

The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

DOROT דורות

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2008 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies' 28th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Chicago from August 17th to 22nd at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. IAJGS is co-hosting the conference with the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois and the Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society.

The annual conference is the premier event for Jewish genealogists. Attendees from around the world gather to learn, share expertise, and meet other people who are researching the same locales.



Specialists and archivists from Europe and Eastern Europe will make presentations and advise attendees about the resources available in their countries. Special Interest Groups (SIGS) will host sessions about their research focus, such as German, Ukrainian, Polish, and Litvak Jewish genealogy. SIGS and Birds of a Feather (BOFs) will also meet.

Sessions on researching Sephardic ancestry, the Midwestern Jewish experience, and immigration records and computer training workshops, and more will be offered. A resource room with a wide variety of genealogically-relevant materials will be open to attendees.

A special mini-symposium will be held on genetics, Jewish diseases, and the role of genealogists with Dr. Lee Shulman, M.D.; Lee P. Shulman, M.D.; Anna Ross Lapham, Professor in Obstetrics and Gynecology, Chief, Division of Reproductive

Genetics, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University; and Gary Frohlich, Certified Genetic Counselor with Genzyme Therapeutics and a representative of the Chicago Center for Jewish Genetic Disorders.

The Chicago 2008 Discussion Group announces the latest news about the conference and allows subscribers to ask questions and receive answers and can also suggest and discuss ways in which conference attendees can get the most out of the conference. Messages posted to the discussion group will arrive in subscribers' e-mail inboxes in digest form or as individual messages, based on the subscriber's preference. It is not necessary to be registered for the conference to be part of the discussion group. Instructions for subscribing are on the conference website.

The city of Chicago offers many research opportunities for genealogists, such as the Spertus Institute of Jewish Study (with its Asher Library and the Chicago Jewish Archives), The Newberry Library, and public institutions, such as Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, Office of the Circuit Court Clerk of

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DOROT

The Journal of the
Jewish Genealogical Society

Editor.....Joy Rich
Design and Production.....Joy Rich

.....Contributors.....

Valery Bazarov, Susana Leistner Bloch,
Stewart Driller, Edith Ewenstein,
Avrum Geller, Ann Rabinowitz,
Paul W. Silverstone, Pamela Weisberger

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Address all correspondence to:
JGS, Inc.
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011
Telephone: (212) 294-8326
E-mail: <info@jgsny.org>
Website: <<http://www.jgsny.org>>

JGS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Linda Cantor, President
<linda@jgsny.org>
Steven W. Siegel, Vice President, Programs
<ssiegel@jgsny.org>
Michael L. Levine, Vice President, Membership
<MikeL@jgsny.org>
Stewart Driller, Treasurer
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Valery Bazarov	Eden Joachim
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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 in 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 "Basics 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 100 miles from New York City) \$25
- Out-of-town Member (receive local mailings) \$36
- Non-U.S. Member (air mail) US\$36

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

Happy New Year, 2008. We're off to a great start after a most successful 30th Anniversary and Membership Brunch on December 25th. Over a hundred members came and enjoyed and then listened to an inspirational talk by Mike Karsen on "Write Your Family History Now!" I want to extend a thank-you to Edith Ewenstein and Eden Joachim for their hard work and dedication in organizing and running the brunch.

It was our Annual Meeting as well, and we have now elected the following officers: President – Linda Cantor, First Vice President/Program – Steven W. Siegel, Second Vice President/Membership – Michael Levine, Treasurer – Stewart Driller, Secretary – Michael Pertain, and Past President – Alex E. Friedlander. We also elected Valery Bazarov, Jane Berenbeim, Adam Bronstein, Edith Ewenstein, Gloria Freund, Avrum Geller, Eden Joachim, Roni Liebowitz, Hadassah Lipsius, Paul Silverstone, and Susan Stone to the Executive Council.

I offer a big thank-you to all of them for the hard work they have put in. It is their work and effort that make JGS run! And I want to give a special thank-you to Paul Silverstone, who has served as treasurer for the last eight years. Paul deserves a well-earned rest from all the number-crunching, but he will remain a member of the EC.

Have you heard the latest JGS news?

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute, formerly known as the Genealogy Institute, at the Center for Jewish History will now be open late on Monday evenings until 7:30 p.m., starting on January 7th, allowing those of you who work during

traditional business hours to get some research done. (The extended hours are made possible by a donation from the Jewish Genealogical Society.)

We will have access to the computers and books in the Genealogy Institute along with the microfilm collection, originally from the Family History Library. Go to the JGS website and take a look at <<http://www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm>> in order to see which films are available and plan your research.

Additionally, this past year, JGS made contributions to the American Jewish Historical Society to continue indexing the HIAS records, JRI-Poland for the Prussian Area Jewish Record Indexing project, the IAJGS Stern Fund, JewishGen, and, of course, the Center for Jewish History to finance the extended hours of the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute. We hope that all of this wonderful work will benefit our members and all Jewish genealogists.

I would like to add a big thank-you to all JGS members who have made it financially possible for us to finance such genealogical research and a special thank-you to JGS member Harvey Krueger, who has provided major support for us and our projects over the years. We are all the beneficiaries of these indexing projects, extended research hours, and so on that their largesse has made possible.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Linda

Correction

In Steven Lasky's article "The Museum of Family History: An Overview," published in the fall 2007 issue of *Dorot*, the last letter of his great-great-grandmother's surname was omitted. It should read "Sheina Gitel Burak nee Drejarski."

Cook County, Cook County Assessor's office (for property records), and Cook County Vital Records office, and the Great Lakes regional branch of the National Archives.

Conference Registration Fees (includes film festival)

Early bird Registration (through April 30, 2008):

Full: \$250.00, Companion: \$150.00.

Regular Registration (May 1 through August 8, 2008):

Full: \$295.00, Companion: \$195.00.

On-Site Registration (after August 8, 2008):

Full: \$325.00, Companion: \$225.00

Daily Registration: Sunday, including Opening Reception: \$95.00;

Monday-Thursday: \$75.00 per day.

Registration can be submitted in advance of the conference either online or by postal mail. Online registration ends on Friday, August 8th. Mail registration must be received no later than Friday, August 8th.

Film Festival Registration Fees

These fees apply to those who are not registered for the full conference program: five days: \$96.00; senior/student five days: \$72.00; one day: \$36.00; senior/student one day: \$27.00.

Hotel Room Rates

The room rates per night for conference attendees are: single: \$199 + applicable taxes; double: \$199 + applicable taxes; additional person: \$30 + applicable taxes. The special room rates begin three days before the conference and end three days after the conference, based on a space and rate available basis.

All registered attendees will have free Internet access from their hotel guest rooms and complimentary access to the hotel's health facilities.

To register for the conference or to find additional information, visit the conference website at <www.Chicago2008.org>. Contact one of the conference co-chairs to ask questions. They are Anne Feder Lee (<Feder_lee@msn.com>), Mike Posnick (<mpoz@earthlink.net>), and Joel Spector (<JLSpector@aol.com>). To contact all three of them at the same time, e-mail <Chairs@chicago2008.org>.

IAJGS is an organization of organizations founded in the late 1980s to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, advance our genealogical avocation, and ensure that there is an annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.✧

IAJGS 2008 Jewish Film Festival

by Pamela Weisberger

During a recent bout of late-night online searching for new Jewish-genealogically-themed films, I stumbled upon an apt quotation by noted author and linguistics professor Ilan Stavans:

Filmmakers are notoriously dissatisfied people. Their quest depends on the fact that not every story worth paying attention to has been told. So they set out like Don Quixote with their shining armor and a camera in hand. And they narrate. The plethora of these narratives is showcased in Jewish film festivals. Inquisitiveness is at the heart of their mission.

How absolutely true! Inquisitiveness. Dissatisfaction. The insatiable need to question. The fervent desire to tell the untold, retell the once-told, and memorialize the forgotten. He only forgot obsessive—the hallmark

of filmmakers and genealogists. As the Jewish people move “from the word to the image,” many of these newly-released and highly passionate narratives will be on display at the 2008 IAJGS Conference Film Festival in August.

There in Chicago, we will screen over forty entertaining and enlightening films representing the international Jewish community's religious, historical, and cultural experience from ancient times to the present. Documentaries with genealogical and sociological themes. First-person narratives and memoirs, theatrical films, classic silent films, and those reflecting the Jewish artistic experience, including Yiddish theatre, klezmer music, and borscht-belt comedy. There will be portraits of vanished shtetls, stories of Holocaust heroism, analysis of DNA technology, Nazi-era looted

art investigations, and tales of family dynamics, showing the challenges, risks, and rewards of the self-discovery that comes with being a genealogist.

Filmmakers will appear at many screenings to introduce their films and discuss them afterward. Details and schedule will be posted on the conference website (<http://www.chicago2008.org/film_festival.cfm>) in the coming months. Admission to the film festival is included in the conference registration fee, but, for the first time, there will also be a “Film Festival Only” registration option for spouses and those in the community who wish to only attend the films and film-related lectures. There will be something for everyone for five and a half days, morning ’til night.

If you are interested in film festival sponsorship opportunities—which involve sponsoring a specific film, filmic topic/region, or filmmaker to attend—or have suggestions, submissions, or questions about the festival, please contact me. See you at the movies! (Pamela Weisberger is the IAJGS Film Festival Coordinator. Her e-mail address is <pweisberger@hotmail.com>.) ☆



“Hiding and Seeking-Faith and Tolerance after the Holocaust”



“The BBC’s ‘Who Do You Think you Are’”



“Lajos Koltai’s ‘Fateless’”

Your Membership Dollars at Work!

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute, formerly known as the Genealogy Institute, at the Center for Jewish History is **open on Monday evenings** until 7:30 p.m. as of January 7th. This allows people who work during traditional business hours to get some research done there.

