



# Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society  
of Southern Nevada - West

Vol 3, No.1

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## **Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West Joins UNLV Special Collections To Document Jewish Migration to Las Vegas**

Few members of the JGSSN-West consider themselves migrants. However, no current member was born in Las Vegas or even in Nevada! With a Jewish community exceeding 70,000, many of whom have arrived in the last ten years, Las Vegas is one of the fastest growing Jewish communities in the United States. Where did these Jews come from? Why did they decide to live in Las Vegas? Do they plan to stay? These and many more questions will be answered in a five year project now in the preliminary stages.

Dr. Peter Michel, Director of the Special Collections Department of the UNLV Library, is enthusiastic about the project. His Department has agreed to house the collection of materials generated. His support will also include cataloguing.

The first interviews for the migration project took place in January 2000. Field testing allowed for modifications in the procedures used and provided a better understanding of what materials would be collected.

Preliminary results indicate that the following procedure will be followed.

A questionnaire is sent to the interviewee prior to the interview. They are asked to give information about their life in Las Vegas—do they receive the Jewish newspapers, belong to Jewish service groups, did their children attend Jewish day

schools in Las Vegas, etc.

The questionnaire is followed by a taped interview. In some cases this is done in two or three sessions. The interview covers their life before Las Vegas (including information about grandparents and parents), and then their life in Las Vegas.

Documents of Jewish life in Las Vegas are contributed. Photos might include those of weddings, baby namings, service groups, day school projects, etc. These images are scanned and printed.

Interviewees are encouraged to contribute their printed genealogies, pedigree charts, ancestor trees and other printed family information.

Copies are made of video tapes of events in Las Vegas, including family reunion tapes, weddings, etc. All of these materials are placed in a two inch binder and sent to the Special Collections Department at UNLV.

This project concentrates on Jewish residents who are not chronicled in local secular newspapers. It is a project to record “ordinary” people. The first two interviews were of a professional musician and an employee in the building trades.

If interest holds the project will span five years. It should provide an interesting glimpse into the Las Vegas Jewish Community for future researchers. Funding for this project is provided by Mary and Barry Barkan.



# Standards For Use of Technology In Genealogical Research

## **Recommended by the National Genealogical Society**

Mindful that computers are tools, genealogists take full responsibility for their work, and therefore they –

- learn the capabilities and limits of their equipment and software, and use them only when they are the most appropriate tools for a purpose.
- refuse to let computer software automatically embellish their work.
- treat compiled information from online sources or digital data bases like that from other published sources, useful primarily as a guide to locating original records, but not as evidence for a conclusion or assertion.
- accept digital images or enhancements of an original record as a satisfactory substitute for the original only when there is reasonable assurance that the image accurately reproduces the unaltered original.
- cite sources for data obtained online or from digital media with the same care that is appropriate for sources on paper and other traditional media, and enter data into a digital database only when its source can remain associated with it.
- always cite the sources for information or data posted online or sent to others, naming the author of a digital file as its immediate source, while crediting original sources cited within the file.
- preserve the integrity of their own databases by evaluating the reliability of downloaded data before incorporating it into their own files.
- provide, whenever they alter data received in digital form, a description of the change that will accompany the altered data whenever it is shared with others.
- actively oppose the proliferation of error, rumor and fraud by personally verifying or correcting information, or noting it as unverified, before passing it on to others.
- treat people online as courteously and civilly as they would treat them face-to-face, not separated by networks and anonymity.
- accept that technology has not changed the principles of genealogical research, only some of the procedures.

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## **Index to *Family Legacies* Completed**

Work on indexing *Family Legacies*, the newsletter of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West was completed in January 2000. The following indexes are now available—

1998 Surname Index to *Family Legacies*  
1998 Article Index to *Family Legacies*  
1999 Surname Index to *Family Legacies*  
1999 Article Index to *Family Legacies*

To request a search of the indexes contact Janet Farino, JGSSN-West Librarian at [Janfar@wizard.com](mailto:Janfar@wizard.com)



## **Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery**

### **Cemetery Information**

Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery is located at 1900 Buchanan Boulevard, Boulder City, Nevada 89005-3668. This address is in Clark County, Nevada, United States of America. Telephone 702-486-5920. Fax 702-486-5923. The Cemetery was opened in April of 1990 and is under the care and supervision of the State of Nevada. In December of 1999 the Cemetery Superintendent was Jack A. Porrino. The cemetery consists of eighty acres of which twenty-three acres are now in use. Future plans include the completion of a chapel. The number of burials as of November 1999 was 9,2000. The cemetery is open twenty-four hours every day. All burials are in ground with flat bronze or granite markers. This survey includes burials with markers displaying the Star of David.

