

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST



JGSCV

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

December 2016

Volume 12 Issue 3

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

JGSCV members and friends were treated to a comprehensive program for using online newspapers for genealogical research by Janice Sellers. Today, newspaper research is critical for genealogists to find information on ancestors. The information in newspapers include: births, deaths, marriages, moves, business, naturalizations, court cases, travel, school/college events and graduation, social notes and local gossip, photographs and more. Digitization of newspapers has provided us the opportunity to do the research from our homes and local libraries. See page 6 for highlights of the presentation. JGSCV was not given permission to post Janice's handout on our website.

Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for facilitating the schmoozing corner. Hal's series, "Practicing Safe Computing" continues on page 10.

I hope everyone is a subscriber to JewishGen. I recently attended another society's meeting and several people asked me some questions to help with their research, and my first question back to them was, "Are you subscribed to JewishGen?" No one who asked me a question was subscribed. As Jewish genealogists, that is the first place every one of us should be subscribed to and utilizing. It has a wealth of information, let alone the subscriber list registration for all the special interest groups (SIGs). While it is free to subscribe and access the data, it costs something to run the website, and everyone should make some donation. JGSCV donates to JewishGen each year as well as many of us who make individual donations. The website is www.jewishgen.org



**Janice Sellers,
professional
genealogist and
author speaking
at the
November
meeting**

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, December 4th 1:30-3:30 PM

The Stedman Story of Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA

Karen Franklin unwinds the true genealogical story of Jesse Oppenheimer aka John Stedman.

2016 JGSCV BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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.

Our December meeting is also our annual board election. There is a slate of six persons being brought by the Nominations Committee to the membership for a vote. For continuity, we elect half the board every other year with board members serving terms of two years. To keep the board as close to even, for this election, one person will be elected for one year - determined by coin toss. During the November meeting, JGSCV Nominations Committee Chairman Hal Bookbinder gave the report and asked for nominations from the floor. There was one floor nomination who agreed to serve if elected. Therefore, the vote at the December meeting will be by acclamation. See page 11 for bios on the 7 nominees. Thank you to Hal Bookbinder for chairing the committee and Carol Flesher and Allan Linderman for serving on the Nominations Committee.

October began JGSCV's membership renewal drive for 2017. As of this writing, one-third of our current members have renewed! We ended 2015 with 169 members and thus far, for 2016 we have 160 members. We need some more of you to renew and join! As usual, our December meeting, which is our annual Chanukah Party and Membership drive will include a drawing for more than ten fantastic genealogical gifts for those who are eligible. **Eligibility consists of renewing or joining for 2017 by/at the December meeting and attending this meeting.** See page 17 for a 2017 membership form which will also be available at the meetings. Some of the prizes are: an Ancestry World Wide Subscription; My Heritage annual subscription, Findmypast annual subscription, Family Tree Maker, Legacy Family Tree, RootsMagic subscriptions, DNA kits from Ancestry, 23andMe and Family Tree DNA and more prizes! Remember Chanukah is approaching and a membership to JGSCV is a gift they will remember all year long! We will provide a lovely certificate for the recipient.

Our December 4 program is a special treat! Karen Franklin will present: *The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA - Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery*. This is a true life story involving mystery, bigamy, adoption and DNA. The secretive life of Jesse Oppenheimer, alias John Stedman (1887-1950) was unraveled using family research techniques that are useful to all genealogists.

Karen is director of family research at the Leo Baeck Institute, the past president of IAJGS, and past co-chairman of the JewishGen Board of Governors.

Have a Happy Chanukah to all our Jewish members and friends and to our non-Jewish members and friends have a Merry Christmas. To all have a very happy, healthy, safe and genealogically successful New Year.

Looking forward to seeing you on December 4th!

Jan Meisels Allen



A Hanukkah Present For You

In case you thought searching your family's roots required expensive online paid subscriptions, here is a Hanukkah present you can give yourself: A very extensive list of free websites containing detailed databases courtesy of Family History Daily.

You can visit <http://tinyurl.com/j6taoq9> to learn about 50 free genealogical sites as well as 25 more sites with genealogical insights. FHD also makes available a complete collection of articles about free sites including the special topics some cover.

AND, Family History Daily has another gift of the season for you: A description of a free Google app that can do wonders for preserving photos and records:

<http://tinyurl.com/hzepbjj>

Hanukkah Stories For Children On YouTube

If the children in your family can't take their eyes off a video screen but you still want to remind them why the candles are lit for eight days, try YouTube. At www.youtube.com type 'Hanukkah videos for children' or anything similar and you will have literally hundreds of videos to choose from.

