

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



November 2018

JGSCV

Volume 14 Issue 2

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV's 13th anniversary program was superb! We were privileged to have Professor ChaeRan Freeze from Brandeis University talk to us about *Everyday Jewish Family Life in Tsarist Russia*. The presentation was very valuable to many of us researching the geography of what was Tsarist Russia. The erudite lecture provided compelling insights to what our ancestors endured, and how they lived. Professor Freeze was most gracious in permitting JGSCV to post her power point presentation to our website: www.jgscv.org under meetings, prior with the October 7, 2018 date. To read the highlights of the program see page 6.

Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for facilitating the Schmoozing Corner.

JGSCV owes a deep and heartfelt thank you to Temple Adat Elohim for co-sponsoring our meetings for the past 13 years. And, we could not be the success we are without the strength of our members. We are very fortunate that each month our membership grows. This month seven more new members joined. The list of JGSCV members who have volunteered since our inception are listed on page 14.

The board met immediately following the program and accepted the report from the Nominations Committee. See page 10 for the report from the Nominations Committee, chaired by Sonia Hoffman. At our November meeting the Nominations Committee slate will be presented to the

Professor
ChaeRan
Freeze
Speaking
at
JGSCV's
October
Meeting



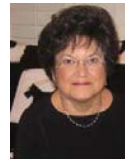
NEXT MEETING

MONDAY November 5th 7-9 PM

Privacy and Genealogy: What Are the Rules?



E. Randol Schoenberg and Jan Meisels Allen discuss the many issues of privacy and ethics facing today's genealogists.



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2018 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

membership with the opportunity for people to self-nominate from the floor. The biographies of all candidates will be in the December issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*. The election of candidates will be conducted at our December 9 meeting. See page 10 for more information.

Rather than a new librarian we will need a new treasurer come this January and so far I have not been able to find a volunteer. The person must know Word and Excel to do spread sheets and write checks. This is a board position so the person must be willing to serve on the board, attend board meetings and all or most of the program meetings as the treasurer also sits at the welcome table. If you are interested and meet the above criteria please contact me.

For those of you who remember our fantastic Yom Hashoah speaker, Celina Biniaz, Schindler's List's youngest survivor, Celina encouraged Tom and me to visit the Iowa Jewish Historical Society-- as that is very special to Celina--when we were going to Iowa for Tom's family gathering in October. See page 13 for a description or our experience at the Caspe Gallery at the Iowa Jewish Historical Society.

November 9-10 is the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht, the "Night of Crystal," which is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass". See page 18 for a commemoration.

November 11, 2018 is the centennial of the end of World War I. World War I had a profound impact on world Jewry with enlistment of Jews to the warring nations and the success of Jewish leaders in influencing political policies of major powers. It also deepened the anti-Jewish attitudes especially in Germany and in Eastern Europe and set the stage for World War II. To read more about World War I's end centenary see page 9.

Hal Bookbinder's next installment of "Practicing Safe Computing" describes Facebook Tokens and is on page 11.

We started our 2019 membership drive at our October meeting. Forms are available on page 15 of this newsletter, on our website www.jgscv.org under "About JGSCV" and will be available at our meetings. Anyone who renews or joins from the October 7th meeting through December 9th and **attends the December 9th meeting** will have their name entered into a door prize drawing for one of more than 10 excellent genealogical gifts ranging from DNA tests to subscriptions for Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, Findmypast, Fold3.com, Legacy FamilyTree, Legacy Webinars, MyHeritage, Newspapers.com, Roots Magic and more! Each of these prizes is worth much more than the cost of an annual membership subscription. Please join or renew now!

Mark your calendars with our outstanding programs coming up! See page 16 .

Our November program is on **Monday night, November 5th** with E. Randol Schoenberg and myself addressing: *Privacy and Genealogy: What Are the Rules?* Randy and I have given this presentation at several of the past IAJGS conferences. It is always a lively discussion as while we agree on most we don't agree on all! Privacy is very much a major issue for genealogists.

Looking forward to seeing you at the meeting!



Jan Meisels Allen

Page Three Thankful for Family, Community & Friends

We are on Display!

The Board of the JGSCV is pleased to have the opportunity to share our interest in Genealogy at the L.A. County Library at Agoura Hills throughout the month of November 2018, in celebration of International Jewish Genealogy Month. Check out the display case in the library lobby. Thank you to JGSCV members who shared their genealogical journeys and became the impetus for this wonderful occasion:

Sara Applebaum
Rose Topliss
Diane Wainwood

Joanne Cadis
Steve Feldman
Steve Rothstein

Debby Wenkart
Karen Lewy
Judy Karta

The display was developed and created by board members Judy Karta and Andrea Massion, who look forward to presenting our members' stories and genealogy adventures to the public at the Library. A warm thanks to Nina Hull and the staff at Agoura Hills Library for their ease and delight. While you're there, check out our library collection in the Reference department.

SIG Group Sign-ups: Relatively new to Genealogy? Every so often, page 3 likes to remind our members that Special Interest Groups on Jewishgen.org provide a forum for sharing information, staying current and asking questions when you hit a roadblock during your genealogical adventures. The journals come to your mailbox, and joining more than one is the norm. Subscribe to JewishGen.org and then under "research" go to Discussion Groups or go directly to https://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp Instructions for joining are listed there.

