We hope everyone is well and staying safe!

We had an excellent program on October 3rd with Renee Steinig, who talked about “skeletons in the closet” – cases of mental illness, illegitimate birth, infidelity, abandonment, and even murder – all hushed up for decades, and about the research tools she used to uncover them. She described the reunions and reconciliations that followed her discoveries. The handout for Scandals, Shandehs and Lies: The Stories Families Don’t Tell, is available on our website under https://jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html with the October 3rd date. Read more about her presentation in Highlights on page 4.

Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for facilitating the “ask the experts” session which began prior to the program.

We have not received new submissions for our family histories column that began last July after our June 2020 speaker, Joan Adler, suggested we write anything as a memory. This is your newsletter, and we would love to include more of these excellent, fascinating family stories. If you have a story to share please send it to both Diane Goldin our newsletter editor at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and me at president@jgscv.org. If you need assistance, Diane is eager to help you.

The 2020 Census information is out. I contacted my city, Agoura Hills, and asked them to send me the results for Agoura Hills. I would recommend each of you who are interested to do the same for your city. I was surprised to see a reduction in population— but then for the first time in history California is losing one of its House of Representative seats—more people moved out of California than in.

The JGSCV Board met on October 18 via Zoom to review the rest of the year, our budget year-to-date, future programming, and how to provide additional services to the members in 2022. Our current Zoom programs have yielded travel savings and help preserve budgeted program dollars. More on additional services and 2022 programming in future announcements. Our January and February speakers are confirmed. See page 10 for a list our future confirmed speakers.

As required by the JGSCV bylaws, the Nominations Committee report was presented at our October Board meeting

(Cont’d next page)
The Board accepted the Nominations Committee report. The 2021 Nominations Committee is composed of Judy Karta chairperson, Pat Fuller, member-at-large and Karen Lewy, board member. Also following JGSCV’s bylaws, the committee’s report is to be published in the announcement for the November general meeting and this notice in the November issue of Venturing Into Our Past meets that requirement of publication.

The following members will be on the slate for election which will be presented to the membership at the November meeting and open from the floor for any qualified person to add their name to the slate: Warren Blatt, Andrea Massion, Issie Perel—all current board members, and Barbra Finsten who serves on our Publicity Committee. Per JGSCV’s bylaws: “Additional nominations to the Board of Directors may be made at the November general meeting. Any person nominated from the floor must either be present and orally agree to serve or have signed a written acceptance that is available for inspection at this meeting.” Elections will be held at the December 12 annual meeting.

We started our membership renewal in October for 2022 and of course anyone who joins now has their membership through December 2022! A renewal/membership form is on page 14. At the writing of this president’s letter, we have about 26% who have renewed for 2022.

We will continue to have genealogical Chanukah gifts for those who renew/join by the December meeting and attend the December program. JGSCV has received gifts from Ancestry (worldwide subscription, subscriptions to newspapers.com, fold3.com, DNA test), My Heritage- complete annual subscription and DNA test, Geni 1-year Pro subscription, Legacy Software, Legacy webinar one-year subscription, Family Tree DNA test—which can be used toward an upgrade if you already took the basic test with them, Family Tree Maker 2019 and RootsMagic Version 8.0 software. That is 12 prizes. Each of these prizes are valued between $79-$350—all way above the cost of a JGSCV subscription—please renew/join. See our fabulous prize sponsors on page 13.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, “Contingency Planning” on page 7. This is the 72nd issue of this interesting series.

Andrea is continuing to collect family recipes for our online recipe book. Please send her any family recipes you wish to share. The Board was given an early peak to what Andrea has thus far put together and it is an excellent project. Please participate by sending in a recipe and add any genealogical information about the family member’s recipe including a photo of the “recipe creator” if appropriate. If you have the original handwritten recipe, please also send that to Andrea at Andrea@jgscv.org. See page 11.

Our next meeting is on Sunday November 7th with return speaker, Janette Silverman, Ph.D. talking on Finding Information to Support Family Stories of Holocaust Survivors and Victims.

Stay well and be safe!

Jan Meisels Allen

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When Visiting Ben at Christ Church...

While recently paying homage to founding father, Ben Franklin at Christ Church Burial Grounds, we were introduced to Major David Salisbury Franks, the highest-ranking Jewish officer in the Continental Army during the American Revolutionary War. Yellow fever killed Maj. Franks in 1793. Enlarge the photo to find out how his body was saved from the strangers’ burial grounds. Maj. Franks remains close by Ben Franklin in Christ Church Burial Ground where five signers of the Declaration of Independence rest.

