



QUEST

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
OF CONNECTICUT

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President's Message
- Welcome to Our Newest Members
- Genealogy Articles of Interest
- Genealogy Humor
- News from the JGSC Board

DOUBLE ISSUE!!

They say good things come to those who wait. We hope you feel this way too!
Enjoy this double issue of Quest!

Avraham Groll, Senior Director of Business Operations for JewishGen, shares his research on Jewish migration and how Jews reached Europe at a recent JGSC meeting.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

President's Message	2-3
Report from IAJGS 2016	6
Genealogy Humor	7-8
Tips on Conducting an Oral Interview	10-12
Websites of Interest	17
Recent Experience with Geni	19
Alternative to Dropbox	21
Tribute to Barney Miller	23

UPCOMING PROGRAM

NEXT MEETING!!

December 18, 2016 1:30 P.M.

Roundtable:

SHARE YOUR GENEALOGICAL SUCCESSES & CHALLENGES

All programs held at
Temple Sinai
41 West Hartford Road
Newington, CT 06111

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

THE STORY TELLERS: WE ARE THE CHOSEN ONES

DORIS LOEB NABEL

A striking graphic. Five meaningful sentences superimposed on a black tombstone. No attribution.

The words continued to touch me. Weeks later, I searched for more information on Facebook, where the image had appeared in my News Feed. I discovered that a gentleman posted it on 'U.S. Midwest Genealogy Research Community', a Facebook group. Further internet searches resulted in my finding the poem, sometimes followed by 'Anonymous.'

On Sunday, October 30, Avraham Groll presented his informative talk, *Jewish Migrations: How Did Jews Reach Europe?* as the JGSC program. Several times during his talk, my thoughts drifted to my ancestors. Knowing that my forebears would not exist for future generations had I not felt the need to discover, remember and honor their lives, I recalled 'the' poem which continues to 'speak' to me.

Following Avrami's presentation and the Q & A, and before closing the meeting, I shared with the assembled members and guests that November is International Jewish Genealogy Month. Each year, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies holds a poster contest with the goal of promoting Jewish genealogy research.

Just prior to displaying a copy of the winning poster, which illustrates this year's theme, 'Always Remember Where You Came From,' I suddenly had an inspiring insight.

The timely, fortuitous, coincidental juxtaposition of the three related strands: Avrami's talk, the poem which moved me, and the winning poster, led me to the conclusion that We Are The Chosen Ones should be the subject of this month's President's Message.

Since October 30, following countless hours spent trying to discover the authorship, I finally found a first attribution: "Della Cummings, 1943," and then, further details.

I am now able to provide the full provenance: Della M. Cummings Wright wrote the poem; her granddaughter, Della JoAnn McGinnis Johnson rewrote the poem; Tom Dunn rewrote and edited it, then shared it on his website; Harold Sparks, <http://www.sparksgenealogy.net/strytelr.html>, posted it with the proper attributions; and Amberly Beck, <https://thegenealogygirl.wordpress.com/2016/03/27/we-are-the-chosen-quote/#comments> made a few additional changes. Therefore, I no longer hesitate to share the poem I find meaningful.

Given the various versions I cited, I used those lines, which, for me, most clearly relate the meaning of the work. In addition, I made minor changes, omitting authors' personal details, and edited spelling and grammar.

I hope the poem also resonates with you.



President's Message (continued)

The Story Tellers: We Are The Chosen Ones

My feelings are that in each family there is
One who seems called to find the ancestors.
To put flesh on their bones and make them live again.
To tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but, instead,
Breathing life into all who have gone before.
We are the storytellers of the tribe's Family History.
All tribes have one.
We have been called, as it were, by our genes.

Those who have gone before cry out to us:
"Tell our story! Remember who we were." So, we do.
In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.
How many graves have I stood before and cried? I have lost count.

How many times have I told the ancestors,
"You have a wonderful family? You would be proud of us!"
How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was
Love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts, our endless hours of search.
It goes to who am I, and why I do the things I do.
It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference, and saying,
I can't let this happen.
The bones here are bones of my bones and flesh of my flesh.
It goes to doing something about it.

It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish.
It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up,
Their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.
It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us.
That we might be born who we are. That we might remember them. So we do.

Without our ancestors we could not exist, and so we love each one, as far back as we can reach.
With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, because we are they, and they are
the sum of who we are.

So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next
generation to answer the call in the long line of family storytellers.

That, is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and
put flesh on the bones, and restore the memory or greet those who we had never known before.

Reedited by Doris Loeb Nabel November 2016

JEWISHGEN SIG (SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS) NEWS

Gesher Galicia SIG

Gesher Galicia has added two important sets of Holocaust records to the All Galicia Database. The database is free and available to all, at: <http://search.geshergalicia.org>

1. *Debica-area Holocaust-period death testimonies. Rzeszow State Archive, Fond 881, Sygn. 1 (791 records)*

These are testimonies, provided by people who survived, of Jews who died during the Holocaust - all but a handful of them murdered. In indexing these records, we have extracted the following information: Names of person, names of parents, town of origin, date of testimony (where given), reported date of death, reported place of death, reported cause of death, and the names (where the signatures are legible) of the two people signing the form of testimony.

2. *Doctors' Questionnaires, 1941-1943 (133 records)*

These are detailed, four-page forms (some with face photos) that Jewish medical and health-care workers were obliged to complete under the Nazi occupation., sometimes in duplicate or triplicate. The people named include doctors, dentists, dental technicians, nurses, midwives, radiologists, cosmeticians, medical students and others.

All these forms were completed in eastern Galician towns. Yad Vashem holds a set of 2,001 questionnaires of the same type, also from eastern Galicia, which were indexed for JewishGen some ten years ago and are described and can be searched on JewishGen's web site:

http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/0132_polish_medical_questionnaires.html

Gesher Galicia has started a new data sharing initiative with our friends at [JewishGen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org)! Now when you search for a person or a place in the All Galicia Database (freely available at <http://search.geshergalicia.org/>), at the bottom of the page of results, you'll see links to matching search results in relevant databases at JewishGen.

