

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



# JGSCV

September 2021

Volume 16 Issue 12

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope that this finds you well and safe!

On August 15, JGSCV held its annual *Genealogy in the Round* program. It is always a treat to learn from our members who've broken through a brick wall and can share artifacts and stories. There were six JGSCV members who participated: Bernie Behrens, Carol Flesher, Pat Fuller, David Oseas, Phillip Spain, and me. Please see page 13 for the highlights of our annual program. I hope that during this next year you will be able to breakdown a brick wall and share with us your success (or challenges) next year!

I facilitated the "Ask the Experts" session which began 20 minutes before the program began. 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.

JGSCV did a survey of its members regarding what type of meeting members would like in 2022: virtual, face-to-face- depending on the pandemic and Temple Adat Elohim requirements for outside groups, and combination depending on the speaker. At this time only 40 members replied so I am extending the deadline from August 30 to September 4. If you are a member and have not yet replied to the survey, please do so now at: <https://tinyurl.com/3439cauw>

September 19 is the deadline for replying to the Nominations Committee if you would like to run for serving on the JGSCV Board of Directors. Our Nominations Chairperson, Judy Karta has sent an email to all who are eligible to run. Our by-laws call for a minimum of six and no more than 12 elected members. Each term is for two years. Warren Blatt, Andrea Massion and Israel "Issie" Perel have all said they will run for office again! Allan has expressed his desire not to remain on the board, but will continue as a member of the society. Diane Wainwood has resigned from the board, but will continue as a member of the society. With Diane and Allan leaving the board that will leave 7 members. We really need several more members of the board. Please consider running for the board if eligible. An application form is on the website: <https://tinyurl.com/cmb9pczj>. Please send the application to Judy at [judy@jgscv.org](mailto: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.

(Cont'd next page)

Genealogy  
In The  
Round

*See page 13 for meeting highlights*

**No September Meeting**

*\*High Holidays*

**Next Meeting:**

**Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**

**1:30-3:30 PM**



**Renee Steinig presents:**

***"Scandals, Shandehs, & Lies:  
The Stories Families Don't Tell"***

**Members only ZOOM!**

## 2021 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jan Meisels Allen, President and  
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**Karen Lewy, Treasurer**  
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**David Oseas, Webmaster**  
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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.

We are also looking for someone to take over part of Issie's job as librarian. While he plans to stay on as librarian, he'd like to turn over the copying of electronic newsletters (about 9)—and placing them in the binders at the Agoura Hills Library. Except for our monthly newsletter the other newsletters are quarterly. While it can be a board position, that is not required. If you are interested in this position, please contact me at [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org).

IAJGS held its 41<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy August 1-5, 2021. All on-demand and the recorded live sessions will also be available for viewing until 11:59 pm EDT on October 5, 2021. If you had not registered and want to take advantage of accessing the on demand and recorded live sessions, information is available along with conference highlights on page 4.

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 "noteworthy" on our website <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html> for more information.

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. Please send Diane [newslettereditor@jgscv.org](mailto:newslettereditor@jgscv.org) and me [president@jgscv.org](mailto: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, "Windows Ease of Access-Vision Support" on page 21. This is the 70<sup>th</sup> issue of this informative series.

Due to the High Holidays in September, JGSCV is not meeting this month. Our next meeting, which is our 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be on October 3, 2021 at 1:30-3:30 pm Pacific Time with Renee Steinig, "Scandals, Shandehs and Lies: The Stories Families Don't Tell". See meeting notice on page 11.

October is also the month when we start our 2022 renewal campaign. Remember those who renew their membership for 2022 or join for 2022 by our December 12 meeting will be eligible for having their name drawn for great genealogical prizes. More on that coming.

On behalf of the JGSCV Board of Directors, a very happy, healthy and safe New Year. L'Shana Tova

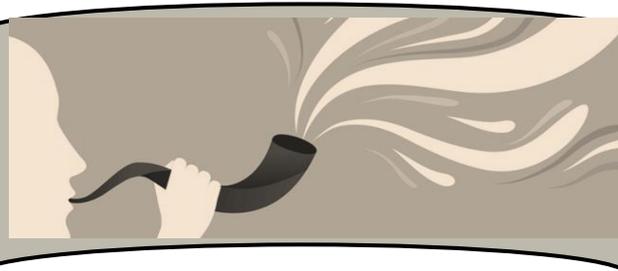
Stay well and safe!

*Jan Meisels Allen*



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## Page 3 In the New Year



*L'Shana Tova* to all our members. At this season, we wish you a sweet and healthy new year. To that end, Page 3 is setting some goals for personal genealogy.

### **Re-Organize Those Files**

Philip Trauring is the founding member of the Modi'in Branch of Israel's Genealogy Research Association (IGRA), and his website, *Blood & Frogs*, has been on Page 3 more than once. In reference to our goals theme, here's his article on how and why he organizes his computer's genealogy files. Just reading about it gives one impetus to organize and reorganize all those vital records and screenshots sitting in the laptop. <https://bloodandfrogs.com/2011/01/genealogy-folder-organization-b-system.html>

### **Learn Something New**

Remember that learning curve to understand your DNA results? Or getting to recognize family surnames in another alphabet? Or how to word an email to a *maybe* relative without being terse? So, what'll it be this year?

### **Break Thru a Brick Wall**

Everyone has "brick walls." Before it's time to hire a real professional, check out all the strategies online. Just checking the big sites won't do it. Try local sources of the brick wall's residence, ask your gen peers for advice, read the genealogy newsletters of said localities...Here's a few sites to inspire problem-solving:

<http://familytreemagazine.com/strategies/big-breakthroughs/>

<http://familyhistoryfanatics.com/post/ancestry-thrulines-genealogy-brick-walls>

<https://tenaciousgenealogy.com/brick-wall-tips/>

### **Help a Beginner**

You've acquired great knowledge and research skills and you don't want to be a certified professional genealogist? How about serving as a mentor or partner? It's not just adoptees who need help. Find a newbie, volunteer on research days or contact your Gen society or local library to make yourself available to a newbie.

<https://www.thearmchairgenealogist.com/2011/04/genealogy-mentoring-creating-valuable.html>

### **Anticipate Where Go-est Your Research**

The average age of a genealogy fan is over 50. Again, make sure your research goes to someone who cares about the family tree. Arrange it before you leave the planet.

# Highlights from: 41<sup>st</sup> IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy

By Jan Meisels Allen



This year the IAJGS conference was 100% virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. They welcomed over 1,100 attendees from 25 different countries and 41 US states. There were nearly 9,000 views of handouts and over 10,000 sign-ins to view the various live webinars and meetings. By the numbers, the 41st IAJGS All Virtual Conference was a rousing success. For those who registered, the entire Virtual Venue will remain open until 11:59 pm EDT on October 5, 2021. All on-demand and the recorded live sessions will also be available for viewing until 11:59 pm EDT on October 5, 2021. Until then, you can continue to download handouts, view sessions, and contact fellow attendees. The Expo Hall still has booth website links and documents, but there are no appointments or chats with booth staff, translators, or mentors.

The newly elected IAJGS Board of Directors took over at the end of the conference.

