PRESIDENT’S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

As I write this president’s letter my eyes are glued to the news about what is happening in Ukraine. Many of us, me included, have ancestral roots in the region—some may have family there. My paternal grandfather was born in Brody—then in Galicia but today located in western Ukraine. I have been in touch with the Ukrainian researcher I have hired in the past and who attended and spoke at IAJGS conferences Alex Denysenko. On Thursday, he said he was fine as he was in Lviv. I know Andrea Massion was in touch with her Ukrainian researcher, Alex Dunai, who also has attended and spoken at IAJGS conferences—at that time he responded to Andrea he and his family were ok. As the situation is fluid, we are all concerned for their well-being as we are for all Ukrainians.

Gesher Galicia and HIAS each have a fund-raising site; If you wish to make a donation go to:

To make a tax deductible donation to the appeal please click here:
HIAS: https://act.hias.org/page/6048/donate/1
Gesher Galicia
https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BFNESQFEZPASC

Our February 6, 2022 program was Getting Ready for the 1950 Census: Searching With and Without a Name Index with Stephen P. Morse, the creator of the “One-Step” web pages. This was an informative, timely, and amusing presentation. For many of us, including me, the 1950 U.S. Census is the first census that we will be enumerated in. When the 1950 census is released on Friday, April 1, 2022, it will not be indexed. Therefore, we can either wait to search the census once Ancestry, FamilySearch, or the National Archives (NARA) has published a name index—which can be months—or use the tools Steve Morse and his associate, Joel Weintraub provided. Steve’s handout is posted to the JGSCV website under https://jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html with the February 6 date. To read the highlights of the program go to page 4.

The National Archives published a press kit that has information about the release of the 1950 U.S. Census. They have a 1950 Census National Archives Genealogy Series which you can have access at:
https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-series/2022

I am concerned that only 80% of the members have renewed their membership for 2022. Those who have not renewed have received an email from me. We are meeting monthly by Zoom with excellent speakers, publish an award-winning newsletter while many genealogy societies no longer have a publication, and members receive an email from me every two weeks with genealogical information. I really do not want to have to call those who have not renewed and then if they do not renew remove (Cont’d next page)
them from the membership—my most unfavorable job as president. Please, if you have not renewed yet, do so now. A membership renewal form is available at https://tinyurl.com/3mkj322w and on page 15 of this newsletter. If you need one snail-mailed to you, please let me know.

The JGSCV Board of Directors met on January 27th. According to our bylaws, the board determines which person has which assignment. Everyone decided to retain their existing responsibilities—those are listed on both the masthead of our newsletter and on our website https://jgscv.org/. At that board meeting, we approved the 2022 budget. To continue as we have been, and plan for in-person meetings we need you to renew your dues. Even though we are meeting remotely (for now) we do have expenses: speaker honorariums, Zoom contract, insurance, web domain, security fees for Temple Adat Elohim to name but a few.

I have been asked when we are going to start meeting in person again. We have Zoom meetings with out-of-town speakers confirmed through June 2022. See page 9 for a list of our future meetings. Our annual Genealogy in the Round program, when members share a success, brick wall, or artifact is scheduled for July 10th. We are not meeting in August as the IAJGS conference is during that month. Therefore, the board is looking at September or October to start meeting in person, dependent upon JGSCV Board determination, the pandemic/endemic status, and room availability at Temple Adat Elohim. I am in touch with members of the Temple’s board of directors regarding in-person meetings in the Fall. Their board is reviewing our proposal.

As mentioned above, our July 10th meeting is our annual Genealogy in the Round. Being home for the better of two years, I am hopeful many of us spent some of that time doing genealogy and have made some great discoveries to share. Please contact me (president@jgscv.org) if you are willing to share your success, brick wall, or artifact. We need at least 7 participants.

Remember that RootsTech 2022, the largest genealogical conference in the world is March 3-5, 2022. It's virtual and free to attend! Registration is required, and there are 1,500 sessions—something for everyone. See https://www.familysearch.org/rootsotech/. Included is a series on General Jewish Genealogy https://tinyurl.com/35r2u9px and more.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, Upgrading to Windows 11. This is the 76th issue of this interesting series. See page 6.