Read a detailed biographical letter from Franks to Gen. Washington here:
https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-02-02-0202

Read a frank and detailed biography here at the website of the National Museum of American Jewish of Military History:

Read about the historic Jewish cemetery of Mikvah Israel nearby:
http://www.mikvehisrael.org/e2_cms_display.php?p=past_cemeteries#

And Speaking of Digging...

Site of Toronto’s Immigrants 1880’s to 1950

In Toronto, an archaeological dig revealed far more than just a lost neighborhood. St. John's Ward, the storied immigrant enclave that existed from the 1840s to the 1950s in Toronto’s city center, has been uncovered from tar and dirt. Jews, Blacks, Italian and Chinese sites, homes, churches and a synagogue have been unearthed and studied. More than 300,000 artifacts have been collected. Learn more:
http://www.myseumoftoronto.com/programming/the-ward/

Fortunoff Library Resources at Yale

The Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies has its roots in New Haven, Connecticut in the 1980’s. Its links and archives provide numerous other sources for research including black U.S. soldiers’ reactions to the camps and, links to collections including video, photography and international sources. It is the home of the podcast Those Who Were There: Voices from the Holocaust, the only Holocaust history podcast dedicated to bringing the firsthand testimony of Holocaust survivors, liberators, and witnesses out of the archives. The Fortunoff Archive also provides access to Holocaust and other genocide testimonies recorded by the USC Shoah Foundation. Explore at: https://fortunoff.library.yale.edu/about-us/our-story/
**Highlights from: Scandals, Shandehs and Lies: The Stories Families Don’t Tell**

By Jan Meisels Allen

On October 3, JGSCV members were privileged to have Renee Steinig, professional genealogist and member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), talk to us about “skeletons in the closet” -- cases of mental illness, illegitimate birth, infidelity, abandonment, and even murder, all hushed up for decades – and about the research tools she used to uncover them. She also described the reunions and reconciliations that followed her discoveries. Renee’s handout is available on the JGSCV website [https://jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html](https://jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html) with the October 3 date.

Renee started with Harold Weiss, AKA Chaim Weiselberg, a Hungarian immigrant from the Bronx who, suffered from tuberculosis and headed to Denver for treatment. According to family lore, he was hanged there, for “stealing horses.” Using census and naturalization records, newspaper reports, and Google, Renee confirmed that Harold had indeed been in Denver and that he was indeed executed, but for a very different reason – murder.

For privacy sake the names of the other cases Renee discussed are not included, just first initials.

Next, Renee discussed a JewishGenner’s older half-sister, C., who appeared to have vanished when he was a little boy. Renee used New York City marriage records to find C.’s married name and her father’s naturalization petition to learn her date of birth. That information led to a listing in the Social Security Death Index and to uncovering a sad story of C.’s 44-year hospitalization in a New York State mental hospital following the birth of her only child, who for decades was led to believe that she had died in childbirth.

The next story involved another New York State psychiatric hospital and a child, B. who was born there in 1954 and subsequently adopted. Thanks to the “non-identifying information” provided by the adoption agency, B. knew that his birth mother had fled Vienna in 1939 with her parents and younger sister. Using this and additional information found in family records, Renee and another volunteer identified Bob’s mother. They learned that she was diagnosed with schizophrenia during her pregnancy and hospitalized at Central Islip State Hospital, where she died 14 years later. Happier news was that her sister was still alive and that she welcomed hearing from her nephew. The stories and memorabilia she shared gave B. a better understanding of the mother he never knew.

In another case, M., a married bowling alley owner from Great Neck N.Y., had a years-long relationship with one of his employees and in 1949 their daughter, A., was born. A. A and her mother were M.’s secret family, who he visited weekly until his death in 1962. Sixty years later, A. had no close family and hoped to find her older half-brother. Challenged by the family’s common name, Renee used cemetery records and obituaries to identify collateral relatives and reached out to them on Facebook. With their help, she contacted M.’s son.
who was happy to hear from his sister. They soon met and together visited M.’s grave, to “tell” him that they had found each other.

