

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



# JGSCV

January 2023

Volume 18 Issue 4

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

We had an outstanding program from Brooke Schreier Ganz on *Reclaim the Records*. *Reclaim The Records* is a new, not-for-profit activist group of more than 5,300 genealogists, researchers, historians, and journalists that use Freedom of Information (FOIA) laws – and sometimes even lawsuits – to obtain copies of previously inaccessible archival record sets. Those records are then put online for free public use. The presentation discussed how you too can access historical and genealogical records from local, state, and federal government archives, agencies, and libraries – even if they claim you're not allowed to see the records. See the highlights of the program on page 3.

Thank you to those members who have renewed for 2023. We are at a 55% renewal rate at the time this letter is being written. -slightly above where we were at the same time last year, but last year we had more total members. A renewal/membership form is on page 17 or you may print off a renewal form from the website at: <https://tinyurl.com/9wrsu8ss>

The Chanukah gift drawing was at the end of the program. A list of the members whose names were drawn from a bowl—they had to be in attendance at the time the names were drawn—is on page 12. My visiting niece drew the names. We are very appreciative of the many genealogical companies that provided the gifts: Ancestry, Fold3.com, Newspapers.com, MyHeritage, Geni.com, Legacy Software, Legacy Webinars, FamilyTree DNA, FamilyTree Maker and RootsMagic.

We held elections, by acclamation. Reelected for a two-year term: Jan Meisels Allen, Helene Rosen and Debby Wenkart. Janet Fishman was also elected to the board. Per the JGSCV bylaws, the board decides at its January meeting which elected members will do which assignment. As Karen Lewy decided not to remain on the board, and therefore, a new treasurer will be needed, we are presuming Janet Fishman will take over that role and a board meeting will be held in early January to have the board vote on the assignments. Members will be advised of the roles in the next newsletter and by an email from me.

JGSCV thanks Karen Lewy for her outstanding work as our treasurer, not once but twice, when a previous board member who was the treasurer left before their term expired.

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

(Cont'd next page)

## NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**1:30-3:30 PM**

***“Knowles Collection of Jewish  
Genealogy: What Is It and How  
Do I Use It?”***

***Presented by***



***Todd Knowles***

**Members Only ZOOM**

*More info page 14*

## FEBRUARY MEETING

JONATHAN BRENT, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CEO

YIVO INSTITUTE FOR JEWISH RESEARCH

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

January 2023

Karen has been exemplary in making certain that we complied with all state and federal requirements and filed the necessary tax and other forms in a timely manner. Karen has been meeting with the presumed new treasurer, Janet Fishman, to share information on what needs to be done.

Hal Bookbinder has written an article on accessing fee-based databases for free via area libraries (plus Las Vegas). See page 10. Additionally, Hal's "Practicing Safe Computing" series is on page 13 with #86 in the series, "Package delivery, banking, and Social Security scams." See page 13.

We are in discussions with the president of Temple Adat Elohim about possibly meeting there in person beginning sometime in 2023-March or April being the **earliest** depending on the status of the pandemic. As the virus is again on the upswing, when we meet in person, we will require wearing masks for all (no exceptions) as well as showing proof of vaccination and booster (bring your vaccination card with the information). These are the same requirements other societies are doing and so we will follow that model. Of course, it all depends on what is happening with the pandemic at the time we meet in person, and you will be notified in advance.

Until then we will continue to meet by Zoom. I know some do not like this, and of course meeting in person and having time to schmooze in person can't be beaten, but we want to be protected and protect the others in attendance. We send out the meeting notice with the Zoom instructions on Friday before the meeting. I do not look at my emails the hour before the meeting as I am busy preparing for the meeting. If you do not receive the meeting notice by Friday evening, email me or call me on Saturday during the day or Sunday between 8-11 AM. You can also email Helene our membership Vice President who sends out the Zoom email at [membership@jgscv.org](mailto:membership@jgscv.org). Members all have my home telephone number which was again emailed to them last month. If you need it, email me at [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org).

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.

Our January 8 meeting is with Todd Knowles, talking about the *Knowles Collection of Jewish Genealogy: What Is It and How Do I Use It?* The Knowles Collection is six databases that contain the records of almost 1.5 million people. This presentation will show how best to access the collection and get the best results for finding your Jewish ancestors. Todd is a Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer at FamilySearch. He found his Jewish roots when researching his great-grandfather and his journey to find these ancestors led to the creation of the Knowles Collection.

Looking forward to seeing you on January 8<sup>th</sup>.  
Have a happy, healthy New Year!

*Jan Meisels Allen*



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# Highlights from: “Reclaim the Records”

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV was privileged to have Brooke Schreier Ganz be our December 2022 speaker to tell us about Reclaim the Records (RTR). RTR is a non-profit activist group with more than 5,300 genealogists, historians, researchers, and open government advocates. It is a registered 501(c)(3) organization. The group identifies important genealogical record sets that belong in the public domain but are being restricted by government archives, libraries, and agencies. They file Freedom of Information and Open Data requests to get public data released back to the public. RTR takes the government(s) to court if they don't comply.

RTR places everything online for free without any paywalls or usage restrictions, so that it can never be restricted again.

Brooke introduced herself as a genealogy nerd, originally from New York (born, raised, and married there), with family from New York by birth or immigration with all eight of her great-grandparents had lived and married in New York City. As someone with Eastern European roots, she was surprised at the easy access to online records from Ukraine (former areas in Galicia, Bukovina, and the former Russian Empire) as well as archives from Poland -- but also shocked at how very difficult it was to obtain New York City's vital records. Her frustration inspired her to start RTR.

