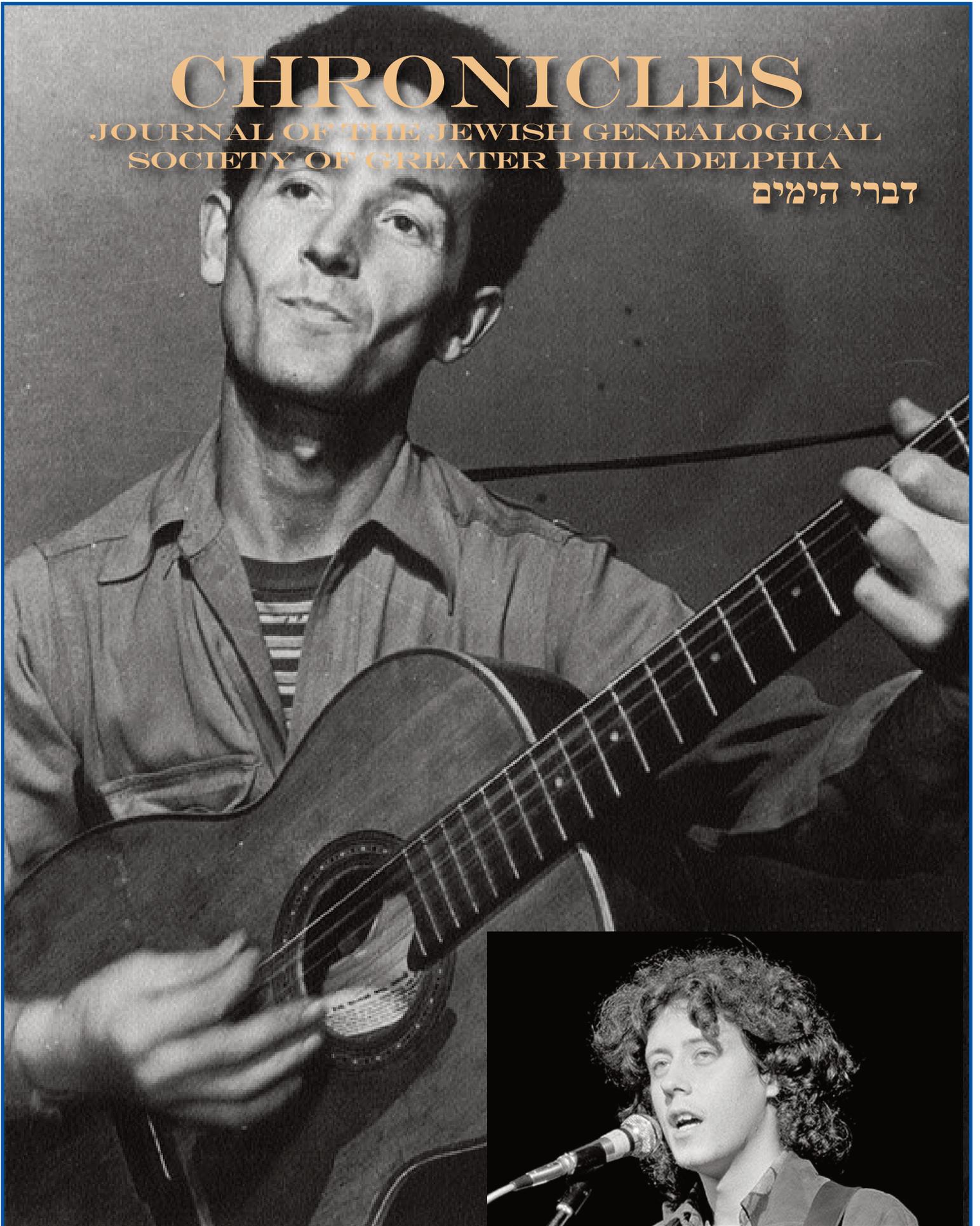


CHRONICLES

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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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.

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

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

SUBSCRIPTIONS - ADDRESS CHANGE

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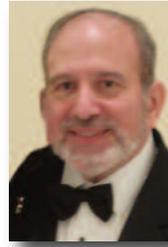
Cover Photos:

Woodie Guthrie (guitar) - Courtesy Nora Guthrie and the Woody Guthrie Archives

Arlo Guthrie - Henry Diltz/Corbis

See article p. 12

REFLECTIONS FROM YOUR CHRONICLES TEAM



Have you uncovered secrets in the course of your research? I imagine most of us have. Have these secrets confounded or disturbed you? Do you wonder why you didn't hear the truth when you initially heard the story?

Besides revealing previously unknown information about relatives, these secrets are telling because they lead us to wonder why the secrets exist at all.

Oftentimes secrets arise because family members want to protect the memories of specific relatives or ancestors from shame or embarrassment. Over the past few decades attitudes have changed regarding divorce, children born out of wedlock, mental health issues, incarceration, unscrupulous business practices, etc., and hopefully the associated shame and embarrassment among family members have also diminished.

Let's consider, however, the possibility that a relative wants to protect his/her own reputation. Perhaps s/he feels that by omitting or altering an aspect of the past, his/her image will not be tarnished, and living relatives will continue to hold him/her in high esteem.

About ten years ago, author and classicist, Daniel Mendelsohn, wrote *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*, an engrossing book combining diligent and comprehensive genealogical research with allusions to classical texts. He published a new book last year entitled *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and An Epic* in which he again offers frequent classical allusions, but this time he focuses on recent family history.

In 2011 Mendelsohn offered his octogenarian father, Jay, the opportunity to sit in on his *Odyssey* seminar course at Bard College. After that semester, he and his father embarked on a cruise to visit the actual sites mentioned in Homer's seminal work, thus retracing its hero's journeys.

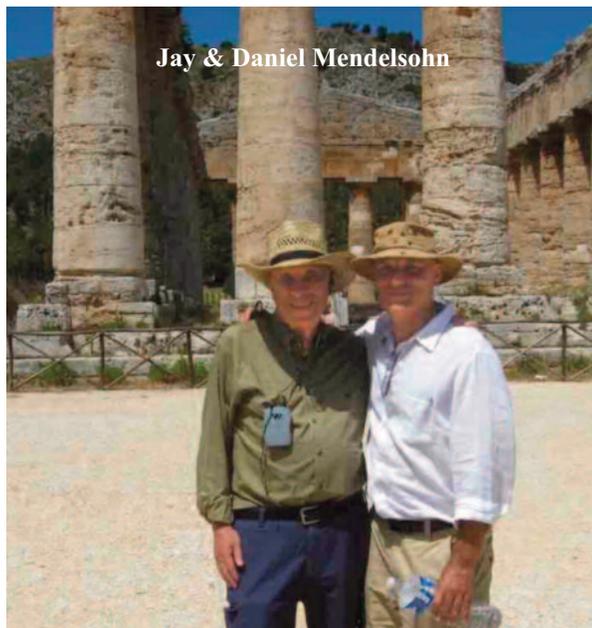
Jay died in 2012, and in the course of writing this book, his son spoke with various relatives and friends. He heard different versions regarding the circumstances influencing his father's decision to not write his Ph.D. dissertation in 1950. Jay had attributed this to the fact that his wife had become pregnant with their first child which necessitated

his being gainfully employed. Daniel learned otherwise.

At one time “Uncle” Nino was Jay’s colleague at Grumman; they were both encouraged by the company to work toward the Ph.D. and often drove together to attend courses at the Courant Institute at New York University. Nino ultimately completed his Ph.D and became a mathematics professor.; Jay did not. Nino gave two reasons. He felt that because Jay was like a father figure to him, he (Jay) had to be smarter. He didn’t want to set himself in competition with Nino. Secondly he felt that Jay backed out because he was afraid of failing and didn’t want to take the risk of not succeeding. Daniel subsequently reacted:

All those years he [Jay] had let us [his family] think he hadn’t finished because of circumstances beyond his control—because, in a way, of Mother, of us. But now it turned out that the decision had been his. A spasm of anger coursed through me as I thought of how he’d lied to me—to all of us. And then I felt only sadness. He had been afraid, or insecure, or both. I had been afraid and insecure, too. Was there a difference?

Suddenly I flushed with shame and realized what the difference was. Unlike me, my father didn’t have a father who pushed him to finish, who wanted him to achieve more than he had, who was willing to have his son beat the Homeric odds and be more than his father had been.



Jay Mendelsohn holding young Daniel Mendelsohn



Nino then confirmed what Daniel was feeling:

I always got the feeling that this [not getting his Ph.D.] was a loss in his life, and I think that’s why he was very concerned about the success of his children.” He continued, “I think this is why marks of success were so important to him, . . . An award: that was good! An advanced degree: that was good! It’s as if those were a kind of armor. Because emotionally and intellectually, he did not want to be vulnerable. Vulnerable! That’s the key word about Jay. I suppose he overcompensated by wanting to seem tough, by having this---you know, this strong ethical code. Rigid, even. (pp. 268-269)

This case demonstrates that secrets aren’t always the results of deliberate decisions; sometimes they happen almost involuntarily as a way of protecting our own self-image, of constructing a view of ourselves that makes us comfortable, that enables us to create a more confident perspective in the midst of a chaotic world over which we don’t have a lot of control.

I’d like to frame secrets in a broader context, as Celina Biniiaz, the youngest female on “Schindler’s List,” astutely observed in advance of the April meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV):

“I always tell Steven Spielberg [director of “Schindler’s List”] that he gave me a voice,” she said. “I say, ‘You are my second Schindler. He gave me life, but you gave me a voice. Because for 40 years, I never was able to talk about it because I didn’t think that anybody would understand.’”

(<https://patch.com/california/agourahills/calendar/event/20180408/311336/survivor-celina-biniiaz-the-youngest-of-schindlers-jews>)

Her remarks underscore the importance of giving our respective (and truthful) accounts (warts and all) of our family history a voice by sharing with family members, especially younger generations.

Note: To read reviews of *An Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and An Epic*, check out:

<https://books.google.com/books?id=foE2MQAACAAJ&dq=%22daniel+mendelsohn%22+%2B+%22odyssey%22&hl=en&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwjsz7j4t8PaAhVimeAKHcuJdyw4ChDoAQgmMAA>;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/18/books/review/review-an-odyssey-daniel-mendelsohn.html>;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/17/books/review/daniel-mendelsohn-an-odyssey-memoir.html>;
<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/sep/13/an-odyssey-a-father-a-son-and-an-epic-by-daniel-mendelsohn-review>.

