

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

April 2022

Volume 17 Issue 7

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

We continue to watch with horror how Russia is trying to decimate Ukraine. We support the humanitarian needs for the Ukrainians resolve to remain independent. Many of us have ancestral roots in the region and some have family there. We remain concerned for their well-being, and for all Ukrainians. We are calling for photos from JGSCV members taken while visiting Ukraine. We will post them in a page of support in next month's newsletter. Please send to me at president@jgscv.org.

As genealogists, we are also concerned for the preservation of archives to preserve their history and culture. Read the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) statement regarding protecting and preserving documents of our history and heritage at <https://iajgs.org/documents/LetterToKhromov.pdf>.

Gesher Galicia, HIAS, Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Jewish Federations of America each have a fund-raising site to support those impacted by this crisis. If you wish to make a donation, you may do so at:

Gesher Galicia: <https://tinyurl.com/5t2zt684>;

HIAS: <https://act.hias.org/page/6048/donate/1>;

Joint Distribution Committee: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9y2ejh>

Jewish Federations of America: <https://tinyurl.com/3dk2wuns>

Our March 13 program was with Chuck Weinstein on *Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy*. Weinstein explored commonly believed stories that prevent people from finding out about their family history. With good humor, Chuck Weinstein provided ideas that will help you uncover the truth about your family history before they emigrated to the U.S. and will help you understand how to research the records that are available to you in Europe. Chuck proved a handout which is posted to our website at: <https://jgscv.org/meetings.html> and scroll to the March 13 meeting date. See page 3 for the highlights of Chuck's program.

Our membership renewal is still at 80% and I know we can do better. Per our bylaws, anyone who has not renewed by the end of March will be dropped from the membership. During March (this letter is being written in March), I will call those who have not renewed to try to get them to renew or be dropped from membership-my most uncomfortable job as president. 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.

(Cont'd next page)

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, April 3rd
1:30-3:30 PM



Libby Copeland

***"The Lost Family:
How DNA Testing Is Upending
Who We Are"***

Members Only ZOOM

More info page 10

MAY MEETING

Speaker: Wendy Lower, Ph.D.

***"Annual Yom HaShoah program:
The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust
Massacre Revealed"***

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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Mission Statement:

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

A membership renewal form is available at <https://tinyurl.com/3mkj322w> and on page 13 of this newsletter. If you need one snail-mailed to you, please let me know.

For those who are researching New York City, the recent online free access to birth, marriage, and death records dating from the late 1800s to 1909 is a major genealogical treasure trove. See page 12 for more information.

On the JGSCV website, we have over 400 genealogical resources listed. When you are looking for a research area, blogs, cemeteries, government archives local library, FamilyHistory Center websites, immigration, and naturalization and much more go to: <https://jgscv.org/resources.html>

Remember that JGSCV is a member of both IAJGS and the National Genealogical Society (NGS) which are both having their conferences coming up. The NGS is both in-person in Sacramento 24-28 May 2022 and online 27-28 May 2022. The NGS has extended its early-bird rate to March 31. See <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

The IAJGS conference is virtual. See: <https://tinyurl.com/2w96xymx>

I mentioned previously that we have programs via Zoom scheduled through June 2022 with outside speakers. See page 11 for a list of outside speakers. Our July meeting is our annual Genealogy in the Round. **Please let me know if you'd like to participate in sharing a success, brick wall, or artifact.** We need at least 7 people to participate and share. 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.

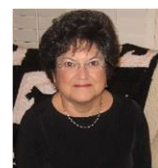
Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, "Nothing is certain but death and taxes". This is the 77th issue of this interesting series. See page 6.

We are excited to share "Family Histories" as a space for your family stories. This month we present "Escape from Russia" which chronicles Debby Wenkart's grandfather's harrowing effort to protect his family in 1907 from Poltava to Canada. See page 8. We would love to continue the series and invite you to submit your story. Please contact Diane (newslettereditor@JGSCV.org) and me (president@jgscv.org).

Our next meeting, Sunday, April 3, 2022, is with Libby Copeland, "The Lost Family, How DNA Testing is Upending Who We Are". Rather than a PowerPoint presentation, Libby will do an interview and the interviewer is our own Allan Linderman, JGSCV newsletter editor emeritus. "Genetic sleuthing" has changed many lives whether they have been tested or not, and millions have been impacted by significant revelations in their immediate families. Copeland's book and talk will feature the story of a woman named Alice, raised Irish-American Catholic, who learned she was half-Jewish through a DNA test - and embarked on an extraordinary journey 100 years into the past to uncover her family's true history. Helene will send JGSCV members the Zoom information on Friday, April 1st.