**Season of Lights, Dedication
and Freedom
Happy Hanukkah to all.**



Hanukkah First White House Appearance

Hanukkah made its first appearance at the White House in 1951, when Prime Minister of Israel David Ben-Gurion gave then-president Harry Truman a hanukiah (Hanukkah lamp) as a gift. Abba Eban, Israel's Ambassador to the U.S was also present.



CEMETERY OF THE MACCABEES

We genealogists love exploring old cemeteries.

The presumed location of the Maccabee Family Cemetery has been questioned by Israeli archeologists for a number of years now. The park near Modi'in where, every Kislev there is ceremony for Hanukkah is now thought to be the crypts of a Byzantine monastery. In the Maccabees book of the *Apocrypha*, there are clues that will help archeologists find the authentic burial site:

And Simon built a monument over the tomb of his father and his brothers; he made it high that it might be seen, (from the sea) with polished stone at the front and back... He also erected seven pyramids, opposite one another, for his father and mother and four brothers.

This is the description of the tombs in the Book of Maccabees, a text written in Judea several decades after the Maccabees' revolt. Simon was a brother of Judah the Maccabee.

Currently waiting for funding to launch the search for this location is Amit Reem, the Israel Antiquities Authority archaeologist in charge of central Israel. It took decades to finally fund and uncover the "City of David" near the Kotel in Jerusalem. In the future, finding the tombs of the Maccabees would also be an amazing discovery and further proof of ancient Jewish life in Israel. Find more details at: <http://tinyurl.com/zwxlln8>

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



The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV) will hold a general meeting, co-sponsored with Temple Adat Elohim on Sunday, 4 December, 2016 at Temple Adat Elohim 2420 E. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks, 91362 1:30-3:30 pm

The Topic: The Stedman Story: Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA - Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery

This is a true life story involving mystery, bigamy, adoption and DNA. The secretive life of Jesse Oppenheimer, alias John Stedman (1887-1950) was unraveled using family research techniques that are useful to all genealogists. In this talk, Karen will reflect on the trajectory of research beginning with his son Jon Stedman (1933-2009), whose papers she was hired to organize five years ago. Though his DNA was tested in 2001, an upgrade in 2013 helped an adopted child find her birth mother and a child conceived by in-vitro fertilization almost 40 years ago, who is now working to find his birth father. Analysis of Jon's papers and a description of the strategies developed to move forward on the project, highlight the changing nature of family history research.

Speaker: Karen Franklin is the director of family research at the Leo Baeck Institute, chair of the Memorial Museums Committee of ICOM (the International Council of Museums) and president of the Obermayer German Jewish History Awards. She has served as chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums and president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, as well as co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen.



All attendees who join JGSCV or renew their memberships for 2017 is eligible for the drawing of fantastic genealogical prizes. You must be present to win! Light refreshments will be served celebrating Chanukah and our membership drive. There is no charge to attend the meeting. Anyone may join JGSCV. Annual dues are \$25 for an individual and \$30 for a family. The meeting is open to the public.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County is dedicated to sharing genealogical information, techniques and research tools with anyone interested in genealogy and family history.

JGSCV Updates

CORRECTION: Last's month's *Venturing Into Our Past* included a retrospective by Hal Bookbinder on page 16. The article was incorrectly titled. It should have been "My Most Memorable Yom Kippur".

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 (like the one here).



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.



The SCHMOOZING CORNER is open 20 minutes before each monthly meeting is scheduled to begin. Just come to the front right corner of the meeting room and look for the "SCHMOOZING CORNER" sign where next month you will find an experienced JGSCV member waiting to field your individual questions and provide one-to-one help until the meeting begins. On the left in the photo left is Hal Bookbinder helping member Diane Wainwood at the November meeting.

Hal will lead the SCHMOOZING CORNER on Dec. 4th as well.

Learn about *Verifying What You See* online from Hal Bookbinder's 14th article on "Safe Computing" on page 12.

Genealogy Odds and Ends

on page 15 has information on Gesher Galicia's latest Vital Records project.

