

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

May 2022

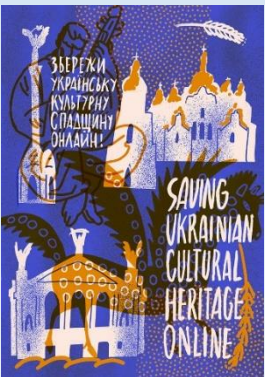
Volume 17 Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

We continue to watch the strength of the Ukrainian people and government as Russia tries to decimate Ukraine. We support the humanitarian needs for Ukrainians' resolve to remain independent. Many of us, me included, have ancestral roots in the region—some may have family there. As the situation is fluid, we are all concerned for their well-being as we are for all Ukrainians. As genealogists, we are also concerned about the preservation of their historical and cultural archives. Following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, library and archive professionals around the world have been reaching out to their Ukrainian counterparts to help them make sure that information about the war is preserved.

"Today, teams of archivists and librarians are heeding a similar call and are working to save Ukrainian library and museum collections. Their efforts echo the work of the Monuments Men who, during the Second World War, gave "first aid to art and books" and engaged in the recovery of cultural materials."



There is an initiative from the Austrian Centre for Digital Humanities and Cultural Heritage in Vienna to gather "links to the digital collections of Ukrainian museums, libraries, archives and any other cultural institution which has digitized cultural heritage." SUCHO now includes the work started by the US Music Library Association and the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies to rescue cultural heritage collection data and sites in early March: <https://www.sucho.org/>

Gesher Galicia, HIAS, Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), Jewish Federations of America each have a fund-raising site as do non-sectarian organizations; If you wish to make a donation, go to:

Gesher Galicia: <https://tinyurl.com/3zyctr73>

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

Joint Distribution Committee: <https://tinyurl.com/36cv9nx6>

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

Doctors Without Borders, Ukraine: <https://tinyurl.com/3d6vyudr>

UNICEF: <https://tinyurl.com/fb2r9man>

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 1st
1:30-3:30 PM



Wendy Lower, PhD

"The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed"

Members Only ZOOM

More info page 10

JUNE MEETING

Speaker: Mike Marvins

"Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939"

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.

Our April speaker was Libby Copeland discussing ***The Lost Family: How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are***. Rather than the usual type of presentation, Copeland was interviewed by our own Allan Linderman, JGSCV newsletter editor emeritus. The highlights of this program are on page 4.

Hal Bookbinder's Practicing Safe Computing article *1950 Census Search Tips* discusses the 1950 census. See the article on page 8. This is the 78th issue of this interesting series. Additionally, look at Genealogy Odds and Ends on page 12 for more 1950 Census info.

If anyone missed RootsTech 2022, it is now available online and free with registration: <https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/search>.

Remember that JGSCV is a member of both IAIGS and the National Genealogical Society (NGS), both of which have conferences coming up. The NGS is both in-person in Sacramento 24-28 May 2022 and online 27-28 May 2022. Online registration is open for both in-person and virtual attendance through 13 May 2022 at 7:59PM (ET). <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

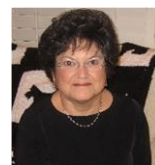
The IAIGS conference is virtual: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2022/index.cfm>

We have programs via Zoom scheduled through June 2022 with outside speakers. See page 11 for the list. Our July meeting is our annual *Genealogy in the Round*. Please let me know who would 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 due to the IAIGS conference. Therefore, the board is looking at September or October to start meeting in person, dependent upon the JGSCV Board determination on 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.

Our next meeting is Sunday, May 1st and it's our annual Yom HaShoah commemoration. Our speaker is Wendy Lower, Ph.D. talking on *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*. Lower was shown a rare photograph just brought to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The documentation of the Holocaust is vast, but there are few known images of a Jewish family at the actual moment of the murder, in this case by German officials and Ukrainian collaborators. A Ukrainian shooter's rifle is inches from a woman's head, obscured in a cloud of smoke. The woman is bending forward, holding the hand of a barefoot boy, and the shins of another child, are slipping from the woman's lap. Wendy Lower's detective work—in Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Israel, and the United States—recovers astonishing layers of detail concerning the open-air massacres in Ukraine. Professor Lower is the John K. Roth Professor of History and George R. Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College. Lower chairs the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and served as Acting Director of the Jack, Joseph and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the USHMM (2016-2018). Helene will send JGSCV members the Zoom information on Friday, April 29th.