Looking forward to "seeing" you soon.

Jan Meisels Allen



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Highlights from: *Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy*

By Jan Meisels Allen

On March 13, 2022, JGSCV was delighted to have the opportunity to hear Chuck Weinstein talk on the *Three Great Myths of Jewish Genealogy*. Chuck is past president of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island and Towns Director of the JewishGen Ukraine Research Division. With great humor, Chuck provided ideas that helped uncover the truth about our family history before they emigrated to the U.S. and help us understand how to research the records that are available in Europe. His handout, *Internet Resources for Jewish Genealogy* is on the JGSCV website at: <https://jgscv.org/meetings.html> and scroll to the March 13 date.

Chuck announced that he will serve as Lead Chair of the 2023 IAJGS Conference. He would only say that it will not be in the United States—the location should be announced in several weeks to a month by the IAJGS.

The three great myths of genealogy are:

- It was a tiny little place that no longer exists.
- The Germans destroyed the records in the war.
- Names were changed at Ellis Island.

None of these are true!

Myth # 1: It Was a Tiny Place that no Longer Exists

Chuck suggests for help as town names and borders have changed over the years to use the JewishGen Town Finder—Communities database (<https://www.jewishgen.org/communities/About.htm>) and use *Where Once We Walked*. Not only did the town names change when the borders changed, but after the war some towns no longer wanted a Russian name, such as Vilna becoming Vilnius.

Myth #2: The Germans Destroyed the Records in the War

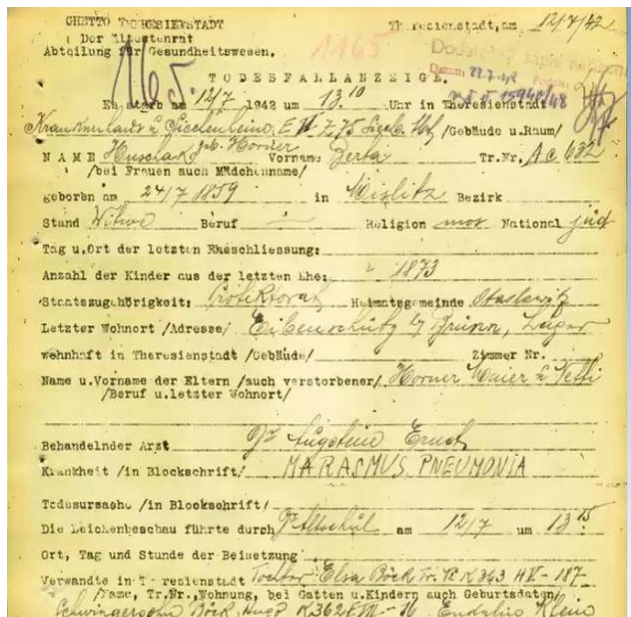
Yekkes, Germans who arrived pre-U.S. Civil War were very conscious of record-keeping, something they learned from the Germans. After the war, the British were able to capture the German Archives, including war records, and moved them to a town known as Bad Arolsen. The town was not bombed during the war and had radio and telecommunications so it was an excellent place to keep records. In the early 2000s, each of the 11 countries that signed the agreement for the International Tracing Service (Bad Arolsen), would receive copies of most, though not all of the records, enabling each repository to have copies for their repository. In the United States, the repository is the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. In Israel, it is Yad Vashem, in the United Kingdom it's the Wiener Holocaust Museum, etc. Today, many of the records from the International Tracing Service are online: <https://arolsen-archives.org/en/>. (Also see JGSCV's meeting highlights in our January 2022 Newsletter, https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing_V17_N4.pdf from our December 2021 meeting with the deputy director of Archive Giora Zwilling).

An example of a record that only Bad Arolsen has is transport records to Buchenwald.