We will have access to

- the genealogy databases on the Center's public service computers, including Ancestry.com and other commercial genealogy websites;
- other electronic resources, including Encyclopedia Judaica; ProQuest Historical Newspapers, including *The New York Times*, 1851-2000; Testaments to the Holocaust; and the Russians to America CD-ROM database;
- genealogy reference books (<<http://www.cjh.org/collections/genealogy>>);
- the microfilm collection that is on loan from the Family History Library.

You can see on the JGS website (<<http://www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm>>) which microfilm is available so you can plan your research ahead of time. Staff and volunteers are on hand to advise patrons on their genealogy research.

These extended hours are made possible by a donation from the Jewish Genealogical Society.

JGS to Pay for Indefinite Loan of LDS Microfilm

The Family History Library recently agreed to permit LDS microfilm to be placed on indefinite loan at the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History. The Jewish Genealogical Society will be assisting the Genealogy Institute in building its collection of microfilm of Jewish interest/significance by paying the final rental fee for loaned microfilm, thus allowing the microfilm to be added to the Institute's indefinite loan collection.

Borrowers will continue to pay for the initial loan and the first renewal (\$6.00 each for one month each). When microfilm of Jewish interest/significance that you have borrowed from the Family History Library is due for its second renewal, simply tell the staff at the desk that you would like it to be placed on indefinite loan. JGS will then pay the final fee, and the microfilm will be transferred to the Institute's indefinite loan cabinet.

Over 1500 reels of microfilm containing records specifically useful for Jewish family history are on indefinite loan at the Institute. A list of them is on the JGS website at <www.jgsny.org/microfiche.htm>. ☆

More Cemetery Additions to JewishData

Jewish Data, access to which is offered as a JGS membership benefit, has added several thousand cemetery records to its database. **Linden Hill** in Ridgewood, Queens, has an additional 1,800 images, bringing the total to more than 5,000. Many of the families were from Germany. Brooklyn's **Washington Cemetery** has an additional 9,000 records, bringing that cemetery's total to 29,000 images, with the oldest monuments posted being from the 1880s. A number of them state the decedent's birthplace. Posting of another 3,000 records from **Beth David** in Elmont, Nassau County, brings the number of images to more than 7,000. More than 3,500 new images, dating from about 1940 and after, are from **Wellwood Cemetery** in Pinelawn, Suffolk County. Thousands of new records from these locations in Israel are currently being processed: **Har Menuchos, Mt. of Olives, and Sheikh Bader**, all in Jerusalem, and **Tiberias and Safed**. The records will be described in detail when they are fully indexed. Database: <<http://www.jewishdata.com>>. Blog: <<http://www.jewishdata.blogspot.com>>. ☆

JGS Program Reports

September 16, 2007

Five Lives of Gregory Meisler: Jew, Warrior and Polish Patriot

The life of Gregory Meisler can be divided into five periods so different from each other that each one can be called a life; each time, he started from scratch. My research began with a minimum of information and ended with a comprehensive biography.

Gregory Meisler was born, together with the twentieth century, in 1900 in Lodz. He spent his first sixteen years in the spiritual atmosphere of a piously religious Jewish family. However, the Central Military Archives in Warsaw has a file telling us that in 1917 Gregory Meisler enlisted in the Polish Army, a year before the Polish state acquired independence. He participated in Poland's war with Soviet Russia and was given an award for his valor. Forced to leave the army, he organized a paramilitary organization named after Colonel Berek Joselewitz, a Jew who became a Polish national hero. There he taught young Polish Jews to defend themselves; they also learned military tactics and strategy. Returning to the army a few days before the start of World War II, he participated in the battle at Kutno, where he was taken prisoner by the Germans. Research into the fate of Jewish prisoners provided plenty of details about one of the least known pages of Holocaust history.

His World War II file, held by the Ministry of Defense in England (where the Polish government in exile was located during the war), shows not only the benchmarks of his military career but also reveals that Gregory Meisler merited—but did not receive—a medal he was awarded by the British authorities. The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society was able to receive it in his name. It is now displayed in the Hall of Fame in HIAS's headquarters in New York. After the war, Gregory Meisler was Director of HIAS's office in Bremen, Germany, and assisted the immigration to the United States of more than 30,000 Jews who survived the Holocaust. His activities as a HIAS employee are reflected in HIAS's archival collection. In 1950, he repatriated to Israel, where he had an untimely passing in 1953.

During my research, I received help from many people in the U.S., France, U.K., Israel, and Poland. Without them, the miracle of Gregory Meisler's life returning to

our memory would have never happened.

(by the speaker, Valery Bazarov, JGS Executive Council member)

October 21, 2007

Creating a Research Group and Website Dedicated to your Ancestral Town

It was my privilege to give a presentation at the JGS meeting. When I was asked to do it, my answer was an unequivocal YES!!! I have created many webpages and two large research groups—the Kolbuszowa Region Research Group (KRRG) and the Suchostaw Region Research Group (SRRG)—and I was delighted to be able to share the reasons to and the rewards of creating a group or webpage dedicated to one's ancestral home.

We are all aware that not all of our ancestral homes were *shtetlach*. Although this presentation focused mainly on the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe, the same principle of commemorating Jewish communities from different parts of the world applies. Just a few examples of Jewish communities throughout the world are Algeria, China, Curacao, Egypt, Jamaica, Malta, Portugal, Rhodes, and Spain.

And we should not forget the old Jewish neighborhoods. These are the places that brought together the old traditions and the ways of the New World. They are a great example of the Jewish immigrant experience and their adaptability.

The following summarizes the topics I discussed.

Why Recreate the Shtetl?

- memorialize the lost communities;
- provide present and future generations with an understanding of how their ancestors lived;
- advance your own research.

How to Recreate the Shtetl

- create and coordinate a Research/Networking Group dedicated to your ancestral home;
- create a webpage dedicated to your ancestral home.

Creating and coordinating a Research/Networking Group

A research group is a cyberspace landsmanshaft, the successor to the landsmanshaftn (immigrant mutual aid

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societies or hometown organizations) that were active before and after World War II.

I also discussed

- naming the group or webpage;
- methods and venues for announcing the new group and finding people from the same town;
- finding people with interest in the shtetl;
- the objectives of creating a research/networking group;
- the methodology for organizing and coordinating the group, including how to create a membership database and how to gather information on the surnames being researched by the membership. Special emphasis was placed on the importance of “hidden surnames,” i.e., surnames not being actively researched by members.

Creating a Webpage Dedicated to Your Shtetl

The objectives and advantages of creating a webpage dedicated to your ancestral home are

- visibility;
- providing a research resource for the descendants of the shtetl;
- creating a cyberspace Yizkor book;
- recreating life in the shtetl.

By creating a webpage dedicated to your shtetl, you are creating a cyberspace Yizkor book. Yizkor books were written and published by groups of former residents as a tribute to their former homes and the people who were murdered during the Holocaust. Unfortunately, many shtetlach do not have Yizkor books, and even the ones that do are limited in scope. Cyberspace has opened the world to us.

Since our aim is to recreate the shtetl, the webpage should mirror the heart and soul of the shtetl so that, in the future, the “sounds, the smells, and the colors” of your shtetl and the people who lived there will live forever and will give future generations a view of how their ancestors lived.

Content and material appropriate for the webpage include

- geography;
- history;
- articles, books, bibliography;
- Holocaust;
- the people of the shtetl;
- the shtetl today;

- famous sons and daughters;
- after emigration;
- resources, links, and databases;
- records/samples of documents.

The lecture ended with a musical PowerPoint presentation of images from the shtetl, accompanied by the song “Mein Shtetele Belz.”

(by the speaker, Susana Leistner Bloch, coordinator of the Kolbuszowa Region Research Group (<<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kolbuszowa>>) and the Suchostaw Region Research Group (<<http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Suchostaw/SRRGhome.htm>>); she can be contacted at <bloch@mts.net>)

The Kolbuszowa Region Research Group (KRRG) was founded in January 1998. It includes shtetlach within a thirty mile radius of Kolbuszowa, Rzeszow Province, Poland (formerly Galicia) in the following Administrative Districts: KOLBUSZOWA, LANCUT, MIELEC, NISKO, PILZNO, ROPCZYCE, RZESZÓW, STRYZÓW, and TARNOBRZEG.

The Suchostaw Region Research Group (SRRG) was founded in January 1999. It includes shtetlach within a thirty-five mile radius of Suchostaw, Tarnopol Province, Ukraine (formerly Galicia) in the following Administrative and Judicial Districts: BORSZCZÓW, BUCZACZ, CZORTKÓW, HUSIATYN, SKALA, SKALAT, TARNOPOL, TREMBOWLA, ZALESZCZYKI, and ZBARAZ.

KRRG and SRRG collect and share information about the Jewish communities that once lived in our shtetlach and help make family links. There is no cost or membership fee to join the groups. Both are affiliated with Geshet Galicia. We have created webpages for all of the shtetlach where our members have family roots and, to date, the KRRG website includes 180 shtetlpages. The SRRG website includes 79.

November 18, 2007

Trick or Treat—Family History Web Searches

David Kleiman defined his talk on Internet searching with these questions: “What’s new? What works? What’s wrong? Nu, why not?” Well-known in the New York genealogical world, Mr. Kleiman is chairperson of the Metro New York Computers and Genealogy Group (<<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~metrony>>),

a developer of software and online databases for genealogists, president of the e-publishing company Heritage Muse, Inc., and a former member of the JGS Executive Council. He has been a family historian for over thirty-five years.

Mr. Kleiman pointed out that because so much is currently available online, online searching is now the first line of attack, to be followed up by research in the original files in archives. The idea is to capture the information and then download it to one's computer. The same procedures work for both PCs and Macs. The first step for a beginner to take is to get a feel for what is online. Start by using one's favorite search engine, such as Google or Yahoo. Almost everyone living today can be found online. When searching, put quotation marks around names so that only those exact phrases will appear in the results. But, he explained, although the search engines are capable of finding so much information online, they cannot find every item, especially those in databases.

