

CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים

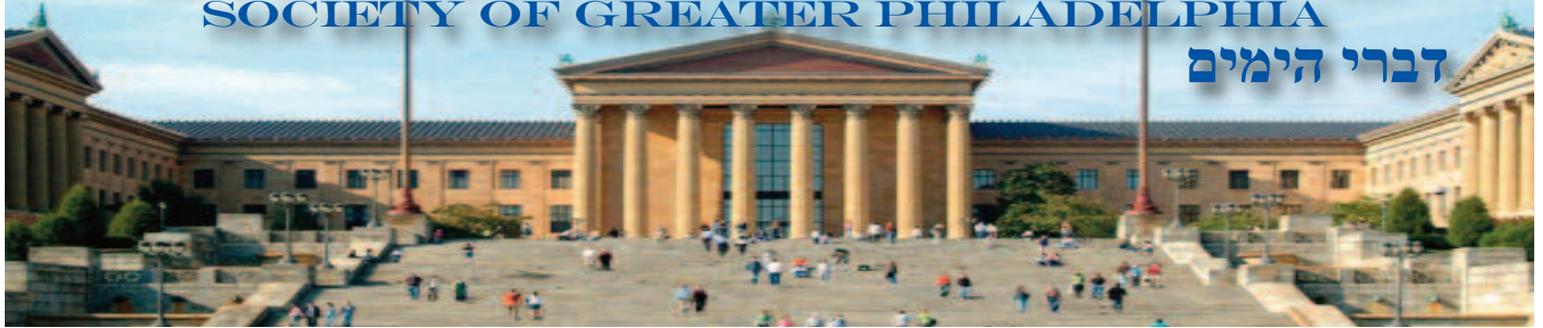


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Commentary

- 1 Reflections from Your *Chronicles* Team
- 2 JGSGP Contact Information
- 4 Welcome to New Members
- 4 President's Message

Book Reviews

- 5 *What They Saved - Pieces of a Jewish Past* by Nancy K. Miller
Reviewed by Evan Fishman
- 7 *Endogamy: One Family, One People*
Reviewed by Lara Diamond

Tips, Techniques & Tools

- 8 Search Tip for Ancestry.com: Use a Wild Card
James Gross
- 11 Photo Restoration: 40th Anniversary Spanish-American War Veterans Gathering
Ed Flax
- 12 A Look Inside Historic Congregation B'nai Abraham
David Mink

IAJGS Jerusalem Conference

- 14 Random Thoughts on the IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem
David Brill
- 15 Report on the IAJGS Jerusalem Conference (July 2015)
Rabbi Shalom Bronstein
- 16 Finding Family in Israel
Zyppora Goldberg
- 19 2015 IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem
James Gross
- 22 One Exceptional Conference Experience
Mark Halpern
- 25 What Are You Looking For?
Michael Jaron
- 26 Meeting My Cousin Claire & Learning Her Story of Survival
Steve Jaron
- 28 Missing Links: How Are We Connected?
Meeting Cousins in Israel For the First Time
Avivah Pinski

Meeting Summaries

- 30 September Meeting Summary
Stewart Feinberg, Linda Ewall-Krocker & Marilyn Golden
- 32 October Meeting Summary
Marilyn Golden
- 33 Postscript to February 2015 Meeting: Glenn Kurtz
Evan Fishman

Bringing the Past Forward

- 34 Overcoming Tragedy & Becoming the Matriarch of a New Family
Dr. Stanley Sandler
- 36 Did You or Your Relatives Attend These Philadelphia Public Schools?
Walter Spector
- 38 My Family's Multi-Generational Business
Evan Fishman
- 40 Russian Jewish Population Data: An Update
Joel Spector

Miscellaneous

- 43 Forum: Getting Help from Prospective Relatives;
Disinterested Relatives
- 46 JGSGP Quiz - *David Brill*
- 46 JGSGP Speakers Bureau
- 47 Membership & Renewal Form
- 48 JGSGP Calendar & Reminders

REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM

Fall 2015

"Never rule out even the most insignificant clue."



Several months ago I was rummaging through memorabilia that my late parents had saved. I came across a postcard with the photograph of a man with a white beard wearing a top hat.



'Who is he?', I wondered. I also saw a message in Yiddish on the flip side along with an address in English: "Mr. J. Baron, 153 Prince St., Newark, N.J." and a 1914 postmark.



I recognized the addressee as my great great uncle. Had that meaningful address not appeared, I would've put this postcard on the back burner. Apparently someone in my family had saved this now, century old document for some unknown reason. (Continued on p. 3)

CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

JGSGP MEMBERSHIP

Membership dues and contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Please make checks payable to JGSGP and mail to the address below. Please include your email address and zip+4 / 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
CHRONICLES (ISSN 0893-2921) is the quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia. It is free to JGSGP members and to JGS's in the newsletter courtesy-exchange program. Printed and mailed back issues are available at \$4.00 each in the US and \$7.00 outside the US. *Chronicles* is published quarterly and distributed electronically in PDF format. Please supply the Vice President - Membership with your updated email address to ensure on-time delivery.

Copyright © 2014 All Rights Reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the prior written permission of The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia. <http://www.jgsgp.org/>

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor - Evan Fishman - editor@jgsgp.org
Graphics & Design - Ed Flax - ejflax@gmail.com
Associate Editors:
Felicia Mode Alexander - fmode@verizon.net
Elaine Ellison - ekellison@navpoint.com
Marge Farberman - margefarb@aol.com
Stewart Feinberg - stewfein@gmail.com
Ann Kauffman - kauffmanj982@aol.com
Cindy Meyer - cfrogs@aol.com

OFFICERS

President: Fred Blum president@jgsgp.org
Vice President - Programs:
Mark Halpern - programs@jgsgp.org
Vice President - Membership:
Susan Neidich - membership@jgsgp.org
Vice President:
Walter Spector - educonser@comcast.net
Treasurer:
Barry Wagner - barryswagner@comcast.net
Immediate Past President:
Mark Halpern - mark@halpern.com
Trustee: Joel Spector - jlspector@aol.com
Trustee: Harry D. Boonin - harryboonin@gmail.com
COMMITTEE CHAIRS
Hospitality: Judy Becker - jbecker209@gmail.com
New Member Orientation
Lois Sernoff - jglois@verizon.net
Publicity: Jack Weinstein - jwv@juno.com
Russian Special Interest Group
David Brill - brilldr@comcast.net
South Jersey Affiliate:
Bernard Cedar - bernardcedar@yahoo.com
Speakers Bureau:
Shelda & Stan Sandler - stanshel@msn.com
Webmaster:
Jim Meyer - webmaster@jgsgp.org

Quiz Answer:
The influential Philadelphia based American architect whose father's Petition for Naturalization is on p. 46 is Louis Kahn, a graduate of Central High School and the University of Pennsylvania. Among his architectural masterworks are the Yale University Art Gallery (New Haven, CT) and the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, CA.

(Reflections from p. 1) I wasted no time uploading both the photograph and the message to JewishGen's ViewMate feature hoping that someone would provide some meaningful clues.

Within hours I received several translations, but one in particular stood out. Not only did that respondent provide a full translation, but he also identified the man in the top hat as Zeidel Rovner (professional name for Jacob Samuel Morogowski), a noted *hazzan* (cantor) and composer of Jewish liturgical music in the early twentieth century. The translation revealed that he was a nephew to my great great grandparents and was extending an invitation to the family to hear him recite *Kinot* (Book of Lamentations) at *Tisha B'Av* (literally "Ninth of Av", the saddest day of the Jewish calendar, when we recall many tragedies, including the destructions of the First and Second Temples) services at a synagogue on the Lower East Side in New York City. The respondent subsequently sent me a copy of a newspaper advertisement promoting this performance and a 1933 article from the Brooklyn *Daily Eagle* which reported that Rovner and his wife were destitute.

Conclusions: A seemingly insignificant bit of information, in this case an address, provided the incentive to delve into the whys and wherefores of this postcard. In addition, I heartily recommend taking advantage of JewishGen's many, many resources and features. Networking through the ViewMate feature was instrumental in solving my puzzle and added a new dimension to the story of that branch of my family.

We are pleased to include discussions regarding other tips, techniques, and tools in our fall issue. James Gross explains how to use wildcards when searching on www.ancestry.com, and Ed Flax demonstrates the effectiveness of certain techniques in restoring a large, damaged, group photo and preserving it as a significant archival item for his family history.

This summer's IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) conference in Jerusalem is our main focus in this issue. Several contributors (Avivah Pinski, Zypora Goldberg, and Steve Jaron) relate how their research prior to the conference enabled them to link with previously unknown relatives in Israel. I believe research that results in connections with living family members is the most rewarding aspect of our efforts. David Brill and Mark Halpern share some unique and unexpected circumstances they experienced during the conference, and Rabbi Shalom Bronstein, a native Philadelphian who resides in Israel, describes his involvement in conference planning and unexpected encounters. James Gross describes the presentation he delivered at the conference, and Michael Jaron weighs in on his travels in Israel.

Walter Spector and David Mink use different sources to uncover Philadelphia's Jewish past. In asking our readers if they attended particular schools, Walt delves into Philadelphia's public school system to reveal some notable graduates. David's strong involvement with Congregation B'nai Abraham (located at 527 Lombard St., Philadelphia) enables him to demonstrate how the *yahrzeit* (memorial) plaques there can yield important information.

We've all experienced brick walls, and in this issue, several JGSGP members offer suggestions in our Forum piece as to how to achieve greater success with relatives we've never met or contacted and generate greater interest for our

RY 20, 1933 M 2

WELL-KNOWN RABBI NOW DESTITUTE



Mrs. Ida Rovner and the Rev. Zeidel Rovner.

Rabbi, Welcomed By Mayor in 1926, Is Now Destitute

Seidel Rovner, noted for Jewish liturgical music, may lose home here.

Once welcomed by Mayor Walker, who presented the keys of the city to him in 1926, the Rev. Seidel Rovner, who composed much of the Jewish liturgical music now used in American synagogues, is destitute in his home at 827 W. 4th St. because he owns the home, the mortgage on which soon is to be foreclosed, the 77-year-old rabbi is ineligible for public relief.

In 1923, when his golden wedding anniversary was celebrated in the old Hippodrome, so many tried to enter that the police had to be summoned to drive the overflow crowd away. Sharing his destitutions are his wife and their son and daughter, who are out of work.

Among Rabbi Rovner's works is the "Golding Song," which for more than 50 years has been sung in synagogues throughout the world.

In addition to being received by Mayor Walker, Rabbi Rovner, accompanied by a delegation of New Yorkers, was received by the late President Coolidge at the White House in 1926. During his call the cantor chanted a prayer he had written in honor of the President and presented to Mr. Coolidge a set of phylacteries.

In those days Cantor Rovner was giving concerts throughout the country. Now his voice is less robust and he can not support himself in his musical role. In the last few years he has been devoting himself to completion of his life work which he has characterized as "weaving the Psalms of David into a golden melody."

Doubts Glass Bill Will Bring About Desired Results

George V. McLaughlin discusses measure before State Bankers Meeting.

Doubt that passage of the Glass Bill with its extension of branch banking privileges will bring about the much desired solvency was expressed today in a speech prepared by George V. McLaughlin, president of the Brooklyn Trust Company and read before the mid-Winter meeting of the New York State Bankers Association of the Federal Reserve Bank this afternoon.

Mr. McLaughlin's speech was read by Charles B. Boyce, assistant secretary of the Brooklyn Trust, Mr. McLaughlin being confined to his home through illness.

"Some observers seem to believe that the Glass bill will bring about a solution of one of our greatest banking problems—solvency," Mr. McLaughlin's speech stated.

"Such hopes are apparently predicated on the expectation that branch banking systems will automatically expand once the legal obstacles are removed. There is room for doubt on this point. Conservative banks are not likely to open or acquire additional branches unless they see probabilities of profit in doing so, and these probabilities at present do not appear particularly bright unless we reach a solution of the question of banking costs and interest rates."

The subject of Mr. McLaughlin's speech was "The High Cost of Banking and Interest Rates."

He expressed the belief that the way has been paved for a reduction in the rates of interest paid by commercial banks in New York State on time and thrift deposits.

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

Jennifer Schied

Stuhl, Stull: Rowno/Rivne, Ukraine & Zsitomer, Russia; Sussman/Pearlzeig: Ostroh/Ostrog, Zsitomer, Russia; Rachles/Rokhles, Epelbaum/Applebaum: Wysokie-Litewskie/Vysokoye, Belarus

Sid Severe

Freedman & Parno: Hungary, Markowitz & Dara: Slovakia, Levy & Metzeresche: France

New Hope, PA

Mt. Laurel NJ

Scott Olitsky

Ulitsky: Belaya Tserkov, Russia (today's Ukraine)

Pamela Smith

Adolph: Pennsylvania
David (Eliyah haKohen) Shapiro

Alan Turoff

Allen Stein

Indianer and Eisenstein: Chodorow, Galicia;
Eisenstein & Jassi: Romania

Leawood, KS

Wheat Ridge, CO

Cherry Hill NJ

Morrisville, PA

work with our close family members.

We also present updates on past stories: Joel Spector's diligent work on Russian population studies and the tribulations and ultimate success of Stanley Sandler's grandmother. Please also note our ongoing promotion (p. 46) for our society's underutilized resource - our Speakers Bureau. We have a cadre of worthwhile speakers who are eager to share their knowledge with community organizations. Please don't hesitate to contact Shelda and Stanley Sandler to schedule a speaking engagement.

Your editorial team hopes you continue to enjoy the content in *Chronicles*. New and previous contributors are the backbone of our publication's success. ❖ *Evan Fishman, Editor*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October 2015

This past July, my wife and I had the opportunity to visit Israel to attend the IAJGS conference in Jerusalem. Our trip had a twofold purpose. The first was to attend my tenth IAJGS conference where it is always good to see old friends and learn new research strategies. The second part was to visit relatives that I had met in 1999. When I started my genealogy research in 1998, I never knew I had so many relatives in Israel. They are all related to my maternal grandfather, Jacob Schrage. The most remarkable find in 1998 was that my grandfather's youngest sister was still alive and living in Israel. Faige/Zipporah was twenty years younger than my grandfather; he never knew her because he had left the family home long before she was born. My wife and I took my mother to visit this aunt that she never knew anything about.

We have made great connections with our "new" cousins. Many have visited us in Philadelphia. My second cousin Eyal (Zipporah's grandson) and his wife Ofira, invited us to stay at their home before we moved to the conference hotel. Eyal and Ofira were wonderful hosts, and they took us to areas of Israel where we had never been and gave us a flavor of what life is like on a daily basis.

As for the conference, I guess I'm spoiled by the great conference our society organized in 2009. The conference hotel was not in an ideal location for touring and was in need of a total refurbishment. The facilities, in my opinion were in-



Ofira (l) and Eyal

adequate for a group of about 800. On the other hand there were many good lectures. Our Mark Halpern gave attendees an update on JRI-Poland's indexing project. I also attended several lectures by E. Randol (Randy) Schoenberg (including "Privacy Issues With Online Trees") and also Pamela Weisberger. Shockingly this past September the genealogy world suffered a great loss with Pamela's

untimely passing. She was the president of Geshet Galicia and was very instrumental in making many cadastral maps of Galicia available. A person of Pamela's character will be almost impossible to replace. Please read a tribute to her at <http://www.geshetgalicia.org/about-geshet-galicia/pamela-weisberger-in-memoriam/> ❖ Fred Blum, President



Fred Blum (right) with E. Randol (Randy) Schoenberg. The 2015 film, "Woman in Gold" is based on "one of the great battles in art-law history" which Randy handled.

WHAT THEY SAVED: PIECES OF A JEWISH PAST

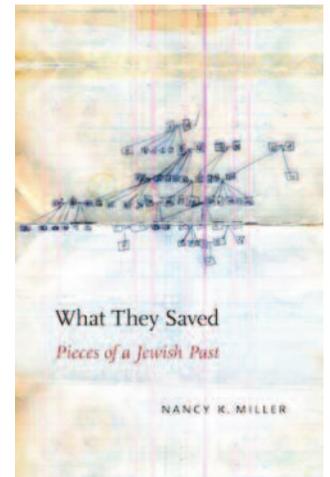
by Nancy K. Miller

BOOK REVIEW BY EVAN FISHMAN



Imagine that you found the following items in a bureau drawer in a deceased relative's home:

... baffling items from a Jewish legacy I knew almost nothing about: a formal family portrait glued to crumbling brown cardboard, with a fully bearded, fedora-topped patriarch seated in the front row next to my grandfather; a receipt for the upkeep of a cemetery grave in Queens; directions to an unveiling; copies of handwritten letters that appeared to be in Hebrew; an embroidered blue-velvet *tallis* bag (complete with *tefillin*); a folder mysteriously labeled "property in Israel" (including a map); and tightly curled locks of dark-blond hair packed into a cardboard box that once held fancy French soap. (pp. 3-4)



The reviewer's great uncle's *tefillin*

It was easy to become engrossed in *What They Saved: Pieces of a Jewish Past* by Nancy K.

Miller because of her evocative prose and absorbing description of her genealogical journey. While reading I periodically asked myself why her story was so captivating. I quickly realized that she was affirming our respective genealogical journeys. I don't know if it was deliberate on the author's part, but she interspersed probing questions with telling anecdotes:



Early on, my husband's son, a scientist, asked me what my book was about. I told him that the things I have inherited are like signposts to a journey I cannot completely describe; I don't know

Tightly curled locks of dark-blond hair packed into a cardboard box that once held fancy French soap which Miller found in a bureau drawer in her late father's home.

enough to connect the dots between them. He offered a word he thought might help me, “spline.” Splines fill in the blanks between isolated points, construct a complete object from limited information. (p. 5)

A few days after this Miller was in a framer’s shop where

“The shopkeeper showed me a narrow ridge of wood at the edges of the handmade frame I’d selected; it’s a spline, he said. That’s what holds the corners together. I’m a sucker for metaphors, and this one has my name on it, especially because it works in two directions: as a way to navigate unknown spaces and as a way to frame the fragmentary map of my discoveries. (p. 5)

Miller intermittently offers words of advice that could be included in our own publication’s “Techniques, Tool & Tips” feature. Consider these statements: “I had already learned the second lesson of the quest. You don’t necessarily know what it is you’ll want to know.” (p. 22) or “How many times have I missed what was right before my eyes?” (p. 3) or “what most often proves valuable is almost never what you were expecting.” (p. 158). These comments all speak to the emotions we experience in our research efforts. If you go to the book website: <http://whattheysaved.com>, Miller lists “12 Steps To Help You Start Your Own Roots Quest” under the “Tips” tab.

