

DOROT דורות

Volume 30, Number 4

Summer 2009



(photo by Jerry Liebowitz)

In this Issue...

President's Letter.....	3
From the Editor.....	4
Dorot Seeks Your Story about Yad Vashem's Pages of Testimony.....	6
JGS Program Reports.....	8
Red Star Line and Jewish Immigrants.....	9
Continuing Genealogical Research in Sulzdorf a.d. Lederheke.....	10
Upcoming and Current Events.....	14
Metro Area Repository Round-up.....	15
Notes from All Over.....	15
New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications.....	17
Online News.....	19
JGS Friends.....	23

**And the winner of the
2009 IAJGS Award for
Outstanding Publication
by a Member Organization
is...Dorot!**



(article on page 4)

DOROT
The Journal of the
Jewish Genealogical Society

Editor: Joy Rich
Design and Production: Jim Garrity

.....Contributors.....

Linda Cantor, Anne Feder Lee, Jerry Liebowitz,
Nancy T. Polevoy, Steve Stein

© 2009 Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.
JGS, Inc. is a not-for-profit,
tax-exempt organization.

JGS, Inc.

15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011

Telephone: (212) 294-8326

E-mail: <info@jgsny.org>

Website: <http://www.jgsny.org>

DOROT (ISSN 0986-2786)

is published quarterly as the
fall, winter, spring, and summer issues

Subscription is by membership only.

Back issues are for sale at

<http://www.jgsny.org/dorot.htm>

To request permission to reprint an item,
contact the editor at <joyrich@jgsny.org>

DOROT is indexed in
Index in Jewish Periodicals.

RATES FOR DISPLAY ADS

Full page \$150 Half page \$80

Quarter page \$45 Eighth page \$25

Publication of an advertisement does not imply
an endorsement or recommendation by JGS, Inc.

JGS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Linda Cantor, President

<president@jgsny.org>

Roni Seibel Liebowitz, First Vice President/
Program

<vpprogram@jgsny.org>

Michael L. Levine, Second Vice President/
Membership

<vpmembership@jgsny.org>

Stewart Deller, Treasurer

Steven W. Siegel, Secretary

Alex E. Friedlander, Past President (2002-2006)

Jane Rosen Berenkowitz Hadassah Lipvitz

Edith Jwenstein Michael Pechin

Gloria Berenkowitz Freund Howard Rothblatt

Avrum Gelfer Paul H. Silverstone

Sheila Heimer Steve Stein

David Kleiman

Founding President:

Dr. Neil Rosenstein (1977-79)

Printed by The Starline Press, Harrisburg, PA

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

The Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., founded in 1977, was the first of over eighty such societies. Our almost 1,000 members live in the New York metropolitan area, other states, and abroad. We hold membership in the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. We have an office in the Center for Jewish History and a library at the Center's Genealogy Institute.

We support organizations and repositories and archival projects through generous annual donations to insure the preservation of many of the Jewish community's treasured documents and to provide greater public access to them. Some of them are American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Center for Jewish History, Center Genealogy Institute, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, JewishGen, Jewish Records Indexing Poland, Leo Baeck Institute, National Yiddish Book Center, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Membership benefits include:

- free admission to our monthly meetings (September through June), featuring guest lecturers from a variety of disciplines as well as field trips to libraries and archives
- a subscription to our quarterly journal, *Dorot*, containing reports on monthly meetings, descriptions of items held by repositories and organizations, announcements of new books, feature articles on genealogical research, and tips on new Internet sites
- discounted tuition at the day-long annual seminar "Heres and Beyond," which presents classes for all levels of researchers
- discounts on JGS publications, including *Genealogical Resources in New York*, an invaluable tool for genealogical research in New York City
- discounts from the JGS Friends listed on the inside back page of *Dorot*

Membership dues per calendar year are:

- Regular Member \$36
- Family Member (two members) \$45
- Sustaining Member \$60 (two membership cards)
- Supporting Member \$100 (two membership cards)
- Patron Member \$250 or more (two membership cards)
- Out-of-town Member (more than 200 miles from New York City) \$25
- Out-of-town Member (receive local mailings) \$36
- Non-U.S. Member (air mail) \$536

You can request a membership application by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 286398, New York, NY 10128-0004, or you can print out the application on the JGS website at <http://www.jgsny.org/members.htm>. Your *Dorot* subscription is valued at \$6 per year. The balance of your membership dues is tax-deductible.

JGS is a not-for-profit organization open to people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

President's Letter

by Linda Cantor

Getting ready for the new season? Let's hope that 2009-2010 will be a banner genealogy year for all of us. Certainly it looks like it will be a good year for the Jewish Genealogical Society.

A large number of our members attended the 29th IAIGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Philadelphia from August 2nd through August 7th. Everyone I've spoken to had a good time and learned a great deal from the talks and all of the networking that went on. We were well represented by speakers from our JGS—George Alexander, Nolan Altman, Jordan Auslander, Valery Bazarov, Linda Cantor, Paul Cheifetz, Karen Franklin, Avrum Geller, Saul Issrati, David Kleinman, Phyllis Kratner, Steven Lasky, Hadassah Lipsius, Rhoda Miller, Gary Mokotuff, and Miriam Weiner.

A great big mazel tov to our JGS and *Dorot* editor Joy Rich: we received the IAIGS award for Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAIGS for *Dorot*. We are very proud of all of the fine work that has gone into *Dorot* for the past thirty years and of all of our editors, including Steven Siegel, David Klennan, Alex Friedlander, and Joy Rich.

The other IAIGS awards went to Joyce Field, former head of the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) and the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project, for the IAIGS Lifetime Achievement Award; Harry Boonin for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product for his books *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia: A History and Guide, 1881-1930* and *The Life*

and Times of Congregation Kether Israel. The Story of the Synagogue at 4th & Lombard Streets, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and the Surrounding Neighborhood; and to the JGS of Greater Boston for Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy for its genealogy course. Congratulations to a well-deserving group!



Winners of the IAIGS awards. Linda Cantor, JGSNY president (front right), is holding our award. (photo by Jerry Liebowitz)



Members of JGSNY at the conference banquet (photo by Jerry Liebowitz)

continued on page 5

From the Editor

I'm so pleased that JGS received the 2009 IAJGIS Award for Outstanding Publication for *Donor*. Being the editor for the past six years has been tremendously enjoyable. I've learned so much from the articles that have been submitted and from the research I've done while putting the issues together.

The Awards Committee evaluated the publications that were submitted for the award based on their

- material interest, variety, and originality,
- content value to advancing the cause of Jewish genealogy,
- writing and editing quality,
- readability, attractiveness and graphic design quality, and
- overall publication impact.

Thank you to the members of the Awards Committee (Marc Manson, chairperson, Daniel Horowitz, Phyllis Kramer, Kahlile Mehr, and Gary Mokoloff) for finding *Donor* worthy.

And thank you to the JGSs that wrote letters of recommendation to the Awards Committee on behalf of *Donor*.

I'd like to express my gratitude for the huge amount of help and support I've received over the years.

Thank you to the members of the JGS Executive Council for giving me the job, having confidence in me, encouraging me, contributing articles and photographs, and putting up with me.

Thank you to *Donor's* authors for submitting interesting, thoughtful, well-written material and for being a pleasure to work with. Thank you also to the photographers.

Thank you to JGS members who have shared their constructive thoughts about *Donor* with me.

And a special thank-you to the two people who jump-started me:

Lucille Gudis, whose contributions to our JGS and to Jewish genealogy in general are staggering, recommended to the Executive Council that I be given

the job of editor. I was flattered that Lucille thought that highly of me; I was, however, sure that I wouldn't be able to live up to the job. But Lucille was never one to take no for an answer. Among her many skills were her knack for matching people to a task and her talent for convincing them that they were perfect for the job.

