

CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL
SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

דברי הימים



CHRONICLES

JOURNAL OF THE JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

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

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JGSGP Quiz # 13 - Examples of Samuel Yellin's work:
Philadelphia, PA - 1924
<http://www.samuelyellin.com/history/work/packard.html>
The Packard Motor Corporation Building a/k/a the Press Building (ing) is located at 317-32 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, PA
• Bronze Repoussé Door from the Bok Tower,
Lake Wales, FL, ca. 1929
<http://www.samuelyellin.com/history/work/reppdoor.html>

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Cover Photo: Courtesy United.States Holocaust Memorial Museum See article on p. 5 for complete credits.

REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM



Did you ever sit back and reflect on which individuals, objects, or photographs sparked your exploration of an unknown relative or led you to try to understand the significance of that object to generations of your family? I'm always intrigued by stories that delve into the process which leads to uncovering new perspectives of members or branches of our respective families.

I recently discovered Australian Jewish genealogist, Eli Rabinowitz's story about how a single photograph generated his efforts to unravel the mystery surrounding an uncle:

<http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2016/08/from-one-photograph-to-journeys-of-research-and-discovery/>

Note: If you're not already familiar with Avotaynu Online, here's part of its mission statement: "The objective of Avotaynu Online is to bring to genealogists the best writing in our field, with a special focus on Jewish genealogy. We are particularly interested in original thinking that will improve genealogical practice and teach us something about Jewish family history."

Hannah Pressman, a member of the affiliate faculty for the University of Washington Stroum Center for Jewish Studies, wonders about a family heirloom which taught her about her ancestors and mysterious parts of her Jewish history. She eloquently shares her journey in the following piece:

http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/222801/my-sephardic-inheritance?utm_source=tabletmagazinelist&utm_campaign=e1ecc36933-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2017_02_15&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_c308bf8edb-e1ecc36933-206893405

Several of the articles in this issue demonstrate the power of photographs and incomplete stories about colorful relatives. Barry Benowitz has long been intrigued by his enigmatic great grandfather, Louis Freeberg, and traces the process through which he confirmed family lore that Louis

was a composer whose compositions can be found at the Library of Congress. I was delighted with the results of my efforts to unravel the mystery behind the photograph of a bearded man wearing a top hat on a 1914 postcard. Mark Halpern shares the second installment of his session at last year's IAJGS conference entitled "Visas for Life: Seven Refugees Journey to Safe Haven." The accounts included in his talk stemmed from an album of photographs of six women and one man who were refugee passengers on a rickety ship from Vladivostok, Russia to Tsuruga, Japan enroute to ultimate safety in the United States or elsewhere.

In his latest "tech" piece James Gross heeds us to be wary of the genealogy website, www.FamilyTreeNow.com, which has been known to compromise identity security. In a similar vein the Jewish Genealogical Society of Conejo Valley and Ventura County listed the following link (<http://www.jgscv.org/pdf/Practicing%20Safe%20Computing%20Articles.pdf>) to eighteen, single page articles by Hal Bookbinder which provide very practical and timely advice on protecting research imbedded in our computers.

Fred Blum explains the backdrop behind our cover photo in his latest "President's Message." His skills as a private investigator were instrumental in uncovering this woman's background, but he emphasizes how the use of social media proved to be the *piece de resistance* to his search.

As usual, we recapture the fascinating presentations given by speakers at recent meetings.

We invite you to submit original material so we can maintain our tradition of member-generated content. Please send it to editor@jgsgp.org by Sunday, July 16. ❖

Evan Fishman, Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we do our own research, we should always remember that the skills we have obtained can be of help to others. As many of you may know, I have volunteered for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. The museum has a project called Remember Me, <https://rememberme.ushmm.org/>. I learned about this project at the IAJGS conference in Washington, D.C. in 2011.

The USHMM has photographs of over 1100 children who were displaced prior to and during World War II. The museum is trying to locate these children (now adults) to memorialize their stories. I figured what better way to use my detective skills than to help find these children. I was able to locate about twenty of these children. However, there was one child (Nina Krieger) whom I was unable to locate, and it was giving me fits. This young girl was born in Lvov in 1932. After her family was taken to a ghetto there, she was able to escape and used her wits to survive. After the war she was unable to find any family.

She went to a displaced persons camp and was interned there until August 1946 when she went to Cleveland to a foster family. When she was twenty-five she moved to New York



Nina Krieger holds a name card intended to help any of her surviving family members locate her at the Kloster Indersdorf DP camp. This photograph was published in newspapers to facilitate reuniting the family.

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

Barry Benowitz

Rubenstein: Botosani, Romania, Philadelphia, PA;
Greenberg: England or Russia, Philadelphia, PA;
Rosenzweig: Kiev, Ukraine, Philadelphia, PA

Carol Dondick

Steven Goldberg

Bonnie Keyser

Malkiel/Malkin from Dabdal/Davgavpils, Latvia;
Kliger/Chiger from /Rivne (Volhynia), Ukraine;
Cohen from Kiev gubernia, Ukraine

Shamong, NJ

Menlo Park, CA

Wyncote, PA

West Chester, PA

Seth Levinson

Ira Poliakoff

Roberta Sands

Goldsant, Baldringer, Cohen, Hyman, Jacobs from:
Nowy Sacz, Bochnia, Poland, Krakow area, Breslau

Nancy Sarvat & Howard Haber

Allison Weindkranz

Lotman, Harris, Parker from Austria to Philadelphia;
Russian-Polish border 1895; Prussia

Kendall Park, NJ

Wynnewood, PA

Philadelphia, PA

Narberth, PA

Narberth, PA

City to study music. The USHMM was able to provide me with the name of the ship she travelled on to the U.S. Through my research I found her naturalization papers, and from that information I was able to determine her exact date of birth, where she lived in New York, and who the witnesses on her papers were. I was also able to trace Nina's whereabouts until 1952 when her trail went cold. I could find no other information on her. Two weeks after she passed in November 2013, her daughter came across the Remember Me Facebook page and was shocked to see her mother's photo. The daughter contacted the museum, and her story has been memorialized.



So why wasn't I able to find her!!!!??? Nina met an Italian exchange student in New York, fell in love, moved to Italy, married there and had three children. So what did I learn? Never underestimate the power of social media! Read the complete story at <https://rememberme.ushmm.org/updates/nina-krieger-identified>. ❖

Fred Blum, President

The photos of Nina Krieger as a child and as an adult which appear here and on the front cover were supplied by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. The photo of her as a child is courtesy of Lilo, Jack and Micha Plaschkes: Date: Oct 1945 - Nov 1945, Locale: Kloster Indersdorf, Bavaria; Munich, Germany

OVERVIEW OF THE ROOTSMAGIC PROGRAM

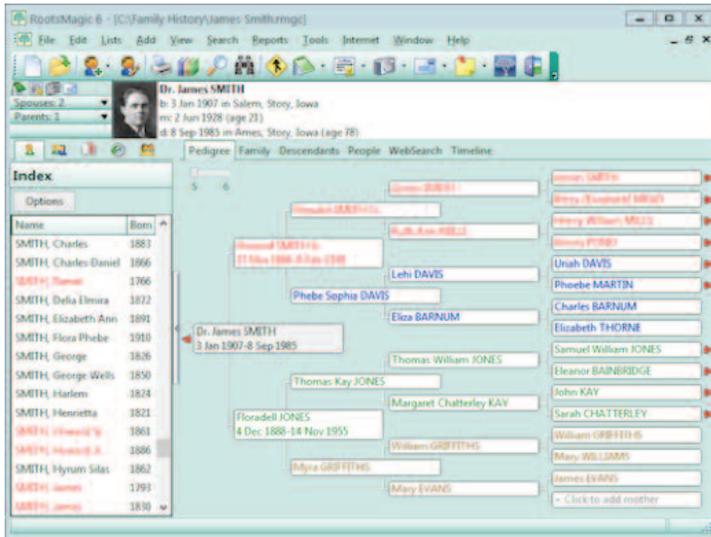
SUMMARIZED BY STEWART FEINBERG FROM THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE

by Dick Eastman, August 2014

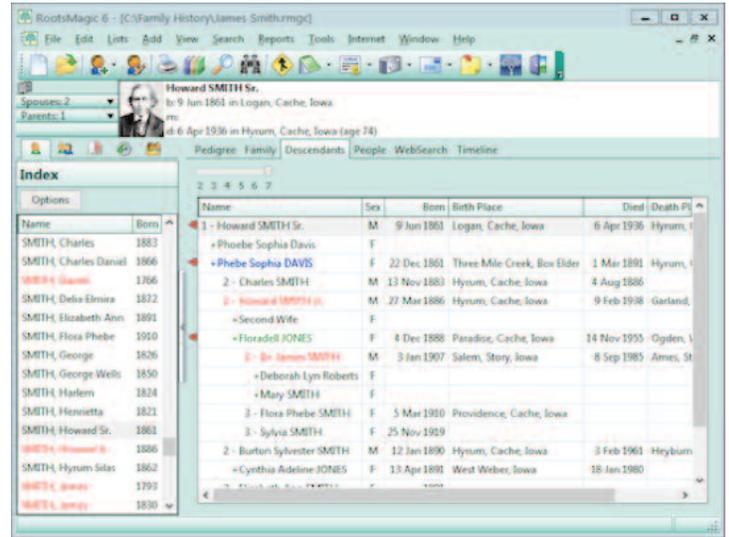


I really like the user interface of **RootsMagic**. It is simple, easy to read, and easy to understand. RootsMagic, a very popular genealogy program for Windows, features a user-friendly interface. Despite the simple user interface, the program also offers most all the features demanded by experienced genealogists: a good system of recording source citations; unlimited people in the database, facts/events, notes, sources, and more; many different types of printed reports; support for international character sets through Unicode integration (allow-

ing for use of umlauts, accents, and other characters found in European alphabets); automatically checks for duplicates as you add people, alternate names to make it easy to find a person by their maiden or nick names; the ability to add links pointing to websites that contain information about the people, sources, places, etc. in your database; multiple relationships, such as adoptions, foster parents, etc.; DNA information; ability to add history, latitude and longitude for each place; user-defined fact types; private events that you can suppress from printing or exporting; save reports to PDF format; save reports to your favorite word processor in RTF format; print color coding in pedigree charts, group sheets, box charts, narrative reports, wall charts, ahnentafel (ancestor table), descendant list, and timelines; a built-in help system; a date calculator, a relationship calculator, a Soundex calculator, and much more.