Israel's IGRA Website Reaches One Million Entries

Elena Biegel Bazes, publicity chairperson of the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA), has recently announced the release of both new and updated databases on its website. There are over one million records available in this database. New databases include Tel Aviv Census, Nordea Neighborhood 1928, Voters' Lists for the Knesset, 1944, Immigrants via North Africa 1944, and the First Children's Convey to Palestine from Paris 1945. Updated collections include the historical "Operation on Eagles Wings" rescue of Yemen's Jews in December 1949. A preview of the databases is available at: <https://www.slideshare.net/igra3/sep-2018-igrarelease>

Before viewing the databases register for free on the IGRA website: <http://genealogy.org.il/>.



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 will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on **Monday**, November 5, 2018 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362

The Program: Privacy and Genealogy - What Are the Rules?

Privacy remains a huge issue for many genealogists and their family members. The legal landscape concerning records access is constantly changing. Personal genealogy websites, as well as online collaborative trees offer different levels of privacy protections. The panelists will discuss many privacy issues focusing especially on ethical considerations. California's new Privacy Law takes effect in January, 2020 and the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation is already impacting access to records.

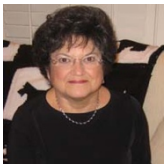
Speakers: E. Randol Schoenberg, J.D. - Attorney E. Randol Schoenberg has handled



numerous cases involving looted art and the recovery of property stolen by the Nazis, including the successful return of five paintings by Gustav Klimt, as featured in the 2015 film *Woman in Gold*. Schoenberg graduated from Princeton University with a Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and a certificate in European Cultural Studies and received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of

Southern California. Schoenberg served as President of Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust from 2005 through 2015.

Jan Meisels Allen - is the President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV). Jan is the chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records



Access Monitoring Committee (PRAMC) since 2003. She served on the IAJGS Board of Directors from 2004-2013, and since 2004 represents IAJGS on the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC). In 2017, she was awarded the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2015, the IAJGS Volunteer of

the Year award. In 2013, the National Genealogical Society awarded Jan the President's Citation. She speaks on records access at national genealogical conferences.

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.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. Our 2019 membership drive begins with this meeting. Join JGSCV now and membership is good through December 2019.

JGSCV Updates

It's been more than a year since JGSCV first announced the need for a traveling library librarian. **We still need a traveling library librarian.** This entails bringing 3-5 boxes of books from Jan's home in Agoura Hills to Temple Adat Elohim for the monthly JGSCV meetings. With board approval, the books *may* be stored at the librarian's home. The traveling librarian would not be responsible for watching the books at the meeting. If you are interested in this position, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@jgscv.org. This is not a board of director's position, and therefore no board meeting requirements.

The Schmoozing Corner awaits your questions on the right side at the front of the meeting room beginning at **6:30 PM Monday, November 5th**. Carol Flesher will lead the Schmoozing Corner.

The JGSCV display at the Agoura Hills Library has been designed by JGSCV board members Andrea Massion and Judy Karta and will be on display October 27th through the end of November. The display coincides with International Jewish Genealogy Month of Chesvan on the Jewish calendar which is Oct. 10-Nov. 8 this year. These JGSCV members have provided family memorabilia for the display: Sara Applebaum, Joanne Cadis, Steve Feldman, Judy Karta, Karen Lewy, Andrea Massion, Steve Rothstein, Rose Topliss, Diane Wainwood, and Debby Wenkart. Remember to plan to stop by the library this November. And, bring some friends.

See "Noteworthy" on the www.jgscv.org website for instructions on how to help JGSCV by participating in Ralphs Community Contribution Program. AND, if you shop at Food 4 Less and use your Ralph's card, JGSCV will benefit as though you shopped at Ralph's.



JGSCV's Dec. 9th meeting is special not only because Crista Cowan of Ancestry will be the guest speaker but also because it is our annual meeting, with elections and membership renewal/Chanukah door prizes. Your society, (which started its 14th year at our October meeting), at the December meeting will be another special celebration including many, many genealogical door prizes for dues-paid members. Many are valued at more than our annual dues! More details to follow but be sure to renew your membership before the meeting to be eligible for the special prizes. If you are friend of JGSCV, please join to be eligible for the great prizes!

When shopping at Amazon.com please go to our website first and click the Amazon logo at the bottom of any page **before** you start to shop. It doesn't cost you anything and JGSCV receives a marketing fee.



JGSCV is a participant in the Amazon Services LLC Associates Program, an affiliate advertising program designed to provide a means for sites to earn advertising fees by advertising and linking to Amazon.com

Highlights from **Everyday Jewish Family Life in Tsarist Russia**

By Jan Meisels Allen



JGSCV was privileged to have Professor ChaeRan Freeze (left) talk to us on our 13th anniversary. The presentation examined everyday Jewish life in tsarist Russia. Examples revealed daily struggles of ordinary Jews as they confronted changes in the areas of family life, religions and health as well as new government

registrations, military conscriptions and opportunities to settle outside the Pale of Settlement. The presentation was brilliant, informative and educational!

