



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

www.srvgensoc.org



San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society

Vol. XXXV No. 6 January - 2020

This Month's Presentation:

January 21, 2020

DOCUMENT REPAIR **AND RESTORATION**

Presented by: *KAREN ZUKOR*

This presentation will address how to assess paper artifacts that are in need of proper storage and/or repair. Discussion will talk about the characteristics of paper and how it ages; how to identify existing or potential damage, and how to frame and present those items in an archival manner. Participants are welcome to bring items that they are concerned about and Karen will offer suggestions for each.

Karen Zukor has been a paper conservator in private practice for 40 years. Her work encompasses a full range of artifacts on paper, from the 15th century up to contemporary pieces. She has been responsible for many collections including fine art, archival material, maps, historic currency and rare books both in private hands and in institutions. Her studio is involved in the repair and preservation of damaged items but also provides information for archival display, housing and storage. Karen has trained both pre and post program conservation interns for over 30 years and lectures widely to the general public. ■

IN THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS	4
SRVGS CALENDAR	4
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS	4
CONTACT INFORMATION	7
EDUCATION	5
FAMILY HISTORY CENTER INFORMATION	8
GENEALOGY RESEARCH ASSISTANCE	8
LAST MONTH'S PRESENTATION SUMMARY	2
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE	3
UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS	7
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS	7

Notes on Last Month's Presentation:**JEWISH RESEARCH****Presented by: Jeremy Frankel****Reported by: Russ Erickson**

The Jewish Sephardim were pushed from Portugal, then Spain in 1492 to the Indies, Africa, Eastern Europe, South America in the 1500s to 1700s; to New York by 1553. There was a second wave to North America from 1849 to the 1870s, partially with the gold rushes and with the Franco-Prussian War in 1870. To central and south America in the 1870s thru 1890s. The Ashkenazim formed a third wave in the 1880s and 90s to the Eastern seaboard and American mid west. In the 1900s on past WWII, there were quotas and restrictions for the USA. In Poland, Lithuania, and Russia boundary shifts in the 1800s to 1900s require timelines to trace ancestors. In many countries for a long period, Jews have been denied citizenship, denied many occupations, not allowed to worship, and have undergone pogroms. In the 1700s, there was a decline of the Poland-Lithuanian Empire until Poland was not counted a country in 1795.

Jewish people have used Yiddish, Hebrew, and the languages of their countries, and are often trilingual. They have been very literate. To worship, a "Minyan" is required--10 men minimum for a service. During the centuries, some have hidden their religion or converted to avoid persecution. Nearly all have married within the religion, so interfamily marriages have messed with DNA study.

Naming: Before 1815 and the Napoleonic Code, Jews had no last name (Jacob, son of Abraham, etc.). Family names in the past were often misspelled due to different language pronunciations as people migrated. Data given by family members often were misspelled or wrong. Items like, "W" for "V" sounds were common. Jewish males were named at age 8 days when circumcised.

Records: Search for Jewish newspapers. In San Francisco from the 1850s. In London, the "Jewish Chronicle" with worldwide Jewish news from 1841. Check Wikipedia and Google for papers. In the UK, birth, marriage, and death records, even to headstone unveilings, are online from 1837. Such records include extensive family and friends' names. The oldest son likely gave the information. "Yisker" books, about 1,000 total, with 336 with 149,000 pages online, scanned people who ►



(Photo by: Nancy Alexander)

Jeremy Frankel

survived during the WWII Holocaust, with military and personal histories, school records, and a memorial to victims.

At present, 45% of Jewish people are in the USA, 45% in Israel, and the rest worldwide. There are about 400,000 in the bay area, and 240,000 in the UK. In New York City, there are many Jewish cemeteries; very crowded with up to 250,000 bodies! When Jews migrated to the USA, groups from each European or other areas often banded together. Cemetery headstones might have "Kinnui"-nicknames, "Calques"-name exact translations from one language to another. First and last names can be reversed. <JewishGen> is a great site. It has data bases for unified search, family finder, family trees, and town finders, with 7.5 million records. There is a list of data bases and a 6,000 Jewish community base. Worldwide burial records are there. Each country has a SIG; for Belarus, Lithuania, Latvia, etc. <JRIPoland> has records indexing Poland. There is a yearly Jewish Genealogy Conference in the USA with a week of 250 lectures. Jeremy recommends we create family records now for those ahead 50 years in the future! ■



President's Message

By Steve Watty



I am hopeful that all our SRVGS members had a wonderful Christmas Holiday, festive New Year's Eve and had time to share the time with family and friends. As we begin another year and decade, it is timely and a perfect opportunity to reflect on

all we cherish and hold close. Thinking of family, those currently living and the ones that have passed, seems to be the top priority during this time. Recording the lives of family members for our own knowledge and to document for future generations is what we family historians and genealogists aspire to accomplish, but at what cost?