To give readers a better understanding of the scope of Miller’s journey, I’d like to provide some chapter summaries:

- Establishing contact with her first cousin, Julian, and his daughter, both of whom she had never met;
- Her father’s high school report card and other documents related to his education and service in the Citizens Training Camp in the 1930s;
- Photograph of her paternal grandparents and father’s older brother taken in Kishinev [Russia] before their immigration to the U.S. as well as a portrait of the larger family shortly after that arrival;
- Correspondence between her paternal grandfather and colleagues on the board of directors of a particular Talmud Torah on New York City’s Lower East Side along with an engraved cigarette case;
- Rudimentary family tree fashioned by her grandfather with her father’s additions;
- Letter in Yiddish from Argentina and discovery of a suicide in that branch;
- Elaborate correspondence between her parents before they were married including comments about incidents of anti-Semitism;
- Her uncle’s service as mayor of South Tucson, Arizona and his prior involvement in anti-Prohibition activities;
- Portrait of four generations of Kipnis men, estrangement between her father and his brother, note of desperation in a 1955 letter from that uncle, perceptions each brother had of the other, the thread of connection that remained between them despite the significant disparity in their respective circumstances;
- Meeting a distant relative, who provided information about a common uncle about whom Miller was trying to learn more.

How many of us have experienced feelings of regret because of “an aching sense of double belatedness. On the one hand, here I was pursuing my father’s side... of which, ... I knew nothing. ... ‘Which was stranger: that I never knew my father’s family, or that I never wondered why I did not know them? (p. 149). ... My cousin’s sadness about not telling that story makes me long to overcome her feeling of belatedness, moves me to counter that silence after the fact by following the traces of the unwritten history--- (p. 179)

Miller realizes that we must be open to the disparate perceptions our family members have because none of us really relates to a specific person in the same way nor do we experience them in the same circumstances. She appreciates the bonds that unexpectedly develop. “Removed or second, by marriage or blood, these distant cousins have become precious

to me, close.” (p. 135) While on a trip to Israel, Miller was determined to unravel the mystery of the folder labeled “property in Israel”: “I had unfinished business with the dunhams that I had fantasized about for over five years. . . . I felt compelled to stand on the land, on the plot my grandparents had funded, grounding their gesture.” (p. 187)

I choose to quote Miller extensively rather than attempt to analyze her well-crafted, eloquent narrative. Her words speak for themselves: “[My uncle’s] order book was a reminder, if I needed one, that the past continues to reshape our ideas of who we are in the present. That’s also why we find it so difficult to stop our excavations: the archeology of ancestry reveals as much about us as it does about the beings lost to us in time.” (p. 229). ❖

Evan Fishman is the editor of Chronicles and often reviews books of genealogical interest.

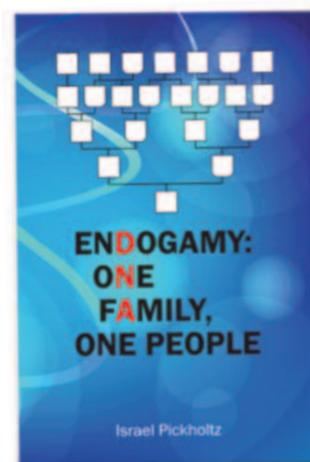
ENDOGAMY: ONE FAMILY, ONE PEOPLE

by Israel Pickholtz

BOOK REVIEW BY LARA DIAMOND



Anyone with Ashkenazic Jewish heritage--or heritage from other self-contained communities--knows that genetic genealogy is much harder than it is for the typical individual. We're all related to one another in many ways, and often we're a product of multiple close-cousin marriages. Therefore, genetic closeness can be amplified, and a predicted 2nd-4th cousin match actually may be a 8th cousin 12 ways without a relationship closer than that. This isn't to say that there can't be successes--genetic genealogy is how I found my grandfather's aunt's family--it just makes things more difficult.



Israel Pickholtz's new book "Endogamy: One Family, One People" serves to demonstrate how even when dealing with an endogamous population, there is still huge potential in combining genetic genealogy with traditional research. To do this, he steps through the research he has done with his own family--and the reader can take lessons which can be applicable to his or her own research.

Did I enjoy this book? Well, let's just say when I finished reading it (staying up way later than I should have), I read it a second time to make sure I caught everything.

A point stressed many times is how critical testing many family members can be. Each will have inherited different chunks of a mutual ancestor's DNA, so even testing siblings can give more information. (I saw this recently--my mother's results came back, and her matches were quite different from her brother's.) Pickholtz leveraged the DNA of multiple known relatives to understand how other relatives were--and were not--related.

Pickholtz approaches DNA differently than many genealogists do. Rather than using DNA in a more self-centered way to find relatives, he uses it to connect distinct branches. He uses DNA from known cousins to both add additional ammunition to posited relationships as well as to completely destroy hypotheses. He has particular goals and clearly lays out his thought process allowing the reader to utilize these methods as well.

The book talks about some of the tools used, one of the most powerful being GedMatch's Lazarus tool,

which allowed the author to reconstruct much of his deceased father's and grandfather's genomes, giving him a much more powerful tool for analysis.

Being part of an endogamic population implies that two individuals in that population are likely related on many branches of their families. This is stressed throughout the book as well as in the title--we are truly "One Family, One People."

<http://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com/2015/09/book-review-endogamy-one-family-one.html> ❖

Reviewer, Lara Diamond, Ukraine SIG Projects Director for IAJGS is President of JGS of Maryland and has been researching her family for twenty-five years, since she was too young to have a driver's license and had to rely on her mother to drive her to the National Archives. She has traced all branches of her family back to Europe and most multiple generations back using Russian Empire-era records. Most of her research is in modern-day Ukraine, with a smattering of Belarus and Poland. She blogs about her mostly Eastern European research at <http://larasgenealogy.blogspot.com>.

Lara will be the speaker at the December 20th, 2015 JGSGP meeting. Her topic is "Researching Your Roots in Ukraine with the Ukraine SIG."

SEARCH TIP FOR ANCESTRY.COM: USE A WILD CARD

by James Gross



For many readers, the subscription website, www.ancestry.com, is a familiar genealogical resource. Like many of you, I find it to be a useful resource which can be conveniently accessed online. But every so often, I run into a name which I am unable to locate on Ancestry. Here are a few tips to enhance your search.

Ancestry.com is a subscription fee-based website which is available for free at many local libraries and is also free at all LDS Family History Centers. If you have been unsuccessful in your searches and you are reasonably certain the person existed, try to think outside the box. I suggest using creative spelling or conducting a wildcard search.

Depending on the category being searched, using creative spelling can help improve the search results. When searching ship manifests, one may tend to find Yiddish or Hebrew given names. When our early relatives came over to the United States, many were conversant solely in their native tongue, Yiddish or Hebrew. Many did not speak English. Thus, if you know the relative's Yiddish or Hebrew name, perhaps from the Hebrew inscription listed on his/her headstone, this would be helpful information to use in a search on Ancestry.

Some immigrants had variations of their given name or surnames recorded. For example, my **SCHWARTWALD** branch had a relative who was listed per his naturalization document as Schulim Schwarzwald, but the ship manifest listed the name as Solomon. His brother George came over with the given name of Gerschon Schwartzwald.

As a search strategy, I sometimes find it easier to bypass the given name variations and search by surname and town. I eventually found my Schwartzwald relative as I recognized his Ukrainian town name, **RADZIECHOW**. Be aware that given names and surnames may be misspelled. If name variations do not work, try using a wildcard.

What is a wildcard? Ancestry defines a wildcard as using either the asterisk (*) symbol or the question mark (?) symbol. The ? symbol indicates only one unspecified letter is being sought, while the * symbol indicates any number of possible letters are being sought.

Per Ancestry.com's search tips, you must have at least three non-wildcard characters in a name.

The default drop-down search in Ancestry can easily be used to run in advanced mode. First, click the search button at the top of the main Ancestry page.



After you click the search button, click the option "Search all collections."



When you start typing in the given and surname in Ancestry, the Ancestry website dynamically adds the clickable button "exact," under the given name and surname boxes.

After typing the first and last names, you can click "exact," under the given name and surname. You can also choose whether to further limit the search by clicking on the box "match all terms exactly." See the images to the left and below.

Be aware that you can use a wildcard as the first or last letter, but not both. An example of acceptable search terms would be *berg or Stein* for my surname Steinberg.

Either the first or last letter must be a non-wildcard. For example, searching for the surname Steinberg, Ste* and *berg are okay, but a search using [*teinber*] is not a valid search query.



In other words, your search query can have the wildcard character in either the first position or the last position, but not in both positions at the same time. So, the search Ste* is okay, and *erg is okay, but *ste* is not a valid search query.

A search must contain at least three letters. For the surname Stein, the search [St*in] is okay, but St* is not because three letters are required in the search. Also, be aware that a wildcard search will work in a ranked search (standard search) or exact match search (match all terms exactly), but they will not work with a Soundex search.

Another example is using the surname **GERINGER**.

• The following wild card names will return results:

Ger*, Ger*ger, G*ger, G*g?r, G*r*n*r, ?e*ng*r, G?r*ng*, ???*ger.

• The following wild card names would not return results: G*r, and ???*er because they don't contain the minimum required three letters.

Users should be aware that Ancestry weighs the two wildcard symbols, the asterisk and the question mark, differently. The asterisk (*) in the search [Bell*] will return zero or more letters. Hits would include Bell, Belle, and Bella.

The question mark (?) symbol will return one extra letter. For example, the search [Bell?] would return Bella, Belle, but not Bell. If you do a search and use both wildcard characters, such as Stein?*, you will get returns of Stein and Steinberg. After an initial search, you can change your wildcards using the Refine Search panel on the left side of the results screen, but what you're really doing is performing a new search.

If you are unable to locate the surname Stein, you can try Ste?n, as this will match both Stein and Steen or you can try [Stei?] as this will cover the variations of both Steine and Stein.

Some given names and surnames contain double letters. If you are searching for a given name or surname (such as Gerringer) which contains a double letter, try substituting the second double letter with a *. For example, Ger*inger. This way if Ancestry has an error, you'll still get a match.

For given names such as Benjamin or Solomon, you may want to try searching with their nicknames, Ben and Sol. I have found that the U.S. census contains a mixture of nicknames and formal given names. Thus, Benjamin may be listed as Ben, and Solomon may be listed as Sol.

In summary, do not give up your search efforts even if your initial attempts on Ancestry come up dry. There are some indexing errors which are inevitable in such a large collection of databases. You may accidentally find one relative living with another relative. Try searching for those family members with unique surnames, or narrow your search by specifying a particular town. If you find an error, especially in one of the U.S. censuses, look for the correction button and submit the correction to Ancestry. ❖

References:

Ancestry (n.d.) Ancestry search tips. Ancestry.com website, retrieved 9/3/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/wildcard3>

Haddad, Diane (2010) Now What?: Find ancestors online with search wildcards, retrieved 9/5/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/wildcard6>

Mitchell, Ann, (2010). Ancestry search: Improved wildcard flexibility, Ancestry blog, retrieved 9/3/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/wild-flex>

Mitchell, Ann (2013). Search tip: When you just can't find your person try wildcards, Ancestry reference blog, retrieved 9/3/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/wildcard5>

Morse, Steve, (2006). Ellis Island Gold form, retrieved 9/4/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/ellis-gold>.

Morse, Steve, (n.d.) One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools, retrieved 9/10/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/gold-morse>

Proquest.com, (2015). "Ancestry library edition: Search tips," retrieved 9/3/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/ancestry-tips>

Seaver, Randall (2013). Ancestry.com "New Search" results with wild card names, Genea-Musings blog, retrieved 9/3/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/wildcard4>

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

PHOTO RESTORATION: 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR VETERANS GATHERING

by Ed Flax



The photo, below, of the William Jones Camp No. 59, United Spanish War Veterans, New York City was taken at their Memorial Day gathering, 30 May 1938, corresponding to the fortieth anniversary of the Spanish-American War. It was likely taken by a professional photographer, standing high on a ladder, using a large format panoramic camera that swiveled from side to side, and captured the image of this large group.

The photo survived the seventy-seven year period since it was taken, through some fortuitous circumstances, a great deal of luck and the skill of a restorer with modern digital tools. Originally kept by my wife's grandmother, Rose, who appears in the photo with her husband, Isaac Shapiro, it was passed to her daughter, Roberta when Rose died. The photo was tightly rolled up in a cylinder about two inches in diameter, when found in Roberta's home by her daughter, Perry, after Roberta's death in 2012. When unrolled, the photo was some eight inches high and forty inches wide.



A friend, Peter Smith, and I agreed to try to recover and restore the photo. After soaking it in water to relax the paper, I unrolled it very slowly and laid it flat to dry between paper towel layers. While it did not open completely flat and did crack in a number of places, it was in good enough condition for Peter to photograph it with a macro lens and stitch the photo sections together using Corel 7. It showed significant fading on the left side from exposure to light over the years. Further restoration along with enhancement of the faded portion of the photo and printing in a banner style was done by professional photographer, Lionel Goodman. The restored version is now retained digitally for posterity.

While the faded left side of the photo unfortunately had a few missing faces, it is remarkable that hundreds of attendees at this event are clearly visible and identifiable, particularly when blown up on a computer monitor, using the high resolution digital file, or on the final banner style print, which is over forty-four inches wide.

Highlighted in the center of the banner are my wife's grandmother, Rose Frimerman Shapiro, and her husband and "Spanish American War Veteran, Isaac Shapiro; Private, E Co. 2nd Bn. [Battalion] Engineers, who received an Honorable Discharge, 14 Mar 1899."⁽¹⁾ Isaac is buried in grave no. 13001 in the Long Island National Cemetery in Farmingdale, New York.



Isaac Shapiro & Rose Frimerman Shapiro

Among the hundreds pictured in this photo are many whose descendants may be able to identify them, as well as some children and youngsters who may still be alive.

Similar photos of large veterans, fraternal, family or other groups may provide opportunities for genealogists to find ancestors pictured in interesting and unusual settings. ❖

References:

(1) War Department Q.M.C. (Quartermaster Corps.) Form No. QMC-14. - Interment Order

*Author Ed Flax, a long time JGSGP member and "Chronicles" Graphics Editor & Art Director, has been researching his and his wife's family since the early 1990s. Ed was lucky that his father, the oldest in his generation, passed on his paper family trees and the knowledge he had about his family. Ed is researching **FLAKS (FLAX)**, and **BRIN (BROWN)** from Ukmerge, Lithuania; **BASHERGLICK, GLICK, and GLUCK** from Kamyenetz-Podilskyy, Ukraine; **FRIMERMAN** from Soroca, Moldova, and **SNITKOVSKY (SNITKOFF)** from Markieweke, Podolsk Gubernia, Russia.*

His extensive family tree can be found online at: http://www.flax.org/FamilyWeb/flaxfamilytree/wc_toc.htm

You can contact Ed at ejflax@gmail.com

A LOOK INSIDE HISTORIC CONGREGATION B'NAI ABRAHAM

by David Mink



Today, on entering the beautiful sanctuary of historic Congregation B'nai Abraham (527 Lombard Street, Philadelphia), a person feels transported back to the center of a thriving immigrant population. Established in 1882, by seventeen Lithuanian Jews, the congregation grew rapidly by the turn of the century. New immigrants arriving in the 1890s and early 1900s settled in the area surrounding B'nai Abraham which served as their beacon of light in the new world of America. Synagogue members, many of whom were now successful merchants, hired a renowned Philadelphia architect to create a new building. Charles Lewis Bolton had designed several famous churches, but never a synagogue. In 1910, the congregation dedicated a grand, new building which combined Moorish and Russian architectural elements on the exterior and displayed a bright, colorful, open interior space.

Rabbi Bernard Levinthal, who was considered the chief rabbi of Philadelphia served as B'nai Abraham's spiritual leader from 1891 - 1952. B'nai Abraham continues to serve the community as an Orthodox congregation today.

The names and dates of death for more than 500 people flank the eastern wall of the synagogue and are etched on white glass plates. The Perilstein family, who operated a glass company around the corner from the shul, originally donated the plates. The plates are now produced by the W & E Baum company of Freehold, New Jersey and are mounted on a light wood panel, with a recessed frosted light next to each person's name.

The panels are wired, and a computer program turns the lights on for the week of an individual's *yahrzeit* (anniversary of death). This is a great combination of old craftsmanship and modern technology. All the names that are on the *yahrzeit* boards appear on the *shul's* (synagogue's) website at: www.phillyshul.com/memorial-names/.



The information on the name plates can be useful to the genealogist. They provide both the English and Hebrew names of the deceased as well as the date of death according to both the Gregorian and Hebrew calendars. That information can be helpful in naming the previous generation. Pictured below is the plaque for Eddie (Izzy) Gottlieb, the former owner of the Philadelphia Warriors and the Philadelphia 76ers. The plate indicates he was the son of Moshe Aaron.



Next we see the plaque for Morris Gottlieb (Eddie's father) who died in 1907. His Hebrew name was Moshe Aaron, and his father's name was Sender Gottlieb. Although Morris was the immigrant, knowing his father's name as Sender, could help a genealogist looking for family records in Ukraine..