ROOTSMAGIC “PEDIGREE” VIEW



ROOTSMAGIC “DESCENDENTS” VIEW

RootsMagic is available in two versions: **RootsMagic Essentials** is a **FREE** genealogy program that includes all the basic functionality but omits some tools, reports, and advanced features. Those features are visible but not active in the free Essentials version; when you select such a feature, the program presents a note explaining that this is in the full version of RootsMagic and also provides purchase information.

The full-featured RootsMagic program includes everything and sells for \$29.95, [August 2014 price] a rather modest price for a genealogy program with all these features. You can use the free RootsMagic Essentials for as long as you like, and the program does meet the needs of many genealogists. However, should you decide to later upgrade to the full-featured version, your previously-entered data will be available immediately after upgrading. There is no need to re-enter all the information again.

Both **RootsMagic** and **RootsMagic Essentials** can import and export GEDCOM files. This is useful if you already have genealogy information stored in a different program. Almost all modern genealogy programs support GEDCOM. If your other program supports GEDCOM, you can use that program to export all your information in a GEDCOM file, exit the other program, launch RootsMagic or RootsMagic Essentials, and import all the information. As with any genealogy program that imports GEDCOM files, you may need to do some clean-up of the data after importing, but that is much easier than re-entering everything manually!

RootsMagic is not limited to GEDCOM files, however. It also will import information directly from Personal Ancestral File, Legacy Family Tree, Family Origins, Family Tree Maker (2006 and earlier), or older versions of RootsMagic. Selecting one of the direct import options avoids the use of GEDCOM and results in a more accurate data transfer, requiring little, if any, manual clean-up. You should always select the direct import, not GEDCOM, if your genealogy data currently resides in one of the listed programs.

One item will be important to anyone who uses FamilySearch's online Family Tree: **RootsMagic** will read information directly from FamilySearch and also will export information back to FamilySearch. The FamilySearch Family Tree is an online system that allows users to search for ancestors, contribute new persons and information, and retrieve missing information from a single, central database. For members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, FamilySearch Family Tree is also the system through which temple ordinances are checked and reserved. More information and video tutorials on using **RootsMagic** with FamilySearch Family Tree are available online at <http://www.RootsMagic.com/fs> and you can read a lot more about FamilySearch support at <http://www.rootsmagic.com/familysearch/FAQ/>. I really like the user interface of RootsMagic. It is simple, easy to read, and easy to understand.

Note: Dick Eastman indicated on September 9, 2014 that the producers of RootsMagic have developed MacBridge for RootsMagic 6, a software product that allows RootsMagic to run on a Macintosh without installing Windows. See <https://blog.eogn.com/2014/09/09/genealogy-software-review-macbridge-for-rootsmagic/> for his full review. ❖

Dick Eastman has been involved in genealogy for more than thirty-five years. He has worked in the computer industry for more than forty years in hardware, software, and managerial positions. He writes the Eastman Online Genealogy Newsletter, published daily, which provides genealogists with helpful information.

To subscribe to the free, basic edition of the newsletter, click onto <https://app.feedblitz.com/f/?Sub=948986>.

A GENEALOGY WEBSITE CAUSING A POTENTIAL PRIVACY ISSUE

by James Gross, MSLIS



Most genealogists are familiar with the large, commercial genealogy websites such as Ancestry, Geni, and HeritageQuest. These commercial websites contain databases which enable people to find their roots. Several of these commercial websites encourage users to submit family trees, and they typically employ usernames and passwords to help preserve privacy. However, a genealogy website called **FamilyTreeNow** has recently made news for its apparent wholesale collection and public access of personal data.

In researching this issue, I located a number of timely articles, listed in order of publication, which discussed reservations about this website, specifically the potential for identity exposure or privacy risk. Fox61 news station in Hartford, Connecticut reported on a January 2017 Facebook posting by the Wethersfield (CT) Police Department. Police said criminals are using www.familytreenow.com to find information about where you live, information about your family and their contact information.”⁽¹⁾

According to the Wethersfield Police, this website, which appears to be a typical commercial genealogy website, is actually a venue for identity theft. The website is meant to help you track down your family’s history but is causing some privacy problems. Criminals are using the website to access sensitive information such as your address, names of family members and their contact information. Wethersfield Police Chief James Cetran said that he heard about it from an investigator in Florida and is encouraging users to opt out of the site publishing their data.⁽²⁾

Chief Cetran added, “I would strongly suggest you go on the site and see if they have any of your private information. If you find your information on the site like I did, go to the bottom of the page and click ‘privacy’ and then click ‘opt

out.’ Some of my friends who have found their information cannot opt out. If you can’t opt out, email the company.” In addition, Chief Cetran noted, “After opting out, I typed in my name and it was no longer listed. I also typed in my dad’s name, and I was able to opt out for him on his behalf. If you find your information on the site I would also recommend messaging the company to express your discontent.”

In January 2017 Salt Lake City based *Fox13* news station reported Andrew Hacker, a cyber security expert at Harrisburg University, saying, "Seeing all that information about me in one spot at one time was very scary." Fox 13 also asked Salt Lake City based Legacy Tree for their take on the website. "Is it a genealogy website?" Paul Woodbury of Legacy Tree, replied that "it provides genealogical information. But it is deceiving in that the first thing it is providing is information on living people." ⁽³⁾

A January 2017 article from AOL.com stated ” . . . If you search your first name, last name, and state, the site displays your age and birth month as well as a list of relatives, associates, and past addresses. The easy accessibility of the site is what really has many people feeling panicked -- strangers don't even have to pay a fee or be a member of the website to be able to find where you live at the click of a button.” ⁽⁴⁾

The *Chicago Tribune*, in a January 2017 published interview, wrote, "The site listed my 3- and 5-year-olds as 'possible associates' . . . Given the danger level of my sister's occupation," Anna Brittain added, “the depth of information available on the genealogy site "scared me to death.” The article also observed that, ”It isn't clear whether 'opting out' eventually removes your personal information from their database, or whether it just prompts the site to block access to it.” ⁽⁵⁾

An excerpt from a relevant article in a January 2017 *Fortune* stated, “People began scrambling this week to erase their name from an obscure website called Family Tree Now after discovering a remarkable amount of personal information on the site—including age, home addresses (current and past) and names of family members and loved ones.” ⁽⁶⁾

In its January 2017 article *Money* noted, “Besides your family line, the site also shows possible (and shockingly accurate) close and distant relatives, neighbors, past roommates, current and past addresses, and any other variation of your name that you may have ever used.” In addition the article stated, ”Plus, what FamilyTreeNow knows about you can make it easier for someone to steal your identity”. ⁽⁷⁾

CNET, an online media website, in its January 2017 article wrote, “But it's not a genealogy site. Rather, it's masquerading as one, when it's really a people-search tool similar to Peoplefinders and Spokeo. . . . With very little effort, you can look up considerable data on just about anyone. That sound you hear is the cheering of stalkers everywhere.” ⁽⁸⁾

A January 2017 article about FamilyTreeNow in *Good Housekeeping* stated, ”You've probably never heard of FamilyTreeNow.com, but it likely has a shocking amount of your personal information posted for everyone on the Internet to see.“ *GH* referenced a post by an online internet advocacy group called “Enough is Enough”, whose goal is to make the internet safe for children and families.

Quoting Enough is Enough, *GH* noted, ”There is a website that criminals are using to get information regarding your family and where you live. I would strongly suggest you go on the site to see if they have any of your private information, you can also opt out of them maintaining your information. If you find your information on the site . . . go to the bottom of the page and click privacy and then click opt out.” ⁽⁹⁾

I agree with CNET that this website appears to be a people-search tool similar to Peoplefinders and Spokeo. As a test, I entered my name on the site and was surprised to locate both my current and prior addresses as well as my current and past phone numbers and an unlisted phone number. I quickly did an opt-out for my name.

I suggest that if you are concerned about your privacy, check and see if your name is listed in this database. According to the articles cited, removal of your name, with the opt-out feature, does not guarantee removal, but will hopefully still make it invisible to searches. Here is a direct link to submit a removal request: <https://www.familytreenow.com/optout> ⁽¹⁰⁾ ❖

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- 10) Link to opt out of the Family Tree Now website. Submit a request to remove your name. <https://www.familytreenow.com/optout>

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



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23-28 JULY 2017 • WALT DISNEY WORLD SWAN RESORT ORLANDO, FL

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES • JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

CHASING LOUIS FREEDBERG

by Barry Benowitz



Meeet Louis Freedberg. His name was really Leib Freedberg, and his full original name was Benzion Leib Freedberg. Louis Freedberg was my great grandfather on my mother's father's side, and learning about him was how I first got my feet wet in the sea of genealogy.

