

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

July 21, 2018

"SHIPS OF OUR ANCESTORS"



PRESENTED BY HAL BOOKBINDER

During the active years of Ellis Island, 83,000 ship arrivals were recorded. Between 1880 and 1914 about two million Jewish immigrants arrived from Europe, with most passing through Ellis Island. Until the age of flight, immigrants arrived by sea, first on sailing ships and after the middle of the 19th Century, on steamships.

This presentation focuses on the ships on which our ancestors traveled, discussing the shift from sail to steam and the governmental regulations which made ship travel safer and more civilized. It will address the experience of our ancestors in getting to the port of embarkation, being processed for passage, life aboard the vessel, on Ellis Island and in getting to their final destination. It will also address various erroneous myths such as the inhuman conditions in steerage and name changes on Ellis Island.

**About: the Speaker.** Hal Bookbinder's areas of interest include Jewish history, finding living relatives, European border changes, immigration, immigrant travel, citizenship and safe computing.

He is a former [IAJGS](#) president and currently serves on the [JewishGen](#) Board of Governors. In 2010 he was honored with the [IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award](#). Hal served as lead co-chair of the 2014 IAJGS Conference and has spoken extensively on various genealogical topics at a variety of international conferences and society meetings. Hal has identified over 4,000 relatives, tracing two lines into the 1700s in modern Ukraine and adjacent areas. Professionally, Hal is an IT director and college professor.

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