The 2021-2022 IAJGS Board is:

Jane Rosen Berenbeim, President,  
Dick Goldman, Vice President  
Ron Arons, Secretary  
Doug Cohen, Treasurer  
Ken Bravo, Past President  
Moriah Amit, Director  
Crista Cowan, Director  
Emily Garber, Director  
Eli Rabinowitz, Director  
Jarrett Ross, Director  
Susan Weinberg, Director

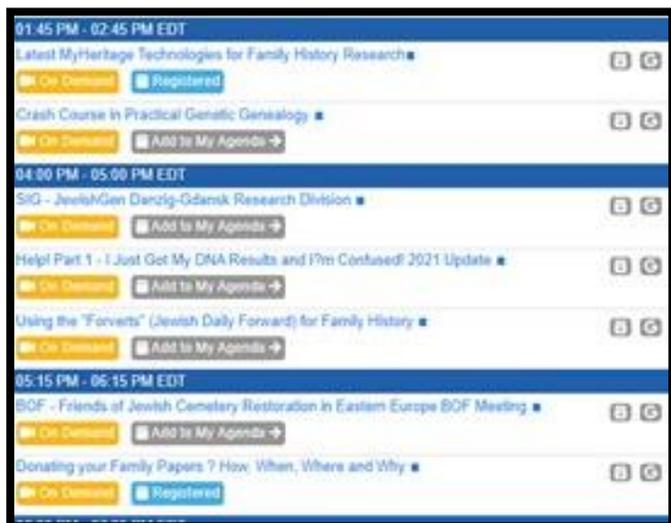
There are now 95-member societies, both genealogical and historical societies that comprise the IAJGS membership.

The annual IAJGS awards were presented:

- Outstanding Publication 2021 went to the *Kosher Koala* from the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society (AJGS)
- Member of the Year went to JGS Long Island
- Outstanding Project/Resource for 2021 went to JewishGen for their Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Project (JOWBR)
- Lifetime Achievement Award went to Nolan Altman
- The Volunteer of the Year Award was renamed for Nolan Altman and it went to Russ Mauer
- The Malcolm Stern/John Stedman Grant Committee recipients: Malcolm Stern Award: American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC). The amount of the award was \$3,000. The John Stedman Grant went to YIVO to combine the *Landsmanschaften* records into one source to make them more accessible and useable.

The 2020 IAJGS Conference made a surplus of \$128,000. There were 22 countries represented. At this point in time it is unknown if the 2021 conference made a surplus or not.

If you have not registered and want to take advantage of accessing the on demand and recorded live sessions—note not all live sessions were recorded at the speakers' request—you can upgrade or register [www.iajgs2021.org](http://www.iajgs2021.org) and see the “Update Instructions” under the REGISTRATION tab or click here: [https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/registration\\_update.cfm](https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/registration_update.cfm). Then go to the “On Demand” button and click. This is also appropriate for SIG and BOF meetings.



A few of many available IAGS conference sessions

Kudos go to Judi Gyory Missel who chaired the virtual conference and to Hadassah Lipsius who was the program chairperson.

The following are highlights of the sessions I attended. It is not meant to be all inclusive by any means, but a few nuggets of several of the sessions I attended. I encourage you to look at the schedule once you sign in as instructed how to above for going to the on-demand sessions.

### JewishGen 2021 Annual Meeting

Avraham Groll, Executive Director of JewishGen.org, gave the annual presentation on JewishGen. JewishGen is an online archive with millions of records, with unique search tools developed to help you find the information to learn about your ancestral community. And it is an educational resource with history and geography of your areas with assistance for you to go about your research in your areas. It is a networking resource, connecting thousands of people throughout their discussion groups, social media, family finders and family trees, and other resources. It is a global network of volunteers from data acquisition to translations, transcriptions, transliterations, system reports, education and outreach, member support and is engaging with new partners.

Groll announced the following JewishGen awards: Susan E. King Volunteer of the Year award went to two people: Vivian Kahn, director of the Hungarian-Research Division (formerly known as the H-SIG) and Joel Alpert from the Yizkor Book and Print Project.

New partnerships entered this year include:

- USC Shoah Foundation for an index of all Shoah Testimonies with a link back to biographical information on 50,000 survivors' testimonies providing 600,000 names to be researched.
- Genie Milgrom's *Crypto-Jewish and Sephardic Record Collection* with over 10,000 records going back to the Inquisition. These records will not be found elsewhere. Milgrom also contributed guides and documents helping people understand how to perform this difficult research.
- Dr. Jeffrey Malka's *Sephardic Collection* with over 146,000 records across the world from the SephardicGen website will be made freely available to researchers on the JewishGen website. Many contributions on this collection were made by the late Matilda Taggert z'l.

170 unique data sets were added between January-July 2021.

Working with new partnerships bringing more databases to JewishGen and help JewishGen reach as wide an audience of researchers as possible. This will be announced shortly.

JewishGen also reorganized the publishing division which previously focused on printing of Yizkor Book translations to the newly named *JewishGen Press* which will publish other books in addition to Yizkor Books. Significant books with a small audience can now find a home on JewishGen. This project is overseen by Joel Alpert.

Their education division offers classes each semester and new guides and resources and JewishGen talk series of educational webinars.

Modernization- *Project Joyce* is a new software tool to get online faster and more accurately. Logan Kleinwaks was thanked for his volunteer work on this. A report was commissioned to report on JewishGen's platform.

The reports' recommendations are being used as strategy as a roadmap for the next few years. For enhanced security, this year JewishGen required subscribers to change their password to a more secure password.

JewishGen upgraded the *FamilyTree of the Jewish People*. Content has grown to over 8,000 submissions representing 9.3 million individuals in the family trees.

The Gazetteer had not been updated since 2011 and represents 55 countries with 3 million place names to 4.5 million place names.

Nolan Altman reported since last year's conference JewishGen added:

- Holocaust database added more than 100,000 records
- Jeff Malka's Sephardic Database added 20,000 records
- Greek Deportees and Holocaust victims added 40,000 records of partnerships with two Greek heritage organizations
- Records from the USHMM added over 11,000 records from displaced persons camps mainly from Traunstein, Germany
- Added 12,000 records to the German towns database
- Added 9,400 Hungarian Speaking families who wanted to immigrate to Palestine after World War II.
- Worked with the Pilecki Institute in Warsaw Poland which added 3,000 South American passports issued from the Polish Ambassador in Bern, Switzerland.
- JOWBR added over 350,000 records, resulting in a total of over 4.1 million records in JOWBR.
- The Memorial Plaques project added 10,000 records (not a significant number). Database will add War records and Holocaust memorials to grow

Overall added about 460,000 records were added since last year.

Groll showed videos of the different research directors talking about their areas and what they added since last year's conference.

### ***Steve Morse's Getting Ready for the 1950 Census Searching With and Without a Name Index***

The census date for 1950 was April 1, 1950, therefore, that census will be released on April 1, 2022. The census taker could not visit everyone on that date- but the information collected was supposed to respond as to who lived at that address on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The census is sealed for 72 years for privacy reasons.

Between 1790-1870 the census was made available after the census was taken. The local area information was posted in the local post office for that area, but the entire census was not posted, limiting the information to your local area. From 1890-1940 the census was kept by the Census Bureau and kept closed.

In 1942, the Census Bureau transferred the records to the National Archives which decided to open all the censuses to 1870- which established the de facto 72-year rule. In 1952, the Census Bureau transferred the 1950 census under the condition that all censuses remained sealed for 72 years. That agreement resulted in the 1880 census being released, establishing the 72-year rule.

