

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

February 2021

Volume 16 Issue 5

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope you are well and safe and practicing safe distancing and wearing a mask when appropriate.

JGSCV had the privilege to have a dual presentation by Jarrett Ross on: *Iberia to Amsterdam: A Genealogical Look at the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam* and *"Forensic Genetic Genealogy: A Baby Doe Case Review"*. The program discussed the history of the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam community by looking at available documentation that can be used for genealogical purposes. He also gave a forensic case study. Anyone who heard Jarrett at the 2020 IAJS International Conference on Genealogy in the *Genealogy Death March* with E. Randol Schoenberg, knows the phenomenal research Jarrett has accomplished going back 12 generations on his Sephardic – Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam roots. Highlights of his presentation begin on page 5.

The premeeting *Ask the Experts* was facilitated by Hal Bookbinder. This part of the meeting allows members to ask questions on any topic before the meeting begins and is facilitated by a senior JGSCV member.

While we completed our commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, celebrating the lives of the 'greatest generation' should not end. Please continue to share WW II stories of your family members. This month's Family Story, as suggested by our June speaker Joan Adler, is on page 16. We have not received World War II stories for this newsletter so please send your articles for this and Family Story to Allan Linderman, editor of *Venturing Into Our Past* (newslettereditor@jgscv.org) and me at president@jgscv.org. This is your society's
(Cont'd next page)



Jarrett Ross, JGSCV's January Zoom speaker on Forensic Genealogy and the Portuguese Jewish Community in Amsterdam

NEXT MEETING

Sunday Feb. 14th 1:30-3:30 PM

Members only ZOOM!

Researching the United States Citizenship and Information Service (USCIS)



Marian Smith recently retired after 30 years as Historian at USCIS and its predecessor the INS. She explains how to uncover what records to seek, discover if they exist and learn how to locate them.

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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.

newsletter and we want as many of you as possible to write something to share in the newsletter. If you need assistance, Allan is eager to help you.

Are you subscribed to the JewishGen Discussion Group? This is a free forum (voluntary donations are readily accepted) where people from around the world pose questions while others offer answers to those questions. If you are not subscribed you are missing a wonderful opportunity to learn from and share with some of the 20,000 subscribers. To join go to: <https://groups.jewishgen.org/g/main/join> and complete the process to begin posting.

Don't forget to register for RootsTech Connect. It's a free, virtual online event to be held 25-27 February 2021. To register and read more about it go to: <https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

We are delighted that 77% of the JGSCV members renewed, but we would really like everyone to renew so we can hit 100%. A copy of the membership renewal form is on page 18 and may also be printed from our website <https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf>

Hal Bookbinder continues with his *Practicing Safe Computing Series*, "Using Zoom to Create a Personal Video Message" on page 13.

Our Yom HaShoah program on April 11, 2021 will on highlight the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names and Pages of Testimony. See page 17 for future meetings .

Remember to help support your JGSCV by shopping Ralphs or Food For Less even when shopping there only occasionally. Also, when shopping on Amazon, remember that JGSCV is an Amazon Smile member and your purchases help us. See page 12 for more information on registering JGSCV as your Amazon Smile charity of choice.

The IAIGS 41st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held on August 2-5, 2021 in Philadelphia, PA. While the IAIGS has made arrangements for the face-face conference they are also preparing for a virtual conference if the pandemic situation requires. Early Bird Registration will open on March 1, 2021 and will continue being offered until May 31, 2021. To read more see: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/index.cfm>

JGSCV is still operating on the COVID-19 restrictions and our February 14 meeting will be by Zoom featuring Marian Smith, retired historian of the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). Marian last visited JGSCV in 2013. There have been changes since then and she will provide information on the immigration and nationality records that we can order. (We are meeting one week later than usual as we have learned not to meet the same day as Super Bowl Sunday!)

Stay well and safe!

Jan Meisels Allen



Portugal's First Holocaust Museum Opens

Jewish Telegraphic Agency posted that the first Holocaust museum in the northern city of Porto, Portugal opened on January 20, 2021. The founders/builders are members of a Jewish community that was founded by descendants of victims of the Inquisition. The community also has members descended from Ashkenazi Jews who lost their relatives in the Holocaust. The Jewish Community of Porto says it now has about 400 members while Portugal has about 3,100 people who self-identify as Jews. The influx is connected to immigration from elsewhere in Europe and Latin America, as well as Portugal's 2015 law guaranteeing citizenship to descendants of Sephardic Jews. *The Holocaust Museum of Porto* was developed in cooperation with the Jewish Museum and Tolerance Center in Moscow and other institutions. The Jewish community expects the museum to receive 10,000 visitors a year when emergency restrictions connected to the COVID-19 pandemic are lifted. To read the article see: <https://www.jta.org/2021/01/13/global/jewish-community-shaped-by-the-inquisition-opens-portugals-first-holocaust-museum>