When you do a search in JewishGen's All-Ukraine Database or All-Poland Database, at the bottom of their page of results you'll see links to relevant matches in the All Galicia Database.

Gesher Galicia is pleased to announce the program for the second year of the Josephine and Franciscan Surveys Project (the J&F Project), as well as for the new Vital Records Project for 2017. The Josephine land survey was ordered by Emperor Joseph II in 1785. Thousands of communities in Galicia - along with those in other provinces of the Habsburg Monarchy - were surveyed, with the names, house numbers, and plots of land recorded in specially prepared registers. The Franciscan land survey - ordered by Francis I in 1817 - recorded Jewish names using given names and surnames. The first phase was conducted in 1819-1822, covering Jewish landholders from many communities. Detailed land measurements in Galicia did not end until 1854.

Gesher Galicia Board member Andrew Zalewski researched and set up this project a year ago, and - working with small teams in Poland and Ukraine - has successfully completed J&F surveys from the following 17 Galician towns this year:

Bohorodczany, Delatyn, Gwozdziec, Kolomyja, Kosow, Kutu, Nadworna, Obertyn, Sniatyn, Solotwina, Stanislawow, Tlumacz, Trembowla, Tysmienica, Zablotow, Zbaraz, and Zurawno.

The resulting indexes of records - some 18,000 in total - have been posted on the searchable All Galicia Database (<http://search.geshergalicia.org>).

For further information on the J&F project generally, please see:

<http://www.geshergalicia.org/projects/josephine-and-franciscan-surveys-project/>

JEWISHGEN SIG NEWS (CONT.)

EarlyAmerican SIG

The New York Public Library announced this week that it is digitizing its collection of New York City Directories 1786-1922/23. Using City Directories is a wonderful genealogical tool as it gives us perspective of where our ancestors were at a specific time and place. Prior to telephone directories, city directories were the way to locate people. The information in the directories includes: name, address, profession and sometimes marital status (listing a woman as a widow).

As the city directories list addresses, they are helpful when searching for people in the census. Unlike telephone directories, one did not require a telephone to be listed. The city directories began in the United States after the Revolutionary War. In some instances they provide history of the area and era. One had to subscribe (pay) to be included. The directories were available to those who were not included, again for a fee. The first of the city directories to be digitized are 1849/50 through 1923, the next being scanned are 1786-1848/9. The entire collection will be completely online in the coming months.

You may access them free from the New York Public Library Digital Collections portal at: <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/> Note: Type **New York City Directories** into the search bar.

To read more about the New York Public Library digitization of city directories see: <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2016/09/21/new-york-city-directories-free-online>

COMPETITION BETWEEN FINDAGRAVE USERS!

I learned something new (I usually do!) while reading a recent blog post by Amy Johnson Crow. Being an “ethical genealogist” (Thanks to Judy Russell for that phrase!) is really important to me. I was distressed to find not all genealogists seem to consider how their actions may impact others.

Amy was writing about how the website FindAGrave (www.findagrave.com) could be made better. I knew that anyone who wished to could add memorial pages on the website. What I did NOT know was that there are people “out there” who seem to make this a competition. Amy gave as an example, her family’s recent experience of finding her recently deceased father-in-law’s memorial on FindAGrave **before** it had even appeared in the newspaper! Less than 24 hours had elapsed since his passing and already there was a memorial posted – by a complete stranger. How could this happen so quickly? Amy contacted the creator of the memorial who admitted she was competing with another FindAGrave member to be the first to post memorials. She was able to get the information so quickly because funeral homes often post obituaries online as soon as plans are determined. This occurs **before** the information is printed in a newspaper.

Amy suggested that FindAGrave develop a procedure that allows the family some time, perhaps 30 days, before a memorial can be posted by an unrelated person. She also suggested that the website stop displaying the numbers of memorials posted by individuals.

To read Amy’s post, go to <http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/2016/10/21/findagrave-made-better/>. (Information reposted with permission of author.)

- Deb Holman

REPORT FROM THE 36TH IAJGS CONFERENCE

— DEB HOLMAN—

Seattle Washington - August 7-12, 2016

Speaker: Judy G. Russell – The Ethical Genealogist



This was my first-time hearing Judy Russell speak. I was really looking forward to hearing her presentation on ethical practices in genealogy as I always strive to do “the right thing” but am not always 100% sure of what that may be! She did not disappoint. At first glance, Judy Russell struck me as intimidating – a tall, stern looking woman with a law degree. Then she began speaking. A lawyer who speaks in layman’s terms and has a sense of humor? Jackpot! This presentation was definitely one of the best I have ever attended. Judy shared her information and gave me permission to pass it on to our readers. (Yup! You bet I asked for her okay! The pic is from the IAJGS 2016 website.)

Judy began by explaining that “there is a difference between what is legal and what is right.” The presentation focused on the “what is right” aspects of genealogy.

She pointed out that in today’s world, “...we deal with issues that those before us couldn’t even have imagined...online trees, message boards, social media, DNA...” These new technologies present us with ethical dilemmas. How do we handle these?

Judy shared some guidelines we might follow in our quest to be ethical genealogists.

Judy Russell’s Rules

Tell the truth	Play nice with others	Don’t tell tales out of school
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No matter what the truth is (but consider who may be hurt if you choose to tell) • Never say “but I’m sure it’s true” - because that’s what people say when they think it’s true but have no definitive proof. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It’s all our families’ heritage (she gave an example of a person who uploaded 20 blog posts to their own trees as if the stories belonged to them.) • Taking vs. sharing (If the document isn’t yours, it’s taking.) • Give credit where it’s due. Get permission to share. <p>No bullying to get someone to share information (I had no idea this was even a problem! Judy suggested that people may have reasons not to share – maybe it’s too upsetting, too recent, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes a story needs to wait • Don’t put living people on a public tree • Inform people how information may be used <p>Before you share any data, THINK! Once it has been shared, you can’t get it back</p>



A LITTLE GENEALOGY HUMOR FROM AMY JOHNSON CROW : 5 UNSPOKEN LAWS OF GENEALOGY

(permission granted to reprint from the blog AmyJohnsonCrow.com)

You've heard the rules of genealogy. *Cite your sources. Start with the known and move to the unknown.* What you may not have heard are the Laws of Genealogy. Much like the Law of Gravity causes an apple to fall down and not up, these laws are all around us. Here are 5 of the unspoken Laws of Genealogy, as I have come to know them:

The Law of Horizontal Space

Genealogists shall take up all available horizontal space. Books, papers, file folders keep taking up more and more space. It starts on our desks and spreads to the dining room table, the coffee table, the floor... Even in our digital world, this law is still in effect. Add up our laptops, smartphones, scanners, tablets, chargers, spare batteries and all our techie toys and we still take up a lot of space. **Corollary to this law: There is not enough horizontal space in the world.**

The Law of Last Call

Genealogists will make their biggest discovery after the library or archives announces that it will be closing in 15 minutes. This Law is more stringently enforced the farther the genealogist had to travel to get to said library or archives.

