

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

April 2021

Volume 16 Issue 7

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

We hope you are well and safe and practicing safe distancing and those who are eligible getting their vaccinations!

JGSCV had a mouth-watering, memory-filled excursion with Amy Wachs talking on *Our Eastern European Roots: We Are What Our Ancestors Ate*. It was an excellent presentation. To read the highlights of the program see page 5.

One of the actions that came out of this stimulating presentation, was the idea to create a JGSCV cookbook of our ancestors' recipes. Andrea Massion is the coordinator of this project and more information is on page 9. We hope many of you will participate. Remember these are our ancestors' recipes not our own recipes! You can contact Andrea at Andrea@jgscv.org.

The pre-meeting "Ask the Experts" was facilitated by Marion Werle. 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.

Diane Wainwood is relinquishing her position as Secretary. Our newest board member, Debby Wenkart is assuming the Secretary role effective now. Diane will remain active on the board.

Allan Linderman, our wonderful, talented newsletter editor, gave the board 6-months' notice earlier this month. Allan has served as newsletter editor for 12 years. The newsletter is a critical instrument of our society and this is a position we would like to fill sooner so that they can work with Allan during the transition period. Anyone who is interested in becoming the editor please contact me at: president@jgscv.org

(Cont'd next page)



Amy Wachs JGSCV's February Zoom speaker on 'We Are What Our Ancestors Ate'

NEXT MEETING

Sunday April 11th 1:30-3:30 PM

Members only ZOOM!

Accessing Yad Vashem's Database, Pages of Testimony and Future Plans



Alexander Avram is Director of the Hall of Names and the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names and Interim Director of the Archives. He has led the names computerization project for 30 years and is an expert consultant at international commissions on Holocaust victims' assets.

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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 want to continue the Family Stories that began last July after our June speaker Joan Adler suggested we write anything as a memory. We have not received any Family Stories for this issue of the newsletter. Please send your articles for the future to Allan Linderman, at newslettereditor@jgscv.org and to me at president@jgscv.org. 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, Allan is eager to help you.

JGSCV is a membership organization and we cherish every member. As of writing this letter we are at 143 dues-paid members for 2021 an 87% renewal. According to our bylaws, if a member's dues are in arrears for three months or more, they shall be dropped from membership in the society after given due notice. For those of you who did not renew by March 31 you will be dropped from our membership. Members in arrears have all received an email from me and a phone call, although some I could only leave a voice mail. If you have not returned the call and did not in your dues then you will be dropped. If you rejoin later you will be welcomed! There are members-only benefits such as our monthly Zoom program calls with outstanding speakers, my twice a month emails with genealogically-relevant items of interest, information about webinars, special offers etc. You can easily join or re-join using the Membership/renewal forms on our website at: <https://jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf> and on page 16 of this newsletter.

While we rely on your dues to operate, we also need additional revenue to keep up with what we do. There are two opportunities 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.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, "Looking Your Best While on Zoom" on page 10.

The IAJGS 41st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy on August 2-5, 2021 will be all virtual. More information will be available soon. Registration is \$250. Read more here on page 11 and visit the website: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/index.cfm>

JGSCV is still operating on the COVID-19 restrictions and our April 11 meeting will be by Zoom with our speaker Alexander Avram, Director of the Hall of Names and the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names and Interim Director of the Archives speaking on "Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims Names and Pages of Testimony"

Have a Happy Passover and for our non-Jewish members and friends, have a Happy Easter.

Stay well and safe!

Jan Meisels Allen





1950 U.S. Census Countdown

The release date for the 1950 U.S. census is April 22, 2022, and if you attended Joel Weintraub's lecture for the JGSCV before COVID, he has already been working on it with Steve Morse. In his colorful article, Steve writes "The only way to access the census will be by knowing the ED (*Enumeration District*) and the easiest way to determine the ED will be by using the tools on the One-Step website (<http://stevemorse.org>). There is no charge for using the One-Step tools. However, you might be better off ... obtaining your EDs from the One-Step site now." <https://stevemorse.org/census/1950census.htm>. See more on Page 12.

Go, Vilnius!

