



CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים



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REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM

One of the exciting and fulfilling aspects of being a genealogist is the realization that we are part of a larger community. While we work on our own respective family histories we are nevertheless linked to others. For example, in trying to close gaps in our family trees, we communicate with known relatives who often direct us to other relatives, thus creating a larger network. We don't work in a vacuum.

This operates on other levels as well. Hardly a week goes by, when we don't hear from Jan Meisels Allen, an IAJGS Vice President who chairs its Public Records Access Monitoring Committee. She posts frequently on the JewishGen discussion group (<http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager>) with information about proposed changes in legislation and regulations worldwide that would impede access to vital records.

Jan often puts out a red flag to warn us that trouble may be brewing. In late January she indicated that a subcommittee of the U.S. House of Representatives Ways & Means Committee will commence hearings on February 2 to evaluate overall accessibility to the Social Security Death Index (SSDI). Jan suggested how we as JGSGP members should respond:

1. Follow developments as the hearings proceed;
2. Await the IAJGS response (before February 16);
3. Write to the appropriate elected officials and indicate our preferences as to how they should vote on proposed legislation. (By the way, sending hard copy letters has greater impact than email messages).

Were we not part of this web of genealogists, we might be unaware of impending developments which could restrict our future use of the important SSDI resource tool. Previously, Jan recommended action we could take in support of legislation in Pennsylvania, (*Continued - See Reflections Page 3*)

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Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please make checks payable to JGSGP and mail to the address below. Please include your email address and zip+4 code.

Annual Dues (January 1 - Dec. 31)

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Submission of articles on genealogy for publication in *CHRONICLES* is enthusiastically encouraged. The editorial board reserves the right to decide whether to publish an article and to edit all submissions. Please keep a copy of your material. Anything you want returned should be accompanied by a self-addressed stamped envelope.

While email and other electronic files are highly preferred, the editors will be happy to work with you and your material in any form. If you have an idea, please contact Evan Fishman of the Editorial Board by email: editor@jgsgp.org or by phone at 856-667-2077.

SUBSCRIPTIONS - ADDRESS CHANGE

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I am pleased to inform you that our society has some very interesting programs scheduled in the next few months. In March we will be holding what has become an annual event-- our "Breaking Down Brick Walls" meeting. We will have a panel composed of our society's "experts" that will help you solve some of your difficult research problems. In April we will host Yuri Dorn as our speaker. Yuri lives and does research in Belarus and will tell us what is available in the Belarus archives and what is involved in doing research in as well as travelling to Belarus. In June we hope to host our second annual "Genealogy Fair" in Cherry Hill, NJ. Watch for more details as the June 10 date approaches.

Following the program portion of our Sunday afternoon, March 11 meeting, which will be held at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, we will be holding an open board meeting to discuss JGSGP's future direction. We are looking for like-minded individuals who would like to take on leadership positions in our society. I hope some of you will attend the meeting and decide to take a more active role.

As some of you may know we now have our own Facebook group, "Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia". On this page we will be posting information about our meetings, questions about research, useful research links as well as other useful material. Please join our Facebook group by going to <http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp> or go to www.facebook.com and entering "Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia" in the search window. ❖

Fred Blum - President

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Hermene Shapiro	Ventnor, NJ
Meryl Baer	Ventnor, NJ
Mindelle Pierce	Margate, NJ
Richard Couzens	Margate, NJ
Anne Freedman	Margate, NJ
Joan Pollak	Merion, PA
Faye Phillips	West Chester, PA
Judith Lipmanson	Smyrna, DE
Jack & Ann Kaufman	Roslyn, PA
Matthew Ross	Maple Glen, PA

(Reflections - continued from Page 1)

which would provide greater access to birth and death records in the state. Thankfully, that legislation was passed. Legislators do pay attention to their constituents.

It's also important that we share our stories (successes as well as failures) with other society members. Our annual "Breaking Down Brick Walls" session (next one in March) has often proven to be pivotal. As veteran member, Lois Sernoff, indicated in her Summer 2011 article, "Alternative World War II Research Strategies", "Sharing my research dilemma with other JGSGP members and employing the strategies suggested provided me with a much richer and more detailed account of his WWII service."

By the same token, we can influence each other when we share our "wow" experiences. *Chronicles* editor, Evan Fishman, writes in this issue about some amazing developments in his personal genealogical journey. We hope his message will generate excitement and inspire you to share your own special experiences in future issues. To paraphrase Groucho Marx, I definitely want to be an [active] member of a club that accepts people like me as a member. ❖

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Jack and I are relatively new to searching out the roots of his family and were excited last summer when we learned about JGSGP's Genealogy Fair. We were impressed by both the wealth of information provided in a convenient format and the welcoming attitude of everyone associated with the Fair.

Each of the subsequent, regular meetings we have attended has been enjoyable and informative. The content and the range of topics covered in *Chronicles* have been interesting and we find many of the referenced resources very useful.

We appreciate the practice of designating long-time members as mentors and have taken advantage of their expertise. If the mentor we approached did not have an answer to our question, we were connected with someone else who did or who could suggest an avenue for us to investigate. A desire to share that expertise was also evident in the one Russian SIG meeting that we attended earlier this fall.

Jack and I have renewed our membership for 2012 and are eagerly looking forward to the presenters and topics announced at Sunday's meeting.

Sincerely,
Ann Kauffman

Letters to the Editor should be addressed to editor@jgsgp.org and should include your name and email address. All letters are subject to editing for length, content, etc. Unpublished letters can be neither acknowledged nor returned.

THE LAST IMMIGRANT BANK BOOK

by David Mink

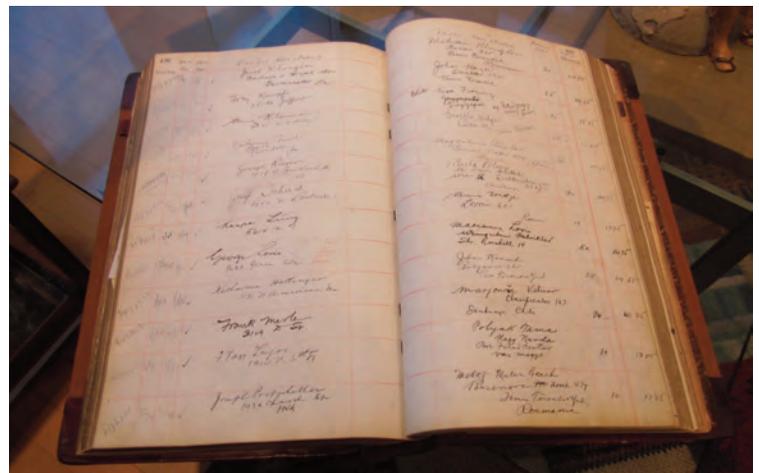
Sitting on the end table in the very contemporary living room of Eugene and Cecilie Block, is a thick leather bound ledger book that harkens back to another time. It is the Rosenbluth Bank record book of people saving to purchase tickets for friends and relatives to come to America. The ledger book contains over 1000 names. The first entry is April 1, 1937 and the last is 1959, long after Rosenbluth stopped facilitating European immigration. Immigration ended with the advent of WWII. This last immigrant bank book, the Rosenbluth Bank Ledger Book, has been digitized as a gift from the Blocks, and its contents are now available to the public. The JGSGP has produced



an index of names to facilitate research and will soon make this database available electronically under the aegis of the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center (PJAC).