The Law of Departure Time

Genealogists will make their biggest discovery within 15 minutes of the agreed-upon time of departure from a library or archives. If the group is going to leave at 4:00, the biggest discovery will be made after 3:45. *Do not attempt to trick the Law of Departure Time by stating a time earlier than what is really planned.* The Laws of Genealogy know this and will punish you by not allowing you to find anything.

The Law of Vital Records

At least one member of the family tree will have been born or died 1-2 years before the start of civil vital records. This is to expose the researcher to alternate sources. (Yeah, that's it...)

The Law of Legibility

A record's legibility is inversely proportional to how much a genealogist wants to read it. This is perhaps the most unjust of the Laws. You finally found that record that will tell you who great-great-grandma's parents were! Unfortunately, it's the one record on the page that has a giant ink smudge on it. Or you finally found your immigrant ancestor's passenger list — and the person who wrote it was a graduate of Mrs. Chickenscratch's School of Penmanship.

There are other Laws, but these are ones that seem to be the most strictly enforced. What other Laws of Genealogy have you discovered?

MORE GENEALOGY HUMOR FROM *THE FAMILY HISTORY DAILY WEBSITE*



“HOW TO FAIL AT FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH IN 10 SIMPLE STEPS”

Listed here are common pitfalls that family historians often fall into.

Step 1. Jump right into your family’s history without taking the time to talk to any of your relatives. Whatever you do, do not ask parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins what they know about your family’s past.

Step 2. Get a subscription to Ancestry.com and never, ever leave their site. Do not, under any circumstances, check out the many free genealogy websites that contain oodles of unique, helpful information.

Step 3. Forget original research. There are already so many wonderful family trees on the web. For the fastest family tree possible, just copy those as needed.

Step 4. Do not keep a research journal. Never write down or record anything you learn, because you are sure to remember the details at a later date. This is especially true for details shared by aging family members, links to possible record matches and small tidbits of information that don’t fit neatly into your tree.

Step 5. Never cite your sources. The details are what’s important, not where those details come from. Sources don’t provide credibility or valuable context to a fact, nor do they allow you to expand or improve your research later.

Step 6. Keep your genealogy research in only one location, preferably on your computer or in an online family tree. Do not back up your data to more than one location since electronics and online businesses are always very, very reliable.

Step 7. Make assumptions. Assumptions are the perfect way to make genealogy research more manageable by limiting discoveries.

Step 8. Never use Google or other search engines to expand your resources. And if you do, use only the most basic searches to filter through the millions of results.

Step 9. Be sloppy. It doesn’t matter if that location or surname is spelled correctly, or if that date is recorded just right or if you took the time to write down the occupation you found in the 1910 census. It doesn’t even matter if great, great grandpa John shows a death date before great grandpa James was even born. Most likely, nobody will even notice at your next family gathering.

Step 10. Give up easily. If you don’t find what you are looking for quickly and easily, you probably never will.

FROM NU? WHAT'S NEW?

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotanyu (Gary Mokotoff, Editor)

Blood & Frogs Site Adds *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*



Philip Trauring has created at his website *Blood and Frogs* an *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy* which complements *Cyndi's List* that has links to sites with Jewish genealogical information. *Cyndi's List* is organized by type of information (Blogs, Cemeteries & Funeral Homes, Census, Directories, etc.) while the *Encyclopedia* is organized by country.

Trauring describes his new venture as a directory of online resources related to Jewish genealogy for each of more than 200 countries, and more than 80 provinces (provinces are currently only in place for Canada, Poland, the UK, and the US). To seed these countries and provinces, the *Encyclopedia* now has more than 1,200 links.

Each resource is in one of seven different categories: History, Genealogy, Cemeteries, Holocaust, Diaspora, Contemporary and Books. These resources are all intended to help one researching their Jewish families from these areas, and while they don't all provide specific genealogical information, they are all intended to offer some piece of the puzzle one can use to pursue their research.

FamilySearch Has Brooklyn and Newark Naturalization Images Online



A posting to JewishGen notes that FamilySearch has added digitized images to their collection of Naturalization Petitions for New York Eastern District and New Jersey Newark District. These records are not indexed, but an index exists at [ItalianGen.org](http://italiangen.org) at <http://italiangen.org/records-search/naturalizations.php>.

The combination of the two sites makes it easier to locate the documents because both contain the year of naturalization and the Petition number for the immigrant. First search on ItalianGen and note the year and Petition number. Then go to FamilySearch. For Eastern District link to <http://tinyurl.com/FSNYEDNaturalizations>. For Newark, link to <http://tinyurl.com/NewarkNaturalizations>. Scroll down to the appropriate year and note the range of petition numbers identified for each subcollection. Finally, click on the camera icon to view all the documents in the subcollection.

DID YOU KNOW THAT FAMILYSEARCH.ORG HAS A JEWISH GENEALOGY WIKI?

The wiki has Familysearch.org original sources on Jewish genealogy, and other links and guides.

Being a wiki, users can provide updates, and upload files and pictures once they receive update permission! There is a chat area to exchange ideas and ask questions. (Of course some Jewish genealogists loudly post that FamilySearch is not the place for Jewish genealogy but any site that can provide genealogical information, especially original records, is helpful.)

