

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



# JGSCV

August 2022

Volume 17 Issue 11

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

The last month has been very difficult for me and therefore you have not received my usual biweekly emails. I was exposed to COVID when I took Tom to the ER on July 7 and started COVID symptoms on July 9. Paxlovid was prescribed and I am fine now but was confined and isolated for a week. Remarkably, Tom did not catch it, however, he remains in the hospital following intestinal surgery. It is not going smoothly –as I write this on July 31<sup>st</sup>, he is on day 11 in the hospital. During this time, I did my IAJGS on demand recording and if you listen you will hear the COVID cough. My presentation “*Privacy vs Records Access: Are they Compatible in Today’s World?*” is of urgent relevance to issues facing us as genealogists and citizens. If you are registered to attend the IAJGS virtual conference, do listen to my timely presentation. IAJGS registration link is on page 8. Also, please see page 3 for my update on Privacy.

I did not attend the July meeting as I was ill with COVID, thank you to Helene Rosen our vice president for conducting the meeting. I understand it was quite lively! This was our annual Genealogy in the Round where members share a success, brick wall or artifact. Our editor, Diane Goldin wrote the highlights. See page 4.

We continue to watch the strength of the Ukrainian people and government as Russia tries to decimate the Ukraine-five months and counting. We remain concerned for their well-being. In our previous issues I have listed several organizations if you wish to make a donation, to Geshet Galica, HIAS, Joint Distributions Committee, Jewish Federations of America, Doctors without Borders, and UNICEF. The links for each of these organizations are on the previous issues which can be accessed on our website and look for the May 2022 issue: [https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing\\_V17\\_N8.pdf](https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing_V17_N8.pdf)

We just received the last issue of *Avotaynu*, published and edited by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Sack-Pikus for 37 years. JGSCV has all issues in their permanent library. The back page of the final issue says “goodbye” in 11 languages. *Avotaynu* sold its book selling business to a Massachusetts company over a year ago and it is operating in a normal manner as *Avotaynu Online* and continues to study the origins and migrations of Jewish populations worldwide and is available at <https://avotaynuonline.com/>

The annual Ventura County Fair is August 3 through Sunday August 14, 2022. Information on entry guides, exhibitor’s information and volunteering at the genealogy booth are on page 10.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his interesting series on Safe Computing on page 9. This month’s article is number 81! – “*Free Online Databases Courtesy of your Public Library.*”

Andrea Massion’s excellent column, Page 3, is on break and will return in our September issue.

We are not meeting in August. Our meetings resume by Zoom on September 11. I have invited a speaker from the New York City Tenement Museum to be our speaker. The presentation will be on a Jewish family –one from the late 1880s.

(Cont’d next page)

**No Meeting in August**

*IAJGS conference: August 21-25*  
*Page 8*

[WWW.JGSCV.ORG](http://WWW.JGSCV.ORG)

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## 2022 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

August 2022

I have confirmed Leora Raikin to talk to us on October 9 on Lithuanian Jews migration to South Africa. We will continue to meet by Zoom into the fall. I understand some are still very anxious to get back to "normal" but that will not occur just yet. See page 11 for more on our upcoming meetings.

The U.S. and the Holocaust will premiere on PBS September 18, 2022. Check with your local cable provider for the station. **The U.S. and The Holocaust**, a new three-part, six-hour documentary directed and produced by Ken Burns, Lynn Novick and Sarah Botstein, explores America's response to one of the greatest humanitarian crises in history. Americans consider themselves a "nation of immigrants," but as the catastrophe of the Holocaust unfolded in Europe, the United States proved unwilling to open its doors to more than a fraction of the hundreds of thousands of desperate people seeking refuge. Through riveting firsthand testimony of witnesses and survivors who as children endured persecution, violence and flight as their families tried to escape Hitler, this series delves deeply into the tragic human consequences of public indifference, bureaucratic red tape, and restrictive quota laws in America.

