

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

August 2021

Volume 16 Issue 11

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope this finds you well and safe!

On July 11, JGSCV was privileged to host via Zoom, Jeff Edelstein, Digital Initiatives Manager, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC, popularly “the “Joint”) who gave a presentation entitled, *The JDC Archives as an Online Resource for Jewish Genealogy*. His handout is available on our website under July 11 date or by clicking here:

<https://jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html>. The American Jewish Joint Distribution has borne witness to pivotal events of twentieth-century Jewish history. The JDC Archives has established a prominent online presence, with 3.6 million pages of text collections, 75,000 photographs, and an index of more than 600,000 names digitally available via a searchable database that has become a major resource for those researching their family history. Mr. Edelstein provided an overview of the content of the JDC Archives website, names Index, and collections database.

Participants were shown how the site is organized, review documents in the Names Index, including recently indexed lists; view examples of genealogical records, photos, and film clips; and discover how to conduct searches in its online databases. <https://archives.jdc.org/>

I facilitated the “Ask the Experts” session. This part of the meeting allows members to ask questions on any topic before the meeting begins, which is facilitated by a senior JGSCV member.

This is a bitter-sweet president’s letter as we are saying goodbye to Allan Linderman as our outstanding newsletter editor for the past 12 years and welcoming JGSCV member Diane Goldin as our new editor. Allan will remain on the board until his term ends the end of this year and then remain as a member but no longer on the board. Allan has been a fantastic editor and is a hard act to follow. He brought to JGSCV a wealth of knowledge on publicity and public relations which were exemplified in the newsletter. If you wish to contact Allan, he can be reached at Allan@jgscv.org.

(Cont’d next page)



JGSCV’s July speaker Jeff Edelstein,
Digital Initiatives Manager,
American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee

NEXT MEETING

Sunday August 15th 1:30-3:30 PM

Members only ZOOM!

Genealogy
In The
Round

See page 4 for details

2021 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.

Diane has worked in a variety of professional and volunteer positions that have required newsletter creation and design, content development and more. We are delighted that she has volunteered to take on this JGSCV critical role. Diane and her husband Steve have been members of JGSCV since 2018. Diane, at her request will not be joining the board. You can reach Diane at newslettereditor@jgscv.org.

Four people do not make our Genealogy in the Round Program scheduled for August 15. That is the number of volunteers to date. During the past 17 months, when we have been basically homebound due to the pandemic, many spent time doing some family history and making breakthroughs or researching our brick walls. We would like to have at least 7 presenters in total—each with about 10 minutes and learn from one another's experiences. We can help you with Zoom and Power Point or just talk to us directly! Remember our Zoom meetings are open only to current dues-paid members as a membership benefit. If you want someone else to attend, they must be sitting next to you at your computer. Once we can meet face-face—again we can again have non-members attend and hopefully gain them as new members.

We want to continue the Family Stories that began last July after our June 2020 speaker, Joan Adler, suggested we write anything as a memory. This month, JGSCV secretary Debby Wenkart tells of her father's story, *My Father's service in the British Army and the Jewish Brigade during World War 2* on page 13. Please send Diane newslettereditor@jgscv.org and me president@jgscv.org your family story for next month's issue. This is your society's newsletter and we want as many of you as possible to write something to share in the newsletter. If you need assistance, Diane is eager to help you.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, "Even an 8-year-old Yahoo breach can bite!" on page 10. This is the 69th issue of this interesting series.

While we rely on your dues to operate, we also need additional revenue to keep up with what we do. There are two opportunities further to assist your society. First, by shopping at Ralph's or Food for Less and listing JGSCV as your charity of choice. And second, when shopping at Amazon please do so through the Amazon Smile program. Neither of these opportunities cost you any additional money and both result in contributions to JGSCV. See "<https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>" on our website for more information.

JGSCV is still operating on the COVID-19 restrictions and our August 15 meeting will be by Zoom with our speakers—YOU--- our members for Genealogy in the Round! See meeting notice on page 4.

Stay well and safe!

Jan Meisels Allen



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Diaries and Journals: an assortment of stories

Finding a diary or journal from an ancestor is a gift to any family historian. Letters and postcards inform us, but a written journal or history gives names, places and experiences that are not researchable. Some families are fortunate to recover resources that have been hidden away in walls, and trunks. Most of us are not that lucky. Nevertheless, there are ways to expand our research arena in order to learn about family lifestyles and historical events during their lives. So here stories and some ideas for researching diaries and journals for family content.

