

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

June 2022

Volume 17 Issue 9

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

This is the third month that we watch the strength of the Ukrainian people and government as Russia tries to decimate it. We support the humanitarian needs there and Ukrainian resolve to remain independent. Many of us have ancestral roots in the region—some may have family there, making our concerns both global and personal.

Great effort is being made to save Ukrainian culture, and I have written about it before with information for Saving Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Online (SUCHO) at <https://www.sucho.org/> Another collective, Archive Team Warrior (<http://warrior.archiveteam.org>) is trying to preserve historical versions of websites as it tries to replicate the entire Ukrainian internet. The *Los Angeles Times* posted an Op-Ed about this entitled “The race to save Ukrainian culture in the real world and online.” See <https://tinyurl.com/24fjr26k>. The article describes historical preservation in L’viv, with locals and art conservators who wrapped up the historical documents with whatever they could, building scaffolds around iconic structures and stowing away gold-lacquered panels, and cached form-wrapped artwork in bunkers. Many treasures are squirreled away in secret locations. But museums are concerned the invaders will pillage Ukraine’s culture as they have the villages. We have already seen that the Russian troops have bombed a museum near Kyiv. More than 1,300 people, including librarians, teachers, historians, and other digital humanists have come together to preserve Ukraine’s internet archives. Using rented servers, aided by Slack (a workplace messaging program) and open-source tools, they have backed up 2,500 digital collections in Ukraine’s museums and libraries, saving poems, pictures, and stories, along with assets such as census data and other vital information.

The *LA Times* article says the intentional destruction of cultural heritage is a war crime. The pillage and plunder of historical relics and sites have long been a weapon of war. “The purposeful eradication of a nation’s historical artifacts and archives violates international law. Cultural destruction is classified as a war crime because of the symbolism and power of culture as a representation of society. To destroy a nation’s language, art, and religious sites is to seek to vanquish its values, traditions, and legacy. These acts have particular importance for crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing, and genocide because the decimation of a culture is often a prelude to trying to erase an entire people, along with their past.”

(Cont’d next page)

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, June 5th
1:30-3:30 PM



Mike Marvins
**“Lives Remembered:
Photographs of a Small
Town in Poland
1895-1939”**

Members Only ZOOM

More info page 10

July meeting:

Round Genealogy in the

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

6052 Hackers Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
[818-889-6616](tel:818-889-6616)

2022 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Mission Statement:

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

Our May speaker was Wendy Lower, Ph.D., talking about *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*. Professor Lower's excellent presentation addressed what happened in a town where both Nazis and townspeople murdered the local Jews. Please see page 4 for the highlights and information on her book of the same name.

Our June speaker, Mike Marvins, will talk about life in Eastern Poland as told by photographs that his grandfather took in "*Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939*." Marvins is a third-generation photographer. One day, a person walked into his studio with what turned out to be a photograph taken by his grandfather. That photo inspired a quest into family history which tells the story of a Jewish town called *Szczuczyn* (northeastern Poland), and that is reflective of thousands of similar towns before the Holocaust. As the adage goes, a picture is worth a thousand words, and through these photographs we visualize how life was before the Holocaust.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his interesting series on Practicing Safe Computing, *Phishing text messages* on page 8.

Our annual Genealogy in the Round meeting is July 10 via Zoom and we need 7 members to volunteer to tell their stories. Please see page 9 for information.

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 in-person in Sacramento this week, May 24-28, and online 27-28 May 2022. [Click here](#) for more info.

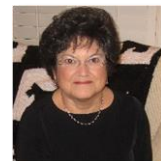
Privacy remains a major concern, and the leaked draft Supreme Court decision (which portends tighter laws on abortion) also speaks to many questions related to privacy. We will likely be reading and hearing a lot about this. My presentation on demand for the IAJGS 2022 International Conference, *Privacy vs Records Access: Are they Incompatible In Today's World?* is on privacy and I have previously addressed in my presentations several Supreme Court decisions on the topic. We hope you will register for the IAJGS conference which will be remote. [Click here](#) for more information. If you register before May 31, 2022, there are bonus sessions available to those who register before that date. They do not count toward the 20 or 50 programs available to Explorer Level or Enthusiast Level registrants, respectively.