Our spring issue includes articles by first-time contributors. Joanne Grossman chronicles her research for a relative who served during World War I. Marla Oxenburg Roth demonstrates the value of lateral research in her search for her great great grandmother. By the way, Linda Ewall-Krocker used the same concept in her elusive search for her own great grandmother and provides an update in this issue.

Finally, Mark Alsher shares how an esoteric volume entitled *Philadelphia Jewish Institutions and their Leaders 1942-1943* enabled him to learn about the family history of famous folk musicians, Woody Guthrie and his son, Arlo. Never underestimate the potential in any source!

Our “Techniques, Tips & Tools” section highlights some other fascinating discoveries. Our veteran contributor, James Gross, relates how he revisited the Litvak SIG website and added to his family tree. Learning about various heirlooms generated so much excitement among students at Kellman Brown Academy (Voorhees, New Jersey) that they developed a video project under the guidance of their teacher.

Other IAJGS member societies share their publications with your editor. I’m often impressed with the programs and articles I read. Daniel Horowitz, chief genealogist of My Heritage (<https://www.myheritage.com>) provides updates on new material that’s been added. It would be helpful to hear from our *Chronicles* readers about their experiences with My Heritage.

Occasionally we print material that is incorrect. On p. 15 we attempt to correct the record regarding noted genealogist, Miriam Weiner’s recent activities on behalf of the Jewish genealogy community. As many of you know, Miriam received IAJGS’s Lifetime Achievement Award in 2003. She is both a pioneer and leader through her immense contributions to numerous archives from which we all benefit. In rectifying our errors, we hope to reacquaint you with the many databases she’s created, a fitting addition to our Techniques, Tips & Tools section

As always, we welcome submissions from you. I firmly believe everyone has at least one story to share. Please send your original material to editor@jgsgp.org. ❖ **Deadline for the summer issue is Sunday, July 15.**

Evan Fishman, Editor

WE EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS & HIGHLIGHT SOME SURNAMENES THEY ARE RESEARCHING

Elaine Bass **Haverford, PA**
KEAR, BUDGOSH, ROSENZWEIG, BASICHES

Howard Dolgin **Philadelphia, PA**
LUCACHER, GOLDENBERG & KATZ from
Moldova / Romania

Suzanne Levy **Fairfax, VA**
ARVIGAN AND SHEDLIVER from Novohrad
Volyns'kyy/Zviihl, Ukraine
NEEDLEMAN from Husiatyn or Kamyanytsia Podilskyi,
Ukraine; LEVY and JAFFE from unknown locations

Helene Rosenfelt **Wynnewood, PA**
YERESHEFSKY from Bessarabia, Russia; HELENA
LUCK from Austria; HAIMOVITZ (LUDMAN from
Russia

NAN ROSNER **Elkins Park, PA**
DRUCKMAN from Austria; ISEN from Lithuania;
KAPLAN from Riga, Latvia

Marcia & Jack Stecki **Philadelphia, PA**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring - 2018



Our society has been very active lately with some terrific speakers, and we have plans to continue with great speakers and interesting topics. Kudos to Mark Halpern for his ongoing efforts to insure quality programming.

JGSGP was established in 1979 as a volunteer organization. As such, we are always in need of new people to step up to keep our society moving forward. I would like to thank Susan Neiditch, who recently stepped down as membership chair. Susan did an outstanding job of keeping track of our members as well as sending monthly meeting notices. I am pleased to say that Marilyn Mazer Golden has taken over the role of membership chair. Marilyn has hit the ground running and is doing a great job. Also, Joanne Grossman has created our new website, <https://jgsgp.org>. Check it out if you haven't already. I would be remiss if I didn't mention Evan Fishman, Ed Flax and their team for publishing this outstanding publication. We are always looking for new volunteers in multiple areas **to help make our society even stronger**. If you're interested, please email me at president@jgsgp.org

I am planning on traveling to Warsaw, Poland for the IAJGS conference this coming August. This will be my first trip to Warsaw, and I'm really looking forward to it. Some of our members will also be attending the conference, and I hope to see many of you there. I will also be visiting the museum at the Belzec Death Camp in eastern Poland. This has a special meaning for me and my research because I lost many family members at that site. I was there in 2002, but only a small monument existed. Since then a museum has been built. Photos of some of my family members who perished are part of the museum's holdings. ❖

Fred Blum, President

A TRIBUTE FOR TWO SOLDIERS

by Joanne Grossman



Herman Rossman and Arthur Raphael Segall were young Jewish soldiers who lost their lives in World War I. This year marks the 100th anniversary of their deaths.

Part One of this article will focus on Herman Rossman, my maternal grandmother's first cousin.

How I learned about Herman Rossman

In 2009, I attended the IAJGS convention in Philadelphia where I heard a lecturer speak about "Writing a Family History". After that lecture I decided to gather information to write a family history about my maternal grandmother's family.

While speaking with relatives, I learned that a branch of my grandmother's family, the Rossmans, had resided in Brooklyn, New York, and included Herman, his parents, brothers and sisters.

American Battle Monuments Commission
Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, Seringes-et-Nesles, France



During a phone conversation with Herman's nephew, Stanley, I learned that Herman and his family came to the U.S. from Sitkovtsy, Ukraine.

Herman, was one of seven children born to Sam and Sima Rossman. During World War I he served and died in the U.S. Army and was buried in a military cemetery in France. Stanley noted that Herman's grave was located a few rows away from that of famous poet, Joyce Kilmer. I also learned that Herman's mother visited her son's grave many years later, courtesy of the U.S. government.

Based on this information, I was able to search for more details regarding Herman's life. Additionally, I sought to verify the information that Stanley had given me.

Searching for more information

I researched the following questions using Ancestry.com: When did Herman come to the U.S.? Did he enlist in the war or was he drafted? Was he a resident alien or a naturalized citizen? What was the name of the military cemetery where he was buried?

Ancestry's record collections helped me verify that Herman's birthplace was Sitkovtsy, Russia (now Sytkivtsi, Ukraine). He traveled alone and arrived at Ellis Island in 1911 at the age of sixteen. He was listed as a tailor on the ship's manifest and planned to join his father, Sam, in Brooklyn.

The 1915 New York State census listed Herman and his family as residents on McKibben Street in Brooklyn, and all family members were non-citizens. His occupation was listed as "baker."

When Herman filled out a draft registration form two years later, he wrote that he had filed a Declaration of Intention to become a citizen. He also claimed an exemption to the draft because his family needed him at home for financial support. Herman turned twenty-one in January 1918 and was inducted into the U.S. Army. He served overseas as a private in Company E, 308th Infantry from April 1918 until his death that August and was buried in the Oise-Aisne American Cemetery, located in France.

In 1929 the U.S. government released a Mothers and Wives Pilgrimage List for the purpose of visits to the resting places of their loved ones. Herman's mother, Sima, was notified that she was eligible to go overseas to see her son's final resting place. The following year she made the journey to the French cemetery.

Note:

During the 1920s, the Gold Star Mothers' Association lobbied for a federally sponsored pilgrimage to Europe for mothers with sons buried overseas. Although many of the women who belonged to the organization had visited their sons' graves, they realized that women often could not afford the trip to Europe.

In their testimony, these women placed great emphasis on the bond between a mother and son. The bond between wife and husband seemed almost secondary in the congressional debates. The bond between fathers and sons was barely considered--the association maintained that the maternal bond surpassed that of the paternal bond.

In 1929 Congress enacted legislation that authorized the secretary of war to arrange for pilgrimages to the European cemeteries "by mothers and widows of members of military and naval forces of the United States who died in the service at any time between April 5, 1917, and July 1, 1921, and whose remains are now interred in such cemeteries."

(<https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/1999/summer/gold-star-mothers-1.html>)

The Newspaper Articles

Since the Rossman family lived in Brooklyn, I decided to search the archives of the Brooklyn *Daily Eagle* (1841-1955). on the New York Public Library's website. There I read two poignant articles about Herman's passing.

**American Battle Monuments Commission
(maintains overseas American military cemeteries and memorials)**

This government agency was very helpful in my quest to obtain a photograph of Herman's grave marker in Oisne-Aisne American Military Cemetery in northern France.

The agency maintains a website (<https://www.abmc.gov>) where you can input a soldier's name and find the name, location of the overseas cemetery as well as the specific row and grave number of the associated plot. I was able to verify cousin Stanley's claim that the famous poet, Joyce Kilmer was indeed buried a few rows away from our dear relative, Herman Rossman.

Summary

Writing a family history can bring joy, satisfaction and sometimes sadness. As Memorial Day approaches, I will remember Herman Rossman with gratitude. In the words of George S. Patton, Jr. "It is foolish and wrong to mourn the men who died. Rather we should thank God that such men lived". I will continue with Part II in the next issue of *Chronicles*. ❖

Joanne Grossman is a retired educator and is co-webmaster of the JGSGP website

Contact Joanne at: webmaster@jgsgp.org



Pvt. Herman Rossman.
 Pvt. Herman Rossman died of wounds of August 16. He was a son of Samuel and Sema Rossman of 318 Floyd st. Pvt. Rossman was 23 years old. He was born in Russia and came to this country seven years ago with his parents. He was a driver by occupation. There are six other children. Pvt. Rossman was drafted in September, 1917, and was sent to Camp Upton. After six months of training he went to France with Co. E, 308th Inf. In a letter dated July 31, the last his relatives received from him, Pvt. Rossman stated that he was enjoying excellent health. He added that he had been in battle several times and each time escaped injury. He told his relatives not to worry about him if they did not receive any letters, that he felt that he would come out unscarred and would soon be with them.

A SUCCESS STORY . . . OF SORTS

by Linda Ewall-Krocker



I have a success story to share! For years I've been looking for my elusive great grandmother, my maternal grandfather's mother. She supposedly came to the United States, saw family in Philadelphia, then moved on to Rock Island, Illinois. The problem is that I don't know her name. Then, to add insult to injury, she remarried! I've explored years' worth of dead ends from searching through my grandparents' marriage and death documents, Social Security records (my grandfather never had a number), drafts for World War I and II, and even immigrant bank records. No luck. I know my grandfather's dad's name from his tombstone (... "son of"), but that's it.