To visit this wiki, visit: https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Jewish_Genealogy_Research



TIPS ON CONDUCTING AN ORAL INTERVIEW

During this holiday season take advantage of time with relatives. Board member Arthur Solomon Meyers shared these tips for conducting an oral interview.

1. Schedule a time in advance. This gives everyone a chance to prepare.
2. Prepare a list of questions beforehand and either share them with your relative, or give them an idea of what you want to cover.
3. Bring several notepads and pens to the interview. If you plan to make a recording, be sure to have a tape player, microphone, extra tapes and batteries.
4. Take good notes and make sure you record your name, the date, the place the interview is being conducted and the interviewee.
5. Start with a question or topic that you know will elicit a reply, such as a story you have heard her tell in the past.
6. Ask questions which encourage more than simple 'yes' or 'no' answers. Try to elicit facts, feelings, stories and descriptions.
7. Show interest. Take an active part in the dialogue without dominating it. Learn to be a creative listener.
8. Use props whenever possible. Old photographs, favorite old songs and treasured items may bring memories flooding back.
9. Don't push for answers. Your relative may not wish to speak ill of the dead or may have other reasons for not wanting to share. Move on to something else.
10. Use your prepared questions as a guideline, but don't be afraid to let your relative go off on a tangent. They may have many things to say that you never thought to ask!
11. Don't interrupt or attempt to correct your relative; this can end an interview in a hurry!
12. When you are done, be sure to thank your relative for her time.
13. Put your relative at ease by telling them that they will have a chance to see and approve of anything that you write before you share it with others.
14. Keep the interview length to no more than 1-2 hours at a stretch. It's tiring for you and for the person being interviewed. This is supposed to be fun!
15. Consider preparing a transcript or written report as a tangible thank you to your relative for her participation.

Questions to ask:

1. When and where were you born?
2. What is your full name? Why did your parents select this name for you? Did you have a nickname?
3. How did your family come to live there?
4. Were there other family members in the area? Who?
5. What was the house (apartment, farm, etc.) like? How many rooms? Bathrooms? Did it have electricity? Indoor plumbing? Telephones?
6. Were there any special items in the house that you remember?

(Continued on page 11)

TIPS ON CONDUCTING AN ORAL INTERVIEW

(continued from page 10)

7. What is your earliest childhood memory?
8. Describe the personalities of your family members.
9. What kind of games did you play growing up?
10. What was your favorite toy and why?
11. What was your favorite thing to do for fun (movies, beach, etc.)?
12. Did you have family chores? What were they? Which was your least favorite?
13. Did you receive an allowance? How much? Did you save your money or spend it?
14. What was school like for you as a child? What were your best and worst subjects? Where did you attend grade school? High school? College?
15. What school activities and sports did you participate in?
16. Do you remember any fads from your youth? Popular hairstyles? Clothes?
17. Who were your childhood heroes?
18. What were your favorite songs and music?
19. Did you have any pets? If so, what kind and what were their names?
20. What was your religion growing up? What church, if any, did you attend?
21. Were you ever mentioned in a newspaper?
22. Who were your friends when you were growing up?
23. What world events had the most impact on you while you were growing up? Did any of them personally affect your family?
24. Describe a typical family dinner. Did you all eat together as a family? Who did the cooking? What were your favorite foods?
25. How were holidays (birthdays, Christmas, etc.) celebrated in your family? Did your family have special traditions?
26. How is the world today different from what it was like when you were a child?
27. Who was the oldest relative you remember as a child? What do you remember about them?
28. What do you know about your family surname?
29. Is there a naming tradition in your family, such as always giving the firstborn son the name of his paternal grandfather?
30. What stories have come down to you about your parents? Grandparents? More distant ancestors?
31. Are there any stories about famous or infamous relatives in your family?
32. Have any recipes been passed down to you from family members?
33. Are there any physical characteristics that run in your family?
34. Are there any special heirlooms, photos, bibles or other memorabilia that have been passed down in your family?
35. What was the full name of your spouse? Siblings? Parents?
36. When and how did you meet your spouse? What did you do on dates?
37. What was it like when you proposed (or were proposed to)? Where and when did it happen? How did you feel?
38. Where and when did you get married?
39. What memory stands out the most from your wedding day?

(Continued on page 12)

TIPS ON CONDUCTING AN ORAL INTERVIEW

(continued from page 11)

40. How would you describe your spouse? What do (did) you admire most about them?
41. What do you believe is the key to a successful marriage?
42. How did you find out you were going to be a parent for the first time?
43. Why did you choose your children's names?
44. What was your proudest moment as a parent?
45. What did your family enjoy doing together?
46. What was your profession and how did you choose it?
47. If you could have had any other profession what would it have been? Why wasn't it your first choice?
48. Of all the things you learned from your parents, which do you feel was the most valuable?
49. What accomplishments were you the most proud of?
50. What is the one thing you most want people to remember about you?

-Many thanks to Arthur Solomon Meyers for this extensive list

NEW VIDEOS FROM JGSLI

How Form SS-5 Can Help Break through Your Research Brick Walls

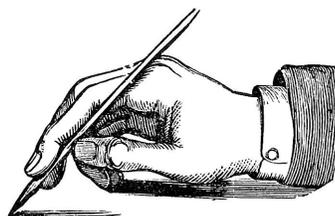
Federal Form SS-5, the Application for Social Security Number, may prove to be a gem of a document. We all know how challenging it can be to determine married women's maiden names. This form is a unique document since it contains surname information that can link together a woman's married and maiden name. In addition, the form reports the employee's parents' names, including the mother's maiden name. Looking to break brick walls? Form SS-5 may provide the way.

6 Techniques to Find Living Relatives - A New YouTube Video

As genealogists, we're pretty good about finding documents and information on our past ancestors. But what about finding living relatives? This video will provide 6 groups of techniques to consider, that may help you find your living relatives.

You can access all 22 instructional videos in the JGSLI YouTube Library by going directly to their YouTube Channel at https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV8xttIn93AwJX2_I0AIAg/feed or from the website at <http://igsli.org/>.

MEMBERS



We are ALWAYS looking for submissions from our members! Don't be shy!

