

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

February 2017

Volume 12 Issue 5

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

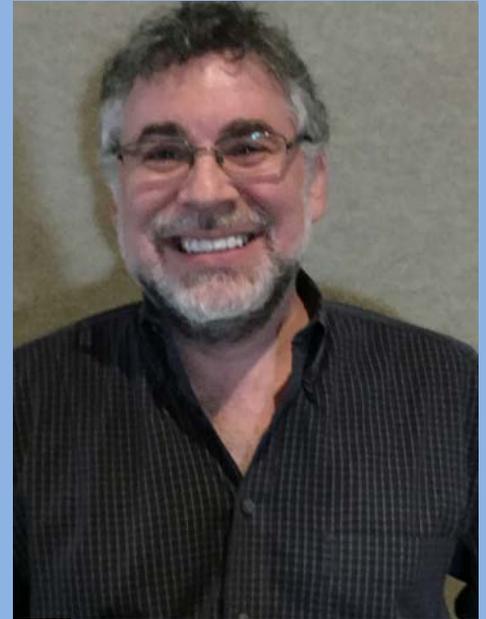
We had a fantastic turn out for our first meeting of the year: 80 attendees (more than twenty for the first time) and three new members! I am certain the topic and speaker were the reason: Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen and founding member and board member of JGSCV talked on *Polish-Jewish Genealogy Research*. The publicity sent out by our excellent Publicity Committee also was a major factor in attracting a large number of first timers! Warren gave an erudite, interesting and comprehensive program on the topic that interested so many of us with Polish roots. If you did not receive Warren's handout (we ran out), it is available for download on the JGSCV website at: www.JGSCV.org under meetings, prior with the January 8, 2017 date. Also posted to the website is a link to JewishGen, where you may view an earlier version of a similar talk by Warren. See page 6 for the highlights of Warren's talk.

Thank you to Debra Kay-Blatt, founding member of JGSCV, for facilitating the schmoozing corner before the meeting where you can ask genealogical questions of senior JGSCV members.

Following the January program, the Board members met for their annual reorganization meeting. According to the JGSCV by-laws, the board members select the officers and determine individual responsibilities. New board member Diane Wainwood was selected to be secretary.

The officers for 2017 are **Jan Meisels Allen**, President, **Helene Rosen**, Vice President, Membership, **Diane Wainwood**, Secretary, **Karen**

Warren Blatt, JGSCV's January speaker



NEXT MEETING

Sunday, February 12th 1:00-5:00 PM

Assisted Research afternoon at the L.A. FamilySearch Library

JGSCV members and FamilySearch Library volunteers will help you navigate the free websites and microfilms available.

2017 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jan Meisels Allen, President
and Program Chairman**

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Helene Rosen, VP Membership
membership@jgscv.org

Diane Wainwood, Secretary
secretary@jgscv.org

Karen Lewy, Treasurer
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David Oseas, Webmaster
webmaster@jgscv.org

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.

Lewy, Treasurer.

No changes were made to existing responsibilities. New board members Julie Goldman and Judy Karta will be spearheading our new community outreach program. The masthead on the left lists the board members and their responsibilities.

We will be reinstating the 5-Minute Genealogical Hint starting in the spring. If anyone would like to give a 5-minute genealogical hint, or has suggestions for topics please contact me at president@jgscv.org.

Hal Bookbinder has been writing a series of monthly articles on safe computing. This month's article on Wireless Access is on page 12.

As of writing this article, our membership is where it was one year ago—a 72 percent renewal rate, since we ended 2016 with 162 members—7 members fewer than we ended in 2015—we also lost 7 members due to death during 2016.

We still have a number of members who have not yet renewed. While our programs are open to the community, membership does have members-only benefits such as several emails a month from me regarding “hot” topics in genealogy which include free genealogical opportunities; using the traveling library between meetings with an appointment at my home; and for new members only- asking Warren Blatt one question a month. Warren won't do your genealogy for you but can help guide you where you should be researching.

Another of the JGSCV member-only benefits is our annual assisted research afternoon at the FamilySearch Library on Santa Monica Boulevard in Los Angeles, where senior JGSCV members and LDS Missionaries provide hands-on assistance to you and your genealogy. The FamilySearch Library is open on this afternoon only to JGSCV members—no other individuals or groups will be there. This is our *February 12 meeting, from 1:00-5:00pm*. This meeting is our only meeting that is limited to current dues-paid members. Anyone may join at the door. New membership and renewal forms are on page 19 of this newsletter, available on our website, under “about” JGSCV-membership and available at the meeting.

