

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

May 2019

Volume 14 Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV was privileged to have Sarina Roffé talk on *Branching Out from Sepharad—Solving a Converso Mystery*. This was JGSCV's annual Sephardic program. The program outlined the history of the Jews from Spain, the 1492 expulsion, their history in Syria, and their immigration to the Americas. She also discussed the ancestry and significance of the Kassin rabbinic dynasty, which dates to the 12th century, and the 50-year leadership of Chief Rabbi Jacob S. Kassin, who led the Syrian Jewish community in Brooklyn. See page 5 for the highlights of her program.

Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for facilitating the schmoozing corner. Each month a senior member facilitates this feature for you to be able to ask questions and get general guidance. The schmoozing corner begins 30 minutes before our program begins.

JGSCV has been offered a free exhibit table at the Southern California Genealogical Jamboree on Friday, May 31 from 12 noon-6PM. This is a way to help promote our society and hopefully attract potential new members. If you would like to volunteer to answer questions JGSCV and genealogy at our table, please let me know. You do not need to register (and pay) for the Jamboree to help at our table and it will give you entry to the exhibit hall. However, it does not include eligibility to attend any sessions. The Jamboree is being held at the Marriot Hotel located at the Bob Hope/Burbank Airport. While we have several volunteers another two would be helpful allowing for 2-hour stints



Sarina
Roffé at
the April
8th Meeting

NEXT MEETING

Sunday May 5th 1:30-3:30 PM

Commemorating Yom Hashoah Documentary Film "The Forgotten Ones: The Story of Yugoslav Jewry

This is the U.S. premiere of a film about a young woman's journey to understand the history of her great-grandfather's community which had no previous incidents of anti-Semitism before the war. Stella's ggf was crowned Righteous Among the Nations, by Yad Vashem. The film is 74 minutes in English/Hebrew with English subtitles.

WWW.JGSCV.ORG

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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.

with two volunteers at the table.

The IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held on July 28-August 2, 2019 in Cleveland, Ohio at the Hilton Cleveland Downtown. See page 11 for more information.

Several of you have asked about the JGSCV meetings after July, 2019. We hope to get the meeting dates from August 2019 through August 2020 from the Temple sometime in May and as soon as we have the dates they will be announced in this newsletter and posted to the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org. If there is a favorite genealogical subject you would like addressed, please let me know.

Speaking of programs, our annual Genealogy in the Round where members and friends can share a genealogical success, brick wall or artifact is on Sunday, July 14th. Please start thinking of what you would like to share. I am always nervous that we won't have enough volunteers to share and am always delighted as more people come forward. If you would like to share please let me know sooner rather than later.

May is Jewish American Heritage Month, a national month of recognition of the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. See page 14 for more information.

Hal Bookbinder's next installment of "Practicing Safe Computing", *Is Windows Defender ATP Sufficient?* starts on page 9.

2019 is the 80th anniversary of the Kindertransport. See page 16 for the history of this remarkable saving of 10,000 Jewish children by Great Britain.

Yom Hashoah, Holocaust Memorial Day, is commemorated on May 2, 2019. This day is observed in Israel and the United States to remember the approximately six million Jews and five million others who perished in the Holocaust. JGSCV will be commemorating it on Sunday May 5. Thanks to JGSCV member Joanne Cadis, we will be viewing the documentary, *The Forgotten Ones: The Story of Yugoslav Jewry*. The documentary was created by a group of descendants and survivors from Yugoslavia who live in Israel. Yugoslavia by percentage lost more Jews in the Holocaust than any other country: 85 percent and in Macedonia alone 95 percent. This will be the first showing of the documentary in the United States. I have personally viewed the documentary several times and whether or not you have Yugoslavian roots, you will find this very compelling and educational. Those who perished were both Ashkenazi and Sephardic Jews.

Happy Passover and to our non-Jewish members and friends, Happy Easter.

Looking forward to seeing you on May 5th!



Jan Meisels Allen

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



Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, May 5, 2019 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 p.m.