Politisches Abteilung			
Wolmar-Buchenwald, 17. Nov. 1944			
Neuzugänge von 17. Nov. 1944			
Von K.L. Anschritt nach Aldo HASAG-Tschecha			
/eingetrotten am 10.10.44/			
Politisches Buchenwald/Juden			
1.	92742	Abets	Frans 5. 8.23 Mitten Dreher
2.	92739	Arnstein	Isidrig 24. 1.22 Prag Schladt
3.	92740	Arol	Georg 20. 3.10 Prag Schlosser
4.	92741	Aron	Wiktör 23. 5.05 Prag-Heide-Orly Automechaniker
5.	92737	Bazar	Orto 1.12.21 Prag Schladt
6.	92748	Bjoker	Karl 15. 4.20 Prag Schlosser
7.	92738	Beer	Walter 4. 5.22 Hahriach Ostrau Dreher
8.	92749	Bensach	Orto 1. 4.21 Radnitz Automechaniker
9.	92760	Berzer	Ernst 2.10.15 Berlin Dreher
10.	92761	Bleck	Erwin 23. 6.20 Muhlhausen Dreher
11.	92750	Bleck	Rudolf 17. 7.22 Pilsen Maschinist
12.	92752	Bondy	Georg 7.2.19 Pilsen Automechaniker
13.	92751	Bundi	Georglieb 25.11.07 Prag Schlosser
14.	92764	Bima	Albert 24. 5.05 Karlsruhe Elektriker
15.	92753	Braun	Kurt 1. 5.23 Tries Mechaniker
16.	92765	Brekmann	Hilf 1. 5.06 Apeldoorn Dreher
17.	92769	Bumser	Leo 17. 6.19 Pilsen Dreher
18.	92770	Bussant	Israel 3. 2.05 Ezeraka Schlosser
19.	92775	Dakter	Han 15. 8.14 Prag Schlosser
20.	92774	Dub	Frans 11. 4.23 Prag Dreher
21.	92775	Ewald	Wilhela 6. 6.96 Hahriach Ostrau Schlosser
22.	92779	Blamer	Peter 15. 5.20 Prag Heiser
23.	92777	Elias	Kurt 13. 4.13 Prag Schlosser
24.	92783	Feldner	Hoon 3. 7.25 Tejschan Maschin.Ers.
25.	92780	Feldmann	Berthold 7. 3.04 Prag Schlosser
26.	92782	Feldmann	Friedrich 22.12.09 Prag Automechaniker
27.	92789	Fiechl	Frans 23.11.13 Prag Automechaniker
28.	92790	Frenk	Richard 20. 4.05 Hahriach Ostrau Schlosser
29.	92783	Frenk	Gaschard 18.10.12 Janowitz Mechaniker
30.	92794	Frenk	Karl 12. 4.20 Pardubitz Automechaniker
31.	92792	Frenk	Frans 28. 4.23 Prag Schlosser
32.	92791	Frenk	Jacovir 8.11.21 Prag Schlosser
33.	92785	Fried	Karl 3. 8.25 Prag Schlosser
34.	92786	Friedmann	Karl 18.12.16 Ghassewsky Heiser
35.	92796	Friedmann	Max 2. 8.20 Tschartschan Mechaniker
36.	92797	Frisch	Alfred 31.10.20 Olmitz Werkzeugeher
37.	92787	Fuchs	Han 13. 3.17 Prag Dreher, Fleser
38.	92798	Gertner	Erwin 23. 7.13 Prag Masch.Schlosser
39.	92800	Goldschmid	Frans 24. 5.13 Prag Schlosser
40.	92802	Goldstein	Heinrich 3. 7.21 Schladt, Ostrau Dreher
41.	92803	Gross	Ernst 28. 10.21 Wien Dreher

Buchenwald Transport List People from Ghetto Wiener where they were slave laborers-going to Buchenwald.

Theresienstadt (Czech Republic) document was created to show the Red Cross how they were handling the “Jewish problem”, which of course after the Red Cross left, the Nazis confiscated their food and other accouterments.



*Death Record from Theresienstadt
For those who died from gunshot etc. German clerks
always listed in Latin for a disease- this one says
pneumonia.*

The Eastern European archives were essentially left alone. Some may have been destroyed due to neglect, insect damage, and damage through the years by fire and flood. Lithuania is an exception as the Lithuanians hid all their records during the war. Following the end of the Soviet Union in 1991, the Lithuanians did surveys to find any information and a group of engineers found in an abandoned mine with rows of file cabinets that housed the documents going from 1940 back to the Russian era.

