

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

May 2017

Volume 12 Issue 8

JGSCV's annual Yom HaShoah program had 70 people attending for the film, *Persona Non Grata*: the story of Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese Consul in Kovno, Lithuania who defied his country and issued over 2,100 visas to Eastern European Jews fleeing the Nazis. This action touched more than 6,000 people. We were honored to have guests from the Japanese American Citizens League attend this very special program. In addition to learning about the life of Chiune Sugihara, JGSCV was privileged to have the movie's director, Cellin Gluck, attend the meeting. Cellin spoke to the audience following the meeting and answered questions about the story and the man, Chiune Sugihara. While the movie is based on historical fact, it is not a documentary. We are very appreciative of Temple Adat Elohim permitting us to extend our usual meeting times – starting earlier and staying later to accommodate both the length of the movie and Cellin addressing the group.

Following the discussion with Cellin, JGSCV members asked if the film could be shown at the IAJGS conference this summer in Orlando. I am pleased to inform you that arrangements have been made to have the video shown as part of the conference's film festival. The movie is not currently in general distribution and arrangements have to be made through Nippon TV in Tokyo, which is what JGSCV did in order to show the film. As Cellin has a previous commitment outside of the United States for the same week as the conference, the IAJGS attendees will not gain the same personal insights he shared with JGSCV. To read the highlights of the movie and a summary of Cellin's comments see page 6.

Mark Halpern from Pennsylvania shares a story about

**Cellin
Gluck,
Director
of
*Persona
Non Grata*
at the
April
Meeting**



NEXT MEETING

Sunday, May 7th 1:30-3:30 PM

A Sephardic Journey

Marcia Fine will add depth to the story of Jews who were persecuted around the world for almost 400 years from the Inquisition to Mexico and New Mexico in the New World.



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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.

Jewish refugees saved by Sugihara who were identified from a photograph. He highlights one of those in the photograph who lived in Los Angeles, in a moving article on page 11.

Software MacKiev provided JGSCV with two copies of FTM 2014 (upgradable at no charge to the 2017 version when available) for use as door prizes. All dues-paid members were eligible for the door prize and Sheryl Ritzman won! The board members also held their own door prize contest for a Family Tree Maker 2017 and that winner was Karen Lewy, treasurer, JGSCV.

For those of you who are waiting for Family Tree Maker 2017, there has been a short delay in MacKiev sending out the new version due to some issues with synching VERY large family trees. While synchronization with online trees will not be possible during the fix, the search, merge, maps and other Ancestry connections will continue to run until FTM 2017 is released. Future updates will be posted to their website: <http://tinyurl.com/lybjwgb>. Please do not contact me—I only know what is on their website.

At the suggestion of Hal Bookbinder a facilitator, we will now extend the Schmoozing Corner from 20 minutes to 30 minutes prior to each program to allow for additional discussion. The Schmoozing Corner will now begin at 1:00 PM each Sunday. Hal will be facilitating the schmoozing corner for this upcoming meeting.

The topic of this month's Safe Computing tip from Hal Bookbinder is *Malware Protection*. See page 15. After publication of this issue of *Venturing Into Our Past* you may also find this month's article as part of the series housed on our website: www.jgscv.org under "Noteworthy" where you can access the entire series in one location. The site will be updated monthly when the newsletter is posted to our website.

You never know if you may have Sephardic heritage – even if you think you don't. My recent Ancestry DNA Genetic Communities says I have 2% from the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal) which would mean a 5th great grandparent was probably Sephardic. Poland was the welcoming country when Jews were thrown out during the Inquisition and my maternal roots are Polish making it very possible for me to have some Sephardic roots. Each year we hold a program devoted to our Sephardic heritage. Our May 7 meeting is this year's Sephardic program with Marcia Fine talking on "A Sephardic Journey: Story of Jews Who Were Persecuted Around the World for Almost 400 Years by the Inquisition." Marcia will talk about the Inquisition in the New World including Mexico and New Mexico. She will be selling four of her historical novels regarding the Inquisition for \$16.95 each.

Looking forward to seeing you on Sunday May 7th

Jan Meisels Allen



Unseen Holocaust Records Unveiled at Weiner Library

The Wiener Library in Bloomsbury, Central London has announced the completed digitalization of unseen Holocaust records from Poland. The documents record the gathering of evidence shortly after the UN was founded in January 1942.

NPR's *All Things Considered* includes a radio interview with Dan Plesch, one of the few outside researchers who's previously seen this archive, about what can be learned from the archive. Access it here: <http://tinyurl.com/k27qp87>

The Weiner Library was founded in Amsterdam in 1934 by Dr. Alfred Wiener to monitor Nazi antisemitism. He shipped his collection to London on the eve of the Second World War, and then worked with the British government to inform officials about Hitler's regime and provide evidence for the Nuremberg trials. See: <https://www.wienerlibrary.co.uk/> in search filed type in: UN War Crimes Commission

JRI-Poland Provides Records for Beit Hatfutsot Data-Entering

Stanley Diamond, Executive Director of JRI-Poland announced a massive indexing effort under the guidance of Israel's Beit Hatfutsot Database Department Director, Haim Ghiuzeli. Volunteers at Beit Hatfutsot have data-entered almost 90,000 marriage and death records covering the years 1916-1935 from scans provided by JRI-Poland. Mr. Diamond wrote that this was the largest batch they have ever completed.

