

CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים



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REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM

Fall 2014



H*a-karat ha-tov* (הכרת הטוב) is the Hebrew term for "gratitude" and literally means "recognizing the good." When we are grateful, we are acknowledging the good that already exists in our world.

During our Steve Schecter Memorial Lecture in October, I mentioned how Steve (*z"l*) taught by personal example and inspired us to share his broad vision for JGSGP and emulate his dedication and passion. I believe the best tribute we can pay him is to acknowledge what a positive force he was for JGSGP and carry on his vision. That vision exists on two fronts. We can continue to strive as a society to educate about Jewish genealogy through our programming, genealogy fairs, Facebook page, website, quarterly publication, and Speakers Bureau. We can also perpetuate the vision by continuing to explore and research our respective family histories and to write and share the narrative that the research ultimately generates.

We can take great pride in what JGSGP has accomplished on many levels. I want to extend a hearty vote of thanks to all *Chronicles* contributors, past and present, and once again extend an invitation to all our readers to continue our tradition of quality content. Your editorial team doesn't, however, rest on its laurels. Did you notice our new look? Beginning with this issue we're changing our format from a newspaper style to one that's more informal and eye catching. We examined the publications of other JGS's and opted for this new style that we hope you'll find fresh and aesthetically appealing.

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 / postal code address.

Annual Dues (January 1 - Dec. 31)

Individual..... \$25

Family of two, per household.....\$35

Membership Applications / Renewals and Payments to: JGSGP • 1657 The Fairway, #145
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Questions about membership status should be directed to membership@jgsgp.org

EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

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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Kinsey Elementary School Philadelphia Safety Patrol 1956
To the left of the teacher is Joel Spector. Walter Spector is sitting (dark shirt) in the first row, the second from the end on the right.

Answer - Quiz # 4

We're also introducing a new feature entitled "Neighborhood Memories." Our focus in this fall issue is Camden County, New Jersey, reflecting our society's ongoing aim to include the greater Philadelphia community in our membership and to cover a broad spectrum of topics at our monthly meetings and in this publication. We invite you to share your memories of where you grew up or stories about the *shtetlach* in which your ancestors lived. Ironically, our two contributors to this section share a connection within less than "six degrees of separation".

In this issue we provide many helpful suggestions in our "Techniques, Tools & Tips" section and elsewhere. Walter Spector and Ruth Kurschner both highlight the importance of labeling photographs. David Brill, James Gross, and I share some tools, which you may not be familiar with, and Ed Flax describes his own version of an introduction to Jewish genealogy.

In the past we've used the fall issue to highlight the previous summer's IAJGS conference but not this time. Thanks to an outpouring of great stories, we're in the process of compiling an issue devoted to the Salt Lake City conference and summer travel. ❖

Evan Fishman, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



This past July I attended the annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) in Salt Lake City. It was a well-attended conference with over 800 participants. The conference focused on the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War. Many speakers geared their talks on research during that period. There were also many presentations on DNA. It seems as though many companies are pushing these tests to try to connect cousins.

Prior to the conference I worked with the IAJGS on a committee to review and award the Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant and the John Stedman Memorial Grant. In 2012 the estate of Jon Stedman awarded IAJGS \$15,000; the IAJGS board in turn established the John Stedman Memorial Grant, honoring the memory of Jon Stedman's father, for the purpose of awarding \$3,000 in each of the ensuing five years to an individual project and to be administered by the Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant. The Estate of Jon Stedman has also donated significant funds to the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) for one of its digitization projects.

JewishGen was the recipient of the 2014 Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Grant for the Ukraine SIG's Odessa Document Acquisition and Translation Projects. Jewish Gen's Latin America SIG's Jewish Colonies in South America project received the John Stedman Grant. With the financial assistance provided by these grants researchers will be able to gain new information.

Next year's conference is scheduled for July 6 – 10, 2015 in Jerusalem. I am planning on attending, and I hope many of you will do the same.

Fred Blum, President

P.S. I arranged for our October "Steve Schechter Memorial Lecture" to be videotaped, and I hope we'll be able to upload it to our website soon. Stay tuned. ❖

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS & HIGHLIGHT SOME OF THE NAMES & TOWNS THEY ARE RESEARCHING

Robert Strauss

Norwood, MA

ZAHN, SIGALL, HAAS all from Zalosce Galicia,
(now Zalizsti Ukraine)

Michael & Elyse Krug

Cherry Hill, NJ

ZILBERMAN, MARGULIES from Jerusalem, Palestine,
KRUK from Chelm, Poland and MARKOWITZ from
Lithuania

A SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY OUTREACH (OR GENEALOGY 101)

by Ed Flax



Knowing I have a serious interest in Jewish genealogy, *Chavurat Aviv* (Fellowship of Spring) at The Jewish Center (Princeton, New Jersey,) asked if I'd speak on the topic at our June 2014 meeting. Since most members were unfamiliar with Jewish genealogy, I needed to tailor the presentation to their background and casual level of interest. After struggling a bit to find a suitable topic, I ultimately decided to focus on the basics in order to encourage some of them to begin to research their own families. I selected interesting examples from my own research that I hoped would illustrate how common and lesser known sources can help us find clues and answers to questions about our ancestors.

I gave my presentation at the synagogue after Friday evening Shabbat services, the traditional venue for our closing event for the year. Since using electronic devices like a computer, projector, and power point presentation wouldn't be appropriate on Shabbat, I had to resort to a more conventional presentation mode and distribute multiple copies of illustrations and other documents to share among attendees at several tables.

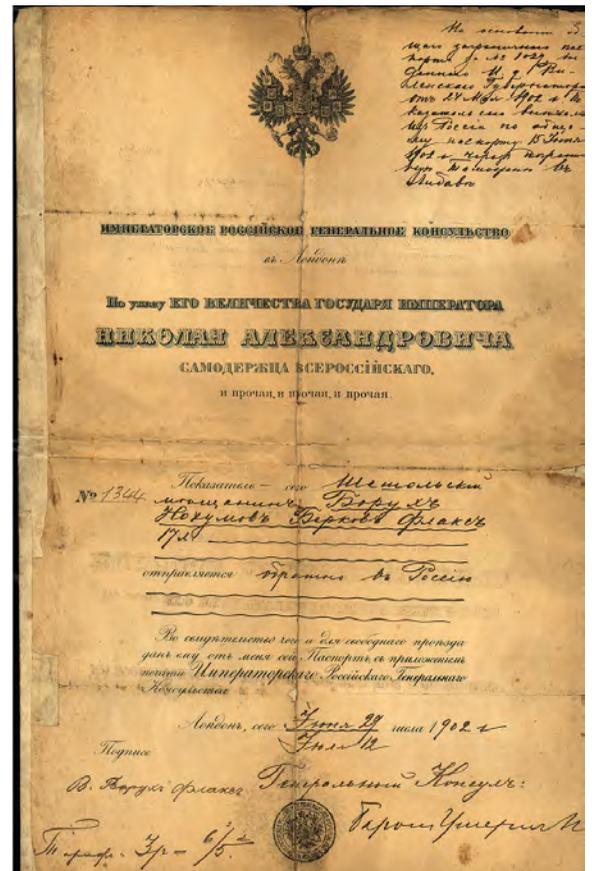
One of the first items that generated lively discussion was my paternal grandfather, Baruch Flaks' 1902 Russian passport. Two of our *chavurah* members from the former Soviet Union were excited to read and translate that century-old document for others.

During my presentation that evening I focused on how to get started in Jewish genealogy.

- Work from what you know: your immediate family, parents, children, aunts, uncles, grandparents, great aunts & great uncles.
- Ask questions of relatives you know – particularly older generations.
- Share information with them and reach out to more distant relatives.

I then shared what inspires me to pursue my own family research:

- The endless puzzle solving aspect of genealogy.
- Building personal connections with relatives.
- Connecting to people everywhere via the internet - a newer aspect of what makes genealogy so very rewarding.
- A sense of connecting to my father, Uriel Flax (z"l) who initially laid out the family tree on paper in the 1970s and passed on his interest in our family history to me.
- A desire to convey my passion for genealogy to my children and grandchildren.



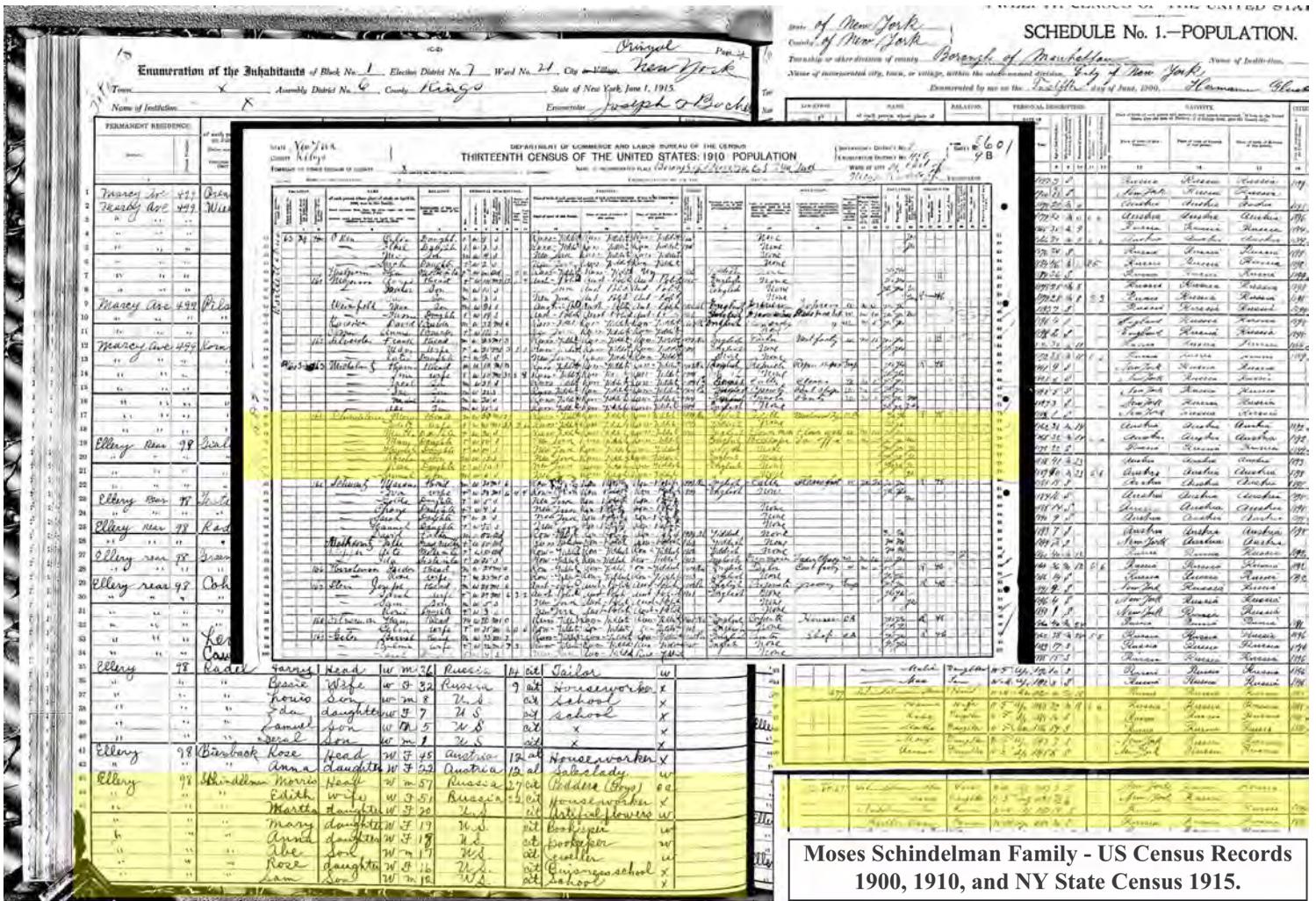
Baruch Flaks' 1902 London Russian Consulate issued passport. (He was in transit between Russia, South Africa and the USA)

I then touched on the tools and sources of information that are useful in general and also those of particular value to Jewish genealogists:

- Genealogical software for both PC's and Macintosh computers - an absolute must for any modern genealogist.
- NARA (National Archives and Records Administration) (www.archives.gov)
- JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org)
- U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (www.ushmm.org)
- Yad Vashem (www.yadvashem.org)
- Online resources such as Ancestry (www.ancestry.com) and MyHeritage (www.myheritage.com).
- Local Family History Centers of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon Church) and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah. (<https://www.lds.org/locations/temple-square-family-history-library>)

I strongly encouraged my audience to join either JGSGP or a society closer to them, such as the Jewish Historical Society of Central Jersey, and listed reasons for joining a local society: the help and mentoring available from more experienced genealogists, the interplay of questions and answers at society meetings, education and enjoyment in genealogy that result from speaker presentations and a newsletter or journal such as *Chronicles*. I also highlighted the excellent resources and connections to other genealogical societies worldwide that are available through the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS).