Not all the names on the panels were members of the congregation, and

not all names that appear around the shul are on the panels. Stained glass windows on the western side are dedicated to the deceased. Also, some of the benches carry plaques naming the deceased. The earliest names of those

who died were carved in large marble tablets and written in Yiddish, which was the official language of the shul. Sermons were in Yiddish, and the shul's by-laws required that board meetings be conducted in Yiddish. The first congregants were also memorialized in Yiddish.



We are attempting to create a thorough database index of all the names that appear in the shul. We have applied to the Feinstein Center at Temple University for an intern to work on this project. Not only do we hope to create a thorough database, but also to use this information to contact living descendants today. Currently sixty-five families are supporting this historic congregation. We need to reach out to the Philadelphia community at large to help sustain this vital piece of Philadelphia's Jewish legacy. Hopefully our *yahrzeit* plaques will help us. ❖



Author David Mink joined JGSGP in 2006 and soon became Vice President of Programs. He co-chaired the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in 2009 which was held in Philadelphia.

He's researching **MINKOWSKY** from Zhitomyr, **GREENBERG** from Uman, **PSENY** from Seidlce, and **HUBER** from Siemtaycze.

David can be reached at: daminker@gmail.com.

RANDOM THOUGHTS ON THE IAJGS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM

by David R. Brill



I was lucky enough to attend the IAJGS conference in Israel with my wife, Michelle. Here are a few of my random thoughts.

Zichron Ya'akov

To be honest, the “Exploration Sunday” trip to Israel’s coastal region was not our first choice. Having already visited Caesarea and Ein Hod on our last Israel trip (in 1989), we thought we’d try something different. Unfortunately, the trip to Atlit and the Illegal Immigration Museum had too few sign-ups, so the tour company offered us Caesarea and Zichron Yaakov instead, and we took it.

Zichron Ya'akov is a beautiful town and the center of one of Israel’s wine regions. I had hoped we would be able to join a winery tour, but that was not to be, either. However, we did get to see the Aaronsohn House, now a museum telling the story of the NILI group, Zionist spies on behalf of the British side in World War I. Much of the museum details the genealogy of the NILI group, which was largely a family enterprise.



Michelle at the Aaronsohn House (NILI Museum), Zichron Ya'akov

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

Although we did not take the opportunity on “Exploration Sunday” to tour the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) at Hebrew University’s Givat Ram campus, nevertheless I was able to visit and do research there on my own. A few weeks before the conference, I emailed the archives, requesting that they pre-order microfilmed materials on two towns of interest to me: Tuchin (Ukraine) and Siemiatycze (Poland). I must say that the staff was most helpful, and since I was not on the organized tour, I had nearly the whole place to myself. (It’s not very big.) The materials on Tuchin turned out to be of no interest, but among the files on Siemiatycze, I was delighted to find the 1861 list (in Russian) of 500 Siemiatycze Jews paying the candle tax, including their patronymics and occupations. Since almost no other 19th century records of the Jewish community of Siemiatycze have come to light, I consider this a valuable document. For a small fee, well worth it, the CAHJP staff was able to send me a full set of high quality scans.

Herodion

One of our most interesting experiences was not connected to the conference. On Wednesday, Michelle and I played hooky from the conference and hired a highly recommended guide, Shmuel Browns, to take us out to Herodion. Although not as well known as Masada, Herodion (nine miles south of Jerusalem) and Masada have much in common. At both sites one can see the ruins of massive palaces built by King Herod, and both later served as desert strongholds for Jewish rebels fighting the Romans.

Herod surely was a case study in Jewish genealogy. Though a Jew, his Jewish roots were quite shallow. His mother was from a Nabatean family, and his paternal grandfather was among the Idumeans (Edomites), people who had been forcibly converted to Judaism by Yochanan Hyrcanus. Herod was disdained as a “half-Jew” by the *kohanim* (Jews that are direct male descendants of the Biblical Aaron, brother of Moses, with a separate status in Judaism) in Jerusalem, whose own ancestors were named in the books of Ezra and Nechemia, not to mention the Torah. However, they had to put up with Herod

because even with all their *yichus* (pedigree, lineage, family background), he had something they didn't – the support of the Roman Emperor. Other than that, Herod's best claim to legitimate rule was that he had married Mariamne, a Hasmonean princess who was a descendant of the Maccabees. Unfortunately, he murdered both Mariamne as well as their two sons. Notwithstanding Herod's murderous tendencies, he was reputedly fastidious about keeping kosher and following other ritual observances. Thus, Emperor Augustus' famous one liner: "It is better to be Herod's pig than his son."



Back to the conference. Did I say that our trip was not connected to the conference? Well, I was wrong. At the *Shabbaton* preceding the main conference, we were honored to hear a talk by Mrs. Devorah Netzer, a genealogist and the widow of Ehud Netzer. He had been the architect and archaeologist who led the excavation of Herodion and discovered the long-lost tomb of King Herod shortly before his death in 2010. Devorah talked about Herodion, about her genealogy and that of her late husband, whose mother was Puah Mencil, a/k/a Puah Ben-Tovim, Franz Kafka's Hebrew teacher. Only in Jerusalem are there just three degrees of separation between King Herod and Kafka! It's a small Jewish world. ❖

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 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

REPORT ON THE IAJGS JERUSALEM CONFERENCE (JULY 2015)

by Rabbi Shalom Bronstein



My take on the conference is different from any of the others. I was on a few of the committees that worked on planning the conference. I was part of the group that read the more than four hundred proposals for less than 200 spots and then made the final decision on which papers would be presented. Our seven members worked hard on trying to reach a balance between the talks. At previous conferences, up to three talks could given by a speaker but, since we had so many proposals, we decided that two talks would be the maximum. Thus, there were some very good talks on very interesting topics that were not given.

Some of the proposals were by well-known individuals and others were by newcomers. The topics offered were quite varied, and on the whole, I think that we chose well. Again, as part of IGRA (Israel Genealogy Research Association), one of the host and planning organizations, I introduced some ten speakers. This gave me further insight into the background of our presenters.



Like many of the participants, there were a number of occasions when I wanted to attend more than one lecture given at the same time. One special aspect of the conference was to be able to meet face-to-face with some of the people I have dealt with over the years via email. This will make our future collaboration even more meaningful.

My main project since retiring has been the transcription into English of the Hebrew and Yiddish necrology lists from yizkor books. Attending the Yizkor Book BOF (Birds of a Feather group) was very helpful. I was pleasantly surprised to hear my name stated more than once in various presentations – especially those dealing with research of pre-1948 documents of *Eretz Yisrael* (translated “Land of Israel,” was part of the official Hebrew name of Mandatory Palestine).

I have an interesting Philadelphia angle to share from the conference. The week after the conference, while I was in the National Library here in Jerusalem, I was approached by conference participant, Kathryn Wallach of Fresh Meadows, New York. She told me that her paternal ancestor was Rabbi Bernard Illowy (1814-1871). I knew that he had been a rabbi in Philadelphia, at Rodeph Shalom in the 19th century but did not remember the years. In the late 1950s or early 1960s, I had purchased a book titled *The History of Rodeph Shalom Congregation Philadelphia 1802-1926* by Edward Davis at the AJA Thrift Shop on Chestnut St. for ten cents. When I checked my copy, I found information on Ms. Wallach’s ancestor. I sent her an email and she was able to access the book in the National Library here in Jerusalem. So one never knows what connections are made at the IAJGS conferences. ❖

Rabbi Shalom Bronstein, a JGSGP member, is a native Philadelphian and graduate of Temple University, Gratz College and the Jewish Theological Seminary. After serving as a congregational rabbi for sixteen years, he made aliyah with his family in 1986, settling in Jerusalem. He is a member of the Israel Genealogical Research Association, Association of Professional Genealogists and Rabbinical Assembly. He lectured at the 2004 IAJGS conference in Jerusalem and delivered three papers at the 2009 IAJGS-Philadelphia conference. He is currently involved in transcribing necrology lists from Hebrew & Yiddish to English for the Yizkor Book Project of JewishGen.

*Shalom Bronstein is researching - **SHULMAN/SHILLMAN** – Panevezys, Pumpenai; **BLOCH** – Ramygala, Krekanava (Lithuania); the **DIMMERMAN, BECK & GELMAN** families from Ostrog & vicinity (Volhyn); **BRONSTEIN, BROWNSTEIN, RUNSTEIN, ROCHMANN** - Kishinev (Moldova); **GOLDSTEIN** - Iasi (Romania) – those who came to America all settled in Philadelphia; **GOLDZWEIG & LETZTER** - Cholojow/Uzlovoye (Eastern Galicia/Ukraine).*

You can contact Rabbi Bronstein at: syгаа@netvision.net.il

FINDING FAMILY IN ISRAEL

by Zyppora Goldberg



This year’s IAJGS conference in Jerusalem gave me the impetus to visit Israel for the first time and to try to find and meet my family there.

Who I was looking for

I knew that my maternal grandparents, Yaakov and Beila, were buried in Israel. They had lived in both Israel and the United States, and their bodies were returned to Israel for burial after they died in the early 1970s. Paying my respects at their graves was a must-do for me. I had the name of the cemetery but had been warned that it was very hard to locate.

Back in the 1970s, I had met my Israeli first cousin, Matti, her husband, Moshe, and their two young sons, when they lived in the United States for a short time. Matti’s father was my mother’s brother and had emigrated to Israel from a German DP (displaced persons) camp in the late 1940s. Other relatives had contacted my cousins when they visited

Israel, but I hadn't seen them for over thirty-five years. When Matti died three years ago from cancer, I called Moshe to offer condolences and told him that if I ever visited Israel, I would try to reconnect with him and his family.

Through genealogy research over the last few years, I became aware that I had several second and third cousins in Israel who are descended from my maternal great grandparents. Many of my U.S. relatives have traveled to Israel over the years, and I had repeatedly asked them to try to track down these long distance cousins, but they never did. So, as the family historian, I was determined to do it on my own. My mission was to find as many of them as I could and exchange family stories and photos. I had contact information for only a few cousins and very limited information about the others.

How I found relatives

My grandparents are buried in the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery in the Judean Hills, but I did not know the exact location of the cemetery or the plot numbers. An online search of the cemetery name gave a location near Beit Shemesh and also provided a website that could be viewed in either Hebrew or English. This cemetery seems to cater to American citizens who want to be buried in Israel, and it has an office in New York City. I was able to obtain the plot numbers from that office; however, I was told to call the cemetery when I got to Israel to find out what the visiting hours were.

I contacted the few cousins for whom I had email addresses or Facebook connections to let them know that I was coming to Israel and to verify their phone numbers. I was told to call them when I arrived, and we would decide when and where to meet.

To help find my other relatives in Israel, I took advantage of services offered by the IAJGS conference and the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA). I wasn't sure I would have any success, since I didn't have much to go on—mostly the full names but no exact locations. Fortunately the surnames I was searching for are not very common.

I want to thank Carol Hoffman of IGRA, who was able to provide me with possible addresses for two cousins named Chaim and Malka. She suggested I send each a letter to introduce myself and confirm our relationship. I wrote about a month before my trip. In case these relatives did not know English, I repeated what I wrote in Hebrew using Google Translate, since I am not fluent in writing Hebrew. The letter to Chaim was returned, marked “addressee unknown.” I was disappointed, but decided I would try to get more information from other Israeli relatives once I found them. I had given up on my letter to Malka but was surprised by a response a few days before I left for my trip. Malka's husband, Lior, confirmed I had the right person and address, but his wife was in failing health and could not communicate with me. He did give me his phone number and said I could contact him when I got to Israel.

The hardest relative to find was my cousin Marta who had immigrated to Israel from Argentina about twelve years ago. I am very grateful to Michael Goldstein, the chairman of the IAJGS conference in Jerusalem, for helping me find her. He even broke the ice for me by calling her to make sure she was the right person and to let her know I would contact her. He also told me that she spoke English and that she was receptive to talking to me. I purchased an international calling card and spoke to Marta before my trip. She was able to provide me with the phone number and correct address for Chaim. I planned to call him when I arrived in Israel.

Visiting My Family

I arrived in Israel a week before the conference to tour the country with my nephew in a rental car. We had an ambitious itinerary that included stops in Tel Aviv, Caesarea, Haifa, the Galilee, Golan, and the Judean Hills before we headed to Jerusalem for the conference.

While we stayed in the Judean Hills area, we set out to find the Eretz Hachaim Cemetery, which we found after some wrong turns. We were then able to locate the section where my grandparents are buried. I was proud of myself for being able to identify the names of my grandparents in Hebrew on the above-the-ground tombs. My

grandfather's tombstone includes an inscription with the name of my uncle (his son), while my grandmother's has an inscription with the name of my aunt (her daughter), her husband, and young son, who all died during the Holocaust. At the conference, keynote speaker Rabbi Israel Meir Lau, mentioned this practice as a way to remember those who might be forgotten.

I was very upset to see an error on my grandfather's tombstone: his name as well as his father's. My grandfather's name was Yaakov Zvi, but the tombstone states that he is the son of Zvi instead of Avrum. I knew my grandfather and always heard him being called by both his names. I also have his official birth record and my mother's ketubah (Jewish marriage contract) which indicate her father's full, correct name. The takeaway is that while tombstones can yield valuable information, they may also contain mistakes, so it is important to try to corroborate what is written on them.



Tombstone of Zyppora's Grandfather, Yaacov Zvi

I wasn't able to meet all of my relatives in Israel, but I was thrilled to get together with five of them.

My cousin's widower, Moshe, drove from Modi'in to meet me at the conference hotel in Jerusalem. We had a wonderful time reminiscing about my aunts and uncles who are now deceased. I gave him a photo of his late wife, when she was twelve, to share with his children. He showed me photos of his children and provided me with information about other relatives.

Two of my cousins live in Jerusalem. Tali, the daughter of Lior and Malka, lives in the Beit Hakerem neighborhood. She had never

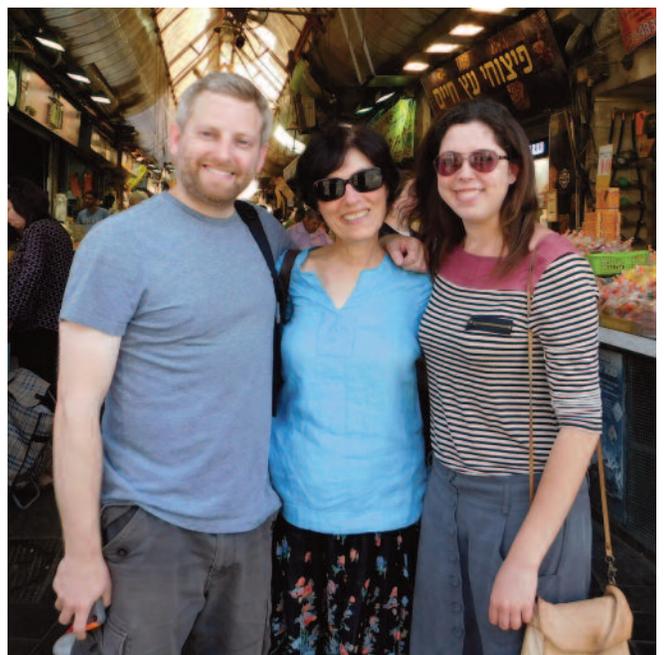
heard of me but was kind enough to pick me up for a visit to her house. We looked at family photos, and I tried to explain our relationship, since she knew almost nothing about that side of her family.

Menucha moved to Israel from Australia about a year ago and lives near the popular Mahane Yehuda market. Another cousin found her branch of our family on Facebook about three years ago, and we have been in touch by email since then. It was great to finally be able to talk to her in person.

My most adventurous journey was a visit to my cousin Marta and her husband in Ramla. Since I no longer had my rental car and they do not drive, I had to take a bus from Jerusalem to Ramla. My cousin Chaim was also driving in from Kiryat Ono to meet both of us at Marta's apartment. Several people cautioned me about traveling to Ramla because it has a reputation as a poorer area with criminal activity.

I didn't know what to expect, but I was determined to meet my cousins. My fears turned out to be overblown, and I did not experience any problems. My cousins escorted me from the bus station to their apartment and back, and I never felt threatened.

Michael, Zyppora & Menucha in the Mahane Yehuda Market



The visit was very worthwhile. I have been trying to learn more about relatives who immigrated to Argentina in the early 1900s. I interviewed Marta about her father Meir, my great uncle. She gave me a photo of him and recognized an unidentified photo I had as that of my great aunt Genia. I now have photos of all my great aunts and uncles except one. In turn, I gave Marta a photo of my great grandmother, whom she is named after but had never met.



Chaim, Orly, Marta, & Zyppora

I took pictures of all the relatives I met in Israel and plan to share them with other family members.

Mission accomplished. ❖

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. Zyppora is a technical writer, currently working in the healthcare field.

She is researching in Poland: **Glodowski, Rosenblum in Pultusk; Jerkowicz, Herynger in Pultusk, Zareby, Stoczek; Freidenreich, Herszenberg, Borestein in Warka, Brzeziny, Lodz; Goldberg in Warsaw, Glowaczow.**

You can contact Zyporra at: tkrtr@yahoo.com.

2015 IAJGS CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM

by James Gross

I recently attended the 2015 IAJGS conference in Jerusalem as a speaker and conference participant. This was my sixth genealogy conference. I enjoyed some great tour excursions a few days prior to the conference. In addition to attending lectures, I found a number of Holocaust related databases and spent time with Israeli databases in the resource room. It was helpful to have a flash drive or thumb drive on hand as the resource room was paperless. I was always able to find an available computer, even when the resource room was busy. I've compiled a list of the IAJGS conference room electronic resource titles.⁽¹⁾

The topic of my lecture was "INS Subject Index: Jewish Refugee Files from World War I and World War II" based on the National Archives microfilm T-458, "Subject Index to Correspondence and Case Files of the Immigration and Naturalization Service." I explained that this is a U.S. displaced persons (DP) government resource consisting of an index of textual correspondence and case files, by individuals and organizations that sought emigration and visa assistance on behalf of individuals, from the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), during the period 1903-1957. This microfilm series also includes listings of displaced persons and non-profit organizations, who attempted to obtain visa permits to the U.S.⁽²⁻⁴⁾ I explained how researchers should use the Ancestry.com online index to identify a relative, and then email a copy request.

