Suribachi and the famous photo of the raising of the American flag in Iwo Jima.



My uncle returned to the States and had a few different jobs before he decided to become a chiropractor. Not long after starting his practice, now married with 3 small children, he was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis, which progressed rapidly and severely. (Our family wondered about the usage of chemicals in Iwo Jima, where there was much discussion by the military whether to use mustard gas. One article I read said they used tear gas in May to "clean up.") Only one of his children remembers ever seeing his father standing. Arnold was the youngest son, the one with the sense of humor, loved by all. He lived in New York until he passed away in 1991.

Forthcoming JGSCV Elections

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Marion Werle (with board member Andrea Massion and general member Carol Flesher) has recommended the following slate of individuals to fill the 2-year positions on the JGSCV board effective January 2021:

Jan Meisels Allen, Karen Lewy, Helene Rosen, Diane Wainwood, Debby Wenkart

At the November 1st JGSCV meeting a call for additional nominations from the floor resulted in no responses. Then all nominations were closed

The board is currently set at eight 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-all recommended by the Nominating Committee- are recommended for two-year terms.

Elections will be held at the December 6, 2020 meeting.

At the initial 2021 board meeting the board will determine the various officer and non-officer board positions. This will be reported to the membership in the February 2021 *Venturing Into Our Past*.

JAN MEISELS ALLEN currently serves as President, JGSCV and is a JGSCV founding member. She served on the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies [IAJGS] board 2004-2013. She continues to serve as Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee and writes the IAJGS *Records Access Alert* since 2013. Jan serves as the IAJGS sponsoring representative on the December 2020

Records Preservation and Access Coalition (RPAC), an umbrella group of genealogical umbrella organizations. At this time only NGS and IAJGS have a vote on the Coalition. In 2013, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) awarded Jan its President's Citation in recognition of her outstanding and continuing contributions for vigilance in support of records preservation and in defense of public access to public records. In June 2014, Jan was invited to speak to committee members of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) in Berlin, Germany on access to holocaust records. In 2015, Jan was awarded the first IAJGS Volunteer of the Year Award. In 2017 Jan was awarded the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award. She has written articles for *AVOTAYNU*, *AVOTAYNU Online* and *JGSCV's Venturing Into Our Past*. Jan served in various administrative capacities for ten IAJGS conferences. Prior to helping found JGSCV, Jan was a 5-year board member and first vice president-programming of JGS Los Angeles. She served on the JGS Los Angeles Board of Directors most recently with the portfolio chairing the Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture Committee for two years. Jan lectures at the national and international genealogy conferences and to genealogy societies. She began her genealogy research in 1998 tracing her Polish, Galician and Hungarian roots. She is married to Tom Allen (another JGSCV founding member) going on 41 years. Jan is a retired lobbyist.

KAREN LEWY is the current Treasurer of JGSCV. Karen spent her career as a global project manager in banking after graduating from college with a degree in Russian Civilization. Being able to read the Cyrillic alphabet has helped in her research. She started her genealogical research activities in 2010, and joined JGSCV in October 2011 after moving from Baltimore, MD to the Conejo Valley to be closer to her adult children and grandchildren. She maintains family trees containing over 1800 people and is continuing to research ancestors from Germany, Lithuania, Russia and Poland. Most recently, she has started DNA testing and research as well as finding new cousins in Israel. She likes to be a detective and learn about the geographies where her ancestors lived.

HELENE ROSEN is a founding member of JGSCV. She is also the current Membership Vice President and JGSCV Zoom coordinator. Helene has attended nine IAJGS conferences, written articles for *JGSCV's Venturing Into Our Past* including her father's WWII story, using Steve Morse's site to find her grandmother's steamship record and her genealogical visit to Texas. On several occasions, she has presented her research findings during JGSCV's Genealogy in the Round meetings. She was also an active participant in the JGSCV cemetery project. Her family tree contains over 1900 names. She is a graduate of UCLA, has worked for the County of Los Angeles in data processing, and is the mother of three fine young men and grandmother of two.

DIANE WAINWOOD a member of JGSCV since 2007, is currently recording secretary of JGSCV, has been a regular attendee of meetings, and for several years assisted on the Publicity Committee, sending notices of coming meetings to various media. She has been actively engaged in her Jewish genealogy since joining JGSCV, and attended 3 IAJGS conferences (LA in 2009, Washington DC in 2011, Orlando in 2017) where she's learned enough about research and accessing records to learn more about the Jewish side of her family. In 2008, she was able to visit Kherson, Ukraine, her mother's birthplace and early childhood home, and visit the local synagogue which helped her locate rabbinical records of her family. She holds a B.Sc. and MA in foreign language education from The Ohio State University (fully bi-lingual in French and Spanish), and is retired from 25 years of California school teaching; prior to moving to California, she also spent 12 years as a marketing/public relations manager for several companies, including a tourism/travel operator, and 3M Co. Diane has also served

as Recording Secretary for the Conejo Valley Quilters Guild, and on the board of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (Call sign: KJ6JEJ).

DEBBY WENKART After earning her BA in Sociology/Social Welfare and a Master’s of Science degree in Counseling Psychology, she enjoyed a 40-year career working in Social Services. Retirement offered her the time to explore her family genealogy and she joined the JGSCV in 2017. The paternal side of her family came from Austria and her maternal side left Russia for Canada during the pogroms. She visited Vienna, her father’s birthplace, with him and have worked on obtaining documents and archives from Austria. In 2018, she donated a copy of her father’s Austrian passport and Palestinian naturalization papers that she received from the Israeli National Archives, to the JGSCV genealogy display at the Agoura Hills Library. In 2019, she traced her paternal grandfather’s history from Austria to Palestine. His Holocaust story is in the October 2020 JGSCV newsletter, *Venturing Into our Past*. Part of her grandfather’s Holocaust story, was his rescue by the British Jews. In 2019, she traveled to London to attend the exhibition dedicated to their rescue and coordinated by their descendants. We continue to exchange information and stories.

Her husband’s family proudly descends from Norway and Sweden and with the help of the Family Search Library have a family tree which dates to the 1600s. In 2017, we had a memorable trip to Norway and in 2019 enjoyed a family reunion and a visit to the family farm in Canada.

I appreciate the opportunity to support the JGSCV Board.

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through December 2021



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

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, December 6st 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom

Genie Milgrom will present “Following in the Footsteps and Remnants of the Crypto Jews” and Annual Chanukkah Prizes

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
Jan. 3	Jarrett Ross	1.The Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam 2.DNA and Criminals
Feb. 14	Marian Smith	Researching USCIS Records
Mar. 7	Amy Wachs	Food of Eastern Europe Family
Apr. 10	TBA	Yom Hashoah Program
May 2	TBA	TBA

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
June 6	TBA	TBA
July 11	TBA	TBA
Aug. 15	TBA	TBA
No meeting to observe High Holidays		
Oct. 3	TBA	TBA

Until further notice, all future meetings will be held on Sunday from 1:30-3:30 PM

2021 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

Dues paid now are good through December 2021

Date _____

Check one:

This is a 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 _____

Talents that you have to share (accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)