I told B-Ann Moorhouse, a longtime friend and a highly-regarded professional genealogist whose career spanned decades, that Lucille had recommended me for the job. I confided to her my doubts about my ability to do it well. B-Ann recited off a list of what I had accomplished during my twelve years as the director of a genealogy library—more than I myself remembered—and told me that I *had* to at least try out the job. B-Ann was a great believer in people and always encouraged them to live up to their potential.

I also want to thank Maralyn Steeg. She had resigned from doing layout and design for *Donor* right before I became the editor, but she stayed on for my first issue and held my hand. Maralyn graciously answered my many questions over a period of several months.

Alex Friedlander, who was then the president as well as a former editor, and Steve Siegel, who was then the acting editor, smoothed the transition by patiently helping me through the learning curve.

David Kleiman, also a past editor of *Donor*, gave up a day of work to share his expertise on desktop publishing software with Jim Garrity and me and also answered my numerous anxious phone calls.

Jim Garrity, who was the better pupil of the two of us, does a beautiful job with the design and production of the issues and manages to cope with an editor who makes changes right up until the last possible moment. I couldn't do *Donor* without him.

I thank you all. ♦

Joy Rich
Editor

President's Letter continued from page 3

At our September meeting, held on the 13th at the IJAF Federation Building, we heard Dorothy Dougherty of the National Archives Northeast Region (New York City) talk about the 1940 federal census. We're all very excited to be able to take a look at the next census, which will open to the public on April 2, 2012. Take a look at <http://www.1930census.com/1940_census_questions.php> to see a list of the questions that appear on the 1940 census. Of course, Stephen Morse, Joel Weintraub, and David Kehs have already created four helpful search tools for this unindexed census (<<http://www.stevemorse.org/>>).

On October 18th, Ron Arons will speak to us about "Mapping Madness," reviewing the basic and advanced functions of the Internet-based mapping facilities of Google and Microsoft as well as some other, more unusual, web sites. This meeting will be held at the Abraham Joshua Heschel High School (20 West End Avenue at 60th Street). You've probably noticed that we are not holding meetings at our usual location at the Center for Jewish History for the first few meetings of the year. The CJH partners are using the space for their own functions, which preempt ours.

Hope you're planning on attending this year's Membership Branch on November 15th at the

Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Make a note on your calendar to save the date. We have a wonderful and different program planned for you. After our delightful kasher brunch, we will listen to JGS member Karen Franklin talk about the exhibit "Creating the Morgenthau Exhibition: A Family Historian Confronts the Twentieth Century," which she helped curate. Karen, an experienced genealogist, uncovered fascinating personal stories and documents during two years of research in archives, libraries, and private collections. These discoveries, many of which will not be found in the exhibition, will be described in this talk. And then Karen will lead us on a special and private tour of the exhibit. Watch for more information.

Save April 11, 2010, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. for our "Basics and Beyond" seminar. It will include a beginner's track as well as one for more advanced genealogists. We're very excited about this event and hope that you all plan to attend. Watch for more information.

See you at our next meeting.

Linda

The Jewish Genealogical Society website opens the door to

- Jewishdata.com (accessible by members of JGS)
- NY Naturalizations: Database of the Index to Brooklyn Naturalizations (1907-1924); Other New York Area Naturalizations: links to searchable online New York State naturalization indexes by county
- Cemeteries: Map of New York Area Jewish Cemeteries; Directory of Jewish Cemeteries in the Metropolitan New York Area; Burial Societies in the New York Metro Area; New York Area Cemetery Directions
- NY Area Resources: a comprehensive list of repositories in the metropolitan New York area
- Dorot: downloadable issues: spring 2000-winter 2005-2006. List of highlights of back issues: 1979-2007
- Events: Announcements of upcoming JGS monthly programs and events
- New York Landsmanshaftn and Other Jewish Organizations: links to indexes, databases, and directories, such as *American Jewish Year Book*; Landsmanshaftn and other town and country-related organization organizations incorporated in New York County, 1848-1920; WPA Survey of New York City Synagogue Records, 1939
- Memorial Database of Jewish Soldiers, Partisans and Workers killed in action during the Nazi era
- Inventory of LDS Microfilms and Microfiche on Indefinite Loan at the Center for Jewish History
- Other: links to other sites that may be of interest to the JGS community



<http://www.jgsny.org>

2128991

YAD VASHEM
Martyrs and Heroes'
Remembrance
Authority

DAF-ED TL-77
A Page of Testimony

יד ושם
P.O. 3477
Jerusalem, Israel

Please print legibly. Do not use correction fluid. Please do not attach the photo. Attach a photo (include ID number of the deceased and the back of the photo). Tel. 042-0470713x11	1. Family Name <u>MEITLIS</u>	
	2. First Name <u>PETER</u>	
	3. Maiden Name <u></u>	
	4. Date of birth (in year-month-day) <u>Sweden 1923</u>	
THE MARTYRS AND HEROES REMEMBRANCE AUTHORITY (אגודת יד ושם) Jerusalem, Israel, No. 2 1991 The aim of YAD VASHEM is to gather and preserve the memory of the Jewish people who died during the Holocaust and to perpetuate their memory and that of the victims of the Holocaust and to preserve their memory and to perpetuate their memory.	5. Place of birth (in year-month-day) <u>Sweden 1923 POLAND</u>	
	6. Name of mother of the deceased <u>LIPSE</u>	7. Name of father of the deceased <u>MAK</u>
	8. Name of place of birth <u></u>	9. Profession <u></u>
	10. Place of residence during the war <u>Stockholm 1942</u>	
	11. Place of residence during the war <u>2</u>	
	12. Comments (if usual, leave blank) <u></u>	

SECTION 1 TO 12 REFER TO THE DECEASED ONLY

I, the undersigned Lotti Bial
 do hereby certify that the information given above is true and correct
 to the best of my knowledge.

Signature Lotti Bial
 Date and place of transcription Stockholm, 22. 7. 82

... ונתתי להם בביתו ובחומותיו ירושלים... אפילו לא יכרתו...
 ... even unto them will I give in mine house and within my
 walls a place and a name... that shall not be cut off.

Årsvårskontroll till Judiska Församlingen som vidarebefordrar
 det till Yad Vashem.

JUDISKA FÖRSAMLINGEN
 Box 7427
 103 61 Stockholm

This Page of Testimony is for Peter Meitlis, who was memorialized over twenty years ago by his cousin from Sweden. Mr. Meitlis was actually a Survivor, unknown to the Submitter. Two years ago, although both cousins were by now deceased, the information on the Page of Testimony was used by genealogist Avrum Geller, with the assistance of the Archives of Stockholm, to enable the only son of Peter Meitlis to meet his only known paternal relation, the daughter of his father's cousin in Sweden. Look for his story and others in a future issue of Dorot.

Dorot Seeks Your Stories about Yad Vashem's Pages of Testimony

What have you been able to accomplish using Yad Vashem's Pages of Testimony (POTs) as a genealogical resource? We want to hear about your experiences. How your efforts to fill out POTs on your own or your collaborations with friends and relatives to generate POTs have enlightened and connected families, in addition to memorializing victims of the Holocaust. We would like to publish your stories in a future issue of *Dorot*.

When family members have been reunited by genealogists through Pages of Testimony, sometimes the submitters of POTs have been the missing link that enabled Survivors and other family members to find each other. Sometimes Survivors have even seen POTs about themselves that were completed by relatives who

had believed them to be victims of the Holocaust. Have you used information about submitters of POTs either to reconnect families or find more information about your own family tree?

We are also interested in other ways in which information found by genealogists using the yadvashem.org search feature have advanced their genealogical quests. How have Pages of Testimony been useful in filling in missing genealogical information? In what way have you been able to use your genealogical research findings to contribute additional POTs, either by yourself or by others, for persons who had not yet been memorialized? This is an opportunity to share your information and insights with *Dorot's* readers. Please e-mail your stories to the Editor at <joyrich@jgsny.org>.

Your Membership Dollars at Work!