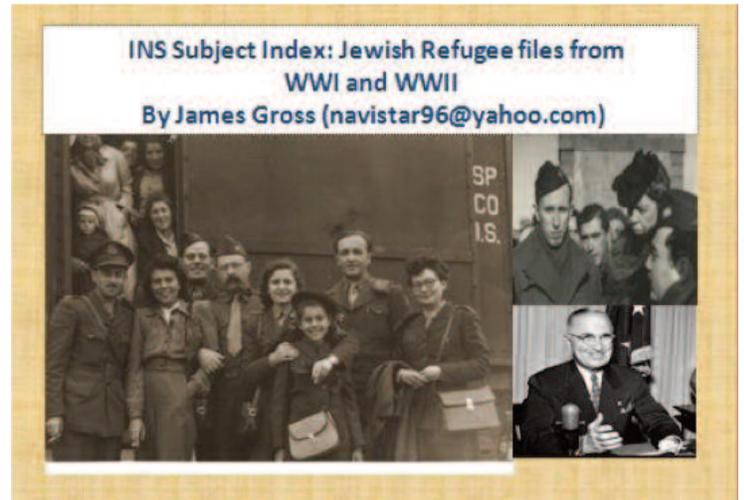


James Gross Presenting at IAJGS Jerusalem 2015

What did I cover?

This lecture briefly covered the historical difficulty of Jewish refugees in getting visas to the U.S. during World War II. I discussed how after the conclusion of the war, President Harry S. Truman issued several executive orders, facilitating displaced persons (DP) visa issuance to bypass inaction on the part of the State Department and the War Department.

Due to time constraints, my power point presentation only mentioned a few of the organizations which tried to assist DPs: the German-Jewish (later European-Jewish) Children's Aid, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and the Society of Friends. I did not have time to mention these other organizations: the U.S. Committee for the Care of European Children, National Council of Jewish Women, American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, and the National Refugee Service.



If you click on to the links provided in references 5 through 8, you'll be able to view my power point lecture, the hand-out I distributed for the lecture, an addendum of additional resources for DP refugee research, and a short YouTube video of the conference.

As part of my background research for the lecture, I visited and/or researched several archives in my area which had some records on DP emigration: the Center for Jewish History in New York City; Temple University's Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center in Philadelphia; and the American Friends Service Committee archives also in Philadelphia.

The Center for Jewish History holds material on a large number of Jewish organizations.⁽⁹⁾ I visited this archive as I wanted to examine their holdings of the German-Jewish (later European Jewish) Children's Aid. This is holding RG 249⁽¹⁰⁾. This organization was heavily involved in receiving and placing refugee children from 1933 through the 1950s. Among the materials I found were numerous lists of transportation arrangements as well as the issuance of affidavits and passports for DP children. There is a finding aid listed online. I encountered some errors there concerning DP ship entries. Researchers should note that there are thousands of case files off-site.

"The Juvenile Aid Society organized the German Jewish Children's Aid Committee (renamed in 1942 to European-Jewish Children's Aid) [Philadelphia branch], Philadelphia's contribution to the U.S. movement to aid and place Jewish refugee children from Nazi Germany." I spent time on Series 6, which contains interoffice memos, circa 1942-1950, referencing assistance given to child refugees who arrived from Europe. Linda Cantor wrote a two-page article in the 2014 edition of *Dorot* in which she discussed her volunteer work at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) in New York City and her usage of records from the German Jewish Children's Aid.⁽¹¹⁾

The Special Collections Research Center at Temple University's Paley Library⁽¹²⁾ holds the records for many Philadelphia based Jewish organizations, including the Philadelphia branch of HIAS. I examined their records for the Philadelphia branch of the "Association for Jewish Children." It is listed as SCRC 37⁽¹³⁾. Call the center prior to your visit.

I reviewed many folders consisting of dispatches at the American Friends Service Committee⁽¹⁴⁾. Researchers should call ahead as the archivist, Don Davis, needs time to pull the desired materials and allocate research space. My research there was very fruitful but time consuming as they hold the carbon flimsies from typed letters. Mr. Davis indicated that a large percentage of holdings pertaining to DPs who were assisted during and after World War II by the Quakers

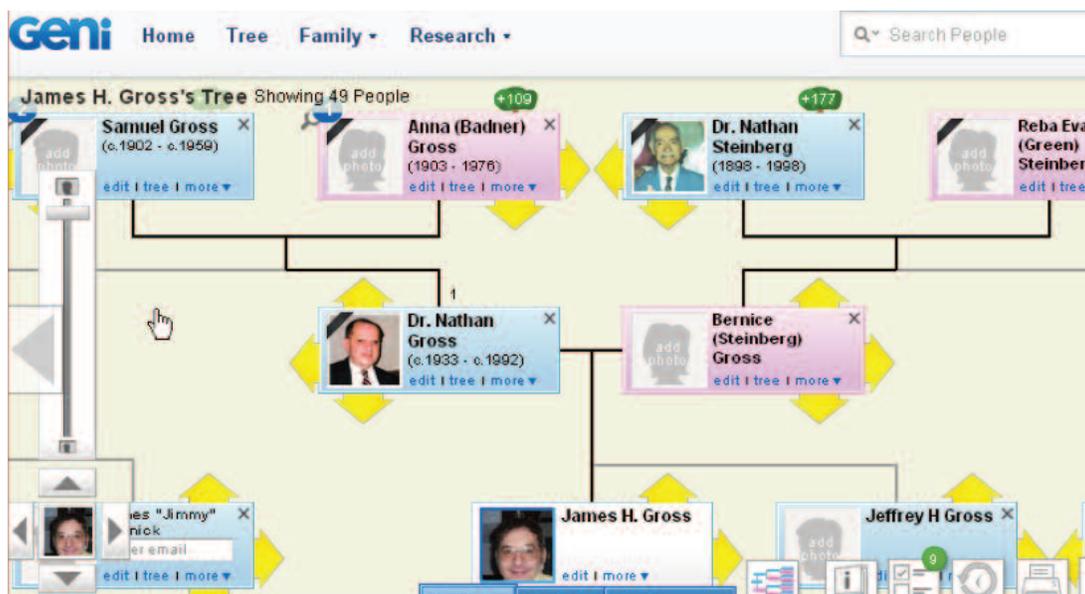
has been scanned by the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. In a conversation with the senior archivist there I learned that they are in the process of indexing these scans.⁽¹⁵⁾

Many of the questions I fielded after my presentation dealt with basic access to archives and resources. Now that the Ancestry.com subject index is online, more researchers can benefit from the INS Subject Index. Researchers who live beyond Washington, DC need to email the National Archives for a search request. My handout included an email for those researchers who wish to obtain a copy of a T-458 file.

A technical assistant was available at each lecture room, which I found very helpful. I later found out, however, that only two of the lecture halls were set up for video recording. As a lecturer, I would have preferred that all of them were equipped with a video setup.

Sharing Family Trees

I suggest that readers avail themselves of the online resources at JewishGen and update or upload their Gedcom files.



I am currently working on Alpert and Alperowitz from New Haven, Connecticut. I encourage readers to seek out fellow researchers and swap family trees. This can complement your existing research.

This is a screen shot of my family in the online database, Geni.com. Thanks to Geni curator, Kevin, for helping me with some problems. ❖

References

1. List of IAJGS Conference room databases available during the conference: Retrieved 10/12/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/iajgs2015resource>
2. Gross, James H., (2008). "Researching Old U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Correspondence Files." *Avotaynu*, Spring 2008, Vol. 24-1, p. 35. Retrieved 4/30/2015 from: <http://works.bepress.com/jamesgross/12/>
3. Gross, James H., (2010). "Old INS Case Files Reveal Child Transport Lists at the National Archives," *Mishpacha*, Vol 30, No. 1, Winter 2010-2011, p.4. Retrieved 4/30/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/mishpacha2010>
4. Gross, James H., (2011). "Old INS Case Files at the National Archives," *Chronicles*, Spring 2011, Vol. 28-1, p. 10. Retrieved 4/30/2015 from: <http://works.bepress.com/jamesgross/25/>
5. Gross, James (2015). *INS Subject Index: Jewish Refugee Files from WWI and WWII*, [PowerPoint slides]. Presented at 2015 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Jerusalem, Israel. [PPT file] Retrieved 10/12/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/iajgs2015ppt>
6. Gross, James (2015). *INS Subject Index: Jewish Refugee files from WWI and WWII*, [Handout]. Presented at 2015 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Jerusalem, Israel. Retrieved 10/12/2015 from: <http://works.bepress.com/jamesgross/60/>
7. Gross, James (2015). *U.S. Government and private U.S. non-profit organizations with materials on refugee immigration*. [Handout]. Presented in conjunction with 2015 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Jerusalem, Israel. Retrieved 10/12/2015 from: <http://tinyurl.com/addendum-refugee1>

8. Helman, Zlila. (2015). *Jewish heritage: Not only DNA and Family Tree*. Video showing images from 2015 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Jerusalem, Israel. [YouTube video] <http://tinyurl.com/iajgs2015a>
9. Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, N.Y. (212-294-8301). Reference: 212-246-6080. <http://www.cjh.org/>
10. YIVO (2015). *German Jewish Children's Aid (GJCA)*. RG 249; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Retrieved 10/12/2015 from: <http://findingaids.cjh.org/?pID=109118>
11. Cantor, Linda (2014). "German-Jewish Children's Aid," *Dorot, Summer 2014, Vol. 35, No.4, pp14-15*. Retrieved from: <http://tinyurl.com/cantor-childrens1>
12. Temple University, Paley Library, Special Collections Research Center, 1210 Polett Walk, Philadelphia, PA. (215-204-8257) <https://library.temple.edu/scrc> Centrally located on main campus. Research Center is located in basement of Paley Library. Note: Most of their collections are housed off-site.
13. Temple University Library (2015). *Association for Jewish Children, SCRC 37, Special Collections Research Center, Temple University Libraries, Philadelphia, PA*. Retrieved 10/12/2015 from: <http://library.temple.edu/scrc/association-jewish-children>
14. American Friends Service Committee Archives, 1501 Cherry St. Philadelphia, PA. 215-241-7044. (archives@afsc.org) <http://www.afsc.org/about>
15. U.S. Holocaust Museum, Washington, D.C. Tel.: 202.479.9717, (reference@ushmm.org) <http://www.ushmm.org/research/research-in-collections/research-visit>

Author James Gross' biography follows his earlier article which ends on p. 10.

ONE EXCEPTIONAL CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE

by Mark Halpern



On July 3rd, the Friday before the conference started, an Israeli genealogical researcher hosted a tour of Jaffa and Tel Aviv for seven genealogical friends. During a wonderful buffet lunch of Israeli cuisine, we met two surprise guests, Dorit Perry and Stephen Glazer, who presented a project that only Jews and genealogists could embrace. This article is about that project and a case that I helped to complete after returning home.

Giving a Face to the Fallen is a project founded in 2012 that aims to complete the biographical details of the fallen of Israel's military whose *matzevot* (tombstones) lack basic information or whose life histories are unknown. This project is carried out by volunteer researchers with the cooperation and assistance of the Israeli Ministry of Defense. The following organizations and archives cooperate on this project: the Central Zionist Archives, Yad Vashem, Israeli *chevrot kadisha* (Jewish burial societies), the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany, and all the repositories of the Israeli government.

The project and the Ministry of Defense have identified 660 soldiers with unknown or incomplete life stories who fell between 1940 and 1950, including the 1948 War of Independence. Some of these soldiers were born in Israel, some in Europe, some in North America, and others in countries in the Middle East and North Africa. Holocaust survivors comprise a very large percentage and may have been the last surviving members of their respective families.



Stephen Glazer & Dorit Perry

Many of these fallen have no graves at all, and there is no one to say *kaddish* (a hymn of praises to God found in the Jewish prayer service; in this case the term refers specifically to "the Mourner's *Kaddish*") for them.

Giving a Face to the Fallen researchers use genealogical tools to discover the names of those soldiers' parents, their birthplaces, dates of birth, and other pertinent biographical and family information. Research teams also search for photos, and attempt to locate the fallen soldiers' kin in Israel and around the world.

Dorit Perry is the driving force behind Giving a Face to the Fallen. She was sensitive to the fact that few people now visit the graves of soldiers who fell during the War of Independence and are buried on Mount Herzl, Israel's national cemetery. Dorit decided that she would visit the graves of many of those soldiers who were Holocaust survivors on *Yom Hazikaron*, the Day of Remembrance for Fallen Soldiers of Israel and Victims of Terrorism. One particular soldier, Yosef LAHANA, who fell in Jenin, had no details of his family background or date of birth on his headstone. For five years Dorit lit a candle and put flowers on his grave, but wanted to do more.

On a subsequent visit, Dorit met Uri Sagi, who had written a book in memory of his friend Shmuel Weiss, who had also fallen in Jenin. The book contains details of other soldiers who died in that battle, but it was incomplete because there was no information on Yosef Lahana. Together they searched for Yosef in the Central Zionist Archives (CZA) and discovered that he had a brother, Gershon, in France, who had written a letter to the CZA asking for information about Yosef. Gershon was no longer alive, but his sons confirmed that they had an uncle they had never met who had immigrated to Israel. Among the facts unearthed about Yosef were that he was born in 1921 in Arta, Greece and his parents were Nissim and Esther. In May 2011, Yosef Lahana's new *matzevah*, containing the additional information, was unveiled in a ceremony led by the chairman of the Knesset, Israel's parliament.

Both Dorit Perry and Stephen Glazer attended the conference, and I spoke with them and offered my help. She contacted me on July 20, only five days after my return from Israel. The fallen soldier in question was Bilha or Bella PAPIROWITZ, daughter of Shmuel, born in Poland in 1918. She immigrated to Israel in 1939, studied at Hebrew University, and was a member of the Haganah (a Jewish paramilitary organization during the British Mandatory period in Palestine, which later became the core of the Israeli Defense Force). On December 31, 1947, she and other soldiers were escorting a bus from the city of Jerusalem to Hebrew University when Arab terrorists attacked. Bella was shot and killed. She was buried at Mount of Olives Cemetery. The *chevra kadisha* records said that Bella was from "Austavi". The record also stated that she was the last surviving member of her family who were murdered in the Holocaust and she was soon to be married.

50526

YAD VASHEM
Martyrs' and Heroes'
Remembrance
Authority
P.O.B. 3477 Jerusalem, Israel

ד"ר יגד
עדות בלאט
A Page of Testimony



<p>THE MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE LAW, 5713-1953 determines in article No. 2 that — The task of YAD VASHEM is to gather into the homeland material regarding all those members of the Jewish people who laid down their lives, who fought and rebelled against the Nazi enemy and his collaborators, and to perpetuate their memory and that of the communities, organizations, and institutions which were destroyed because they were Jewish.</p>		<p>דאס געזעץ צום אנדעק פון אומקום און גבורה — יד ושם, השי"ג 1953 שטעלט פסעס אין פארנאך גומ' 2: די אויפגאבע פון יד ושם איז איינצואלען אין היילאנד דעם אנדעק פון אלע יידן, וואס זענען געשאלן, האבן זיך מוסר נפש געווען, געקעמפט און זיך אנטקעגנגעשטעלט דעם נאצישן שונא און זיינע ארויסגעלעפער, און זיי אלעמען, די קהילות, די ארגאניזאציעס און אינסטיטוציעס, וועלכע זענען חרוב געווארן צוליב זייער אגנעהערקייט צום יידישן פאלק — שטעלן א דענקמאל. (געזעץ־נומער גומ' 132, י"ז אלול תשי"ג, 28.8.1953)</p>	
1. פאמיליע־נאמען * PAPIROWITZ (or PAPIROWICZ)		2. פארנאמען (פאמיליע־נאמען שאר דער חתונה) BELKE	
3. געבורט־דאטע Date of birth ATTIME OF HOLOCAUST		4. ארט פון געבורט (שטאט, לאנד) Place of birth (town, country) AUGUSTUW	
5. נאמען פון פאטער Name of father SHMUEL-LEIB		6. נאמען פון מוטער Name of mother AM NO SURE	
7. נאמען פון מאן אדער פון פרוי און איר מוידלעך־פאמיליע Name of spouse (if a wife, add maiden name) PLANNED TO GET MARRIED BEFORE WWII		8. נאמען פון מוטער און איר מוידלעך־פאמיליע Name of mother and her family ISRAEL TO WORK ON KIBBUTZ	
9. סטאבילער וואוינארט Place of residence before the war AUGUSTUW POLAND		10. וואוינערטער בעת דער מלחמה Places of residence during the war AUGUSTUW POLAND	
11. ארט, צייט און אומשטענדן פון טויט Circumstances of death (place, date, etc.) UNKNOWN		איר, דער אונטערגעשריבענער I, the undersigned Esther Zuckerman	
וואס וואוינט (פולער אדרעס) residing at (full address) 1221 HANCOCK BLD, COCONUT CREEK, FLORIDA, 33063 U.S.A.		קויבישאפט relationship to deceased COUSINE	
<p>hereby declare that this testimony is correct to the best of my knowledge. דערקלער דערמיט, אז די עדות וואס איך האב דא איבערגעגעבן, מיט אלע פרטים, איז א ריכטיקע לויט מיין בעסטען וויסן. אונטערשריפט Place and date USA 3/11/93</p>			

... ונתתי להם בביתי ובחמותי יד ושם... אשר לא יכרת!
"...even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place and a name... that shall not be cut off."
* ביטע אנשרייבן יעדן נאמען פון אונטערקומענעס אויף א באזונדער בלאט.
Please inscribe the name of each victim of the Holocaust on a separate form.