Louis Freedberg was always an enigmatic character to me. He was very different than the rest of that immigrant generation. My other great grandfathers came here, got jobs, and started businesses and families. Louis emigrated to the U.S. to avoid the Jewish quotas in his hometown of Libau (Latvia). He attended university and then enrolled in one of the conservatories in Boston. I don't know where because the records for both institutions were destroyed in fires. He spoke English with an English accent. While the rest of his contemporaries were putting their noses to the grindstone, Louis was studying to become an academic. After he left the conservatory, he married and settled down to start his own family.

According to the family stories, Louis became an itinerant salesman who traveled a great deal and never really made enough money to support his family. He traveled the countryside selling zithers door to door. Louis died the same year my mother was born. According to my aunt who was only eight years old at the time, Louis scared her. My grandfather and his siblings never talked about him.

Louis' wife, Jennie, outlived him by forty years. She survived two other husbands by the time I became aware enough to ask, but sadly I never did. After she died in the mid-1970s, Louis' life began to make more sense because the family began to tell more flattering stories.

He played the violin professionally and was a published composer whose music could be found at the Library of Congress. Several nights a week, he'd take his crystal set to the window and listen to whatever orchestras were being broadcast over the radio, following along with the scores in front of him. He was a recognized expert in Renaissance music, specializing in the various Greek modes. He would sit in the New York Public Library Music Division, located on 42nd Street, doing his own research while serving as an expert for the rest of the library patrons. 'Who was Louis Freedberg?' I wanted to know!



Louis Freedberg

To set the scene, it was the mid-1970s and Great Grandma has died. A TV miniseries called "Roots" was airing. This was Alex Haley's story of how he traced his roots as a descendent of African slaves. Everyone seemed to be searching their roots and talking about genealogy in general. I decided then that I would test the story about Louis Freedberg and his published music stored in the Library of Congress. I was about to start my journey.

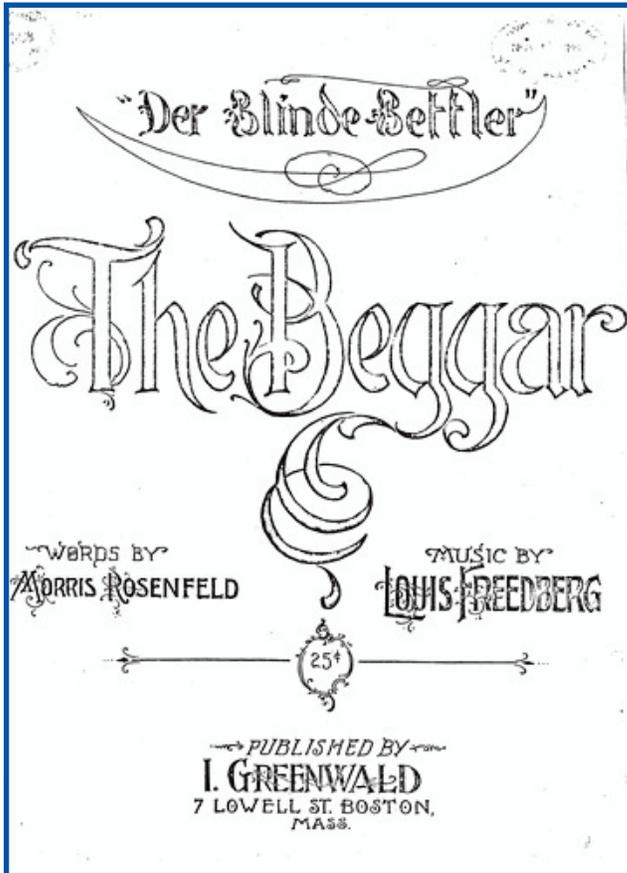
I traveled to the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. and made my way to the Music Division located in the back of this ornate building. The music librarian directed me to a formidable wall also known as the card catalog. I began to go through the cards and soon located a single card containing a listing for Louis Freedberg. I was getting close! I jotted down the information on a piece of paper and gave it to the librarian. He then promptly disappeared into the depths of the music collection. He was gone a good long while, and I was wondering if that was good news or bad. When he did return, I was discouraged to learn bad news. He had been unable to find the piece in the collection. I was devastated to be leaving empty-handed, but as it turned out, there was still reason for hope!

The librarian informed me that the card catalog in the Library of Congress building was not complete. There was a warehouse out in the Virginia suburbs that contained the complete card catalog for the Music Division, and I might want to give that a try. Of course I did, but it was getting late so I resolved to go out there the next day.

Over three hours and two bus rides later I reached my destination. The place was enormous! I had no idea how it was organized. A librarian informed me that everything was organized by time period. "What time period are you interested in?" she asked. Of course I didn't know but took my best guess. "1890 to 1910." She volunteered to escort me to that area of the building.

We walked, and we walked through the building and finally reached the section of metal file cabinets containing the cards for that time period. I got down to work, and after several hours of searching, I located one card with Louis' name on it! I jotted down all the information on the card and headed back to the city. By the time I arrived, it was very dark and much too late to go back to the Library of Congress.

The following day I arrived at the grand staircase of the building refreshed, but apprehensive. After all, I had already found a card which was supposed to lead me to my legacy. 'Who could say whether this new information would pan out?'



I gave the latest information to the librarian who again disappeared into the back. I took a seat at one of the reading desks to wait. The librarian then reappeared, but this time he had something in his hand. Pay dirt!

I thoroughly studied this new discovery and began bubbling over with excitement. I saw Louis Freedberg's name on the artistic front cover which indicated that the piece had been published in Boston. It all added up. There were four pages of music with some advertisements for other composers on the back cover. While I was studying it and wondering if I had enough nickels to photocopy it, the librarian asked, "Do you want to see the rest of it?" 'DID I WANT TO SEE THE REST OF IT!!!!' Of course I did. A while later he re-emerged from the stacks with Great Grandfather Louis' collection.

On that glorious day, I saw six pieces of Louis' music. He had composed some religious music and some art songs. For his songs, he had set music to some of the poetry of Morris Rosenberg, better known as the "Sweatshop Poet." I found his religious music to be interesting as well. One piece, entitled "Kol Nidre," was structured like a classical mass. It was quite a treasure. I xeroxed all they had because the originals can't be removed from the library. I told the

librarian that if they ever needed to get rid of the collection, I would take it.

Much later, when I began to seriously explore my family's genealogy, I remembered my little adventure from forty years ago as my first step into this wonderful hobby which led me to uncover the truth about my ancestors. ❖

In real life Barry Benowitz lives with his wife, two kids, two cats, and a dog. He works for a major cable TV provider. He is currently researching FREEDBERG, LAURIE, LURIE, KARP, GUTTER, SUGAR, ELFANT and BENOWITZ. Contact Barry at barry.benowitz@gmail.com



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TRIP TO THE WITTENBERG HOME VILLAGES IN HUNGARY – AUGUST 2003

by Donald Wittenberg

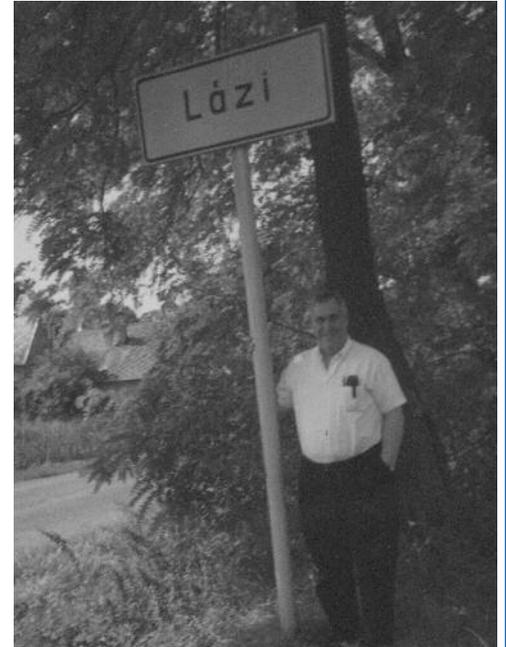


When my wife and I went to Hungary in 2003, my cousins, Robert Kertesz, and his sister, Zsuzsa (Susie) Berend, drove us to the countryside to three villages. The first two villages were Lazi and Veszpremsaryany in the Győr-Ménfőcsanak region of western Hungary. My father, Joseph, born in 1911 in Lazi, left there in 1926 to become a baker apprentice for his uncle in Budapest. My father left Hungary in 1936, and after his only return trip in 1972, he brought back pictures of the exterior of his home in Lazi. His first cousin also visited there in 1992 and brought back her own photos. Nothing had changed between 1926 and 1992!

We arrived on the main road into Lazi at about 1:30 pm and went to a general store. Robert served as our translator and explained to the store owner that we had come from America to visit the village where my father was born and grew up. The shopkeeper told us that the house across the street was the one we were looking for. When I looked closely at the exterior of the house, I recognized it immediately as my father's home. It matched the photos our cousin, Alice Herschman, had taken eleven years earlier. I saw a large pig in a pen on the right side of the house. I knew that to the left side and behind was the village cemetery.

Robert went to the house and found a teenage boy at home while his parents were still at work. Robert explained the purpose of our visit and asked permission for me to come in to see the house where my father was born. The teenager agreed. From the front door we entered the kitchen. On the left and right of the kitchen were small bedrooms. That was the entire house! The kitchen measured about 100 square feet, and each bedroom was about 150 square feet.

