



CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים



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REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM

As genealogists we must continuously challenge ourselves to think "outside the box", in other words, to be flexible and creative in our approach to our research. Likewise we need to consider innovative ways to re-energize JGSGP as well as the content in Chronicles.

We've just finished celebrating Pesach. The seder represents the ultimate, extended family experience, even more intimately than a wedding, Bar or Bat Mitzvah, or funeral. I think it would be fascinating to share memories of *sedarim*; they evoke for us the rich and profound emotional context that underlies our strong urge to search our respective family histories. The dynamics that I've witnessed at *sedarim* continue to fuel my interest in understanding the many colorful relatives and friends I've encountered. We invite you to compose articles around this theme.

Several months ago I came across a wedding announcement in the New York Times which mentioned that the bride's "father owns and is president of... an eyewear business in New York that was founded on the Lower East Side in 1915 by... a great-great-grandfather of the bride." Many of us can relate to family businesses that have endured for several generations. Family financial positions have ridden the waves of such enterprises, and some feuds have also resulted. Sharing your stories and impressions about family businesses (not necessarily your own) would provide a rich perspective with substantial genealogical implications.

JGSGP strives to forge bonds between its members through our monthly meetings and our journal. I've often noted how we could do even more toward this end if we were to publish a membership directory. *(Continued on Page 3)*

CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

JGSGP MEMBERSHIP

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)

Individual.....	\$25
Family of two, per household.....	\$35
Sponsor.....	\$50
Patron.....	\$100
Non-resident (beyond 90 miles).....	\$15
Non-resident (with local mailings).....	\$25
Overseas.....	\$21

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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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(Reflections - continued from Page 1)

In the interest of privacy concerns, we would ask you to simply provide your name, city, state, and zip code. Members could opt to also include your street address, telephone number(s), and email address. This information would help all of us to connect more effectively: to develop car pools for transportation to meetings or to just make it easier to remember each other's names.

We could also reinstate our own Family Finder tool. In past years, we've listed members along with the surnames and towns they're researching in *Chronicles*. It might be easier to publish a JGSGP Family Finder publication in electronic format which could be updated periodically. This could facilitate or enhance research within our own ranks. We're not formally committing to either project at this time. We invite your feedback and welcome offers to spearhead these initiatives.

Steve Schechter raises some highly worthwhile points to ponder in his letter to the editor which highlights ethical issues and conundrums in genealogical research (page 4). Let's discuss these provocative points in future letters to the editor to create an even more interactive and thoughtful exchange of ideas in this journal.

The Editorial Team of *Chronicles* would like to encourage readers to contribute original material so that *Chronicles* remains a member-generated publication. Personal family accounts, your "wow" experiences, valuable tips to facilitate research, historical perspectives on immigration and settlement in Greater Philadelphia constitute just a small sampling of relevant topics. Please don't wait to be asked. The *Chronicles* editorial team looks forward to working with you to optimize your writing efforts. ❖

Evan Fishman, Editor □

**WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME
TO OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Kathleen Cantwell	Philadelphia, PA
Glenna Hill	Rehoboth Beach, DE
Debbie Gottlieb	Penn Valley, PA
Allen Kellerman	Penn Valley, PA
Tammy Hepps	New York, NY
Morrie Kricun	Wayne, PA
David Oberlander	Cherry Hill, NJ
Layne Onufer	Huntington Beach, CA
Joan Polin	Elkins Park, PA
Carol Slotsky	Glenside, PA
Terry Waslow	Roslyn, PA
Margie White	Roslyn, PA

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our society is flourishing with many members and guests attending our meetings. We have great meetings planned and this June we will be having our second Genealogy Fair in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Our member Bernie Cedar is planning a great Fair with many areas of research. Details are in this edition of *Chronicles*. Our previous Fair last year in Broomall was a great success.

An interesting story was shared at our last meeting. Past President Harry Boonin brought some old photo albums that were found in the basement of a small apartment complex which had been purchased by Harry's cousin, Gilbert Adelman. Gilbert discovered these albums and recognized right away that they must have been very valuable to some unknown family that once lived in the complex. Gilbert did not want to discard this heirloom and knew Harry was involved in our society, so he turned the albums over to Harry.

After conducting a thorough inventory, Harry was able to identify these albums as the property of a Weinstock family. They appeared to be Holocaust survivors. There were letters in the album written in Hungarian and Hebrew. There were also naturalization records. Harry showed me the albums and asked if I could help locate the Weinstock family to return these important letters, documents and photos.

Always up for a challenge, I reviewed the albums and did a little research. I learned that Mr. Weinstock died in 1988 and Mrs. Weinstock died in 1999, both in Philadelphia. I was not able to locate any children of the Weinstock. However, within the album was a 1960 Bar Mitzvah invitation for someone in Atlanta, Georgia. I was able to locate the "Bar Mitzvah Boy" and learned that he was the great nephew of the Weinstocks. When contacted, he was overwhelmed with being found. He told me he knew about the albums and had visited the Weinstocks at that complex when he was young. The forgotten albums have been returned to the family.

What is in your basement? Do you have any long lost family heirlooms or artifacts waiting to be discovered? It is important to keep your old photos in a safe place and identify them for future generations that may be looking for you someday. ❖

Fred Blum - President

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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.

Your “Chronicles” editorial team aims to publish material that furthers our knowledge of genealogy and Jewish genealogy in particular. We invite readers to respectfully share their thoughts and opinions.

In his article entitled “Family History and My Belief in G-d/Hashem as the Creator of our Diverse Populations” (Winter 2011-2012 issue, Volume 28-4) JGSGP member, Dr. Stanley Sandler, expressed his personal views in an attempt to reconcile his conflicts regarding religion and science. His remarks should not be construed as reflecting the views of the *Chronicles* editorial team or JGSGP.

We received a letter to the editor from Stephen Cohen, Ph.D., which appears in edited form below:

Dear Editor,

As a member of a sister genealogy organization, the Beth El Genealogy Club in East Windsor, New Jersey, I wish to respond to Dr. Stanley Sandler’s article.

According to Dr. Sandler, “Many well-known scientists today still question the value of evolution and point out that it cannot be proved scientifically.” I would respond by saying that no model of the world can be proved. Only false hypotheses can be disproved, and it is up to us [scientists] to determine which hypotheses stand or fall based on how well they correspond to our observations. In that vein, evolution stands because it alone can explain the diversity of living creatures around us. . . . Perhaps HOW evolution operates is under discussion, but no scientist really doubts the existence of evolution. As I said previously, there is no other hypothesis that stands the test of science.

As to [Sandler’s contention that] “evolution alone cannot explain the formation of DNA”, this is not really a question of evolution, but of a chemical process still not understood. While Dr. Sandler believes “that the formation of this very complex structure of DNA required Divine or Intelligent Design” and that “G-d created the diverse populations of the world, . . . not a chance happening based on DNA mutations” his personal belief doesn’t make science or a testable model of the world—which is what science constructs.❖

Sincerely, Stephen Cohen, Ph.D.

In a response to Dr. Cohen’s remarks, Sandler noted that in 2001 over 600 scientists signed a petition entitled “A Scientific Dissent from Darwinism”.

Dear Editor,

While the above mentioned scientists didn’t profess an outright disbelief in Darwinism, they did express some serious skepticism as to the ability of “random mutations and natural selection to account for the high degree of complexity of life.”

Sandler feels that evolution is at best a working model and hopes that improvements can be made which will more comprehensively explain how DNA was formed and how the various diverse human and animal populations took place.

JGSGP member, Steve Schecter, also shared his perspective in a letter

Genealogy sometimes reduces me to Tevye with his alternating pleas: “on the one hand . . . on the other hand”. As I learn more and want to, as we all are instructed to do, share it with family, cognitive dissonance emerges -- should I or shouldn’t I or how should I or...

The "rules for discovery" are accepted and clear -- three confirmations before a finding can be claimed genealogical. While difficult at times, there's a comfort in the tight definition. The rules for reconciling findings and sharing them, however, are quite another issue. A recent Google search of “Genealogy Ethics” yielded 5,370,000 citations, including message boards with many additional entries. That's a lot of "on the other hands!"

Recently Stan Sandler touched on our ethics in his personal attempt to reconcile his lifelong religious beliefs -- we are, after all, doing Jewish genealogy -- with scientific findings. Biology, geology, DNA, anthropology and even history raise complex issues questions about our religion. For some, this caused a firestorm, as they came to conclusions that differed from Stan. I, however, came back to Tevye's wisdom: "you're right, you're right... and you're right, too!"

It may be hard to wrap our brains around the idea of multiple "right" answers or ones that are right for an individual but not everyone. Yet wrestling to find peace in the dissonance is a serious and complex issue. Perhaps this is where our Talmudic learning heritage of questions with give and take is the process for determining what works for each of

us. One size may not fit all as we apply Shalom Aleichem's wisdom and our Jewish analytical heritage to the discussion. Perhaps for many of our issues there are multiple right answers.

Stan raised questions about how to reconcile religious belief and scientific findings. He may have touched the proverbial tip of an iceberg. Some other issues include:

- How do we report critical information (intermarriage, illegitimacy, bigamy, adoption, etc) that might be seen by some as offensive, scandalous, or awkward?
- How do we deal with issues (criminality, conversion, disease, etc) that may be embarrassing?
- How do we report unconfirmed findings or those with only two sources of verification?
- How do we deal with family "disagreements" over interpreting stories or events?
- What do we do when we are given information in confidence that leads to finding documented confirmation?
- How do we deal with some family members' heightened fears of security while others want the info (perhaps as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah gift)?
- How do we deal with a request to not include something or a branch we know and have confirmed (perhaps as a result of family conflict)?
- How do we interpret "fair use" and citation of copyright?
- Etc, etc, etc!

This may be a dialogue we want to continue in a *Chronicles* column. ❖

Steve Schechter

Dear Editor,
I have just finished reading the latest issue of *Chronicles*. As always, it is most informative and interesting. The potpourri of postcards of Jewish Philadelphia is the motivation for this note.