We are excited to share Family Histories as a space to share your family stories. Joan Adler, our June 2020 speaker, suggested our members write up memories and genealogical discoveries to publish in our newsletter. Helene Rosen has written a story about her great grandparents, Memories of Louis and Sarah Rosen which is on page 8.

Our next program is Sunday, March 13th, by Zoom, with Chuck Weinstein talking on the Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy. This program explores the commonly believed stories that prevent people from finding out more about their family history. With good humor, Chuck Weinstein will provide ideas that will help you uncover the truth about your family history before they emigrated to the US and will help you understand how to research the records that are available to you in Europe. See more about this meeting on page 12. Helene will send JGSCV members the Zoom information on Friday, March 11th.

Looking forward to “seeing” you soon.

Jan Meisels Allen
Revisiting the Gutenberg Project

Browsing the online Gutenberg Project, a volunteer effort to digitize and archive cultural works, allows a genealogist to experience the world of your ancestors with books written for prior generations. Search by key words, country, city, Jewish topics, and names. The collection grows. Here’s a few of interest:

- **Russian Memories** by Madame Olga Novikoff who was known for promoting a “great new friendship between England and Russia” by explaining Russian culture and politics to Britain. This book from 1915 includes her explanation for anti-Semitism, and why England should beware of the influx of Jewish immigration from Russia. It’s all in Chapter 8. [https://www.gutenberg.org/files/54507/54507-h/54507-h.htm#chap08](https://www.gutenberg.org/files/54507/54507-h/54507-h.htm#chap08)

- **A History Of The Inquisition Of Spain** 4 volumes (1907)

- **A History of the Inquisition of the Medieval Times** 3 volumes,(1887) by Henry Charles Lea, LLD. The details in these volumes may be difficult to read, but the research and support he received from archives and specialists is notable. Read about Professor Lea and his special collection at Penn State University at [https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/special-notable/groups/henry-charles-lea-library](https://www.library.upenn.edu/collections/special-notable/groups/henry-charles-lea-library)

Auctioning Off Fame in Any Century

In June, 1956 Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe married in a civil service followed by a Jewish religious ceremony two days later. Monroe went through conversion with Rabbi Robert E. Goldburg and was gifted with a Hanukkah menorah Hanukkah) by Miller’s parents. The brass piece was on display at the Jewish Museum in New York in 2015-16. It was auctioned off in 2019 for just over $90,000.

More at [https://www.kenstbaum.net/auction/lot/Auction-85/085-234/](https://www.kenstbaum.net/auction/lot/Auction-85/085-234/)

Should you have a line of rabbinic scholars in your tree, Kestenbaum recently had an auction of Rabbinic texts from the 19th and early 20th century. They are from around the world and the United States including a booklet on the Hevra Kadisha (Burial Group) in Brooklyn associated with the synagogue *Zichru Toras Moshe* in East New York in 1908.

See them at [https://www.kenstbaum.net/auction/Auction-92/](https://www.kenstbaum.net/auction/Auction-92/)

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Highlights from: Getting Ready for the 1950 Census: Searching With and Without a Name Index

By Jan Meisels Allen

On February 6, 2022, JGSCV members had the opportunity to hear Stephen P. Morse, the creator of the “One-Step” web pages discussing, Getting Ready for the 1950 Census: Searching With and Without a Name Index. This was an informative, timely and amusing presentation. For many of us, including me, the 1950 U.S. Census is the first census that we will be enumerated in. When the 1950 census is released on Friday, April 1, 2022, it will not be indexed. Therefore, we can either wait to search the census once Ancestry, FamilySearch or the National Archives (NARA) has published a name index—which can be months—or use the tools Steve Morse and his associate, Joel Weintraub provided. Joel spoke with us in July 2020 about using their search methodology. See Venturing Into Our Past https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing_V15_N11.pdf page 5 for highlights of Joel’s presentation.

At Steve’s request our meeting was not recorded. However, on Steve’s One-Step Website (https://stevemorse.org/) there is a “perfect” recording of this lecture. That recording may be accessed at: https://tinyurl.com/324mzn56 or full url: https://stevemorse.org/lectures/Getting%20Ready%20for%20the%201950%20Census.m4v

Steve also provided a handout which is posted to the JGSCV website under https://jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html with the February 6 date.