The kitchen deserves some description. All the appliances were white with dark blue trim on the edges and conjured up images of appliances from the



Don Wittenberg - Lazi, Hungary



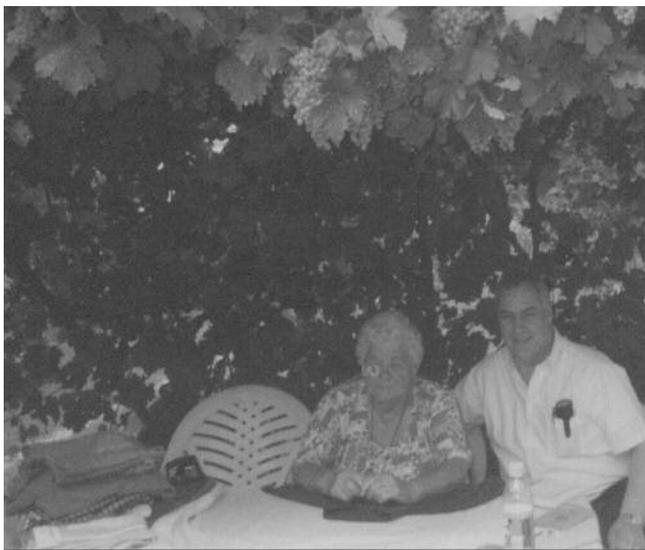
early 1900s. They were just like the appliances in my grandmother's house back in the 1950s. The broken-up linoleum floor, sixty (?), seventy (?) or even eighty (?) years old, showed bare spots underneath. The wallpaper, similarly, was very old. These may have been the same appliances and wallpaper my father's family used. I was surprised to see a sink with a faucet in the kitchen. Ten years before there was only a well outside of the house. Please note that there was no bathroom in the house. There must have been a privy in the back.

After leaving the house, we went back to the shopkeeper to find out where the town's records could be found. We learned that the various birth, marriage and death records for Lazi were housed in the city hall in nearby Veszpremsaryany, less than three miles away. There was no town hall in Lazi. The shopkeeper called the mayor of

Veszpremvarsany to arrange for her to meet us at that city hall.

The relatively young (about forty-five years old) mayor met us when we arrived at the city hall. She took us into the small room used as an office and brought out the records from after 1895. All the earlier records were stored in Budapest. I easily found my father's birth record and noted that the family's last name was listed as Wittenberger, not Wittenberg. I also discovered the birth records for his two sisters as well as a sister, Julia, I had never heard of. She was born in 1914 when my father was only three years old and died at the age of four months. My father did not remember her, and perhaps his parents never spoke about Julia. I learned that she was buried in a nearby cemetery, but we didn't have enough time to find it.

We asked the mayor if she knew of anyone in the town who could have remembered the Wittenberg family. She called her mother and learned that there was an elderly woman who did remember the Wittenbergs. The mayor arranged for us to visit her that very afternoon. We drove to her bungalow style home and saw her sitting under a carport-like grape trellis with an ironing board in front of her using her very old-fashioned, non-electric iron to press clothes. She appeared to be in her eighties or older.



Before she began to talk I already knew a little bit of information that my father had told me years before. There were two Wittenberg families living in Lazi. Both fathers owned the equivalent of general stores, and they did not get along. My father did not know how the two families were related. 'Were they brothers? Cousins?' I do not know how the other Wittenberg family was related to us.

The elderly woman talked a bit and then stopped. Robert surmised that she was very hesitant to go on, as if afraid that she would say something that would be upsetting. I encouraged Robert to let her know that it was all right to tell us any information she knew.

She told us about a town girl (not Jewish) who worked in the Wittenberg shop. The storekeeper's son, Joseph, my father's name, began an affair, and the girl became pregnant. I asked myself, 'Was it possible that my father could have done this?' My answer was 'Yes.' She went on to share that the son of that liaison lives next door to her but was still at work. He was about sixty years old. In addition, the Wittenberg family was deported in 1944, and only one daughter came back for one day, then returned to Budapest. When I heard this additional information, I realized that the other Wittenberger family also had a son named Joseph. My father left Lazi around 1926. His parents and sisters followed him to Budapest not long after that in the early to mid-1930s.

I would have loved to remain there until this other Wittenberg offspring returned from work, but we were on a tight schedule in order to return to Budapest that evening. ❖

Born in the Bronx, Donald Wittenberg's paternal and maternal ancestry came from Hungary. He was a teacher in the Philadelphia School District, later became an elementary school principal, and finally a central office administrator. Surnames and towns he's researching: WITTENBERG(ER) in Asvany, Berhiada, Innotta, Kaposvar, Lazi, Polgardi, Sikator, and Veszpremvarsany, all in Hungary; METH in Olaszalu, Hungary and Rabsicza, Galicia (probably near present day Ropczyce or Rzeszow, Poland); TWERSKY rabbinic dynasty in Cherkassy, Chernobyl, Korystechev, Makarov, Rotmistrivke, Skvira, Talne, and Trisk, and Okopy Ternopil Oblast, all in Ukraine.

Contact Donald at dwittenberg@comcast.net

THE BEARDED MAN IN THE TOP HAT - SEQUEL

by Evan Fishman



Back in *Chronicles* Vol. 32-3 (Fall 2015) I related how I learned about Zeidel Rovner, (stage name of Jacob Samuel Maragowsky), renowned *chazan* (cantor) and composer of Jewish liturgical music who lived in the United States between 1914 and his death in 1943.

Discovering him gave me an entirely new perspective about this branch of my family, and it all started with a postcard dated 1914.



Jacob Samuel Maragowsky (Zeidel Rovner)



In early January I decided to return to this thread to try to determine exactly how Rovner was related to me. In his postcard he referred to an aunt and uncle who turned out to be my great great grandparents, but his original surname, Maragowsky, was totally unfamiliar to me.

I googled ZEIDEL ROVNER and found a citation that indicated the existence of a Zeidel & Elias Rovner Collection in Yeshiva University's digital archives (<http://digital.library.yu.edu/about-cantors>) which had been donated by Zeidel's grandson, Henry G. Morrow, in 1956.

After confirming that Morrow was Zeidel's grandson, I searched the New York City Municipal Deaths records through the Family Search website (www.familysearch.org) and found out that Zeidel's mother's maiden name was TEUBOWSKY. I recalled that my great great grandmother's maiden name was listed as TURBOFSKY on her death certificate.

Based on Zeidel's birth year of 1856, I deduced that his mother, Chana, was my great great grandmother (born in 1841), Perl's, older sister, making Zeidel my first cousin three times removed.

At the same time I thought it might be nice to find out if Henry Morrow had any living descendants who might be able to provide more information on this illustrious ancestor. Henry died in December 2005 and was predeceased by his wife and infant son. I consulted with an archivist at the Yeshiva University libraries who offered to search through related information about the Rovner collection in the hope of identifying living relatives.

In mid-January the archivist indicated that she couldn't find any living descendants but suggested I try to locate a Micah Floryn Morgovsky who had written a dissertation about Zeidel. She felt that MORGOVSKY resembled MARAGOWSKY closely enough to indicate that Micah was somehow related to Zeidel.

I googled "MORGOVSKY" and found a Micah Morgovsky working as a cantor. In addition to her dissertation, Cantor Morgovsky performed a concert of his music at her senior recital which was a "thrilling" experience for her. She forwarded my email correspondence with her to her father and aunt in the hope of determining exactly how she's related to Zeidel Rovner and if she and I are related.

FULL NAME <i>Pearl Burstein</i>		17
Residence. No. <i>37 Lefferts</i> St.		18
(Usual place of abode; in institutions, homes, etc., former residences should be stated.)		19
Length of residence in city or town where death occurred yrs. mo. days.		20
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS		
SEX <i>F</i>	5 COLOR OR RACE <i>White</i>	6 Single, Married, Widowed or Divorced (write the word) <i>Married</i>
If married, widowed or divorced HUSBAND of (or) WIFE OF (Give full maiden name) <i>Elias Burstein</i>		
DATE OF BIRTH (month, day and year) <i>1841</i>		
AGE	Years	Months
<i>95</i>		
OCCUPATION OF DECEASED		
1) Trade, profession or particular kind of work <i>House Wife</i>		
2) General nature of industry, mine, or establishment in which employed (or employer)		
3) Name of employer		
BIRTHPLACE (city or town) (State or country) <i>Russia</i>		
12 NAME OF FATHER <i>Weyer Turbopky</i>		
13 BIRTHPLACE OF FATHER (city or town) (State or country) <i>Russia</i>		
14 MAIDEN NAME MOTHER <i>unknown</i>		
13 (a) BIRTHPLACE OF MOTHER (city or town) (State or country) <i>Russia</i>		

In between my initial telephone conversation with the Yeshiva University libraries archivist and learning about Cantor Morgovsky and her thesis, I worked backwards to learn about Zeidel's lineage. I found the respective burial locations of Zeidel Rovner and his descendants, including his grandson, Henry. The kind caretaker at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Glendale, Queens, New York informed me that he had two names on record for individuals who were responsible for the upkeep of Henry's grave. He offered to forward my letter requesting general information about Zeidel's family. Within a week a great grandson, Frank, phoned me. He was able to clear up some confusing statements I had found on Henry's manifest, saving me endless (and possibly futile) efforts to make sense of that information. This is a great example of how a living relative can in one minute clarify mysteries and confusions. I'm looking forward to learning more from Frank.

I received a copy of Cantor Morgovsky's thesis several weeks later,, and I was excited to see how much information she provided about our ancestor. I doubt I would've ever been able to cull that much material on my own. I was repeatedly thrilled and moved to read how significantly she had been affected by her discovery. After seeing a photograph of Jacob Samuel Maragovsky, she was struck by his strong resemblance to her late grandfather, Samuel Morgovsky.

