

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

June 2015

Volume 10 Issue 9

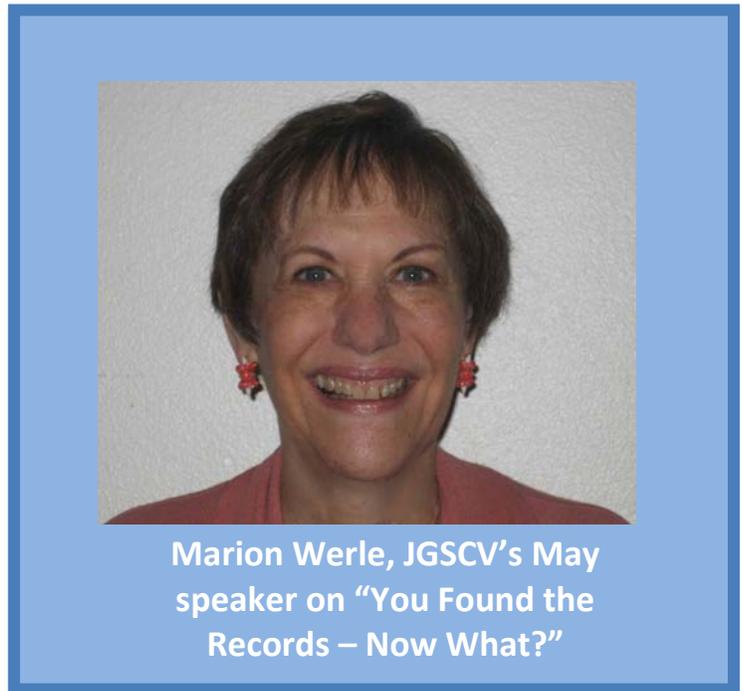
PRESIDENT'S LETTER

On May 3, JGSCV held its monthly program with Marion Werle, JGSCV member, as the presenter. The topic: "You Found the Records, Now What?" Jewish genealogy is focused on finding records, but not necessarily what to do once you find them. When you have contradictory records, what should you believe? We have all confronted such problems with our research and this program was an excellent forum for discussing how we decide what's true. In her interactive presentation, Marion gave examples showing errors and how to determine which records have errors. Marion is a former member of the JGSCV Board of Directors, has previously served on the JGSLA Board of Directors and is a past president of the Latvia SIG. A summary of her presentation may be found on page 6. Her handout is available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under meetings, prior with the May 3, 2015 date.

Thank you to Werner Frank for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner.

I gave the 5-minute genealogical hint on Voter Registration Records, and the power point presentation is also available on the JGSCV website in the same location as above. If anyone would like to give a 5-minute genealogical hint at the beginning of the meeting, please let me know. These short hints are valuable to all of us in finding ways to enhance our genealogical research.

Since January, we have been running a series



Marion Werle, JGSCV's May speaker on "You Found the Records – Now What?"

NEXT MEETING- SPECIAL TIME

Sunday, June 7th 1:00-3:00 PM

DNA From A User's Perspective

JGSCV Founding Member Mike Markowitz unravels the mystery of DNA testing for genealogists who are not scientists.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

6052 Hackers Lane
Agoura Hills, CA 91301
818-889-6616



2015 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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president@jgscv.org

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JGSCV is a non-profit organization dedicated to collecting, preserving and disseminating genealogical information, techniques and research tools among people interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Anyone interested in Jewish genealogy, regardless of religion, is welcome to become a member.

of articles by members on their own experiences or research into their ancestor's experiences to commemorate the centennial of World War I and the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II. This month Werner Frank is sharing a story from World War II. See page 9. Many of us have some information about a relative or themselves who served during one of the two World Wars—please share your stories! Each tale deserves to be told. Thus far, Werner Frank, Sarah Applebaum, Barbara Algaze, Joanne Cadis and Hal Bookbinder have shared their stories—how about you?

For the past two months we tested the traveling library. Only 6 members gave us input as to which categories of books were preferable. At the May board meeting it was decided to bring Category A with one other category on a rotating basis to each meeting. If the subject of the program has books in the traveling library, those books would be included in that month's rotation. At the June 7 meeting we will have Category A and Category B books. To see which books are in which category, see the traveling library list on the website: www.jgscv.org go to library, traveling on the drop down box, and then click "here".