JGSCV Welcomes New Member

DAVID YODKOVIK

JGSCV MEMBERSHIP Annual dues are \$25 for a single membership/\$30 for a household. To join, printout the membership form on our website www.jgscv.org by selecting the membership button. Send it with a check in the appropriate amount payable to: JGSCV and mail to Helene Rosen at 28912 Fountainwood St., Agoura Hills, CA 91301

Highlights from Read All About It! Using Online Newspapers for Genealogical Research

By Jan Meisels Allen

Newspapers are an invaluable genealogical research tool. Newspapers provide information about births, deaths, marriages, moves, business, naturalizations, court cases, travel, school/college events and graduation, social notes and local gossip, photographs and more. You may find a “black sheep” in the family, or about some escapades one of your ancestors did previously unknown by you and many in the family. Today, millions of the world’s newspapers are accessible online, but there is no one place to find them all.

Janice Sellers provided a comprehensive overview of what is available online, ways to find the newspaper you are looking for and techniques to help improve your chances of finding information about your relatives. (JGSCV is not authorized to post the handout to our website.)

What You Can Find in Newspapers

Did your family live in or visit a small town? The local newspaper may have a “gossip” column saying who came to visit and where they were from. If they traveled by ship or were hotel guests, the local newspaper may include something about their travel. At one time, lists of arriving ship passengers were published in the newspapers of the city where the ships landed.

Did your family have a family-run business? You may find an advertisement for the business.

Did someone in the family have a problem with the law? You may find out about their escapades, court cases and even photographs.

When a baby was born it was not uncommon to have a birth announcement in the local newspaper of large cities as well as small towns.

Marriages were commonly listed in the local newspaper. These were paid notices therefore, if the family had the finances, there could be a large write-up with a photograph of the bride. Small town newspapers may include free write-ups.

Ethnic newspapers have a lot of “personal” information. The newspapers may be in the “ethnic” language, such as Yiddish, Polish, Russian etc. While some ethnic newspapers are digitized, they are not translated into English. Access to ethnic newspapers and getting them translated are two different issues.

History of newspapers in the United States

Colonial newspapers were a political force for American independence. When the printing press became widely available, newspapers spread with first weeklies then dailies in larger cities such as New York. Faster printing presses helped expand newspapers as the nation grew demographically. Small town newspapers were in county seats and other towns published on a daily or weekly basis.

Today, newspapers are under stress due to changing economies, technology and consumer behavior. More people are getting their news

from electronic media. As a result a number of newspapers have ceased print publication or merged with others.

There are national newspapers such as the *Wall Street Journal* and *USA Today*, and large nationally distributed newspapers such as the *New York Times* and *Los Angeles Times*. Large local newspapers include the *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Boston Globe*, *Newsday*, and the *Ventura County Star*. Small local newspapers would include the *Acorn*, *Beverly Hills Weekly*, and the *Santa Barbara News Press*. There are ethnic newspapers such as *the Forward*, *Jewish*

from the actual record. Some organizations, such as ProQuest and NewsBank do not rely solely on OCR for searches. They also have people review the images of the newspaper to tag articles as obituaries, advertising, etc. This process adds to the cost of the product but the search results are superior. Be aware that some sites have the entire image while others may only have the index, which then requires the reader to find a source for the actual newspaper.

Almost all of the newspapers listed below, as well as many others are included in JGSCV's

“Today, most newspapers are available online with current content and in some cases archives.”

Sentinel, *Polish-American Journal*, *Russian Bazaar*, etc. Institutional newspapers include such newspapers as the *Army Times*, *Stars and Stripes*, *Daily Bruin (UCLA)*, *Daily Trojan (USC)*, *Variety*, etc.

Today, most newspapers are available online with current content and in some cases archives. Some individual newspaper archives require registration or a subscription. There are also organizations whose business is to digitize newspapers to sell subscriptions. Modern newspapers that are produced on computers use an electronic method to create a searchable index. To allow searches of historical newspapers, some companies such as NewsBank use OCR (optical character recognition, an electronic conversion of typed, handwritten or printed text into machine-encoded text) to create the index. OCR often has difficulties distinguishing between similar looking characters such as a, e, and o. Other groups may transcribe information for the index, whose quality will vary depending on the level of quality control, as there is an increased chance of error the further away

website resources listed at www.jgscv.org. Libraries are included in multiple categories including General Interest, Government Archives, Local/California and Miscellaneous.