In 1892, Marcus Rosenbluth, a Hungarian immigrant, founded Rosenbluth Ticket Office when he began selling steamship tickets from his home at 1142 N. 2nd Street. Rosenbluth held a private banking license in addition to a travel agency license. (1) He built a business based on trust and providing service to his clients. Of his thirteen children, only two, Max and Joseph, entered the business. Max, the older son, was also Cecilie's father. Max spoke eight languages and was able to put anxious customers at ease. The company would purchase the steamship tickets, make travel arrangements, and help obtain passports. One of the services they provided was to meet the new immigrants in New York and bring them to Philadelphia to be reunited with their families.

The book contains over 600 pages of names, over 1400 entries of purchasers and travelers. The entries were made in



beautiful script, from the hand of Max Rosenbluth. Although immigration from Europe ended with the onset of WWII, the book was used through 1959. Later entries were made by several people, one of whom was Cecilie Block. We can follow Max Glick, who on page 72 made a payment to Hella Glicklich of Lodz, Poland, on 6 December 1937. Page 232 shows another payment made in 1939. Then on page 478, we find Max Glick making a payment to Helen Rozenman, living in Berlin in 1950. The last payment made to Helen was recorded in 1959 on page 568. Was this the same woman? What was her relationship to Max? This is just one of the many mysteries waiting to be revealed from this book.

The existence of this book surfaced during the planning for the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy which was held in Philadelphia. Eugene and Cecilie Block arranged for the Conservation Center for Art and Historic Artifacts to digitize every page of the book. The JGSGP engaged Brian Cohen and Bertran Bauer to create a searchable index of names. Entries were written across both the right and left pages. The left page is the even page number and has the name of the purchaser. The right page is the odd number and has the name of the traveler or recipient of the deposit.





Cecilie & Eugene Block

The hope is that this collection of data will be helpful to family historians researching their past. Heartfelt thanks go out to Eugene and Cecilie Block, who made it possible for the Conservation Center to digitize the last remaining immigrant bank book. Thanks also go to Brian Cohen and Bertran Bauer who completed the tedious task of creating a searchable index. And lastly, thanks go to the JGSGP for making this all happen and for letting the world have access to this information. ❖

(1) *International Directory of Company Histories, Vol 14 St James Press, 1996*

David Mink is a member of JGSGP and served as Co-Chair of the 2009 IAJGS Conference hosted by JGSGP in Philadelphia. Contact David at: daminker@aol.com

A SHTETL WEDDING IN THE BERKSHIRES

by Rabbi Moshe Silver

A gathering of seniors, including many Holocaust survivors (whose participation was underwritten by the Blue Card Fund, www.bluecardfund.org), spent the last two weeks of July 2011 at the Isabella Freedman Jewish Retreat Center (www.isabellafreedman.org) singing and dancing--first at the lively Shabbat services and then at a Sunday morning ceremony that took place under a very special *chuppah*.

It was that *chuppah* under which event organizer Mindelle Pierce's parents were married. Fleeing Paris before the Nazis, that young Polish couple was married hastily on a

street corner. Decades later, Mindelle and her own children created this *chuppah*, and finally the parents stood beneath it and completed the process started so many years before. Mindelle and Ira celebrated their own thirtieth wedding anniversary that month, and they brought the *chuppah* along – because you never know.

Indeed, in the days leading up to the *shabbaton*, Mindelle found a couple who wished to rededicate themselves after happy decades of marriage. The *chuppah* was in the right place at the right time – as was a very special wedding party. Rabbi Moshe Silver created a unique ceremony for this couple. Since they were already married, many elements of the marriage ceremony could not be re-enacted – no *sheva berachot*, no *ketubah*. But the *kallah* wore white and sat in the beautiful *shul* building as her *chatan* performed the *badeken*. Then, the Yiddish song “*Shayne Maidel*” was sung expertly in a clear voice by a 96 year-old Warsaw survivor.

After the *badeken*, the wedding party accompanied the *chatan* and *kallah* out of the *shul*, the *chuppah* was set up, and the procession began. About a hundred campers were on hand, spanning four generations. One of the guests was an elderly bridesmaid's daughter, a young woman who came to the Isabella Freedman Center just to watch her mother be a bridesmaid – and amazingly, she discovered that same day that her own mother had survived the Holocaust. Some 30 seniors participated in the ceremony, including a 70 year-old flower girl, the bridesmaids and a best man who was a close friend of the septuagenarian wedding couple. The partiers were decked out in handmade flower garlands and vintage clothing. The music was under the direction of David Weisberg, Isabella Freedman's new executive director.

While under the *chuppah*, the *chatan* took the same ring with which the couple had been married years ago and placed it on his wife's finger. The rabbi made a blessing over a cup of wine and the couple drank from it. Then they were joined by Ira and Mindelle, celebrating their own anniversary, and another member of the party read an original poem and sang “*Mein Yiddishe Mama*” in a clear, powerful voice.

Throughout the ceremony, the rabbi explained the elements of the traditional Jewish wedding. Now, he turned to the couple reaffirming their marriage and gave them his blessing for many more years of health and happiness together. He then turned to the audience and explained that, at the final moment under the *chuppah* before the *chatan* breaks the glass, the tradition is to pause and recall the destruction of Jerusalem.

“But,” said Rabbi Silver, addressing the large number of Holocaust survivors in the room, “I don’t need to describe to you the destruction of the *beit ha-mikdash* (holy temple). Each of you has already lived through your own *churban ha-bayit* (destruction of the temple).” Rabbi Silver thanked them on behalf of all Jews everywhere for continuing to cling passionately to their identity as Jews, for coming through their experiences and raising families, for holding jobs, starting businesses, and building lives here in America. “Each one of you,” said Rabbi Silver, “is a rebuilt *beit ha-mikdash* . Thank you.”

Then the *chatan* stepped on the glass and shouts of “*mazal tov!*” filled the air. The couple felt especially blessed to have renewed their deep, loving marriage in such unique company, and many in attendance said they experienced a special thrill. Passion and joy proved stronger than old age as the guests and the couples retired to the social hall for an hour of dancing. “We do have our own stories,” said one woman, a survivor from Antwerp. “And we did rebuild. We live our lives because we have to.” Said another, “We must live our lives. It’s the only way to get back at those who took so much from us.” ❖

See Announcements (page 16) for a web link to photos of this event .

Rabbi Moshe Silver spent a summer officiating at Young Israel of Margate, NJ, where he and his wife became friends with Mindelle and Ira Pierce - organizers of the event at the Isabella Freedman Retreat Center. Rabbi Silver works on Wall Street and lives with his family in Highland Park, NJ, where he is known as a dynamic and creative teacher of Torah.