The Program: A Documentary Film - *The Forgotten Ones: The Story of Yugoslav Jewry*



Our annual Yom Hashoah program is a documentary film, to be shown for the first time in the United States.

The Forgotten Ones is a documentary film that brings to light, for the first time, the Holocaust of the Jewry of former Yugoslavia. German Nazis, Croatian Ustashi, Hungarian Fascists, Bulgarian occupiers, nationalist Serbs, partly Italians, and even the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, all played roles in the Holocaust of Yugoslav Jewry. It was an old community from the time of the Second Temple and the expulsion of Sephardi Jews. Ashkenazim and Sephardim, living in harmony, developed a special culture. In the film, 30-year-old Stella sets out on a journey full of revelations to investigate how the Yugoslav community was destroyed in the country without anti-Semitism before the war and what happened to her great-grandfather, who was crowned Righteous Among the Nations, by Yad Vashem. Hebrew/English with English subtitles 74 minutes.

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.

JGSCV Updates

Bring your questions to Marion Werle at the SCHMOOZING CORNER starting at 1:00 PM on May 5th. The SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 30 minutes before each JGSCV meeting where a knowledgeable JGSCV member is available to offer individualized help with your personal family history questions. The SCHMOOZING CORNER is located on the right side of the meeting room as you enter. Hal Bookbinder led the April 8th SCHMOOZING CORNER. Photo is of Carol Flesher conducting the March SCHMOOZING CORNER (right).



JGSCV webmaster David Oseas shared this link to Good Housekeeping's "What Was Life Like 100 Years Ago Compared To Now". If you interested in seeing what it was like when Woodrow Wilson was president and before there was an NFL, click here <http://tinyurl.com/y6agqymx>

In 2020, *Venturing Into Our Past* will be commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII with a series of stories about our family members and the war. Start thinking about how you would like to recognize the exploits of someone in your family tree as they relate to that period. If you'd love to tell the story but need assistance writing, please contact Allan Linderman (newslettereditor@jgscv.org).

Daniel Horowitz, JGSCV's June 2 speaker is offering discounts for My Heritage DNA tests with preorders. Fill out the form at <http://bit.ly/JGSCVDNA> and pay just \$59* per test. *Prices may be less if they are offered less at the Southern California Genealogical Jamboree

When shopping at Amazon.com please go to our website (www.jgscv.org) 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

Page Three is on Spring Break this month but will return in June.

We wish everyone a Happy Passover and Happy Easter!

Highlights from: Branching Out from Sepharad - Solving a Converso Mystery

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV was privileged to have as its speaker for the April meeting, Sarina Roffé talk on *Branching Out from Sepharad—Solving a Converso Mystery*. This was JGSCV's annual Sephardic program. The program outlined the history of the Jews from Spain, the 1492 expulsion, their history in Syria, and their immigration to the Americas. She also discussed the ancestry and significance of the Kassin rabbinic dynasty, which dates to the 12th century, and the 50-year leadership of Chief Rabbi Jacob S. Kassin, who led the Syrian Jewish community in Brooklyn.



Who Is Sephardic

Sarina started out by describing who is a Sephardic Jew. While many believe the term “Sephardic” referred to Jews living in and later expelled from Spain in 1492 and Portugal in 1497 and who were forced to convert to Catholicism and not permitted to leave, today it has a larger definition. Sephardic is now accepted to be the Jewish exiles and descendants who settled along the Mediterranean Sea, North Africa, the Balkans, Italy, Lebanon, Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Syria and Palestine. Some Jews fled to Brazil, Holland, England, Germany and the Jewish communities of the new world—New York, Mexico and Curacao in the Caribbean.

There are also Persian and Itali and Romaniote Jews who may follow Sephardic traditions but do not consider themselves Sephardic.