Happy Passover and for our non-Jewish members and friends have a Happy Easter.

Jan Meisels Allen



VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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NEXT YEAR IN UKRAINE

Op-ed on Resiliency in UKR

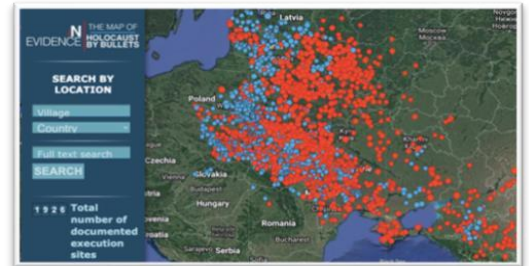
In case you missed it, this L.A. Times article recorded the activities of the Jewish community in Dnipro around Purim: <https://tinyurl.com/bdhh6x2d>

Father Patrick on YouTube

Father Patrick DesBois of *Yachad In Unum* and the front runner to identify, mark, and research all locations of Nazi genocide during WWII, as well as interview living witnesses before they die, posted support for Ukraine on YouTube. Father Patrick serves on the advisory committee for Babi Yar (Babn Yar) memorial in Kiev.

To see his video find the YouTube link on their website

Map can be found at: <https://s/yiu.ngo/en>



Map of Evidence shows sites in red already substantiated by Yachad in Eastern Europe

What Happened at Babi Yar?

For an update and alternate viewpoint on the bombing of Babi Yar last month, as well as some history leading up to the 1991 opening of the site as a memorial, check out these articles:

New Yorker: <https://tinyurl.com/2y5d8ama>

The Smithsonian Magazine website: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8vrzwj>



Page 3 contributor Andrea Massion and cousin Chris Tauschek Crawley visit their grandfathers' shtetl, Ananiev, Ukraine in 2005.

So many of JGSCV's members research family that lived in Ukraine. Some have travelled there and enjoyed its lush fields, historical cities, architecture, and food. Perhaps you had hoped to go there for same.

May it be so ~

"Next year in Ukraine"

And Finally, Something Lighthearted

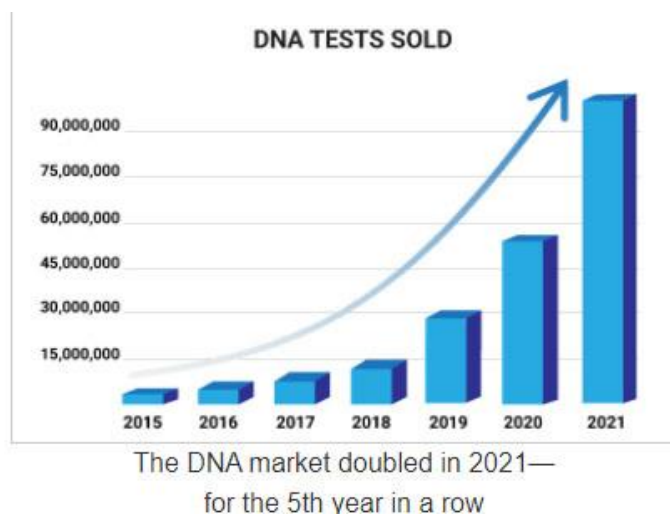
The Jewish Museum of the West posted an article and photos from Mel Roberts, "son of an Arden (brand) milkman." His father kept a sample of customers' notes in his Boyle Heights (L.A. neighborhood) delivery area. They will make you smile. See them at: <http://www.jmaw.org/jewish-milkman-boyle-heights/>

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

By Jan Meisels Allen

On April 3, 2022, JGSCV members had the opportunity to hear Libby Copeland speak on the extraordinary cultural phenomenon that is home DNA testing. It is redefining family history and reshaping people's very identities. Copeland's presentation was presented in an interview style, with questions posed by Allan Linderman, JGSCV's newsletter-editor emeritus.

