

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

November 2022

Volume 18 Issue 2

EDITOR'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

We're asking for feedback this month from you, our members.

Please take a moment to consider the following:

1. What is your Genealogical area(s) of interest?
2. Would you like JGSCV to connect you with local members who share your interest(s)?
3. Do you want to write a guest column for our newsletter? We are seeking articles on research techniques, family stories, and genealogic-related experiences.
4. Are you interested in a column devoted to:
 - Research Tips?
 - DNA
 - Historical Jewish events (related to genealogy)?
 - Global Jewish news (" ")?
5. Is there anything else you would like to learn about or share?

Copy and paste the above questions and spend a few minutes answering before sending responses to Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org. We're excited to hear from you!

Meanwhile, we appreciate your patience as we await our return to in-person meetings. There is no substitute for being together. To that end, we continue to talk with Temple Adat Elohim for meeting space. It is a complicated discussion, and COVID protocol has made it more challenging. We are trying to see you in person in January. Meanwhile, anyone renewing their membership today will be renewed through December 2023! A renewal/membership form is on page 14.

As if that wasn't incentive enough - we have genealogical Chanukah gifts for those who renew/join by our December meeting **and** attend the December program. Gifts value from \$120 to \$450 - far beyond the cost of a JGSCV membership. You might just win one of the following prizes (sponsors featured on page 10):

(Cont'd next page)

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, November 6th
1:30-3:30 PM

***"Did My Family Lie or
Are the Records Wrong?"***

Presented by



Daniel Horowitz

Members Only ZOOM

More info page 11

DECEMBER MEETING

Brooke Shreier Ganz presents
"Reclaim the Records"

+ JGSCV Annual Meeting, Elections
and Chanukah Party!

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

An Ancestry (1-year all access subscription, 2 six-month all-access subscriptions, subscriptions to newspapers.com, fold3.com); a My Heritage- complete annual subscription; a Geni 1-year Pro subscription; Legacy Software; Legacy webinar one-year subscription; Roots Magic subscription and software; and even more genealogical prizes on the way!



We continue to seek a treasurer!

If you meet the board requirements and also have banking or treasurer experience, please apply! Contact Allan (Allan@jgscv.org) and Jan (president@JGSCV.org) with interest.

Hal Bookbinder continues his interesting series on Practicing Safe Computing. This month's article, "Stopping Text and Voice Spam" can be found on page 8.

Speaking of Hal Bookbinder (a JGSCV member of many talents), our October meeting *Highlights* summarizes his excellent presentation, "Why did our ancestors leave a nice place like the Pale?" The article begins on page 4.

While we rely on your dues to operate, we also need additional revenue to keep up with what we do. There are two opportunities further to assist your society. First, by shopping at Ralph's or Food for Less and listing JGSCV as your charity of choice. Even if you only shop at Ralphy's/Food for Less occasionally it helps our society. And second, when shopping at Amazon please do so through the Amazon Smile program. Neither of these opportunities cost you any additional money and both result in contributions to JGSCV. See "noteworthy" on our website <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html> for more information.

Looking forward to "seeing you" at our November 6th meeting.

Diane Goldin

Editor, *Venturing Into Our Past*

newslettereditor@jgscv.org

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Kristallnacht: Night of Broken Glass

84th Anniversary November 9-10

This year marks the 84th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht, "Night of Crystal" often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass," took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. Jews were terrorized throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia that were occupied by German troops. At least 91 Jews were killed in the attacks, and 30,000 were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked. The attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned (95 in Vienna alone) and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.

According to the Free Dictionary, Herschel Grynszpan a 17-year-old Jew, assassinated the third secretary at the German embassy in Paris on November 7, 1938, to avenge the expulsion of his parents and 15,000 other Polish Jews to German concentration camps. This gave the Nazis the excuse they wanted, and Goebbels urged Storm Troopers to stage violent reprisals--which resulted in Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht marked the transition in Nazi policy. It was the first violent pogrom (riot) on Western European soil in hundreds of years. Immediately after Kristallnacht, a fine of one billion marks was levied, not upon the criminals, but upon the victims, the Jewish community of Germany. Nazi policy had now moved into the overt destruction of all Jewish life in the Third Reich.

To read more about Kristallnacht see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristallnacht> and <https://tinyurl.com/ybhwfeu4> for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum write up.