Professor Freeze went to Russia to work on her thesis as a Brandeis graduate student. Her interest lies in researching the “ordinary” people not the aristocracy. She collected information in Russia, Ukraine and Lithuania where she found common characteristics among the Jews: language (Yiddish), religion and economics. The men studied and spoke Hebrew while the women learned the language of the country.

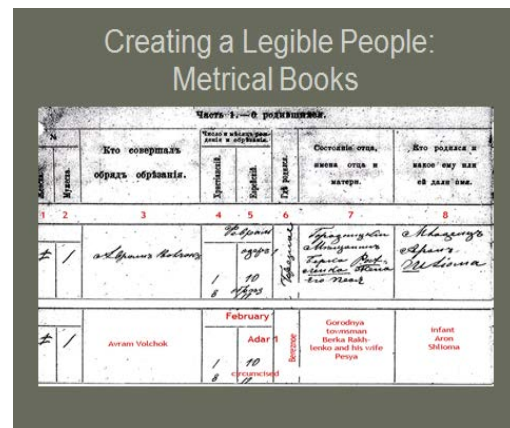
Many of the Jews lived in or near market towns where the shtetls or mestechkos were located, Mestechkos were “shtetls” within the Pale of Settlement in the Russian Empire. The Pale of Settlement was the territory within the borders of

czarist Russia where the Jews were legally required to reside. Russia learned there were about one million Jews living in the territories they conquered, such as Poland and Lithuania. In order to maintain control, they required Jews to live in the Pale of Settlement. By 1897, the All Russian Census showed there were 5.2 million Jews living in the Pale of Settlement (1791-1917).

Professor Freeze related that court records are an important resource for genealogists. An example given was from the Vilna Court where she learned that four out of every five records was for bootlegging –as bootlegging was a prevalent way to avoid paying taxes. Jews became white collar workers and professionals and they integrated themselves into the Russian Empire.

Integration of Jews into the Russian Empire

By being a part of the Russian society, Jews were subject to taxation and conscription. This required creating a “legible” people by using metrical books for the



registration of births, marriages and deaths although many Jews were casual about such registrations. Professor Freeze showed us an example of a missing registration from the

Zhitomir District Court where a person was unable to find his birth certificate which was required to graduate from the gymnasium because his parents never took the trouble to record his birth.

Metrical books were bound, thereby preventing pages from being added. If Jews needed a certificate, for example, for a university application, the rabbi would write a copy.

The Office of State Rabbi

The state rabbi had to know Russian. Any marriage had to be performed by the state rabbi at a cost of 3 Rubles, which was very expensive for the time. Birth registrations were also costly and some did not register their children. Girls' births especially were not registered. Many Jewish couples were married by their local rabbi and registered by the state rabbi.

Jews did not have surnames until the 1820's. They would be known either by patronymic names, i.e. Isaac son of Jacob or by profession, such as Avrum the water carrier. Some had embarrassing names such as "whorehouse". To change their name, Jews had to apply to the Emperor. A non-Jew named Nicolai Putz was granted a name change since it was determined that "Putz" was a crude word used by Jews, and he was not Jewish.

The ending of the word/name also was a clue as to their geographic location. For example, "in" is an ending in Byleorussian where "ski" is from Kiev Province.

Jews have multiple names: Yiddish, Hebrew, a name to trick the "evil eye" and the Russified name.

Wills written in Yiddish did not comply with the Russian requirement of legal documents being in Russian. This made people learn to write Russian.

Marriage and Divorce

Jews had the highest rate of divorce of any religious group. One reason was Jews had more reasons for divorce than other religions (see chart on right). In Zhitomir Province "mutual hatred" was also a permissible reason. People needed a

divorce to remarry. In many cases the husband abandoned the wife, and he left for another town.

Grounds (as recorded in Russian)	Number
Childlessness	14
Husband's illness	7
Husband's illness and inability to have children	2
Husband's illness and inability to live together	1
Wife's illness	10
Wife's illness prior to marriage	2
Mutual desire to divorce	2
They do not love each other	26
He did not like her	1
She did not like him	1
Inability to live together	3
He cursed her parents	1
She cursed his parents	4
She cursed him	2
He behaved indecently	1
He cannot support her	32
Proximity of the wife	2
Malice	2
Husband was recruited into the military	3
He beat her	15
She could not live with her stepchildren	1
A religious prohibition prevents him from having sexual relations	1
Total	133

Source: UVA, I 728, op. 2, d. 6, 1837-38.

Jewish communal institutions took care of the poor. This included hospice – hekdesch and illness and disability. Everybody worked. Professor Freeze shared examples of stories of illness and disability. Tuberculosis was contracted easily and quickly. Both poor and wealthy Jews went to spas in Western Europe to recuperate from tuberculosis, which caused financial strain for many families who could ill afford to pay for the treatment. Signs posted in Yiddish called for TB prevention: *Tuberculosis and consumption can be prevented! Helping the sick is a big mitzvah. Preventing illness is a bigger mitzvah.* And, *Tuberculosis/consumption can be easily prevented fresh air, balanced diet and not coughing and spitting.*

Mental Health

Jews struggled with mental health. Statistically, they had a higher percentage of the population with mental health issues due to their reporting the problem. They were taken care of in their homes but were hospitalized if violent. Jewish hospitals had two types of patients: illegitimate births and mental illness.