There are tens of millions of people worldwide that have taken DNA tests - the vast majority from the United States, with the total number of people tested by consumer genetics companies doubling in 2021 for the fifth year in a row, according to an MIT study. As many people purchased consumer DNA tests in 2018 as in all previous years combined (<https://www.technologyreview.com/2019/02/11/103446/more-than-26-million-people-have-taken-an-at-home-ancestry-test/>)



https://geneticsdigest.com/best_ancestry_genealogy_dna_test/index.html

The results of these home tests sometimes provide stories straight out of *Law and Order* and *Blue Bloods* episodes from years ago. There have been newspaper articles on similar findings—most recently in the *NY Times* <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/02/28/health/fertility-doctors-fraud-rochester.html> where in Rochester NY three physicians began to secretly use their own sperm to help women become pregnant.

The Wall Street Journal calls Copeland's book, *The Lost Family, How DNA Testing Is Upending Who We Are*, “a fascinating account of lives dramatically affected by genetic sleuthing.” With 40 million people having been tested, a tipping point has been reached. There are four major DNA testing Companies: Ancestry, 23andMe, FamilyTreeDNA and MyHeritage. Technically, 99% of the white American population is virtually in one of these four databases. All Americans are affected whether they have been tested or not by virtue of a relative testing and being in the database. Everyone at the JGSCV meeting is potentially identifiable to someone in the database. Therefore, there is no longer such thing as an anonymous sperm donor or a closed adoption. Parents are no longer in charge of an adoption narrative. Millions have been impacted by significant revelations in their immediate families. The way we have historically operated about parentage is now over. Parents must talk with their children differently. Today there are contexts and mores that didn't exist a generation ago.

The New York Times review said, “For many, the results help flesh out family trees they already recognize. Others, including people adopted as children or conceived with donor sperm, can resolve longstanding questions about their birth parents. But some receive shocking surprises, like an “NPE,” shorthand for “non-paternity event” or “not the

parent expected” — revelations that one’s mother or father is not who the person thought they were. *The Lost Family* explains the rise of the consumer genetics industry and how “search angels” — citizen-scientist genetic genealogy experts — devote hours to helping “seekers” solve DNA mysteries.”

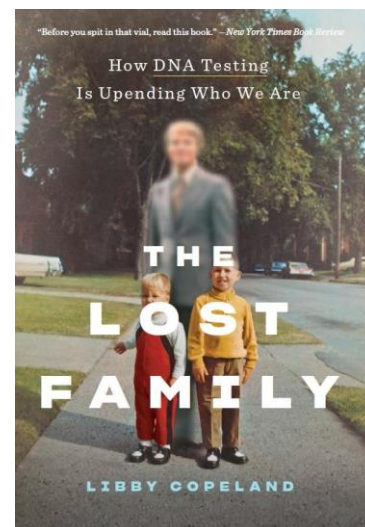
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/03/books/review/lost-family-libby-copeland.html>

Copeland’s book makes us ask questions we previously never thought about “our” parents. As asked in the aforementioned *New York Times* review, “How much of your sense of yourself should scientists and algorithms be allowed to dictate?”; “What makes us who we are?”; and “Is it always better to know the truth?” Family dynamics vary and only you know how disclosure of such NPE might affect yours, whether the parents or grandparents are still living or now deceased. Copeland reminded us that DNA results are genetic *estimates* which are less precise than matching of individual members. DNA testing is a tool in the genealogists’ arsenal, working along with the family tree and the individual’s research and vital records documents. Copeland also reminded us that the various genealogy DNA companies’ databases contain more samples from people with European backgrounds, and less from African or Latin American ancestry. While individuals can have different reactions to learning about unrevealed mysteries of non-paternity events in their families, with home DNA testing previously undisclosed family secrets are no longer possible to keep “secret”.