In the 1990's during a visit to Philadelphia from Jerusalem where we have lived since 1986, I visited with the late Lily Schwartz at the Philadelphia Jewish Archives then located in the Curtis Building basement. I had been in contact with Lily a number of times. Before moving to Israel, I donated a carton of memorabilia I had collected over the years from Beth Am Israel of Southwest Philadelphia, my parents' and grandparents' synagogue. At that time, I was engaged in translating articles in Yizkor books from Hebrew to English

for clients. I suggested to Lily that it would be a good idea to have those of us who had grown up in sections of Philadelphia, once teeming with Jewish life and activity and now bereft of Jews, write about what life was like "back then." I got the idea from those wonderful accounts of *shtetl* life that I had been translating. Lily agreed that it was a good idea and told me that I could be the first. I met her challenge and my 39 page monograph, completed in 2000, is in the Philadelphia Jewish Archives.

A few years back there were a few short articles in *Chronicles* about our former Jewish neighborhoods. I would like to urge our JGSGP members to take up the challenge and write about the Philadelphia Jewish neighborhoods where they were raised. If we do not do this, names like Strawberry Mansion, Parkside, South Philly, Marshall St., etc., will remain one dimensional and not have the same meaning as they do to us. ❖

With best wishes to my Philadelphia landsleit,

Shalom Bronstein, Jerusalem

SOUTH PHILLY "MEINE ALTE HEIM"

by Tammy Hepps

As a genealogist in my early thirties, South Philadelphia is *meine alte heim* (my old home) as much as the *shtetlach* of Eastern Europe. It is where my maternal grandparents were born, raised in relative poverty, and left as soon as they had the means to live elsewhere. Though I grew up across the river in South Jersey, I might as well have lived on the other side of the ocean, for that is how remote South Philly seemed to me. I was always curious about the urban blight I saw through the car windows after crossing the Walt Whitman Bridge, but no suburban child who watched Action News over dinner would dare ask her parents or grandparents for a closer look. My chance to see South Philly finally arrived last April when my cousin and I drove down after our grandfather's unveiling in the Northeast.

This trip to South Philly was the third such self-guided family history tour I had undertaken, after the Lower East Side in September 2009 and Pittsburgh in April 2010. In all these cases, my interest was to get a sense of how my family lived in each place, not to visit historical sites or uncover long-lost *shuls*. In South Philly I planned to travel the routes my violinist grandfather regularly followed from his house to the

Settlement Music School and to the home of his teacher, Isadore Granoff. I wanted to feel how near he and my grandmother lived to each other as children, though they didn't meet until their late teens. And most of all, I hoped to sense the geographic proximity that kept their families so much closer in those days.

With all of the research I had done over the years on my Philadelphia family, which arrived between 1901-1912 from modern-day Ukraine, planning the walking tour was easy. First, I created a Google Map out of the many family addresses I had collected. (You can see my map here: [http://tammyhepps.com/phillymap/.](http://tammyhepps.com/phillymap/))

I labeled the pins succinctly and color-coded them by branch of the family, so I could tell at a glance which addresses were of the greatest interest. From there, it was easy to select the sites to see and plan the most efficient route around them.

Then, I used Google Streetview to preview the places I had chosen. I discovered that some of the addresses no longer existed, having been replaced by schools, housing projects or parks some time ago, so I removed them from the plan. (See sidebar.) Finally, on the day of our trip, I carried the printed map with me to guide my cousin



Three generations of Davises at 416 Mifflin June 5, 1949 & April 17, 2011.

The original marble steps have been replaced with a brick stoop, the original brick facing has been stuccoed over, but the windows and telephone pole are in the same place.



and me from place to place. As a result we were able to find our way quite easily despite our total unfamiliarity with our surroundings.

Working our way north from 5th and Shunk to 4th and Bainbridge, we started in a poor, probably borderline dangerous section (Whitman), passed through many rundown blocks with more houses demolished than remaining (East Passyunk Crossing), emerged in a newly constructed neighborhood of almost monotonous homes (Dickinson Narrows), and concluded the afternoon in a restored, gentrifying area (Queen Village).

Despite so many changes over the past century, we were surprised by how many of the houses we visited remained largely unaltered. Of everything we saw, the highlight was visiting the house where my grandfather was born and where his parents lived until they died in the 1960's. This house is remembered well by my mother and uncle—and seeing it for the first time immediately recalled to mind the many pictures we have of my great-grandparents playing with their grandchildren out front.



Former synagogue, now Buddhist temple, at Ritner and Marshall

Sadly, these apparent similarities were deceptive. To illustrate just how changed the area was, as we drove past Mifflin Square, we found ourselves in the middle of celebrations for Songkran Day, the Thai New Year. The park was filled with people selling festive food, clothing, and decorations, and in the temple courtyard diagonally opposite, a large crowd watched traditional dancers. The bright colors, exotic decorative motifs, and statuary of the temple complex could not have been more unlike what the Jewish character of this neighborhood must have been.

As we drove past a second Buddhist temple with more idols out front, including a corpse being pecked by ravens, I caught sight of a familiar motif over the door. "Stop!" I cried to my cousin. "It's a synagogue!" And indeed, still visible over the front door, though painted over in blue, were the two tablets of the Ten Commandments. This building originally housed

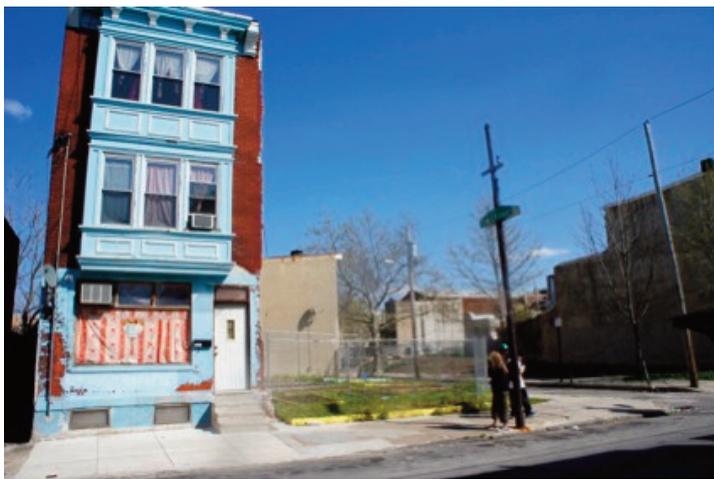
an Orthodox congregation, Beth Samuel, and later Adath Sholom, a Conservative synagogue. It looks largely unchanged from its Jewish days.



Mural on a historic store on Fabric Row

We concluded the afternoon on South 4th Street, *Die Ferder*, formerly the commercial center for the Jewish community, whose old character is now preserved as the Fabric Row Historical District. My great-grandfather's poultry store, which once sat at #712, is long gone, but numerous textile businesses clearly dating back to the same era are still in operation.

My cousin and I never knew the area in its heyday, so this little taste of old times was a cheering way to end our tour. Jewish South Philly is long gone, through exoduses to the suburbs like my own family's and the passing of older generations, but we felt in the end that we had touched something of the lives our forebears led.

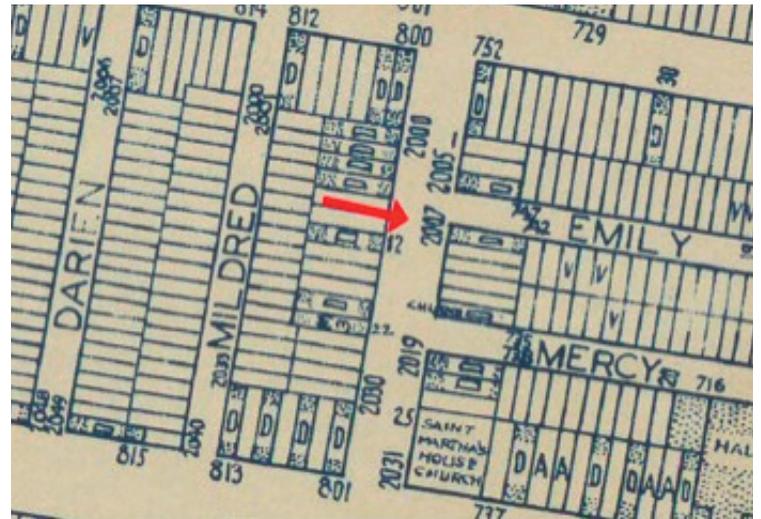


Sidebar: PhillyGeoHistory Maps Viewer (<http://www.philageohistory.org/tiles/viewer/>) is an amazing tool that allows the user to overlay seventeen different historical maps of Philadelphia from 1808-1962 over a present-day

Google Map to see how the city evolved over the past two centuries. For the research I did before and after my walking tour, it allowed me to answer a couple of difficult questions with surprising ease.

In planning the tour I was frustrated to discover a number of addresses from historical records, even multiple corroborating records, that did not exist according to Google Maps. PhillyGeoHistory Maps Viewer made it simple to see the paths old streets had once taken or the locations of now-demolished residential blocks.

For example, this lone standing home (*photo bottom left*) is all we found at the corner of 8th and Emily. All the empty lots on this side of South 8th made it impossible to guess where #2007 had been, where my Skversky great-great-grandparents and their unmarried children lived in the 1910's and 1920's. Unfortunately, this decay is typical of the area north of Snyder Avenue.



But this 1942 land use map, (above) produced by the Works Progress Administration, shows that #2007 stood on the empty lot at the right of the photograph, below.