I previously mentioned that JGSCV has programs via Zoom scheduled through June 2022. See page 11 for a list of outside speakers. Our July meeting is our annual Genealogy in the Round. 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's 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, June 5, is with Mike Marvins, "*Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939*." I have seen the photographic exhibition at the IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City in the early 2000's and the Museum of Jewish Heritage. I hope you will join us for this photographic journey of how Eastern Poland was before the Holocaust.

Looking forward to "seeing" you soon.

Jan Meisels Allen



June 2022

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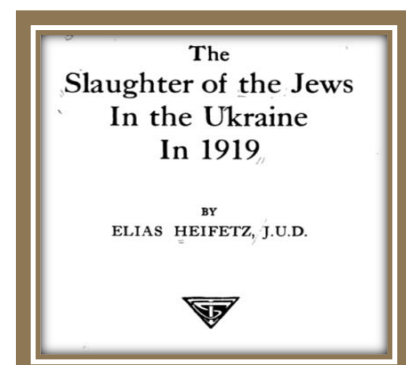
Summer Gen To-Do List

Got an app on your smartphone?

Many genealogy apps have corresponding cell phone apps. *Reunion* for Mac is one. Family Tree and Ancestry are others. Having your trees and attached photos and documents allows for access during a conference, at family occasions, and in research away from home. You'll never have to lug your laptop around again.

Browse GOOGLE Books

Key word searches may turn up older books in any language from regions you research. One example is to the right using Key words Balta Ukraine. Copies of "The American Hebrew & Jewish Messenger" has marriage announcements, people in the news and news from Europe after WWI. Other finds: state legislature records and hearings, university registrations, and alumni publications: <https://books.google.com/?hl=en>



Google Books: an entire report of pogroms in Ukraine published in 1921 for the Jewish People's Relief Committee of America.

Revisit Websites For Updates And News

While cleaning up bookmark lists of genealogy websites, check that they are current and useful for your research. It's easy to go foraging for hours!

➔ Lara Diamond's website (and Facebook page) on Eastern European research is vital and up-to-date with 11 posts in 2022: <https://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2022/>



➔ Opening Doors in Brick Walls: Cathy Meder-Dempsey shares her deep dive into her DNA results. Lots of resources here: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9cb9pe>

➔ Centropa's Trans History project's goal is to connect European educators and students to their country's Jewish history. Their 1200 interviews of survivors are online. Search via your locations for details of daily life and families in peril: <https://tinyurl.com/ms8rtznk>

➔ Persuasive Cartography: a Cornell digital library site showing maps designed to persuade and lure. Many are biased and anti-Semitic. Others tell the facts with visual tools. Downloadable and fascinating: <https://persuasivemaps.library.cornell.edu/>

Shown above is Uncle Sam as the modern Moses in 1881 in Puck Magazine

Highlights from: “*The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*”

By Hal Bookbinder
and Jan Meisels Allen

In commemoration of Yom HaShoah 2022 (Holocaust Remembrance Day), Wendy Lower, Ph.D. spoke about her efforts to uncover details of the mass murder of Jews that took place in the town of Miropol, Ukraine on October 12, 1941. Lower is the John K. Roth Professor of History and George R. Roberts Fellow at Claremont McKenna College.

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 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. 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 Dr. Lower, a single image unlocks a new understanding of the place of the family unit in the history and aftermath of Nazi genocide. Her research at the USHMM tried to find details on the person considered the most senior SS officer still free. This was Bernhard Frank, who certified killing orders issued by SS chief Heinrich Himmler.