The best website to start with is Cyndi's List (<www.cyndislist.com>). It has over 263,150 listings for relevant genealogy websites, whether one is searching for a specific family or for information on how to do a particular type of research. The website provides a link to every website listed, whether they are free or require a paid subscription. Ancestry.com (<www.ancestry.com>), for example, is available by paid subscription, but it is provided free to patrons in most libraries. A sound practice is to read the manual first to learn how to conduct searches; this is true for all searchable websites. Use wild cards, which may differ from one site to another. Learn to think as broadly as possible.

Among the popular websites he discussed were Familysearch.org (<www.familysearch.org>), with its new section on Jewish research; GenealogyBank (<www.genealogybank.com>), which has newspapers of smaller cities and towns; the Library of Congress (<www.loc.gov>); and New York Public Library (<www.nypl.org>). State and local government websites have much valuable information, and the content varies from state to state. Special local information can be found on the websites of local historical societies.

When searching websites such as Steve

Morse's (<<http://stevemorse.org>>) and Ancestry's, one can download results directly to a spreadsheet program, such as Excel. Several searches can be added to the same spreadsheet to then be sorted and worked with according to one's preference, such as to find matches or other information. Remember to use search engines to search for images. Also, books published prior to 1923 are no longer protected by copyright and can be downloaded in full from websites such as Google.

Remember to repeat searches every so often, as new material is always being added to the Internet. And, again, read the manual!

(by Paul Silverstone, JGS Executive Council member)

December 25, 2007

JGS Anniversary and Brunch; Write Your Family History NOW!

Anniversary and Brunch

The 30th Anniversary JGS meeting and third annual member's brunch took place at the 92nd Street Y. The event featured the traditional lavish New York spread of smoked fish, bagels, spreads, condiments, fresh fruits, pastries, and beverages.

In her opening remarks, Linda Cantor, President of JGS, Inc., recognized Steven W. Siegel, Vice President, Programming, as one of the founding members of JGS and a former president as well as for his hard work and his help in arranging for the facility. Special thanks were given to Edith Ewenstein and Eden Joachim for arranging the brunch. Larry Freund was called upon to



JGS Charter Members. Back row, left to right: Charles Bernstein, Stanley Batkin, David Fiedler, Henry Joshua, Malcolm Stern, Shimon Herman. Center row, far right: Neil Rosenstein. Front row, left to right: Arthur Kurzweil, Steve Siegel, Dan Rottenberg, Morton Rose.

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give the haMotzi, the blessing for bread.

A drawing was held for various door prizes, including a Grand Prize of a one-year membership for Ancestry Deluxe, won by Bernard Chalfin.

Business Meeting and Election

Steve conducted the annual election. The following candidates were offered by the nominating committee as officers and members of the Executive Council for 2008:

President: Linda Cantor

First VP, Programming: Steven W. Siegel

Second VP, Membership: Michael L. Levine

Treasurer: Stewart Driller

Secretary: Michael Pertain

Members: Valery Bazarov, Jane Berenbeim, Adam Bronstein, Edith Ewenstein, Gloria Berkenstat Freund, Avrum Geller, Eden Joachim, Roni Seibel Liebowitz,



Programming VP Steve Siegel and President Linda Cantor

Hadassah Lipsius, Paul H. Silverstone, and Susan Stone.

Steve asked if there were any nominations from the floor, and there were none. He then asked for a motion for a vote on the nominations. A voice vote was held in which the “ayes” prevailed and none were opposed. The election of the nominated slate was announced to applause.

Linda thanked the Executive Council for its hard work and its accomplishments, which were highlighted in the brunch program. A special thank-you was given to Paul Silverstone, who served as Treasurer for the past eight years.

An announcement was made that the financial help of JGS is allowing the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History to be open late on Monday evenings until 7:30 p.m., effective January 7, 2008.

Steve announced the upcoming JGS programs. Please read the “Upcoming and Current Events” column in this issue for dates, locations, and detailed descriptions of the programs.

Write Your Family History NOW!

Edie Ewenstein introduced the guest speaker, Mike Karsen. A professional genealogy speaker, instructor, and researcher, Mike is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild, and the National Genealogical Society. He speaks on genealogy topics at state, national, and international conferences, and teaches classes in genealogy. He is on the faculties of Newberry Library and Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. He authored the JewishGen website “Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland” and has published articles about genealogy. Mike is President of the JGS of Illinois.

The presentation began with Mike presenting a list of genealogists’ “**Excuses for Not Publishing**”: “I need to get all the data into my computer.” “I am waiting until ‘this one mystery’ is solved.” “I am waiting until Aunt Em sends me the information.” “Some of the data I have may not be correct.” “I am not good at writing.” “I do not have enough time right now.” “I want to do it *just right*.”

Next, he provided answers to the question he posited, “**Why Publish Now?**”: Publishing does not need to be done in a formal way. When you share with others the information you have acquired, it will serve as a stimulus for other genealogists to offer you corrections and additions. The work you put into researching will not be lost. You will be encouraged by publishing in manageable pieces. Publishing brings your relatives back to life, gives them immortality, and is a gift that will last a lifetime and beyond.

“**Start Simple**” was his next piece of advice. Define the family of each grandparent as *one* family. Pick the family you are most interested in or for which you have the most information. Keep a balance in the information shown for all parts of the family.



Top Left: Eden Joachim with Larry and Gloria Freund. Top Right: speaker Mike Karsen. Center Left: Linda and Edward at the buffet table. Center Right: Edie Ewenstein. Bottom: raffle winners.

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“Write as Simply as Possible for the Non-genealogist.” Set a limited goal. Look objectively at which information you have gathered. Work with the end in mind, i.e., who is the book for and will it be interesting to them? Include names, dates, and pictures. Start as soon as you have something worthwhile to share; that means NOW. Family events, such as weddings, reunions, and bar mitvahs, can serve as target dates. Set a goal and start working toward it to give your work a sense of urgency.

The **“Contents of a Basic Book”** are an introduction and/or overview, a simple descendant tree, family group sheets, and an outline descendant tree. Mike showed the audience an example of a basic book he published about the Yankelovich family. He reproduced its twenty-six pages at Kinko’s, double-sided, in black and white, and placed it in a simple plastic binding he bought at Office Max. The cost came out to \$3.25 per book. The duration of the project was less than six months.

To add more flavor to a family history, include biographies, social history, family pictures, sources, an index of every name in the book, and final touches, such as a title page, copyright information, a dedication, and acknowledgements.

Other additions were timelines, the story behind writing the book, descriptions of visiting the ancestral town, and a wedding gallery. Mike circulated examples of family histories he had completed that have varying lengths and amounts of detail. He led the audience through a book he had prepared about his parents that is arranged according to the “Chapters of their Lives”: Table of Contents, Ancestor Chart, Youth, Early Adult Years, Raising their Children, and Life Chronology.

The names of several references that can help people write a family history were provided. He also offered attendees a copy of a CD-ROM on which he had compiled detailed examples of family histories that he had written for reference.

Mike requested that attendees send him feedback about his talk and invited them to contact him to discuss the progress they are making in writing and publishing their family histories. He can be contacted by e-mail (<mike@MikeKarsen.com>) or through his website (<<http://www.MikeKarsen.com>>).

(by Avrum Geller, JGS Executive Council member) ☆

Metro Area Repository Round-up

YIVO: Amdurer Benevolent Society

Maps of cemetery plots, deeds of sale, ledgers, bank records, and correspondence from the Amdurer Benevolent Society landsmanshaft, also known as the Amdurer Benevolent Association, have been donated to YIVO. The society was established in New York City in 1912 for the mutual assistance of immigrants from Amdur, Belarus, a shtetl whose official name is Indura; Amdur is its Yiddish name. Stewardship of the

Society passed to Mrs. Belle Kaminer upon the death of her father, Charles, chairman of the society’s Loan Fund. Mrs. Kaminer was responsible for the society’s fiscal affairs until her death in 2005. Her grandson, Martin Kaminer, donated the collection after Roberta Newman Consulting Services organized it, prepared a finding aid, and abstracted all of the names mentioned in the records. ☆

The Jewish Genealogical Society (New York)

<http://www.jgsny.org> opens the door to:

- Kings County Clerk’s Office, Index to Brooklyn Naturalization Records, 1907-1924
- Burial Societies in the New York Metro Area (close to 10,200 entries from almost 100 cemeteries)
- New York Landsmanshaftn and other Jewish Organizations
- Genealogical Repositories in the New York Metropolitan Region (list of repositories)
- Jewish Cemeteries in the New York Metropolitan Area (directory)
- Members Only Section: Jewishdata.com



New York

New York Cemetery Project: Volunteers Needed for April 2008!

John Diener, who lives in Ottawa, Canada, is making plans to photograph and index the many Grzymalow (Rymalower) cemetery plots on Staten Island and Long Island, with the cooperation of the Rymalower Benevolent Association, which is still in existence in New York. The Rymalower Young Men's Benevolent Association was formed in 1913 by a group of young immigrants to New York from Galicia, in the Austro-Hungarian Empire (today part of Ukraine). This landsmanshaftn provided friendship and support in good times and bad and is one of the few surviving to this day that is composed of the descendants of the original families. In its early years, the Rymalower organization purchased cemetery plots on Staten Island and, later, on Long Island. This plan guaranteed that every member and his wife would have a final resting place without the difficulties of arranging for one at a time of great sorrow and at great expense. In addition, there was a small benefit fund to help with funeral costs and the erection of a monument.

My grandfather, Samuel Greenhut, was born in Grzymalow, which is in the Ternopil District, in 1896 and immigrated to New York City in 1906, settling on the Lower East Side. John's late father, Nathan Diener, was born in Grzymalow in 1925. After surviving World War II and losing his parents and sisters in the Holocaust, Nathan arrived in Canada in 1948. The Rymalower Society, like so many landsmanshaftn in the New York area, has had the number of original members dwindle over the years but has kept the spirit—and the records—of this group alive. Discovering that some of these societies still exist is an important component to ongoing genealogical research. Cataloging the cemetery plots is another way to create databases from which we all can make new connections or tie branches of our family trees together. If you are interested in participating in this project, which will probably take place in April, please contact John Diener at <jmdiener@rogers.com>.