As part of JRI-Poland's Phase Three initiative to expedite work on records indexing and extraction, JRI-Poland has acquired scans of records from many towns in Poland. Scans include Lodz 1907 to 1915, and Russian-language birth, marriage and death records and Polish-language marriages and deaths from 1916 to 1935. Read more at: <http://www.jri-poland.org/>

23andMe Earns Additional FDA-Approval on DNA Testing

Three years ago, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) made genetic genealogy company 23 and Me cease performing genetic health risk tests as they did not have agency authorization to perform direct consumer genetic testing. On April 6, 2017, 23andMe received approval from the FDA for 10 tests that would measure increased genetic risks of developing certain diseases. The tests include genetic risks for Late Onset Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson's Disease and Celiac Disease

This is the first time the FDA has approved direct to consumer genetic tests. The FDA changed its mind as it provided data sufficient enough to show their testing is accurate. Some of the 10 tests that are currently approved are of special interest to people from Jewish descent, specifically Gaucher's Disease Type 1 (carrier status) which has a higher prevalence in the Jewish population. Having the genetic variant does not mean the person will develop the disease. Not having the variant also does not mean the person will not get the disease. The tests provide genetic risk information only.

To read the article including the list of newly approved reports for specific genetic variants see: <http://tinyurl.com/lf53y5t> The 23andMe press release may be read at <http://tinyurl.com/m45oxwo>



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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim, on Sunday, May 7, 2017 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 pm

A Sephardic Journey: The Global Persecution of Jews for Almost 400 Years Following the Inquisition

Award-winning author and speaker Marcia Fine shares "*A Sephardic Journey*," the story of Jews who were persecuted around the world for almost 400 years by the Inquisition. While many were forcibly converted, others remained true to their faith by going underground. Still others left Spain and Portugal to venture to the New World and elsewhere. Marcia will speak about *The Blind Eye*, when the Church orders expulsion of all Jews and Conversos from Spain as well as her extensive research for *Hidden Ones* about the Inquisition in Mexico (and New Mexico!). Marcia will address the Diaspora and survival of Sephardim in the New World.

Speaker: Marcia Fine has written seven novels, including *The Blind Eye*—covering the expulsion of Jews from Spain and Portugal; *Paper Children—An Immigrant's Legacy* has been a finalist for three national prizes. *Paris Lamb*, her sixth novel, deals with anti-Semitism in the 1950s. Her latest novel, *Hidden Ones*, examines conversos in Mexico during the Inquisition. *Gossip.com*, *Boomerang* and *Stressed in Scottsdale* are her other works.



Marcia has a BA from Florida State University and a Masters from Arizona State University. Marcia's four genealogical books will be available for signed purchases at \$16.95. Cash, checks and credit payments are accepted. See Marcia's website: <http://www.marciafine.com/>

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. The meeting is open to the public.

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 genealogy and family history.

(*and surrounding areas)

May 2017

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

JGSCV Updates

HELP WANTED

Librarian

JGSCV is seeking a librarian for our traveling library. The Traveling Library Librarian will be responsible for bringing the 3-5 boxes of traveling library books to each meeting from Jan's house in Agoura Hills and returning them after each meeting. This could be divided between several members. If desired and *approved*, the books may be stored at the Traveling Librarian's home. This is a very important role since many members seek out our research tools at each meeting and our Traveling Library is a valuable resource. The current system, in place since JGSCV's inception, is no longer sustainable. We need a volunteer to take over so these resources may continue to be available at every meeting.

NEW TIME for The Schmoozing Corner

The Schmoozing Corner will now begin at 1:00 PM, *thirty minutes* before the start of each meeting. This will allow more time for attendees to interact with a senior JGSCV member about genealogical questions specific to their individual interests. This month's facilitator is Hal Bookbinder.

Future Meeting Dates

As soon as they are set, meeting dates for September 2017 through August 2018 will be announced. The dates are established with Temple Adat Elohim and are not expected to be finalized until sometime in May. You will find them in this newsletter as well as on the JGSCV website as soon as they are available. For meeting dates through August 2017 see page 17.

Affiliate Programs

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 click on the Amazon graphic. This takes you to the same page you 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. AND, if you shop at Food 4 Less and use your Ralph's card, JGSCV will benefit as though you shopped at Ralph's.

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Highlights from: The Film *Persona Non Grata* and Director, Cellin Gluck

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV's Yom HaShoah program was the showing of *Persona Non Grata*, the film about Chiune Sugihara, the Japanese Oskar Schindler. "Sempo" (Chiune) Sugihara (below) was the Japanese diplomat



stationed in Lithuania from 1939 to early August of 1940 who defied his country by issuing visas to over 2,100 Eastern European families which represented

over 6,000 individuals. Today, the descendants of the "Sugihara" Jews range from 40,000 and more — the actual number of descendants is disputed. The movie is the story about the man and his life, beginning with his diplomatic career in Manchuria through to his death in 1986. He is best known for this heroic deed while serving as Vice-Counsel for the Empire of Japan in Lithuania. In 1985, he was recognized by the State of Israel who named him as Righteous Among the Nations for his actions. He is the only Japanese national to be so honored. The Righteous Among the Nations is an honorific used by the State of Israel to describe non-Jews who risked their lives during the Holocaust to save Jews from extermination by the Nazis.