Example of Petition to Governor of Vilna

"My mother Dvora Zlotoiabko, who lives with me, has gone mad. She breaks everything, hits, causes arguments, so that it is impossible to keep her in the apartment where I have my own small children who are scared to death. I keep my mother in a cold store room in my house where she could

catch some other dangerous disease. She will not accept my request to place her in the section [of the hospital] for the mentally ill. That is why I have the honor of humbly asking Your Excellency to sympathize with my unfortunate position and order the acceptance of my mother in a place for the mentally ill.”

Jews and the State Conscription

In 1827 Czar Nicholas I integrated the Jews ‘discipline” through the military. The term for conscription was 25 years. Towns had conscription quotas to fill—they did not pick the wealthy nor the town leaders.

In Minsk, they went looking for vagrants and those whose only occupation was playing cards. Many times young orphaned children were selected. The registration system for the Pale tax and others were abused. Larger wealthy families took a poor person’s son or an orphan and used their name to register under the Pale tax for conscription. The boys 9-11 years old were conscripted. Those who were too young for the military went to canonist units until they were old enough. There was concern that the young Jewish boys would be converted to Christianity, as exemplified in a petition to the Minister of War from the Jewish Townspeople of Vitebsk’: “...due to their minority and immaturity, without a proper understanding about the essence of faith.” This concern was documented by reports to the Czar on the number of converts of Jews to Christians. A canonist was under age 18 and considered a “minor” soldier. To get out of the military many young men mutilated themselves, usually by cutting off a finger.

Privileged Jews

Professor Freeze is finishing her third book which will be published next year. This book, unlike the others will focus on the privileged.

Jews settled in Moscow in the 1860’s; 1865 for artisans and 1879 for physicians and dentists. The three Poliakov brothers were considered the Rothschilds of Moscow. Samuel, Lazar and Yakov became tax farmers among manufacturers of

alcohol-distilled spirits. Tax farming has nothing to do with farming per se but with tax revenues from property that is leased – a tax collector of sorts. One-third of the Russian railroads were built by the Poliakov brothers, and their wealth was in the tens of millions of rubles. Some of the Poliakov’s were also involved with distilling vodka. The Poliakov’s owned seven estates and “forgot” to speak English and only spoke Russian.

The Poliakovs were also philanthropists. The Grand Choral Synagogue in Saint Petersburg was built by the Poliakovs, as was the Bolshaya Bronnaya Synagogue in Moscow. They were observant for Friday night Shabbat, but on Saturday they went to formal balls. They were also known to celebrate Christmas with friends. The sons were in conflict over Kashrut with their mother who kept Kosher.

Professor Freeze answered questions for about 25 minutes.

Answers to some questions asked include:

- Adding “man” to the end of the name, such as Goldman, was partly derived from the German and partly from Yiddish.
- Jewish criminal activity was prevalent. While a crime to the state, Jews did not consider smuggling a crime. Horse thievery was another prevalent crime among Jews.
- Among women, the native language was Polish while Russian was considered prestigious.
- There were a lot of Jewish prostitutes resulting in syphilis, especially in Lithuania and Latvia.
- The 25 year conscription ended in 1865. Jews voluntarily entered the military during World War I to show their loyalty to their country.
- Some children in the same family had different last names in order to protect

them from conscription by registering with a different family.

- There were no differences in marital difficulties but under Jewish life it was easier to get a divorce, usually within five years. Many times the marriage was an arranged marriage and the bride and groom were young.

Professor Freeze wrote two books which JGSCV has purchased and will be added to the non-circulating permanent library located at the County of Los Angeles Library-Agoura Hills branch:

Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Imperial Russia
Brandeis University Press 2002

Everyday Jewish Life in Imperial Russia: Select Documents 1772-1914
Brandeis University Press 2013 (Coauthored with Jay Harris)

Although discounts are offered through October 31, 2018 to JGSCV: DM151W (\$32.00 Everyday Life... and \$28.00-Jewish marriage...) by going to: <https://www.upne.com/1584651474.html> or 800-421-1561 or: www.upne.com

It is suggested that you look on Amazon.com by starting at www.jgscv.org and clicking on the Amazon logo at the bottom of the page, if you are interested in purchasing the books.

ChaeRan Freeze is Professor of Near Eastern and Judaic Studies, and Women's, Gender and Sexuality Studies at Brandeis University. She has focused her research on the history and culture of the Jews of Russia with a focus on women and gender. Her first book, *Jewish Marriage and Divorce in Imperial Russia* (2002) examines the impact of modernization on Jewish family practices and patterns in Imperial Russia based on newly-declassified archival materials from the former Soviet Union.