In England, there are so many Roman villages and archeological treasures that construction crews must stop when they find relics or clues to make way for an assessment of the site. Too bad there's not a rule for **found items** hidden in houses: Stop all work, collect all items, and find the family! This is what P. Rivera did in Cleveland. "You always want to be the guy that finds it and returns it. And, I got to be that guy," he said. Here's his discovery story: <https://tinyurl.com/wutn8yf7>

Then there's the **unread family journal** that gets read two generations later. "In a pandemic lull, I decided to read my grandfather's yearly journals, from start to finish. All 42 of them. And I began to connect with him," writes Todd Balf in a recent July 4 Los Angeles Times op-ed: <https://tinyurl.com/tbup3tpc>

Now for those of us with **NO diaries**, what about looking at diaries from the same place and era of one's ancestors in the United States? Find a university library or archive in your interest area and search for diaries, journals, letters. Here's an example: <https://library.bridgew.edu/c.php?g=339266&p=2284699>

Tangible: Father Debois' research continues

Yachad in Unum has posted their 2020 report on all their projects including their continuing research to document crimes committed against Jews by the Nazi mobile killing units during WWII in Ukraine and Poland. The report also lists activity from ALL their projects worldwide, including Father Debois' newest book on killings by ISIS in Iraqi. "As a result of thorough field investigations and unique interviews, this book offers a dizzying plunge into the world of ISIS and people smugglers."

<https://tinyurl.com/p52vxcns>



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

Zoom Meeting: Sunday, August 15, 2021 1:30-3:30 p.m.

Open only to JGSCV Members (see below for membership application link)

Zoom link will be emailed to members a few days before the meeting.

The Program

Genealogy in the Round:

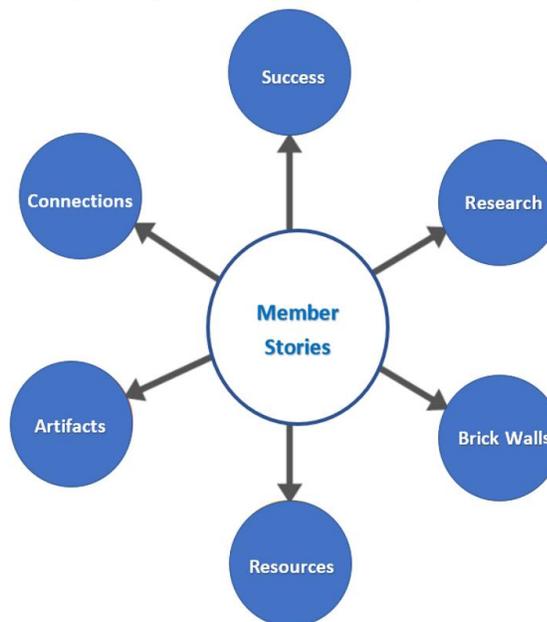
Member Successes, Failures, Artifacts and Brick Walls--

Come and share a genealogical success, failure, brick wall, or genealogical artifact!

This is YOUR meeting—We all learn from one another—take this opportunity to share your genealogical story—success or failure, ask questions about your brick walls, and more!

- We can assist you with your power point for Zoom if necessary. It's very easy with your computer. Don't be shy!
- If you wish to participate in the program, please contact Jan Meisels Allen at president@JGSCV.org.
- Each participant will be up to 10 minutes to share—depending on the number of presenters. We'd love to hear your genealogical story!

Genealogy
In The
Round



JGSCV Updates

Board Positions

It's that time of year again when we appoint a Nominations Committee to replace outgoing board members. Allan has expressed his desire not to remain on the board but to continue as a member of the society. Warren Blatt, Andrea Massion and Israel "Issie" Perel have all said they will run for office again! While her term is not over this year, Diane Wainwood who has served on the board several years and was secretary until this year, has resigned from the board, but will continue as a member of the society. Our by-laws call for a minimum of six and no more than 12 elected members. Each term is for two years. With Diane and Allan's exits, we will have 7 board members. We need more members of the board and encourage you to run if eligible.

The JGSCV Board has appointed this year's Nomination Committee, chaired by former JGSCV Board member Judy Karta. She will be joined by Pat Fuller, Publicity Chairperson, and serving as board representative is Karen Lewy, treasurer. Those who are eligible to serve on the board will be contacted by Judy Karta and the committee in the next few weeks. Please consider running if you are contacted. An application form is on the website located at under the welcome button on our JGSCV website or by clicking here: https://jgscv.org/pdf/board_application_form.pdf. Please send the application to Judy at judy@jgscv.org no later than September 19, 2021. The board meets predominately by email and during the pandemic by Zoom about 3-4 times a year.