Chiune Sugihara was born January 1, 1900 to middle class parents in Gifu Prefecture,



Japan. While his parents wanted him to become a physician, he did not and instead pursued his higher education. He first attended Waseda University before transferring to The Harbin Institute in Manchuria for financial reasons. At Harbin he received a scholarship. His college creed became very important to him and is mentioned in the film as that was what guided him to do the right thing. From there he was recruited by the Manchurian Foreign Ministry where he became an expert on Russian affairs.

He was stationed in the Manchurian Foreign Office in Harbin where he took part in negotiations with Russians over the Northern Manchurian Railroad. Leading up to the final sale, Sugihara traveled the rails in disguise

and uncovered a myriad of facts showing that the



state of the railroad and its equipment had been misrepresented by the Soviets. The displeasure of the Soviets at the reduction of final sale price resulted in his designation by Russia as *Persona Non Grata* which followed him for the remainder of his life.

The movie took some literary license and the woman he worked with in his intelligence gathering in Manchuria character was named Irina. In real life, she was Klaudia Semionovna Apollonova who again appears in the movie when in Lithuania trying to get a visa for herself and her Jewish “husband”. In real life she was Sugihara’s first wife and they divorced after 11 years, before his return to Japan from Manchuria. While in Manchuria, he converted to the Russian Orthodox Church. This we learned from comments by the director following the film (see below). In 1936, while in Japan he remarried to Yukiko Kikuchi, with whom he had fathered four sons—only three were depicted in the film as the fourth was born in Japan after World War II.

Time in Lithuania

In 1939 Sugihara was assigned as Vice-Counsel to the Japanese Consulate in Kaunas, Lithuania. He was assigned to collect intelligence on Soviet troop movements. The movie showed while he was also collecting intelligence on



Germany, his Japanese superiors were not interested. They only focused on information about the Russians. He was a gifted intelligence officer and predicted that Germany would violate the German-Soviet Nonaggression Pact, in which the two countries had agreed to take no

military action against each other for 10 years. This was violated when Germany invaded Russia. As Sugihara predicted, this left Japan alone to fight the United States and England and they would surely lose the war and many people would die.

The movie depicted Sugihara’s driver, Pesh, as a Polish intelligence officer who cooperated with collecting intelligence for the Polish resistance. In reality, it is reported that Sugihara actually had several members of the Polish underground working with him.

The Flight of the Sugihara Jews

When the Soviet Union occupied Lithuania, many Eastern European Jews wanted to flee Europe and many had already fled to Lithuania to flee the Nazis. It became impossible for the Jews to find countries to accept them. After Holland was overrun by the Nazis, the Dutch consul in Lithuania, Jan Zwartendijk, provided some of the Jews with an official “final” destination, Curaçao, a Dutch colony that required no entry visa. How to get there became the problem. He issued those entry visas without

authorization at the other end due to the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. (The Dutch Consul was also recognized by Israel as a Righteous Gentile.) Japan required visas be granted only to those not staying in Japan, and had enough funds so they would not become an economic burden to Japan. Though forbidden by his government to issue visas even to those meeting these

requirements, Sugihara provided transit visas under the guise that they had a final destination and therefore would not become a burden to Japan. He did so even after the consulate was closed by the Soviets and ordered him to leave. The fleeing Jews used the visas to travel across

the Soviet Union to Vladivostok and then by boat to Tsuruga on the Japan Sea coast, most of them making their way to Kobe where there was a Jewish community. From there the fortunate Jews were able to make their way to Australia, Canada, United States, Latin America, and British India from whence they had hoped to reach British controlled Palestine. After the start of hostilities with the United States and other allied nations in December of 1941, the majority of the refugees remaining in Kobe were “deported” to Japanese controlled camps in Shanghai where they spent the war years.

After Lithuania

After Lithuania, he was assigned briefly to Prague before being transferred to Koenigsberg East Prussia and finally in November of 1941, to Romania where he and the family stayed until the end of the war. When they



returned to Japan the foreign office asked him to resign due to “downsizing” following the war and the country being occupied by the Allies. However, some say he was asked to resign due to the “incident” in Lithuania. He worked in a series of lower level occupations and finally in an export business in Russia. He remained virtually unknown and unrecognized by his country of Japan until a large Jewish delegation from around the world, including the Israeli ambassador to Japan showed up at his funeral. In 2000, fourteen years after his

death, he was posthumously recognized by Japan for his bravery.

Cellin Gluck

JGSCV was especially fortunate to have Cellin Gluck the director of the film attend our meeting. Cellin is an American, born of an American Japanese mother and an American Jewish father. He happened to be born in Japan where his mother was the first post-war American exchange student to Gakushuin from Hunter College (New York City) and his father was studying Japanese tea at Urasenke. Cellin provided insight into the production of the film as well as more about the personalities in the film.

The film was shot entirely in Poland and took 43 days to complete.

The film is distributed solely by Nippon TV and does not yet have general distribution in movie theaters—it has to be



leased for viewing through the Japanese company which is where JGSCV obtained the right to show it.

The list of families obtaining visas was found in the annals and there were 2, 139 names, and with family members the total number of people were about 6,000. In 2000 The Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles reported the number of descendants as 40,000 — others say there are more.