Temple Adat Elohim has provided us with the meeting dates starting with October 2015-June 2016. Due to all the Jewish holidays in September we can't meet on any Sunday. It is always possible the dates may change, and therefore it is recommended that you check the website for any changes. The dates will also be published on our website and in *Venturing Into Our Past* and a list of dates is available at our meetings. Once programs are finalized they will be posted along with the meeting dates. Mark your calendars for the dates which may be found on page 13.

IAJGS's International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Jerusalem on 6-10 July. A number of our members will be attending. To learn more about the program, conference and hotel registration see: <http://iajgs2015.org/> JGSCV will not be meeting in July due to the conference, but returns with our annual *Genealogy In the Round* program on August 2. This is **YOUR** program to discuss your genealogical successes, brick walls and artifacts. We need your participation for the program to be a success! Thus far only two participants have contacted me and we need 7-10 to make the meeting a success. Please contact me with a brief description of your genealogical success, brick wall or artifact! We need you for this program!

Many of you have requested another program on DNA and our June 7 program is the response to that request. JGSCV founding member, Mike Markowitz, will talk about *DNA from a User's Perspective*—and that means it's from **our** point of view. To better understand the different types of tests and what they mean, come listen to Mike! Remember that this program **starts 30 minutes earlier** than normal to accommodate a special event at the Temple. For this month **only** the program is 1:00-3:00PM with the traveling library available starting at 12:30 PM and the schmoozing corner starting at 12:40PM.

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors have a very safe and fun Memorial Day Weekend and remember those who served to keep us free.

Jan Meisels Allen



Munich: Documentation Center for the History of National Socialism

opened May 1st and was ten years in the making providing a way for the City of Munich to confront its past as the birthplace of Nazism. This permanent exhibit follows the rise of the Nazi Party chronologically. It documents the role that Munich and its society played in creating the anti-Semitic preachings by the Nazis.

Edgar Feuchtwanger, a 90-year-old Jewish native of Munich who attended the opening ceremony from his adopted home in Britain, said he was pleased the museum was open.

"I think it's an important thing to tell ... what was going on and that it never be forgotten so it is never repeated."

Munich, the state of Bavaria and the German government each covered one-third of the museum's construction costs of 28.2 million euros. (\$39.8 million)

See more at:

<http://tinyurl.com/mrwp93o>

More U.S. Vital Records

The Genealogy Roots Blog has listed U.S. states that have updated and added to their *online* collection of vital records. This is a great way to re-check for birth and marriage records that were previously unfound. Be sure to double-check available years as well.

[GenRoots Blog on U.S. Vital Records Online Update](#)



JTS Collection Stored

It was announced this past April that the Rare Manuscripts and Book Collection at the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York will be packed up and stored off-site until 2018 while a new facility is being built. The collection includes fragments from the **Cairo Genizah**, discovered in a storeroom in Old Cairo's ancient Ben Ezra Synagogue at the turn of the 20th century and identified by the esteemed Rabbi Solomon Schechter when he was at Oxford University.

<http://tinyurl.com/ljutof4>

The National Library of Israel

has launched a list of 465 of over 600 archives in Israel that deal with Jewish communities abroad, past and present and available in both English and Hebrew This is a BETA site and is being double checked at the moment. National Library Israel Archive List

<http://tinyurl.com/my6kbpp>

Page Three is designed and compiled by JGSCV member Andrea Massion who has been researching family history for over 15 years. A native of Los Angeles, she has found cousins in Argentina, Canada, Ukraine, Israel and Ventura County! Andrea is a living resource for the Jewish Farming Community of Iowa Center, outside Chugwater, WY where her family homesteaded for 20 years. She is retired after over 30 years as a music and family program specialist in and from school library management at LAUSD. Enjoy her website on JewishGen.org about her visit to the Massion shtetl Ananiev, UKR which strives to document the Jewish community there both historically and currently at <http://tinyurl.com/kw64vhw>

**See you in Jerusalem
at the IAJGS
Conference July 6-10**

ABOUT JGSCV

JGSCV meets once a month, usually on a Sunday. Meetings are oriented to the needs of the novice as well as the more experienced genealogist. Members share materials, research methods and ideas as well as research success or failures. **MISSION STATEMENT:** The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (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. **JGSCV MEMBERSHIP:** 2015 dues are \$25 for a single membership and \$30 for a household. To join, please printout the membership form on our website www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button. Send it with a check in the appropriate amount payable to "JGSCV" and mail to Helene Rosen at 2891 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301.