During the past decade, so many tools became available to help with this research, some free and many with a cost attached. The computer evolution and the popularity of this genealogy hobby increased the availability of genealogy software, services, DNA testing and all related activities.

The prime cost is "Time". The time spent using the web services, reading and recording information from census records, death and birth certificates, newspaper articles, family bibles and documents, looking through cemeteries and traveling to libraries, court houses and archives is usually not counted toward the cost of research. But if a cost was associated with the time spent on these activities it would surprise the hobbyist and amaze the non-researcher to a point of questioning our sanity.

The direct monetary costs of this hobby can be broken down in these categories:

Genealogy Dot Com (Tree building, research and data recording) Sites: FamilySearch, Ancestry, MyHeritage, Findmypast, Geneanet to name a few. All but FamilySearch has a cost (membership fee) associated with their use. ►

Some come with a free trial membership and most also offer plans from a low of \$50 to a high of \$398 per year.

Dot Com Newspaper Sites: Genealogybank, Newspapers, NewspaperArchive are three pay sites with costs ranging from \$60 - \$140 per year. Some "free" sites exist, i.e.; Elephind, Library of Congress – Chronicling America are a few examples.

DNA Testing – AncestryDNA, FamilyTreeDNA, 23&Me, LivingDNA and MyHeritage provide test kits, results analysis and "cousin matching" for a fee. The initial test kit costs from a low of \$49 (during seasonal specials) to their regular price as high as \$129.

Heritage, Lineage, Location and other Societies/Associations: Belonging to a local genealogical or lineage society to assist in research and bring like-minded hobbyists together comes with a cost. Yearly cost ranges from \$20 to around \$100.

Travel: Traveling any distance for research or to attend a convention or training venue can be expensive. The cost associated with the mode of transportation, housing, meals, training/convention costs add up quickly and can test the \$2,000 - \$4,000 limit per week for each traveler.

Professional Help: Hiring a professional genealogist researcher may help when one hits a "brick wall" or when the area of research is a great distance away, but money will be exchanged for this effort. Prices range from \$35/hour to \$60/hour, 20-40 hours of work - \$700 - \$2,400 for an average project. Specialty and Genetic Genealogy professionals may demand more, in the \$65 - \$100/hour range.

Miscellaneous: Cost associated with requesting copies of records from court houses, libraries or through other venues seem small in comparison, but add up over time. Mailing costs, photography, the purchase of books detailing your area of research, and subscriptions to genealogy related publications, i.e.; Internet Genealogy and Familytree magazines are needed with this hobby.

Overall, this is a hobby that does not have an end point and can continue to our dying day. If we did not enjoy the challenge of the hunt, the thrill of discovery and the bonding with like-minded genealogy buffs the cost alone could persuade us to take up Sudoku or other such mind games. I feel so lucky to be associated with new-found friends and colleagues that understand and appreciate the fruits of our labors and damn the expense! My hope is that the new year brings many joyful discoveries your way.... Happy hunting. ■



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SRVGS CALENDAR

January 2020

- 7 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting was held at the home of Frances Lloyd.
- 21 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo.

February 2020

- 4 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** A Board meeting will be held at the home of Frances Lloyd. All members are welcome.
- 18 **Tuesday - 10:00 a.m.** The General Meeting will be held at the LDS Church on Stone Valley Road at Smith Road, in Alamo. ■

SRVGS SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

NOTE: For San Ramon Valley Genealogical Society Special Interest Group contact information refer to your Society Handbook. or at: <https://srvgensoc.org/cpage.php?pt=6>.

For schedules, visit our web site at: <https://srvgensoc.org/eventListings.php?nm=45&page=1&nr=10&ec=2&tf=3>.

Please **note** some activities take place early in the month, before our newsletter is issued. Be sure to check with the SIG coordinator if you have a particular interest.



Irish/Scottish Research -
Wednesday January 8th (the second Wednesday) **10 am - 12 noon**, at the home of Russ and Patty Erickson in Pleasant Hill. Patty Erickson is SIG Leader. You can contact Patty at: [:russpat@comcast.net](mailto:russpat@comcast.net). ►



FamilySearch - Monday, January 13th (the second Monday) from **1:15 pm - 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. Learn the many aspects of this free, comprehensive genealogy web site. **Bill George** is the SIG Leader at: williamcgeorge@gmail.com.



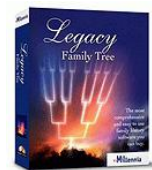
Publishing - Thursday January 16th (the third Thursday) from **10 am - 12 noon**, at the home of **Francie Lloyd in Danville**. This informal Group shares advice, encouragement, and suggestions to preserve their genealogy project, big or small. Members share their projects as they progress to a hoped for completion. Society members interested in attending should let **Francie Lloyd**, the SIG Leader, know they plan to attend at: frances_lloyd@comcast.net.