2020 was the Year of the Vilna Gaon and the History of the Jews of Lithuania. Vilnius has a website packed full of videos, photos and history of the Jews, as well as links to Jewish sites, signage and museums that reflect the Jewish community and the Vilna Gaon, who was the 18th century's Rebbe Elijah ben Solomon Zalman. Up for a virtual visit? Enjoy the journey at <https://www.govilnius.lt/visit-vilnius/latest-tips/the-year-of-the-vilna-gaon>

A Genealogy Cruise on the Queen Mary 2

Some familiar names will be present when Ancestry and Cunard (the cruise line) host "A Journey of Genealogy" this June 2021. Cunard has a new set of health protocols and a "healthy" crew. In addition, this is the *world's last remaining ocean liner* per the website. The speakers include Ancestry mavens Crista Cowan and Janette Silverman and others. What about 2022? <https://www.cunard.com/en-us/cruise-types/event-cruises/journey-of-genealogy-2021>. JGSCV is not endorsing the cruise but sharing information.

German-Jewish Resources

The Leo Baeck Institute's Photograph Collection contains over 25,000 photographs documenting the history of German-speaking Jewish communities, families and businesses from all over the world. There is also a newspaper archive online.

<https://www.lbi.org/collections/photograph-collection/>

And other resources

In addition, the Leo Baeck Institute is one of five partners that support the [Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute](#) founded in 2007. There are a series of guides for numerous countries and locations highlighting "resources found only at the Center: <https://libguides.cjh.org/GenealogyResearchGuides>



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

Zoom Meeting: Sunday, April 11, 2021 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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

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

THE PROGRAM

Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, the Pages of Testimony and Plans for the Future

Yad Vashem, has collected and recorded the names and biographical details of millions of victims of systematic anti-Jewish persecution during the Holocaust (Shoah) period. More than 4.8 million of the near six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices are commemorated here. This database includes information regarding victims of the Shoah: those who were murdered, many whose fate has yet to be determined as well as some who survived. This presentation will describe the databases currently in progress.

Speaker: Alexander Avram, Director of the Hall of Names and the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names and Interim Director of the Archives. A philologist by formation (M.A. from U. of Bucharest, M.A. from Hebrew U), with a PhD. in the History of the Jewish People from Bar Ilan U, Israel. He works with the Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony Collection since 1984. Avram heads the names computerization project since 1991, coordinates Personal and Geographic Names authority lists since 1995. He has participated to many international conferences on names databases, Jewish names and Jewish genealogy, representing Yad Vashem as an expert consultant at international commissions on Holocaust victims' assets.



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 *Our Eastern European Roots: We Are What Our Ancestors Ate*

By Jan Meisels Allen and Amy Wachs

On March 7, JGSCV members were treated to a culinary delight by Amy Wachs, who reviewed how family recipes can reveal our ancestors' places of origin. Wachs focused her presentation on Ashkenazi Jewish communities, especially the world of the shtetls in the Russian Pale and Galicia. The foods our ancestors ate in their shtetls can offer clues to help you learn more about your family history. It was a mouth-watering presentation that brought back memories for many of our members of the foods their parents and grandparents cooked.

Wachs shared her personal experiences from having lived in several Eastern European countries and travelling extensively throughout the region. Her first trip to Eastern Europe was in 1991 as Communism was collapsing. She later went to live in Riga, Latvia, where she taught law as a Fulbright Scholar. Later she lived in Moldova where she taught law through the Fulbright program. She also lived in Lithuania, and has made several trips to Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Romania, Bulgaria, and other Eastern European countries.

Historical perspective

Jews migrated east to Poland in the Middle Ages from German lands to escape persecution and disease. Examples of foods they brought with them include Challah and cholent. Cholent is a Jewish Sabbath dish of slowly baked meat and vegetables, prepared on a Friday and cooked overnight. They would take their pots of cholent on Friday to the baker for cooking, he would cook the food until mid-day on Shabbat. Cholent

is usually simmered overnight for 12 hours or more, and eaten for lunch on Shabbat.

The Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Principality of Lithuania encompassed most of the area comprising Eastern Europe in about 1560, as shown on the map. The two areas joined in 1569, forming the Poland-Lithuania Commonwealth. Jews migrated east, settling in market towns that developed into shtetls. By the 18th century the Poland-Lithuania Commonwealth had the largest Jewish population in the world.



Source: *Map, Europe about 1560, courtesy of Perry-Castaneda Library Map Collection, University of Texas Libraries;*

https://legacy.lib.utexas.edu/maps/historical/shepherd/europe_1560.jpg

Poland was partitioned by the end of the 18th century, when the neighboring Prussian, Austrian, and Russian Empires annexed its territory. The partition of the Poland-Lithuania Commonwealth was accomplished in three phases and completed in 1795. Following the partition, the Poland-Lithuania Commonwealth ceased to exist.

The Commonwealth's eastern lands went to Russia, the westernmost part was annexed by Prussia and the southwestern parts were annexed by Austria—an area then known as Galicia. Today, Galicia is located in southeastern Poland and western Ukraine.

The annexation from the partition gave Russia a large Jewish population. To deal with their newly acquired large Jewish population, Russia created the Pale of Settlement. The Pale of Settlement was the western region of Imperial Russia with varying borders that existed from 1791 to 1917 in which permanent residency by Jews was allowed and beyond which Jewish residency, permanent or temporary, was mostly forbidden. Life was severe for the Jews due to living conditions and taxes.

What Did Our Ancestors Eat in these Shtetls? And Why?

Life in the shtetls was not comfortable—widespread poverty, harsh weather conditions (especially in the northern areas), and famine were frequent. Among the reasons our ancestors emigrated from Eastern Europe were famine, poverty and persecution.

What our ancestors ate helps us understand their lives and where they lived. Climate, topography and soil suitability determined what could be grown, which influenced what they ate. Keeping a Kosher diet also influenced what they ate. Wachs then explained and compared Jewish diets in regions of Eastern Europe, beginning with the Litvak areas.

Litvaks

The Litvaks lived in the northern region of the Russian Pale. The northern area of the Pale

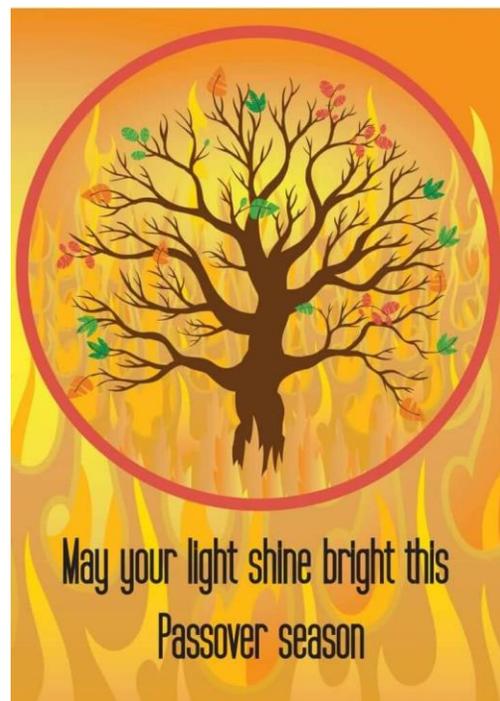
had a cold climate and less fertile soil, limiting our ancestors to foods that could be grown in those conditions. Examples of dietary staples included buckwheat (kasha) and cabbage.

Following the partition, the Litvaks came under Russian administration. By the 19th century the diet of Litvak Jews had evolved due to economic conditions as well as introduction to different foods. Staples of the Litvak Jews living under Russian influence included: black bread; potatoes; cabbage and root vegetables such as onions and sour beets.

Jews also ate fish, including herring, carp, and pike. Meat was a luxury in the northern shtetls and Kosher meat was expensive. The Russians taxed Kosher meat. The surviving tax records can be an excellent genealogical source of information. Wachs found box tax records of her ancestors, translated by the LitvakSIG. Translations of Litvak tax records can be found on LitvakSIG's All Lithuania Database, which can be accessed for free through LitvakSIG

(www.litvaksig.org) or JewishGen (<https://www.jewishgen.org/>)

See next page for an example of a Russian meat tax record for a Lithuanian shtetl.