The documents I shared that illustrated success stories really engaged the audience because they were able to see and touch them. The first set consisted of three successive censuses for my maternal great grandfather's family (1900 and 1910 U.S. censuses and the 1915 New York State census). They exhibited changes in the size of the family, where they lived, and highlighted changes in family situations.



Moses Schindelmann Family - US Census Records 1900, 1910, and NY State Census 1915.



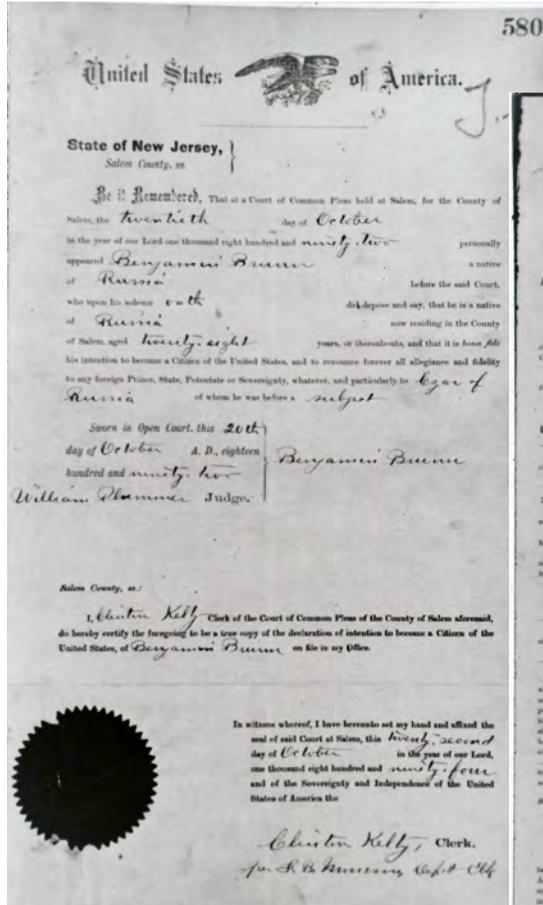
**Benzion Brin
(Benjamin Brown)
ca. 1940**

The second document set included the naturalization papers for my great grandfather, BENZION BRIN (BENJAMIN BROWN). His declaration of intent (first papers) was filed in the local court of the small, southern New Jersey town of Salem.

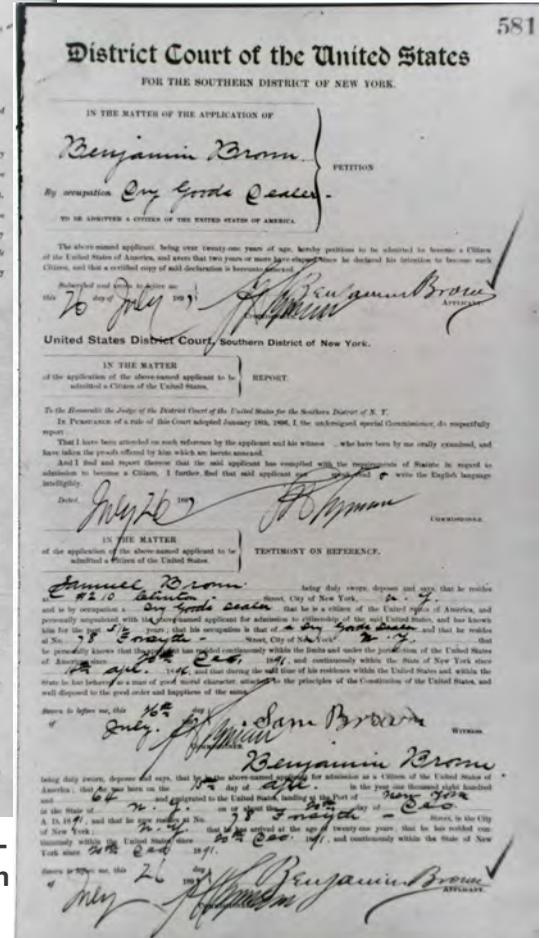
His petition for citizenship (second papers) and

his certificate of citizenship were filed with the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. Viewing this group of documents generated a wide-ranging discussion:

- What brought a new immigrant from Kovno, Russia (present day Kaunas, Lithuania) to South Jersey?
- How did immigrants travel to this country and how did they earn a living once they were here?
- We speculated whether Benzion might have traveled from Salem, NJ as an itinerant peddler to the Jewish agricultural communities of South Jersey, founded in the 1880s.



Declaration of Intent (above) & Citizenship Petition (right) of Benjamin Brown



To complete the presentation on a high note, I featured a branch of my family that included historically interesting and notable individuals and showed the connections among them. Going back to Russia (now Lithuania) at the dawn of the 20th century, NATHAN FLAX married ROSE LEAH YOELSON, daughter of a well-known rabbi and cantor, Moshe Ruben Yoelson. Rose had two younger brothers, Hirsch and Asa, who worked together briefly as a vaudeville team, [Harry] Jolson and [Al] Jolson. Al later became one of the most famous entertainers of the 20th century.

But that's just the tip of the iceberg to this story:



Harry Jolson, 1900



Rose Leah Yoelson and Nathan Flax had three children. The youngest, Theresa, was born in 1911. "Theresa you say? What kind of name is that for a nice Jewish girl?" Well, after doing some research, I found that it was quite a popular Hungarian name, for both Jews and non-Jews.¹

THERESA FLAX grew up in the Baltimore / Washington, DC area and married Rabbi ALEXANDER DAVID GOODE, who served as a Jewish chaplain during World War II. Rabbi Goode and three Christian chaplains were aboard the troop ship, SS Dorchester, carrying over 900 servicemen, when it was torpedoed off the coast of

Greenland in the North Atlantic on February 3, 1943.



Rabbi Alexander David Goode

Many passengers and crew had no life jackets. The four chaplains gave theirs up, so that others might live. Some 230 servicemen ultimately survived the sinking. The four chaplains who were lost at sea were posthumously honored for their sacrifice, first by receiving the Purple Heart and the Distinguished Service Cross (the second highest military honor in the US).

They were then, honored again, in the most public way, by a beautiful 1948 U.S. stamp that evokes the emotion of that loss. As a young boy who collected stamps I was always moved by the extraordinary artwork and design of the “Four Chaplains” stamp. I wondered about the stamp designer but never thought there would be another family connection there.



Purple Heart & Distinguished Service Cross awarded to Rabbi Goode



In 2002, while researching Rabbi Goode I came across a website dedicated to Louis Schwimmer, a career artist who headed the art department of the New York City branch of the U.S. Post Office and designed the “Four Chaplains” stamp. The website is maintained by his daughter Suzanne Schwimmer. After some emails, we also realized that Suzanne is a first cousin of my first cousin’s wife. While Louis Schwimmer had designed other U.S. stamps, this one was a career highlight for him because it was the first U.S. stamp designed by a Jew that also honored a Jew. Suzanne was kind enough to share her father’s original design for the stamp (above left) with me. Note the subtle design differences between the original design and the final stamp (above right) that was issued.

Another discovery stemming from my research on Rabbi Goode consisted of images of three index cards located in the archives of the American Jewish Historical Society at the Center for Jewish History. They were prepared during World War II by the National Jewish Welfare Board’s Bureau of War Records, which collected and organized information about Jewish Americans who served in the United States Armed Forces during the war.²

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD
BUREAU OF WAR RECORDS
MASTER CARD SYSTEM

authenticated MISSING

NAME GOODE Alexander D. RANK 1st Lt. AGE 31
LAST (CAPS) FIRST MIDDLE

NEXT OF KIN Mrs. T. Goode RELATIONSHIP wife
ADDRESS 5131 2nd St. N.W. CITY Wash. STATE D.C.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION press dispatches - in folder

INQUIRY DATE 9/17/43* FOLLOW-UP DATES

WORKER CONSULTED Rabbi Arnold A. Lasker* FAMILY

DATE APPEARED IN HONOR ROLL

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD
BUREAU OF WAR RECORDS Copy to AL AUG 21 1944
MASTER CARD SYSTEM

AUTHENTICATED DEATH i.a.

NAME GOODE Alexander D. RANK 1st Lt. AGE 31
LAST (CAPS) FIRST MIDDLE

NEXT OF KIN Mrs. T. Goode RELATIONSHIP Wife
ADDRESS 5131 2nd St. N.W. CITY Washington STATE D.C.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Information sent in by Aryeh Lev 8/4/44

DATES

FAMILY

SERVICE - F-40-2-0

These documents again presented a significant opportunity to engage my audience in discussion during my presentation as they sequentially documented Rabbi Goode’s “Missing” status, his death (in action) and the medals posthumously presented to his widow, Theresa.

NATIONAL JEWISH WELFARE BOARD
BUREAU OF WAR RECORDS
MASTER CARD SYSTEM

AUTHENTICATED AWARD P.H. D.S.C.

NAME GOODE Alexander D. RANK 1st Lt. AGE 31
LAST (CAPS) FIRST MIDDLE

NEXT OF KIN Mrs. T. Goode RELATIONSHIP Wife
ADDRESS 5131 2nd St. N.W. CITY Washington STATE D.C.

SOURCE OF INFORMATION Newspaper clipping in Goode fldr.

INQUIRY DATE None FOLLOW-UP DATES

WORKER CONSULTED FAMILY

DATE APPEARED IN HONOR ROLL

I closed the presentation by mentioning the Jewish Chaplains Memorial, dedicated in 2011 at Arlington National Cemetery, where it joined similar memorials there to Catholic and Protestant clergy on Chaplains Hill.

Rabbi Alexander David Goode is honored as the first of fourteen Jewish chaplains who have died in the service of our country, beginning with World War II.³

By illustrating the presentation with concrete examples of notable people, unusual stories and connections among family members from my tree I was able to create an entertaining and informative hour that engaged the audience and encouraged many to ask about how they could get started with their own family research. I emailed each attendee a follow-up outline with references and links to some of the sites I discussed to ease their entry into the world of genealogy that we love so much. ❖

References:

1. "Avotaynu" Summer 1998 Volume XIV No. 2 Pg. 41
2. American Jewish Historical Society, Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011
<http://digifindingaids.cjh.org/?pID=360439> (Guide to the Records of National Jewish Welfare Board, Bureau of War Records, 1940-1969; I-52). Learn more about the CJS and AJHS in our September meeting summary, pg. 23.
3. Photo courtesy JGS Greater Washington website (<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw/>)



**Jewish Chaplains Memorial,
Arlington National Cemetery**

Ed Flax, a longtime JGSGP member and "Chronicles" graphics editor has been studying his family for over twenty years. Surnames he is researching include: FLAKS, Ukmerge, Lithuania; BRIN, Kaunus, Lithuania; SNITKOWSKY, Thomaspol, Ukraine; BASHERGLICK, Kamanyets-Podolsk, Ukraine and FRIMERMEN, Soroca, Moldova.

His family tree can be found online at: http://www.flax.org/FamilyWeb/flaxfamilytree/wc_toc.htm
Contact Ed at ejflax@gmail.com

IDENTIFY PHOTOS WHILE YOU STILL CAN

by Ruth Kurschner



My aunt, Dorly Teitelbaum-Tamary-Kesten, who died in 2003 at the age of 96, was the last of my parents' generation. She outlived my mom and dad, Elsa and Nuchim Kurschner, as well as Selma and Max Imberman, the aunt and uncle who raised her. Tragically, she outlived her only son, Ernest Tamary, who died three years before she did. When I visited her at her apartment in the Bronx, I told her about the Holocaust talks I was giving in public schools. I wanted to show her Austrian passports to the students who could then see the evidence of people leaving a country in distressful times. She only said, "You will get them all in time."

Well, the "in time" came when she died. My daughters and I went to her apartment in the Bronx to help clean things out. My aunt had designated her best friend, Emma Leaf, to dispose of her furniture and clothing. I asked Emma and also, Anna, my aunt's caretaker in the last years of her life, to allow me to take all the photographs in the apartment. Later, we obtained the Austrian passports and other original family documents from my aunt's safe deposit box.