(by Pamela Weisberger)

Congregation Shearith Israel's Cemeteries

A geoarchaeologist has been using a ground-penetrating radar device to search for unmarked graves in the three

Manhattan cemeteries owned by Congregation Shearith Israel, the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of the City of New York. The device detects disturbances in the ground that were most likely caused by the digging of the graves.

The oldest of the three is on St. James Place by Chatham Square. Members of the congregation were buried there from 1683 to 1828. While about 100 headstones or other markers are in place, radar detected 173 places in the ground that could be the site of graves. The second oldest is on 11th Street, between 5th and 6th avenues, with burials taking place from 1805 to 1829. It has thirty-five gravestones and twenty-seven disturbances, some under the sidewalk. The newest cemetery is on 21st Street, between 6th and 7th avenues, with burials from 1829 to 1851; fewer potentially unmarked graves have been found. The synagogue plans to restore the three deteriorating cemeteries. The cemeteries' records are in the synagogue's office at 8 W. 70th Street at Central Park West.

Jewish At-Risk Cemeteries

A "Community Association For Jewish At-Risk Cemeteries" (CAJAC) has been formed by the partnering of the Hebrew Free Burial Association, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, and the UJA-Federation of New York. HFBA describes its mission as "to be a central repository for fundraising, endowment management and the general care of abandoned and at-risk Jewish cemeteries in New York." Its website (<<http://www.cajacny.org>>) is currently under construction. E-mail HFBA for more information (<info@hebrewfreeburial.org>).

JCC of Spring Valley Cemetery

The Hebrew Free Burial Association has assumed responsibility for maintaining the cemetery of the defunct Jewish Community Center of Spring Valley (Ohr Yisroel). The synagogue was organized in 1923 and dedicated in 1928. Two thousand graves are in use. Inquiries about the cemetery can be made by contacting HFBA at <info@hebrewfreeburial.org> or (212)-239-1662. ☆

Gesher Galicia Regional Meeting: Galician Land Records and Cadastral Maps; JRI-Poland Update

by Pamela Weisberger

Gesher Galicia's fourth annual regional meeting took place at the Center for Jewish History in New York City on Sunday, October 21st. An exceptionally large crowd of over 175 people was entertained and educated by a selection of talks focusing on many "how-tos" on the minds of genealogists: *how to* expand research beyond vital records, *how to* travel to and restore (in person or in the virtual world) the damaged or vanished vestiges of the communities our ancestors lived in, *how to* continue accessing vital records that JRI-Poland has indexed through the new systems set up by the Polish State Archives, and *how to* access the new information contained in the Lviv microfilms recently released by the LDS catalog. Here are some highlights.

Galician Land Records and Cadastral Maps

After registers of births, deaths, and marriages, the cadastral maps and land records are probably the most valuable resource for reconstructing one's ancestral town or village, helping researchers recreate communities that existed almost two centuries ago. A "cadastre" is an "official register of the quantity, value, and ownership of real estate used in apportioning taxes." When Austria acquired Galicia, in order to establish a reliable basis for land taxation, the authorities initiated land and tax reforms that required the measurement of all land properties in the new crownland. The Josephine Cadastre was initiated in April 1785 and formally ended in the fall of 1788. The Franciscan Cadastre followed in 1817, ordered by Francis I. The decision to include mapping as part of the cadastre meant the process would take a very long time. Professional surveyors conducted this new survey. During the mapping process, numerous texts were created to record information that could not be included on the map, including descriptions of the communities, the names of property owners, a register of house numbers and their owners, and a list of

property owners and their parcel numbers, including the map sections where these parcels could be located. The Feldskizzen, or "Field Sketches" were the first stage.

Gesher Galicia's cadastral map and landowner records project began last spring when Brian Lenius, professional genealogist and author of *Genealogical Gazetteer of Galicia*, obtained cadastral maps and tax/land records for several Galician communities. This meeting was our first opportunity to display the fruits of his labors: full-size reproductions of cadastral maps which were fashioned together by volunteers. Thanks to the efforts of Gesher Galicia members Joan Adler and Fred Fogelson, the Bolechow map was the first to be completed. It was several feet in length and width, but in the assembly process, Fred noticed a

second, more detailed, map, which he labeled "downtown Bolechow." This drawing clearly showed Jewish names written next to certain houses, along with the synagogue and cemetery, as expertly delineated by Joan Adler on the laminated copy of the map she presented at the meeting. Attendees had a chance to examine these maps at close range, and several other examples were passed through the audience. These maps will also be exhibited at this summer's IAJGS conference in Chicago.

Gesher Galicia has also acquired an excellent copy

of the 1852 Feldskizzen maps for Dobromil and Grzymalow, which are currently being reconstructed by volunteers. These maps are valuable to genealogists because they contain the house numbers and the property owners' names. On the Grzymalow map, one can see the detailed grounds of the estate owned by the Polish magnate landowner, Count Leonard Pininski. On the Bolechow map, the cemetery is marked by tiny figures of gravestones. On the Dobromil map, the word "Synagog" is clearly marked. The final cadastral maps are works of art, drawn in full color with geographic



Joan Adler and Pamela Weisberger studying a cadastral map

detail, but they do not display the names of the property owners but only the parcel, not house numbers. Geshet Galicia has such a map for Rozdol, but it was also necessary to obtain the land records book—the 1850 Alphabetisches Verzeichhniß der Gemeinde—which listed a parcel number and its corresponding house number which could *then* be linked to a family name. Here, for example, we find four Zirklas relatives: Hersch, Itzek, Israel, and Leib. Moses Bauer is found in house 265, on parcel (Bauparzelle) 277. Women’s names also appear: land owned by Abraham Bind also lists the name Feige Rosenberg in a side comments section. These lists are conveniently arranged alphabetically, not numerically, making searching easy.

In May 1869, a crownland land-tax commission created in Lviv with sub-commissions in Cracow and Ternopil, established a tax to correspond to parcel ownership so they could determine the profits derived from the land. The results were journals for each landholder. In the Grzymalow record book, we can see entries for many Jews: Marks Leib Abraham lived in house 245, Moses Goldberg lived in house 264, and Wolf Gottlieb was in house number 464. These records were written in Polish as well as Ukrainian and the names are easy to read. They serve as a wonderful alternate for—or complement to—vital records in tracking our ancestors over time.

The future of Geshet Galicia’s “Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project” will be announced shortly. In future months, we hope to have Brian continue his inventory of these types of records held in the Lviv archive and commission him to obtain more copies. If you are interested in coordinating a fundraising, indexing, and/or map-assembly project for your town, please contact me.

JRI-Poland Update

Mark Halpern, AGAD (The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw) Archives Coordinator for Jewish Records Indexing - Poland, discussed the current status of JRI-Poland with the Polish State Archives, the new Lviv Archive Jewish microfilms catalogued by the LDS Family History Library, and his personal ongoing work with 400 death records from 1941 that reflect the first *Aktion* taken by the Nazis days after the invasion of Tarnopol on July 4, 1941. As he wrote in the last issue of “The Galitzianer” about this undertaking:

My own little private indexing project started when I viewed film #2405431 while at the Salt Lake City

conference in July. Item 3 on this film includes 1941 and 1942 Tarnopol deaths. The 1941 deaths start on July 4, two days after the Nazis invaded and occupied Tarnopol. From July 12 through about October 15, nearly 400 deaths were recorded that document the Nazi Aktion against the Jews of Tarnopol. This Aktion or pogrom lasted for 8 days and was directed mostly toward men. Reports from Tarnopol place the number of victims at about 5,000. Less than 10% of these deaths were actually recorded in the civil death register. Read more at [tinyurl.com/ysws3d](http://www.jewishgen.org/tinyurl.com/ysws3d) [<http://www.jewishgen.org/>



Entry for Moses Golberg in the Grzymalow cadastral map book

yzkor/pinkas_poland/pol2_00234.html>]. It was not until December of that year that the Tarnopol ghetto was established. Although the 1942 death records recorded up through September do not show any further pogroms, the cause of death show many residents perished from starvation or malnutrition. This is not to say there were no Aktions against the Jews in the ghetto. There were. But the civil registers did not record such events whether they were transports to Belzec or round-ups for mass executions. The first page of the 1941 death register shows entry number one that records on July 12 the death of Klara Gross on July 4. Most of these entries show the residence address of the deceased, but further genealogical information is not recorded. This page of the register shows that most of the deceased were men age 40 to 80. The cause of death was mainly nagla smierc meaning sudden death, which is code for shot to death. Some of the other causes of death were suicide and killed by bombs. My interest in these records was first of all because my paternal family was from Tarnopol, but the sight of these records sent a chill down my spine. I have now indexed these 400 or so records and plan to submit these names to the Yad

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Vashem Hall Of Names to memorialize these martyrs. I will also submit this index to JRI-PL and the JewishGen holocaust database. Both JRI-PL and JewishGen will have to decide whether to include this list in their database. As I said before, we do not have the permission of the Ukraine State Archives to index the records on these microfilms. However, given the subject and historical significance of this data, I am hoping that JewishGen and my JRI-PL organization will decide to include this data. The process of indexing these records also resulted in a personal connection. I found on Akt 319, the death of Abraham Tenenbaum of sudden death on 4th of July 1941. Abraham was a married man who was 60 years old. The birth year of 1881 corresponds to the birth year of my great-uncle, my grandmother's brother, for whom I have no other information. If anyone is interested in Tarnopol and would like this database, please send an e-mail to mark@halpern.com. I will e-mail you the Excel database as soon as I have proofread and corrected the entries.