There will be commemorations throughout the US and other countries, and it is best to Google to find out what is happening closest to you to commemorate Kristallnacht.

In Los Angeles:

- Holocaust Museum of Los Angeles is holding a free virtual event on November 13, 2022—see: <https://www.holocaustmuseumla.org/>
Recovered Voices-Kristallnacht Commemoration Event 4:00 PM PST at Wilshire Boulevard
Temple RSVP required.
- Loyola Marymount University on November 9, 2022 at 7:00PM in the Ahmanson Auditorium: 17th annual Kristallnacht Commemoration "*From Hitler's Munich to American Exile: German Jews and the Realities of Forced Migration, 1933–1945*"
<https://bellarmine.lmu.edu/jewishstudies/events/annualkristallnachtcommemoration/>



The shattered stained-glass windows of the Zerrennerstrasse synagogue after its destruction on Kristallnacht. Pforzheim, Germany, ca. November 10, 1938.

Highlights from: “Why did our ancestors leave a nice place like the Pale?”

By Hal Bookbinder

Hal first discussed how Jews from Western Europe came to live in Poland, sharing that they were displaced from areas of Germany during the Crusades starting in 1098, expelled from England in 1290, France in 1394 and various German states in the 13th, 14th, and 15th Centuries. Polish Dukes welcomed Jews into their domains as they provided critical skills, which the stratified Polish society lacked. Although the expulsion of Jews from Spain and Portugal are well known, most of these individuals who chose to leave Iberia settled in locales around the Mediterranean, rather than in Poland.



Duke of Greater Poland
Bolesław the Pious, 1224-1279

He highlighted the specific role played by Bolesław the Pious, who in 1264 issued the Statute of Kalisz granting Jews special protection when they were being persecuted in Western Europe. This included each of the following:

- Jews to manage Jewish matters through Jewish courts
- Jews allowed to purchase any item and to touch food
- Jews allowed to travel freely with the same tolls as others
- Jews provided court protections, oaths to be honored
- Established punishment for harming or killing a Jew, jeering at a synagogue, or destroying a Jewish cemetery

These provisions were repeatedly ratified by Polish kings and in effect until 1795 when Poland ceased to exist, having been partitioned by Prussia, Austria-Hungary, and Russia.



“Rex” Jadwiga of
Poland



Grand Duke
Jagiello of
Lithuania

Hal then explained how the dynastic marriage between Polish Queen Jadwiga and Lithuanian Grand Duke

Jagiello in 1384 created a commonwealth in which the two countries, Poland and Lithuania, while not merged into one state, supported one another against the territorial threats of their neighbors. By 1572 with the death of the last of their descendants, this commonwealth would end, and Lithuania would be on its own against an increasingly hostile Russia.

To buy Poland’s continued support, Lithuania transferred Ukraine and Volhynia, which it controlled, to Poland and with it, the Polish lords moved in, taking over the great estates in this vast new territory. The Jews had become an indispensable component of Polish society, providing artisans, shopkeepers, tax collectors, record keepers and other critical skills. So, when the Polish nobility moved in, they brought their Jews, spreading our ancestors across the breadth of Volhynia and Ukraine in the late 1500s.

Notwithstanding this alliance, an emboldened Russia, and its Cossack allies, were able to take significant areas of eastern Lithuanian territory, including Smolensk, Chernigov and Poltava. While these territories contained thousands of Jews, Russia, which had excluded Jews for centuries, did not pay them much attention. However, in the late 1700s, with the partitions of Poland, Russia absorbed hundreds of thousands of Jews and now felt the need to address this growing menace.