## How Reclaim the Records Began and How They Use Freedom of Information Laws

Brooke started the organization wanting to obtain older records that should be free and online. RTR is not a subscription service organization. Records are available for viewing and downloading for free. RTR does not do transcription files.

She informed us how they use Freedom of Information (FOIA) laws – and sometimes even lawsuits – to obtain copies of previously inaccessible archival record sets, which then are put online for free public use. Brooke also advised us on how we too can access historical and genealogical records from local, state, and federal government archives, agencies, and libraries -- even if they claim you're not allowed to see the records.

What do you do if the records you need for your genealogy research are not on FamilySearch, Ancestry, or MyHeritage? What if the records exist but they are not on a database yet and you are denied access?

**RTR wants you to know that you can successfully use Freedom of Information laws for genealogical and archival records.**

## HI, WE'RE "RECLAIM THE RECORDS"

- ★ We want to spread the word that you can successfully use Freedom of Information laws for genealogical and archival records!
- ★ Crowdfund ideas from the public for new record sets to reclaim, using our Records Survey
- ★ List our future targets publicly on our To-Do List
- ★ Publish all requests and public correspondence with agencies in real-time through MuckRock
- ★ Educational resource and advice portal for other people who want to make their own records requests
- ★ Voice for change in records access, voice for the individual researchers instead of the for-profit companies

Brooke emphasized that “you can force a government archive, government agency or government library to give you copies of the records that they currently deny you.” Sometimes the agencies lie about saying they cannot give you the records—but if you know the law you can force them to provide the records. The reason RTR does this is that records are the backbone of our research and what we are doing. The most frustrating thing is not being able to get the records you want and need.

**Freedom of Information laws is the way around these impediments.**

The types of records one can obtain from a freedom of information lawsuit are many:

- Birth Index
- Marriage Index
- Death Index
- Voter Registration Forms
- School Records
- Civil Service Records
- Passport records
- Tax Lists

And much more!

None of the above were online until RTR fought for access.

### School Records

School records are another genealogical gem that genealogists seek.

For school records, you need to know the name of the school and in most cases, you will be able to get the records. Schools may have more than a report card- such as attendance records, grades, and information about a student's family.

### Voter Registration Records

Voter registration records were kept by election boards in the cities where our ancestors lived. If your family worked in a government job their application and possibly pay stubs may have been retained.

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**ROSTER CARD**

Name Atmore, Samuel

Address 6328 Beechwood St

Position Chairman Bu. City Transit Dept.   
 Provisionally app'd 11-21-24

Date Appointed Feb 1 1925 Salary \$916.67

Salary Adjustment by Ord. 1-1-28 \$1100

Reg. No. 10 Page No. 251 Item No. Ins

Date	Subsequent Service Record
1928 7-16	Transferred to Chairman, Eng'r & Surveys, \$1100/year Item A35
9-15-30	Resigned.
7-7-31	Reinstated Chairman \$1100/year
9-15-31	Resigned.

Roster Card

Brooke showed us the results of a lawsuit against the City of New York—microfilm boxes of New York City marriage indexes. These were never transferred to the archives by the City Clerk's Office and the archive was resisting any non-legal approach for RTR to obtain them—until RTR sued them—more than once!



NYC Marriage Index Microfilm Boxes

The City of New York sent RTR the marriage index records on microfilm as that is the only format available for the earlier years. The (NY) City Clerk's office sent the records to them--- marriage index for

later years on Microsoft Excel Spreadsheets on a hard drive as they already had them digitized.

### Legal Wins!

Brooke reviewed a few of the RTR lawsuits. They did lose part of one lawsuit at an appeal level. They won the index to all New York State marriages (outside of New York City, which they had already won in two earlier suits) at the lower-level court, but then the appeal court blocked them from getting the less than fifty-years part of the index. They came out of the suit with more records available, but it was a partial victory and still frustrating.

RTR did lose a lawsuit at the appeal level about access to the New York State Department of Health emails-not about genealogical records.

Overall, they win many of their lawsuits.

They won in three separate lawsuits during 2015-2016—the New York City marriage license index 1906-2016. Remember the license is not the same as a marriage certificate! You want to obtain both as one has more information than the other.

Without taking the agency to court, RTR won the *List of Registered Voters in New York City for 1924* and the *New York City Geographic Birth Index 1880-1912*.

RTR won two lawsuits for the same record sets: The Kings County (Brooklyn) "Old Town Records 1660(ish)-1898.

### Pending Litigation

A current lawsuit RTR is working on is the New York City Death Certificates 1949-1968 and striking down the restrictive New York City records access rules.

The records RTR is trying to obtain would be open in **all other parts of the state of New York—so why not New York City?** This is a consistent problem that New York City acts as if it is not part of the State of New York.

Unless you are a direct descendant (which is defined in the rules) one cannot obtain a death record that is 75 years or less. Most of us do not need certified copies of a record but an informational copy. Other states, for example, such as our state of California or Massachusetts are “open records” and one can walk into any local, county, or state office and obtain the informational record without any embargo period.

Currently, RTR has a lawsuit in New York about accessing all death certificates between 50-75 years old, (1949-1968) stating that New York City cannot be more stringent than New York State law passed by the state legislature. (Note: RTR is going after the certificate not the index in this litigation.)