Tracing the History of a House

"Jen" is the blogger for *Everyday Old House*. Her posts include WHY one might trace house history, and a guide for applying your research to this end. Jen writes "I think it's similar to traditional genealogy: discovering your family tree and learning about your ancestors." All content provided on *Everyday Old House* is for informational and entertainment purposes only, but Jen is thorough and full of ideas. Find her website at: <https://everydayoldhouse.com/category/house-history/>

British "Who Do You Think You Are" website and magazine Not Just for Brits

The magazine of the original genealogy show before the American version has some fresh takes on research and not just in the British Isles. One is their "Best List" articles is of Holocaust records and another link on the same page is for Canadian research sites:

<https://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com/tutorials/overseas/>

World Jewish Restitution Organization Signs Agreement With Luxembourg on Holocaust Property Restitution

The World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) signed an agreement with the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg on Holocaust-era property restitution. The agreement was signed by the government of Luxembourg and the Jewish community of Luxembourg, together with WJRO and the and the Luxembourg Foundation for the Memory of the Shoah. See: <https://tinyurl.com/y2h3p9hr> .

**The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley
and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a **Zoom Meeting:**
Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:30-3:30 p.m.**

Open only to JGSCV members (*see below for membership application)

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



THE PROGRAM

Researching the United States Citizenship and Information Service Records (USCIS)

This presentation will be an overview of three historical eras of US immigration and naturalization records, illustrated with documents of Jewish immigrants. Using a timeline tool she demonstrates how plotting an immigrant's life events can identify what records may exist for that particular immigrant and where these records can be found.

About Speaker Marian Smith:



Marian Smith retired in 2018 after thirty years as an Historian for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), later US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). She now speaks to groups on US immigration and nationality records and leads the I&N Records Fortnightly study group. Marian last

spoke with JGSCV in 2013.

There is no charge for members of JGSCV to attend this Zoom meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV from our website: <https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf>. Annual dues are \$30 for an individual and \$35 for a family. We welcome new members!

Highlights from *Iberia to Amsterdam: A Genealogical Look at the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam* and "Forensic Genetic Genealogy: A Baby Doe Case Review"

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV was privileged to have Jarrett Ross give two presentations. One presentation was on *Forensic Genetic Genealogy: A Baby Doe Case Review* and the other on *Iberia to Amsterdam: A Genealogical Look at the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam*. Jarrett has been able to trace his ancestry back 12 generations. This presentation was given at the 2020 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy when he and E. Randol Schoenberg presented the *Genealogy Death March* with records going back respectively 12 and 14 generations!

Jarrett's handout is located on our website <https://www.jgscv.org/meetings-prior.html> under the January 3, 2021 date.

Part 1 - Forensic Genetic Genealogy: A Baby Doe Case

Jarrett is the lead forensic genealogist at DNA Labs International and has changed some of the names in this case to preserve the privacy of the individuals. They have used forensic DNA work for over 16 years to help solve cases, and have used forensic DNA for more than genealogy.

How the Process Works

In addition to forensic genealogy they do phenotyping which is figuring out what someone looks like or other traits based on

their DNA. It is similar to getting a snapshot of what someone is like similar to the reports one may obtain from 23andMe or one of the other DNA testing companies. Forensic genetic genealogy is used for:

- Identifying the remains of adult humans and babies
- Identifying the suspect while solving homicides, sexual assaults and other violent crimes

With evidence left at a crime scene they can predict the physical appearance of an individual or suspect – for example, hair, skin and eye color.

DNA Labs take evidence for sampling and process it. Extracts are sent to a certified laboratory for SNP (single-nucleotide polymorphism) testing if there is adequate DNA for the sample. This is an autosomal test. DNA Labs International uses both FamilyTree DNA and GEDmatch. The process takes about 2 weeks before providing the information to law enforcement. If law enforcement requests more research then STR (single-nucleotide polymorphism) analysis, is applied.

The Case

A female newborn baby was found dead in the early 1990s. The deceased baby was not

able to be identified, i.e. they could not identify the parents. No suspects were identified and all leads were exhausted, including the combined DNA Index System (CODIS). The case was reopened after 20 years to try to find the parents.