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History now stays open on Mondays until 7:30 p.m., thanks to a recent grant from the Jewish Genealogical Society. The Institute's other open hours are Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. The extended Monday hours make it possible for people who work during traditional business hours to do research at the Institute. Staff and volunteers are on hand to give patrons advice about their genealogy research.

Access is available to

- the genealogy databases on the Center's public service computers, including Ancestry Library Edition and other commercial genealogy websites;
- other electronic resources, such as *Encyclopedia Judaica*, ProQuest Historical Newspapers (including *The New York Times*, 1851-2000), Testaments to the Holocaust, and the CD-ROM database *Russians in America, 1850-1890*;
- genealogy reference books; and
- the more than 1600 reels of microfilm and sheets of microfiche that are on indefinite loan from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, including the growing collection of material of Jewish interest and significance from Austria, Germany, Poland, and Hungary.

You can plan your research in advance by viewing the list of the Institute's books, periodicals, electronic resources, CD-ROMs, and maps at <<http://www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy/referencecollection.php>> and the list of its microfilm and microfiche at <<http://www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm>>.

With the financial assistance of the Jewish Genealogical Society, you can help the Institute increase the number of microfilm and microfiche resources with Jewish content that are kept on indefinite loan. You order microfilm or microfiche and pay for the initial loan period and the first renewal, and the Jewish Genealogical Society pays for the second renewal, which keeps the microfilm and microfiche at the Institute indefinitely. Further details are at <<http://www.jgsny.org/IndefiniteLoans.htm>>.

JGS Program Reports

June 14, 2009

"What's New on JewishGen"

by Steve Stein

Virtually everyone involved in Jewish genealogy is aware of JewishGen (<<http://www.jewishgen.org>>), the primary Internet site for Jewish genealogy. At the meeting, Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen, presented a comprehensive review of JewishGen offerings, an update on the new and exciting features JewishGen has recently offered, and a peek into upcoming enhancements.

Mr. Blatt took the helm of JewishGen following the departure of Susan King, its founder, last year. He is an author of books and JewishGen Info Files, an IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award winner, and an experienced researcher in his own right.

First, Mr. Blatt reviewed some facts and statistics about JewishGen.

- It was founded in 1987 and went online in 1995.
- It has more than 40,000 pages and houses more than 14 million records.
- It hosts the JewishGen discussion group and more than 21 Special Interest or Research Groups on various regions and topics.
- It makes available many tools, FAQs, InfoFiles, and courses.
- It hosts several projects, such as the Yizkor Book Project Database, ShtetLinks, and the Holocaust Global Registry.
- There are more than 86,000 JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) users with more than 400,000 entries.
- There are more than 2 million localities in ShtetSeeker and 5,000 in the Communities Database.
- It has 11 All-Country databases.
- 500 Yizkor books have been completely or partially translated.
- 4 million individuals have been entered in the Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP).
- More than 1 million entries are in the Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR).

Over the years, JewishGen has provided a forum for countless researchers to find and share information, access primary sources of genealogical information,

and create resources for other researchers to use. Most of us have become accustomed to its use, but we may not be aware of some of the important features of JewishGen and some of the improvements made in recent months.

Mr. Blatt pointed out the following important facts:

- JewishGen is affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage but is overseen by its own, recently re-energized Board of Governors.
- For \$100 a year, subscribers are entitled to a variety of "JewishGen Value-Added Services," including important search options.
- The All-Country and special databases are seamlessly interconnected records are accessible in potentially multiple ways from multiple countries and/or special database search pages.

Mr. Blatt also noted that JewishGen is continually growing and improving, owing largely to the work of its many volunteers. More than 500,000 records were added in the last year to a variety of databases, such as JOWBR, Hungarian vital records, the Holocaust Global Registry, and the Yizkor Book Project Database. And the ViewMate site, which is used to share images among users, was revived after some technical issues forced it out of service for several months.

Other recent and upcoming improvements are more real-time validation of JGFF entries, more countries and communities, and integration with Google Maps.

Perhaps most significant is the cooperative arrangement between JewishGen and the premier genealogy subscription website, Ancestry.com. The two organizations are now partnered, and JewishGen can take advantage of the hardware and networking support of Ancestry.com, making JewishGen more reliable. In return, many of JewishGen's millions of records are now available on Ancestry.com's website. This is exclusive of the JGFF, FTJP, subscriber and mailing lists, and other information particular to JewishGen's registered users.

And, finally, Mr. Blatt gave us a hint of some of the improvements to watch for in the future - incorporation of Heider-Morse Phonetic Matching (HMPPM), an alternative to the current Datch-Mokotoff algorithm

with fewer false hits because it incorporates language awareness; new record sets, such as Duma Voter Lists from the Kingdom of Poland area of the Russian Empire; and proximity searches.

Everyone is encouraged to poke around on JewishGen and look for the new features! ✨

Red Star Line and Jewish Immigrants

by Linda Cantor

The Red Star Line, based in Antwerp, Belgium, ran ships from Antwerp to Philadelphia, New York, and Boston from 1873 to 1935. They estimate that more than 50% of the immigrants that traveled on the Red Star Line were Jewish. Did your ancestors travel via the Red Star Line?

Many of the original Red Star Line buildings remain intact on the Rijnkalle in Antwerp, as seen in the photograph to the right.

The city of Antwerp purchased the buildings in 2004 and is working to convert them into a museum and center of migration history, the Red Star Line/People on the Move Museum, scheduled to open in 2012.

The city of Antwerp would like to locate the descendants of immigrants who came to the United States on the Red Star Line. Their request reads:

We are currently preparing the opening of a museum in Antwerp, Belgium, about the history of the immigrants of the Red Star Line. The Red Star Line was a famous steamship company which, from 1873 to 1935, transported thousands of Europeans who were seeking to get a new life in America.

For this project, we need individual stories, original photographs that could give life to the future museum. If you are/know a descendant from a person who took a ship from Antwerp to settle in the United States, please let us know <redstarline@stad.antwerpen.be>

Here is the complete list of the Red Star Line steamships: Noordland, Belgenland, Westernland, Pennland, Rhyndland, Nederland, Friesland, Kensington, Waesland, Southwark, Berlin, Vaderland, Zeeland, Kroonland, Finland, Switzerland, Menominee, Marquette, Manitou, Somland, Mississippi, Cumbryman, Merion, Gotthard, Lapland, Poland, Arabic, Winifredion, Devonian.



Please share any interesting stories, mementos and photographs you have of your ancestor's journey on one of the Red Star Line ships with the museum.

The museum's website is at <http://www.redstarline.be/smarthisite.dws?id_MHE_LANDING&en=MHE>. An eight-minute film at <<http://www.redstarline.be/eCache/MHE/30/08/178.cmVjPTgw.MjYSQTE.html>> (also at <<http://vimeo.com/3377112>> includes snippets of testimonials by emigrants (in English), interior views of the ships and their passengers, and emigrants being processed at Ellis Island. ✨

Continuing Genealogical Research in Sulzdorf a.d. Lederheke

by Nancy T. Polevoy

Genealogical research is an ongoing process, bringing forth information many years after the research was begun. I began researching in the late 1980s, locating the town of Sulzdorf a.d. Lederheke as the ancestral home of my Heilner ancestors, who emigrated from there in 1844. This town is located in Bavaria in a rural area one hour north of Bamberg and three hours north of Munich. In 1990, my husband, Martin, and I visited Sulzdorf and Hochberg, another ancestral town near Stuttgart. We met the local Jewish expert, Reinhold Albert, and the town's mayor. I was given a copy of the community's Jewish records, which had been copied by hand during the Holocaust by the town's minister. (The original had been confiscated by the Nazi authorities.) We visited the small Jewish cemetery in Sulzdorf and the larger, older regional cemetery in Kleinbardorf, "Judenhügel." This was reputed to be the largest Jewish cemetery in Bavaria.