Prior to the 1940 Census, the Census Bureau would make copies of the microfilms and distribute them to the archives. Starting in 1940 they decided to place the census online. Morse is assuming they will do the same for 1950-scan it and place it online for free, on April 1, 2022. The indexing will start on April 1, 2022 taking about 6 months for the name index to be created by genealogy firms, such as Ancestry and FamilySearch which will have volunteers create a name index.

Therefore, the only way to find someone prior to the creation of the name index will be by location. To do that one needs to know the Enumeration District (ED).

An enumeration district is an area that can be canvassed by a single census taker. All information is by ED within a county with a unique number. In 1930, the prefix number was for the county. By 1940, larger cities had its own prefix number. By 1950, any city with more than 50,000 population has a prefix number. An example given was California with 58 counties, so each county has a prefix number 1-58. Cities given prefix numbers for example, Los Angeles City had a prefix number in 1940 of 60 and by 1950 prefix number 66 as more cities' populations exceeded 50,000.

The hotels, Y's, and tourist courts (transients) were enumerated on April 11. The cheap one-night housings (flop houses) were enumerated on April 13. Before 1950, college students were enumerated at their parents' home. In 1950, the students were enumerated at their college address.

Morse showed the One-Step Website and how to find the corresponding ED numbers for your location.

Up to 1940 there was no sampling on the Census. In 1940 only 5% of the people were sampled. Starting in 1950, the census sample was 20%. i.e., of the 30 lines per census page, six lines were sampled. In 1950, 20% of individuals were sampled with 3.3% having extra sampling. The sampling will be released at the same time on April 1, 2022.

Searching the 1950 US Census by Name in One Step

PERSON (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

First Name  is exactly   starts with  Middle Initial  Last Name  is exactly   starts with   sounds like   best matches

Year of Birth between  and  Year of Immigration  +/-   
after 1840 census only 1900-1920 census

Age  Birthplace  Relationship   
after 1840 after 1840 values after 1870

Marital Status  Sex  Race   
1910, 1940 1850-1896, 1910-1920, 1940 values after 1869

PARENTS/SPOUSE in same household -- after 1870 only (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

Father's First Name  is exactly   starts with  Birthplace   
1920 only

Mother's First Name  is exactly   starts with  Birthplace   
1920 only

Spouse's First Name  is exactly   starts with

CHILDREN/SIBLINGS in same household -- 1940 only (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

Children  is exactly   starts with  Siblings  is exactly   starts with

GEOGRAPHIC REGION (any or all fields in this section can be left blank)

State  County  Town   
1940 only 1935 Location 1940 only

Prior to 1950, there were questions on whether the resident owned or rented their home, but in 1950 they dropped if the house was owned or rented and instead started to ask if it had three or more acres. Also, starting in 1950 the census no longer identified who was the informant providing the information. They also stopped asking the females the number of previous marriages and number of live births- but they do ask about that in the extra samples. Other questions asked only in the sample for 1950 were if the person attended school in the past month, the highest grade completed and their prior residence. The last time they asked if the person was a U.S. citizen was in the 1950 census. Further, they asked if males were over 14 if they served in the armed forces, and in 1950 they asked the birthplace of parents but no longer asked the native tongue or whether the person had a Social Security number.

Morse demonstrated how to use the ED finder and how to reduce the number of EDs to find the one you are researching. He showed what the One Step resources have as aides. He also reviewed census tracks in One-Step. Some street names have changed, and Joel Weintraub, Morse's associate on the Census information on the One-Step process, added tables to those which show the name changes.

The One-Step website will support a name index once it is created, and the location tools will not be obsolete. To look at the Steve Morse website with all the databases listed, go to: <https://www.stevemorse.org> where there is a paper based on this lecture.

### Miriam Weiner Introduces New Surname Database with 2 million Plus Names at Her Website!

Weiner's database exemplifies her 30 plus years of working in the archives of Eastern Europe. Her website is Routes to Roots Foundation (RTRF) (<https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml>). Two new databases are a standard surname search and an OCR (optical character recognition) from her collections with an excess of two million names. Her names are from Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine, and Moldova. Working with the archivists from the various archives, she achieved obtaining a cooperation agreement for identifying Jewish records of interest to genealogists. Her work debunked the myth that all records were destroyed in the Holocaust. The archive database consists of a town-by-town listing of surviving Jewish and civil records for towns in the current Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, Lithuania, Poland and former Galicia, Bukovina, Bessarabia, Silesia, Austro-Hungarian Empire and White Russia.

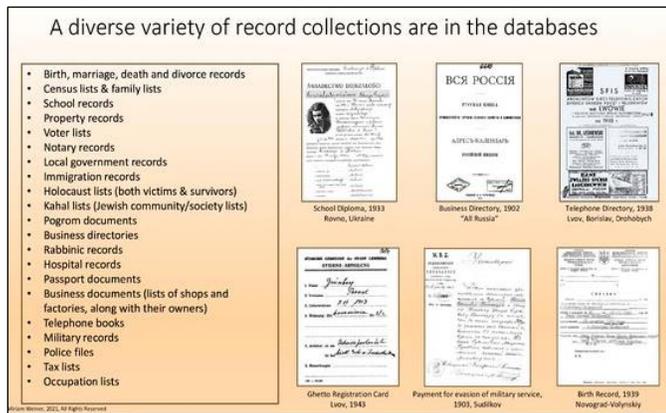


Weiner expects the number of surnames on her database will increase from two million to three million by the end of

2021. There is a diverse variety of record collections in the databases.

To find out if your town is included in the surname database, click on list of collections in the RTRF database. There are eight "chocolate bars" that cover: Belarus, Bessarabia/Moldova, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Polish Refugees to Sweden, Shanghai Refugees Reunion in 1980.

The information in the collection is displayed by country, then the town name, type of document, district it is in and the type of document Weiner has available that she personally collected. Not all the documents that exist for a specific town. For the latter, do a search in the archive database. As in Russian, the endings of names vary by gender, i.e., “ov” for males vs “ova” for females. Weiner suggests trying a “starts with” by entering the beginning letters of the surname and the results will include both the male and female names’ endings. On her pages for a specific town are old postcards and maps of the towns.



Weiner’s website also includes some Holocaust records for the aforementioned countries. The lists include what happened to the Holocaust victims. One such document was on the gold, silver and other valuables taken by the Nazis from Ukrainian residents, listed by names.

The website also can convert from typing a surname in English to Cyrillic. On her website there is a mechanism to automatically translate from a foreign language into English! She also showed how to get “page scan” from a telephone directory. The website has telephone and business directories. Weiner donated 75 telephone directories to the Library of Congress and by clicking on the name in the phone directory it will take you to the actual directory in the Library of Congress.

Her website also has images-photographs, postcards, and maps. Once can access the maps from the website homepage menu. She will be adding maps for specific town in Eastern Europe.

### ***Jewish Records Collection on Ancestry with Crista Cowan, Ancestry Corporate Genealogist***

Ancestry has more than 100 million family trees. “Your family tree is your family tree.” Only you or someone you gave permission to modify your tree may do so. Family Tree building, storing, and creating on Ancestry is FREE. You can create a guest log-in or if you have had your DNA tested you have access. You can share your access with a guest who can see the tree; a contributor- someone who you gave permission to add data or an editor- someone you gave full access to your tree. You can also list your tree on Ancestry.com as “unsearchable” and then no one evens knows the tree exists.

