



משפחה

Quarterly Publication of
The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington

“Every man of the children of Israel shall encamp by his own standard with the ensign of his family” *Numbers 2:2*

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Diplomatic Correspondence of the United States and Russia Relating to the Jews: 1866-1906

By Suzan Wynne, JGSGW

In the mid 1980s, I was working on a number of JGSGW projects at the National Archives. While I was not given free rein in the stacks, I often interacted with specialists who grew accustomed to my search for potentially interesting material. When such material surfaced, I was often escorted into the stacks for a closer look. And, so it was that I found a bound volume with the above title. A few minutes with this volume and I knew that I was holding an extremely important historic collection of memos, articles and letters concerning Jews in Russia.

The volume opened with a letter dated January 29, 1866 from George Cook, presumably an attorney in Manhattan who was writing to William Seward, then Secretary of State about the case of Benjamin Goldberg, a naturalized US citizen who had been arrested while visiting Warsaw in connection with an inheritance. Mr. Goldberg was being detained by the authorities and held for military service despite his US passport which he had with him at the time of his arrest. Mr. Cook was asking the State Department to intervene on Mr. Goldberg's behalf.

The 265 page book, published, it would seem, by the journal, *Foreign Relations*, details how Jews were faring under Russian rule. It includes:

- translations of diplomatic correspondence about individual cases;
- material describing the pogroms of the early 1880s in Ukraine and other pogroms in various parts of Russia in that period;
- how Russia viewed naturalized US citizen Jews who were living in Russia for the purpose of doing business there;
- analysis of Russian laws concerning Jews residing in Russia;
- US responses to how those laws impact naturalized US citizens and all Jews living in Russia;
- diplomatic dispatches relating to riots against the Jews in Warsaw in 1882; and,
- laws prohibiting Jewish emigration from the Pale of Settlement to Moscow and other cities outside the Pale.

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All JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for publication in Mishpacha. Submit articles to either editor: Sharlene Kranz (SKranz_99@yahoo.com) or Donna Sellinger (dfsmetsfan@yahoo.com)

Back issues are available from Sharlene Kranz, 4336 Albemarle Street, NW, Washington, DC 20016 for \$5 each.

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The JGSGW Web Site is located at:
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw>

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The genealogical value of the material is, frankly, slight and incidental to its overall value as a record of Russian laws and diplomatic efforts by US State Department officials to challenge Russian laws and to obtain more favorable consideration for its citizens and, indeed, for all Jews living in Russia. From the tone of the correspondence, it is evident that Russia rarely altered a position based on diplomatic pressure from the US. Though Russian officials were correct in their communication, they rarely wavered from their position that foreign Jews were not welcome unless they were substantially wealthy and able to conduct commercial and industrial business under formal agreements with the government.

In early 1903, the famine among the Jews of Kishinev reached desperate proportions, prompting Jews living in the US to contact the State

Department in an attempt to get food and money to the community there. The American Embassy in St. Petersburg inquired about this kind of initiative while studiously avoiding any political discussion. The Russian government denied the existence of famine in the region and declined the offer of assistance. An article by the London Standard was inserted into a May 13 communication about this matter, which offers a first hand account of the aftermath of pogroms in Kishenev. Several days of rioting against the Jews had resulted in the deaths of over 60 Jews and the injury of hundreds more. The reporter said that some 2400 residential and commercial establishments were destroyed or damaged, virtually all of the buildings that comprised the Jewish community. The reporter indicated that, after not arriving in time to protect the Jews, the Russian military and police had, three days later, turned out in force and arrested at least 700 people. As many as 10,000 surviving Jews had fled the city.

In a very long and thorough paper written to the Department of State in September 1906 by a Mr. Spencer Eddy from the American Embassy in St. Petersburg (pp 248-259), the Jewish population of Russia was discussed from all angles, including population numbers, occupational, geographic, economic, educational and social. A most cogent comment appears on page 257:

“Without exaggeration, it might be said that the whole machine of state aimed at making it impossible for Jews to exist in Russia. Every department had something to say on the Jewish question. It seems improbable, but it is certain, that not long ago, every measure was the more popular the more it was intended to persecute and destroy the people who were considered the enemies of God and man.....”