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



The JGSCV will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, June 7, 2015 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Note: Earlier Start Time- One Time Only 1:00-3:00 PM

The Topic: DNA from a User's Perspective

DNA is a powerful tool for genealogy research. But understanding how DNA work is a little more complicated. There are several types of DNA testing: Y-DNA, X-DNA, mTDNA and autosomal. This presentation will provide a basic understanding of DNA, the different type of testing and how it is being used in genealogy research. Learn about DNA from a user's perspective.

Speaker Mike Markowitz: Mike is a founding member of JGSCV and has BS degree in Information Technology, with post-graduate work in Quality Assurance. He works as a Lab Manager maintaining high tech networking labs for a local company. Genealogy has been a hobby since 1988. DNA will be used to help validate and make new connections for his family tree.



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Meeting is open to the public and there is no charge to attend. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

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JGSCV UPDATES

LIBRARY: The central office of the Los Angeles County Public Library is backed up for various reasons. Eleven of our books are waiting to be cataloged and have been impacted by the delay. Some books have been in the queue for 5 months. Of course, this process must be completed before we can add them to our permanent library. We are in discussions with the central office to see if there is anything that can be done to put our books on a priority list. In the meantime, do take advantage of the more than 300 books, journals and newsletters from around the world that are in our permanent library. See www.jgscv.org library and permanent for an updated list of our holdings. Remember, neither our permanent or traveling libraries are lending libraries—books must be used onsite at the Agoura Hills Public Library (permanent) or the meetings (traveling).

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to graphic This takes you

SHOP. CONNECT. ENJOY. All from Earth's biggest selection.  Privacy

click on the Amazon (like the one here). you to the same page always start at –

except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. See “notices” on the JGSCV.org website for instructions for Ralphs Community Contribution Program, too.



Remember, the SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 20 minutes before the monthly meeting is scheduled to begin. Just come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the “SCHMOOZING CORNER” sign where you will find a knowledgeable JGSCV member to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins. At left is Werner Frank manning the “SCHMOOZING CORNER” last month. See Werner’s “My Cousin the Hero” story (page 9) as his contribution to JGSCV’S commemoration of WW I and WW II anniversaries.

Start planning to participate in JGSCV’s annual *Genealogy in the Round* program on August 2! Let Jan know if you wish to participate with a genealogical success/failure/artifact story (president@JGSCV.org). Depending on the number of participants, each presenter may take 5-10 minutes to tell their genealogical story. This is your meeting and it is always VERY successful. Someone may benefit by learning how you broke down your brick wall. Or, someone may have an answer to the brick wall you can’t crack. Participate. Share. Learn.

REMINDER: JGSCV’s June 7th meeting will begin 30 minutes earlier than usual. Due to a special Adat Elohim program, DNA from a User’s Perspective presented by JGSCV member Mike Markowitz will begin at 1:00 PM.

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You Found the Records- Now What?

By Jan Meisels Allen

Marion Werle, JGSCV member, and former JGSCV Board member gave an excellent presentation on what to do once you find your ancestor's records. As we all know, sometimes those records are contradictory and Marion showed us ways to identify the records that are most likely to be correct. Marion has been researching her family history for over 20 years—researching her family from Lithuania, Latvia and Belarus. She is also a past president of the Latvia SIG but is now focused on applying accepted genealogical research standards to her research.

The interactive presentation focused on analyzing the records we find, and making the case to prove identities, ages, residence and facts about our ancestors.

The record types discussed were:

Original sources: original documents, archival ledgers, letters, photographs, vital record registers, etc. Original source information is not obtained from another source, but from an original document. There is a disagreement within the genealogical community if copies of originals are the same as originals or derivatives.