After settling my aunt's estate, I finally had time to view my family's European records and photographs. What a problem this was! I could identify many of the people in those Viennese photos from the 1930s, but there were a great number of them I did not know. Some may have been cousins whom I had never met. Others were probably family

friends. My aunt had not written any identifying information on the back of the photos. I could not identify the place, year or the names of so many of the people in the photos. I reluctantly threw out the unidentifiable pictures. I mailed the originals of my Uncle Max's nephews to their two daughters. Those Viennese photos of their parents and the Imbermans were not really my relatives. My grandmother's sister, Selma Imberman, had married into the vast and cultured Imberman family. Most of them, as well as my parents and I, arrived in New York before the outbreak of World War II.

Here's the lesson I learned: While I am still in possession of my faculties, I need to identify my photographs for my children and grandchildren. In addition, I want to write down as many of the stories that my family told and my own memories of family conversations. Hopefully, my family members will want to review our family tree, the history of where we came from, our hopes, dreams, and our experiences of coming to America. ❖

Armed with a B.A. in English from Rutgers and an M.A. in Writing from Rowan University, Ruth presently teaches English composition at Camden County College. In a "previous life" she worked as a legal secretary for forty years.

Ruth is researching: KLEINER, KAUFTHEIL, and KORNBLAU from Vienna and originally from Galicia. (towns: Tarnow and Hsuyatin; KURSCHNER, ROTENSTREICHER originally from Monasterzyczka, Poland.

Contact Ruth at: ruthkur@comcast.net

USING GPS TO DOCUMENT GRAVE LOCATIONS

by David Brill



If you have a smart phone, then you already have a great tool for keeping track of graves. All smart phones, whether Android or iPhone type, are equipped with a global positioning system (GPS) that is sufficiently accurate for genealogical work. Using the GPS capability of your smart phone, you can:

- Identify the geographic coordinates of family graves and other landmarks;
- Plot grave locations using online mapping tools like Google Maps;
- Physically navigate to graves quickly and accurately.

Using GPS has obvious advantages over more traditional methods of storing grave location information. For one thing, it frees the genealogist from relying on the particular cemetery's organizational system. Many Jewish cemeteries identify graves by the "real estate" method of section, block and plot, keyed to a master map kept in the cemetery office. Sometimes, but not always, there are physical markers or signs set in the cemetery to guide the person looking for a particular site. Especially in older cemeteries, these markers may have disappeared over the years, or they may have been stolen or obscured. Previously, when documenting graves in disused cemeteries where whatever numbering system once existed was lost, one had to fall back on the "row-counting" method. My own older genealogical notes are full of rank and file locating instructions such as "20 rows up from the path, 3 graves to the left," and so forth. In some cemeteries, whole areas may "belong to" *landsmanschaften* (immigrant benevolent organization, formed by ex-residents of the same locality or town), synagogues, or other associations, and these areas may have their own numbering systems distinct from the cemetery in general.

By contrast, GPS is available for free, all year round, twenty-four hours a day. It does not depend on mapping information stored in a cemetery office that may close, or on landmarks that may disappear. One hundred years from now, the small brass sign that says "Section P" may be long gone, the tree near the fence may have died, but the geographic coordinates (latitude and longitude) of your relative's grave will still be exactly the same as they are today. The GPS available in your iPhone or Android device is accurate to within about 3 meters, or 10 feet, which is in most cases sufficiently accurate for locating a grave even if you have never visited it. However, even in the best of

circumstances there is a certain error associated with the GPS measurement (and because cemetery files are referenced to the section, block and plot) it is still a good idea to use GPS data in conjunction with more traditional locating tools. In other words, don't throw away those old notes about how many steps from the fence just yet.

The concept of GPS is relatively simple. Satellites orbit the earth and continuously transmit data; at any given time some of these satellites are within line-of-sight view of your device. When the GPS unit "sees" a satellite, it interprets the satellite's data stream to determine its distance and position in the sky. As long as there are enough satellites in view, the GPS uses their simultaneous signals to calculate its own position on the ground. The more satellites the better, but at least four are needed for the mathematical equations to work. The ground position is commonly given as a latitude and longitude, that is, a number of degrees north or south of the equator, and east or west of the prime meridian at Greenwich, England. Any spot on earth except the North and South Poles can be assigned a unique set of coordinates like this.

The GPS itself is only half the solution – you also will need the right application to harness the phone's capabilities. Many well-known GPS-based navigation programs are designed specifically for use in cars. While these are very good at giving driving directions to street addresses, they can be unwieldy for navigating through open spaces on foot. For that, you want one of the GPS apps designed for hikers, geocachers (Google it if you don't know what it is), or other outdoor hobbyists. In this category, Maverick: GPS Navigation from Code Sector is an Android app available as a free download. (I'm an Android user so I'll limit my comments to what is available for Android; but similar apps can be found for iPhone.) It's easy to use and functions both as a GPS location recorder and as an off-road navigation tool. User-friendly, free apps that only find and display your current GPS coordinates include GPS Test from Chartcross Limited and MyGPSCoordinates from TappiApps, among many others.

Let's say you've just found a previously unknown grave and you want to record its location. We'll use Maverick as an example. After loading the Maverick app (and making sure that the GPS sensor is switched on) you would switch to the "trip computer" screen to see a display of latitude and longitude (see Figure 1a). The screen indicators can be customized to show different kinds of information. In addition to longitude and latitude, the only other key piece of information you need is the accuracy. Remember – the lower this number, the better the accuracy. When you first load the app, it may take a few minutes to get a "fix" on the GPS coordinates. As more and more satellites come into view, the accuracy will steadily improve (that is, the number in the display will go down). During this time it helps to keep the phone as still as possible, even resting it on the gravestone, for best results. The longitude and latitude can be displayed as degrees north and degrees west, as shown in Figure 1a, or as degrees and minutes (39° 52.796' N, 74° 59.048' W), or as degrees, minutes and seconds. This is a matter of personal preference and does not affect the accuracy. Some other apps may display the coordinates to more decimal places. This does not mean more accuracy, since anything beyond the fifth decimal place is within the approximately 3 meter (10 ft.) radius of error, and is therefore wasted. Once the reading stabilizes at its optimum accuracy, write down the coordinates. Or better yet, save the location to a "KML" file (see below), then use the app's "Share Location" function to e-mail the coordinates to yourself. Be sure to include some identifying information (e.g., Uncle Moe's grave) in the subject line to avoid later confusion.

Once you have the coordinates, you can use them to find the gravesite later. If you previously stored the location on your phone, that's easy. If not, you will have to enter the coordinates manually. The way to do this depends on the particular app. In Maverick, under the "Waypoints" menu, you can select "Add manually," which lets you type in the location and save it to a KML ("keyhole markup language") file. KML is a kind of geographic data file used by online applications such as Google Earth. Alternatively, if you know how, you can edit the KML file offline and upload it to your phone. Once you select a destination (or "waypoint") and tell the app to navigate there ("Go To" in Maverick), the phone displays the shortest path on a map, constantly updating the route based on your current position (Figure 1b). The GPS can point you to within about 10 feet of your target. Once there, you should be able to find the grave just by looking around.

Maverick: GPS Navigation Screen Captures are pictured here.

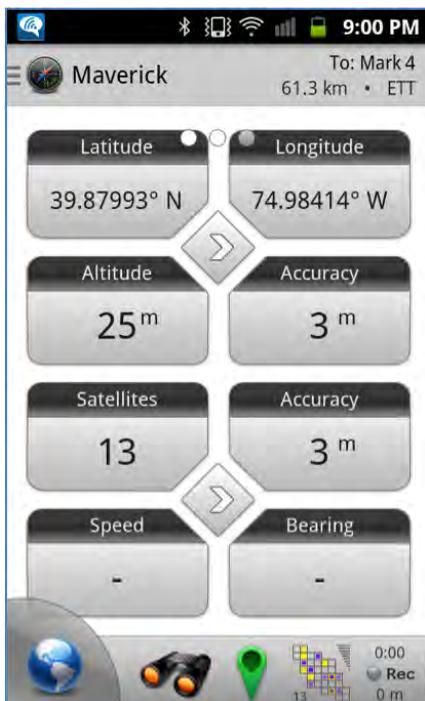


Fig. 1a “Trip Computer” Screen

To map grave coordinates on a computer screen, you have several options. KML files open directly in Google Earth. Google Maps lets you export data to a KML file, but for some reason it doesn't work the other way – you can't import from that format. (Go figure.) If you wish to create a custom map in Google Maps, your best bet is to type the geographic data into Excel, and then import the Excel file into Google Maps.

Figure 2, below, is an example of a custom map created in Google Maps showing Har Nebo Cemetery with pins marking the locations of the author's ancestors' graves. It was created by importing an Excel file with just three columns: name of grave, latitude and longitude. Figure 3 shows the same information in Google Earth. If all this sounds complicated, it's really not, and it may save you many hours hunting for elusive graves. ❖



Fig. 1b “Trip Computer” Screen

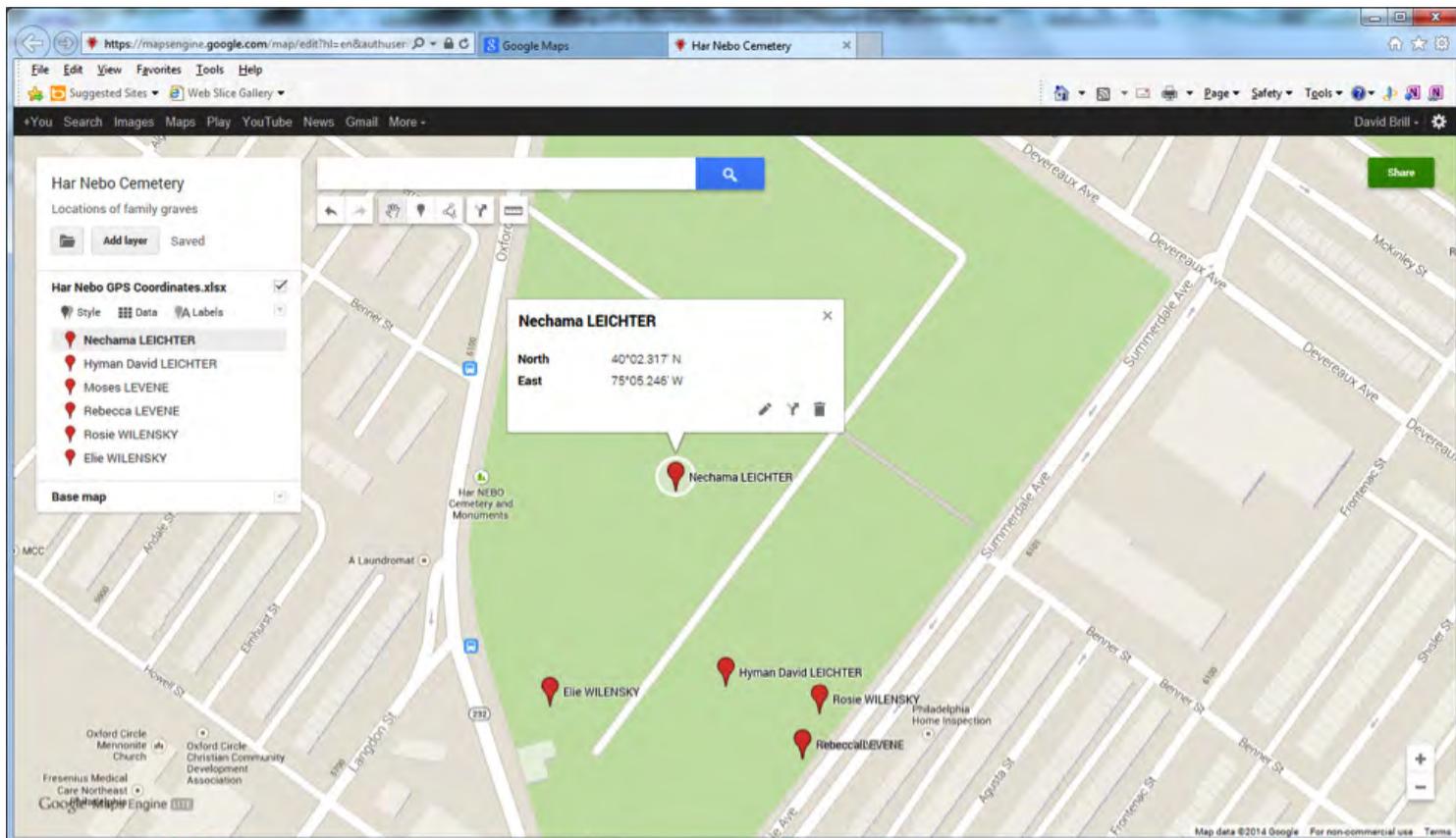


Fig. 2 Google Maps custom map of family graves in Har Nebo Cemetery, Philadelphia.