So . . . I went sideways. Grandpa's elder brother met him at the ship when he came in through Baltimore; his brother's name and address were listed on the ship's records. Then he disappeared once he moved away from that address. Do you have any idea how many Abraham Goldmans were tailors in Philly in those days?!

Still no great grandmother's name, so I looked for another brother, the one who witnessed my grandfather's naturalization. He disappeared briefly, too, but eventually I found him all the way through to his Social Security Administration application and death certificate, and ordered both. Then came major disappointment. His father's name doesn't match the name on my grandfather's tombstone. Sigh. After all that research, I kept him in my tree with the realization that he was apparently a cousin, not a brother.

Fast forward to mid-December 2017, when I received an e-mail from someone on Ancestry.com who was looking for information about Samuel, the cousin. This researcher had checked Ancestry DNA and discovered that we are fourth cousin DNA matches. Within a couple of days I heard from a cousin he told about me, then another, and another . . . and I now have about half a dozen new distant cousins and a few trees sharing information with me! One sent me a recording of a relative long gone, talking about his memories of the family. And I have many photos attached to my tree. I still haven't found my great grandmother's name, but I'm now up to more than 400 new Goldman family members!

I've enjoyed many fine evenings falling down the genealogy rabbit hole and just know that some of those scores of new DNA testers from over the holidays will be cousins whose names I may be able to track down!

Now about that great grandmother's name... ❖

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. His little funeral prayer books have also been a helpful resource for when family members were buried, though not where, since he knew that and didn't jot it down; the information died with him.

Names and towns Linda is researching: FISHELOV (FISHER) in Kachinovichy (suburb of Pinsk, Minsk Gubernia, Belarus); WEISS in Kamyanets Podilsky, 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

I HAD A GREAT GREAT GRANDMOTHER LIVING IN NEW YORK: THE “SIDEWAYS” SEARCH!

by Marla Oxenburg Roth

based on her December 6, 2017 “Huggin’ My Cousins!” blog entry



This is my most recent exciting discovery. My 93-year old dad, Samuel Oxenburg, is a grandson of Rebecca Messinger Kops. Her brother (Samuel’s great uncle) was Joseph. The Messinger family was (and continues to be) in the optical business. In fact, when my father was young, he worked for a short time for Pete Messinger (one of Joseph’s sons) in Philadelphia. On a side note, I knew Pete’s wife, Rose, who we would sit with and talk to while she sat in her rolling chair many years ago in Atlantic City.

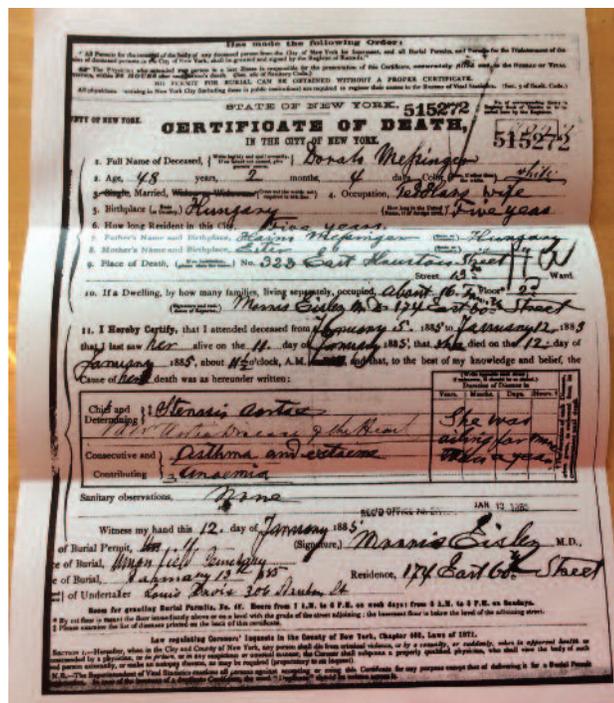
My dad always said that he thought he had a great aunt named Jennie. I kept this information on the back burner because nobody seemed to know about her and she wasn’t included on any family tree that I could find.

To date, I have not located any ship manifest for Joseph or Rebecca. Others have looked as well. I did, however, stumble across a ship manifest with a Chaie (Chaya) Messinger coming to America with her mother, Deborah (also known as Dora) Messinger. Her name is really botched in transcriptions since the manifest is hard to read. I also have a record that Deborah (Dora) was the name of Joseph’s and Rebecca’s mother. By the way, I’ve posted my photographs of the gravesites of Joseph (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/130769353/joseph-h.-messinger>) and Rebecca (<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/146488589/rebecca-kops>) along with other relatives on the Find A Grave website.

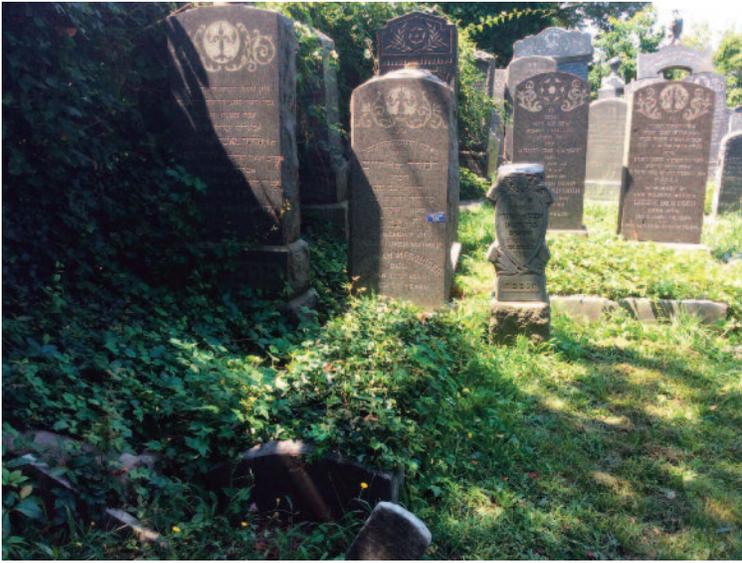
Chaya and Deborah came from the same area in what was then Hungary as Joseph and Rebecca—Bártfa (Hungarian version) or Bartfeld (German version)—which is now identified as Bardejov in Slovakia. I traced this Chaya, wondering if she could possibly have also been called Jennie. I found a Jennie that married a Smitheimer, who had two daughters named Dorothy (Dora) and Ruth. I also found that these two daughters and Jennie are buried in the same cemetery in New York (sections in cemetery are close to each other). They are also buried in sections not far from Deborah Messinger, but at that time, I couldn’t verify that she was the mother of Joseph and Rebecca. In fact, I had never heard that their mother had even lived in the United States!

I asked my dad again, “Are you sure you had an Aunt Jennie?” His immediate response at 93 years old was, “Yes. She was a widow who lived in New York with two grown daughters.” This matched the records. I asked him if the name Smitheimer sounded familiar. His response was, “Yes! That’s it!”

After that, a Facebook friend and contact in New York graciously went to the cemetery where Jennie and her two daughters are buried, as well as Jennie’s possible mother, Deborah (according to FindAGrave). He found Jennie and the two daughters (Dorothy/Dora and Ruth), photographed their stones, and gave me permission to post them on FindAGrave. Sure enough, Jennie’s Hebrew name showed as Chaya, and her father’s name was the same as Rebecca’s and Joseph’s. One problem remained. The cemetery insisted Deborah was not buried there, but across the fence in the Hungarian cemetery. The other cemetery insisted she was not buried there either, so I wrote to the person who posted the memorial (no picture) in FindAGrave and asked where they found the information and explained the situation. I was very lucky to get an



immediate response with a black and white photo and was told who Deborah was buried in front of. Huge help! My New York contact confirmed that the burial was indeed there and provided me with plot location. He even graciously went and looked up Deborah's death certificate in the New York City archives.

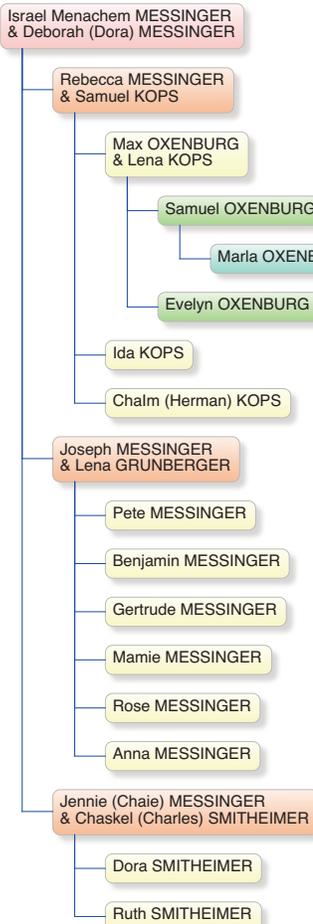


Several weeks later I called the cemetery to let them know I had the exact location and was making a trip to see the gravesite. They STILL insisted she was NOT buried there and had me on the phone for an hour while they investigated. At this point, I had already paid for and received Deborah's death certificate. Everything was a match except for a misspelling of the surname, Messinger. The next day I took the trip. When I arrived, the cemetery miraculously found an old map that had been rolled up. They unrolled it for me, and lo and behold, Deborah was on the map! They have since added her name to their files.



In addition, a few weeks ago, I needed to move my parents into an assisted living facility. Among the papers, I found a gift list that my mom had kept (most likely from their wedding). Sure enough, they had received a gift from Dora Smitheimer!

Messinger Descendent Chart



Just this past weekend, while looking through my grandmother's photo album with my new found "Huggy Cousin" Jackie, we discovered that some unlabeled photos are most likely Jennie and her daughters, Ruth and Dora.

So . . . through Jennie I found my great great grandmother, Deborah (Dora), who lived in a tenement home in New York City during the five, short years she lived in the United States. She was the mother of Joseph, Rebecca and Jennie, married to Israel Menachem (Mendel) Messinger. She arrived in 1880 and passed away in 1885.

I posted a photo of her final resting place on FindAGrave as well! ❖

Marla Oxenburg Roth says "My lifetime passion has been genealogy and more recently, DNA discoveries." She is a member of JGSGP and BCGS. She enthusiastically studied genetic genealogy at GRIP (Genealogy Research Institute of Pittsburgh). She has held meetings at her local library to educate and assist others with their research and DNA questions. Convinced by a newly found second cousin to start blogging, she began writing stories about her research and discoveries. You can find her blog at <https://huggin-cousins.wordpress.com>.