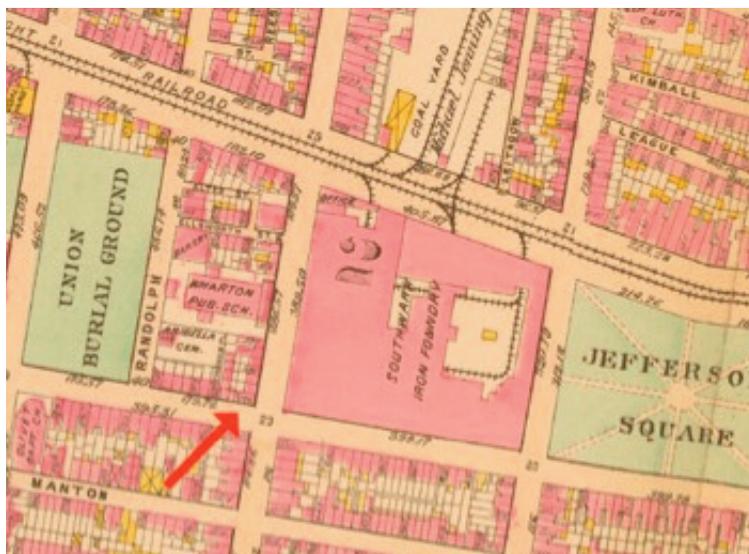
By the 1930 census, these great-great-grandparents were living at 1146 South 5th St. Instead of finding this house I found most of the block was taken up by a public school whose cornerstone was dated 1935. This section of the 1910 Bromley Philadelphia Atlas shows where their house once stood – opposite an iron foundry! What must it have been like to have lived there?

This fascinating detail was just one of many examples where the rich annotations of these historical maps showed me what blocks had been like when my family lived there. After the

BOOK REVIEW

**THE BOY WHO LOVED
ANNE FRANK
BY ELLEN FELDMAN,
PUBLISHED BY W. W. NORTON &
COMPANY; 2005
ISBN: 978-0393059441**

Reviewed by Evan Fishman



tour, the maps filled in my remaining curiosity over how these homes had been situated. For example, I learned that the first or second American home of my great-grandfather Abe Yorker, remembered by his grandchildren for his religious observance, was across the alleyway from a synagogue. I like to think that the sounds of *davening* wafting through his window consoled him that this strange land might not be so *treyf* after all. At the same time, his future wife Fannie Skversky lived on a now-disappeared section of Leithgow facing railroad tracks and a coal yard!

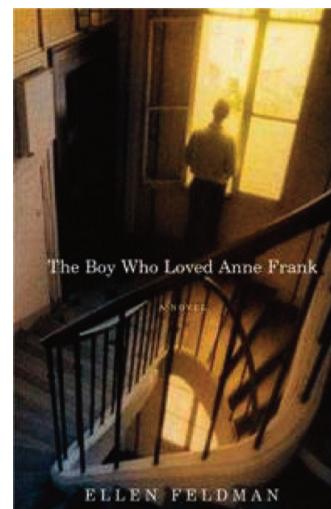
I highly recommend this site to anyone looking for the kind of historical context to our records that we genealogists so often struggle to recover. ♦

Tammy A. Hepps (<http://family.tammyhepps.com>) was born in Philadelphia, grew up in South Jersey, and now lives in New York City, where she works in web technology. At 12 she became interested in genealogy when a distant Hepps cousin found her family and informed them that they were the long-lost branch. (Tammy still contends she knew where she was the whole time.)

Five generations of her maternal family have lived in Philadelphia since 1901, including YORKER (formerly Yaroker) from Kanev (probably Stepansy) in Kiev Guberniya, SKVERSKY from Chornobai in Poltava Guberniya, GOLDBERG from Zhitomer in Volhynia Guberniya, and DAVIS from Zhuravno in Galicia (by way of New York, whence came her only American-born great-grandparent). The violinist Mark Davis z"l, whose orchestra played many simchas in the greater Philadelphia Jewish community, was her beloved grandfather.

Ask her about her (non-Philadelphian) great-grandfather who did time in Leavenworth for violating the Oleomargarine Act of 1886. You can reach Tammy at hepps@post.harvard.edu

In the winter of 1994 author Ellen Feldman toured the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, and her “imagination was captured by a guide’s [specious] remark that records exist documenting the fate of all the inhabitants of the secret annex except Peter van Daan, . . .” More than a decade later, her fictional account of Peter’s postwar life, had he survived, was published.



While *The Boy Who Loved Anne Frank* is a novel which doesn’t deal with genealogy per se, its author posits a premise which many of us have encountered. Like many immigrants, the major character, Peter van Pels, puts his past behind him and focuses on the present and the future. As far as I know, my own paternal grandfather rarely, if ever, spoke about his life in Terespol (now Poland) before he came to the U.S. After I had learned from another relative that he was one of fourteen children, I asked my father if he knew about this. His response was negative.

It wasn’t uncommon for immigrants to dismiss their past. They were determined to forge new lives for themselves in the United States, the *goldene medinah*. To their way of thinking, holding onto memories of their previous, hard-pressed, meager existence wasn’t constructive. The past imprisoned them, impeded their hopes and dreams of financial and cultural success. Peter van Pels (the real name of the Peter van Daan character in *The Diary of Anne Frank*) subscribes to this behavior but takes it even further. He vehemently denies his past; his Jewish wife knows nothing about his concentration camp ordeals or his period of hiding in the famous, secret annex. In fact, van Pels passes himself as a Christian despite the fact that a Jewish identity would afford him greater advantage in his business life and generate acceptance by members of his wife’s family.

The publication of *The Diary of Anne Frank* generates a series of significant situations and emotions for both van Pels and his wife, Madeleine. She becomes totally engrossed in the book and its later transformations to stage play and film. So much so that at one point she composes a letter protesting the appearance of the actress who portrays Mrs. Frank because of her refusal to work with Jewish actors or directors in Vienna before World War II and her participation in Nazi-produced films during the war. Her obsession prompts her husband to read the book. He becomes terrifically conflicted as he confronts the story depicting his wartime life and is haunted by the cover photo of his deceased friend, Anne. His complacency regarding his deception has been shattered, prompting all kinds of doubts and reconsiderations.

He rethinks his renunciation of his Jewish identity, his clever cover-up of the reasons behind his war-time interment, his relationship with and memories of his deceased parents, and his telltale concentration camp tattoo. Feldman provides a riveting exploration of Peter van Pels' activities and his underlying emotions and thought processes. All of this reminded me of the choices many immigrants confronted in creating new lives for themselves in their new locales. Reinventing themselves seemed to be a priority; apparently some took it to greater lengths than others. ♦

Reviewer Evan Fishman is the editor of "Chronicles" and has always been interested in learning about his extended family. He began to methodically research his family history in 2000 and has been amazed by the stories and experiences he's encountered. All of this has enriched his life, resulted in very meaningful new connections, and provided profound insights. Some of the surnames he's researching include Mandelstein, Lisnitzer, Adelman, Presseisen, Fishman, Udin, Burstein, Winarsky, all of which (except Fishman) originate in present day Ukraine. Evan also does private genealogical research. Contact him at ebf2001@comcast.net.

BERTRAM POLAK AND DUTCH RELATIVES

by Steve Jaron

As with many Jews my age, my grandparents were affected by the rise of Nazism in Germany. My paternal grandparents were first generation Americans, and their



stories are for my father to tell. My maternal grandfather, Harry Lawrence Rothstein, was born in Vienna, Austria, however his parents were from Tarnopol, Galicia and Stanislaw, Galicia. My maternal grandmother, Judith (nee Polak) Rothstein, was born in Tilburg, Holland however her parents were from Dordrecht and Rotterdam. My grandparents' stories as well as those of their extended families are both the same as well as different.

My family tree research began with a Spanish class I took while in college. We had to make a family tree in order to learn how to say various family relationships. I already had access to a number of different versions of my family tree that others had made so it was easy to put together. After that class I decided I would see if I could find, what I thought at the time to be, an uncommon surname on my tree, de Jongh.

What I found was a digital version of a book published in the 1960's about my grandmother's mother's family. Through this digital family tree I found an even larger site dedicated to Dutch Jewish genealogy. Thanks to this site my maternal grandmother's branch has grown exponentially. Over the years I have also been able to expand upon my maternal grandfather's tree through the use of JewishGen and Ancestry.com, however I have many more questions about that part of my tree that may forever go unanswered.

The research into the Dutch side of my ancestry eventually brought me to a site run by the Jewish History Museum in Amsterdam called *Joodsmonument.nl* which is a digital monument to the Dutch victims and survivors of the Holocaust. I had been using it for a while to learn the fates of various ancestors' descendants, and in August of 2010 I became a registered user. In doing so I was able to connect previously unconnected family members to each other.

While I was doing this I noticed that another user had posted a message on the profile of my grandmother's first cousin, Bertram, looking for more information on his family. Initially I thought this might be a cousin of Bertram's on his mother's side since I knew of most, if not all, of the cousins on his father's side. However the reason he was looking for more information was because he wanted to place a *Stolperstein* (Stumbling Stone) in front of his house for my grandmother's cousin Bertram. In order to do this he needed the permission of the closest living relative(s).

This was the same house in which Bertram grew up. After explaining to him how the rest of the family survived and where they are now, I put him in touch with Bertram's half-

sister, nephew, my grandmother, and her older sisters as well as two cousins from his mother's side. Numerous e-mails followed, and the idea of a stone laying ceremony/memorial service came about.

In April of 2011, after even more months of planning, about 40 members of Bertram's extended family spent a weekend in Tilburg, touring my grandmother's and his houses, as well as visiting the town synagogue, the Jewish cemetery, and the restaurant that is located in the building which formerly housed the hide trading business which Bertram's and my grandmother's fathers operated. In addition we got to look around my second great grandfather's house which was next door to the business. A short documentary will be released this year depicting the family coming together with interviews with Bertram's cousins, half-sister, nephew, and others.

Bertram's story begins on March 29, 1918 when he was born to Max Henri Polak and Bertha Polak nee Cohen in Tilburg. He was the first of seven grandchildren born in Tilburg (there were two older cousins born in Steenwijk who were murdered, along with their parents, in Sobibor).