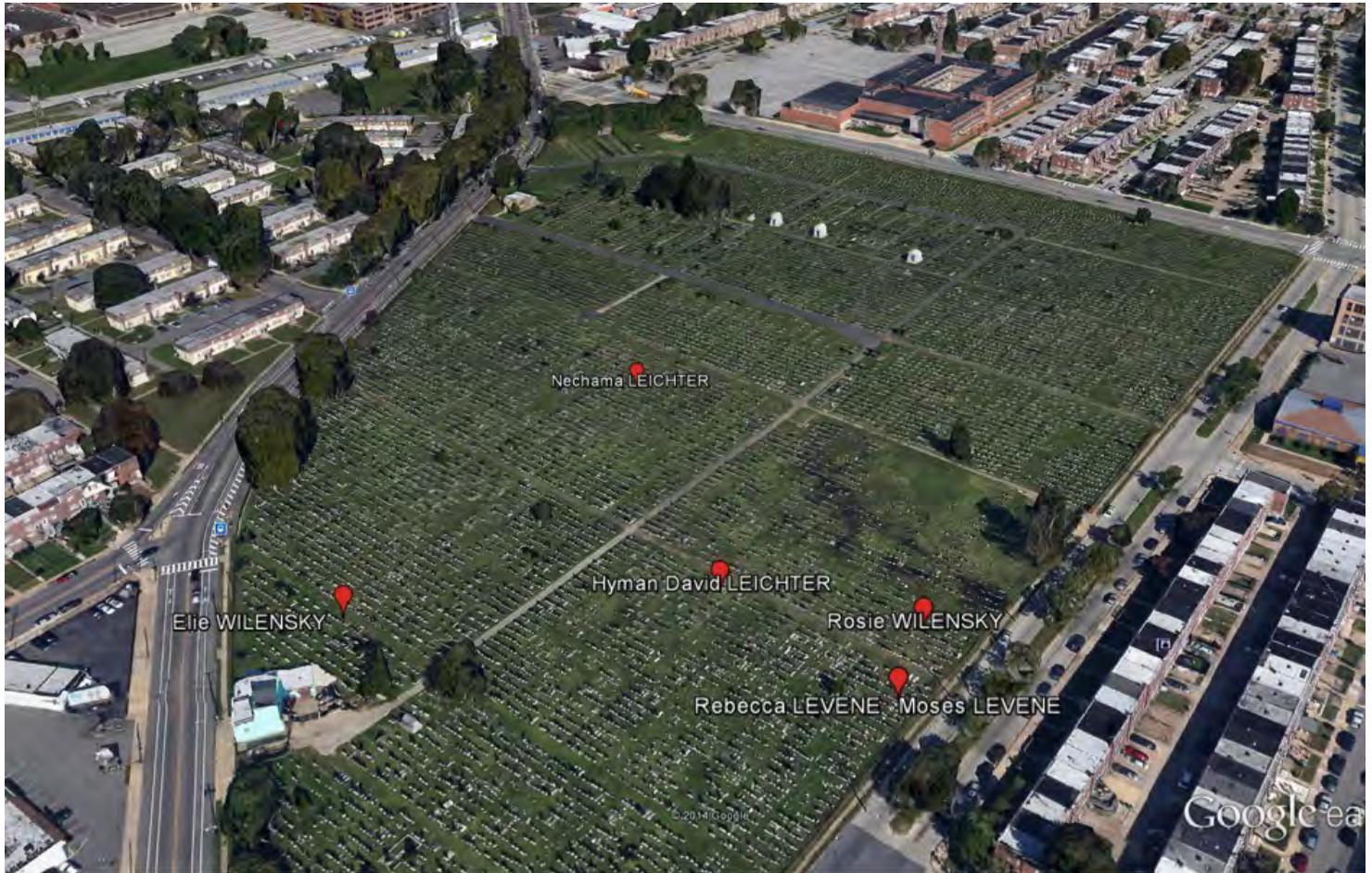


Fig. 3 Google Earth image of Har Nebo Cemetery with family grave locations marked.

Author David Brill is a member of JGSGP and has been researching his own family history in Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, and the United States for over 20 years. Coordinator of the Russian Interest Group (RIG) for JGSGP, he has made several presentations about various aspects of genealogical research in regions of the former Russian Empire. David has been active in transliterating documents, including all existing Jewish and vital records for his ancestral shtetl of Usvyaty, Russia. He also maintains a Kehilalinks page for Tuchin, Ukraine. Contact David at brilldr@comcast.net

DEAD OR ALIVE: RESEARCHING ISRAELI RELATIVES

by James Gross



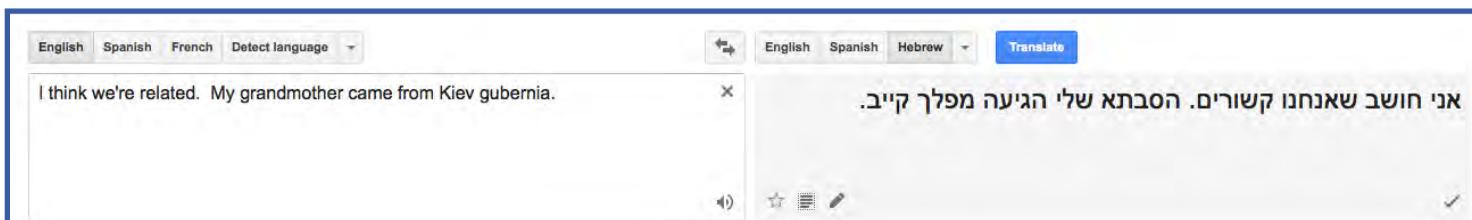
I have a number of family branches in Israel including several exclusively Hebrew speaking Friedman / Fridman relatives. I, on the other hand, don't read or speak Hebrew. I will share a few methods which I used to cross the Hebrew language barrier via online searches and select databases. This short article may help some of you locate or research some of your Israeli-Hebrew speaking relatives. For purposes of simplicity, I will distinguish between living and deceased relatives.

Living relatives:

To reach out to my living Hebrew speaking relatives, I used Facebook¹ and Google Translate². I had a feeling that some of my Hebrew speaking relatives might have their names listed on Facebook in Hebrew characters. I

therefore needed a transliteration of their English surnames into Hebrew. I entered their English surnames in Google Translate, copied and pasted the Hebrew equivalent into the Facebook search box, and reviewed the results.

Where possible, I searched for already known Israeli relatives on Facebook and reviewed their friends list. When I identified a potential relative, I typed out a few short sentences in English, used Google Translate, and sent the resulting Hebrew translation to that person. I was able to identify, locate, and communicate with a few relatives using this method.



I had previously connected with an in-law cousin on Facebook who sent me a URL link to a website containing information about one of my Israeli *Haredi* (very Orthodox Jews who reject secular culture) branches. Since the webpage was primarily in Hebrew, and the English version omitted information, I used a Google website translator to view a more complete English version of the website³.

Deceased relatives:

While at the 2014 IAJGS conference in Salt Lake City, I was able to access two online Israeli databases: the All Israel Database available from the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)⁴, and the EIRI Search Engine, available from the Israel Genealogy Society⁵. I used these two new databases to locate a number of historical Israeli vital records related to my deceased, Israeli relatives.

My primary Israeli database searches were for my distant Israeli cousins with the surnames of Fridman and Friedman, many of whom lived in Haifa. Those relatives are distantly related to Chief Rabbi Avraham Yitzhok Kook and also related to Rabbi Zvi Friedman, a senior rebbe in Bnei Brak. Even though the surname Friedman is fairly common in Israel, I was able to identify and locate several records on my relatives. .

The IGRA website has a good article by Daniel Horowitz that lists a number of useful online resources to help with Israeli research⁶. There is also a research guide from the Center for Jewish History⁷ as well as Israeli cemetery burial listings at www.jewishgen.org⁸. Hopefully the tools, strategies, and links mentioned in this article will help you research your deceased Israeli relatives and enable you to engage your living relatives directly in Hebrew. ❖

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Author James Gross has been working on his family tree since the early 1990s. A periodic contributor to various genealogy newsletters, James volunteers regularly at the Cherry Hill, NJ Family History Center where he helps other genealogists in their research. He also has a genealogy website: <http://tinyurl.com/gross-steinberg>. James can be reached at: navistar96@yahoo.com

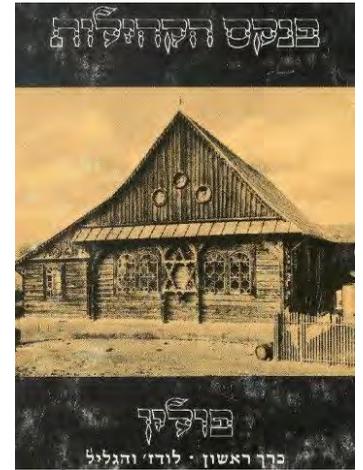
TWO GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES: ONE OLDER, ONE NEWER

by Evan Fishman



I'd like to bring two lesser known resources for genealogical information to your attention: the *pinkas ha-kahal* (plural: *pinkasei ha-kehillot*) and the personal family website. The first has existed for centuries; the second is a very recent development. They both potentially offer a wealth of facts and details.

Pinkasei ha-kehillot or community registers provide windows to the life of the Jewish population of a shtetl, town, or larger city and “shed light on the administrative structures and history of Jewish communities.”¹ A *pinkas* served as a rabbinical court diary and provided information about “such things as communal bylaws and registers of wills and of expenditures of charitable organizations.”² Its records often refer to financial, economic, tax, religious and judicial matters, and ritual slaughter.³ We can, for example, learn a great deal “concerning the culture of” a particular Jewish community, from its entries including “inventory lists and descriptions of settlements involving widows, or divorce settlements, and estates belonging to orphans.”⁴



Sample of volume of
pinkas ha-kehillot, this one
for Poland

One of the most important projects undertaken by Yad Vashem in Jerusalem has been the publication of *Pinkasei Hakehillot*, an extensive series of encyclopedias presenting collected historical information and demographic data on the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe dating back to their foundation till after the Holocaust.⁵ As of 2011 the series consisted of twenty-two volumes. Some of them supplement material found in *yizkor* (memorial) books while others enable us to examine communities for which no *yizkor* books exist.⁶

Recently Rabbi Shalom Bronstein (a JGSGP member who lives in Jerusalem) related how he was rummaging through Kishinev records in the Bessarabia database and discovered his grandfather's older brother who was listed on a *pinkas* of the *mohel* (man who performs ritual circumcisions). Check out the image to the right, an edited composite of two sets of search results which appear in JewishGen's Bessarabia database and represent translations of information from the original *pinkasim*. Note that the names of the father and/or mother are the common denominators that led Bronstein to assume that they were all siblings even though the surnames weren't exactly the same.