One early search, predating the Internet, involved a Jewish GI whose love affair in Belgium in 1945 produced a son. Almost 50 years later, after the deaths of the parents who raised him, the son, W., sought to find his father. Responding to W.’s search ad in the English-language Forward, Renee looked for the father’s name in a new product that had just come on the market -- Phone Disc on CD-ROM. It listed two men with that name and one, a phone call revealed, had served in Belgium. When W. wrote to him, M. responded warmly. He also shared that his relationship with W.’s mother was “doomed from the start” because she was not Jewish. Because of his parents’ strong objections to their marriage, he returned to New York alone. W. and his father soon met, and they spoke weekly until M.’s death five years later.

Another story emerged after Renee spoke in her daughter’s synagogue in Baltimore. During the question-and-answer period, A., a synagogue member, related that he was born to an unmarried mother and never knew his father. He knew his father’s name, age, birthplace (Kentucky), and occupation (doctor) from his own birth certificate but given the common name – Smith -- he felt he would never find him. Renee then related how she was able to find the father on the 1940 census and went on to learn about him and his family using newspapers.com, Google, and Find-a-Grave. Finally, property records and intelius.com led to A.’s half-brother, who was shocked but happy to hear from A. The men subsequently met, visited family sites together, and -- though they had little doubt -- took DNA tests to confirm their relationship.

Renee said she enjoys this genealogy work and while she searches on behalf of clients, she also does research pro bono. She gets great “nachas” from the outcomes, knowing she has made a difference in people’s lives.

During the question-and-answer period, Andrea Massion asked about trying to find a deceased relative who died in a mental institution. This led to a discussion of the difficulty of obtaining records from mental institutions and to comments about psychiatric disorders which were misdiagnosed decades ago. Jan Allen mentioned a previous speaker to JGSCV, Steve Luxenberg, author of Annie’s Ghosts, who did not know until after his mother’s death that she had had a sister who was institutionalized. Renee added that when a sibling “vanishes” from censuses and other records, a possibility to be open to is hospitalization in a psychiatric facility. In such cases, Ancestry searches with “patient” or “inmate” in the keyword field sometimes yield results.

The presentation was excellent and informative. Many of us have “mysteries” in our family tree and Steinig provided many tools for us to explore and hopefully solve our mysteries. She can be reached at: genmaven@gmail.com

Renee Steinig began to do genealogical research in the 1970s, inspired by a cousin who made it look easy. Many family trees and some 18 years later, she began to accept client work. Her specialties include New York research, locating lost family, and due diligence for probate cases. She is member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and has testified as an expert witness in several New York City Surrogate’s Courts. A past president and longtime trustee of the JGS of Long Island, Renee is also a director of Gesher Galicia and its discussion group moderator and Family Finder editor.
Kristallnacht: Night of Broken Glass 83rd Anniversary November 9-10

This year marks the 83rd anniversary of Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht, "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass" took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. Jews were terrorized throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia that were occupied by German troops. At least 91 Jews were killed in the attacks, and 30,000 were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked. The attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned (95 in Vienna alone) and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.

According to the Free Dictionary, Herschel Grynszpan, a 17-year-old Jew, assassinated the third secretary at the German embassy in Paris on November 7, 1938, to avenge the expulsion of his parents and 15,000 other Polish Jews to German concentration camps. This gave the Nazis the excuse they’d been waiting for and Goebbels urged Storm Troopers to stage violent reprisals—which resulted in Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht marked the transition in Nazi policy. It was the first violent pogrom (riot) on Western European soil in hundreds of years. Immediately after Kristallnacht, a fine of one billion marks was levied, not upon the criminals, but upon the victims, the Jewish community of Germany. Nazi policy had now moved into the overt destruction of all Jewish life in the Third Reich.

To read more about Kristallnacht see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristallnacht and https://tinyurl.com/ybhwfeu4 for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum write up.

While there are commemorations throughout the US and other countries, it is best to Google for this to find out what is happening closest to you to commemorate Kristallnacht. For Los Angeles 2021 the Holocaust Museum of Los Angeles is holding a free virtual event on November 9, 2021: https://www.discoverlosangeles.com/event/2021/11/09/remembering-kristallnacht

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum is hosting free A Virtual Evening to Honor Holocaust Survivors on Wednesday, November 10, 2021 at 4:00PM Pacific Time. To register go to https://events.ushmm.org/profile/form/index.cfm?PKformID=0x62131abcd. While the evening is free, the Museum does suggest a donation.
Practicing Safe Computing #72: “Contingency Planning”

Hal Bookbinder

In early October, Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Messenger experienced two outages totaling eight hours. These outages do not appear to have been the result of malware or hacking. Rather, they appear to have resulted from internal system changes. As we become increasingly dependent on the Internet, such outages, whatever the cause, can be more than a minor inconvenience.

