



# QUEST

THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT

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First Quarter 2014

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Positive reviews from the 2013 IAJGS Conference in Boston
- Document storage tips
- IAJGS Conference 2014 in Salt Lake City
- Tech tips

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## CHANGES AT JGSC T

This issue of *Quest* reflects some recent changes at the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut.

We welcome our new *Quest* co-editors, Deborah Samuel Holman and Gail Kalison Reynolds.



**New *Quest* co-editors Gail Kalison Reynolds and Deborah Samuel Holman**

We extend our sincere thanks to editor emeritus Arthur Meyers and editor assistant emeritus Marcia Indianer Meyers. Arthur and Marcia have produced wonderful *Quest* newsletters packed with meaningful news and articles for many years. We thank them for their years of service and are glad that they remain board members!

In addition, we say goodbye to longtime board member Georgia Haken. Georgia served as President and also as our librarian for many years.

An accomplished genealogical researcher and speaker, Georgia assisted many new members (and some experienced members too!) with their research. We will miss Georgia and hope to see her at an occasional JGSC T program.

Welcome new librarian, Janet Carlson! Janet takes over for Georgia Haken. Janet has spent many years as a children's librarian.

**PLEASE SEND YOUR EMAIL SO WE CAN SEND YOU QUEST ELECTRONICALLY!**

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

**MARCH 16, 2014**

**Ellen Cassidy: We Are Here: Memories of the Lithuanian Holocaust**

**APRIL 20, 2014**

**Monica Talmor and Doris-Loeb Nabel: Part Two of Genealogical Travels in Europe**

All programs held at

**Godfrey Memorial Library  
134 Newfield Street,  
Middletown, CT 06457**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## IAJGS BOSTON 2013 PART III HOPE YOU WILL JOIN ME IN SALT LAKE CITY

Compiling highlights for this last installment reminds me how much I appreciate the opportunity to network on so many levels with other genealogists. Attending an IAJGS conference enhances skills and connections for researchers at all levels.

With a varied choice of sessions from 8:15 AM - 6:15 PM, evening programs, a resource room, computer labs, a vendor room...the opportunities for progress, enrichment, and an infusion of encouragement, conferences stimulate and motivate attendees.

Boston 2013 offered an innovative option to 'attend' via Internet, IAJGS Conference Live. Paying \$49 per day, or \$139 for the five days, viewers could watch 50 sessions selected by the conference chairs from among the 250 sessions.

Elevator rides, walking to, or sitting down at a session often result in new friendships, many with people who share my research interests. I met a 5<sup>th</sup> cousin via a 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin; until then, I had not even known about his family line. Now I find his surname in my FTDNA matches, and in documents; another puzzle piece we will hopefully figure out. Interestingly, he was one of a record group of about 80 people who had attended the Mac Users' Birds of a Feather (BOF) I started in 2007, but, when we spoke, neither of us yet knew we were related.

Facilitating the BOF meeting proved both rewarding and exhilarating. Anyone who has an idea for a group that could be beneficial to genealogists at a conference is welcome to pursue the goal. Privileged to attend the IAJGS Annual Meeting as the delegate from Connecticut, I am also grateful for having had the opportunity to attend a moving evening offering. Actress and concert pianist Mona Golabek presented her amazing autobiographical musical version of her book *The Children of Willesden Lane*, set in Vienna in 1938 and London during the Blitzkrieg.

The Boston website is still up. Check <http://www.iajgs2013.org> to view the breadth of the past conference. Whatever your interests, you will see topics dealing with your ancestral countries, informational sessions including INS Records for Genealogists, USHMM updates, an IAJGS panel Genealogy Under Fire: Government Actions to Impede Access to Records YOU Need.

I eagerly anticipate the energy and benefits of the Salt Lake City conference. Go to <http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/> for preliminary information. Enhancing my proficiency via nationally and internationally noted experts, professional genealogists, historians, and archivists who also offer suggestions and assistance is a phenomenal opportunity. Speaking with them during the week provides invaluable resources, and often aids in cracking a brick wall, solving a mystery, or jump-starting genealogy endeavors.

Another incredible resource in Salt Lake City, the Family History Library is the 'candy store' of genealogy. Go to <https://www.lds.org/locations/temple-square-family-history-library> for more information.