A very special thank you to Diane Wainwood for her years of service on the JGSCV board,

Highlights from: The JDC Archives as an Online Resource for Jewish Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen

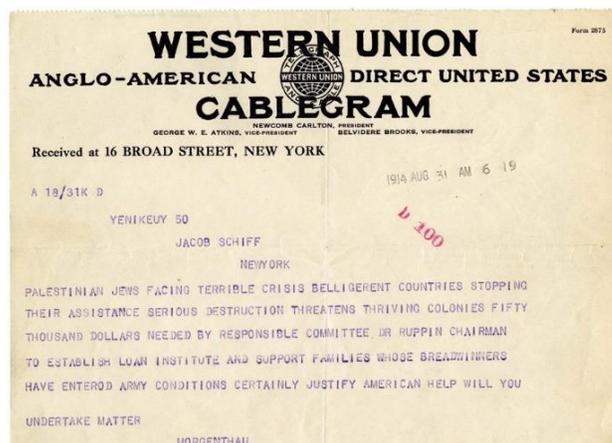
On July 11, JGSCV members were privileged to have Jeff Edelstein, digital initiatives manager, American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC, popularly known as “the Joint”) talk with us about the content of the <https://archives.jdc.org/>. This included the Names Index, recently indexed lists and the collections database. His program included examples of genealogical records and film clips and how we as individual researchers can conduct searches in its online databases. Jeff’s handout is available on the <https://jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html> under the July 11 date.

The Joint’s online archives has 3.6 million pages of text collections, 75,000 photographs, and an index of more than 600,000 names digitally available via a searchable database that has become a major resource for those researching their family history. The archives itself has three miles of documents equating to more than 40 million pages, 125,000 photographs and over 1,000 audio recordings, 1,000 videos and films and 1,000 artifacts.

The JDC is the world’s leading Jewish humanitarian agency, founded in 1914 at the outset of World War I. Its mission is of rescue, relief, and renewal. Worldwide, the JDC assists vulnerable Jewish communities in over 70 countries. It supports development and self-sufficiency initiatives for global Jewish communities and provides nonsectarian relief to victims of natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies. A recent example of nonsectarian relief is the recent COVID-19 crisis in India, sending relief workers and providing respirators. During the 20th century the JDC was involved in every historical development that affected Jews anywhere in the world.

1914, the US Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire was Henry Morgenthau, Sr. who learned that the Jews in the Ottoman Empire—Palestine—were facing starvation due to the naval blockade. Morgenthau wrote to his friend

Jacob Schiff alerting him to the problem and asked him to raise \$50,000 to get food to the community. Schiff agreed and an organization was formed along with Orthodox Jewish Relief and the Socialist Jewish Relief Organization—making it a “joint” relief organization.



The cable that prompted the founding of the JDC in 1914

What Can You Find Online

- Text collections of over 3.6 million pages including finding aids: <https://tinyurl.com/dvc9dsr9> (New York, Paris and Geneva and Overseas Office Collections)
- Photo Collection with over 76,00 photographs
- Artifacts & Ephemera Collection ~250 items
- Audiovisual Collection
- Oral History Collection—interviews with staff and lay leaders with a finding aide <https://tinyurl.com/m5f48d5a>

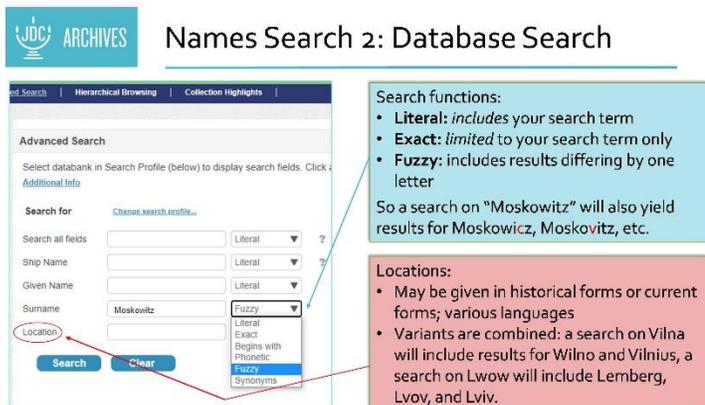
The Names Index

The Names Index (<https://archives.jdc.org/>), spanning 1915-1977, has 600,000 names from documents found in text collections and sets of Emigration Service index cards. It allows a quick search from the home page and is a major genealogical and family researcher source of

information. The JDC does not have vital records such as birth, marriage certificates and death records.

There is a section on the name index where one can enter in a surname or search and “click” submit and see the results. Or you go directly to <https://names.jdc.org/> One individual may have different records if they came up in different contexts. When you get your results click on the document link to view the record.

