

# VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

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



# JGSCV

October 2021

Volume 17 Issue 1

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I hope everyone had a happy and healthy New Year!

Last month's fantastic newsletter by our new newsletter editor, Diane Goldin, was super! It was a VERY long issue covering both the highlights from the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and JGSCV's annual Genealogy in the Round. This one will be much shorter <grin>.

We start our membership renewal in October for 2022 and of course anyone who joins starting in October has their membership through December 2022! A renewal/membership form is on page 10. While Warren is working on technical issues with PayPal—we hope to have that service available on the website this Fall -- you do not have to wait for PayPal to renew. You can still send in a check made out to JGSCV and send it to Helene, our membership vice president whose address is on the form. If you want to pay by cash, you can contact me and make an appointment to drop it off at my home if you are concerned about sending cash through the mail. I have not had any problems with the U.S. Post Office, but I know there are concerns. When we have PayPal working the board will consider opening our meetings to non-members for a fee-per-meeting which can be then put toward the person's membership dues if they decide to join

We will continue to have genealogical Chanukah gifts for those who renew/join by the December meeting and attend the December program. JGSCV has received gifts from Ancestry (worldwide subscription, subscriptions to newspapers.com, fold3.com, DNA test), My Heritage- complete annual subscription and DNA test, Geni 1-year Pro subscription, Legacy Software, Legacy webinar one-year subscription, Family Tree DNA test –which can be used toward an upgrade if you already took the basic test with them, and Family Tree Maker 2019 software. That is 11 prizes and more may be on the way! Each of these prizes are valued between \$79-\$350- all way above the cost of a JGSCV subscription! (See page 3 for Chanukah gift sponsors.)

September 19 is the deadline for replying to the Nominations Committee if you would like to run for serving on the JGSCV Board of Directors. Our Nominations Chairperson, Judy Karta, has sent an email to all who are eligible to run. Our by-laws call for a minimum of six and no more than 12 elected members.

(Cont'd next page)

## NEXT MEETING

**Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
**1:30-3:30 PM**



**Renee Steinig presents:**

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

**Members Only ZOOM**

## November Meeting

**Speaker: Janette Silverman, Ph.D.**

***"Finding Information to Support Family  
Stories of Holocaust Survivors and Victims"***

## 2021 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jan Meisels Allen, President and  
Program Chairman  
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Helene Rosen, VP Membership,  
Zoom Coordinator  
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David Oseas, Webmaster  
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### Mission Statement:

JGSCV is a non-profit organization run by enthusiastic volunteers dedicated to the sharing of genealogical information, techniques and research tools with those interested in Jewish genealogy and family history. Members who include beginners and experienced genealogists share with each other.

Each term is for two years. Warren Blatt, Andrea Massion, and Israel "Issie" Perel have all said they will run for office again! Allan has expressed his desire not to remain on the board but will continue as a member of the society. Diane Wainwood has resigned from the board but will continue as a member of the society. Diane and Allan's absence from the board leaves us with 7 members. We really need several more members of the board. Please consider running for the board if you are eligible and contacted. An application form is on the website located at [https://jgscv.org/pdf/board\\_application\\_form.pdf](https://jgscv.org/pdf/board_application_form.pdf) under the welcome button on our website <https://jgscv.org/>. Please send the application to Judy at [judy@jgscv.org](mailto:judy@jgscv.org). no later than September 19, 2021. The board meets predominately by email and during the pandemic by Zoom about 3-4 times a year. The Nominations Committee will make their recommendations to the Board in October and present the slate to the members at the November meeting. At that time anyone who is eligible may also submit their name from the floor and then nominations will be closed. The election is at our annual meeting held December 12.

Helene Rosen has written an article on *My Latest Family Book*. Helene shares her making family books which we can learn about on page 4.

Hal Bookbinder continues with his Practicing Safe Computing Series, "Keeping email contacts up to date" on page 5. This is the 71<sup>st</sup> issue of this interesting series.

Andrea is still collecting family recipes for our online recipe book. Please send her any family recipes you wish to share. See page 9.

October is Family History Month! First recognized by Congress in 2001, it is an excellent time to explore your family's story in greater detail. For inspiration and projects, see page 8.

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

Our next meeting, which is our 16<sup>th</sup> anniversary, will be on October 3, 2021, at 1:30-3:30 pm Pacific Time with Renee Steinig presenting *Scandals, Shandehs and Lies: The Stories Families Don't Tell*. See meeting notice on page 6.

Stay well and be safe!