November 11, 2018: Centenary of the End of World War I

World War I had a massive impact on world Jewry and set the stage for World War II. Approximately 1.5 million Jews fought in World War I on different sides in the armies of their respective countries. The War fanned anti-Semitism and motivated the British-Zionist alliance that led to the creation of the State of Israel. JGSCV's December 2017 speaker, Hasia Diner addressed the US and World War I in 1917. To read the highlights of her presentation see *Venturing Into Our Past* January, 2018 which can be found on our website www.jgscv.org under newsletters 2018- January. Also see: <https://www.momentmag.com/how-the-first-world-war-changed-jewish-history/>

The "war to end all wars" ended 100 years ago on November 11, 2018. Many of us had ancestors who were involved in the war on either side. An interesting website for genealogical records pertaining to the war is: <https://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwarone/>

Several genealogical sites have the (US) World War I draft registration cards; FamilySearch.org (free) and Ancestry.com and MyHeritage.com which are subscription sites. You can access Ancestry at local libraries with an Ancestry subscription (LA City Library, Thousand Oaks Library, Ventura County Library System). Both Ancestry and My Heritage databases are available at the local Family History Centers. A list of local centers is available on the JGSCV website under resources, Family History Centers.

For World War I draft cards see: <http://tinyurl.com/ybz5ftcy>. This British site has some free records but one must register: <http://tinyurl.com/yacpezok>. FamilySearch has a number of indexed records pertaining to World War I <http://tinyurl.com/y8gkmekn>

The National WWI Museum and Memorial also has links to records sites: <https://www.theworldwar.org/learn/research-center/state-military-records>

November 2018

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Forthcoming Elections

By Sonia Hoffman, Chairperson, JGSCV Nominations Committee

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, the Nominating Committee recommended the slate of individuals below to fill four positions for election. One existing board member, Rosalee Bell has opted not to run for reelection. Only those currently serving on the board applied to be considered for the 2019-2020 board. Half the board is elected each year for a two-year term. The following individuals are nominated for election to the board for two year terms starting 1 January 2019:

1. Jan Meisels Allen
2. Karen Lewy
3. Helene Rosen
4. Diane Wainwood

The Nominating Committee was chaired by Sonia Hoffman and included board member Israel Perel and general member Marion Werle. The terms of five of the ten existing board members are expiring at the end of this year. The bylaws permit 6 to 12 elected members. The board voted in 2018 to expand the board to 11 members.

According to the Bylaws, anyone else wishing to be nominated to the Board can do so during the 5 November, 2018 meeting of the Society. An individual may nominate him/herself or another. No second is necessary. Nominees must have been members in good standing of the Society for at least one year. Any person that is nominated from the floor must be present and orally agree to serve on the Board if elected, or if not present must have signed a written statement indicating their willingness to serve if elected. This statement must be available for inspection at this meeting. After this solicitation, nominations for the Board are closed. We know of at least one person who will self-nominate from the floor at the November meeting.

The names of all nominees with brief biographies will be published in the December issue of this newsletter. Elections will then be held at the 9 December, 2018 meeting. Should additional individuals be nominated, or the membership chooses not to approve the slate by acclamation in December, then a secret vote will be taken.

The general membership votes for the persons to serve on the board, but the board decides on the roles of the board members. At the January board meeting the decision of responsibilities will be determined and reported in the following (February 2019) newsletter.

JGSCV WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

SUSAN BERNSTEIN

STEVEN FELDMAN

HARVEY and LYDIA PLATT

LINDA and MARVIN FRIEDMAN

BARBARA HUFF



Practicing Safe Computing: “Facebook Tokens”

By Hal Bookbinder (#37 in an ongoing series)



When I was 80% done with this article Word froze with an hourglass and had to kill it. Due to “autosaving”, however, my work was not lost. To turn this on, click on “File,” “Options,” and “Save.” Then, choose how often to take backups and where to store them. Also, check, “Keep the last autosaved version if I close without saving.”

According to Facebook, on September 25, 2018, they discovered that they had been hacked exposing 50 million Facebook accounts. The estimate was later revised to 30 million. Finding vulnerability in Facebook code, the hackers were able to obtain “tokens” for millions of Facebook users and use these tokens to simulate being the user and so accessing their data.

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word "facebook" in white lowercase letters on a blue rectangular background.

Tokens are strings of data provided when you connect to an application. The token is stored in a cookie in your computer. Another copy is kept by Facebook. Each time you perform an action with that application (inquire, update, etc.) Facebook queries the cookie, extracting the string and including it with the requested action. If it matches the Facebook copy and has not yet expired, it permits the transaction to take place.

Tokens have expiration dates and times. Typical tokens expire after two hours. But, they may be set to expire more quickly or even last for up to 90 days and can be renewed if permitted by the application. Presumably, the hackers were able to obtain the copies of the tokens held by Facebook (not from your computer). So long as they had not yet expired they could then use them to pretend to be the owner. It is possible that they were even able to renew these tokens.

Using the tokens they could access some of the data that you have provided to Facebook, including personal details such as name, email address, phone number, posts, friend lists, group memberships and the names of recent message conversations. They did not have access to the contents of the messages. But, with the information they were able to get, they could obtain tokens for your friends and through them their friends. They could even see the most recent 15 searches and 10 locations you visited as Facebook keeps a record of these.

By getting friends’ tokens and then their friends’ tokens, and so on they could rapidly obtain millions of them (30 million, apparently). Once Facebook learned of the hack, they installed patches for the three vulnerabilities that together permitted the hackers to do what they did. They further expired 90 million tokens on their sites making them useless. If you had been able to access a function through Facebook without logging in and suddenly found that you had to do so, it is likely that your token was forced to expire.