Списокъ
Списокъ орудъ, произведенныхъ въ южной
Шатманской губернской области.

Имя, количество и описаніе каждой единицы.	Классъ паша или друг.	Вѣста произвѣдѣн или	Классъ или описание.
Селедъ Абуевскій Селедъ	6.	Бухаринъ	Бухаринъ
Морской Копанъ Кибисскій Селедъ	7.	Морской	Морской
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Бухаринъ Кибисскій Селедъ	5.	Морской	Морской
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Морской Копанъ Кибисскій Селедъ	3.	Морской	Бухаринъ
Морской Копанъ Кибисскій Селедъ	12.	Кибисскій	Морской
Морской Копанъ Кибисскій Селедъ	9.	Кибисскій	Кибисскій
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Source: 1892 Seta box tax list in the original Cyrillic, JewishGen KehilaLinks; <https://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/seta/pages/1892seta.htm>

The discussion then turned to southern areas of the Pale.

Moldova

Moldova generally encompasses the area formerly known as Bessarabia. Bessarabia was not part of the Poland-Lithuania Commonwealth before the partitions. The area was annexed by Russia in 1812 and became part of the Russian Pale in 1818.

Wachs lived in Moldova for several months and was able to compare the diets of Latvia and Lithuania in the north with Moldova in southeast Europe. While similar basic foods were eaten in both areas, the southern area also had its own distinctive foods. In Moldova, a dietary staple was mamaliga, made with corn meal.

The Ottoman Empire influenced the foods in the southern region. Pastrami is an example. The non-Jewish local population made their pastrami from pork, but due to Kashrut the Jews used spiced beef to create the pastrami we know today.

Moldova had very fertile land and it produced wine when it was part of the Soviet Union- as it does today. Vegetables and fruits were more plentiful than in the north.

Galicia

Galicia became part of the Austria-Hungary Empire after the partition of the Polish-Lithuania Commonwealth. Today, it is part of southeastern Poland and western Ukraine.

Traditional Ashkenazi foods were also eaten in Galicia, although their preparation and seasonings varied. Galitzianers tended to make their foods sweeter, while Litvak foods were more savory.

Examples compared and discussed included stuffed cabbage, kugel, chopped herring, tzimmes, and gefilte fish.

Regarding gefilte fish, the question of whether gefilte fish should be sweet or savory has been written about often. Articles refer to a designated Gefilte Fish Line. West of the line, the fish is sweeter; fish is more savory east of the line. Wachs explained her theories for the differences.



Source: Gefilte fish line map; npr.org

After concluding her presentation, Wachs entertained questions for about 40 minutes. There were several questions about the Russian tax on Kosher meat. Wachs explained that the LitvakSIG has translated many surviving tax

records held in the Lithuania state archives. Translations of those tax records can be found in the freely-searchable All Lithuania Database, which can be accessed through LitvakSIG's website (<https://www.litvaksig.org>) or JewishGen (<https://www.jewishgen.org>). LitvakSIG translates records held in Lithuania archives, so only has records for areas within the jurisdiction of the Lithuania state archives. That is, records for Ukrainian areas would be within the jurisdiction of Ukraine's archives. She is most familiar with LitvakSIG's work, and said she could not advise whether other nations' archives have surviving tax records, or whether any such surviving records have been translated by other organizations.

Wachs was asked about the use of sugar in Galicia, and whether there have been studies to see if Galitzianers were more prone to diabetes or more obese than in the areas east of the Gefilte Fish Line. Wachs agreed it would be fascinating to look at, but she was not familiar with any such studies.

There were questions about fillings for blintzes (also known as blinis in Russia), noodles, and types of dairy and cheeses available in different areas. Whether eggs in Passover Seders was Galitzianer or Litvak was also discussed.

Did non-Jews eat the same foods except for the Kosher considerations? The Kosher considerations were huge! Our ancestors took the local foods and figured out how to make them in a Kosher way.

Wachs suggested that traditional recipes can be found in older cookbooks or among grandmothers' recipes. She said she got the idea for this presentation after comparing her Litvak

grandmother's recipes and her Galitzianer former mother-in-law's family recipes.