In the next and final series of memoranda in the volume, dated September 19, 1906, mention was made of two pogroms at Bialystok and Siedlice that were going on at the time and then a telegram detailed the terrible results.

When I saw this volume, I requested that a microfilm be made of it. Subsequently, I had two copies made of the volume. The copies have been in my house for years. I had forgotten about them. It is time for them to be more available to researchers. One copy will be in our JGSGW library and the second copy will be placed with YIVO in New York. Perhaps someday, the contents of this volume will assist a budding author interested in Russian treatment of the Jews in this period and the attempts of the U.S. State Department, however feeble and ineffective they were, to alter the course of their treatment by the Russian government.

President's Message

I had the pleasure recently of attending a workshop on the subject of preservation and archiving. During this year in which we celebrate the 350th anniversary of American Jewish life, it is important for us as genealogists to think about the role of Archives. Archives help us answer the questions: What is our past and how do we know it? How do we determine the truths of the past? Are archives neutral, or are they purposefully selective in reconstructing a sense of cultural history? When Archivists decide what to save and what to destroy, how do they make these decisions? The role of the archives in the 21st Century should go beyond merely collecting facts.

Records have historically been made by the powerful and wealthy. The voices of the weak, the poor and the powerless are often excluded from these collections. The Jewish Women's Archives <www.jwa.org/> is an example of a pioneering virtual archive, using the internet as a unique method of delivering records documenting Jewish women's lives.

How will archives of the future preserve the digital records of the 21st Century, i.e. websites, chat rooms, emails? Different methods of preservation are needed for "Guttenberg" materials than for digital material. Material on acid-free paper can last for hundreds of years, whereas digital material is fragile.

We ponder these questions as we move into the new year of JGSGW programming. We have a new Research Chair, Suzan Wynne, who has begun exploring several fascinating new avenues of research for our Society to undertake.

The Society has an exciting year of programming ahead. Our meeting at the Sixth & I Streets Historic Synagogue in downtown Washington in September kicked off the year with a bang. In October we will hear from the indispensable Stephen Morse. Mark Halpern of JRI-Poland will speak to us in November, and in December a representative of HIAS, Valery Baserov will be our guest. Morning workshops before these meetings will include Estelle Guzik speaking on New York City research, and Suzan Wynne discussing unusual sources for genealogical research. Join us for a genealogical adventure.



Sharlene Kranz



JGSGW Society News

Dave Fox receives IAJGS Award

Nancy Holden

We are so proud that JGSGW member Dave Fox, leader of the Belarus SIG at JewishGen, received the IAJGS Outstanding Project Award at the 2004 IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem. Although many of us could not applaud him in person, it is so wonderful to

know that the hard work Dave has done in our behalf has been so well received. A beautiful plaque bears this testimonial:

”Outstanding Project Award:

In recognition of the numerous projects undertaken within the Belarus SIG that have generated seventeen databases containing 250,000 individual entries. Under David’s leadership and guidance, his cadre of volunteers has worked successfully with archives, translators and organizations to create a significant repository of Belarus records, documents and other information. The “All Belarus Database” is an outstanding growing and readily accessible resource used by thousands of individuals researching their Jewish roots.”

The Belarus SIG is one of the largest with membership of over 1700 members and growing. As part of JewishGen, projects such as this make the records of our ancestors available to researchers everywhere. This recognition of those who donate so much of their time in our behalf is inspirational.

Also at the IAJGS Conference, awards went to:

Warren Blatt received the “Lifetime Achievement Award,” for his tremendous contribution to JewishGen and other aspects of Jewish genealogy.

Dr. Alexander Beider received The Outstanding Contribution award in recognition of his major contributions to the specialized science of the origins and forms of proper names and surnames. Beider is the author of numerous books about Jewish names.

The Jewish Genealogical Society (New York) was named Outstanding Publication in recognition of its “Genealogical Resources New York” (2nd Edition).

