

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



JGSCV

May 2021

Volume 16 Issue 8

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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

JGSCV was privileged to have Alexander Avram, Yad Vashem Director of the Hall of Names and the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names and Interim Director of the Archives, speak to us about *Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, the Pages of Testimony, and Plans for the Future*. It was an excellent and informative presentation. We also owe Alex a special thank you for talking to us at 11:30 PM Israeli time! To read the highlights of the program see page 5.

I facilitated the pre-meeting "Ask the Experts". 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.

As I mentioned in last month's newsletter, our wonderful, talented newsletter editor, Allan Linderman gave the board 6-months' notice last month so it's now 5 months and no one has stepped up indicating an interest in taking this over. The newsletter is a critical instrument of our society. While Allan's departure is not for some months yet, we would like to fill the position sooner so that the new editor can work with Allan during the transition period. Anyone who is interested in becoming the editor please contact me at: president@jgscv.org.

We have removed all 2020 non-renewing dues members. They are always welcome to return. We are now at 146 members and would like more. Those dropped from membership will continue to receive the newsletter for a specified time period in the hopes they will return to our society. If you are one of those who did not renew and would like to now, a membership renewal form is on page 17.

(Cont'd next page)



Alexander Avram JGSCV's April Zoom speaker on 'Yad Vashem's Database, Pages of Testimony and Future'

NEXT MEETING

Sunday May 2nd 1:30-3:30 PM

Members only ZOOM!

The Next JRI-Poland



Stanley M. Diamond is the founder and Executive Director of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland. Mr. Diamond is the 2002 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award. He will review JRI-Poland's progress in reimagining how it serves the genealogical world as it transitions to its new membership program.

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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.

After considering all health concerns and travel restrictions, the IAJGS Board of Directors and the Conference Committee have decided that the 2021 IAJGS Conference will be an All-Virtual Conference. The IAJGS 41st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held virtually on August 1-5, 2021. If you have already registered—either as an attendee or spouse—your money will be refunded, and you will have to register again for the Virtual Conference. Registration for the 2021 IAJGS Virtual Conference will be \$250 and will open soon. To read more see: <https://s4.goeshow.com/iajgs/annual/2021/index.cfm>

Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, “Yet Another Data Breach!” on page 12. This is the 66th instalment of this interesting and informative series.

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 Barbara Finsten’s “My Parents’ Story” this month on page 13. Please send Allan newslettereditor@jgscv.org and me president@jgscv.org

your family story for next month’s issue. This is your society’s newsletter and we want as many of you as possible to write something to share in the newsletter. If you need assistance, Allan is eager to help you.

JGSCV is still operating on the COVID-19 restrictions and our May 2 meeting will be by Zoom. Our speaker Stanley Diamond, founder and CEO of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland will talk on *the Next JRI-Poland*. In reviewing its 25-year history and planning for the next 25, the leadership of JRI-Poland and the professional development team quickly realized that the organization needed to reimagine the way it serves the genealogical world. The development of the “NextGen” project is responding to their wishes. Stanley Diamond will review the progress to date and what to expect in the future. See meeting notice on page 4.

I have spoken with the executive director of Temple Adat Elohim stating we would like to return to face-face-meetings at their facility when it is appropriate to do so considering the pandemic. We will be advised as to when there will be a “calendar” meeting for booking the Social Hall when they feel it is appropriate to again host large groups in their facility. In the interim, we continue to meet monthly with excellent programs over Zoom which are restricted to only current JGSCV dues-paid members as a membership benefit.

Have a happy Mother’s Day and take time to remember a special “something” you did with your mother, grandmother, aunt, sister, etc. and write it down in your family tree notes.

Stay well and safe!

Jan Meisels Allen





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

Zoom Meeting: Sunday, May 2, 2021 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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

THE PROGRAM

The Next JRI-Poland

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

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) is an independent non-profit organization with its own administration and fundraising that began in 1995. It has indexed more than 6.2 million records from more than 600 towns over the past 25 years and maintains the largest online database of Jewish records of any country.