Cemetery burials are indexed. The burial cards do not contain biographical information, information on next of kin, information on funeral directors, or health department numbers. Burial cards exist for dates after April 1990 though some death dates in the cremation sections are prior to 1990. There is no caretaker though there is an administration office. Only live flowers may be placed on grave sites. United States veterans, their spouses and dependent children are eligible for burial at this site.

The cemetery is isolated on a suburban hillside near the Boulder City Airport. The entrance to the cemetery is reached by turning directly off a public road (Buchanan Boulevard) and the entrance is marked by a sign in English. The grounds are surrounded by a partial fence. All markers in this cemetery are from the twentieth century. All inscriptions on the markers are in English. The cemetery site contains memorial monuments to Jewish soldiers. The cemetery is visited frequently and burial services are held on most days. The cemetery up to December 1999 has never been vandalized. No part of the cemetery is overgrown with vegetation and the water drainage is good.

### **Monument to Jewish Soldiers**

The monument was erected by the Jewish War Veterans and contains this information:

1896-1996

In memory of all men and women of the Jewish faith who have served in the Armed Forces of the United States of American in War and Peace

American Revolution	Civil War	World War II	Desert Storm
War of 1812	Spanish American War	Korea	
Mexican War	World War I	Vietnam	

### **The Cemetery Survey**

The survey of this cemetery was completed under the direction of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West. Chairpersons for the Cemetery Project were Jo-Ann and Howard Geller. The actual cemetery survey was conducted by Jo-Ann Geller, Maxine Avery Muse, and Mary Barkan. The project was completed in December of 1999. The data collected included only those markers which displayed a Star of David. Proofreading was done by Blanche Levin.

### **Database Search**

You may request a search of the database by contacting Jo-Ann Geller at [hagnjag@aol.com](mailto:hagnjag@aol.com)



## On Line Resources for Clark County, Nevada Research

From [www.lasvegas.com](http://www.lasvegas.com) you can access searchable databases for Clark County, Nevada. Some of the larger cities in Clark County are Las Vegas, Henderson, North Las Vegas, Searchlight, Boulder City and Laughlin. Listed below are some of the links at [www.lasvegas.com](http://www.lasvegas.com) which may be helpful in researching your family.

**Las Vegas Review Journal Newspaper**  
(obituaries)

**University of Nevada Las Vegas**

Dickerson Library Catalogue

**City of Las Vegas Pages**

Site Search

Business License Database

**Clark County Pages**

- Apostille documents(Recorder's Office)
- Building permits (Building Department)
- Business licenses (Department of Business Licenses)
- Child Care licenses (Department of Social Services)
- Concealed firearms permits (Metropolitan Police Department)
- Film permits (Department of Business Licenses)
- Marriage certificates (Recorder's Office)
- Marriage inquiry system (Recorder's Office)
- Official Records Inquiry System (Recorder's Office) - Search records indices for official documents filed in Clark County.
- Pet License (Animal Control)
- Work Cards (Metropolitan Police Department)
- Youth work permits (Family & Youth Services)

**State of Nevada** [www.state.nv.us/indexu.htm](http://www.state.nv.us/indexu.htm)  
Links including the Treasurer for unclaimed property

**State Bar of Nevada** [www.nvbar.org/](http://www.nvbar.org/)  
Names of those passing the bar exam  
Locate a lawyer search engine

**Las Vegas Sun Newspaper**  
[www.lasvegassun.com](http://www.lasvegassun.com)  
Obituaries and site search

**Las Vegas Clark County Library District**  
[www.lvccld.lib.nv.us](http://www.lvccld.lib.nv.us)

**Las Vegas Synagogues with Websites/email**

Adat Ari El (Traditonal Reform)

[www.adatariel.com](http://www.adatariel.com)