The initial break in finding out more about Bella's family history was a Page of Testimony in the Yad Vashem Central Database of Shoah Victim's Names, submitted in 1993 by her cousin, Esther Zuckerman from Coconut Creek, Florida. This testimony stated that Belke/Bela PAPIROWICZ, about 27 years old, was born in Augustow, Poland to Shmuel Leib. Prior to World War II, she lived in Palestine, but during the war was murdered in Augustow. (Bella was actually murdered by Arab terrorists in 1947). There was also a note that Bela planned to go to Israel before the war to work on a *kibbutz* (collective settlement). Esther Zuckerman also submitted testimony for Bela's father, mother, and four siblings.



Bela Papierowicz - Undated Photo
courtesy Jabotinsky.org

Using online people finder tools (Intellius, Been Verified, Peoplefinders, Spokeo are examples) I located Esther Zuckerman, but both she and her husband were deceased, and I could not find any obituaries that mentioned names of children. However, after some digging, I found a real estate record concerning the sale of Esther's Coconut Creek home. The record identified the party acting on behalf of the estate as Susan Green from Vermont. Using another online tool, I found an address in Burlington, Vermont associated with both Esther Zuckerman and Susan Green. I found a phone number, called, and left a message for Susan. Susan is indeed the daughter of Esther Zuckerman. She knew nothing about the Pages of Testimony but did know the name PAPIROFF.

While I was waiting for Susan Green to hopefully return my call, I searched Ancestry.com and found a private family tree which listed Szmul Leib Papierowicz and daughter Bella. I sent a message through Ancestry to the owner of the tree, and soon Leslie from Morristown, New Jersey replied. Leslie is the Papierowicz family historian, niece of Esther Zuckerman, and first cousin of Susan Green.

The Papierowicz family was from Bialystok, my "home turf." My mother was born in Bialystok, and I am intimately involved in Bialystok research through Jewish Records Indexing – Poland (JRI-Poland) and the JewishGen BIALYGen group. Leslie had already used these resources to create a family tree for Bella, but did not know that she had actually immigrated to *Eretz Yisrael* (translated "Land of Israel," was part of the official Hebrew name of Mandatory Palestine) and survived the war. Leslie was able to fill in many of the details of Bella's family history and provide a photo of her.

On the same day that Bella's American relatives were found, Dorit Perry met with volunteers at the Jabotinsky Institute, a Zionist research facility and archive, to discuss cooperation. It was *bashert* (a fortuitous event) that Dorit was at that moment searching for information about Bella Papierowicz. It turns out that the Jabotinsky Institute archive had five photos and a biography written by an Israeli cousin of Bella's. You can find the material on their website at: <http://www.jabotinsky.org>. You'll have to type the Hebrew in your browser yourself, as the Hebrew alphabet is not recognized on this English PDF. The address is: <http://www.jabotinsky.org/ארכיון/חיפוש-פשוט/פריט-ארכיון/?itemid=38049>

Although communication between family members in the U.S. and Israel continues and new information has been unearthed about Bella's background and entry into Mandatory Palestine, Giving a Face to the Fallen's task was completed in only four days through cooperation by researchers in Israel and the U.S., who used available genealogical resources. On July 23, Dorit Perry wrote: "Together, all of us, we will be able to give her 'a face' *Toda raba* (Thank you very much)."

Giving a Face to the Fallen will submit the newly discovered information to the Ministry of Defense and wait while the request for a new *matzevah* is processed through the military bureaucracy. ❖

Author, Mark Halpern, Vice President - Programs and Immediate Past President of JGSGP, is a member of the JRI-Poland Board and Executive Committee - <http://www.jri-poland.org/> He was actively involved in several projects for the recent IAJGS conference in Jerusalem, Israel. Contact Mark at mark@halpern.com

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

by Michael Jaron



When confronted with adversity, obstacles, and mistakes, many people stop searching or researching. I, on the other hand, get motivated, and this attitude applies to my genealogy efforts as well.

I made my first trip to Israel in 1992 to celebrate my older son's Bar Mitzvah with my mother-in-law's family. Many of them had made *aliyah* (immigration to Israel) as Shoah survivors. My wife's two sisters had also made aliyah. I am not easily impressed, but I was by the fact that my mother-in-law's parents had met at the Second Zionist Congress.

My younger brother-in-law met us at the airport on that first trip. He drove on what appeared to be a rural road on our way to Mizra, my older in-laws' kibbutz, established in the 1920s. Along the way I took note of the hills where my sense of history enabled me to envision the tribes entering the land that was to become, and is, ours.

I immediately noticed how different the airport and its surroundings were from my first trip made more than two decades earlier. This time it was my older brother-in-law who drove us to Mizra on a road that was now a highway. What had seemed rural before was no more.

Our first few days were spent relaxing and visiting with relatives. Health issues limit my ability to walk so I used the opportunity to sit and savor the view from my in-laws' porch. Off to the left was a 1948 bunker. In front of me was an open field. Beyond that was the highway carrying various types of vehicles, and across this highway were an Arab village and the town of Nazareth. While contemplating the view I wondered, 'On what tribal allotment am I sitting?' I then went online, studied some maps, and determined that it was Naphtali, the tribe of Joshua.

On Sunday (July 5) we left my in-laws and headed for my fifth, IAJGS conference. My primary interests focused on two presentations addressing the nature of Jewish identity and how we look at the notion of a primogenitor. The presentation by Harold Rhodes involved tracing his ancestry back 2000 years through the use of his Y-DNA, Haplogroup G. When I learned that my own Y-DNA was Haplogroup Q, I smiled. In part, my questions went to Avivah Pinski's presentation on Ethiopian Jewry.

Benefits of attending the conferences are also often found away from the presentations. When I walked into the resource room looking for a free computer, a woman sitting at the first computer and I spotted each other's name tags and knew we needed to talk.

Ellen Zycoff and I spoke for over an hour and determined that we were related in about four different ways. In researching my MACHLEDER/LEVY grandfather and my FARBMAN grandmother, I had learned they were second cousins through the SIGMAN family. (See Michael's article in *Chronicles*, Vol. 32-2, pp. 8-10 for more details about his family tree). That connection led me to a cousin living in Jerusalem. Bob is a modern Orthodox rabbi. I contacted and arranged to meet him in the hotel lobby. Bob's BORISH grandmother and my FARBMAN great grandmother were two of fifteen children. Their mother is part of the connection to Ellen Zycoff.

On our return to Mizra the following Sunday, I finally got in touch with another cousin. Moira works in Afula and lives in Moreshet so we met at the kibbutz. She is a descendant of one of my MACHLEDER great grandfather's brothers and the branch that changed the surname to MARKS/MARX. Her grandfather was one of the four out of eleven who immigrated and one of the two who used the MARX spelling. The other seven siblings perished in the Shoah.

The night before we left for Tel Aviv to return home, we visited one of my wife's first cousins. Liza and Oren live in a settlement with a perfect view of Mount Tabor. Eventually I excused myself to go outside and smoke a cigarette. I wanted to gaze at Mount Tabor. Every generation is but a moment in time, and in front of me was 3200 years of continuity in the midst of change. ❖

Born in Philadelphia, author Michael Jaron moved to Pittsburgh in 1972 to attend University of Pittsburgh, where he earned a BA in History and an MA in Library Science. He's been actively researching for more than fifteen years. His grandparents' surnames are: YUROVSKY, WERNICK, MACHLEDER/LEVY and FARBMAN.

Contact Michael at: mljaron@verizon.net

MEETING MY COUSIN CLAIRE & LEARNING HER STORY OF SURVIVAL

by Steve Jaron



The week after the IAJGS conference my parents and I spent a few days in Tel Aviv. I took the opportunity then to get in contact with and finally meet a distant relative I had found about two years ago. Claire (WULWEK) KOHLMAN is a descendant of my third great grandmother's sister and is a third cousin of my maternal grandfather. She is the daughter of Wilhelm WULWEK from Drohobycz and Melania HELLER from Lviv. Melania's father, Bernard, was from Tarnopol.

I found Claire when I was tracing the distant branches of my third great grandmother's family. As with any of my Galician research I started with the JRI-Poland database and then worked my way to the Gesher Galicia and Gen Team databases. I had found Melania on the Gen Team database, but I was uncertain if it was the same person I was researching. I also used Google to see what else I could find and found an article on the Yad Vashem website honoring a righteous gentile in France for hiding Melania, her husband, Wilhelm, and their two children, Victor and Claire, during the war. It also mentioned an Uncle Julius, who at the time I knew nothing about, which also caused some doubt on my part. The article mentioned that Claire lived in B'nei Brak, which was where one of my cousins used to live. So my cousin and my aunt helped me get in touch with Claire, verifying that she was in fact the daughter of Melania and the granddaughter of Bernard.

According to the article on the Yad Vashem website, Claire, her brother, and her parents fled Poland and moved to Paris sometime between 1938 and 1940. Wilhelm was arrested in 1940 because he was a foreign national. After his eventual release the family moved to the town of Calvisson in southern France. There they met Jeanne Albouy who, along with her daughter Lucette, searched for a safe place for the family to hide. They eventually hid in Jeanne's sister's house in Sinsans, just north of Calvisson. Later Melania's brother, Julius, joined them. Following the occupation in 1942 Wilhelm and Melania hid in a nearby forest while Victor and Claire hid in Jeanne's home. After the war the family returned to Paris, but remained in contact with the Albouys. Claire immigrated to Israel in 1960 and remained in touch with Lucette. As a small child during the war Claire did not remember all the details; however, she had a picture of her brother, Lucette, and herself on which Wilhelm had written "To her we owe our lives."

Unfortunately Jeanne passed away before being honored as a Righteous Gentile. However, her grandson, Serge Marignan, accepted the honor for her in a ceremony at Yad Vashem on March 4, 2013, (see photo p 27).

The Wednesday night before we left Israel, my mother and I had dinner with Claire and Gita and Miriam, two of her seven children. Throughout the course of the evening we talked about what Claire remembered about her par-



Representing the Commission for the Designation of Righteous, Dora Weinberger presents Serge Marignan the certificate of honor and medal acknowledging his late grandmother's role in saving the lives of Claire (nee Wulwek) Kohlman and her brother Victor.

Before we left we also had the opportunity to briefly meet some of Claire's grandchildren and, if memory serves, a great grandchild. ❖

To read more about this rescue, view photos, and watch the movie ceremony, click onto the following links:

- http://www.israelhayom.com/site/newsletter_article.php?id=7725
- <http://www.whyisrael.org/2013/03/09/french-woman-who-saved-jews-in-wwii-honored/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o1TqAcoYZHY>
- <http://db.yadvashem.org/righteous/family.html?language=en&itemId=9466084>
- <http://yad-vashem.blogspot.com/2013/03/a-tribute-to-heroic-woman-jeanne-albouy.html>

Author, Steve Jaron, hails from Pittsburgh, PA where he is an avid genealogist, cyclist and karaoke singer. Professionally he is between jobs; he has held a number of different customer service positions in the past. He holds a degree in Applied and Public History from Point Park University where he focused on modern history and its impact on society today. Genealogically his research areas are primarily the Jews of the Netherlands, the Jews of the towns of Duisburg and Randerath in Germany, and the Jews of the Voivodships (provinces) of Tarnopol and Stanislwov in the former Austrian crownland of Galicia.

The surnames he is researching can be found on the JewishGen Family Finder or on his website: (<https://stevejaron.wordpress.com/>).

In 2009 he contributed to an exhibit at the National Museum of American Jewish Military History called "A Tribute to Dad and Zaide" about his grandfather Harry Rothstein.

In 2010-2011 he was involved in the placement of a stolperstein (literally "stumbling block", a small, cobblestone-sized memorial for individual victims of Nazism) in front of his second great uncle's former home in Tilburg, Netherlands for his grandmother's cousin, Bertram Polak, who was murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau. You can contact Steve at: sjaron@gmail.com or stevejaron.wordpress.com

ents and grandparents as well as how we are connected. I also told them about my research in Tarnopol (as well as the Netherlands, Germany, and other parts of the Austro-Hungarian Empire) and how I found them. After dinner I asked them to help me update the tree, and in the end I had fifty-nine more people to add to both my offline database as well as Geni.



Left to right: Steve Jaron, Edna Rothstein-Jaron, Claire Kohlman's daughters Gita & Miriam; seated is Claire Kohlman

MISSING LINKS: HOW ARE WE CONNECTED? MEETING COUSINS IN ISRAEL FOR THE FIRST TIME

by Avivah Pinski

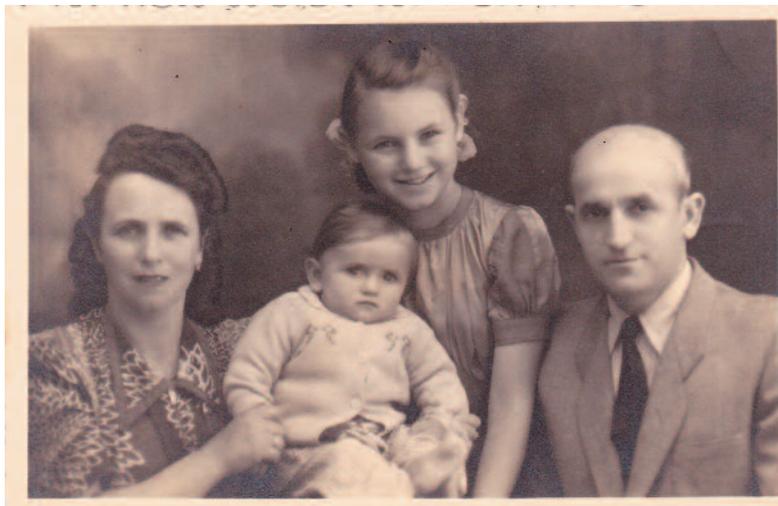


One of my early memories is of helping my mother z"l, (of blessed memory) pack parcels to send to the Displaced Persons (DP) camps in Europe after the Shoah. The whole activity made quite an impression on me. First of all, I had never before seen cans of powdered milk and powdered eggs. After the cartons were packed, we had to fill out paperwork and then schlep the packages on a bus to get to the post office because there was no post office nearby.

I must have been asking questions because I knew that we were sending the packages to relatives in my father's family from Poland who had survived the Shoah and were in DP camps. My parents received some photos and cards from these cousins. My paternal grandparents, both of whom came to the United States in the 1920s, were from the Reznik family in Drohiczyn, Poland and the Zuchman family in Sarnaki, Poland.

The Reznik family had either survived in hiding or were murdered in Treblinka and other locations. The Zuchman relatives in Poland who survived the Shoah had done so by escaping into Russia. These survivors were my grandfather's sisters and their families so they no longer carried the Zuchman name, which was also my maiden name. My father told me that the name was spelled the same way in Polish, and that there were no other Zuchmans in the United States except our immediate family. (This has recently been negated by the fact that there are other Zuchmans to be found on the internet, some of whom descend from Hungarian Catholics, and some from Pennsylvania Dutch!)

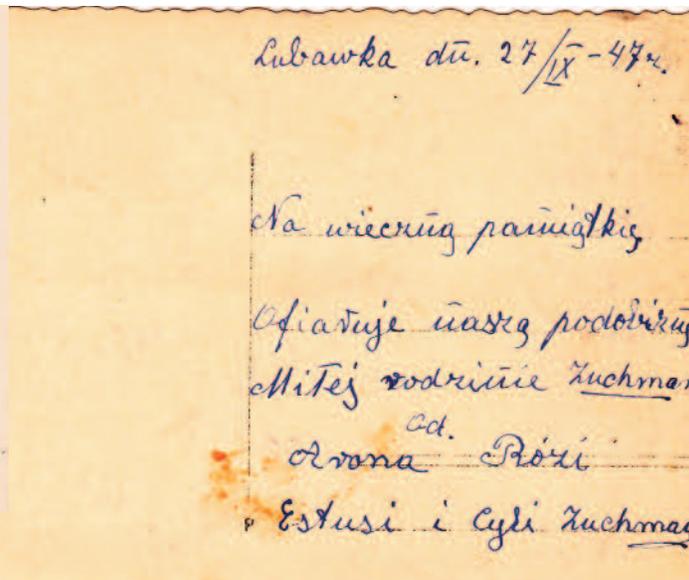
One of the photos that we received was from a Zuchman cousin who was in a DP camp with his wife and two young daughters. They later moved to Israel. The two young girls in the photograph were named Tsila and Ester Zuchman. We are cousins, but how are we related?



Lubwaka DP Camp 1947

Left to right: Rozi, Cyli, Estusi, Arana Zuchman

In 1964, my husband Gabriel and I made our first trip to Israel. My father's first cousin, Yidas in Kfar Saba, had a big gathering of a lot of relatives, including two of my grandfather's sisters who had survived the Shoah in Russia. I was overwhelmed by all the relatives who were there, most of whom spoke little English. One couple came over to me, said that I probably did not know who they were, but that they were cousins named Zuchman. I immediately recalled the photo I had seen many years earlier and remembered sending them



Post Card Translation:

"Lubawka, 27th September 1947

For eternal remembrance I offer our image to dear family Zuchman
From Arona, Rózi, Estusi and Cyli Zuchman"

packages. I did know who they were! They were quite surprised and pleased when I told them of my memories.

After that first visit some of the relatives kept in touch with me. In addition, when my father z"l made *aliyah* (immigration to Israel) in 1969, he left me with all the family photographs. He spent a great deal of time with relatives in Israel, but he never mentioned the Zuchmans who were in that photo. Gabriel and I did not get back to Israel until 1997, long after my father had passed away. (Since then we have made ten more trips, including this past July).

I have been working on my family genealogy for many years. My father, who was born in 1896 and came to the United States in 1920, often talked about the family. He brought his parents to New York City in 1928 and got his four siblings out of Poland in 1938 and 1939. The family brought many photographs with them and often talked about the family in Poland. I was told that my grandfather's family came from Sarnaki and also learned the names of my great grandparents. My aunt drew a family tree for my son in the 1970s.