Surprising DNA Ethnicity Results Ferret Out Family Secrets

Copeland’s book relates stories of people who, via research or DNA testing, discover unexpected facts about themselves and immediate family. In each instance, her subjects contacted their new relatives, including biological parents and half-siblings; some received welcomes while others were met with disinterest and rejection— which can be painful.

The book features the story of a woman named Alice, raised Irish American Catholic who learns she is half-Jewish through a DNA test - and embarks on an extraordinary journey 100 years into the past to uncover her family's history. Alice’s story gives a glimpse into what happens when your biology and/or heritage differs from what was presumed or practiced. This type of news has become a wide-spread American phenomenon. DNA testing leads to more precise answers about what is biology, inheritance, the meaning of genes in context to ethnicity, religion etc. Alice had her own journey of what it means to be Jewish when she thought she’d always identified as Irish Catholic until the DNA discovery.



Linderman asked about identity versus genetics. He quoted CeCe Moore and asked if Jews have both scientific and cultural meshing creating self. Copeland referred back to Alice thinking she is an Ashkenazi Jew; the DNA test shows a pie chart with ethnicity **estimates**—a regional view—that asks do we look a certain way? Human beings are 95.9% genetically identical. As we are so similar to each other the home DNA testing companies have to work very hard to distinguish one from the other to understand what the distinctions mean. Some “background” noise may disappear from further testing by the companies—they are continually refining their algorithms.

While one can trace ethnicity in a family, adoptions into a Jewish family do not have a genetic basis and yet adoptees are still Jews. Copeland tells a story from the book where a Chinese girl is adopted by a German American family and is asked what she is, and she says she is German American. People can be both the ethnicity they grew-up with and that which the DNA says they are.

Another story from the book is about Rosario who grew up thinking he was Italian and at age 50 finds out he is part Black. His mother is bi-racial and told him he was Sicilian to explain his very thick, curly, black hair. This was his mother’s way of protecting him from the discrimination she experienced growing up in a white community in Vermont. Rosario has to ask himself how to incorporate this information in his life. What does he want to do? Honor his history where his grandfather was imprisoned for his relationship with a white woman—or not claiming his

“Blackness” is a way of rejecting everything he came from. In truth, he has not lived the “Black experience” so he does not want to claim it, as he does not really understand what his Black relatives experienced.

Seekers

Copeland uses the term “seeker” in her book for the people she interviewed. The three kinds of “seekers” are:

- Old time genealogists- pre-Internet-they had to write letters to people for research. They turned to DNA testing early-on as they understood the need to piece together DNA testing with the contextual work done to match the cousins who matched you.
- People who had a specific question-perhaps they never knew their genetic father. Such as adoptees who are looking to identify their birth father before he passes away or from a state that continues to prevent adoptees from accessing their original birth record.
- Buy the DNA kit when it is on sale or receive it as a gift. Having taken a DNA test may be a “form of entertainment.” Self-exploration and the results force them to confront these complex questions, about identity, albeit for a small percentage of the population. These people don’t anticipate what they may be finding-and unlocking family secrets.

Seekers don’t realize they may get the answer to a question they did not mean to ask. This happens when no one on the DNA results are familiar.

Who We Are and the Family Dynamic

How we define ourselves – who we are and our family dynamics — have deeper philosophical considerations thanks to genetic technology. Asking how we define ourselves became the basis for Copeland’s book.

Allan Linderman related a personal story. About 6-months ago, someone contacted him saying Allan’s first cousin was this person’s father - a surprise to Allan who then reached out to his cousin to confirm. He told his cousin the story and asked him if he wanted to share contact information with this person and his first cousin said he’d think about it and get back to Allan. So far, he has not. If it had been Allan, he said he’d want to speak to the potential adult child of his but his cousin does not and so it has been dropped. Copeland said it is a common occurrence. There are two sides to the quest: the person who is seeking and the person who rejects the contact. She said there needs to be a guidebook to help us with this type of situation. What are the dynamics of this? What if his wife finds out? Was he married when he fathered the child? If he has other children, how do they feel about it? How does the oldest child feel about being displaced in the birth order? What about the stories about the patriarch? Are we dispelling the “myths” about how great Dad was? Does it clash with how the father thinks about himself?