RTR also won without any lawsuits needed: The New York State Birth Index 1881-1942 and the New York State Death Index 1880-1956. While the state gave the records to Ancestry first, eventually RTR received the records.

They also won without lawsuits records in:

- New Jersey birth index 1901-1903
- New Jersey marriage index 1901-2016
- New Jersey death index 1901-2017
- New Jersey Geographic birth index and delayed birth index 1901-1929

Other genealogy organizations download this information to their own website which furthers the goal of RTR of making the information available to a wide population at no cost to them.

Usually, the information comes on microfilms which RTR has to convert to a digital format, but sometimes they do receive the information in digital format.

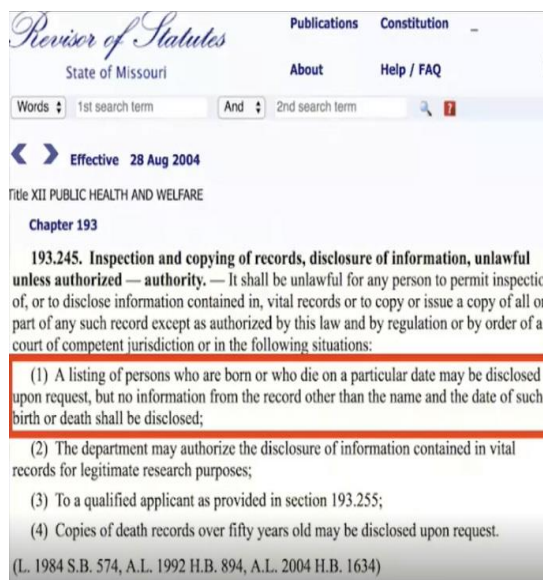
They were able to obtain indexes from Wyoming: death, marriage, and divorce indexes. They were not able to get the birth indexes as the embargo dates were too soon.

RTR was able to get the first-ever Mississippi death index 1912-1963; Nebraska state death index 1904-1968; Connecticut birth, marriage, death, and civil union index 1897-2017 which is coming soon, and more. Brooke related that in Mississippi they balked at giving the death index but by citing the law the state agency had to provide the index. This does not mean that some civil servants did not refuse at first but when RTR used the state law the civil servants gave in and provided the indexes.

RTR also has gone after federal records—and won! They went after the BIRLS (Beneficiary Identification and

Records Locator Subsystem) database from the Veterans Administration which is coming soon! The VA said their system was sloppy so they did not want to give it to RTR...so they sued the VA. It took 2 1/2 years but RTR won not only the data but their attorneys’ fees too!

One of their hardest lawsuits—four years— was against Missouri for their birth and death indexes... RTR won in the end. The Missouri list had who had died and names and dates. The Missouri law says one can obtain a list of those who were born or died on a specific date, upon request.



Missouri Statute releasing names and dates of births/deaths

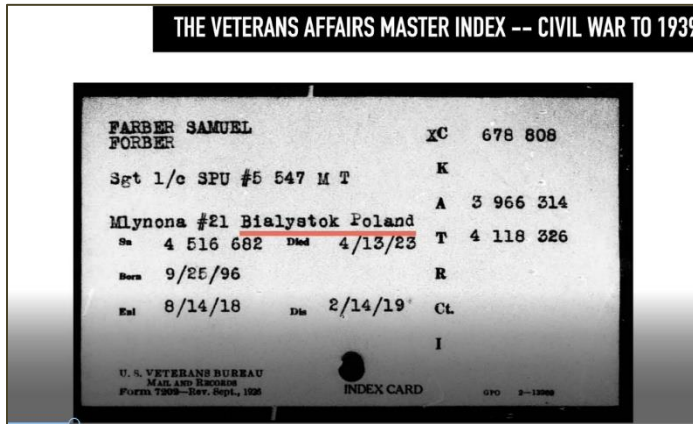
The archive had been selling the list to other people. However, when RTR first contacted the Missouri archive the archive tried to charge them \$1.5 million! When RTR sued them, they cut the charge/cost back to the original cost ranging from \$50 to \$250 per record request. They also recognized during the lawsuit that Missouri, by selling the data, was making money and by giving it to RTR for posting online at no charge, would reduce if not eliminate their records’ revenue source.



Missouri Sunshine Law request

## Veterans Affairs Master Index

By working with FamilySearch they were able to obtain the Veterans Affairs Master index, for those who served in the military from the Civil War to 1939. This included those who had a military pension, military claim or life insurance.



The following are six access restrictions that genealogists face:

**Format Restrictions**—the microfilm/microfiche or paper is not digitized and only available at the archive which may be across the country.

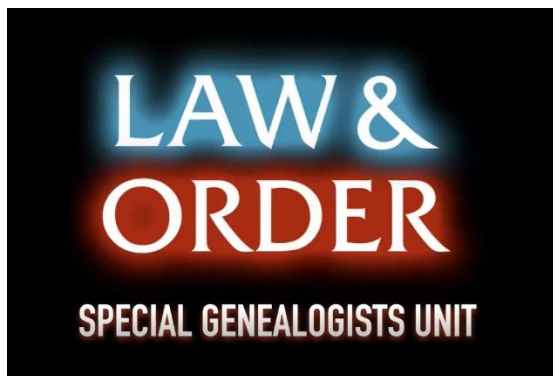
**Location Restrictions**--record only available in limited locations or during limited operating hours.