<https://www.pbs.org/kenburns/us-and-the-holocaust/>

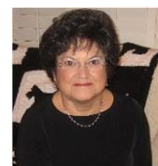
The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) Archives announced completion of a new oral history project. The project includes interviews with 18 former JDC senior staff members with rich histories of service from the 1970s through the early 2000s. These interviews give voice to individuals who were tasked with responding swiftly to emergent global events and evolving situations across the decades and around the world, such as the airlift of thousands of Ethiopian Jews to Israel, the war in former Yugoslavia, and the renewal of Jewish life in the post-communist world. See: <https://archives.jdc.org/jdc-archives-announces-completion-of-new-oral-history-project/>

JewishGen started a new newsletter, *The Weekly News Nosh* which you will automatically receive if you are subscribed to the JewishGen Discussion Group or a member of JewishGen.

A nominations committee is in process of being appointed. Half of the board is up for election each year-this year it's the officers. Per our by-laws, the board decides at its January meeting who has which responsibility. Therefore, when you vote for a person on the board it is not for a specific responsibility. Helene, Debby and I have all agreed to run again. Sadly, Karen has informed us that she does not want to stay on the board. She has been a superb treasurer and will be difficult to replace. Our bylaws permit no less than six and up to 12 members of the board and the person must be a member in good standing for at least one year at time of serving. Anyone interested in serving on the board please contact Allan Linderman, Chairman of the Nominations Committee at [Allan@jgscv.org](mailto:Allan@jgscv.org). The board application can be found at: [https://jgscv.org/pdf/board\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://jgscv.org/pdf/board_application_form.pdf)

Looking forward to "seeing you" at our September 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Jan Meisels Allen*



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## In the News: Privacy

By Jan Meisels Allen

Last month I wrote about the United States Supreme Court overturning a 50-year ruling—*Roe vs Wade with its Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* opinion. Regardless of your opinion on abortion, and *Roe vs Wade* was about privacy- not abortion per se, it is the precedent that the Court overturned a previous—long-standing ruling. As we are California based-you might find of interest: The California November 2022 ballot will include a Constitutional amendment which was approved by Governor Newsom on June 29. The proposed amendment will secure the fundamental right to choose or refuse an abortion and contraceptives. The initiative, which references **the right to privacy** already explicitly protected in the California Constitution, will serve as a long-term strengthening of protections, said Cathren Cohen, a scholar of law and policy with the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy.

“As more states continue to enact abortion restrictions or bans, California may see anywhere between 8,000 and 16,100 additional out-of-state pregnant people seeking abortions, according to data from the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law and Policy. The language of SCA 10 implies California will try to protect people from any state who are trying to receive abortion services by referencing individuals rather than Californians, Cohen added.”

Another California item of interest is that California Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye announced she will not seek a second 12-year term in November and will conclude her current term of office on January 1st. She is the first Asian-Filipina American and the second woman to serve as the state's chief justice. Four associate justices on the seven-member court plan to seek retention in November. Justices are up for retention in the first gubernatorial election after their appointment, and again if they fill an unexpired term for a previous justice.

Even though abortion currently remains protected in California, this midterm ballot initiative would ensure the state legislature could not obstruct abortion access in the future.

To amend the constitution, both chambers of the legislature must approve putting the proposition on the ballot – which has already occurred – and now a simple majority of voters must vote in its favor, according to the California Legislative Information website.

Another legislative issue of interest addresses social media companies via the American Innovation and Choice Act, which would provide rules for companies such as Google, Amazon, Facebook/Meta, Apple and Microsoft. The bill is S 2992 and may be read and followed on the Congress.gov website under text at: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/2992>

According to Bloomberg News, “the bill seeks to break the stranglehold the largest tech platforms have over their markets by prohibiting them from giving advantages to their own products and making it easier for rivals to communicate with customers and collect information about their users.”

Sponsored in the Senate by Amy Klobuchar, a Minnesota Democrat, and Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican, and 10 others, the legislation has support from a wide range of liberal Democrats and populist Republicans, as well as from smaller tech companies like Yelp Inc., Match Group Inc. and Spotify Technologies SA. A House companion bill from Rhode Island Democrat David Cicilline, Colorado Republican Ken Buck and 43 others is also awaiting a floor vote.