I find that marriage records in Poland, if they can be found, are the most valuable for tracing back the family, since they usually contain the ages of the couple, the names of their parents, and other information. When information came online in the 1990s, I was able to find the marriage certificate for my great grandparents' marriage in Sarnaki. I learned that my great grandmother's maiden name was Rubenstyn and found vital records for her family in Sarnaki. The marriage record also had the names of my great grandfather's parents, but I could find no birth record for him or any records for his parents or possible siblings. I had hit a brick wall. Were the records from my great grandfather's family missing?

Some time later it occurred to me that maybe I should look elsewhere for my great grandfather's birth record. Since I now had the names of his parents from his marriage record, I went to the JewishGen home page and entered "Zuchman" (surname) + "Poland" (country). This brought me to the JRI-Poland and JewishGen All Poland Database. I examined various JRI-Poland records from different *gubernias* (territorial divisions of imperial Russia) until I found my great grandfather's and great great grandparents' names. That's when I found a citation for my great grandfather's birth listed in Karczew, a town near Warsaw. He was born in 1849 when his father Chaim was twenty-four years old. My great grandfather did not come from Sarnaki after all!

After identifying Karczew as my great grandfather's birthplace and finding a list of relevant vital records in that town's collection, I ordered the appropriate microfilm from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. With the help of that microfilm I was able to trace back even further and found many more Zuchman vital records in Karczew. Using Judith R. Frazin's *A Translation Guide to 19th Century Polish Records*, my husband was able to translate the vital records from Polish.

I now have documentation going back to 1790, including some vital documents for my great grandfather's siblings, none of which has been translated to date. In addition, when Gabriel and I visited Poland in the summer of 2014, we visited Sarnaki and went to the archives in Siedlice. With the help of a Polish friend we uncovered more family documents in the archive. The documents we found in Siedlice are from my great grandmother's (maiden name Rubenstyn) family. We photographed lots of records that need to be translated. However, I am still not sure exactly how I am connected with my Zuchman cousins in the DP camp photograph, although there is no question that we are cousins. Are they descended from one of my great grandfather's brothers?

When I was planning the trip to Israel for this past July, I decided to make a concerted effort to locate Tsila and Ester Zuchman in Israel. Another cousin in Israel had previously given me their married names, but no further information. A phone call to an Israeli/Canadian cousin in Toronto finally gave me an email address in Israel.

I sent an email to the Zuchman cousin in Israel explaining who I was and attached the photograph from the Lubawka DP camp, the photograph that is attached to this story. I also attached a family tree report. I got a very excited email back; my cousin thought that there were no more Zuchmans!! They were already married when we met their parents in 1964 and ap-



L-R: Gabriel & Avivah Pinski with cousins Tsila & Ester

parently knew nothing about the family gathering in Kfar Saba.

I asked another Zuchman cousin in Israel to contact them and make arrangements so that we could get together. One of the sisters graciously invited us to her home in Kiryat Ono, near Tel Aviv. Both Ester and Tzila and their husbands were present. We all spent a lovely evening together. As a repeat of history, none of their children or grandchildren was present, so another generation may again not know of us, unless their parents pass on the information.

Ester, the older sister, was particularly interested in the family genealogy. She speaks Polish and asked me to send her the vital documents that I have. I left them with some doc-

uments and family trees. I am hoping that as we continue to keep in touch and exchange information, we will be able to fill in the missing link. ❖

A longtime civil rights attorney in private practice in Bryn Mawr, PA, Avivah Pinski also volunteers at HIAS Pennsylvania, which provides non-profit legal and social services for immigrants and refugees.

Avivah is researching: ZUCHMAN in Sarnaki & Karczew Poland, REZNIK in Drohiczyn nad Bugiem & Siemiatich Poland, KOIFMAN in Securenii (Bessarabia) now Ukraine; PINSKI in Mohilev, Belarus; KOPEKIN in Polatsk, Belarus & Vienna, Austria; RIFCZES in Lviv (Lemberg), Ukraine & Vienna, Austria. Contact Avivah at: avivahpinski@verizon.net

SEPTEMBER MEETING SUMMARY

(Compiled by Stewart Feinberg based upon notes from Linda Ewall-Krocker and Marilyn Golden)

“NEW STRATEGIES IN RESEARCHING GERMAN-JEWISH GENEALOGY”

Presented by Karen S. Franklin - September 20, 2015

Karen Franklin is the Family History coordinator of the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City and co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen.org.

Karen gave an overview of how family history research in Germany and the U.S. has changed over the last fifty years. New online resources, accessible genealogies, databases and DNA--together with aid from local historians and researchers in Germany create unparalleled opportunities for researchers of German Jewish family history.

Strategies to use to tackle the research

Jon Stedman Collection (1958-2009)—not yet available to the public

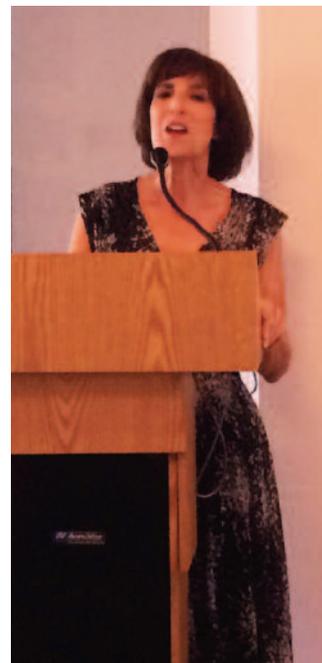
Serves as a benchmark for how German-Jewish family history research was conducted fifty years ago.

Stedman was a non-Jew who knew nothing about his father. He found out as an adult that he had Jewish roots.

1963 – Paid \$1 to get an archive. He wrote to archivist, mayor in German.

1973 – Hired someone to do the research for \$99.50.

2001 – Wrote e-mails to people and printed them out using JewishGen.



The Gerstle Family – Eleven Generations of the Gerstle family

1982 - Karen wrote to archivist in German.

2015 - Karen used:

Geni.org -- Millions of completed family trees, especially in Germany.

Owned by MyHeritage and will be merging.

Ancestry.com – search public member trees

MyHeritage.com – Most are private to current generation.

Geneanet.org – contains family trees.

FamilySearch.org – includes many databases

FamilyFinder on JewishGen.org

Google

eBay

“Where Do I Start?”

Lars Menk – wrote *A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*. Helps find towns by using surnames.

JewishGen SIG (Special Interest Group) lists.

Leo Baeck Institute – has digitized collections, almost all available online. Go into “DigiBaeck”, enter name you are searching, and then you can find a link. Leo Baeck Institute, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research which focuses on the history and culture of East European Jewry, and American Jewish Historical Society are combined and available online.

Charles Stanton Collection – spent his life searching family names and listing them. Lehman Family Collection records found in Charles Stanton Collection and enabled Karen to expand the family tree

Locating researchers in Germany

Look up researchers in individual towns.

Jewish museum in the town.

Synagogues in the town.

Website: (<http://alemannia-judaica.de>) lists every town in Germany

Family names of Holocaust victims

Jewish sites and cemeteries in the town.

Websites for each town.

Obermayer German Jewish History Awards -- given annually to volunteers who preserve and record Jewish history.

DNA Testing

yDNA recommended, especially if you have German-Jewish history.

Family Tree DNA (FTDNA) popular with many German Jews.

When FTDNA initiated DNA testing in the spring of 2001, Jon Stedman was the sixty-eighth person to have his DNA tested, making him a veritable pioneer.

Kelly (on Family Tree DNA) found out she was a 1st to 3rd cousin of Stedman. She was adopted and found her birth mother through DNA. She was grateful to find out her history even though her father and grandfather were scoundrels.

Additional Comments

Looking for researchers in Germany? – Contact Karen at karenfranklin@gmail.com

Jewish Historical Institute – ask them for researchers in other towns.

Historical Society of Pennsylvania – Jewish records and books available.

OCTOBER MEETING SUMMARY

THE STEVE SCHECTER MEMORIAL LECTURE

by Marilyn Golden

“STEVE MORSE’S ONE STEP WEB PAGES: A POTPOURRI OF GENEALOGICAL SEARCH TOOLS”

Presented by Steve Morse, - October 12, 2015

This year’s Steve Schechter Memorial Lecture opened with a remembrance of our former Program Chairman, Steve Schechter, (z’l) who is remembered as the dynamic, warm and enthusiastic person who helped to create many wonderful JGSGP programs, who encouraged participation and volunteerism by others and who lived life as a *mensch*, doing for others. Steve’s efforts helped to keep JGSGP together. He was the driving force behind our extremely successful 2009 IAJGS conference in Philadelphia.



Mary Schechter

We were honored to have Steve’s wife, Mary, join us for the lecture and to again celebrate Steve’s life and legacy with us.



Steve Morse

1. Development of One Step Web Pages

- a. Many genealogical websites aren’t easy to use, and many of those have limited versatility.
- b. Led to Steve Morse’s creating alternate ways of accessing some of those websites.
- c. He’s also developed some of his own databases and programs to facilitate doing genealogical research
- d. These databases and programs are all collected together under the One-Step website.
- e. Initial search tool allowed for searches through the Ellis Island records, making the process easier and much more successful.

2. How One Step Web Pages Work: Ellis Island Search Forms & Ship Arrivals

- a. This tool provides a more comprehensive search in fewer steps.
- b. Never a fee for using the One-Step website.
- c. White Form
 - i. Searches data on ellisland.org using Morse’s search form but their search engine
 - ii. Data cover all passenger arrivals from 1892–1924.
 - iii. Since White Form is his own search form, it’s able to offer some search options not available on the ellisland.org search form.
 - iv. Use if unable to find the passenger using the Gold Form and want a different perspective.
- d. Gold Form
 - i. Searches some data but uses Morse’s own search engine.
 - ii. Offers many search features not available ellisland.org search engine.
 - iii. Preferred form for arrivals between 1892-1924.
- e. All New York Passengers Form
 - i. Searches data on ancestry.com using Morse’s search form.
 - ii. Data cover all arrivals to the Port of New York from 1820 – 1957 and is the only form that accesses arrivals before 1892 or after 1924.

- iii. While ancestry.com is a commercial vehicle and requires a subscription, you can access it for free from almost any public library by using the library's group subscription.
- f. Morse explained process using Albert Einstein and Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia as case studies.

3. One-Step Immigration Triangle

- a. This represents a trio of One-Step tools that work together to facilitate searching for immigration records.
- b. Searching by passenger name using the so-called Gold, White, or All New York Passengers forms.
- c. Searching by ship arrival using Ellis Island Ship Lists tool.
- d. Accessing manifests directly by roll and frame (the Ellis Island manifests tool).

4. Additional Search Form & Ship Arrivals

- a. Chronology of New York City arrivals: Provides a guide as to how to find records from 1820 through 1954. *Note: no record keeping was required before 1820.*
- b. Other ports of immigration
 - i. Baltimore, Boston, Galveston, New Orleans, San Francisco are some of the popular ports during peak immigration. Check for years to determine which records are available online.
 - ii. There is a trio of One-Step Immigration Triangle tools for searching for records from each of the above ports.

5. U.S. Census --two ways to search the census

- a. Searching by name is the easiest way to access a census image, but problems arise when names are misspelled.
- b. Searching by enumeration district (ED). Converting an address to an ED is a difficult process. One-Step website offers various tools to make this easier, ultimately getting a census image.

6. Numerous other databases as well as more than 200 search tools available on the One-Step website which enhance our research capabilities, make our researching easier, and increase the likelihood of success. Morse developed the Soundex system for researching names.

7. Type <http://stevemorse.org> (not dot-com) in browser's location field to get to the official One-Step website. Click on "About this Website and how to use it" on the home page to learn much more.

POSTSCRIPT TO FEBRUARY 2015 MEETING: GLENN KURTZ

by Evan Fishman

Glenn Kurtz's riveting account (*Three Minutes in Poland: Discovering a Lost World in a 1938 Family Film*) of his exploration into the three-minute film clip which depicted his grandfather's *shtetl* (a small town with large Jewish population which existed in Central and Eastern Europe before the Holocaust) of Nasielsk, Poland prompted me to reconnect this past summer with a couple I had met in 2009.

In a previous article (*Chronicles*, Vol. 29-2, pp. 6-7) I related how my genealogy research motivated my close friend, Manny, to arrange to meet a previously unknown third cousin, Sandra, and her husband, Henry. Both Manny and Sandra had thought the other's branch had been obliterated during the Shoah. During a subsequent visit, Sandra showed home movies that her parents had taken during their honeymoon in 1931-1932, including footage of their visit with relatives in Czestochowa, Poland.



Photo: U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

Glenn Kurtz's story inspired me to get in touch with Sandra to ask if she would be willing to donate her unique footage to the Steven Spielberg Film and Video Archive at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. Sadly, Sandra died last year. Nevertheless, Henry was very eager to follow up on this proposal. I put him in touch with Leslie Swift, chief of the Film, Oral History, and Recorded Sound Department at the museum. As of mid-September, Ms. Swift has received Henry's DVD and is hoping that he'll be able to send her the original home movie for duplication.

OVERCOMING TRAGEDY & BECOMING THE MATRIARCH OF A NEW FAMILY

by Dr. Stanley R. Sandler

The Talmud states that to save one life is to save the world.



Nicholas Winton, dubbed the “British Schindler” by the press, died on July 1, knowing that his heroic actions to save 669 Czech children, most of them Jewish, created a legacy numbering probably in the thousands. In this vein I’d like to share my grandmother’s story.

As described in earlier articles in *Chronicles*,⁽¹⁻⁵⁾ my grandmother, Malka’s world changed on April 11, 1873, when she was one year old. On that tragic evening her entire family was massacred, leaving her the sole survivor. This horrific event occurred in her parents’ tavern, similar to those described by Professor Glenn Dynner in his recent book, *Yankel’s Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in the Kingdom of Poland*⁽⁶⁾ in Korolovka, Poland⁽⁷⁾ (near the larger city of Kolomyja⁽⁸⁾⁽⁹⁾ in the Carpathian area of Galicia. This crime was recorded in both Kolomyja newspapers and death records.⁽⁵⁾⁽¹⁰⁾

Now we continue my grandmother, Malka’s story. She grew up to eventually become the Sandler family matriarch with six children and twenty-eight grandchildren. According to oral history, family friends initially raised her in Korolovka’s Jewish community. She then lived for eleven to twelve years with her mother’s brother Antshel Feuer and his family, until she married my grandfather in 1885-1886 at about the age of thirteen or fourteen. My grandfather, Shlomo, (Szloma in Polish) Sandel lived in Kolomyja at that time. There is no record, however, of this marriage in the JRI-Poland database because it was never recorded with local civil authorities⁽¹¹⁾; doing so would have required paying a high fee. Malka was determined to build her own family to replace the family she lost as a young child.



Shlomo & Malka Sandel

Malka (nee Greif) & Shlomo Sandel’s children^[12]:

Moses, born in 1887, named after Malka’s father

Reisel, born in 1892, named after Malka’s mother

Thanks to JRI-Poland records I learned about two other children: one born in 1891 who died seven days later and was never named; the other born in 1898 who died at nine years, three months old.

Jakob Leizer, born in 1895

Meyer Eliaz (my father), born in 1900

Baruch Izaak, born in 1902, who died at five years old. His father, Solomon (Shlomo) never met this son because he emigrated to the U.S in 1902, before Baruch Izaak was born.

A parenthetical note: Jacob Leizer, Meyer Eliaz, and Baruch Izaak were listed as the children of “unmarried Malka Greif, daughter of Moses & Reisel of Korolova, Poland.” They were not listed by their father’s surname (Sandel) because there was no record of a civil marriage between Malka and Shlomo. There was also no record of the births of the two oldest children, Moshe and Reisel who were probably not recorded to or registered by the local governmental authorities.⁽¹³⁾

After Shlomo (Solomon) Sandel immigrated to the U.S. in 1902⁽¹²⁾, he worked to save enough money to bring his whole family to New York City. He first brought over his seventeen year old son Moses (Morris) in 1904, followed by seventeen year old Reisel in 1909. Malka and their remaining two children, Jakob Leizer and Meyer Elias, arrived later that same year.⁽¹⁴⁾ During his naturalization process in 1908 Solomon changed his surname from Sandel to Sandler conforming to the Hebrew equivalent for “shoemaker .”

The family expanded in 1910 when Malka gave birth to my father’s younger sister, Patricia, probably named for Pia [z”l], Solomon’s great grandmother. The following year, my father’s younger brother Abraham was born. Now Malka and Solomon had a total of six surviving children who gave rise to a total of twenty-eight grandchildren.

While my ninety-three year old cousin, Sally Fernhoff, remembers Malka as a heavy set, short, very serious woman, in contrast to our very easy going, talkative grandfather, there was a humorous side to her. Given her tragic background, she always felt the need for good security. She had a very large, German shepherd dog, named Beatty, who understood only Yiddish. He was a very loyal dog and always sat next to Malka. Sally recalled that while Malka was sitting in her favorite kitchen chair and drinking coffee from a mug, she shared some of it with her dog!

Family history credits this dog for saving Malka’s life. One day, on her way home from shopping, Malka was waiting at the curb to cross the street in New York City. Unbeknown to Malka, a city bus jumped the curb not far from her and was heading in her direction. Her faithful German shepherd, Beatty, noticed what was happening and quickly flung his body in front of her in order to push her to safety. Sadly the dog sustained serious injuries and lost his life.