Spain was Muslim for many centuries, until the Christian Reconquista but there were Jews there during that time frame as well. Jews there were descendants of Middle East ancestors. During the Golden Age of Spain (10th and 11th centuries) important Jewish works were produced and a Jew in the court of the Umayyad Dynasty was the leader of the Jews. Maimonides along with his teacher and father Rabbi Maimon, wrote the Code of Jewish Law during the 12th Century.

The Inquisition

In 1469 King Ferdinand II and Queen Isabella were married, uniting their kingdoms of Aragon and Castille. Soon after they took back the Moorish Kingdom of Granada. They separated the “New Christians”—those who previously were Jewish and converted and those born Christians. The Inquisition started in 1481 and targeted New Christians. The King and Queen were devout Christians and did not tolerate non-believers in their kingdoms. They issued the Alhambra Decree, known as the Edict of Expulsion on March 31, 1492 expelling Jews from Christian Spain. Jews were required to convert to Christianity or leave the kingdoms by July 31, 1492—although the actual expulsion was August 2, 1492—the same date Columbus sailed to America. It took almost 500 years for Spain to formally revoke the Edict of Expulsion—December 16, 1968.

What happened to the Jews due to the expulsion?

Some converted. About half relocated to Portugal. Some went to North Africa, Italy and Mediterranean countries including the Ottoman Empire. Others went underground as Conversos. They stayed in

Spain and converted but continued to secretly practice Judaism.

In 1497 King Manuel of Portugal became engaged to the daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella. A condition of the marriage was the expulsion of Jews from Portugal. King Manuel gathered the Jews at the Port of Lisbon with an expulsion order but instead forcibly converted them.

Converso Names

Sarina shared names of Converso families that ended up in the Americas as well as Aleppo:

Lopez/Lopes /Lofes in Syria); Beyda; Paredes/Pardos; Ancona; Katzin/Kassin; Rodrigues (Sayeg) Labaton/Lobaton; Silvera; Picciotto/Peixotto; Franco; Altaras; Ferreira; Fernandes; Martinez;

Galante; and Habib

Kassin Dynasty

The Name Kassin is from a long line of rabbinical scholars. The Hebrew word *Cassin* means head of community. Sarina traced the Kassin family starting in 1384. It was founded in Charleville, France and they were in the winemaking and jewelry making industries. France expelled the Jews at the end of the 12th century- early 13th century and many moved to northern Spain and became Sephardim. Sarina showed a family tree starting with Shelomo Kassin born in 1465 in Segovia. The tree shows how one of the descendants arrives

in Aleppo (Syria) in 1540. The mystery was where was Shelomo until 1540? Sarina also showed documents proving some of the Kassin’s remained in Spain in 1600’s.

In 2012, Sarina was contacted by Irish Kissanes who claimed to be part of the Kassin family stating they were Conversos. She was unable to find documentary proof even though there was proof that secret Jews lived in a village of Galway, Ireland. Historically, Ireland offered refuge to persecuted “marranos” or Conversos fleeing the Inquisition. The first Irish synagogues were formed by Sephardim. After the expulsion from England in Ireland in 1290, they returned in the 15th century after the Inquisition. Ireland became a safe haven for secret Jews. However, DNA testing between descendants of the Irish Kassines and others in the Kassin family in Israel and New York did not match while the DNA of

the Israel and New York Kassins matched.

Aleppo

In 1516, Aleppo and Damascus became part of the Ottoman Empire. Aleppo is the center of Jewish learning. In any Moslem country Jews were protected, not equal. They imposed a Jews tax which was a poll tax. In a court, the court would

always find for the Muslim over the Jew. Jews could also evade conscription. Women could not leave their home, nor did they attend school. Males attended religious schools until their Bar Mitzvah. Alliance Israelite Universelle Schools opened in the late 19th C to integrate religious and secular



education and increase education for Jews in Arab countries. Both girls and boys could attend.

Trade was in silk and cotton. The chief rabbi was a government-appointed position. Sephardic Jews from Livorno (Italy) moved to Damascus and Aleppo in the 18th century. Jews from both Spain and Portugal ended up in Livorno (northern Italy).