Tracing the lineage backwards, I deduced that Jacob Samuel Maragovsky was my great-great-great-uncle or cousin. I was humbled and awed by this realization. I had sought out the cantorate, . . . only to discover that "cantoring" already ran in the family in legendary proportions. . . . My family and I tossed around words like "fate," and "destiny," and said that my cantorial calling "must run in my blood." We even joked that the late, devoutly Orthodox Chazzan Maragovsky would probably roll over in his grave to learn that one of his female descendants was following in his footsteps. . . What better way to spend my final year at the School of Sacred Music than immersed in a study of the legacy of Jacob Samuel Maragovsky, in whose footsteps I hope to one day be worthy enough to follow?⁽¹⁾

Through this physical, tangible interaction with Maragovsky's story and his music, by turning the pages of his yellowing manuscripts, by speaking to people who knew him, by reading about his concerts in the Yiddish newspapers of his time, by revisiting the adventures of his life and giving voice to the notes he scribed on the page, I am actually threading myself into the fabric of his story. By singing his music I breathe my own life and experience into history and, by doing so, reach back and actually touch the past, embracing my revered and beloved ancestor.⁽²⁾

Cantor Morgovsky's eloquent remarks and Frank's mutual interest in his great grandfather will spur me on to further investigation which might include face-to-face meetings. I'm excited at the prospect of bringing the past forward and learning more about this esteemed ancestor. ❖

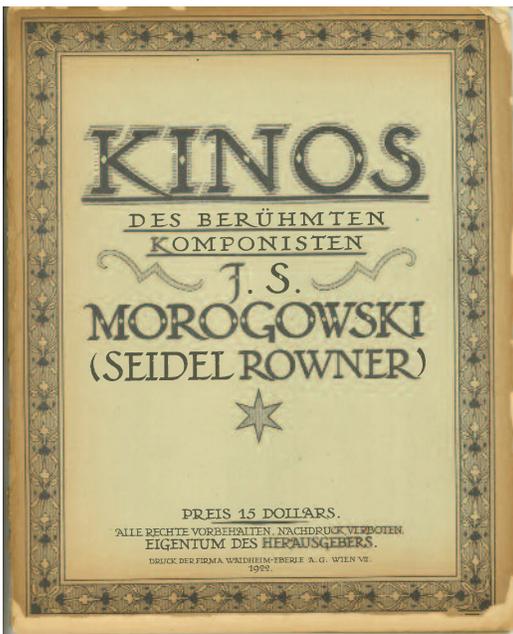
(1) Morgovsky, Micah Floryn. "The Life and Music of Zeidel Rovner: Threading Song Through the Fabric of Time." New York: School of Sacred Music, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. pp. 3-4.

(2) Ibid., p. 9.

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.

Evan is researching the following surnames, all in Ukraine: MANDELSTEIN--Starokonstantinov; LISNITZER--Luchinets, Izyaslav; ADELMAN--Krasilov; PRESSEISEN--Ostrog; UDIN--Kiev; BURSTEIN--Radomyshl; FISZMAN--Terespol, Poland & Brest Litovsk, Belarus.

Contact Evan at editor@jgsgp.org.



VISAS FOR LIFE: SEVEN REFUGEES JOURNEY TO SAFE HAVEN CHAPTER 2: ANTONINA ALTSZULER

The following is excerpted from Mark Halpern's same titled session at the 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle in August 2016.

(This is the second installment of the identification of refugees who transited through Japan in 1941.)



Along with two Japanese colleagues, Akira Kitade and Taka Fukushima, I am working to identify six women and one man who were passengers on the Amakusa Maru, a ship that carried Jewish refugees from Vladivostok, Russia to Tsuruga, Japan on their long journey from war torn Europe through Russia via the Trans-Siberian Railway to safe haven in the U.S. or elsewhere. These photos and their inscriptions are the only clues to help in their identification.

As of the end of 2016, five of these refugees have been identified. This is the story of one of them.



In early 2015, Taka wrote to the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Bad Arolsen, Germany with all the clues available from these photos. In July 2015, Taka received a response. They had found only two documents that might be

No. porządkowy.	Data wpisu do rejestru	Imię i nazwisko	Zawód	Wyznanie	Miejsce i data urodzenia	Stan cywilny
1	2	8	4	5	6	7
1342		ALTSZULER ANTONINA	WŁOŚC.	-	23. VII. 1919 KALWARIA ZEBR	PAWNA

The name on this list of visitors to the Polish Consulate in Shanghai in 1941 is Antonina ALTSZULER.

9239

PERSONS LEFT FOR U.S.A. ON S.S. "GENERAL GORDON" ON MARCH 24, 1949

No.	NAME	REL.	SHANGHAI ADDRESS	DESTINATION
1	ALBERT Regina	G.	125 Wayside Rd.	Ida Lisberger, 12912 Phillips Ave. Cleveland, Ohio
2	ALTSZULER Antonina	F.	350 Rue Bourgeat	U.S.A.
3	ARNSDORF Hermann	G.	Joint House	Margot Berglar, Apt. 40 3 Union Turnpike, Kew Gardens, New York
4	BARTHE Jakob	A.	134 Kwanming Road	Isidore Shapiro, 952 6th Avenue, New York
5	FROIDE Froide			
6	BERNSTEIN Ernst	G.	29/31 Dent Lane	Siegfried Loewenthal 138 Dubois Str. New Haven New York

The name on this list of passengers to the US from Shanghai in 1949 is also Antonina ALTSZULER traveling on a Polish passport.



*Yum Andersen
an Herrn Chos
Toni Altschu
Amakusa Maru, 22/3/1941*

applicable to one refugee, but the ITS archivist did not think this was our refugee.

But, the message on the back of the refugee's photo was written in German and signed Toni ALTSCHU.

Despite what the ITS Archivist had suggested, I thought we had found our first refugee and we set out to prove it. The photo of Toni Altschu given to Mr. Tatsuo Osako, the Assistant Purser aboard the Amakusa Maru, is dated March, 22, 1941.

On March 13, 1941, seventy-four of the 350 refugees on the Amakusa Maru were not allowed to land at Tsuruga, Japan. Since they did not have entry visas for a final destination, they were sent back to Vladivostok.

In Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania many Jewish refugees were able to obtain ten-day transit visas from Japanese Consul Sempo Sugihara, which were based on visa-like entries from the Dutch Consul Jan Zwartendijk. These entries stated: "The Consulate of the Netherlands, Riga, hereby declares that for the admission into Surinam, Curacao, and other possessions of the Netherlands in the Americas, no entry visa is required." Read more about Sugihara and Zwartendijk at (<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/chione-sugihara>).

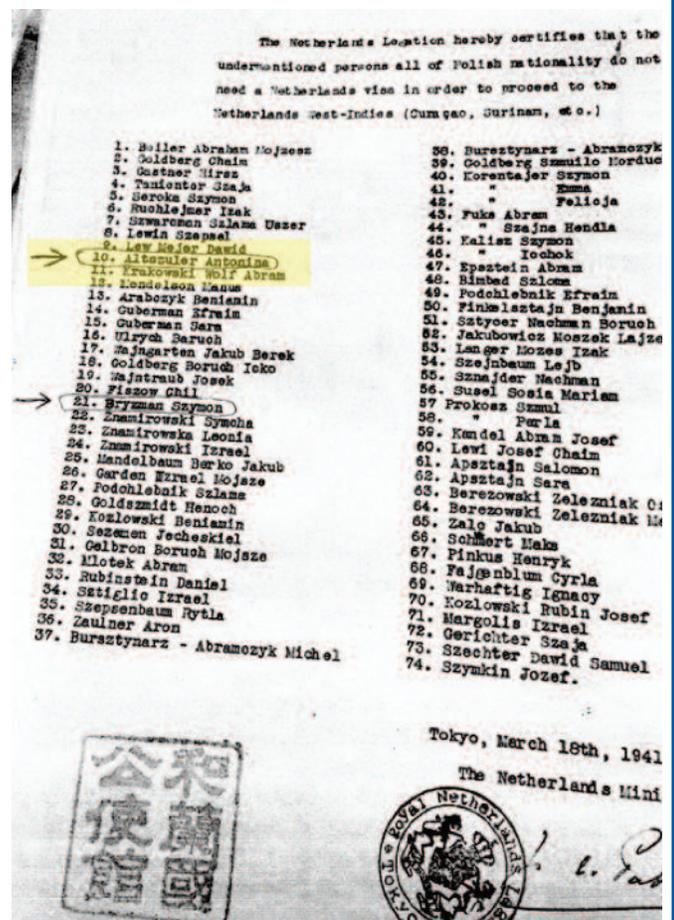
These seventy-four refugees were not able to obtain the Dutch "visa substitute" before the Consulate in Kovno closed in early August 1940. They did have Japanese transit visas issued by Sugihara before he departed Kovno at the end of August or those forged by Jewish activists after Sugihara had departed.

Visas were not needed to enter Curacao or other islands in the Dutch West Indies, but the refugees needed documentation that they were going there. The statement by the Dutch Consulate was accepted by both the Soviet and Japanese authorities, although this statement was neither a visa nor authorization to land in the Dutch West Indies.

Not having any good choices upon their return to Vladivostok, the refugees decided to go back to Lithuania, which was now under Soviet control. However, the Soviets would not allow them to return to Lithuania. Finally, the decision was made to sail again to Tsuruga not knowing what would happen.

On March 23, 1941, the Amakusa Maru approached Tsuruga. Someone from the Jewish Community of Kobe, Japan was there with a letter that had been negotiated with the Dutch Embassy in Tokyo. The letter stated: "The Netherlands Legation hereby certifies that the undermentioned persons all of Polish nationality do not need a Netherlands visa in order to proceed to the Netherlands West-Indies (Curacao, Surinam, etc.)."

