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-office 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/](https://www.jgscv.org/) under welcome and it is also. It is 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)
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 rundown 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/4yrzscv.

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 10th!

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.
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.

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

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.
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 or call Jan Meisels Allen@ 818-889-6616
See: www.JGSCV.org
2023 JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

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<td>Helene Rosen</td>
<td><em>Researching an American Family using Many Sources</em></td>
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<td>October 8</td>
<td>Andrea Massion</td>
<td><em>Reaching Rebecca: Missing Relatives and Mental Illness in Genealogical Research</em></td>
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<td>December 3</td>
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<td><em>Annual Meeting, Elections, Chanukah Party</em></td>
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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](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/](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.)
_________________________________________________________________
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