If the API (application programming interface) doesn't provide the information you are searching, then go to the database directly from the main menu of the website.



Fields that come up in Names Search

You can search by ships' name, surname, surname plus given name, and location. If your search results have too many answers, then refine it by adding at least one of the above parameters. When you receive your response, click on the ID number link to view details and document.

The "Lists of Lists" is formally called the "Lists in the Names Index". This shows chronologically what has been indexed, the description of the document, principal data fields and a link to the pdf of complete documents.

Jeff then took us through sample documents on "The List of Lists". This included remittance lists—the earliest from World War I. When immigrants in the United States wanted to send money to relatives in their home country, they created the remittance lists. They have lists for Palestine, Romania and Russia. The lists include name and address of sender (remitter), amount being sent and recipient.

Jeff also showed us 1914-1921 POWs in Siberia. The JDC set up an auxiliary office in Vladivostok during this time period to handle the POW cases. Many of the POWs were from the former Austria-Hungarian Empire.

Additionally, the JDC has materials on people in Europe trying to contact individuals overseas, to try to get help

for people to get out of Europe, or to send them some funds. Exemplifying this is a JDC exhibit, *A Joint Effort: JDC's Beginnings, 1914-1921*, which can be viewed at: <https://tinyurl.com/ax5sxm6s>

With the end of World War I, the JDC originally thought that no further assistance would be needed, but during the interwar period (1922-1938), there continued to be a great need for reconstruction and aid to local communal organizations to reestablish communities, including feeding programs and orphanages. No indexed lists of people being helped during this time frame are available. However, JDC staff made trips into Eastern Europe and therefore, there are many detailed field reports for individual towns and communities.

Searching the Text Collection

To search the text collection, go back to the advanced search page of the database and select text collection instead of the names collection. There are help features for this database like a FAQ-type of aide, including a brief video tutorial to assist you. The most useful type of search is a full-text search feature. This is a way you can find names that have not been indexed. These names could be included in a letter, a list or some other document, not indexed. JDC uses an optical character recognition (OCR) process.

Jeff suggested using the “fuzzy” search feature for place names that allows for spelling variations: <https://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp> or alternate spellings. He gave an example of a location search and from the main tab to look inside click on the link then from the new window click on the document to view it.

Examples were provided of assistance in Europe during the World War II era including assistance to German Jewish community schools, jobs and emigration, Poland and Vilna food kitchens, refugee assistance, emigration and different types of support for other European nations. The U.S. War Refugee Board was largely funded by the JDC.

A recent story was related about a woman who contacted the JDC as her mother was turning 95 and she learned that her mother and her aunt were passengers on the SS *Mouzinho*, which left from Lisbon in 1941. The JDC has recently digitized footage of that departure. The JDC booked passage on this ship for refugee children cared for in France. The sisters were not only listed on the passenger list but also on a list of Jewish refugee children receiving JDC aid in France in 1940. The JDC also had

photographs from the ship that included the mother and aunt! There is a topic guide on this located by clicking: <https://tinyurl.com/44p5xvc5>

They also have many lists, including entire Yeshiva communities of Jews who fled to Japan. Once the United States entered World War II, those in Japan fled to



Passenger Lists: The SS *Mouzinho*

Passengers on the SS *Mouzinho*, 1941

Jewish Refugee Children Receiving JDC Aid in France, 1940

COMITE ISRAELITE POUR LES ENFANTS VENANT D'ALLEMAGNE & DE L'EUROPE CENTRALE	
First list of Jewish refugee children in France	
NAMES	RELATIVES OR FRIENDS in U.S.A.
KRAUS Edith Daughter of Meier Usike	30 Adut 1925 Vienna (Max Kraus (father) & o/s Horrasch 115 Belmont Avenue (Brooklyn, New York
KRAUS Gertrude (sisters)	3-1-1930 Vienna

JDC Passenger Record of mother and aunt on the SS *Mouzinho*

Shanghai. Further, lists of Jews leaving Japan for Safe Havens including Palestine. There are photos of Jews living in the Shanghai ghetto and those registering for emigration cards to Canada in 1948. The topic guide for refuge in Shanghai (1938-1953) is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/3dbz5aa5>.

A large number of Polish Jews fled to Soviet-Central Asia and spent the war in Samarkand and Tashkent. JDC provided supplies from its Tehran office, over the border into Central Asia. JDC has lists of their free parcel service of food and necessary daily living items, including items they could sell, to the Soviet Union from 1943-1945.