[info@adatariel.com](mailto:info@adatariel.com)

Ahavat Torah (Traditional Reform)

[Craig/Audrey@worldnet.att.net](mailto:Craig/Audrey@worldnet.att.net)

Beth El (Traditonal Reform)

[www.BethElCongregation.com](http://www.BethElCongregation.com)

Midbar Kodesh (Conservative Judiasm)

[MidbarKodesh@juno.com](mailto:MidbarKodesh@juno.com)

Temple Adat Chavarim (Reform)

[www.lvjews.org](http://www.lvjews.org)

Temple Beth Sholom (Conservative Judiasm)

[www.bethsholomlv.org](http://www.bethsholomlv.org)

Valley Outreach Synagogue (Reconstructionist)

[www.valleyoutreach.com](http://www.valleyoutreach.com)

[lvrabbi@lvcm.com](mailto:lvrabbi@lvcm.com)

Young Israel (Orthodox)

[yilasvegas@bigplanet.com](mailto:yilasvegas@bigplanet.com)



## **Passover In the Military**

Gil Shaw, Lt. Cmdr. USCG (Ret)

Just because a Jew puts on the uniform of one of the five Armed Forces of the United States, it doesn't mean he gives up his religion. The Jewish Welfare Board has been tending to the religious needs of Jewish servicemen since World War I.

When Passover comes, Jewish communities frequently inform chaplains at nearby military bases that home hospitality is available. At some bases, or in cities where multiple bases are located there is sometimes a Jewish Chaplain. When that is the case, with the help of the JWB an all-military Seder is the order of the day. These generally include all officers, enlisted personnel and their families. Everything from the matzo ball soup to the Haggadah is furnished.

The Passover service itself is quite traditional, with everyone having to make minor adjustments. Jewish Chaplains generally adjust the Seder to come as close as possible to meeting the needs of their special congregations. A military congregation can include orthodox, conservative and reform Jews as well as some groups, such as Sephardim who have traditions of their own. The JWB publishes prayer books and service pamphlets that include portions that are familiar to those representing most of the branches of Judaism.

Depending on the location, those looking for the Afikomen can be the kids of members or in cases such as isolated overseas or combat areas 17 or 18 year olds just out of basic training. In overseas areas, commanders frequently make arrangements for their personnel to take part in the start of Passover if there is a Seder in the general area.

Probably the most like Seders in a civilian environment, is the Seder held in Washington D.C. where the Army maintains a Jewish Chaplain to serve all members of the Armed Forces in the Washington D. C. area. Normal Friday night services at the Jewish Chapel at Fort Belvoir usually draw between 75 and 100. On Passover and the High Holy Days this can expand to up to about 400.

Join Members of  
Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West  
At the

**20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy**  
**9—14 July 2000**  
**Salt Lake City, Utah**

For additional information:

Contact Carole Montello at [carmont7@juno.com](mailto:carmont7@juno.com)

Write IAJGS Conference, P.O. Box 99, Bergenfield, NJ 07621

On the Web <http://iajgs.org/slcy2k>



## **Passover in Las Vegas**

By Mary Barkan

Passover has become the holiday when all the children and much of our extended family return to Las Vegas. We have lived in the same house since 1977. Over time we developed some special family traditions.

I always thought that the children (Barbara, Gregory, Robyn, and Seth) would have cozy, wonderful memories of Seder. Over the past few years I have listened carefully to the kids during the meal and I am amazed at what constitutes a “wonderful” Seder memory to them. Traditionally, the youngest child at the Seder table asked four important questions during the meal. The answers to the questions form the basis for telling part of the Passover story and offer points of discussion. The questions I’ve heard in the last few years could be termed “the other four questions” and seem to be the key Seder memories of our children.

The question “What is this?” comes from a tradition we began when our son Seth was small. I wanted him to understand that Jews live all over the world and have different traditions from ours for the observance of holidays. I began adding one dish traditional to another county to our Seder. At first, there was a lot of protest. Now the children remember the year we had brown eggs as a special event. Each year they ask what new dish will be added.