I hope to see many of you in Salt Lake City.



REPORTS FROM THE 2013 IAJGS CONFERENCE

I have dabbled in genealogy for at least ten years, but I consider myself a novice. I research on and off, but never a really concerted effort.

When I learned of IAJGS conferences, I decided to go to Boston. I registered right away and called a friend in DC who had been to the conference there and she agreed to be my roommate. I was all set. Information about the conference started coming immediately by email –many a day. The organizers were amazingly good at their jobs. No stone was left unturned. I was armed and ready for the conference when the time came. I knew what sessions I would go to with second choices if needed. I signed up to receive the streamed sessions because I could watch them for 3 months after the conference. It turned out that the conference was better than I could ever imagine. I sat in the lobby and talked to anyone who sat nearby. Everyone was friendly. Unfortunately there

were no relatives of mine there nor was anyone looking for any of my ancestors or anyone in my ancestral towns, but I was learning how to look for them. I concentrated on sessions that taught how to search. I saw three films, all excellent. Aaron Lansky was an inspired speaker, I took some photos to Sherlock Cohn who cleared up a few mysteries, and I learned so much.

I returned home and told everyone about the conference but I did nothing genealogy-wise. Then October came and I realized I had these programs waiting to be seen and they were scheduled to disappear in November. So I sat at my computer for 3-4 hours a day, notebook on my lap (no iPad for me), taking notes. I was back at the conference again! I watched programs I would never have attended that were fascinating. I was having a great time.

I will happily attend another conference that is close to home. I don't

see myself traveling to Utah or Israel, but when it is back on the East Coast, I'll be going.

I am so glad I went, and I would encourage anyone else to go as well.

Janet Aronow Carlson  
*Searching for Aronow, Dressner, Gelbhaus, Portnoy, Rosmarin*



I had attended the last IAJGS Conference in New York and was eager to get to Boston but unfortunately my schedule allowed for only 1.5 days (Wednesday -Thursday.) I didn't get to meet up with any of the other JGSC members but still had a nice time. I had to choose from the available workshops on those days: some were great; others not up to what I expected. I was disappointed that because I arrived so late, I wasn't privy to some basic information. The organizers really didn't seem to have taken late arrivals into account.

Most of my workshops were very interesting, but I had signed up for a computer workshop about using the computer to organize your genealogical information and it turned into a very basic lesson on using Microsoft Word. What was worse was that the presenter's information was five to ten years old and did not reflect the best uses for organizing genealogical information. I didn't stay for the whole session and found a better one. I didn't learn about the available apps until I was leaving.

I really enjoyed my "Breakfast with the Experts" from Israel. They were very knowledgeable and interesting and offered

to help me find out where my great-grandmother is buried in Israel.

I was worried about meeting people and where I would go to eat but everyone was so friendly. As I stood reading the menu outside of P.F. Chang, I met a woman from New Zealand, born in South Africa. We ate together and had a stimulating conversation. At dinner time, I was standing in the lobby when a woman started to talk to me. When she found out I was alone, she invited me to go out with her and her cousin. They were wonderful company. The woman was from Philadelphia and her cousin was from Australia. They had met at the New York conference. They are researching the same family name in the same town and although they have not yet discovered their connection, they feel related and have been close friends ever since. The Italian dinner was delicious. We returned to the hotel to watch the Wednesday night Rock/Klezmer Band performance in the ballroom. It was fantastic. Although I wish I had been able to go to some of the sessions earlier in the week, overall I had a great time.

-Linda Carlson

# COMMENTS

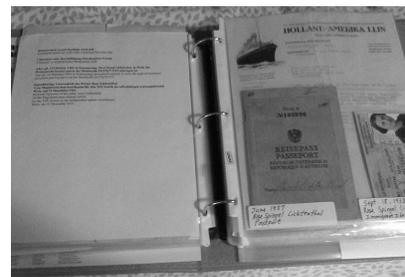
Comments on previous Quest article (Nov. 2013 issue):

"In Barney Miller's excellent article about Document Binders, he failed to mention that all primary documents and photographs should be stored in acid free plastic sheet protectors so that we don't have to punch holes in them and they are protected from deterioration."