Copeland has seen a variety of reactions to such stories.

- The father embraces his newly found child
- A lawyer letter to the child saying stop contacting my client
- Father may have multiple offspring—large donor siblings 20-100 siblings to donor –father donated sperm in the 1970s and now has additional 20 children. How does one navigate this?

One can be grateful for boring results—but what about that small sample whose results yield unexpected surprises? DNA tests remain popular, despite these possibilities.

The Big four DNA companies are owned by investment firms or are public companies. The more kits they sell the more they can increase their revenues. What is going to happen? 23andMe has gone the health route-now you can provide your information with drug breakthroughs or other disease modalities. The lucrative development for 23andMe is for the drug development and health insights. On the other hand, Ancestry is more research oriented—at least for now--and has a different model. If you DNA tested with them and are not a subscriber, you will likely be intrigued to find out who is related to you on their trees. The DNA test becomes the gateway to subscribe. With the U.S. market almost saturated, the companies are expanding outside the United States.

Pharmacogenomics—what are the genes and diseases and what pharmaceuticals are best for them.

Nutrigenomics—look to see what foods you should/should not eat

How many hours of sleep or what you should eat are “not there yet” according to Copeland. These “wild west DNA companies” we don’t know what they are doing. They are not regulated. Best advice is buyer beware.

DNA Testing for Criminal Research

DNA testing is used for criminal research - finding the Golden State Killer and CeCe Moore’s investigative work using DNA, for example. Some DNA testing companies have stated they will not share the DNA results with law enforcement except when served with a court order or subpoena. The privacy implications have had a mixed reaction from the DNA seekers. Some see no problem with sharing their DNA results while others do not want their DNA in a law enforcement database.

As Ashkenazi Jews what should be aware of? For example, which companies are best? Copeland says the biggest databases are the best as you are more likely to find a relative in a larger database. Depending on where you test may find more endogamous results—finding they intermarried within the family over time- results in finding you are related to more people. but this makes it more difficult. Jews surnames do not go back very far; Ashkenazi Jews used patronymics --son of father’s name, such as Abramowich, the son of Abram.

You Can be Identified Through the Databases

Copeland believes it is possible to identify someone through one of the databases based on who you are related to and with medical conditions that could be identified. Bioethicists vary in their opinions on this. A genetic genealogist was more concerned about his grocery store loyalty card being exposed (since it contains his address, a record of purchases, time at the store, etc.) versus his DNA which is hard to interpret.

Copeland also related Jackie’s story, who was adopted and very curious to find her biological parents and family. She’d been placed in a basket at a pastor’s doorstep at 4 days old. She was put in touch with her biological siblings through LA County Social Services. A year later, she took a DNA test, whose results showed that LA County Social Services made a mistake and united her with unrelated persons. Jackie then used genetic genealogy to find her actual siblings. She also discovered her parents are deceased. After 35 years of searching, she found maternal sisters and other relatives on 23and Me. She reached out to all matches, some have refused contact, insisting that the woman indicated as Jackie’s mother could not have done such a thing. The positive part of this story is that Jackie remains close to the “sister” she bonded with but turned out not to be related biologically.

DNA testing makes the world smaller, connecting us to relatives across the globe

To purchase Copeland’s book:

Copeland supports local bookstores. She has a deal with a local (New York) bookstore for signed copies at: Village Bookstore (<https://thevillagebookstore.net/>) in Pleasantville, NY, and shipped across the U.S. (Attention: Jennifer Kohn, 914-769-8322).

It is also available from Amazon, but not a signed copy: <https://www.amazon.com/Lost-Family-How-Testing-Depending/dp/1419747932/> \$13.00 Hardback and \$16.33 for paperback (don’t forget to connect through JGSCV’s Smile program under noteworthy on our website <https://jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>)

For more DNA and genealogy, plus special offers, please sign up for Libby’s newsletter at www.libbycopeland.com.

