



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*

Volume 24 , Number 2

Spring 2005

THE 25TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

JULY 10-15, 2005

**EARLY REGISTRATION RATES AVAILABLE THROUGH MAY 1!
ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE AT:**

www.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/Shelley/home.htm

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada (JGSSN) is proud to be the host society for the 25th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. We are inviting all who have an interest in finding their family history to join us.

This Conference has several new features to help advance your research efforts. You'll be introduced to new databases and exposed to an array of topics that will only whet your appetite for more. Conference attendees will be able to question a number of experts, and meet with people researching the same family lines or ancestral towns.

Plans for the Conference include activities and events for registrants and their spouses or companions that will appeal to all. The comprehensive Conference will be organized around themes so that registrants can easily attend multiple sessions related to their interests. Subjects will be presented in a variety of formats such as lectures, workshops, hands-on demonstrations, panel discussions, films, book and author talks and author signings. Time will be available to have discussions, ask questions and interact with the presenters. "Breakfast with the Expert" sessions will be available throughout the Conference.

Mishpacha

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Mishpacha is the quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc., serving Washington, Northern Virginia, and the Maryland suburbs.

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Appropriate ads the size of a business card will be accepted. The cost is \$15 for one submission or \$50 for one year (4 issues)

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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>



Library



Mar 2005 JGSGW Library News

by Judy Mostyn White, JGSGW librarian

Greetings and Happy Family Hunting!

The JGSGW library collection is housed at:

The Isaac Franck Collection [IFC]
formerly called the Isaac Franck Jewish Public Library
4928 Wyaconda Road
Rockville, MD 20852
Telephone: 301-255-1970



The IFC hours change seasonally, but generally they are open all day on Mondays and Wednesdays, afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and the morning of the fourth Sunday of the month. Always call them first to check their hours before going to use our library. Directions to our library can be found on our web site, under Resources, Library.

JGSGW members who wish to use our library should go to the main desk of the IFC. There, you sign in, and be sure to put JGSGW in the appropriate category beside your name. You will receive a key to our locked cabinets. Unlock the doors, and use our materials. PLEASE return materials to the same location from which you took them. Close and lock our cabinets, and return the key to the person at the main desk.

Virginia members should be aware of the Jack Klein Memorial Library of Jewish Genealogy & History, located at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, 703-370-9400. Contact JGSGW member, Faith Klein, for more information.

THANK YOU

Here's a THANK YOU to the following library volunteers who have helped since last time:

JGSGW member, PETER LANDE, and US Holocaust Memorial Museum archivist, MICHLEAN AMIR, for their help in our acquisition of a 19 volume set of passenger and immigration indexes. When Peter learned that the US Holocaust Memorial Museum library didn't want this set anymore, he arranged for them to be donated to our library. Each day Michlean Amir would carry one of these large, heavy volumes home with her, and when I met her next, she gave me the entire set for our library. For a full description of this set, see the first item in the new books section of this article.

IFC volunteer, DAN GROSS, for frequent general help at the library, especially with the catalog.

LIBRARY NEWS

JGSGW is hoping to have a catalog of the entire library holdings for our 25th Anniversary celebration, which is coming up soon. Since I spend most of my time at the library cataloging books and filing periodicals, I need some help with cataloging the rest of the maps, CDs, microfiche and loose papers. Can you help? If so, please contact me so we can arrange a time for us both to go work at our library. Generally Mondays and Wednesdays are best for me. My phone number and new email address are at the bottom of this article. PLEASE HELP!

NEW BOOKS

CS 68 .F537; "Passenger & immigration lists index," 19 volumes, various dates 1981-2000, edited by P. William Filby and Mary K. Meyer. Guide to published arrival records of passengers who came to the US & Canada 17th, 18th, 19th centuries; includes name, age, place and year of arrival, source of information, page where name found, accompanying passengers and relationship. Donated by the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, through the help of Peter Lande and Michlean Amir. Thank you.