CHICKEN HILL CHRONICLE: MEMOIR OF A JEWISH FAMILY

Book Review by Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler

At the November 6, 2011 JGSGP general meeting, Lawrence (Larry) E. Cohen, author of *Chicken Hill Chronicle: Memoir of a Jewish Family*, presented a program about three generations of his family, beginning with his immigrant ancestors who settled in a very poor section of Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

From the first page, I found the book difficult to put down. The author’s depiction of his “ancestor generation” is, in my opinion, an historical look at all our immigrant ancestors. They worked hard at menial tasks in order to earn enough money for the survival of their family. The author gives the reader an excellent description of the hardships which faced the immigrant and what life was like, especially Jewish life, in Pottstown, PA.

I easily related to the peddlers the author describes. My great-grandfather was a peddler who sold brushes and brooms. Although he died before I was born, my mother told me that my great-grandfather, her grandfather, sold his wares from a cart. When he could no longer afford a cart, he carried his brushes and brooms on his back.

I wept as I read about the treatment of Norman by his mother, Yetta. Norman, the author’s father, was abused by his mother. Not all abuse is physical. Norman was mistreated in other ways.

Chicken Hill Chronicle is an important book that gives the reader an honest look at the life of an immigrant Jewish family that grew from peddler to entrepreneur in three generations. This is an important book, not only for genealogy and the history of our immigrant ancestors, but also for a glimpse into family relationships.

Chicken Hill Chronicle: Memoir of a Jewish Family is a “must-read.” ❖

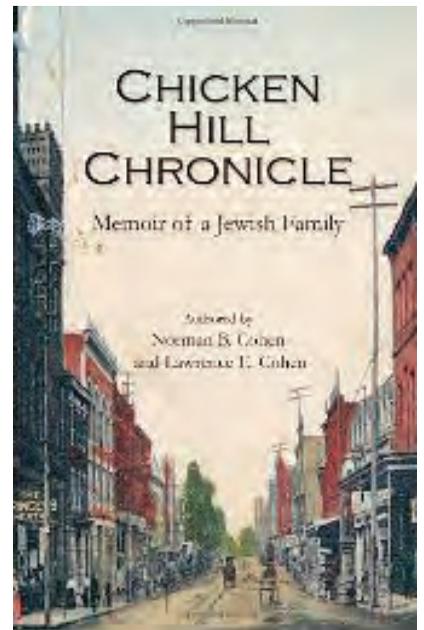
Reviewer Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler, an active member of JGSGP co-chaired the 2011 JGSGP Genealogical Fair. Contact Shelda at stanshel@msn.com

SUMMARY OF THE JGSGP DECEMBER 2011 MEETING

by Steve Schechter

On Dec 4, 2011, Dr. Theodore Schurr, from the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Anthropology and Director of the National Geographic Genographic Project spoke on “What DNA Tells Us About The Jewish Diaspora”.

Dr. Schurr began with maps tracing the Jewish Diaspora from the 1st century CE to the Middle Ages. These showed cities where Jews settled and the migrations and expulsions that ensued as many moved to what became the Pale of Settlement. He explained DNA research and how a substantial portion of the Jewish population can actually be traced back to the Mid-





Dr. Theodore Schurr

dle East. Through several graphics, Dr. Schurr, also showed migration patterns and genetic distributions.

Research on Spain was then explored. It showed that much of the current population has significant Sephardic Jewish DNA, and "the Sephardic Jewish component is the more ancient." This data changes the narrative about Jewish conversions and mixed marriages in Spanish history.

Dr. Schurr then shared research on the:

1. Genetic structure of NYC Eastern European Americans and their linkage with Jewish DNA,
2. Relative DNA isolation of the Ashkenazi,
3. Impact of "founder effect" (bottlenecks where a reduction of Jews limited DNA sources to a very few people, known as Founders), and
4. Dispersion of Jewish DNA into the areas related to Abraham's Children.



Dr Schurr answered questions throughout his presentation, and as a disciplined re-

searcher, provided a comprehensive list of references. This was an enlightening afternoon



JGSGP December 2011 Meeting

blending hard research with understandable examples. We thank Dr. Schurr for taking his time to be with us. ❖

Author, Steve Schechter is Vice President -Programs of JGSGP. He can be reached at stevehs46@gmail.com

Photos courtesy of professional photographer & JGSGP member Eugene Hurwitz. Contact Gene at: ehurwitz@verizon.net

FAMILY HISTORY AND MY BELIEF IN G-D /HASHEM AS THE CREATOR OF OUR DIVERSE POPULATIONS A SCIENTIST'S PERSPECTIVE

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

After hearing a talk¹ by Professor Theodore Schurr at the Delaware County-Main Line Affiliate of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia about DNA and genealogy, I found it necessary to write this article. Dr. Schurr had very carefully explained that the world's population genetically (via DNA which is the deoxyribonucleic acid double helix molecule) traces back to one male and one female human in Africa. He said that the world's human populations can be traced to these two African humans ("Adam" and "Eve") as a result of migrations from the African continent. It seems that Dr. Schurr had very neatly eliminated the need for a belief in G-d. The belief that G-d had created the world populations differently was not his explanation; instead, it was evolution (see "Darwin's 1859 book *The Origin of Species*) which was responsible for these diverse changes in appearance and skin color. Dr. Schurr credited the DNA mutations and evolution of the genes for being responsible for all these changes in humans. Dr. Spencer Wells, in his recent book *Deep Ancestry*², does the same. Both Dr. Schurr and Dr. Wells are working on the National Geographic Genographic Project to explain the different species of humans world-wide on the basis of DNA similarities or differences.

There are other possible explanations or theories for the diverse species of humans, animals and plants. Such other theories that involve the use of Intelligent Design and Creationism have been eliminated from consideration. The argument is that evolution is science and Intelligent Design and Creationism is religion which involves the need for the existence of G-d. Many well-known scientists today still question the value of evolution and point out that it can not be proved scientifically. The question of how the complex molecule of DNA was originally formed and how it controls heredity is still a mystery. Evolution alone can not explain the formation of DNA. The human genome is reported to contain 2.5-3.0 billion base-pair units that make up all (20,500) of our genes². The genome was first completely sequenced in 2003 (see ref.³). I believe that the formation of this very complex structure of DNA required Divine or Intelligent Design.

As an introduction, I come from an Orthodox Jewish family

(Sandel, Sandler, Thau, Greif, Horowitz, Feuer, Haberman, Wertheimer, Fernbach) going back centuries in time to the twelve tribes of Israel. Our family probably migrated to Europe after the destruction of the Second Temple in 70 CE. I can document that we once lived in Poland/Austria and, specifically, in the City of Kolomyja and the surrounding shtetls. This evidence was derived from Birth, Marriage, and Death Records (via JRI-Poland) as well as from oral family history and other documents. Some of my family started to arrive in the USA around 1900. I am still in the process of searching for my relatives.

We have always believed in G-d as the Giver of the written and oral Torah Who has commanded us to carry out the 613 Mitzvot. We believe that G-d created the diverse populations of the world and it was not a chance happening based on DNA mutations.

Many people have asked me, "How, as a chemist and scientist, can you believe in G-d?" Other people have asked me, "How can you believe in something you cannot see?" I would like to answer these questions from a philosophical perspective.