Next Year in Las Vegas

Next year’s IAJGS Conference will be July 10 thru 15th at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. For more information: <http://www2.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-SouthernNevada/>

Library of Congress Exhibition Marking 350th Anniversary of Jewish Life in America Opened Sept. 9

Library of Congress Exhibition Marking 350th Anniversary of Jewish Life in America Opened Sept. 9. “From Haven to Home: A Library of Congress Exhibition Marking 350 Years of Jewish Life in America” opened on Sept. 9 in the Northwest Gallery of the Library’s Thomas Jefferson Building. On view through Dec. 18, the exhibition is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Saturday.

“The Library’s collections are rich in materials that document the history and culture of America’s Jewish community,” said Librarian of Congress James H. Billington. “Letters from George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson and Abraham Lincoln to prominent Jewish Americans and comprehensive collections of materials in a variety of formats by and about America’s Jews testify to a sympathetic, creative and reciprocal relationship between America and its Jewish community.”

“From Haven to Home” marks the anniversary of the arrival in New Amsterdam (New York City) of 23 Jews fleeing Recife, Brazil, which passed from Dutch to Portuguese rule in 1654. The exhibition features more than 150 treasures of Judaica Americana from the Library’s collections as well as items on loan from partner institutions on the congressional-Fall 2004

ally recognized Commission for Commemorating 350 Years of American Jewish History. The members of the Commission are the Library of Congress, the National Archives and Records Administration, the American Jewish Historical Society and the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives.

Featured items from the Library's collections that will be on display include:

- The original letter from the Newport Hebrew Congregation to George Washington, as well as Washington's response, both of which include the famous phrase asserting that the United States "to bigotry gives no sanction, to persecution no assistance";
- Thomas Jefferson's 1818 letter to prominent American Jewish leader Mordecai M. Noah, in which the former president cautions that "more remains to be done, for altho' we are free by the law, we are not so in practice";
- Rare colonial maps of Newport and New York showing the locations of each city's synagogue, as well as other houses of worship;
- Abraham Lincoln's notation, penciled on the back of an envelope, confirming his intent to rescind Grant's infamous Order No. 11 banning Jews as a class from areas of Tennessee, Kentucky and Mississippi;
- Vintage film footage of life on the Lower East Side of New York City at the turn of the 20th century; and
- Irving Berlin's tribute to his adopted home, "God Bless America," in his own hand.

Items on loan from the Library's partner institutions on the Commission include, from the American Jewish Historical Society, Emma Lazarus' handwritten "The New Colossus," the 1883 sonnet whose words "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free" were inscribed on the base of the Statue of Liberty in 1903; from the National Archives and Records Administration, the May 14, 1948, note from President Harry S. Truman recognizing the State of Israel, with the president's own handwritten corrections; and, from the Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives, the chilling "Riegner Telegram," which alerted Rabbi Stephen Wise in August 1942 of the Nazi plan to murder with poison gas all the Jews in occupied Europe.

Commission members will also lend items to other exhibitions commemorating the 350th anniversary that will open in Cincinnati, New York and Los Angeles between the fall of 2004 and early February 2006.

A companion book titled "From Haven to Home: 350 Years of Jewish Life in America" has been published by the Library in association with George Braziller Inc. Edited by Michael W. Grunberger, head of the Library's Hebraic Section, this compilation of essays by leading historians provides insight into the complexities of the American Jewish experience within the framework of American history and culture. The 240-page publication, with more than 100 color illustrations, is available for \$50 in bookstores nationwide and in the Library's Sales Shop. For credit card orders, call (888) 682-3557.

The exhibition, companion volume and a series of public programs are made possible by a generous grant from the Abby and Emily Rapoport Trust Fund in the Library of Congress, a fund established by Bernard and Audre Rapoport of Waco, TX and named in honor of their granddaughters, to support the Judaic programs of the Library.