There are post-Holocaust lists from 1945-1956. The sample shown during the program was of Jewish orphans from Buchenwald brought to France by the JDC in 1945. The JDC office in Jerusalem was responsible for collecting the information, sent it to New York, but the actual parcels were shipped from the United States to post war Europe. The lists include the names of the person receiving the goods as well as the sender, often in Palestine. The JDC lists are those names of people they helped specifically, not lists of displaced persons, nor survivors. They do have records of activities in the camps. Additionally, there are topic guides that would be of assistance as well as their World War II-era photo gallery.

The JDC Emigration Service

There are over 85,000 cards from Munich, Vienna and Warsaw offices—through the Hungarian uprising. They also digitized about 30,000 cards from their Paris office cards that they obtained from Arolsen Archives. There are also lists of departures from Europe 1947-1954. Recently, JDC was able to index the Czech Emigration Case Files from 1946-1950—about 11,000 families, equating to about 22,000 names with all family members counted and is available at: <https://tinyurl.com/cfakyu2k>

The JDC was forced out of Prague in early 1950 when the Communists took over. While the case files are not available online, one can contact the JDC, tell them the file number, and they will send you digital copies.

The JDC has about 10,000 cards and photographs from people fleeing Hungary in 1956-1957, during the Hungarian Uprising and Soviet

invasion. Many of the cards for women include their maiden names, which is helpful for genealogical research. By early



Shipment of JDC Relief Supplies

August, the first portion of an index to the Transmigrant files from the JDC Vienna and Rome offices 1946-1988 will be online. For the Soviet era there are three index groups chronologically: The first index will be for a large number of files from the USSR 1946-1977. Two more sections from the USSR will include the Refusenik era and the 1980s, and a final section covers other countries of the Eastern Bloc and North Africa for the entire span of 1946-1988. While these files are not yet digitized, if you contact the JDC, for a small fee they will digitize the documents and send them to you. For those with family as Russian emigres, this would be the collection you would find most helpful.

Aliyah to Israel 1944-1950

There is a very early list of children who went from France to Palestine in 1945, as well as the passenger lists from the *Plus Ultra* and *Lima* in 1945. As depicted in the story and movie *Exodus*, as the British government did not want the Jewish population increasing, it established a blockade, detaining Jews in camps in Cyprus. The JDC also worked in those Cyprus detainee camps, helping to improve the living conditions. They have lists of births to detainees in Cyprus. The fields of information have the mother's name, date of birth and sex of child. The baby would not yet have been named so there is no child's name. There is a new topic guide for those detained in Cyprus as they would become the new residents of Israel and can be viewed at: <https://tinyurl.com/34zsr75h>

Operation Magic Carpet --Yemenite Airlift, 1948-1950

There are lists of Jewish refugees from British Aden to Israel. Jews wanted to leave Yemen due to anti-Jewish sentiment about the founding of Israel and due to famine. The Yemenite Jewish community—about 50,000 Jews—were, over about 18 months, airlifted to Israel. These lists of Yemenite Jews are digitized. As they were filling the planes by weight, the lists also include individual's weight.

From 1954 forward there are lists of people the JDC assisted leaving Brazil and from Egypt after Nassar forced Jews out of Egypt after the Suez crisis. Additional lists of Egyptian Jewish refugees include those who fled via Greece or who settled in France. A major source of assistance by the JDC was to North African Jews in France. Until the 1970's, JDC ran the MALBEN health service in Israel. The JDC ran the service until the early 1970's when the Israeli government took it over and still runs that service today.

The website has personal "Our Stories", or "My Story" blog posts written by people who found information in the archives.

JDC contact links are as follows:

JDC Website: <https://www.jdc.org/>
JDC Personal Stories: <https://archives.jdc.org/my-story/>.
JDC Newsletter signup: <https://archives.jdc.org/about-us/#newsletter>
Facebook: <https://facebook.com/jdcarchives>
Instagram: https://instagram.com/jdc_archives
YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/2fvv4uvv>

Following the presentation Jeff answered questions for about 15 minutes.

For information in the text collection which might have a name, correspondence would not be in the Names Index but a full-text search of the text collection may be helpful. Handwritten lists are not generally indexed and some lists are too small for indexing.

They have information from their Warsaw Wartime office 1939-1941—controlled by Germany but not yet annexed—and the JDC was still able to operate there until the U.S. entered the war. They have records from 500 towns which often include lists of members of the community. Many of these are handwritten and are not indexed. By doing a search by location for your family town you can get to what documentation is available at the JDC.