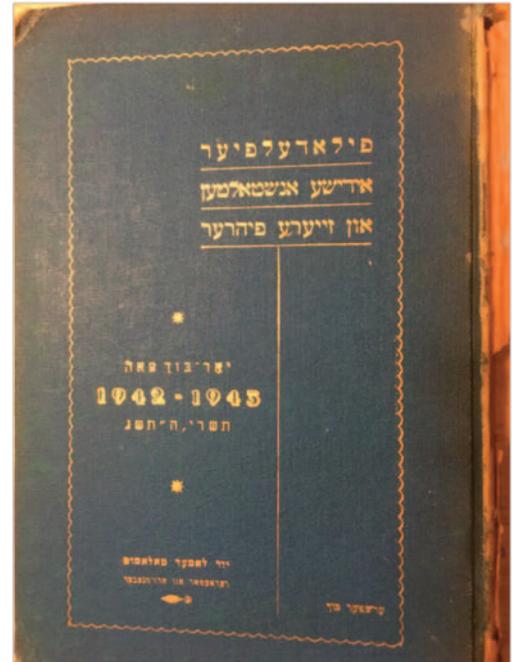
Born in Philadelphia, with ancestors from Rajgrad (near Kiev) and Senyove, Russia, Krakow, Warsaw and Bardejov, Hungary. Family names are SPECTOR, ZOHAN, SELZNICK, LONDER/LONDON, SAVAROFF, TULCHINSKY OXENBURG KOPS, MASLOW, MESSINGER MIRISCH, TASCHNER, FISCH, GOODMAN/GUTTMAN. From Czeřochowa and Stopnica, Poland, family names are ROTH (originally ROTHOLZ), WEBER, METZGERr, STOPNOICER, LUSTIGER, ZAJDMAN, BIEDERMAN, HONIGSBURG, KATZ.

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH INSTITUTIONS & THEIR LEADERS 1942-1943 YEARBOOK

By Mark Alsher



Recently provided *Chronicles* with an English translation of the Yiddish table of contents of the above book, the first page of which is shown below. Most of the entries for synagogues, institutions and organizations are several pages long, while the biographies of individuals are usually half a page to one page in length. Nearly all of the biographical entries include photographs of their subjects, and sometimes pictures of individuals can be found within the entry of an institution.



Translated from the Yiddish by Mark Alsher

Philadelphia Jewish Institutions and their Leaders

Year-Book for 1942-1943
Tishrei 5703

Yud Lamed Malamut
Editor and Publisher

Contents
Volume One

Jewish Community Life in Philadelphia (Introduction)

Jews in Philadelphia before the American Revolution

Picture of Dr. Meyer Solis-Cohen

Synagogues and Temples

Congregation Mikveh Israel

Congregation Rodeph Sholem

Beth Israel Congregation

Kenesseth Israel

Congregation Bnai Abraham

Chevra Ahavath Achim Niezhiner Shul

Congregation Kerem Israel

Congregation Bnai Jeshurun

Chevra Bnai Reuben Anshei Sfard

Har Zion Temple, Wynnefield

Temple Men's Club

Har Zion Sisterhood

Congregation Bnai Joshua, Wynnefield

Temple Judea

Moshe Katz - Fifty Years of Jewish Press in America

The Dropsie College in Philadelphia

Picture of Dr. Cyrus Adler

Yeshiva Mishkan Israel and Central Talmud Torah

Yeshiva Ohel Moshe and Talmud Torah of Strawberry Mansion

Federation of Jewish Charities

Jewish Youth Community

"Junior Federation"

Allied Jewish Appeal

Hachnosses Orchim and Moyshev Zekeynim [Travelers Hostel and Old Age Home]

Uptown Old Age Home

Downtown Old Age Home

Northern Liberties Hospital

Note:

Author Gail F. Stern cited this yearbook in *Traditions in Transition: Jewish Culture in Philadelphia, 1840-1940*:

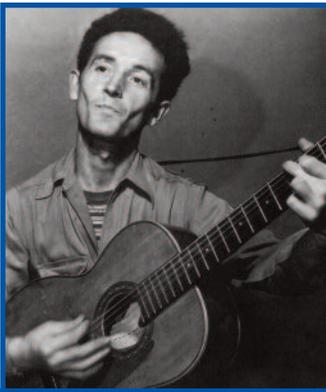
"For valuable historical perspectives on Jewish organizational dynamics in Philadelphia, . . . [Editor] Y. L. Malamut's Filadelfyer yidishe anshtaltn un zeyere firer [Philadelphia Jewish Institutions and their Leaders] [is an] indispensable guide, and . . . devotes a sizable portion of the book to landsmanshaft associations. (1)

As an example of what information is contained in the biography entries, here is a translation of the entry for the Yiddish poet, Aliza Greenblatt. She was,



Aliza Greenblatt

through her daughter Chana (Marjorie), the mother-in-law of Woody Guthrie and Arlo's grandmother.



Woody (left) & Arlo Guthrie

Born in Azarenetz, Podolsk in 1889. The daughter of Avrohom and Brocha Bas Tsiyon Aharenzon. In America since 1900, attended evening school and went to work. Married Isidor Greenblatt in 1908 and educated under his influence.

Began writing poems very young, and her first book "My Life" appeared in 1935. Since then she has published poems in various newspapers and magazines. Is especially popular from

her song, "Dreaming Dreams," music by Solomon Golub, "Fisherman Song" and "From All Tender Flowers."

Has since then published ten songs with music which have been very successful with the folk masses.



Her husband, Isidor Greenblatt was one of the pioneers who, after the first World War, went to the Land of Israel and tried to introduce industry.

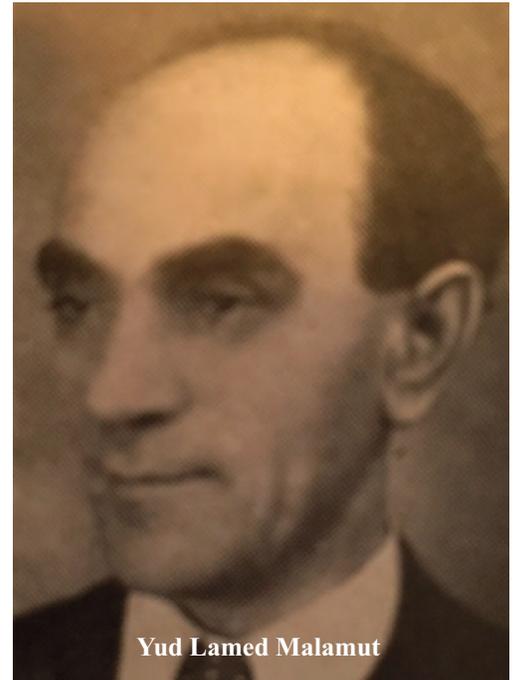
Their children: Avrohom Yehoshua, now an officer on an American ship. In 1936 the son opened the first maritime school in the Land of Israel because he felt that the Jews must not rely on the Arabs. The second son, Dovid Moshe, is an engineer on an American ship. Both graduated from the schoolship [nautical training school] "Annapolis" [USS Annapolis] in Philadelphia. Gisye, now Mrs. David Mazia, her husband is a professor in Columbia, Missouri, and First Lieutenant. Gisye graduated from the Women's School of Design with the degree Bachelor of Arts.

Chana, now Mrs. Joseph Mazia, a graduate of the Neighborhood Playhouse, now with the Martha Graham Dance Troupe. Chana's husband is a metallurgist with the American government in the Frankford Arsenal. The youngest, Ben-Aviv, 21 years old, is graduating now from Columbia, Missouri, as a metallurgist. All of the children received scholarships and have distinguished themselves, just like their parents, as devoted sons and daughters of the Jewish people with a warm love for the land of Israel and for culture and art.⁽²⁾

Here is what Malamut wrote about himself:

Born 15 September 1886, the son of Daniel and Mindel (Berman) Melamed, in Snitkov, Podolsk. Father a fervent hassid and intimate member of the Kurilovitser court of Rebbe Yehiel'kel, a grandson of the Apter Rabbi.

Raised in a hassidic environment in the Kurilovitser court and remained under this influence his entire life. Debuted in the London "Arbeiter Freund" [Workers Friend] with sketches sent from New York where he had been since 1903.



Yud Lamed Malamut

In 1905 went to London, England and worked there in the "Arbeiter Freund," "Jewish World," an English weekly with a Yiddish supplement, also "Express" and "Journal," two daily newspapers of that time.

In 1907 returned to New York, worked at the "Forverts," "Zeit-Geist," and "Tageblatt."

During the years 1911-12-13-14 lived in Canada, worked at the "Keneder Adler" [Canadian Eagle] under the editorship of Reuven Breinin, later worked at the "Toronter Zhurnal" [Toronto Journal], "Keneder Yid" [Canadian Jew], Winnipeg where he also edited the "Keneder Yidische Velt" [Canadian Jewish World].

In 1915 returned from Canada to Chicago, compiled the Chicago edition of the New York Forverts, worked under the editorship of Kalman Marmor in the Yidische Arbeiter Velt [Jewish Worker's World] and Kunst Freint [Art Friend], a

magazine on art and literature.

Also at that time wrote two dramas, "In the Rabbi's Court" and "The Egoist." The former play was successfully performed in Canada under the direction of Reuven Breinin, and the latter was performed in Gertner's Theater in Chicago with the participation of Muni Weisenfreund (today Paul Muni), Leyzer Rosenstein, Pauline Hofferman, Adolph and Jenny Gertner and others.

In 1920 founded and edited a weekly and later a daily in Detroit, Der Veg [The Way].

A year later went to California where he edited a daily newspaper "Di Zeit" [The Time], later also edited the Los Angeles Bulletin and the "Kalifornier Yidishe Shtime" [California Jewish Voice], first a daily, later a weekly.

Founded and edited the monthly magazine Sunland with the participation of H. Rosenblatt, M. M. Dolitzky, David Gisnet, Esther Esselin, Brocha Kudly, Yosef Kutzenov and others.

Was also the editor and publisher of Hollywood, the only Yiddish film magazine. Editor of the two volumes Southwest Jewry, historical and biographic material about Jewish pioneers in California.

Also edited a similar book, Southern Jewry, about Jews in Memphis, Tennessee.