Bertram, his parents and three sisters lived two doors down from my grandmother, her parents and two sisters. The two families were very close, and the grandparents lived about a 20 minute walk away until they died in 1929 and 1933. My grandmother's oldest sister Adah, and Bertram were close when they were young since they were only four months apart in age.

In 1940 Bertram fought in the Dutch army against the Nazis until May 14th when the Netherlands capitulated. When he returned home he found both his uncle's and his own houses empty as the two families had fled on the last boat to England. Bertram worked temporarily in the family's hide trading business, later attempting to escape through England but was betrayed, sent to Schveningen camp, and then eventually to Auschwitz-Birkenau where he was murdered on August 17, 1942..❖

Editors' note: While editing this article, we were fortunate to find a video clip describing the efforts of the family of Bertram Polak to create a movie telling his story. The following link will take you to this moving YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BAaKGGK7uTkl>

Author Steve Jaron is a 32 year old historian from Pittsburgh, PA currently working in Customer Service for FedEx Office. His connection to Philadelphia Jewish genealogy is through his father who is a second generation Philadelphian. His father researches his side and Steve re-

searches his mother's side whose ancestry is from the Netherlands, Germany and Galicia (Tarnopol, Stanislwów, Kolomyja, and possibly Brody). His historical work includes writing a piece about his grandfather, Harry Lawrence Rothstein, for the National Museum of American Jewish Military History for its "Tribute to Dad and Zadie" (though in his case it would have been Opa.) He also contributed an extended version to the Geshen Galicia group's newsletter. He also maintains a tree on Geni in the hopes that he will find others who have his ancestors on their tree.

For more information about him he can found the following ways:

e-mail: sjaron@gmail.com

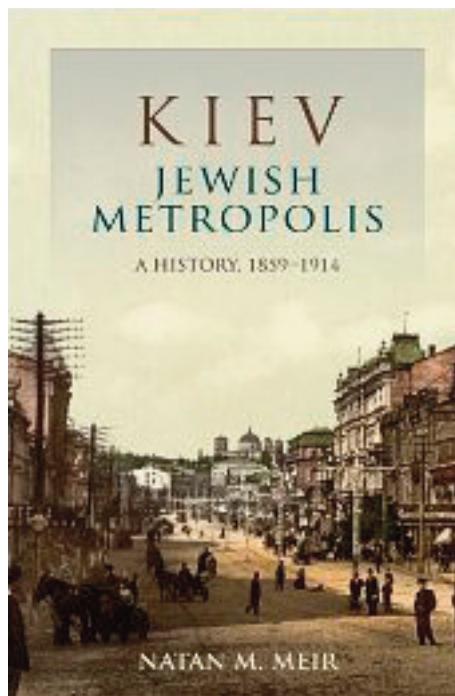
facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/stevejaron>

wordpress: <http://stevejaron.wordpress.com>

BOOK REVIEW

KIEV, JEWISH METROPOLIS A HISTORY, 1858 – 1914, BY NATAN M. MEIR. INDIANA UNIVERSITY PRESS, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA, 2010 ISBN 978-0253222077

Reviewed by David R. Brill



I was greatly intrigued by the title of this book. Even though my maternal grandmother was born in the city of Kiev (in the year 1900), and though I was well aware of the considerable Jewish emigration from that city to Philadelphia – a migration which began in the 1880's and continues to this day – I was hardly accustomed to thinking of Kiev as a “Jewish metropolis.” On the

contrary, like many Jewish genealogists, I had an image of Kiev in the nineteenth and early twentieth century as a city outside the Pale, legally off-limits to all but a few privileged and wealthy Jews, as well as the scene of vicious pogroms in 1881 and 1905. Professor Meir's enlightening and well-researched book is a necessary corrective to this oversimplified view.

Not that the negative image is all wrong. As Meir's book makes clear, Kiev was a contradiction and a paradox to the Jews who lived there. The pogroms were real enough, but the imperial city was also a place where Jews and Christians could – under the right circumstances – engage each other on a social, cultural and intellectual level, something not possible in the shtetl just a few *versts* (a Russian measure of distance equivalent to 3500 feet or 0.6629 mile) away. More than violence from their Christian neighbors, Jews in Kiev feared summary expulsion at the hands of the Tsarist police and a forced return to the Pale. Severe legal restrictions against Jewish settlement in Kiev remained in force right up to the 1917 Russian revolution, yet it is estimated that in 1910 as many as 75,000 Jews lived in Kiev (about 15 percent of the population), making it one of the largest Jewish cities in the empire.

Kiev was a Jewish boom town. As late as 1859, the permanent Jewish population of Kiev city was zero. In the first section of his book, "The Early Years," Meir describes how in that year Alexander I started the boom by permitting a few wealthy Jewish merchants to settle in what had been (since 1827) an exclusively Christian stronghold. As time went on, Tsar Alexander gradually expanded the categories of permitted Jews to include merchants of the first and second guilds, army veterans, skilled artisans, graduates of Russian higher educational institutions, etc. Nevertheless, as far as the imperial government was concerned, Jewish residence in Kiev remained a privilege to be granted to individual Jews at the discretion of the Tsar, never a right belonging to Jews as Jews. In other words, no matter how many individual Jews actually resided there at a given time, Kiev was still outside the Pale of Settlement. Moreover, in the absence of an established, religious-based Jewish community, the members of the elite merchant estates (the so-called "notables") became the de facto Jewish leaders. The merchants' prestige came from their status as favored Jews in the eyes of the government, but it was further reinforced by a situation in which many of the petty traders, students, clerks, and other ordinary Jews who made up the bulk of the population depended for the privilege of living in Kiev on having an "official" attachment to a guild merchant's household.

Much of the second part of the book (the section subtitled "Jewish Metropolis") concerns the variety of new Jewish institutions founded in Kiev by the elite merchant families (notably the Brodsky family of sugar barons), in part, it is suggested, as a means of consolidating their leadership role. The list of these institutions includes the Jewish Hospital, the

Brodsky Trade School and the orthodox-but-western-style Kiev Choral Synagogue (which still exists in the Podol neighborhood of Kiev). Professor Meir devotes a number of chapters to analyzing the internal politics of these institutions and the motivations of their governing boards. Some of this material can be tedious, and readers whose primary interest is genealogy may be tempted to skip over those parts, but in doing so they would undoubtedly miss the full picture. Meir shows how the notables essentially assumed the role of the traditional *kahal* (autonomous Jewish community council), self-consciously using their positions to represent the larger Jewish population to both the tsarist government and Kiev Christian society. To what extent the ordinary Jews felt themselves represented by the notables is another question, one which the author explores in the book's last chapter, "Revolutions in Communal Life."

Although this is a work of history, not of genealogy, it should be valued by Jewish genealogists who wish to understand more about the cultural milieu in which their Kievan ancestors lived. New information in *Kiev, Jewish Metropolis* helped me put my own family's immigration stories into historical context. For example, my grandmother told in her memoir of her family's panicked flight from Kiev in early 1903 just ahead of an imminent pogrom. She described being placed in a carriage along with her sister and infant brother and fleeing in the middle of the night to escape the pogrom her mother was sure was coming. I was confused by her account – it didn't seem historically accurate since I knew that the infamous Kiev pogrom took place in 1905, some two years later, by which time my grandmother's family was already settled in Philadelphia. But lo and behold, on page 122 of Meir's book we learn about how "the bloody pogrom of 1905 was adumbrated by the threat of a pogrom two years earlier ... in mid-April [1903] rumors spread that there would be a pogrom in Kiev." Aha! Although the threatened 1903 pogrom did not in fact occur, many Jews panicked and left anyway – my ancestors among them. Evidently, my grandmother's story was true.

A word about maps. One of the more appealing features of *Kiev, Jewish Metropolis* is the four pages of detailed maps based on the YIVO *Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, showing Kiev in relation to the former Ukrainian gubernias, and the locations of famous and obscure Jewish landmarks in the prerevolutionary city. Far too many academic histories these days omit maps, and I'm glad to see that at least one author is bucking that deplorable trend. ❖

David Brill chairs JGSGP's Russian Special Interest Group. Contact David at brilldr@comcast.net

IAJGS FOR THE FRUGAL TRAVELER

by Felicia Mode Alexander

For anyone thinking about attending an IAJGS conference and concerned about the cost, there are ways to make this a less expensive venture. Knowing that you want to attend and which year you plan to go are the first two decisions to make.

Analyze the expenses: These add up quickly when you consider breakfasts, luncheons, banquet, and fee for service workshops in addition to the registration fee. Transportation can be costly as well, unless you are a frugal traveler. However, if you plan far enough in advance, and set up a monthly budget, it is much less painful.

I know that I am not going to Paris, since we have two college graduations in my immediate family this spring, but I have started planning for 2013. Also, it is important to be aware that if you are a presenter, your registration fee is free! Start to think about what you might have to offer the genealogy community.

Design a budget: I will definitely be attending and volunteering at the 2013 conference in Boston which gives me about 18 months to set up my personal budget to divide the costs over many months. This makes it a far less painful endeavor.

Amtrak would have come to over \$150.00 round trip from Philadelphia to DC for the 2011 conference. Luckily, I rode to Washington DC with three other JGSGP attendees, and we shared a delightful three hour conversation and the travel expenses, which came to much less than the train ticket. It is even more expensive to travel from Philadelphia to Boston by train or air from our area. If you don't mind the drive, think about incorporating your family vacation into your trip to the IAJGS conference in Boston. There are many beautiful places to see in New England.

If you would like to go to Paris, why not add in your once in a lifetime trip to Europe using that same roundtrip plane ticket? Hopefully you found great airfare on priceline.com or one of the other discount airfare sites, so you can bring your spouse or significant other. You can kill two birds with one stone! To cut down on hotel costs, utilizing the roommate electronic bulletin board on the conference list-serve can also help.