DNA Labs used the admixture of breakdown through FamilyTree DNA. It showed 38% west and central Europe and 27% South East Europe. More than 65% inferred that both parents have some European ancestry. They found multiple close matches to people from Mexican families who immigrated to the Southwest USA in 1880s and a few close matches with people with only European admixtures. Their hypothesis was that one parent was of mostly European ancestry and the other parent was of Mexican ancestry.

They narrowed the focus by location of families in year of death. Some branches moved away and they did an age and relationship to person analysis. Once they got as far as they could go, they needed to test these relatives. They returned to law enforcement with an investigative lead. (The DNA company does not do the person-investigation.) By using target testing of family members, they were able to determine the father of the cousin. Upon querying about romantic partners, the mother was found. She was a second cousin to the male with European ancestry—not a romantic partner of the person they were using as the focal point.

In this case, they identified the father first and then the mother.

In the middle of the research GEDmatch changed from an opt-in to an opt-out which resulted in fewer people in the database with permission to search. (FYI, to

genealogists, as GEDmatch has been around for a while, many may not know they have to go back and select the opt-in option.)

For the opt-In option upload your DNA to GEDmatch and FamilyTree DNA and opt-in so your DNA can be used for investigators to help identify rapists, murderers and thousands of unidentified remains in morgues across the country.

They were looking for Lexi Jones' cousin- due to Mexican matches they hypothesized it was from her Mexican side- her maternal side. A second possibility was someone called Jeffrey Holder from GEDmatch—a second to third cousin match with parents from European ancestry but no Mexican ancestry. They found others descending from siblings of Holder's great grandparents. Since it is an X-chromosome match and X only comes from the mother Jeffrey was not considered to be the father.

Part 2 - Iberia to Amsterdam-the Genealogical Look at the Sephardic Community of Amsterdam

Jarrett's second presentation focused on what is available in the Amsterdam Archives and elsewhere which relate to the Portuguese Jewish community and is available for free online. He started with the Inquisition when Ferdinand and Isabella signed the Alhambra Decree and Jews were given 4 months to convert, leave the country or be sentenced to death. It is estimated that 200,000 converted and 40,000 to 100,000 were expelled. The Portuguese Inquisition began in 1536.

The Sephardic Diaspora - Eastern Sephardim, North African Sephardim and Western Sephardim.

Jarrett did not discuss the Crypto-Jews who stayed in Spain and stayed as Catholic. (For more about the Crypto-Jews see the January 2021 issue of *Venturing Into Our Past* for highlights of Genie Milgrom’s presentation on this topic.)

Eastern Sephardim mostly left in 1492 and earlier. They went to Salonica, Constantinople, Sarajevo and Syria.

The Sephardic Diaspora

Eastern Sephardim

- o Left in 1492 and earlier
- o Salonica, Constantinople (Istanbul), Sarajevo, and Syria

North African Sephardim

- o Left mostly around 1492
- o Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Libya

Western Sephardim

- o Many originally immigrated to Portugal
- o Mostly left Iberia from the 15th to the 17th century
- o Italy, France, Netherlands, Americas, London, and Hamburg

North African Sephardim also mostly left about 1491-1492, around the fall of Grenada. They went mostly to Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and Libya.

Western Sephardim mostly immigrated to Portugal. They stayed there during that Inquisition and left Iberia between the 15th to the 17th centuries. They are living secretly as Jews so they don’t really understand what it is to be Jewish although they practice some secret customs. They went mainly to Italy, France, Netherlands, America, London and Hamburg.

The map (above right) shows the fluidity of the migrations in 17-19th centuries from Spain to North, and South and east:

Establishing the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam

- Holland joins Union of Utrecht which allowed freedom of religion



Migrations and Settlements of the Spanish Jews

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sephardi_Jews#/media/File:Sephardic_Migrations.jpg

- Different stories of founding of the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam

1. English capture the ship with Maria Nuñez and her family who left Portugal in the late 1500’s and were going to Europe where they could live freely as Jews. They were taken prisoners by English. Maria was extremely beautiful and the ship’s captain offered to let her and her family live freely if she married him. She declined the marriage proposal. She was taken to England and Queen Elizabeth learns of her beauty and wants to meet her. The Queen found her to be both beautiful and smart. The story goes that the Queen allowed Maria and her family to live wherever they chose. They ended up in Amsterdam and founded the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam.