You can read more about this on the *IAJGS Records Access Alert*, which I write. To read the previous postings about American Innovation and Choice Online Act, antitrust, Google, Amazon, Facebook, Apple, US antitrust legislation, EU antitrust legislation and more, go to the archives of the *IAJGS Records Access Alert* at: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/private/records-access-alerts/>. You must be registered to access the archives. To register go to: <http://lists.iajgs.org/mailman/listinfo/records-access-alerts> and follow the instructions to enter your email address, full name and which genealogical organization with whom you are affiliated. You will receive an email response that you have to reply to or the subscription will not be finalized.

## Highlights from: “Genealogy in the Round”

By Diane Goldin

On August 10, JGSCV held its annual Genealogy in the Round program—an opportunity for members to share a success, brick wall, or artifact they discovered in the past year. We were delighted to have seven members share their discoveries. Thank you to Debby Wenkart, Andrea Massion, Bernie Behrens, Joanne Cadis, Helene Rosen, Karen Franklin, and Sandra Katz for their fascinating and lively presentations.

Our thanks to Helene Rosen for moderating our meeting while Jan recuperated from COVID.

### Debby Wenkart

Debby is newer to genealogy research and wanted to share her trial-and-error learning experiences.

She recalls looking at her Ancestry DNA matches and being intrigued but uncertain how to organize information. She started to collect post-it notes and file folders and boxes before creating a spreadsheet. She emphasized how helpful it has been to note where she has obtained information.

Her next tip is to question what one hopes to learn. For example, she tasked herself to learn more about her father’s Wenkart family line since little was known other than a town name and his family arrived in Vienna in 1923.

It is suspected that many family members perished in the Shoah and Debby’s father didn’t talk about deceased loved ones and no one asked him questions. There are very few Wenkart relatives. Debby longed to know what happened to them and what were they like, as well as what life was like for them in Europe?

Debby let everyone in her family know what she was doing and soon began to collect stories from relatives. These stories began to piece together their shared history. Debby met new cousins. She also discovered a Yizkor book that identified her paternal grandmother’s birthplace and photos taken of the city.

Another wealth of information came via her niece who was applying for an Austrian passport (which she is eligible for too). Debby strongly encourages working with a younger adult who is tech savvy and resourceful. The records her niece found for her passport application were a gold mine for Debby’s genealogy research! Amongst the records were her father’s Austrian passport and British military records. She also noted his Palestine naturalization papers were signed by her great grandfather, Moses. She hadn’t known he had arrived in Palestine before his son, Izak (Debby’s grandfather), and grandson (Debby’s father). Debby learned that Moses arrived in Palestine in 1939. Those findings enabled Debby to fill in details of her paternal history, including that Moses’ son, Izak, spent time in a transmigration camp in the UK called Kitchener Camp before his internment in Australia and eventual reunion with his father and son in Palestine. Debby has troves of letters from the Central Zionist Organization which chronicled her grandfather’s internment and journey to Palestine.

She has also benefitted from the contacts she’s made at genealogy conferences. There are books and movies that document what life was like in her ancestral towns.

Her last tip for us is to remember that as a newbie, you never know where records will lead. Genealogy research is a process whose outcome cannot be predicted. What Debby has learned has been unexpected and life enhancing. She is grateful for the process and the experience it’s given her.



*Books helped Debby piece together her Grandfather’s experience in an internment camp*

## Andrea Massion



Andrea's hobby is genealogy. She was excited to share that just prior to our meeting, she was contacted by someone in possession of records on a brick wall that she's been researching for over 20 years! She stressed the importance of patience and how we never know when something significant will materialize.

Today she presented "Gravestones and Jewelry".

Her advice: Research jewelry. Make notes about when and how a piece was acquired, then research its original owner. Does it come with a story? The photo at right is a neighbor's hand and the pieces she's collected over her lifetime. She is literally wearing her family history.



Additionally, Andrea loves an interesting tombstone. She showed us examples of different stones, most which are expressions of grief but don't tell us much about the deceased. (For example, a typical one will say someone was a Father, Grandfather, Brother without additional detail) Andrea appreciates when a gravestone tells us something of the person: character, gifts, and attitude.