Background on the 1950 U.S. Census

Crista Cowan, Ancestry’s Corporate Genealogist said, “the 1950 U.S. census contains the details of names, ages, birthplaces, residences, and relationships of more than 150 million people. This glimpse into American households at a critical time in U.S. history will help people discover even more about the effects the Great Depression, World War II, and the beginning of the Baby Boom had on their families. Many of our customers will see themselves, parents, or grandparents’ names in this census for the first time, which will bring even more family stories to life.”

Ancestry is partnering with FamilySearch to evaluate the handwriting recognition extraction and ensure a complete and accurate index.

The National Archives News has released an article entitled Release of the 1950 Census Will Increase Access to Records (see: https://www.archives.gov/news/articles/1950-census-stl). The holdings at NARA’s St. Louis facility include the military personnel records of individuals who separated from service more than 62 years ago, as well as the civilian personnel records of former federal employees who separated prior to 1952. Census records have long been an important resource for archives staff to help locate a requested individual’s record.

The National Archives and Records Administration has been seriously impacted by the pandemic, resulting in a large backlog of records requests and limited ability to permit researchers to use facilities.

The 1950 date is the first census following World War II. Additionally, in 1973 the sixth floor of the National Personnel Records Center burned for four and a half days, destroying some 16–18 million Official Military Personnel Records for the Army and Air Force. Army personnel in 1945 alone numbered over 8 million, and while the tragic loss covered a period from 1912 to 1960, the estimated loss of Army records is 80 percent. The 1950 census overlaps with the service period of records affected by the fire. It’s because of the possibility that “service” is listed as the kind of work an individual is doing, the information found in the census could lead to other records that could list military service, such as Selective Service. NARA’s collection of Civilian
Agency records run through 1951, which is an indication of government employment that could lead to an Official Personnel Folder.

The One-Step Website

As mentioned above, Steve created the One-Step Website. He has worked with Joel Weintraub since 2001 covering the 1930, 1940 and now the 1950 censuses. The website is: [https://stevemorse.org/](https://stevemorse.org/).

At the request of the speaker, unlike the previous 17 years of highlights, there will not be one published on his lecture. Steve prefers that you read his article available at the aforementioned website: [https://stevemorse.org/census/1950census.htm](https://stevemorse.org/census/1950census.htm)

In closing Steve reminded us that the day the 1950 census is released there will be no name index. It will take months for the various genealogical organizations that plan to have the name index created to do so. Therefore, one will have to use the One-Step Website and the aforementioned techniques to obtain the information we will want on our families listed in the 1950 census—if we do not want to wait until the name indexes are published.

Steve then answered questions about the presentation.

He was thanked for an excellent, informative, and amusing presentation.

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Steve Morse creator of the “One-Step” web pages, has been a mainstay of genealogy research, inventing tools that ease research work for both the novice and the experienced genealogist. He managed to get EllisIsland.org to use his approach in order to ease research on that site and has developed special tools that help handle data as each new U.S. census has been released. For details on his enormous number of research aids, see his website at [https://stevemorse.org/](https://stevemorse.org/)
If you have a Windows 10 PC running a recent Intel (or other manufacturer) processor, Microsoft should offer you a free upgrade to Windows 11 during the next few months. If Intel, this means generation 8 (gen 8) or higher. You can view the Windows version and processor generation by entering “system information” to the right of the Windows symbol:

“OS Name” shows the Windows version. “Processor” will include something like “i5-9400” or “i7-12700”. The one or two characters after the dash is the generation; so, these are a gen nine i5 processor and a gen twelve i7 processor. Windows 11 is not intended for gen 7 or earlier as some features require components that were not included until gen 8.

Most PCs sold during the past three years are gen 8 or higher. Note that Windows 11 is only free for those already running Windows 10. Microsoft offers a tool to verify that a PC meets Windows 11 minimum requirements. It can be downloaded at: https://www.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11#pchealthcheck.