After my visit, Mr. Albert, a journalist as well as a Jewish expert, wrote two articles about my trip to Sulzdorf for

the local German press—*Würzburg's Main Post* and *Bad Königshofen's Bote vom Grabfeld*—inspiring me to write an article about this excellent genealogical trip that was published in *Dorot* 12:1 (autumn 1990): 14–16.

When I met Mr. Albert, almost two years after the fiftieth anniversary of Kristallnacht, he was working on a book, *Geschichte der Juden im Grabfeld*, published as part of the series *Schriftenreihe des Vereins für Heimatgeschichte im Grabfeld e.V.*, about the Jews of the Grabfeld area. Later that year, I received copies of it. It includes these sections: the history of the Jews in Germany, the Jewish communities of Grabfeld, the Jewish cemeteries in Grabfeld, the synagogues of Grabfeld, and statistics on the Jewish communities, along with photographs.

Over the next fifteen years, I did not actively pursue my research in Sulzdorf itself, although I did do research elsewhere on the Heilner family, publishing articles in



Sulzdorf cemetery, 1990. Photo by Martin Polevoy.

Dorot 12:4 (summer 1991) 15; 14:1 (autumn 1992): 9; and 15:2 (winter 1993-94): 12).

In 2006, I googled my name. To my great surprise, under my name I saw listed the June 2006 *Lederheckenkarrier*. In it were Mr. Albert's article "Auswanderung aus Sulzdorf und Umgebung nach Amerika von 1835-1900" [Emigration from Sulzdorf to America and Its Environs from 1835-1900], a photo of me taken when I visited Sulzdorf, a list of persons emigrating from Sulzdorf and surrounding towns to America in the nineteenth century, and statistics about the emigration.

I wrote to Mr. Albert, asking him about the article. He said he had recently discovered in the public record office in Würzburg a list of those who emigrated from this area of Germany in the nineteenth century. He analyzed the data and evaluated it statistically. It brought back memories for him of my trip to Sulzdorf, so he had included the photo of me. He sent me copies of the *Lederheckenkarrier*, one of which I donated to the Leo Baeck Institute at the Center for Jewish History.

After reconnecting with him after so many years, I began sending him annual New Year cards. This past January, I received a letter from him and a copy of "92

Grabstein in Judenfreidhof," an article published last year in the *Main Post* (Würzburg/Unterfranken). I had the article translated into English. Cordula Kappner, from Zeil am Main, and Mr. Alben have documented the small cemetery in Sulzdorf that I visited. They collected photographs of all of the gravestones and organized the results. The photos have been documented with continuous numbers. This material was given to the mayor of Sulzdorf and will be kept as well in the community archive in Bad Königshofen.

The cemetery, 1,070 square meters in size, was in use from 1833 until 1905. The wall of the cemetery was funded in 1885 by four Jews who emigrated to North America (Maier Neumann, A. Reuter, Berta Neumann Leopold, and Clara Mandelbaum). During the documentation process, it was established that there are ninety-two, not eighty-eight, tombstones. Some names could be deciphered. Some were in German and others in Hebrew. The names that could be deciphered are Blechner, Frankenberger, Friedman, Goldschmidt, Hecht, Hess, Laubner, Malzer, Neumann, Ramer, Rau, Sachs, Salzer, Spiegel, Strauss, Tannenwald, Vollmond, and Vorreuter.

I e-mailed Mr. Albert a list of questions raised for me by



Judenbügel cemetery, Kleinbardorf, 1990. Photo by Martin Polevoy.



House number 70, Sulzdorf, from private archive of Cordula Kappner

the article. He said that the idea for the documentation came from Ms. Kappner, one of the most devoted researchers of the Jews of Lower Franconia. She is a retired librarian, originally from East Germany, who has staged thirty-five exhibits on the nearly-forgotten Jewish communities of Lower Franconia. She has received numerous awards, including the Federal Cross of Merit in 2005 and the German Jewish History Award of the Obermayer Foundation in 2004. They did the work as volunteers, although the town provided financial support for the cemetery photos. Unfortunately, they found no tombstone with my ancestral name, "Heilner."

The article stated that Ms. Kappner and Mr. Albert had previously documented Jewish homes in Sulzdorf. In the nineteenth century, Jewish people lived in forty houses in the town; one-third of the population of Sulzdorf was Jewish at the time. After 1920, there were no Jews in Sulzdorf; they had all left either for America or for larger cities in Germany. Mr. Albert responded that the documentation was done in 1994, and he believed that #70, the house of my great-great-grandfather, David Heilner, no longer existed.

I wrote to Ms. Kappner about the documentation projects, asking her for a map that would show where David Heilner's house had been. She sent me various articles, including one about her that appeared in *Canadian Jewish News* in 2005. She said that she would try to assist me with my research when she visited the archive in Würzburg in the near future.

Regarding "Judenhugel," the larger Jewish cemetery in Kleinbardorf, she wrote that "it is a dream to have a documentation of Kleinbardorf. Originally 20,000 stone, now only 4400 (destroyed in the NS-Time)." She also sent a list of the twenty-seven Jewish communities that had buried their dead in the Jewish cemetery in Kleinbardorf in addition to the one in Sulzdorf. They are, in the order in which they appear on the list, Oberlauringen (heute Landkreis Schweinfurt), Thundorf, Gleicherwiesen (heute Thüringen), Berkach (heute Thüringen), Bauerhach, Mühlfeld, Mellrichstadt, Oberstreu, Mittelstreu, Neustadt, Neuhaus, Unsleben, Oberwaldbehrungen, Waltershausen, Ichenhan, Stenach an der Saale, Königshofen, Troppstadt, Höchheim, Poppenlauer, Maßbach, Kleinribstadt,



House number 51, Sulzdorf, from private archive of Cordula Kappner

Eichenhausen, Rodelmaier, Bastheim, Meyersbach, and Kleinbardorf.

In her next letter, she said that she had been to the archive in Würzburg and had done some research for me on the Heilner family that her assistant had translated. She also sent me a photo of David Heilner's house, #70 at Alte Gasse, 9, a map showing where the house was located, and the names of other families who have lived in the house. The Heilners had moved into this house in 1815; previously, they had resided in house #51. She wrote that my Heilner ancestors had left Sulzdorf

for America in 1844 with three other Sulzdorf families

I wrote her back, asking her a few more questions. She sent me more information and a photo of house #51 at Lebergasse 5, where the David Heilner family lived until 1815. Apparently, house #70 is currently empty. She wrote that it would be "a very hard thing" to do a documentation of the large Kleinbardorf cemetery, "Judenhügel," because it has so many gravestones and, therefore, would be a very expensive project. She shared her idea of perhaps making a small exhibit about the Grabfeld-Towns in the winter of 2010 in Königshofen. Also, Mr. Albert e-mailed old postcards to me showing early twentieth-century photographs of Sulzdorf.

It is impressive to learn of these continuing documentation projects in my ancestral town and have photographs of my ancestral homes. The dedication of such excellent volunteers as Reinhold Albert and Cordula Kappner has to be recognized and applauded. They bring to life Jewish communities that existed for centuries in Germany whose histories would be lost, except for the information that already exists in the Central Archives. My hope is that, eventually, there will be either government or private funding to document the beautiful large hilltop cemetery in Kleinbardorf and that Ms. Kappner will mount an exhibit of the Jewish communities of the Grabfeld-Towns.

(Nancy T. Polevoy is Vice President of the Board of Trustees of the American Jewish Historical Society. She was a founding member of the Board of Directors of the Center for Jewish History, where she has chaired the Genealogical Committee, and is a former chairperson of the Central Synagogue Archives Committee. She has had numerous articles published on her own genealogical research and travels in the U.S. and Europe.) ♦

Upcoming Events

Jewish Genealogical Society

October 18, 2009, 2:00 p.m.

NOTE THE LOCATION: The Abraham Joshua Heschel High School, 20 West End Avenue (between W. 60th and W. 61st streets), Manhattan, in the cafeteria.