In reviewing its 25-year history and planning for the next 25, the leadership of JRI-Poland and the professional development team quickly realized that the organization needed to reimagine the way it serves the genealogical world. The response of the research community to the introduction of the JRI-Poland membership program and the flood of accompanying messages of support and appreciation underlined the responsibility we have to all those researching their roots in Poland. The development of the “NextGen” project is responding to their wishes. Stanley Diamond will review the progress to date and what to expect in the future.



Speaker: Stanley M. Diamond is the founder and Executive Director of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland. He is Founding President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal and the winner of the 2002 Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. He was awarded the Meritorious Service Medal of Canada for his work in establishing and directing JRI–Poland.

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

By Jan Meisels Allen

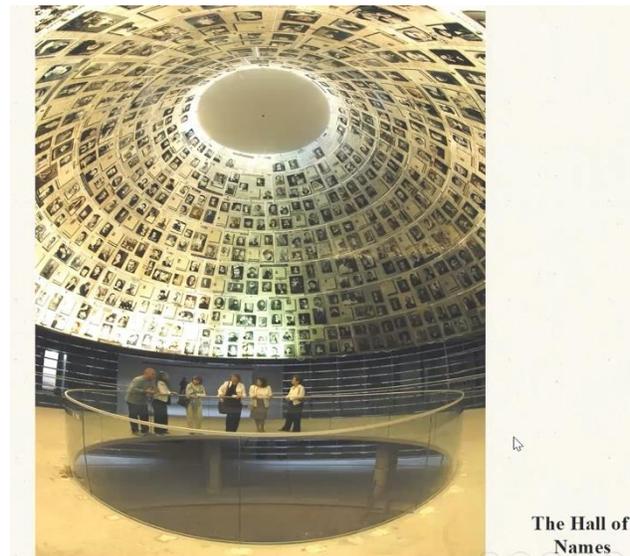
On April 11, JGSCV members were fortunate to have Alexander Avram, the Yad Vashem Director of the Hall of Names and the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names and Interim Director of the Archives discuss with us the collected and recorded names and biographical details of millions of victims of the systematic anti-Jewish persecution during the Holocaust (Shoah) period. More than 4.8 million of the nearly six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices are commemorated at Yad Vashem. 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.

History of Pages of Testimony Collection

Yad Vashem started to collect names of Holocaust victims since its inception. The names are collected from archival materials and from Pages of Testimony. The first campaign for collecting Pages of Testimony was during 1955-1957 which resulted in the collection of about 800,000 names, including children. Yad Vashem then did a microfilm project in 1984-1985 resulting in a backup copy of 1,037,000 Pages of Testimony. Between 1992-1998 about 470,000 Pages of Testimony were indexed. Then, in 1999 an intensive computerization project resulted in 1.1 million more Pages of Testimony that were scanned and indexed. In 1999-2000 an additional 400,000 names were collected from a renewed National Pages of Testimony Collection Campaign in Israel. Today, there are close to 2.8 million victims' names on Pages of Testimony in the Hall of Names. Children that were listed

under their parents' Pages of Testimony are included in the total.

The 1999 computerization project of Holocaust Victims' names related to Swiss Banks that were dormant, under the Volcker Commission, resulted in scanning 1.57 million Pages of Testimony and digitizing 1.1 million Pages of Testimony. These two projects were completed in 5 weeks and four months respectively! These Pages of Testimony joined the aforementioned 470,000 scanned Pages of Testimony. This was a labor-intensive effort with over 1,000 people involved which, including additional sources, resulted in a database of close to 2.5 million Holocaust victims' names. These names were transferred to the Independent Committee of Eminent Persons (ICEP) on dormant accounts of victims of Nazi persecution in Swiss Banks. This



resulted in about 54,000 victims and their

families able to lodge claims against the Swiss banks.