Institutional Newspaper Subscriptions

Most of the online newspaper subscriptions are institutional. These would include ProQuest, NewsBank and Gale publications. Due to the cost, most libraries do not have all of the online newspapers that any one subscription service provides. For example, the Los Angeles (City) Public Library has the *New York Times* going back from 1851 and the *Los Angeles Times* from 1881-both through ProQuest. The Thousand Oaks Library has the *Los Angeles Times* from 1881 but no other ProQuest historical newspapers. The Ventura County Library System has the ProQuest *Los Angeles Times* from 1881; the *New York Times* from 1851; the *Wall Street Journal* from 1889; the *Washington Post* from 1877 and the *Christian Science Monitor* from 1908. The County of Los Angeles Public Library's only ProQuest historical newspaper is the *Los Angeles Times* from 1885. ProQuest has more

than 40 historical newspapers including several Jewish newspapers. Which institution will have them in their collections varies by location. Some of the aforementioned libraries have other newspaper collections which may or may not have historical newspapers. Any California resident may obtain a library card at any California public library at no charge. The UCLA Library has other selections including Jewish newspapers. There is a charge to access their library for non-UCLA students and alumni.

The entire ProQuest historical collection is available at the annual IAJGS conference in the resource room for one long day. The 2017 IAJGS conference is in Orlando, FL from July 23—28. ProQuest Day has not yet been announced.

Individual Newspaper Subscriptions

Individuals may also subscribe to select newspaper databases for a fee. These include:

[NewspaperArchive.com](#): This site has the broadest coverage and a higher proportion of historical content. While the majority of the newspapers are from the United States, it currently has papers from 24 additional countries including Australia, Canada, Ireland, United Kingdom, Morocco, and South Africa.

[GenealogyBank.com](#): This site includes only US newspapers, with historical and current coverage. A lot of its content is current.

[Newspapers.com](#): (Ancestry.com product). In addition to US coverage it includes Australia,



Canada, England, Ireland, and Northern Ireland newspapers. This site has good coverage for the mid-20th century.

[Americanancestors.org](#): New England Historic and Genealogical Society (NEHGS)

[Accessible.com](#): Accessible Archives for early colonial times and historical Black and abolitionist newspapers.

[ObitsArchive.com](#)

[FamilySearch Libraries and Centers](#):

The Los Angeles FamilySearch Center (formerly called LA Family History Center) –as well as other FamilySearch Centers have subscriptions to multiple genealogical websites including: Ancestry.com. Findmypast, MyHeritage (each of which include newspapers), Newspaper Archive, ProQuest Obituary Listings and 19th Century British Library Newspaper archive.

Free Databases

There are number of **free** newspaper databases:

US Library of Congress Chronicling America - [Chroniclingamerica.loc.gov](#)

California Digital Historical Newspapers - [cdnc.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/cdnc](#)

[SmallTownPapers.com](#)

[FultonHistory.com](#)—Started out for upstate New York and has expanded.

[Obituaries.com](#)

[Legacy.com](#)

Google News Archive

[google.com/newspapers](#)

Internet Archive - [archive.org](#), for the Wayback Machine

Portals

Portals are collections of links to other sites.

For online newspapers, the most important is Wikipedia:

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Newspaper_archives_online](#)

Search Engines

Elephind.com is a search engine that only searches on historical newspaper sites.

Hints in Using Databases

Janice gave examples of how to use some of the databases. Suggestions given were not to

search very common names such as Israel Cohen or Sarah Levy and expect to easily find the person for whom ‘you’ are researching.

NewspaperArchive.com does not recognize single letters, therefore it will not recognize middle initials. The website is optimized for Internet Explorer— not other browsers. It, like most sites with old historical newspapers, uses OCR for its index and due to the inherent problems of discerning different characters it may not always render results with the correct names.

When researching recent immigrants, ethnic newspapers may be the best choice. As not everything is online, it was suggested to look at the WorldCatalog (<http://www.worldcat.org>) to find where a particular newspaper or book may be found.

The use of Interlibrary Loan was suggested to borrow microfilms that are not otherwise available locally. Contact your local library for the process once you have the information on which microfilm you wish to borrow and where from.

Stanford University has on its website *The Growth of Newspapers Across the U.S. 1690-2011* See: <http://tinyurl.com/kw7xr9f>

A project took the Library of Congress’ *Chronicling America* historic newspaper directory pages covering 1690 to the present (<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>) and plotted the newspapers over time and space. Chronicling America also has digitized

newspapers from 1836-1922.

The commercial newspaper sites listed above, have licenses to place the various newspapers on their sites. The licenses have time limitations which may not always be renewed. Therefore, Janice suggested if you find a newspaper article/photograph etc. that is of interest, to download or copy the article now, as you might not be able to find it in the future.