While *pinkasim* are potentially good sources of genealogical data and provide

Searching for Surname runstein (D-M code 964360) Number of hits: 11 Run on Friday 28 June 2013 at 02:18:42						
Name	Father, Grandfather	Date of Birth	Town	Comments	Place Registered	Microfilm / Item #
	Mother, Grandfather	Hebrew Date	Uyezd		Year	Image #
	Mother Maiden Surname	Gubernia	Record		Archive / Fond	
ROINSZTEIN / ROITENSZTEIN, Usher / Asher <i>HARRY BRUNSTEIN</i>	Yankel-Abram / Yakov-Abraham, Usher / Asher	15/6/1890	Kishinev	Father was petty bourgeois, mohel was Moische / Moshe BRIMER.	Kishinev	2255902 / 1
	Genya-Dvoira / Henya-Dvoira, Moshko / Moshe	9 Tammuz	Kishinev		1890	786
			Bessarabia		M406	NARM/211 /11/232
ROINSZTEYN, Frima	Abram, Usher	//1901	Kishinev		Kishinev	2292603 / 2
			Kishinev		1901	
			Bessarabia		F556	NARM/211 /11/371
ROYNSZTEYN, Khaya	Yankel-Abram	//1899	Kishinev		Kishinev	2292603 / 2
			Kishinev		1899	
			Bessarabia		F	NARM/211 /11/371
ROYNSZTEYN, Frima	Abram / Avrohom, Usher	7/10/1901	Kishinev		Kishinev	2292604 / 2
	Genya-Dvoira / Henya-Dvoira, -	7 Kheshtvan	Kishinev		1901	248
			Bessarabia		F556	NARM 211/11/374
ROYNSZTEYN (ROYTENSZTEYN), Gisya <i>JEAN SKWENSKY</i>	Yankel-Abram	//1897	Kishinev		Kishinev	2292603 / 2
			Kishinev		1897	
			Bessarabia		F524	NARM/211 /11/371
ROYNSZTEYN/ROYTENSZTEYN, Aaron	Yankel-Abram	//1894	Kishinev		Kishinev	2292603 / 2
			Kishinev		1894	
			Bessarabia		M817	NARM/211 /11/371
ROYTSZTEYN / ROYNSZTEIN, Khaya	Yankel-Abram / Yaakov-Avraham, Usher / Asher	22/7/1899	Kishinev		Kishinev	2292603 / 5
	Genya-Dvoira / Henya-Dvoira	27 Av	Kishinev		1899	210
			Bessarabia		F471	NARM 211/11/373

(NARM = National Archives of the Republic of Moldova)

the important context which buttresses those data, they often require a working knowledge of Hebrew, Yiddish, or a European language. JewishGen Inc. and the Yizkor Book Project have done an admirable job in translating sections of various *pinkasim* from Eastern European communities into English. I'm personally interested in the Brest (Belarus) *pinkas*, which can be found at:

http://brest-belarus.org/bc/Pinkas_HaKehillot/part_0.i.html

and successive pages. It provides a historical and genealogical overview of the community dating as far back as 1000 CE and includes discussion of populations from 1676-1938, the Jewish presence in Brest, a prominent family in 16th century Brest, the first prominent Brisker rabbi (15th century), and a full description of community life in 19th century Brest: financial institutions, education, social services, synagogues and prayer houses, and political representation.

In shifting to the personal family website I'd like to share a very pleasant, recent experience I had. Back in June I was researching a possible ancestor, Sarah Liesner Neyman, who arrived in Philadelphia in 1911 along with several children. As was typical of many, married, female immigrants, Sarah's husband, Isaac, arrived in the U.S. about five years earlier. I was frustrated with my search for documents related to Sarah at www.ancestry.com. I then googled "Sarah Neyman" + "Philadelphia" and was pleasantly surprised when I found a citation for the following website:

<http://toizerfamily.tumblr.com/>, which included references to Sarah. I perused its pages and was so excited that I wanted to immediately contact the webmaster, Nicole Toizer. Nicki and I later spoke on the phone, and I learned that she is a JGSGP member (demonstrating how belonging to a genealogy society is beneficial!). I explained my interest in Sarah, and Nicki indicated that she was following Isaac's line. We have agreed to keep in touch and share new information.

I later recalled that JGSGP member, Ed Flax, also has a personal family website:

http://www.flax.org/FamilyWeb/flaxfamilytree/wc_toc.htm. When Ed and I discussed his experiences pertaining to the website, he noted that hundreds of people have contacted him over the ten years the website has existed. Many of them thanked him for developing and posting it because they used it as a way of introducing their own children and grandchildren to their shared family history. Some people have provided Ed with new information about family connections going back three generations as well as good documentation, indicating that both parties have benefited from the exchanges. There's also been a continual updating of information and photographs. Ed remarked that only ten people have requested to be removed from the website, usually reflecting messy family dynamics. He also recommended using privacy filters for living people and being sensitive to the desire for confidentiality by not mentioning birthdates or other personal information.

In the past I've hesitated to publish my own genealogy findings online but I can now see tangible benefits for doing so. Good luck with both the *pinkasim* and developing your own family genealogy website. ❖

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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.

Contact Evan at editor@jgsgp.org

MEMORIES OF EAST CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

by Susan Leviton

Note: In the summer of 2009, Susan Leviton, who now lives in Harrisburg, PA, wrote a series of e-mails about her memories of places and people from her upbringing in Camden during the 1950s and '60s. Selections from those e-mails, which can be found at Phil Cohen's website, <http://www.dvrbs.com/>, provided the basis for this article.



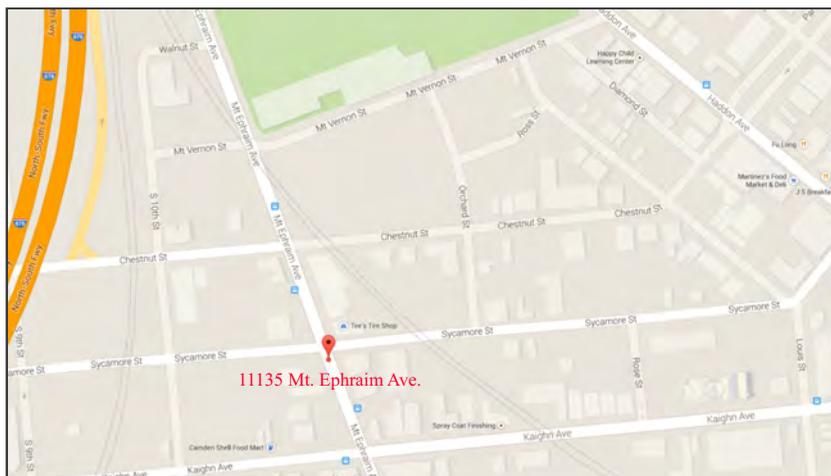
It's funny now to think of Camden as a focal point of Jewish life, but it was indeed a thriving community with everything from a great respected *rav* (Rabbi Naftali Riff), who spoke exclusively in Yiddish, to a surprisingly wide array of synagogues: one Orthodox, four Conservative and one Reform.

Several years back while attending a funeral, I found myself wandering among the graves of Congregation Beth Israel members who had lived on my block. Memories of a time when we were all interconnected came rushing back.

My dad's, (Herbert Leviton), family came from Lithuania early in the 20th century and settled in Camden where he was born in 1912. I was told my grandfather, Morris, dealt in cattle. The family, in turn, welcomed many new immigrants for whom my dad's oldest sister, Gussie, cooked meals. Gussie assumed this role because my grandmother died when Dad was three years old leaving five girls and a little boy.

Dad began working at about age fourteen. For many years he managed a luncheonette which was owned by one of his pals, Bobby Brest, across from RCA Victor. Although he never learned to play a musical instrument, Dad had a gift for music. He delighted in meeting the recording stars who would stop in the luncheonette between recording sessions at RCA. He sometimes rummaged among the rejects tossed out the back door when a recording session went badly. Sadly, his most precious relics were stolen, but I remember seeing and listening to RCA records that were cut on one side, stamped with a pattern on the flip side, and never marketed. There was one of Bing Crosby forgetting the words and adlibbing almost an entire side. Another had Crosby's voice cracking toward the end, an expletive, and then, nothing more. Amazing.

After Dad returned from service during World War II, he owned and operated Empire Glass Works where he installed auto glass and made custom glass tabletops. His shop was in a rented space at 1112 Mount Ephraim Avenue. In the 1970s he purchased the property at 1135 Mount Ephraim Avenue, between Kaighn Avenue and Sycamore Street, and moved his business across the street.



My mom, Lillian, was a Brooklyn transplant, and she never let us forget it! She dove into synagogue life and became a multi-term Hadassah president, building a chapter on deep connections to Israel.

The Leviton family was just a twig on the much larger Jaskan family tree. Mamie Leiberman, and her husband, Lou, were Jaskan cousins on my father's side. During World War II, Mamie started what I think was the first "cancellation shoe store" in the country. Her house was located near the Benjamin Franklin Bridge, and when we were kids, we would occasionally go there for shoes. The entire

house was full of shoes; they were even stacked in the bathroom! The business grew to support all of their children's families and eventually occupied a store on Route 70 across from what became Loehmann's.

When I was born my parents lived on Boyd Street. Shortly after my sister, Mindy, was born, Mom was diagnosed with a brain tumor and had surgery in October 1953. That year Dad bought a house at 2552 Baird Boulevard from Henry Schreiberstein and his wife, prominent members of the local Jewish community. While Mom was still in the hospital, my parents' friends, Joe and Ronnie Plevinsky, and others helped Dad move our belongings into the new house where our family lived for the next fifteen years.

Joe Plevinsky grew up with my dad. Soon after my parents married, they moved into a tiny apartment with tissue paper thin walls. One day after Dad came home from work, Mom told him that she had met the most wonderful woman who lived next door. This happy coincidence marked the beginning of a lifelong family connection with the Plevinsky family. I'm still in touch with their daughters, Joyce and Rena.

Ronnie ran a "beauty salon" in her basement, one of those businesses that flew under the radar. When I recently wrote her name, it looked strange to me. I thought, 'Ronnie? What kind of Jewish immigrant parents would name a child, Ronnie?' I then asked Joyce, who told me that there were four or five students named Rose in her mom's cosmetology class. Their teacher insisted that they each take a nickname and "Ronnie" stuck! I figured her original name must have been Raizel, which Joyce confirmed.

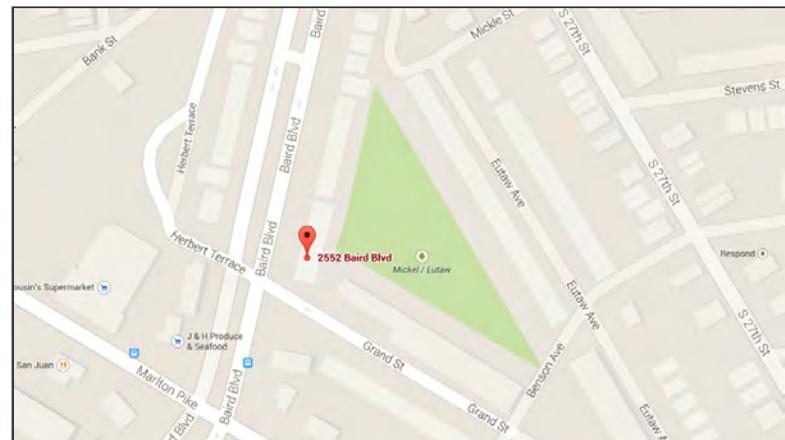
My memory of our block and what made it "The Boulevard" was the gorgeous, green swath of a double row of majestic elm trees, all of which sadly fell victim to Dutch Elm Disease in the '60s. Maples lined the curb side.

Our block in Camden was one of row homes with postage-stamp-size yards in the front and slightly larger backyards. On our side the homes were up a bit from the street. They all had cozy little back porches off the kitchen doors, a few steps up from the ground. In the summer everyone lived outside. Laundry was hung, and gardens were tended. We played in kiddie pools, set up badminton nets in one yard or another, roasted marshmallows till they were burnt black, and caught fireflies.



The moms sat on their porches during the day and watched one another's children while they sipped iced tea. Recipes were shared, and everyone knew who made the best matzah balls and the best chocolate cakes. I can still name all the neighbors up and down the block. What a gift to have had so many aunts and uncles because that's how we referred to all the adults. It wasn't until junior high that I discovered some of the people I thought were cousins were not related to me!

The alley behind our homes and the free-standing garages was called Amelia Terrace - such a sweet name for an alley. Early each spring, an old man (in my memory he was always old) would come walking down the alley with a load of wooden poles on his shoulder hawking, "Clothes props! Get yer clothes props!" His singsong chant was as much a part of spring as were the robins. The housewives would check the status of their old wooden props and buy new ones as needed. NOBODY had a clothes dryer. Why, the Claymans next door still had a wringer washer in the basement!



Behind our block of Baird Boulevard was "The Lot", an empty triangular space that was formed where Baird, Eutaw, and Grand met. For several summers in the late '50s, the city ran a day camp program there that

was built around swings and an open-sided shelter with a corrugated metal roof and a picnic table inside. During the first season our neighbor, Lucille Leonard, was one of the two counselors. It was thrilling to watch the two of them haul the trunk of art supplies and games out of Lucille's basement every morning and drag it to "The Lot" When it rained we had to hold tight to our shoes because "The Lot" became a swamp of sucking, ochre, clay mud!

Cramer School served as both an elementary and a junior high school. There was no auditorium, so when we had a school wide assembly, the kindergarteners and first graders carried their little wooden chairs into the gym and sat "three bottoms on two chairs". Kotlikoff's on Federal Street was the only authorized place to get the awful gym suits we were required to wear in junior and senior high school. While most of the girls had their names machine embroidered by the store, my mother insisted on sewing my name by hand. It was small comfort that there was one other girl whose mom did the same for her. The walk up to Kotlikoff's was also a regular pilgrimage for a Mother's Day gift. Memories of their good clothing and extremely patient assistance are sweet.