Also, in 1999, Yad Vashem launched a new campaign to collect Pages of Testimony and between April-May 1999, 147,000 Pages of Testimony were received. For the entire year of 1999 they received 350,000 Pages and by the end of 2000 they had a total of 400,000 Pages. In 2013, the Pages of Testimony were awarded the UNESCO Certificate in Memory of World International Register.

As of January, 2020, the Pages of Testimony collection had 2,780 million names and 190,000 photographs. Additionally, archival documentation and memorial lists have 2,988,293 names. These list victims by countries, ghetto inmates, camp inmates and memorial lists from Yizkor Books and scrolls. In all there are 5,768,178 name records documenting over 4.8 million individual victims murdered. A name record is the digital record created for any name taken from a single document out of a variety of sources—about 20 percent of the victims are documented in more than one source. All of these names are available on their online database: <https://yvng.yadvashem.org/index.html>. In addition, there are about two million name records documenting Jews whose final fate is still to be determined. In the names database there are about 700,000 name records of survivors. As of January, 2021, there are 265,000 records online. Restrictions required by personal privacy concerns were implemented.

The database is open since 2004 and those who visited Yad Vashem in 2020 are from 226 countries representing 32.8 percent from North America, 35.6 percent from Israel and 30 percent from Europe. Between 90-95 percent of the victims' names come from Central and Western Europe are now documented. The further east in Europe the more missing names due to less documentation after the Holocaust. Since the database opened there have been more than May 2021

175,005 inquiries to the Central Names Database.

While Yad Vashem is trying to obtain the names from all over, they are focusing in Poland, USSR,

The Central Database of Shoah Victims Names

Country (1938 borders)	Victims' names in 2005	Victims' names in 2020
Ukraine	20%	57%
Bielorussia	23%	54%
Poland	35%	68%
Hungary	40%	80%
Greece	35%	70%

Romania and Greece to try to make up for their lost names.

During 2020, Yad Vashem was able to add 67,355 additional names records, most of which are available on the online Names Database. As time goes by, it is more and more difficult to find untapped sources for additional names. Below is a chart of the increase in names Yad Vashem has been able to obtain between 2005 to 2020 by country.

Yad Vashem has made repeated trips to the field and worked with many Jewish organizations to fill out Pages of Testimony and submit other documents. They have also called upon Russian speaking Jewish communities' members in many countries. Yad Vashem has also taken names from memorial plaques in synagogues and from dedications in books. They also had a program of taking photographs of matzevot in Israel, as many matzevot in Israel bare the names of Holocaust victims. They had recovered the names from about 50 percent of the cemeteries in Israel, but stopped doing that as MyHeritage has a similar project covering all the cemeteries in Israel.

Yad Vashem works with 30 languages but they work only in three alphabets: Latin, Hebrew and Cyrillic. There are many phonetic and semantic variants for the names.

Cluster Process

Developed in the last years and online since January 2020 is a clustering process. As at least 20 percent of the victims in the database have records for more than one source, they put together the different records from different sources for those they believe are for the same person. These are not duplicates, which are perfect copies of the same document, but rather, multiple references for the same person.

From dispersed records to ...

Last Name	First Name	Birth Year	Place of Residence	Source	Fate based on this source
Stadler	Rudolf	1930	Kalush, Poland	List of persecuted persons	murdered
Stadler	Rudolf	1924	Ceske Budejovice, Czechoslovakia	Page of Testimony	murdered
Stadler	Rudolf	1924	Bohemisch Budweis, Czechoslovakia	List of camp inmates	not stated
Stadler	Rudolf	1924	Budweis, Czechoslovakia	List of camp inmates	not stated
Stadler	Rudolf	1924	Bohemisch Budweis, Czechoslovakia	List of camp inmates	not stated
Stadler	Rudolf	1924	Bohemisch Budweis, Czechoslovakia	List of camp inmates	murdered
Stadler	Rudolf			List of camp inmates	murdered
Stadler	Rudolf	1924		List of Theresienstadt camp inmates	murdered
Stadler	Rudolf			List of persecuted persons	murdered
Stadler	Rudolf	1924		List of persecuted persons	not stated
Stadler	Rudi		Czechoslovakia	List of persecuted persons	murdered

Cluster of Rudolf Stadler's Records

The example of Rudolph Stadler shows 11 different documents which are then divided into four different persons based on age and location. One of those persons has 9 documents and that is the cluster for that person. Caution has to be taken so that different persons are not mixed with others that appear with same name, etc.

