VENTURING INTO OUR PAST
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF THE CONEJO VALLEY AND VENTURA COUNTY

PRESIDENT’S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe.

We had a very interesting program on January 8th with Todd Knowles who talked about The Knowles Collection of Jewish Genealogy: What is it and How Do I Use It? His presentation showed how best to access the collection and get results for your Jewish ancestor search. Todd’s great-grandfather, Morris David Rosenbaum, emigrated from Poland in the mid-1800s on a circuitous journey that ended in Utah. Todd wanted to know more and after graduating from college continued his Jewish genealogy quest. His fascination with Morris David Rosenbaum and Jewish records led directly to creating the Knowles Collection. See page 4 for highlights.

We are still anticipating more of our members will renew for 2023. At the time of writing this president’s letter we are at 70% renewal. I know more will renew before the date our bylaws require us to drop you from membership – and that date is fast approaching. I ask now for those who have not renewed to do so. I have sent an email to each member who has not renewed. We thank those who have already renewed. A renewal form is available at: https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf

The good news: I am delighted to inform you that I am in discussions with the administrative staff and president of Temple Adat Elohim, and it appears we will meet there in-person starting in April 2023! I know many of you are excited about getting back to in person meetings! There is a unique energy created when we’re together that Zoom cannot provide (though Zoom has certainly been a fantastic vehicle for us to keep meeting during these unusual times.) We look forward to continuing our 17-year affiliation with Temple Adat Elohim.

We are working out future meeting dates and will have a hybrid year, some Zoom and some in-person. Stay tuned for dates and details. I have sent the Temple our “wish list of dates” and we are waiting to learn which of those fit in their calendar. We have speakers confirmed through March via Zoom and when the arrangements with Temple Adat Elohim are finalized, we will meet in-person (hopefully beginning in April). Obviously, I can’t invite a speaker to attend until our contract with the temple is signed. You will be notified via this newsletter, on our website, and by an email from me when everything is finalized. See page 10 for our speaker line-up through March.

When we meet at Temple Adat Elohim, we will follow health protocols to ensure everyone’s safety. We will watch for what happens with the three viruses that are currently infecting southern California and act accordingly.

(Cont’d next page)
“Genealogy in the Round” is our annual meeting run by you, our members. This year it will be held on July 9. Start thinking now of a success, brick wall, or artifact you can share with us. In the past year I hope you have done some genealogy and made some headway. Please contact me so I can place you on the program president@jgscv.org. This event always turns out to be one of the best programs because of your participation!

The sad news: Years ago, we became an Amazon Affiliate which allowed those who purchased products to give JGSCV a charitable percentage of the purchase. Then Amazon stopped that program and we participated in AmazonSmile -- again allowing purchasers to give a charitable percentage of the sale to JGSCV. On January 18 we were notified by Amazon that they were discontinuing that program effective February 20, 2023. Their letter said “...after almost a decade, the program has not grown to create the impact that we had originally hoped. With so many eligible organizations—more than 1 million globally— our ability to have an impact was often spread too thin.” We are sorry this program is ending and will miss the additional money it provided for speakers and books.

If you are purchasing anything that Amazon sells before the February 20 deadline, please sign up for the program and purchase through the JGSCV link. Also, see our website https://jgscv.org/noteworthy.html and go to Amazon Smile Program for instructions. I just stocked up on laundry cleaners and will do another type of purchase before the cut-off date.

Meanwhile, JGSCV needs additional revenues as our dues do not bring enough for us to operate. We still participate in the Ralphs/FoodForLess/Krogers Community Contribution Program. If you shop, even occasionally at one of the Krogers stores (in Southern California its Ralphs and FoodforLess) please sign up for their program. Again, look at https://jgscv.org/noteworthy.html for instructions or contact our treasurer, Janet Fishman for assistance at treasurer@jgscv.org.

Our 2023 budget has been created and needs be approved at our next board meeting. We are stretching every dollar now that we will be bringing in speakers to make in person presentations. We’ve always had stellar programs and that will not stop! One of the gems of JGSCV has been dynamic and interesting speakers with topics and this will continue.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his “Practicing Safe Computing” series with #87 in the series, Cybersecurity Tips. See page 7.

We have not received any new submissions for our Family Histories column, started after Joan Adler (June 2020 speaker) suggested member stories be featured in our newsletter. We would love to include more of these personal, unique, and fascinating memories. Please send to both Diane Goldin, newsletter editor, at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and me at president@jgscv.org. If you need assistance, Diane is eager to help you.