Return to Galicia – Bukachevtsy, 2007

Many years ago, JGS President Linda Cantor took her first trip to Ukraine, using Alex Dunai as her guide to Bukachevtsy, her grandmother's town, with Ivano-Frankivsk as a base. She went equipped with photos of her family, childhood stories, and a map of the town she got from a survivor. She visited Rohatyn, where members of her family were killed in the Holocaust and are buried, and conducted research in the archives in Lviv with Alex Dunai. She also had success in locating school records. Using JRI - Poland's AGAD index of records also provided her with useful information.

In 2007, she was ready to make a return trip with a survivor from the town, Cipora Blitz, and Alex Dunai again as her guide. The Jewish cemetery had been overgrown for years, but a partial fence had been erected, and it was her goal to have the missing sections repaired and replaced. This had been a difficult proposition to accomplish long-distance, but it became a reality when she showed up in person and could hire local workers to complete the job under her supervision.

Bolechow Jewish Heritage Society

On behalf of the Board of this newly-established nonprofit organization (which includes Daniel Mendelsohn, author of *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*), Joan Adler talked about BJHS's projects to preserve Jewish sites in present-day Bolechow: cemetery restoration, transformation of the decaying old synagogue into a Museum of Galician Jewish

Life, and an interactive genealogical website. Any Galitzianer wanting to contribute to the content or the exhibits in this future museum can do so—the content will not be limited to Bolechowers. Joan displayed the cadastral map—a *feldskizzen*—for the town, showing the proximity of the synagogue to the cemetery so that one could truly get a feel for the place. She also explained that this type of group can serve as a model to others interested in memorializing their shtetls and fundraising to restore synagogues and cemeteries throughout Eastern Europe. For more information, contact Joan Adler at <jadfam21@yahoo.com> or visit the website at <<http://www.bolechow.com>>.

Past Lives: The Stan Diamond Story

Because so many of us have made use of the Galician records indexed by JRI - Poland, it was appropriate that we screen the short documentary detailing the quest of Canadian genealogist Stan Diamond to reconstruct his family in order to solve a genetic medical mystery. This quest led to the creation of the largest index in the world of specifically Jewish vital records, creating a database that has helped countless researchers discover their roots and reunited families separated for decades because of the Holocaust. His dedication and perseverance, as portrayed in this documentary, have facilitated incredible research breakthroughs for so many genealogists and family historians.

Upcoming Gesher Galicia Meetings

Our next major Gesher Galicia gathering will be at the IAJGS conference in Chicago, which runs from August 17th to 22nd, 2008. The Gesher Galicia luncheon will take place on Monday, August 18th, to be followed by a half day of Galician programming, including our Gesher Galicia SIG (Special Interest Group) meeting, but other Galician-specific programming and BOF (Birds of a Feather) gatherings will take place throughout the week. For our Galician half day of programs, the first speaker we have set is Brown University Professor of European History Omer Bartov, one of the foremost scholars of Jewish life in Galicia. He will be discussing his new book, *Erased: Vanishing Traces of Jewish Galicia in Present-Day Ukraine*, in which he writes about his travels to twenty Ukrainian towns. He recreates the histories of the vibrant Jewish and Polish communities who once lived there and describes what is left today following their brutal and complete destruction.

(Pamela Weisberger is the Research Coordinator for Gesher Galicia.) ☆

The Hottest Online Sources for Researching Your Families in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, and the UK, Part 4

by Ann Rabinowitz

In this, the final installment in a four-part series, additional websites for researching your Southern African or related genealogy are provided as well as websites with links to such countries as Israel and Australia and new databases from the United Kingdom and Ireland.

South African Genealogy

<http://www.sagenealogy.co.za>

This site has up-to-date information on what is new in general South African genealogy. Amongst its many resources is a list of *Afrikaans* terms and their translations taken from death notices, divorce files, liquidation and distribution accounts, wills, and other such records in the South African National Archives. For example, if you look up a reference in the Archives and pull up one in *Afrikaans*, you will see such words as *Eggenoot* (husband/spouse), *Eggenote* (wife/spouse), *Dogter* (daughter), *Broer* (brother), etc.

In the “Links” section of the South Africa Genealogy site, you will find such sources as Cemeteries & Memorials, CDs & Books, General Interest, International Sites, Libraries & Museums, Military, Passengers & Ships, Settlers & Emigrants, Societies, and Wrecks & Survivors.

This site is free of charge.

1820 Settlers

<http://www.1820settlers.com>

This site encompasses what are considered the over 3,800 founding British settlers who came to South Africa in 1820. The government subsidized the settlement, and the settlers were required to put up a surety of four pounds sterling when approved. When they arrived in South Africa, they were promised 100 acres of land. The land became theirs after a certain period of time. For many people who were hit hard economically in the years following the Napoleonic Wars or those cramped in urban areas such as London, this scheme was a blessing and offered new opportunities.

A number of references are made to Jews who either wished to be approved for settlement by the British authorities or who actually went. It is true that not many

researchers may have relatives who came that early to South Africa, but nonetheless, this is an important site. You can see original documents relating to the Jews who were involved in trying to settle in South Africa, and they give a vivid glimpse of life in Great Britain during those times.

It appeared that Jews were not given great consideration for settlement by the British Colonial Secretary, Earl Henry Bathurst (1762–1834). Many were rejected out of hand, due to anonymous letters written by other citizens or even their own neighbors. Perhaps it was merely a form of anti-Semitism or, more practically, it was felt that urban Jews did not have the skill sets necessary to survive in a frontier society.

Amongst the 1820 settlers, approximately sixteen to eighteen probable Jews settled in the Cape Province. The names of the following Jews were compiled by South African Jewish historian Louis Hermann, whose list is not considered sacrosanct: Morris Sloman, Phillis Sloman, Mark Sloman, Rosetta Sloman, Julia Sloman, John Norton, Sara Norton, Louis Norton, Joshua Norton, Phillip Simons, Samuel Simons, Ralph Simons, Benjamin Simons, Benjamin Norden, Joshua Davis Norden, Marcus Norden, Samuel Norden, and Harry Norden.

At the “Search” link on the left side of the website’s main page, you can look up these Jewish settlers. Included in the information provided are the details of which settler party and ship they came on as well as letters pertaining to their approval and settlement. The settler’s letters provide a fascinating look at the mechanics of becoming an approved settler or the leader of an approved party of settlers.

One such would-be Jewish settler and party leader was Samuel Cohan; you can find his letters at <<http://www.1820settlers.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=266>>. The information about Cohan includes the fact that he was a master fisherman of Barking in Essex and was then resident at No. 226 High Street, Shadwell. The main point of his material is that anonymous letters were sent to the Earl of Bathurst that cast aspersions on his character and prevented his being

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considered further for settlement.

There is also a list of those wishing to go with Cohan in his party. Most were Jewish, and their names were followed by their trades: Thomas Griffin, gun maker; James Robinson, farmer; James Mars, farmer; Anselom Jewell, labourer; Moses Levy, labourer; Peter Simeon, lapidary; Marcus Abraham, salesman; Abraham Lewison, son of Marcus Abraham; Charles Eades, stonemason and bricklayer; Godfry Saling, furrier; Moses Moses, salesman; Aaron Moss, tailor; David Moses, son of Moses Moses; Aaron Hendriks, tailor; David Jones, tin plate worker; and Solomon Samuel, butcher.

Another would-be party leader was Dr. Daniel Baruk (1782–1863), whose three references can be found at < <http://www.1820settlers.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=121>>. Dr. Baruk, who originally came from Amsterdam and was a graduate of the University of Edinburgh, also had the misfortune of negative comments being made by others when he attempted to form a party of settlers. He stated that he was desirous of leaving England in 1819 as he could not make a good enough living to support himself, age thirty-seven, his wife, Mary, age thirty-six, and his four children, Raphael, age nineteen, Samuel, age seventeen, Fanny, age sixteen, and Lewis, age fifteen. He was not approved, but his eldest son, Raphael (or Ralph), an apothecary, eventually managed to go to South Africa with the Parker party and settled first in the area of Albany and then near Port Elizabeth. It is not known whether he managed to stay on permanently or not as he disappeared from the known records of that time. It is thought that he returned to England and rejoined his parents and siblings.

The database is free of charge.

Zimbabwe Jewish Community

<http://www.zjc.org.il/showpage.php?pageid=1>

Various topics relating to the former Rhodesian Jewish communities now called Zimbabwe and Zambia are covered by this comprehensive site. Since these communities have decreased to perhaps three hundred or so souls, this is a real tribute to their vibrant culture that is reaching its end or will remain static for the foreseeable future. Many of the families first arrived in South Africa, and before that they lived in the Baltic States and Germany as well as such places as Turkey

or Rhodes. So, it is worthwhile to view the site and perhaps find lost branches of your family.

The site covers *Shuls* (synagogues), Cemeteries, History, Photos, and Families, and it has a blog as well. Foremost on the site though are the five digitized cemeteries of Bulawayo (1,375 graves), Harare Pioneer Street (548 graves), Harare Warren Hills (590 graves), Kadoma (35 graves), and Kwe Kwe (20 graves). The cemeteries are listed individually rather than being combined into one comprehensive database. You have to look at each cemetery's listings to possibly find a family member. It is time-consuming, but worthwhile. The databases contain both the family name and photos of the tombstones.

An example of the variety of Jews who lived in Zimbabwe is the family names in the small Kwe Kwe Cemetery. It includes both Ashkenazic and Sephardic names, such as Ashkenazi, Char, Chimowitz, Es So Marke, Faierman, Ferera, Friendl, Guttman, Hasson, Hatchuel, Hoffman, Hossy, Kab, Lazar, Leon, Malkow, Paul, Pogrund, Rest, Rick, Samson, Sloman, and Teperson.

In the Shuls section, a database of marriages can be searched, and this is quite helpful. The Shuls covered are Bulawayo Hebrew Congregation, Harare Hebrew Congregation (formerly Salisbury), Kadoma (Gatooma) Community, Kwe Kwe Community History, and Sephardi Hebrew Congregation. You can find such couples as Aaron Jacobs and Rose Franks, who married on December 4, 1895, in Bulawayo or Solly Joffe and Dora Klug, who married on September 1, 1935, in Harare or Jacob Nissin Alhadeff and B. Leon who married on October 5, 1922, in Bulawayo.