Book Description

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 the biggest questions in life: Who are we? What is family? Are we defined by nature, nurture, or both?”

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

Practicing Safe Computing Article #78:

“1950 Census Search Tips”

By Hal Bookbinder

1950
New Jersey
Newark
30-273
1950 CENSUS
FORM P1
U. S.

FOR HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD		FOR ALL PERSONS	
NAME	RELATIONSHIP	NAME	RELATIONSHIP
SIEGELSON DOROTHY HEAD	Head	W F 44 NEV N.J.	Wife
GOLDBERG ALEX S. HEAD	Head	W M 38 MAR N.J.	Wife
SYLVIA M. WIFE	Wife	W F 31 MAR NEWARK N.J.	Wife
BOOKBINDER JACK HEAD	Head	W M 35 MAR N.J.	Wife
HELEN H. WIFE	Wife	W F 31 MAR N.J.	Wife
HAROLD M. SON	Son	W M 2 MAR N.J.	Wife

The 1950 Census was released on April 1, 2022 after a 72-year hold. Months before, I had used the “Unified 1880-1950 Census ED Finder” on <https://SteveMorse.org> to identify the enumeration district (ED) for my address in Newark, New Jersey. I then found other relatives searching by name. Here are a few tips and tricks for searching the Census.

One can search by name within a city or county, across a state or the entire nation. After selecting the state, select the city or county from an alphabetical list. First check to see if your target city is shown. If not, only then select the county. For example, Newark, New Jersey was enumerated separately from Essex County. So, one would select “Newark,

Essex” rather than “Essex” in the alphabetical list. Selecting Essex will not retrieve any records for Newark.

Artificial intelligence (AI) was used to transcribe the Census. It transcribed my dad as “Book Binder Jack”. Recognizing that there are such transcription errors, the name search includes near matches. Searching for “Bookbinder” did, in fact, find my dad, even with the break in the surname. It also found my widowed great-grandmother, Mollie, who was erroneously transcribed as Moller.

You can request corrections by selecting [Help Us Transcribe Names](#) above the sheet image. I used it to ask that my dad’s surname and great-grandmother’s given name be corrected. Ancestry and MyHeritage currently provide limited access to the 1950 Census as they work on its indexing. For the present, you will likely have more luck going directly to <https://1950census.archives.gov/>.

The search returns images of the full census sheets. Each image is followed by a searchable listing of the names found on the sheet. Although the Census search permits you to enter given name and surname, it returns any matches of either. Searching for “Bookbinder” in Newark, NJ returned three hits. Searching for Jack Bookbinder returned 899! Quotation marks around the name make no difference.

I recommend you search for the surname (within city or county, if possible). Once you have retrieved the sheet images containing the surname, use the Windows Find command (Ctrl-F) to search for the given name or the full name in the listing of names immediately after each sheet image. To minimize the number of screens to search, change the button in the upper right from “Show 25” to “Show 100”.

My wife’s birth surname is Newmark. By searching for “Newmark” in Illinois, and then “Ctrl-F” for “Newmark Louis”, I quickly found them in Broomfield, Cook County. (Note that the search is surname followed by given name.) This worked because Louis, my wife’s father, was head of household. As surnames were generally not shown for other family members, Ctrl-F them by given name only.

Again, access the 1950 Census for free at <https://1950census.archives.gov/>. Happy hunting!

This is the seventy-eighth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAIGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAIGS 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>. 8

JGSCV Updates

Membership News

28 members did not renew their JGSCV membership by March 31st and have been dropped (as per our by-laws). Two have since renewed.

Our membership renewal is still at 80%. If others who were dropped wish to return to JGSCV, they are most welcome upon payment of dues.

What are the benefits of membership, you ask?

- Monthly meetings with world-class presentations
- “Venturing into Our Past” - our monthly, award-winning newsletter (at a time when so many genealogy societies no longer have a publication)
- Regular correspondence from our president loaded with genealogical information

If you have not renewed yet, do so now. 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 Jan Meisels Allen know at president@jgscv.org.

In the Fall we are anticipating meeting again in person and hopefully we will regain the lost members!