From email - Linda Carlson

"I'm lucky to belong to a family of savers and have many primary source items. I use large scrapbooking binders for the major people/families and place each item into page protectors (archival) label each with date, info. The "pages" are then placed in chronological order.

When I translate a document, I place the printed translation in the pocket with the original."



Deborah Samuel Holman, May 19, 2013 on the Facebook Group "The Organized Genealogist"

# NOTES

## SHARE YOUR STORY!

Nearly everyone reading our newsletter has already begun the search for family history. Many of us encountered obstacles soon after, but we persevered.

Share your story of how you began your journey. The length of the write-up could be short, medium or long - but please share it!

Send your story to:  
[quest@jgsct.org](mailto:quest@jgsct.org)

Sending announcements and newsletters by mail uses funds that could be put to better use.

Help your JGSCT by requesting that all correspondence be done electronically.

To make changes, contact:  
[Quest@jgsct.org](mailto:Quest@jgsct.org)

## REPORTS ON RECENT JGSCT PROGRAMS

### October 20, 2013

#### PUBLISHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Barney Miller, and Georgia Haken, JGSCT board members, and long-time genealogists, explained how to publish the results of your genealogical research.

Some of the books mentioned by Georgia:

"A Self-Publishing Manual" by Dan Poynter

"Producing Quality Family History" by Patricia Law Hatcher.

"On Your Own: How to Design and Construct a Family History Book to Inform and Captivate Your Readers" by Elayne and Stephen Denker.

These books listed are in the JGSCT library!

### November 17, 2013

#### BOOK DISCUSSION WITH DR. LEON CHAMEIDES

DR. LEON CHAMEIDES, Past President of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford, discussed his recently published books. In *Strangers in Many Lands* he traces his family back to 1790. *On the Edge of the Abyss* is a collection of essays written by his father, who was Rabbi of the Katowice Jewish community, from 1932-1936.

In addition to reading sections of the texts, Dr. Chameides shared many tips on writing and publishing your own books. At the conclusion of his poignant and informative presentation, Dr. Chameides presented a copy of each book to the JGSCT.



## HOW I BEGAN MY GENEOLOGICAL JOURNEY

I was 15 years old when my grandfather, William Greenstein, passed away in March of 1969. A few weeks later my Social Studies teacher at school gave us an assignment to interview an immigrant and write about their life. I immediately thought of my grandfather and was so disappointed that I couldn't interview him for the paper. I ended up interviewing my uncle instead.

The problem weighed on me. I started asking my mother to tell me about my grandfather's life. She really didn't know that much but I wrote down what she remembered. He had been born in Ungvar, Hungary in 1882. He was a very good artist and he wanted to be a sculptor but his parents wanted him to be a plumber. After an unsuccessful apprenticeship with a mean plumber, he ran away from home at age 16 and learned to install bell pulls in castles (to call the servants) and installed tin roofs. When a cousin wrote to him and invited him to move to New York at the age of twenty-one, he jumped at the chance and arrived in 1903. That was all my mother could tell me.

I started to make phone calls to relatives and collected information about births, deaths and marriages. I wrote everything out on a long sheet of paper that stretched about 40 feet. I found out that my grandmother, Celia Schoenberger, was one of eight children born over a span of twenty-three years. Aunt Sara, a middle child was then 80 and I wanted to meet her. Her younger sister Rae was only three years old when she immigrated and couldn't tell me anything about Hungary. She thought that Ungvar was another name for Hungary.

A year after my grandfather's death, I was asking my mother about Rae's husband, her Uncle Goldy. I realized that Goldy was probably not his real first name since his last name was Goldstein. My mother told me she didn't know any other name. She had always called him "Uncle Goldy". Then we learned that Uncle Goldy had passed away. I was eager to go to the funeral and shiva since Aunt Sara would be there. My mother warned me that she was senile and I shouldn't bother her. I promised that I would stop asking questions if it upset anyone. We arrived at the funeral home and sat with our family. The rabbi began the service and spoke glowingly about "Isadore". All of the family began turning to each other with questioning looks. Who was "Isadore"? Were we in the wrong place? Then we realized and everyone began to smile. Goldy's real name was "Isadore" and no one knew.