Dan said his grandfather and great-uncle started the first Jewish deli in Bronx, New York about 1905. Wachs said the Jews brought their dietary customs with them. However, but when they started Delis they did not serve the food as it was in the old country. Wachs suggested looking at old NY newspapers might help document the deli.

Helene bought up about her grandmother's recipes and told a great story about her grandmother's Passover cake recipe. She made the Passover cake in front of her... They did not write it down- just watch- a pinch of this and pinch of that.

Andrea was appointed the point person to develop a JGSCV cook book by contacting the members—family recipes only please. Information will be in the newsletter. Helene will send out an email to the members with Andrea's JGSCV email andrea@jgscv.org for those who would like to participate in the JGSCV cook book.

There were many thank you's for an excellent and memory-provoking lecture!

Amy Wachs has been involved in Jewish genealogy for over 30 years. She is Past President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland and served on the Board of LitvakSIG, Inc. from 2014 through 2020. Amy is a retired attorney and university instructor. She taught law in Latvia as a Fulbright Scholar and in Moldova as a Fulbright Senior Specialist. Amy often speaks about Eastern Europe and Jewish genealogy topics at conferences and to local audiences

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JGSCV Updates



From your ancestors:

Handed-Down Recipes

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

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

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

Please include your name & contact info and email to

andrea@jgscv.org or president@jgscv.org

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

Your Board of Directors is determining interest in this project. Let us know what you think! Submit your delicious family recipe by the end of April 2021. Details will be forthcoming based on members’ input!

Practicing Safe Computing #65: “Looking your best while on Zoom”

By Hal Bookbinder (Number 65 in a series)



We have all observed others on Zoom sessions who look awful, their face is so dark you can hardly make them out, the camera is pointed at their chin or forehead, or way too much of their fingers are shown as they adjust the camera. Here are some tips to look your best while on Zoom.



Good lighting

- Your face should be well lit from the front. Try to arrange things so that the windows are in front of you rather than behind you. If you cannot do this, consider a blackout curtain.
- Set up lighting so that it brightens your face and does not cast shadows across it. Shadows on your face are unflattering and may make it difficult for others to see you.

Camera angle and distance

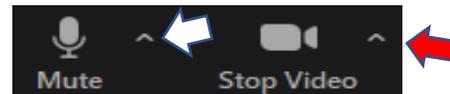
- Set up the camera so that it is slightly above your face. Angles from below are rarely flattering. If using a laptop or smartphone consider setting it on top of a few books.
- Select a distance from the camera so that your image is well sized. Avoid being so far away that you are lost in the furniture and background.

Avoid distractions

- Ask members of your household to avoid doing things behind you. As you are looking at the screen, you may not realize what is happening behind your back.
- Consider setting up a virtual background to minimize distractions. Not sure how? Refer to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/210707503>
- Mute your microphone when you are not speaking. We all know how annoying dogs barking, phones ringing, whispered side conversations and background noise can be.

Settings and technical considerations

- Adjust the video settings (➡) to improve your image. For ideas, see <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002595343> This is also where you can add or change a virtual background.
- Test the audio (🔊) to ensure that you can hear and be heard.
- Set a profile picture to display when you turn off your video. Not sure how? Refer to <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201363203> (Remember to sign into Zoom before clicking on the meeting invite so that your profile picture will be displayed when your video is turned off.)
- Ensure adequate bandwidth to avoid an unstable connection. Ask others in the house to put off streaming videos or otherwise eating up bandwidth while you are on Zoom.



And, never forget that you are on camera!

- Check yourself out in the mirror before the Zoom session.
- Display your own image while in the Zoom session and occasionally glance at it.
- Feeling drowsy? Turn off your video and mute your microphone.

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

Genealogy Odds and Ends

Arolsen
Archives

International Center
on Nazi Persecution

The Arolsen Archives and Auschwitz-Birkenau Museum collaborated for two years resulting in finding previously unknown identities of an estimated 4,000 camp inmates as well as information about 26,00 others. Currently, 300,000 out of 400,000 inmates estimated to be held at the camp identities are known. According to the museum's digital archive head, that apart from the camp's prisoners, another 905,00 people were brought there and exterminated upon arrival leaving no records.