Our February 5th program is with Jonathan Brent, executive director of YIVO, talking about “The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.” See page 9 for details.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 5th.
Support your local JGS: Why Renewals & Memberships Matter

It’s true. More and more vital records from around the world are being digitalized and accessible every year. Online sites for specialized areas bring results to your home, and it’s easy to assume that research is a solo operation done only on your computer. Why would you need to support your local branch of genealogy—Jewish or otherwise? Here’s WHY:

Education and Insight: It’s like improving in a foreign language. The more you dive in, the more you see how much you don’t know. That’s why we return to our personal research now and then. Together, we can raise the quality and level of your research to reflect accuracy and current standards.

Access to experience: JGSCV happens to have a bevy of formidable and experienced members who connect with the international JGS community at large. If you are a member, their expertise is at your service via pre-meeting conversations and “Ask the Expert” sessions, live or live on Zoom. Invaluable at any level of your experience.

Advocacy: JGSCV is also an advocate for accessing records as well as giving annual donations to Jewishgen.org, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). Your membership dues provide for that. As a member of the International JGS, our society has a say in what we’d like to accomplish and how it’s done.

Each time you renew, it’s not just for the amazing speakers, the library resources or the award-winning newsletter. It’s to support Jewish genealogy—its methods, its access to records, and the wonderful hobby it has become.

Andrea Massion
JGSCV Member at Large

Thank you!

Warm thanks to those members who included a generous donation when they renewed their 2023 memberships. Your support is valued.

SAVE THE DATE:

Tracing Jewish Roots
43rd IAJGS International Conference on
Jewish Genealogy
London 2023

July 30 to August 3, 2023
Highlights from: “The Knowles Collection of Jewish Genealogy: What is it and How Do I Use It?”

By Jan Meisels Allen

The Knowles Collection is comprised of six databases that contain the records of almost 1.5 million people. This presentation showed how best to access the collection and get results for Jewish ancestors. Todd Knowles’ great-grandfather was named Morris David Rosenbaum, and he emigrated from Poland in the mid-1800s on a circuitous journey that ended in Utah. Todd grew up curious about the ancestral names on Morris’s side of the family. Todd wanted to know more and after graduating from college continued his quest for his Jewish genealogy. His fascination with Morris David Rosenbaum and Jewish records led directly to the creation of The Knowles Collection.

The Knowles Collection was never intended to be called the Knowles Collection. When Todd first began to research, he collected everything under his name. He was in London when he received a call from a colleague who said they were loading it on the FamilySearch website as The Knowles Collection. He asked them to wait until he returned from his trip - but they did not wait, and have not allowed him to change the name. Hence, The Knowles Collection was born!

Where the Knowles Collection Started

The collection started with Morris David Rosenbaum, born in Fordon, Poland in 1831, the oldest of seven children. All his younger siblings were sisters. Based on Rosenbaum’s journals (which Todd is fortunate to have), Rosenbaum was being trained to be the next rabbi in the small farming community.

By the time he was 19, he knew six languages, but not English. His parents wanted him to see other places, so he left and the first place he went to was England. There he stayed with and was trained by two families—the Samuels and Benjamin families. These are the only surnames in his journal that do not lead to Todd’s direct relatives.

By using the journals, Todd was able to find out some information. Rosenbaum’s father was David who died in Fordon in 1857 by the records. When Todd found his birth record, it showed his given name was Moses, not Morris.

Mordy Collection

The Mordy Collection consists of 155 pedigrees, and the records are linked by numerical code. There are about 7,500 people in the collection. Mordy is a mathematician, so it is difficult to follow. Everything is done by code linked to each pedigree.

Todd showed an example where the first number (11) is the father’s reference number in the previous generation. The second number (8) is the generation number, and the third number (11) is the reference number with the generation. “LL” is the code assigned to each pedigree.

In this example, 11 is the generation. The females were given numbers 1-10, the males 11-20, then it flips back to...
the females for numbers 21-30, etc. On the records, to add to the confusion, are the pedigrees of the women’s husbands. It also provides birth and death dates. This is the index to the pedigrees, which then requires one to go back and build the pedigrees. It took Todd almost three years to build the pedigrees and then add spouses. Some pedigrees did not have adequate information. He showed a card that had only two people listed, but in the 1881 Census, there were 13 children - and none listed on the card.

Gluckstein family

While in London, Todd met a member of the Gluckstein family who wanted him, in order, to build the pedigree. He realized that they had to go to more records. He went to Willesden Cemetery, London, which is the cemetery where the Rothschilds are buried (they were the owners of the famous Lyon’s Tea Houses). There are also many rabbis buried there who fled Germany due to World War II.

He reviewed several English Censuses’ which recorded the family and children and how their children had married and had children from 1861 through 1911. From the 1911 British Census, one learns about Isadore, a son. Todd followed him through the decades and showed the descendant of the Lyons family with online records. This included a family website that noted the death dates of relatives. He also showed a probate registry with Isadore who died in 1920. In addition to records, Todd showed us headstone transcriptions from the Home of Peace in Los Angeles which Todd has documented and is now part of the Collection as well.