For pre-planning suggestions before attending this research meeting including what you should prepare, bring and expect, see page 13. Barbara Algaze, JGSCV member and JGSLA librarian who volunteers at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library, will be giving a brief introduction on the resources at the L.A. FamilySearch Library including using free subscription websites and ordering microfilms. Barbara's introductory lecture begins at 1:30PM.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 12th for our Assisted Research afternoon!

Jan Meisels Allen



Joint Distribution Committee Archives

Founded during World War I, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) was the first Jewish organization in the United States to dispense large-scale funding for international relief. Its work continues and its website is an archive of photos, reports and history. Enjoy the exploration at <http://archives.jdc.org>. (See a related story on page 17.)

SEPHARDI Collection at UCLA Archives Established

UCLA's Sephardic Archive which was launched in 2015, is the first of its kind in the United States. The UCLA press release states: " the collection will tell of the migration of Sephardic Jews to California from the Mediterranean, Middle East and North Africa at the turn of the 20th century; the shaping of Sephardic culture in Los Angeles; and Sephardic Jews' contributions to the Jewish and urban fabric of L.A."

Their first major acquisition was the Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel (STTI)—(Los Angeles) collection of 19th century rare books, photographs, papers and audio visual materials. Much of the collection is written in Ladino.

To read more about UCLA's Sephardic Archive and the acquisition from STTI see:

<http://tinyurl.com/zlr56hp>

WWII Archive Begins Sharing Online

The International Tracing Service (ITS) is an archive and a center for documenting Nazi persecution: incarceration, laborers and liberated survivors. The ITS is institutionally supported by the office of the German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media. The origins of the ITS go back to the year 1943, when a special department of the British Red Cross began with the registration of the missing victims of the Nazi regime. due to the enormous amount of data, only a small percentage of the entire ITS Archive will be able to be made accessible via the online portal in the next few years. <http://tinyurl.com/zbqqbxx>

Direct from New York:

Phyllis Kramer has made us aware that city directories of New York City, from 1849-1915 are available free at the digital website portal of the Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy of the New York Public Library.

City directories describe New York City and its history: the names and addresses of its residents, churches, businesses, schools, police stations, courts, and other government offices, often with the names of individuals associated with those Institutions.

Go to : <http://tinyurl.com/hp4f56f>

There's an illustrated article about the collection at: <http://tinyurl.com/zq3qln6>

A Question for Members

Tu B'Shvat, the Jewish new year of the trees is Sunday, 24 January **2016** at sundown (15th of Sh'vat, 5776.) We honor the trees for the food they produce, and for their contributions to supporting humans and ecology on Planet Earth.

Our members are the gardeners of their families' histories. We tend to our trees, reviewing, adding and correcting their branches using the new tools that have come our way these recent years.

Will you take a moment to participate by answering one question: **Why do YOU do Jewish genealogy?** Let us know via email at andrea@JGSCV.org. Your replies will be compiled and shared here.

Chag Samaech! (happy holiday)

Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County* (JGSCV) (*and surrounding areas)

The JGSCV will hold a meeting, on Sunday, February 12, 2017 at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library (formerly known as the LA Family History Library) 10741 Santa Monica Blvd. West Los Angeles (on grounds of the LDS Temple) from 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Parking is free. This special program is open only to current dues paid members of JGSCV! Anyone may join or renew their membership with JGSCV at the door.



The Topic: Assisted Research Afternoon at the L.A. FamilySearch Library (LAFSL)

Experienced JGSCV members and FamilySearch Library volunteers will be available to help members get the most out of the L.A. FamilySearch Library's (LAFSL) resources, including computer assistance with many popular genealogical databases including Ancestry.com FindMyPast, Fold3.com, MyHeritage (Library edition), ProQuest Obituaries, World Vital Records, and more! The LAFSL has many computers so everyone can use them simultaneously. In addition, there are Jewish microfilms of Eastern Europe and a selection of others, including maps and gazetteers. Bring your research documents with you and bring a flash drive if you want to download electronic images of online images. Hard copying is also available. JGSLA's library is available for research at the LAFSL.

Barbara Algaze, JGSCV member, volunteer at the LAFSL, and librarian for the JGSLA book collection, will give a brief introduction on the resources at the L.A. FamilySearch Library including using free subscription websites and ordering microfilms. This presentation will help with your Jewish Research, getting started on the FamilySearch Library computers and navigating the FamilySearch website.



Barbara Algaze

This meeting is open only to current dues-paid members of JGSCV. Anyone may join at the door. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family.

JGSCV is open to anyone interested in researching their Jewish roots and is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in Jewish genealogy and family history.

JGSCV Updates

Board of Directors

At the January Board meeting responsibilities of directors were reviewed and voted on. Assignments are as now noted on the masthead on page 2 of this newsletter. Of note is the addition of *Julie Goldman* and *Judy Karta* in the new role of Community Outreach and *Diane Wainwood* as Recording Secretary.