A fascinating section is devoted to family stories, such as those of the well-known Abrahamson family and their redoubtable senior citizen Leizer, who reached 108 before he passed away in 2007. There are photographs and other memorabilia. All of these are quite a nice means of capturing the strong points of this all too quickly diminishing Jewish enclave in southern Africa.

The site can be searched for free.

Jewish Kenya

<http://www.haruth.com/JewsKenya.htm>

The Jewish community of Kenya is covered by this

small site. While it doesn't provide access to any records for the Jews there, you will find information on the community itself and contacts to further your knowledge. Some of the links are not working, but the main working link is to the Nairobi Hebrew Congregation. It was founded in 1904 and its *Rosh Kehilla* is now Vera Somen. The community in Kenya is quite open to genealogical questions and will respond to you.

Another means of gaining information on the Kenyan Jewish community is to use the *Jewish Chronicle* website, discussed in Part 2 of this article in the summer 2007 issue of *Dorot*. You can search either by family name, by community, such as Nairobi, or by the country of Kenya. When you plug in Kenya, you will find 1,332 entries ranging from 1903 to 2007, and for Nairobi you will find 751 entries ranging the same dates. The earliest mentions of Kenya and Nairobi concern the British government's suggested plan for Jewish settlement in British East Africa, and the remarkable qualities of the area are also promoted. Information on the first Zionist Society being formed in Nairobi is also included.

The Jewish Kenya site is free of charge.

TELFED Online

<http://www.telfed.org.il>

For South Africans who have made or are going to make aliyah to Israel, this website is a major one. You may find much information on present-day families and their activities as well as a genealogy page at <<http://www.telfed.org.il/showpage.php?pageid=16>>. In addition, the TELFED site has launched an online list sponsored by Yahoo. This enables people to contact each other.

This site is free of charge.

Jewish Cemetery Trust - Rookwood Cemetery, Sydney, Australia

<http://www.rookwoodjewishcemetery.com.au/page/search-for-a-grave>

With the large immigration of South African Jews to Australia, recently approximated at 15,500 people, this website for the largest cemetery in the world is a must for keeping track of the movement of relatives from one continent to the next and beyond. The database covers October 1830–October 2007, and you can plug in a surname and first name.

An example of the wonderful connections one can make by utilizing this database— alongside other databases—is the case of the Sloman family. It is a well-known Zimbabwean family, and I decided to look them up in this Australian database. Sure enough, there were sixteen Sloman burials. As I looked through them, I found a Phillis (Phillis bat Mordechai) Sloman, who was buried on October 5, 1863, at the age of sixty-seven. This meant that she was born in 1795 or 1796.

The name was unusual enough that I remembered seeing it in the listing of the 1820 British settlers in South Africa (mentioned previously). Sure enough, there was a Phillis Sloman, the daughter of Mordechai Asher and the wife of Morris Sloman (1787-1849). After conferring with Paul Cheifitz, another South African researcher, I was able to confirm that both of the Phillis Sloman references were for the same person. She had left South Africa and gone to Australia to be with a daughter who had moved there. The daughter was one of twelve Sloman children, three born in England and nine born in South Africa. As it turned out, the Zimbabwean Sloman family that had started my search was, in all probability, not the same as the South African Morris and Phillis Sloman family. This was due to the fact that Morris Sloman's last name was originally Solomon.

Another example of what one can find is shown by a search for an Arthur Waeger, for whom not much was known other than that he went to Australia, perhaps from Germany. The search in the cemetery found his date of burial and the location of his plot. Further inquiry determined that he did not have any family when he died. Due to the release of passenger manifests up to 1939 on the <<http://www.findmypast.com>> website (discussed in Part 2 of this article in the summer 2007 issue of *Dorot*), I was then able to locate Arthur Waeger's departure for Australia from Liverpool in 1939 at the age of fifty. He did not have any family with him on the voyage, confirming the earlier-found cemetery information that he was not married. He was traveling first class and listed as a German manufacturer. It also stated where he stayed in London prior to his departure.

Interestingly enough, the manifest also revealed that many of the other passengers were also from Germany and were young professionals, such as doctors and physicists. Due to the time frame of the voyage, May 6, 1939, it is possible that these well-to-do Jews were managing to flee Germany after Kristallnacht, the wave of Nazi pogroms that began on November 9, 1938.

The Rookwood Cemetery database is free of charge.

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SephardicGen

<http://www.sephardicgen.com/databases/databases.html>

Southern Africa had a strong, but small Sephardic community that had been built primarily by the Jews who originated from the island of Rhodes and other nearby locales. Whilst there are no specific Southern African Sephardic databases per se, researchers can use many of the previously mentioned websites to look up their family names. The cemetery databases are particularly helpful in searching for family names. In addition, there is a general Sephardic website, SephardicGen, developed by Sephardic maven Jeff Malka, where researchers can obtain information on their Sephardic heritage. It encompasses a plethora of resources, such as history, genealogy, websites by country, databases, surnames, gazetteer, archives bibliography, how to start, family trees, genealogy forms, news lists, calendar conversions, and Ladino. Much of the information in the databases section can be accessed by country or by family name.

The SephardicGen site is free.

The Guardian and Observer Digital Archive

<http://archive.guardian.co.uk>

This new website is similar to the *Jewish Chronicle* Archives site in that it provides digital reproductions of issues of two of the largest British national newspapers. The initial launch of this archive contains issues of *The Guardian* (a daily publication) from 1821 to 1975 and its sister paper, *The Observer* (the oldest Sunday paper in Britain), from 1900 to 1975. Full reproduction of both publications, *The Guardian* (1821–2008) and *The Observer* (1791–2008), are forthcoming.

The Advanced Archive Search enables the researcher to enter a name or place, choose whether to search for all clippings or only for articles, pictures, or advertisements, search either or both publications, select a time period or date range, and sort by relevance, word count, oldest date first, most recent date first, or publication name. When one searches, for instance, for the word “Jew,” one may find 1,000 references. Each one shows the date of the issue, the page number, and the headline. For instance, there can be found the following diverse references:

- *Guardian*, Saturday, May 24, 1851, Page 8, “Inauguration of the New Jews’ School, Cheetham Hill”

- *Guardian*, Thursday, September 24, 1903, Page 8, “The Anti-Semitic Riots at Gornal”
- *Guardian*, Saturday, April 15, 1905 Page 6, “Russia and Poland, The Jewish Problem”
- *Observer*, Sunday, September 21, 1902, Page 5, “The Roumanian Jews”
- *Observer*, Sunday, August 18, 1907, Page 3, “Jews Sold for Slaves”

With its many detailed references to Manchester Jewry, *The Guardian* is quite helpful for those researching that area of the United Kingdom. After the initial free search for a name or place is conducted, access to printable copies of pertinent articles is on a fee basis for either twenty-four hours, three days, or one month. Longer periods are available upon request.

National Archives: Census of Ireland 1911

<http://www.census.nationalarchives.ie>

The 1911 Census of Ireland has been uploaded to the Internet, but only County Dublin is presently available. The census contains all counties in both Northern Ireland and what became the Republic of Ireland. All of these will be uploaded in the very near future. The Jewish population numbered 5,101 individuals out of a total population of 4,390,219 people, amounting to 0.1% of the population.

This is an important site for those with Litvak origins, particularly the towns in the vicinity of Akmene, Zagare, Kursenai, and other similar shtetls in Lithuania as well as Latvia. Many of these Irish Jews also went to South Africa, America, Israel, Canada, and Australia.

The online census contains copies of the original forms that were filled out and signed by the householders on census night, April 2, 1911. Since the forms were filled out by the householders, there are various ways that they noted their religion, such as Hebrew, Jew, Jewish, Jewish Religion, Mosaic, etc. Unfortunately, you cannot search by religion. If you could, it would make it much easier to locate someone whose specific name you did not know. The forms have much interesting information and can be downloaded and printed. You will note that many of the families had live-in help, such as maids, nannies, cooks, and other such. In addition, a number of the Jews in the census are noted as being unable to read or write, and some are classified as boarders and have a profession of traveling salesman.

An example of what you can find is shown by a search for the surname Briscoe. One can pull up quite a number of entries, including that of Abraham Briscoe, born in Russia, his wife, Ida Yoedaikie, born in Germany, and their six children, who were listed as being of the Mosaic faith. Their later well-known son Robert, or Bobbie, Briscoe, Irish activist and later Lord Mayor of Dublin, is listed as age sixteen.

Further, one can search for the family name of Noyek, the family of Davida Noyek Handler, and locate two families by that name. Another permutation of the name is Noyk, and one can find the family of Michael Noyk, activist and advisor to Michael Collins, a leader of the Irish independence movement.

A fellow Jewish activist in the Irish independence movement was artist Estella Solomons, who is listed at age twenty-eight with her elderly parents, Maurice and Rosa, a maid, a cook, and a housemaid. Her father, Maurice E. Solomons, was a Justice of the Peace originally from London, and her mother Rosa was from Hull and an accomplished poet instrumental in the formation of the Adelaide Road Synagogue. Estella has three siblings, Edwin, Bethel, and Sophie. Her brother Edwin, a stock broker, became President of the Dublin Hebrew Congregation. Her other brother, Bethel, listed as a boarder at Rotunda Hospital, later became a noted gynecologist. Her sister, Sophie, became an opera singer.

One can also find William Steyn, a dental anaesthetist from Kurland, and his wife Bertha Jaffe, also from Kurland, the parents of artist Stella Steyn. In 1911, Stella is only three years old and not yet the prominent artist and friend of James Joyce and illustrator of his book *Finnegan's Wake*.

Another family name is that of Yodaiken, listed as being of the Jewish faith. Samuel and his younger brother Morris are listed as rubber merchants, although they actually sold automobile tires. Leslie Daiken, the eldest child of Samuel Yodaiken, was born in 1912 and is, therefore, not found in the 1911 census. He became a well-known writer, toy historian, and collector in London and founded the Toy Museum of Britain.