Myth #3: Name Was Changed at Ellis Island

The third myth is that a name was changed at Ellis Island. The manifest was completed by the ship’s personnel at the port of departure in Europe and the name had to match the manifest. Chuck told us a story about Sid Caser when it was reported that his grandfather was born in Austria and his name was changed at Ellis Island. A group of Jewish genealogists worked on this and found that his grandfather was born in Austria and his last name was *Citzer* (a name that means tax collector) but was transcribed as *Caesar* at his departure port. During this process, the genealogists found relatives and descendants that Sid Caesar’s family did not know about. Sid Caesar’s ancestral town was in Galicia and today is now part of Poland.

People who came to the United States wanted to sound American. Therefore, many took different given names to sound American.

Why Jewish Genealogy is Important

Before going into the discussion of the myths, Chuck discussed why Jewish Genealogy is important. The Torah says “Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother” and including those who went before them. The *Tenach* is the best family tree as it talks about all the begetting i.e., Isaac begat Jacob, etc.

He also talked about records becoming easier to find online. More archives worldwide are permitting records to be filmed and put online. Most of what FamilySearch has microfilmed has been put online. Today, there are more sources of information than previously. But not everything is online—yet.

The Shoah became a driving force in studying families. More people are connecting with family long thought lost in the Shoah, but who survived the war and they and their descendants moved to Israel, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, North or South America. JewishGen’s family finder <https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/> helps.

Genealogy is keeping Jewish culture alive even as assimilation causes the loss of Jewish identity. Our DNA is approximately half from each of our parents. The further we go back on our family trees, the more we find out about ourselves.

Records Easier to Find Online

Today, these are metrical records, birth, marriage, and death records. JewishGen (<https://www.jewishgen.org/>) works with other groups to get records online such as JRI-Poland (<https://jri-poland.org/>), Gesher Galicia (<https://www.geshergalicia.org/>) and Litvak SIG (<https://www.litvaksig.org/>) (all three are independent organizations with their own 501-(c)(3) (non-profit) status.)

JRI-Poland has an agreement with the Polish State Archives (PSA) and one can order directly from the PSA by clicking on a link on the JRI-Poland website. The Litvak SIG for a fee one can order records before they are placed on the website. Gesher Galicia is a membership organization and can access records from Galicia.

For years there were no records from Ukraine and now there is an explosion of records coming out of Ukraine. If you can read old Russian, consider volunteering to the Ukraine Research Division. The Ukraine research division has connected with Alex Krakovsky who started by filing lawsuits against archivists in Ukraine as the archivists said it was forbidden to copy records. He won all his lawsuits against the archivists including up to the Ukrainian Supreme Court. He has put over two million Ukrainian metrical records online over the past five years. With the current war in Ukraine, we don't know the outcome for the 13 archives there.

Ancestry has a large number of Jewish records. At one time JewishGen and Ancestry had an agreement and those older records are still outside the Ancestry paywall. Ancestry has a European collection and one can access Ancestry at many local libraries.

Some websites that might be of assistance include:

Ellis Island Foundation <https://www.statueofliberty.org/ellis-island>

National Archives www.nara.gov has records from all ports of entry into the United States: Seattle, San Francisco, Galveston (TX), New Orleans, Philadelphia, New York City, Boston, and over the border from Canada and Mexico.

Chuck reminded us not to assume our ancestors only came through New York City—Castle Garden or Ellis Island. As listed above, there were a variety of ports the ancestors could have entered through.

FamilySearch, the genealogy arm of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, has digitized its entire collection. However, due to agreements with various archives, some may only be viewed at a FamilyHistory center. To see what they have and access the records one must register with FamilySearch.org—it is free.

(See <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>).

Yad Vashem Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project

To preserve the memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, Yad Vashem wants to collect their names and Chuck suggested if you know of anyone who died in the Holocaust to fill out a form. To view the central database or complete a form go to the Central Database of the Shoah Victims' Names go to: <https://yvng.yadvashem.org/index.html>.

JewishGen also has a large Holocaust database, many of the names coming from the Pages of Testimony.

Chuck then answered questions for about 30 minutes. During the Q/A, Hal Bookbinder added that there is a fourth myth: that one who serves in the U.S. military automatically becomes an American citizen. That is not true, and more recently some who served in Iraq and Afghanistan did not automatically become citizens, have been denied citizenship, and deported back to their native country. Every war since the Civil War, the government passed a law that speeded up the process for citizenship.

Chuck offered to answer questions by contacting him at: Chuck1@outlook.com

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.

