

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



# JGSCV

September 2023

Volume 18 Issue 12

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

We also hope you enjoyed August "off" from JGSCV and are looking forward to joining us for in-person meetings this Fall.

Our next meeting is September 10, with JGSCV vice-President, Helene Rosen, presenting *Researching an American Family using Many Resources*. Helene's family put down roots in LaGrange, Texas and became pillars of the community. Its members participated in the Civil War and ran a successful grocery business, and there are many who remember piano lessons in their large family home. Her family story is fascinating and offers surprises at every turn. Helene's focus will be her use of varied sources to learn about the colorful lives of her ancestors as they became an all-American family. See page 8 for more information.

JGSCV has appointed the 2023 Nominations Committee for non-officer board positions. The committee is being chaired by Sonia Hoffman, and she is joined with Allan Linderman as the general membership representative (you remember Allan, he served as our previous excellent newsletter editor), and board representative Debby Wenkart. Serving on the Board gives you a voice in determining the projects to be pursued, the programs to be presented, the services offered and our relationship with the larger world of Jewish genealogy. JGSCV is a vibrant society offering outstanding programs, a world-class award-winning newsletter, and other member services such as assistance for new members and the monthly "schmoozing corner." The creativity and effectiveness of the Society is dependent upon the voluntary efforts of its members. **Those members who are eligible to serve have received a letter from Sonia.** The deadline to submit your application is September 10.

Service on the Board entails attendance at monthly membership meetings, and three to five Board meetings a year, usually held immediately after the general membership meeting. There are one or two board meetings each year in the evening – one of these is the annual budget and planning meeting. During the pandemic we have been meeting via Zoom, and if the board wishes we can continue to do so.

We encourage those who are eligible to apply. The board application link is not only in Sonia's communication but is also on our website at <https://www.jgscv.org/> under welcome and it is also available directly at: [https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/board\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/board_application_form.pdf).

(Cont'd next page)

## NEXT MEETING

Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup>  
2:30-4:30 PM

*"Researching an American Family  
using Many Sources"*



*Presented by  
Helene Rosen*

*More info page 8*

## OCTOBER MEETING

ANDREA MASSION

REACHING REBECCA: MISSING RELATIVES  
AND MENTAL ILLNESS IN GENEALOGICAL  
RESEARCH

[WWW.JGSCV.ORG](http://WWW.JGSCV.ORG)

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

## 2023 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jan Meisels Allen, President and  
Program Chairman**

[president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)

**Helene Rosen, VP Membership,  
Zoom Coordinator**

[membership@jgscv.org](mailto:membership@jgscv.org)

**Janet Fishman, Treasurer**

[treasurer@jgscv.org](mailto:treasurer@jgscv.org)

**Debra Wenkart, Secretary**

[secretary@jgscv.org](mailto:secretary@jgscv.org)

**Warren Blatt, Member Education**

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**Israel Perel, Librarian**

[librarian@jgscv.org](mailto:librarian@jgscv.org)

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**David Oseas, Webmaster**

[webmaster@jgscv.org](mailto:webmaster@jgscv.org)

### 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.

While we don't have a member's write-up of the recent IAJGS international Conference on Jewish Genealogy, I would recommend reading Dick Eastman's run-down of the 2023 award recipients: <https://eogn.com/page-18080/13238100>. Congratulations to all!

Lifetime Achievement Award: Vivian Kahn, California, US; and Henry Wellisch, Toronto, Canada

Nolan Altman Volunteer of the Year: Alex Krakovsky, Ukraine

Member of the Year: Santa Cruz Jewish Genealogical Society, California

Stern Grant, International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and the Paul Jacobi Center, Israel

See page 7 for more on the Legacy FamilyTree Webinar, a member of the MyHeritage family of companies, fourth annual "Webtember" -- a free online Genealogy Conference which runs until the end of September.

Many of us spent summers in the Catskill Mountains (New York) and/or had loved ones who did. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) has an article on the first-ever Borscht Belt Festival celebrating a bygone Jewish era debuting on July 29 in Ellenville, NY. See <https://tinyurl.com/4pek2wc8>.