These are different types of records to help with creating one’s family tree/pedigree with records in addition to vital records.

In addition, there are synagogue records. He showed us a Fordon, Poland marriage record from 1824, the first record after his family took a surname:

Fordon, Poland Marriage Record

1824 marriage in Fordon, Utah
Joseph M Rosenbaum, David Rosenbaum’s uncle, marrying Rachel with their parents’ names included on the record.

He also showed an 1887 recorded birth for 1877 in St. Thomas Virgin Islands. The record noted the delays in reporting due to various natural events such as hurricanes. He also had an 1869 Argentina census. Todd mentioned he has information from the Malcolm Stern Collection, which is also part of his family records, and therefore he has those included. The Malcolm Stern Collection may be accessed at FamilySearch and at https://tinyurl.com/mryaxzhn.

The Knowles Collection Today

The Collection has over 1.4 million people from 2,500 different sources, from 200 different countries, linked as families and name searchable. FamilySearch members access it for free.

What Exactly is the Knowles Collection?

The six databases are:

1. Jews of the British Isles
2. Jews of Europe
3. Jews of North America
4. Jews of the Caribbean and South America
5. Jews of the South Pacific
6. Jews of Africa, the Orient, and the Middle East

What Records Are Included

While there are 1.5 million people in the Collection there are a lot more than that for sources. Some people, like the Gluckstein’s, have 60 sources for one person. The Collection is updated daily with records coming in all the time! People continually donate records for the Collection.

How Do I Access It?

Go to the FamilySearch website and go to the drop-down box and click on genealogies; it takes you to a place to click on "Search" for specific trees where you type in Knowles Collection.

Jewish Records Knowles Collection

When Todd clicked on search, and he put in the name Isadore Glickstein the results yielded the following information:
Isadore Glickstein

By clicking on Isadore above on the FamilySearch website, it will pull up his pedigree/family tree. It will also display the sources for the information.

People are always contacting Todd with additional information. About one year ago someone called him and commented that there was nothing from Turkey. The following day he received electronically about 35,000 records of people from Turkey with the names of both their parents. This was a phenomenal addition as some of the records go back to the 16th century.

Everything in the Knowles Collection has a “firewall” between it and FamilySearch, therefore any family tree you may place on FamilySearch will not “connect” to the Knowles Collection.

Todd also has a blog, KnowlesCollection.blogspot.com

JGSCV member Karen Franklin commented that the Collection shows that there is so much more than just the public records and the combination of all of these records into one database makes life so much more interesting. Additionally, she thanked Todd for opening up the FamilySearch collection to help navigate this on our own where otherwise it would be more difficult.

Todd mentioned last year’s RootsTech there were over 3 million people who accessed it. It is all free and up for one year, with people from all over the world. This year’s RootsTech is MARCH 2–4 2023 in Salt Lake City. One can attend in person or virtually. Virtual attendance is free.

To register for RootsTech 2023, go to: https://www.familysearch.org/rootstech/event/rt2023.

To contact Todd, go to: KnowlesWT@FamilySearch.org

We thanked Todd for an excellent presentation and question and answer period.

Following the program, members stayed for an open session. There was an extensive discussion regarding meeting by Zoom or in person for later in the year. Both options are being accomplished as we are meeting via Zoom from January through at least March, and we can add another Zoom meeting later in the year if we have a speaker from afar. There was also a discussion about meeting earlier on Sundays. Unfortunately, that will not work when we return to the Temple due to other activities in their Social Hall. Additionally, there is a benefit of consistency- always the first Sunday at 1:30 PM or the first Monday at 7:00 PM rather than moving days and times so people will not remember “the dates” for JGSCV.

Anyone with comments is always encouraged to provide them by email or during the ask the experts sessions which exist for the interchange of ideas

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 (https://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.
Practicing Safe Computing Article #87: Cybersecurity

By Hal Bookbinder

There is no single cybersecurity silver bullet. A comprehensive approach is needed: complex passwords, a password manager, multi-factor authentication, thinking before clicking on attachments and links, minimizing social media sharing, restricting app permissions, and keeping software current.

- **Use complex passwords and do not re-use them for different websites**: Passwords that you can remember are generally guessable. Cybercriminals have automated tools that will try hundreds or thousands of likely passwords. If you re-use passwords and one site is compromised, those for which you use the same password are also at risk.

- **Use a password manager**: Since there is no way to remember your different complex passwords, you must record them somewhere. Password managers are designed to do this, securely. Choose one that also generates complex passwords on request. Of course, you will need to remember the one, presumably complex, password for your password manager.