Monthly Program: Mapping Madness.

The speaker, **Ron Arons**, will discuss a variety of websites that provide historical maps for genealogical research. He will then review the basics of both Google's and Microsoft's Internet-based mapping facilities (<<http://www.maps.google.com>> and <<http://www.bing.com/maps>>, respectively) and provide additional discussion of the more advanced functionality of both systems. Mr. Arons will also introduce other online mapping facilities provided by <<http://www.whotpages.com>>, Microsoft's MapCruncher, IBM's Many Eyes, and more. The Internet is constantly in flux, including Microsoft and Google, as you'll see in Mr. Arons's presentation. He keeps up-to-the-minute with these changes and will discuss them in his presentation.

Ron Arons began researching his roots a dozen years ago and has spoken at six IAJS conferences. He has also given presentations on Jewish genealogy and Jewish criminality at local JGSs, synagogues, JCCs, history conferences, and book fairs across the country and internationally. Last June, after a decade of research, his book *The Jews of Sing Sing* was published. In January 2008, he discussed Jewish criminals of New York's Lower East Side on the PBS television series "The Jewish Americans." Mr. Arons earned a B.S. in Engineering from Princeton and an MBA from the University of Chicago.



November 15, 2009, 11:00 a.m.

NOTE THE TIME (11:00 a.m.) AND THE LOCATION: Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, 36 Battery Place, Manhattan, 2nd Floor Events Hall

***** ANNUAL "MEMBERS-ONLY" BRUNCH, MEETING, and TOUR *****

Monthly Meeting: Creating the Morgenthau Exhibition: A Family Historian Confronts the Twentieth Century.

Speaker Karen Franklin will describe how a simple genealogy request resulted in her participation in an exciting reinterpretation of the family's role in public service and service to the Jewish community. Ms. Franklin uncovered fascinating personal stories and documents through two years of research in dozens of archives, libraries, and private collections. These discoveries, many of which will not be found in the exhibition, will be described in this talk. Members will be able to tour the recent museum exhibitions after the presentation.

Karen Franklin, a JGS member, is currently a guest curator at the Museum of Jewish Heritage. A co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen, she is a past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and a past chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums. Ms. Franklin serves on the board of ICOM-US (International Council of Museums), and the International Committee of Memorial Museums of ICOM. She is also a juror for the Obermayer German Jewish History Award.

Ms. Franklin was the only director of a Jewish museum ever to be elected to the board of the American Association of Museums. A researcher on looted art, she has worked on cases for the Origins Unknown Agency in the Netherlands, the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, and the U. S. Treasury Department. In June, she spoke at the Holocaust Looted Assets Conference in Prague as a member of the Judaica and Jewish Cultural Property Working Committee. ♫

Metro Area Repository Round-up

Price Increase at Municipal Archives

For in-person users of the Municipal Archives, the cost of having a birth, marriage, or death certificate printed by the staff (only the staff is permitted to print them) has increased from \$6.00 to \$11.00. Researchers must still locate certificates on microfilm before submitting printing requests. The fee for using a microfilm reader to locate records remains at \$5.00. The fee for ordering a copy online or by mail is \$15.00, whether or not the researcher provides a certificate number.

New NYPL Catalog

The New York Public Library has unveiled its systemwide online catalog (<<http://catalog.nypl.org>>). The catalog combines the system's two former online catalogs—LEO, for the branch libraries' holdings, and CATNYP, for the research libraries' holdings. The library's circulating and non-circulating collections, i.e., its reference and research holdings, can now be searched simultaneously.

Two types of searches are possible: Quick Search and Advanced Search. Quick Search (<<http://catalog.nypl.org/is/encore/home?lang=eng>>) offers a single search box in which a keyword can be entered; the author, title, subject, and note fields will be searched concurrently. Advanced Search (<<http://catalog.nypl.org/search/X>>) offers searches of multiple terms or combinations of terms. Both Quick Search and Advanced Search allow results to be sorted by relevance, publication date, or title. Specific formats can also be searched, i.e., books, mixed archival collections, microforms, manuscripts, and maps.

A virtual tour (a tutorial) of the catalog can be accessed through the introductory page (<<http://www.nypl.org/news/thecatalog.cfm>>). The options in the tutorial are Explore the Catalog in Full, Using Quick Search, Using Advanced Search, and Managing Your NYPL Account. The introductory page also describes the highlights of Quick Search and Advanced Search as well as FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) about using the catalog and managing an account.

Mobile devices can be used to search the catalog and view account information (<<http://catalog.nypl.org/airpac>>).

NYPL Expands Wi-Fi Access—and Lends Laptops

Free wireless access (Wi-Fi) is now available in the New York Public Library's Edna Barnes Salomon Room (Room 316) for patrons to use with their own laptop computers or with the forty-six laptops that the library loans to patrons to use in the library. The laptops must be run on their own internal battery. The Salomon Room is in the Stephen A. Schwarzman Building at 42nd Street and 5th Avenue (formerly the Humanities and Social Sciences Library), across the hall from the Bill Blass Public Catalog Room (Room 315). The "wireless Internet reading and study room" seats 126 patrons. A list of the NYPL research libraries and the branch libraries in the Bronx, Manhattan, and Staten Island that provide free Wi-Fi is at <<http://www.nypl.org/branch/services/wifi.html>>. ☼

Notes from All Over

Pre-1881 New York State Birth Certificate Index Compiled

Genealogists and other researchers will have even more information about New York births available to them now that a name-index to 1,048 delayed birth certificates for events prior to 1881 has been placed in the New York State Archives and eight other locations around the state.

New York State did not start issuing birth certificates until 1881. People born prior to 1881 began asking the state for birth certificates as early as 1900; however,

most were issued in the late 1930s and early 1940s so individuals could prove their age to receive benefits under the Social Security Act of 1935. These delayed birth certificates were issued for births ranging from 1823 to 1880, with most documenting births in the 1870s. The pre-1881 birth certificate index applies only to births in New York State and outside of the five boroughs of New York City.

This new index was prepared by the New York State Department of Health and distributed by the New York State Archives. It contains the district number

continued on page 16

designating the county, first/middle/last name of child, date of birth, first/middle/last name of father, first/middle/last name of mother (usually her maiden name—and the date of filing the certificate. For the convenience of genealogists and other researchers, the index is sorted in three ways: 1) name of child, 2) maiden name of mother, 3) year of birth (newer to older).

The pre-1881 birth certificate index and other genealogy indexes to New York State birth, marriage, and death certificates are available at the following locations: Albany - New York State Archives; Buffalo - Buffalo & Erie County Public Library; Elmira - Steele Memorial Library; Glens Falls - Crandall Public Library; New York City - National Archives (Northeast Region); Patchogue - Patchogue-Medford Library; Rochester - Rochester Public Library; Syracuse - Onondaga County Public Library; and Watertown - Flower Memorial Library.

For more information on vital record indexes, visit the New York State Archives' website at <<http://www.archives.nysed.gov>>. First click "Research" and then click "Vital Records."

For more information about obtaining copies of birth, marriage, and death certificates, visit the State Department of Health's website at <<http://www.health.state.ny.us>>.

by Emily Allen, Media and Education Specialist, New York State Archives, Public Programs and Outreach

Requesting an SS-5 Online

It is now possible to make an online request for a photocopy of a decedent's original application for a Social Security card (Form SS-5) or a computer extract of information that is on the original application.

A photocopy of the original application costs \$27.00 if the decedent's Social Security Number (SSN) is provided. If it is not, the fee is \$29.00. A computer extract (also called a Numident), which may not contain the names of the person's parents or the person's place of birth, costs \$16.00 if the SSN is provided and \$18.00 if it is not. A certified copy costs an additional \$10.00. Payment can be made with MasterCard, Visa, Discover, American Express, and Diner's Club.