**Library Restrictions**—the librarian or archivist doesn't permit public access to it.

**Government Agency Restrictions**—Government doesn't permit public access to index or record

**Financial Restrictions**—record or index only available at a paywalled website for substantial fee or annual subscription.

**Knowledge Restrictions**—library or archive doesn't publish a list of its holdings so you don't know what they have so you can make a request.



You too can do this! It can be individuals who get access to records from government archives!

You, as an individual can do what RTR does by citing the law when you identify the records you need and are restricted. Have a legal justification for getting public copies. Use FOIL requests.

Make the records into better formats such as converting microfilm to digital images. Put it on the internet, raw data, and tools for data. Donate the original records to a library or archive. Educate others how on they can do this too.

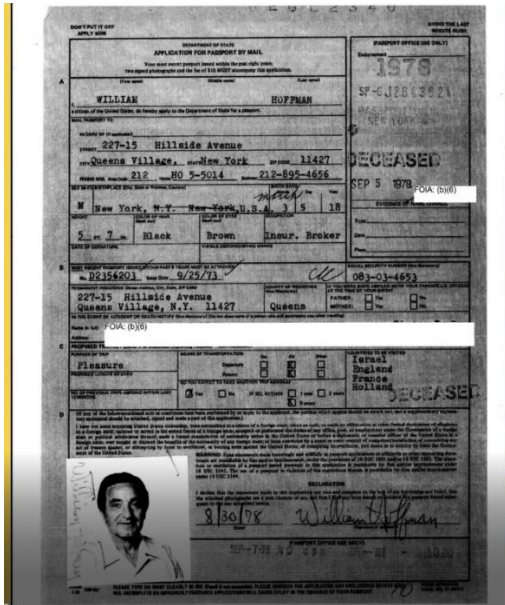
Freedom of Information lawsuits only work for government-created records even if they are held in a non-government location. FOIA lawsuits are **not** for private locations/archives or records held in a repository that has always been private.

**The Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) is only for federal agencies** such as the Department of Health and Human Services, FBI, State Department, etc. There are some federal records one can obtain under FOIA such as the SS-5 application form from the Social Security Administration. Brooke advised that when making the request, make certain they are providing a copy of the actual record, not a printed summary sheet.

★ EXAMPLE: The SS-5 from the Social Security Administration

## Passport Records

Passport records are also possible if you can prove the person is dead. If they died a long time ago then it is not necessary to provide a death record, however, for those who died more recently include proof of death- a copy of the death certificate, obituary, etc. If others in the family were included on the passport application, then include information about them as well.

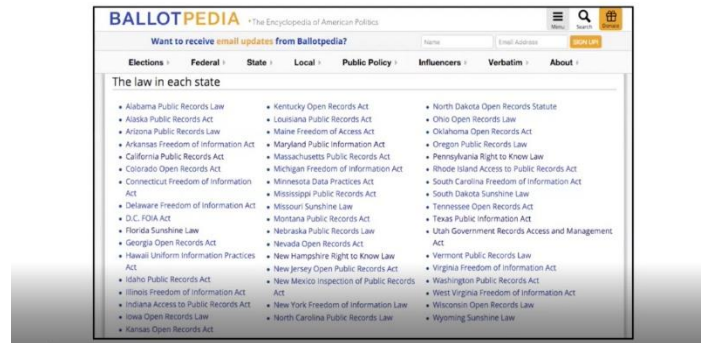


Passport Application

department **must** respond in a timely way- a few days—realistically they will take a few months. Every agency should have a FOIL officer to whom you address the request. If they say “no” you can appeal. Check the department to see if there is an appeal process.

New York State has many of their records digitized by Ancestry.com as they have contracts with the state archives as Ancestry has with other states. RTR went to the New York State Archives as if they were doing this with a state records agency. The records are available to the public not only on a for-pay subscription site. RTR contends they should be available to all in the public for free as they are state records. RTR went to New York State and obtained all the (vital) records for the state that are also on Ancestry. The Agency can charge the labor rate for the lowest paid person in the agency working on the records.

★ There are 51 different STATE FOI laws / Open Records laws / Sunshine law:



[https://ballotpedia.org/State\\_sunshine\\_laws](https://ballotpedia.org/State_sunshine_laws)

## FOIA

The charges for FOIA records are low. The archive/government agency may only charge their actual copying costs. You cannot ask them to transcribe all the marriages and then send you all the new data. You cannot ask them to make a new record. However, they can give you a record in whatever form it’s available.

RTR used the state laws not the federal laws when they went after state records such as in Missouri. The state laws all have different names; research is necessary to find out what it’s called in your home state. A few examples are:

*Freedom of Information Law (FOIL)* i.e., New York

*The Open Public Records Act (OPRA)* i.e., New Jersey

*The Sunshine Law*

*The right-to-know law (RTK)*

*The Public Information Act (PIA)*

There are 51 different state laws and the District of Columbia. Ballotpedia is a good resource for finding what is available your state. The best way to find your state’s law is by clicking on the link for your state on Ballotpedia’s website.

**Know your state:** which agency has the record you want? Is the record a vital record, health record, school record or? Is it the department of health that holds the record you want? Is that the proper name for the Department of Health or is Department of Health Services or is it another agency? The request is free. The

The FOIL laws do not cover all state agencies. For example, RTR is suing the judiciary- the court system, or the state legislature which are not covered by the state FOIL law.