## Bernie Behrens

Bernie has researched the surname Panski, finding relatives from parts of Poland and Ukraine also one in Germany. The name means "From Nobility" and likely indicates his ancestors worked for noblemen.



His great grandfather Panski was from Lodz just west of Warszawa (Warsaw). His first wife died, and he remarried, shipping his kids from the first marriage to Patterson, NJ. His second wife wanted to stay in Poland, so he took a steamer ship back to her. But when Archduke Ferdinand was assassinated in 1914 the couple became trapped in Lodz for six years. He used that time to write from memory what he knew of the family's history. His manuscript traces ancestors back to the 1700s. It is written in a German-Yiddish hybrid that has since been reviewed and determined to be a puzzling mish mash of languages.



Great Grandfather Panski and his second wife. Their young son died of starvation in Lodz.

Bernie said that the more he discovered, the more he built on. He shared a photo of his Great Aunt Helen, the oldest of the two daughters borne of his great grandfather's second marriage. Younger sister is Great Aunt Sara.

Bernie was fortunate to be mentored in family history by his uncle. He has since gained an intimate understanding of the history of Jewish Lodz via books written by others.

Lastly, Bernie shared family artifacts given to him by his uncle, including a brass letter opener, magnifying glass, and a snuff box. He also showed us a prized periscope lens that his uncle salvaged from a knocked out German tank in North Africa during WWII. (His late uncle was a WWII veteran and Bernie is also a veteran.) His uncle used the periscope as a paperweight and now Bernie does too.





She threw away her mother's love's letters at her request so those are gone. However, she scanned her father's letters and included a story he'd written about his time as a soldier and a funny anecdote about his lieutenant. She even included details about the Lynwood, CA dress shop that supported her parents, aunt and uncle, and grandmother.



*Different colored backgrounds identify the period in her parents' lives when events took place.*

Helene has learned that with every book she's made – despite being careful – there is always a mistake. It happens and she accepts it without fretting. Overall, the books are a treasured collection of sentimental paperwork and a living eulogy of her parents' rich lives.

### Karen Franklin



Karen said she was inspired by Jan to do genealogy research during COVID. This presentation is the result. The people and events she researched go back over 180 years ago but their stories (and secrets) are universal.

Karen was eager to explain why her Great Great Grandmother had four different cities of birth. She decided to focus her efforts on determining which birthplace was correct.



*Jacob Kohlberg's medal for volunteering during the Yellow Fever epidemic*

In the interim, her research turned up newspaper articles detailing the volunteer work done by her Great Great Grandmother's brother, Jacob Kohlberg. Karen had never seen these articles, written in 1878 and that describe Jacob's work down south burying victims of Yellow Fever. Karen struggled to understand why Jacob would volunteer in such a risky endeavor. He'd been a member of several service organizations such as the Hebrew Health Society and the Howard Society and may have also been inspired to help via rabbinic advice on responding to the Yellow Fever epidemic. Still, she wondered why he'd been compelled to serve as he did. The Jewish Genealogical Society and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia was helpful. This led to Karen discovering a photo of the medal Jacob received for his volunteer work. It turns out a relative had written a memoir and revealed that Jacob suffered from Yellow Fever and was totally deaf.

Still, Karen wondered: Why did he risk his life? She bolted up in bed after weeks of working on the question. The answer lies in the Kohlberg family tree.

Of the nine children born to her great great great grandparents, six died. Tragically, four of the children died within weeks of each other in 1836. Those four deaths were due to Cholera or Smallpox as it spread

through their town. One of the surviving children, Leopold Kohlberg, left Germany in 1840 to emigrate to the United States. We can only imagine the trauma Leopold endured having lost four siblings and then leaving his parents just a few short years after. It is not surprising that Leopold's son, Jacob Kohlberg, would be a person willing to risk his life to serve others. Karen also discovered that Leopold lost his life in 1878 to Malarial fever. She was able to find his death certificate as well as newspaper clippings documented the cases in Philadelphia at that time.



*Julia Kohlberg*

Ironically, Karen has yet to find out where Julia Kohlberg was born – but instead learned a fascinating family story in the process.