To order a photocopy of the original application or a computer extract, go to <http://www.ssa.gov/foia/html/foia_guide.htm#FOIARequests> and click the hyperlink "SSA-711," which links to <<https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp>>. Instructions for filling out the form are at <https://secure.ssa.gov/apps9/eFOIA-FEWeb/internet/main.jsp?action=SSA711_instruction> (instructions on how to order by mail rather than online are also on that page). After filling out the form, click "Submit." The Social Security Administration tries to "handle your request within 20 days from the date we receive it."

IAJGS Now a Full Member of RPAC

IAJGS is delighted to announce that the Boards of Directors of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and the National Genealogy Society (NGS) have voted to make IAJGS a member of the Records Preservation and Access Committee (RPAC). Since 2004, IAJGS has been serving on this committee as a non-board member. Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS Board Member and chairperson of the IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee (PRAMC), has been and continues to serve as the IAJGS representative. The IAJGS PRAMC continues to operate independently but cooperatively with the RPAC.

The mission of the RPAC is: "To advise the genealogical community on ensuring proper access to historical records of genealogical value in whatever media they are recorded, on means to affect legislation, and on supporting strong records preservation policies and practices." This committee was founded by the FGS and NGS. While other genealogical organizations have been non-members of the committee, until the recent action by the two boards, only FGS and NGS were considered members. Other genealogical organizations currently serving as RPAC non-board members may be made members in the future.

If you learn of any legislative or regulatory actions that impede access to vital records, please pass this information on to Jan Meisels Allen at <jan@IAJGS.org>

Anne Feder Lee, President, IAJGS

PRAMC Annual Report

This year's annual report of IAJGS's Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, "Status of Public Records Monitoring Committee and Areas of Concern with Records Access" reports that "With the explosion of identity theft not only in the United States, but worldwide, we are seeing legislators take the initiative to limit access to vital records believing this will prevent identity theft. **Vital records access is not the cause of identity theft. Hacking into databases of banks, data collectors, government agencies etc, such as have been reported in the press- is the cause.** As genealogists, we have to educate our legislators as to the real cause of identity theft and to insist they keep access to records open."

The full report has been posted to the IAJGS website. To read it, click the "Legislation" button on the left-hand side of the screen at <<http://iajgs.org>>. click "Annual Report," and choose a program to download it.

Yoo-hoo, Mrs. Goldberg

Television pioneer Gertrude Berg was the creator, principal writer, and star of "The Goldbergs," a situation comedy about the home life of a Jewish

immigrant family living in a tenement apartment on Tremont Avenue in the Bronx. Ms. Berg played wife and mother Molly Goldberg. The program premiered on the radio in 1929 and had a seventeen-year run. In 1949, it moved to television, where it ran until 1956.

This ninety-minute documentary about Ms. Berg, produced and directed by Aviva Kempner, is distributed by The Ciesla Foundation, established in 1981 by Ms. Kempner, who is its director. The foundation produces and distributes films to educate the public on social issues of the past and present.

Philip Loeb, who played Molly's husband, Jake, was a labor activist who was blacklisted during America's McCarthy era. Ms. Berg refused to fire Mr. Loeb from the show, despite the sponsor's demands. She also testified on his behalf before the House Un-American Activities Committee. Mr. Loeb resigned from the show in 1951 to protect it from being canceled. He committed suicide in 1955.

The Gertrude Berg Papers are in the Special Collections Research Center at Syracuse University Library (<http://library.syr.edu/digital/guides/b/berg_g.htm>). ☐

New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications

Of Jewish Interest

Avotaynu on CD-ROM. Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2009. Full version \$99.95. Upgrade version \$39.95. Order online at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/AvotaynuCDROM.htm>> or write to 155 N. Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621 or phone (800) AVOTAYNU (286-8296).

From the publisher "For the past 24 years, AVOTAYNU has developed a reputation for being a must-read publication for persons doing Jewish genealogical research and has even been extolled by the general genealogical community for its articles of interest to anyone, Jewish and non-Jewish, with Central or Eastern European ancestry. The 93 issues published between 1985 and 2008 include more than 5,700 pages - 4 million words.

"Avotaynu has published all back issues thru 2008 on CD-ROM. It is available for Windows only, now including Vista. Using a searching tool, which includes full-word indexing, every word of every back issue of AVOTAYNU is accessible. If in all the articles

there is only one mention of a town or a surname, the search engine will find it. By specifying key words or combinations of key words, the CD-ROM version will locate the article that meets the criteria of the keywords search."

Alexander Beider. *Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants.* Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2009. 232 pages. \$29.00. Softcover. Order online at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Handbook.htm>> or phone (800) AVOTAYNU or write to Avotaynu, Inc., 155 N. Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

From the publisher "A subset of Dr. Beider's *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation and Migrations*, this book provides the description of the origin and evolution of 735 root masculine and feminine Ashkenazic given names and a tree-like structure of all the name variants which shows how they were derived from the root name. There is an index that identifies more than 15,000 given names derived from the 735 root names. The index is in three sections: names as they appeared

continued on page 18

New Publications continued from page 17

in the Latin alphabet, names in the Cyrillic alphabet, and those in the Hebrew alphabet."

See the indexes of the 15,000 masculine and feminine given names at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/dagaindex.htm>> and the lists of masculine and feminine variant and derivative names at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/dagalist.htm>>.

Simon Geissbuhler. *Jewish Cemeteries of the Bucovina*. Bucharest: Nm Media Print, 2009. 111 pages. ISBN: 978-973-1805-50-4. To order, e-mail the author at <simon.geissbuhler@eda.admin.ch>.

Dr. Simon Geissbuhler is the author and photographer of this guidebook to fifteen historic Jewish cemeteries in the region of Bucovina. Nine of the cemeteries are in Romania and six are in Ukraine, the two countries that the region of Bucovina is divided between, its northern part being in Ukraine and its southern part in Romania. The towns or villages in which the cemeteries are located are Campulung Moldovenesc, Vama, Gura Humorului, Sulca, Arbore, Radauti, Moldovita, Siret, Mitaileni, Storajnet, Vijnita, Banilov, Vascauti, Novoselnita, and Herta. The book has been published in English, French, German, Romanian, and Ukrainian.

Jeffrey S. Malka. *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World*, 2nd ed. Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2009. 472 pages. \$45.00. Hardcover. Order online at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Sephardic.htm>> or phone (800) AVOTAYNU or write to Avotaynu, Inc., 155 N. Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

From the publisher: "The first edition, which won the 'Best Judaica Reference Book' (2002) of Association of Jewish Libraries, has been completely updated and improved. Nearly 100 pages longer, this new edition revises all the chapters to include new information and updates all internet and mail addresses. It adds a new chapter on DNA as well as new chapters on the available resources for the Sephardic communities of Portugal, England, Rhodes, Hamburg-Altona, and Vienna, Austria. There is also a new chapter on how to research the Spanish archives with clues on deciphering old Spanish script. The section on the Internet is fully updated and now includes more than 300 links to sites that have information valuable to Sephardic research. The book even reveals how to access past websites that are no longer available on the web. With comprehensive indexes—the surname index

alone has 3037 names, bibliography, and data-packed appendixes."

The table of contents is shown at <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Sephardic.htm>>.

Judith R. Frazin. *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents (Including Birth, Marriage and Death Records)*, 3rd ed. Northbrook, IL: Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, 2009. 472 pages. \$41.00 (includes shipping and handling) to U.S. destinations; for international destinations, write to <TheGuide@JGSI.org>. Hardcover, ISBN: 9780961351229. Go to <<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/TheGuide.html>> to either order online with a credit card or PayPal account or to use the printable order form to pay by check.