Ancestry has 30 billion records on the site, and they add three million records per day. These are from 80 countries around the world except for Greece who has not given any records to Ancestry. Ancestry has 33,000 record collections on their website.

From the Library Edition of Ancestry, one cannot build a tree or access a tree online. It’s up to the library if they have a global or US-only subscription.

Even if your family is Jewish, they might be found on larger records collections on Ancestry such as U.S. Federal Census or outbound passenger lists or inbound passenger lists for Australia and parts of South America.

Cowan provided hints for better searching on Ancestry’s website. First, to use the card catalogue which can be found under the “search” tab. In the title field name only the state or county, i.e. a location. When you find the database that interests you, search for the last update for that database and open in a new window so that you can toggle back and forth. Another suggestion was to see the source for the materials. Ancestry has records from JewishGen added to their website as Ancestry hosts JewishGen on their servers. This does not mean all of the JewishGen databases are on Ancestry. The two organizations use different search engines so your search may obtain different results.

Cowan said “less is more” in the practice of iterative searching. An example is to search a birth year and arrival year without a name.

Ancestry also has a YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/Ancestrycom/videos>

It was suggested to subscribe to the station so you would be notified when there are new videos available.

The Jewish Family History Collection may be accessed at: <https://www.ancestry.com/cs/JewishGen-mc>. This includes records from those organizations where Ancestry partnered with JewishGen®, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, the American Jewish Historical Society, the Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc., the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, the USC Shoah Foundation, and Arolsen Archives to create a collection of over 20 million Jewish historical records.

Ancestry also has a Holocaust collection. This may be found by going to the card catalog and typing into the key field or [Ancestry.com/Jewish](https://www.ancestry.com/Jewish) and click on Shoah/Holocaust tab. Many of the Jewish collections, including the Holocaust collections are free to access on Ancestry. On the aforementioned Ancestry-JewishGen site there is a list of those Jewish collections which are free, and which are premium.

Ancestry also owns Fold3.com, a subscription service which focuses on military records. Additionally, they own newspapers.com another subscription service. Currently, this service contracts with publishers around the world. There is a basic subscription and a publisher's subscription for a higher subscription fee. An Ancestry free service is Find-A-Grave.com. Your Ancestry.com subscription does **not** include Newspapers.com nor Fold3.com, both of those databases require their own subscriptions or an all-access Ancestry subscription which includes Ancestry, Fold3.com and a basic subscription to newspapers.com.

Cowan's Facebook page is:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheBarefootGenealogist>

### ***The JRI-Poland***

<https://beta.jri-poland.org/>

Stanley Diamond and Robinn Magid gave the presentation on the new JRI-Poland. This was a similar presentation they provided to JGSCV at our May, 2021 program. Currently, the new website is their beta website, [beta.jri-poland.org](https://beta.jri-poland.org). The Legacy website is [jri-poland.org](https://jri-poland.org).

Poland's 100-year privacy law for birth records expires in 2045 –100 years since World War II and resulting in opening those records. The privacy period for death and marriage records is 80 years. While JRI-Poland's website will always be free to access the records, JRI-Poland has started a membership fee of \$54 which will be used to support the new website and obtain more records. JRI-Poland is an independent 501-3(c) corporation which is different than JewishGen. Currently, about 90% of what is available is on the Legacy System. The beta system does not link to the Polish State Archives documents, but the legacy system does.

After the High Holidays, JRI-Poland will work on the "search" mechanism on the beta system so the data can be manipulated. If you need assistance go to [help@jri.poland](mailto:help@jri.poland)

Both Diamond and Maggid gave thanks to both FamilySearch whose microfilms of the Polish vital records they relied on initially, and to JewishGen who gave JRI-Poland a home for many years.

For towns with no vital records, such as Sochaczew, alternative records sources are being posted. For example, they have added notarial collections from 80 archives. The notarial records will fill in the gaps.

The pandemic caused a "hiccup" in obtaining some records. For example, in the indexing project in Płock for USC data had to cease for the time being as the pandemic closed the USC offices. In Płock, one-third of the population was Jewish before World War II. There were 3,000 survivors in 500 towns covering the Płock archive. JRI-Poland is also obtaining school, cemetery, and census records. The school records are helping in assigning surnames to the early burial records when only the father's name was listed.

On the beta website, town explorer, has information on 1,538 towns that Jews lived in, including parts of Galicia and the Ukraine.

For details on this lecture see the write-up in *Venturing Into Our Past*, Volume 16 Issue 9 on [https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing\\_V16\\_N9.pdf](https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing_V16_N9.pdf)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendars for next year's IAJGS conference –in Philadelphia!

<https://iajgs2022.org/>



**Forward**

WEBINAR

THURSDAY

**SEPT 2**

2 P.M. E.T.  
11 A.M. P.T.

### **The Borscht Belt and the rise of American Jewish comedy**

Join us as we look into the rich history of the Borscht Belt and the rise of Jewish comedy in the mid-20th century, including the legacy of the late comedian, Jackie Mason.

Forverts editor Rukhl Schaechter will moderate a conversation with Phil Brown, President of the Catskills Institute and Professor of Sociology and Health Sciences at Northeastern University; Eddy Portnoy, Academic Advisor and Director of Exhibitions, YIVO; and Aaron Bendich, host, "Borscht Beat" on WJFF Radio Catskill.

This talk will be recorded and sent to registrants.

For more information and to register, click on the link below:

<https://tinyurl.com/232d6na5>

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and  
Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a **Zoom Meeting**:  
Sunday, October 3, 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.**

**October Meeting**

**Renee Steinig presents ~**



**"Scandals, Shandehs and Lies:  
The Stories Families Don't Tell"**



In the course of decades of genealogical research Renee Steinig has uncovered many a "skeleton in the closet" — cases of mental illness, illegitimate birth, infidelity, abandonment, and even murder, all hushed up for decades. A Viennese refugee whose baby was born in a New York State psychiatric hospital; a suburban businessman who led two lives; a Romanian immigrant hanged — or so his family thought — for "stealing horses"; a Jewish GI's love affair in Belgium during World War II; a young woman who married, had a baby, then vanished... Renee will talk to us about these and other family secrets, the research tools that uncovered them and the reunions and reconciliations that followed many of her discoveries.

**Speaker:** Renee Steinig began to do genealogical research in the 1970s, inspired by a cousin who made it look easy. Many family trees and some 18 years later, she began to accept client work. Her specialties include New York research, locating lost family, and due diligence for probate cases. She is member of the Association of Professional Genealogists and has testified as an expert witness in several New York City Surrogate's Courts. A past president and longtime trustee of the JGS of Long Island, Renee is also a director of Geshet Galicia and its discussion group moderator and Family Finder editor.

There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family. Anyone may join JGSCV

<https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf>

# JGSCV Updates

## Growing our Membership: NGS Meeting

IAJGS is a member of both the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and the National Genealogical Society (NGS). Prior to the Federation of Genealogical Societies merging into the NGS, we also belonged to that genealogical organization as well. Through our membership with the IAJGS we obtain our non-profit 401-(c)3 status— under their umbrella.

Recently, the NGS held its Delegate Council Meeting. As the JGSCV representative to the NGS Delegate Council, Jan attended this Zoom meeting along with over 100 other genealogical society representatives and chose “Growing and Expanding Membership” as her breakout session.

One of the issues discussed was whether societies were increasing or decreasing membership during the current pandemic. Unfortunately, we fell into the category of decreasing membership; others had greatly expanded membership being only on Zoom.