His Yiddish works are Stories for Jewish Children, published in St. Louis, a volume of humorous stories published in Boston, "Childhood Years" stories of school, and "Snitkov my Town" recitations and improvisations and "East Broadway and Royal Cafe." Four editions appeared of all of these books.

Also published two miniature booklets with translations and parodies. Poems from English lore, Negro lore and other languages. Worker at the Philadelphia Jewish World since 1936, wrote novels, stories, articles and humorous sketches until the newspaper closed.

Now the editor-publisher of "Philadelphia Jewish Institutions and their Leaders," also news editor of the "Filadelfier Morgen Zhurnal" [Philadelphia Morning Journal].

Married Bertha Levin. Their children: Leah Lamont, Marian Link and Daniel currently a staff sergeant with a bombardier squadron in Egypt, also editor of "Agmes Nefesh" [Heartache] a comic paper in the desert.⁽³⁾

The yearbook is available at the Tuttleman Library at Gratz College, but it doesn't circulate. It's also available upon request at the Free Library of Philadelphia where it's located in the library's offsite storage facility, the Regional Operations Center (<https://know.freelibrary.org/Record/436331>).

Mark's English translation of the entire table of contents will be available in the "Links" section at the JGSGP website. ❖

Notes:

1. Gail F. Stern, Traditions in Transition: Jewish Culture in Philadelphia, 1840-1940: An Exhibition in the Museum of the Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies. (Philadelphia: Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1989), p. 39.

2. Yud Lamed Malamut, ed., Filadelfiyer Yidishe Anshtaltn un Zeyere Fihrer Yor-Bukh far 1942-1943, (Philadelphia: Yud Lamed Malamut, 1942), II:333-334.

3. Ibid., II: 332-333.

Author Mark Alsher is a teacher and translator of Yiddish. He'd be happy to translate individual entries from this yearbook, but there would be a charge. You can contact him at alsher21@icloud.com,

UPDATE FROM THE EDITOR

It has come to our attention that Michael Levin made some inaccurate comments in his article “Tsal Kaplun Foundation Archive” in our winter issue (Vol, 34-4, pp. 14-15).

Specifically, he wrote:

“Miriam Weiner collected a lot of information about the content of archives of the Former Soviet Union (FSU). **Unfortunately, she stopped her useful work.**”

Here is Michael’s March 16 letter of apology to Miriam Weiner:

Dear Miriam,

Please accept my most sincere and heartfelt apologies for being the source of incorrect information about your latest efforts in the genealogy field. In hindsight, it is clear that I should have reached out and inquired with you prior to the publication of my article and I really have no excuse for not doing so. Having said that my perception that you stopped working only magnified my deepest appreciation of your work in the field. If you indeed have stopped working, you'd left an irrecoverable void.

I am thankful that you continue working on Ukrainian and Belorussian archival data. Kindly let me know if there is anything I can do to assist in your work.

Of course, my apology with the corrected information about your recent projects should be published as soon as possible to rectify my mistake.

*Sincerely yours,
Michael Levin*

To set the record straight, we’d like to provide a snapshot of Ms. Weiner’s recent activities. She continues to update both the archive and image databases at her Routes to Roots website (www.rtrfoundation.org). These include her specific contributions of substantial and unique material culled from her more than twenty-five years of work in Belarus to the Belarus SIG (<https://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/>) and in Moldova to the Bessarabia SIG (<https://www.jewishgen.org/Bessarabia/>).

In addition, she provides JRI-Poland with archive inventories and archival data for towns in Poland which don’t appear on that website. She works closely with Stanley Diamond, head of JRI-Poland, to verify new and updated archival holdings in Poland. See <http://www.jri-poland.org/>.

Miriam has contributed her collections of Soviet telephone books (<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V17N51.html>) and (<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/webart/donation11.pdf>) as well as Russian business directions and Calendar Books (<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/webart/donation10.pdf>) to the Library of Congress in 2016 and 2017.

Last year she added an extensive collection of town and region maps to her website (<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/maps.shtml>) and continues to contribute various materials (books, maps, archive inventories and documents, cemetery and Holocaust lists, photographs, antique postcards –both Judaic and local views) which are described at <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/bookdonations.shtml>.

Finally, Ms. Weiner was honored with Certified Genealogist (CG) Emeritus status for her long and distinguished career. For more details see <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/bcg.pdf>.

Mark Halpern, our vice-president of programming, pointed out a second error which appeared on p. 15: “Today researchers can view the result of these efforts **if they contribute annually to those specific SIGs.**” In truth, databases placed on JewishGen servers, (such as those from Ukraine SIG, Belarus SIG, and independent organizations like Litvak SIG and JRI-Poland) are all free to use. Certain qualified contributors can access some data that are not yet online, but everybody can become qualified. Such data will be placed online for free in the near future.

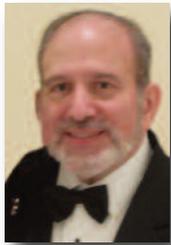
Chronicles regrets these errors and apologizes for any misunderstanding. ❖

A DIFFERENT METHOD OF STORYTELLING

BASED ON “KBA SECOND GRADERS EXPLORE TRADITIONS AND HEIR-
LOOMS IN FILM FESTIVAL MOVIE”

BY JAYNE JACOVA FELD IN THE *JEWISH COMMUNITY VOICE*
(CHERRY HILL, NJ), PP. 1, 19, 33, MARCH 14, 2018

Adapted by Evan Fishman



Are you looking for a way to transmit your family legacy to the younger generations of your family? Traditional storytelling usually involves transmission in either written or oral formats. Recent technology, however, has given us another format—the online video—which enables us to share with a far wider audience while conveying the storytellers’ vibrant enthusiasm.

Back in March, the second-grade class at Kellman Brown Academy in Voorhees, New Jersey, developed its own video, “*L’dor V’dor*” [“From Generation to Generation”] by highlighting family heirlooms and traditions. (Kellman Brown is a private, Jewish elementary school, K-8, which combines secular and Jewish studies.) Under the guidance of their teacher, Toby Miller, students used their own cell phones to create videos often involving their grandparents, their parents, and themselves in the process.

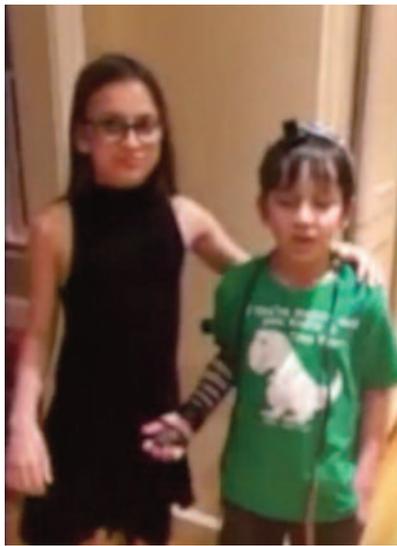
The range of heirlooms was impressive. Imagine a pocket watch, rolling pin, *tefillin* (phylacteries), Shabbat plates, kiddush cups, candlesticks, a doll, and a chess set as the foundations for vivid stories. One multigenerational account described the wine making process one student’s Uruguayan grandparents underwent to make Passover wine. Another student’s grandmother shared a book she had received from “her own second grade teacher in recognition of her excellent ‘conduct’ in class.”

Miller introduced the concept with readings from Patricia Polacco’s children’s books, *The Keeping Quilt* and *The Blessing Cup*, in which the author described the heirlooms her own ancestors managed to take with them when they escaped from Russia. Students subsequently made their own quilt “composed of patchwork art they produced based on their own family story.”

Student, Hillel Ziskind, opened the film with the following thoughtful reflection:

“*L’dor V’dor*, it means from generation to generation. It goes on and on like a lot of things, like humanity. It gets





passed on sometimes through heirlooms and sometimes traditions. Sometimes it's through following the steps of your older relatives, like the Maccabees following in the steps of their father Mattathias.”

Following this statement, Hillel, his parents, and grandparents gave their own take on the theme by noting that an 18th century ancestor was a noted Talmudic scholar.

Toby Miller summarized the experience by praising her students: “I’m really proud of the students and how inspired they have been throughout. It’s such a meaningful, meaningful project. It teaches the kids so much about family traditions and about making sure we stay true to who we are as Jewish people.”

To view the video, click on to https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMEnW_nia8c. ❖

Evan Fishman is the editor of *Chronicles* and has always been interested in learning about his extended family. He began to methodically research his family history in 2000 and has been amazed by the stories and experiences he's encountered. Contact Evan at editor@jgsgp.org

A SHORT REVIEW OF THE LITVAKSIG WEBSITE

by James Gross, MSLIS



For researchers engaged in Lithuanian genealogy research, the Litvak SIG website is a useful primary resource. LitvakSIG is hosted and linked on JewishGen,⁽¹⁾ and the two organizations jointly sponsor the “All Lithuania Database.”⁽²⁾ In this article, we will do a short review of the website and assess how its information can help you with your existing Litvak family tree research.

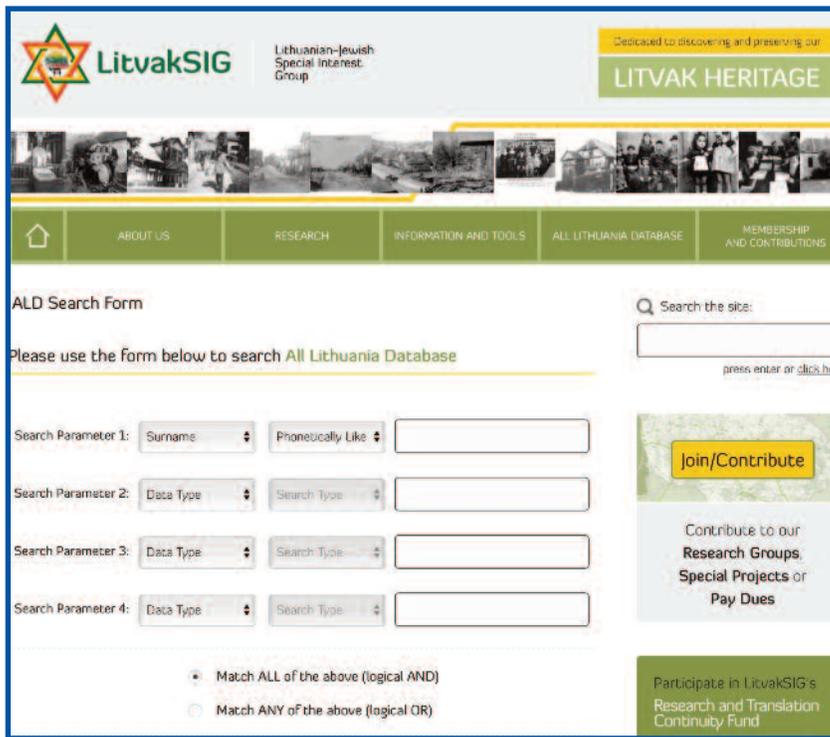


The LitvakSIG website consists of three primary sections: Research, Information And Tools, and the All Lithuanian Database or ALD.