The Arolsen Archives contain around 30 million documents, including the archives of the SS and the Gestapo and records from the concentration camps. Over the years, they have provided information to the families of former prisoners and they have only been opened up for academic research since 2007. A total of 120,000 documents relating to Auschwitz inmates have been digitized as part of the project.

Among the discoveries were many records of Hungarian Jews who were transported to Auschwitz after May 1944 and whose names do not appear in any other archive.

To read more see: <https://tinyurl.com/4u9htpna>



The IAJGS Board of Directors and Conference Committee have considered health concerns as well as current and potential travel restrictions and announced that the 2021 Conference will be All-Virtual. This fundamental change requires significant organizational adjustments to the program itself as well as registration fees.

- All currently registered individuals will be reimbursed for the fees paid but WILL NEED TO RE-REGISTER for the Virtual Conference.
- Registration Fee for the new, 2021 IAJGS Virtual Conference will be \$250.

Since last year's virtual conference was successful, expect this year's version to build on that success and apply learnings to create a more creative and compelling conference. Check back often for updates: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/index.cfm>

Only 1 More Year to the Release of the 1950 U.S. Census

By Dick Eastman (published March 25, 2021 <https://eogn.com/page-18080/10235334>)

The U.S. government will not release personally identifiable information about an individual to any other individual or agency until 72 years after it was collected for the decennial census. This "**72-Year Rule**" restricts access to decennial census records to all but the individual named on the record or their legal heir.

In 2002, I wrote about the release of the 1930 U.S. census. In 2012, I wrote about the release of the 1940 U.S. census. Guess what I will be writing about next year? That's right: the release of the 1950 U.S. census.



Both of the last two releases of census records created huge responses from genealogists and others. In fact, when the 1940 U.S. census was released online, the web servers were swamped. Response times slowed to a crawl and the census sites generated a lot of time-out errors. The problems continued for weeks until finally the demand by genealogists and others for online access to the records slowed. Eventually, the web sites returned to what is more-or-less normal operation.

Upon releasing the entire 1940 U.S. census online on April 2, 2012 (the first day it was legal to do so), a manager at <https://www.archives.com/> remarked, "We expected a flood. What we received was a tsunami!"

Yes, my prediction for the online releases of the 1950 U.S. census records is essentially the same as that of 9 years ago: overloaded web sites, very slow response times, and probably a lot of time-outs and other errors.

A lot of things have improved amongst web servers since 2012, especially in the area of cloud computing where it is possible to add dozens or even hundreds of servers to a single domain name on short notice. Maybe I am wrong, maybe the census records will be added smoothly and without frustrating thousands of genealogists. Maybe... but I doubt it.

There is no method of testing in advance a sudden increase in workload of thousands of web servers. Becoming prepared is simply a matter of making "best guesses" of how to handle the surge and then, at the appointed time, crossing your fingers.

The 1950 Census of the United States will be released for public inspection on Friday, April 1, 2022. Mark that date on your calendar.

The method of the release has not yet been announced. Will all the records be released online at once on April 1st? Or will the records be released over a period of several days or weeks? I don't believe that has been announced yet but I bet there are committee meetings going on now that are formulating those plans!



A few facts about the 1950 census:

- The 1950 U.S. census lists information about 151,325,798 residents (not always citizens) of the United States of America
- The 1950 census collected the following information from all respondents:
 - address
 - whether house is on a farm
 - name
 - relationship to head of household
 - race
 - sex
 - age
 - marital status
 - birthplace
 - if foreign born, whether naturalized
 - employment status
 - hours worked in week
 - occupation, industry and class of worker
- In addition, a sample of individuals were asked additional questions covering income, marital history, fertility, and other topics. Full documentation on the 1950 census, including census forms and a procedural history, is available from the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series.
- The original forms on paper that were used to enumerate all U.S. residents no longer exist. Those paper forms were destroyed after the forms were microfilmed.

Microfilming the 1950 census

- Housing information for individual households no longer exists in any format. That information was collected on the reverse (back) side of the population schedule (paper) forms, but that side of the form was not microfilmed in 1952.
- A (blank) 1950 U.S. Census Form may be seen on the Census Bureau's web site at: https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1950_population_questionnaire.pdf.