2. The second story of the founding of the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam is the chance meeting of Rabbi Moses Uri HaLevi of Emden, Germany. Some ships leaving Portugal ended up stalled in Emden and in town people see a roasted duck being carried to a house where they recognize Hebrew writing on the building. It

is the house of Rabbi HaLevi and they tell him their story of really being Jewish but living as Catholic for years. They wanted to be Jewish. As the story goes, the rabbi tells them to go to Amsterdam and he will meet them there. Several weeks later In Amsterdam they meet and he teaches them how to be Jewish. He circumcises the men and thus establishes the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam.

Are these stories true? These are legends and likely to be partly true and partly lore. These people actually existed but are the stories true? What is true is that the Spanish-Portuguese Community of Amsterdam was founded by Jacob Tirado, Jacob Israel Belmonte and Samuel Pallache.

There were three synagogues of Amsterdam:

- Beth Jacob (founded in 1602)
- Neve Shalom (founded in 1608)
- Beth Israel (founded in 1618)

All three merge in 1639 to form Talmud Torah.

Documents from Amsterdam Archives website for Amsterdam Jewish Community

The link to the Amsterdam Archives is: <https://archieff.amsterdam/>

Jarrett provided many examples of the fantastic records from the 16-17th centuries available at the Amsterdam Archives. Examples Jarrett gave included:

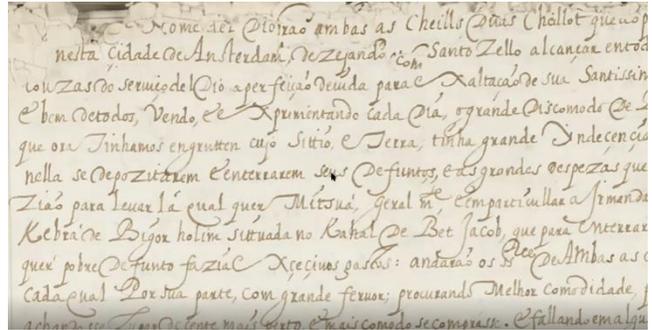
The Beth Jacob Archive catalog which includes regulations, decisions and statement of income and expenditure of the Beth Haim cemetery. Due to a dispute in 1618, Beth Israel was created.

To find the records go to *Gemeente Amsterdam Stadsarchieff* inventory 334:

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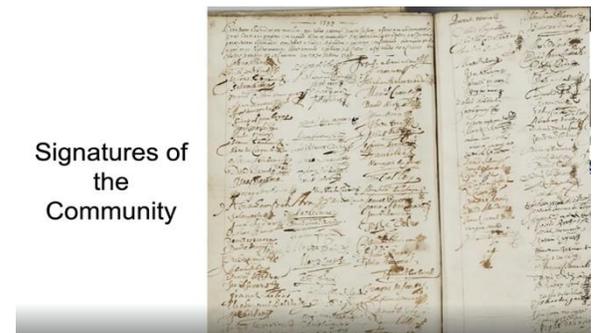
Archief van de Portugees-Israëlietische Gemeente.

Below is a page from the book which establishes the Beth Haim Cemetery in 1614 in Portuguese.



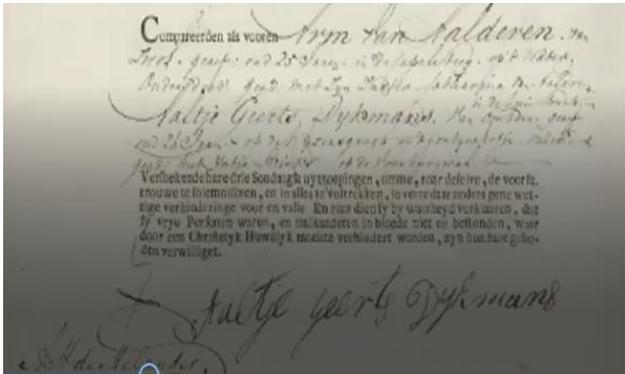
There were other examples of records that were discussed including taxes which gives a glimpse of their financial status.

The *Escemoth* Books included the decisions of the seven-member governing board of the community - the *Mahamad*. These are not minutes but are only decisions which have the signatures of all the governing board members, and therefore the reasons the cases are not included. The decisions listed in the *Escemoth* Books are genealogical gold as they include tax lists, list of poor, copies of wills, convictions (herems) and more. The appointments of positions include those to many organizations, as well as banks providing interest free loans to the poor and more. Pre-1728 are all in one book, after 1728 they are in separate books.



Signatures of the Community

Civil registers – *Ondertrouwregisters* were not made by the Jewish Community such as banns. A Marriage Bann announcement of someone who will get married must be made between 14 days and a year before the marriage. Marriage banns began in 1565 and lists the birth place and the witness for the bride and the witness for the groom.