You may choose to accept or defer the upgrade. Some prefer to defer for six months or so to give Microsoft the opportunity fix bugs that escaped extensive testing. New releases typically have potentially disruptive bugs. Others opt to pass as they prefer Windows 10 and can choose to upgrade later. Microsoft has committed to supporting Windows 10 through 2025.

Windows 11 emulates some of the Apple Mac’s look and feel. It also supports a growing suite of Android apps (like those on a Samsung smartphone). Here are a few of its features:

- It will let you set up, and toggle between, virtual desktops in a way that is similar to Macs. You could switch between desktops set up for work, home, and genealogy.
- It includes features called Snap Groups and Snap Layouts allowing you to simultaneously bring up multiple tasks that you typically want to run at the same time.
- It integrates Teams, which includes video conferencing, directly into the Windows 11 taskbar, making it easier to access (similar to Apple’s FaceTime).
- For tablets, it improves the experience for touch screen, key typing, voice typing and consistency of commands across the system.
- It includes certain features found in Xbox consoles, like Auto HDR and DirectStorage, to improve the gaming experience on a Windows PC.
- And a decision to upgrade is not final. Once you have installed Windows 11, you have ten days to freely fall back to Windows 10.

For more on Windows 11 see, https://www.pcmag.com/reviews/microsoft-windows-11

This is the seventy-sixth 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.
While we rely on your dues to operate, we also need additional revenue to keep up with what we do.

There are two opportunities further to assist your society. When shopping at:

- **Ralph’s or Food for Less**, list JGSCV as your charity of choice
- **Amazon** log on through the Amazon Smile program
  https://smile.amazon.com/ref=nav_logo

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

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**Family Histories**

We are excited to share Family Histories as a space to share your family stories. Joan Adler, our June 2020 speaker, suggested our members write up memories and genealogical discoveries to publish in our newsletter.

This month, Helene Rosen shares about her great grandparents in *Memories of Louis and Sarah Rosen*, on page 8.

If you have a story to share, please send to both Diane Goldin our newsletter editor at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and Jan at president@jgscv.org. Diane is eager to help you with details and layout.
Memories of Louis and Sarah Rosen
By Helene Rosen

Lithuania

My great grandmother was Sarah and she was from Merkine (formerly Meretz, Meretch) Lithuania. Her father’s first name was Avrom and her mother was named Ethel. Their last name was, and still is, a mystery.

When Sarah passed away, the person who gave the information for her death certificate said her maiden name was Kresky. That is the only place I ever saw that name. When, after many years of searching, I found the steamship record for her arrival in Baltimore with her three youngest daughters, I found that she traveled under the name Tore (probably a misspelling of Sara) Paretzki. It was the first and only time I saw that name as well. Another relative had speculated that the name started with a K. I once hired a researcher to review the Mormon records from Merkine that are written in Russian, and he was unable to find any record of the family in that town but there is no doubt that that is where they came from.

Sarah had one brother named Meyer Grutsky (could this have been Kresky? Or vice versa?). He was a yeshiva bocher and died at 19.

We don’t know whether my great grandfather Louis was originally from Merkine or somewhere else. His father’s name was Samuel. Samuel had two marriages. Louis’s Jewish name was Haim Leib.

I am related to the prominent Melinkoff family in California through Sarah’s first cousin. Her father, Avrom, had a sister who was the link.

I am also related to the Bell family in Santa Fe, New Mexico, possibly through Sarah’s aunt Leba Rifka. The exact connection has been lost to time. I remember my mother telling me how we were connected but I was a kid and didn’t write it down.

Immigration

Louis left Merkine and immigrated to the United States in 1892. It is likely that he left to avoid conscription in the Russian army. He was married with children at that point but that didn’t seem to matter. He settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. It is only speculation, but he may have chosen Pittsburgh because Sarah’s cousins, the Mussoff (later Mellinkoff) family, was already there.
The two oldest children Sam and Mollie traveled to the US together arriving in Baltimore on the Willehad on July 21, 1898, and met up with their father.