A Catskills Borscht Belt Museum is set to open in 2025 in Ellenville, located in a building that was once home to Home National Bank — one of the first banks to lend money to Jewish hotel owners in the 1920s.

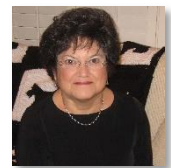
World War 2 Aerial photographs of England opened for the first time. The aerial images were taken by the US Army Air Forces (USAAF) Photographic Reconnaissance units while stationed at bases across England in 1943 and 1944. During the Second World War (1939 to 1945), over half a million United States Army Air Forces (USAAF) servicemen were stationed in Britain.

At the war's end, around two million American personnel, passed through the country, together with women affiliated to the American Red Cross and the Women's Army Corps, as well as others involved in administrative war work. The men were known colloquially as GIs, a term widely believed to stand for 'Government Issue'. To read the article and see some of the photos which are included see: <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-manchester-66511918>. To read the article in the *Historic England Blog* see: <https://tinyurl.com/4yrzscvr>

In an enduring legacy, some USAAF airfields survive today as heritage sites, including the original home of the 78th Fighter Group, IWM Duxford <https://www.iwm.org.uk/visits/iwm-duxford> Cambridgeshire, with the American Air Museum <https://www.americanairmuseum.com/>, although others are derelict or long gone.

Looking forward to seeing you on September 10<sup>th</sup>!

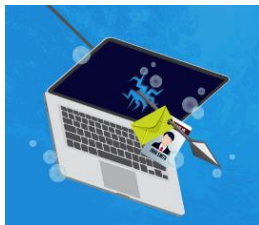
*Jan Meisels Allen*



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# Practicing Safe Computing Article #94: “Spear Phishing Messages”

By Hal Bookbinder



Had a terrific experience in Great Britain, both at the London Conference and afterwards travelling with my family from Stonehenge to Inverness. One of the more memorable sites was Linlithgow, Scotland, where we stayed while visiting the Edinburgh region. The ruined Linlithgow Palace was the birthplace of Mary, Queen of Scots and climbing among its many levels, with amazing views, both inside and out, provided great exercise and was a special treat.

I gave three talks at the conference, with my final one, “Practicing Safe Computing in the Age of Artificial Intelligence (AI)” scheduled for the very last time slot, 10:30 am on Thursday, August 3. I was worried that by this time, the attendees would be weary of presentations and ready to move on. Undoubtedly, many were. However, there was a good turnout for my presentation, and with questions, we ran well past the closing bell of the conference.

After my talk, my Venezuelan/Israeli friend and possible relative, Daniel Horowitz (my mom was a Horwitz), shared a recent experience with WhatsApp in which he received a message, supposedly from a relative which was unexpected and had a slightly strange tone. He figured that it was a scam and quickly deleted the message. This provided a reminder that we need to be wary of messages we receive, whether email, text, Facebook Messenger, WhatsApp, or from any other application.

We tend to let our guard down when we believe that we have been contacted by a friend or relative. We might reveal personal information, provide money, purchase something, or take actions that may not be in our best interest. With the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI), scams of this nature are sure to rise. AI’s access to massive amounts of information, its speed and analytics will permit it to send an enormous number of personalized messages and then follow up in a most realistic and engaging manner.

We must maintain our guard and not accept messages, whatever the source, at face value. Rather, if anything seems odd, trust your gut, and check with the supposed sender to see if they were the actual source. Don’t respond directly to such a message. This only confirms that your contact information is real and permits the false dialogue to continue. Scam artists are experts at reeling you in and with AI, the threat increases exponentially.

Spear phishing messages, targeted to you and intended to reel you in are nothing new. We have all received them. By now, you likely recognize them for what they are and do not respond. However, with AI, expect that they will seem much more real. Instead, of simply, “Hi” with no salutation, expect personalized messages with content “only” the other party should know. As genealogists, we know that there is a tremendous amount of personal data out there to be found.