Book reviews, brick walls, success stories—all and more are welcome.

Remember—NONE of us are professional writers. Don't be afraid to send us your writing—in any shape or form—we'll proofread it and make it "print-ready."

Email:
deborah.holman@sbcglobal.net

FROM THE IAJGS LEADERSHIP DIGEST

NYC Marriage Records

Effective 31 October 2016 copies of marriage records from 1930-1949 will no longer be available at the City Clerk's Office. Instead, the records will be available at the Department of Records and Information Services (Municipal Archives), 31 Chambers Street Room 31 New York, NY 1007.

The website for the NYC Clerk's Office is: <http://cityclerk.nyc.gov/html/home/home.shtml>

The website for the NYC Municipal Archives is: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/archives/archives.shtml>

New Exhibit at the New York Historical Society

The New York Historical Society has a new exhibit: The First Jewish Americans-Freedom and Culture in the New World October 28, 2016-February 26, 2017. Jews have been part of the American story since before the American Revolution. It addresses how Jewish settlers came to inhabit the New World, Jews in Colonial America and their contributions to the flowering of American culture. The exhibit follows the immigration from Europe, South America and the Caribbean to arriving in Nieuw Amsterdam in 1654.

More about the exhibit may be read at: <http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/first-jewish-americans-freedom-and-culture-new-world>

If you are visiting New York City during the time of the exhibit, and want to see the exhibit, it is located at: New-York Historical Society 170 Central Park West at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street) New York, NY 10024.

Library of Congress Redesigned Website Home Page



The (US) Library of Congress, the largest library in the world, updated its website home page on 1 November. The new home page will regularly change the featured content. Currently their collection of over 6,000 photochrome prints is featured. Go to: <https://www.loc.gov/>

They also have a “trending” section on the new home page and topics...by clicking on “genealogy” you are taken to their genealogy section. The Library of Congress has one of the world's premier collections of U.S. and foreign genealogical and local historical publications. The Library's genealogy collection began as early as 1815 when Thomas Jefferson's library was purchased.

Genealogy on Facebook

Katherine R. Willson's latest *Genealogy on Facebook* list that contains more than 10,000 groups and pages -- and it is available for free to everyone. The list now has 1,600 surname-specific groups, categories such as countries, states, provinces, adoption, fraternal organizations, DNA and maps. To access this download go to: <http://tinyurl.com/gwabb9c>

Original url: <https://moonswings.files.wordpress.com/2016/08/genealogy-on-facebook-list-03-august-2016.pdf>



MORE FROM THE IAJGS LEADERSHIP DIGEST

New York City Street Map in 1800s Created Using Old Photos



An enterprising coder, Dan Vanderkam collaborated with the New York Public Library to create a Google Street View map for New York City in the late 1800's and early 1900s. This was achieved by plotting all the old photos from the Photographic Views of New York City, 1870s-1970s collection on an interactive map.

See: <http://tinyurl.com/kgjmo63>
Original url: <http://digitalcollections.nypl.org/collections/photographic-views-of-new-york-city-1870s-1970s-from-the-collections-of-the-ne-2#/?tab=about>



5th Avenue and 42nd Street in 1912

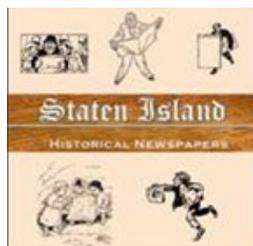


Broadway and West 34th Street 1901

The project, OldNYC, <https://www.oldnyc.org/> lets you browse 19th century New York. The collection has over 80,000 old photographs.

Thank you to Les Kelman for sharing the information with us.

Staten Island Historical Newspapers Available Online



The New York Public Library (NYPL), Staten Island Museum and Staten Island Advance have partnered to make available Staten Island Historical newspapers available online at: www.NYPL.org/SINewspapers. This is due the generosity of a grant from the Charles R. Revson Foundation. Currently there are four newspapers uploaded: Richmond County Advance, The State Island Leader, Staten Island Magazine and the Richmond County Mirror. Coming soon are another dozen or more newspapers. To access the newspapers, go to: <https://sites.google.com/a/nypl.org/staten-island-papers/>. Access is free of charge.

To read how to search the newspapers go to: <https://sites.google.com/a/nypl.org/staten-island-papers/home/students>

Thank you to Leland Metzler and the Genealogy Blog for informing us of this new site.



MEMBERS

Check your SPAM folders to ensure you receive all emailed communications from JGSCT!

EVEN MORE FROM THE IAJGS LEADERSHIP DIGEST

The SS Serpa Pinto Lists: A Resource for Genealogy Research



The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) announced they have posted the refugee lists (not passenger lists) from the SS Serpa between 1941 and 1944. Access to the lists is free. The SS Serpa, was a ship named after a Portuguese explorer and sailing under the Portuguese flag. During World War II it became the leading refugee ship across the Atlantic.

The ship left from Lisbon and often stopped in Casablanca to pick up additional passengers. Each sailing carried about 800 passengers. The JDC financed or shared in the financing of these trips enabling thousands of refugees to come to safety: Baltimore, New York, Philadelphia, Canada, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Cuba, Mexico etc. Portugal was a neutral country during World War II, and therefore, was a destination for Jews trying to flee Europe to save their lives from the Nazis. Lisbon, Portugal served as the JDC headquarters during World War II. It was through the headquarters that the JDC was able to secure space for refugees on transatlantic vessels.