When the Sugihara refugees arrived in 1941 there were no hostilities toward Jews in Japan. After Pearl Harbor the “Sugihara” Jews and other Jews in Kobe, Japan were sent to Shanghai where there was a large Jewish presence. Others made their way elsewhere including some who went to India in an effort to reach British Palestine but ending up there for the duration of the war.

The Jews who fled Lithuania had to travel through the Soviet Union to get to the port of Vladivostok which took many months. While they left Lithuania in 1940 they did not arrive in Kobe, Japan until March 1941. There were multiple ships that transported the Jews to Japan, however, the film depicted only the Asakusa Maru. Based on one refugee's account, the movie also showed the Jews singing Hatikvah upon sighting Japan but that may or may not have been true for all of the ships.

Cellin informed us that Sugihara continued to write visas when he was sent to Prague before Romania but once in Romania there was not much he could do. After the war, it was 1946 before the Sugihara family returned from Romania to Japan having been held there by the Soviets for 18 months. He did not have a job since in 1947 Japan no longer needed foreign ministers as the post-war country was being run by the Allies.

The character depicted as Sugihara's assistant in Lithuania who was initially opposed to issuing the visas, has a semi-transformation in the film. In actuality, this person was of German descent and joined the Wehrmacht eventually turning up in Germany after the end of the war. The Polish driver/Polish intelligence officer Pesh, was an amalgam of seven to nine Polish intelligence officers, not one single individual.

Sugihara's early career in Manchuria was a result of the Sino-Japanese war 1905-1908. Japan had captured some of the Russian territory, like Manchuria. In need of



hard currency, Russia accepted Japan's offer to purchase some of the infrastructure including the railroads. There were several "incidents" in Manchuria in the early 1930's such as Russian soldiers being assassinated by Japanese controlled troops. Imperial Japan was seeking justification for invading China. Sugihara lead the nearly two-year-long negotiations with the Soviet government in the acquisition of the highly strategic branch of the Chinese Eastern Railway that crossed Manchuria. He opposed the militaristic behavior of the Japanese military and resigning his post, returned to Japan. While Japan had promised him to be posted to Russia due to his language and negotiating skills, the Soviets refused him entry due to the train incident and his skill in negotiating the price of the railway.

The movie depicted the Japanese-American Army unit entering the Dachau Concentration Camp where buried in the snow was one of the children who had a Sugihara visa. Sadly, the child's father waited too long to leave, and the child was sent to the camp. When he saw the Asian face, he thought it was "Sempo" who was rescuing him.

Cellin talked about the bravery of the Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team—the US Army unit entirely composed of American soldiers of Japanese ancestry who fought in World War II. This unit is the most decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare. There were about 14,000 men who served in the unit. One of the many feats of the 442nd was the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" in World War II — first Battalion 141st Infantry 36th Infantry Division which was embattled in the Vosges Mountains in late October 1944. After other rescue attempts failed the 442nd was

called in for the final rescue attempt and they broke through the German lines to complete the rescue. Due to the number of soldiers injured in the 442nd they are known as the "Purple Heart" battalion. While they were fighting for America their American-Japanese families back home were confined to American internment camps.

Two of Sugihara's sons ended up in Israel where they were given education. The 4th son, who was born in Japan after they returned to Japan, became a diamond merchant in Antwerp. One son died in childhood shortly after the family returned to Japan from Romania.

When asked about his motives for helping all those people, Chiune Sugihara humbly answered:

"I do it just because I have pity on the

people. They want to get out, so I let them have the visas." *

*When asked why he provided visas for the Jews, among Sugihara's favorite answers was:

"They were human beings and they needed help, I'm glad I found the strength to make the decision to give it to them."

He was also fond of saying, "I may have to disobey my government, but if I don't I would be disobeying God."

Cellin Gluck specializes in producing/directing US-Japan co-productions, he continues to work as an assistant director on Hollywood productions. In 2009, he made his debut as a film director with "Sideways" (2009,) and "Persona Non Grata" is his second feature film.

Holocaust Remembrance Day Commemoration at Cal Lutheran



Michael Berenbaum will be the keynote speaker on April 30th at 4PM at Cal Lutheran. Berenbaum (left) is a rabbi and filmmaker who was instrumental in creating the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. The event will be held on the Samuelson Chapel on the Thousand Oaks campus on 60 West Olsen Road.

Admission is free but donations will be accepted for the Clara Knopfler Jewish Leadership Scholarship. The scholarship provides support to Jewish student leaders.

Clara Knopfler has spoken previously to JGSCV to commemorate Yom Hashoah. She is a holocaust survivor who was born in Romania, lived in Hungary and was transported to several concentration camps before being liberated in 1945. She and her mother were the sole survivors among her extended family of 37.

Ms. Knopfler (right) speaks frequently in the area to educate people about the dangers of hatred and the importance of acceptance, freedom and respect.



For more on Holocaust Remembrance Day, see page 18.

Visas for Life: One Refugee's Journey to Safe Haven

by Mark Halpern

The movie *Persona Non Grata* dramatizes the story of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara and his decision to issue, against his government's direction, over 2,000 transit visas to Jewish refugees in Kaunas, Lithuania. Sugihara became involved with the plight of European Jews as they tried to escape the Nazi's to safe haven in Palestine, USA, or almost anywhere. The journey of these Jewish refugees from Lithuania to Moscow on to Vladivostok via the Trans-Siberian Railway to Japan and on to safe haven was heart of the Sugihara story. This is the saga of one of those refugees with a Southern California connection.