## Sandra Katz



Sandra is a new member of JGSCV. Now that her kids are older, she has time to pursue her interest in family history. She's looking for help and advice from our members.

The background: Sandra interviewed her great aunt in her early 20s and got information to share with family. Something she learned during that conversation is that her great grandmother's great grandmother (Sandra's GGGG Grandmother) was from Lublin, Poland. She was named Racha Gella, meaning "the rich Gella." According to Sandra's great aunt, Racha Gellah had her hand in everything. She was the first woman banker in Lublin and known as the "Feudal Lord of Lublin." Supposedly the first Jewish opera was performed in her home.

Racha Gella's last name is uncertain. She died with 56 grandchildren, two of whom married and gave birth to Sandra's great grandmother. They were the Bressler family from Lublin and later Lodz.

It turns out that Sandra's husband, Paul, also has a branch of Bresslers who are from Lublin. For the last 40 years, Sandra has wondered if she and her hubby are cousins. She asked for advice on how to research forward from Racha Gella to possibly connect all her descendants.

Suggestions from participants:

- Go to JewishGen (<https://jewishgen.org/>) and look at other Lublin researcher's work. Also, check back regularly for newly digitized records
- Old marriage registries and Bris records (check witnesses and honored signatures for family matches)
- Check city directories from the 1800s
- Use the tried-and-true method of calling potential relatives to hear what they know of the family history
- Death records might reveal parents' names
- JRI-Poland (<https://jri-poland.org/>): research + subgroups for specialized topics; experts and translators

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Ready to jump-start your research and break thru your brick wall?  
Sign up and log in to the ALL VIRTUAL IAJGS Conference, Aug 21-25

Presentations will be live and recorded and delivered by leading Jewish Genealogists in the world today.

*A sample of the diverse class offerings:*

- *Bubbie, Who Are You? Finding the Maiden Names in Your Family Tree*
- *DNA and Endogamy: Making Sense When Your Matches Don't Make Sense*
- *How to Inspire Younger Generations to Love Family History*
- *Seven Things You Didn't Know about Yizkor Books*
- *Preserving & Sharing Your Family Memories with Easy To Use Hardware, Software And Network*

Review all the topics: [https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2022/program\\_schedule.cfm](https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2022/program_schedule.cfm)

Register at: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2022/index.cfm>

# Practicing Safe Computing Article #81: “Free Online Databases Courtesy of Your Public Library”

By Hal Bookbinder



Several different searchable historical newspaper databases are available online and for free through local libraries. We are all aware of Newspapers.com, an excellent fee-based resource. This article discusses resources that are freely accessible online using your library card and not requiring a trip to the library. Virtually all California

public libraries offer library cards to any California resident. You need not live in that library's community. However, you may need to go to the library to pick up your card.

“Newspaper Archive” includes literally thousands of searchable, historical U.S. and international newspapers. I wanted to search the Philadelphia Jewish Exponent in my research into the Bookbinders of Philadelphia restaurant fame. It is not to be found in Newspapers.com but the Exponent (1877-1977) can be found in Newspaper Archive.

Other Jewish newspapers in Newspaper Archive include *Seattle Jewish Transcript* (1924-1975), *The Cincinnati Israelite* (1856-1879) & *The American Israelite* (1899-1997), *The Miami Jewish Floridian* (1928-1977), and *The Atlanta Southern Israelite* (1929-1977). It also includes *The Sydney Hebrew Standard of Australasia* (1895-1953). You can access it online with your LAPL card.

“NewsBank” similarly includes thousands of searchable, historical, and international newspapers. Most libraries in the LA/Ventura county area offer access to NewsBank, though the scope of newspapers varies. They also provide access to the historical *LA Times*, the historical *NY Times* and Data Axle Reference Solutions' nationwide phone and address lookup.

The T.O. and Ventura County libraries provide online access to Heritage Hub's collection of newspaper obituaries and death notices. The Camarillo, LA County, LA City and T.O. libraries provide online access to HeritageQuest. The LA City Library provides online access to MyHeritage (Library Edition), The San Francisco Chronicle (1865-1922), Encyclopedia Judaica, Jewish Data and A to Z Maps Online. The Long Beach Public Library offers access to the Newspapers.com California Collection (1852-2009).