In the field of chemistry, we often work with compounds and forces that frequently cannot be seen. For example, the atoms, molecules and subatomic particles that make up the atoms can not be seen by the naked eye. Yet we are able to acknowledge their existence from the effects or reactions they produce on other atoms or molecules. We can even manipulate and direct their interactions to produce a specific desired effect.

We have been able to use the information of their subatomic particles to produce a host of commercial products, yet we cannot see them undergoing a reaction. We can only know that the effect they produce is a result of these "invisible" reactions involving their electrons. We also cannot see the electrons in an electric current, yet we know they are there from the effect they produce. In a similar fashion, although we cannot see G-d, we know of G-d's existence through the "miraculous" products that nature produces and reproduces constantly.

The marvelous molecule of DNA that Hashem has produced is responsible for life and is an important function in reproduction and genetics. No laboratory experiment has ever been successful in producing DNA or anything that closely resembles it from a mixture of water, along with nitrogen, phosphorus and carbon compounds under a variety

of conditions. This complex DNA molecule could not just be produced by random chance reactions.

Another question that people frequently ask is "If G-d exists, then why did He allow the Holocaust to occur?" Yet another question that is frequently asked is "If G-d exists, then why do so many innocent people suffer and the wicked prosper?" No one knows the answers to these questions. Perhaps, because we have free choice, we are also responsible for some of these events. We tend to blame others; however, we do not know G-d's "Master Plan."

I have always believed in G-d and feel His presence around me each day. I am thankful for many things, such as my life and my family. Being a chemist and scientist has further opened my eyes to the many "miracles" around me and to the magnificent "laws of G-d's nature." Science and religion are not at odds at all! I believe that there is some limited truth to evolution; however, Creationism and Intelligent Design (by G-d) is the fundamental underlying explanation of man's diversity on earth. There are many possible explanations that can be used to resolve the age of the earth and the age of fossils. These explanations would be in line with the teachings of the Torah. The universe is a vast expanse, and we can only marvel at the wonders of the planets, stars and other heavenly bodies that G-d created.

Let us all be thankful to Hashem, our creator and G-d, for our lives and good fortune. ❖

(1) *Presentation on June 1, 2008 entitled: "Using DNA to Trace Ancestry: How Genetics is Elucidating Modern Human Origins and Migrations Around the World" by Professor Theodore G. Schurr, University of Pennsylvania, Department of Anthropology. Dr. Schurr is also a consulting curator of the American & Physical Anthropology Sections of the Penn Museum.*

(2) *"Deep Ancestry-Inside The Geneographic Project," by Spencer Wells, National Geographic, Washington, D.C., 2007.*

(3) *See Internet site: genome.gov and specifically "An Overview of the Human Genome Project"*

Dr. Stanley R. Sandler is an active member of JGSGP and co-chair, with his wife Shelda, of the recent JGSGP Genealogical Fair.

Contact Stanley at stanshel@msn.com

ROSE AND JACK'S WEDDING: OCTOBER 26, 1939

An excerpt from the story written by Mindelle Najman Pierce for her children and grandchildren—the story of the wedding of their grandparents, Rose and Jack Najman.

On September 1, 1939 Hitler stormed into Poland. Papa's shetl, Pruszká, located on the border of Germany and Poland was disseminated. Nowy Sanz, your grandmother's shetl, was annihilated.

The following message came blasting through the radios in Paris (where your grandparents were then living): "Attention. All male alien refugees. You must report to the prefecture of police in your arrondissement or you will be arrested immediately and deported. You are ordered to bring only your identification papers with you."

The same announcement was posted on the bulletin boards at the entrances to the metro stations. The notice was spreading like a toxic poison by word of mouth, like a wild fire raging out of control burning through the clusters of neighborhoods where refugees lived. The news paralyzed everyone who heard it.

Your Papa devised his own plan. He would sign up to fight with the expatriates of Poland and join the Polish French Brigade to fight the menacing Germans. He knew that if he became a member of this newly formed military brigade, and if Rose was his wife, she would be entitled to a financial allotment from the government. It was for this reason that the couple chose this timing for their marriage.

Even though both Papa and Grandma were brought up in strictly observant homes, together they made a conscious decision not to have a religious wedding ceremony. Sadly, they were in a state of mourning for their families. A joyous communal *chasana* seemed inappropriate in light of what was happening around them. So instead, a civil ceremony was performed in the *Maire's* (mayor's) office in the 18th Arrondissement of Paris.

Your Papa would reminisce sadly that had he and your grandma planned their marriage just a few months earlier, he would have lovingly wed your grandma under the *chuppah*, surrounded by loved ones. Instead they were surrounded by a group of ten other couples in a town hall. The town hall building itself, like most in France, was an exquisite 18th century townhouse, showcasing elegant furnishings from France's aristocratic period. Still, in spite

of the beauty and elegance, the experience was cold and barren.

Papa took as his witnesses the concierge of his rooming house and the concierge's wife. French law dictated that there must be two witnesses to a marriage and that the witnesses must be French citizens. The witnesses arrived with their dog. There was no traditional breaking of glass at their ceremony. After all, who at this time could have heard but the slightest splintering of glass and not have been transported back to a night just ten months before that had become known as *Kristallnacht*? It was the night that your Papa was arrested and interrogated by the French police.

As they walked down the boulevard from the courthouse starting their new life together, Papa and Grandma spoke about the spiritual void they felt. Approaching them from the other side of the street was a pious looking older man. He wore a black three quarter length wool coat and a worn black hat tilted forward over his left eye. The man's thin, gold, round, wire rimmed spectacles were slightly lowered on his nose. Under his arm he held a book. His gait showed strong resolve. Papa approached him, and the three of them stood together in the brisk fall air. It turned out to be more than a chance meeting.

Breathlessly, Papa whispered, "*Du bist ein Yid?* (Are you Jewish?). *Einshildich mir.* (Pardon me, Sir.) Could we bother you for a brief moment? You see, we too, are Jewish. We were just married in the *Maire's* chambers." Papa explained his deep longing to have the marriage blessed. If only the man would be kind enough to say a few words, just a *bissel*, a few words in praise of G-d, sanctifying their marriage. How beautiful a simple blessing in their native tongue would drown out the lingering drone of the official French words that had been spoken by the magistrate in the *Maire's* office.

The little old man seemed touched by Papa's heartfelt plea and the urgent look in Grandma's blue eyes as they awaited his response. He agreed. Papa and Grandma lowered their heads. The man gently placed his wrinkled hand above them. He chanted prayers with beauty and elegance. His utterance of the seven blessings filled the cold void inside of them. Emptiness was replaced by a spiritual peacefulness that engulfed them.