Back at the house I sat down with Aunt Sara and other members of the family. I began asking her about her childhood and her family history. As she responded, other members of the family confirmed her stories and enjoyed the conversation. I gathered lots of information. And so began my quest.

I learned about my Uncle Adolf who passed away at two months old and I only recently found his death record in New York and learned that he was the second child, not the first as my mother had told me years ago. At the same time I found the death record of my mother's sister Rita who had Down Syndrome and was born when my mother was five, not three as she recalled. She passed away at the age of five. And I found the ship passenger record of my grandfather's arrival in New York in 1903.

I always tell everyone that one thing I love about genealogy is that you can put it aside when you need to and pick it up again. That has happened many times over the years. Now that my children are grown, I have more time to work on genealogy. I have been working on my husband's family too. I love that now I can use the Internet for most of my research, and find records in England. But there is still such a thrill about viewing primary documents in a town hall, library or archive. I have traveled around the country visiting relatives and doing research. My dream is to get to Europe to see the places that my family and my husband's family came from.

# TAKE THE PLUNGE – START A BLOG!

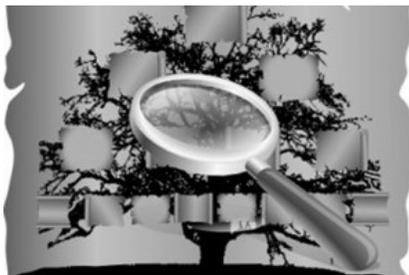


Image Source: <http://www.ancestor.com/wp-content/uploads/2008/08/search-familytree-300x232.jpg>

In August 2013 I attended the 33rd Annual IAJGS Convention, (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) I attended several lectures about writing family histories, bought a book and spoke to many people about the best approach to use for publishing a family history book. The best advice was given to me was, "It's better to print some stuff NOW than nothing EVER."

So...prompted by that philosophy (and my brother, Dean) I decided to publish a blog as a way to share information NOW while working on a multi-volume family history.

I had done a little blogging before for some courses I had taught and to chronicle the progress of my dollhouse-building, but never really stuck to it.

Somewhere I read an article about blog ideas. One struck a chord with me – post a short summary about specific ancestors on their birthdays. What a great idea! *Who We Are and How We Got This Way* was born. My first post was on Sunday, August 25, 2013. So far I've written 26 posts – at least one a week.

To keep myself motivated, I've also signed on for the 52 *Ancestors in 52 Weeks* challenge. This challenge was posted by Amy Johnson Crow on her blog <http://www.nostorytoosmall.com>.

From her post: "The challenge: have one blog post each week devoted to a specific ancestor. It could be a story, a biography, a photograph, an outline of a research problem – anything that focuses on one ancestor."



Knowing I "promised" to do this should help keep me posting.

I started my blog on blogger.com because I was already familiar with the site. The directions are pretty easy to follow. All you need to start is a Google account.

Visit my blog at:  
[whoweareandhowwegotthisway.blogspot.com](http://whoweareandhowwegotthisway.blogspot.com)

If you do decide to start a blog, send me an email  
[Deborah.holman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Deborah.holman@sbcglobal.net)

I'd love to see your progress!

Deb Holman  
Quest Co-editor

NO ONE REMEMBERS ALONE  
MEMORY, MIGRATION, AND THE MAKING OF AN AMERICAN FAMILY

10 NOVEMBER 2013

–

4 APRIL 21014

An Exhibit at the Yiddish Book Center

1021 West Street, Amherst, Massachusetts  
(Near the back entrance to Hampshire College)  
413.256.4900

Patricia Klindienst,  
Curator

Spanning two galleries, the exhibit recreates the migration narrative of an entire family of Jews who fled Czarist Russia at the turn of the 20th century, including the "lost" sisters who stayed behind and whose ultimate fate remains a mystery. The show is based on six years of genealogical research that involved more than 200 volunteers from 16 countries who helped translate and interpret hundreds of photo postcards and documents. Three dozen members of the extended family shared their memorabilia with me, though none of them could read the languages the messages were written in, and many of the faces on the old photo postcards made in small Jewish photo studios of Eastern Europe had no place in their memories. Lost, too, were the details of history—the time, the place, the circumstances that led people to flee and how they got to America.