The Research tab includes links to: District/Guberniya Research, Family Research, Special Projects, Litvak SIG Discussion List, MACEVA - Lithuanian Cemetery Catalog, JewishGen ID, Research and Translation Continuity Fund, Grand Duchy of Lithuania, and Shtetl Map & List.

The Information & Tools section includes: About our records, Archives & Repositories, FAQ, Given Names Database, LitvakSIG Online Journal, Image Library, Books, Internet Links, Audio/Video and Glossary.

The various research groups translate all available records: revision lists, family lists, tax lists, voter lists and vital records for the entire district, including all *shtetlach* in the district or *guberniya*. Research groups are organized around the premise that families often lived in one *shtetl* but were officially registered in another or had extended family within close proximity. They match several administrative districts (*uyezds*) of the Russian Empire period (1795-1917).



Lithuanian records are located at the All Lithuanian Database (ALD) which contains data from original records in a number of languages and alphabets including Old Cyrillic, modern Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew, Lithuanian, Polish and Old German.

In addition to working with researchers and archives in Lithuania to locate and index Jewish records, LitvakSIG also collaborates with the LDS Family History Library and indexes Lithuanian Jewish records that the FHL has on microfilm. Only paying LitvakSIG members or people who have contributed to one of the fourteen district groups (DRG) are able to access new records and indexes after they are initially uploaded. These records become available for free in the ALD eighteen months later. The ALD can be accessed via the LitvakSIG website or via JewishGen. Newcomers may want to read the LitvakSIG FAQ. ⁽³⁾

I would like to now illustrate how the ALD can be useful. Although I have used this website in past years, I didn't realize that the ALD is periodically updated with new records. In preparing this article, I did a search on my surname SHTEINBOK (later changed to Steinberg) from Panevezys. I didn't expect to see anything new.

	Movsha		9/10/1902 21 Tishrei
SHTEINBOK, Itsyk Girsh		Family from Zarasai uezd	68 old age
9/10/1902 21 Tishrei	Panevezys	Panevezys	2287922
68	Panevezys	1902	2
old age	Kaunas	M41	LVIA1226/1/2046

But, surprise! If you look at the split image at the right, there is a record link (#2287922) to the LDS Family History Center. This means that a record has been located on Family Search which matches this data entry. I learned that Itsyk Shteinbok was a Steinberg cousin in my tree. Thus, it pays to revisit genealogy websites to see if any updated information has been added. If you are interested in reading more about LitvakSIG and the records collaboration with FamilySearch, check out Emily Garber's excellent online blog article. ⁽⁴⁾ ❖

References:

1. *JewishGen website:* <http://www.jewishgen.org>
2. *All Lithuanian Database:* <https://www.litvaksig.org/search-ald/>
3. *LitvakSIG FAQ:* <https://www.litvaksig.org/information-and-tools/faq/>
4. *Garber, Emily (2017), "FamilySearch, JewishGen and Litvak SIG: What are they hiding?," Blog entitled, Going the Extra Yad. Retrieved April 2018 from:* <https://tinyurl.com/garber-litvak>.

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

JANUARY MEETING SUMMARY

“WARSAW 2018: RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES & THE IAJGS CONFERENCE”

PRESENTER: HADASSAH LIPSIOUS

by Marilyn Mazer Golden

A longtime member of the JRI-Poland board, Hadassah Lipsius is the archive coordinator for the Warsaw and Tomaszow Mazowiecki Archives. She manages the database for JewishGen’s Warsaw Research Group, and has helped index Warszawa newspaper life cycle announcements. Hadassah also serves on the executive council of the JGSGNY. She has made numerous trips to Poland for family research.

Warsaw had the largest Jewish population in all of Europe before World War II. Hadassah will focus on the varied and unique sources for researching Warsaw or any part of pre-war or post-war Poland, including vital record research, newspaper announcements, business directories, homeowners lists, cemetery records, notarial records as well as business records and many more. She will review the sources, show examples and provide aides and tips in how to perform your searches.

Warsaw research: Identifying districts to locate where people lived:

When researching Warsaw, it is necessary to understand the districts of the city and how they changed over time. Each property lot is listed as a number and not as an exact address on vital records. When researching your family, for example, remember to search for the district and lot number.

Before World War II, there were 330,000 Jews living in Warsaw. Each inner district maintained its own vital records. Jewish population varied. Some districts had no Jews, while others contained heavy concentrations. Everyone was identified by where s/he lived (district and lot number). Many relatives or landsmen lived on the same property.

The current record for District #3, Lot #1808 indicates a church is located there. However, an 1852 district directory indicates it belonged to Hadassah’s family. Whenever she visits Warsaw, she sits on a bench nearby with the knowledge that this is where her family lived.

What Jewish vital records for Warsaw exist:

1808-1825: Mixed Christian records are available. Registration by district, patronymic name, in Polish. The scans for these records appear at <http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/72/200/0/>.

1826-1864: Jewish records found in Polish genealogy websites, JRI-Poland. Fond 180 records are in Polish.

1860-1915: Fond 200 records are scanned and can be found on the Polish State archives website. They are in Russian and grouped by district. Many records are missing. The records that are on JRI-Poland were in Cyrillic and are translated into Latin characters.

Why are my family’s records missing?

The Germans made Warsaw an example and totally destroyed the city during World War II. Records didn’t survive. Consequently, post-World War I vital records for districts 3 and 4 are very limited.

a. In lieu of vital records, family information can also be found through notary documents containing business records, pre-nuptial agreements, wills, and property inventory.

b. AGAD (Central Archives of Historical Records) is the repository for records of old acts (<http://agad.gov.pl/>). Files of families (*Familijna Ksiązka Legitymacyjna*) and identification cards for permanent residents can be found here and will be published soon. Hadassah found an identification card for a woman who lived at Lot 1808, where her family lived!

c. The Jewish Historical Institute is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The database for their collections can be found at <http://www.jhi.pl/en/genealogy/>

After World War II there were 80,000 survivors registered. A list from 1947-8 listed pre- and post-war addresses of people trying to find their relatives. Useful sources include:

- a. Prisoner of War identification cards listed the stalag they were in along with family name and address.
- b. Jewish newspapers indexed 1937-39 marriages can be found on JewishGen and 1923-39 death announcements.
- c. Yiddish newspapers in Israel. Different information may be present throughout the newspaper in different obituaries for the same person.
- d. Jewish periodicals

Cemeteries

1790 Brodno Cemetery, located in Praga district. Presumed that over 300,000 people are buried there. Less than 3000 graves are preserved today. This cemetery is in poor condition. Many of the gravestones are piled up in the road at the entrance. Only recently has some money been given by the government to clean it up.

1806 The Okopowa Street Jewish Cemetery, Warsaw, 250,000 marked graves. The Polish government has donated 28 million dollars to help restore this Warsaw Jewish Cemetery.

<http://warszawa.jewish.org.pl/en/for-visitors/warsaw/okopowa/>. No records exist for this cemetery. Only 80,000 burials have been documented because the inscriptions on those stones are legible.

Warsaw Jewish records may also be located in other places. One has to be creative and look elsewhere for information. Hadassah's list of helpful websites will be available at the "Archives" section of the JGSGP website. ❖

FEBRUARY MEETING SUMMARY

“EVIDENCE ANALYSIS – WHICH IS THE RIGHT RECORD?”

PRESENTER: RHODA MILLER, ED.D., CG

PAST PRESIDENT OF JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF LONG ISLAND (JGSLD)

VOLUNTEERS WITH JEWISHGEN AND LITVAK SIG, WEBMASTER FOR BELARUS SIG

by Linda Ewall-Krocker and Marilyn Mazer Golden

The heart and soul of all research is based on the Genealogical Proof Standard as developed by the Board for Certification of Genealogists:

- Reasonably exhaustive research.
- Complete and accurate citation of sources.
- Analysis and correlation of the collected information.
- Resolution of conflicting evidence.
- Soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

How do you analyze conflicts? Most genealogists love to do research but don't write it up. The writing process can help you find your own loopholes. You must continuously revisit your research to make sure your evidence and sources provide accurate information. If you don't cite sources and can't tell someone where you got your information, it's fiction. Don't write it up unless it's accurate. Why bother? So you can sleep at night

Sources

- a. Original (The first place information is recorded. May be any format: oral history, photograph, video, document or gravestone, etc.).
- b. Derivative (reproduction of that information in any other format such as: photocopy, scan, microfilm, transcription, abstract, etc.),
- c. Authored (original research and conclusions; published).

Information

- a. Primary (photo, gravestone, document).
- b. Secondary (oral history) or indeterminable (unknown).
- c. Evidence (How good are the contents? . . . like the ingredients listed on a cereal box).
 1. Direct Evidence - Explicitly states a fact. Calculation or additional sources are not needed. Example: A date is noted in format mm/dd/yyyy.
 2. Indirect Evidence - A calculation is needed. Supporting evidence is needed.
 3. Negative Evidence - What is NOT found!

- An original birth certificate has more information than a certificate of birth, which is a derivative. Someone copied the information on another piece of paper, which could have handwriting problems, typos, etc. Document, oral history, photograph, video, gravestone, etc.
- DERIVATIVE – reproduction of that information in any other format (changes, blurry, etc.)
- AUTHORED – original research & conclusions; published

Rhoda told some humorous stories and personal accounts to help us understand the importance of the Genealogy Proof Standard: Father Justinian – a young father joined a monastery of monks whose job was to copy records. They were copying things others had copied, so he goes to Father Superior and asked for the original records. He went down to the basement and got started. He missed dinner, and the monks who looked for him found him sobbing. He explained while weeping that “the word was celebrate!”