All the best for the upcoming High Holidays and for all of 5784. Some years ago, I wrote an article about my experience as a fill-in Rabbi and USAF officer during the 1973 Yom Kippur War. Click here if you would like to read, “[My Most Memorable Yom Kippur](#)” (page 16).

I look forward to next year’s conference in Philadelphia and to seeing many of you there.

*This is the ninety-fourth 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

## 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](mailto:newslettereditor@JGSCV.org) and Jan at [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org)



### *Cruise Line Bankruptcy*

*(\*\*this has nothing to do with genealogy – however, it's valuable info for all)*

Advice for protecting travel: <https://tinyurl.com/53atyfd7>

### **Community Contribution Program**

Whether you are a friend or member we appreciate your support and hope you will sign up for Ralphs and Food-for-Less community programs.

These programs give donations to JGSCV when you shop.

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



**Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County\* (JGSCV)**  
(\*and surrounding areas)

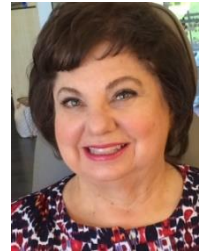
**will hold an In-Person meeting at**  
**Temple Adat Elohim, 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive in Thousand Oaks**

**Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> from 2:30-4:30 p.m.**  
**Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 2:10 PM**

**NOTE THE NEW MEETING TIME**



**SEPTEMBER PROGRAM**  
***“Researching an American Family  
using Many Sources”***



*Helene Rosen*

**The Program:**

This presentation concentrates on Helene Rosen’s research on the Texas branch of her third great-grandmother Sprinze Seelig Badt’s tree as the family grew roots in America. The family put down roots in LaGrange, TX and became pillars of the community. From their participation in the Civil War to their successful grocery business to those who still remember piano lessons in their large family home, the family continues to fascinate. With new surprises found at every turn, the focus is not on their large family tree but the use of many different sources to learn more about their colorful lives as they became an all-American family.

**The Speaker:**

Helene Rosen is currently retired. Helene is a founding member of JGSCV and is the current Membership Vice President. She has been interested in genealogy since she was a teenager, and her family tree contains over 2000 names. She is a graduate of UCLA, worked for the County of Los Angeles in IT, and is the mother of three fine young men and grandmother of three.

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>

For more information contact: [information@JGSCV.org](mailto:information@JGSCV.org) or call  
Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616  
See: [www.JGSCV.org](http://www.JGSCV.org)



## 2023 JGSCV Meeting Dates

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10**  
**\*\*2:30-4:30 PM – Temple Adat Elohim\*\***

### 2023 Meetings

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
September 10 2:30-4:30 pm	Helene Rosen	<i>Researching an American Family using Many Sources</i>
October 8 2:30-4:30 pm	Andrea Massion	<i>Reaching Rebecca: Missing Relatives and Mental Illness in Genealogical Research</i>
November 6 7:00-9:00pm	TBA	
December 3 2:30-4:30 pm	TBA	Annual Meeting, Elections, Chanukah Party

# Genealogy Odds and Ends

## *The Connecticut Genealogy Index*

Includes the first-ever online publication of Connecticut birth index data from 1897-1917, and marriage and death index data from 1897 through 2017.

<https://tinyurl.com/4ya9zunk>

### Family History Daily

***"What Kind of a Cousin Are They?  
How to Make Sense of These  
Boggling Relationships"***

Second cousin or first cousin once removed? What about a fifth cousin? These relationships are confusing to almost everyone, but the key to figuring it all out is simpler than you think.

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/cousins-explained/>

### MyHeritage 2023 "Webtember" -- Free Online Genealogy Conference All September Long!

MyHeritage is offering 25 FREE webinars on Fridays in Sept.

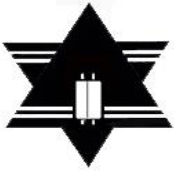
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/msyccmyz>



Last September, JGSCV was privileged to have a presentation by the **Tenement Museum** in New York City. They have reopened the Rogarshevsky family story *At Home in 1911*, as well as tenement family stories from all parts of the world.

If you're visiting NYC, it's worth a visit:  
<https://www.tenement.org/>





**2024 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 2024**

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.)