Domestic Research

Ancestry.com Collection Now Includes San Francisco Passenger Lists 1890-1912

Ancestry.com has added an index and digital images for San Francisco Passenger Lists 1890-1912. Information contained in the index includes given name, surname, age, gender, ethnicity, nationality or last country of permanent residence, arrival date, port of arrival, port of departure and ship name. If a name of a friend or relative whom the individual was going to join, or a place of nativity was provided, that information is included in the index as well. Many of these items may be used to search the index which is located at <http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=7949&ti=0&r=0>. There is a fee to access the database.

First American Jewish Families” Now on Internet

The American Jewish Archives has placed the late Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern’s “First American Jewish Families” online with a searchable index at: <http://.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/FAJF/intro.html>. The book contains family trees of Jewish families that arrived during the U.S. Colonial/Federal period (1654-1838), tracing many families to the present. It provides birth, marriage and death information, dates of arrival in U.S. and other data. You can search the database by name or browse surnames by their initial letter. Clicking on a particular name brings up the page in the original book (PDF file) that shows the family tree on the page. The book itself is out of print.

Global Surname Search

Do you want to search for the presence of your surname in multiple databases on the Internet?. An Internet site located in Germany will simultaneously search up to ten different Internet locations at one time. They are the Mormon FamilySearch site, Ancestry.com, Gendex, Internment Cemetery Transcriptions, Gencircles, Rootsweb and a number of Internet search engines such as Google. You can limit the search to specific countries and can selectively choose which of the above-named sites are to be included in the search. The facility is located at <http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/index.html>

Bklyn-genealogy-info.com

Information about people who lived in Brooklyn, New York, is available at <http://www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com>. The mélange of data spans three centuries and includes various birth, cemetery, census, court, death, directories, immigration/naturalization, marriage, military, and newspaper records and other classes of information. You just might get lucky and find information pertinent to your research.

Castle Garden Utilities on Steve Morse’s One-Step Website

“Diane Jacobs” <kingart@ix.netcom.com>

I see that there are now two more new utilities on the stevemorse.org website. Steve has expanded his Ellis Island tools to allow for accessing manifests from the Castle Garden years as well. There is now a utility that lets you view the Castle Garden microfilms by specifying either the date or the roll number and frame number. And there’s another utility that lets you search for ship arrivals in the Castle Garden microfilms, and

then click on the ship found and get directly to the first frame of the microfilm. You'll need to have a subscription to ancestry.com in order to view these microfilm images.

As Steve explains on his websites, it's more than just the Castle Garden microfilms as it includes the years 1851 to 1891. The first five years were pre-Castle Garden and the last two years were from the Barge Office.

These new tools are on <http://stevemorse.org> in the "Ellis Island/Castle Garden" section. For photos you can search at <http://digital.nypl.org/mmpco/browse.cfm>

The Amazing Dr. Morse (and Friends)

Stephen P. Morse's project to compile a complete list of every ship arrival at Ellis Island from 1892 to 1924 is complete. It can be accessed at <http://stevemorse.org/ellis/boat.html>. For each arrival the database has the microfilm roll, volume, frame, date, ship-name, and ports. Now, for the first time, there is a searchable list of every ship arrival along with links to the associated manifest pages. This means you can now search for persons not found in the Ellis Island Database because of misspelling or misindexing if you know the name of the ship on which the immigrant came. The list consists of a total of 84,000 ship arrivals.

Yizkor Book Reproductions from National Yiddish Book Center

from Nu? What's Nu?

The National Yiddish Book Center has now made hundreds of yizkor (Holocaust memorial) books available for purchase. They are digital reproductions of the original books. The list can be viewed at <http://yiddishbookcenter.org/+10151>. Each cost \$90 for members and \$120 to non-members. Membership is only \$36 per year.