Derivative sources: copies, translations, transcriptions, abstracts, indices, databases etc. These sources are copied, translated or transcribed from an original or previously existing source. Depending on the source, information from a derivative source can be primary, secondary or unknown. All JewishGen and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) sources are derivative. JRI-Poland are indices not records, therefore they too are derivative.

Authored sources: compiled genealogies, biographies, research reports etc.

Marion advised that we always read the database description to know what is and is not included in the database.

Information describes the contents of a source.

Primary information is information reported by an eyewitness or participant. The fact that the person was present at the event does not automatically make the information accurate or correct.

However, a primary informant or eyewitness is generally more trustworthy than hearsay

or secondary information, although researchers need to be aware that there are exceptions.

Secondary Information is secondhand knowledge.

Unknown information means that the informant is unknown, as in most census records.

Evidence may be:

Direct: The type of evidence that answers a research question by itself.

Indirect: Multiple pieces of evidence are required to answer the research question—and must be combined as a whole to answer the question. Any



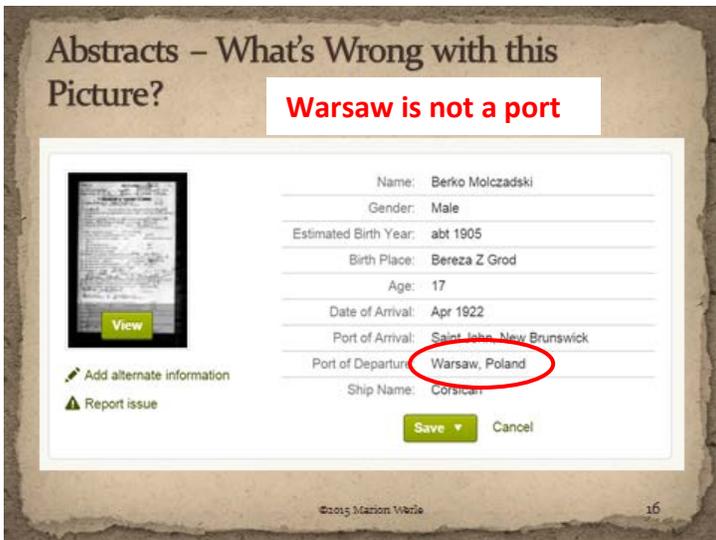
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single piece of indirect evidence by itself will not answer the question.

Negative: The absence of information that answers the research question.

As Jewish genealogists we are focused on acquiring records—but records—for the purpose of Marion’s presentation equates to sources—which we need to evaluate critically to know what information the source provides. An example used in Marion’s presentation was a headstone and the information that was included: name of deceased in both English and Hebrew, father’s Hebrew name, (Cohen), date of death in both English and Hebrew, age of deceased, marital status (the person was a wife) and she had more than one daughter. Marion showed by using the Hebrew-English date convertor that the Hebrew and English dates given from the headstone did not match, and the remainder of the presentation included a suggested process to follow in analyzing the problem

What is wrong with this record abstract?



The Genealogical Proof Standard

The Board for Certification of Genealogists (BCG) codified a five-part process for determining the Genealogical Proof Standard:

- Thorough (“reasonably exhaustive”) searches in sources that might help answer a research question;

- Informative (“complete, accurate”) citations to the sources of every information item contributing to the answer to a research question;
- Analysis and comparison (“correlation”) of the relevant sources and information to assess their usefulness as evidence to the answer of the research question;
- Resolution of any conflicts between evidence and the proposed answer to a research question; and
- A written statement, list, or narrative supporting the answer.

From: *Genealogy Standards 50th Anniversary Edition* Board for Certification for Genealogists Washington DC 2014

(JGSCV’s permanent library has copies of both *Genealogy Standards 50th Anniversary Edition* and Thomas W. Jones, *Mastering Genealogical Proof* National Genealogical Society Virginia, 2013).