Originally, Professor Lower had received a warm welcome during her visits and was offered access to the wartime documents that dealt directly with the collaboration between Ukrainian government agencies and Nazi Germany. In 2014, when she returned, there was a very different feeling and she no longer had free access to documents relating to Ukrainian wartime police; it was a way to obscure the information for any Holocaust researcher. More recently, the Ukrainian government has provided full access to their archives on the Holocaust and agreed to make them available on the internet.

During the Holocaust, an estimated 1.2 million to 1.4 million Jews in Ukraine were killed. Hundreds of thousands died in gas chambers or mass shootings. Others died from malnourishment in ghettos. Today, Ukraine is, home to tens of thousands of Jews, has a Jewish president, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and Kyiv, its capital, has several Jewish schools.

Last year, a week after the book *The Ravine* was published, Russia’s parliament advanced legislation that would fine anyone 3 million rubles (~\$41,000) for deliberately disseminating false information on the activities of the Soviet Union during WW II.

Dr. Lower shared some of the pictures that she has collected and researched in her book, *The Ravine, A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed*. She started with some of the iconic images that have been widely circulated, including the arrest of a young Jewish boy in the Warsaw Ghetto, the execution of unarmed civilians at killing sites, and the bodies dumped into mass graves and starving prisoners in a barrack of just-liberated Buchenwald Concentration Camp. She explained that the goal of her research was to provide context for these pictures.

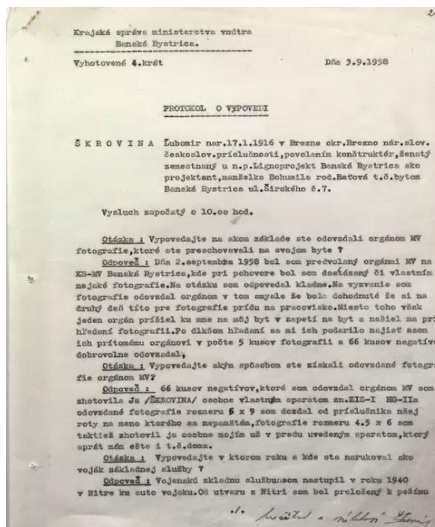
Dr. Lower noted that the Holocaust was the most thoroughly documented horror in history with materials scattered across archives in dozens of countries in which atrocities occurred. She focused on pictures and documents regarding the approximately half of the Jews who were not deported to the camps but rather were murdered where they lived, typically without any organized records like deportation lists, camp registers, and lists of the deaths of prisoners. She shared that one in four Holocaust victims lived within the borders of current Ukraine.



She noted how pictures of shoes of victims can convey how everything was taken from them before their murders; pictures of killing sites in the ravines and woods convey that the purpose was not labor but death, and pictures of Ukrainian auxiliaries shoulder-to-shoulder with Nazis shooting a Jewish family at a killing pit convey both the willing collaboration and the horrific cruelty of the murders of children in front of their parents and parents in front of their children.

She discussed the information provided by the Slovakian soldier, Lubomir Skrovina, who took the photo above when interviewed in 1958. He

shot a full roll of film documenting this mass murder of Jewish victims on October 13, 1941, near the town of Miropol (currently, Myropil). Skrovina was, or at least became, a member of the Resistance. He smuggled atrocity images to his wife back home as possible material for anti-Nazi forces; wrangled out of further military duty; hid Jews in his home and helped some escape; and joined the antifascist Slovakian uprising of 1944. The photographer was interrogated in 1958 and in his statement, he reveals the exact date of the massacre- October 13th, 1941, along with information about his camera, etc.



Statement

Skrovina and his camera



Another photograph by Mr. Skovina shows a different woman being massacred:



Before the Holocaust, about 1,000 Jews lived in this town, 138 miles west of Kyiv. These photos are remarkable given regular Nazi edicts to not photograph the actual killings. Though the Jews in the photograph remained anonymous, the names of their killers were known.

She included a photograph of shoes that have become a memorialization of the moment, such as in Auschwitz Birkenau and other camps.