Number 10 on the list is Antonina Altszuler. The Toni ALTSCHU from the photograph signed on March 22, 1941 on board the Amakusa Maru was Antonina ALTSZULER, who disembarked the Amakusa Maru at the port of Tsuruga on March 23, 1941.



We next found Toni in Kobe, Japan receiving aid from the Jewish Community of Kobe and the Joint Distribution Committee. Toni was one of the unfortunate refugees who could not obtain a visa to a port of refuge. By September 1941, Toni and about 1100 other Jews in Kobe had been evacuated to Shanghai.

On December 13, 1941, six days after the Japanese bombing of the U.S. Pearl Harbor Naval Base, Toni is at the Polish Consulate in Shanghai (we saw this record earlier). The register for the Consulate shows that Toni arrived in Shanghai on April 12, 1941.

Toni lived in the Shanghai Jewish Ghetto for eight long years before she departed for the United States on the S.S. General W. H. Gordon on March 24, 1949. She arrived in San Francisco with a student visa headed to Century College of Medicine in Chicago.

Ancestry.com provided the critical link in finding Antonina after she arrived in the U.S. About the time we started our search for the refugees in the photo album, Ancestry introduced the U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007.

Antonina Altszuler
Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007

Name:	Antonina Altszuler [Antonia Altszuler Babb] [Antonina Babb]
SSN:	321282477
Gender:	Female
Race:	White
Birth Date:	23 Jul 1919
Birth Place:	Kalwaria, Poland
Death Date:	21 Jan 1994
Father:	Michal Altszuler
Mother:	Severyna Blumenfeld
Type of Claim:	Original SSN.
Notes:	Oct 1950: Name listed as ANTONINA ALTSZULER; Name listed as ANTONIA ALTSZULER BABB; 28 Jan 1994: Name listed as ANTONINA BABB

Suggested Records

- California, De Antonina Babb
- U.S., Social S 2014 Antonina Babb
- California, Fe Records, 188 Simplicio Nat
- California, Pa 1882-1959 Antonina Babb
- U.S. Naturali 1791-1992 (In Project) Antonia Babb

This database provided a new surname – BABB.

This database includes information filed with the Social Security Administration through the application or claims process, including valuable details such as birth date, birth place, and parents' names for more than 49 million people.

For Toni, this one record also provides her date of birth, place of birth, father's full name and mother's maiden name. We know from the Shanghai Consulate information previously displayed that her place of birth was actually Kalwarya Zebrzydowska, a Jewish community in Poland southwest of Krakow. Unfortunately, the Jewish vital records for this town did not survive.

From Toni's petition for naturalization in California, we know that on March 13, 1950, she married Wallace Babb in Waukegan, Illinois. By July 1953, she was in Los Angeles and in April 1954, she was a graduate student at University of Southern California living with her husband.

Wallace was a soldier in the U.S. Army and served in both World War II and the Korean conflict. Master Sargent Wallace Babb died in 1957 at age forty-six.. One of Toni's friends

that I tracked down in California told me that he had committed suicide in Arizona. Sgt. Babb actually died of self-administered cyanide poisoning on June 6, 1957 at 9 p.m. at Old Boulder Beach on Lake Mead in Clark County, Nevada near Hoover Dam.

The couple had no children, and Toni never remarried. I mentioned before that Toni came to the U.S. on a student visa. Without any proof, I think that Toni's marriage to Wallace was one of convenience to allow her to become a citizen.

After obtaining her master's degree, Toni worked as a librarian from 1955 to 1987 at the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) specializing in Germanic and Scandinavian book collections. Toni died in Santa Monica, California in January 1994 at the age of seventy-five. She bequeathed her entire estate, which totaled \$592,000,

to UCLA for Holocaust and Jewish Studies.

I talked to a few people who knew her at UCLA including the executor of her estate, Helena Ordon, and her boss at the library, Victoria Steele. It appeared that Toni lived a private and lonely life. She had no family and few friends. She spent most of her time working, reading and traveling, but never returned to Poland or China.



Toni lost her entire family in the Holocaust, endured many trials and uncertainties between 1939, when she left Poland, and 1956 when she became a U.S. citizen. All because she was Jewish. She then lost her husband in 1957. And even in death, there was a tragic element. The executors of Toni's estate buried her in Holy Cross Catholic Cemetery in Culver City, California under the cross. May she rest in peace. ❖

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/> Contact Mark at mark@halpern.com

JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY

LESSONS IN JEWISH DNA: ONE MAN'S SUCCESSES AND WHAT HE LEARNED ON THE JOURNEY PRESENTED BY ISRAEL PICKHOLTZ

by Linda Ewall-Krocker



Israel Pickholtz's presentation began with a few true or false questions, such as whether we, as Jews, can find approximately 15,000 DNA matches (F), whether matches are guaranteed relatives (F), whether adoptees can easily find relatives among DNA matches (maybe), etc.

Endogamy is defined as marriage within a specific group by custom or law. We each have two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, sixteen great great grandparents, etc... One million by the time you go back six hundred years, more than the number of Jews in Europe at that time. This represents what's called a pedigree collapse i.e. when you run out of people. However, endogamy changes the numbers so that if your parents were first cousins, you would have six great grandparents instead of eight.

TWO KINDS OF ENDOGAMY:

Structural Endogamy: all Jews are related to each other multiple times, so marriages between modern day Jews must be endogamous even though we are not aware of it. We match multiple times, making cousins appear much closer than they are.

Personal Endogamy: our great grandparents and great great grandparents entered into cousin marriages (or uncle/niece marriages) knowingly and deliberately because of small towns, known and trusted families, preservation of property, families of "status", widow(er) with children, or *sheva berakhot* (lit. the "seven blessings" recited during the wedding ceremony. In this case the term refers to the festive meals that family and friends host for the newly married couple during the first week after marriage.) where they married off thirteen and fourteen year olds to each other.



Israel Pickholtz

Assuming everyone has only two children:

4 GP - 1st cousins 16 GGP – 2nd cousins 64 GGGP – 3rd cousins

256 GGGGP– 4th cousins 1024 GGGGGP – 5th cousins.

TYPES OF DNA TESTS:

Y-DNA –passes only from fathers to sons. Israel recommends Y-DNA 37 to start; add more if needed.

MTDNA – mitochondrial DNA passes from mothers to daughters. Males also inherit mtDNA from their mothers but do not pass it on to their children.

Autosomal DNA (“Family Finder”) – 22 pairs of chromosomes plus X (from mother). Dilutes every generation, so only good for close cousins. Some ancestors will drop out entirely, just as some families will “daughter out”. No idea how far back our match is. Don’t take the test just to see where you came from . . . that’s just a marketing tool.

Mutations can happen at any point, such as 36 of 37 matches with one’s own parent. The mutation may appear in one child, but not in all other children of the same parents.

Triangulation is a method of determining the ancestral haplotype of an ancestor using the DNA results of direct line descendants [per International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG) website]. Matches with more than one person may not match each other on the segment. The three do NOT show a common ancestor.

1. DNA can fool you. See the Facebook page for the International Society of Genetic Genealogy or its web site <https://isogg.org/>. First cousins share 12.9% match of cM (centiMorgens) on average. Second cousins share 3% (212.5 cM on average), meaning 97% of chromosomes don’t match.
2. DNA can be useful in making solid connections with fourth cousins.
3. DNA is best used together with traditional genealogical research methods.
4. Test siblings. Test first cousins. Test second cousins. Don’t accept “But Josh already tested.”
5. You simply can’t trust totals, you MUST look at individual chromosomes.
6. This is not magic, it’s hard work.
7. When all you have is DNA, you want it to be overwhelming.
8. DNA usually cannot prove that something IS true, but it can certainly prove that something is NOT true.
9. “NO” is also an answer.
10. Sometimes DNA is totally useless unless you have some indication based on traditional genealogical methods. Israel matched descendants of two families to determine if two, same-named, proposed siblings were the same person, a GGP.
11. DNA can provide new suggestions, but as far as proof, you are on your own.
12. Third cousins may match more distant relatives.

Conclusions:

- Sometimes you can find a complete solution. • Sometimes you can find a partial solution
- Sometimes you can find a hint of a solution • Sometimes you can find only frustration.
- But you won’t find anything if you do nothing.

Keep an open mind. Don’t jump to conclusions. Sometimes you have to draw your charts with broken lines. Learn and use the new tools, especially the third-party tools (like GedMatch.com) and the blogs. Be inspired. **YOU CAN DO THIS!**

IsraelP@pkholz.org <https://allmyforeparents.blogspot.com> ❖

Linda Ewall-Krocker has been interested in genealogy since the early 1980s, fortunately starting shortly before her dad passed away, so that she did get some information from him.

Linda is researching: FISHELOV (FISHER) in Kachinovich (suburb of Pinsk, Minsk Gubernia, Belarus); WEISS in Kamyanets Podilskyy, Khmelnytsky, Ukraine; GOLDMAN in Somes, Russia (or Rava-Rus'ka in Lviv Oblast of western Ukraine); and GREENBERG in Odessa, Ukraine. You can reach Linda at: cappuccinoholic@gmail.com

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

“CHASING PORTRAITS: A GREAT-GRANDDAUGHTER’S QUEST FOR HER LOST ART LEGACY”

SPEAKER: ELIZABETH RYNECKI

by Evan Fishman



Elizabeth Rynecki has been diligently chasing portraits for more than thirty years. Her initial objective was to identify and recover works that her great grandfather, Moshe Rynecki, painted in Warsaw before deportation to the Majdanek concentration camp and his subsequent murder. In the process she became a genealogist, art historian, and detective and uncovered her family’s fascinating history.