The Suez Canal opened in 1869 which started the economic hardship as the caravans ceased.

The Ottoman Empire welcomed Jews from Iberia after the expulsions from Spain and Portugal. They were called “Franco”. Western Sephardim from Italy, France, England and the Netherlands lived with

the end of the 14th Century, where it was guarded for over 600 years.

Syrian Jews started to emigrate from Aleppo to the Americas due to the fall of the Ottoman Empire and military conscription. They moved predominantly to New York, Buenos Aires and Mexico City and other cities in Latin America.

Focusing on the Kassin dynasty, Sarina noted three-four generations were missing. The average life in Spain was 35 years, yet from 1590-1640; to 1708 to 1745, to 1810-1864 then 1900-1921 then 1948-1974. Sarina discussed the descendants of Abraham Kassin who was born in Aleppo. One of his descendants was

“When the subway opens in the lower east side to Bensonhurst (Brooklyn) children attended public

the Syrian Jews. The Franco merchants settled in Aleppo in the 18th century. They enjoyed European protection, but refused to pay communal taxes, be bound by communal regulations and did not accept rabbinical authority. They were exempt from Ottoman laws and authority. However, in 1775, Rabbi Raphael Solomon Lanaido laid out his decision in the book, *Solomon’s Court*, that the Francos, despite their extraterritorial judicial status under the Capitulations, were required to obey communal regulations. As European citizens they were exempt from certain status and taxes.

Aleppo Codex

The Aleppo Codex is the oldest known manuscript containing the entire text of the Bible. The Codex was copied by the scribe Shlomo Ben-Buya’a in the land of Israel over 1,000 years ago. The Aleppo Codex is believed to be the most authoritative, accurate and sacred source document, both for the Biblical text and for the vocalization and cantillation. The Codex was deposited with the Aleppo community at

Rabbi Jacob Kassin who arrived in New York City in 1933.

Life in New York City

Sarina discussed life in the Lower East Side of New York where men worked as peddlers selling textiles, linens, etc. They then moved into retail establishments, which required working on the Sabbath. Damascus and Aleppan Jews lived side-by-side but did not communicate—it was Yiddish versus Arabic. They did not intermarry, prayed separately. A small Hebrew school was established by community members. Different synagogues were established.

When the subway opened in the lower east side to Bensonhurst (Brooklyn) children attended public schools.

Rabbi Jacob Kassin

Rabbi Kassin became the chief rabbi for the community and formed a Sephardic Rabbinic Council. In 1935 the rabbinic council issued a “Takana” or edict against marriage to converts and a complete rejection of converts, this going back to their

heritage for centuries and to Syria. This edict was to protect their identity and religious integrity. They followed the similar edict in Argentina and Mexico followed the New York edict. The edict was affirmed in 1945 and again in 1972, but then with consequences, such as rabbis being prohibited from performing conversions. Further consequences were added in 1984 and again in 2006, but then some institutions refused to sign the edict. The edict has become the cornerstone of the Syrian community which effectively stops or decreases the rate of intermarriage to about two percent annually

Syria Post 1948

In 1948, about one million Jews were displaced from all Muslim countries and predominately went to Israel. Jewish persecution remained in Syria. Jews



were no longer permitted to own property, travel or practice their occupation. Those Jews permitted to travel for business were not permitted to have family members travel with them. Those who tried to escape and were caught, were tortured and murdered. Synagogues were destroyed. The concern was that Jewish men would flee to Israel and join the Israeli Army. The Jewish Distribution Committee (JDC or Joint) sent money to feed them monthly.

Aleppo in Flatbush

In the 1950s the community moved to Ocean Parkway the Flatbush area of Brooklyn. By the late 1950s more girls were attending the synagogues. By the early 1960s all new school age children attended

Yeshiva coinciding with desegregation of the public school system. The orthodox Jews were now teaching the Yeshivas and their values were for higher education which helped develop the professional class. Before then there was no professional class. By the 1970s the need for professionals was evident and now more young men and women attended college resulting in doctors, dentists, lawyers, teachers etc.