Her father needed his birth certificate. He was given a short form on file at the New York City Department of Health. It was handwritten and contained many typos. Sometimes originals are damaged or destroyed. They can have errors, so a derivative (transcription) may be much better.

Birth records can be wrong. Marriage records are more accurate since the bride and groom provide their own information, but even then, they could have lied about their ages. However, you may get name changes, pre-marital addresses, anglicized names and handwriting. Death records are the most common source of errors for obvious reasons. They're done in haste, and no one makes an effort to verify the information. Medical certification is primary information. Cemetery and undertaker are listed. Personal data is secondary information and of indeterminate origin. Who supplied the information? A family member or local records?

Sometimes you have to make a weighty decision: Original or derivative?

1. Originals may have wear and tear.
2. Originals can be unreadable: a transcription may be better.
3. Originals can have errors.
4. Bleeding occurs on microfilm.
5. Transcribed databases produce derivative images.

Each piece of information in the source needs to be considered independently. How good are the contents of the information provided? In the case of ship records and other records, they were destroyed after microfilming. They get indexed and re-indexed, and the transcriptions may vary.

Oral History: Is it reliable?

1. An individual's “truth” is what s/he believes; it may not be the same as another's “truth” of the same story. Claims vary.
2. Many people who “see” the same thing, interpret it differently or misinterpret.
3. A person's perception is dependent upon age, value system, economic status, birth order, etc.
4. Stories change with the telling, especially over generations.
5. Most stories have elements of what really happened (a kernel of truth).

Information: The Fact Itself (the contents)

1. Primary Information: A witness to the event supplied the information. Knowledge of information is critical (census, death certificates, etc.). Information provided in a timely manner to the event. May contain a signature.
2. Secondary Information is everything else!
3. Indeterminate information is when the supplier of the information is unknown.

Historical background can prove useful. Knowing that a law was passed in 1922 revoking a native-born woman's citizenship if she married an immigrant helps to put information in its proper context. Both spouses then had to apply for naturalization. This law was amended in 1936 so that same woman wouldn't lose her status if she swore allegiance.

Rhoda spent a year researching her grandfather's birth and death information. He lived in Long Island, and the death index (on microfilm and in printed form) listed him as being six years old at death. This is a double derivative source. His age at death was carved on his gravestone as sixty-two (~one year after his death). His original source death certificate (Ancestry.com, and Familysearch.org) had him listed as sixty-six years old. Solomon Solowdowsky could not have been six! He was Rhoda's grandfather! The Long Island Death Index obviously had an error in transcription.

Rhoda suggests making a table of all the documents in order to evaluate the sources:

- Fact/Record/Document
- Age
- Birth Year
- Primary/Original/Indirect/Secondary/Derivative?
- Maiden Name? (if it matches married name, they may have been cousins)
- Patronymic Occupation
- Place of Origin
- Notes

Calculate Birth Age

Use secondary sources and direct evidence. Analyze your information to see what makes sense and what is credible. Do lateral research. Check siblings and each generation. Use many sources and Special Interest Groups (SIGs) on JewishGen.org.

Rhoda considers the \$100.00 fee she paid to join Litvak SIG as the best money she ever spent because she found four generations of her family thanks to its records, her family's listing in the Suencionys yizkor book, and the electors list for the town. Indirect evidence answered her question as to what happened to her family.

When researching, write down the questions you want to answer. Use complete and accurate citations. Write a soundly reasoned and coherently written conclusion, and use the Genealogy Proof Standard!

Analysis and correlation of evidence done in the table she created solved all but one family member's birth year. When you write out the problems, you find the loopholes. Sometimes you can even find the answers in your own files. She found some answers on Pages of Testimony at the Yad Vashem website, positively identifying a family member. but she obtained the actual list where this information appeared from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Rhoda's book: *Jewish Community of Long Island*, www.JGSLI.org.
Check YouTube about the book and its name index.

Question: how did you deal with a newly married couple adopting the name of a prominent person in the town? It may happen that the husband would take the name of the bride's family if it was more prominent or to avoid the draft.

Looking for information:

- Order coroner's report for "Inquest Pending" death certificates.
- Ask the union (like the ILGWU) or whoever might have records. ❖

MARCH MEETING SUMMARY

TOPIC: THE JECKES IN ISRAEL

by Marilyn Mazer Golden



Anat Feinberg, born in Tel Aviv, is a professor of Hebrew and Jewish literature in Heidelberg, Germany. She has published books and articles on Israeli literature and on Jews in German theatre, and was in charge of the entry on modern Hebrew literature in the revised edition of the *Encyclopedia Judaica*.

Professor Feinberg related the story of the emigration of the Jeckes and shed light on their contributions to social and cultural life. While Israelis at first tended to be critical of the Jeckes, their image has undergone a radical change over the past decade. She closed her talk with a short examination of the way the Jeckes have been portrayed in Israeli literature.

German Jews came to Palestine in the 1930s. They found a haven on the famous Ben Jehuda Street in Tel Aviv where they spoke German. Tel Aviv was shaped around their culture. A famous dictionary printed at the time was written in Hebrew and German, and Hebrew is often found mixed with German today as well.

Where did the name “Jeckes” come from? There are several theories, but no one knows for sure. Between 1933-1939, 75,000 Jews from Germany, Austria, and Czechoslovakia emigrated to Palestine.

It is ironic that Israelis look down on the German Jews. Some people felt that the German Jews should have come to Palestine prior to Hitler’s ascent to power. Instead, the Russians came! In 1933, there was a condescending newspaper article claiming the German Jews did not wish to take part in the joy, sorrow, or pain of the other Jews in Palestine and did not want to integrate into their society.

It’s true that the first generation of German Jews spoke German after their arrival, but Russian immigrants continued to speak Russian. Second generation German Jews spoke Hebrew. So, why were they looked down upon? Germans did hard labor jobs. Criticism continued even as they helped to build the country. It took time for Israelis to learn to appreciate the German immigrants.

Current historians debunk the myth that the Germans were mistreated and looked down upon. After many German Jews passed away, it took their children to realize that their families contributed enormously to the building of the State of Israel. Today, it is an honor to be a German Jewish descendant! One author, Yoram Kaniuk, who was not a German Jew, often referred to himself as a “Jecke.”

The many Jecke contributions include:

Communities: Ramot HaShavim (Heights of the Returnees), a moshav in the Sharon region was established in 1933 and is a thriving community with more than 1,600 residents.

Industry: Companies founded by Jeckes include Strauss Milk, Osem, various pharmaceuticals, etc.

Academics: Author, Gershom Scholem, is known for his Kabbalah studies.

Political Life: Before statehood, they were not involved in political life. The Eastern Europeans dominated and kept



the Jeckes out until later.

- Pinchas Rosen was an Israeli statesman, who served as Minister of Justice during three terms (1948–51, 1952–56, and 1956–61).
- Dr. Siegfried Moses, the first state inspector of Israel (Chief of the Court of Auditors), was one of the co-founders in 1955 of the Leo Baeck Institute, which maintains archives of the history and culture of the German Jews in Jerusalem, London, and New York City.
- Yosef Burg was an Israeli founding father and longtime cabinet minister. He advocated for co-existence between religious and secular Israelis. Born in Dresden, Germany, he was one of the founders of the National Religious Party.

Journalism: Jeckes published newspapers and journals and established a publishing house.

Cultural influences: in theater, art, dance, and music. When the Palestine Symphony Orchestra (precursor of the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra) was established in 1936, most of its musicians were of German Jewish descent. Tel Aviv is home to one of the best-preserved collections of Bauhaus and International Style architecture in the world, which were introduced by German Jews.

Literature: Authors include Else Lasker-Schüler, Arnold Zweig, Elazar Benyoëtz. All wrote in German. Other authors wrote about Jecke life in Israel: Shmuel Yosef Agnon, Natan Shaḥam (*The Rosendorf Quartet*), and Abraham B. (A. B.) Jehoshua (about the marriage of Jecke and Sephardi Jews).

Philosophy: Schlom Ben-Chorim stated “You can leave your country behind, but not your mother tongue.” From 1935 to 1970 he was a journalist. In 1958, he founded Israel's first Reform Jewish community in Jerusalem.

Today, over 30,000 Israelis live in Berlin. Many Israelis are drawn to Germany because of a vibrant cultural scene and the mixture of German and Hebrew. A number of contemporary authors mix German and Hebrew in their work. Writers of Hebrew and German literature and poetry have been known to dialogue together and have their works published in both languages.

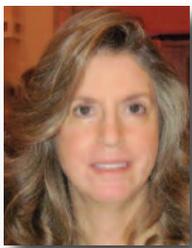
Professor Feinberg finished her lively, enlightening talk by saying that the cycle has repeated itself.

Special thanks to JGSGP member Bernie Cedar, for inviting his cousin, Professor Anat Feinberg, to speak to our society! ❖

APRIL MEETING SUMMARY

TWO RIGHTEOUS GENTILES: ARISTIDES DE SOUSA MENDES & CHIUNE SUGIHARA

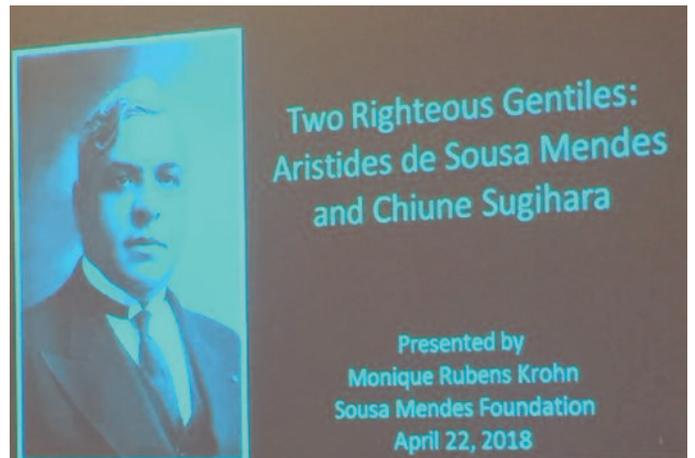
by Linda Ewall-Krocker & Mark Halpern



Aristes de Sousa Mendes presented by Monique Rubens Krohn

Beginning in 1938 Aristes de Sousa Mendes was stationed in Bordeaux, France as the Portuguese consul general. He has the distinction of being the individual who saved the most people during World War II. He is reputed to have saved 30,00 refugees from the Nazis, including 10,000 Jews.