For research in areas where records have been lost or destroyed, Janice recommended the book, *Raking the Ashes: Genealogical Strategies for Pre-1906 San Francisco Research* by Nancy Peterson. It is available from the California Genealogical Society. While it is focused on the San Francisco area, and details what survived and didn’t, after the 1906 earthquake and fire, it also discusses workarounds and techniques that can be applied in other areas with record losses.

Janice Sellers is a professional genealogist specializing in Jewish, black, forensic, and newspaper research. She is the editor of four genealogy publications, including *ZichronNote*, the journal of the San Francisco Bay Area Jewish Genealogical Society (SFBAJGS). She is the vice president of SFBAJGS, board member of the California State Genealogical Alliance, and a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Council for the Advancement of Forensic Genealogy, and more. Her Web site is ancestraldiscoveries.com.



Thank you to JGSCV member Barbara Algaze for sharing this cartoon with us.

Practicing Safe Computing – Verifying What You See

Fourteenth in a series

By Hal Bookbinder



We all receive emails from friends passing on the latest information that they got from the Internet. It sounds plausible, you trust your friend and so you pass it on to more friends, or worse yet, act on the information without checking it first.

In February 2016, folks were receiving advice to reset their iPhone date manually to January 1, 1970. Various reasons were given which sounded compelling. Yet, doing so would result in permanently disabling your iPhone. Apple acknowledged this bug and fixed it in iOS 9.3.1 in April. I'm not brave enough to check it out myself on my iPhone. DO NOT TRY IT!

Another item that periodically circulates is a notification that you may be infected and to check your computer for a particular file or value to confirm this. It then advises that you should immediately take an action, like deleting a particular file or running a script from a particular website. The file or value indicated is a normal component and removing that file may cripple your PC. Be assured that the script, should you choose to run it, will be infecting or otherwise damaging your PC.

Be careful about acting on, or passing on, information you get on the Internet, whether through searching websites, emails out of the blue, or emails from trusted friends. A lot of what is passed around is completely false or plausible sounding half-truth. Taking action without checking it out may cause you real damage. Sending it to

friends may just spread a falsehood, or worse, a virus.

If you get an unsolicited advisory regarding your financial institution log directly into their website (DO NOT CLICK THE LINK IN THE EMAIL) to check it out. If you get an advisory related to Microsoft, Dell, Apple, Intuit or whatever, similarly check it out before taking action. Links in emails may bring you to a page that looks legitimate, but is not. If you attempt to log in, you may be giving your log in information to folks who may use it fraudulently. Subsequent challenge questions may be used to obtain even more information.

Two websites that have a good reputation for investigating and debunking Internet nonsense are www.snopes.com and www.truthorfiction.com. The descriptions below come from Wikipedia.

"Snopes.com, also known as the Urban Legends Reference Pages, is a website covering urban legends, Internet rumors, e-mail forwards, and other stories of unknown or questionable origin. It is a well-known resource for validating and debunking such stories in American popular culture, receiving 300,000 visits a day."

"TruthOrFiction.com (or TruthOrFiction.org) is a "mythbusting" website about urban legends, Internet rumors, e-mail forwards, and other stories of unknown or questionable origin. The topics are researched by TruthOrFiction's staff, and rated "Truth" (if true), or "Fiction" (if untrue). When the accuracy is not known with certainty, the stories are rated "Unproven," "Disputed," "Reported to be Truth" or "Reported to be Fiction." Partially true stories are rated "Truth & Fiction."

This is the fourteenth in a series of articles by JGSCV founding Board 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.

December, 2016

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

Forthcoming JGSCV Elections

As per the JGSCV Bylaws, a duly appointed Nominating Committee, chaired by Hal Bookbinder (with board member Allan Linderman and general member Carol Flesher) has recommended the following slate of individuals to fill the six 2-year positions on the JGSCV board effective January 2017:

Jan Meisels Allen
Rosalie Bell
Julie Goldman
Karen Lewy
Helene Rosen

The Nominating Committee also recommends that the following individual be nominated for a one-year term:

Judy Karta

At the November 7th JGSCV meeting a call for additional nominations from the floor resulted in one response: **Diane Wainwood** who agreed to serve if elected.