Originally, the Magistrate of Amsterdam denied Jews their own burials. In 1602, in Groet, they created their own cemetery. The request to bury their dead in Amsterdam was denied in 1606 and 1608. In 1614 two of the synagogues purchased land together for a cemetery-Beth Haim. By 1634 those buried in Groet were moved to the new cemetery. The cemetery is still active and undergoing renovations. Sephardi Jews are buried like a sarcophagus laying down.

There is a mapping of the cemetery in 1880's over 6,000 graves mapped

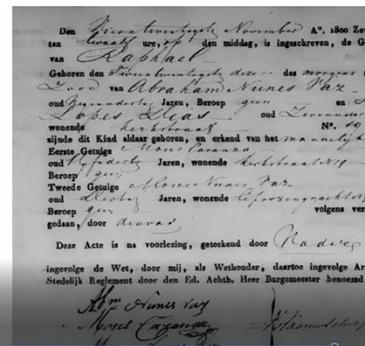


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There are also records from Beth Haim cards with birth, marriage and death information and more. The cards were created using the records from the Amsterdam Archives and are available for free on <https://www.dutchjewry.org/>

In 1811 records changed to civil records due to becoming part of the Napoleon Empire in 1810 which required birth, marriage and death records and two copies stored separately.

Birth Records



Ross 01032021

Population registers (*Bevolkingregister*) are separate from census records and began on January 1, 1850. Women did not take their married name and were registered under their maiden name. The years were limited for the registers: 1851-1863 and 1874-1893. The registers are incomplete because of bombing during World War II. In 1939, the government adopted personal cards. The Nazi's used the *Bevolkingregister* to issue identity cards. Amsterdam was hit very hard during the war. The Nazi's used these cards to determine the amount of "Jewish" a person had to determine who was ok and who was not. Resistance groups tried to create fake identity cards but due to the *Bevolkingregister* the Nazi's knew who was Jewish. In March 27, 1943 an operation was underway when 16 members dressed as German soldiers, drugged the guards who

were protecting the archives. They bombed it and destroyed a portion of the registers. Thirteen of the 16 were arrested and killed.

Availability of Records

Since December 30, 2016 the Netherland's Law of Reuse of Government Information states the records must be free if they are online. The Amsterdam City Archives has both the Portuguees-Israëlietsche Gemeente (PIC) and the Portuguees-Israëlitische Gemeente Curaçao. They also have index sections for many of the above.

The civil records are available Gemeente Amsterdam Stadsarchif Inventory 5009 and are also available at FamilySearch.org and WieWasWie.nl and OpenArch.nl.

Jarrett answered a number of questions. JGSCV member Jane Lovitts is an 8th cousin of Jarrett through his Dutch Ashkenazi side.



Stephen asked why records were kept in Portuguese and not Ladino. Jarrett explained Ladino focused on Eastern Sephardim. The Dutch Jewish Community never dealt with Ladino. Sally Goodman asked about her late husband who has Nuñes in his family and the background of the Nuñes name. Jarrett explained the name means son of Nuno and that is an adopted name, that could have come before the Inquisition or after they arrived in Amsterdam. There were many accolades for the excellent presentation.

Jarrett's contact information:



Jarrett@dnalabinternational.com or
GeneaVlogger@gmail.com

Jarrett invites you to view his YouTube video:
www.youtube.com/GeneaVlogger.

Jarrett Ross began researching his own family history in 2009 while finishing his undergraduate degree at the University of Pittsburgh. Since then he has built his own personal tree with over 7,000 people, successfully connected with thousands of relatives all over the world and has helped build hundreds of trees for people of varying ancestral backgrounds. Jarrett has found multiple specialties including Genetic Genealogy, Sephardic Jewish research with an emphasis on the Portuguese Jewish Community of Amsterdam, the Jewish Agricultural Societies of Southern New Jersey, Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry in Ukraine, and American Jewish history. Jarrett writes a blog called "Sephardic Genealogy" and he also has a vlog called "GeneaVlogger" where he talks about his research, gives genealogy tips, interviews other genealogists and shows different aspects of working in genealogy. Jarrett currently works as the lead forensic genealogist at DNA Labs International. He also serves on the board of directors of the IAJGS.

JGSCV Updates

CORRECTION: Last month's *Venturing Into Our Past* incorrectly identified the author of the article commemorating the 75th anniversary of the end of WW II appearing on page 13. The correct spelling of the name of the author who wrote about her dad Seymour Waterman, is Carrie **Glicksteen** (not Glickstein). Apologies for the error. Please see Carrie's postscript this month on page 14.