Seite Nr.:		Name und Bemerkungen:	
3	51/55	Kleinmann, Isaac Abraham, Berlin Bayreuther Str. 81.	beim Joint deponiert.
3	54/55	Kubatsky, Georg, Berlin, Holsteiner Ufer 72.	beim Joint deponiert von Rena Rosenthal. Altzeu, wofür der Ausgereiste in dem von der Verleantstelle geschickten Altzeu-Verfahren Reichsmark 4.676.12 entrichtet hat.
3	56/57	Kulp, David, Frankfurt/Main, Hanauerlandstr. 112.	beim Joint deponiert von Manfred Kulp.
3	58/59	Lechner, Siegfried, Berlin, Brandenburg-Str. 89.	beim Joint deponiert von Bertha Keller.
3	60	Levin, Grate, Berlin, Kommandantenstr. 62/4	beim Joint deponiert von Frieda Schönendorf.
3	61	Löwenstein, Minna, Breslau, Körnerstr. 10.	Hermann Manlok, 225 Westend Ave., New York City hat mit Label vom 22.6.42 Begabung der Passage zugewagt. 200.-\$ sind bei Gdgen angefordert zur Einzahlung beim Joint.
3	62/63	Magnus, James, Berlin, Müsseldorferstr. 4.	beim Joint deponiert von Dr. Hanna Kosterlitz.
4	66	Mayer, Hedwig, Berlin, Chausseestr. 121.	beim Joint deponiert von Siegmund Simon.
4	67/69	Münser, Sally, Berlin-Charlottenburg, Spelater Str. 54.	beim Joint deponiert von Julius Münser, o/c Robbins 845 Montrose Ave., Chicago/111

A page from an SS Serpa Pinto passenger list of March 1941

The lists are available at: <http://archives.jdc.org/explore-the-archives/searchable-lists.html> where all the JDC Names Database are located—scroll down about half way to the “Lists of Passengers Who Sailed on the SS Serpa Pinto 1941-1944”. The lists are arranged chronologically. Information on the lists include: names, age, marital status, and religion. If the refugee was headed to the United States it also listed if they had relatives there. Dates of arrival in the country of departure is also listed. Some listed their professions. Many lists also included the refugee’s county of birth, prior country of residence and nationality. The Jews came from throughout Europe: Germany and Austria prior to Nazi rule; Belgium, the Czech Republic, England, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Switzerland. There were also refugees from Eastern and Southern Europe as well as the Middle and Near East.

You may also search by name in their JDC Archives Names Index at <http://archives.jdc.org/archives-search/?s=archivestopnav>.

Note from Deb Samuel Holman: My great-grandparents, Sigmund and Rosa LICHTENTHAL, left Vienna, Austria and traveled to the U.S. on the SS Serpa Pinto on March 15, 1941. That is the first list posted on this site. However, they are not on this list, leading me to believe they had enough money to secure their own passage. I have an image of the actual passenger list, so I am able to confirm they were on this ship along with those listed on the JDC site.

LOU SZUCS HONORED WITH FGS RABBI MALCOLM H. STERN HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Most of us in genealogy know of Lou (Loretto) Dennis Szucs—and some of us are privileged to know her personally. Lou is the nicest person one could ever know. Lou retired from Ancestry in 2015 after 23 years as



Photo Courtesy of Robert Raymond

Vice President of Community Relations. She was Ancestry's employee #1. She co-authored *The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy* as well as authored *They Became Americans: Finding Naturalization Records and Ethnic Origins*; *Chicago and Cook County Sources: A Genealogical and Historical Guide*; *Ellis Island: Tracing Your Family History Through America's Gateway*; co-authored *The Archives: A Guide to the National Archives Field Branches* and *Finding Answers in U.S. Census Records*. Lou was also the executive editor of *Ancestry Magazine*. She spoke at the major genealogy conferences, and to societies around the U.S. Lou served on the Federation of Genealogical Society's (FGS) Board of Directors for many years. It was Lou, who first brought Ancestry to be a sponsor of the IAJGS conferences.

At this week's 40th Anniversary Federation of Genealogical Society's conference she was awarded the FGS Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Humanitarian Award. In presenting Lou the award, Paula Stewart-Warren explained about the Rabbi Stern Award which was established in 1994: "a plaque is presented to recognize the lifetime contributions of a rare individual whose positive influence and example have fostered unity in the genealogical community, provided leadership to its individual members, and helped make family history a vital force in the community at large."

"A founding leader of FGS, Lou has represented FGS for nearly every year of its 40-year history. Her work for Ancestry.com, for many years, worked to foster collaboration and growth amongst the genealogical community. Her humanitarian efforts toward genealogy and family history have forever impacted the field and will continue to be seen for generations to come."

What most of us did not know is that the FGS was founded in Lou's dining room back in December 1975 - January 1976. Illinois granted the FGS their charter in January 1976.

Congratulations to Lou!

(originally posted by Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS Leadership Digest, September 4, 2016)



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS!

- Michael SCHENKER
- Roger and Margie GELFENBIEN
- Brooke Schreier GANZ: Brooke is an advanced genealogy researcher. She is interested in Ukraine, Poland, Germany and Moldova. Her family names are ROSENSTEIN, POGREBETZKY/PAGREBETZKY, GREENBERG/GRUNBERG.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

U.S. National Archives Now Has Lectures on Demand



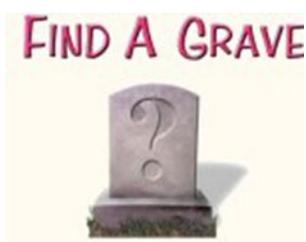
The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration has placed more than 40 lectures on YouTube.

The list is available at <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLC641EF0E3F8AFDF9>.

Examples of lectures include:

- Genealogy Introduction—Immigration Records at the National Archives
- Using Ancestry.com to Access NARA Records
- Access to Archival Databases (AAD) for Genealogists
- Passport Applications, 1795–1925
- Freedom of Information Act Requests at the National Archives

Find A Grave Site Includes Gedenkbuch Holocaust Victims



[Find A Grave](#) has included the more than 170,000 German Jews murdered in the Holocaust that appear in the [Gedenkbuch](#).

URL for the Gedenkbuch: <https://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html>

Other Holocaust-related lists previously added to the site include Dachau prisoner lists, Auschwitz lists and Jews deported from France. The last-named list was removed because it included numerous Holocaust survivors and the death location of victims could not be determined.

The Family History Guide – A Learning Resource



The Family History Guide website is available on the FamilySearch.org website. The Guide does not have genealogy records but is a valuable resource in learning how to use various sites such as Ancestry, Findmypast, Myheritage, and FamilySearch.

There are 7 projects suggested including: Family Tree, Memories, Descendancy / Ordinances, Discover, Indexing, Help, and Technology. There are also Resources for Children and even a section on improving your computer skills!