Moshe Rynecki (1881-1943) is considered an ethnographically inspired painter. His depiction of the everyday lives and culture of the Polish-Jewish community simply blended into his great granddaughter’s background while she was growing up. These Jewish folk scenes included portrayals of synagogue and *cheder* (lit. “room,” denotes a traditional Hebrew school which teaches the basics of Judaism and the Hebrew language) sessions, factory workers, shoemakers, musicians, peddlers as well as Cossack attacks. However, after she discovered her grandfather, George’s journals in the trunk of a car, the artworks became extraordinary instead of just familiar in her eyes. These journals detailed the losses her relatives endured during World War II, including Moshe’s art. Elizabeth took on a mission to continue her grandfather’s legacy, to tell his stories because he was a survivor.

After the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939 Moshe wanted to protect his prolific collection of 800 pieces. He and his son, George, removed the canvases from their wooden stretchers, rolled them up, and grouped them into a half-dozen bundles. Moshe also catalogued which pieces were in each bundle. Sadly this list was lost. He then entrusted his precious artworks to friends, hoping they would keep them safe until they could be retrieved after the war. Moshe and his wife, Perla, entered the Warsaw ghetto, but George and his family hid their Jewishness by adopting new (i.e. Christian) identities. He was able to save his mother, Perla, in 1942, but Moshe refused to abandon his fellow Jews. He felt that he had to go “where my brothers and sisters go. And if it’s death, so be it.”



After the war Perla returned to Warsaw and found a bundle containing more than 100 paintings in the basement of a building, and entrusted them to her son who moved to the U.S. with his wife. Some other pieces were found on Warsaw streets, stored in a barn, or salvaged from a train that had been bombed. It was assumed that the remainder was dispersed all over the world.

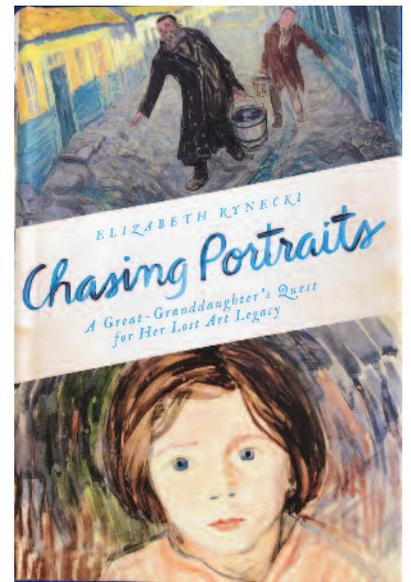
Many people mistakenly believe that artwork they purchased after World War II legitimately belongs to them. The 2009 Terezin Declaration, formulated by the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, however, mandates support for research in identifying, locating, and returning artwork that was confiscated by the Nazis or providing restitution for same. Implementation of this mandate is subject to interpretation by each country because its principles are not binding. Hence the process of restitution is complicated.

Historians, curators, and admirers of Moshe’s work have been immensely helpful to Elizabeth’s project. Photos, prints, and descriptions exist of many of the paintings. Polish art historian, Otto Schneid, who actually knew Moshe Rynecki, included a batch of photos of the artist’s works in his papers; this collection can now be found at the University of Toronto library. By studying this kind of material, Elizabeth has been able to recognize her great grandfather’s style, enabling her to identify more pieces and rebuild his collection. Instead of suing the misled owners who acquired their

pieces under false pretenses and demanding they return their acquisitions, she has adopted a different strategy of building bridges and reaching out to these individuals.

She has also developed a website (www.chasingportraits.org) which details her ongoing search. She sums up her feelings as follows: “I love that this project breathes new life into my great-grandfather’s art and leads me to new discoveries.” She has also shot hundreds of hours of film footage that needs to be pared down into an eighty-minute documentary. A three-minute trailer can be found on the website. As of the date of our meeting, sufficient funding has yet to be secured in order for the film to be released.

Her moving story prompts me to recall the adage attributed to the great sage, Hillel: “. . . no matter how great the task, we cannot desist from it.” Elizabeth’s memoir, *Chasing Portraits: A Great-Granddaughter’s Quest for Her Lost Art Legacy*, demonstrates how we can salvage the legacy of our ancestors and partially reconstruct their lives despite the horrors of the Shoah and the passage of time. ❖



Evan Fishman is the editor of “Chronicles.” His biography can be found following his article on p. 16. Contact Evan at editor@jgsgp.org.

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

“PIER 53 PROJECT” PRESENTED BY SUSAN MCANINLEY

by Marilyn Mazer Golden



Susan McAninley is the founder of the Pier 53 Project. When the Washington Avenue Green Park opened in 2012, Susan became interested in the history of the waterfront. She lives nearby in South Philadelphia and was intrigued by the Washington Avenue Immigration Station.

Philadelphia’s Pier 53 served as a major immigration station for about one million immigrants from all parts of Europe from the 1870s up to the 1920s and was the most popular port of arrival before Ellis Island was established. Some immigrants stayed here for only a few hours and then boarded trains headed to points north, south, or west. Those who remained made Philadelphia a vital and unique immigrant city. From 1876 – 1926 this area was the “Ellis Island of Philadelphia.” Tickets bought in Europe included train fare, and it was cheaper to travel from Europe to Philadelphia than New York. Many factories existed, and jobs were abundant in a variety of areas, including sugar refinery and construction. Immigrants could work hard and eventually establish their own businesses. Philadelphia steamship agents enabled money transfers from family and friends in Philadelphia to purchase tickets in Europe by immigrant or ethnic banks.

The relevant local banks included:

M.L. Blitzstein and Co. (<http://cdm16002.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/blitzsteinbank/collection/p16002coll16/index.php>)

M. Rosenbaum and Co. (<http://cdm16002.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/rosenbaum/collection/p16002coll16/index.php>)

Pennsylvania Company for Banking and Trusts (<http://cdm16002.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/pennsylvaniacompany/collection/p16002coll16/index.php>)

Rosenbluth Brothers (<http://cdm16002.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/rosenbluth/collection/p16002coll16/index.php>)

(Information on immigrant banking in the following paragraph was taken from :

<http://digital.library.temple.edu/cdm/steamshipagents/collection/p16002coll16/index.php>)

Community banks, often referred to as immigrant banks, were informal establishments which served Eastern and Southern European immigrant communities across America during the latter half of the 19th century up until the Great Depression. Immigrant banks were unlike traditional banking institutions in that they often operated in conjunction with other businesses such as grocery stores, butchers, saloons, and other natural gathering places for immigrants. The banks kept deposits, facilitated money transfers abroad, and provided lending and notary services for immigrant newcomers in addition to routine business functions. Most notably, immigrant banks acted as agents for steamship lines, facilitating the sale of tickets and arranging transport from Europe. Steamship ticket purchase ledgers can be found <http://digital.library.temple.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/p16002coll16>

Washington Avenue Green served many purposes before it became an immigration station. It was initially established in 1748 as a fort called the Association Battery to safeguard the port of Philadelphia from French and Spanish privateers. From 1794-1800 it was used as the Joshua Humphrey Shipyard, and by 1840, was known simply as the Navy Yard. During the Civil War (1861-1865), troops assembled there before going to battle elsewhere, and the site served as the headquarters for trains, ships, and a comfort station for injured soldiers. Afterwards it was expanded southward.

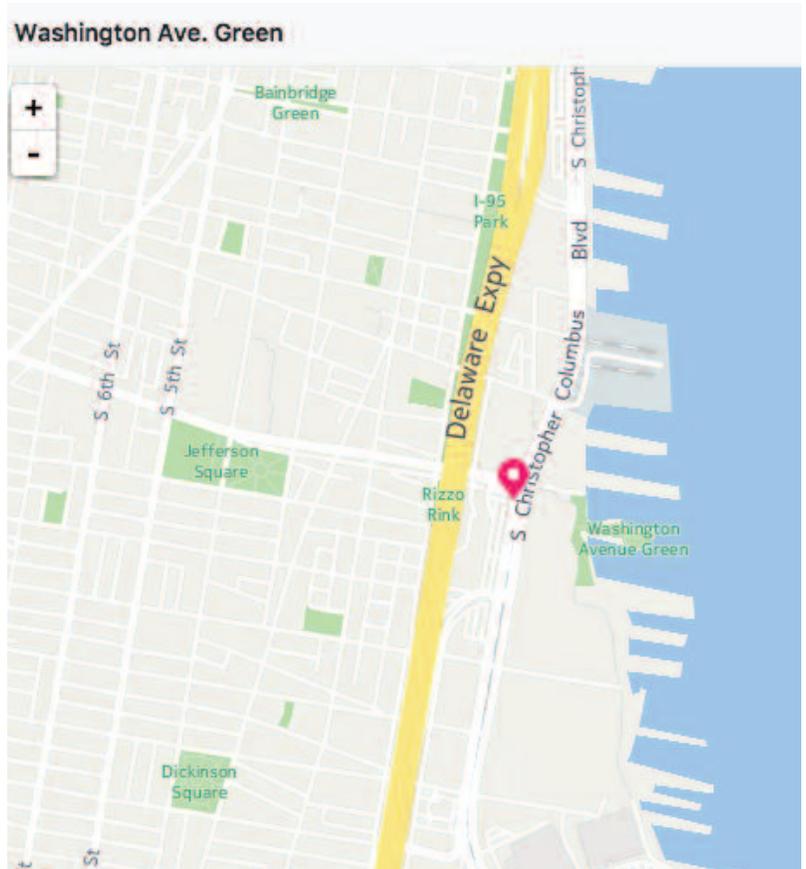
In 1876 the Pennsylvania Railroad bought the Navy Yard and created the piers that were used for immigration: Pier 53 was the processing station, Pier 52 was used by the Red Star Line, and Pier 54 was used by both the American Line and the Hamburg-American Line. Peak immigration occurred in 1913, when the piers were collectively known as “Pier 53” and the “Emigrant Station”.