Resolving Conflicting Evidence

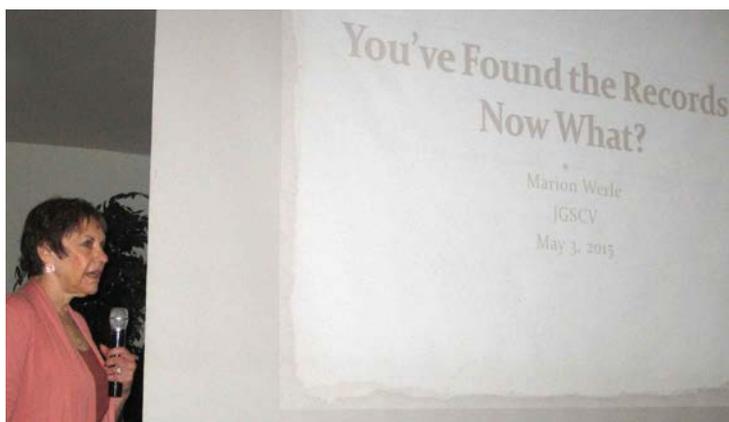
Marion suggested doing a reasonably exhaustive search that may shed light on the problem you are researching—by casting a wide net—and not relying on any single source. Remember, not all records are online and writing to archives for records or visiting libraries and archives may be the only way to obtain the records you require to answer your research question.

Marion showed how she reviewed and analyzed different records—primary, derivative and unknown, direct evidence—and the variances found in death indices, probate calendars, obituaries, death certificates and more. From the probate calendar and looking at the date of death on a headstone—she noted that the headstone date was not accurate. This requires genealogists to evaluate evidence: the **who** (provided the information), **what** (is the record), **why** (was it created), **where** (was the record created), and **when** (was the record created). The result is the “who, what/ why, where and when“ of genealogy.

We need to resolve conflicting evidence and write up the conclusion explaining how we arrived at the conclusion. We need to make sure that we do an exhaustive search of all evidence that might shed light on the problem and evaluate each piece of evidence for reliability. Even in cases where the information appears to be from a primary source we can't necessarily believe everything we read especially if the person has reason to deviate from the truth, e.g., ages on marriage certificates to make the bride look younger.

DNA

DNA evidence is not conclusive by itself, and must be accompanied by a paper trail. Autosomal DNA (such as the Family Finder) does not specify which family one belongs to—therefore multiple people from different family lines need to be tested to confirm matches.



Is the Genealogical Proof Standard Good for Jewish Genealogists?

Jewish genealogy is different than non-Jewish genealogy for several reasons and Marion reviewed why the Genealogical Proof Standard is “good for the Jews”, even though we face some challenges. We—Jewish genealogists—are dependent on foreign archivists for accessing the records as many of us are unable to “pick up and travel to our ancestral countries”. Therefore, we need to order a **copy of an original record** and are dependent on foreign researchers or archivists for searches, translations and conclusions. Some archives are more accessible than others. Archivists or researchers may come to a premature conclusion. Not all records are “truthful”.

Some records especially the taxation and military records may be fraught with misrepresentations. These are things to be aware of in our research.

If Genealogy is a Hobby Why Care?

Even though most of us are hobbyists rather than professional genealogists we should care that the information we are researching for our family history is accurate. Last December, Crista Cowan, Ancestry.com, told of how her mother had started to trace a member of her family—but had put the information in pencil as she was not certain and wanted to get back to the research in the future. However, when a cousin made a copy of the research the “pencil” did not show differently than “ink” and he took that to be accurate and continued to work on the family line. Years later, Crista started to work on that part of the family tree and found several people with the same name, near the same age all in the same geographic community and when she asked her mother why she focused on this one person, she first learned it was “penciled” and something meant to get back to. Crista found all the work the cousin had done was on a non-family member with the same name and close age etc. and she had to start her family tree branch from scratch.

Marion reminded us that the Genealogical Proof Standard and records analysis provide guidelines not hard and fast rules.

During the question and answer period, Marion suggested writing up the story with the proof in the notes section of the family tree software — for example in Family Tree Maker writing it up on the “person notes”. Document the sources. Online trees should also have resources included.

Spelling of names is a 20th century phenomenon as are the importance of birth dates. To know which one is correct requires some research and then document why you chose one spelling or birth or death date over another.

However, you maintain your family tree, with a commercial software, excel spread sheet, word processing software, the important thing is to document your sources and conclusions as to why you decided to accept the information from one source and not another.