The site is free to use. Although linked to the Familysearch website, the *Guide* is not sponsored by FamilySearch.org or the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The *Family History Guide* is available at <http://www.thefhguide.com>. There is also a video explaining much of the use of the *Family History Guide* at http://www.thefhguide.com/The_Family_History_Guide_Quick-Tour.mp4.

European Shtetl Names



YIDDISHLAND is a page on the Yivo website that lists Eastern European shtetls alphabetically by Yiddish name giving current spelling of the place. Go to: <https://www.yivo.org/yiddishland-topo>

Thanks to our JGSCT Librarian, Janet Carlson for sharing this resource.

STRUGGLING TO TRANSLATE OLD GERMAN HANDWRITING?

BOARD MEMBER ARTHUR SOLOMON MEYERS SHARES A HELPFUL RESOURCE

A post from 2011 on Nancy Messier's blog, "Ancestors and Me" provides several sites to assist you in deciphering that difficult handwriting style. Accessing the information at these various sites may help you understand documents written in Suetterlin, Fraktur, and Kurrent.

For the links to the sites, visit Nancy's blog at: <http://nancysfamilyhistoryblog.blogspot.com/2011/06/helps-for-translating-that-old-german.html>

There is also a link to Beolingus, a site that is basically an online translation dictionary. (<http://dict.tu-chemnitz.de/dings.cgi?lang=en;service=deen>)

Note from Quest co-editor Deb Holman: I have taken the three-lesson FamilySearch Research course on reading Kurrent and found it very helpful. The Learning Center on FamilySearch is wonderful - and free! Go to: <https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html> and put in your search term to locate lessons of interest to you.

MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 36TH IAJGS CONFERENCE

— DEB HOLMAN—

Here's a few things that happened for me at IAJGS 2016:

- Someone saw my badge and connected me with a person who may be related to my paternal family (London 1795)
- I decided to "speak up" at a session about a topic being discussed. The topic was being cast as a misconception" which I took issue with. After the session, a man approached me and said he completely agreed with me; his father had often expressed the same opinion. As it turns out, the man's father had been in Dachau and Buchenwald at approximately the same time as my grandfather. He was trying to determine what was "accurate" about his father's story as nothing was ever written down. We met for lunch and I was able to confirm the father's ENTIRE story based on what my grandfather had written. We plan to stay in touch and share information.
- I shared a room with our JGSCT President, Doris Loeb Nabel!



Deb Holman, Doris Loeb Nabel and JGSCT member, Rita Epstein enjoying the evening at IAJGS 2016.



RECENT EXPERIENCE WITH GENI

— HOWARD SIEGEL —

I recently received the following blurb from GENI. It shows the relationship between myself and Ingrid. I will freely admit on my own I would never have found this. There are 22 people between myself and Ingrid.

Ingrid Meissner is Howard Siegel's second great aunt's great uncle's wife's second great niece's husband's great uncle's wife's third great niece!

Howard Siegel → [Jerome Siegel](#) → [Harry Sichel](#) → [Joseph Sichel](#) → [Jacob Sichel](#) → [Sara Blum](#) → [Aaron Blum](#) → [Sara Blum](#)
 you your father his father his father his brother his wife her father his mother
 → [Aron Rosenbaum](#) → [Helena Rosenbaum](#) → [Charlotte Süßmann](#) → [Leopold Süßmann](#) → [Melanie Scheuer](#) →
 her brother his wife her sister her son his daughter
[Marie Frederike Simon](#) → [Emil Simon](#) → [Leopold Simon](#) → [Sybilla Bella Simon](#) → [Samuel Kaufmann](#) → [Minna Kaufmann](#) →
 her daughter her husband his father his mother her brother his wife
[Eduard Albert Rubino](#) → [Ottilie Caroline Rubino](#) → [Elsa Yolande Dalmar](#) → [Ruth Bruderhausen](#) → [Ingrid Meissner](#)
 her brother his daughter her daughter her daughter her daughter

Now the question is - do I really want to add this to my tree? After the first Sara Blum I haven't documented anything.

Another problem I find confusing with GENI is they list the married name of women. This is inconsistent. I was taught to use the birth name.

I just received a second one not so confusing:

Shanna Kaplan Engel is Howard Siegel's third cousin once removed's wife!

Howard Siegel → [Jerome Siegel](#) → [Harry Sichel](#) → [Joseph Sichel](#) → [Jacob Sichel](#) → [Henny Engel](#) → [Martin Engel](#)
 you your father his father his father his brother his daughter her son
[Mark Engel](#) → [Shanna Kaplan Engel](#)
 his son his wife

This one will go into my tree since I knew up to Martin Engel and I should be able to confirm Mark Engel who is my 3rd cousin once removed. I have 6th cousins in my database.

QUEST PUBLICATION SCHEDULE FOR 2017

Deadlines for submission:

- February 1— For Quarter 1 Issue
- May 1— For Quarter 2 Issue
- August 1— For Quarter 3 Issue
- November 1— For Quarter 4 Issue

ALL BLUE-EYED PEOPLE ARE RELATED

New research shows that people with blue eyes have a single, common ancestor.

A team at the University of Copenhagen have tracked down a genetic mutation which took place about 10,000 years ago and is the cause of the eye color of all blue-eyed humans alive on the planet today.

“Originally, we all had brown eyes,” said Professor Hans Eiberg from the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine. “But a genetic mutation affecting the OCA2 gene in our chromosomes resulted in the creation of a “switch,” which literally “turned off” the ability to produce brown eyes.”



The OCA2 gene codes for the so-called P protein, which is involved in the production of melanin, the pigment that gives color to our hair, eyes and skin.

The “switch,” which is located in the gene adjacent to OCA2 does not, however, turn off the gene entirely, but rather limits its action to reducing the production of melanin in the iris — effectively “diluting” brown eyes to blue.

The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the diversity of news, opinion, and analysis. Read full, original post: <https://knowridge.com/2016/11/people-with-blue-eyes-have-a-single-common-ancestor/>

If you have had your autosomal DNA tested and have uploaded to GEDMatch, you can use one of the available links to predict your eye color based on your results! https://www.gedmatch.com/eye_color_pred1.php?u=194754

WHAT DOES YOUR GERMAN SURNAME SAY ABOUT YOU?