The terms of four current board members Warren Blatt, Allan Linderman, Andrea Massion and Israel Perel continue through the end of 2017. The board is currently set at ten elected members. Six individuals are recommended for two-year terms and one for a one-year term so that the society will be in conformance with the bylaws which call for half the board terms to expire each year. A coin toss determined that Judy Karta would be recommended for a one-year term. At its October meeting the board adjusted the authorized number of board members to eleven. With the four continuing board members this permits the election of the seven nominees.

Elections will then be held at the December 4, 2016 meeting.

At the initial 2017 board meeting the board will determine who will fulfill the various officer and non-officer board positions. This will be reported to the membership in the February 2017 *Venturing Into Our Past*.

Nominee Biographies

JAN MEISELS ALLEN currently serves as President, JGSCV and is a JGSCV founding member. She served on the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies [IAJGS] board 2004-2013. She continues to serve as Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee and serves as the IAJGS sponsoring representative on the Records Preservation and Access Committee (FGS/NGS/IAJGS). In 2013, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) awarded Jan its President's Citation in recognition of her outstanding and continuing contributions for vigilance in support of records preservation and in defense of public access to public records. Jan was invited to speak in Berlin, Germany in June 2014 on access to holocaust records to committee members of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA). In 2015 Jan was awarded the first IAJGS Volunteer of the Year Award. She has written articles for *Avotaynu*, *Avotaynu Online* and *JGSCV's Venturing Into Our Past*. Jan served in various administrative capacities for seven IAJGS conferences. In 2016 she was appointed to the JGSLA Board with the portfolio of Chairperson of the Pamela Weisberger Memorial Lecture Committee. Prior to helping found JGSCV, Jan was a 5-year board member and first vice president-programming of JGS Los Angeles. Jan lectures at the national and international genealogy conferences and to genealogy societies. She began her genealogy research in 1998 tracing her Polish, Galician

and Hungarian roots. She is married to Tom Allen (another JGSCV founding member) going on 37 years.

ROSALIE BELL (known as Ro) currently is on the board and administers the JGSCV Publicity Committee. She is a founding member of JGSCV. She has been doing genealogical research for eight years primarily in Russia, Poland, and Belarus. She joined JGSCV hoping to learn and obtain information and solve the family mystery of what happened to her father's two sisters, their husbands, and children in what is now Belarus. Her success was the impetus for her to investigate her mother-in-law's family (Russia) which she is currently doing.

Rosalie has had a lifetime career as a clinical psychologist. She studied at UC Berkeley and NYU receiving her BA, MA, and Ph.D. She loves talking to and helping people, researching history of various areas and serves as a docent in a local museum.

Rosalie is married and has three sons and "two perfect" grandchildren!

JULIE GOLDMAN's husband lived in a Philadelphia Jewish orphanage from age 4. To help them both better understand his past, she joined JGSCV 8 years ago. JGSCV quickly became an invaluable resource in filling in so many gaps in Lenny's story. Julie found the organization's commitment to share all things genealogy to be extraordinary. Each time she'd come to a meeting, she would always leave with renewed energy to "genealogize".

Julie feels that JGSCV has given her much and it's time for her to give something in return. She would enjoy joining our Board and making a contribution. She is particularly interested in membership/community outreach. JGSCV is a little gem and we need to spread the word to the larger community.

Julie was married to that Philly kid for 37 years, raised a family, was a professional health care administrator for over 20 years. She built, owned and operated a successful business (over 25 years) with her husband. She finds the genealogy hunt totally fascinating and appreciates JGSCV's contribution to her life.

P.S. Many years after joining JGSCV, Julie turned her attention to looking into her own past. Boy what she's found! Thanks JGSCV.

JUDY KARTA began her family genealogy research 9 years ago, and to date has uncovered her great-great grandfather born 1823 in Ozorkow, Poland. She has also traced many of his descendants to Hull, England where one of his sons settled with his 11 children. As of today, she is trying to connect with these descendants, but so far has run into that "brick wall". Judy has always been interested in Jewish history. She holds a degree in Judaic Studies from Rutgers University and is also a government licensed tour guide in Israel. After raising her three daughters in Israel, Judy moved to the Conejo Valley in 2003 and began teaching Hebrew school at Temple Beth Haverim in Agoura Hills. She taught there until the synagogue closed, specializing in bar mitzvah tutoring for autistic children. Along with her interest in serving on the Board of the JGSCV, Judy also serves as Secretary on the Board of the Friends of the Agoura Hills Library.