1992 Syrian Airlift

The Syrian government was bribed to get relatives out of Syria. When ransoms could not be negotiated then escapes were planned. In 1992 a major airlift of Syrian Jews was negotiated by President George H.W. Bush and Syria's President Assad. The result was exit visas for the Syrian Jews to the United States as tourists. Jobs and housing were a necessity for every immigrant family. Children were placed in Yeshivas, the community worked to find clothing, furniture and housing for the new emigres.

Sarina apologized if the edict against intermarriage was bothersome to any in the audience but she explained that is what the Syrian Sephardic Jews believe.

Sarina mentioned and had fliers of her book, *Branching Out from Sepharad* which discusses selected rabbinic families with biographies and genealogies. You can reach Sarina at: sarina@roffe.com

Sarina Roffé is a professional genealogist, editor of DOROT, the journal of the JGS New York, and founder of the Sephardic Heritage Project. She is responsible for the translation and databasing of marriage and brit milah records on JewishGen. While on the Board of Governors of JewishGen, she acquired several databases of Sephardic records, including cemetery records from Mexico, Venezuela, Cuba, and Argentina. She serves on the IAJGS Board of Directors and presents often at IAJGS conferences and has completed over a dozen genealogies. She is Co-Chair of the Brooklyn Jewish Historical Initiative, the first organization to document Brooklyn's Jewish past.



Practicing Safe Computing #43: Is Windows Defender ATP Sufficient?

By Hal Bookbinder

Windows 10 includes Windows Defender antivirus software. There are no fees to install or operate it and it has a light footprint, minimally impacting computer performance. It also includes a firewall providing protection against malware that might find you. In March 2019, Microsoft changed the name to “Microsoft Defender Advanced Threat Protection” or “Defender ATP” and began offering a MAC OS version alongside the existing Windows version. However, the MAC version is currently only being marketed to businesses. Windows Defender can also run on Windows 7, 8 and 8.1.



Like most of its competition, it relies on both an internal engine to do the scanning and regularly updated signature files of known malware. It runs automatically and cannot be disabled. When you install another antivirus program, it automatically goes dormant, coming alive again if you remove the other antivirus product.

It tests well against other products, catching virtually all malware as the malware attempts to launch. It does have a significantly higher false-positive detection in which it misidentifies and stops perfectly innocent software that it suspects to be malware. While noteworthy, this should still be a minor inconvenience and not a significant disruptive issue.

It has not always been this way. Go back three or four years and Microsoft Security Essentials (the prior name of Windows Defender) tested poorly against the competition. This reputation hangs on and so some just do not trust that a free, easy to use product from Microsoft is all that they need for

protection. For most users, Windows Defender is quite enough.

Windows Defender looks for suspicious activity but does not look for indicators that undetected malware might have been active. For example, if a normally static system file has been updated this might indicate the presence of malware. In addition, while Windows Defender warns you that a malicious program is attempting to run, it does not stop you from opting to let it run.

Commercial alternatives may offer additional features such as password managers, VPNs (virtual private networks), or scans to find indicators that malware may have been active. These additional features add to the “bloat” or “footprint” and may result in performance impacts. In considering a commercial alternative check the additional features and satisfy yourself that they are sufficiently valuable to you to warrant the cost and potential performance impact.

If you decide to stay with Windows Defender, consider installing the free version of Malwarebytes. They can coexist since the free version of Malwarebytes only runs when you invoke it (Two anti-virus programs running concurrently may impact system performance). Consider periodically scanning your PC with Malwarebytes, especially if you suspect an issue. You can also use Windows Defender Offline to scan your PC. For more about Windows Defender Offline see, <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/help/17466>. To download Malwarebytes, see, <https://www.malwarebytes.com/mwb-download>.



This is the forty-third 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.