Practicing Safe Computing Article #77: “Nothing is certain but death and taxes” (Ben Franklin)

By Hal Bookbinder



Have you considered what will become of your online presence after you die or become incapacitated? Many of us have wills and trusts to direct what is to become of our financial accounts and physical assets. But, what about our online presence on Facebook, LinkedIn, Ancestry, MyHeritage, FamilyTreeDNA, and many more?

If Facebook becomes aware of your passing, and you have not provided settings to delete the account on your death, it will be “memorialized”, or frozen. If your settings allow, friends may be able to share memories on a memorialized timeline. Facebook will only remove a memorialized account if they receive a valid request from your “Legacy Contact” or from an individual to whom you have granted legal power to act on your behalf.

If you choose to designate a Legacy Contact in your Facebook settings, that person may update your profile picture and cover photo, view posts, including private ones, authorize who can post tributes and request deletion of your account. The Legacy Contact, who must be a Facebook friend, may not log into your account, read your messages, remove any of your friends or make new friend requests.

For more information on what a Facebook Legacy Contact can and cannot do, see <https://www.facebook.com/help/1568013990080948>. For more information on what will happen to your Facebook account if you pass away, and instructions for setting up a Legacy Contact, see <https://www.facebook.com/help/1506822589577997?ref=tos>.

FamilyTreeDNA permits you to designate a “Beneficiary” who can control your account in the event of your death. See <https://help.familytreedna.com/hc/en-us/articles/360004731636-Beneficiary-Information-Tab>. Ancestry requires documents from your designated successor showing that they have been appointed to take over your account. See https://support.ancestry.com/s/article/Managing-a-Deceased-Person-s-Account?language=en_US.

MyHeritage requires a death certificate for the deceased webmaster and only permits a first-degree relative to take over the account. See <https://faq.myheritage.com/en/article/the-webmaster-site-creator-has-passed-away-how-can-i-delete-or-take-over-the-account>. If you have a personal genealogical website, have you arranged for what will become of it on your death?

Consider what you wish done for each of your online accounts. Do you want them canceled, temporarily continued, or transferred should you die or become incapacitated? Update settings where available and memorialize your preferences in a will and/or trust, designating an online executor. Store a list of your online accounts, with access codes and passwords in a separate, safe location accessible by your online executor after your death or incapacity. Periodically review this list and instructions.

I have long advised against sharing passwords and do not recommend it as your succession plan. Shared passwords may be further shared, misplaced, or misused, especially if your relationship with your backup changes over time. Provide these only when needed by your designated online executor. For additional guidance, Google “planning for your digital presence after death”.

This is the seventy-seventh 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

Family Histories

This month, Debby Wenkart shares about her beloved Zayde, whose quick thinking saved himself and rescued his family in *Escape from Russia* on page 8.

Family Histories is 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.

Submit your story 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.)

Two easy ways to further 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

Both programs are free and result in contributions to JGSCV

We just received the quarterly check for \$64.47 but only 22 members are participating. Whether you are a friend or member we appreciate your support and hope you will sign up for when you shop-even occasionally-at Ralphs or Food For Less. For more information and sign-up, go to JGSCV's website under Noteworthy <https://jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.

Escape from Russia

By Debby Wenkart

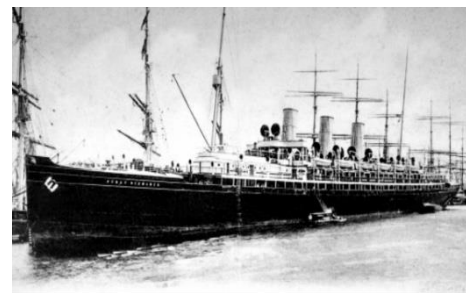
My Zayde was a warm and kindly man, just the kind of grandfather most kids adore. Zayde always brought us candy and “gelt” when he came to visit with my grandmother. He passed away when I was a young and it was only when I got older that I heard the dramatic story about how he escaped from Russia with his family and half-sister. Several years later he helped bring my great-grandmother, my grandmother and his half-brother’s family to Canada from Russia.

This side of my family is from Poltava, which was in the Pale of Russia. At the turn of the last century, it was rife with antisemitism and waves of pogroms going through the small towns and villages of Russia. The man I’d call Zayde was named David, and his relationship in our family shifted when spouses died, and non-blood relatives remarried. He was both my great uncle and my

step-grandfather, and he was notably a big, strong man.