On November 11, 1939, then prime minister Antonio Salazar's government promulgated Circular 14 which classified the “for-



eigners of indefinite or contested nationality” who were henceforth required to have prior approval from Lisbon before applying for visas. Jews were among those subject to this restriction. Sousa Mendes chose to disobey Circular 14. Following Germany’s invasion of various countries, refugees traveled southward to Bordeaux in the hope of eventually getting to Portugal which was an officially neutral country. Their objective was to reach Lisbon and sail for havens outside of Europe. A massive traffic jam ensued in Bordeaux, cars couldn’t move, and people ran out of gas. German planes strafed the trapped cars in May and June of 1940.

The refugees needed visas to exit France, a transit visa to travel through Spain (often limited to twenty-four hours), and finally another visa to Portugal. Polish Rabbi Chaim Kruger advocated for the many Jews seeking asylum when he said that he “couldn’t leave while his brothers and sisters were outside” [the Portuguese consulate awaiting visas]. His profound concern influenced Sousa Mendes who was tormented by the harrowing situation. He refused to eat, couldn’t sleep, and lay in bed wrestling with his conscience. His hair turned white.

Defying Circular 14, he decided to issue free visas to anyone who requested. His faith dictated how he should act: "I am a Christian and, as such, believe that it is not for me to let refugees perish . . . My desire is to be with God against Man than with Man against God." He was also guided by the following clause in the constitution, “. . . under no circumstances shall the religion or political belief of a foreigner bar him from seeking refuge in Portugal.” As a result of his heroic actions, thousands of refugees were granted free visas. The pages of the visa application registry reflected the huge volume of requests, most of which were granted within a twelve-day period.

Sousa Mendes was convinced that the government would soon realize what a noble and just thing he had done. Sadly, the harsh opposite was the result. He was released from his post, retired without pay, socially banished, and unable to work. His children were also blacklisted and had to scatter all over the world in search of work. He and his wife died in poverty.

Sousa Mendes’ family fought hard to restore his name and reputation, and in 1967 Yad Vashem declared him a Righteous Among the Nations. His property, Casa de Passal, was returned in 2013. A “Garden of Remembrance” is now located there along with plaques attesting to his bravery and resolve to do the right thing. In 2017 Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa posthumously awarded him the highest award, the Grand Cross of Liberty. He is now widely recognized as a national hero, and thanks to various plaques and statues, Portugal’s “Schindler” is remembered.

After the war Monique’s mother saw an article in the *New York Times* and recognized Sousa Mendes as the man who issued visas to the family. Her mother and grandmother departed from Lisbon on July 6, 1940, and her grandfather followed a month later. The mission of the Sousa Mendes Foundation is to honor Aristides de Sousa Mendes’ actions and educate the world about his heroism.

Lessons Monique learned:

- Display moral courage even though the risks are high
- Much of life is about preparation, but some of it is pure luck
- History repeats itself, especially when it comes to refugees
- Don’t just trace your ancestry. Please learn about your family’s stories and pass them on.

Chiune (Sempo) Sugihara presented by Mark Halpern

“Sempo” Sugihara, born in 1900, was the son of a bureaucrat in the Japanese government. After passing exams for the Japanese Foreign Service in 1919, he served in various posts, including sixteen years as a negotiator and intelligence agent in Harbin, Manchuria, a city with a large Russian and Jewish population.



**Monique
Rubens Krohn**

In 1939, he was dispatched to Kovno, which was then the capital of independent Lithuania, as the vice consul, but his main duties were to spy on Russian and German troop movements. The Japanese figured the Russians and Germans would be at war sooner or later, and they wanted to redeploy their troops to the Pacific when that happened. After the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939, Chaim Weizmann, then President of the Zionist Organization and later the first president of Israel, said, “The world seems divided into two parts – those places where Jews cannot live and those where Jews cannot enter.”

By the summer of 1940 the Jews had no place to go. They had financial support from JDC, HIAS, HICEM, the Union of Orthodox Rescue Committee and other organizations. Many people from all over Poland ended up in Vilnius searching for ways out of Europe, either to Palestine or the West. Many were either members of the secular labor bund or Orthodox yeshiva students. In order to leave, they needed an exit visa, papers to cross Russia, a transit visa through Japan, still another visa to a final destination, and hard currency (usually U.S. dollars) to pay for transportation and fees. One destination was the open city of Shanghai, occupied by the Japanese. The Russians needed foreign exchange and wanted U.S. dollars.

Sugihara was asked to provide transit visas to Jewish refugees, provided they had verifiable final destinations. By July 18, 1940 rumors were circulating that the Dutch Consulate would issue visas for travel to Curaçao in the Dutch West Indies. However, these were actually “fake” visas. Once Sugihara learned the truth, he decided to issue ten-day transit visas to Japan. He felt personally responsible to help Jews. The last consulate in Kovno to close was the Japanese consulate, and Sugihara spent his last month or so issuing visas every day except Sunday, and even continued issuing visas after moving to a hotel. He departed Kovno by train for Berlin and reportedly threw signed visa out of the window as he left.

How many Jews did he actually save? Documentation indicates that Sugihara issued 2,140 visas, but some were never used. Some were issued after he left the consulate; others were thrown from a train. Some say 2,000 visas covered 3,500 people, many of whom went to Japan with assistance from the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and Kobe (Japan) Jewish community. These organization determined that 2,000 to 2,500 refugees transited through Kobe. Some were fortunate to acquire immigrant visas, and some got temporary visas to go to the U.S., Canada, Australia, and other countries. There is no estimate of how many were actually saved. Refugees traveled from Poland to Lithuania, Russia, Japan, Seattle, and finally New York, a journey of 25,000 kilometers.

Sugihara was stationed in Romania at the end of the war and was held as a prisoner of war for a while before he was returned to Japan. He was ultimately asked to resign from the Foreign Service, mainly because the U.S. occupation did not need Foreign Service officials. Sugihara’s youngest son was born in Japan after the war and educated in Israel. In 1984, two years before he died, he was recognized by Yad Vashem as one of the Righteous Among the Nations for his humanitarian efforts. The Japanese have since recognized him as well.

Mark recommends Hillel Levine’s book *In Search of Sugihara* for anyone who wants to read more about this hero. Joseph Shimkin is Mark’s favorite character in the Sugihara saga, and Mark believes he met him at some point during the three years he lived in Japan in the 1980s. Born in Warsaw, Shimkin escaped to Vilna where he worked with the JDC and became a source of local intelligence and support. He received a Sugihara visa, escaped from the Nazis, and became a little known and well accomplished forger of other Sugihara visas. He made his way to Japan in March 1941 and spent the remainder of the war residing in Shanghai. He returned to Japan in 1955, married a Japanese woman, and spent the rest of his life in Tokyo. Buried in the Yokohama Foreign Cemetery, his footstone reads, “He had saved a large number of Jewish refugees escaping from the Nazis. . . .” ❖



Mark Halpern



JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

2018 Membership and Renewal Form

Member Information (Please Print)

Name (s): _____ **Date:** _____

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

_____ _____
City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ **Email:** _____

Membership Status: _____ **New Member** _____ **Renewal of Membership**

Membership Categories (Check box on left)

	CATEGORY	AMOUNT
<input type="checkbox"/>	INDIVIDUAL	\$ 25
<input type="checkbox"/>	FAMILY (2 Person Household)	\$ 35
<input type="checkbox"/>	SPONSOR	\$ 50
<input type="checkbox"/>	PATRON	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Paper Chronicles (optional)	\$ 10 per year; For international mailing fee, contact editor@jgsgp.org
<input type="checkbox"/>	Add Contribution (optional)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL AMOUNT	

All members receive e-mail copies of CHRONICLES. If you would like to have a paper CHRONICLES mailed to you, include an additional \$10 with your dues. Dues are for the calendar year, January 1 – December 31, 2018. YOU MAY PAY YOUR DUES USING PAYPAL on our website: [https:// jgsgp.org](https://jgsgp.org)

If you are mailing your membership form and check, **mail to:** JGSGP, 1657 The Fairway, #145, Jenkintown, PA 19046. Make check payable to: JGSGP

Research information

For New Members Only: Please list the surnames you are researching. Include the associated ancestral town and country. Use the back of the form if needed. This list will 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: <https://jsgsp.org>

Look for information about other IAJGS member societies:

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

Join the JGSGP Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/196732503717635/>.



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

Please check JGSGP emails, our website and our Facebook page for complete and up to the minute program information.

Sunday, June 24, 2018 1:30 pm

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

“My entire family was already in America before the Holocaust.....or were we? Newly digitized Holocaust records can lead to the discovery of previously unknown family in Europe”

Speaker: JGSGP member, Felicia Mode Alexander



Recently retired history teacher specializing in Holocaust Education and Global Human Rights. Mrs. Alexander has traveled and studied extensively in Europe and Israel to deepen her knowledge of the Holocaust and its aftermath. She is an Alfred Lerner Fellow of the Jewish Foundation of the Righteous, and an alumna of the Master Teacher Institute in Holocaust Education at Rutgers University. Currently, still working on many genealogy projects and writing articles for *Chronicles*, Mrs. Alexander is editing and annotating a recently discovered 500-page manuscript written by her grandmother, who immigrated to Boston from Kiev during the pogroms in the 1880s.

Felicia will share research methodology and repositories through which Holocaust survivors, their children and even distant cousins (in her case) can be connected thanks to a plethora of searchable databases and archival information that is easily searchable. Through her training as a Museum Teacher Fellow at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., she has learned how to mine these archives and has had incredibly moving results.

July & August 2018

Meeting hiatus for the summer; IAJGS conference in Warsaw, August 5-10

September 2018

Program & location TBA

Sunday, October 7, 2018 1:30 PM

Location TBA

The Steve Schechter Memorial Lecture

“Hamilton: Man, Myth, Musical... Mensch”

Speaker: Robert Watson, PhD, Professor of American Studies, Lynn University



Dr. Watson will explore the little-known story of this Founding Father's Jewish roots and lifelong support of Jews in America, among other topics. He will also share some stories about the little-known final days of the Holocaust from his book *The Nazi Titanic*. <http://www.nazititanic.com>

Deadline for submission of articles for our summer issue is Sunday, July 15, 2018

Please send material to: editor@jsgsp.org.