Library

Good news! The book previously reported as missing from JGSCV's permanent library has been found! The Guide to *Jewish History of Oswiecim* was located by the library. We were notified by the Agoura Hills Public Library that the irreplaceable book was back in its rightful place – on the shelf. The second book, *Marranos* by Martin Ross is still missing.

Schmoozing Corner



The SCHMOOZING CORNER will be on vacation for the February 12th meeting. Please plan on stopping by 20 minutes before the *following* meeting on Monday evening March 6th, which will begin at 7:00 PM. The SCHMOOZING CORNER will open at 6:40 PM.

JGSCV Welcomes New Members

LARRY BUGAISKY

LINDA NELSON

RENA PEZZUTO

Affiliate Programs

JGSCV continues to participate with both Amazon.com as an affiliate and with Ralphs Community Program. Simply enter the Amazon site from JGSCV's home page. Start at <http://www.jgscv.org> and scroll to the bottom to click on the Amazon graphic. This takes you to the same page you always start at – except JGSCV will receive a marketing fee at no cost to you. See “notices” on the JGSCV.org website for instructions for Ralphs Community Contribution Program, too. AND, if you shop at Food 4 Less and use your Ralph's card, JGSCV will benefit as though you shopped at Ralph's.

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Highlights from Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research

By Jan Meisels Allen

Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen, and founding and board member of JGSCV, gave an erudite and fascinating presentation on Polish-Jewish genealogical research. Warren provided a general overview and introduction to researching your Polish-Jewish ancestry. The program included a history of Polish border changes, geography and place-name changes; how to find and locate your ancestral shtetl and historical information; the vital records-keeping system in Poland; how to find and translate birth, marriage and death records; Polish-Jewish surnames and given names, language spelling and grammar issues; Yizkor books and *landsmanschaftn*; business directories, Polish Archives and Civil Registration Offices; using Mormon microfilms, Internet sources, and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) for Jewish genealogical research in Poland.

Warren's handout (which is uploaded to the JGSCV web site) includes all books and web sites that he mentioned during the presentation. Prior to 1918, Poland was home to the largest Jewish population; since 1918 the United States has the largest Jewish population. Note: some reports say Israel currently has the largest

population; there is an ongoing dispute as to whether the US or Israel currently has the largest Jewish population.

History of Poland

The first Jews in Poland were noted in the 7th century. In the 12th and 13th centuries there were migration of Jews to Poland and by the 1700's there were about 750,000 Jews living in Poland. Poland's history includes three partitions—the first in 1772: where it was divided between Russia,



Prussia and the Austrian Empire. Prior to the partitions, Poland was the largest country in Europe.

The partitions divided the existing Jewish population of Poland between the three countries with Russia and Austria receiving an equal, and largest part of the Jewish population.

The second partition which occurred in 1793 resulted in Russia taking most of the geography—Ukraine and Belarus and more. Prussia also added geography and Austria did not add any new territory. The third partition took place in 1795, and Poland disappeared from the map. Russia annexed Courland and Lithuania, Grodno, and the rest of Volhynia. Prussia took the remainder of Great Poland, including Warsaw and Białystok, and called the area "South Prussia" and "New East Prussia". Austria took the area between Bug & Pilica Rivers: Lublin, Mazovia, Kraków & Sandomierz voivodships, and called this area "West Galicia". These borders only lasted 12 years until 1807 when Napoleon marched through, and created the Duchy of Warsaw. Two years later Napoleon defeats the Austrians and takes the land the Austrians took during the third partition. The Duchy of Warsaw only lasted until 1813, but its progressive reforms, including the creation of the civil registration system, remained.

When Napoleon was defeated, the conquerors divided up Napoleon's gains—returning some to Prussia, some to Austria and the largest part ceded back to Russia—which became the Kingdom of Poland—but the King of Poland was the Czar of Russia. These borders remained until World War I—during that time was the great migration when many of our ancestors left Poland.

After World War I, through the Treaty of Versailles, the country Poland was reborn—but only about 60 percent of the size of

pre-partition Poland. These borders lasted until the outbreak of World War II in 1939. Inter-war Poland's territory includes Vilna, Grodno, and Volhynia gubernias from the former Russian Empire; and nearly all of Galicia from the former Austrian Empire... areas that today are in Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine. To the south, the Austrian Empire is gone, replaced by the newly-formed nation of Czechoslovakia.

Following World War II, Poland's borders all shift west—Germany lost and Russia won—resulting in parts of eastern Germany becoming part of Poland and the Soviet Union took control of eastern Polish provinces of inter-war Poland.

Map of Poland today:



Warren said the two most important things you need to know before you begin your Polish-Jewish research is **where** you are from and **who** you are looking for.