JGSCV needs your input as to how to increase membership. This is your society. What direction would you like to see it go and how can we improve our offerings? Please send your suggestions to [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org).

## Library Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer(s) to copy and place the various newsletters we receive in the binders that we have set aside in the JGSCV section of the Agoura Hills Library. Please note that you do not have to be a board member to volunteer for this position. If you are interested in this position, please contact: [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org).

## Future Meetings

Be sure to view our future meetings for 2021 on page 23. We are pleased to announce our November speaker, Janette Silverman, Ph.D., presenting “*Finding Information to Support Family Stories of Holocaust Survivors and Victims*”.

Reminder: we need members’ input as to whether our meetings should be in-person, over Zoom, or a hybrid. We will begin to book 2022 speakers when we know your preferences. If you are a member and have not yet replied to the survey, please do so now at: <https://tinyurl.com/3439cauw>

## IAJGS Society Presidents Meet

On August 15 the IAJGS held a quarterly meeting of society presidents. There were over 40 participants. Being international we had presidents participating from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Great Britain, Israel, New Zealand, and the United States.

This is another exchange to share ideas with other presidents.

Again, one of the discussion topics was membership during the pandemic and including how societies were going to handle meetings in a post pandemic world: virtual or face-to-face or a hybrid. There was a variety of responses on whether meeting only virtually enhanced membership—most said it did. Obviously, there are pluses and minuses to both. Pluses are that we can attract speakers from afar—which we did pre-pandemic, but without having to pay travel costs it is more cost-effective, and members can attend from anywhere, increasing attendance from outside our local area. Of course, we miss the face-to face comradery and fellowship. A concern is if we do a hybrid with an in-person speaker, only a few will physically attend the meeting with the majority on Zoom. This might limit the number of speakers who are willing to travel for in-person meetings.

Another idea was to charge a fee for non-members to attend by Zoom- and that is something the board will discuss once our PayPal account is finally on the website. (That is being worked on by Warren from our board).

IAJGS set up a newspaper editors’ group to help with societies’ newsletters and that group will meet separately and they also established a librarians’ group. Our newsletter editor, Diane Goldin, has been advised. Issie Perel has been advised of the librarian group. Eventually, the IAJGS Librarian group would like to list what books/newsletters each society has in their own libraries. (JGSCV has two libraries: permanent and traveling which are listed on our website: <https://jgscv.org/library-permanent.html>.) IAJGS has a Facebook group but some presidents, like me, are not on Facebook. A Google group or presidents’ group under a new discussion group under IAJGS or JewishGen is being considered. There was a discussion on which leaders should be on the “Forum” versus Zoom meetings. That is to be determined. This group will meet quarterly.

JGSCV being part of these larger umbrella organizations enhances our society to learn from and share with other societies.

# Highlights from: JGSCV's Genealogy in the Round

By Jan Meisels Allen

On August 15, JGSCV held its annual *Genealogy in the Round* program—an opportunity for members to share a success, brickwall or artifact they discovered in the past year-18 months. As we did not hold this session last year due to COVID—the time period for sharing was longer than usual—18 months. We were delighted that 6 members shared their discoveries with us:

Bernie Behrens, Carol Flesher, Pat Fuller, David Oseas, Phillip Spain and myself.

## Bernie Behrens



Behrens is working with the name Panski/Pansky/Pansy/Pays. His family came from Łódź in northwestern part of Poland. At a family funeral he met an “Aunt Helen” who was a half-sister from his grandfather’s second marriage. She had a lot to do with writing down a manuscript in Yiddish. The manuscript has 56 pages covering 24 families.

When he was in Israel, he took the telephone book and started to copy all Panski’s and looked at the manuscript to find the same ones listed. He contacted in Yiddish those in the telephone directory. In Polish the diacritical mark over the “n” in Panski is ~ so it sounds differently more like PINSKI. But in Israel and the United States it is called Panski.

Behrens found that there is no standard in Yiddish sounding when he took a class in Yiddish in Orange County. The teacher in Orange County said his manuscript was in German, not Yiddish. But there are different Yiddish dialects “his” Yiddish was a western Polish dialect.

He also showed an 1889 manuscript printed in the town *Piotrkow Trybunalski* written in Russian. He shared a website on the town [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piotrk%C3%B3w\\_Trybunalski](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piotrk%C3%B3w_Trybunalski), which, as he said, deserves attention because it was a center of Jewish publishing in western Poland that is hardly mentioned and almost entirely overshadowed by Vilna.



## Carol Flesher

*“Crimes Against Genealogy”*

Flesher has been doing genealogy for years and still makes mistakes- so she wanted us to understand that all of us are subject the types of errors she talked about. Carol’s presentations are always unique and entertaining, and this was not an exception!

Her first question was why her grandmother was on a family tree of people she does not know and has no connections to. She started with the “suspect” –Boris. The “charges”: taking people and information from other people’s trees and attaching them to his own trees without documentation. Evidently Boris “collects” relatives as his primary goal—he currently has over 133,000 people in his trees. He assigned relationships between her relatives and his that were neither proven nor accurate. His accomplice is the “copy/paster” the person who copies other people’s work by copying and pasting the information from someone else’s’ tree without doing their own research to verify the material and family

connections are accurate. Flesher mentioned that this happens on the commercial sites where trees may be found, and it is frustrating.

When the tree originator corrects or adds new information the “copy/paster” does not do that, so the incorrect information is out there and continues to permeate the Internet.

Boris was found “guilty” of spreading false and unproven information and was “sentenced” to further education in the importance of accurate genealogy.

Her second case was the “Case of the Deceptive Duck”. Even if it looks like, swims like and quacks like a duck, does it mean it’s your duck.? This just happened to Carol so in this example she was the suspect! The charges were locating a name and assuming it’s a family member without deeper research; and ignoring new information as it does not fit one’s preconceived idea.

The case Flesher used was about her husband’s great grandfather Akiva “Kiwo” Yacov/Yankel Frydman from Rajgrad, Poland in 1937. She showed documents from Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, (<https://jri-poland.org/>). (Handwritten notes indicating first-person family knowledge and a metzevah (gravestone.) Flesher corresponds with her husband’s family in Israel, and they had documents resulting with the same name who married someone with the same name as the one she had—*Yenta Baila Zeitman*. But she had proved there was only one of each-Akiva/Yankel –so what does she do with two such people?

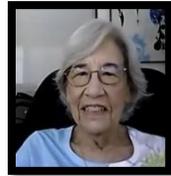
She made trees for both and started to do her search on the two. What she had failed to notice at first was that they came from two different towns: Szczuczyn vs. Rajgrad. Flesher then had to do an investigation. Too many discrepancies and differences remained. She revisited her correspondence, cross-checked sources, read and translated Hebrew names on the family gravestones and checked birth, marriage, and death dates to see if they made sense. Was there more than one Akiva? She confessed that she ignored information that did not fit; had answers all along but never put it all together and she needed to keep working and collaborating and not make assumptions.

In conclusion Flesher suggested DNA Etiquette: Continue to research on JewishGen (such as the Family Finder <https://www.JewishGen.org/jgff/>) as they are adding information all the time; Miriam Weiner’s Routes to Roots Foundation (<https://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml> which is also on JewishGen <https://www.JewishGen.org/JewishGen/pr/RTR/> . Regarding DNA, she advised to contact people only you have reason to believe may be related. After contacting new relatives, respect people’s boundaries as some only want genealogical information while others want close relationships.