Professor Lower commented that Heinrich Himmler had said one of the first killing orders he issued in July 1941 was to drive the “Jewesses into the swamps” and not waste the bullets. That is part of the story as the victims’ bodies remain there. The fact that locals go in and plunder and vandalize these sites the so-called “black diggers” raises the question of how these sites may be preserved. Professor Lower was also taken by the collaboration of different speaking people-locals and Nazis showing their hate and antisemitism. Himmler and the military issued orders **not** to take pictures of these atrocities. However, they could not control the taking of the photographs of the atrocities or security operations behind the lines. This was throughout the war that they could not control the taking or distribution of the photographs.

There is also the horror of the family unit- being murdered with “your” child as the photograph depicts. While the woman was trying to protect her children, they were going to be suffocated by being covered by the earth, if not shot by the perpetrators.

The photograph tells much more. The hole in smoke tells there were killings just before this one. The uniforms tell that the soldiers took the coats probably from killed or captured Russian soldiers.

Professor Lower showed a photograph from the 16-17th century which illustrates how densely populated the region was at this time:

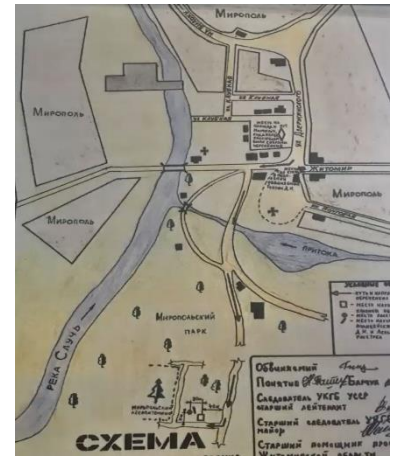


The article along with this map, “*Maps of Jewish settlement in Ukraine in 1648,*” is posted to our website under Meetings and by date.



Dr. Lower then showed a picture of a memorial to the victims of the Great Patriotic War in Miropol taken in 2013 which never mentions that the victims were Jews. [editor’s note: This was typical of such memorials]. In more recent years there has been increasing acknowledgment of the victims’ Jewish ethnicity.

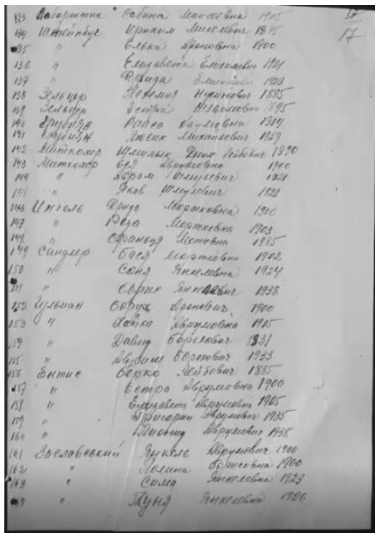
She shared pictures of current day Miropol and hand-drawn street maps



Russian map of area from investigation in the 1980s. The Russians found the policemen in the photograph, arrested, and forced them to relate what happened. The policemen were convicted in January 1987 and executed by firing squad.

from the 1980s showing the route that the Jews were forced to take on foot from the community to the ravine in which they would be murdered. In 1987, the Soviets investigated this atrocity, executing two of the Ukrainians shown in the photographs from 1941. Dr. Lower also shared documentation related to this trial.

Dr. Lower showed a page of a list prepared by the Soviets of the victims of this massacre and pages of testimony from Yad Vashem that she used to try to identify the family groups in the pictures from the massacre.



Russian document listing victims’ names and birth dates

She took the list and then started to work on family clusters. Using Pages of Testimony from Yad Vashem, from any survivors.

The page of testimony had a family photograph with the family killed in July 1941. The Page of Testimony was completed by an aunt who eventually immigrated to the United States.

Eventually, she followed the path of the Russian investigation into the site. Professor Lower was there with Father Patrick Desbois’ team (*The Holocaust by Bullets*).