DNA - Monday January 20th (the third Monday) **1:00 - 3:00 pm**, at the **Danville Family History Center**. This SIG assumes a basic knowledge of Genealogical DNA testing and therefore is only open to those who have completed the SRVGS Intro to DNA class or an approved equivalent. **Mark McLaren** is SIG Leader. You may contact Mark at: greatscot@earthlink.net.



German Research -
Wednesday January 22nd, (the fourth Wednesday) **10 am - 12 noon**, at a members home. Please contact **Cathy Tanaka** at cathytanaka622@gmail.com if you plan to attend the meeting.



Legacy Family Tree - Monday, January 27th (the fourth Monday) from **1:15 pm - 3 pm** at the **Danville Family History Center**. **Sharon Clay** is the SIG Leader and can be contacted at: sharonclay@comcast.net ■

**Genealogy is all about
chasing your own tale**

EDUCATION

By: Kathy Javdani

Happy New Year!! May all your brick walls come tumbling down this year. Taking advantage of learning opportunities will help.



This month begins with the California Genealogical Society (CGS) www.CaliforniaAncestors.org For all the following activities, register online:

- On Wed. the 8th from 11-1 Mark McLaren will begin the 6 week class **Intro to DNA and Genetic Genealogy** meeting at the Oakland Family Search Library. Register Online. (Also meeting on Jan. 15th, 22nd, and 29th)
- On Sat., the 18th from 10-12 pm the **San Francisco SIG** will meet.
- Also on the 18th from 1-3 the **Family Tree Maker SIG** will meet.
- In addition on the 18th from 1-2:30 pm the class **Getting Started with DNA and Using it for Brick Walls** will be held at the Oakland Family Search Library.
- On Thur., the 23rd, from 11-1 there will be a CGS members only **Field Trip to the Oakland Public Library and Oakland History Room.**
- On Sat. the 25th from 1-3:30 the class **Excel for Genealogist** will be held.
- On Sat. Feb. 1st. **Intro to Genealogy** will meet from 10:15-12:15.
- Also on the 1st, from 1-3:30 the **DNA Study Group** for those who have submitted a DNA sample to 23andMe or to MyHeritage will meet.

For more upcoming events in the Bay Area check the Sutro Library "Bay Area Genealogy Calendar" at library.ca.gov/sutro/genealogy/calendar.



In January the Oakland Family Search Library, https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Oakland_California_FamilySearch_Library, offers the following support: (See website for registration

details.) Pre-register for classes at fhcoakland@gmail.com or at 510-531-3905.

- On Wed., Jan. 8th from 7-8 the **Mac Users Workshop** will meet.
- On Fri., Jan. 10th from 10:30 -12 the **Family Search Series Classes** will begin with #1 – Getting Started with the Basics.
- On Sat., Jan. 11th from 1-2:30 Ron Chan will present **Documenting Your Family with Hearts, Not Charts.**
- On Wed., Jan. 15th from 10-3 the **Bay Area Chinese Genealogy Group** will meet.
- On Fri., Jan. 17th from 10:30 -12 the Family Search Series Class #2 will discuss Sourcing and Attaching Records.
- On Wed., Jan. 22th from 6-8 pm the **African American Research Workshop** will meet.
- On Fri., Jan. 24th from 10:30-12 the **Family Search Series Class #3 – Using Memories and Uploading Photos** will meet.
- On Fri., Jan. 31st from 10:30-12 the **Family Search Series Class #4 – Finding and Merging Duplicates** will meet.

You can check the Family Search website <https://familysearch.org> for tutorials, wikis, discussion forums, and webinars. January's numerous webinars are listed at: https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars



The Southern California Genealogical Society (SCGS), www.scsgenealogy.com/webinar/overview.html continues to offer free webinars. Register in advance on line. This month it will be presenting:

- On Sat. Jan. 4th at 6 pm Sheila Benedict will explore **Migration Trails Are Paper Trails: Let's Pick Through the Crumbs.**
- On Wed. Jan. 15th Daniel Earl will present **A Million Ways to Die in the Colonies: Death and Burial in Colonial American.** ►

SCGS also offers the following webinars at their website for free to the public.

- **Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **Neither Filmed or Scanned: NARA Treasurers Await** by Kerry Bartels
- **Military Records at the National Archives** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **The Many Facets of the National Archives Website** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.
- **How to Get the Most Out of a Genealogy Conference** by George Morgan.
- **National Archives Website Microfilm Catalog, Archival Databases and Guides** by Kerry Bartels with downloadable notes.



The Illinois State Genealogical Society, <https://ilgensoc.org>, continues its webinar series. The initial presentation of each webinar is free to the public. Check website for January offering.

Enjoy learning from home?