Samuel's wife was Rosa Weiner, and her maiden name can be researched as well. Her father, Hoseas Weiner, her mother, and two of her three siblings are found in the census. Rosa was a source of information about the Jewish community that author James Joyce utilized to create his celebrated character Leopold Bloom, who appears in his novel *Ulysses*.

Samuel's younger brother, Morris Yodaiken, later left Ireland and settled in South Africa, as many Irish Jews did. His son, Dr. Ralph Yodaiken, was later born in Johannesburg. Basha Yodaiken is listed along with the family of her daughter Rosie Yodaiken Lapedus. However, the last name of Lapedus is mistranscribed as Lapectus, although the census sheet clearly shows it as Lapedus. This is the family of Anne Lapedus Brest.

Another Jewish family is that of Clein, many of whom later came to America, and they are found in abundance in the census, as are all of the many Cohens, some of whom are not Jewish. There is also the family of Arthur Newman, one of the early leaders in the Jewish community.

One family not found in the 1911 census is that of the Herzog family, which didn't move to Dublin until 1919. The head of the family was Rabbi Yitzhak-Isaac Ha-Levi Herzog, who became Chief Rabbi of Ireland and, later, Israel. His son was Chaim Herzog, later President of Israel.

When the other Irish counties are added to this site, many more families will appear in such places as Cork, Limerick, and such locales. In the future, the 1901 Irish Census will be digitized and uploaded as well.

This site is searchable free of charge.

Footnote

<http://www.footnote.com>

A fascinating site is found at [footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com), which provides access to original historic documents. Presently, the site contains 151 separate titles and approximately 25,486,373 images of documents. New titles and images are added regularly.

Whilst most of the titles refer to materials found in the National Archives in Washington, D.C., many references to areas of interest in other countries are found as well. For instance, there are images of the *London Times* (1785-1820) and other such newspapers and magazines.

One of the most helpful items on the site is the original images of naturalization paperwork taken from various Federal, State and Local Courts. One such reference is the "Soundex Index to Petitions for Naturalizations Filed in federal, state, and local courts in New York City, 1792-1906. Plug in your family name, and up pops the appropriate (hopefully) reference. An

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The Hottest Online Sources continued from page 21

example is a search for the name Rosenberg, which has approximately 7,728 entries. One of these is for Isaac Rosenberg, naturalized 1896, in the U.S. District Court, New York, NY, birth year 1864, Russian, arrival 1887, and witness Solomon Berman. Remember, this is only one of the New York Rosenbergs, and there are many other Rosenberg entries from localities outside of New York.

If you search for another popular Jewish name, that of Cohen, you will find 25,546 references, which is an amazing amount of material of all sorts. This material includes notations for not only naturalizations but also where Cohens were witnesses to naturalizations. There is even an entry for a Solomon Cohen in Georgia relating to his business, contained in the "Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms, 1861-65."

Another instance is for a much rarer name, that of Trapido, which results in only one reference, a naturalization. It is for a Sophie Trapido, age thirty-eight, along with her two daughters, Sylvia, age five, and Beatrice, age three, who resided with her. Sophie was admitted on February 9, 1926.

Further, one other interesting search is for Lipsius, which brings up eleven references, all from New York except one from Pennsylvania, one as a witness to a naturalization (Jos. G. Lipsius) and one in the May 4, 1914, issue of *The Times*, London.

As another instance of how valuable this site can be, I bring to your attention an additional name, Frucht, which proves to have seventy-four hits. The reason I mention this is that a researcher who I know has been searching for this name for years in Lithuania. She has found nothing substantial at all, a veritable brick wall, and frustrating, to say the least. With this database and these entries for Frucht, she may find her family, at long last by looking at the various entries with "Russian" origins.

An additional fruitful means of searching this site is by the name of a country, such as South Africa, whereby one can also pull up 11,288 entries. Whilst many of these will not refer to Jewish records, they are worthwhile to search. For instance, one naturalization from the Southern District of California is for a Nathan Levy, naturalized in 1932, and another is for Eva Seligman, naturalized in 1929, both born in South

Africa. By searching this way, one learns that there were quite a number of naturalizations that took place in Southern California for South African-born residents. Another location, that of the state of Maryland, brings up a naturalization for a Sophie Mofsowitz, naturalized in 1926 and born in South Africa.

This site requires registering either with a limited Free Trial Membership or a paid Monthly or Annual Membership. The fees are relatively modest.

CONCLUSION

This concludes a four-part article that has spanned many continents and should provide a basic knowledge of how to get the most bang for your buck when doing Internet searches on paid and free websites. The most important aspect of these sites is that many add features or time periods regularly and should be checked periodically for additional information. All in all, the Internet experience can provide a remarkable amount of data for your genealogical studies and can expand your knowledge considerably of your family, your ancestral shtetl, and the Jewish people's history. Take advantage of it.

(Ann Rabinowitz, a native of Manchester, England, now lives in South Florida and has been active in genealogy for many years. She is involved in and writes about British, Lithuanian, and South African research.) ☆



Upcoming and Current Events

Jewish Genealogical Society

March 16, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly program: **Identical Strangers: Jewish Adoptees Fill in the Blanks to the Past.** Speakers: Elyse Schein and Paula Bernstein. Elyse Schein, a writer and filmmaker, had always known she was adopted, but it wasn't until her mid-thirties that she searched for her biological mother. When Elyse contacted Louise Wise Services, the prestigious Jewish adoption agency in Manhattan, she was shocked to discover she had an identical twin sister. Paula Bernstein, a married freelance writer and mother, also knew she was adopted but had no inclination to find her birth mother. When she answered a call from the adoption agency one spring afternoon, Paula's life suddenly divided into two starkly different periods: the time before and the time after she learned the truth.

After their reunion, Paula and Elyse set out to answer the haunting questions surrounding their origins and their separation. As they investigate their birth mother's past, Paula and Elyse move closer toward solving the puzzle of their lives. This program is based on Bernstein and Schein's experiences researching *Identical Strangers: A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited*, which was published by Random House in October 2007. Bernstein and Schein will discuss how, as Jewish adoptees, they researched their biological roots using the Internet and the New York Public Library Genealogy Division.

Admission: JGSNY members free; non-members \$5. Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th avenues), Manhattan. The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute will be open 12:30 to 1:45 pm for networking with other researchers and access to research materials and computers.

April 13, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly program: **The Jewish Calendar Demystified – and – Searching the New York State Census with Fewer Tears.** Speaker: Steve Morse.

Admission: JGSNY members free; non-members \$5. **Note:** This program will be held at The Abraham Joshua Heschel High School, 20 West End Avenue (at 60th Street).

May 18, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly program: **Fusgeyers: Jewish Immigrants Who Walked to Freedom in the Early 1900s.** Speaker: Jill Culiner. When Moldavia and Walachia united to become Roumania in 1858, the new constitution granted citizenship to Christians only. Jews became foreigners in their own country. Forbidden to be market traders, artisans, innkeepers, evicted from villages, twenty thousand were soon on the streets and starving. In 1899, seventy-eight unemployed Jewish artisans from Romania and Bessarabia decided to cross Europe on foot and then continue, by ship, to America. To raise money, they would give theatrical performances in Yiddish. Although the authorities forced this group of Fusgeyers (wanderers) to continue on by train at the Austro-Hungarian border, they attracted much admiration.

Soon, thousands of Jewish men and women were forming Fusgeyer groups, training in long-distance walking and leaving for North America in the search for freedom and respect. When they arrived, they worked as peddlers in mining towns or founded Jewish farming communities. One hundred years later, Jill Culiner crossed Romania on foot, looking for lost Jewish communities, searching through the European archives, and then tracing the immigrant trail from Vienna to Liverpool and across America.

Born in New York and raised in Canada, Jill Culiner has lived in England, France, Turkey, Germany, and Hungary working as a photographer, artist, and writer. She has published a photography book and two novels. Her non-fiction book, *Finding Home in the Footsteps of the Jewish Fusgeyers*, won the Tannenbaum Prize for Canadian Jewish History in 2005 and was short-listed for the ForeWord magazine prize. She has spoken to groups throughout the United States, Canada, France, and Israel and is presently completing a work on the vanished Jews of the Great Hungarian plain.

Admission: JGSNY members free; non-members \$5. Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th avenues), Manhattan. The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute will be open 12:30 to 1:45 pm for networking with other researchers and access to research materials and computers.

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June 22, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Searching Online Historical Directories – and – A New Tool for Shoah Research.

Speaker: Logan Kleinwaks.

Admission: JGSNY members free; non-members \$5.
Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th avenues), Manhattan. The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute will be open 12:30 to 1:45 pm for networking with other researchers and access to research materials and computers.

National

May 14-17, 2008

National Genealogical Society: NGS's annual Conference in the States and Family History Fair will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center. Topics announced to date include adoption, African American, Board for Certification of Genealogists skill building track, computers, DNA, genealogical essentials, German, homesteading, land, methodology, Midwest, migration, military, National Archives, Native American, research in the states, and writing. Full conference information: <<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2008>>.

August 17-22, 2008

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies: The 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Chicago, Illinois, at

the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. It is being co-sponsored by IAJGS, JGS of Illinois, and Illiana JGS. Look for further information on the IAJGS website at <<http://www.iajgs.org>>.

September 3-6, 2008

Federation of Genealogical Societies: FGS's annual conference will be held in Philadelphia. Some of the topics are Mid-Atlantic States (Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware; DNA's impact on genealogy; the Philadelphia area's major ethnic groups, including English, Irish, Swedish, and German; African-American; how "material culture" can enrich family history; society management; and military records relating to a variety of conflicts. Conference website: <<http://www.fgsconference.org/index.php>>; registration information: <<http://www.fgsconference.org/registration/index.php>>; registration booklet: <<http://www.fgsconference.org/pdf/early-registration.pdf>>; conference blog (news, updates, program announcements, vendor details): <<http://www.fgsconference.org/blog/index.php>>; conference blog editor, Paula Stuart-Warren, <PaulaStuartWarren@gmail.com> or (651) 503-4803.