Introduction

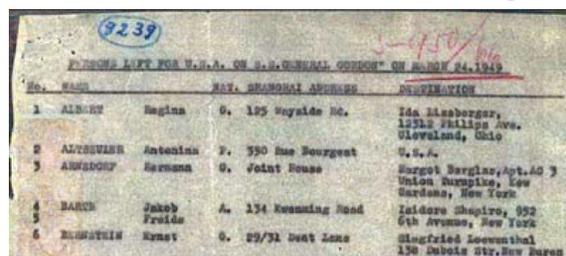
At the 2013 IAIGS Conference in Boston, I met a Japanese man. Kiyotaka Fukushima was attending the Conference while on business in the US. Taka's interest in all things Jewish started after meeting an Israeli woman in Tokyo in 1999. Our chance meeting facilitated a connection to a second Japanese man, Akira Kitade. Taka introduced me to Akira's work after seeing a documentary film about Akira on Japanese TV.

Akira had retired after many years of service at the Japan National Tourist Organization. In 1998, he visited his old boss and mentor, Tatsuo Osako. Osako is a character in *Persona Non Grata*.

Osako showed him an album that contained photographs of six women and one man who were passengers on the Amakusa-Maru, a rickety ship on which Osako had worked as an assistant purser in 1940 and 1941. This ship carried Jewish refugees from Vladivostok, Russia to

Tsuruga, Japan on their long journey from War torn Europe to safe haven in the US or elsewhere. These photos and their inscriptions represented heartfelt thank-yous to the kind Japanese man who escorted them to safety in Japan.

For years, Kitade wondered about the people in these photographs. In 2009, Tatsuo Osako passed away and, while paying respects to the family, Akira inquired about the album. Osako's daughter later found the album and gave it to Akira. Akira said that since seeing the



No.	NAME	SEX	RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS	DESTINATION
1	ALBERT	Regina	G. 125 Wynalde Rd.	Ida Lisberger, 12322 Phillips Ave. Cleveland, Ohio
2	ALTSZULER	Antonina	F. 330 Rue Bourgeant	U.S.A.
3	ANONINA	Saranna	G. Pointe Louisse	Sergot Berglar, Apt. 40 3 Union Turnpike, Lev Gardens, New York
4	BARD	Jakob	A. 134 Kessing Road	Isidore Shapiro, 952 6th Avenue, New York
5	BRONSTEIN	Ernest	G. 29/31 West Lane	Stanford Lowenthal 130 Javala Str. New Haven New York

photos in the album, these seven people occupied a large space in his heart. Akira wanted to trace their footsteps and find out where they are now.

In July 2015, Akira, Taka, and I teamed up to identify these refugees. Five have now been identified. This is the story of one of them – the young woman on the bottom right of the photo album.

Antonina ALTSZULER

In early 2015, Taka wrote to the International Tracing Service (ITS) <https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/> in Arolsen,



Germany with all the clues available from these photos. In July 2015, Taka received a response. They had found only two documents that might be applicable to one refugee, but the ITS archivist did not think this was our refugee.

The name on this list of visitors in 1941 to the Polish Consulate in Shanghai is Antonina ALTSZULER.

No. paszportowy	Data wnie- szenia	Imię i nazwisko	Zawód	Wyznanie	Miejsce i data urodzenia	Stan cywilny
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1342		ALTSZULER ANTONINA	WPKES.		23. VII. 1919 KALWAZI ZŁOBY	PANIĄ

The name on this list of passengers to the US from Shanghai in 1949 is Antonina ALTSZULER traveling on a Polish passport. But, the message on the back of the refugee's photo was written in German and signed Toni ALTSCHU.



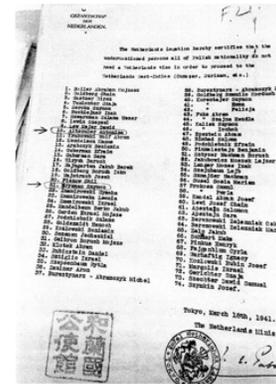
Despite what the ITS Archivist had suggested, I thought we had found our first refugee and we set out to prove it.

The photo of Toni Altschu given to Mr. Tatsuo Osako, the Assistant Purser aboard the Amakusa Maru, is dated March, 22, 1941.

On March 13, 1941, among the 350 refugees on the Amakusa Maru were 74 who were not allowed to land at Tsuruga, Japan. They were sent back to Vladivostok

since they did not have entry visas for a final destination. In Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania many Jewish refugees were able to obtain 10 day transit visas from Japanese Consul Sugihara,

which were based on visa-like entries from the Dutch Consul Jan Zwartendijk that stated "The



Consulate of the Netherlands, Riga, hereby declares that for the admission into Surinam, Curacao, and other possessions of the Netherlands in the Americas, no entry visa is required." Read more about Sugihara and Zwartendijk see: <http://tinyurl.com/lraxmd2>.

These 74 refugees were not able to obtain the Dutch "visa substitute" before the Consulate in Kovno closed in early August 1940. They did have Japanese transit visas issued by Sugihara before he departed Kovno at the end of August or those forged by Jewish activists after Sugihara had departed.

