

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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a **Zoom** meeting, Sunday, June 5, 2022 1:30-3:30 p.m. Open only to JGSCV members (see below for membership app). Ask the Experts/Schmoozing Corner begins at 1:10 PM **Zoom link will be emailed to members a few days before the meeting.**



The Program: Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939



A twenty-year journey began in the early 1990's when a friend of Marvins walked into the Studio to have some family pictures restored. They were in good condition, circa 1890's, with an artistic Cyrillic (Russian) logo on the back. Mike's father, Kaye, was visiting and having been raised in Russian Poland, translated. He looked at both of us and said "My Grandfather made these pictures ". That started a long trip into family history that, more importantly turned in to a history of Jewish Szczuczyn and a true picture of what life was like in thousands of towns before the Holocaust. A truth that was only partly envisioned in the countless scholarly texts written on the subject. Much more of the truth might be revealed in photographs.

Speaker: Mike Marvins. Mike Marvins is a fourth-generation professional photographer. His great-grandfather, Meyer Gordon, was a photographer in Dokshitsy, Russia (now Belarus) in the 1880's. His best customer was a large unit of the Czar's Army which was transferred to present day Zambrow, Poland to quell the frequent Polish revolts against Russian rule. Gordon moved with the troops, taking his young nephew, Zalman Kaplan as his assistant. Zambrow had very few Jews at the time but as the building of the huge base evolved, thousands moved to the area to provide support and services. He prospered, and extended his business to chronicle the everyday lives of the town and its vibrant Jewish community. A few years later, another military unit was moved to the town of Szczuczyn about fifty miles away and a young Zalman Kaplan opened his own Studio there. He married and had three children one of whom was Marvins' father, Moishe Kaplan) and a very prosperous business through a parade of regimes. It ended with the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1938. Szczuczyn was only a few miles from the German border and was immediately over run.

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/pdf/membership%20application.pdf>

For more information contact: information@JGSCV.org or call
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