Into the evening on Papa and Grandma's wedding day, their newfound peace was broken by the shrill, jarring sound of

the air raid siren. Through the noise and chaos outside, the newlyweds huddled together in the dark damp basement bomb shelter, whispering the traditional words, now with renewed hope in their hearts, “*Shema Yisrael...*”

“Hear O’Israel, the Lord is our G-d, the Lord is One.” ❖

Mindelle Najman Pierce is an enthusiastic new member of JGSGP who has recently attended our beginner’s workshops. Contact her at mindellepierce@yahoo.com.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR RESEARCH

by Stanley Sandler

HOW CEMETERIES, FUNERAL HOMES, AND BURIAL PERMITS CAN BE HELPFUL

After World War II, most of my Sandler relatives who had lived in the Bronx and Brooklyn, NY relocated to diverse parts of the United States, including (as I later found out) New Jersey, Florida, Arizona, and California. They went in search of new jobs or to find better living communities. In 1956 I also left Brooklyn to pursue my doctorate at Penn State University. Maintaining contact with this peripatetic group became even more difficult once the female cousins’ surnames changed after they married and I became involved in raising my own family. When I finally started to get serious about tracking family and doing genealogy in 1970, I was at a complete loss about how to contact many of my relatives, and I could no longer rely on members of the older generation because they had passed away.

After the deaths of my Uncle Yukov in 1968 and his wife, Beckie, in Florida in 1982, I had no one who could help me locate their daughters, my twin cousins. I decided to contact the office at the cemetery where they were buried (United Hebrew Cemetery in Staten Island, NY). I was seeking the name of the next of kin who paid for the care of the graves but was told the cemetery records had no contact information because the graves had neither annual nor perpetual care. After doing some further research, I learned that cemeteries are required by law to have a burial permit for each burial.

A burial permit lists the funeral home that handled the burial on the cemetery grounds. Armed with this information, I contacted United Hebrew Cemetery again. Although more than twenty years had elapsed since her death, they were able to locate the 1982 burial permit for my aunt, and it listed Riverside Memorial Chapel in Miami Beach, Florida as the funeral director who handled the transport and burial.

I contacted Riverside and after hearing that I was looking for my lost cousins, they gave me the name, address and telephone number for my cousin Sondra who had taken care of the burial arrangements.

I sent Sondra a letter before phoning. What a surprise it was for her to hear from her long-lost cousin! She told me that her twin sister, Gloria, lived nearby, also in Florida. It was a blessing that I was able to reconnect with Gloria because soon afterwards, she passed away. Sondra and I are now in contact on a regular basis.

THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Several years ago Shelda and I took advantage of the resources of the Genealogy Room at the Library of Congress in order to find more information about my uncle, Morris Sandler and family who once resided in New York City. The Genealogy Room (located in the Thomas Jefferson Building) contains numerous Internet subscription services, more than 50,000 published genealogies, and 100,000 local histories, microfilms, newspapers, telephone books, city directories, photographs, maps, numerous books about genealogy, and direct access to volumes from the Library’s general collection which may be paged from this area. We were required to obtain reader identification cards with photo IDs before actually using the resources there.

After explaining my research quest to a reference librarian, she suggested I enter my uncle’s name at the ancestry.com site. I subsequently narrowed the search by adding my uncle’s birth date (1887 in Kolomyja, Poland/Austria), his year of arrival in the US (1904), and his wife’s given name (Molly). I literally then found a virtual bonanza and discovered that an anonymous researcher had placed a detailed account of Morris and his family at the Ancestry site.

Armed with this anonymous researcher’s email address, I contacted him/her, suggesting that we might be related. It turned out that the researcher’s name was Jean Marzacano who was an unknown cousin of mine living in California. Jean’s aunt was Molly Feuer Sandler, the wife of Morris Sandler, who is my aunt by marriage and by direct family connections via my great-grandmother (Reisel Feuer Greif) on my paternal side. As was typical in many Eastern European families, my uncle, Morris Sandler, had married his cousin, Molly Feuer.

Jean Marzacano had her own web site which she shared with me. This allowed me to fill in my Feuer family line more thoroughly and gave me access to numerous family photos. I was

very fortunate to find Jean when I did because she passed away about two years later. Her information has enabled me to get in touch with other relatives who in turn provided even more family history. For example, I was able to call Morris Sandler's daughter (Jean Schweiger), my first cousin, and reconnect with her. Shelda and I subsequently visited her family and her when we were in Florida for a family wedding.

The Library of Congress's vast resources proved instrumental in my later locating a book [1] with index references to old (1873) newspapers for Kolomyja, Poland. Using this book, I was able to find references that led me to two newspapers [1] that reported the "Greif Family Massacre" [2,3,4,5]. This sad incident happened on April 11, 1873, the day my great-grandmother Reisel Feuer Greif and her family were murdered.❖

1. Stanley R. Sandler, *Chronicles*, 24, No. 4 (Fall 2006), p. 10 "Discovery of Two Newspaper Accounts That Document Further The 1873 Massacre of the Greif Family"
2. Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler, *Chronicles*, 23, No. 1 (Spring 2004) "The Massacre of the Greif Family"
3. Stanley R. Sandler, *Chronicles*, 23, No. 2 (Summer 2004) "The Greif Family Massacre-Part II- Original Document Description"
4. Stanley R. Sandler, *Chronicles*, 23, No. 3 & 4 (Fall/Winter 2004) "The Massacre of the Greif Family"
5. Stanley R. Sandler, *Chronicles*, 24, No. 3 (Spring 2006) "The 1873 Massacre of the Greif Family-A Search for Criminal Court Records and Newspaper Accounts"

*Dr. Stanley R. Sandler is an active member of JGSGP and co-chair, with his wife Shelda, of the 2011 JGSGP Genealogical Fair.
Contact Stanley at stanshel@msn.com*

"WOW" EXPERIENCES

by *Evan Fishman*

We'd like to introduce a new feature to which we hope everyone will be able to relate. In pursuing our family history research we sometimes experience moments of great insight when mysteries that had previously baffled us become more explainable. We may also belatedly meet



long lost or hitherto unknown *mishpachah* and are elated when that happens. Such experiences can be categorized as "wow" moments, welcome opportunities that affirm and reward us for our painstaking efforts.

I initially contacted my father's first cousin, Charlotte, in the spring of 2002. There hadn't been any kind of falling out; we all had just followed disparate paths in life which didn't overlap. It takes conscious effort to maintain strong family ties. Charlotte was most gracious and immediately provided her children's phone numbers so I could begin to reach out to the extended family network. Charlotte's daughter, Doris, and I began a flurry of email communication, and after about a month I suggested we all meet given our relative geographical proximity.

What I expected to be a one-hour get-together lasted five hours! All of us connected; there was a tangible bond resulting from our blood connection which proved extremely powerful. Charlotte and her husband, Max, managed to escape Germany in March 1940, boarding a ship sailing from Genoa, Italy. This was my first encounter with this type of Holocaust survivor, someone who hadn't experienced the harsh treatment endured by labor and concentration camp victims. Despite her decided conviction that her life began when she came to the United States, thus negating her earlier upbringing in Germany, Charlotte related fascinating stories of her life in the Jewish girls' orphanage in Hamburg. Doris commented that her mother had never been so forthcoming in sharing that period of her life. Doris and her brother, Phil, clearly reaped concrete benefits from my interviewing.

One of the most telling moments of our wonderful meeting was that I was able to give Charlotte copies of photographs from her own wedding. Her mother (Mishka) had sent them



to my paternal grandfather David, her brother-in-law, in 1937. For some reason Charlotte didn't have any souvenirs from that joyous milestone. I felt overwhelming satisfaction and elation at being able to provide such meaningful testimonies to her and her family.