## HOW DO YOU FOIL?

- ★ Find out the PARENT AGENCY in charge of the records you want
- ★ Births and Deaths might be under the control of your state’s Department of Health
- ★ Might be extra/second copies of births and deaths (usually pre-dating statewide registration) kept in city or county archives, with the city or county clerk’s office
- ★ Marriages and Divorces might be under the control of your state’s judiciary, court-by-court or county-by-county (or both), or a city or county clerk’s office

You cannot use FOIL for a birth/marriage or death certificate! Every state has a vital records law that includes who may access the records immediately—usually defines a list of relatives—or wait a specified time period from time of the event—an embargo period. The

time period varies not only by state but also by type of record. One may have to wait longer to access a birth record than a death or marriage record. Some of those embargo periods may be 125-100-80-50 or 25 years. States also establish a fee structure for how much each certificate costs.

You may be able to get a genealogical or informational copy- but not all states' laws or rules address "informational" or genealogical copies.

Brooke discussed MuckRock (<https://www.muckrock.com>) to make requests but there are other websites that can be used. MuckRock is a website to make Freedom of Information requests.

### How to Write a Request

The slide below is a sample of how to make a request. Make certain you want a start and end date and give a specific reason why you think they have the record(s). It is also important to advise the agency that you are an individual and not a for-profit company.

**EXAMPLE OF A NEW YORK STATE FOIL REQUEST**

- ★ Hi, my name is BROOKE SCHREIER GANZ and I am making a records request under THE NEW YORK STATE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION LAW (1977 N.Y. Laws ch. 933).
- ★ I am seeking A COPY OF THE NEW YORK STATE DEATH INDEX, FROM JANUARY 1 1880 TO DECEMBER 31 1956. THIS INDEX IS ALREADY OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AT MANY NEW YORK STATE LIBRARIES, BUT ONLY TO PEOPLE ONSITE. THE 1957-1965 RECORDS ARE ALREADY ONLINE, SO WHY NOT RELEASE THE OLDER ONES TOO?
- ★ I am a private individual, not a for-profit company. These records will be made freely available to the general public.
- ★ [IN VERY SMALL NUMBER OF STATES: I am a legal resident of this state.]
- ★ I would prefer to receive these records IN CSV FILE OR OTHER DATABASE FORMAT, ALTHOUGH I WILL ACCEPT COPIES OF MICROFILMS/MICROFICHE IF THAT'S ALL YOU HAVE.
- ★ I am willing to pay for the copies of these records, up to \$500. If this request might cost more, please contact me first to discuss the request. [IN SOME STATES, AND FOR FOIA I am requesting a fee waiver, because...]

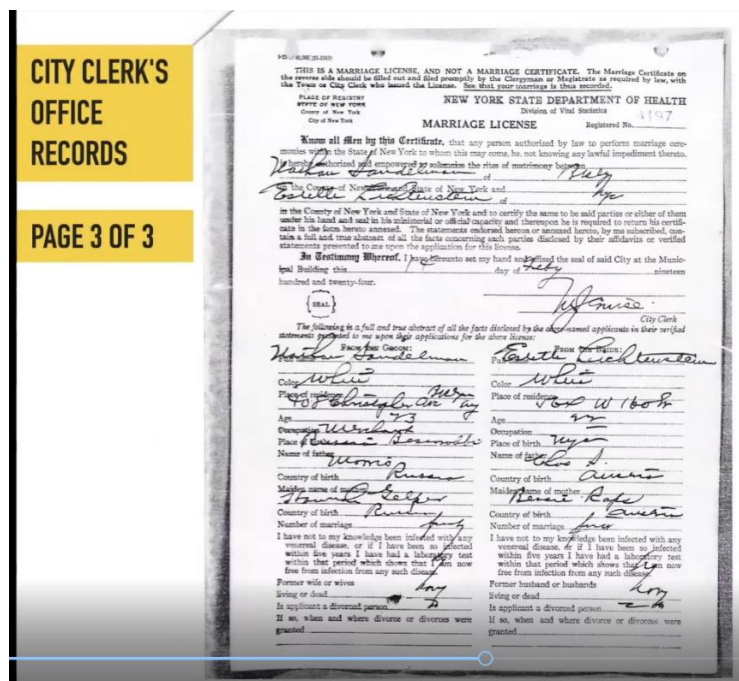
Some states require that you are a resident of the state you are writing to. If you are not such a resident, you can find a volunteer from that state on the aforementioned MuckRock website who will file the request for you. You must say the format you wish the records to be in. You must say you are willing to pay for the copies up to a defined amount or tell them to contact you before they bill you. Almost every state has an organization that will help you with free advice.

### Jurisdictions

There are 57 public health jurisdictions: 50 states, District of Columbia, 5 territories, and New York City.

Brooke contacted New York City as she wanted the two kinds of marriage records. One by the New York City Department of Health and that from the New York City

Municipal Archives—the City Clerk’s actual certificate. The City Clerk’s Office documents are three-page documents which contain more information than the Department of Health certificates. These records contain the **affidavit** that the couple signed swearing that they are able to get married (no bigamy and of legal age); the **license application** and license which is actually given to the couple, and the **certificate** filled out by the officiant with witnesses’ signatures and sometimes addresses.



The City Clerk’s records have the bride’s occupation, the couple’s cities of birth, their parents’ countries of birth, if either pair were ever widowed and when their spouse died, if either were divorced and if so when the divorce was finalized and grounds for divorce and home address of the witnesses. Some states divorce records are hard to access such as New York, which has a 100-year embargo period on those records, therefore, this information on a subsequent marriage certificate gives additional information that might not otherwise be available.