We thank *HaShem* [G-d] for Malka’s survival. Like the sole survivors of individual families after the Holocaust, she was able to create a new family after the 1873 murder of the entire Greif family. She thus accomplished her mission to become the matriarch of a new, large family. One of my granddaughters, another Malka, is named after her great great grandmother to perpetuate her memory. ❖

References:

1. Shelda Carol Bachin Sandler, “The Massacre of the Greif Family”, *Chronicles*, Vol. 23-1, Spring 2004, pp. 8-9.
2. Stanley R. Sandler, “Greif Family Massacre-Part II Original Document Description”, *Chronicles*, Vol. 23-2, Summer 2004, pp. 13-14.
3. Stanley R. Sandler, “The Massacre of the Greif Family”, *Chronicles*, Vol. 23-3 & 23-4, Fall-Winter 2004, p. 38.
4. Stanley R. Sandler, “The 1873 Massacre of the Greif Family--A Search for Criminal Court Records and Newspaper Accounts”, *Chronicles*, Vol. 24-3, Spring 2006, p. 13.
5. Stanley R. Sandler, “Discovery of Two Newspaper Accounts That Document Further the 1873 Massacre of the Greif Family”, *Chronicles*, Vol. 24-4, Fall 2006, p. 10.
6. Glenn Dynner, *Yankel’s Tavern: Jews, Liquor, and Life in the Kingdom of Poland*, Oxford University Press, New York, 2014.
7. “Korolowka” *Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities in Poland, Volume II: Oleyevo-Korolevka, Ukraine*, pp. 489-490. Translation of “Korolowka” chapter from Pinkas Hakehillot Polin, Published by Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, Israel.
8. “Towns of Galicia Kolomea Administrative District” at <http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kolomea/towns.htm>
9. See Kolomea and Kolomyja in “*Encyclopedia Britannica: A New Survey of Universal Knowledge*,” Volume 13, *The University of Chicago*, 1950, p. 478.
10. <http://jri-poland.org/town/kolomyja.htm>, Polish State Archives: Archive 1, Fond 300.
11. A. Zalewski, “Galician Portraits In Search of Jewish Roots,” *Thelzo Press, Jenkintown, PA* 19046, 2014. pp. 47-49 and p. 93.
12. <http://jri-poland.org/town/kolomyja.htm>, Polish State Archives: Archive 1, Fond 300.
13. Stanley R. Sandler, *Chronicles*, Vol. 30-3, Fall 2013, p. 14.
14. Manifests can be found at <http://home.ancestry.com/> and <http://libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>.

Dr. Stanley R. Sandler is an active member of JGSGP and has served in many leadership roles.. He currently is co-chair (with his wife Shleda) of the JGSGP Speakers Bureau, and a frequent contributor to *Chronicles*. He has been doing research about his family for over 40 years, both in the U.S. and in Galicia, specifically in Kolomyja, Poland, and in neighboring towns, and also in Vienna, Austria. Contact Stan at stanshel@msn.com.

DID YOU OR YOUR RELATIVES ATTEND THESE PHILADELPHIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

by Walter Spector

JGSGP vice president Walt Spector formerly worked as a consultant to the Philadelphia school system; collecting postcards and images of Philadelphia's past is his hobby. He combined both interests to produce this article.

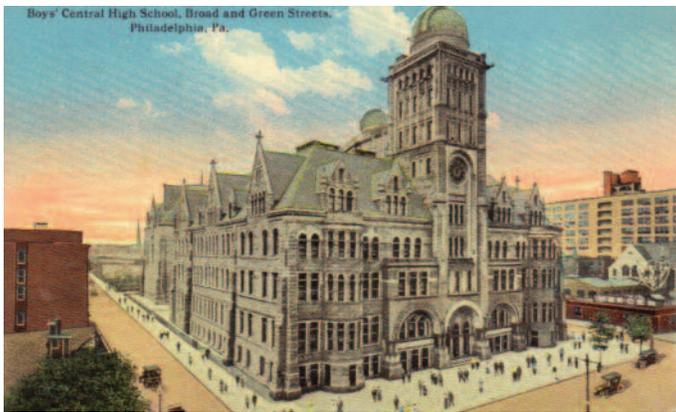


While photographs of Philadelphia public schools in and of themselves don't seem to be of inherent genealogical value, they can serve to generate memories and discussion among family members and friends that can result in concrete information.

“Remember that winning basketball game in 1940? Were there any Jewish players? Did the players from Southern play for Eddie Gottlieb's SPHAs, (the South Philadelphia Hebrew Association basketball team)? Did anyone in our family know those players? Did cousin Sylvia go to the dances at the Broadwood Hotel after the SPHAs games?” Consider these photographs a means to an end, another tool we can use to achieve our goal of developing compelling family narratives.

By displaying these schools on a map you can see their relative locations and indicate Jewish neighborhoods. You can easily do that using Google Maps or a similar online mapping service.

Central High School was established originally as a boys only school. This building at Broad and Green Streets was dedicated in 1854. The present school building is located at Ogontz and Olney Avenues and was dedicated in 1939. In September 1983 the first six girls were admitted to the school.



Notable graduates include:

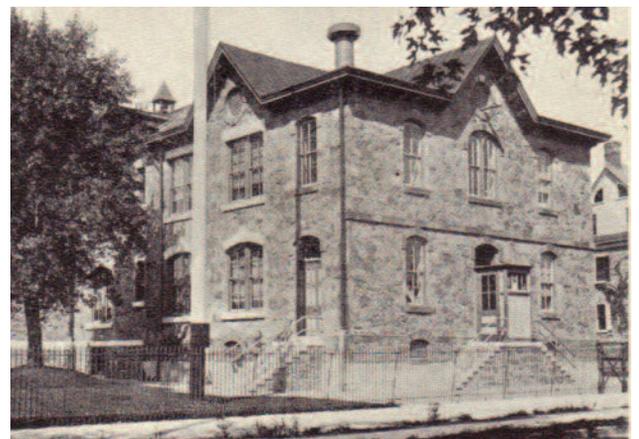
- Joshua Eilberg – U.S. Congressman
- Arnold Eisen – Chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary (228th Class)
- Norman Fell – actor on *Three's Company* (176th Class)
- Simon Guggenheim – industrialist, philanthropist, U.S. Senator for Colorado (87th Class)

- Louis Kahn – architect (134th Class)
- Sam Katz – perennial Philadelphia Republican mayoral candidate (226th class)
- Ed Wynn (until age 15) – entertainer, actor, comedian, producer (110th Class)

Elwood Elementary School, located at 12th Street and Oak Lane Road, was in use from the 1840s until the early 1960s. It still exists and is used as a K through 8th grade school today.

Feltonville Elementary School, named for that section of the city and located at Rising Sun Avenue and Rockland Street, is still in use.

Germantown High School was built in 1914. Located on Germantown Avenue and High Street, it graduated its final class on June 19, 2013 and closed its doors that same week.



Elwood Elementary School

Some notable graduates include:

Sam Greenblatt - chief technology officer (CTO) for several companies and heavily involved in the architecture, communication and technical promotion of Dell's Enterprise family of products.

Mark Segal - journalist

Philadelphia High School for Girls' original building was dedicated in 1876 and replaced in 1934. It eventually became the first site of William Penn High School and subsequently the home of Masterman High School. A new structure was completed in the 1958 and is presently located at Broad Street and Olney Avenue.



Philadelphia High School for Girls' Original Building

Distinguished alumnae:

Gloria Allred - attorney

Sara Garonzik - Producing Director, Philadelphia Theater Company

Edith Grossman Ph.D. (Edith Dorph Grossman) - Renowned translator of modern Latin American literature

Judith Seitz Rodin - First woman president of the University of Pennsylvania, President of the Rockefeller Foundation

Evelyn Wiener, M.D. - Executive Director, University of Pennsylvania Student Health Service

Construction of West Philadelphia's **Hana Elementary School** at 58th Street and Media Avenue was completed in 1909. A new building has replaced this one and now operates as the Universal Bluford Charter School (UBCS), a community educational institution serving students in grades K through 6th.

Southern High School began as a boys only school when it was erected in 1907 at Broad Street and Snyder Avenue. When a newer building was erected in the 1950s, it was combined with Southern High School for Girls. It is a comprehensive neighborhood high school.

Some notable graduates:

Joey Bishop (1935) - film and television actor, comedian, member of the "Rat Pack"

Eddie Fisher (1946) - singer, actor and entertainer



Photo courtesy of Getty Images

Kitty Kallen

Kitty Kallen - popular singer whose career spanned the swing/big band era, the post-World War II pop scene, and the early years of rock 'n roll; voted "most popular female singer" in 1954 in both *Billboard* and *Variety* polls

Jack Klugman - Stage, film and television actor, "Quincy"

Israel Goldstein (1911) - rabbi, author, Zionist leader, a founder of Brandeis University

Edward Gottlieb (1916) - NBA team coach, manager and owner, founder of the SPHAs

Wagner Junior High School.

This building was built in 1928 to honor General Louis Wagner, a Civil War general who commanded Camp William Penn in Cheltenham Township in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. It is located at 18th Street and Cheltenham Avenue in the West Oak Lane section of the city. It provides

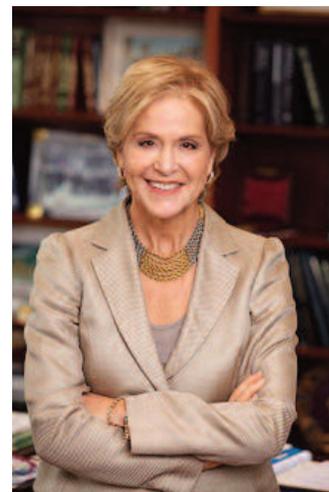


photo courtesy of Rockefeller Foundation

Judith Rodin



Eddie Gottlieb

an education for students in grades 6 through 8. The building was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.



Evoking a relative's educational past can generate powerful and poignant memories and enrich the family history narrative. ❖

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.

MY FAMILY'S MULTI-GENERATIONAL BUSINESS

by Evan Fishman



Family businesses have their tradeoffs. Joining an already established company often eliminates the concerns one faces when launching a new enterprise. In addition relatives entering the ranks hope the company has already developed a reputation within the community. On the other hand, working with one's relatives can be fraught with personality issues that can impede frank communication and generate frustrations.

Within four months of his discharge from the U.S. Army in May 1945, my father joined his Uncle Morris's lumber business in Newark, New Jersey. His great uncle, Jacob, had founded the company after he immigrated in 1905. Initially located on Prince Street, which in the 1920s sliced "through the heart of Newark's old Third Ward, a bustling Jewish community [of 50,000]. It is the Jewish neighborhood's main shopping thoroughfare, just five eighths of a mile west of downtown Newark's Broad Street. Prince Street is a mirror-image of New York's immigrant-crowded Orchard Street on the lower East Side. Yiddish is the primary language heard on the street."¹

"The business" operated as a mom and pop store, and more than likely, Jacob knew all his customers. Morris immigrated with his sister and brother in 1913 and began working with his Uncle Jacob thereafter. The firm's name later changed, reflecting Morris' s newly acquired partnership status with Jacob. At some point it was relocated to Montgomery Street, close to the original location. I can recall piles of sawdust on the floor, typical of a lumber business.

I don't know much about the ambience of the business in its early years or the relationship between Jacob and his nephew, Morris. I do, however, know that after Jacob's death in 1932, his wife, known as *Tante* (aunt) Tzippe, became integrally involved in the operation of the business. She was a formidable and self-assured woman who didn't hesitate giving her opinions. There was also a lighter side to her tough demeanor. My father once related that *Tante* Tzippe produced her own wine on the premises, perhaps her personal response to Prohibition restrictions. Dad said that Eddie, one of the long time employees, would periodically sample the inventory!

Morris wasn't the easiest employer to work for. Shortly after Dad started, Morris went on vacation, leaving my inexperienced father in charge. There were also occasions when cash flow was an issue. In the late 1940s, Morris's son-in-law, Harold,

joined the business. He and Dad labored alongside a small entourage of African American employees. During the ensuing decade Morris offered Harold and Dad an opportunity to buy into the business with a promise that they would eventually become equal partners with him. This promise was never fulfilled.

I never saw my father on weekday mornings while growing up. He left the house by 6:30 a.m., before I was awake, and consequently my relationship with Dad centered around the dinner table. He often came home visibly upset by the events of his workday and vented his frustration with the remark, “Every night, the same old thing.” My brother and I grew up mistakenly believing that Dad was always upset with us, with our behavior. In reality he was belatedly expressing his disappointments about Morris’s unfulfilled promise. Dad felt trapped by his circumstances. One Wednesday in December 1961, during winter vacation from school, I awoke to find Dad puttering around the house. He explained that henceforth, he would be taking Wednesdays off, a welcome change from his sixteen year routine of six-day workweeks. Morris had died in October. Dad and Harold were now completely in charge, and they wasted no time to implement changes.



Prince Street⁽²⁾

In the late 1950s the company relocated to larger quarters in an adjacent section of Newark. Shortly thereafter my brother and I were “hired” on a temporary basis to update the receipt books with the new address. In a way we were the fourth generation to be involved in the business. Tante Tzippe remained a part owner until her death in 1964 at ninety-four. I wonder what happened to her private wine manufacturing enterprise! Conditions improved, and Dad and Harold began taking vacations, another element that had been absent from my family’s lifestyle.

Racial unrest provoked widespread rioting in Newark in July 1967. On Friday, July 14, Dad drove home with Eddie following right behind him, as his bodyguard. He clearly demonstrated his loyalty to the business and his personal concern for Dad’s safety. Dad was in a state of shell shock for several days while the rioting continued. He was virtually silent, contemplating the uncertain future of his business, fearful that he would no longer be able to provide for his family. Those days of crisis left an indelible mark in my memory.

When Dad returned the following week, he had no idea whether or not his business had been torched. He was dismayed to find the building untouched although the surrounding neighborhood lay in ruins. We theorized that the business had been spared because it was widely known to be more likely that the “Black Power”²² stencils miraculously served the same purpose as the doorposts before the first Passover; it spared



employ a high percentage of African Americans. It is a stencil that mysteriously appeared near the entrance. An unknown individual had affixed the stencil, which miraculously served the same purpose as the doorposts before the first Passover; it spared the business from destruction.

Thanks to the business, Dad was able to pay for his sons’ college tuitions—one of his proudest achievements. This was in sharp contrast to the struggle he underwent to pay for his own college education. Each semester he borrowed tuition money from his best friend’s father, a candy store owner. In order to repay Mr. Morris, Dad played semi-professional baseball every summer.

Dad and Harold continued to run the business in the same location until 1994 when they suspended operations because they were unable to compete with the newly arrived Home Depot franchise. Throughout those many years the two owners

established a good working relationship thanks to Dad's astute assessment of his partner's preference for working behind the scenes. Rather than challenge Harold's reluctance to deal directly with the customers, Dad became the face of the business. He was an excellent salesman and knew how to entice his customers to buy more than they had originally intended.

Personality issues governed the decision that ruled out the possibility of the fourth generation's (my brother, myself, and Harold's children) becoming involved in the business' continuation. I believe Dad was concerned that friction would develop, and, in his life long pattern of avoiding confrontation, he initiated the business's eventual demise. ❖

References

1. Bodian, Nat. "Life on Prince Street in the 1920s and 1930s" in "Old Newark Memories" (<http://www.oldnewark.com/memories/thirdward/bodprince.htm>)

2. Photo from http://newarkstreets.com/photos/displayimage.php?album=123&pid=204#top_display_media

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. Surnames & towns of interest he is researching include: **MANDELSTEIN**, Starokonstantinov, Ukraine; **LISNITZER** Starokonstantinov, Kamyanets Podilskiy, Izyaslav, Ukraine; **UDIN**, Kyiv, Ukraine; **FISHMAN**, Terespol, Poland; **BURSTEIN**, Radomyshl, Ukraine. Contact Evan at editor@jgsgp.org

RUSSIAN-JEWISH POPULATION DATA: AN UPDATE

by Joel Spector

Background of the Project



After the death of my great uncle, Professor Solomon Zeitlin of Dropsie University, in late 1976, I inherited all of the "tangibles" in his estate. Among the items was a *sefer* Torah written in 1912 and my great uncle's set of the *Evreiskaya Entsiklopedia*, the Russian language Jewish encyclopedia, published in St. Petersburg, Russia, between 1907 and 1913. I was informed by one of his students that he had authored an article in that encyclopedia.

In reviewing the encyclopedia's very incomplete tables of contents and lists of contributors to its sixteen volumes, I determined that my great uncle had co-authored only one article, "Apostasy," which appeared in the second volume. My further research into the encyclopedia has resulted in the creation of an index to its major articles and a complete index to all of its contributors, among whom were the intelligentsia of St. Petersburg, Russia in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

In further reviewing the contents of the *Evreiskaya Entsiklopedia*, which is a primary source for the recent history of Jews in Russia, I began to excerpt material from it, from a contemporaneous Russian encyclopedia, the *Entsiklopedia Slovar* (St. Petersburg, 1890-1905) and also the *Jewish Encyclopedia*, published in New York between 1901 - 1906.

The data derived from the encyclopedias included a citation for each article describing a city, town or village, whether in the Pale of Jewish Settlement, European Russia, Asiatic Russia or Tsarist Poland. There are citations of close to 4,000 of these places in the encyclopedias, which are all included in a spreadsheet, delineated by *gubernia* (province) and *uyezd* (county). Included in many of the articles are statements of Jewish populations and total populations. The earliest population so far discovered is a Jewish population of 12 in the town of Sokolka, Grodno Gubernia, in the year 1558. Many Jewish population numbers are given in the 1800s, and many are cited, for some reason, as determined in 1847.

Additional Data

Beginning during the reign of Peter the Great, censuses of the Russian population, known as *revisie skazki*, were

taken to determine who should be taxed and who was eligible for military service. Ten *revisie skazki* were conducted between 1719 and 1858.

On January 28, 1897, a different kind of census was taken. The Russian National Census of 1897 compiled data on the total population in fourteen different criteria, plus some sub-categories. Included were the individual's names, relationships, birthplace, place of registration, estate, education, profession and language spoken. Analysis of the data took several years, and resulted in eighty-nine volumes of summary data. Unfortunately for genealogists, many of the individual data sheets were destroyed, by imperial decree, but some can still be found.

The summary data for ninety-two *gubernias* and three major cities (St. Petersburg, Odessa and Warsaw) has been filmed and can be found in nineteen microfilms at the Family History Library. Some of the data is being integrated into my basic spreadsheet, to supplement the existing data. The data from this census includes male, female and total population numbers for each *gubernia*, *uyezd* and the major cities in each *uyezd* and is also being integrated into the spreadsheet. Data for about 500 additional towns and cities not found in the *Evreiskaya Entsiklopedia*, *Entsiklopedia Slovar* and the *Jewish Encyclopedia* has been added from the 1897 census material, making the total number of entries so far over 4,400. Data from twenty-two *gubernias* is still to be added.