## OVERWHELMED BY ALL THE GENEALOGY BLOGS YOU WANT TO FOLLOW? USE AN RSS READER!

So many informative genealogy blogs to read but so little time! How does one manage the spate of valuable information?

RSS, the acronym for Rich Site Summary or Really Simple Syndication, allows communication and aggregation of “feeds” of website and blog updates. A feed becomes available when the page content updates.

With a Reader, you may scan the feeds that you follow for updates. The updates appear as “headlines” so you may select which you wish to read additionally. All of your updated content appears at your fingertips rather than checking each page periodically. Many RSS Readers exist in web, desktop, and mobile formats.

I use Feedly, which is free and available via web and mobile (iOS and Android.) I use Feedly ([www.feedly.com](http://www.feedly.com)) in Chrome browser and on an Android phone. Google credentials (userid/password) are required.

My Feedly Home Screen appears in **Figure 1**.

Here are genealogy blogs that I follow. (**Figure 2**) The numbers following each entry indicate new content.

Click on any feed to view the content. (**Figure 3**) Keep clicking to read the actual content!

To add a new feed, click on Add Content. You can search for content or type in the url of a blog to which you want to subscribe.

For example, to subscribe to the Jewishgen blog, type in the url for the blog, which is:

<http://jewishgen.blogspot.com/>.

Once Feedly finds the feed, click on the + to add to your feeds. (**Figure 4**)

There are many alternatives to Feedly. Microsoft Outlook and Internet Explorer have RSS readers. AOL has an RSS reader. Newsblur is another alternative. To find more options, search for “RSS readers” in your search engine.

Gail Kalison Reynolds  
Quest Co-editor

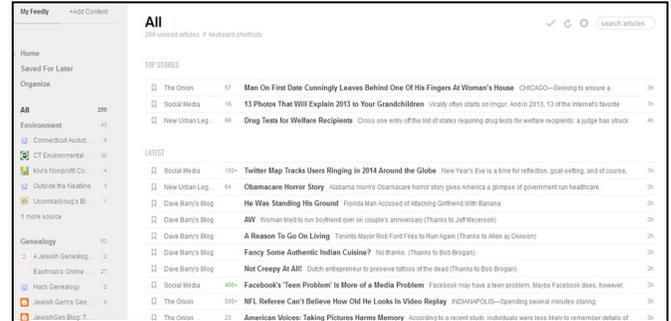


Figure 1

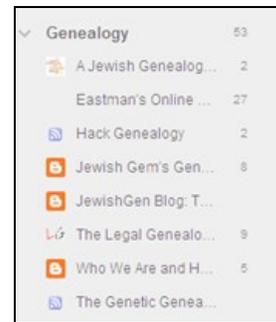


Figure 2

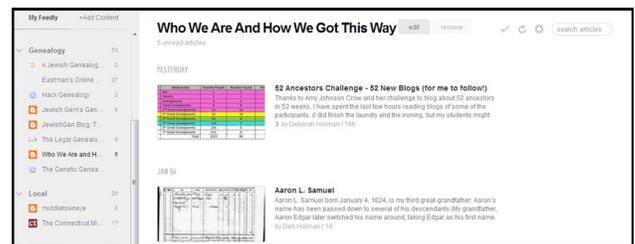


Figure 3

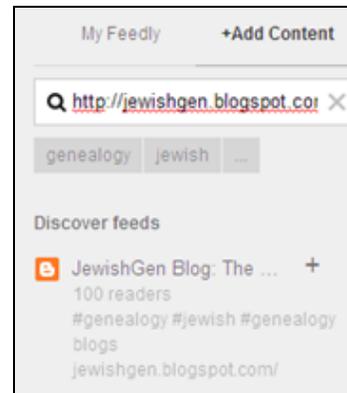


Figure 4

# NEW AT GENTTEAM.AT

The following information was selected from the Jan. 12, 2014 email sent by Felix Gundacker, professional genealogist; email: [kontakt@GenTeam.at](mailto:kontakt@GenTeam.at)

With the current online databases, the actual 22,200 registered users have immediately more than 10.1 million entries at their disposal.