As the database has the capability of Boolean operators (and, or, not) use the search all fields to do that type of search. By placing, for example, Cohen in the surname field and Kiev in the location field, therefore you do not have to do a combined search. Or something like Cohen or Kahan.

In the footer of the JDC website there is a direct link to the photo order form. Sometimes there is a fee. By using the form, an archivist will get in touch with you. If you are putting the photograph on a website or publishing, then it is required to acknowledge the JDC.

JGSCV attendees commented on the excellent and thorough presentation Jeff gave us.

Jeff Edelstein is the digital initiatives manager at the JDC Archives, where his responsibilities include management of the collections database and website, the digitization of text collections, and the JDC Archives Names Indexing Project. Prior to his arrival at JDC in 2013, he had a long career in academic reference publishing, culminating as project director of The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe. He has presented on digital resources of the JDC Archives at numerous conferences and workshops, including IAJGS, IGRA, the Association of Jewish Libraries, the Association of Jewish Studies, EVA Minerva, and the European Holocaust Research Infrastructure



Practicing Safe Computing #69: "Even an 8-year-old Yahoo breach can bite!"

By Hal Bookbinder

Really bad passwords

123456!	iloveyou
qwerty	15May1951
passw0rd	Mary&Joe

Michael Hiltzik, a columnist for the LA Times, wrote an article on July 11 about Fran Finnegan and his company, SEC Info. This company provides quick access to financial documents filed with the SEC. Just before the July 4 weekend, his system was breached by Russian hackers who encrypted all of its data.

The hackers did not use some newly discovered software flaw to accomplish this. Rather, they used Finnegan's Yahoo email password which had been exposed eight years ago in a massive breach. He used that same password in managing his website. The lesson here is that an old breach can still bite.

Most of us have Yahoo email accounts. We may not have used the account in years and may have even forgotten that it exists. I did. I searched in my password wallet and saw that I had updated my Yahoo password. However, I could have as easily neglected to do so.

If you have unique, strong passwords on each website, you will only be exposed if cyber criminals successfully hack that website. If you reuse the same password or variants of it, ("Mojave6!", "Mojave7#", "Mojave8%") you are at risk if hackers breach any one of your sites.

If you cannot remember when you last changed your Yahoo password, do it now. If you used it, or a variant elsewhere, change it there as well. Hacking software may attempt millions of variations and so changing the number and symbol is not enough.

Ensure that you have unique, strong passwords on your social media and email accounts as well as your financial and health accounts to avoid having your email hijacked, the information you want to share only with family and close friends exposed, your financials compromised, or your data encrypted with a bill to unlock your system from the cybercriminals to be paid in bitcoin or gift cards.

Folks reuse easy-to-remember passwords to make their lives easier. However, when cybercriminals get hold of them the impact can be severe. Better to be inconvenienced with different, strong passwords along with a password manager to keep track of them all.

Password managers remember your passwords and will typically generate strong ones on request. I have used the free version of LastPass for years. I will continue to use it even though it did not make PC Magazine's 2021 list of the best free password managers. To read their assessment see:

<https://tinyurl.com/mf45ku63>

You can read Hiltzik's article by here: <https://tinyurl.com/5s52t49h>

This is the sixty-ninth 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 <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.

Genealogy Odds and Ends



The National Archives has made several data sets relating to World War II available as open data: <https://tinyurl.com/3x2pz234>

The open datasets for the archive inventories can be downloaded, via the link to the archive inventory, as PDF and XML. For the indexes, the open datasets can be downloaded, via the link to the index, as a zip file containing a csv and xml file. The text on the relevant web pages can also be used as open data.

Although these are open datasets, they may contain personal data of living persons. In chapter 5 of the privacy regulations of the National Archives you can read whether and how you may continue to use this data: <https://tinyurl.com/35mhyu4s>

The open datasets currently made available by the National Archives largely consist of archive inventories and indexes. An archive inventory always consists of a description of the archive and a description of the archive components. An index is a list with data about, for example, people, place names or keywords from the archive components.

More than 400,000 open data photos from the National Archives are available through Wikimedia Commons. About 9000 photos have 'World War II' in the description.

To view and use the National Archives World War II photos from Wikimedia Commons: <https://tinyurl.com/5829v6xy>

**Thank you to Yvette Hoitink, CG® Dutch Genealogy Blog for informing us about this data set.*

New Chair of Yad Vashem

Dani Dayan, former Counsel-General of Israel was announced to be the next chairman of Yad Vashem.

To read more see: <https://tinyurl.com/48a7vtfv>



Jewish Burial Records Seized from Auction House

A trove of Jewish artifacts stolen from Jews in Europe are now in the hands of U.S. authorities who plan to return them to their communities of origin. The sale involved a private collector known for trying "to rescue and preserve Jewish historical documents that would otherwise have been lost...."