And who could forget the family that ran the Famous Delicatessen. In my child's eye view, snaggle-toothed Faygie with her broom could have been the double for the haggard witch who offered Snow White the apple. While her disabled husband, Lou, sat in a wooden chair by the front door, Faygie's gum-chewing sister, Rosie, in fishnet-stockings, stood behind the cash register. A chattering redhead was at the bread counter. Faygie and Lou's son, Jerry, sliced the lox and corned beef thin and picked the perfect, well-done pickle from the barrel. Vivid characters all.

My parents were among the last to leave the neighborhood. Their move was sparked by several hold-ups at gunpoint at my father's shop. Sad and scary. After sitting empty for over a year, that lovely home with its neat backyard, finished basement with a snazzy bar and cedar closets (thanks to the Schreibsteins) was finally sold in 1969 or 1970 for \$9,000.

Very few people today speak of Camden as the warm and neighborly place I knew as a child. As I have reconnected with classmates, regardless of which subgroup we belonged to, I find we share a sense of gratitude for the closeness we experienced growing up in Camden as part of the baby boomer/"let's play outside" generation. ❖

Phil Cohen's website, <http://www.dvrbs.com/>, is a treasure trove of information about Camden, its notable residents (Jewish and non-Jewish), institutions, businesses, etc.

Susan Leviton is an interpreter of Jewish songs, master calligrapher and papercutter. Her joyful embrace of Yiddish arts is matched only by her enthusiasm in sharing that joy. Her "ketubot" (marriage contracts), awards, and institutional art may be found in homes, synagogues, and awardees' offices across the country and in Jewish communities as far away as Denmark and Ukraine. To read more, click onto her website: www.susanlevitonarts.com.

LEARNING FROM MY FATHER, HENRY SCHREIBSTEIN

by Ruth Schreibstein Bogutz



Years ago the fourth grade teachers at Temple Emanuel in Cherry Hill decided to invite a multi-generational, committed Jewish family into the classroom to help the students understand the Patriarchs, so on a lovely, spring morning my father, one of my daughters and I walked into the classroom.

The kids had prepared a list of questions for us on everything from "How old are you?" to "What kind of education did you have?" My daughter, Lisa, was a teenager at the time. My father, Henry, was involved in Jewish life and could easily have been written up as one of Reader's Digest's "most unforgettable characters." He cared deeply about family and his extended family - our Jewish community- and willingly took on leadership roles. He was known for his common sense and his wonderful ability to break the tension of heated

debate with humor. He immigrated to Philadelphia from Grodno *Gubernia* (province) as a very young child and lost his mother one year later. He moved to Camden in his late thirties and opened a plumbing supply company at Broadway and Kaighns Avenue. As we entered the classroom Henry recognized the teacher from Philadelphia and greeted her warmly. He asked her to sit down and relax and then commented to the kids that he used to be a teacher.

The fourth graders began to ask their questions, and we told them about family life, grandparents, religious school, games we played and our respective educational backgrounds. Lisa said she was thinking about where she wanted to go to college and what she wanted to be when she grew up. I spoke about my degree from the University of Pennsylvania and the independent research I was doing, and my father explained that he was forced to leave school in eighth grade to go to work.

The students wanted to know about synagogue life, the Jewish community, and support for Israel. A boy in the back raised his hand and asked my father, “Sir, you said you didn’t finish school, but you said you were a teacher. Where did you teach and what did you teach?” I thought to myself, ‘How’s he going to get out of this?’, but my father’s answer was simple. “I never said I taught school. I taught one Jew what it meant to care for another”. And that he did.

Although he didn’t finish school, he got a wonderful education from reading. When I went to college he bought me a reel to reel tape recorder so that after each class I could record my notes. His company truck would appear in front of my dorm at semester breaks or vacations - sometimes with a bathtub or sinks awaiting delivery - and the tape recorder and all of my books would be loaded on. He would sit up all night listening to the tapes and reading the textbooks so that he could learn along with me.

Born in 1901 as Tzvi Hersch, his name later became Herschel so he could fit in as an American boy. During the 1920s, “everybody was wild about Harry”, and many businesses took on that name. By the time my father opened his business in Camden in the 1930s, a “Harry’s Plumbing Supply” was already being advertised in the *Courier Post*, so his company became “Henry’s Plumbing Supply”. Henry was involved in all aspects of Jewish communal life. He chaired the drive to build a school building for Congregation Beth El on Park Boulevard in the Parkside section of Camden, across from the park and a few steps from Camden High School. The school building later became the site for a Boys and Girls Club. He was an active member of the Beth El board for many years and was named a life trustee.

There had been a YMHA and YWHA in Camden that closed during the Depression, leaving no place for kids to gather or community celebrations. As the young men returned from World War II the need for a center became obvious, but some felt that a campaign for a center would detract from efforts to rescue Holocaust survivors. The need had to be met, and in the early 1950s a campaign began to build a center. The small parcel of land purchased in East Camden was soon found to be too small. Another site, at the current Pennsauken / Cherry Hill line on Route 70, was then selected, and a community fight began. My dad became chairman of the first capital fund drive for the new building which served our community until the late 1990s.

In addition to being the president of his business association, my dad was very actively involved in the Camden County Jewish community. He was one of the fifteen men who formed Community Realty, a group that purchased a public golf course and established Woodcrest Country Club at a time when Jews were barred from similar social organizations. He chaired the Jewish Federation’s publications committee that strengthened our newspaper, the *Jewish Community Voice*. He was a member of the Mizpah Lodge’s Free Loan Society, a small group of men who loaned money at no interest to local families and services, and on his own, he bought winter coats and washing machines for relatives and helped cousins go to college. He also served as



Henry Schreiberstein at the dedication of this eponymous playground in Camden. Daughter, Ruth, cuts the ribbon.

treasurer of the Jewish Federation and a member of the original board of the Jewish Geriatric Home which later became the Lions Gate Continuing Care Community in Voorhees.

I am devoting much of my energies now that I'm retired to sharing the history and struggles of the various Jewish communities of South Jersey and elsewhere, and I realize that my own history is clearly linked to that of my community. I still get tears in my eyes when I recall the time I looked at microfilm for the May 17, 1948 edition of the *Courier Post* and found an advertisement in support of the brand new State of Israel. I scanned the names of the signatories, and there was my dad! ❖

Author Ruth Schreibstein Bogutz writes: "I've been involved in our Jewish community as chairman of the "Voice," first director of volunteers at the Jewish Geriatric Home, and now by sharing our community's unique history. I hope someday I'll be called a teacher too." A lifelong resident of Camden County, New Jersey, Ruth Bogutz is a student of the Jewish history of this region. She has continued her family's commitment to working for the Camden Jewish community and has had a front row seat to much of that community's history. Her work as executive director of the Camden County Cultural & Heritage Commission led to her study of the collection of the Tri-County Jewish Historical Society. She regularly speaks to local organizations about the Jewish communities of Camden, Burlington, and Gloucester counties and leads tours of the Jewish settlements in Salem, Cumberland, and Cape May counties. You can reach Ruth at ruthsbogutz@gmail.com.

THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLISHING

by Shelda Bachin Sandler



Friday morning, June 27, 2014, began as any other beautiful summer morning. However, when I turned on my computer, I found an unexpected surprise!

I had received an email from an unknown address. The subject line read "Family History." Usually, I don't open e-mails from anyone I don't know, but there was no way I would delete an email with that subject. I opened it with some trepidation. Am I glad I did! In an instant, my day turned into a "WOW!" day!

First, a little background to help you understand why I was totally surprised when I turned on my computer. I was a Girl Scout when I was in the sixth grade. One of our activities was to begin a pen pal correspondence with someone living in a foreign country. I was linked to a Girl Guide (the English equivalent of a Girl Scout) named Norma who was my age. Although the assignment was designed to last for just the school year, our correspondence developed into a true friendship which continued for many years. At some point, we lost contact with each other. I attempted to find her years later, but by that time, Norma had married, and it became futile to try to locate her. Unbeknown to me, Norma also had fond memories of our years of correspondence and was similarly frustrated at not being able to locate me.

On that beautiful June morning, Norma and I were reunited through the magic of e-mail! She had become interested in genealogy about fifteen years ago. One day she was reading an article¹ and noted the author's name: "Shelda Bachin Sandler." The name "Shelda Bachin" brought back memories, and because my contact information followed the article, she was able to contact me via e-mail. She asked if I was her long lost pen pal, Shelda Bachin.

I was thrilled beyond words! I immediately replied, "YES!!! I AM YOUR PEN PAL, SHELDA BACHIN." And a long lost friendship was thus renewed.

I offer this as one of many, very good reasons for publishing articles of genealogical interest and including contact information. Had I not written about one of my "brick walls," this reunion could not possibly have occurred. ❖

P.S. Norma's search for her ancestors has revealed an impressive family heritage which goes back to the 15th century!!

Notes:

1. *The Search for the Name of My Great-Great-Great-Grandfather: Chronicles, Volume 28-3, pp. 5-7, Fall 2011.*

Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler is co-chair of JGSGP's Speakers Bureau. She was also Hospitality co-chair at the 2009 IAJGS-Philadelphia conference, co-chaired our first Genealogy Fair in June 2011, and is a frequent contributor to "Chronicles."
You can reach Shelda at: stanshel@msn.com

AUNT ZELDA OR WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by Ruth Kurschner



My Aunt Zelda is no longer my Aunt Zelda. Instead, she is my Aunt Seldy.

I always thought my father, Nuchim Kurschner, knew the names of his immediate family members. Of course he did, but transposing sounds from German and Yiddish into English was not always that easy for him. When my younger daughter was born, we decided to name her after his mother whom we knew as Wilcie. I wanted to know to know how Wilcie was spelled. If with a V, my baby would have been named Vicky, but if with a W, Wendy. The woman at Jewish Hospital in Philadelphia (now Einstein Medical Center) kept hounding me for my baby's name, while I still waited for my father's answer. The hospital was ready to write "Baby Girl Epstein" on my daughter's birth certificate. Finally he said "W." Our baby girl became Wendy Epstein, with the Hebrew name of Wilcie. Who knows if that was even the correct spelling?!

Despite this incident my mom and I trusted my father's versions of pronouncing his sisters' names. His two older sisters were Lena (Leia in Poland and in U.S. records), Rose (Rasche in Poland and on the U.S. records), and the youngest was Zelda in Poland and Sylvia in the U.S. The truth, however, came out in my research. The official records, the ship manifest on which Zelda sailed to New York and her naturalization papers, told a different story. Seldy Kirschner, was 18 years old when she arrived in the United States. The 1930 census lists her as Sylvia Dickman, her married name. Seldy is not Zelda which was my father's pronunciation. My mother and I have perpetuated this version of her name, as do my daughters and grandchildren.

My mother, father, my two daughters, my grandchildren and I still refer to my father's beloved younger sister as Aunt Zelda. Aunt Zelda's persistence is the reason why my parents and I survived the Holocaust. Aunt Zelda would not accept the State Department's refusals to grant my parents and me visas to enter the United States. Instead, she found new sponsors, presented new paperwork, showed determination each time, until the State Department granted us the visas. In my heart, she will always be my Aunt Zelda. However, in my family tree, she will be correctly documented as Seldy Kirschner in Poland and Sylvia Dickman in America. ❖

Armed with a B.A. in English from Rutgers and an M.A. in Writing from Rowan University, Ruth presently teaches English composition at Camden County College. In a "previous life" she worked as a legal secretary for forty years.

Ruth is researching: KLEINER, KAUFTHEIL, and KORNBLAU from Vienna and originally from Galicia. (towns: Tarnow and Hsuyatin; KURSCHNER, ROTENSTREICHER originally from Monasterzyzka, Poland.