While there is no guarantee it will continue, the LA City and the Ventura County libraries continue to provide free access to Ancestry Library Edition. I verified this on July 18<sup>th</sup>. I have a personal subscription to the U.S. edition of Ancestry.com and find the library edition a valuable addition. The library edition includes international information as well, which helps in my Canadian and British research.

Finally, I found a relative in the Massachusetts State Penitentiary in the 1910 census! I subscribed to the *Boston Globe* for just \$1/month for six months, and found extensive coverage of the trial as well as birth, marriage, and death information on a host of Boston relatives. I canceled before it converted to a regular subscription. Many newspapers offer bargain introductory online and print deals.

While I focused on Southern California libraries, if you are in another area and have not checked out local online library resources recently, you may be surprised at what you find.

*This is the eighty-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 <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.*

# JGSCV Updates



Welcome to new members:

*Sandra and Paul Katz*

## *Volunteers needed:*



**The Ventura County Fair is Wednesday, August 3 through Sunday August 14, 2022!**

It has not been held for two years due to the pandemic. For general information, go to:

<https://www.venturacountyfair.org/fair/>

In the past, JGSCV has had volunteers at the Ventura County Genealogical Society and Ventura County Family History Library booth. Each day there are three shifts of four volunteers. The shifts are from 10:00 or 11:00-2:30, 2:30 to 6:30, and 6:30-10:00. (The first shift's opening time will be either 10:00am on Saturdays, Sundays, and Senior Day Tuesday, August 11th or the regular opening time of 11:00am on the remaining days.)

To sign up go to: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AA4A822ABF4C70-ventura>

Once you've signed up, you will be contacted by email regarding the volunteer instructions and duties. This contact will happen about a month before the fair begins. Remember, volunteers receive free entry to the Fair each day they help staff the Genealogy Booth.

For more information about signing up contact Trelene Parigian, Ventura County Family History Center, [mptpwithd@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mptpwithd@sbcglobal.net) or at 805-647-0426



*"A Country Fair with Ocean Air"*



## 2022 JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
August	No Meeting <i>IAJGS conference: August 21-25</i>	
Sept 11	TBA	New York City Tenement Museum
Oct 9	Leora Raikin	Lithuanian Jews: Migration to South Africa
Nov 6	TBA	
Dec 11	TBA	Annual Meeting, Elections, Chanukah Party

# Genealogy Odds and Ends



## Latvia Free Online Historical Newspapers

*Ancestor Hunt* has listed Latvia Free Online Historical Newspapers. Go to: <https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/latvia-free-online-historical-newspapers/> for the list of Latvian newspapers with links and dates of coverage.



The **JewishGen Memorial Plaques Database (MPD)** is a database containing 225,000 Yahrzeit Plaques/records, along with 150,000 photos, from 417 synagogues, institutions and memorials representing 41 countries.

Many of these sources include patronymic information.

The MPD database can be accessed at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/>

## 10 Steps to Start Building Your Family Tree

Not sure where to begin your genealogy search? Follow these 10 surefire foundational steps for Beginning Genealogists

<https://tinyurl.com/p5ze4ant>



Click picture or [IAJGS Conference](#)



## Portuguese Inquisition

An 18th-century document detailing the activities of the Portuguese Inquisition, which punished people for upholding Jewish traditions and committing other transgressions, has been found by the National Library of Israel and made available online. It is a 60-page document written in Portuguese which mainly recounts public hearings and executions taking place between 1540 and 1669, mostly in Lisbon called autos-da-fé, which were carried out by the Catholic Church. The manuscript was found in the library's archives.

The inquisition began in 1536, as a response to a surge of forcibly converted Jews crossing into the country from neighboring Spain, where they were fleeing similar atrocities. The hearings and executions carried on for more than two centuries and were considered acts of penance for the accused.

To read the article, go to:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/national-library-finds-rare-18th-century-text-detailing-portuguese-inquisition>