Visas were not needed to enter Curacao or other islands in the Dutch West Indies, but the refugees needed documentation that they were going there. The statement by the Dutch Consulate was accepted by both the Soviet and Japanese authorities although this statement was neither a visa nor authorization to land in the Dutch West Indies.

Not having any good choices upon their return to Vladivostok, the refugees decided to go back to Lithuania, which was now under Soviet control. However, the Soviets would not allow them to return to Lithuania. Finally, the decision was made to

sail again to Tsuruga not knowing what would happen.

On March 23, 1941, the Amakusa Maru approached Tsuruga where someone from the Jewish Community of Kobe, Japan was there with a letter they had negotiated with the Dutch Embassy in Tokyo. The letter stated "The Netherlands Legation hereby certifies that the undermentioned persons all of Polish nationality do not need a Netherlands visa in order to proceed to the Netherlands West-Indies (Curacao, Surinam, etc.)"

Number 10 on the list is Antonina Altszuler. The Toni ALTSCHU from the photo signed on March 22, 1941 onboard the Amakusa Maru was Antonina ALTSZULER, who disembarked the Amakusa Maru at the port of Tsuruga on March 23, 1941.

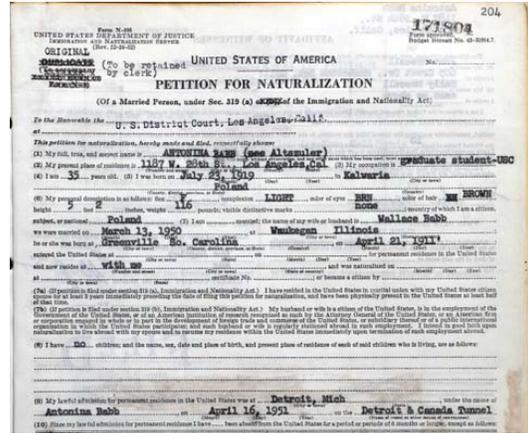
At the age of 19 or 20, Antonina left her home in western Poland and traveled to Kovno, Lithuania. We have not been able to find any documentation of her journey to Lithuania. The Joint Distribution Committee maintained a list of over nine thousand Jewish refugees from Poland receiving aid in 1940 in Vilna (Vilnius). Antonina does not appear on this list. We think Antonina traveled alone.

In addition to the letter from the Dutch Embassy in Japan that allowed her and 73 others to enter Japan, Antonina needed a Japanese transit visa, permission from Soviet authorities to leave the Soviet Union and to travel across Russia to Vladivostok, and US Dollars to purchase the permits and rail tickets.

We next find Toni in Kobe, Japan receiving aid from the Jewish Community of Kobe and the Joint Distribution Committee. Toni was one of the unfortunate refugees who could not obtain a visa to a port of refuge. By September 1941, Toni and about 1100

other Jews in Kobe had been evacuated to Shanghai.

On December 13, 1941, six days after the Japanese bombing of the US Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Toni is at the Polish Consulate in Shanghai (we saw this record earlier). The register for the Consulate shows that



Toni arrived in Shanghai on April 12, 1941. Toni lived in the Shanghai Jewish Ghetto <http://tinyurl.com/mo84ljt> for eight long years before she departed on the S.S. General W. H. Gordon on March 24, 1949 for the United States. She arrived in San Francisco with a student visa headed to Century College of Medicine in Chicago. Ancestry.com provided the critical link in finding Antonina after she arrived in the US. About the time we started our search for the refugees in the photo album, Ancestry introduced the U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007 <http://tinyurl.com/odvx7uo>

Antonina Altszuler	
Name	[Antonina Altszuler Babb] [Antonina Babb]
SSN	321282477
Gender	Female
Race	White
Birth Date	23 Jul 1919
Birth Place	Kalwaria, Poland
Death Date	21 Jan 1994
Father	Michal Altszuler
Mother	Severyna Blumenfeld
Type of Claim	Original SSN
Notes	Oct 1950: Name listed as ANTONINA ALTSZULER; Name listed as ANTONIA ALTSZULER BABB; 28 Jan 1994: Name listed as ANTONINA BABB

- Suggested Records
- California, Death Index, 1940-1997
Antonina Babb
- U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014
Antonina Babb
- California, Federal Naturalization Records, 1887-1991
Simplicio Natividad Abalos
- California, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1959
Antonina Babb
- U.S. Naturalization Record Indexes, 1791-1992 (Indexed in World Archives Project)
Antonina Babb

This database provided a new surname for Antonina – BABB.

This database includes information filed with the Social Security Administration through the application or claims process, including valuable details such as birth date, birth place, and parents' names for more than 49 million people.

For Toni, this one record also provides her date of birth, place of birth, father's full name and mother's maiden name. From the Shanghai Consulate information previously displayed, we know that her place of birth was actually Kalwarya Zebrzydowska, a Jewish community in Poland southwest of Krakow. Unfortunately, the Jewish vital records for this town did not survive.

From Toni's Petition for Naturalization in California, we know that on March 13, 1950, she married Wallace Babb in Waukegan, Illinois. By July 1953, she was in Los Angeles and in April 1954, she was a graduate student at University of Southern California living with her husband.

Wallace was a soldier in the US Army and served in both World War II and Korea. Master Sargent Wallace Babb died in 1957 at age 46. He died on June 6, 1957 at 9 pm at Old Boulder Beach on Lake Mead in Clark County, Nevada near Hoover Dam of self-administered cyanide poisoning.