Where you are from

It is necessary to find your ancestral town. There are many ways to find this information: oral history; naturalization records; ships passenger lists; cemetery *landsmanschaften* records; Social Security

applications (SSA-5) ; World War I Draft registration cards; passport applications; vital records, 1920/1930 census, Russian Consular Records, alien registration, probate records and surname clues.

The JewishGen “Frequently Asked Questions”, section 11 (<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/faq.html#Towns>) is helpful in finding your ancestral town.

Warren also reviewed reasons why one may not be able to find their town on a

than what we are used to in English. Warren provided examples of spelling of personal names and Polish pronunciation. While there is no 100 percent transition from Polish to English, some examples of Anglicization of more common names are Moshe to Morris and Chaskel to Charles. He also showed some surname spelling such as Kac to Katz and Szwarc to Schwartz. Warren also showed the variations of the spelling of the name “Issac” varying as to what the clerks heard: Azyk, Icyek, Ajzek, Heisik etc.

The Polish alphabet is different than the alphabet we are used to—although it is Latin-based with accents.

map—oral pronunciation versus Polish spelling and pronunciation rules! Warren recommended the book *Where Once We Walked* by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack as a primary resource for searching for your ancestral town. A copy of the revised version (2002) in JGSCV’s traveling Library (Category A) and the 1991 version is located in JGSCV’s permanent library. JewishGen also has the *Gazetteer* which is very helpful in finding your ancestral town (<http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/LocTown.asp>). A list of towns is also available on Jewish Records Indexing-Poland <http://tinyurl.com/jc2dcr2>

Who — Jewish Names in Poland

The Polish alphabet is different than the alphabet we are used to—although it is Latin-based with accents. The pronunciation of the letters is also different

A primary resource for surnames in Russian Poland is Alexander Beider’s book, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland*. (A copy of this book is JGSCV’s traveling library, Category A). Jews were first required to take surnames in the Kingdom of Poland October 1821.

Vital Records

As mentioned above, Napoleon required civil registration which resulted in vital records beginning in the Duchy of Warsaw in 1808. In 1826 separate registers were required for each religious community. Prior to 1826, Jews’ registrations were included with the Catholic registers. Until 1868 the registers were kept in the Polish language, from 1868 on they were kept in the Russian language until 1918, post-World War I when the record-keeping again was kept in Polish.

In Galicia, an Austrian province that after World War I became part of Poland and today is part in Poland and the western part in the Ukraine, started record keeping in 1784. Jews had their own records in the mid-1800's.

There are different ways to obtain records: write or visit Poland; hire a researcher in Poland; or review LDS microfilms. The address of the Polish State Archives is included on Warren's handout.

The LDS microfilms can be found at the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City and local FamilySearch centers may have copies, or they can be borrowed and used at the local centers. (See JGSCV's web site www.jgscv.org under resources for a list of local FamilySearch centers and links to the main library in Salt Lake City and in Los Angeles). Our sister society, JGSLA, purchased a number of the Jewish Polish microfilms which are located at the Los Angeles FamilySearch center and may be viewed there—including at JGSCV's upcoming Assisted Research afternoon on February 12. The records on the microfilm are either in Polish or Russian depending on the year—see above. Usually at the end



of each year's records is an index with the person's name and the record number to facilitate searching the microfilm. A very helpful guide to translating

the Polish records is Judith Frazin's *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-*

Language Civil Registration Documents. A copy of this book is in JGSCV's permanent library. Other books that are helpful are Jonathan Shea and William Hoffman's books *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents. Volume One: Polish* and *Following the Paper Trail* — both books are in JGSCV's permanent library.

Warren reviewed various vital records to demonstrate what can be found in each type of record: birth, marriage and death. Such items of information include, the parent's names, ages, location-town of residence, mother's maiden name (for birth and marriage records); in death records whether the husband or wife or children are still living; in marriage records the bride and groom's parents' names, ages, etc. The use of patronymics was also explained. For example, Jews used patronymics before they were required to take surnames. Lejb son of Hersz becomes Lejb Herszkowicz—"owicz" being the Polish suffix meaning "son of". "Daughter of" is "ówna" — an example Ruchel daughter of Hersz is Ruchel Herszkówna.

The Polish State Archives (PSA) will list which records are available on SEZAM, their online database (<http://baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/sezam.php?!=en>). Another place to look is Miriam Weiner's Roots to Routes website: (<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/>).

Poland has embargo periods for their vital records. Records are not transferred to the Polish State Archives from the local or town civil registration office, the USC (*Urząd Stanu Cywilnego*) until 100 years has passed from the date of occurrence. Two years ago, Poland amended their law so that marriage and death records now have

an 80 year embargo – birth records are still embargoed for 100 years.