KAREN LEWY is the Treasurer of JGSCV. Karen spent her career as a global project manager in banking. She started her genealogical research activities in 2010, and joined JGSCV in October 2011 after moving from Baltimore, MD to the Conejo Valley to be closer to her adult children. She maintains family trees containing over 1500 names and is continuing to research ancestors from Germany, Lithuania and Poland.

HELENE ROSEN is the current Membership Vice President and a founding member of JGSCV. She was also an active participant in the JGSCV cemetery project. Helene has written articles for JGSCV's *Venturing Into Our Past* on finding a relative in Australia, using Steve Morse's site to find her grandmother's steamship record and her genealogical visit to Texas. On several occasions, she has presented her research findings during JGSCV's *Genealogy in the Round* meetings. Her family tree contains over 1500 names. She is a graduate of UCLA, has worked for the County of Los Angeles in data processing, and is the mother of three fine young men and grandmother of one.

DIANE WAINWOOD has been a member of JGSCV since 2007. She is a regular attendee of meetings, and for several years assisted on the Publicity Committee, sending notices of coming meetings to various media. She has been actively engaged in her Jewish genealogy since

joining JGSCV, and attended 2 IAJGS conferences (LA in 2009 and Washington DC in 2011) where she learned enough about research and accessing records to discover a great deal more about the Jewish side of her family. In 2008, Diane made a trip to the Ukraine where she visited her mother's home town. She holds a B.Sc. and MA in foreign language education from The Ohio State University (she is fluent in French and Spanish), and is retired from 25 years of California school teaching. Prior to moving to California, she also spent 12 years as a marketing/public relations manager for several companies, including a tourism/travel operator, and 3M Co.

Dianne currently serves as Recording Secretary for the Conejo Valley Quilters Guild, and recently served for 3 years on the board of the Conejo Valley Amateur Radio Club (Call sign: KJ6JEJ).

Updates: Family Tree Maker and Other Software

Last December we learned that Ancestry was retiring its #1 genealogy desktop software program, Family Tree Maker (FTM). At the time,



Ancestry advised us they were continuing to support FTM through December 31,

2016. We learned several months later that MacKiev had purchased Family Tree Maker. MacKiev announced they would be providing new, free updates in the Spring of 2016 for those who had FTM 2014 and/or MAC 3 and had also registered the software with Ancestry.

After being asked about the status of Family Tree Maker, I contacted MacKiev for an update. Steve Caguiat, Vice President, Software at MacKiev sent me the following update:

Free Update for current editions

MacKiev is finalizing a free update which contains mostly stability and performance improvements. Note that there are no major new features in the new editions. For FTM 2014 and Mac 3 users this is not really an upgrade. It's a free update patch. If you'd like to be notified the moment the update is ready, please go to www.familytreemaker.com and sign up for the FTM Mailing

mackiev.com List. If

all is well with your copy of FTM there is no urgency to get the update. But if FTM is crashing or has slowed to a crawl with large trees, you can get a near-final build right away at the Replacement Center (see below). It is recommended for those without any problems to wait for the final build.

The Replacement Center is open

Mackiev gets requests almost every day from FTM users for replacement copies. Sometimes it's because they've had a hard drive crash and need to reinstall. Or they're just moving to a new computer and have lost their installation disc. Whatever the reason, the new Replacement Center is there to help. It is entirely online and open 24/7 so FTM 2014 and Mac 3 users can get a new link emailed to them.

Getting to the Replacement Center

1. Go to: <https://support.mackiev.com/>
2. Click "for additional assistance" at the bottom of the page.
3. Click the Replacement Center tile.

For those who are using Family Tree Maker and have asked about its status I hope this helps. They do not yet have a date when the free update patch will be available.

TreSync®

Mackiev President Jack Minsky advised that TreeSync® is not ending on December 31, 2016. TreeSync® will be retired at some point but not before a new syncing technology is available to replace it. The new system is already in development with beta testing starting by the end of the year. He said syncing Ancestry search and leaf hints are here to stay.

RootsMagic



RootsMagic, another leading desk top publisher, to connect Ancestry with RootsMagic software by the end of 2016. This has occurred. This

December, 2016

We also learned last February that that Ancestry finalized a separate agreement with

VENTURING INTO OUR PAST

option will allow users to have RootsMagic as desktop software while still having access to Ancestry hits, Ancestry searches and the ability of saving your tree on Ancestry.