Toni lost her entire family in the Holocaust, endured many trials and uncertainties between 1939 when she left Poland and 1956 when she became a US citizen. All because she was Jewish. She then lost her husband in 1957. And even in death, there was a tragic element. The executors of Toni's estate buried her in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Culver City, California under the Cross. May she rest in peace.

The couple had no children and Toni never remarried. I mentioned before that Toni came to the US on a student visa. Without any proof, I think that Toni's marriage to Wallace was one of convenience to allow her to become a citizen.

After obtaining her Master's Degree, Toni worked as a librarian from 1955 to 1987 at the University of California Los Angeles

BABB, Wallace				JUL 12 1957				FORT ROSECRANS NATIONAL			
REPORT OF INTERMENT								NAME OF CEMETERY			
TO: THE QUARTERMASTER GENERAL, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.								EMBLEM (Check one)			
NAME (Last-First, Middle Initial): BABB, Wallace								<input type="checkbox"/> CHRISTIAN <input type="checkbox"/> HEBREW <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)			
STATE: South Carolina								SERIAL NUMBER: 5836010			
DATE OF BIRTH: 1912								DATE OF INTERMENT: June 7 1957			
DATE OF DEATH: June 7 1957								GRAVE LOC.:			
WIDOW: Mrs Antonina Babb								PLANTING POINT FOR HEADSTONE: San Diego, California.			
SIGNATURE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NATIONAL CEMETERY: [Signature]								POST OFFICE ADDRESS: [Address]			

(UCLA) specializing in Germanic and Scandinavian book collections.

Toni died in Santa Monica in January 1994 at the age of 75. She bequeathed her entire estate, which totaled \$592,000, to UCLA for Holocaust and Jewish Studies.

I talked to a few people who knew her at UCLA including the executor of her estate, Helena Ordon and her boss at the Library, Victoria Steele. It appeared that Toni lived a private and lonely life. She had no family and few friends. She spent most of her time working, reading and traveling, but never returned to Poland or China.



Mark Halpern is on the Executive Committee of Jewish Records Indexing- Poland, and Vice President Programming, JGS Greater Philadelphia

Practicing Safe Computing: Malware Protection

*Nineteenth in a series
by Hal Bookbinder*



The April *Practicing Safe Computing* article described the various types of malware and mentioned that the designation “worm” and “virus” relate to the way the malware arrives in your computer. Viruses come in emails, or reside in websites or files you might access. To avoid them, you could avoid dangerous websites, avoid opening strange emails, avoid clicking of buttons that trigger programs to run and avoid accessing files on USB drives. Of course, if you religiously followed these rules, you would accomplish little on your computer.

Worms require no action to find you to implant their malware on your computer. They are constantly scanning for devices to which they can connect and once they discover a potential host, transport themselves to that host. They could be resident in a website you open or come to you from another infected device. The Stuxnet worm crippled Iran’s nuclear reactors for more than a year. It is likely that an Iranian scientist placed an infected USB flash drive into his PC. Stuxnet infected the PC and used it as a launching pad to transport itself to the computers controlling the centrifuges concentrating uranium.

Each device on the Internet broadcasts its address and availability so that others may see it. The downside is that this exposes a computer to worms. To lessen the risk, install a firewall between your computer and the Internet. The firewall broadcasts its address and availability (or none at all) and shields the address of your computer. Worms cannot see

your computer through the firewall unless you provide a pathway by connecting to an infected website or inserting an infected USB drive. Be sure to turn on the built-in firewall on your computer or wireless router.

In addition to firewalls and being careful as to websites, emails and USB drives, you must have current anti-virus software on your computer. If you are not certain whether your anti-virus protection is up to date and configured properly, go to the vendor’s website and check. They have utilities to verify whether your software is functioning properly. If unsure, choose the default configuration.

An article by Neil Rubenking in the March 3, 2017 issue of PC Magazine evaluated 46 utilities to protect your Windows PC from malware. It lists the following ten as the best antivirus protection programs of 2017: McAfee AntiVirus Plus, Webroot SecureAnywhere Antivirus, Bitdefender Antivirus Plus 12017, Symantec Norton AntiVirus Basic, Kaspersky Anti-Virus (2017), Avast Pro Antivirus 2017, Emsisoft Anti-Malware 11.0, ESET NOD32 Antivirus 10, F-Secure Anti-Virus (2017) and Trend Micro Antivirus Security (2017).

The article contains a side-by-side comparison of functions and links to more in-depth reviews. For more information you may access it at: <http://tinyurl.com/2el85ah>

All these products function well. Pick one that you prefer and be sure to configure it to check all of the files, emails and websites you access. While most have higher “regular” prices, watch for sales and spend \$20 to \$40.

May 2017

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

This is the nineteenth 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.

Genealogy Odds and Ends

The free and open All Galicia Database has added new records from the Josephine and Franciscan Surveys. These early records from Galicia represent a new initiative by Gesher Galicia. The **Josephine Land Survey** was ordered by Emperor Joseph II in 1785 and includes thousands of Galician communities (as well as some others). The names and house numbers of every plot of land was recorded. To learn about the Josephine Land Survey <http://tinyurl.com/kvo4bgl>.