In creating clusters, Yad Vashem does both a manual check and also a computer algorithm. The manual check resulted in 150,000 clusters by staff, external projects and public assistance. The algorithm generated 200,000 clusters for a total of 350,00 clusters, as well as many hundreds of thousands of potential clusters to be checked. Manual research can determine differences that

the computer may not be able to discern such as a typo or other such error. Five determinations mean the computer can do the checking. Less than five determinations require a human doing the checking of the name records.

Based on the names database the estimated number of clusters could be close to 900,000. From dispersed records they can get a specific person by using the cluster process. They may also learn missing family names and the fate of the person as different records in the cluster may

provide different information. Pages of Testimony completed by different persons for the same victim may provide additional information.

Yad Vashem Names Project relies on the public to send in cluster suggestions. A record of a person also has a related given name check which the computer can determine certain names and places are the same. Data elements in a cluster check include: last name, first name, date of birth, place of birth, permanent place, gender and the parents and spouses' names.

In February, 2020, they started handling public suggestions on clusters. As of now they are processing over 24,000 suggestions from the public.

As of January, 2021 the names database also contains Holocaust survivors. The names of survivors appear interspersed with the names of those murdered and are listed as such. There is a refined search to provide information on the person who is either a survivor and those who survived. There are also records for survivors that give information about the person, place of birth, date of birth, gender, and where they lived before the Holocaust. Information is based, among other sources, on the survivors and

refugee’s registration forms. Due to privacy restrictions, Yad Vashem is prohibited from showing the survivor registration form, current name and current address online. If someone is looking for a survivor they should send Yad Vashem the request and staff will try to get back to the family and see if they give permission for sharing their information.

Another category in the database is evacuation victims. The evacuee’s record gives information on the person, name gender, birthdate, father’s name etc.

Another new feature in the works is that they are looking at given names’ patterns comparing the name from cultural association, Ashkenazi translation, Sephardic translation and other translations:

Given names patterns – traditional and vernacular

Traditional name	Jewish cultural association	Ashkenazi translation	Sephardic translation	Other translations
Arie	Judah	Leib	(Aslan)	Leon
Dov	Isaschar	Ber		
Malka	Esther	Regina	Reina, Sultana	
Tova		Guta Gita	Buena	Dobra
Zahava		Golda	Oro	Aranka Zlata Aura
Zeev	Benjamin	Wolf		Farkas Volk Lupu
Zvi	Naphtali	Hirsh Hertz		Cerf Cerbu

There was an extensive question and answer period. This is a summary of the answers to some of the questions:

Alex encouraged us to fill out Pages of Testimony forms with new and additional information as we learn more about the victim. (See page 10 for a copy of the Page of Testimony). They are not permitted to update existing forms, but through the cluster process they can include the new information.

Andrea asked about the USSR database where there is no name of the person who completed the information in the county/municipality memorial book. There were some of the memorial books added and Alex explained they are working to add additional names from the books. Sometimes sources are from non-Jewish sources. Some of the sources were not denoting which people mentioned are Jewish so they make assumptions and that could result in some non-Jews being inadvertently included in the database.

Suzanne asked about suicides as multiple family members committed suicide rather than go to a camp. Alex said Yad Vashem has information on suicides. Looking at “status” in the documents it may be listed as suicide as one of the categories. The museum has information about 6,000-7,000 suicides. People committed suicide rather than being arrested or within in one of the camps or ghettos.

Debra Kay asked if Yad Vashem is working with the new museum in Bucharest, Romania. Alex responded that he is an advisor to the new museum in Bucharest.