New York City Municipal Archives declined her request. Instead, they told her to fly across the country from San Francisco to New York City and come in person. Brooke then found a New York City lawyer and sued the archives’ parent agency the Department of Information and Information Services (DORIS). They settled with RTR by sending Brooke the microfilms that no one knew about. Brooke went to FamilySearch and offered the microfilms for posting if they would digitize them, which they accepted, and FamilySearch provided a digitized copy to Brooke.

## Internet Archive to the Rescue

Now the digitized microfilms had to be placed online for public access. Brooke went to Internet Archives <https://archive.org> note there is no “s” at the end of archives as that will take you to a paid subscription site of another organization. RTR is not hosting the images the Internet Archive is hosting the images.

Internet Archive is a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more. <https://archive.org/>

If you wish to make a tax-deductible contribution to Reclaim the Records go to:

<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

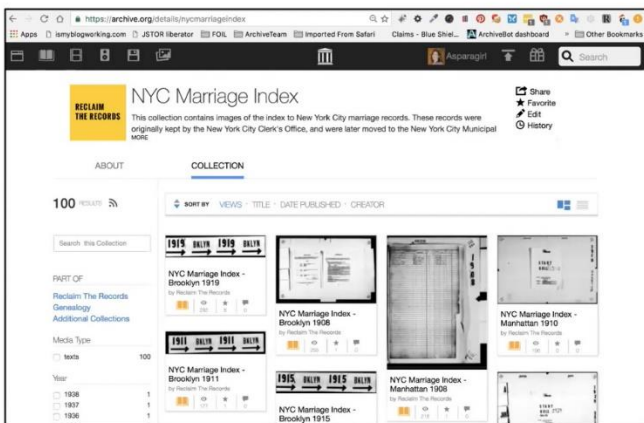
You can also sign up for the newsletter by going to: <https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/#newsletter>

You can contact Brooke at: [info@reclaimtherecords.org](mailto:info@reclaimtherecords.org)

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*Brooke Schreier Ganz is the founder and president of Reclaim The Records, a non-profit organization that fights for better public access to historical and genealogical materials held in government archives, agencies, and libraries. One of the largest open-records activist groups in America, RTR has filed and won multiple Freedom of Information lawsuits at the city, state, and federal levels. Brooke was the inaugural winner of the Massachusetts Genealogical Council's Shirley M. Barnes Records Access Award. And when not busy suing the government, she also builds huge free record search platforms, including for Geshet Galicia and IGRA's All Israel Database.*

## THE INTERNET ARCHIVE



★ <https://archive.org/details/nycmarriageindex>

Internet Archive has no copyright so you can download to your own website.

Brooke went from frustration to:

**Identification** of records

**Legal justification** for getting public copies

**Acquisition** using FOIL or FOIA requests as appropriate

**Duplication** into better formats

**Publication** onto the Internet

**Donation** of original records to a library or archive

**Education** of how other people can do this too

We thanked Brooke for a very stimulating program in which there were many follow-up questions and dialogue following the outstanding presentation.

# Accessing fee-based databases for free through our area libraries (plus Las Vegas)

By Hal Bookbinder

Area libraries have a wide array of genealogical, Jewish, and historical news search databases. This chart shows a selection of such databases. I have included Clark County, Nevada as they have several relevant databases and do not require Nevada residency. Most California public libraries will provide cards at no cost to any California resident. Some, but not all, will issue virtual cards online.

Some databases do not require one to access the library websites. This includes FamilySearch, the Jewish Encyclopedia, and the California Digital Newspaper Collection (CDNC). The CDNC includes more than 10 million pages of local California newspapers back to the mid-1850s. Links to these resources are included in the following charts.

	Calabasas	Camarillo	LAPL (City)	LA County	Thousand Oaks	Ventura County	Clark County, NV
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <i>AncestryLibrary includes 10,979 International and U.S. source files. The U.S. version of Ancestry.com contains 33,254 (as of mid-December 2022). I assume that other library editions are similarly less extensive than their subscription-based counterparts.</i> </div>							
<b>Genealogy Data Bases</b>							
American Ancestors (New England Historical Genealogical Soc)			O		X		
AncestryLibrary (Ancestry)	X	O	X		O	X	X
FindMyPast (DC Thomson Media)			O				
Fold3 Library Edition (Ancestry)	X						X
Heritage Quest Online (ProQuest & Ancestry)	X	X	X	X	X		X
MyHeritage Library Edition (MyHeritage)			X				X

<https://www.FamilySearch.org> (LDS Church) can be accessed directly

### Obituaries, Addresses and Phone Numbers

America's Obituaries or Heritage Hub (NewsBank)					X	X	X
Data Axle Reference Solutions – Address and phone look-up	X	X	X		X		X
Obituary Index (LAPL) – Notable individuals only			X				

### Jewish Reference

Encyclopedia Judaica (published 2007)			X				
Jewish Data			X				

<https://www.jewishencyclopedia.com> (published 1901-1906) can be accessed directly

- X Accessible remotely with library card
- O Accessible only from within library