From the publisher: "For anyone with roots in Poland. Learn to find, decipher and translate old Polish vital records with 'The Guide'. The new and expanded 3rd edition is a user-friendly and practical publication which focuses on 19th-century Polish-language birth, marriage, and death records but also includes many other related topics as follows:

- Suggestions on how to locate an old Polish town on a modern map.
- Tips on finding 19th-century documents & indexes from Polish towns.
- Sample vital-record documents in script & block-letter versions.
- A unique step-by-step guide on how to extract data from the documents.
- A list of many given names which appear in 19th-century documents.
- Tips on how to find out what records are at the Polish State Archives.
- Information on how the Polish language works.
- Translations of column headings from old Polish census records.
- Model sentences in the Polish language for genealogical correspondence.
- 15 topical vocabulary lists, such as Age, Family, and Occupations.
- Hundreds of new vocabulary words and phrases."

Sample pages can be viewed in PDF format at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/TGuide3rd/the_guide8.pdf> or <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/TGuide3rd/the_guide9.pdf>. ♦

New York

Birth Index, 1901-1907

An index to births, 1901-1907, for the five counties of New York City is on the websites of the German Genealogy Group (<<http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/NYCBirths.htm>>) and the Italian Genealogical Group (<<http://www.italiangen.org/NYCBirthsearch.asp>>). When completed, it will include 1881-1909, the most recent year for which the Municipal Archives has birth records.

Southern District Naturalizations Expanded

The index to naturalizations in the United States Circuit Court for the Southern District of New York, 1824-1959, has been updated to include 6,331 repatriations, 2,381 World War II naturalizations, 856 Korean War naturalizations, and 209 transferred naturalization records (<<http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/southernsearch.asp>>). Counties within the jurisdiction of this court are Bronx, Columbia, Dutchess, Greene, New York (Manhattan), Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester.

1905 New York State Census Images

Images of the 1905 New York state census are posted on Family Search Record Search Pilot Site. This census must be browsed, as an index is not yet available.

Columns are provided on this census for street and house number, name of each person residing at the address on June 1, 1905, relationship to head of household, country of birth, number of years in the U.S., citizen or alien, occupation, and the borough, city or town, and county of residence when admitted to an institution, where applicable.

Determine the Assembly District(s) and Election District(s) of a particular street by using Steve Morse's "Obtaining AD/ED for the 1890-1925 New York State Census in One Step" (<<http://stevemorse.org/nyc/nyc.php>>). Click the radio button for 1905 Bronx, Brooklyn, or Manhattan, select a street, one of its cross streets, and its other cross street. To see a list of the boundaries for each AD/ED, click the box directly under "AD/EDs common to all Selected Streets." In some cases, a box will be shown that says "Display Image for ___/___." Clicking it will open a second window, which will display the first page of that AD and ED on the Family Search website.

To browse the census, go to Family Search's home page at <<http://pilot.familysearch.org/recordsearch>>. On the map, click "Canada, USA, and Mexico." Click "New York State Census, 1905." Click a county. Click a town, city, or borough. Click an assembly district and election district or a ward and election district.

Historical New York State and City Newspapers

Hundreds of newspapers published in upstate New York cities and towns and several published in three of the counties of present-day New York City are on the Fulton History website at <<http://www.fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>>. The newspapers were scanned from microfilm at high resolution as PDFs and can be viewed at no cost. Most of the pages are legible; others are not because of the quality of the microfilming.

To see a list of the included newspapers or to browse them, go to <<http://fultonhistory.com/my%20photo%20albums/All%20Newspapers/index.html>>. Despite the span of years listed there for some of the newspapers, not all of the issues have been scanned. See "FAQ-HELP-INDEX" at <http://www.fultonhistory.com/fulton_New_help.html> for searching, printing, and technical "Tips & Solutions" as well as explanatory videos.

The newspapers published in Manhattan are *Spectator*, 1797-1804, 1823-1845 (with gaps); *Spirit of the Times*, 1838-1890; *New York Tribune*, 1841-1922, and *The Evening Telegram*, 1868-1924. Queens is represented by *The Star* (Long Island City), 1881-1898, and Brooklyn by *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (and its previous and subsequent titles), 1841-1955.

Data is added on Sunday nights. About one million additional pages from newspapers for 1821-1983 were scheduled to be added on June 30th by Tom Tryniski, president and owner of Fulton History.

National

WWII Alien's Personal History and Statement at NARA

The Selective Service System was established in September 1940 for the purpose of obtaining men for military and naval service. From 1942-1945, local draft boards registered, classified, and selected for

continued on page 20

Online News continued from page 19

induction those male citizens and aliens who were eligible for service. A four-page questionnaire (DSS Form 304, "Alien's Personal History and Statement") was issued to every alien whose local draft board had classified him as I-A, I-A-O, I-B, or I-B-O. The Alien Statement Records database at <<http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/AlienSEARCH.asp>> and <<http://www.italiangen.org/Aliensearch.asp>> contains records from New York, New Jersey, and the Virgin Islands. Because the records are governed by the National Archives' privacy guidelines, they will be screened by an archivist prior to being made available. They can be viewed at the New York City National Archives facility, or the online request form can be printed out and mailed to NARA, along with a check or money order. The fee for ordering a copy by mail is \$15.00 per record (or \$30.00 to have the record certified).

NGS Has a Blog

The National Genealogical Society is replacing its monthly e-newsletter, UpFront with NGS, with a blog. The blog has been launched at <<http://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org>>.

International

Free Access to AJHS and RTRF Records at Ancestry

Ancestry has added six collections from the holdings of the American Jewish Historical Society (<<http://www.ajhs.org>>) and a database created by The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc. (<<http://www.rtrfoundation.org>>). The six collections and the database have a combined total of over 200,000 Jewish records. These and Ancestry's other Jewish collections can be searched and viewed for free through <<http://www.ancestry.com/JewishFamilyHistory>>.

The six American Jewish Historical Society collections are also searchable for free at <<http://www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy/online/dbs.php>>, including additional years for the two orphan asylums (Brooklyn, 1878-1969; New York, 1855-1985). The AJHS collections are

- **Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899-1922**
 - The Industrial Removal Office helped Jewish immigrants in New York City assimilate economically and

culturally.

- Guide to the records: <<http://www.cjh.org/ohpre/ROS.html>>
- **Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1878-1934**
 - Applications for admission and discharge ledgers
 - Guide to the records: <<http://findingaids.cjh.org/index2.php?fm=BHOA&pm=AJHS>>
- **Hebrew Orphan Asylum of the City of New York Records, 1860-1934**
 - Applications for admission and discharge ledgers
 - Guide to the records: <<http://findingaids.cjh.org/?PID=250011>>
- **Selected Naturalization Records, New York City, 1816-1845**
 - Selected (i.e., Jews or Jewish names appear in some capacity) Declarations of Intention from the New York Court of Common Pleas containing name, age, birthplace, nationality, place of emigration, occupation, and place of intended settlement
 - Guide to the records: Go to <<http://digital.cjh.org/R/?func=dhin-jump-full&objectid=365489&localbase=GEN01>> and click "EAD Finding Aid: Guide to Archival Materials."
- **Selected Insolvent Debtor's Cases, 1787-1861**
 - Approximately 2,000 selected (i.e., Jews or Jewish names appear in some capacity) cases from the New York County Hall of Records containing public notices, lists of debtors, and assets of each debtor, and disposition of each case
 - Guide to the records: Go to <<http://digital.cjh.org/R/FY11TK268HTDY3KJ1181A1D1.3646824JF275VJF7B1TIM5CXH4NN-19846?func=results-jump-full&setentry=000002>> and click "EAD Finding Aid: Guide to Archival Materials."
- **Selected Mayor's Court Cases, New York, 1674-1860**
 - Selected (i.e., Jews or Jewish names appear in some capacity) civil cases

containing summonses, complaints, warrants, pleadings, affidavits, briefs, and jury lists

- o **Guide to the records:** Go to http://digital.cjh.org/R/PH6BXMDA02EU7SPK6FMTSDRYEAYLI00794?func=results-jump-full&set_entry=00011 and click "EAD Finding Aid: Guide to Archival Materials."