Until further notice all JGSCV meetings will be held virtually using Zoom. (Please see page 16 for Future Meetings.) When we return to in person meetings co-sponsored by our host Temple Adat Elohim, guests will again be welcome at no charge. However at this time, we ask that you respect the 'members only' rule for these Zoom meetings. And, speaking of Zoom, please see Hal Bookbinder's latest *Practicing Safe Computing* article on "Using Zoom to Create a Personal Video Message".

JGSCV is a participant in Ralph's and Food for Less Community Awards. If you are already registered you need not reregister this year. If you are already registered and have JGSCV as your charity of choice there is nothing more to do. If you are not yet registered please go to our website to learn how to participate: <https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/Ralphs%20Community%20Contribution%20Program.pdf>



The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc across the US and the world. Let's not forget our local community and our own JGSCV members. Many voices have offered generic 'how to help others' but here are some things we can do for our JGSCV family.

1. Check on each other. We're not all friends, but for those who are, just call to re-connect. If you didn't before, you now know how to Zoom a video call.
2. Make a delivery. The demographics of our group is a bit (ahem) grayer than most. Maybe there is someone who needs groceries (to be left at the door). Most pharmacies now deliver, but in case they're backlogged, pick up that prescription.
3. Share something good. With so much bad news circulating, offer up something good: a new grandchild, a delicious, simple recipe, directions for a drive with beautiful views.
4. Offer to listen. Sometimes, that's all someone needs.
5. If you are someone who would benefit from any of these suggestions but is embarrassed to ask, remember, these are your friends. They would all be upset, if you didn't let them know.



Practicing Safe Computing #63: “Using Zoom to Create a Personal Video Message”

By Hal Bookbinder (Number 63 in a series)



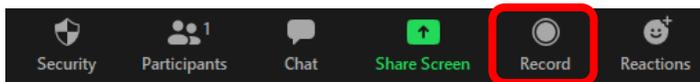
Recently I was invited to create a short video tribute for a cousin who had passed away. The funeral home would be live-streaming the service. I used Zoom to create a 90-second tribute to be shared at the memorial service.

You have certainly seen the “Record” button on the bottom of the screen when in a Zoom session. If you clicked on it, you were likely informed that only the host can record. You can host your own one-person Zoom session to create a self-video.

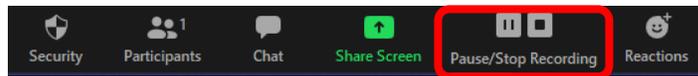
Sharing the video will generally require you to upload to the cloud, say to a [Dropbox](#) folder and provide a link to the person or persons with whom you would like to share. These video files are typically too large to email. My 90-second video is 22 MB.

To get started, go to the <https://Zoom.us> website. If you do not have a Zoom account you will need to create one. Click on “SIGN UP, IT’S FREE”. If you have a Zoom account, log in. Now, hover over “HOST A MEETING” in the upper right corner of the screen. Select “With Video On”. Click “Open Zoom Meetings” in the dialog box that will appear at the top center of the screen. If the dialog box fails to show, click “Launch Meeting” in the center of the screen.

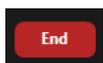
Select “Join with Computer Audio” and you are in a Zoom session alone. Bring your cursor to the bottom of the screen, and a row of Zoom icons will appear including “Record.” Click it to start recording and it will change to a “Pause/Stop Recording” set of



icons. Proceed to record your video, selecting “Stop Recording” when done.



Once you click on “Stop Recording”, a message will be displayed in the upper-right corner of the screen letting you know that an MP4 will be created “when the meeting ends.” To record another video, select “Record” again. You can do this as many times as you like. So, if you are dissatisfied with a recording in progress, you can quickly terminate it and start over.



When you are finished, bring your cursor to the bottom of the screen to reveal the Zoom icons again and click on the “End” button, selecting “End meeting for all.” A pop up will alert you that “Recording is in Progress.” Zoom is now creating the MP4 video file(s). Once it completes, you will be given the option of selecting a folder for the video(s). If you just press the “enter” key and it will default to the Documents folder, Zoom subfolder.

In the destination folder you will find two files for each time you started and stopped recording, an M4A audio file and an MP4 audio/video file. A 90-second MP4 will take a couple of minutes for Zoom to build. A 45-minute video could take 30 minutes. Be patient. For more help see <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362473-Local-recording>.

This is the sixty third in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website www.jgscv.org under Noteworthy.