Carol asked if names are organized by location, camps or occupation? The names are not organized in any way but can be retrieved by looking for example for specific place. At this time there is no way to search by profession, as it is difficult due to the array of languages. Unfortunately, they do not have the staff to do this but maybe in the future it is something that can be reviewed.

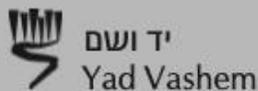
Shula wanted to know why privacy of submitters is treated differently than the privacy of survivors. Shula is concerned that now that the information is electronically available worldwide, the persons may be subject to “bad actors”.

The answer: there is more sensitivity about survivors. Information on the registers is listed that it is open to the public, many of them wishing to be located by potential relatives. If they don't want their information known they don't include their addresses etc. or they can ask this information to be blurred. One can search for a submitter but only by first and last names not by location. Shula also wanted to know if she can submit a photograph to a Page of Testimony. Alex said yes and the same for personal documents. They will open the cluster to add the photograph to existing name records. The photographs and documents can be added electronically but to the exact record so staff will know which document it is to be added to what record.

Judy asked if you have information that someone did not survive, for example from Bergen-Belsen, how can that information be submitted so the information is changed to reflect the "new" status. Alex said in the cluster, if they are certain it is the same person, they would list the person as murdered rather than survived.

Everyone thanked Alex for an outstanding presentation.

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), PhD. in the History of the Jewish People from Bar Ilan U, Israel. Since 1984 Avram has worked with the Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony Collection. Avram heads the names computerization project since 1991, coordinates the Personal and Geographic Names authority lists since 1995. He has participated in 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.



Let No Holocaust Victim Be Forgotten!



Since 1955, Yad Vashem has worked tirelessly to fulfill its mandate to preserve the memory of the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust by the Nazis and their collaborators. Through "Pages of Testimony" we record their names - the ultimate representation of their identities, thereby realizing our moral imperative to remember every single victim as a human being, and not merely a number.

To date, the names of four million Shoah victims have been documented in the online Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names (www.yadvashem.org).

The names and life stories of millions of victims remain unknown, and time is running out. We need your help to complete this historic task!

Instructions and the Page of Testimony form are on the following pages

Instructions for Submitting Pages of Testimony

Pages of Testimony commemorate Jews who were murdered DURING the Holocaust, or in the months following the liberation of the camps. You do not have to be a relative of the victim to complete a Page of Testimony for him or her.

How to fill out a Page of Testimony:

- Complete a **separate Page of Testimony** for EACH victim, including children.
- Please write in pen, in clear, block capital letters.
- Write the names of people and places as close to their original spelling as possible, in Latin characters.
- Additional forms may be photocopied, downloaded from the website or requested from Yad Vashem.

Information Fields:

- **Fields in bold are mandatory:** family name (or maiden name), first name, gender, permanent residence before the war (or place of birth), circumstances of death, relationship to the victim and signature.
- Please fill out all additional identifying information you may have (parent's name, etc.).
- If circumstances of death are unknown, write: "Holocaust".
- If the first name of the victim is unknown, then write "unknown" in the "victim's first name" field, and specify gender as well as parents' names.

Please Note:

- It is advisable to search the online Names Database before filling out a Page of Testimony. If the name of the victim you searched for does not appear in the database, or is included only as an archival listing, please submit a Page of Testimony to honor his/her memory. **If the name of the victim has already been recorded on a Page of Testimony there is no need to submit an additional page unless you have new information to add.**
- To fill out a Page of Testimony online, enter the Names Database and click "Submit Additional Names".
- If you possess a photograph of a victim please attach it to the Page of Testimony. Alternatively you may send a high-resolution scan of the image (up to 2 Megabytes).
- Sign and date each completed Page of Testimony and return the **original** signed copy, **unfolded**, to your local representative or mail to: Yad Vashem, Hall of Names, POB 3477, Jerusalem 91034, Israel.