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**Pat Fuller**



Pat’s presentation focused on a synagogue founded in Duluth, MN in 1885. She and her friends researched and collaborated to create a website and record of the Jewish families who settled in Duluth. (Pat was born in Minneapolis but has never been to Duluth.)

While Pat helped with the genealogical research, her friends created a webpage for the Adas Israel Synagogue, also known as the Third Street Shul. Its congregation is the longest continuously operating Orthodox congregation in Duluth, Minnesota. It was founded by Lithuanian immigrants and incorporated in 1899, and a dedicated synagogue building was constructed in 1900. The building was almost 120 years old when it was destroyed by fire in September 2019.

Fuller showed photographs both inside and outside of the building before the fire, including beautiful stained-glass windows. Ten of the fourteen Torah scrolls were saved from destruction.



*Adas Israel Synagogue*



*The 120-Year-old Synagogue during and after 2019 fire*



*Torah scroll being rescued*

Originally, it was thought the fire was a hate crime, but instead it turned out to be a homeless man who went behind the building to get warm and lit a pile of clothes with a lighter. The perpetrator pled guilty and received a sentence of one year in jail.

Hanging on the wall of the synagogue was this October 1914 photo of 40 founding members of the Congregation celebrating Simchas Torah. (This photo is a copy as the original was destroyed in the fire.)



*Founding members of Adas Israel, 1914*

The fire inspired Karen Alpert Entous and Allan Garon, both descendants of Duluth-area Jewish families, to complete a genealogical project they had started years earlier: Identify all the men in the photo and develop genealogical information on each man and his family.

The men in the photo were numbered and a list made. This numbered list was compared with a caption that accompanied the photo in a *Jewish Fellowship News* article from 1949. Of course, the two lists were different, and questions remain. For example, Rabbi Israel S. Teplitz, who was the Rabbi of Adas Israel in 1914 when the photo was taken, could not be identified in the photo.

Fuller helped her friends using resources like Ancestry, JewishGen, FamilySearch, and a large database created by Jack Abramson (another Duluth Jewish Families descendant). The team did their best to produce a “definitive” list of the men in the photo. A spreadsheet was created to include each man’s Name (including other names he was known as), Birth Year, Birthplace, Addresses, Immigration Year, Spouse’s Name, Spouse’s Birthdate, Marriage Year, Occupation, Children’s Names (including married names of daughters), and Children’s Birth Years. Each name was linked to the person’s page on a huge Duluth-area Jewish Families website that Allan Garon created and maintains.

### Edelson Families - - Descendents List

Two Edelson families have connections to the greater Duluth/Superior.

The children and spouses of Esther Sarah and Joseph Julius James Edelson are listed below and a full descendents list is provided on the attached [pdf file](#) (source: [Jack's Family Tree Database](#), September 2019):

- 1 Joseph Julius James Edelson b: Apr 1855 in Germany, d: 29 Aug 1931 in Duluth Minnesota
- ...+ Esther Sarah b: Oct 1857 in Germany, m: 1880, d: 10 Jan 1929 in Duluth Minnesota
- .....2 Mary Esther Edelson b: 1880, d: 23 Feb 1945
- .....+ Martin Green aka: Mordechai, b: 1882 in Rumania, d: 03 Mar 1951 in St. Paul, Minnesota
- .....2 Joseph David Edelson b: Jan 1881 in Germany, d: 14 Jun 1946 in Cleveland, Ohio
- .....2 Sarah Sadee Ida Edelson b: Mar 1884 in Germany, d: 20 Feb 1962 in Garfield Heights, Ohio
- .....+ Charles Ellison
- .....2 Irene Lena Edelson b: Jun 1887 in Ohio, Germany, d: 05 Apr 1981 in Cleveland Heights, Ohio
- .....+ Weiss d: Bef 1981
- .....2 Abraham Neil Edelson b: 09 Aug 1896 in Duluth, Minnesota, d: 11 Jun 1960 in Duluth, Minnesota - see link to obit below

The children, grandchildren and spouses of Annie and Louis Edelson are listed below and a full descendents list is provided on the attached [pdf file](#) (source: [Jack's Family Tree Database](#), September 2019):

- 1 Louis Edelson b: 16 Apr 1876 in Kovno, Lithuania Russia, d: 10 Sep 1934 in Chicago, Illinois
- ...+ Annie b: 1878
- .....2 Nathan Edelson aka: Nate, b: 09 Jun 1902 in Oshkosh, WI, d: 15 Apr 1961 in Chicago, Illinois
- .....+ Vernice Lavine b: 15 Feb 1915 in Superior, WI, m: 04 Jul 1941 in Boston, Massachusetts, d: 23 Jan 2007 in Chicago, Illinois
- .....daughter of Sarah Klatzky and Abraham Lavine - see link to obit below.
- .....3 Lewis Edelson b: 06 Jun 1946 in Chicago, Illinois
- .....+ Denise Abrams b: Feb 1946 in Chicago, Illinois, m: 27 Feb 1972 in Chicago, Illinois
- .....3 Naome Jean Edelson aka: Norm, b: 05 Feb 1950 in Chicago, Illinois
- .....+ Vase Puster b: 14 Oct 1905 in Essen, Germany, m: 14 Oct 1976 in Tarp, West Germany, Divorce: 1988 in Chicago, Illinois
- .....+ Bruce Peterson b: Oct 1952, m: 15 Oct 1997 in Wisconsin

Its website is <http://www.garon.us/AdasIsrael.html>. There is a temporary user id set up just for JGSCV as JGSCV is in all caps and the temporary password is AugSep (NOT all caps). These are available until the end of September. Included on the website are newspapers articles about the fire and comments from the community. The website covers thousands of Jews from Duluth.



### David Oseas

*My Search for Chaike Schechter*

This is the story of Oseas’s great-grandmother Ida (Chaike). Chiake owned a four-unit apartment building on Genesee in the Fairfax District of Los Angeles. The Oseas family lived in that apartment building from 1962-1967. Chaike owned the building from the 1940’s to 1976 when she passed away. At one time all four units were family occupied, however, while David lived there only three units were family occupied. The apartments were two bedroom and one bath units.

In 2005, Oseas did his first trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City with Gary Mokotoff. His priority was to obtain the passenger list for his great grandmother Ida, sailing on the Lusitania sailing in December 1907—not the infamous voyage in 1915 where the ship was torpedoed by an Imperial German Navy U-boat during the First World War.

The manifest listed Eli Polinsky as the person whom they were going to be with in the United States. He became David’s great-uncle. Through David’s research he found out that Eli was already his great uncle. At the time—but the manifest did not list him as his great—uncle as he learned he was already.

He found Chaike who was listed on the manifest as age 18 with Rochel and Ida. On the right of the manifest there is an “x” before numbers 1-3. This means they



were held at Ellis Island until a family member could come and bring them home. There was also notation for Chaïke which was dated 1941- about her naturalization (see blue circle information on ship's manifest) that there was no certificate of arrival (CA) for her. Instead, a form 505 was completed for her. As her age was listed incorrectly who was she? This was David's brick wall which haunted him the longest.