Contact Ruth at: ruthkur@comcast.net

WHO SHE WAS: MY SEARCH FOR MY MOTHER'S LIFE BY SAMUEL G. FREEDMAN

Book review by Evan Fishman



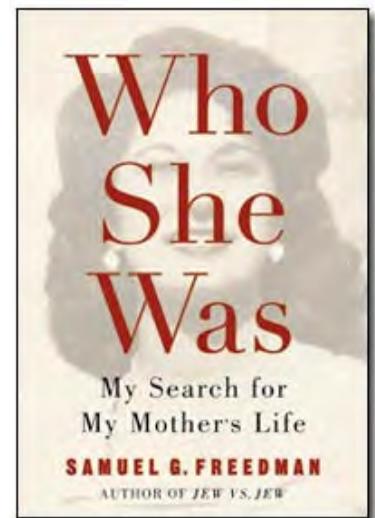
Samuel G. Freedman provides an absorbing and comprehensive examination of his mother's (Eleanor Hatkin Freedman, 1924-1974) formative and young adult years in *Who She Was: My Search for My Mother's Life*. Readers will identify with accounts of his maternal grandfather barely eking out a living, working only episodically during the Great Depression. This family's life was marked by deprivation, replete with hardship, both economic and psychological. Eleanor's concerted efforts to achieve academically and later contribute to her family's income echo those of first generation Americans.

What I found much more compelling, however, was the author's underlying motivations for writing this book. Freedman reveals that when his mother died from cancer at age fifty, he knew very little about her life. Like many young adults, he had focused on forging his own independence, often creating emotional distance from his mother. He later deliberately avoided visiting her grave; there was a definite emotional disconnect.

Decades later, a journalist friend and colleague commented that he noticed Freedman suddenly peppering his conversations with references to his long deceased mother. "In conversations and occasional speeches, I found myself mentioning stray details from my mother's life—her pride when Bess Meyerson was the first Jew chosen as Miss America, her dancing in the streets when the United Nations voted statehood for Israel."¹ When he finally visited his mother's grave following the burial of another relative, he started to ask questions about her that most of us are instinctively able to answer: 'Who was my mother before she became my mother? Whom did she love? Who broke her heart? What lifted her dreams? What crushed her spirit? What did she want to be? And did she ever get to be it in her brief time on earth?² . . . I told myself I wanted only one thing: to see my mother clear and true."³

He also recognized that his ignorance about his mother's early life alienated him from his maternal grandparents. "It closed me off from all the history and heritage they embodied, all the experience, all the knowledge."⁴ Researching and composing this book transformed his attitude and perspective. He began to comprehend his grandmother's valiant efforts to rescue her family in Poland, and in turn, he linked her personal suffering with the enormous impact of the Holocaust. "From beyond her grave, my grandmother has made the Holocaust palpable to me, taught me who and what my own lineage lost, taken the massiveness out of mass murder and turned it personal."⁵ Freedman was finally connecting the dots that intrinsically link family history and affinity for one's family with a burgeoning identification with the Jewish people.

After completing this book, I asked myself, 'Could I categorize this book as one of genealogical interest?' Although the author is a journalist, his research process closely resembled what we genealogists undergo to learn who our ancestors were. "It was time to pick up the tools of my craft, the pens and notebooks, the telephone and computer. I thought of them now as an archeologist's instruments, as if I were scraping up the dirt of antiquity one spoonful at a time and sifting it through wire mesh to find what chip of pottery or fragment of bone might remain."⁶ He was collecting the pieces and trying "to assemble the skeleton"⁷ of his mother's and grandparents' lives. Freedman was fleshing out part of his family's history, synthesizing the elements, fashioning a context, resulting in a coherent narrative. I concluded that we can't divorce the biographical, sociological, and psychological elements that we encounter in our research. Otherwise, our results are nothing more than a dry collection of names, dates, and locations, hardly befitting the legacy we ultimately want to bestow to our families. ❖



Notes:

- 1 Samuel G. Freedman, *“Who She Was: My Search for My Mother’s Life”* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005), 6.
- 2 Freedman, 17.
- 3 Freedman, 18.
- 4 Freedman, 9.
- 5 Freedman, 322.
- 6 Freedman, 18.
- 7 Freedman, 18.

“Chronicles” editor, Evan Fishman, writes frequently about genealogy. His biography and contact information are found on page 15, following his article there.

SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

by Linda Krocher

Moriah Amit, Genealogy Specialist with the Center for Jewish History, opened the 2014-2015 program year with a comprehensive overview of each of the constituents of the Center, their holdings and the value they have for genealogists.

The Center for Jewish History (CJH), <http://www.cjh.org> (15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011) is home to five partner organizations and also houses the Yeshiva University Museum. Any attempt to provide more than a brief overview of the mission and the resources of each of the CJH partner organizations would inevitably lead to omissions. URLs are instead provided to facilitate exploring the resources of each partner organization in depth.

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute, <http://www.cjh.org/p/34> has access to the full range of genealogical resources of the CJH partners’ collections. The Institute has developed fact sheets and guides for beginning and advanced researchers. An extensive microfilm collection includes microfilms of birth, marriage, and death records on indefinite loan from the Family History Library. Digital microfilm readers enable patrons to save images as JPGs, PDFs and other image file formats and also allow for printing. Genealogy librarians are available six days a week (Sunday through Friday) to assist patrons. Reference services may be reached by phone at 917-606-8217 or by e-mail Inquiries@cjh.org. Send “Ask a Librarian/Genealogist Queries” to <http://ask.cjh.org>.

The American Jewish Historical Society, <http://www.ajhs.org>

Founded in 1892, AJHS is the oldest national ethnic historical organization in the U.S. Its holdings include records dating from 1654 to the present of the nation’s leading Jewish communal organizations. Collections include orphanage records (subject to 70 year privacy laws), immigrant aid organizations, military records, court records, personal papers including family collections with genealogies and papers of rabbis and mohel books, and records of selected synagogues. When searching Ancestry.com, Fold3, include “AJHS” as a keyword.

American Sephardi Federation, <http://www.sephardiclibrary.org/>

The National Sephardic Library is the only library in the Western Hemisphere open to the public that is exclusively



Moriah Amit, Center for Jewish History

devoted to collecting, preserving and providing access to Sephardi/Mizrahi resources. Its records include vital records, marriage records and ketubot, circumcision records, cemetery records, notarial records, deportation lists, and family trees.

Leo Baeck Institute, <http://www.lbi.org/>

The Leo Baeck Institute, founded in 1955, is devoted to the history of German-speaking Jews and the Jewish communities of Central Europe over the past five centuries. It was named for Rabbi Leo Baeck, the last leader of Germany's Jewish community under the Nazi regime and the Institute's first president. Its collection includes family trees and histories, Jewish community histories and cemetery guides, Memorbucher (Memorial Books), Mohelbucher (circumcision records) for towns in mohel's area, lists of Schutzzjuden (protected Jews) and Schutzbriefe (Letters of Protection), biographical dictionaries, newspaper and newsletters, and Aufbau Announcement (Journal for German-speaking emigrants in New York City) with two to three pages of announcements, e.g., births, bar mitzvahs, etc.

Yeshiva University Museum, <http://www.yumuseum.org/>

Founded in 1973, the museum draws on its collection of more than 8,000 artifacts to produce two types of exhibitions, usually shown concurrently.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, <http://www.yivo.org/>

Founded in 1925 in Vilna, Poland (now Vilnius, Lithuania), as the Yiddish Scientific Institute, and headquartered in New York since 1940, the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research is dedicated to the history and culture of Ashkenazi Jewry. Resources include Vilna Poland archives, administrative community records, tax assessments, trials, unusual historical events, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society Arrival Cards (1909-1978), Case Files & Card Index (1930s-1960s) which may include visa applications and sponsor or relative searches in U.S., and Ellis Island Bureau Case Files (1905-1923) listing immigrants denied entry because of illness, senility, or no money. The latter are available only via special request by refugees or their heirs. Additional resources include *Landsmanshaftn* collections 1859-1984, People of a Thousand Towns Photographs Database, biographical dictionaries pertaining to different professions and crafts, and the largest collection of Holocaust resources other than those held by Yad Vashem and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. ❖

Thanks to JGSGP member, Linda Krocher, for her summary of our September meeting.

You can contact Linda at cappuccinoholic@gmail.com

OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY

STEVE SCHECTER MEMORIAL LECTURE

by Marilyn Mazer Golden



Our October meeting opened with a memorial tribute to the late Steve Schecter, former programming vice president, who died on September 30, 2013. JGSGP president, Fred Blum, and *Chronicles* editor, Evan Fishman, shared their memories of Steve. Afterwards, programming vice president, Mark Halpern, presented Steve's wife and daughters with the Outstanding Project Award plaque that IAJGS awarded our society in 2010 in recognition of the *Philadelphia Area Jewish Genealogy Resource Guide* that Steve spearheaded.



Fred Blum paying tribute to Steve Schecter

Guest speaker was Glenn Dynner, PhD, professor of Judaic Studies at Sarah Lawrence College, who gave an insightful presentation based on his recently published book, *Yankel's Tavern: Jews, Liquor, & Life in the Kingdom of Poland*.

Taverns were a typical fixture of Jewish life and served as a store, restaurant, source for advice, medical remedies, and resolution of disputes, and even a venue for Christian religious ceremonies. The Polish nobility leased them to Jews for several reasons: a) Jews didn't drink heavily, b) they could be trusted with the production and sales of liquor, and c) they would be able to effectively handle the business end.

Austria's involvement in the 1st Partition of Poland (1772) led to the abolition of Jewish tavern leases in 1789 because of strong opposition by church and government officials and rabbis and resulted in the displacement of 15,000 Jewish families in the Hapsburg Empire. Jews could no longer be distillers or tavern owners. Galician nobles complained because of the loss of trade. While the taverns were now illegal, the laws weren't always enforced, and Jewish tavern keeping continued to flourish. Each province in the empire had different rules regarding expulsion which didn't occur in the western part of the empire. In the Pale of Settlement, there was only sporadic Jewish displacement. Non-Jews were put up as a front while Jews in fact continued to run the businesses.

Grain production (including rye) was a lucrative business, but when grain exports began to decline, the Polish nobility turned to vodka production as a means of using that grain. Widespread drunkenness among the peasant population increased for which Jews were blamed. At its height 40% of the Jewish population was involved in the liquor trade.



**Glenn Dynner, PhD, Professor of Judaic Studies
at Sarah Lawrence College**



**(L-R) Steve Schecter's daughters, Meredith and Rachel, wife, Mary, and Mark Halpern
making a presentation in Steve's memory at JGSGP's October meeting**

A peaceful economic system was based on the myth that Jews don't drink. As a scholar of Hasidism, Dynner contends that Hasidism (which emerged at the end of the 18th century) developed a robust drinking culture based on the concept that G-d's presence is attracted through joy, and drinking, often in connection with life cycle events, served as a means to instill that joy and elevate the fervency of one's prayer.



A sizeable and attentive audience turned out for our October meeting. Evan Fishman is at the lectern paying tribute to our dear friend, Steve Schecter (z"l).

Satires emerged which depicted Hasidim drinking after each ritual during the day. On the other hand discretion (by drinking behind closed doors, in prayer houses or other select locations) was encouraged. When Dynner discovered Rabbi Eliyahu Guttmacher's collection of papers in the YIVO archives, he found a treasure trove of documents (6000 petitions) attesting to the serious involvement of Jews in the liquor trade in the 1870s (five to ten years before the first major

pogroms) and cooperation with Gentiles in tavern keeping. ❖

Marilyn Mazer Golden is a retired speech/language pathologist. Married to Michael, she has two children, Eli and Sarah. Her interest in genealogy has become a passion.

She is researching MAZER from Elinetz, Ukraine, SHUSTERMAN from Gaysen, Ukraine, NATHANSON from Odessa, Russia, LOCKMAN from Rzeszow, Poland, GOGOL from Savran, Russia, SLOTKIN from Smela, Russia CLOUTS from Telsiai, Lithuania, Glasgow, Scotland, and England. She enjoys helping others and can be reached at mazergolden@gmail.

Photos courtesy Ed Flax and Gene Hurwitz

OLD NEWSPAPER CLIPPING MYSTERY

by Walter Spector



My father, Sidney W. Spector, died in 1998. When I went through his effects I found the newspaper clipping to the right. I had no idea who it was. I checked all of the old family photos that I had collected but I saw no resemblance to anyone. Some years have passed, but I held on to the clipping. Then a great surprise occurred.

The Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center's (PJAC) 2014-2015 calendar has a full photograph of a Chanukah candle lighting that took place at the Hebrew Sheltering Home in 1948. The woman in the clipping is also in the calendar photograph. My great grandmother, Beile Eby, lived in the Sheltering Home, but I still needed more conclusive documentation. I showed the calendar picture to cousins. They had no idea. There was one last chance for identification and verification. I removed the clipping from the back of the card to which it had been glued. The article on the flip side of the clipping contained other Jewish topics. The daily Philadelphia newspapers would not have had enough



Jewish interest articles to support two full newspaper pages. This theory led me to the only other resource, the *Jewish Exponent*. I had to wait until after the Labor Day weekend to check this out.