Galicia, a northern province of the former Austrian empire is now located in southeastern Poland and western Ukraine. The Polish part of Galician records may be found in the AGAD archive—part of the Polish State Archive. To learn more about the AGAD, see: <http://tinyurl.com/z5qdlhj> The records from Galicia are columnar rather than the paragraph format of those in Congress Poland. Additionally, the Galician records were kept in German and Polish rather than Polish and Russian. The Galician records are less detailed than the paragraph format of Poland.

Prussian records started keeping separate records for Jews in 1812. Civil registration began in 1874. Record keeping began in 1772 and continued through 1917.

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland **(www.JRI-Poland.org)**

Jewish Records Indexing–Poland is an independent organization, established in 1995, which is hosted on JewishGen.org. The executive director of JRI-Poland, since inception, is Stanley Diamond. (Stanley recently received Canada’s Meritorious Service Medal of Canada for his work in documenting Jewish genealogy and establishing and directing JRI-Poland.) JRI-Poland has indexes to about 5 million records—about 75 percent of all Jewish records. One is also able to view 1.7 million linked record images, on the websites of the PSA and FamilySearch. On the JRI-Poland site, indices to vital records more than 100-years old are searchable



(<http://tinyurl.com/j4oqkj7>). These are records that were microfilmed by the LDS covering 1826-1880. Records indexed by the Polish State Archives, after the LDS microfilmed records are also available. Due to the aforementioned recent change in Polish law, some regions have opened marriage and death records 80 years old. The change in the law has permitted JRI-Poland to start to scan these marriage and death records up to 1935 in USC offices—this varies by the individual 600 USC offices. As birth, marriage and death records are sometimes recorded in the same physical book, and the birth records are still embargoed for 100 years, there are impediments to having all the marriage and death records available as early as 80 years post-occurrence. JRI-Poland also has documents other than vital records, including Books of Residents (which is a local census including information on head of household, children, who is married and who died), census, Polish passports, ghetto death records, post-war court and legal announcements in official newspapers, business directories and more.

A recent update on JRI-Poland appeared in the current- fall 2016 issue of *Avotaynu*—a copy of which is available at JGSCV’s permanent library. The article is based on a presentation made at the August 2016 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. In the article, Stanley discusses the decision, “to extract all genealogically relevant data from records, rather than create basic indexes and link search results to the online digital images of the actual records.” One of the projects mentioned in the article is JRI-Poland’s project to extract vital records from the pre-1825 Jewish

record keeping . The early 19th century notarial records may help with family genealogy by bridging gaps before the years of vital records . The notarial records are not indexed nor do the early records have surnames.

Note: While Ancestry.com has some records that appear on JRI-Poland, they are limited to a span of years on LDS films, and therefore, does not have a complete package of records that are available on the JRI-Poland.org website. The JRI-Poland website is where one should search to get the full breadth of what is available.



SIGS

There are Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that will be of assistance to your Polish-Jewish research. These include: Geshen Galicia, the Suwalk-Lomza SIG, JewishGen's German-Jewish SIG (Ger-SIG), the JewishGen Ukraine SIG (for Volhynia Gubernia), the JewishGen Danzig SIG, and other local area research groups.

Yizkor Books

Yizkor books are books written after World War II by survivors of a town. There are

over 900 such books that have been published. The books include a history of the town, personalities, what happened inter-war years; what happened during the Holocaust, and a necrology. Not all Yizkor books are on Polish towns. JewishGen has a Yizkor Book Project which includes translations into English from the original language which could have been Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish or other languages. To access the Yizkor Book database on JewishGen go to: <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/>. JewishGen is also printing some of the translated Yizkor Books – the Yizkor Books in Print project.

The JewishGen InfoFile on Poland will be great assistance in your researching your family history:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infocfiles/#Poland>.

Remember you must be registered on JewishGen.org to access the different parts of JewishGen website, including researching on JRI-Poland.org.

By using the above resources, you can “trace back multiple generations, history and geography”. Enjoy your pursuit!

Warren Blatt is the Managing Director of JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org), an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, and a founding member and board member of JGSCV. In 2004, Warren received the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Lifetime Achievement Award. He is the author of Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area; and co-author of Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy. Warren has over 40 years of research experience with Russian and Polish Jewish records, and is the author of the "JewishGen FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about Jewish Genealogy," as well as many other JewishGen InfoFiles.

Practicing Safe Computing: Wireless Access

Sixteenth in a series

By Hal Bookbinder

You have a wireless router so that you can connect from anywhere in your home. Be aware of the exposures that come with wireless. Some of us retain the standard settings (ID and password) on the router. Anyone can easily find out the standard settings for your Linksys, Asus or other brand of router. This ID and password permits them to log into your router and update its settings.