Oseas looked at U.S. Censuses for 1910, 1920, 1930 but he could not find her. She probably Anglicized her first name and likely married. He was also unsuccessful requesting anything from the United States Citizenship and Information Service (USCIS) even though the number on the manifest was provided to them. He was unsuccessful finding her in any record, until he went on the trip to the Family History Library in 2005. He queried Marian Smith, retired genealogist of the USCIS several times. (See JGSCV's *Venturing Into Our Past*, [https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing\\_V16\\_N6.pdf](https://jgscv.org/pdf/newsletters/Venturing_V16_N6.pdf) for Highlights of when Ms. Smith talked to JGSCV about USCIS records.) Form 505 is completed when staff from USCIS goes through their records to find information on the ships' manifest and the staff was able to verify that the person did arrive on the specific ship on a specific date. If the staff can't verify the information, then they note on the Form 505 that it is not verifiable.

He found a brother who sailed with the person that Ida would marry. He found through research her petition for naturalization and certificate of arrival. On the certificate of arrival, her name is listed as *Chaïke Eisenberg now Ida Schechter*. Researching her children's marriage records he found her name listed as Ida Eisenberg or Ida Rosenberg—two different names on different children's marriage certificates. By researching both Ida Eisenberg and Ida Rosenberg he found the petition for naturalization using the name Ida Eisenberg. Along with the certificate of naturalization was her certificate of arrival, confirming that he found the correct person-Chaïke Eisenberg now Ida Schechter.

Ancestry has index cards, but FamilySearch has most of the naturalization documents. Oseas concluded:

- Always do comprehensive searches recognizing their may be name variations
- Search without names and "less is more" as a technique to use

He also reminded us that:

- Repeat searches as more records are added
- Search every available database
- Beware of ditto
- Remember FAN (Friends and Neighbors) club
- Even experts can be "wrong" and sometimes it pays to be lucky

David's Resources:

USCIS Index Search (\$65)

<https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/searching-the-index>

USCIS Record Request (\$65)

<https://www.uscis.gov/history-and-genealogy/genealogy/requesting-records>

Ancestry.com US Naturalization Record Index

<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1192/>

FamilySearch Final petition and citizenship papers (New York: Eastern District), 1865-1958

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/988724?availability=Family%20History%20Library>

JewishGen Info File on Manifest Markings

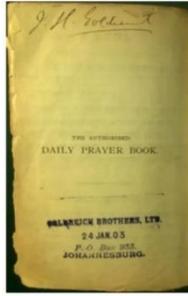
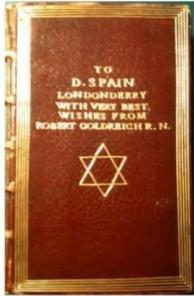
<https://www.JewishGen.org/infofiles/manifests/occ/>

## Phillip Spain



Spain shared a siddur he received from his grandfather and has since given it to his son. It is a standard “Singer” Siddur which is the English translation of the Authorized Daily Prayer Book, informally called

### A WELL-TRAVELLED סִדּוּר



England – South Africa – High Seas – Ireland – England – Scotland – California

“Singer’s Siddur” and known as the standard English siddur. It is nicely bound in leather and gold stamped. Spain had no idea who was Robert Goldreich, Royal Navy, who gave the book to his grandfather, nor when the “gift” was made. The title page (shown on left) shows on the top of the page handwritten J.H. Goldreich and the stamp saying Goldreich Brothers Ltd. from Johannesburg. The siddur was printed in England and then went to South Africa, then on the high seas, given to his grandfather in Ireland who brought it to England, then to Scotland and now in California with his son. Spain wanted to know who this person was and what was his connection to his family.

Phillip’s grandfather was David Spain (1877-1971). He arrived in (London) Derry in 1894, naturalized in 1904, and married in 1906 and had a family by the time of World War I.

The story is that the chaplains would provide pamphlets for serving people saying at such a time one can get a Shabbos meal from such and such people. Phillip’s grandparents were on the list for providing the Shabbos meals.

Robert Goldreich was placed in the *British Jewry Book of Honour 1922*. Wanting to find out what he could about him, Spain found he served as a midshipman on the *H.M.S. Thunderer* from the *Bedaes Record 1914-1915*. He did not have a full school career at Bedales, as he went off to be a cadet. He was awarded the Luke Howard Medal in 1914. The Royal Meteorological Society’s Council decided in 1898 that a silver medal would be awarded each year to the cadet on the Nautical Training Ship HMS Worcester who submitted the best essay on a meteorological subject selected by officers of the Ship and the Society. Goldreich’s essay was “The Meteorology of the West Indies”.

ROBERT GOLDBREICH R.N.  
9 May 1896 – 13 February 1986



From British Jewry Book of Honour 1922

He served in the Battle of Jutland on 31 May and 1 June 1916. The Battle of Jutland was fought between the British Royal Navy and the Imperial German High Seas Navy Fleet, off the North Sea Coast of Denmark’s Jutland Peninsula.

In 1922, Goldreich retired at his own request and was issued a certificate as commander of a foreign-going ship. He went back into service in World War II and he became a commander in 1946. His first marriage was in 1954. His second marriage occurred in the month he died in 1986.

### Who Was Goldreich?

His father was Samuel Goldreich, a rabbi, born in Bischofstein, Prussia. Spain focused on the Goldreich Brothers who went to South Africa. Samuel Goldreich was also the President of the South Africa Zionist Federation who was personally thanked by the high commissioner for South Africa for services rendered to the Government. Spain showed a family tree of the Goldreichs. The Goldreich brothers became influential in property and mining in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

Spain started his research by Googling. He had several false trails. Spain assumes Goldreich met his grandfather during the naval service during World War I. Evidently, Goldreich wrote diaries which may be found in the Imperial War Museum (<https://www.iwm.org.uk/>). Due to the pandemic, Spain is currently unable to go to the Museum but hopes to once restrictions are lifted. When it is permitted, he wants to go to the Imperial War Museum to see the diaries and learn if they say he visited with Phillip’s grandparents.

While working on this for years, Spain received information only days before our meeting from a cousin of Goldreich's second wife. This exemplifies that research can take a long time before it yields the information we seek.



**Jan Meisels Allen**

I wanted to find out if Jacob Meyer was my grandfather who was known as Jacob Meyer Flower. The family lore is that his surname was taken from the then governor New York Roswell Pettibone Flower (1892-1894). I know my grandfather immigrated from Stawiski, Poland- then part of Russia which was a very small town in the Lomza Gubernia-Northeastern Poland. I also knew he lived in New York City (where he was naturalized in 1896 and married in 1903). He also lived in Louisville, KY (documented by City Directories and birth records where his first two children were born (1904 and 1906), including my mother. He moved back to New York City in late 1906, as his first set of twins were born in New York City in January 1907 and died there 6 weeks later of "hasty pneumonia" they contracted when Jacob came home with influenza.

I was unable to find him in the 1890 New York City Census as I had been researching him for years using the surname of Frejer, Freuer, (as they sounded similar to Flower) and Blumen (German for Flower), Blum (Yiddish for Flower) and Kwait -Polish for Flower. Nor did I find him in the *1890 New York City Police Census* under Flower/Frejer/ Freuer, etc.

Recently, I decided to try *Jacob Meyer*—no Flower or derivative of surname and then I found him! –in the 1890 New York City Police Census and on a ship's manifest. The ship's manifest: SS State of Indiana from Glasgow (Leith) to NYC said Jacob Meyer age 20 from Stavisk (Yiddish for Stawiski). The ship's original manifest from Germany to Glasgow was the ship Prague which also said Jacob Meyer. Now neither sounds Polish or Yiddish – such as Yankel or Yaacov so I am assuming as it was an English-speaking ship and the person writing the manifest "translated" the name to English.