Seymour Waterman: WWII Story Postscript

Editor's Note: Last month's 'Venturing Into Our Past' included the story of Seymour Waterman, Storekeeper, Second Class, U.S. Navy, on page 13 as part of our series commemorating the end of World War II. His story was written by his daughter Carrie Glicksteen. Soon after publication, sadly Mr. Waterman passed. Carrie offers this coda to that story.



By Carrie Glicksteen

With a twinkle in his eye, Dad would always warn his doctors, "Remember, I'm a devout coward". He was not. He met every challenge in life with dignity and generosity, always putting the needs of others first.

It was a poignant juxtaposition to have Dad's WWII story published the same month we lost him. Writing the story was a work of love. It helped me grow closer to him. I am grateful I was able to share his story with him. It was clear he enjoyed reading it.

My plan is to move the story to video, hoping to engage my kids and future family to understand this period of my Dad's life, the War, and world at that time. Writing the story propelled me to say "yes" to granting Dad military honors at his burial, a very moving ceremony, and the final chapter of Seymour Waterman's story.



Michael Tobias Honored with OBE

Michael Tobias, co-founder and board member of JRI-Poland and Vice President of JGS of Great Britain, was awarded the Order of the British Empire for his service to the Jewish community. As customary, the announcement was made as part of the New Year Honours 2021 List in the United Kingdom.

Among his genealogical accomplishments is helping to create the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims in 2001. Michael developed a computerized system to match original documents with global claimants to respond to the requirement of German insurance companies that claimants prove holocaust victims held insurance policies.

The Order of the British Empire (OBE) recognizes public service beyond civil service, among other areas. In 2021 only 250 individuals received an OBE.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson said, "In a year when so many have made sacrifices to protect . . . and save people's lives, the outstanding efforts of those receiving honours today are a welcome reminder of the strength of human spirit, and of what can be achieved through courage and compassion."

"The 2021 New Year Honours offer us an opportunity to salute their dedication and recognize many who have gone above and beyond in their contribution to our country." For more, read the story in the UK's "Barrhead News": <https://www.barrheadnews.com/news/18998365.michael-tobias-queen-honours-east-renfrewshire-man-obe-services-jewish-community/>

Genealogy Odds and Ends

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) has made digital access to the full sound recordings to the public of the War Crimes Proceedings of the International Military Tribunal known as the Nuremberg Trials for the 75th Anniversary of the trials. The collection consists of 1,942 gramophone discs holding 775 hours of hearings and 37 reels of film used as evidence in the trials. The audio content of the entire proceedings can be found here: https://collections.ushmm.org/search/?utf8=%E2%9C%93&sort=rg_number_sort+asc&q=rg-91+set+a+nuremberg&search_field=all_fields

The video is also available and can be found here: https://collections.ushmm.org/search/?q=rg-60+%22international+court+of+justice%22+%22memorial+de+la+shoah%22&search_field=all_fields&sort=rg_number_sort+asc

Already thinking of the 2021 IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia August 2-5 but have health and safety concerns? The Conference's lead co-chair, Judi Gyory Missel of Arizona has issued the following statement with assurances for participants:

"After the success of the all-virtual 2020 Conference, some sessions will again be offered virtually in 2021. While we anticipate an in-person conference, contingency plans are in place for any eventuality. The Conference is over six months away and we are working with local health guidelines to continue evaluating our path. The health and safety of all registrants, sponsors, exhibitors, and staff is deeply important, and we appreciate your patience as we make the best determination for this conference."

JOWBR announced the addition of approximately 50,000 new records. JOWBR, JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry, also added 50,000 new photos (not paired with the new burial records) as well as adding or updating 651 cemeteries. JOWBR now holds 3.86 million records with 806,000 photos from more than 9,000 cemeteries or cemetery sections across 135 countries. Visit www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/.



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In the US for example, additions include approximately 32,000 new records and 33,400 photos for 172 new and 41 updated cemeteries including Connecticut, New York, Texas and Massachusetts. Also, records and photos have been added to the Lasky Collection including the following cemeteries: Mt. Carmel, Mt. Lebanon, Mt. Zion, United Hebrew and Wellwood. For more information on Mr. Lasky's current work please visit the Museum of Family History website: www.museumoffamilyhistory.com.

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JGSCV MEMBERS' FAMILY STORIES



By Allan Linderman (An edited letter and photo of the cookies sent to my family on the occasion of what would have been my moms 100th birthday, Oct. 27, 2020)

That's mom's youthful picture above. While she left us much too soon, she managed to leave quite a legacy in addition to some very distinctive DNA.