- Victims of anti-Jewish persecution who survived the war may complete a Survivor Registration Form, available online.
- For a free community outreach guide and information on initiating a local names recovery campaign, please contact: names.outreach@yadvashem.org.il

www.yadvashem.org

YAD VASHEM

The Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance Authority www.yadvashem.org
Hall of Names, P.O.B. 3477, Jerusalem 91034



יד ושם
רשות הזיכרון לשואה ולגבורה
היכל השמות, ת.ד. 3477
ירושלים 91034
www.yadvashem.org

Page of Testimony דף עד

*Pages of Testimony commemorate the Jews who were murdered during the Holocaust – Shoah. Please submit a separate form for each victim, in block capitals. **Fields outlined in bold are mandatory.***

Victim's photo Please write victim's name on back. Do not glue.	<i>The Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Law 5713-1953 determines in section 2 that: "The task of Yad Vashem is to gather into the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives, who fought and rebelled against the Nazi enemy and his collaborators, and to perpetuate their names and those of the communities, organizations and institutions which were destroyed because they were Jewish".</i>		
	Victim's family name:	Maiden name:	
	Victim's first name (or nickname):	Previous / other family name:	
Title:	Gender: Male / Female	Date of birth:	Approx. age at death:
Place of birth (town, region, country):		Citizenship:	
First name of victim's father:		Family name of victim's father:	
First name of victim's mother:		Maiden name of victim's mother:	
Victim's family status and no. of children:	First name of victim's spouse:	Maiden name of victim's spouse:	
Permanent residence (town, region, country):		Street:	
Victim's profession:	Place of work:	Member of organization or movement:	
Places and activities during the war – arrest / deportation / ghetto / camp / death march / hiding / escape / resistance / combat (circle relevant):			
Residence during the war (town, region, country):		Street:	
Circumstances of death: prison / deportation / ghetto / camp / mass murder / death march / hiding / escape / resistance / combat or unknown - Shoah:			
Place of death (town, region, country):		Date of death:	
<i>I, the undersigned, hereby declare that this testimony is correct to the best of my knowledge. I understand that this Page of Testimony and all the information on it will be publicly accessible.</i>			
Submitter's first name:		Family name:	Previous / maiden name:
Street, house no., Apt.:		City	State / Zip code:
Country:	I am a Shoah survivor: Yes / No	My relationship to the victim (family / other):	
During the war I was in a camp / ghetto / forest / in hiding / had false papers / the resistance (circle relevant):			

Date: _____ Place: _____ Signature: _____

"ונתתי להם בביתי ובחומתי יד ושם... אשר לא יכרת" ישעיהו נ"ה

"... And I shall give them in My house and within My walls a memorial and a name ... that shall not be cut off" Isaiah 56:5



Practicing Safe Computing #66: “Yet Another Data Breach!”

By Hal Bookbinder (Number 66 in a series)



A huge security breach occurred in December 2020 and January 2021 that puts you at risk and you have probably never even heard of it! Accellion is a data security company whose software is used by thousands of universities, government agencies and private companies to safely transport their most critical and sensitive data.

Hackers discovered a flaw in the software and quietly copied massive amounts of data. They have since posted portions of it on the dark web, demanding payment to stop the release of more. The stolen data includes personal information like social security numbers, medical records and financial records.



Accellion quickly created patches and distributed them to organizations using its software. They encouraged clients to shift to its replacement product which they claim is more secure. They brought in outside experts who confirmed that all “known” flaws had been fixed. But the damage had already been done with the data in the hands of the hackers.

Organizations are slowly realizing the extent of the breach. On March 31, 2021, The University of California posted, “UC has learned that it, along with other universities, government agencies, and private companies throughout the country, was recently subject to a cybersecurity attack....in which an unauthorized individual appears to have copied and transferred UC files by exploiting a vulnerability in Accellion’s file-transfer service.” The University of California offered free credit-monitoring services to those impacted.