Read more in the NY Times: <https://tinyurl.com/ya6838x5>



Uzbekistan opened its doors to Jews and others fleeing the Germans...

Research the Uzbekistan archives website: <https://archive.uz/>

More information on the Archives, not Jewish-specific may be seen at: <http://open-archives.org/en/countryresult/result/14/>

If you use Chrome it will provide English translation to some of the material. If not use a translation service such as google translate <https://translate.google.com/> or DeepL <https://www.deepl.com/en/translator>

IAJGS ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AUGUST 1-5, 2021



The IAJGS Conference will be virtual August 1-5, 2021, with live-streaming and pre-recorded sessions on all the proposed themes. There will be a virtual Expo Hall for exhibitors and sponsors, a Resource Library for at-home research. See below for Registration Fees and go here for updates: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/index.cfm>

You can now see the schedule for Live-Stream lectures, SIG/BOF programs and On-Demand lectures.

There are several different Registration categories available.

- Full Conference registration allows access to all sessions, meetings, and presentations for one fee.
- Limited Access permits attendance at SIG, BOF, Research District, and Research Group meetings and the IAJGS Annual Meeting and the JewishGen2021 Annual Meeting only. Based on the fee selected, there is a choice of one or more meetings.
- Free Access allows attendance to only the IAJGS 2021 Annual Meeting, the JewishGen 2021 Annual Meeting, and the IAJGS-sponsored JGS Management Seminars.

The conference will feature over 50 live-stream presentations and more than 100 pre-recorded, on-demand video presentations covering virtually every aspect of Jewish genealogy.

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Registration Type	Fee
Full Conference Attendee/Speaker	\$325
Spouse/Domestic Partner	\$75
Limited Access Attendee: 1 Meeting	\$10
Limited Access Attendee: 2+ Meetings	\$18
Free Access	Complimentary

JGSCV MEMBERS' FAMILY STORIES

Debby Wenkart writes about her father, Robert Wenkart (1923-2006), and his service in the British Army and the Jewish Brigade during World War 2

By Debby Wenkart

My father's world was upended in 1938 and the trajectory of his life was changed forever by the events taking place in his hometown of Vienna, Austria. My father, Robert Wenkart, was born in 1923. His parents fled Galicia after World War 1 due to rampant antisemitism in their hometowns and settled in Vienna. At the time Vienna was a beautiful, cultured city and the Jewish population thrived but with the rise of antisemitism and the Anschluss in Austria in 1938, all that changed. My father at age 15 was forced to leave his home and his family and with his uncle's help fled to Palestine in 1939. By 1938, Jewish children were no longer allowed to attend school and my father could no longer attend the Gymnasium where he was a good student and athlete. His father was arrested during Kristallnacht in November 1938, which forced his parents to make the difficult but necessary decision to save his life by sending him to Palestine. In January 1939, my father boarded a train with other youth from Vienna to Trieste, Italy. From Trieste the group traveled by ship to Palestine. Youth Aliyah supported the group at Kibbutz Naan where he was able to finish his High School education.***

As soon as Robert turned 18 years old and graduated high school in 1941, he joined the British Army in Palestine.** The situation in Europe became dire. Robert's father had been released from the Dachau



Vienna Austria 1945

concentration camp in 1939 but was forced to leave Austria or face reinternment. His father, Isak, was rescued by the British in April 1939 and sent to Kitchener Camp, a transmigration camp in England*. Ironically, while Robert was serving in the British Army, his father was deemed an "enemy alien" by the British and subsequently interned in Australia until his release several years later. His mother and younger brother were trapped in Europe.

During World War 2 Palestine was under British rule. Robert, as well as many other young men, joined the British Army in Palestine with the goal of defeating the Nazi regime in Europe. Many Jewish refugees signed up and swore allegiance to His Majesty, the British King and agreed to serve until their services were no longer needed. The British government allowed the Jews to join the Pioneer Corps, assigned to the Royal East Kent Infantry Regiment posted in Palestine.

Robert joined the Pioneer Corps and trained at Sarafond, a British Army camp southeast of Jaffa. The British were unwilling to send the Jewish soldiers to Europe and reluctant to train or arm the men as they knew that at some point in the future the soldiers would turn against them. The Pioneer Corp was sent to Kantara, an expansive British base located near the Suez Canal in Egypt. My father was assigned to The Buffs, PALS Coy Unit, as a "Sapper" and after a year, transferred to the Royal Engineers where he was trained as a mechanic.