Once someone logs in they can then use this information to hijack your router, eat up your bandwidth or even intercept your traffic. Your wireless access does not stop at the walls of your house but can be accessed by your neighbors and by folks on the street. So, take the obvious first step and change the ID and password on your router. And, make it one that is not easy to guess. I routinely find folks with the password of "password".

You need to also set a wireless password so that only the devices you want to be able to connect to your router are able to do so. If you do not, your neighbor or the fellow on the street may be sharing your bandwidth, well as updating password you will be able to



A second line of someone is able

to intercept your transmissions, they will have a difficult time unraveling it. When you connect to a secure website it generally has "https://" at the beginning instead of "http://". Your bank will quickly take you to their "https://" entry point where your subsequent traffic will be encrypted. For example, if you type in "www.bankofamerica.com", you will be taken to "https://www.bankofamerica.com".

Many email systems, including G-mail, encrypt your messages. When you next go to "www.gmail.com" notice that what is displayed is "https://mail.google.com/mail/#inbox". If you use another email service, look to see if it takes you to an encrypted website. If it does not, consider switching to one that does.

It is especially important that your transmissions be encrypted when you connect in an exposed, shared environment like Starbucks or the airport. Someone with the appropriate device may be intercepting the transmission and "listening in". If you cannot get an encrypted connection, be very careful what you share. You never know who is listening.

While we typically obtain a wireless router so we can access the Internet from anywhere in the house, be sure to read the guide that comes with it and you will see that there are other functions that you may want to consider - including setting up a firewall and locking down access to adult or dangerous sites. More about routers and firewalls in a future article.

This is the sixteenth 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.

Preparing for the Exclusive Research Afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library

February 12, 2017 1:00 – 5:00 PM

By Jan Meisels Allen

JGSCV members are privileged to have an exclusive research afternoon at the Los Angeles FamilySearch Library (LAFSL). This meeting is open only to **JGSCV 2017 current-paid members**. Anyone may join or renew their JGSCV membership by paying their dues at the door—and if you prefer to pay before the meeting a form is on page 19 of this newsletter. The LAFSL is the largest FamilySearch Library outside of Salt Lake City making this an opportunity to visit and receive assistance with your personal genealogy that is not to be missed!

Car-pooling is best, so ask your friends from JGSCV about sharing. JGSCV does not arrange car pools.

Directions:

The LAFSL is located at: 10741 Santa Monica Blvd in Los Angeles on the grounds of the LDS (Mormon) Temple. From the 405 Freeway get off at Santa Monica Blvd. and go east to Manning Ave. Turn north on Manning Ave, make the first left into the LDS Temple compound, proceed right until reaching the Visitor's Center. Park along the fence. The entrance to the library is on the right (east) side of the building. The library is on the lower floor, there are stairs and an elevator from the first floor. (See schematic below)



Spend some time and take a look at their website at: <http://www.lafhl.org/index.htm> or

<http://tinyurl.com/aozrevf> for a listing of the resources that are available. In addition to microfilms, microfiche, maps and books, they have 86 computers (PCs not Macs) with free access to many genealogical sites! These sites include: American Ancestors, Ancestry.com (full institution subscription); ArkivDigital Online (Swedish), FindMyPast.com (institutional version); Fold 3.com; Library Newspaper Digital Archive, MyHeritage (Library edition); Newspaper Archive, ProQuest Obituaries; WorldVitalRecords.com (All content added to MyHeritage); Historic Map Works (library edition); Legacy Stories,; Access Newspaper Archive; 19th Century British Library Newspaper Digital Archive; and more!

The number of microfilms, microfilm readers, microfiche, microfiche readers and books has been reduced, as many of these records and books are now digitized. However, the foreign vital records microfilms, including the Jewish ones are still available at the facility. JGSLA has a list of the Jewish microfilms on their website that are currently located at the LAFSL: <http://tinyurl.com/jxwbq8n>

At 1:30 p.m. there will be a presentation by Barbara Algaze, volunteer at the LAFSL,

JGSCV member and librarian for the JGSLA book collection. Barbara will give a brief introduction on the resources at the L.A. FamilySearch Library including using free subscription websites and ordering microfilms. This presentation will help with your Jewish Research, getting started on the FamilySearch Library computers and navigating the FamilySearch website.

To make the best use of this experience you should prepare in advance and take your research papers with you. *Be sure to bring copies of your family group sheets, documents, family time lines, and family trees with you!*

Remember . . .

- **Prioritize your research lists:**
Foreign and state censuses, city directories, vital records (birth, marriage or death records), maps, naturalization records, WWI and WWII draft registration records.
- **For traditional methodology,** bring: Paper, pads, post-it notes, pens, pencils and a magnifying glass.
- **For electronic methodology,** bring: Laptop computer, genealogy program, USB storage drives, digital camera—to use if making photos from microfilms. There is Wi-Fi in the library. In addition, you can connect to the internet by using internet cables. These cables are available for rent from the library with a deposit



of \$3.00. They sell 8 gig thumb drives (flash drives) for about \$10.22 each.