The New York Public Library announced plans last Spring to put digitized images of its complete collection of yizkor books—more than 700 books—on the Internet. At that time they placed 9 of these books representing 12 towns at their site. To date, no additional yizkor books have been added. The portal to this collection is at http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbooks_intro.cfm

Photos of New York Buildings

Those readers with roots in New York may be interesting in dressing up their family history books or web sites with pictures of the buildings in which their ancestors lived. The New York City Municipal Archives is now selling through the Internet pictures of every building in New York City as they existed in 1939-41. They were photographed for tax purposes. You can order the photos at <http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/taxphotos/home.shtml>. The cost is \$33. \$25 for the photograph, \$3 for shipping and \$5 for the archives to determine the building/lot number if all you know is the street address. When visiting the site, click on some of the items to the left of the screen to display other pictures of New York City in the past including aerial and panoramic views, bridges, landmarks, and other scenes.

Records and Images on-line

Digital images of tombstones, Declarations of Intention and school yearbook pages are becoming available on line through www.jewishdata.com.





Overseas Research

General Register Office for England & Wales Announces new online ordering system

Britain's General Register Office, where records of births, marriages and deaths for England and Wales from 1837 to 18 months ago are recorded, is now offering an online ordering service. To see the new website go to www.gro.gov.uk and click on Family Records Centre.

Index to Hamburg Emigrants Passes 2 Million Mark

The project to index all persons who emigrated from the Port of Hamburg, Germany, from 1850 to 1934 has passed the two million mark. The Internet site at <http://www.linktoyourroots.hamburg.de/> now has all emigrants from 1890-1906.

The index provides basic information about the emigrant: name, country/state of origin, approximate age, and destination. For a fee, you can receive an abstract of the entire entry from the ship's manifest. The cost for an abstract is \$20 for 1-3 persons, \$30 4-10 persons, \$40 for 11-20, and \$50 for 21-30 persons. Because it is an abstract rather than the actual manifest, each member of a family of three on a specific page would have his/her own abstract. Therefore, they would count as three persons if you requested information about all three. Funds are used to support the Internet site.

ITS Records May Be Available to the Public

After years of pressure to make their records more accessible to the public, the International Tracing Service of the International Committee of the Red Cross has announced it will open its archives to researchers. What is meant by "open its archives" and who constitutes a "researcher" has not been defined.

ITS, located in Arolsen, Germany, has been reluctant to open its records to the public citing privacy reasons. Germany has one of the most restrictive privacy laws in the world. ITS is run by representatives from 11 nations: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom and the United States. Pressure from the UK, US and Israel that need-to-know is now more significant than privacy issues undoubtedly helped in convincing ITS to reconsider its policy.

ITS was founded in 1943. It claims to have information relating to 17 million people caught up in World War II including Jews and non-Jews. Each record places an individual at a certain place at a certain time. Information was taken from surviving concentration camp records, Deportation lists, refugee camp lists and other sources. A duplicate copy of their index and records through 1955 is at Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. More information about ITS can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/holocaust/its.htm> and <http://www.its-arolsen.org/>.

Argentinean Jewish Death Index Online

AMIA, Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina, has placed a death index for Buenos Aires cemeteries at their website www.amia.org.ar/difuntos.asp. The information provided is name, date of death, cemetery where the person is buried and information that gives the exact location within the cemetery. In the case of married women, the maiden

name is given also. The site is in Spanish but the search engine is quite simple. The title of the page is Busqueda de difuntos (Search for Deceased); the first entry is Ingrese el apellido (Insert last name); the second entry is Elija el cementerio (Choose the cemetery- normally leave this blank).

News From JRI-Poland

Stanley Diamond, SMSDIAMOND@aol.com
Executive Director, Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

Research Guide now available in four languages

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland is pleased to announce the 2004 edition of the JRI-Poland Research Guide is now available online – in four languages. The guides are in PDF format and may be downloaded from the home page at www.jri-poland.org

The English version of the Research Guide has been updated and distributed each year to attendees at the International Jewish Genealogical Conferences, as well as made available on our website. We hope the French, Hebrew and Spanish editions will make it possible for many more family historians with an interest in Polish Jewish research to become familiar with the activities of JRI-Poland as well as to learn some of the basic research techniques outlined in the guide.