He had already been conscripted several times into the Russian army. By 1905 he was a successful butcher and his younger sister ran the family butcher shop. One day, when David was out of town, he heard there was a pogrom in Poltava. He rushed back to his shop to find that his sister was being assaulted by a “pogromnick”.

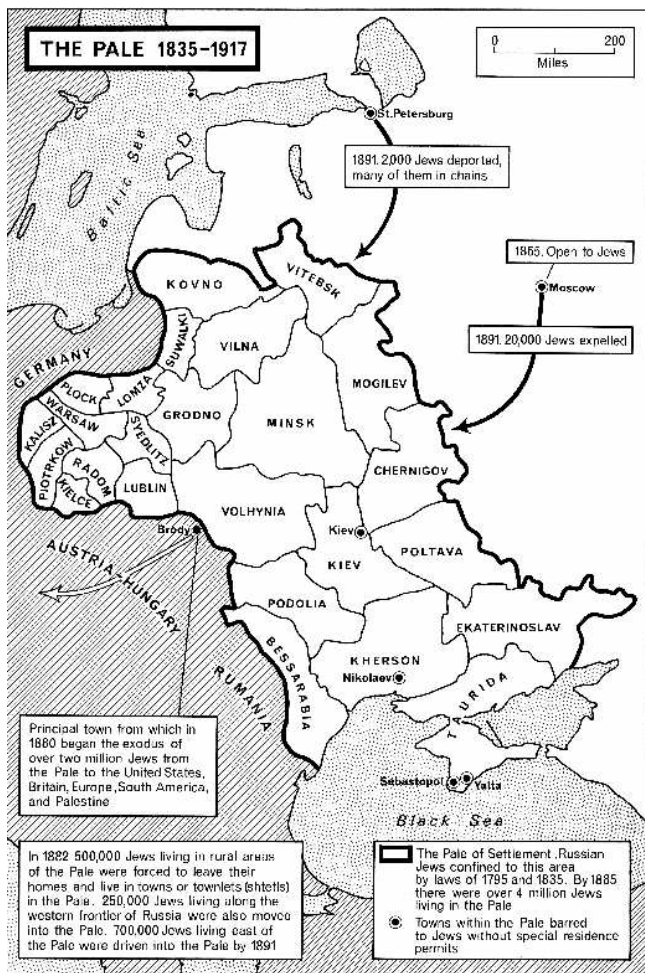
In anger, David, struck and killed the “pogromnick” and hid his body in the forest. My grandmother, Clara, age 8, and her mother, Reisa, hid in the cellar, terrified. My grandmother’s father, Moshe, was not home and never returned and he was presumed murdered by a “pogromnick”. David knew that he couldn’t get justice in a country that hated the Jews so he made plans to flee. He had a friend in Canada so he made haste to gather his family and flee with his wife, Scheine and their five small children. His half-sister, Pearl, accompanied them on the S.S. Moskwa from Libau, Latvia, to New York in 1907.



S.S. Moskwa, 1907

The ship’s manifest lists their final destination as Winnipeg. The family says that David had forged papers made. When my grandmother and her mother left Russia in 1910, they traveled under David’s surname and as his mother and sister, though in actuality they were his stepsister and stepmother. This false name change caused a bit of trouble years later in Canada.

From New York the family traveled to Winnipeg where the family settled on a small farm in Bird’s Hill. Within a few years, David went to work as a cattle broker and sent for his half-brother Morris. Morris came over and earned enough money to return to Poltava and brought his wife and 4 children to Canada in 1911.



The large extended family remained close. After David's 1st wife died and my grandmother, Clara's husband died, David and Clara --who were technically stepbrother and stepsister -- married in 1947. David had 7 adult children and Clara had 7 adult children. David was 22 years Clara's senior. (David's father, Wolfbear, married Reisa, Clara's mother, after his 1st wife died leaving him a widower. Reisa was also widowed as her 1st husband disappeared after being conscripted in the Russian army. Reisa raised David and his younger sister. Reisa had 2 children with Wolfbear, Pearl and Morris. After Wolfbear died, Reisa married Moshe and to her surprise had Clara at age 45).

David was much revered in our family for his generosity to many welfare organizations in Winnipeg such as the Jewish Orphanage, the Jewish Old Folks home, the Winnipeg General Hospital and the Community Chest. After David helped his own family escape, he continued to help other refugees from Europe. It was said that he traveled 14,000 miles helping refugees resettle in Canada after World War 2. In 1912, David, together with 10 other Jewish families, founded a Shul in Bird's Hill. The Beth Sha'ul Synagogue was founded in what was referred to as "Jew Town". It was in the heart of a small community of European Jewish immigrants trying to earn their livelihood as farmers.