Thanks to the JewishGen Family Finder tool I recently received a surprise message from a Michael from Melbourne, Australia who was looking for information about my great grandmother's family and saw that I was also researching the same surname. Mike, however, isn't related to me; he's actually doing research on behalf of my third cousin, Alice, who is a friend of his and also lives in Australia.

There is, however, a bizarre twist to this unexpected confluence. While Alice and I are related, she is a former nun. Her father, Meyer, my great grandmother's nephew, converted to Catholicism, joined a local branch of the Knights of Columbus, and took the drastic step of completely changing his given name AND surname (from Meyer A. to George M.) so that it didn't bear any resemblance to his birth name. This turn of events puzzled me, and I had always hoped to unravel that mystery.

Shortly thereafter I received an email from Alice's younger brother, Frank, who splits his time between Maine and Florida. He's been diligently researching our mutual surname, trying to fill in the gaps in his limited knowledge of his parents' legacy. This pursuit is all the more remarkable because both his parents shared very little about their respective upbringings with their six children. While Frank and his siblings had a rudimentary knowledge of their ancestry, they were far from conversant with the history of our family.

Frank provided me with the chronology surrounding his father's name change. I brazenly but politely asked if he could explain why his father had taken such a drastic step. We concluded that his marriage to a Catholic woman and subsequently conversion were part of a progression to renounce his Jewish origins and disassociate himself from his biological family. The name change (from Meyer to George) was the denouement in this progression.

I offered to contact Frank's first cousin, Naomi, to find out if she would be amenable to communication with him. I didn't volunteer any information about Naomi to Frank; I didn't feel it was my place to disclose details. What if Naomi didn't want to develop a relationship with her first cousin? What if the rift between these two segments of the family were irreparable, indicating that the tension that originally occurred in 1928 when Meyer married Elizabeth, still lingered more than 80 years later?

I wrote a letter to Naomi explaining the recent happenstances. I shared my sentiments that I found Frank's

earnest efforts to reconnect with this branch of his family to be genuine. My forays in my own genealogical research have confirmed how powerfully meaningful family ties can be. Why do so many of us relentlessly toil for years, undergoing an often-tedious process in the hope of discovering or reconnecting with relatives? Apparently we feel that we're incomplete without knowing as much as we can about our ancestry, and we are equally committed to transmitting a more complete legacy to future generations.

Naomi phoned me after receiving my letter, generously thanking me for opening the window and enabling her to reconnect with Frank. She had met Frank when she was a teenager and he was a little boy. She conveyed a warmth and eagerness to contact Frank and to help him close the gaps in his factual knowledge about the family. She was even more intent on letting Frank know that their grandparents loved his siblings and him. She wants to begin the healing process and welcome back this long severed branch of the family tree, thus taking a surprise JewishGen Family Finder message full circle to an anticipated rapprochement. ❖

Your Chronicles team invites all of you to share your own "wow" experiences with your fellow readers. Let's enrich each other with exciting and compelling stories which serve to re-energize us.

Submit your articles to editor@jgsgp.org.

UPDATE ON PENNSYLVANIA LEGISLATION-SB 361: CHANGING RULES RE: ACCESSING BIRTH & DEATH RECORDS IN PENNSYLVANIA

On December 15, 2011 Pennsylvania Governor Corbett signed SB 361 into law; it is Act 110 of the Laws of 2011. The chaptered bill is not yet posted to the Pennsylvania legislative website, however, the version that went to the Governor and which he approved may be found at: <http://www.legis.state.pa.us/CFDOCS/Legis/PN/Public/btCheck.cfm?txtType=PDF&sessYr=2011&sessInd=0&billBody=S&billTyp=B&billNbr=0361&pn=1598>

The law becomes effective 60 days after the governor's signature (approximately February 15, 2012). Birth records will be available 105 years from the date of birth and 50 years from the date of death.

We can only presume that the state agencies will work expeditiously in getting the records from the Department

of Health to the State Archives. Pennsylvania had one of the most restrictive laws for accessing birth and death records. This legislation took several attempts to get passed and the coalition group, People for Better Pennsylvania Historical Records Access (PaHR-Access), worked diligently for a number of years to achieve this. See <http://users.rcn.com/timarg/PaHR-Access.htm> ❖

Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS Vice President and Chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, diligently follows legislative activity across the U.S. that potentially impacts on our genealogical research. She regularly shares developments in the JewishGen Discussion Group. You can be part of this stimulating, daily discussion free of charge by registering at http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp

Your Chronicles team was impressed by the artwork for the IAJGS Genealogy Month Poster of November 2011. We wanted to share the image again, along with comments by the artist, on the artwork's creation and meaning.

ARTIST'S COMMENTS ON THE WINNING POSTER FOR THE 2011 INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH

by *Jillian Beroza*

What is genealogy? We've had many speakers and discussions at Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island (JGSLI) meetings about what genealogy and Jewish genealogy are all about. There's a big stereotype that we all face. As generally portrayed, images from Jewish genealogy involve ancient parchment papers in some foreign language, dusty, old books in libraries and antique photos of Baba Greenberg

dressed in black and wearing her pearl necklace.

Breaking the Stereotypes - Internet

Though we do love them, genealogists aren't always poring over old books and looking at sepia toned photos with a magnifying glass. We're researching on the internet (using tools like Ancestry) and communicating via social media sites (like Facebook). In the modern age of genealogy, you need to take advantage of the internet.

Strong Relations

A big factor that's often overlooked in genealogy is that genealogists do trace back and also maintain strong relations with living relatives and their descendents. We're extremely social people! Again, with social media, it's easier to keep in close contact and build strong friendships with very distant relatives.

Being Active

Sure, we're always in libraries and visiting the offices that contain vital records, but we're also outside a lot! We're taking trips to explore shtetls, touring Ellis Island, roaming cemeteries, checking out museums, getting together with relatives, etc.

Genetics

With the advancement of technology, Jews from all over the world can now trace their lineage back hundreds and if they choose, thousands of years. This growing practice is linking Jews and all people in ways we had never thought possible. We're now searching for possible relatives from all over the world, not limiting ourselves just to the Eastern European branches.

Motivation Behind the Poster

My inspiration came from the idea that Jewish genealogy needed a fresh look for 2011 and needed to break down the stereotypes. There needed to be an image that didn't leave out a specific sect of Jews and gives a nod to the new paths of genealogy.

I felt that the symbol of the tree is a very standard look and so... I gave it a new twist, literally!



The tree symbolizes the tall and ever growing family trees that we have. The twisting tree is to represent both the DNA double helix and the combining of all of our family trees.

Trees go up and they go down, so I emphasized that our "roots" (representing our past) are being explored while our "branches"(representing our future) are expanding out. We are all Jewish, and we're finding missing links and connecting our families together. With DNA testing, perhaps we can't find the exact name and information of the ancestor to whom we're related, but we can get close enough to connect one Jewish person from Egypt and another Jewish person from the Netherlands who have the same ancestor from the 1200s in Spain.