A note from your Editor

JGSCV has over 100 members with stories to tell, questions to ask, and discoveries to share.

This is the place to do it, here in your society’s newsletter. It is you who can make it even better!

Please accept this is an invitation to share your experiences, thoughts and anecdotes regarding your genealogical research and family stories.

Send ideas and submissions to Diane Goldin at newslettereditor@jgscv.org

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. For more information and to sign up, go to JGSCV’s website under Noteworthy <https://jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.

Whether you are a friend or member we appreciate your support!

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)
will hold our May meeting on **Zoom**.
This meeting is open only to JGSCV members (see below for membership app link).

This is our annual Yom HaShoah Memorial Meeting.
Zoom link will be emailed to members before the meeting.

Sunday, May 1, 2022, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 1:10 PM



May Meeting
presents
Wendy Lower, Ph.D.

**The Ravine:
A Family, A Photograph,
A Holocaust Massacre Revealed**



In 2009, Wendy Lower was shown a rare photograph just brought to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The documentation of the Holocaust is vast, but there are few known images of a Jewish family at the actual moment of murder, in this case by German officials and Ukrainian collaborators. A Ukrainian shooter's rifle is inches from a woman's head, obscured in a cloud of smoke. The woman is bending forward, holding the hand of a barefoot boy, and the shins of another child, are slipping from the woman's lap. Wendy Lower's detective work—in Ukraine, Germany, Slovakia, Israel, and the United States—recovers astonishing layers of detail concerning the open-air massacres in Ukraine. Her search for the identities of the victims, of the killers—and, remarkably, of the photographer who openly took the picture, as a secret act of resistance—are dramatically uncovered. Finally, in the hands of this scholar, a single image unlocks a new understanding of the place of the family unit in the history and aftermath of Nazi genocide.

Speaker: Wendy Lower, Ph.D. is the John K. Roth Professor of History and George R. Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College. Lower chairs the Academic Committee of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and served as Acting Director of the Jack, Joseph, and Morton Mandel Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies of the USHMM (2016-2018).

The Book: *The Ravine: A Family, a Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*

Publishers: Houghlin Mifflin Harcourt 2021 hardback Amazon \$14.62; Mariner Books paperback 2022. Amazon: \$16.07

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>



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
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

RELEASE OF 1950 CENSUS

The census will not be indexed for a while, though genealogical companies are working around the clock to create over 150 million searchable records. *Ancestry* announced only nine days after the census release that they'd already processed every state—in 2012 for the 1940 census the manual processing took over nine months:

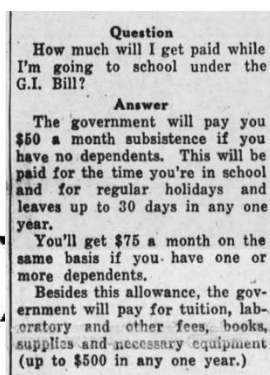
<https://www.ancestry.com/c/1950-census>.

The work Ancestry teams did to train the AI has produced remarkable results, transcribing every field of information on the census form to create a searchable index. Before they release each state index, they've partnered with FamilySearch volunteers to evaluate the handwriting recognition extraction and ensure a complete and accurate index. If you would like to volunteer to help your state become available faster visit: <https://www.familysearch.org/1950Census/>

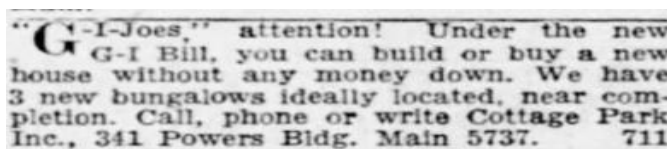
The images are free to access on FamilySearch. One must register and that is also free. MyHeritage put all the images of the 1950 census live and free to access at: <https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-11009/1950-united-states-federal-census-images>.

There are 151 million entries- less than half of the 320 Million residents the US has today. In 1950 households were larger, with an average of 3.5 people, compared with 2.6 people per household in 2019. Just 9% of households had someone living alone in 1950, compared with 28% in 2019. Adults were also more likely to be married, with more than two-thirds of adult men and women being married in 1950 compared with less than half of men and women in 2019.