The **Franciscan Land Survey** was ordered by the imperial edict of Francis I in 1817 and recorded Jewish given names and surnames as well as much more. For more information about the Franciscan Land Survey <http://tinyurl.com/m8muz3o>.

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has released a detailed fact sheet that may be of interest to genealogists. As noted in the first sentence, *"The losses that are the result of disasters are usually measured in dollars, but often the losses that matter the most are the cherished items and heirlooms that are closest to the hearts of individuals and families."* To read FEMA's tips for saving cherished items <http://tinyurl.com/keyyqls>.

Ancestor Hunt (<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/>) recently updated its Historic Jewish American Newspapers. Many collections are free but some require a subscription or a university library login. And, there are no translations for newspapers that were not published in English. In addition to listings by state there are links to resources such as The Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Wikipedia's list of Jewish Newspapers Currently Published in the U.S. and more. To access this data <http://tinyurl.com/ktv3n9c>.

JewishGen has announced its 14th "All Country" database. The JewishGen France Database is a multi-database search facility containing more than 150,000 records of Jews living in France and other French speaking regions such as Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and former French colonies and protectorates like Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. This is a work in progress and interested genealogists should check regularly for new entries. To begin your search on this database <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/France/>.

Ancestry.com has added records from the Romanian National Archives. To access the limited number of records from Transylvania available at this time <http://tinyurl.com/keypizu>. Ancestry is a subscription site.

Ancestry.com has also added to several other collections: U.S. Obituary Collection 1930-2016 <http://tinyurl.com/khnfsny>, UK and Ireland Obituary Index 2004-2017 <http://tinyurl.com/n4qn99y>, Canada Obitary Collection 1898-2015 <http://tinyurl.com/n8thve5>, U.S. Cemetery and Funeral Home Collection 1847-2017 <http://tinyurl.com/k5rxdff>, 1900 U.S. Federal Census <http://tinyurl.com/cjk8a7e>, Sweden Indexed Death Records 1840-1942 <http://tinyurl.com/msqy8gg>



37TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
JEWISH GENEALOGY
23-28 JULY 2017 • WALT DISNEY WORLD SWAN RESORT ORLANDO, FL

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES • JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

The IAJGS 37th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is fast approaching: July 23-28, 2017 at the Walt Disney World Swan Resort in Orlando Florida. JGSCV will be well represented at the conference with Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder and Marion Werle as speakers! Registration is now open <http://iajgs2017.org/registration/>. For more information and details regarding the full and extensive programs <http://tinyurl.com/m9clw5q> . This is the place to meet your email genealogy friends researching the same ancestral names and towns. The program is very rich with special speakers.

One of the unique resource opportunities available only at the conference is the Resource Room. If you are serious about online genealogical research, the *free* resources to be found in the IAJGS Resource Room may be the bargain of the century. Hundreds of genealogical databases will be at your fingertips for at no cost during the conference, including some resources that cannot be found outside of a limited number of institutions in hard to get places, or others that require costly subscriptions.

Individual insights will be available from database specialists from Yad Vashem, ProQuest, MyHeritage, Geni, Family Search, JewishData.com. Mentors from database hosts such as JewishGen, JRI-Poland, Gesher Galicia, LitvakSIG, LatviaSIG and others will also be there to help you zero in on the records you need.

 When you arrive at the conference, consider signing up for **ProQuest Day, Wednesday July 26th**. (Sign-ups not available prior.) ProQuest, the gold standard in digital historical research limits access to its products to established academic institutions and libraries. **But at IAJGS 2017, ProQuest comes to you.**

Bill Forsyth, senior product manager for ProQuest, will be on hand to give three workshops in the Resource Room and will be available after the workshop that day to assist IAJGS conference attendees with their research questions using the ProQuest resources. For a list of some of the resources ProQuest will have available at the conference go to <http://iajgs2017.org/proquest-day-2017/>

 **Yad Vashem** Israeli Yad Vashem specialist Sima Velkovich will give 4 lectures on holocaust related research and provide access to the prized ITS archives and other Yad Vashem resources. Information on consultations with Sima will be available on arrival at the conference.

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2017

Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m.

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

As soon as additional programs are finalized they will be added to this list and the website

May 7, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Speaker: Marcia Fine "A Sephardic Journey" Story of Jews who were persecuted around the world for almost 400 years by the Inquisition. NOTE: Schmoozing Corner starts at 1PM

June 4, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Speaker: Jan Meisels Allen "How to Begin Jewish Genealogy"

July 2017 no meeting IAJGS Conference July 23-28, 2017 Orlando, FL (See page 17 for more information)

August 6, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Genealogy In the Round - Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts.

Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day



Beginning at sundown on Sunday April 23 through Monday April 24 the United States and Israel commemorate Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day, remembering the 6 million Jews and 5 million others who perished in the Holocaust as a result of Nazi Germany actions. Yom HaShoah is remembered on the 27th of Nisan, a week after the end of the Passover holiday and a week before Yom Hazikaron (Memorial Day for Israel's fallen soldiers). It marks the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. In North America it is more practical to hold commemorative ceremonies on the closest Sunday to Yom Hashoah while other countries recognize the day on April 19, the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. In Israel, it is a national memorial day and public holiday. It was inaugurated in 1953, anchored by a signed by Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion and President of Israel Yitzhak Ben-Zvi.

JGSCV MEMBERSHIP Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership/\$30 for a household. To join, 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 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301