Such hacks will continue. So, you need to think about what you share and what you do on the Internet, realizing that it all might be exposed someday. This experience does emphasize the need to log off of applications rather than just disconnecting. This notifies the application to expire your token, rather than letting it sit there, unexpired, awaiting the next hacker.

This is the thirty seventh 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. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under Noteworthy.

November 2018

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Genealogy Odds and Ends

DNA Tests Help Find Hidden Children

As announced by Stanley Diamond, Executive Director, JRI-Poland: In the past year, research by two dedicated informal teams revealed the identity of two women who were Jewish babies saved and raised by Polish families. JRI-Poland is rightfully proud that their database of online and offline records played a critical role in both cases. Read the story here <http://tinyurl.com/ya6ut5nk>

Mistakes In The Census?

One of the first stops in the US genealogy journey is the trusted Census. According to Jan Mayer, errors occur for reasons like a focus on counting, spelling errors, copying errors, missing or false information. To read the entire story: <https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/incorrect-census-information/>

Historical Shanghai Jewish World War II Era Newspapers Online

Ancestor Hunt has published World War II era Shanghai newspapers online. Shanghai became a haven for fleeing Jews during World War II because of their lenient visa requirements and they accepted thousands of Jewish refugees.

The Shanghai Jewish Refugee Museum built a database that contains the name, occupation and address for many of the refugees, which can be found at: <http://sjrm.shhk.gov.cn/english/>

However, there are some Shanghai newspapers written by and for Jews that were digitized and are available online. Some are in English and most are in German. Best to look at both Internet Archive (<https://archive.org/>) and the Leo Baeck Institute (<https://www.lbi.org/>).

The article in Ancestor Hunt has 10 links to newspapers: <https://tinyurl.com/yakasp2>
Original url: <http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/historical-shanghai-jewish-newspapers-during-world-war-2#>

Back to Shul Text and Photo Essay Book on Surviving Lithuanian Synagogues

The International Center for Litvak Photography has published a free e-book Back to Shul that chronicles a 12-day journey by the Center's director, British photographer Richard Schofield. The text can be downloaded as a free PDF or read online. The fully captioned photos can be viewed online. Additionally, there is a list of about 100 known synagogue buildings in Lithuania with their location and current status.

To read the book online go to: <http://litvakphoto.org/back-to-shul-by-richard-schofield/>

To download and read the e-book go to: <https://tinyurl.com/ydbcbadl>

Original url:

http://litvakphoto.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/back_to_shul_by_richard_schofield.pdf

To download the list of synagogues go to: <https://tinyurl.com/y7xp22xn>

Original url:

<http://litvakphoto.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Back-to-Shul-LIST-OF-BUILDINGS.pdf>

To read more and see some of the photographs see: <https://tinyurl.com/ycrtlflu>

Original url:

<http://jewish-heritage-europe.eu/2018/10/03/back-to-shul-new-online-book/>

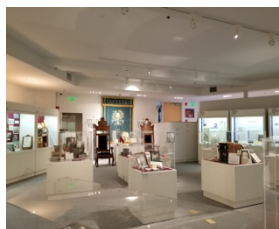
A Visit to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society

By Jan Meisels Allen

On April 8, 2018 JGSCV had the privilege of hearing Schindler's List's youngest survivor—Celina Karp Biniaz. During her presentation she mentioned that upon coming to the United States after the war, the only surviving relative was her uncle—her father's brother, David. David Karp and his wife met Celina and her parents in New York City when the ship arrived and drove them back to his adopted home in Iowa. Celina went to school in Iowa and her parents lived there the rest of their lives. When JGSCV wanted to make a donation to Celina's charity of choice for talking to us, she advised us to make the check to the Iowa Jewish Historical Society—which we did.

When Celina learned my husband Tom was from Iowa, and we visit there annually, she encouraged us to visit the Iowa Jewish Historical Society. The Iowa Jewish Historical Society is located in Waukee about 15 minutes from downtown Des Moines. It is part of the campus housing the Jewish Federation of Greater Des Moines, a large cultural, social and education center. We visited in late September.

The Iowa Jewish Historical Society's museum has some wonderful memorabilia of Jewish Iowa. For example, on display is a Yahrzeit Board, a Torah and other Judaica from now defunct synagogues. There is also recognition of



Jews who fought for the United States military since the Civil War, a 1937 Jewish Census of the Jews of Des Moines, information on Des Moines' area Jews who were in the Holocaust and fought in World War II and more. They have an ongoing project to identify and recognize the Jewish men and women of Iowa who have served in all branches of the U.S. Military and Iowa's National Guard.

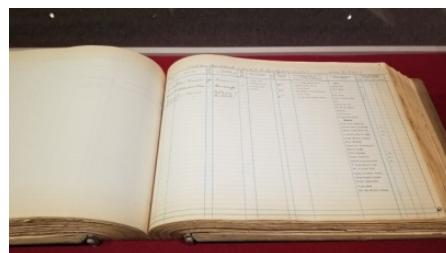
Related to Celina and her parents, the museum also has newspaper clippings about Celina's family and an

enamelware cup manufactured from Oscar Schindler's factory during World War II and used by the Karp family while imprisoned in Schindler's factory. The cup was donated by Celina.

The museum is also the repository for several now-defunct synagogues' Yahrzeit boards. The one on display is from Marshalltown, Congregation Sons of Israel, established in the late 1860's.