	Calabasas	Camarillo	LAPL (City)	LA County	Thousand Oaks	Ventura County	Clark County, NV
Searchable Historical Newspapers							
Access World News (NewsBank)						X	
California Newspapers (NewsBank)						X	
Las Vegas Review-Journal Historical (1929-2018)							X
Los Angeles Area Historical Newspapers (1896-1970)			X				
Los Angeles Sentinel Historical Archive (1934-2010)			X				
Los Angeles Times, including Historical Archive (1881-current)			X		X		
New York Times Historical Archive (1851-1993)			X				
NewsBank	X		X	X	X	X	
Newspaper Source Plus (EBSCOhost) (1989-current)				X			
NewspaperArchive (1607 - 2022)				X			X
Newspapers.com Library Edition (Ancestry) (1690-2022)	X						
Nineteenth Century U.S. Newspapers (Gale) (1800-1899)							X
San Francisco Chronicle Historical Archive (1865-1922)			X				
U.S. Newsstream (ProQuest) (NY Times, WSJ, Washington Post, LA Times , Chicago Tribune, Boston Globe: 1980s- current)				X			

<https://cdnc.ucr.edu/> (California Digital Newspaper Collection) can be accessed directly, check the "Browse by County" for a list of newspapers in that county that are included

Finding the databases can be a challenge as each library's website handles this differently and some are not intuitive. Below are the instructions for navigating to the list of databases on each website. You will need to provide your library card and PIN to access many of these databases.

Calabasas:	<a href="https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/government/library">https://www.cityofcalabasas.com/government/library</a> Under "LIBRARY", select "Databases"
Camarillo:	<a href="https://www.camarillolibrary.org/">https://www.camarillolibrary.org/</a> Select "EXPLORE", select "Digital Resources"
LA City:	<a href="https://www.lapl.org/">https://www.lapl.org/</a> Select "Education & Research", Select "Databases"
LA County:	<a href="https://lacountylibrary.org/">https://lacountylibrary.org/</a> Select "DIGITAL LIBRARY", under "RESEARCH", select "Databases"
Thousand Oaks:	<a href="https://www.tolibrary.org/">https://www.tolibrary.org/</a> Select "Virtual Library", select "eResources A to Z"
Ventura County:	<a href="https://www.vencolibrary.org/">https://www.vencolibrary.org/</a> Select "Catalog Login", under "FEATURED ONLINE RESOURCES", select "See more"
Clark County, NV:	<a href="https://thelibrarydistrict.org/">https://thelibrarydistrict.org/</a> Select "Online Resources", select "A-Z List of Resources"

Hal Bookbinder is a founding member of JGSCV. 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. He writes a monthly column for this newsletter, "Safe Computing" (see page 13) and is available on the JGSCV website <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.

# JGSCV Updates

## Thank you, David Oseas

JGSCV is fortunate to have David Oseas as our webmaster.

Once or twice a month, David posts and keeps our website up-to-date and running smoothly.

He changes the next meeting notice monthly, posts the newsletter, and makes it easy for us to search. Of course, he also posts Hal's compendium and other items that need to be done - our membership form, lists of future meetings, changes in contact when there are changes to the board, etc.

At the beginning/end of every year, he goes into every page on the website to update the menu(s) for the (2023) newsletters as well as the copyright notice on the bottom of every page. He places the updates to the over 400 resources when changes are made.

In short, we are tremendously grateful for his contributions to our society.

## **JGSCV Membership Renewal and Chanukah Gift**

<b>Ellen Hustead</b>	<b>Fold3.com</b>
<b>Debbie and Harry Enenstein</b>	<b>Family Tree Maker 2019</b>
<b>Stephen Weinstein</b>	<b>GeniPro Subscription</b>
<b>Michael Pershing</b>	<b>Ancestry 6-month all-access subscription</b>
<b>Ruth Pollack</b>	<b>Legacy Software</b>
<b>Judith Cohen</b>	<b>Ancestry One-Year All access subscription</b>
<b>Janet Fishman</b>	<b>My Heritage Full Subscription</b>
<b>Dan Kaufman</b>	<b>Roots Magic 8.0</b>
<b>Allan Linderman</b>	<b>Family Tree Maker 2019</b>
<b>Sharlene Pass</b>	<b>Newspapers.com</b>
<b>Cherie Wrigley</b>	<b>Ancestry 6 month all Access Subscription</b>
<b>Carole Brownstein</b>	<b>Legacy Webinar Subscription</b>
<b>Helene Rosen</b>	<b>Family Tree DNA</b>
<b>Marsha and Mayer Wiedder-Alson</b>	<b>MyHeritage Full Subscription</b>

A WARM WELCOME TO NEW  
JGSCV MEMBER

# Practicing Safe Computing Article #86: “Package delivery, banking, and Social Security scams”

By Hal Bookbinder



I have recently received a spate of package delivery and banking spam texts. The common denominator is a link that can be misleading and dangerous. Once you click on the link you might be asked to approve the installation of software on your device or to disclose personal or financial information under the guise of identifying yourself. Don't fall for this!

Don't let your guard down because a link starts with “https”. http or https messages such as these are almost invariably scams. Don't let curiosity cause you to click on the link, just to see what happens. Just doing so may authorize the installation of malicious software (malware) on your device. Never click on any link contained in a text or email unless you are confident that it is legitimate.

Your package delivery failed because of the wrong address, please modify the address information to deliver again.

<https://www.us.ialla.us>

US Mail Service: Issue with your recent delivery, go to <http://uspxstech.com> for more.