Use the Steve Morse tools which were described in the March newsletter when Steve was our speaker https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing_V17_N6.pdf. It is helpful to understand how Enumeration Districts defined census areas. An Enumeration District was an area that an enumerator (census taker) could completely cover within two weeks in cities and within four weeks in rural areas. For those who are searching for the location and EDs, try the Morse website <https://stevemorse.org/> and then census 1950 tutorial and 1950 ED maps at <https://1950census.archives.gov/howto/ed-maps.html>



The 1950 census gives a historical snapshot of life in the US, including the impact of the G.I. Bill signed into law in 1944. The bill created benefits for more than 8 million veterans returning from WWII. Those benefits included money for education, job training, low-interest home loans, and unemployment. See <https://blog.newspapers.com/evidence-of-the-g-i-bill-in-the-1950-census/>.





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 _____

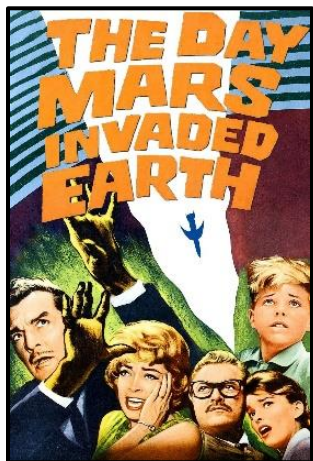
E-mail address _____

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

GENEALOGY FOR FUN:

“The Day Mars Invaded Earth”

Hal Bookbinder



While watching old movies. I often Google the film to learn more about it and its cast. “The Day Mars Invaded Earth” was filmed in 1962 and released in 1963. Among its cast are Betty Beall and Barbara Beall who play counterparts in the same scene, shown at the bottom.

Betty Beall plays the teenage daughter of a NASA scientist who oversees the landing of a probe on Mars. After destroying the probe, unseen Martians create a duplicate of him to foil further attempts to land a probe. They then create duplicates of his family to cover their tracks. The NY Times panned the picture.

Very little is to be found on either Betty or Barbara aside from snippets on their appearances together in TV episodes of “Hawaiian Eye” (1959) and “Tom, Dick and Mary” (19-64). These mentioned that they were identical twins, but little more. Even Wikipedia was silent on their birth year, location, and family. I decided to see what my genealogical sleuthing skills could find.

I started with the 1940 Census on Ancestry. There were 40 Betty Bealls and 26 Barbara Bealls. I copied the lists into Excel and sorted by location. There was a 1-year-old Betty Beal and a 1-year-old Barbara Beall both in Piedmont, Missouri. However, in the index, they showed different parents! Deciding not to give up, I pulled up their census sheets.

Betty was listed with her parents, Homer and Phyllis Beall and two older sisters; Barbara was shown 60 sheets later. A notation to the left pointed to the page and row for Homer Beall. Apparently, she was not captured when the census taker first spoke with the family and was added later. I could find no logical explanation for her “parents” as shown in the index.

I now looked up birth records for Betty and Barbara in the Missouri Birth Register and found that they were both born on 6 November 1938. So, I now knew their birth date, location, parents and two older sisters. Success!

I decided to continue my search to see what more I could find about Betty and Barbara. Searching the 1950 Census showed the family was still in Missouri, with the now 11-year-old twins and a 9-year-old brother. The Nevada Marriage Index showed that Barbara married Mario James Mauri in 1958 in Clark County and the Connecticut Divorce Index showed that they were granted an annulment in 1981 in Greenwich, after 23 years of marriage and three children!

I then went to one of my favorite research tools, FastPeopleSearch.com and quickly located Barbara Beall Mauri as an 83-year-old, still living in Connecticut. FastPeopleSearch showed that her ex-husband, now simply went by James and was living in Florida. It also showed links to her presumed children. However, no link was shown to Betty. Further research did not turn up any more on Betty who seems to have gone off the grid after “The Day Mars Invaded Earth.”