Genealogy is pretty cool stuff, let's make it stand out! Thank you so much for giving me the opportunity to enter my poster. ❖

Artist Jillian Beroza is a member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island - <http://www.jgсли.org>

FINDING A GENEALOGICAL TREASURE

By Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler

During the many years I have been researching my family history, I have located many treasures in the form of old documents. Not long ago, however, I unexpectedly found an unbelievable treasure...and I found it in the basement of my own house! Ironically, I had placed it there many years ago. The following is the anatomy of an almost lost history.

It began more than a dozen years ago. My parents, Dorothy Z'L and Barnett D. Bachin Z'L, had passed away; and I, as an only child, had to clean out their house and put it up for sale. I knew every nook and cranny in that house. I had spent my childhood and teenage years there. After returning from college, I lived there until I was married. I loved that house, and putting it up for sale was very emotional. Little by little, I brought boxes of cherished possessions to my house for storage. The year was 1998.



Now fast forward to the year 2011. Most of the boxes remained untouched until a few months ago when my thoughts wandered back to my parents' fiftieth wedding anniversary celebration. I remembered my mother had saved a box of memorabilia.

Retrieving the box was not difficult. I opened it and found a genealogical treasure, unaware that an even greater treasure was yet to be uncovered. My mother had saved all the 50th anniversary cards she and my father had received. I looked at each card, saddened because most of those cherished relatives and friends are no longer with us. Then, under the last card, at the bottom of the box, I found an unbelievable treasure: three sheets of fragile letter-sized paper, folded in half and folded in half again, which I then very carefully unfolded.

What I found was nothing short of amazing! This document listed names (many of which I recognized) and addresses, some in my mother's handwriting and some in my father's handwriting. I knew immediately that I was holding something very old and very important, but I was not sure what it was. It took me only a moment to realize that this was the original guest list for my parents' wedding in 1934! It is now 77 years old! What a sentimental and genealogical find!

My first thought was to protect the document, so I very carefully refolded it, placed it in a plastic sleeve, and then put everything back in the box exactly as my mother had kept it."

After re-reading the list to try to identify the names, I photocopied each page [thus minimizing the amount of handling,] and then placed the original papers, now protected with plastic sleeves, in the box which is safely stored away. I now have a copy I can work with to try to identify those unfamiliar names.

Finding the original handwritten guest list from my parents' wedding was both an emotional and a genealogical find! This document is truly a Bachin family treasure! ❖

Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler is an active member of JGSGP who co-chaired the 2011 JGSGP Genealogy Fair with her husband, Stanley. Contact Shelda at stanshel@msn.com

OUR GRANDPARENTS' JEWISH PHILADELPHIA

Part 1 of this pictorial essay is based on a collage developed by JGSGP member, Walter Spector. It includes family portraits, institutions and locales in and around Philadelphia.

The postcard was an important means of communications and has served as a major source to document the past. There were many Jewish photographers throughout the city. Older printed and real-photo postcards were produced in limited quantities.

At one time mail was delivered in the morning and the afternoon. This was a practical way to communicate when families did not have phones.



PHOTO COLLAGE KEY

1. Synagogue Jewish Hospital
2. New Year's Card
3. A street in West Philadelphia
4. Spector-Eby Family - Woodbine NJ
5. Reading the *Forward*
6. Jewish Hospital - Old York Rd. and Olney Ave. Phila.
7. Logan Section, Phila. - Wagner Ave from 13th St
8. Entrance to the Jewish Hospital
9. Haimovitz Photo Studio
10. Old Folks Home Jewish Hospital
11. Forward Photo Studios 7th St., Phila.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holocaust & Human Behavior:

JGSGP member, Felicia Mode Alexander, brought to our attention that the Goodwin Holocaust Museum & Education Center in Cherry Hill will be hosting a 5-day seminar from August 6-10. It is open to any teacher or educator in NJ/PA/NY. Felicia took this course several years ago, and she rated it "fantastic, very, very thorough and taught by amazing people."

Subject: Holocaust & Human Behavior: A Seminar that Links History, Literature & Ethics
Location: Goodwin Holocaust & Education Center,
Katz Jewish Community Center
1301 Springdale Rd., Cherry Hill

Conducted by: Facing History and Ourselves
<http://www2.facinghistory.org/Campus/events.nsf/HTML/ProfessionalDevelopment/0F0A97B0D0FBBAFD85257983005C378E?>

Contact: Dr. Paul B. Winkler
New Jersey Commission on Holocaust Education
P.O. Box 500
Trenton, NJ 08625
(609) 292-9274 - Office
(609) 633-8599 - FAX
holocaust@doe.state.nj.us
http://www.state.nj.us/education/holocaust/about_us/commission_members.html

Beginners Workshop

By popular demand, our programming vice president, Steve Schecter, will be conducting a beginners session on SUNDAY, MARCH 11 from 10 am – 12 noon at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA. This will be an abbreviated version of the six-week workshop he's conducted in the past and is geared to those who are getting started, restarting, or reorganizing their Jewish genealogy research. Lunch on your own from 12:00 – 1:00 pm, then join the regular JGSGP meeting at 1:00 p.m.

By the way, Sunday, March 11 is the first day of Daylight Saving Time so set your clocks appropriately the night before.

UPCOMING JGSGP SPEAKERS' BUREAU PRESENTATIONS

Locating Individuals Using Genealogy

April 10, 12 noon, JGSGP President Fred Blum will speak at the Newtown Hadassah meeting at Shir Ami.
Topic: "Locating Individuals Using Genealogy"

Beginners Workshop

April 15, 7:30 pm, Steve Schecter will conduct a beginners session at the Beth El Synagogue Jewish Genealogy Club (West Windsor, NJ).

Researching Your Jewish Roots

April 18, 12 noon, Steve Schecter will discuss what is similar and what is different about researching your Jewish heritage. National Archives & Records Administration (NARA,) Chestnut Street between 9th & 10th Streets, Philadelphia.

Contact NARA for more information and to register.
Phone: 215-606-0100 or philadelphia.archives@nara.gov

Facebook Reminder

Please join our Facebook page at <http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp> or go to www.facebook.com and enter "Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia" in the search window.

"A Shtetl Wedding" Photos

Photographer, Karen L. Barr compiled a wonderful album of photos related to "A Shtetl Wedding in the Berkshires" that was described on pp. 5-6. The link to that album, entitled "Isabella Freedman JRC THE WEDDING 7.17.11", is: <http://bit.ly/A4Ae9X>

**JGSGP IS PLEASED TO SHARE THE INVITATION AND
MOST RECENT NEWSLETTER FROM THE PARIS HOST
COMMITTEE OF THE 32ND IAJCGS CONFERENCE**



JULY 15-18, 2012

**PARIS
2012**

32nd IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

on JEWISH GENEALOGY

Newsletter N°4 - January 2012

Dear friends,

Our program is expanding. Every day we receive new exciting proposals. At least 200 hours of lectures and meetings are already scheduled. No time to be bored whatever your area of interest or your language : every hour you will have either a lecture, a workshop, a film or a SIG meeting concerning this area. And if you really do not find any, why not visit the resource room, the vendor's room or one of our exhibitions? Make sure to be there on Sunday morning and not to leave until Wednesday evening because of our program will start at top speed and the latest lecture Wednesday night will be no less exciting than the ones proposed on Monday or Tuesday.