Preliminary Observations

Although the derivation of data from the Russian National Census of 1897 and its incorporation into the spreadsheet are not yet complete, some observations and preliminary conclusions can be postulated.

It is well known that the majority of Jewish population in Russia lived in the Pale of Jewish Settlement and Tsarist Poland. About 65% of Russian Jews lived in the Pale of Jewish Settlement⁽¹⁾ and about 24% lived in Tsarist Poland.⁽²⁾ The total Jewish population in all of Russia and Tsarist Poland was about 5,189,000, or about 4.11% of the total Russian population of about 126,000,000.

Of the remaining 11%, or about 311,000, more than 207,000 lived in European Russia, outside of the Pale of Jewish Settlement. That population comprised only about 0.34% of the total population there. In the thirty-five *gubernias* in European Russia, there were only six *gubernias* with Jewish populations above 10,000.

In the eleven *gubernias* in the Caucasus, there were less than 60,000 Jews, or 0.63% of the total population. In all of Siberia, consisting of nine *gubernias*, there were less than 35,000 Jews, or 0.60% of the total. In Central Asia there were less than 13,000 Jews, comprising only 0.16 of the total population.

Further analysis of the data in the Russian National Census of 1897 yields some interesting facts. The great mass of data collected by the Imperial government was analyzed using machines newly created by Herman Hollerith, which were able to create results comparing various criteria in the data. Thus it is possible to find, for example, the number of merchants of a given age range in a specific town.

What is revealed in a cursory review of this data is that Jewish populations existed in almost every major town and *uyezd* (county) in Russia, even though the numbers outside the Pale and Tsarist Poland tended to be very small. More importantly for Jewish genealogical research, it is possible to derive the male and female Jewish populations in any town, by age and place of registration. For example, in Novogrigorievsk Uyezd, in Stavropol Gubernia, in the Caucasus, the total Jewish population was 24 (15 male, 9 female) out of a total of 246,644 in the *uyezd*. Only 3 of the Jews (2 male, 1 female) lived in the major town of the *uyezd* (Blagodarnoe), while the remaining 21 Jews were spread out in the rest of the *uyezd*, implying that they were probably engaged in agriculture.

In some towns or cities all, or most, of the Jews lived only in the major *uyezd* city. In Simbirsk Uyezd in Simbirsk Gubernia, the Jewish population was 237 (155 male and 82 female) out of a total population of 225,873. All 237 of the Jews lived in the city of Simbirsk; none lived outside of that city. In this *gubernia* in particular, almost all of the Jews lived in the *uyezd* cities, and only 12 lived outside of those cities. A similar analysis can be made through each

of the *gubernias* about the Jewish and total city-rural population distinction.

Another metric that can be applied to this data is the differentiation between male and female populations in a particular town or city. It must be stated that there will almost always be a natural difference between male and female populations. In fact, only one town so far, has been found to have identical male and female populations, although several have been very close. Where there is a major differentiation between male and female populations, one should attempt to ascertain the reason for such a differentiation. Moscow Gorod, in Moscow Gubernia, has a male population of 14,939, more than double the female population of 6,100. The male Jewish population (253) is double the female (122), but the Jewish numbers are tiny in comparison to the total number.

In Kars Oblast, in the Caucasus, the total Jewish population is 1,138, consisting 1,075 males but only 63 females! The same preponderance of males occurs in each town in Kars Oblast that had a Jewish population. For example, Ardagen Okrug has a male population of 107, and female population of 6. Only two of the males lived outside of the major town of Ardagen. Many such differences between male and female Jewish populations were found in towns outside of the major Jewish population centers in the Pale and in Tsarist Poland.

The Analytical Goal of Producing Population Data

As I stated in my article in Vol. 31-4, pp. 8-9, the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center, in Jerusalem, is interested in having the results of my research, i.e. the population data from the encyclopedias and the Russian National Census, placed on their website. The complete set of population data should be ready for transfer soon.

This table shows a truncated version of all the data in order to conform to the width of the page.

DATA FROM THE *EVREISKAYA ENTSIKLOPEDIA: BESSARABIA GUBERNIA*

GUBERNIA	UYEZD	TOWN	EVREISKAYA ENTSIKLOPEDIA	1897 JEWISH MALE	1897 JEWISH POPULATION	EE SOURCE	1897 TOTAL MALE	1897 TOTAL POPULATION	EE SOURCE	1897 % JEWISH	CHRISTIAN OTHER
Vitebsk	Gubernia		V: 633-639 [260 lines].	82,536	174,240	1897 Census	736,882	1,489,246	1897 Census	11.69	
Vitebsk	Lepel	Uyezd		8,630	18,108	1897 Census	77,585	156,706	1897 Census	11.55	1802: 162
Vitebsk	Lepel	Lepel	X: 169-170 [22 lines].	1,566	3,379	1897 Census	3,038	6,284	1897 Census	53.77	
Vitebsk	Lepel	Beshenkovich	IV: 445 [6 lines].		3,182	IV: 445		4,423	IV: 445	71.94	
Vitebsk	Lepel	Chashniki	XV: 844 [9 lines].		3,480	XV: 844		4,590	XV: 844	75.81	No data

The availability of this data to researchers will allow for more detailed analysis of population growths and decreases. Further analysis would permit, for example, contextualizing the reasons for population changes for each town. Such an examination of the historical or cultural context of the events for each town is a continuous project. Further analysis of this data will allow such an examination. ❖

References and Notes

1 The Jewish populations in the gubernias in the Pale of Jewish Settlement ranged from 4.02% of the total population, in Poltava Gubernia, to 15.77% of the total, in Minsk Gubernia. Jewish populations in the gubernias ranged from about 66,000 to over 425,000.

2 The percentages of Jews in the gubernias of Tsarist Poland ranged from 8.59% in Kalish Gubernia to 18.12% in Warsaw Gubernia. Numbers of Jews ranged from 58,000 to almost 350,000 in Warsaw Gubernia.

Past IAJGS secretary, Joel L. Spector is also a past president of JGSGP and former chairperson of its Russian SIG. With knowledge of both contemporary and pre-Revolutionary Russian language, Joel has given presentations on the Russian language and has provided translations of documents to individuals and groups. He has been conducting research in several historic Russian language encyclopedias for well over a decade and has completed an English language index to the "Evreiskaya Entsiklopedia". He is researching the names **ZEITLIN** and **BLACK** primarily in Vitebsk Gubernia.

Contact Joel at JLSpector@aol.com

FORUM

Many of us have probably encountered frustration when we've tried to get help with our research from prospective relatives who didn't respond to our queries. We've also experienced a less than enthusiastic response from some of our relatives when sharing our genealogical journeys.

We asked several JGSGP these quandaries. While suggestions, there were. Therefore, what follows is a responses. We hope their with some tested, useful participants and/or family an interest in your family's

"I always preface all discussions about genealogy with 'We want to preserve our stories for our children and future generations. This is the last generation that is relatively close to the source of information. I can share with my granddaughter my recollections of her great great grandfather.'"

members to comment on they offered many unique some common themes. compilation of our panelists' suggestions provide you ways to deal with reluctant members who do not share genealogy.

Thanks to JGSGP members Elaine Ellison, Ed Flax, James Gross, Mark Halpern, Merle Kastner, Felicia Mode Alexander, Joan Pollak, Stan Sandler, Walter Spector, and Barry Wagner for their thoughtful comments.

One suggestion that can be applied universally is the following:

"I always preface all discussions about genealogy with 'We want to preserve our stories for our children and future generations. This is the last generation that is relatively close to the source of information. I can share with my granddaughter my recollections of her great, great grandfather.'"

A. How can you get through to people who refuse to acknowledge your requests for assistance?

- Work from your known family connection. Arrange an introduction, if possible, by a mutual cousin. Spell out your relationship, and include any personal anecdotes you know about mutual relatives to reduce suspicion that your letter is a scam. e.g., "Is it okay if our third cousin, Joan, contacts you with some questions? She is a wonderful person who is interested in OUR family genealogy and can tell you a lot about our family."
- Try contacting the individual by phone. Use Family Search.org or Public Records Index to locate a phone number.
- Search social media sites, e.g., Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter for your person of interest and contact them to share what you think is your connection and offer to send a copy of your tree.
- Present all substantiating research and references to develop a connection.
- Listen to their view about a possible connection or why there is none.
- Discuss the evidence from both sides and suggest a face-to-face meeting, perhaps over a meal, even if it means traveling to their location.
- Ask if another family member might have pertinent information or be willing to discuss the possible relationship if the first person contacted is not able or is not interested in responding.
- Send a handwritten letter which conveys a more personal touch. It's less likely to be discarded with the daily "junk mail" we all receive.

- Consider including a copy of or a URL link to *Chronicles* with your request. It establishes your “credentials” as someone genuinely interested in genealogy. If you have an article that was published in *Chronicles* or are listed as a current or past member of its editorial team or of the JGSGP board, note that as a way to establish the legitimacy of your request.

- Research the mutual person of interest by checking passenger lists (did he/she come from the same town), census records, naturalization records, next of kin, appetite and make enough to want to include the relevant family tree, which one respondent refers to as a “floating branch” until a connecting relationship is confirmed.

Aim to be creative and make it interesting to minimize eye rolling by the, (hopefully previously), disinterested family members.

records, city directories, cemetery etc., to whet his/her him/her curious talk with you. In-

- Inquire whether a cemetery will forward your letters to those listed as next of kin or contacts.

- Send a photo of your family member who has the same name or a photo of yourself. Ask if there is a resemblance to them or to another family member. (When Avivah Pinski sent a photograph to relatives who didn't know about her, she achieved favorable results. See pp. 29-30.)

- Include an inaccurate detail along with the correct detail in the supporting information that you send and request a confirmation of which is the correct one.

- Check websites such as Ancestry, My Heritage, and Geni for an existing tree of your target family.

- Include all your contact information, i.e., name, regular and e-mail addresses, phone number, social media listings, URL for personal website in your outreach to make it as convenient as possible for your person of interest to contact you.

- Wait a little bit and later reinitiate the contact. Note that you wrote or called previously but perhaps your letter/e-mail/voice mail was never received.

- Be patient, difficult as it may be. Your request may be put aside with the best of intentions to “respond to later”. Daily life takes precedence and your request may not be rediscovered until much later.

B. How can you generate more interest in genealogy research by family members?

- Talk to someone who has attempted to organize a family reunion for insights into communicating with disinterested relatives.

- Take it slowly. Have brief discussions over extended periods of time.

- Initiate conversations by sharing printed information, e.g., “I just found this newspaper article about our grandfather’s store in South Philadelphia.”

- Ask for help identifying people and/or places in photographs.

- Pose questions that generate positive memories, e.g., “How about the Passover seders and all those people?”

- Consider the timing of your attempt to engage interest.

Examples:

(1) At Passover I held up a box of Margareten matzos and asked my mother to tell the family how my grandmother's cousin married Carrie Margareten. Mother also described attending an extravagant Margareten family wedding as a child.

(2) When a nephew graduated from business school, I told him his 2x great grandfather was president of a "start-up" fur company and presented him with an antique book about fur companies with a description of his company.

(3) An impromptu comment such as "Did you know our 4x great grandfather fought with Napoleon in the Russian Campaign?" can grab attention and generate interest.

- Aim to be creative and make it interesting to minimize eye rolling by the, (hopefully previously), disinterested family members. One respondent gave the example of using a website like Bookemon (www.bookemon.com) or JGSGP member, Tammy Hepps' Treelines tool (<https://www.treelines.com>) to put little bound stories together with photos about the biographies of people in the family. The photos helped keep the younger generations engaged by the old fashioned clothing and interesting family tableaux. Another respondent suggested writing or telling short, "fun", family stories, e.g., "run-ins" with the law or somewhat "illegal" activities, etc. He cited the example told to him by the granddaughter of a client that while her grandfather was listed in Ancestry.com as a peddler, he sold lingerie to "women of the night".

Finally, you may need to accept that you may never receive a reply to your request or generate an interest among other family members in your shared genealogy. As one of our forum panelists stated:

I think the world is full of people who have no interest in genealogy, no interest in where they personally came from, and maybe even [have] reasons to avoid trying to make connections to family.

Some may no longer be in Jewish families and have no desire to be considered Jewish. Some may have family experiences that have been painful and don't wish to relive them. Some may have family histories that are built on relationships that arose from adoptions, step-families, and other relationships that don't lend themselves to searching for the kinds of family history that many of us who are active genealogists would find rewarding.

I think that people who don't respond to you may also be spooked by concerns about online scams and fears that communicating about family with a stranger may compromise their online security in some way. That is particularly so if they are over forty. So, maybe, you have to research "around" these people, independently find information, draw conclusions, and in the end, ignore them. There are some who have no interest in being found, connected, or involved in your research. That is life.

I have found that some individuals, when they discovered their names on my online family tree asked me to remove them, which I have done. I considered whether my right to publish information that I independently collected outweighed their right to "internet privacy". In the end, I concluded that their privacy was of more value to them than the family tree information was to me. While my internal database retains their information, I have privacy filtered the online database so that they are anonymous. It's a case of a compromise that does not diminish my research while allowing someone to be comfortable about their security and life. ❖

JGSGP GENEALOGY QUIZ #7:

by David Brill

According to this 1915 naturalization petition filed in Federal Court in Philadelphia, Leopold and Bertha SCHMULOWSKY were the parents of three minor children, all born in Pernow, Russia (now Pärnu, Estonia). One of them became an icon of American architecture. Who was s/he? Hint: Don't be misled; Leopold used this petition to legally change the family name!

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

Form 8964
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE

223

ORIGINAL

18973

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

In view of the Statute of the United States for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania:
The petition of Leopold Schmulowsky, hereby filed, respectfully sheweth:

First. My place of residence is 701 Poplar St Philadelphia, Pa.
(Give number and street.)

Second. My occupation is Clerk

Third. I was born on the 24 day of May, anno Domini 1875, at Halmar, Russia

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Liverpool on or about the 15 day of June A.D. 1904, and arrived in the United States at the port of Philadelphia, on the 29 day of June A.D. 1904, on the vessel Hollandland

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 14 day of April, anno Domini 1910, at Philadelphia, in the Circuit Court of the Dist. - E.D. of Pa.

Sixth. I am married. My wife's name is Bertha - 36 years. She was born Riga, Russia, and now resides at 701 Poplar St, Phila., Pennsylvania.

I have 3 children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

<u>Louis</u>	<u>Feb. 20, 1901</u>	<u>at Pernow, Russia</u>
<u>Sarah</u>	<u>June 14, 1902</u>	" " "
<u>Oscar</u>	<u>June 15, 1904</u>	" " "

Seventh. I am not a disbeliever in or opposed to organized government or a member of or affiliated with any organization or body of persons teaching rebellion or opposed to organized government. I am not a polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy. I am attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and it is my intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce absolutely and forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and loyalty to Nicholas II, Emperor of all the Russias, of whom at this time I am a subject, and it is my intention

HAVE EXPERTISE IN GENEALOGY, WILL TRAVEL JGSGP SPEAKERS BUREAU

We are proud of our Speakers Bureau and wish to reach a broader audience in the greater Philadelphia Jewish community.

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
2016 Membership & Renewal Form
 Enjoy *Chronicles*, Our Award Winning Quarterly Publication

Please print, complete and mail this form with your check to our MAILING 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.jsgsp.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, 2016.

(New members joining after September 30, 2016 receive membership benefits through December 31, 2017.)

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

Our U.S. mail address is: 1657 The Fairway, #145 Jenkintown, PA 19046

JGSGP is on the web at: <http://www.jgsgp.org>

Look for information about other IAJGS member societies:

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

Join the JGSGP Facebook group: <http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp>.



A thirty minute period before each meeting is devoted to browsing reference books and getting help from mentors.

Please check your JGSGP emails, our website (<http://jgsgp.org>) and our Facebook page (<http://tinyurl.com/jgsgp>) for complete and up to the minute program information.

Sunday, December 20, 2015, 1:30 PM

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road., Elkins Park, PA 19027

Lara Diamond, President of JGS of Maryland

“Researching Your Roots in Ukraine with the Ukraine SIG”

Lara Diamond will talk through some strategies used to get documents from Ukraine, to include hiring researchers privately, crowdsourcing research for specific towns, and utilizing the Family History Library's resources. These methods should be applicable to much of Eastern Europe. She will also discuss some of the latest initiatives and acquisitions made by Ukraine SIG and how to see what initiatives Ukraine SIG currently has underway or completed for a particular town, and how the strategies discussed can be integrated with Ukraine SIG.



Lara's biography follows her book review on p. 8 of this issue.

Sunday, January 24, 2016, 1:30 PM

Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, 8339 Old York Road., Elkins Park, PA 19027

Israel Pickholtz

“Jewish Genetic Genealogy – A Study in Endogamy”

Are you concerned about understanding and interpreting your DNA test results? DNA results are especially complicated for Jews, who have largely married “within the tribe” for hundreds of years, a practice known as endogamy. In this presentation, Israel Pickholtz will tackle this challenge head on. Since every family is different, rather than taking a “how to” approach, he will demonstrate how he dealt with endogamy in his family and identify general lessons that apply to all DNA research. His goal is to inspire all to say, “I can do this!”



Israel Pickholtz is a native of Pittsburgh who has been living in Israel since 1973. He began working seriously on his families' genealogies in 1994. Since 2008, when he took early retirement, he has been accepting genealogy clients from Israel and abroad.

Copies of his book, *Endogamy: One Family, One People*, will be available for purchase and signing following his talk..

Sunday, February 21, 2016

Main Line Reform Temple, 410 Montgomery Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096

Cassio Tolpolar, Brazilian Film Director and Writer

“Mamaliga Blues: A Family Road Movie Into the Past”

Deadline for submission of articles for our winter issue is Sunday, January 10, 2016.

Please send material to: editor@jgsgp.org