In Africa, the Jews were assigned to the Pioneer Corps and used by the British Army to perform light engineering tasks under the supervision of the Royal Engineers. Their jobs



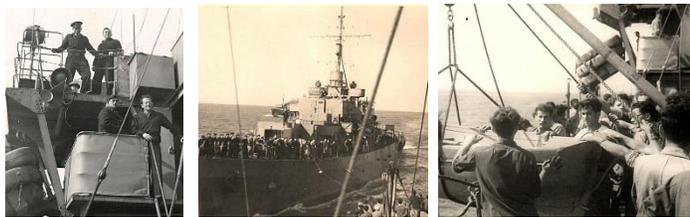
Robert Wenkart in the British Army, Rome

included clearing mine fields and light construction jobs such as building roads and bridges. By December 1942, my father was transferred to the Royal Engineers. Robert was stationed at El Firden, a swinging bridge located at the Suez Canal and Tobruk. By my father's account he had a lonely job working on the Libyan pipeline. He joked about the British army rations which included rum. My father remained with the Royal Engineers until his discharge in June 1946.

The Jewish Agency in Palestine advocated with the British Government to form the Jewish Brigade but there was concern about what the Arab reaction would be. On July 3, 1944, the Arabs and Jews were allowed to form 2 separate companies, the Palestine Infantry and the Jewish Brigade. Although the intention was to keep the number of soldiers equal in each company, the number of Jewish enlistees far exceeded the number in the Palestine infantry. There were approximately 5300 men in the Jewish Brigade in North Africa.

By October 1944 the war in Africa was over. The Jewish Brigade was ordered to Italy at the end of 1944. My father was stationed with the occupation forces in Rome, where he remained until the Jewish Brigade was ordered back to Palestine in October 1945. One of my father's jobs was to teach Hebrew to the Jewish refugees living in the displaced person's camps in Italy.

In October 1945, my father went AWOL for 8.5 days and traveled to Vienna to look for his family. He did not find them, only reports of what happened to the Jews of Vienna. Sixty thousand Viennese Jews were sent to the concentration camps. He took photographs of the destruction that he witnessed in Vienna and Munich. My father was discharged from the British Army in June 1946, after serving 5 years and 66 days in the British Army.



Israeli Navy 1948 refugee rescue efforts

A year later, my father traveled to New York and helped purchase supplies for Israel. When the War of Independence broke out in Israel, my father joined the Israeli Navy. One of their jobs was to transport Jewish refugees from Europe to Israel.

In 1950, my father met my mother, a Canadian, who helped establish Kibbutz Geshet Hasiv. After they got married in Israel, they moved to Winnipeg, Canada and in 1953 immigrated to Los Angeles where they joined my mother's family. My father started his own business as an electrical contractor in the San Fernando Valley.

NOTES

*my grandfather's Holocaust survival story was published in the JGSCV October 2020 newsletter

**In 2019, my family was able to obtain my father's British military records from the Ministry of Defense in England. I was able to trace his military records and have filled in his story with historical records obtained on line or in print. We have been unable to obtain my father's Israeli Navy records.

***Records from Youth Aliyah and my father's Austrian passport were obtained from the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem.

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through December 2021



**ALL MEETINGS WILL BE RESERVED FOR
MEMBERS ONLY VIA ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE**

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, July 11th 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom
Jeff Edelstein will present "JDC Archives as a Jewish
Genealogy Resource"**

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
August 15		Genealogy In The Round
September		No Meeting - High Holidays
October 3	Renee Steinig	Scandals, Shandehs and Lies: The Stories Families Don't Tell"

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
November 7		TBA
December 12	Floriane Azoulay	Researching the Arolsen Archives
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From your ancestors:

Handed-Down Recipes

**JGSCV has a new project for our members
and we hope you will participate.**

To create a JGSCV (online) Cookbook, we are requesting your participation to submit a recipe handed down to you by *your* family. It can be baking, main dish, a side dish or specialty, holiday foods...even a kitchen custom.

It can be a digital copy of your recipe card or paper, or a typed recipe, along with your memory or “lore” of the recipe’s history.

Please include your name & contact info and email to

andrea@jgscv.org or president@jgscv.org

or snail mail to: Andrea Massion, 711 Ocean View Dr
Port Hueneme, CA 93041

Your Board of Directors is determining interest in this project. Let us know what you think! Submit your delicious family recipe by the end of September. Details will be forthcoming based on members’ input!

2021 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 2021

Date _____

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 30.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$35.00 _____ + \$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 \$ _____

Security Fee Fund \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for any 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.)