David in 1912

At age 75, David was celebrated as a local philanthropist at a large dinner in his honor and interviewed by a Winnipeg newspaper. When David was asked why he left Russia, he responded that he had spent 4 years as a draftee in the Czarist army and then was conscripted again a few years later during the Russo-Japanese war. "In the army, conditions were poor and wages were low. No provision was made for his wife and family, who had to fend for themselves. When I returned from the front I decided to leave Russia. There was no feeling for people there and too much suffering".

To me, Zayde was the kind man who loved to spoil his grandchildren but to my family he was so much more.



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

Sunday, April 3, 2022, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Open only to JGSCV Members (see below for membership application link)

Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 1:10 PM

Zoom link will be emailed to members before the meeting.

April Meeting

Libby Copeland presents

The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are



Libby Copeland will explore the extraordinary cultural phenomenon of home DNA testing, which is redefining family history - and reshaping people's very identities. It will draw on Libby Copeland's years of research for her book *The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are*, which *The Wall Street Journal* calls "a fascinating account of lives dramatically affected by genetic sleuthing." With 40 million people having been tested, a tipping point has been reached. Virtually all Americans are affected whether they have been tested or not, and millions have been impacted by significant revelations in their immediate families. Copeland's book and talk will feature the story of a woman named Alice, raised Irish-American Catholic, who learned she was half-Jewish through a DNA test - and embarked on an extraordinary journey 100 years into the past to uncover her family's true history.

Speaker: Libby Copeland is an award-winning journalist who has written for the *Washington Post*, *New York Magazine*, *the New York Times*, *the Atlantic*, and many other publications. Copeland has been a media fellow and guest lecturer, and has made numerous appearances on television and radio.

Book Description: *The Lost Family* explores the rapidly evolving phenomenon of home DNA testing, its implications for how we think about family and ourselves, and its ramifications for American culture broadly. The *Washington Post* says *The Lost Family* "reads like an Agatha Christie mystery" and "wrestles with some of the biggest questions in life: Who are we? What is family? Are we defined by nature, nurture or both?"

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**

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
April 3	Libby Copeland <i>interviewed by Allan Lindereman</i>	The Lost Family, How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are
May 1	Wendy Lower, Ph.D.	<i>Annual Yom HaShoah program:</i> The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed
June 5	Mike Marvins	Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939
July 10		Genealogy in the Round
August	No Meeting <i>IAJGS conference: August 21-25</i>	
Sept 11	TBA	
Oct 9	TBA	
Nov 6	TBA	
Dec 11	TBA	Annual Meeting, Elections, Chanukah Party

Genealogy Odds and Ends



RECORDS ACCESS ALERT!

The New York Municipal Archives, part of the NYC Department of Records and Information Services (DORIS) has published millions of birth, marriage and death records online—for free access!

To see the complete listing of records available online go to:

<https://a860-historicalvitalrecords.nyc.gov/digital-vital-records>

This page also lists available years by borough for births, deaths, and marriages.

To purchase a certified copy of a vital record not available on the aforementioned website, they fill out the vital records form at: <https://www1.nyc.gov/site/records/historical-records/order.page>

The genealogical community, NYG&B, APG, Reclaim the Records, Records Preservation and Access Coalition and many others are owed for this success.



RECLAIM THE RECORDS

Identifying, introducing, preserving, archiving, and sharing to freedom of information laws since 2013

Reform of the Portuguese Nationality Law and Changes to the Portuguese Citizenship Process

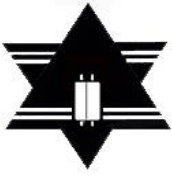
The Government of Portugal is reported to be amending the Sephardic nationality law allowing descendants of Sephardic Jews to be citizens. The proposed change is that applicants need to have a house in Portugal, a Portuguese bank account or travel to Portugal often.

Sephardic Heritage Project works with Sephardic communities around the world. We are committed to help descendants in our Jewish communities.

Sephardic Heritage Project is a non-profit organization and it encourages the Government of Portugal to admit applicants of undoubted Sephardic ancestry.



[HTTPS://WWW.SEPHARDICHERITAGEPROJECT.ORG/HOME](https://www.sephardicheritageproject.org/home)



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.)