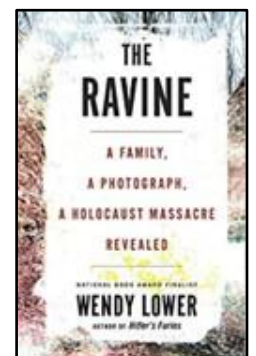
In 2016, she traveled to Miropol, interviewed residents about their memories of the Jews of the town, and followed the path taken by the victims to the ravine where they were murdered. Exposed human bones were still visible on the ground in the woods where the massacre took place.

Dr. Lower concluded her presentation by reading a poem memorializing the Jews murdered in the Holocaust while showing the powerful imagery of piles of the shoes of victims of the Shoah.

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).

Dr. Lower’s book: *The Ravine: A Family, A Photograph, A Holocaust Massacre Revealed* is a finalist in the National Book Awards.

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



Practicing Safe Computing Article #79: “Phishing text messages”

By Hal Bookbinder

Phishing emails come directly to your inbox, describing a problem, an opportunity, a windfall, or a pending Amazon delivery. They require your immediate action. Most of us have received any number of such emails and recognize them for what they are, schemes to get our personal information and money. Cybercriminals are now directly targeting mobile devices, like your smartphone.

Per a recent ZDNet article (<https://www.zdnet.com/article/phishing-attempts-against-smartphones-are-on-the-rise-and-those-small-screens-arent-helping/>), 75% of phishing websites now target mobile devices with both email and text messages. Cybercriminals count on people clicking on the links displayed on smartphones and responding to texts without critically considering whether the message is real.

All phishing attempts, no matter the device, are designed to take advantage of your trusting or helpful nature, fears, curiosity, or greed. If you connect, you will be dealing with individuals who are skilled in separating you from your money and personal information. They are very good at what they do.

During a recent two-day period, I received three phishing texts on my iPhone. If I felt that there might be something to these alerts, I would have called Wells Fargo or Verizon directly. I would certainly not call the number, respond to the email or click on the links shown in, or above, the text message.

Received on 5/3/2022	Received on 5/4/2022	Received on 5/4/2022
+1 (301) 418-9134 Text Message Today 7:20 PM	Wellsfargo-33246@... Text Message Today 6:10 AM	899000 Text Message Today 1:40 PM
wells: the amount for \$654.39 has been declined, to block unauthorize purchases please click link below http://bemylwells.zapto.org/r/DS8sFGT	(ALERT) 3324 - WellsFargo: Your online access is suspended, restore now: 8dmdw.app.link/yy6h	Verizon Alert: There's a request to authenticate from the Verizon website. Please confirm or deny here: https://govzw.com/BnmkZJIQ

The links shown above are clearly suspicious. Yet, people often click without thinking. I would not click even if they started with <https://wellsfargo.com> or <https://verizon.com>. The display may not reflect the actual link, which may take me to a legitimate-looking page set up to scam me. To demonstrate, click on “Wells Fargo”, “Verizon” or any of the other links above; you will find that they all bring up CNN.com.

Cybercriminals may attempt to hook you by voice, text, emails, or even IM (instant messaging). For more on avoiding phishing scams, please see these previous articles in the Practicing Safe Computing series: [Vishing \(Voice phishing\)](#), [Top 10 Tips for Detecting Phishing](#) and [Phishing email from your Bank](#).

This is the seventy-ninth 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>.

JGSCV Updates

* Genealogy in the Round *
* Genealogy in the Round *
* Genealogy in the Round *
* Genealogy in the Round *
* Genealogy in the Round *

Our annual **GENEALOGY IN THE ROUND** meeting is **July 10**.

We need 7 members to volunteer to tell their stories of successes, failures, and artifacts.

The meeting is on Zoom, and we can help you with presentation ideas, Power Point, or other.

Please let Jan (president@jgscv.org) know if you will participate and what you are going to share:



WE WANT YOU!

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!

JGSCV Family Histories

This is your 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 we did not receive any submissions.

We would love to continue the series. If you have something to share please send to Diane at newslettereditor@JGSCV.org and Jan at president@jgscv.org

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)
will hold our June meeting on **Zoom**.