Miriam Weiner's Eastern European Archival Database is an inventory created by Ms. Weiner to the location of surviving Jewish community records and civil records in archives in Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, and Ukraine as well as some from Russia, Israel, and Romania. These include, for instance, Army and draft registrations, business license applications, census lists, Holocaust material (such as lists of confiscated property and deportation lists), hospital records, inhabitant lists, name changes, pogrom files, police files, property records, synagogue membership lists, vital records, voter lists, and wills. That is just a small sample of the types of records included in the inventory. Most of the records inventoried are written in Russian; some are written in Polish, German, Hungarian, or Romanian.

Free searches can be done on Ms. Weiner's website by locality/town name at <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/search.php>. The search options are Exact Match, Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching, Daitch-Mokotloff Soundex, and Begins With.

For a fuller understanding of the contents of the database and how to make effective use of it, go to <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/archdata.html> on Ms. Weiner's website and click the links underneath "General Information about the Archive Database."

Finding Your Jewish Roots in Poland

Shoreshim (<http://www.shoreshim.org/en>), based in Israel, is "dedicated to the preservation and propagation of information relating to the Jewish communities of Poland," including genealogical and historical data. Under "Krakow," some of the databases included are of students at the Hebrew school, teachers at the Hebrew School, applications made to cross the Polish border, kennkart (identity card) applications, Jews in the Krakow Ghetto, and business registrations, 1914-1919.

For other localities, databases include Jews registered at Krakow's Jagellonian University, 1918-1939; Jews in the Nowy Targ Ghetto; survivors in Bielsko-Biala; and marriage records from Belgium (Aantwerp). Additions were made to the following databases in the latter part of 2008: naturalizations of Polish Jews in the Netherlands, 1850-1934; requests to the Jewish Social Mutual Assistance Organization, 1940-1941; names from the Remu Synagogue's Yizkor book; civil death record applications for Holocaust deaths that were made in 1946-1950, and additional records to the Survivors in Krakow database. All 12,000 records in the latter database have been updated to show new information, such as occupation, address, and place of birth.

The public can view much of the information in the databases at no cost. With a paid membership, access is given to additional information; the type available only to members varies from one database to another. Members receive free newsletters and e-mail updates from the Krakow Research Forum. Membership costs \$35 per year or \$60 for two years. To join, go to <http://www.shoreshim.org/en/memberSignupForm.asp>.

Virtual Shtetl of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews

The Museum of the History of Polish Jews (<http://www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/?lang=en>), scheduled to open in 2011 on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto, has created a "Virtual Shtetl" devoted to aggregating the pre-World War II and present-day history of Polish Jews in text, images, audio, and video. To date, the website contains information and photographs for 800 Polish cities and towns that were shtetls or Jewish settlements prior to the Holocaust. The English-language version is at http://www.szteitl.org.pl/?lang=en_GB. The Polish-language version is at http://www.szteitl.org.pl/?lang=pl_PL.

An additional feature is a glossary of terms (http://www.szteitl.org.pl/?app=term&lang=en_GB) whose descriptive entries are more akin to those in a small encyclopedia than in a dictionary. Entries range from "Anti-Jewish literature" to "Occupational structure of the Jewish population" to "Theater" to "Zionist Organization in Poland." Other highlights are a lengthy bibliography (http://www.szteitl.org.pl/?cid=26&lang=en_GB), and interactive maps of pre-World War II ("Before 1939") and present-day ("After 1945") Poland. Localities can be accessed through the maps of Poland, a search engine, or a Towns menu.

Online News continued from page 21

To contribute information and eyewitness testimony, participate in discussions, create friends groups, and add text and music files, videos, and photographs, fill out the registration form, which asks for a valid e-mail address, the user's first name, last name, and city, a member name and password, and agreement to the "Terms and Conditions the Virtual Street Portal," "Privacy Policy," and "Terms and Conditions for the Account Use." The latter three documents are accessible in English through http://www.sztefl.org.pl/index.php?cid=33&lang=en_GB. The website's administrators review submissions prior to publishing them.

Gesher Galicia – Four New Databases

Four "Galician Landowner and School Records Indexes" (<http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/database>) were recently added to the Gesher Galicia website. Kulomyza (Kolomea), Ukraine

1858 Homeowners Database; Sniatyn, Ukraine 1858 Homeowners Database; Sniatyn, Ukraine 1934 Boys' School Students Database; and Sniatyn, Ukraine 1934 Girls' School Students' Database. The search method is based on Dr. Stephen Morse's "One-Step Search Tool generator."

Inside Google Book Search

Google's blog "Inside Google Book Search" (<http://booksearch.blogspot.com>) describes the "New Features on Google Books" (<http://booksearch.blogspot.com/2009/06/new-features-on-google-books.html>) and "New ways to search within a book" (<http://booksearch.blogspot.com/2009/07/new-ways-to-search-within-book.html>). New features include thumbnail views, a contents drop-down menu, plain text mode, a page turn button, animation, and hints to indicate the location of results. ♣



JGS Friends

JGS members are encouraged to patronize our Friends listed below. Make use of your current JGS membership card to take advantage of the special offers we have arranged for you.

If you have suggestions for new Friends, please let us know.

**FANYA GOTTESFELD HELLER
BOOK STORE & SHOP
AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY**
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011
(917) 606-8220

www.cjh.org/education/bookstore.php

JGS members will receive a **10% discount** on the purchase of books and gifts at the Center's shop. The shop carries many books of genealogical interest as well as Judaica for the holidays and everyday use.
Hours: Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Open prior to all evening events

THE JEWISH MUSEUM
1109 Fifth Avenue (at 92nd Street)
New York, NY 10128
(212) 423-3200
www.TheJewishMuseum.org

JGS members will receive free admission for a companion (**2 for the price of 1**). \$12 adults; \$10 senior citizens; \$7.50 students. Children under 12 free. Saturdays free.

Exhibition Galleries

Hours: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.; Friday, July 1, 2009-October 16, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.; Friday, October 23, 2009, and October 30, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Friday, November 6, 2009-March 13, 2010, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Closed Wednesdays

Museum Shops

Hours: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.; Wednesday, 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; Friday, July 1, 2009-October 16, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.; Friday, October 23, 2009, and October 30, 2009, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Friday, November 6, 2009-March 13, 2010, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.
Closed Saturdays

Closed on New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Thanksgiving Day, and all major Jewish holidays.

LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM
97 Orchard Street (between Broome and Delancey streets)
New York, NY 10002
(212) 431-0233
www.tenement.org

JGS members and a guest will receive a **25% discount** on admission and tours. Members receive a **10% discount** on Tenement Shop purchases. Purchase tickets at the Museum Visitors Center, 108 Orchard Street (at Delancey Street). Free parking.
Hours: Monday, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday, 10:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

**MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE:
A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST**
36 Battery Place, Battery Park City
New York, NY 10280
(646) 437-4200
www.mjhnyc.org

JGS members will receive a **\$2 discount** on the regular admission price (\$10 \$8 adults, \$7 \$5 seniors, and \$5 \$3 students). Children 12 and under free.
JGS members receive **15% off** all purchases in the Museum Shop.
Hours: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.; Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. (free after 4:00 p.m.); Friday and the eve of Jewish holidays, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (EST). Friday, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (DST)

**YESHIVA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY**
15 West 16th Street
New York, NY 10011
(212) 294-8330
www.yumuseum.org

JGS members will receive free admission for a companion (**2 for the price of 1**).
\$8 adults; \$6 seniors and students.
Hours: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.



Jewish Genealogical Society

P.O. Box 286398 ·
New York, NY 10128-0004
www.jgsny.org

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hanover, PA
Permit No. 4

That you might recount it to a
future generation, Psalms 48:14

למען תספר לילדך אחרון, תהלים ט"ח:14

Postage and Fees Paid
Jewish Genealogical Society
P.O. Box 286398
New York, NY 10128-0004