<https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/2021/03/uc-part-of-nationwide-cyber-attack.html>

How many of Accellion’s clients were impacted is anyone’s guess. However, I would encourage anyone to act under the assumption that their medical, banking, employment and tax records may have been compromised. As I have written in previous articles, there is not much you as an individual can do to avoid being a victim of such breaches. But you can take measures to minimize the damage.

1. Be cautious if contacted by any bank, insurance company, the IRS or other entity and satisfy yourself that the contact is actually from the organization before taking any directed action.
2. While you will need to make your own decision, I would simply delete any email that demands money stating, “Your personal data has been stolen and will be published.”
3. Never click on the link in an email that you did not explicitly request, no matter how legitimate it appears. You do not know where it is really taking you.
4. Carefully monitor your credit card and other financial statements for signs of fraud and promptly take action if you find anything that you did not authorize.
5. Periodically access your three credit reports at <https://www.annualcreditreport.com/> and satisfy yourself that all accounts and balances are legitimate.
6. If you are using the same ID and password for multiple accounts, change them so that a breach in one does not put the others at risk. Use an automated password manager.
7. Accept an offer of a free year of credit monitoring services that will often come from the entity you trusted to protect your data.

This is the sixty sixth 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.

JGSCV MEMBERS' FAMILY STORIES

Barbara Finsten writes about: *My Parents' Story*

Although they were born in different countries, my parents' Israeli marriage license in 1948, lists them both as soldiers. They grew up during a difficult time for Jews.

My father's name was David Sack. I idolized him and was his shadow when I was young. Because I often went with him on errands and hung-out when he repaired our cars, he told me many stories about his life.

He was born in 1924 in Dresden, Germany. He was the only son in the family and had three sisters. His father was an "egg candler" and his mother was a housewife.

I remember my father as being a friendly, kind and gentle man who was known by our neighbors as someone to count on if they needed help. He was a lenient father who never spanked my sister or me. However, I was told by my youngest aunt that he had learning problems and was often beaten by their father for not being a good student.

My father told me that being one of the only Jewish students in his elementary school was difficult as the Nazis came to power. He was shunned and called names. One cold, snowy day, when he was late to school and was running to class, he forgot to give the Nazi salute and say, "Heil Hitler" when he passed the flag in front of the school. The school janitor stopped him and smacked him, insisting that he needed to salute the flag.

One Friday evening, around this time, my grandfather did not come home from synagogue after Shabbat services. The family was terrified. In the morning, when he came home, he was bloodied and bruised. Some thugs with weapons had beaten and tortured the men who came to pray that evening. They were forced to jog around the building and beat them when they fell from exhaustion.

My grandmother's brother who had previously immigrated to British Mandated Palestine had started the paperwork needed for my family to join him. Before the incident at the synagogue, my grandfather believed that it was not necessary to leave Germany since he was a good German who fought for his country in World War I and thought the Germans were good people. After he saw what could happen, he agreed to leave.

Around this time (early 1933) my father got into a fight with a slightly older boy whose father was in the S.S. The boy called him a "dirty Jew" and he punched the boy in the nose. As the boy was leaving with his nose bleeding, he told my father, "I don't care, because tomorrow my father is taking your family away". That evening my father's family packed only what they could carry and left for Prague.

They stayed in Prague until they boarded an ocean liner named Martha Washington in the port of Trieste, Italy. They sailed to the port of Haifa where they made their home.

When my father was a teenager, he joined the HaShomer Hatzair Zionist youth group. While belonging to that group he volunteered on a kibbutz, draining swamps, and hoping not to come down with malaria. He also was taught how to defend himself against violent neighboring Arabs who did not want the Jews there.

My father later joined the Haganah (a precursor to the IDF; Israel Defense Forces) and participated in various raids. Although the British allowed Arabs to have guns, Jews were not and had to smuggle weapons into the country. My father hid his gun and ammunition under his youngest sister's mattress. Before Israel became a nation in 1948, the Haganah knew that the Arabs, who greatly outnumbered the Jews, were going to attack. The different Jewish defense groups (Haganah, Irgun, Palmach) agreed to destroy roads and bridges that would be used for the Arabs to attack. My father and his friends helped blow-up these bridges.