August 2-7, 2009

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies: The 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel. It will be co-hosted by the IAJGS and the JGS of Greater Philadelphia. ☆

Back Issues of Dorot

Several volumes of *Dorot: The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society* have been added to JGS's back-order issue list. *Dorot* contains valuable information for Jewish genealogists, such as feature and shorter articles and regular columns.

Individual back issue from volumes 24-28 (fall/winter 2002/2003-summer 2007) cost \$5 per copy. Individual back issues from volumes 6-23 (September 1984-spring/summer 2002) cost \$3 per copy. A package that includes volumes 6-23 is available for \$100. The cost of shipping is already included in all prices. Back issues of volumes 1-5 (summer 1979-April 1984) are no longer in print. Some of the highlights of back issues of *Dorot* are listed at <<http://www.jgsny.org/dorot.htm>>.

New York

19th-century Kings and Queens County Vital Records Indexes

The German Genealogy Group has added indexes to its website (<<http://www.germangenealogygroup.com>>) for 19th-century birth, marriage, and death records for Kings and Queens counties for these towns and years:

- **Brooklyn births:** Flatbush 1847–1851, 1881–1894
- **Brooklyn marriages:** Flatbush 1880–1894; Flatlands 1880–1895; Gravesend 1881–1894; New Lots 1881–1886; New Utrecht 1880–1894
- **Brooklyn deaths:** Flatbush 1847–1851, 1880–1896; Flatlands 1880–1897; Gravesend 1870–1899; New Lots 1881–1896; New Utrecht–1870 1899; other towns 1881–1896
- **Queens births:** College Point 1890–1897, Town of Flushing 1881–1897; Village of Flushing 1889–1897; Village of Far Rockaway 1890–1897; Town of Jamaica 1881–1897; Village of Jamaica 1890–1897; Long Island City 1871–1897; Newtown 1881–1897; Rockaway Beach 1897–1898; Village of Whitestone 1889–1897
- **Queens deaths:** College Point 1890–1897; Town of Far Rockaway 1890–1897; Village of Far Rockaway 1890–1897; Town of Flushing 1881–1897; Village of Flushing 1890–1897; Town of Jamaica 1881–1897; Village of Jamaica 1890–1897; Long Island City 1871–1897; Newtown 1881–1897; Richmond Hill 1896–1897; Rockaway Beach 1897–1898; Village of Whitestone 1890–1897

National

JewishGen's Basic Genealogy Course in July

JewishGen will repeat its Basic Jewish Genealogy course beginning July 1st. The course consists of eight lessons that are delivered online twice a week. The lessons are sent in PDF format and can be downloaded or read online. Individualized help is offered through an online forum where students can post their ancestral information, documents, and photographs and get answers and suggestions from the instructor and their fellow students. Students should be comfortable browsing the Internet and have three to five hours per week available to read the lessons, sample the websites,

and interact with the forum.

The lessons will cover using genealogy formats, assembling trees, organizing and tracking information, interviewing, Jewish naming conventions, Internet genealogy resources, U.S. vital records, U.S. census, and U.S. passenger manifests (Ellis Island). Two lessons will be devoted to JewishGen's website and its many databases. Lessons will also contain hints and tips on how to best use your computer and browse the Internet.

The tuition for the course is \$50.00. Those who qualify for JewishGen's Value Added Services by virtue of a \$100.00 annual donation are welcome to enroll at no additional charge. To get the waiver, do not enroll. Instead, send a note with your JewishGen ID number to <Jewishgen-Education@lyris.jewishgen.org> and you will receive instructions for the waiver.

To enroll, go to <<http://www.jewishgen.org/education>>. Select the Basic Jewish Genealogy Course. Read the details of the course, the background of the instructor, and the requirements, and then enroll by clicking the Enroll link. The course can be paid for online by credit card at the secure server or by mail by writing a check drawn on a U.S. bank. Registration is limited to sixty students. When the class is full, registration will be closed. To ask any questions about the course, send an e-mail to <Jewishgen-Education@lyris.jewishgen.org>.

American Family History and Folklife

When Congress established the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress (<<http://www.loc.gov/folklife/familyfolklife/FamilyFolklifehome.html>>) in 1976, it defined folklife as “*the traditional, expressive, shared culture of various groups in the United States: familial, ethnic, occupational, religious, and regional*” and cited the family as the first place to search for folklife. One method of gathering a family's folklife is through interviews. To this end, the American Family History and Folklife Online Resource offers instructional guides and links to other websites about planning and recording interviews, types of interviews, how to conduct an interview, what to do with the results, preservation media for documents and artifacts and instructions on how to use them, organizations that provide resources and support, additional reading, and Internet resources.

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International

Memorial Book of Jews in Germany

The second edition of *Gedenkbuch: Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der Nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland, 1933-1945* (*Memorial Book for the Victims of Jewish Persecution during Nazi Despotism, 1933-1945*), published in 2006, is available as a searchable database on the website of the German Bundesarchiv, the Federal Archives of Germany (<<http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html>>). The Google translation is at <<http://translate.google.com/translate?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bundesarchiv.de%2Fgedenkbuch%2Fvorwort.html&langpair=de%7Cen&hl=en&ie=ISO-8859-1>> (or <<http://tinyurl.com/ypfekx>>).

The full text of the book is also on the website. The database and the book are both in German. They contain information about German Jews who were deported and Jews living and working in Germany who were Polish citizens and were deported to the Polish side of the border in 1938 and 1939.

The database can be searched by surname (*Familiennamen*), first name (*Vorname*), place of residence (*Wohnort*), maiden name (*Geburtsnamen*), place (*Deportationsort*) and date of deportation (*Deportationsdatum*), and place (*Geburtsort*) and date of birth (*Geburtsdatum*).

The four-volume book contains entries for 149,625 people. The database, however, has almost 10,000 more. The number may increase as the search for the names of more victims continues.

Dead and Missing Soviet Soldiers

The database of Soviet soldiers and officers who died or were missing in action during World War II or in more recent conflicts (<<http://www.obd-memorial.ru>>) now has a One-Step search tool, “English Front End to Database of Russia’s Fallen.” Dr. Stephen Morse created the One-Step because the information in the database is written in Cyrillic.

More than nine million pages, concerning almost nineteen million military personnel, stored in the Central Archive of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense were scanned. The original documents can be viewed on the website. The database contains names, dates and places of birth, and dates and places of death. Records

from the Military Memorial Center of the Russian Federation Armed Forces in the database include the locations of military entombments, including lists of mass burial sites.

Enter a name in the One-Step in English (i.e., the Latin alphabet, also known as the Roman alphabet) and it will be transliterated into Cyrillic. Use that to search the database. The One-Step will also transliterate the Cyrillic-language names found in the database back into English. The One-Step is listed on Dr. Morse’s home page in two sections: “Dealing with Characters in Foreign Alphabets” and “Holocaust and Eastern Europe.” Before using the One-Step, read “Frequently Asked Questions” (<<http://www.stevemorse.org/russian/faq.htm>>).

The Russian Empire and Soviet Union

The Russian Empire and Soviet Union. A Guide to Manuscripts and Archival Materials in the United States by Steven A. Grant and John H. Brown, published in 1981, has been digitized. Listed in detail in the book are collections located throughout the United States in archives and manuscript repositories that relate to the Russian Empire, its antecedents, and its successor, the Soviet Union. Many non-Russian nationalities and cultures, some Slavic and some not, are included. The topics include, among others, political, historical, social, economic, religious, and military matters. Entries are in alphabetical order by state, then by city, and then by approximately 650 repositories, institutions, or individuals. The book contains a combined subject and name index. The book is freely accessible at <<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/scd0001.20071205001ru.2>> in a non-searchable page-turner format and at <<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/scd0001.20071205001ru.1>> as a searchable PDF.

Index to Eliyahu’s Branches

The 20,000-name index in Chaim Freedman’s 1997 book *Eliyahu’s Branches: The Descendants of the Vilna Gaon and His Family* has been posted on the website of the book’s publisher, Avotaynu, Inc. Born in Lithuania, Rabbi Eliyahu (born Eliyahu ben Shlomo Zalmen) was an 18th-century Torah and Talmud scholar and sage known in Jewish communities throughout Eastern Europe. Access the index from <<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/gaon.htm>>. ☆

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JGS members receive a 10% discount on purchases of books and gifts at the Center's shop. The shop carries many books of genealogical interest and Judaica for the holidays as well as everyday use.

Hours

Sun, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
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Open prior to all evening events.

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(212) 423-3200
www.TheJewishMuseum.org

JGS members receive free admission for a companion (2 for the price of 1) on presentation of a signed JGS membership card. Adults, \$12.00; senior citizens, \$10.00; students, \$7.50; under 12, free.

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Hours

Tu, Wed, Th, Sun, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

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(212) 431-0233
www.tenement.org

JGS members receive a 25% discount on admission and tours and 10% on purchases. Tours include the tenement house, the Confino family apartment, and the neighborhood walking tour. Call for special events and tour schedules. Purchase tickets at the Visitors Center/Museum Shop, 108 Orchard Street. *Free parking.*

Hours

Museum Shop: Mon, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Tu-Fri, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 10:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m.

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

JGS members receive a \$2.00 discount on the regular admission price of \$10.00 for adults, \$7.00 for seniors, and \$5.00 for students.

Hours

Sun, Mon, Tues, Th, 10:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
Wed, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. (free after 4:00 p.m.)
Fri and the eve of Jewish holidays, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (EST); 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (DST)
Closed major Jewish holidays and Thanksgiving.

THE NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
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(between Park and Lexington avenues)
(212) 755-8532 www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org

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

למען תספרו לדור אחרון, תהלים מ"ח:14