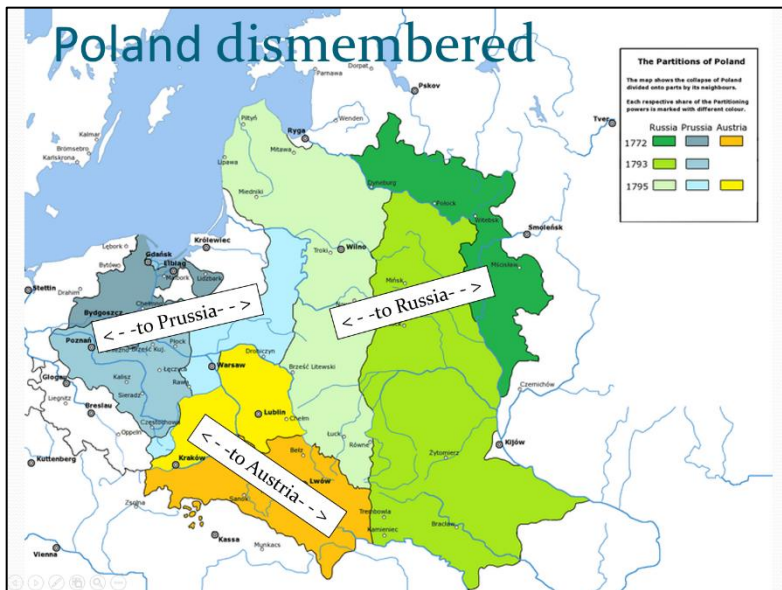
Russia did this by establishing the “Pale of Jewish Settlement”, or simply, “The Pale”, permitting Jews to live within its boundaries, while excluding them from living in “Old Russia”. The Pale was informally established in 1791, at the time of the second partition of Poland, when Catherine the Great, decreed limitations as to where Jews could and could not reside. It ended in 1917 in the aftermath of World War I, when it was abolished by the Russian parliament or “Duma”.

Hal breaks down the period in between into six approximately 25-year periods he refers to as periods of “Creation”, “Confinement”, “Repression”, “Enlightenment”, “Pogroms”, and “Chaos”.

During the period of “Creation”, under Catherine the Great and her son Tsar Paul, much of the area of the Pale was taken by Russia in the three partitions of Poland and from the Turks. This including Kurland, Kovno, Vitebsk, Vilna, Grodno, Minsk and Mogilev in the north, Volhynia, Podolia, and Kiev in the center, and Kherson, Yekaterinoslav and Taurida in the south. As mentioned earlier, Chernigov and Poltava had long been occupied by Russia. These areas were included in the central area of the Pale. Jews were permitted to remain in the northern and central areas where they had long resided and also permitted to move into the southern areas which had been taken from the Turks. Russia wanted to repopulate this southern area, referred to as “New Russia”. Jews were explicitly not permitted to move into “Old Russia”.

During the period of “Confinement”, under Tsar Paul and his son Tsar Alexander I, the Pale was officially decreed, formalizing the limitations on Jews which permitted them to live only within its explicitly defined boundaries. Jews were encouraged to better integrate into Russian society, but with limitations to protect ordinary Russians from Jewish influence. In agreement with Napoleon, the Bialystok area and Bessarabia were occupied by Russia and added to the Pale. Areas to the east in the Caucasus which were taken from the Turks were temporarily added, hoping that Jews would help Russia populate these areas.

During his conquests, Napoleon created a rump state, “The Duchy of Warsaw”, out of Polish areas he took from Prussia and Austria-Hungary. With his defeat in 1815, the western portion of this state was taken by Prussia and the remainder became the Kingdom of Poland with the Russian Tsar declared to be the King of Poland. While Russia controlled the Kingdom of Poland, it was administered separately and not merged into the Pale. Jews were explicitly



“confined” to Poland and the Pale but their activities were not unduly constrained.