To me, one of the most fascinating items was the 1937



Jewish Census of Des Moines, Iowa— 3,420 residents. The information contained in the archives has, in

addition to the name of all in the family, date and place of birth, name of Jewish Congregation to which they were members; which Jewish School their children attended; and the names of the Jewish affiliated organizations each family member belonged. The Des Moines Jewish census was a survey done by the Mrs. S. Weinstock, Superintendent of the Federated Jewish Charities, Des Moines, IA. It contains "social data regarding every Jewish family in Des Moines".

According to a note included in the survey, the study was "prompted by a desire to secure intelligent information about the Jewish population with regard to their interests in Jewish religious, cultural as well as social activities and their affiliations." The study reported that there were 3,420 Jewish individuals constituting 1,015 families. This represented a decrease from an earlier census that was done in 1923 that reported a Jewish population of 3,913. The Jewish

November 2018

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Federation does not have a copy of the 1923 census. They do have a letter from H.S. Linfield, Special Agent for the Bureau of the Census for the Department of Commerce in which he writes to Rabbi Eugene Mannheimer about it being necessary to report to the government the number of Jews that reside in each community for a decennial survey of the Jews in the country. The letter is at the end of this summary and it says that a Jewish decennial census was done since 1906 as the US Government found it necessary to report on the number of Jews that reside in each community, and this serves as for the decennial survey of Jews in the Country. The letter also said the American Jewish Committee collaborates with the US Census Bureau in this undertaking. As I had never heard of a Jewish census for a US community I researched this further and found in 1941 the US census did a census on "religious bodies in America" and the Jewish one was by Dr. H.S. Linfield, director of the Statistical Bureau of the Synagogue Council.

History of Jews in Iowa

Iowa never had a large Jewish population—about 6,000—with half from the Des Moines area. The population is a bit smaller today with the same division,

about half from the greater Des Moines area. The first Jew in Iowa was Alexander Levi from the Alsace area of France. He arrived in 1833 and settled in Dubuque. He was the first foreigner naturalized in Iowa in 1837. He helped develop the lead mines in Dubuque and was elected justice of peace in 1846. He founded the first two Jewish congregations in the city.

William Krause was the first Jewish settler in Des Moines. He arrived with his wife in 1846 when the city was known as Raccoon Forks. He opened the first store in Des Moines and was one of the city's incorporators, and helped found the first public school. Krause was instrumental in getting the state capitol moved to Des Moines from Iowa City.

The first organized Jewish community was formed at Keokuk in 1855 in the home of S. Gerstle under the name of the Benevolent Children of Israel. This society maintained a cemetery from 1859 and four years later was incorporated as Congregation B'nai Israel. In 1877 it erected Iowa's first synagogue, which went out of existence in the 1920's. The second synagogue in Iowa was erected in Des Moines in 1878.

The website for the Iowa Historical Society online collection is: <https://ijhs.pastperfectonline.com/>

The website for the Iowa Jewish Historical Society is www.ijhs.online.

Thank You, Member Volunteers

In October JGSCV celebrated our 13th anniversary. Our society is strong due to our members who volunteer and help make the society as successful as it is. Our deep appreciation also is extended to Temple Adat Elohim whose continued support of our programs permits us to do what we do.

The following people were on the **Organizing Committee** and are still members of JGSCV: **Jan Meisels Allen, Stew Bernstein, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Werner Frank, Hal Bookbinder, Richard Munitz, Dayla Dektor, Mike Markowitz and Raya Sagi**

Our **Current Board of Directors**: **Jan Meisels Allen, Rosalie Bell, Warren Blatt, Karen Lewy, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion, Issie Perel, Helene Rosen, Diane Wainwood**

The following people have **volunteered to serve on previous boards or committees since our inception and are still members** (not including those currently serving on the JGSCV board):

Barbara Algaze, Sara Applebaum, Sandy Banks, Stewart Bernstein, Sue Birdsall, Debra Kay Blatt, Hal Bookbinder, Dalya Dektor, Dorothy Drilich, Susan Falck, Barbara Finstin, Carol Fletcher, Werner Frank, Pat Fuller, Ralph Fuller, Julie Goldman, Sonia Hoffman, Sara Hyman, Ellen Kossoris, Fred Land, Barbara Levasseur, Richard Munitz, David Oseas –webmaster, Indy Rebhun, Pat Thomas, Marilyn Silva, Marion Werle, Tammy Williams-Anderson



2019 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 2019

Date _____

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$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 \$ _____

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

Make check out to: JGSCV Mail application to: Helene Rosen,
28912 Fountainwood St.
Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Name (Print) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Talents that you have to share (accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)



Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2019

Sunday at 1:30 p.m. OR **Monday at 7:00 p.m.**

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

Monday, November 5th 7-9 PM "Privacy and Genealogy: What Are the Rules?" with E. Randal Schoenberg and Jan Meisels Allen

DAY	DATE	TIME	PROGRAM	INFO
SUNDAY	DECEMBER 9, 2018	1:30-3:30 PM	What's New at Ancestry and Annual Membership Meeting/Chanukah Party	Speaker, Crista Cowan, Ancestry Corporate Genealogist