I had always stayed in a hotel room alone, but in 2011 I needed to be more frugal. My roommate and I were first connected electronically, then spoke by phone, before agreeing to share

a hotel room. Interestingly, we had much in common, and she lives about five minutes from where I spent my first five years as a child, near Cape Cod. We could not have been a better match, got along beautifully and became fast friends. I look forward to seeing her again....in Boston!

If you are thinking about going to Paris this summer or to Boston the following year, it can be accomplished on a shoestring! If you have frequent flyer miles or hotel points, this is a great opportunity to use them, before the companies decide to change the rules and you lose them! By carefully planning transportation, sharing a hotel room, and requesting your own refrigerator in the room to save on meal costs. you can reduce your overall expenses considerably. Bon voyage! ❖

A special education teacher in the East Windsor (NJ) Regional School District, Felicia Mode Alexander has taught both middle and high school world history and has been actively involved in Holocaust education, connecting her students with survivors and escorting them to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington DC each year.

She has studied this specialized area of instruction through the Rutgers University Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Studies, Kean University's Holocaust Resource Center, and travel seminars to Eastern Europe and Israel with historians from the USHMM and Israel's Yad Vashem. Her passion for genealogy research and Holocaust education came to fruition when she discovered a long lost cousin, the only child of a sole survivor, living in Israel.

Originally from the Boston area Alexander has been actively re-searching her family for more than twenty years. She has been able to trace her roots back to the 1700's in Wongrowitz and Schneidemuhl, Prussia and mid 1800's in the Kiev region.

She is a member of the Jewish Genealogical Societies of Greater Philadelphia and Boston. She is researching MODE, SHUMAN, ABRAHAMS, BORNSTEIN in Berlin and Posen; GROSSMAN, LONGBORD and TALIAFSKY in Kiev region. You can contact her at fmade@verizon.net

OUR MEMORIES. OUR HISTORY.

By Ross Schriftman

How important is memory? It is a key part of where we came from and what makes us who we are. Many of us have wonderful memories of a close relative who meant a great deal to us. It may have been a favorite aunt, a cousin or a grandfather. For me it was my mom, Shirley Schriftman. While she was dying of

Alzheimer's a few years ago, I decided to write a book about her life in order to honor her and to give people who only knew her late in life or didn't know her at all more of who she was, what she believed in and how important her family was in her life. Recently I had *My Million Dollar Mom* published.

<http://www.buybooksontheweb.com/product.aspx?ISBN=0-7414-6713-5>

The book chronicles her life including her time growing up in Brookline, MA. Some of the book reads like the Forrest Gump of the Greatest Generation. She met many famous people along the way and contributed to their lives as well. Through research I know that many of the stories she told were true. Some were not.

Her parents immigrated from Riga and the Kiev area in the late 1800's. The family moved to Springfield, MA and then to Boston. My grandfather was one of the first salesmen for Berkline Chairs. My mom went to Devotion School a few blocks from the Kennedy's home in Brookline. She used to tell the story of how she was talking to a boy at the fence of the school yard whom she thought was Robert Kennedy.

This was probably not true because Robert went to grade school in New York. However, JFK did attend Devotion School a few years before my mom.

During the Depression most of the family lived in Aunt Bettie and Uncle Harry's House off Coolidge Corner. My mom told wonderful stories of her childhood with all her aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. They lived with joy despite the hardships they endured.

During World War II my mom worked for the Office of Inter American Affairs in the State Department. The director was Nelson Rockefeller who she literally ran into in the hallway one day when they were both rushing to retrieve a memo that Mr. Rockefeller needed to get to the Secretary of State.

Mom was a USO hostess who visited wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center. One of the sailors she visited was a Bernie Schwartz. He had lost a finger. If it is the same person, Bernie became Tony Curtis.

She helped edit Vice President Henry Wallace's book, *60 Million Jobs*. Later, Mom raised a family of four sons,

The Keneseth Israel Brotherhood and Library Presents: Sons Honor Their Mothers

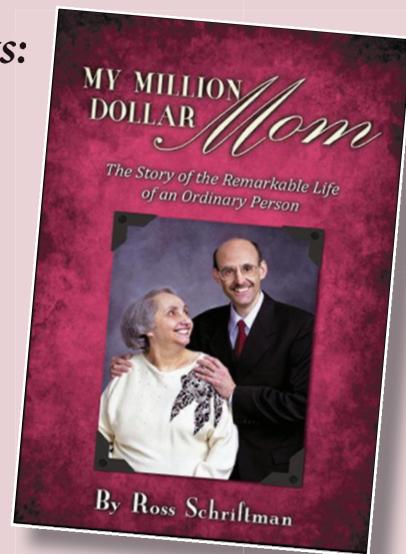
Author and KI member **Ross Schriftman** will speak about his book: **My Million Dollar Mom**; A Grateful Son's Tribute to His Mother
Thursday, May 3rd, Neumann Chapel, Congregation Keneseth Israel
8339 Old York Road
Elkins Park, PA

Introduction by Rabbi Lance Sussman
Presentation and Discussion @ 7:30 PM
Dessert buffet @8:00PM

My Million Dollar Mom is a true story of a lifetime of sacrifice and caring between a mother, Shirley, and her son, Ross. When Alzheimer's strikes their roles reverse and Ross, with the help of care giver Nora, takes Shirley to the end of her life with dignity and joy.

A special invitation is extended to all Moms and care givers to join us for this uplifting and heartwarming presentation.

For each book purchased at the event, Ross will make a donation to:
the **Susan G. Komen for the Cure** (www.komen.org) and
the **Wounded Warrior Project** (woundedwarriorproject.org)



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Email: rfs270@aol.com

To Purchase online:

www.buybooksontheweb.com
Search:
My Million Dollar Mom

started the Bucks-Mont Chapter of Parents without Partners and drove Muriel Humphrey around Philadelphia in her station wagon during Humphrey's 1972 primary battle with George McGovern in Pennsylvania.

She was probably the first woman in Montgomery County to run for District Justice when she campaigned for the position in 1975. Later she headed the Soviet Jewry Committee at Rodeph Shalom, met Natan Sharansky and helped Russian Jewish families settle in Philadelphia.

Later in life she taught English as a Second Language in our home and helped rescue animals from the Katrina disaster. She was also a very good writer. After she died I found a metal box in my garage. When I pried it open what I found inside was amazing.

There were over 50 letters from the 1970's that my mother had written to her Aunt Bettie still living in Boston at the time. Bettie had saved all the letters and had carefully folded them in the box. Being in her nineties at the time Bettie must have found great comfort in reading them. Mom and I eventually brought Bettie to our home in Maple Glen. When I was writing my book I included these letters to Bettie as well as a wonderful letter to the editor that mom had written during the Bicentennial celebration in 1976 which was later stored at the Old York Road Historical Society. She was a proud American.

My mother also wrote a semi-fictional retirement story about her time working at UNISYS. It is a hilarious and clever accounting of office politics in the 1970's.

Researching and writing this book was a great experience and a helpful exercise during my grieving period. It kept my mother's memory alive for me. I started making notes before my mom died and continued writing during the *shiva* period. Over the next several months I was surprised to see how easy it was to remember so many things; the book simply flowed out through my fingers into my word file.

On May 3rd at 7:30 pm Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel's brotherhood and library will sponsor my presentation about the book and my mom's life.

Editor's Note: Brad Segall's interview with author Ross Schriftman will air Mother's Day morning on WOGL 98.1 FM at 6:45AM. ❖

Ross Schriftman is a member of Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel and serves as recording secretary of its brotherhood. Professionally he is an insurance agent specializing in Medicare and long term care planning. He plans to soon start researching his paternal grandfather's family including his great uncles, one of whom was David Scribner, the civil rights and labor attorney who was part of the defense team that represented the Scottsboro [Alabama] Boys, nine black men accused of rape in the early 1930's. David changed his name from Schriftman to Scribner so the Southern judge wouldn't think he was Jewish.

"My Million Dollar Mom" is Ross' first published book. Contact him at rfs270@aol.com.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP IN A SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF THE IAJGS: GERSIG

by Felicia Mode Alexander

This past August, I attended my fourth International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies conference. As with those I attended in Washington, New York City and Philadelphia in prior years, my experience was overwhelmingly positive and left me wanting more. When genealogists get together, we are comfortable with the fact that talking about dearly departed ancestors can be titillating and is not necessarily peculiar! In Washington, I met many fascinating researchers, had more than one "a-ha" moment, found a possible cousin (we are trying to connect the dots to each other) and left the conference excitedly looking forward to the next one, which for me will be in Boston - 2013!

Genealogy has been my hobby/obsession since 1984 and I have spent significant time trying to find living descendants of the ancestors I have "unearthed" in countless archives and databases. In a previous article, I wrote about locating a fifth cousin in Israel, whose young mother made it out of Berlin and to London before the 1941 catastrophic deportation of her entire extended family to the Riga Ghetto and subsequent murder during its tragic liquidation. That story led me to become more and more involved in the special interest group researching the pre-WWII German speaking Jewish communities of Europe. It is this SIG that I am spotlighting in this article.

GerSIG (German Special Interest Group) is an amazing organization of volunteers sharing a common research interest. We do not all come from Germany; the nearly 2000 members hail from all over the world. However, somewhere in our family trees, we have an ancestor who spoke German. As stated on its web page

www.jewishgen.org/GerSIG, the purpose of GerSIG is to present and preserve genealogical information about the Jewish communities in German-speaking regions, and to trace our ancestors and better understand the lives they led. (JewishGen offers other special interest groups based on a specific geographic region or special topic). Our coverage includes other German-speaking or once German ruled areas such as Alsace, Lorraine, Silesia, Posen, and parts of Switzerland and Poland.” My own family has roots in Berlin and Posen, so this group has been very supportive of my research and in a pinch has given me guidance.

When I attend the IAJGS conferences, I always build my schedule around the GerSIG sponsored sessions, its luncheon, “Brick Wall” breakfast and the general meeting. Many of the people who post on the GerSIG list-serve are the leaders of these events, so it is both fun and informative to meet them in person. In addition to the actual events, two British members of GerSIG also wrote blogs during the Washington conference, Jeanette R. Rosenberg and Mark Nicholls. So even if members could not attend each session, we could keep up by reading the blogs.