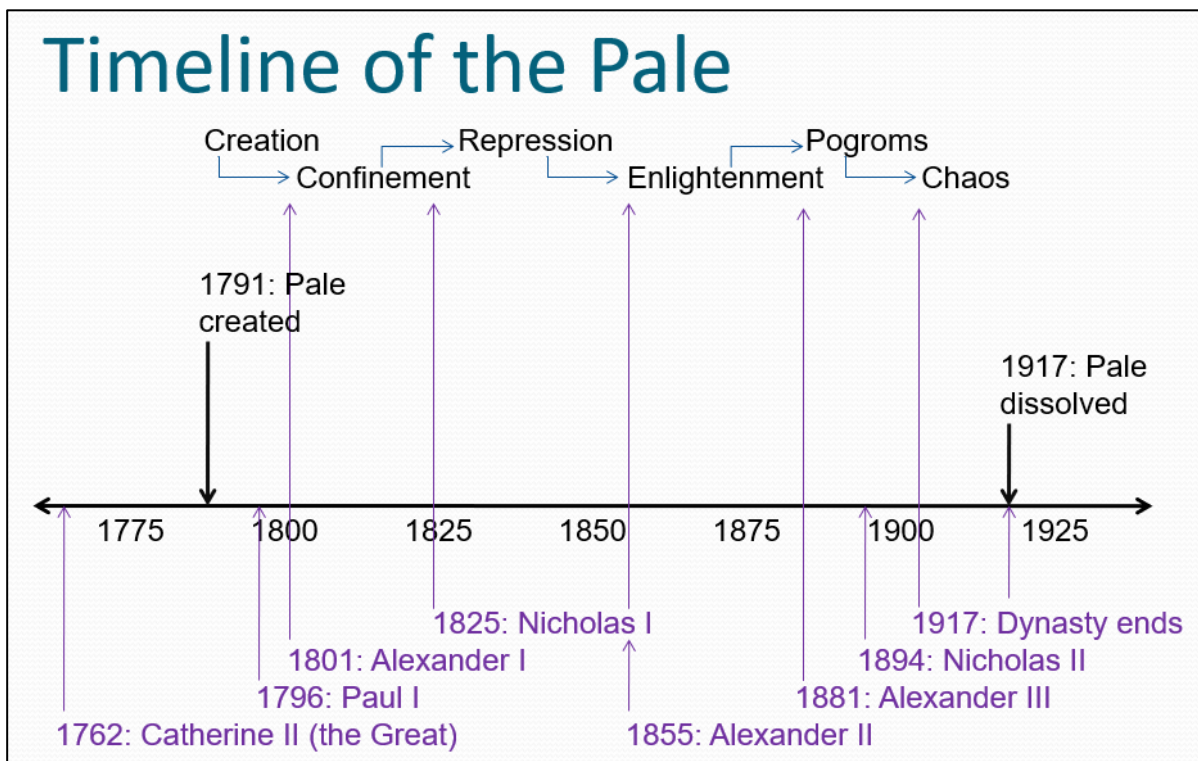
During the period of “Repression”, under Tsar Alexander’s son Tsar Nicholas I, a heavy hand came down on the Jews, making life, in many ways, miserable. The “Cantonist” program was initiated in which 70,000 Jewish boys were taken

from their families and confined to military camps until the age of 18 at which time they had to serve 25 years in the Russian army. They were treated harshly, with the hope that they would accept baptism to lessen their suffering.

Jews were expelled from the City of Kiev. Kurland and the Northern Caucasus were removed from the Pale and Jews were ordered to exit a 33-mile-wide strip on the western edge of the Pale. Jews could more easily be victimized and the government would do little to protect them. Tsar Nicholas apparently believed that if life was particularly harsh for Jews, they would flock to convert to the Russian Orthodox Church. Few did so.

During the period of “Enlightenment”, under Tsar Nicholas I’s son Tsar Alexander II, many opportunities were opened to Jews. One of his first actions was to end the hated Cantonist program. University education was made more available to Jews. Jewish merchants, university graduates, physicians, dentists, nurses, midwives, craftsman, and the families of former Cantonists were granted freedom of movement into old Russia.

After two unsuccessful Polish uprisings, Poland was dissolved and integrated into the Pale.




Jews could now more easily move around this expanded Pale territory. As his father had hoped before him, Alexander also hoped that the Jews would become good Russians and accept baptism into the Russian Orthodox faith. He believed that giving them more freedom would facilitate this. Again, most retained their Jewish faith. In 1881 he was assassinated by anarchists and Jews were blamed.

During the period of “Pogroms”, under Tsar Alexander II’s son, Alexander III, there was mass terror propagated against the Jewish community in the Pale. A series of laws were issued requiring that they could only live in towns; their property in the countryside was to be confiscated without payment; Jews were not permitted to trade on Sundays; and communities which wished to expel Jews were authorized to do so.

Quotas were put on Jews in the universities, cutting off educational opportunities for many. Jews who long resided in Old Russia were forced to move into the Pale. Jews were not permitted to work in or own mines, become lawyers, engineers or army doctors.