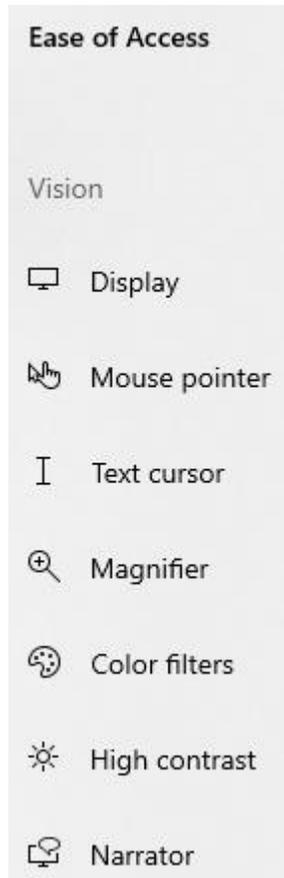
Have I found my grandfather after 20 years of searching? The age is correct, the small village is correct, the first two names are the same? I think I have. See supporting documents on the next page.





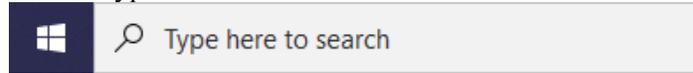
# Practicing Safe Computing #70: Windows Ease of Access – Vision Support

Hal Bookbinder



Windows provides features for individuals with sight and hearing limitations to better access their computers. In this article I will focus on vision support.

To start type “Ease of Access” in the Windows search box at the bottom left of



the screen and press enter. The options shown to the left will be displayed.

Select **Display** to adjust the size of text or the size of everything. Note that not all text is recognized by Windows as text, including text in a picture or in a PDF and such text will not be increased by simply adjusting text size. Adjusting the size of everything, however, will increase the size of such imbedded text.

Select **Mouse pointer** to adjust the size and color of the cursor and so make it easier to find and control. A slider bar is provided to adjust the size and options are provided to display a white, black or color cursor.

Select **Text cursor** to adjust the size and color of the cursor which displays as you type. It is typically a thin black vertical line that can be easy to misplace. You can adjust its size, color and thickness.

You do not need to adjust the **Magnifier** settings. By default, this powerful tool is available. To invoke it, at any time press **Win** and “+”. A pop-up will display. Select + in the pop-up to magnify the screen and – to return to normal size.

The **Magnifier** can also launch **Narrator** to read aloud text on the screen. Select the text to be read by dragging the mouse across it while holding down the left button. Select ► in the magnifier pop-up and the text you identified will be read aloud. You can click on the ⚙️ to change the voice or reading speed.

The **Color filters** permits you to reverse text and so display white text against a black background. Settings are also available to assist with red-green or blue-yellow color blindness.

Turning on **High Contrast** makes applications easier to see by using more distinct colors. So, if you find it difficult to distinguish subtle color shifts, this may help to see what is on the screen. The default high contrast is dramatic and may be more than you want. This can be adjusted to meet your needs.

Use **Narrator** to tailor the way selections are read aloud and whether to bring it up automatically. You can even set it to enunciate the keys as you type. Numerous other features are available. You can invoke Narrator through **Magnifier** or bring it up directly by pressing **Win** + **Ctrl** + **Enter**. I prefer to invoke it through the Magnifier as I find I have more control as to the precise text is to be read aloud

*This is the seventieth 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

## Jewish Museum

The Jewish Museum in New York City, NY has opened an exhibit entitled: *Afterlives: Recovering the Lost Stories of Looted Art* to run through January 9, 2022. The exhibit traces the timelines of individual object as they passed through hands and sites, during, and after World War II.

During World War II, untold numbers of artworks and pieces of cultural property were stolen by Nazi forces. After the war, an estimated one million artworks and 2.5 million books were recovered. Many more were destroyed. This exhibition chronicles the layered stories of the objects that survived, exploring the circumstances of their theft, their post-war rescue, and their afterlives in museums and private collections.

*Afterlives* includes objects looted from Jewish collections during the war, including works by such renowned artists as Pierre Bonnard, Marc Chagall, Paul Cézanne, Gustave Courbet, Paul Klee, Franz Marc, Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, and Camille Pissarro.

The Jewish Museum has also commissioned four contemporary artists to create new works that address the resonance of the exhibition's themes: Maria Eichhorn, Hadar Gad, Dor Guez, and Lisa Oppenheim. Treasured pieces of Judaica, including rare examples of Jewish ceremonial objects from destroyed synagogues, will also be on view, as well as rarely seen archival photographs and documents that connect the objects to history.

Read more:  
<https://thejewishmuseum.org/index.php/exhibitions/afterlives-recovering-the-lost-stories-of-looted-art>

There is a transcript available through the above URL.

## MAPPING JEWISH LA

Since its establishment in 2011, the Mapping Jewish Los Angeles Project (MJLA) has been dedicated to bringing digital tools and multimedia technologies to facilitate access to the complex histories of the Los Angeles Jewish community.

<https://www.mappingjewishla.org/current-exhibitions/>

## MyHeritage

### How to Write an Obituary

As the family historian, or simply as a mortal human, you may find yourself presented with the difficult task of writing an obituary for a family member who has recently passed. If you are a genealogist, you know how valuable obituaries can be. They often contain far more detail than any other death record, sometimes providing information about the deceased person's life that you would never learn from any other source. You can search through [MyHeritage's 102 newspaper collections](#) to discover some fascinating obituaries from the U.S., Canada, and around the world.

But how do you summarize an entire life in a few paragraphs? How do you write something that will honor the memory of your loved one and help others honor that memory?

Full article found here: <https://tinyurl.com/d7sd2s3y>

## Find Lost Russian & Ukrainian Family

*Uncovering the secrets of finding family and records in the former USSR*

New WWII database fills in family's story for escape from Soviet Ukraine ... Click link below to continue reading:

<https://tinyurl.com/43bewnzj>



## Last Letters from the Holocaust – 1942

Go to: <https://tinyurl.com/535jd3x7>

The letters displayed here were sent from Belarus, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Poland and Ukraine, and were written in a variety of languages. Each letter and postcard reveal the last remaining fragment – physical, personal and unique – of the victims: their handwriting.

# Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through December 2021



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

**NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, October 3<sup>rd</sup>  
1:30-3:30PM via Zoom**

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
September	No Meeting - High Holidays	
October 3	Renee Steinig	Scandals, Shandehs and Lies: The Stories Families Don't Tell
November 7	Janette Silverman, Ph.D.	Finding Information to Support Family Stories of Holocaust Survivors and Victims
December 12	Floriane Azoulay	Researching the Arolsen Archives

### **Reminder: Return your Meeting Survey**

You will be receiving a questionnaire asking for feedback regarding JGSCV meetings in 2022. We discussed the various options in the August premeeting, but with such a small response, we need feedback from more members. Specifically, we want to know for 2022 if you prefer to hold meetings by Zoom, or, if the pandemic is over, if you want to go back to in-person meetings, or if you wish for a combination of the two types depending on the speaker. When you receive the survey, please complete it, and return promptly.



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](mailto:andrea@jgscv.org) or [president@jgscv.org](mailto: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.)

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