Past Articles on Family Tree Maker and other Desktop Genealogy Software

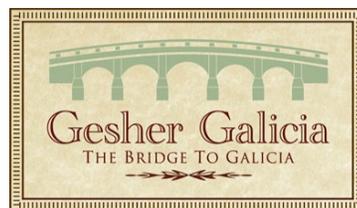
In the January 2016 issue of *Venturing Into Our Past*, there was an article, *Nothing is Forever: The Retirement of Family Tree Maker and Other Genealogical Programs*. The article lists other desktop software programs. It is a list of current available genealogy programs and is not to be construed as an endorsement of any software program. The list is not exhaustive. The list includes both desktop programs for PCs and MACs. In addition, the major genealogy software companies have non-desktop genealogy programs on their websites that you can maintain on their websites. The March 2016 issue of *Venturing Into Our Past* is the update article to the *Nothing Is Forever* in the January issue, and includes information on Roots Magic. All past issues of *Venturing Into Our Past* may be found on JGSCV's website, www.jgscv.org under newsletters, 2016 and then by month.



The blog, genealogy tools.com has a series of Family Tree Software alternatives and insights about GEDCOMS - the program used to transfer data: <http://tinyurl.com/hfjxtlm>

Posting about Family Tree Maker does not imply an endorsement of this product, merely an update to answer several requests for information. There are multiple excellent desktop genealogy software products as well as the major genealogy online organizations offering online options for your genealogy trees. It is up to you as to which product best serves your individual needs.

Genealogy Odds and Ends



The Gesher Galicia Vital Records Project:

In the past twelve months, Gesher Galicia has indexed vital records from some 23 Galician towns, including: Borszczow, Czortkow, Debica, Dobromil, Grzymalow, Husiatyn, Kolomyja, Janow (Grodek A.D.), Jaroslaw, Kudrynce, Lesko, Lwow/Lemberg, Narajow, Pomorzany, Skole, Stanislawow, Stary Sambor, Stryj, Trembowla, Tyczyn, Zbaraz, Zloczow, and Zolkiew.

The resulting indexes of records - some 24,000 in total - have been posted on the searchable All Galicia Database <http://search.geshergalicia.org>.

Genealogy In Time:

Genealogy In Time has published its 2016 Top 100 Genealogy Websites. The International websites are both commercial and non-profit. It is not surprising that included in the top ten genealogy websites are the largest "subscription and free" web sites (in alphabetical order): Ancestry.com, FamilySearch, Findmypast, Geni.com and My Heritage.



Genealogy In Time defines genealogy websites as a website "whose primary audience is someone looking for their ancestors". Therefore, no archives are on the list as archives serve many audiences not only genealogists.

Congratulations to JewishGen for being number 38 and Steve Morse's search engine website for being number 50.

To see the list with their url address links go to: <http://tinyurl.com/z9gaasz>

A list of the 2016 Top Ten Free Genealogy Websites is available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z5uvdxq>

There is also a list of "Genealogy Websites Worth Knowing", they are sites that just missed the top 100. This list also includes blogs. They may be accessed at: <http://tinyurl.com/zgq52gq>

Future Meeting Dates through August 2017

Sunday afternoons at 1:30 **Monday evenings at 7:00**

Programs co-sponsored by Temple Adat Elohim

Check the website and this newsletter for updates

2016

*December 4 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Annual Chanukah Celebration and Membership Meeting Speaker: Karen Franklin "The Stedman Story - Mystery, Intrigue, Adoption and DNA: Jewish Genealogy Strategies Unravel a Family Mystery"

2017

*January 8 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Warren Blatt "Polish-Jewish Genealogical Research"

*February 12 Sun **1:00-5:00 pm** Assisted Research Afternoon at LA FAMILY HISTORY LIBRARY

*March 6 **MONDAY 7:00-9:00 pm** Speaker: Mary Kozy "Google for Genealogists"

*April 2 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Yom Hashoah Commemoration, TBD

*May 7 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Marcia Fine" A Sephardic Journey"

*June 4 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Speaker: Jan Meisels Allen "How to Begin Your Jewish Genealogy"

*July No Meeting - IAJGS Conference 7/23-28 Orlando, FL

*August 6 Sun 1:30-3:30 pm Genealogy In the Round where members and guests share their successes, brickwalls and artifacts.

Programs are subject to change - check JGSCV website www.jgscv.org

2017 JGSCV 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 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 _____

Zipcode + 4 _____

Day telephone _____ Evening telephone _____

E-mail address _____

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