Pogroms were first launched in Odessa and Kiev in the early 1880s. Thousands of Jews were beaten, raped and robbed, and scores were killed. All of this was aimed at impoverishing the Jews and encouraging their emigration, if not conversion. It was during this time that the “solution to the Jewish question” was promulgated by Konstantin Petrovich Pobiedonostev as shown below:

“The only solution for the Jewish question in Russia is that one-third should emigrate, one-third become Christian, and one-third should perish.”	
Konstantin Petrovich Pobiedonostev (1888)	Director General of the Holy Synod of the Russian Orthodox church

During the period of “Chaos”, under Alexander III’s son Nicholas II, more destructive and deadly Pogroms resumed in 1903 lasting for several years. Hundreds of thousands lost their possessions and tens of thousands lost their lives. This was followed by World War I with fighting all across the Pale. Violence did not end with the conclusion of World War I as Polish, Ukrainian, Tsarist and Communist armies fought for supremacy. This fighting occurred across the Pale bringing death, destruction and general misery to its Jewish inhabitants.



During the period of Pogroms and Chaos, over two million Jews departed for the West, leaving everything that they had known behind. They had lived through turmoil, oppression, and violence during the period of Repression, yet few left then. What was different? The period of

Enlightenment opened their eyes as to what was possible; increasingly, relatives who had made the journey encouraged them to follow; train and steamship travel had become cheaper, faster and safer.

All of this, both the “pull” and the “push” encouraged our ancestors to leave.

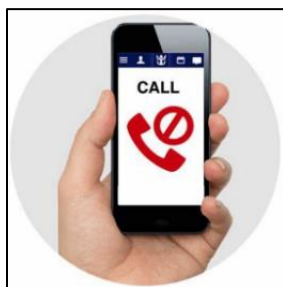
Presentation by
Hal Bookbinder, JGSCV
Founding Member and
Genealogist Researcher.



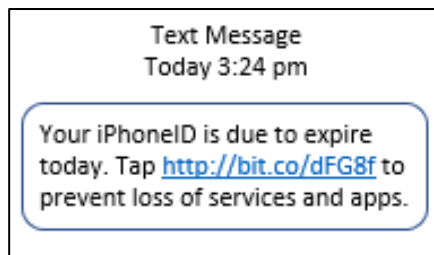
Hal Bookbinder

Practicing Safe Computing Article #84: “Stopping Text and Voice Spam”

By Hal Bookbinder



I regularly receive unwanted calls offering Marriott and Hilton timeshares, extended automobile warranties, amazing investments, and fund-raising appeals. I have also received phishing texts like the one to the right. Blocking the caller or sender does not work as they continue with ever-changing numbers.



Several of the mobile carriers offer apps to block spam.

Generally, the basic version is free, and the enhanced version costs several dollars a month.

Others refer you to apps you can download. Typically, these also offer a free-version and an enhanced version for a monthly fee.

See the PC Magazine article, [How to Block Robocalls and Spam Calls](#) for an overview of AT&T Call Protect, Verizon Call Filter, and T-Mobile Scam Shield. The article also describes the Hiya, RoboKiller, Truecaller, and Call Control commercial apps. They all rely on lists of spam numbers which are continuously updated. However, a spammer displaying a number not on the list may still get through.

No app is needed to block ALL calls from unknown numbers, routing them directly to voicemail. Most spam callers will then disconnect. You can return legitimate voice messages and add them to your contact list if you wish. Similarly, no app is needed to tag or block text messages from unknown senders.

For iPhones

- To send unknown calls directly to voicemail: 1) Tap Settings (the gear symbol), 2) tap “Phone”, and 3) toggle “Silence Unknown Callers” to green. *Incoming calls will ring from people in your contacts, recent outgoing calls, and Siri Suggestions (phone numbers in recent emails)*
- To allow only calls from your contacts to ring: 1) Tap Settings, 2) tap “Focus”, 3) toggle “Do Not Disturb” to green (ON), 4) toggle “Turn on automatically” to clear (OFF), 5) tap “People” under “Allowed notifications”, and 6) toggle “Calls From” to “All Contacts”.
- To tag unknown texts: 1) Tap Settings, 2) tap “Messages”, and 3) toggle “Filter Unknown Senders” to green. When accessing messages, tap “Filters”, and “Known Senders” to only see messages from your Contacts. *Apple permits you to block individual senders, but not all unknown senders.*

For Samsung Androids (*the steps may vary for other Android manufacturers*)

- To only allow calls from your contacts to ring: 1) Tap the phone icon, 2) tap the three dots at the top of the screen, 3) tap “Settings”, 4) tap “Block numbers”, and 5) toggle “Block unknown/private numbers” to green.
- To block unknown texts: 1) Tap the messages icon at the bottom of the screen, 2) tap the three dots at the top of the screen, 3) tap “Settings”, 4) tap “Block numbers and spam”, 5) tap “Caller ID and spam protection”, and toggle to green.