On behalf of JRI-Poland I would like to express our sincerest appreciation to the world-wide group of contributors to the four versions of the Research Guide. They are:

- Morris Spector, Connecticut, the graphic designer for the Research Guide since the first of the annual editions was published in 1998.
- Serge Reich and Nicole Berline of France for the French translation.
- Yocheved Klausner of Israel for the Hebrew translation.
- Carlos Glikson of Argentina for the Spanish translation.
- Susan Garfield Shulman of D-Zign, Montreal, for her valued assistance in the layout of the French and Spanish editions.

And, of course, thanks to our webmaster, Earl Wertheimer for bringing the guides to life on our website in such a colorful fashion.

We urge all friends of JRI-Poland to bring the Research Guide to the attention of fellow researchers, family members and friends – those active in genealogy as well as others who may not be aware of the treasures that are available in the Jewish records of Poland.

New On-line Databases Available

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland is delighted to announce that new data was added to our database just prior to the conference in Jerusalem.

Almost 200,000 new entries for 66 towns were added. Jewish Records Indexing Poland < www.jri-poland.org > now has 2.4 million indices to Polish Jewish records in its searchable database.

In many cases, this is the first time that data for some towns has been included in the JRI-Poland database. In addition, we have updated the data for a number of towns as records for later years became available. Thus, in some instances, we have data up to 1903, the cut-off year for the 100 year Polish privacy rule.

Data for 12 Shtetl CO-OPS were added which included the completion of 32 LDS microfilms.

We are listing the towns below with their Gubernia code (the first two letters of the name of their Gubernia) so that you can focus your search by Gubernia.

If you have questions about the specific years and types of records in the database for your town, go to the "Your Town" feature on the JRI-Poland website at www.jri-poland.org. You will find links there to your Town Leader or Shtetl CO-OP Coordinator who will be able to help answer your questions.

Polish State Archives online databases

"Logan J. Kleinwaks" <kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu>

Online databases of the Polish State Archives can be found at <http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/index.eng.html>. Among these, the IZA database permits a search by personal name. The IZA database covers only 12% of Polish State Archives fonds, according to this website.

News about Brest-Litovsk (Brisk)

Joan Parker, Immediate Past President of the JGS of Greater Miami
joanparker@intergate.com

Researchers of Brest-Litovsk (Brisk), Russia have started a ShtetLink. This can be found at: <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/brest/home.html> and may be of interest to your members whose ancestors were born, died, married or emigrated from Brest-Litovsk, Russia (now, Brest, Belarus). One of the most important projects that the Brest, Belarus Research SIG is undertaking is the research of our ancestral records that are currently housed in the Minsk Archives. More information about this research project can be found at: http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/brest/esearch_Minsk_Archives_2004.html.

Also in December 2003, there was some private research done in the above mentioned Archives by four (4) individuals. Part of the results of this research can be found at: http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/brest/Research_Minsk_Archives_Dec_2003.html

The Group is planning a trip to Brest in 2005. More information can be found at: http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/brest/Brest_Trip.html

In addition a group of Briskers have organized the Brest, Belarus Research SIG. Any one interested in joining this FREE site should go to: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/brest_belarus/

Yad Vashem Plans to Launch Its Names Database on November 22

Yaacov Lozowick, archivist of Yad Vashem, has announced the date for launching the public access to their Central Database of Holocaust Victims' Names will be November 22.

The database consists of an index to some four million digitized records.



Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington Upcoming Programs

October 17 at Har Shalom:

One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools:

Stephen Morse

The One-Step website started out as an aid for finding passengers in the Ellis Island database. Shortly afterwards it was expanded to help with searching in the 1930 census.

Over the years it has continued to evolve and today includes nearly 40 web-based tools divided into eight separate categories ranging from genealogical searches to astronomical calculations to Israeli phonebook lookups. This presentation will describe the range of tools available and give the highlights of each one.

Stephen Morse is an amateur genealogist who has been researching his Russian-Jewish origins for the past few years. His websites on searching the Ellis Island database and the 1930 census have attracted attention worldwide. He was the recipient of the IAJGS Outstanding Contribution Award in 2003.