The Facebook outages highlight the importance of having a backup plan for the various services on which we rely. If you do not already have alternatives in place for the communication apps you use, like Messenger, Twitter, and Gmail, now might be a good time to think about this.

Here are ten other contingency planning actions to consider:

1. Download an alternate browser (Firefox, Chrome, Safari, Edge, Tor). It is easy and free to have a ready backup to invoke when your regular browser isn’t functioning properly.
2. Have an alternate driving directions app in your car or on your smart phone so that you can still find your way when the primary app is down (physical maps, anyone?)
3. Download the passwords stored in your cloud-based password manager. Keep this, and a copy of your master password in a password-protected file and in a secure physical place.
4. Have alternate emails and phone numbers for friends and family. We have all experienced emails that bounce and phone numbers that no longer work.
5. Back up your picture and data files automatically BOTH to the cloud and to a local device. Either should provide 99%+ protection and availability. But 99.99% is better.
6. Consider having a second device available to replace your primary computer. When my desktop’s sound would not function, I switched to my laptop and was able to teach an online class.
7. Most smart phones offer “hot spot” functionality. Be sure you know how to turn yours on so that you will still be able to connect to the Internet during an internet disruption or power outage.
8. In a disaster, local phone lines can be overloaded. Have a disaster plan with someone hundreds of miles away to receive and relay calls between you and local members of your family.
9. Agree on an alternate physical location for the family to gather if a fire, flood or earthquake blocks access to your normal gathering location and jammed phone lines restrict communication.
10. While I’ve lived without a cell phone, I would feel isolated and vulnerable today without one. Consider having an inexpensive backup phone on a different service.

Contingency planning weighs the likelihood of an occurrence, the impact should it occur, and the cost of reducing the risk. Events, such as Facebook’s outage, bring this need into focus.

This is the seventy-second 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.
Library Volunteer needed

We are looking for someone to take over part of Issie’s job as librarian. While he plans to stay on as librarian, Issie would like to turn over the copying of electronic newsletters—about 9—and placing them in the binders at the Agoura Hills Library. Except for our monthly newsletter, the other newsletters are quarterly. While it can be a board position, that is not required. If you are interested in this position, please contact me at president@jgscv.org.

(easy) Fundraising Opportunities

While we rely on your dues to operate, we also need additional revenue to keep up with what we do. Here are two easy ways to further assist our society.

When shopping at:
- Ralph’s or Food for Less, list JGSCV as your charity of choice.
- Amazon please do so through the Amazon Smile program.

Neither of these opportunities cost you any additional money and both result in contributions to JGSCV. For more information, see “noteworthy” on our website at https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html

Membership Renewal & your chance to win FABULOUS prizes!

Did you know that joining and/or renewing JGSCVS membership today gives you membership through December 2022!

Those who join/renew will be entered in our Chanukah drawing (*must also attend December meeting) for the chance to win fabulous gifts donated by our generous sponsors. See items and sponsors on page 14.

A renewal/membership form is on page 15.

Note regarding payment:
Warren is working on technical issues with PayPal, you do not have to wait for it to renew or join. Send a check made out to JGSCV and mail to our membership vice president, Helene (her address is on the form).
If you prefer to pay by in-person, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org.

When we have PayPal working, the board will consider opening our meetings to non-members for a fee per meeting which can be then put toward the person’s membership fee if they decide to join.

In Memorium

Irv Camhi
June 20, 1938 - July 12, 2021

Irv was elected to the JGSCV board in December 2018 and started to serve in January 2019 and due to health reasons resigned in May 2019. May his memory be a blessing.
Finding Information to Support Family Stories of Holocaust Survivors and Victims

Many of us have stories about our family who remained behind in Europe and elsewhere who were murdered or survived the Shoah. Some stories are about people who survived and who started new lives. Often the stories are about someone we never met, and who the teller of the story also never met. They may start with something like "my grandmother said that one of her brothers survived and resettled somewhere but we never heard from him after that." Other stories reveal memories of mysterious letters arriving decades after the war from unidentified people. The recipients of the letters wouldn’t talk about the people who sent them. How do we find out about these people? Are there resources we can investigate which have information about their lives? Did they have descendants? Silverman will focus on several stories of people who survived the Shoah and finding their stories.