All databases can be searched free of charge.

GenTeam is not profit-oriented and not tied to a membership fee. GenTeam is a European platform through which historians and genealogists alike provide their independent or team-developed databases free of charge at the disposal of all researchers.

Other conveniences are a bilingual mailinglist, [www.GenList.at](http://www.GenList.at)

with more than 1,400 members, as well as a collection of genealogical links found at [www.GenLink.at](http://www.GenLink.at). Mrs. Mireille Trauner manages the GenTeam page at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) where all the latest updates can be found.

**New at GenTeam:** Indices of Registries from the Bishopric Passau, approximately 2.1 million records

This database does not yet contain all registers (indices) for all the parishes in the Roman Catholic Dioceses Passau, Germany. Current registers vary from parish to parish; the earliest registers begin in 1580 all the way up to the various designated times of personal data protection.

At the help-bottom of this database you will find a complete list-

ing of parishes, and time of online registers.

At this time, marriage indices of all parishes are completed. Baptism indices are only partially finished, and available in the following areas --a broad area northward the Inn River, the area between the Inn and Danube, the city of Passau almost in its entirety, parts of the Bavarian Forest, and a tract upwards the Danube. Burials are still in the beginning stages of development and are only available in the Rottal, the area between Inn and Danube, almost completely in the city of Passau, as well as a tract upwards the Danube.

In this database you will find the parish, volume, page number, surname, given name, profession (not always), address/locality (not always), date / year.

You will find the original registries online at [www.matricula-online.eu](http://www.matricula-online.eu).

## PROGRAM IDEAS FOR JGSCT

Do you have requests or suggestions for future JGSCT programs ?

We are always looking for quality programs for our members and guests.

Contact: Arthur S. Meyers at: [marciarthur@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marciarthur@sbcglobal.net)

**NOTES FROM NU?  
WHAT'S NEW?**

**IAJGS Makes Appointments**

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) has appointed Nolan Altman of Oceanside, New York, as IAJGS Vice President. Altman replaces Jan Meisels Allan who recently resigned the position but will continue as Chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee.

Altman's previous position on the IAJGS Board will be filled by Garri Regev of Jerusalem, Israel. She served as Chair of the Jerusalem Genealogical Society and then President of the Israel Genealogical Society. Regev is currently the President of the Israel Genealogy Research Association. She is on the Steering Committee for the 35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Jerusalem in 2015.



Nolan Altman



Garri Regev

IAJGS is the umbrella organization of 74 Jewish genealogical societies worldwide. The IAJGS serves the shared needs of its members, coordinates and organizes activities such as the annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, provides a unified voice and acts as the spokesperson on behalf of its members. Their site is at <http://www.iajgs.org>.

Did you remember to renew your JGSCT membership for 2014? Membership dues are JGSCT's source of funding. Without our members' support, we would be unable to offer the fabulous programs you are welcome to enjoy. In addition, we would not be able to pay for our website, our newsletter Quest, or mailings.

**IF IT'S  
ONLINE, IT  
MUST BE  
TRUE...  
NOT  
NECESSARILY**

Recently on the JewishGen digest there was a link to an article about Jewish surnames:  
<http://www.businessinsider.com/origins-of-popular-jewish-surnames-2014-1>

I was considering summarizing the article for QUEST but then a post appeared in the digest written by Roger Lustig. Mr. Lustig pointed out several inaccuracies in the article and provided some advice as to where one may obtain accurate information on Jewish surnames as well as suggesting some questions to consider about surname adoption.

I wrote to Mr. Lustig regarding his excellent advice and he responded, suggesting people refer to the following file about names on JewishGen:  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/namfaq0.htm>

His post should serve as a reminder not to take everything we read as truth.

-Deb Holman



**Yes!! We are on Facebook!**  
Visit our page often for updated news and information.  
Search using: JGSCT

WWW.JGSCT.ORG



**The Jewish Genealogical  
Society Of Connecticut**

We meet at Godfrey Memorial Library:

134 Newfield Street  
Middletown, CT 06457

*Quest*: [quest@jgsct.org](mailto:quest@jgsct.org)

General Info: [info@jgsct.org](mailto:info@jgsct.org)

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