In his other life, Steve is a computer professional who has spent a career alternately doing research, development, teaching, consulting, and writing. He is best known as the designer of the Intel 8086 microprocessor (grandfather of today's Pentium processor) which sparked the PC revolution twenty years ago. He has a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and still enjoys tinkering with electronics in his spare time.

November 21 at Har Shalom

What's New in JRI-Poland and Interpreting Galician Vital Records:

Mark Halpern

Mark Halpern's talk will combine two talks given at this year's Jewish Genealogy Conference in Jerusalem - Learn about new developments in the JRI-Poland project as well as the many other initiatives being launched and planned. The talk will include examples of the family connections that have resulted from using the JRI-Poland database. Learn about the historical background for Galician Jewish records and develop strategies for acquiring vital records with the most relevant genealogical information - which types of records and which years as well as other important hints.

Mark Halpern has been actively researching his Polish and Galician roots for the last eight years. Mark is a board member of Jewish Records Indexing - Poland. He coordinates the JRI-Poland ordering process, the indexing of eastern Galician records at the AGAD Archives in Warsaw and the indexing at the Bialystok Archives. He is also President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGSGP). He is the originator and coordinator of BIALYGen, the Bialystok Region Jewish Genealogy Group and coordinates a project to index and restore the Jewish Cemetery in Bialystok, Poland. Mark has written many articles concerning Galician records for The Galitzianer.

December 19 at Magen David Synagogue

Racing With Death - HIAS (HICEM) Lisbon Files (1940 - 1945):

Valery Bazarov, Director HIAS Location and Family History Services.

In 1940, after the German invasion of France, the HICEM office in Paris was closed and relocated to Marseille. Thereafter, a permanent European headquarters was re-established in Lisbon, Portugal. The unique geographical and political position of neutral Portugal made Lisbon the only European port of departure for North and South America.

HICEM used Lisbon as a gathering place for refugees and from there it directed the daily rescue operations of European Jewry. Thousands of Jewish refugees including some very prominent European intellectuals and politicians listed in the Nazi "want" list were saved through these efforts.

The HICEM/HIAS collection at the YIVO Archives consists of 171 Microfilm reels and covers the period from 1940 through 1951 with the bulk of the records created during the World War II years (1940-1945). The records relate to the principal function of HIAS: providing assistance to Jewish refugees wishing to emigrate from Europe to all parts of the world.

The collection includes chronological files of correspondence with HICEM/HIAS offices worldwide and other refugee aid organizations (Jewish and non-Jewish); statistical and financial reports; passenger lists of ships departing Lisbon for the U.S. and South America; travel document requests and departure cards; and family-search requests; and lists of survivors of the concentration camps. The registry case files maintained in Lisbon during World War II are arranged alphabetically by the refugee's last name.

During the presentation, the lecturer will review different components of the collection demonstrating original documents and case files. In addition to invaluable genealogical information, the files reveal the dramas and tragedies the families were experiencing during their escape from the Nazi-occupied territories and the odds they faced in their desperate attempts to leave Europe.

Future JGSGW Meeting Dates 2004-2005

October 17 at Har Shalom - Stephen Morse of stephenmorse.com
11AM Workshop: Estelle Guzik, New York City research
November 21 at Har Shalom - Mark Halpern, JRI-Poland
11AM Workshop: Suzan Wynne, Unusual sources for research
November 21 at Har Shalom
December 19 at Magen David Synagogue - Valery Bazarov, HIAS
January 16, 2005 at Har Shalom - Sunday afternoon at the movies
February 13 at Har Shalom - Presenting your research
March 13 at Har Shalom - Ask the Experts
April 10 at Har Shalom
May 15 - site TBD - Yale Reisner
June 26 - Northern Virginia JCC

Mark the Date!

JGSGW is the sponsor of a book talk by member Sallyann Sack at the JCC/Rockville Book Fair on Sunday November 7 at 4PM. Sallyann will discuss her new publication: [The Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy.](#) JGSGW members will get reserved seating.





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