SUNDAY	JANUARY 6	1:30-3:30 PM	You Can't Find the Records - Now What? What to do When the Records You Need Don't Exist	Speaker: Marion Werle
SUNDAY	FEBRUARY 10	1:00-5:00 PM	<i>Members Only: Annual Assisted Research Afternoon</i>	LA Family History Library (Anyone may join at the door)
SUNDAY	MARCH 3	1:30-3:30 PM	Success In-And In Spite of Endogamy	Speaker, Lara Diamond, President, JGS Maryland and Coordinator, JewishGen Sub-Carpathia SIG
MONDAY	APRIL 8	7:00-9:00 PM	TBD	
SUNDAY	MAY 5	1:30-3:30 PM	Annual Yom Hashoah Program - Program, Documentary, "The Forgotten Ones: The Story of Yugoslav Jewry"	(Yom Hashoah actual date: May 2)
SUNDAY	JUNE 2	1:30-3:30 PM	TBD	
SUNDAY*	JULY 14*	1:30-3:30 PM	Genealogy in the Round	JGSCV members share successes & brickwalls

2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE JULY 28-AUGUST 2 CLEVELAND, OH

* Tentative date

Check www.jgscv.org for updates

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS



WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

No Need To Reregister for 2018-2019 If Already Registered
Note: Ralphs Changed our NPO Number Please use the one listed below
when searching for JGSCV: RG981

Help support JGSCV by enrolling in **Ralphs Community Contribution Program!**
This year only! Those registered do not have to reregister as Ralphs rolled everyone over. They are updating their system and felt it easier for this year not to require. For those who have not yet enrolled in the Ralphs Community Contribution Program please follow these directions:

Join Ralphs' Club and they will contribute a percentage of what you purchase to JGSCV! Registration is easy and helps your local Jewish genealogy society! Having a Ralphs card also helps you with discounts on purchases and their website **saves you money** too by downloading coupons. See the step-by-step directions below.

You can register for the new term at www.Ralphs.com starting **September 1, 2018**.

Remember: You can renew or register for the first time at the JGSCV's meetings—but you must first have a Ralph's Card. You can easily obtain a card by going to a Ralphs near you at their customer service desk. For information contact Karen Lewy at Karen@jgscv.org.

IF YOU HAVE NOT REGISTERED YOUR REWARDS CARD ONLINE

(This means that you have already entered your email address and assigned yourself a password)

1. Log in to www.ralphs.com
2. Click Sign In
3. Enter your email address and password that you registered with.
4. Click on person icon (in top right hand corner)
5. Click on My Account
6. View all your information and edit as necessary
7. Link your card to JGSCV by clicking on:
 - a. Community Rewards – Re-Enroll

- b. **Type JGSCV's NPO number: RG981 or Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley & "OR:** Type in the first words of our organization i.e. "Jewish Gen" (if you only type in "Jewish" a number of organizations appear including ours, so by typing in the first few letters of our second name only we appear) and click on "search" and our name will pop up: Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley & " **Make certain it's our Society as there are other Jewish Genealogy Societies registered!**
- c. Remember to click on the circle/bubble to the left of JGSCV's name
- d. Click in save changes
- Our name Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley &..) will appear on the right side of this page
- e. Click on Enroll to finish your enrollment process

Remember even if you are only an occasional Ralphs shopper, your purchases help JGSCV!

JGSCV has been receiving from Ralphs over \$100 per quarter, or equal to 4+ JGSCV memberships per quarter! Thank you on behalf of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County.

Kristallnacht: Night of Broken Glass 80th Anniversary November 9-10

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Kristallnacht, "Night of Crystal," is often referred to as the "Night of Broken Glass" took place on November 9 and 10, 1938. Jews were terrorized throughout Germany, annexed Austria, and in areas of the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia that were occupied by German troops. At least 91 Jews were killed in the attacks, and 30,000 were arrested and incarcerated in concentration camps. Jewish homes, hospitals, and schools were ransacked. The attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Over 1,000 synagogues were burned (95 in Vienna alone) and over 7,000 Jewish businesses destroyed or damaged.



According to the Free Dictionary, Herschel Grynszpan a 17-year-old Jew, assassinated the third secretary at the German embassy in Paris on November 7, 1938, to avenge the expulsion of his parents and 15,000 other Polish Jews to German concentration camps. This gave the Nazis the excuse they were waiting for and Goebbels urged Storm Troopers to stage violent reprisals--which resulted in Kristallnacht.

Kristallnacht marked the transition in Nazi policy. It was the first violent pogrom (riot) on Western European soil in hundreds of years. Immediately after Kristallnacht, a fine of one billion marks was levied, not upon the criminals, but upon the victims, the Jewish community of Germany. Nazi policy had now moved into the overt destruction of all Jewish life in the Third Reich.

To read more about Kristallnacht see <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kristallnacht> and <https://tinyurl.com/ybhwfeu4> for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum write up.

While there are commemorations throughout the US and other countries, it is best to Google for this to find out what is happening closest to you to commemorate Kristallnacht.



Correction: Last month we published about the USHMM program in Beverly Hills *What Were We Watching?* and posted the incorrect date. The correct date is November 15. For information and tickets see: <https://www.ushmm.org/online-calendar/event/wcwatchmediala1118>