Our annual luncheon this year featured GerSIG member Karen Franklin in conversation with nonagenarian author, Henry Morgenthau III. It was a fascinating departure from listening to a speaker address the group from behind a podium. We got a glimpse into the past seventy plus years, as the son of FDR’s friend and Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau Jr., talked about growing up in the 1930’s and 40’s with the Roosevelt children first in upstate New York and later in the halls of the White House. He shared many anecdotes about people he has known during his 94 years and also spoke in serious tones about his father’s frustrated efforts, despite his position in the President’s cabinet, to provide significant assistance and rescue to Jewish refugees from Europe during the 40’s.

The other noteworthy GerSIG event, aside from the many interesting sessions, was the annual meeting. This is a very active organization, with many different irons in the fire! I am always amazed at the brilliant minds I encounter at our conferences and GerSIG is no exception. Special thanks go to Jeanette Rosenberg, whom I met at a GerSIG session several years ago. This year, sitting in the lobby of the hotel with our laptops, she helped me track down a major lead using British sources. Jeanette’s generosity with her time and her tremendous knowledge of UK databases helped me break through a major brick wall.

The GerSIG meeting agenda was packed and we had a full house. Arthur Obermayer, from Newton, Massachusetts discussed this year’s Obermayer German-Jewish History Awards which are given annually to individuals who have made outstanding voluntary contributions toward preserving and recording the Jewish history, heritage, culture and/or remnants of local German communities. The winners were honored in January 2012. More information about this can be found at: <http://www.obermayer.us/award/>. Next, John P. Lowens, Roger Lustig and Joe Fibel discussed several database projects: Naldex, Harburg and All-Germany respectively. Discussion also touched on the indexing of the German Jewish publication, *Aufbau*, and the current status of *Stammbaum*, both of which are under the aegis of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City. Nancy Adelson spoke about plans for the next three conferences and the desire to have many speakers of interest to GerSIG.

The activities of GerSIG represent just one strand of Jewish genealogy. There are many other SIGs with equally hard-working researchers willing to share their knowledge and expertise. I strongly encourage other members of the JGSGP to join a SIG, roll up your sleeves and get involved. You won’t regret it. You just might find a new cousin! ❖

Felicia Mode Alexander’s profile appears on page 12. You can contact her at fmode@verizon.net

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT PHILADELPHIA WALTER SPECTOR’S GENEALOGICAL JOURNEY

by Walter Spector

I began the search for my family history at the Cape May County, New Jersey court house in the mid- 1980s. I discovered that my great-grandparents purchased property in the town of Woodbine. In 1999, with serious determination, the search continued. I set out to learn every detail about my ancestors’ country of origin and their history in this country. I wanted to see ship’s manifests, naturalization papers, census records, draft registrations, birth and death



records, and other legal papers that told my family's stories. Much of this journey took me to the National Archives.

As a resident of the Philadelphia area, I was close to the National Archives office in Center City Philadelphia. With the assistance of the many archivists, I was able to find many of the above mentioned records and more. A parallel search took me to the City of Philadelphia Archives, City Hall, and the Jewish Archives in the Temple University Urban Archives. I was able to find an archive of city photos, newspapers, and death and birth certificates.

Many genealogy records have more recently become available on the internet, including Ellis Island records and those of many commercial entities. Now some of the research and a lot of foot work could be completed at home. Despite this, I continue to go to the National Archives to do further digging. I have also found where other relatives posted our family history online. My grandmother, Mary Eby Spector, her sister, Rose Eby Levey, and their mother Bella travelled on the Red Star Line and settled in Woodbine, New Jersey. Bella's ship included a cargo of 21 bales of animal hair. I've now traced several family lines that traveled to America on various Red Star Line ships.

Research in other states has taken me to the National Archives in New York City and the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton. Each location had an abundance of information and is staffed by experts who were of great assistance.

In 2004, I joined the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia to meet with people with common interests and many years of experience in searching their family histories. Besides collecting documents, I have researched and created family trees for six families. My search has taken me from California to Argentina. I probe for artifacts, sometimes at flea markets, that can be shared, as well as family stories, photographs, and scraps of paper that document the almost-lost history.

This year I have been able to expand my interest in collecting postcards about Philadelphia to include my interest in genealogy. I started to collect postcards of the ships on which my relatives traveled from Europe. So far, I have collected about twenty-five postcards and to my surprise, I noticed recently that half of them were of the Red Star Line. The postcards illustrate the ships and contain promotional messages that present the grandeur of traveling by sea. Some of my family traveled on the Red Star Line from Antwerp to Philadelphia and New York City. From the

ledger records of the Jewish banks I learned that some came in steerage, while others came as second-class passengers.

My genealogical search doesn't end here; I'm still hoping to uncover all of the past generations that remained in Europe. ❖

The above article by JGSGP member Walter Spector is reprinted from the NARA website. www.nara.gov/

MYSTERIES UNRAVELED THANKS TO A PROPERTY DEED AND THE U.S. NAVY

by Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler

PART I: INTRODUCTION

My journey into property deeds began a few years ago as the result of an email from a formerly long lost cousin. My cousin Charles' father and my grandmother were siblings. After graduating from high school, he joined the U.S. Navy and made it his career. Now retired, he lives in a small town in the South. After searching for him for many years, I finally found him in April 2004, courtesy of the U.S. Navy.

In one of his emails, Charles told me he remembered his father working in a grocery but was fuzzy on the other details. I filled in the gaps by telling him that his parents had owned a grocery in Southwest Philadelphia during the 1940's, and that he, his parents, and his younger brother resided in the living quarters above the store.

Although my grandfather was temporarily unable to work full time because of ill health, he continued to go to the store every day to help his brother-in-law and teach him the grocery business. I was surprised when Charles told me that his parents never owned that property which he believed was owned by my grandparents. They made it available to my cousin and his family because they needed a place to live. I wasn't surprised, however, to hear that my grandparents had made this offer because, despite our modest means, my family always put the needs of other family members ahead of our own. My grandparents rented an apartment while my great uncle and his family occupied the quarters above the grocery.

PART II: THE PROPERTY DEED

Charles asked me if I would do the necessary research to learn who the actual owner of the property was. During my many years of research, I had never looked for property deeds. Since

the property was located in Philadelphia, I contacted the Philadelphia City Archives (215-685-9402); an extremely helpful supervisor there initiated a search, and within a few days I had a copy of the deed and learned that my cousin was correct: my grandparents had been the owners of the property; my cousin's parents' names didn't appear on the document.

After my great uncle's premature death in 1947, his widow and two sons relocated to the Logan section of Philadelphia, which enabled my grandparents to once again live above their store. By that time my grandfather's health had sufficiently improved that he could resume working full time, and he and my grandmother were once again the active owners of the popular corner grocery. In the ensuing years my great aunt kept in contact with the family and updated us as to the whereabouts of her sons. After she died in 1995 we lost contact with that branch until I contacted the U.S. Navy in 2004. Read on to learn about an awesome service provided by the U.S. Navy.

PART III: THE U.S. NAVY'S WORLD WIDE LOCATOR

For many years, I tried unsuccessfully to locate my two cousins. I even searched the Social Security Death Index (SSDI), hoping I would not find either one of them listed there. Not finding them on the SSDI would be an indication that they were still alive. Sadly, however, I learned that my younger cousin had died. I continued to try to locate the older brother but was not successful... until one day in January 2004 I turned to the U.S. Navy website and found a link to the World Wide Locator, a service which locates active and/or inactive naval personnel. I immediately phoned the contact number, and the very helpful woman on the other hand briefly clicked on her computer keyboard and said, "I've located him." I was ecstatic.

While this "intermediary" knew Charles' whereabouts, she wasn't allowed to release any information to me, the inquirer. Instead, she instructed me to write a letter to my cousin, place it in a sealed envelope with only his name on the outside. In turn this sealed envelope was to be placed inside another envelope on which were written instructions to forward my letter to the name on the envelope. Finally, these envelopes were to be mailed to the Navy's World Wide Locator. Personnel there would then remove the sealed envelope, add Charles' address, and forward it to him. If he wanted to be found, he would respond.

I precisely followed these instructions and included my home address, telephone number, and email address in my letter in order to give Charles a choice of ways to contact me. Then I waited. Late one night three months later the telephone rang;

when I heard my husband tell the caller, "Does she want to talk to YOU!", I immediately knew my cousin was on the other end. He told me he had just received my letter that morning. Since then, for the past eight years, Charles and I have been in contact at least twice a week, usually by email and sometimes by phone.

How would I describe our relationship today? Outstanding (despite our geographical separation)! We discuss everything from family history to current events. We even read some of the same books. Whenever I find new information about our branch of the family tree, I immediately tell him about it. Charles shares my interest in our family genealogy, and, for me, sharing genealogical information is as exciting as the thrill of locating it. ❖

Author's Notes:

#1: Since receiving the copy of the deed to my grandparents' property which they purchased in the 1940's, I have successfully searched for deeds for other family homesteads, including my parents' house. Deeds give us information such as the name of the previous owner, the name of the current owner, and the date the property was sold to the current owner. It also gives a description of the property and the price paid for it. In addition, I obtained a copy of the deed to the tract of land purchased by the developer where my parents' house was built. My parents were the third owners of their house, and I was able to trace the history of the house through the various deeds.

*#2: The address of the Navy's World Wide Locator is:
Navy World Wide Locator
Naval Personnel Command, Pers-312
5720 Integrity Drive
Millington, TN 38055
Telephone: 1-901- 874-5111*

This is a FREE service for anyone who is searching for a family member. The cost is \$3.50 per address to research an address of a non-family member.

Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler, a former English and Spanish teacher and school counselor, is a JGSGP board member and was co-chair of Hospitality at the JGSGP-IAJGS conference in 2009. She co-chaired JGSGP's first Genealogy Fair last year and was the coordinator of the Delaware County/Main Line Affiliate for ten years.

Much of her genealogical research is centered in the areas of Tarnopol, Galicia; Zgierz and Zawichost, Poland; and Mogilev, Belarus. She may be contacted at stanshel@msn.com

PHOTOS - Q&A

A CHRONICLES FEATURE

by Marg Farbman

A *Chronicles* reader writes:

“I just inherited a huge box of photos from my aunt. Most are not labeled so I have no idea who the people are or when they are from. How do I start to make sense of this collection?”

First sort through the photos and try to separate them by era. You can usually tell which photos are generally related in time by clothing or things in the background. After about 15 years, it doesn't matter about exact dates! Perhaps you can separate them into categories of "in Europe", "in America", "before" and "after World War I," etc.

If there are people in group photos that you recognize or that someone else in your family recognizes, that will help too. I have invited several family members to come for an afternoon or evening of "coffee, cake and photos!" It has always been a very pleasant get-together with lots of old stories shared and written down or recorded for posterity.

Sometimes the name of the photographer or studio appears on a photo which you can trace back and ultimately determine who is in the photo or at least where and when the photo was taken. Also the type of photo will help to date it.

Where and how should I store these photos?

Photos like the same temperature conditions as humans! Not too hot, too cold, or humid so basements and attics are out. Photo storage boxes, preferably made of acid-free papers or plastic are best. You can sort them into the boxes, then close and store those boxes till you are ready to work with the photos again. The Creative Memories company makes boxes of black plastic with plastic tabbed dividers that will not damage the photos and keeps them dark and dry. You can either find a consultant online or contact me and I can order them for you.

What do you do with the photos of people that no one can identify?

Personally, I keep them, mount them in my photo album and write about how I came to have these photos, that I cannot identify the people, and am holding them in the hopes that someone looking through the photos one day will know who they are. It is proof of their existence. I cannot bring myself to just throw them away.

What is the next step?

Once you have a general organization of the photos by time/dates, by family, by country, by person, etc. I would identify the people that you can on the back of the photos. either use a photo-safe pencil, or a permanent ink, photo-safe ink pen and write along the edges of the photo. Be sure to allow the ink to dry before you stack the photos. This will help to insure that people's faces won't be damaged by ink or pencil stains.

Some of my photos are ripped or cracked or otherwise damaged. What can I do?

You can take them to photo shops that specialize in copying and repairing old photos for repair, or if you have computer programs that will do it, use them. Personally, I take mine to a photo shop, but probably one of my grandchildren could do it for me now!

How can I make duplicate albums for my siblings?

There are several ways to do this. If you are good with the computer, scan the photos into your computer and use a digital scrapbooking program to make your album. Then print multiple copies.

If you are a traditional album maker, make your album and then take it to a copy shop that keeps its equipment in excellent repair; use a color copier and good quality copy paper to duplicate your work. A good print shop with digital equipment might be even better to copy your album.

Another option is to further sort out your pictures so that there are some photos of everyone in each sibling "pile". You would have different photos in each book, but all the people would be included. You could then make copies of just the few important photos that everyone wants to have. If you can scan them yourself into a computer, you can be sure that the paper used for printing the photos is acid-free so that the original photos in your album will not be damaged.

I've never scrapbooked before. What do I need, what do I do, how do I start?

A few general bits of advice!

- Be sure that the papers, glues, tape, stickers, etc. that you use are photo-safe, acid-free
- Don't buy cheap stuff! You will be spending a lot of time making this album and you don't want it to fall apart after a few months.
- You are making a gift for the future generations of your family... for someone you might never even dream will be born... generations after you!

• Embellishments, the decorations that are so popular right now, are not necessary. You can use them if you like, but the most important things in your album are the photos of family and the stories and information that you write or include. And do hand write some, if not all. Your handwritten notes will be cherished. They are evidence of your having been part of the family, witness of your life.

Purchase a good quality scrapbook. They will cost in the range of \$50 to \$100. Yes, they are expensive, but they will not fall apart with use, the paper pages will not fade or crumble for at least 50 years and probably much longer if you keep them in moderate temperatures and out of daylight. You will be investing a great deal of time putting in photos and writing the stories behind the photos, so use a good book! And don't overfill it! Photos are heavy; if the book is too heavy, people will not want to pick it up and look through it. Also, if it is too heavy it will fall apart from a broken back too early in its life. Gather a photo trimmer (a mini-paper cutter), some photo-safe colored, and perhaps patterned papers to use as backgrounds for some of your photos, photo-safe, double-sided tape or precut photo squares, and a pen of permanent, photo-safe ink and you have the basics to start.

When laying out your page, determining where to put the photos, remember that most people (at least in the Western world) read from left to right and top to bottom, so start your story at the top of the page! Don't crowd the photos; give them some breathing space, and DO WRITE the stories behind the photos or of the photos. This is a great place to write down old family stories and family history, even if it is not specifically what the photos are about. You can write directly on the album page, or write on a separate piece of paper and tape it down like a photo.

Does it need to be so "fancy" like the albums I see in magazines or ads?

No, not at all! All you need is to put your photos into it and write or "journal" the stories for the future generations. If you want a bit of fanciness, a single strip of colored paper down the outside edge of the page and perhaps behind a photo here and there will be more than enough. However, If you have an artistic bent, go for it! Design, draw, add to the pages till you are happy with your work. That is part of the legacy you are passing on to the future generations.

Do you make scrapbooks for people?

I do. It is an expensive service because it is time consuming. You'll still have to sort your photos and give me information about your family. This is a partnership between you and me;

you'll be providing the information, background, and history while I'll be doing the physical work--cutting and pasting.

I hold workshops where you can bring your project and work on it, get help where you need it and encouragement when you are thinking you'll never be done. I have a workshop series called "Finished in Five." It is 5 weeks of working on your album with a particular focus and goal for each week to help you get it done. You will have to do some homework, but it is worth it to finish your album in 5 weeks. ❖

Beginning with this issue, JGSGP member, Marge Farbman, answers your questions in her "Photos-- Q & A" column, sharing her knowledge about documents, photos and their storage, preservation and organization.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Marge has lived in the Philadelphia suburbs since 1965. While her husband, four married children, and eight grandchildren command a significant part of her time and energy, Marge has managed to lead a varied professional career including owning an interior design business for 28 years and later serving as director of development at Martins Run Continuing Care Retirement Community for 5 years She was a board member of the Delaware Valley chapter of the Alzheimer's Association for 11 years and serves as a "virtual daughter" for several families by accompanying elderly family members to medical and dental appointments and reporting back to their concerned relatives.

You can contact Marge at 610-291-8988 or email:margefarb@aol.com

HARRY JORDAN YIDDISH ACTOR

by Leah Jordan Bisel

His mother would not let him study opera. Someone offered to send a young Harry Jordan to Italy to train his lovely voice into that of an opera singer. His parent's protest: "We just came from Europe. You're not going back to Europe." And so it was.

Perhaps his creative urge was born from this incident. I'll never know. My father passed away when I was fourteen. The only bit of genealogical information I gleaned from him was that our name, Jordan, was Zerdanowski in Russia. His flair for the stage came to me in bits and pieces from my mother, others who knew him, playbills, photos and books.

Philadelphia was his new American home when he arrived in 1906 at the age of eleven. By 1913 he was playing in local Jewish variety shows. The next few years found Harry performing sketches in English vaudeville and dramatic clubs. He then branched out and played legitimate theater in Baltimore, and by 1930 he had passed through Detroit, Toronto, Pittsburgh and Cleveland.

I found him in the 1920 census, living in a hotel in Peoria, Illinois, giving his occupation as “a performer.” I’ve always wondered if he acted in New Orleans because I found this very youthful picture postcard of him that was sent to his parents in Philadelphia. My attempt at researching New Orleans theater in the 1920’s was fruitless.



The 1928-29 theater season brought Harry to Littman’s Peoples Theatre in Detroit. In the autobiography of Yiddish actor Herman Yablokoff, *Der Payatz*, a story was told about a play that starred Bertha Kalish. There were many problems with the production, including illness of the actors. Several succumbed to the flu and were hospitalized. My father had to assume the role of the main male actor on short notice for the evening performance which he did successfully.

Harry played at the Hopkinson Theater in Brooklyn in 1931 and perhaps would have gone on to Broadway! I found an old crumbling telegram among family photos wishing him success on opening night at a theater in New York but unfortunately the play closed soon after.

My father met my mother, Mary, at Littman’s Peoples Theatre on 12th Street in Detroit. She, her sister and her friend began dancing in the chorus in 1932. She was right out of high school and the Depression hit the family hard. The young women earned \$1.50 a performance which helped pay the bills.

My parents married in 1935 and continued working in Yiddish theater. They entertained actors by the score in their little three room apartment, sharing home cooked meals, lovingly prepared by Mary. Herschel Bernardi’s brother, Jack, was one of their favorites. His sense of humor was like none other. He literally had people rolling on the floor from his antics. I was lucky to meet him in 1980 and also experienced his humorous demeanor.

There was a “Jewish Hour” radio program in Detroit. The actors as well as the chorus sang once a week to advertise their shows in the Yiddish theater. Rehearsals were at the home of Harry Weinberg who hosted the show, and my parents participated with all the actors. No one was paid. My mother remembered the Weinberg children in their pajamas getting ready for bed while they rehearsed.

My parents encountered some of the Yiddish theater greats while working at Littman’s: Paul Muni, Michal Michalesko, Celia Pearson, Aaron Lebedeff, Lucy German, Menashe Skolnick, Samuel Goldenberg and Joseph Buloff.

A portrait of Abraham Littman resided in my mother’s basement for decades. Why it was in her possession I’ll never know. I recently donated it to the Rabbi Leo M. Franklin Archives in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan so it wouldn’t find its way to an antique store.