- **Use Multi-factor Authentication (MFA)**: An ID and password alone are not enough. If a site is hacked, your ID and password may have been exposed. With MFA, the cybercriminal would require more. An example of MFA is texting or phoning you with a code for you to enter before access is granted. MFA is a necessary tool in protecting your critical online accounts.

- **Think before opening attachments or clicking on links**: As pointed out in my January article, they may take you to fraudulent websites that have been designed to look like the real thing. Once you enter your ID and password, they have it, and you may not even know that you have been scammed. See, https://www.aura.com/learn/how-to-identify-fake-websites.

- **Minimize what you share on social media**: Such information can be used to impersonate you, provide clues as to your IDs and passwords, convince you that a caller is legitimate based on their knowledge of you, and even put your home at risk if they know you are away on vacation. See, https://www.aura.com/learn/how-to-protect-your-personal-information-on-social-media.

- **Review which apps have access to your photos**: You may have unwittingly given full access to your photos to various apps. Photo tags show when and where they were taken. This, along with the photos themselves, can be revealing. I checked my iPhone settings for “Photo” and found that Siri has unrestricted access “to make suggestions.”

- **Review which apps have access to your location**: Apps can track your location, and not only when you want this. On your iPhone in Settings, select “Privacy & Security” and then “Location”. You may be surprised when you view the list of apps with whom you are sharing your location.

- **Keep software up to date**: Updates frequently contain “patches” to fix newly uncovered security exposures. It is generally best to remain current.

- **Even a password manager may be hacked**: In August 2022, LastPass, the password manager that I have used for years was hacked. They have been transparent about this and have advised users to change their passwords. I have done so (and plan to continue to use LastPass). See, https://blog.lastpass.com/2022/12/notice-of-recent-security-incident/.

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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.
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].

Family Stories

This space belongs to you, our members.
Submit memories and genealogical discoveries for this newsletter.

Need assistance? We are eager to help! Contact our editor, Diane at newslettereditor@JGSCV.org and Jan at president@jgscv.org
Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County* (JGSCV)  
(* and surrounding areas) 
will hold our February 2023 meeting on Zoom.  
Open only to JGSCV members (see below for membership app).  

Sunday, February 5th 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.  

FEBRUARY PROGRAM  

“The History of the YIVO Archives and Digital Access”  

Jonathan Brent

The Program:  
Jonathan Brent will speak about the history of the YIVO archival collections, the recovery of its materials after WW2, and the current digitization projects. He initiated The Edward Blank YIVO Vilna Online Collection Project in 2014, an international project to conserve and digitize all of YIVO’s pre-WW II collections in New York City and Vilnius, Lithuania. In 2018, Brent initiated the development of the YIVO Bruce and Francesca Cernia Slovin Online Museum.

The Speaker:  
Jonathan Brent became Executive Director and CEO of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in 2009. He is a historian, publisher, translator, writer, and teacher. In 2019, Jonathan Brent received the Cross of the Knight of the Order for Merits to Lithuania by H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania. For eighteen years (1991-2009) he was Humanities Senior Editor and then Editorial Director at Yale University Press where he established the Annals of Communism series. His books include Stalin’s Last Crime (2003); and Inside the Stalin Archives (2008). Brent has translated poems of Joseph Brodsky and Vladimir Mayakovsky and teaches history and literature at Bard College. He is currently writing a study of Stalin’s seizure of power, and finishing a novel. Brent lectures and publishes widely on Jewish, Soviet, and East European history.

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  

February 2023
# 2023 JGSCV Meeting Dates

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

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<td>February 5</td>
<td>Jonathan Brent</td>
<td><em>YIVO Institute for Jewish Research</em></td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Rhoda Miller</td>
<td><em>Gone Girl: DNA and Document Strategies for Finding a VERY Long Lost Female Cousin.</em> (Zoom)</td>
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<td><em>Annual Holocaust Memorial Program</em></td>
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<td>August</td>
<td>NO Meeting (IAJGS conference)</td>
<td><em>IAJGS Conference will be held in London, England July 30 to August 3, 2023</em></td>
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<td>December</td>
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<td><em>Annual Meeting, Elections, Chanukah Party</em></td>
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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/k1jl8fwc5

JewishGen is proud to announce its 2022 year-end update for the newly expanded Memorials & Plaques Database
https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/

Census Population for 2023

https://www.jewish-heritage-europe.eu/2023/01/19/poland-mezuza/
The Mezuzah Trail in Krakow

JEWISH-AMERICAN HISTORY FOUNDATION

The Jewish-American History Documentation Foundation is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to creating a 21st-Century electronic archive of original 19th-Century historical documents.
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.)
________________________________________
________________________________________
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February 2023
VENTURING INTO OUR PAST