Speaker: Dr. Janette Silverman is a professional genealogist, heading a team of researchers specializing in Eastern European and Jewish research at AncestryProGenealogists® the division of Ancestry® that does private client research. Her research on behalf of clients takes her all over the U.S. and Europe. Silverman holds a Doctorate in Jewish Studies from Spertus Institute. Her dissertation, "In Living Memory" explored her family's journey from Europe to the U.S. from the 1880s to the 1920s, contextualizing their experiences.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are $30 for an individual and $35 for a family. Anyone may join JGSCV https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf
### Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through February 2022

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

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, November 7th**

1:30-3:30PM via Zoom

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<tr>
<td>November 7</td>
<td>Janette Silverman, Ph.D.</td>
<td>Finding Information to Support Family Stories of Holocaust Survivors and Victims</td>
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<td>December 12</td>
<td>Floriane Azoulay, Executive Director, Arolsen Archives</td>
<td>Researching the Arolsen Archives</td>
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<td>2022</td>
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<td>January 9</td>
<td>Robert Watson</td>
<td>The Nazi Titanic: The Incredible Untold Story of a Doomed Ship in World War II</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Steve Morse</td>
<td>Getting Ready for the 1950 Census Searching With and Without a Name Index</td>
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The final deadline for “Feeding the Family Tree,” a collection of treasured recipes, memories and artifacts is November 12, 2012.

To create a JGSCV (online) Cookbook, we are requesting your participation to submit a recipe handed down to you. It can be a digital photo of your recipe card or paper, or a typed recipe, along with your memory or “lore” of the recipe’s history.

Please include your name & contact info and email to andrea@jgscv.org and/or president@jgscv.org or snail mail to: Andrea Massion, 711 Ocean View Dr Port Hueneme, CA 93041

“Feeding the Family Tree” is a project of JGSCV. It will be posted on our website for Hanukkah 2021 as a gift to our supporters of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Conejo Valley and Ventura County, California
Grandchildren of “The Boys” — the young Jewish men and women who arrived in Britain after liberation in 1945 — have put together a groundbreaking online archive about their grandparents’ experiences.

Under the direction of 45 Aid Society vice-chair Philip Burton, and historical adviser Rosie Whitehouse, this ongoing research project gives details of the birthplaces of The Boys, their journeys to the UK, the hostels where they stayed after their initial few months in Windermere, in the Lake District, and new and often previously unrecorded information about the people who cared for them.

The Boys’ Story — ’45 Aid Society

The IAJGS has announced the 2022 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy August 21-25, 2022. It will be held in Philadelphia, PA and co-sponsored with the JGSAGP (Jewish Genealogical and Archives Society of Greater Philadelphia). They are planning an in-person only not virtual conference. The annual session for presidents and others will have the only virtual component.

Proposal submission due date is November 21, 2021 11:59PM Central Standard Time)

The call for proposals and information is available at:

https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2022/call_for_proposals.cfm

FamilySearch Completes Massive Microfilm Digitization Project

Huge news: after 83 years of filming the world’s historical genealogical records, FamilySearch has completed digitizing its 2.4 million rolls of microfilm. Over 200 countries and principalities and more than 100 languages are included in the digitized documents.

The best part? The archive, which contains information on more than 11.5 billion individuals, is now available for free on FamilySearch: https://tinyurl.com/eextpk65

Extensive new online archive of ‘The Boys’ launched

Grandchildren of “The Boys” — the young Jewish men and women who arrived in Britain after liberation in 1945 — have put together a groundbreaking online archive about their grandparents’ experiences.

Under the direction of 45 Aid Society vice-chair Philip Burton, and historical adviser Rosie Whitehouse, this ongoing research project gives details of the birthplaces of The Boys, their journeys to the UK, the hostels where they stayed after their initial few months in Windermere, in the Lake District, and new and often previously unrecorded information about the people who cared for them.

The Boys’ Story — ’45 Aid Society

The Latvia & Estonia Research Division has added new content on Estonia, both on the History of Estonia page, and in the Overview - Estonian Resources section. This includes in-depth information on the National Archives of Estonia and the Estonian Jewish Museum.

For details and links, please see: https://latvia.jewishgen.org/news-and-updates
Our Generous Contributors for Chanukah Prizes
*Join or Renew before December AND attend December meeting (12/12) for a chance to win
2022 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 2022
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.)
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