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NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 5th, 2024

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

via **Zoom**



Megan Lewis, Librarian

*“The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM):
New Resources and Collections”*

See page 6

JUNE MEETING
Sunday, June 9th -- Michael Morgenstern
“A Gallery of Missing Husbands”

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 include beginners and experienced genealogists who share with each other.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Greetings Jewish Genealogy enthusiasts,

I hope you are enjoying the Passover holiday and partaking in generous amounts of matzah brei and charosets.

This holiday brings reminders of the different activities and rituals our ancestors followed while celebrating it. JewishGen has released excerpts from Yizkor books detailing the community practices in the Diaspora. The "Passover Companion 2024/5784" features a collection of inspiring stories and first-hand accounts about Passover observance in various locations. These heartwarming stories, taken from Yizkor (Memorial) Books that JewishGen has translated, also recount the incredible efforts and personal sacrifices made by Jews to observe Passover during the Holocaust. To read further on this topic, go to: <https://jewishgen.org/education/PassoverCompanion2024.pdf>

I remember that in my youth, we did not have the vast array of Pesach items available today. Back then the main confection was boxes of super sweet jelly slices. (They only tasted good because they were heavily coated in sugar!) Scant other treats were available, except for the macaroons baked by the Kosher bakeries in ovens coated with parchment paper. Much time was spent peeling the macaroons from the paper and trying not to get any of the dreaded paper in your mouth. Other memories include getting giddy at Seders after four cups of Manischewitz Kosher l'Pesach Concord Grape wine. (To be honest, I think I was giddy after the second cup!) Another recollection involves the faith in my ability to eat a sandwich made with matzah. My goal of eating an intact matzah sandwich crumbled in real time. The meat would invariably end up in one hand while the broken matzah segments in the other hand. The last memory is more contemporary. It involves a seder with family tuned in on Zoom and Facetime. It was a seder for the ages which our ancestors couldn't imagine.

A final recollection relating to Passover concerns my first experiences shopping in California. A now defunct grocery chain offered special paper bags to separate your regular groceries from those that were for Passover. Each bag was labeled: "Why is this bag different from all other bags?"

I bring my recollections of past Passovers to encourage everyone to share their experiences with family and friends because that is part of Jewish history too. We marvel at the practices of our ancestors, but we should also take notice of our own practice and experiences with others. Our traditions can be a legacy themselves.

I wish you all a sweet Passover with no matzah mishaps. Am Yisrael Chai.

**Issie Perel
JGSCV President**



April Meeting Review

Film Presentation:

Boy On the Run

By Andrea Massion

The Board of Directors of JGSCV introduced a new format for the April 2024 meeting and we hope that you enjoyed it. Using the provided link online, members had four days to screen a film in the privacy of their own homes. For this particular showing, members were encouraged to share the link with friends and family as a perk from JGSCV.

Boy On the Run, a film about the experience of one Czech Jewish family during World War II is told in detail by their son, Paul Galan. Mr. Galan, a retired film and television producer, put his skills as a dynamic communicator to use by sharing his own story of survival with student and adult audiences. He has also produced several video projects dealing with the Holocaust.

Boy on the Run vividly recounts this extraordinary journey, including a tense night when he and his parents found themselves sharing

quarters with Nazi soldiers. The film was on an online streaming service.

Directed by Brianne Berkson, born in NYC, and Miguel Gluckstern, born in Germany and raised in Spain (their production company is BriGuel) the film was particularly adept at showing just the right photos and historical film clips as the family's saga unfolds. Mr. Galan recounts his personal Holocaust story with such alacrity and detail --a tribute to his years as a Shoah educator.

Boy on the Run is a family on the run. Occasionally, kindnesses came their way as they literally walked ahead from the German army incursion. In this story, the parents are the heroes, and the moments that depict that courage are truly amazing, especially as told by the

boy now older man, their son, whose life they saved.

Mr. Galan immigrated to the United States as a teenager with his parents in 1951. He attended the



*Hitler enters Prague CZ March 15, 1939.

City College of New York where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Film and History and has spent his working career in New York's film industry as a director of documentary television programs for ABC News and independent broadcast groups such as Westinghouse Broadcasting and Capital Cities Broadcasting. He has produced and directed hundreds of films for private industry. His television work earned him two EMMY nominations, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Award in Journalism and numerous other professional industry recognitions. He retired in 2006 and began sharing his Holocaust survival story. Mr. Galan is currently co-president of the Holocaust Museum and Study Center located at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY.

Debra Wenkart, our JGSCV secretary, shared her reaction after watching the documentary: *I was moved by the resilience of this family and how they persevered under the most dire circumstances, particularly the unbelievable strength of the mother and everything that she did to protect her young son... Despite all the horrors the family endured, and they did encounter a few communities and people who showed some humanity and helped them survive.*



Left: Gate of No Return, a memorial at Praha-Bubny Railway Station, commemorating the deportation here of thousands of Jews to their deaths.

Web Sources for Czech Research

FamilySearch

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Czechia_Genealogy

Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International

- <https://cgsi.org/>
- <https://cgsi.org/resources/intro-research/how-find-records>

Jewishgen.org

Czech-Jewish Genealogy

<https://www.jewishgen.org/austriaczech/czechguide.html>

A list of websites just for Czech research from Family Tree Magazine

<https://familytreemagazine.com/heritage/czech/czech-genealogy-toolkit/>

History of Czech settlers in the U.S. Midwest States

<https://www.czechfriends.org/czech-genealogy-research>



Above: On May 5, 1945, the uprising in Prague began when the radio station was taken by Czechs. Upon hearing the noise, Czech broadcasters began calling for citizens to rise up against the Nazis.