*Jan Meisels Allen*



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Our Generous Contributors for our Chanukah Prizes



# My Latest Family Book

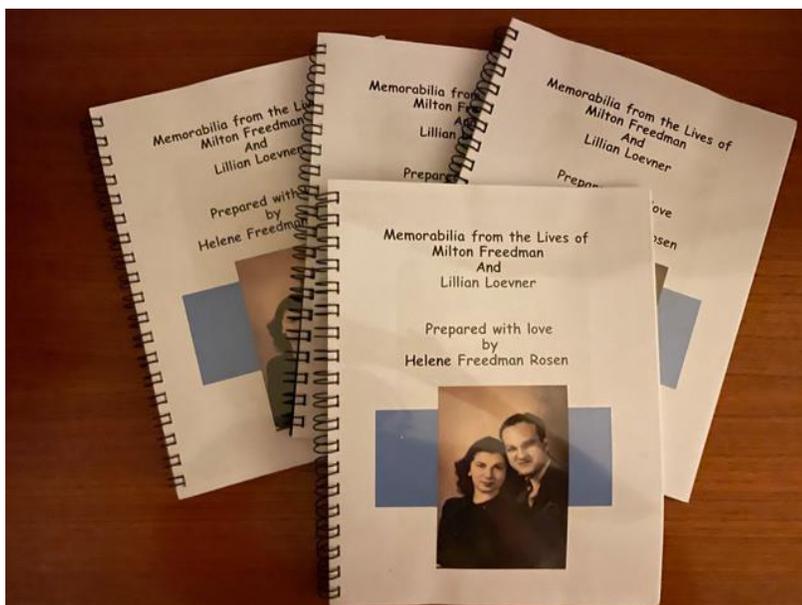
By Helene Rosen

Over the years, I have made numerous beautiful, hard cover, glossy family photo books. I have made books about my family history that included old photos and stories, my vacations, my kids' weddings, my favorite recipes and more. I thought I was done but I decided that I wanted to make one more. I realized that I had many documents collected throughout my parents' early lives, enough in fact, to put into a book. I started scanning.

A complication arose. The software company that I had used to put together my previous books was now out of business. I spent months procrastinating while checking out possible new software companies that I might use. My brother, an expert photographer and book maker, told me the company he was now using. I checked it out as well as other companies recommended after doing Google searches. None appealed to me.

Then I realized that the type of book I was doing did not require a high gloss hard cover book. It was a collection of documents that would be just fine with a more casual approach. After more time procrastinating, I decided the easiest way to put it together would be to use Power Point. That worked beautifully and soon my 90-page book was done.

Now to get it printed. I had assumed that I would just take it to Staples or someplace similar to get it printed and bound. But when I checked out the prices, I was astounded to learn that a 90-page book with color would cost over \$50. I wanted to make eight copies and did not want to spend that much money.



Looking around online I found a company that would do what I wanted for about 60% less. I knew nothing about this company but decided to take my chances. I carefully studied their printing options and made my selections but of course, another complication arose. The company could only print PDFs and I had a Power Point document. Fortunately, they recommended a free conversion program that I easily downloaded and worked well.

A week later the books arrived at my front door. They were perfect, exactly what I had been hoping for. Hmm...maybe I'll make just one more book!

# Practicing Safe Computing #71:

## *Keeping email contacts up to date*

Hal Bookbinder



Holidays provide a great opportunity to send mass mailings to friends and relatives, both to stay in touch and to verify that the emails that you have are current.

When I recently sent out my annual Rosh Hashanah emails, a few that once worked, bounced. Others did not elicit expected responses. Possibly the recipients are no longer receiving email at the addresses I had used.

A work email might bounce if the individual has retired or changed jobs. A personal email might bounce if the individual switched their email provider. It might seem to work and yet elicit no response if the person simply stopped using that email account.

Once you have checked that you have typed the address correctly, you might phone the person or contact a mutual friend or a relative for a current email.

Here are other ideas for finding working emails (The first may avoid the problem entirely):

1. Ask for and record an alternate email, especially if all you have is a work email.
2. Check the 'sent from' address on the person's last email to you.
3. Recheck your contact list for an alternate email address that you may have saved.
4. Find the person on Facebook and use Messenger to ask for their current email.
5. Google "Directory" and the person's company or organization. You may be surprised.
6. Or, one of my favorites, Use FastPeopleSearch.com to find another email that might work.

If you have not used FastPeopleSearch.com I strongly recommend it as it shows physical addresses, land line and cell phone numbers and often email addresses across the U.S. It may show nicknames and even maiden names along with birth month and year. I have used it to identify close adult relatives of the person. Some of the information is out of date and sometimes it misidentifies a parent as a spouse. But enough is accurate to make it a terrific, free tool.

For more ways to find emails, see the July 13, 2021 article, "13 Ways to Find Someone's Email Address (Level Up Your Outreach Game)" at <https://kinsta.com/blog/find-email-address/>. While the target audience is sales professionals, many of the suggestions are free and useful for general searches.

A final thought on holiday greetings: Some that I receive are sent to a hidden list of recipients with no salutation. I find this to be somewhat cold. But sending personal emails can be tedious and time consuming. My solution is to use Microsoft's "mail merge" to rapidly send individual emails to hundreds of relatives and friends, each with a personal salutation and, occasionally, even a unique comment.