Questions about the conference? subscribe to the Jewishgen mailing list **2012 Paris conference** :
http://www.jewishgen.org/ListManager/members_add.asp

Recall

- **Registration** : 63 days left for earlybird registration for Paris 2012, visit:
<http://www.paris2012.eu/products>.
- **Call for papers**: Some days left only. You can speak French or English: speakers@paris2012.eu
- **Booking a room at the Marriott Paris Rive-gauche**: click on "Hotel", Enjoy very attractive conference rates with the specific code zx4zx4a. This discount is valid for the Congress as well as 5 days before and 5 days after if you want to extend your stay in Paris.

The SIGs, and BOFs in Paris 2012

Some days left to send back the application form. Write to contact@paris2012.eu

We can already announce the presence of the following SIGs and BOFs: South Africa, AustriaCzech, Belarus, Bessarabia, Bukovina, Canada, Gersig, Gersher Galicia, Kremenets District Research Group, Latvia, Litvak, Sub-Carpathia, Svencionys District Research Group, Yizkor book project, Lodz Area Research Group, Ukraine, UK-SIG, Tunisia, Sefhardic.

Tours, Travels and post conference programs

We are pleased to inform you that we have just signed a partnership agreement with *Joubert Voyages* (www.joubert-voyages.com), for the organization of genealogical travels before and after the Conference. Several destinations will be available, depending on the number of attendees who will register: Poland, Belarus, Ukraine, Hungary, Baltic Countries, but also Portugal or Normandy...

Joubert Voyages will also be able to organize flight and hotel reservations for people who want to travel by themselves to all these countries and provide special conference rates tickets on French railways (SNCF) and on Air France flights.

Within a few days, a specific website will be opened, in order to have access to the program for each trip and to register (online or not).

Our partners also plan post conference programs in Belgium and in United Kingdom.

You can also now sign for one of the exciting tours our guides have planned for you in Paris during and after the Conference : www.paris2012.eu

RANDOM ACTS OF GENEALOGICAL KINDNESS

Questions posed by genealogists from around the world, who cannot come to the Philadelphia area to do genealogical research. These genealogists have asked our members to try to assist with answers or information.

Responses should be made by individual members directly to the person inquiring. A copy of your email to the editor of *Chronicles* will be appreciated, as a way of gauging our success in assisting others.

Misha Belinsky

8:31am December 5, 2011

I am looking for my relatives who came in the 1920's to Philadelphia from Ukraine Vinnitsa region, They were Golda and Peretz Woloshin, their daughter Dozya. Goldy was my grandma's aunt.

If you can assist Misha, please reply to him directly, by email at: michaelrad79@hotmail.com.

QUICK LINKS - WEB ARTICLES OF GENEALOGICAL INTEREST

Click on the links below for interesting articles, web sites and activites for genealogists.

Ukrainian historian - career in Jewish heritage travel

<http://www.jta.org/news/article/2012/01/12/3091158/ukrainian-historian-makes-career-in-jewish-heritage-trav>

The gains, and joy, in bringing generations together

Annette John-Hall

http://articles.philly.com/2011-11-18/news/30414756_1_mutual-benefit-henkin-senior-center

Lost cousins united through database photo

http://articles.philly.com/2011-11-20/news/30422160_1_cynthia-wroclawski-database-reunions

A candle for one who survived

http://articles.philly.com/2011-12-25/news/30556898_1_barrack-auschwitz-survivor-black-dress

CD captures vinyl flowering of Jewish music

http://articles.philly.com/2011-12-11/news/30504860_1_jewish-music-idelsohn-society-yiddish-theater

The manifest's destiny

http://articles.philly.com/2011-12-21/news/30542394_1_hanukkah-immigrant-long-life

From your *Chronicles* editorial board:

We have always prided ourselves on the fact that *Chronicles* contributors are primarily JGSGP members; this was acknowledged when we received the 2005 award for best Jewish genealogical society publication. We are continuing that tradition in this issue, but in order to remain a Philadelphia-centric journal we need you, our faithful readers, to submit articles.

Take a look at the scope of the content covered by our journal:

- Personal family accounts
- Valuable tips to facilitate your research
- Articles on the use of modern social networking tools to aid in genealogical research
- Historical perspectives on immigration and settlement in Philadelphia and adjacent areas
- The IAJGS Conference Roundup
- Breaking developments in both the Jewish and general genealogy community

We also anticipate covering Eastern Europe, Germany and other geographic areas in future issues.

Please give serious consideration to sharing your respective genealogical journeys with the broader JGSGP community. Help us insure that *Chronicles* remains a vital, timely, and compelling publication. Contact Evan Fishman at: editor@jgsgp.org or phone: 856-667-2077 to discuss your ideas for articles. Thank you.



Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia
2012 Membership & Renewal Form
 Enjoy *Chronicles*, Our Award Winning Quarterly Publication

Please print, complete and mail this form with your check to:
 JGSGP, PO Box 335 • Exton, PA 19341-0335

Membership Categories and Contributions	Amount
Individual - \$25	\$
Family - \$35 (2 Members Same Household)	\$
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Non-Resident \$15 (more than 100 miles from Phila.)	\$
Overseas \$21	\$
Voluntary Gift to the JGSGP Library / Digitization Fund	\$
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A check is enclosed for the amount of:	\$

Name (please print) _____

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Address 1 _____

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City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (_____) _____ email: _____

(Dues cover the calendar year, January 1-December 31. Contributions and dues are tax deductible within the limits of the law.)

What are the most important surnames and their associated ancestral towns that you are researching? Provide up to six surnames, towns and countries, which will be shared with other members in upcoming editions of *Chronicles*.

Surname	Town	Country



Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia

PO Box 335 • Exton, PA 19341-0335

www.jgsgp.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

JGSGP CALENDAR REMINDERS

Complete Details will be on our *NEW* Web Site: <http://www.jgsgp.org>

Please update your web browser “bookmarks” or “favorites” with JGSGP’s new web address

Checkout our JGSGP Facebook page regularly, at <http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp>

Upcoming Meetings & Other Dates of Interest

Sunday, March 11, 2012 1:00 to 3:00 PM at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel

8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Our program is “Overcoming Brick Walls.” featuring JGSGP “experts” who will try to help solve your most difficult genealogical problems.

Please email your genealogical problems and questions at least one week in advance of the meeting (by March 4th) to enable our “experts” to research your question.

Emails to Steve Schecter at: programs@jgsgp.org with **Subject Line “Brick Walls”**

Check our website <http://www.jgsgp.org> for details and up-to-date information.

Monday, April 9, 2012 7:00 to 9:30 PM at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel

8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park, PA 19027

Our April meeting at Keneseth Israel will move back to our Monday evening format starting at 7:00 PM.

Our speaker is YURI DORN, Head of Belarussian Religious Jewish Congregations.

This is a special treat as Yuri is infrequently on the East coast and is making a special effort to come to our group.

Yuri is THE man to contact about Jewish Belarus. He has experienced researchers and regularly sets up tours.

Steve Schecter says, “I have personally used him for both and his service was EXCELLENT.”