This meeting is open only to JGSCV members (see below for membership app link).

Zoom link will be emailed to members before the meeting.

Sunday, June 5, 2022, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 1:10 PM



June Meeting
presents

Mike Marvins

***“Lives Remembered:
Photographs of a Small Town
in Poland 1895-1939”***



A twenty-year journey began in the early 1990's when a friend of Marvins walked into the Studio to have family pictures restored. They were in good condition, circa 1890's, with an artistic Cyrillic (Russian) logo on the back. Mike's father, Kaye, was visiting and having been raised in Russian Poland, translated. He looked at both of us and said, "My Grandfather made these pictures." That started a long trip into family history that turned in to a history of Jewish Szczuczyn, a town that reflects a true picture of life was in thousands of towns before the Holocaust. A truth that was only partly envisioned in the countless scholarly texts written on the subject. Much more of the truth might be revealed in photographs.

Speaker: Mike Marvins is a fourth-generation professional photographer. His great-grandfather, Meyer Gordon, was a photographer in Dokshitsy, Russia (now Belarus) in the 1880's. His best customer was a large unit of the Czar's Army which was transferred to present day Zambrow, Poland to quell the frequent Polish revolts against Russian rule. Gordon moved with the troops, taking his young nephew, Zalman Kaplan as his assistant. Zambrow had very few Jews at the time but as the building of the huge base evolved, thousands moved to the area to provide support and services. He prospered and extended his business to chronicle the everyday lives of the town and its vibrant Jewish community. A few years later, another military unit was moved to the town of Szczuczyn about fifty miles away and a young Zalman Kaplan opened his own Studio there. He married and had three children one of whom was Marvins' father, Moishe Kaplan and a very prosperous business through a parade of regimes. It ended with the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1938. Szczuczyn was only miles from the German border and was immediately over run.

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, JUNE 5 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom		
DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
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



44th National Genealogical Society (NGS)
Family History Conference:
Our American Mosaic, 24–28 May 2022

Choose from lectures and special programs with an emphasis on researching the diverse cultures that have made California and the West thrive.

The NGS is both in-person in Sacramento and online
<https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>



42nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS) will be remote August 22-25 2022.

If you register before May 31, 2022, there are bonus sessions available to those who register before that date. They do not count toward the 20 or 50 programs available to Explorer Level or Enthusiast Level registrants.

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

New Yorker Article on Genealogy

Recently, there was an article on genealogy published in the *New Yorker Magazine*, “*Our Obsession with Ancestry has Some Twisted Roots*”: <https://tinyurl.com/mr466pwy>

The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) thought it appropriate to respond on their Facebook page, and their response may be read at: <https://tinyurl.com/4e9kayb3>.



2020 Census News

While the US 2020 Census is long over, some of the issues surrounding it are still making news. Not all states were counted equally for population numbers used to allocate political representation and federal funding. You can read the report at: <https://tinyurl.com/2p8z7r6e>

The U.S. Census Bureau did a follow-up survey for accuracy and found significant net undercount rates in six states: Arkansas (5.04%), Florida (3.48%), Illinois (1.97%), Mississippi (4.11%), Tennessee (4.78%) and Texas (1.92%). It also uncovered significant net overcount rates in eight states — Delaware (5.45%), Hawaii (6.79%), Massachusetts (2.24%), Minnesota (3.84%), New York (3.44%), Ohio (1.49%), Rhode Island (5.05%) and Utah (2.59%).

To read more see:

<https://tinyurl.com/yckrs94p>

Free JewishGen Webinar: *Jewish Genealogy in the Germanies*

Date: Wednesday, May 25th, 2022

Time: 3:00 PM Eastern Daylight Time

The Germany where our ancestors lived is not the Germany of today. Its boundaries have changed several times. Before its unification in 1871 it was more a concept than a state, composed of dozens of kingdoms, duchies and principalities large and small. Each of these states had its own laws and attitudes toward Jews.

[Click here](#) to register.