Genealogy Odds and Ends



JewishGen

Nolan Altman reports that JewishGen announced major additions to its Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Database. After adding 116,000 new records and 29,000 new photos JOWBR now has more than 3.45 million records in its database. There is now information from more than 8,000 cemeteries/sections worldwide. Countries with significant updates include Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chechia, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Ukraine and the U.S. To search the database and view a complete listing of all cemeteries, click here: <http://tinyurl.com/y7do2777>.

Logan Kleinwaks tell us that courtesy of the Miriam Weiner Archival Collection, with assistance from the Library of Congress, he recently added 75 Ukrainian telephone directories from 1970 to 1994 to the full-text search engine at genealogyindexer.org, including 18 for places formerly in Galicia:

Berezhany 1988; Borshchiv 1992; Buchach 1987; Chortkiv 1980; Dolyna 1986; Drohobych 1972; Ivano-Frankivsk 1970 (two vols.), 1976, 1983; Monastyriska 1988; Rozhniativ 1977; Sniatyn 1983; Sokal 1993; Saryi Sambir 1992; Stryi 1987; Yavoriv 1989; Zolochiv 1977, 1989

Many of these directories include not only the towns mentioned above but also the districts of the same name. For details about the directories, see the full announcement at The Genealogy Indexer website: <http://genealogyindexer.org/archive/84>



The Danish Jewish Museum's online exhibit Safe Haven, went live on the Internet at the end of 2018. It is a searchable database of the Jews who fled from Denmark's Zealand coast to Sweden in 1943 and later. The Swedish authorities interviewed every person and there are copies from the Stockholm Stadsarkivet of the protocols in the database. The information provides an insight to the individuals' experiences during their flight to Sweden. While it contains over 6,000 protocols it is still not complete. The Swedish archives has even more information. The people were defined as "Jewish" by the Nazi racial definitions. There are non-Jews included who were spouses of Jews. Children usually appear in their parents' protocols. To access the database go to: <https://safe-haven.dk/en/>. It is both in Danish and English. Fill in the form with the name of the person you are researching. Other information are the departure and arrival dates, ports of departure and arrival and year of birth.



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

Sunday May 5th, 1:30-3:30 PM Commemorating Yom Hashoah with the premiere of the documentary "The Forgotten Ones: The Story of Yugoslav Jewry"

SUNDAY	JUNE 2, 2019	1:30-3:30 PM	"MyHeritage New Features and New Records"	Speaker, Daniel Horowitz, Genealogy Expert, MyHeritage
SUNDAY	JULY 14, 2019	1:30-3:30 PM	Genealogy In The Round	Members and Friends share successes, brickwalls and artifacts

2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE JULY 28-AUGUST 2 CLEVELAND, OH (See story below)

Check www.jgscv.org for meeting updates

2019 IAJGS CONFERENCE

July 28 - August 2

CLEVELAND, OH



The speakers have all been notified and JGSCV members are well represented: Jan Meisels Allen, Debra Kay Blatt, Warren Blatt, Hal Bookbinder and Andrea Massion. The program should be added to the website this coming week. Registration is open at http://www.iajgs2019.org/register_conference.cfm. Please note their new policy on mandatory food voucher to be used for food purchased throughout the conference such as breakfast with the experts. SIG luncheons and the banquet. Early registration ends on April 30 so this is the time to register and save money. If you are planning on attending and want to make your hotel reservations go to: http://www.iajgs2019.org/hotel_reserve.cfm. Hotel rooms are going fast so make your registrations now. The hotel requires one night's deposit at the time of reservation which is refundable up to three days before check-in, if you must cancel. There is a discussion list you can subscribe to learn as things are announced: http://www.iajgs2019.org/discussion_list.cfm There is also a Facebook group: http://www.iajgs2019.org/facebook_group.cfm



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 _____

Home telephone _____ Mobile telephone _____

E-mail address _____

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

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS (Cont'd on next page)



WEBSITE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

No Need To Reregister for 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.

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!****

May 2019

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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!