Kay Sonnenreich was born at home to Bertha and Sam Sonnenreich, eastern European immigrants who met and married in New York City. Kay, who never liked her given name of Kate, was the fourth of 7 children. Her mother died 2 weeks before her 10th birthday and she was called upon to watch over her three younger siblings. The few toys they owned were for the younger kids. When she turned 16, like her older sisters, she began to work as a sewing machine operator in New York City's garment center, to help her father pay the rent.

Mom married my father 2 days after her 20th birthday and together they managed to live a life common for first generation Americans: working hard at blue collar jobs to make a better life with more opportunity for their children. I know how much she wished she didn't have to work. Women in NY's sweatshops toiled under some of the most challenging working conditions. The changing rooms were filthy. The workspace was dirty. The bosses were mean and they feared their union. But mom took the subway from the Bronx to the garment center every day until she retired at age 62.

I learned later that mom was quite the tomboy growing up. And tough. She challenged more than one person to step outside and settle a disagreement with physical battle. She could make one of those really loud whistles with 2 fingers in her mouth. She defended her family fiercely. All of her brothers and sisters, nieces and nephews were her family.

My mother didn't remember her mother and surely never knew a grandmother. But, she so embraced being a grandmother herself that tough tomboy melted when she saw her grandchildren. Marcy got everything my mom wanted when she was a little girl. Grandma bought her first granddaughter a red coat that my mom must have dreamed about as a child. She told my dad, "It costs \$50 but Marcy has to have that". Marcy was 3 at the time. There's more, of course but you'll have to call me directly to learn about the battery powered motorcycle.

There is good news and bad news about her missing Evan's competitive sports career. The bad news of course, is that she would have LOVED it! She loved sports and loved to watch her family play. The good news is that she spared us the embarrassment of sitting with her when she yelled at umpires or referees who had the bad judgement to make calls against Evan or his team. On second thought, I would give anything if only that could have happened.

Mom didn't have hobbies. There was no time or money for that. But, she loved to gamble. She played the nickel slot machines the few times she went to Las Vegas or Atlantic City. And, she played Bingo in the Bronx almost every Saturday with her oldest sister Frieda. Sometimes they'd win a little; sometimes they'd lose. It wasn't a lot of money either way but they truly looked forward to it each week. When they came home, they knew I'd ask how they did and I'd hear the same answer each week, "One number! I missed the jackpot by one number!"

Like many people of her era and background, food was a reward. Growing up, there wasn't always enough for everyone, so sweets were a sign of success and reward. Mom liked black & white cookies and charlotte russe cakes. More important, she liked to give either of those things to one of her children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews. We eventually gave up asking her to stop feeding our dog!

So, to celebrate my mom's 100th birthday, please enjoy the enclosed box of cookies which represent some of the things she liked so much. I know she would love for you to have some. And, maybe that Bingo cookie will be the jackpot winner.



Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through October 2021



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

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, February 14th 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom

Marian Smith will present *Researching USCIS Records*

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
Feb. 14	Marian Smith	Researching USCIS Records
Mar. 7	Amy Wachs	Food of Eastern Europe Family
Apr. 11	Alexander Avram	Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims and Pages of Testimony
May 2	Stanley Diamond	Next JRI-Poland
June 6	TBA	TBA

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
July 11	TBA	TBA
Aug. 15	TBA	TBA
No meeting to observe High Holidays		
Oct. 3	TBA	TBA
Nov. 7	TBA	TBA

Until further notice, all future meetings will be held on Sunday from 1:30-3:30 PM

Red Cross Transfer Allows Personal Cards to be Displayed



The Netherlands branch of the Red Cross has transferred to the Jewish Cultural Quarter of Amsterdam ownership of nearly 160,000 holocaust era personal cards of Dutch Jews that are slated to be displayed to the public for the first time. The Jewish Cultural Quarter of Amsterdam comprises several Jewish institutions including the National Holocaust Museum of the Netherlands. Currently under re-construction, the Museum is scheduled to reopen in the fall of 2022.

The entire index of the Jewish Council of Amsterdam — a body that the Nazis set up to have Jews oversee preparations for the extermination of their own minority throughout the Netherlands — is among the most comprehensive and best-kept registries of its kind anywhere in Europe. It is unusual in that it includes references to status and personal traits, reflecting how this registry, unlike most other Nazi lists, was made by for Jews by Jews.

In more than 75% of the cards, the Red Cross after World War II added the date of deportation in red ink — a rare tangible reminder of how in the Netherlands, the Nazis achieved their highest death rate anywhere in occupied Western Europe. Of about 110,000 Jews deported, only a few thousand survived.

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.)