The question “Why does this taste funny?” also starts in Seth’s childhood. I would cook for days getting ready for Seder. Barry and Seth would lounge around sampling dishes and nagging me to cook their favorites. When Seth was about two years old I decided that the men of the family would be in charge of making the haroset for the meal. Barry was convinced that he had eaten this dish all of his life and that he and Seth would have no problem making the best haroset ever tasted. The first couple of years they cooked with wild abandon and the dish was often strange. Finally, they began to use a recipe and the results were excellent. The haroset is always made the night before Seder. This gives it time to absorb all the flavors and begin to resemble the mortar it represents at the Seder. Over the years, Seth and my husband Barry have expanded the circle of cooks to include any male in the house when they begin cooking. For a couple of years the “boys” made Sephardic haroset in addition to their traditional haroset. Last year, Seth was not home when it came time to make haroset. However, Gregory, Barry’s oldest son, was visiting. He and Barry began to make the dish. The recipe book lay on the counter. They disregarded it. Each began adding more wine, a touch more cinnamon, maybe one more apple, etc. After twenty years, Barry was back to disregarding the recipe but by now he really does know how to make haroset without a recipe and it was delicious!

The third question “Why are all the pets locked up?” comes from the era of the three oldest children. All four children at the Seder table meant that there was fierce competition to find the Afikoman. This is a piece of matzo wrapped in a napkin and hidden during the Seder. After the meal the child who finds the Afikoman can claim a prize. The child who claimed the prize often started asking Barry for a car. Gradually the requests became more reasonable and most often ended with a small sum of money. One year Seder found all the children around the table and all at an age where a couple of dollars seemed like riches. They each anxiously awaited the search for the Afikoman. Their faces registered horror and dismay when it was discovered that the dog, Ducky, had discovered and eaten the Afikoman!

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Now, all pets are locked up during Seder. With grandchildren now joining us at the Seder table the older children always tell them the story of Ducky with a lot more enthusiasm than they felt when it actually happened.

The fourth question "How can I read if I don't know where we are?" is of more recent vintage. Perhaps eight years ago, the children were almost grown and I thought they were not paying attention during the Seder. For the next Seder I placed a different Haggada at each seat. Then, everyone had to be alert. This brought lots of discussion to the table because each Haggada had a slightly more concise or more confusing rendition of each reading. We had Haggadas based on art, Haggadas written by feminists, Haggadas that stressed life in America, Haggadas written for children, and lots of other themes. Seder was really interesting. At one Seder, a Haggada had the Four Questions listed in several languages. Barry's mother, Frieda Barkan read one question in Yiddish, our nephew-in-law Alex Zilberman read one question in Russian, our nephew Joshua Barkan read one question in Ladino and everyone read one question together in English. Everyone kept their place even though everyone's Haggada was different. Now, each person has a favorite Haggada, though almost everyone is willing to try a new one. I am always looking for new Haggadas to add to our collection. In 1999 I tried to return to the "everyone with the same Haggada" mode and was roundly voted down by the family. They like the interesting aspect different Haggadas bring to the Seder table.

Not exactly the memories I thought the children would have, but their memories nonetheless. I'm anxiously waiting to hear who will be able to join us this year for Seder. Who knows what memories will be created now that grandchildren have been added to the mix!

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip+4 \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Family Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Individual Membership

Please make checks Payable to JGSSN-West  
Mail To: JGSSN  
P.O. Box 29342  
Las Vegas, NV 89126

JGSSN-West membership runs from  
September to September

JGSSN-West Information:  
Carole Montello at: [carmont7@juno.com](mailto:carmont7@juno.com)

**Family Legacies** is printed four times each year - Summer, Winter, Spring, and Fall. Articles, manuscripts, notable news may be submitted to: Editor Mary Barkan  
JGSSNWest  
P.O. Box 29342  
Las Vegas, NV 89126

Queries are printed on a space available basis at a cost of \$2.50 for 50 words, then 25 cents for each additional word, excluding name and address.

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Family Legacies is exchanged with those member societies of IAJGS which provide copies to JGSSN-West of their newsletter. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year. Back issues \$3.50 each.

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**Calendar 1999**  
**JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule**  
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

**April 16th – Carole Merrill presents**  
**The Family History Library Catalog on Line**

**May 21st –Documents of our Ancestors**

**June 18th–Table Talk–bring your research problems and questions to the experts**

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