Free Msg Wells Fargo: Recently, we discovered unusual activity or updates on your account that we believe may be unauthorized. For your security, Wells Fargo monitors all transactions to protect your account from misuse; You will not be able to use ATM/Debit/ Credit Card linked to this account for withdrawals or purchases until you verify your information. Visit us at <https://bit.do/VerifyWellsAccount> to secure your account.

Most of these spams now come to your iPhone or Android as texts rather than emails to your computer. Cybercriminals know that we are more apt to click on links in texts. Once on their site they will likely ask you to identify yourself with your ID and password or other personal information. These fraudsters are experts at reeling you in. These scams continue because they work!

If you think that the message might be real, contact Social Security, Wells Fargo, FedEx, Amazon, or the U.S. Post Office directly and not by clicking on the displayed link or calling the displayed phone number. If you have relatives who might be more trusting or impulsive than you, help them to avoid such scams before they become a victim.



Check out these two Social Security Administration alerts. They are quick reads and well worth your time: <https://blog.ssa.gov/helping-you-avoid-scams-this-holiday-season> and

<https://faq.ssa.gov/en-us/Topic/article/KA-10018> (What should I do if I get a call claiming there's a problem with my Social Security number or account?)

*This is the eighty-sixth 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>.*

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

(\* and surrounding areas)

will hold our January 2023 meeting on **Zoom**.

Open only to JGSCV members (see below for membership app).

**Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 1:10 PM.

**Zoom link will be emailed to members before the meeting.**



## JANUARY PROGRAM

**“The Knowles Collection of Jewish Genealogy:**

**What is it and How Do I Use It?”**



*Todd Knowles*

### The Program:

The Knowles Collection is six databases that contain the records of almost 1.5 million people. This presentation will show how best to access the collection and get the best results for finding your Jewish ancestors. Todd's great-grandfather Morris David Rosenbaum, who emigrated from Poland in the mid-1800s on a circuitous journey that ended in Utah, stood out when he asked his mother about ancestral names. Todd wanted to know more and after graduating from college continues his quest for his Jewish genealogy. His fascination with Morris David Rosenbaum and Jewish records led directly to creating the Knowles Collection.

### The Speaker:

W. Todd Knowles, AG, is a Deputy Chief Genealogical Officer at FamilySearch, where he has been for 23 years. After being introduced to family history at the age of 11, he soon discovered his Jewish roots. The journey to find these Polish Jews has led to the creation of the Knowles Collection ([knowlescollection.blogspot.com](http://knowlescollection.blogspot.com)), six databases that now contain the genealogical records of almost 1.5 million people. Todd is former President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Utah. Todd has spoken throughout the world and his articles have been widely published.

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

**ALL MEETINGS WILL BE RESERVED FOR MEMBERS ONLY VIA ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, January 8<sup>th</sup>  
1:30-3:30 PM via Zoom**

## 2023 Meetings

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
January 8	Todd Knowles	<i>"The Knowles Collection of Jewish Genealogy: What is it and How Do I Use It?"</i>
February 5	Jonathan Brent	<i>YIVO Institute for Jewish Research</i>
March	TBA	
April	TBA	
May	TBA	
June	TBA	
July	TBA	
August	NO Meeting (IAJGS conference)	<i>IAJGS Conference will be held in London, England July 30 to August 3, 2023</i>
September	TBA	
October	TBA	
November	TBA	
December	TBA	Annual Meeting, Elections, Chanukah Party

# Genealogy Odds and Ends

## **Borrowing Genealogy Books from the Internet Archive**

[https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy\\_news/2022/12/borrowing-books-from-internet-archive.html](https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2022/12/borrowing-books-from-internet-archive.html)



Free Webinar

## THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

### **Basics of Jewish American Genealogy**

Thursday, January 19, 12-1:00 PM Pacific Time (3-4:00 p.m. ET)

Presented by Rhonda R. McClure

Today there are an estimated 7.6 million Jewish Americans living in the country, the majority of whom descend from diaspora Jewish populations from Central and Eastern Europe. Learning how to trace your Jewish ancestry is not without its challenges: changing surnames, locating your ancestor's home village or shtetl, and access to overseas records are just the tip of the iceberg. This webinar will discuss the historical context of your ancestor's arrival in the United States, review American records that can be helpful in your research, and provide basic strategies for uncovering your ancestor's exact origins in the old country.

[https://hubs.americanancestors.org/basics\\_of\\_jewishamericangenealogy](https://hubs.americanancestors.org/basics_of_jewishamericangenealogy)



## **International Holocaust Remembrance Day January 27, 2023**

The theme guiding Holocaust remembrance and education in 2023 is "Home and Belonging"

<https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1j/k1jil8fwc5>

<https://www.un.org/en/outreach-programme-holocaust/page/2023>



JewishGen Learning Center has many offerings in early 2023.

Check out their classes and study groups:

<https://www.jewishgen.org/education/#winter-spring>

Free Webinar

**NYG&B**

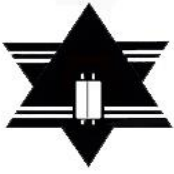
NEW YORK  
GENEALOGICAL  
AND BIOGRAPHICAL  
SOCIETY

### ***Jewish Gravestones and the Internet: A Researcher's Guide to New York City***

- Tuesday, January 24 at 7:00pm EST
  - In-person and Online

Presented by Yonah Paley  
Sponsored by the *New York Genealogical and  
Biographical Society*

<https://www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org/events/jewish->



**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.)