JGSCV Updates

JGSCV Family Histories

This is your space to share your family stories.

Joan Adler, our June 2020 speaker, suggested our members write up memories and genealogical discoveries to publish in our newsletter.

We would love to continue this series. If you have something to share please send to Diane at newslettereditor@JGSCV.org and Issie at president@jgscv.org



Community Contribution Program

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

These programs give donations to JGSCV when you shop.

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



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

(*and surrounding areas)

will hold a **Zoom Meeting**

Sunday, May 5th from **2:00-4:00PM**

Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 2:10 PM

Link will be sent out the Friday before the meeting.



MAY PROGRAM

“The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum: New Online Resources & the Memoir Collection”



Megan Lewis,
Reference Librarian

The Program:

The presentation will focus on new aspects of USHMM’s collections search. Megan will review the new interface and features. She will also introduce the genealogy information that can be found in their catalog metadata, such as biographies attached to archival collections, and other online resources people may not know about, like the memoir collection.

The Speaker

Megan Lewis has worked at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum since 1998. Since October 2010, she has worked as a reference librarian at the Museum’s Library and Archives reference desk. Previously, she worked for the division of the Museum that specialized in researching the fates of specific individuals. In that work, she used a wide variety of collections in the Museum’s holdings. Megan has given presentations about the Museum and its resources at genealogical conferences, gatherings of Holocaust survivors and the American Library Association. She received her BA in History from the University of Oregon in 1997 and her Master’s of Library Science from the University of Maryland, College Park in 2006.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family.

<https://www.jgscv.org/membership.html>

Practicing Safe Computing Article #102: “Avoiding Payment App Theft”

By Hal Bookbinder



A 2023 survey by NerdWallet found that 80% of Americans use mobile payment apps, such as Cash App, PayPal, Venmo, and Zelle. Half say that they use these apps at least once a week. Payment apps are a convenient way to send money to a friend, a relative, pay a bill, or donate to a charity. These apps typically offer capable security options. But you may need to turn them on.

In most cases, the fraudster steals your money by gaining control of your unlocked iPhone or Android device. A common tactic is to ask to use your phone to make a quick call. A skilled fraudster can quickly discover your payment app and send money to himself or an accomplice.

Be certain to turn on the app’s biometric security feature, so that it checks your Face ID, Voice ID, or Touch ID, before permitting a money transfer. If it does not offer such verification, consider switching to a payment app that does. Check if it can stop, slow, or flag money being sent to unknown parties.

Apple Cash claims, “Your transactions are authenticated with the security of Face ID or Touch ID. Apple Cash will even alert you if you’re about to send money to someone that’s not in your contacts.” Review and turn on the available security features in your payment app. If the app sends alerts, especially for unusual transactions, pay attention to them.

A restaurant server, salesperson, or solicitor for a charity, may offer to help you by entering the payment on your behalf. Generally, this is not a problem. Fraudsters, however, are skilled at gaining your trust. Once they have your phone, they might key in a transfer to their partners in crime. If you are not comfortable entering the transaction yourself, the app does not belong on your phone.

A thief that steals your phone may then attempt to use your payment app. If the phone and app are unlocked or their security codes are easily guessable, you may find your bank account drained. Biometric authentication, on both your phone and your payment app may be the difference between simply replacing your phone and also finding your bank account drained.

If you have an iPhone with iOS 17.3 or later, you can help prevent thieves from accessing your payment apps by enabling Stolen Device Protection. Per Apple, this adds a security delay “designed to prevent a thief from performing critical operations so that you can mark your device as lost and make sure your Apple account is secure.”

Review the security settings in your payment app and set them to maximize protection, including biometric verification; ensure that you know the steps to lock down and disable your phone if it goes missing; remove unused payment apps from your phone; don’t let others enter payment transactions on your behalf; and be careful to whom you lend your phone.

This is the one-hundred and second article in a series 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

Genealogy Odds and Ends



The Jewish Chronicle

"DNA test reveals Jewish ancestry of Hitler's wife, Eva Braun"

<https://www.thejc.com/news/dna-test-reveals-jewish-ancestry-of-hitlers-wife-eva-braun-vx066ztq>

JLivingmedia

"A Seder in Fayetteville: Passover during the Civil War"

<https://jlivingmedia.com/passover2024/>

*pages 56-57

aish

"Passover and the Spanish Inquisition"

<https://aish.com/passover-and-the-spanish-inquisition/?src=ac>



Where We Lived
44th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Aug 18-22, 2024
Philadelphia
Save the date!
iajgs2024.org

The poster features a stylized city skyline with a sailboat in the foreground. Logos for IAJGS and JGASGP (Jewish Genealogical and Archival Society of Greater Philadelphia) are visible in the upper right.



2024 Membership/Renewal Form

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

*Member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS)

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2024

Date _____

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 30.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$35.00 _____ + \$2.00**

*family defined as two people living in the same household

** \$1 per person is a voluntary donation to the IAJGS Stern Award, granted annually when it recognizes institutions for outstanding work in the creation and availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy.

Additional voluntary contributions:

Library Acquisition Fund \$ _____ Programs Fund \$ _____

Security Fee Fund \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for any fund \$5.00)

Make check out to: JGSCV

Mail application to:

Steven Feldman

1535 Rugby Circle

Thousand Oaks, CA 91360

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.)