A recent blog post at Ancestry edified the meaning of German surnames. Since many Jewish last names were derived from German, this post can be of genealogical assistance to Jewish genealogists.

There are four basic kinds of German surnames:

- Occupational
- Patronymic
- Descriptive
- Geographical

Click on this link to read the entire article: <http://tinyurl.com/h3psn6y>

Original link: http://blogs.ancestry.com/cm/2016/06/20/what-does-your-german-surname-say-about-you-2/?o_xid=57459&o_lid=57459&o_sch=Social

AN ALTERNATIVE TO DROPBOX?

GAIL REYNOLDS, CISSP, CISM, ISSMP, ISSAP, CSSLP

Many genealogists use Dropbox to store and share genealogical materials. Dropbox is not the only cloud-based storage but it is certainly one of the most popular.

Most people tuck info away on Google Drive, Microsoft OneDrive, Box, and other cloud products as well.

In a recent post, genealogist Dick Eastman highly recommends pCloud. He notes that pCloud is just as easy to use and share as Dropbox but allows more free storage (10 GB vs 2 GB from Dropbox) and the encryption algorithm used by pCloud is stronger than the encryption used by Dropbox. Unfortunately pCloud encryption is not free. (At this time it costs \$3.99 per month.)



There are different kinds of encryption and different points of encryption.

Secure Sockets Layer is used to encrypt data during transport from one point (e.g., your desktop or a browser) to the server where the data will be stored or processed. You can determine if transport layer security is being used if the url for the website begins with https:// AND there is a security icon (e.g., lock) in the url line of your browser.

Encryption of data at rest is another encryption type. When the file sits on a server, it is encrypted but subsequently decrypted when a user opens the file.

Symmetric encryption encrypts and decrypts data based on a shared secret or key. There are several algorithms for symmetric encryption. Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) is the current gold standard. Asymmetric encryption does not depend on shared secrets. It depends on a pair of complimentary private keys that are stored in a structure called Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). Both the user and the server have their generated private/public keys that they both must use to encrypt/decrypt their data.

Asymmetric encryption is stronger than symmetric encryption but performs much more poorly as it uses many more computer instructions.

Symmetric encryption performs better than asymmetric encryption Both Dropbox and pCloud use AES for file encryption.

The difference is that pCloud lets you select your key while Dropbox doesn't; Dropbox uses one behind the scenes of which the user has no knowledge.

Don't panic, however; what type of encryption you should use really depends on the type of data you are storing. Many genealogical documents are public records and really don't warrant extensive encryption!

NEWS FROM THE JGSCT BOARD

Our JGSCT Vice-President, Barney Miller, has recently stepped down from his role. Fortunately, he will remain on the Board, as a Member-at-Large.

We would like to thank Barney very much for his long, diligent and outstanding service to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut – and indeed beyond our group!

Barney has been attentive and proactive to problems and challenges in Jewish genealogical endeavors. Several examples of his efforts come to mind:

- Barney saw early the need to photograph the 7,000 memorial stones in the older Jewish cemeteries in the Hartford area, and then ensured that the documentation would be available locally and globally. He also urged authorities to provide stronger security for the cemeteries.
- Barney became the “go to” person for family history researchers in using Connecticut vital records – and he shared the information widely, beyond genealogy interest groups.
- Over a 35-year period, he has researched his whole family’s history, tapping into resources in a variety of locations in Europe and the United States, and shared the results.
- At JGSCT Board meetings, he listens and interacts very helpfully in our deliberations.

And, crucially, when we had to move the JGSCT library and meeting location on very short notice, Barney found us a new welcoming home.

Thank you, Barney, for enabling Jewish genealogy to flourish in Connecticut – and beyond!

With much appreciation from Arthur Solomon Meyers on behalf of the entire JGSCT Board and Membership.

The Nominating Committee will submit a list of proposed Officers to the Board at the regular December meeting and include the list in Quest prior to the biennial March meeting .

Any member of the JGSCT may be nominated for elected office by any member in good standing by e-mail, mail or at the biennial meeting .

MEMBERS

What presentation topics are you interested in? What ideas do you have to make the JGSCT and QUEST even better? Be on the lookout for a survey in your email “inbox” in the near future. The JGSCT Board wants to hear from you!

TRIBUTE TO BARNEY MILLER

UPON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE POSITION OF VICE-PRESIDENT, AND IN HONOR OF HIS MANY YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT

The Board and I are grateful for your devoted service to JGSC. When I first considered assuming the Presidency, and before making my decision, I asked you whether you would continue as Vice-President.

Your knowledge about our JGS, and your contributions to discussions furthered the Board's ability to elucidate concerns, clarify scenarios, thoughtfully deliberate, and act to advance JGSC's goals. Your insights assisted members to accurately depict JGSC's history at presentations, in Quest, on our website, and in reports.

Chairing the Bylaws revision committee, your familiarity with the document, and your insights, facilitated the creation of an updated version.

Your understanding of JGSC's Bylaws, and Policies and Procedures proved valuable at Board meetings.

Your opinions and expertise, as well as your many and varied contributions have enriched both our Board meetings and our programs.

In addition to your participation at our Board meetings, you ably represented JGSC when attending meetings of other organizations. One particularly important effort in which you participated involved meetings and communications of Town Clerks and Genealogy Society Representatives addressing a mutually important issue. The Consortium successfully lobbied to defeat a bill which would have limited the ability of genealogists to accomplish research.

I would like to also thank you for having agreed to serve as Sergeant-at-Arms/Parliamentarian at JGSC board meetings.

The Board, and I are pleased that following your retirement from your long-term position as Vice-President, you have agreed to remain on the Board as a Member-At-Large.

We are delighted that you will continue to participate in instructional programs; your presentations are always very informative, and well-received.

Your impactful contributions to, and efforts on behalf of JGSC have made a difference, we look forward to working together and to further growth and success!

With best wishes for your aspirations,
Doris

WWW.JGSCT.ORG



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