May is Jewish American Heritage Month



By Congressional resolution and Presidential proclamation May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM). A national month of recognition of the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to

American culture, JAHM acknowledges the achievements of American Jews in fields ranging from sports and arts and entertainment to medicine, business, science, government, and military service. The 2019 theme is Jewish American Illustrators.

“JAHM’s 2019 theme provides an opportunity to highlight the many American Jews who have helped create the nation’s beloved children’s books, iconic graphic novels and their superheroes, and syndicated comics and illustrations. These Jewish artists, illustrators, and writers have been shaped by American life, society, and culture, and in turn enriched America’s imaginative landscape. Through the prism of their Jewish identity, and often by approaching their work through the lens of social justice, they have been able to make poignant observations about the world around them, offering powerful commentary on issues of the day through their unique and universal medium.”

From Ezra Jack Keats who grew up as the child of Jewish immigrants in Depression-era Brooklyn, to contemporary writer/illustrator Maira Kalman who examined (and illustrated) the American democracy she saw around the country, these keen and witty social observers reflect us and our world in lasting

ways. Award-winning author and illustrator Ezra Jack Keats (1916 –1983), whose children’s books include Whistle or Willie, Peter’s Chair, and The Snowy Day, was the son Eastern European Jewish immigrants and very poor. Growing up in East New York, Keats’ experience of antisemitism and poverty in his youth gave him a lifelong sympathy for others who suffered prejudice and want. His work transcends the personal and reflects the universal concerns of children.

Stan Lee (1922–2018), though not an illustrator himself, gave the world Spiderman, Incredible Hulk, Iron Man, among other legendary Marvel Comic superheroes. In the DC Comics universe, characters like Superman, created by Jerry Siegel (1914–1996) and Joe Shuster (1914 –1992), has clear Jewish roots, and whose character further developed as WWII unfolded. Rube Goldberg (1883 – 1970), is one of the most influential and prolific cartoon illustrators of the twentieth century who is best known for his whimsical invention drawing cartoons, and also won a Pulitzer Prize for his political cartoon about the Atom Bomb.

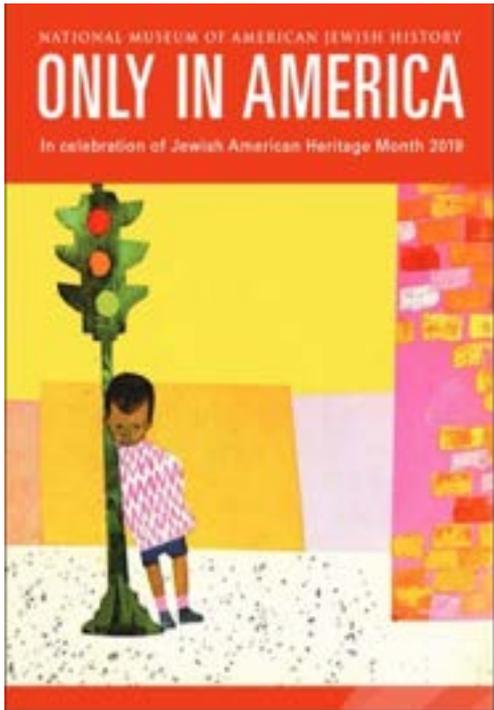
To read about more of the Jewish illustrators see: <https://tinyurl.com/yycacka>

JAHM’s 2019 theme provides the brochure for this year’s theme may be downloaded at: <https://tinyurl.com/yymyweg>

History

On April 20, 2006 President George W. Bush proclaimed May would be Jewish American Heritage

Month (JAHM). JAHM was an effort by the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida community leaders that resulted in Congressional resolutions introduced by Representative Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) urging the president to proclaim a month that would recognize the more than 360-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. In 2018, the National Museum of American Jewish History



Independence Mall in Philadelphia, PA, NMAJH is the country's only institution dedicated to telling the story of American history through the lens of the Jewish experience. Its mission to present educational programs and experiences that preserve, explore, and celebrate the more than 360-year history of Jews in America serves JAHM's broader mission to promote

became the home of JAHM. Located on historic

education about the American Jewish community's contributions to the history, heritage, and culture of the United States. Since 2006 JAHM programs have taken place across the United States. To see the past presidential proclamations go to: <https://www.jahm.us/about/> and scroll down to proclamations. This is being published before May therefore the 2019 presidential proclamation is not yet available.