My Cousin the Hero

By Werner Frank

As excerpted with permission from his book, "Legacy: The Saga of a German-Jewish Family Across Time and Circumstance"

The calamity that the Nazi hordes perpetrated on our family is somewhat counter balanced with the retribution delivered by my second cousin, Frederick (Fred) Mayer.¹

Fred was born in Freiburg, Germany on October 28, 1921. He immigrated with his parents and siblings to the United States in March 1938 and the family settled in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn, New York. Fred quickly obtained work related to his skills in the refurbishment of anything mechanical, especially automobiles and even locomotive engines. He held positions with Ford Motor Company and General Motors, among others.

Like many young German Jewish refugees, Fred and his brother Julius were drafted into the American military forces after December 7, 1941. They were all eager to get back to Europe and engage the fiendish German army.

Fred was inducted on October 20, 1943 and ended up in the infantry. He had tried to get into the Air Corps or the armored units, but failed despite his substantial skills and knowledge of diesel engines. His thirst for action and excitement was fulfilled, however, upon the completion of basic training. He received an assignment to the 81st "Wildcat" Division and was subsequently transferred to the Wildcat Rangers. This unit was trained to undertake special missions under severe and adverse physical conditions. Just what Fred wanted!

However, even that was not enough of a challenge for him. After achieving the rank of corporal, he seized an offer to join a mysterious new operation that was seeking special individuals who were heavy risk takers with an



The Mayer Family in Brooklyn, New York
Back row: Frederick, Ruth, Julius
Front row: Hilda, Ellen, Henry

abundance of street smarts. Fred had five traits that clearly qualified him as a candidate for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS). He was highly adaptable to any situation and physically tough.² He possessed an uncanny mechanical ability. He knew three languages: German, French and English. He was unafraid, some even described him as a man "whose fear nerves were dead." Finally, he held military duty as a sacred trust,

² An example of his ingenuity and problem-solving skills was noted one frosty day during a family picnic in the outskirts of Washington, D.C. We wanted to roast some hot dogs but could not start a fire with the half-frozen branches that were available. Fred dipped a rag into the fuel tank of our automobile, lit a torch, and produced enough of a flame to ignite the wood. None of us would ever have thought of this simple solution.

¹ We have already met Fred's family in Chapter Sixteen, the section devoted to Freiburg.

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having been influenced by his father, a German officer in World War I, who had been decorated with the Iron Cross.

Fred's exploits have been the topic of many newspaper and magazine articles, chapters in books and a volume in which he tells his own story.³ His single most important mission had the code name "Greenup" which was mounted in Bari, Italy. Plans were developed for utilizing a modified B-24 Liberator bomber to make a covert airdrop into the area around Innsbruck, Austria. This city was a key geographic point and rail center, just north of the strategic Brenner Pass, the conduit between Austria and Italy.

The Greenup team was directed to ferret out detailed and reliable information about German industry, transportation nodes and even specific locations of Nazi leadership. One report the Allies were trying to substantiate was the rumored construction of a final Nazi retreat called the National Redoubt or Alpine Fortress. This supposed underground fortress was planned for the Tyrol area and was to have been the site of Hitler's forces last stand against the onslaught of the Allies.⁴

Fred, now holding the rank of sergeant, headed the three-man Greenup team that included Hans Wynberg and volunteer Franz Weber. Hans was also a Jewish refugee who had left Holland to find a new home in the U.S.A. He was studying chemistry when he was drafted into the armed

³ *Washington Jewish Week*, November 13, 1997; *Chicago Tribune*, March 8, 1979; *The Gulliver Mission*, Blue Book, April 1946; "The Jew Who Dared Return" and "The Spy Who Saved a City" in *Piercing the Reich, The Penetration of Nazi Germany by American Secret Agents during World War II* by Joseph E. Persico, Viking Press, New York, 1979. In addition, see *OSS Agents in Hitler's Heartland: Destination Innsbruck* by Gerald Schwab and published by Praeger; Westport, Connecticut, 1996.