If you are planning to use the foreign microfilms, remember the records are in their native language. Unless you are knowledgeable in the language, it is best to bring with you some key-finding words in that language such as male, female, birth, death, marriage, wife, husband, father, and mother. While there are some foreign language dictionaries available at the LAFSL, the more you prepare in advance, the more your limited time will be used to its best advantage. The JGSCV permanent library located at the Agoura Hills Public Library (see address on our website) has a number of foreign language dictionaries in addition to several books by Jonathan Shea and William Hoffman: *Following The Paper Trail A Multilingual Translation Guide; In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide. Vol I: Polish* and *In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin, and Russian Documents. Vol II, Russian*. The books must be used at the Agoura Hills Library—our collection is not circulating. There are copy machines at the library if you wish to copy any of the pages. Many records are handwritten, are in chronological rather than alphabetical order, and may not be indexed. Bring a magnifying glass to help you read the handwriting.

An extra feature at the LAFSL is the availability of permanent libraries of genealogy societies including our sister society, JGSLA. The books are available for anyone to use. You may wish to look at the JGSLA website to see which books are on site: <http://tinyurl.com/hkg6xk8>

The Polish Genealogical Society of Southern CA, also has their permanent library housed there and we also have access to their materials. To see which books the Polish Society has, check out this link: <http://tinyurl.com/jsn58me>

Remember, all books, microfilms, microfiche, maps, etc. may only be used at the FSL it is not a lending library therefore, **nothing is permitted to be removed from the facility.**

There is a small lunchroom with vending machines and a refrigerator for your use. We don't know what/if food will be

available on a Sunday. Eating and drinking is permitted **ONLY** in that designated lunchroom area.

There are lockers with keys available at no fee for members to keep their valuables. A coat rack is also available. Sometimes they forget to ask maintenance to turn on the heat on Sundays (when they are usually closed) and it gets very cold down there--especially in the classroom. **You might want to bring a sweater, sweatshirt, or jacket**—just in case!

If you wish to print a document off a computer, microfilm or microfiche reader, or copy machine, you make your copies and pay at the front desk (10 cents per page). **We don't know how much change they will have so it would be appreciated if you bring change and small denomination bills.**

Have a very successful research trip!



Directions to the LAFHC

The Los Angeles Family History Center

LOCATION:

10741 Santa Monica Blvd
West Los Angeles, CA 90025
(north of the temple)
310-474-9990

HOURS:

Mon., Fri., Sat.: 9 to 5
Tues., Wed., Thurs: 9 to 9

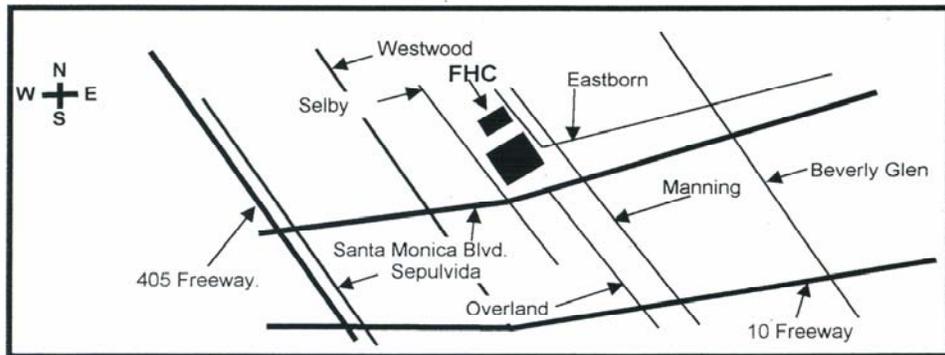
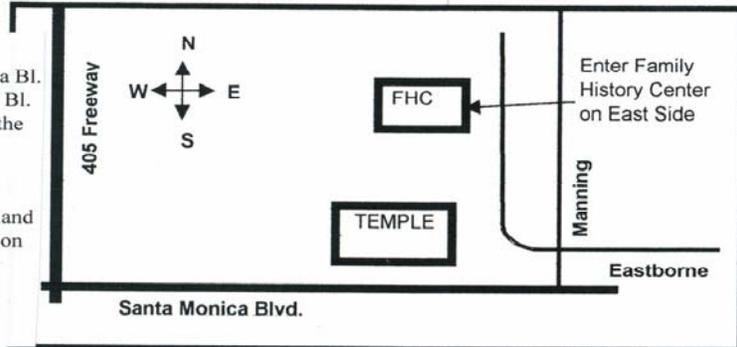
DIRECTIONS:

Exit on the San Diego 405 Freeway to Santa Monica Bl. and go east 13 blocks. Turn left from Santa Monica Bl. onto Manning, make first left onto Eastbourne and the entrance to Temple Hill.