The JAHM Coalition was formed in March 2007 and convened by United Jewish Communities (now The Jewish Federations of North America), The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) and the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS). The JAHM Coalition was composed of the directors of major national Jewish historical and cultural organizations including the AJA, AJHS, Jewish Women's Archive, the National Museum of American Jewish History, the Council of American Jewish Museums, Jewish Museum of Florida, and the Jewish Historical Society of Washington, D.C. In the fall of 2010 JAHM incorporated as a tax exempt public charity with a Board of Directors and oversight by the JAHM Advisory Committee.

Activities

For a list of activities across the US see: <https://www.jahm.us/activities-resources/>

There is also a site on the JAHM website, 50 states/50 stories to learn about every US state has been impacted by the accomplishments and contributions of American Jewish men and women. See: <https://www.jahm.us/map>

For more information about JAHM see: <https://www.jahm.us/about/>

Happy Passover

and

Happy Easter

80th Anniversary of Kindertransport



britannica.com

This year is the 80th anniversary of Kindertransport. This is the movement to save children from the Nazis and bring them to Great Britain. It saved 10,000 Jewish children. It became increasingly difficult for Jews to immigrate to other countries since they needed a visa and many countries did not want the “immigrant problem.” The persecution of Jews escalated with the pogrom known as Kristallnacht, November 9-10, 1938 when the Nazis burned or destroyed 1,000 synagogues, 7,500 Jewish businesses, schools, hospitals, homes and 91 Jewish people were killed and thousands were sent to concentration camps.

The British Parliament responded to calls for action by the British Jewish Refugee Committee resulting in a decision to permit an unspecified number of children under age 17 to enter the United Kingdom. A £50 bond had to be posted for each of these children, who, it was assumed, would reconnect with their parents once the crisis had passed. They were admitted with temporary travel documents.

A few weeks after Kristallnacht, the first Kindertransport arrived at Harwich, England on December 2, 1938, bringing 196 children from a Berlin Jewish orphanage burned by the Nazis during the night of November 9, 1938. The Kindertransport lasted nine months until the beginning of World War II. The effort was authorized by the British government and conducted by individuals in various countries and by assorted religious and [secular](#) groups that saved some 10,000 children, under age 17.

Most of the children were from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and the free city of Danzig

Danzig (Gdańsk).

Most of the subsequent transports left by train from Vienna, Berlin, Prague, and other major cities (children from small towns traveled to meet the transports), crossed the Dutch and Belgian borders, and from there went on to England by ship. The majority of the children never saw their parents again.

There were many religious denominations that collaborated with the effort to save the Jewish children. The children were dispersed throughout the United Kingdom. Some were sent to foster families, while others went to group homes. The older children—over 14—who were not fostered nor in group homes were sent to the British labor force. Upon reaching age 18, some of the children volunteered for the British or Australian military to fight against Nazi Germany.

Due to the “fifth column” —concern that the immigrants would collaborate with the Nazi’s—hysteria that hit the United Kingdom in 1940 the British interned Jewish refugees, Austrian and German non-Jews and Italians. More than 1,000 Kindertransportees (boys and girls) over age 16 were interned on the Isle of Man and other sites. Some male Kindertransportees were shipped to Canada on the same vessels as German prisoners of war, and others were transported to Australia.

You can search the database on JewishGen for the names and more information at:

https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/0304_Kindertransport.html

To learn more about the Kindertransport see:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/education/resources/kindertransport/>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/kindertransport-1938-40>

<https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/nicholas-winton-and-the-rescue-of-children-from-czechoslovakia-1938-1939>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Kindertransport>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/06/the-kindertransport-children-80-years-on-we-thought-we-were-going-on-an-adventure>