The British police arrested many of the suspected participants, including my father, and sent them to a prison. While in the prison, my father got to know a man named Uzi Gal. Uzi spent his time in prison designing a submachine gun. This was the Uzi gun used by the IDF and other military groups around the world. My father and his friends were released after a few days for lack of evidence.

Soon the British left the area, Israel declared independence and their Arab neighbors attacked. My father was in the infantry fighting in northern Israel. He fought in many battles including one where his group captured the first Arab tank of the war.

He was injured several times, but the worst injury was when he was shot in his leg. My father was recuperating in a military hospital in Haifa, where my mother, Shoshana Lieberman, was serving as a nurse.

One day my mother was waiting for a bus to take her to work. My father's cousin Yael was passing the bus stop and saw that my mother was wearing a nurse's uniform and approached her. Yael asked my mother if she would give her cousin in the army hospital a message. She did and that is how my parents met.

My mother was born in Lodz, Poland, but her parents were Zionists and immigrated to Israel in about 1931, when she was three. Her family moved into a new suburban neighborhood in Haifa built on sand dunes. She also joined the HaShomer Hatzair and learned at a young age how to use a rifle and defend herself. Like my father, she spent her summers draining swamps on a Kibbutz.

She was an active member of the Haganah, helping Jews on illegal immigrant ships hide from the British soldiers patrolling the coast. She told me that when a ship unloaded their illegal passengers on a local beach, she and her friends would greet the immigrants and give them kibbutz clothes to wear so they would blend in with the Sabras (native born Israelis). Another Haganah job she had was sending signals to the ships offshore from the roof of her high school.

My mother trained to be a nurse in the British government hospital in Haifa that was run by nuns. In 1947, when she was a new nurse, the ship called the Exodus (made famous in the book by Leon Uris and the movie) was captured by the British Navy. Many of the passengers were ill, including several children. I have a photograph of my mother in her nurses' uniform with a few of these children in their hospital room.

After the Israeli War of Independence, my father remained in the Israeli army on reserve and fought during the Suez Crisis in 1956, as well, as other military operations. Being that my father was the only son of his parents, and they were concerned that he would die in a battle, they convinced my parents to apply for visas to join my aunt and uncle in the United States. My mother was afraid of flying so my parents, sister, and I sailed on an ocean liner called the S.S. Israel in late 1957 from Haifa to New York. After visiting with relatives, we then took a Super Chief train to live in Los Angeles where we made our home.

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!

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through December 2021



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

NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, May 2nd 1:30-3:30PM via Zoom

Stanley Diamond will present “Next JRI-Poland”

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
June 6	Garri Regev	Researching Israeli Databases
July 11	Jeff Edelstein	JDC Archives as a Jewish Genealogy Resource
August	No Meeting IAIGS Conference	
September	No Meeting High Holidays	

DATE	PRESENTER	PROGRAM
September	No Meeting High Holidays	
October 3	TBA	
November 7	TBA	
December 12	TBA	

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

OPMD Disorder Found in Some Families

Dick Eastman (<https://eogn.com>) reported recently on OPMD, a genetic disorder. Symptoms of Oculopharyngeal Muscular Dystrophy (OPMD) include weakening of the muscles of the upper eyelids and throat, are found in some French, French-Canadian, Spanish and Japanese families as well as some Jewish families. It typically arises during adulthood (often age 40-60). Symptoms may also include drooping eyelids, arm and leg weakness and difficulty swallowing.

Eastman became interested in this disease because his mother’s ancestry is 100% French-Canadian. His own family history includes French-Canadian relatives who appeared to have OPMD symptoms – although now many are deceased and unable to be tested. To read more, go to: <https://www.eogn.com/page-18080/10279750>

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.)