Finally, Sarah arrived in Baltimore with their three girls, Mary, Ida, and Eva in August 1899 on a ship called the Crefeld. A cart and horse had been hired to transport the family out of town and Sarah’s mother followed after the cart when it left Merkine crying hysterically. Eva remembered seeing soldiers returning from the Spanish American War when they arrived in Baltimore.
The Growing Family

Louis and Sarah had seven children total. The oldest was Sam, followed by Mollie, Mary, Ida, and Eva, all born in Europe. Sam was a twin whose sibling had died at birth. Once they got to the US, two more sons were born, Jacob (Jack) and Isadore. Their daughter, Mary, gave birth to a daughter, Lillian, who was my mother.

Pittsburgh Life

Details of the Rosen family’s life in Pittsburgh are scarce. Louis was a peddler. Sarah had a strong personality, and her grandchildren didn’t particularly like going to their house. Sarah was involved in charitable activities. They kept a strictly kosher home. They lived at various addresses:

- 84 Crawford St, Pittsburgh, PA – 1900
- 1543 Wylie Ave., Pittsburgh, PA – 1910
- 1 Whiteside Road, Pittsburgh, PA – 1930
- 3 Whiteside Rd, Pittsburgh, PA – 1920
Louis died from liver cancer in 1931. Sarah lived with her daughter Mary until she too passed away in 1934, contracting pneumonia while walking to temple in bad weather on Louis's yahrzeit. Once Sarah was gone, her children stopped keeping kosher.
The Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy explores the commonly believed stories that prevent people from finding out more of their family history. With good humor, Chuck Weinstein will provide ideas that will help you uncover the truth about your family history before they emigrated to the US and will help you understand how to research the records that are available to you in Europe.

Speaker: Chuck Weinstein, has been involved in family research for over 30 years. He has traced his own family back to the 15th century in one branch. An early volunteer for JewishGen, Chuck was chosen the first Susan E. King Volunteer of the Year in 2019. He is a Past President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island, Vice President of the Genealogy Federation of Long Island, and the Towns Director of the JewishGen Ukraine Research Division. Chuck grew up in the San Fernando Valley, but currently lives in Bellport, NY.

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

For more information contact: information@JGSCV.org or call
Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616  See: www.JGSCV.org
# 2022 JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

## NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, February 6

**1:30-3:30PM via Zoom**

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<td>March 13</td>
<td>Chuck Weinstein</td>
<td><strong>The Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy</strong></td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Libby Copeland <em>interviewed by Allan Linderman</em></td>
<td><strong>The Lost Family, How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are</strong></td>
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<td>May 1</td>
<td>Wendy Lower, Ph.D.</td>
<td><strong>Annual Yom HaShoah program:</strong> The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed</td>
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<td>June 5</td>
<td>Mike Marvins</td>
<td><strong>Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Genealogy in the Round</strong></td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>NO Meeting</td>
<td><strong>IAJGS conference: August 21-25</strong></td>
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<td>Dec 11</td>
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<td><strong>Annual Meeting, Elections, Chanukah Party</strong></td>
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#JewishGenUpdates
The partnership between JewishGen and MyHeritage

1) While a significant percentage of records - but not all - have been licensed to MyHeritage, JewishGen will continue to serve as the free, dynamic, independent, and indispensable resource for Jewish genealogical research that thousands of people rely on each month.

2) All records will always be freely available on JewishGen. This includes all current records along with those that are added which are not on MyHeritage.

3) The goal of this agreement is to expand reach and help introduce JewishGen to thousands of MyHeritage users who would otherwise not be familiar it. This happens in a couple of ways. First, JewishGen records will appear in search results on MyHeritage. Second, JewishGen records will appear in MyHeritage’s “Smart Matches”. Each record contains source attribution with a link back to JewishGen. In this way, we will not only help those doing Jewish genealogical research, but also encourage new researchers to visit our site, utilize our resources, and ultimately become members of our JewishGen community.

4) This agreement will drive a significant amount of traffic back to JewishGen, and we have created a helpful “welcome page” here: https://jewishgen.org/welcome-myheritage/

Here’s how to help Ukraine’s Jewish community:


American Jewish University to Sell Familian Campus in Bel Air and Invest in Expanded Digital and In-Person Offerings

https://tinyurl.com/2p84n9aa
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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