*This is the seventy-first in a series of articles by JGSCV founding member Hal Bookbinder. Hal is also a Past President of JGSLA and IAJGS. He is the 2010 recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award, and his online skills are well documented. All the Safe Computing articles by Hal Bookbinder are available on the JGSCV website <https://www.jgscv.org/noteworthy.html>.*

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

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

**Zoom link will be emailed to members before the meeting.**

## October Meeting

Renee Steinig presents ~



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



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

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

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

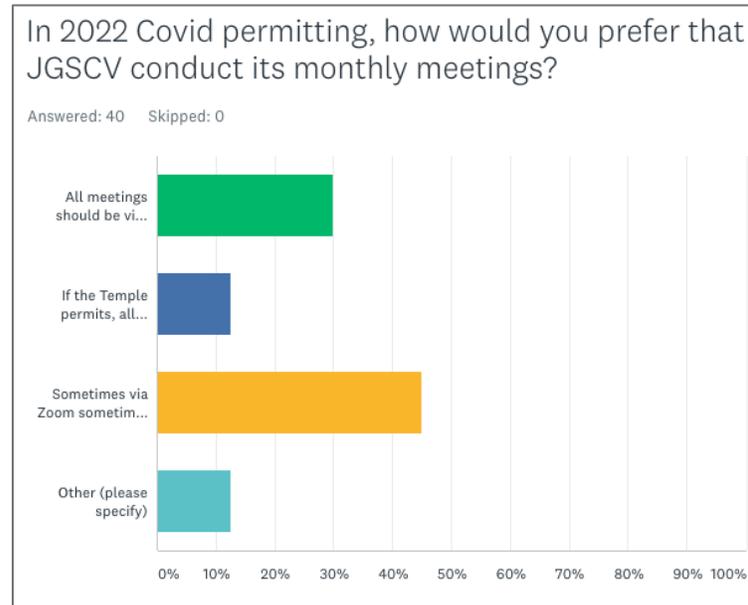
<https://www.jgscv.org/pdf/membership%20application.pdf>

# JGSCV Updates

## Survey Results: Zoom vs In-person Meetings

The survey we ran on our members regarding preference for meetings in 2022 only could accept 40 responses—we were not aware of that when the deadline was extended.

Here are the results:



Thirty percent want all meetings to be virtual and about 45% prefer sometimes on Zoom and sometimes face-face depending on the speaker. With the pandemic ongoing, expect our meetings to be on Zoom at least through March. The board will reevaluate based on the pandemic and do another survey in early 2022. Other genealogy societies are basically going forward using Zoom.

### Correction

Apologies to JGSCV member Philip Spain, whose name was misspelled in last month's newsletter. Philip presented at our August *Genealogy in the Round* meeting and contributed to Highlights in last month's newsletter. We regret the error.

### Library Volunteer Needed

We are looking for someone to take over part of Issie's job as librarian. While he plans to stay on as librarian, Issie would like to turn over the copying of electronic newsletters -about 9—and placing them in the binders at the Agoura Hills Library.

Except for our monthly newsletter, the other newsletters are quarterly. While it can be a board position, that is not required. If you are interested in this position, please contact [president@jgscv.org](mailto:president@jgscv.org).

# Genealogy Odds and Ends

## Celebrate NATIONAL FAMILY History Month

### October is Family History / Genealogy Month

In 2001, Congress passed a resolution introduced by Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah designating the month of October for National Family History Month. There are myriad ways to honor this month-long event, from interviewing an elderly relative, submitting a family recipe to JGSCV. (see page 10), and creating a treasured family book (see page 4). If you're looking for additional inspiration and project ideas, check out the following links and fill in details in your own family story:

<https://blogs.loc.gov/families/2020/10/national-family-history-month/>

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/projects/family-history-month/>

<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/family-history-month/>

<https://www.joincake.com/blog/family-history-month/>

***"By searching for our roots, we come closer together as a human family"***

– Senator Orrin Hatch, 2001

### Arolsen Archives database update

The most important database for researching Nazi persecution victims and displaced persons of WWII:

<https://collections.arolsen-archives.org/en/search/>



Also, check out Vera Miller's blog tips on using the Arolsen Archives database to full advantage:

<https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/2021/09/11/arolsen-archives-updates-its-wwii-database-once-again/>



**MyHeritage Publishes New Name Index from U.S. and Canadian Historical Newspapers, with Nearly One Billion Names...** extracted from our U.S. and Canadian historical newspaper collections.

The collection is an index of names that were extracted from existing free-text U.S. and Canadian newspaper collections on MyHeritage. The free text in these collections was generated from the scanned images of newspapers using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) technology, which converts images into text. More at: <https://tinyurl.com/83pfn98>



From your ancestors:

## **Handed-Down Recipes**

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

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

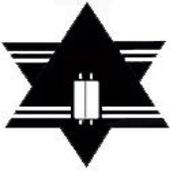
It can be a digital copy of your recipe card or paper, or a typed recipe, along with your memory or “lore” of the recipe’s history.

Please include your name & contact info and email to

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

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

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



## 2022 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](http://www.JGSCV.org)

**Dues paid now are good through December 2022**

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.)