If you are expecting a call from a number that is not in your contact list and you wish it to ring to your phone, temporarily turn off call blocking. As I tend to forget the steps if I have not done them in a while, I record them in a Note on my iPhone for quick reference when needed.

This is the eighty-fourth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award, and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.

JGSCV Updates



Membership Renewal & your chance to win FABULOUS prizes!

Renew today and your JGSCVS membership will be good through December 2023!

Those who join/renew will be entered in our Chanukah drawing (*must also attend December meeting) for the chance to win fabulous gifts donated by our generous sponsors. See items and sponsors on page 10.

A renewal/membership form is on page 14.

Note regarding payment:

*Send a check made out to JGSCV and mail to our membership vice president, Helene (address on form).
If you prefer to pay by in-person, please contact*

Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org

One of the ways JGSCV obtains revenues in addition to membership dues is voluntary participation by members and friends in Ralphs Community Programs and through the Amazon Smile program.

We recently received \$105.74 from 22 members who participate in the Ralphs Community Contribution!

Whether you are a friend or member we appreciate your support and hope you will sign up for when you shop-even occasionally-at Ralphs or Food For Less, or Amazon Smile.

For more information and signing up go to JGSCV's website under Noteworthy

<https://jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.



Our Generous Contributors for Chanukah Prizes

**Join or Renew before December AND attend December meeting (12/11) for a chance to win*



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

Zoom link will be emailed to members before the meeting.

Sunday, November 6, 2022, from 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 1:10 PM.



NOVEMBER PROGRAM

“Did My Family Lie or Are the Records Wrong?”



Daniel Horowitz,
Genealogical Researcher, Lecturer and Author

The Program

Daniel Horowitz’s quest to find the truth about one of his great-grandmothers led him to a wealth of newly available records from the Holocaust in the Arolsen Archives — which just might help you find more information about the fate of your own family before, during, and after the war. Learn the techniques, tips, and tricks used to sift the true from the false and find out where to look and what to ask when researching a Jewish family that lived during the Holocaust.

Speaker: Daniel Horowitz

Dedicated to Genealogy since 1986, Daniel was the teacher and the study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. He was a board member of The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) for 10 years, now is involved in several crowdsource digitization and transcription projects and holds a board-level position at The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA). Since 2006 Daniel has been working at MyHeritage liaising with genealogy societies, bloggers, and media, as well as lecturing, and attending conferences around the world.

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, November 6th
1:30-3:30PM via Zoom**

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
<i>Nov 6</i>	<i>Daniel Horowitz</i>	<i>Did My Family Lie or Are the Records Wrong?</i>
Dec 11	Brooke Shreier Ganz	<i>Reclaim the Records</i> + Annual Meeting, Elections and Chanukah Party

*

Genealogy Odds and Ends



Free Webinar: JewishGen Talk presents “How to Utilize the JewishGen Discussion Group Effectively” presented by Phil Goldfarb.

Wednesday, Oct 26 at 2:00 PM Eastern Time

Register here: <https://898a.blackbaudhosting.com/898a/JewishGen-Talks-How-to-Utilize-the-JewishGen-Discussion-Group-Effectively>



New Ancestry Composition Detail for People of Ashkenazi Ancestry

Offering finer detail for those with Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry, allowing them to trace their family connections back to seven genetic groups corresponding to regions within Eastern and Central Europe.

<https://eogn.com/page-18080/12959201>

USC Shoah Foundation

The Institute for Visual History and Education

Towards recommendations for working with Holocaust testimony in the digital age

<https://sfi.usc.edu/events/towards-recommendations-working-holocaust-testimony-digital-age>

THE TIMES OF ISRAEL

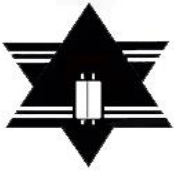
In London exhibition, snapshots of Jewish life soon to be shattered by the Holocaust:

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-london-exhibition-snapshots-of-jewish-life-soon-to-be-shattered-by-the-holocaust/>



Blogs of Interest to Jewish Genealogists

<https://genealogy.org.il/resources/blogs/>



2023 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 2023

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.)