Early Tuesday morning I went to the main branch of the Philadelphia Free Library which has the *Jewish Exponent* on microfilm. I asked for the roll containing December 1948 material. I scrolled through the entire month. On the last page of the December 31, 1948 issue was the photograph caption that identified the woman on the right as Mrs. Beile Eby, my great grandmother. I then went to PJAC where I could view digitized images of back issues of the *Jewish Exponent* and found several additional photos of my great grandmother. A brick wall was finally resolved. ❖



A former assistant principal in the Philadelphia School District, Walt Spector is an avid collector of historic Philadelphia-themed postcards (Chronicles, Vol. 28-4, Winter 2011-2012, p.15) and is proud of his roots in the agricultural colony of Woodbine, New Jersey. He now serves as a JGSGP vice president.

You can reach Walt at educonser@comcast.net.

BRICK WALL QUESTION

Shalom, I am trying to find out more about my Grandfather's Jewish ancestry and need help. My Grandfather John Arthur, changed his Jewish last name from Suckle or Suckel to Hanley before becoming a WW1 soldier. Is it possible to get documentation of this name change? I know that he had two brothers David and Harry. All were born in Pennsylvania and most of the family resided in the Philadelphia area.

My Grandfather was born on July 4th 1896 and was raised Jewish. He died in Los Angeles CA, April 2, 1978 as John Arthur Hanley. I want to find out more about my Jewish side of the family and obtain proof that my Grandfather was Jewish.

Can you direct me to a source that could help me? If I could find out what synagogue his family attended then hopefully they would have records of his circumcision, bar mitzvah etc. I would also like to obtain a birth certificate.

Thank you for any assistance you can provide.

Sincerely,

Lorene Faith

lorenefaith@roadrunner.com

JGSGP AT PBS' PHILADELPHIA "GENEALOGY ROADSHOW"

by Zyppora Goldberg

PBS and WHYY sponsored a two-day genealogy fair—on October 25 at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and on October 26 at the Franklin Institute. This event, held in conjunction with the filming of the Philadelphia edition of the “Genealogy Roadshow” TV series, provided the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGSGP) a great opportunity to promote its work and help answer questions about Jewish genealogical research.

Attendees of diverse backgrounds stopped by our exhibit. Several people inquired about Sephardic Jewish research in the Caribbean and in Holland. Others, who had just recently discovered through DNA testing that they had some degree of Jewish ancestry, wanted to know more. A number of non-Jews stopped by to pick up information for Jewish friends or ask about research in Eastern Europe. Two non-Jewish teachers were interested in possibly having speakers from our group talk to their classes.

The “Genealogy Roadshow” series helps pre-selected participants from different cities explore unverified genealogical claims passed down through family history that may (or may not) connect them to an event or a historical figure. Experts in genealogy, history and DNA then use family heirlooms, letters, pictures, historical documents and other clues to hunt down more information. The Philadelphia episodes will air in early 2015. JGSGP will be mentioned in the credits, and our members who staffed the exhibit will appear in some background shots.



Thank you (L-R) Felicia Mode Alexander, Zyppora Goldberg, Barry Wagner, Laurel Katz staffing the JGSGP table following volunteers who helped me plan and staff this event: Felicia Mode Alexander, Fred Blum, Bernard Cedar, Laurel Katz, Ruth Kurschner, Susan Neidich, Barbara Pilvin, Walt Spector, and Barry Wagner. ❖

A first-generation American and daughter of Holocaust survivors from Poland, Zyppora Goldberg hails from Philadelphia and now lives in Horsham. She got a jump-start in researching her family's lost history by attending the IAJGS-Philadelphia conference in 2009.

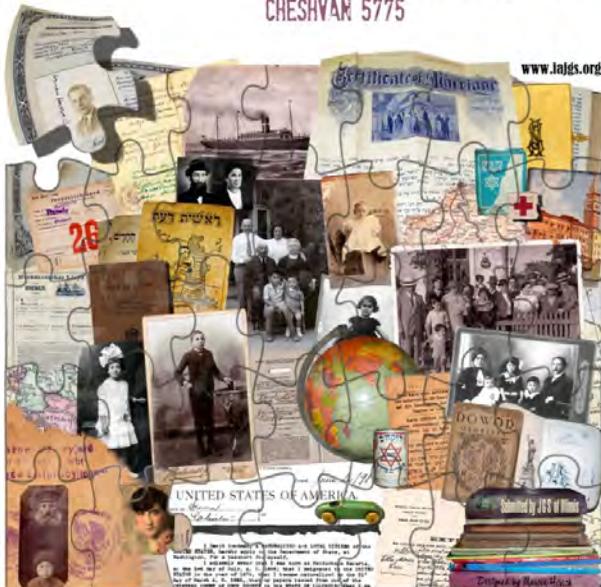
Researching in Poland: GLODOWSKI, ROSENBLUM / Pultusk; JURKOWICZ, HERYNGER / Pultusk / Zareby / Stoczek; FREIDENREICH, HERSZENBERG, BORENSTEIN / Warka/Brzeziny / Lodz; GOLDBERG / Warsaw / Glowaczow. Zyppora is a technical writer, currently working in the healthcare field. Contact Zyppora at: tktr@yahoo.com

The *Chronicles* editorial team is looking for a volunteer to assist in graphic design and layout. If you have experience using QuarkXpress, Adobe Indesign or similar page layout software or know someone else who does, we would love to hear from you and have you join the *Chronicles* team.

Please contact Ed Flax, Graphics Editor, for more information: ejflax@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH

OCTOBER 25 TO NOVEMBER 22, 2014
CHESHVAM 5775



EVERY PIECE TELLS A SPECIAL STORY.

Don't miss JGSGP's upcoming November 16th meeting. Resolve to focus on your family and your family tree during International Jewish Genealogy Month



JGSGP PHOTO QUIZ #4:

by Walter Spector



Kinsey Elementary School Philadelphia Safety Patrol 1956

Can you locate the two JGSGP members in this picture?

Located at 65th and Limekiln Pike in the West Oak Lane neighborhood of Philadelphia, the John L. Kinsey (Elementary) School was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1968. The Philadelphia School District closed the school in 2013. For more information about the importance of old photographs and genealogy, refer to a very comprehensive site and resource for further information: www.ajmorris.com/roots/photo/pg.php --

“Photography and Genealogy” Copyright 1995 by Andrew J. Morris, All Rights Reserved.

Jewish Genner, Ava Cohn, a/k/a “Sherlock Cohn: The Photo Genealogist”, specializes in detecting and interpreting the clues that can further your genealogical research. Her website is: <http://sherlockcohn.com/>

You'll find the answer to this issue's quiz on the bottom right hand side of page 2.

A REMEMBRANCE OF LEONARD MARKOWITZ

We regret to report that former JGSGP president (1995-99, 2002-03) Len Markowitz died on September 29.



Len retired in 1991 after a long career as a chemist and aerospace engineer and became interested in researching the genealogy of his wife's and his families. This resulted in the 2000 self-publication of a 424-page book entitled, *Four Jewish Families in Philadelphia*. The core surnames were Solotnitsky, Markowitz, Malinger, and Rosenberg, and he listed over 1200 separate individuals. The book includes descriptions of life in Eastern Europe during the 19th century, the voyage to America, what Philadelphia was like when the families arrived at the turn of the 20th century, and what happened during the Holocaust in the small European towns mentioned in the book. Len was also a founder of the Yizkor Book Special Interest Group (see Len's article in *Chronicles*, volume 30-2, pp. 5-6) and a board member of JewishGen Inc.

May he be remembered for his dedication to our society and his unstinting efforts on behalf of Jewish genealogical research.

REQUEST FOR JEWISH GENEROSITY

Subject: seeking volunteer to take pictures in Philadelphia

From: data2net@swbell.net

Date: Tue, 12 Aug 2014 05:59:33 -0700

Greatly appreciated if there is anyone willing to take two grave stone pictures at Har Nebo Cemetery in Philadelphia.

Please contact me privately for grave location and cemetery map if interested.

Regards, Joe Glass

**Reminder: Deadline for submission of articles for
Chronicles winter issue is Monday, December 1.**

Please send material to: editor@jgsgp.org

JGSGP SPEAKERS BUREAU

JGSGP is proud of its Speakers Bureau and would like to reach a broader audience in the greater Philadelphia Jewish community.

Our motto is: "Have expertise in genealogy, will travel." We have speakers available for synagogue groups and organizations to help their members get started in tracing their family roots. Please contact Stan and Shelda Sandler at stanshel@msn.com for more details. Our publicity flyer can be found at: http://www.jgsgp.org/Documents/Speakers_Bureau.pdf

The following Speakers Bureau guidelines have been approved by the JGSGP board of trustees.

- There is a \$100 fee for a speaker.
- The fee will be waived if five attendees join the JGSGP after the presentation: speaker receives five completed JGSGP membership applications and a \$25 check with each.
- Presentations are given to groups of at least ten adults interested in genealogy.
- Presentations can be made at synagogues and affiliated groups such as men's clubs, sisterhoods, and organizations like ORT and Hadassah, within a 20-30 mile radius of Philadelphia.

Schools, JCC's, and retirement homes will be considered on a case-by-case basis as long as they agree with the above guidelines.



Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia
2015 Membership & Renewal Form
 Enjoy *Chronicles*, Our Award Winning Quarterly Publication

Please print, complete and mail this form with your check to our NEW ADDRESS:
 JGSGP, 1657 The Fairway, #145, Jenkintown, PA 19046

You may also complete our online form and pay your dues using Paypal on our web site:
<http://www.jgsgp.org/>

Membership Categories	New	Renewal	Amount
Individual - \$25			
Family - \$35 (2 Person Household)			
Additional Voluntary Contribution			
A check is enclosed for the amount of:			

Name (please print) _____

Additional Name(s) _____

Address 1 _____

Address 2 _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Phone (____) _____ email: _____

Family Membership second email: _____

Dues are for the calendar year, January 1-December 31, 2015.

(New members joining after September 30, 2014, receive membership benefits through December 31, 2015.)

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 three surnames, towns and current countries which will later be shared with other members.

Surname	Town	Country



JGSGP CALENDAR & REMINDERS

Please note that our mailing address has changed to:
1657 The Fairway, #145 Jenkintown, PA 19046
Please direct all U.S. mail correspondence to this address.



Look for information about other IAJGS member societies:
<http://www.iajgs.org/members/members.html>

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

A thirty minute period before each meeting is devoted to browsing reference books and help from mentors.
Program details will be posted on the JGSGP website as soon as they are complete: www.jgsgp.org

Sunday, November 16, 1:30 pm, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel

8339 Old York Road, Elkins Park PA 19027

Speaker: Allan Jordan, Historian and Author

“Probate Records: Wills and Estates - Why to Search and How to Search”



A historian and author by background, Allan first got involved with genealogy while working to build his own family tree which today dates back to the 1700s. He has followed his family from Courland and the Ukraine to the United States, Scotland, South Africa, Australia and Israel. He applied his research skills as a historian and became what he likes to call a "professional amateur" genealogist. He enjoys sharing his experiences with fellow researchers and also helps people seeking research in the New York area or extra skills in building their family tree.

Probate, which includes wills and estate records, is an interesting topic because it's not a source people immediately think about, but the files are rich with information and can provide routes around research roadblocks. He will review the ins and outs of searching for wills and estates and how to get started to find your family files. He will also show examples of typical records and the “unique finds” he has located in his quest through the courts.

Sunday, December 14, 1:30 pm, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel

Speaker and topic to be confirmed after our press time.

Please check the JGSGP website for up to date information for this meeting.

Sunday, January 11, 2015, 1:30 pm, Main Line Reform Temple

410 Montgomery Ave, Wynnewood Pennsylvania 19096

Sarah Wildman, long time New York Times writer

“Paper Love: Searching for the Woman My Grandfather Left Behind”

Wildman traces a path from Vienna to the Czech Republic to Berlin back to Vienna, to Israel, to the United States. Her talk will touch on research methodology, archives (including the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany), dead ends and unexpected twists and turns.

Sunday, February 8, 2015, 1:30 pm, Main Line Reform Temple

Karen Franklin, Director of the Family Research Project, Leo Baeck Institute, New York, NY

“New Strategies for Researching German-Jewish Ancestry: Do We Still Need Archives?”

**For complete and up to the minute program information,
check your JGSGP emails or our web site: <http://jgsgp.org>**