The New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), www.Americanancestors.org/education/ [online](#) has a growing Online Learning Center that offers educational resources for both guest users and NEHGS members. It contains subject guides on a variety of genealogical topics, informative videos, webinars, online courses, and more. If you have questions or feedback, contact Online Education

- On Thurs., Jan 9th from 12-1 PST listen to a presentation on **What's New At Americanancestors.org**.
- On Thurs., Jan 16th from 12-1 PST David Allen Lambert will discuss **Boston Research and Records**.

Unable to attend the live broadcast? A recording of the free events will be posted to the NEHGS website the following day. ►



The National Archives -, www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/events offers a Genealogy Tutorial, Genealogy Research topics and a variety of charts and forms.



Ancestry.com offers online courses. Some are FREE, while others require a subscription.

- You can READ about it at <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy>
- And at <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses>
- Also at <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses/skills>



Legacy offers numerous free webinars every month. Go to FamilyTreeWebinars.com to register. June's webinars include:

- On Wed., Jan. 8th at 5 pm, Cheri Hudson Passey will share **Mistakes I Have Made: Confessions of a Repentant Genealogist**.

This was the only webinar listed as we went to press. More may be added during the month.



Here are some other webinars and podcasts that are online:

- Extreme Genes: Family History Radio <http://extremegenes.com/>
- The Genealogy Guys Podcast <http://genealogyguys.com/>
- Lisa Louise Cooke's Genealogy Gems <http://lisalouisecooks.com/podcasts/>
- Genealogy Boot Camp http://broadcast.lds.org/elearning/fhd/community/en/community/thomas%20jay%20kemp/genealogy_boot_camp/player.htm



The DAR Library at www.dar.org offers two different types of programming. The Library Lecture Series features authors discussing their historical work and the Genealogy 101 series offers presentations on a variety of genealogical topics led by the professional genealogists on staff at the DAR or by other experienced genealogists. Both series are held throughout the month on Saturdays and are free to the public. See the upcoming schedule here: www.dar.org/libraryevents ►

Save the date:

- On Mon. Jan. 13th at 7:00 the Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society, www.l-ags.org, will meet at the Congregation Beth Emek, 3400 Nevada Ct, Pleasanton. Mark McLaren will present **DNA: Testing Overview**.
- On Thurs. Jan. 9th from 7-9 the Contra Costa Genealogical Society will meet at the LDS Building at 1360 Alberta Way, Concord. Speaker to be announced.
- On Fri. Jan. 17th at 10 the Mt. Diablo Genealogical Society, www.mdgs.webs.com will meet at the Rossmoor Creekside Clubhouse. James Koenig will explore **Using Diminutive Names to Solve Genealogical Puzzles**. ■

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS!*By: Kathy Javdani*

- ⇒ From Feb. 26th – 29th **RootsTech 2020** will be held in Salt Lake City. The schedule is posted online. Register at www.rootstech.org/salt-lake
- ⇒ From May 20th-23rd **Echoes of Our Ancestors – National Genealogical Society Family History Conference** in Salt Lake City. Register at www.conference.ngsgenealogy.org
- ⇒ From May 25th – Sun., May 30th Lisa Gorrell will lead a CGS research **trip to the Family History Center** in Salt Lake City. Register at www.californiaancestors.org. ■

WELCOME — NEW MEMBERS

Let's all extend a warm Welcome
to our newest members

Dan Kohlman
Michael Stein

Please look for them at our meetings
and welcome them to our Society.

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President: Steve Watty
president@srvgensoc.org

1st Vice President:
Ted Shapas

2nd V.P. Programs:
Wayne Mortensen
Karen Olynger
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3rd V.P. Membership:
Jerry & Julia Basel
membership@srvgensoc.org

Secretary:
Barbara Shapas
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Recording Secretary:
Russ Erickson

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webmaster@srvgensoc.org

Calendar Coordinator:
Bill George

Education Coordinator:
Kathy Javdani

Webmaster: Bob Venter
webmaster@srvgensoc.org



SRVGS is on Facebook!

Click on the link below or go to:

<https://www.facebook.com/srvgensoc>

Genealogy Research Assistance

Do you need research Help?

Bring your questions to the

Danville Public Library

10:00 a.m. until noon

Monthly on the Fourth Tuesday.

**Society Members will be available
to help you with your search.**

Danville Family History Center

2949 Stone Valley Rd. Alamo

Phone: 925-552-5920

Monday: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Tuesday: 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Wednesday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

and 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Closed on Holidays, the month of August

FHC Director:

Chris Engstrom: cechocolatego@prodigy.net

Subscription Sites Available For Free at FHC:

- Ancestry.com
- Fold3.com
- Heritage Quest
- MyHeritage.com
- Origins.net
- ProQuest Obituary Listings
- Godfrey Memorial Lib
- Newspaper Archive
- World Vital Records
- Findmypast (UK)

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