⁴ As it later became clear, there were no real plans to build such a Redoubt.

services and ultimately ended up in the OSS. He was the radio operator on the team.⁵

Franz was selected as a team member from the confines of a POW camp, having been a deserting officer of the *Wehrmacht* who found little taste for the German militancy. He was included as a team member because of his personal contacts and knowledge of the area targeted for the Greenup mission. As an Austrian-born Catholic from Oberperfuss, near Innsbruck, he had numerous relatives and acquaintances nearby. He had volunteered for this assignment and proved effective in obtaining transportation and getting the team into safe houses.

The Greenup team finally made its drop on the night of February 25, 1945. After a rigorous descent from a glacier-covered mountain peak of almost 10,000 feet, the three courageous soldiers, now penetrating spies, arrived in Oberperfuss and began organizing their information gathering. Mayer moved on to Innsbruck, leaving Wynberg to operate the radio out of Oberperfuss. They were very successful with their radio transmissions, helping to destroy many of the industrial and transportation installations by the Allies' strategic bombing.

During the months Fred Mayer was behind enemy lines, his parents were unaware of his whereabouts. His OSS handler communicated with them through letters indicating that Fred was in good health and that he simply was not able to write to them directly. During this period, Fred was informed by radio that he had been promoted to the level of Tech Sergeant.

Fred Mayer was truly a courageous risk taker, first assuming the identity of a German officer and later transforming himself into a French electrician working in a German military plant. His luck ran out when he was betrayed by one of his recruited local operatives and was captured by the Gestapo. For a number of days, Mayer successfully withstood interrogations and

⁵ Hans Wynberg obtained his Ph. D. in Organic Chemistry after the war and ultimately became a professor and Laboratory Director in the Department of Organic Chemistry at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands

physical torture without divulging the names and locations of his fellow agents. Fortunately, for him, the *Reich* had begun to rapidly fall apart.

The US Army's 103rd Infantry Division was closing in to within striking distance of Innsbruck as it proceeded northward through the Brenner Pass from Italy. The Gestapo agents and local Nazi officials began to be concerned for their own lives and Fred convinced them to surrender under his personal protection. He struck a deal with the local Nazi leaders that allowed Mayer to meet the oncoming U.S. Army forces and coordinate the surrender of Innsbruck. Thus, Innsbruck was declared an open city and it fell to the U.S. forces without any casualties on May 3, 1945.

On June 6, 1945, Fred Mayer was awarded a battlefield commission as Second Lieutenant. On August 13, 1945, he was awarded the Legion of Merit in a ceremony in Berne, Switzerland, in the presence of Allen Dulles. He also received the Purple Heart for wounds sustained in action against the enemy on April 20, 1945. While consideration was given to recommending Fred for the Congressional Medal of Honor, this recognition never materialized. Forty-five years later, on September 25, 1990, the Government of Tyrol awarded Fred the Tyrolean Order of the Eagle in Gold, presented to him by the Ambassador of Austria at their Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Upon completion of his service in December 1945, Fred Mayer returned to employment with General Motors for a few years. In 1949, he took a position as power plant supervisor for the Voice of America, serving in a variety of hot spots around the world, including Tangier, Munich, Monrovia and Bangkok. Because of this connection, our family continued to tease him about really being a CIA spy. And, maybe he was!

Fred Mayer's extended family had its own agenda for honoring his heroism. In 1991, many of us swooped down on the doorsteps of Fred's retirement home on King Lear Drive, Avon Bend, near Charlestown, West Virginia. We came to celebrate Fred's 70th birthday and attend a grand reunion of the Greenup team. In addition to family members from England, France and many parts of the United States, Fred's comrades at

arms who had played such an important role in his daring deeds also came and we finally had a chance to meet Hans and Franz.

The Greenup team was represented by Professor Hans Wynberg and his wife Elly from the Netherlands and Franz Weber and his wife Anni from Innsbruck, Austria. Also, present were a number of the crew of Aircraft 977, the B-24 Liberator bomber that had carried the team to its Alpine drop. This included the pilot John T. Billings, the tail gunner and dispatcher Jim O'Flarity, the flight engineer Warren W. Eldridge and the bombardier Richard (Dick) Gottleberg.

The culmination of the weekend gathering was a birthday dinner hosted by Fred. Many speeches made this an unforgettable experience for family and friends. Phoebe and I had purchased a painting of a B-24 bomber and we had the airplane's crew and Greenup team sign it in commemoration of the day. We presented this memento to Fred, who was deeply moved.