An artist by the name of Rappaport painted a portrait of my father which hung in the lobby of a New York theater at one

time. It has been restored and now hangs in my home, reminding me every day of my father’s exciting career as a Yiddish actor.

Leah Jordan Bisel is a member of JGSGP

Contact her at ljbisel@comcast.net

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY *by Steve Schechter*

On Feb 12th, Rakhmiel Peltz spoke about *Yiddishkeit* and its relationship to defining who we are. Dr. Peltz is a Professor of Sociolinguistics and the Director of Judaic Studies at Drexel University. While not a native Philadelphian, Rakhmiel has lived here for most of his life and been deeply involved with both the religious and secular Jewish communities. His understanding and fluency in Yiddish and Hebrew have enabled him to build relations with many in the South Philadelphia Jewish community and helped him develop a deep understanding of their roots and traditions.

He has been instrumental in efforts to save the Stiffel Center and has led tours of the shuls in the South Philadelphia area. Dr. Peltz stated that the local Jewish community has not shown sufficient appreciation of its own history and heritage, witness the closing of the Stiffel Center which represented the 1948 merger of the Jewish Educational Center #2 (founded 1928) and the Neighborhood Center South. The latter was the descendant of the Young Women’s Union founded in 1885.

He also noted that while we have emphasized the teaching of the Talmudic aspects of Judaism we have not done very well at teaching Jewish history and our heritage. Prime example of this is the lack of appreciation and teaching of Yiddish. He

pointed out that for approximately 1,200 years Yiddish and its variants were the primary languages of our ancestors, with Hebrew reserved exclusively for religious practice. Yiddish had an impact on European culture and defined much of the Jewish contribution to culture and art. Yiddish was also the native tongue of most of the Jewish immigrants to the United States. By reading and translating several selected Yiddish poems Dr. Peltz showed how we lose essential meaning and understanding when Yiddish, like all languages, is only read in translation.

Dr Peltz also lamented how the Philadelphia Jewish community hasn't shown appreciation of the value of our Yiddish background, contributions or the remaining institutions that have helped define our American Jewish heritage.

Steve Schechter has been searching his genealogy for about 20 years, spurred by helping his mom battle cancer and speaking about her "good 'ol days." This journey has involved personal effort and paid Ukrainian and Belarusian researchers uncovering ancestors dating to the late 1700's, identifying 2,000 confirmed relatives, a trip to his shtetls of origin (Vitebsk, Dobrovno, Lyady, Zalocze and Brody) in Belarus and Ukraine, engaging with the JGSGP, conducting many genealogy workshops and meeting many "menschen" who are also searching their roots. Names Steve is researching include (in their myriad of spellings) Shullriker, Bransky, Linder, Haas, Zeliczonik, Pindrakov, Radinowski, Kokesch, and the anglicized equivalents of Schechter, Zeldin and Rady.

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

by *Steve Schechter*

Our March meeting was the last of this season's Sunday meetings. Mixing our dates and locations seems to have worked well, and we will discuss continuing for next season. Please let us know your thoughts by either writing *Chronicles* or contacting the Programming VP at programs@jgsgp.org.

The March meeting was our annual "brick walls" session. We once again assembled an expert panel to respond to the previously submitted questions and then opened discussion to everyone. David Brill, Fred Blum, and Mark Halpern constituted this year's panel.

Questions included:

- "How to find relatives who lived in Poland prior to WWII, some of whom were sent to Siberia, others to Displaced Persons (DP) camps and then possibly to Canada where their trail goes cold?"
- "How to get in touch with the Argentina Jewish Genealogy Society for help?"
- "Any ideas on finding a great-grandmother who moved from Germany to Russia in late 1800's?"
- "Any ideas how to find Social Security Administration (SSA)

death records for relatives who died in US but do not seem to be listed on websites?"

- "What are techniques for finding female relatives when not knowing their married names?"
- "What are ideas for finding a relative posted on the 1906 Duma voting list in Ukraine whose trail then evaporates?"
- * "Even with pictures and confirmed information that they came to the US, what are ideas for finding people who seemingly left no trail? "
- "How do I make sense out of the DNA results I have just received?"

As expected, the panel's ideas were supplemented with lively and very useful group discussion in what became a dynamic group problem solving session. We spent two hours using our collective intelligence and experience to address issues.

David Brill closed the session with the insightful remark, "Often what we see as brick walls or dead ends are really opportunities to learn and apply new techniques and approaches." His comment was reinforced by Fred Blum who promised to show the value of "out of the box" thinking at our April meeting, sharing his experience in locating family and winning the "Researcher of the Year" award from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum for his work in locating people from DP camps.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE 1940 U.S. CENSUS IS NOW BEING INDEXED!

by *Richard W. Eastman*

I had a chance to visit a genealogist today in her home in Florida. When I arrived, I found she was in the middle of indexing 1940 census records. That's great! Of course, FamilySearch is looking for a few thousand more volunteers for this worthwhile effort. If you would like to help, join in! Here is a status update, released 4 April 2012 by FamilySearch!

The 1940 U.S. Census is here and the 1940 US Census Community Project has kicked off to a great start! The excitement and enthusiasm for this project is far greater than anything previously seen in the six years that FamilySearch indexing has been available. Online volunteers completed the indexing for the state of Delaware in the first 24 hours. They are now indexing Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Virginia! It may take up to two weeks to make all of the states available for indexing, so check the current projects page or follow the feed on Facebook to stay up to date on the next states to be released.

(continued on page 22)

(continued from page 21)

Current and Completed Projects: To view a list of currently available indexing projects, along with their record language and completion percentage, visit the FamilySearch indexing updates page. To learn more about individual projects, view the FamilySearch projects page.

This article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright by Richard W. Eastman. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. Information about the newsletter is available at <http://www.eogn.com>

UPDATE ON GLADWYNE CEMETERY PROJECT

Back in December there was a call from Daniel Schley for volunteers to help photograph the tombstones at the Gladwyne Jewish Cemetery. Over the last number of years, Beth David Reform Congregation has been maintaining the cemetery. The synagogue has now helped establish a non-profit organization called Friends of the Gladwyne Memorial Cemetery whose purpose is to manage maintain, fix up, and restore this cemetery. Neil Sukonik is spearheading this process.

This organization, once established, would operate separately from Beth David, although some of its trustees would come from the Beth David community. Sukonik hopes that approval for the necessary 501(c)3 status will happen by the summer, and afterwards, the group will be able to raise funds to eventually hire contractors and restoration experts. He also hopes all the graves (primarily dating between 1860 -1910) will be identified and mapped. More information will be provided after the 501(c)3 status is obtained.

2012 JGSGP GENEALOGY FAIR

After the success of our first *FREE* Genealogy Fair, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia is sponsoring a second edition, Sunday, June 10th at Temple Beth Sholom, 1901 Kresson Rd., Cherry Hill, NJ.

As a result of the work accomplished so far, the following organizations have agreed to participate. Each will have its own station where representatives will answer questions as to what data it can provide and how it can be accessed.

National Archives & Records Administration
New Jersey Archives
JewishGen
Jewish Genealogical Society (New York)
Camden County Historical Society
Jewish Records Indexing-Poland
Jewish Community Center of Cumberland,
Gloucester, and Salem Counties
DNA-SHOAH Project

In addition, stations, manned by JGSGP members with particular expertise, will provide information and help for attendees. These include: Computer Research, Research Reference Books, Getting Started, Philadelphia Research, Maps of the Area, Yiddish Translation, Russian Jewish History, Writing Family History, The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia.

We are also seeking people who will help us further the progress in developing the plan, and in staffing and overseeing operations at the Fair. If you are interested in participating, or you have questions or comments regarding the Fair please contact Bernie Cedar at 856 482-1853, or by e-mail bernardcedar@yahoo.com.

Mark your calendar now! We hope to see you at the Fair.

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.

Dear Sirs:

I am trying to find descendants of Samuel and Lea REINIS. They came to United States and established their family in Philadelphia around 1929, from Roumania, with four daughters: Selma (Haia Sura), Ann (Hana), Tillie (Tzipora) and Miriam. They lived in Philadelphia.

Selma's married surname was Goodman. She lived in Washington DC. Ann's married surname was Zuckerman. I do not have any information about Tillie and Miriam. My only purpose of this research is to complete my family tree. Thanks,

Nelson Cuptchik Rio de Janeiro - Brazil
nelson@demillus.com.br



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)	\$
Sponsor - \$50	\$
Patron - \$100	\$
Non-Resident \$15 (more than 100 miles from Phila.)	\$
Overseas \$21	\$
Voluntary Gift to the JGSGP Library / Digitization Fund	\$
Voluntary Gift of the JGSGP Program Fund	\$
A check is enclosed for the amount of:	\$

Name (please print) _____

Additional Name(s) _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

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

Check the JGSGP Web Site for Calendar Updates regularly: <http://www.jgsgp.org>

Look for information on other IAJGS member societies

<http://www.iajgs.org/members/members.html>

Join the JGSGP Facebook group. Our members are continually posting fascinating news and developments which impact on genealogy and important related areas. Link at: <http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp>

Upcoming Meetings

**Monday, May 14, 2012 at 7:30 pm at Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel,
8339 Old York Road (US Route 611 & PA Route 73), Elkins Park, PA 19027**

Mark Halpern will speak on Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/>)

He'll cover Jewish records and research from the various parts of Poland – Congress Poland, Russian Pale of Settlement (Bialystok area), Austrian Galicia, and Prussian Poland. He'll demonstrate what kinds of information can be found in each sort of record and how to find out which records are available for one's town. Sample searches will show ways to utilize the JRI-Poland database in order to maximize your research.

Sunday, June 10, 2012, 1 to 5 p.m.

**The Jewish Genealogy Fair hosted by JGSGP comes to South Jersey - *FREE* Admission
at Temple Beth Sholom, 1901 Kresson Road, Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
From Beginners to Experts there is something at the Fair for everyone.**