Follow the signs to the Temple Visitor's Center.

From the Santa Monica Freeway (10), exit on Overland going north to Santa Monica Boulevard. Turn right on Santa Monica Boulevard then an immediate left on Manning Avenue, first left on Eastbourne and the entrance to Temple Hill.

Follow the signs to the Temple Visitor's Center.



JGSCV Needs a Librarian for the Traveling Library



JGSCV needs a member to volunteer to bring the traveling library books to each meeting. The volunteer needs to be someone who attends virtually every meeting. The volunteer has the option to pick up and return the 3 boxes to each meeting from Jan's home in Agoura Hills—or hold the boxes of traveling library books at their home between meetings. There are 5 boxes in total of which 3 come to each meeting. The person must be able to lift the boxes into and out of their car and bring them into the meeting room. The person would **not** be expected to watch the books at the meetings. If you are interested in this non-board position, please contact Jan at president@jgscv.org. If possible, we would like to start this with the March 2 Monday evening program.



Genealogy Odds and Ends

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has published Warsaw office records from 1939-1941. Information includes genealogically relevant insights about the situation of Jews in cities, towns and villages throughout German occupied Poland, and more. The documents are in Polish, Yiddish, German, Hebrew and English. To search the JDC archives go to: <http://tinyurl.com/joxsm5l>



New scans of many Krakow vital records including records not yet readily available, are viewable online at <http://tinyurl.com/zcgbz39>. Among the scans are births 1890-1914, marriages 1889-1914 and deaths 1890-1914 with legible, handwritten indices for each year. Also deaths 1798-1808 (pre-surname) are noted.

Upfront with NGS has discovered an easier way to find previously 'missing' website pages (when you go to a website and get a '404 Error'): a browser extension for Google Chrome. Until now, if you received a '404 Error' message when attempting to access a website, you could copy that website's url and paste it into the *Wayback Machine*. If there was an archived copy of the web page you were attempting to access, the *Wayback Machine* would find it and make it available to you. Now, it will do all of that automatically for not only 404 Errors but also many more. Go to <http://tinyurl.com/gr73e8c>



The International Tracing Service (ITS) published its entire inventory on the Internet. The inventory provides an overview of 30 million documents on Nazi persecution and forced labor and the fates of the survivors. The inventory will assist researchers of the contents of the ITS holdings. Also included is information on the sub-collections, which entails the title, size, access number and a brief description of the contents. It is available in both English and German. The indexing project is not yet complete, and includes only partially completed indexed holdings. To view the general inventory go to <http://tinyurl.com/zcsnujl>

Sergei Mikhailovich Prokudin-Gorsky was a very unique 1900's photographer. *Jewniverse* (www.thejewniverse.com) has provided links to many of Prokudin-Gorsky's most magnificent works of Jewish life. View them at <http://tinyurl.com/gskjs26>

Future JGSCV Meeting Dates through August 2017

Sunday afternoons at 1:30 p.m. **Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m.**

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Mark your calendars. As soon as additional programs are finalized they will be added to this list and the website.

2017

February 12, 2017 Sunday 1:00-5:00 PM

Assisted Research Afternoon LA

FAMILYSEARCH LIBRARY

March 6, 2017 **MONDAY 7:00-9:00 PM** Speaker: Mary Kozy
"Google and Its Tools for Genealogists"

April 2, 2017 Sunday **1:00-4:00 PM** Movie: *Persona Non Grata*.
Japanese film about Chuine Sugihara vice-counsel of Japan in
Lithuania and how he saved 6,000 Jewish lives. English and English
subtitles when English not is spoken.

May 7, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Speaker: Marcia Fine "A
Sephardic Journey" Story of Jews who were persecuted around
the world for almost 400 years by the Inquisition.

June 4, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Speaker: Jan Meisels Allen
"How to Begin Jewish Genealogy"

July 2017 no meeting IAJGS Conference July 23-28, 2017
Orlando, FL

August 6, 2017 Sunday 1:30-3:30 PM Genealogy In the Round
Members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and
artifacts

2017 Membership/Renewal Form



Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV)*

of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

www.JGSCV.org

Dues paid now are good through December 2017

Date _____

Check one:

This is a New Membership _____ Renewal _____

Single \$ 25.00 _____ + \$1.00** Family* \$30.00 _____ + \$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 \$ _____

(suggested minimum voluntary contribution for either 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 _____ Zip code + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

Talents that you have to share (accounting skills, language skills, computer skills, translation, etc.)