Five years later, at the time of Fred's 75th birthday, another gathering of the Greenup team was held, this time at the very site of their mission in Innsbruck and nearby Oberperfuss. Phoebe and I were unable to make this event but our son Daniel attended. Daniel managed to hike up the mountain and actually see the location that had figured so prominently in the exploits of our cousin Fred.

Since this book was published, Fred was selected for another honor, this time bestowed by the OSS Society, Inc. He received the Distinguished Service Award at the Society's annual William J. Donovan Award Dinner on October 27, 2012.



Author and JGSCV
founding board member,
Werner Frank

In 2013, while still serving as West Virginia's Senator, Jay Rockefeller placed into the Congressional Record a recommendation that Fred Mayer receive a presidential commendation. He also requested the same in a letter to President Obama.

IAJGS CONFERENCE



35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

In cooperation with
 MyHeritage

6-10 July 2015, Jerusalem



The **PRELIMINARY Conference Program and Schedule** is available at www.iajgs.org

where you can view the current daily schedule. Program topics are listed in English, French and Hebrew, some will have simultaneous translation and others will be in the native language. The schedule is not yet firm so check back often until it is finalized. Films and additional Workshops are still being developed and sign-ups are not yet available for those. An interactive version of the daily schedule is being developed. Once completed, it will be the only one to use.

The following is a basic timeline:

It is possible to sign up for a "Breakfast with the Experts" (on the Registration Form on the website - currently only available for Non-Israeli residents). These will be held in the hotel dining rooms Tuesday through Friday from 7 - 8 am. Advance Registration is required (deadline July 1).

The lectures begin each morning at 8:15 and change each hour until lunch at noon.

SIG lunches will be from 12:30 to 2:00. Registration (for non-Israeli residents) can now be done on the website's Registration Form.

Lectures resume at 2:00, change each hour and will run until 6:00 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Friday's program will conclude at noon.

Special evening programs: Monday - Opening Keynote lecture followed by reception (8:00 PM); Tuesday – "A Taste of Jerusalem" (7:30 PM); Wednesday – minimal programming (7:30 PM) – Thursday – Gala Banquet (8:00 PM)

Besides the lectures, workshops, resource center, networking opportunities and special events, conference attendees will find many archives and records that are genealogically rich and only available there. In addition, a special *Shabbaton* will take place Friday/Saturday prior to the conference opening. And, *Exploration Sunday* will make available additional research opportunities as well as touring options. Check the website for more details.

The Ramada Hotel, site of the conference, is centrally located and within walking distance of the Knesset, Israel Museum, Bible Lands Museum, Hebrew University and other Jerusalem landmarks. The Light Rail transit is also nearby.

You will also find several JGSCV members attending as well as Debra Kay-Blatt, Warren Blatt and Hal Bookbinder presenting.

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through June, 2016
Sunday afternoons starting at 1:30 PM (1:00 PM on 6/7)
Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim



June 7, 2015 Sunday 1:00-3:00 PM (SPECIAL TIME) DNA From A Users Perspective. JGSCV Member Mike Markowitz will talk about DNA testing- autosomal as well as mTDNA and Y-DNA from a Users perspective and what the test results mean.

July 2015 No Meeting- -IAJGS Conference Jerusalem July 6-10, 2015

August 2, 2015 Sunday Genealogy in the Round 1:30-3:30 PM Come and share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall, or genealogical artifact! This is YOUR meeting—We all learn from one another—take this opportunity to share your genealogical story—success or failure, ask questions about your brick walls, and more!

September - No Meeting

October, 11 Sunday 1:30 - 3:30 PM JGSCV 11th Anniversary - Program TBD

November, 2 MONDAY 7-9 PM - Program TBD

December 13 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Annual Chanukah Party with Prizes - Program TBD

2016

January 3 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

February 14 Sunday 1-4 PM Annual Assisted Research Day at the LA Family History Library

March 6 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

April 4 MONDAY 7-9 PM Program TBD

May 1 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Annual Yom Hashoah Program

June 5 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Program TBD

Programs are subject to change -check JGSCV website www.jgscv.org