NOTE: you probably will need to increase the size of the image by using the RESIZE command in your web browser or PDF file viewing application. The exact instructions to do so will vary from one program to another.

Many of these programs will increase the image size by holding down the CONTROL key and then clicking on the Plus Sign (+) one or more times. Macintosh users should hold down the COMMAND key and then click on the Plus Sign (+) one or more times.



Reducing the size of the image may be accomplished on many programs by holding down the CONTROL (or COMMAND) key and then clicking on the Minus Sign (-) one or more times. However, your web browser or PDF file viewing application may use different keys. Check the program's instructions or Help File for the details.

- For the first time, 3 former U.S. Presidents and one current president will be listed in the records: William J. Clinton (born 19 August 1946 at Hope, Hempstead County, Arkansas), George W. Bush (born 6 July 1946 at New Haven, New Haven County, Connecticut), Donald J. Trump (born 14 June 1946 at Queens, Queens County, New York), and current President of the United States Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (born 20 November 1942 at Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania). **NOTE:** James Earl Carter Jr. (born October 1, 1924) **PROBABLY** is not listed, as he was in the U.S. Navy and serving on board a (submerged) submarine on the day the census was taken in 1950. This needs to be verified once the records are released to the public.
- Letter from Assistant Attorney General Robert G. Dixon, Jr., to General Counsel, General Services Administration, William G. Casselman II, Esq., concerning the origins of the "72-year Rule" and its evolution to 1973, June 14, 1973: <https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/grover-8-26-1952.pdf>
- The Census Bureau began use of the first non-military computer shortly after completing the 1950 enumeration. UNIVAC I (for Universal Automatic Computer), the first of a series, was delivered in 1951, and helped tabulate some of the statistics for the 1954 economic censuses. It weighed 16,000 pounds and used 5,000 vacuum tubes.

Dick Eastman has authored the Eastman Online Genealogy website for 24 years <https://eogn.com>

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through November 2021



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

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, April 11th 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom

Alexander Avram will present “Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victims and Pages of Testimony”

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
May 2	Stanley Diamond	Next JRI-Poland
June 6	Garri Regev	Researching Israeli Databases
July 11	Jeff Edelstein	JDC Archives as an Online Resource for Jewish Genealogy
August	No Meeting	IAJGS Conference

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
September	No meeting to observe High Holidays	
Oct. 3	TBA	TBA
Nov. 7	TBA	TBA
Dec 12	TBA	TBA

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

A Successful RootsTech

RootsTech 2021 was held 25-27 February 2021. If you missed RootsTech, or had more sessions to attend and the time ran out, don't fret! While RootsTech 2021 is over, their programs are available online for one year. There were over 1.2 million people worldwide who participated. It was the world's largest family history event. Over 35 languages were available.



There were 1,000 breakout sessions across eight different tracks which included: keynotes, connecting with family, finding ancestors, DNA, places, records and research, memories-stories, photos and video, traditions and heritage and website, tools and apps. This includes several Jewish-specific topics: Hebrew Naming and How to Read Hebrew Headstones with Nolan Altman, Landmanshaft: What Are They and How Can They Help My Research with Nolan Altman, Using the JewishGen Discussion Group and Jewish Genealogy Portal with Avraham Groll, Explore Jewish Genealogical Societies with Marlis Humphrey, Crypto-Jewish Genealogy Series, How I Found My Crypto-Jewish Grandmothers, and How Crypto-Jewish Genealogy is Different all with Genie Milgrom. Also, Mexican Genealogy: Jewish Origin of Three Families in Jalisco with Nefi Arenas Salazar and Shining a Light on Jewish Genealogy with Liba Casson-Nudell. The Soil from Which They Grew: The Alliance Colony with Jared Ross about the first Jewish agricultural colony in America (Vineland, NJ). Of course, there were sessions on different ethnicities, researching, documents and DNA and much more. The list of sessions is here:

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/RootsTech/2021/RootsTech-Connect-2021-Sessions-eng.pdf>

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.)