The railroads built a complex of wharves, granaries, and factories. Trains went to different parts of the country. Many immigrants disembarked and immediately boarded trains without stepping into the city of Philadelphia. Others joined the crowded neighborhoods and found their place among their respective ethnic groups.

Immigration continued to increase. The station was modernized in 1896 with electricity and restaurants. Translators were hired and helped increase processing from 300 to a high of 1,500 per day. People came from different parts of Europe subject to then existing immigration laws. Regulations were more lenient in Philadelphia, and passports were accepted from the local country.

With the advent of World War I immigration came to a halt. The ships were used instead for transporting troops to Europe. After the war, they were refitted and repurposed for passenger travel to Philadelphia.

At the same time increased fear of “the other” was emerging, and Congress enacted laws that restricted immigration beginning with the Johnson Reed Act in 1917. Taxes increased and so did the requirements for entry. For example, people over the age of sixteen were now required to demonstrate reading comprehension. In the early 1920s, various other laws were passed, including the Emergency Quota Act, the National Origins Act, and the Asian Exclusion Act. Quotas were imposed based on each country’s percentage in the 1890 U.S. census population, thus significantly reducing the number of immigrants from eastern and southern Europe



In 1965 a fire of mysterious origin destroyed what was left of Pier 53. When I-95 was completed in the 1970s, the waterfront was totally cut off from pedestrians and the neighborhood. The Delaware River Association later developed a master plan for the area which eventually reopened access to the piers.

Susan wanted to know her own family's history. Using the resources of Ancestry.com and the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, she discovered that both her grandfathers came through Pier 53 and settled in Philadelphia. Her Irish grandfather, Bernard McAninley, was a bar owner who settled in Port Richmond, while her German grandfather, John Popp, was a woodcarver who settled in North Philadelphia. For the past five years she's been asking her neighbors and friends about their ancestors and recording their stories.

On August 15, 2014, the renovated Pier 53 was opened to the public. A 55-foot land buoy sculpture by artist Jody Pinto was placed at the end of the pier. Her family of renowned artists also came through Pier 53.

The Pier 53 Project is a joint venture between the friends of Washington Avenue Green and the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation (DRWC). The aim is to collect information from people who believe their ancestors may have come in to the U.S. through Pier 53. After the "immigration list" is compiled, research will begin at the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to determine precise information regarding the ship, the year of immigration, and the steamship line of each person on the list. Participants will then be asked to fill in a more detailed family history to help solidify the neighborhood connection to the pier.

Participants, descendants, and volunteers are asked to contact: Pier53project@washingtonavenuegreen.com or visit the Facebook page www.facebook.com/WashingtonAveGreen. To learn more about Pier 53, check out: <http://www.philly.com/philly/news/Newall-Ghosts-of-immigrants-past-tell-of-Americas-promise-and-stain-.html> ❖

Marilyn Mazer Golden is a retired speech/language pathologist. Married to Michael, she has two children, Eli and Sarah. Her interest in genealogy has become a passion. She is researching MAZER from Elinetz, Ukraine, SHUSTERMAN from Gaysen, Ukraine, NATHANSON from Odessa, Russia, LOCKMAN from Rzeszow, Poland, GOGOL from Savran, Russia, SLOTKIN from Smela, Russia CLOUTS from Telsiai, Lithuania, Glasgow, Scotland, and England. She enjoys helping others and can be reached at mazergolden@gmail.com.



South Jersey Jewish Farmers



Sunday, June 11, 2017



A huge round of thanks to Bernie Cedar & Ruth Bogutz for organizing the South Jersey trip earlier this month. It was enjoyed by all attendees. Complete report to appear in the summer issue of "Chronicles."

JGSGP GENEALOGY QUIZ #13:

by David Brill



Photo by Gene Hurwitz

According to his World War I draft registration cards, Samuel Yellin was a self-employed metal worker. That's true, but that's a bit like saying Michelangelo was an Italian stone cutter. Who was Samuel Yellin? He was one of the most outstanding decorative artists of the twentieth century, a master iron craftsman whose pieces are in museums including the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

According to various biographies, he was born in Mogilev Podolskiy Ukraine and supposedly emigrated to Philadelphia in 1900, 1902, or 1905, but I can't find him on a passenger list for any of these dates.

You can see his work just by walking down the street; many Philadelphia buildings have "Yellin gates" or "windows."

Links to images of Samuel Yellin's works appear at the bottom of p. 2.

REGISTRATION CARD		2-10	
Serial Number: 3429	Order Number: 2866		
1. NAME: SAMUEL YELLIN			
2. RESIDENT HOME ADDRESS: 3015 Oxford St Phila Pa			
3. Age in Years: 34 Date of Birth: May 2 1884			
RACE: White <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Negro <input type="checkbox"/> Oriental <input type="checkbox"/> Indian <input type="checkbox"/> Citizen <input type="checkbox"/> Alien <input type="checkbox"/>			
U. S. CITIZEN: Native Born <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalized <input type="checkbox"/> Alien: Citizen by Father's Naturalization Before Registration's Majority <input type="checkbox"/> Declarant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-declarant <input type="checkbox"/>			
15. If not a citizen of the U. S., of what nation are you a citizen or subject? Russia			
PRESENT OCCUPATION: Metal worker		EMPLOYER'S NAME: My Self	
19. ADDRESS OF EMPLOYER (or BUSINESS): 5570 Arch St Phila Pa			
NEAREST RELATIVE: Name: Leah Yellin Wife Address: 3015 Oxford St Phila Pa			
I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE			
P. M. G. O. Form No. 1 (Red)		SIGNATURE: Samuel Yellin	

REGISTRATION CARD				37-7-18-0			
DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT							
HEIGHT		BUILD		COLOR OF EYES		COLOR OF HAIR	
Tall	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Short	Brown	Black
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. Has person lost arms, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disqualified? No.							
24. I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers; that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:							
Date of Registration: Sept 12 1918							
Stamp of Local Board: Board No. 26, 3 Oxford Sts., Phila. Pa.							

JGSGP SPEAKERS BUREAU

HAVE EXPERTISE IN GENEALOGY, WILL TRAVEL

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 2017 Membership & Renewal Form

Enjoy *Chronicles*, Our Award Winning Quarterly Publication

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

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

All members receive e-mail copies of *Chronicles* as part of their dues. If you would like to have a paper *Chronicles* mailed to you, please check the & include an additional \$10 with your dues to help cover mailing and printing.

Membership Categories	New	Renewal	Paper <i>Chronicles</i>	Amount
Individual - \$25			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Family - \$35 (2 Person Household)			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Sponsor - \$50			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Patron - \$100			<input type="checkbox"/> \$10	
Additional Voluntary Contribution				
Please enclose check payable to JGSGP in 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, 2017.

(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, June 25, 2017 1:30 PM

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

Speaker: Rabbi Gary Gans

“Tante Freida was Almost Deported by the Feds!”



My immigrant relative decided it was better in 1921 to claim to be unwed and pregnant rather than admit the truth that she was married and an alien while visiting Palestine. She should have been automatically denaturalized according to the U.S. law at the time! This methodological approach will show the step-by-step approach that revealed documents that the family was convinced were long buried. Over thirty years later, the Feds caught her lie. Through disciplined research and good luck, I uncovered the court records from the 1950s for this four foot tall, Yiddish speaking, old woman in a housecoat, which almost brought down the U.S. government! This Cold War tale involved the governments of the then U.S.S.R., Israel, and the U.S. I will also address the ethics of family secrets. Is it okay to reveal what was previously hidden knowledge? Did I violate my own family privacy by going public?

Rabbi Gans was ordained by the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and served as the rabbi of Congregation Beth Tikvah, Marlton, NJ for thirty-five years. In 2016 he was elevated to rabbi emeritus. He earned his doctorate from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary in family counseling, a rare honor for a Jew! Gans is a licensed therapist in NJ, specializing in family relationships, grief, and the impact of life cycle events. He is an officer of the Crescent Memorial Cemetery, Pennsauken, NJ and past-president of the South Jersey Board of Rabbis. In his free time Gary is a sworn chaplain with his local police department.



The National Museum of American Jewish History is currently presenting a fascinating exhibit of particular interest to Jewish genealogists.

1917: How One Year Changed the World, co-organized with the American Jewish Historical Society (AJHS) in New York, looks back 100 years to explore how three key events of 1917—America’s entry into World War I, the Bolshevik Revolution, and the issuing of the Balfour Declaration, in which Great Britain indicated its support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine—deeply affected world Jewry and brought about political, cultural, and social changes that dramatically reshaped America’s role in the world and resulted in its most stringent immigration restrictions to date. The exhibit’s timeliness cannot be overlooked in view of the current debate about immigration. The exhibit examines this consequential year through the eyes of American Jews, who experienced these events both as Americans and as part of an international Diaspora community.

Following its run at the NMAJH through July 16, 2017, “1917” will be on display at AJHS, located in the Center for Jewish History (15 W. 16th Street, New York), September 1 - December 29, 2017.

Deadline for submission of articles for our summer issue is Sunday, July 16, 2017.

Please send material to: editor@jgsgp.org.