DS 135 .P62 N657; "Remembrance book Nowy-Targ & vicinity" edited by Michael Walzer-Fass, published 1979. English translation of Yizkor book, Sefer Novi-Targ (Poland). Includes Zakopane, Charni Dunaietz, Rabka, Yordanov, Shchavnitza, Kroshchenko, Yablunka & Makov Podhalanski. Donated by Stephanie Weiner. Thank you, Stephanie.

DS 135 .F85 G55; "Recherches cimetiére en milieu juif" by Plaut Gilles, published 1997. The Jewish cemetery of Montparnasse, Paris, France, Division V. Includes index. In French. Donated by Renée Payne. Thank you, Renée.

DS 125.3 .A2 W5: "Who's who in world Jewry", the volume for 1955, and the volume for 1972. The volume for 1972 was donated by JGSGW member, Sonia Pasis. Thank you, Sonia.

CS 3010 .V5513; "Ziv ha-shemot" by Yeshay Vilhelm, published 1998. What's in a name: laws and customs regarding the naming of children and related topics, with list of Hebrew verses corresponding to names of men and women, and bibliography, in Hebrew.

DS 135 .L5 K67; "The Jewish State Museum of Lithuania" by Rachel Kostanian, published 1996. Includes bibliography. Donated by JGSGW member, Harold Rhode. Thank you, Harold.

DS 135 .A88 A8; "Journal of the Australian Jewish Historical Society" volume 14 1998, part 3. Various articles.

OLD BOOKS

Here are some of our older books that have been entered some time ago into the computer system of the IFC, with a description and their new call numbers:

Z 6373 .P7 A74; "Guide to the sources for the history of the Jews in Poland in the Central Archives" compiled by A. Teller, H. Volovici, and H. Assouline, published 1988. Bibliography and microform catalogs of the Jews in Poland. Old call number G40.2.

Z 6373 .U5 S38; "A guide to Yivo's landsmanshaftn archive" by Rosaline Schwartz and Susan Milamed, published 1986. Includes index and one folded map inserted. Old call number RG24.1.

Z 6374 .B5 E44; "Auswahlbibliographie zur jüdischen Familienforschung" by Angelika C. Ellmann-Kruger, published 1992. Index and bibliographies of selected topics such as names, German Jews abroad, German Jews in the Third Reich; in German. Old call number RG7.2. Donated by JGSGW member, Sallyann Sack. Thank you, Sallyann.

CS 16 .B32 1983; "Write it right: a manual for writing family histories and genealogies" by Donald Ray Barnes and Richard S. Lackey, 1st ed. published 1983. Proper formats, citations, etc. for writing family histories, includes index. Old call number RG54.1.

CS 42.7 .K46 1994; "International vital records handbook" 3rd ed. published 1994. Where and how to send for birth, marriage and death records. Old call number RG27.1.

CS 71 .B44375 1980; "Rimmonim bells, ten generations of the Behrman, Drucker, Hahn, Stockler and Sztynberg families" 1st ed. by Richard J. Alperin, published 1980. Includes bibliography and errata slip. Old call number FH3.1.

DS 135 .G4 F6413; "The Jewish community of Frankfurt: a genealogical study 1349-1849" by Alexander Dietz, published 1988. History, pedigrees 1359-1849, illustrations, name and place indexes, with bibliography. Old call number G27.

If you have any questions or comments about our library, suggestions for new purchases, or want to volunteer, you can reach me at 301-977-0154, or at judydostyn@comcast.net. Just please don't telephone between 6-8 pm or weekend mornings. Till next time, Happy family hunting!





**Making a Cultural Match:
The National Building Museum and the
Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington
Join Forces to Present an Exhibition on Washington Jewish Life**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In a town where political parties and organizations often work at cross purposes, two Washington cultural institutions — the National Building Museum and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington — are working together to make an exhibition that lost its venue possible.

The exhibition *Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community* was originally scheduled to take place at the City Museum of Washington D.C., but after that institution suddenly closed, the exhibition was left without a home. Now, the National Building Museum and the Society are cooperating to present the Society's exhibition *Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community*. The exhibition is slated to be on view in second-floor galleries at the National Building Museum from June 24, 2005 through January 8, 2006.

Following the closure of the City Museum, the Society's Executive Director Laura Apelbaum began the search for a new venue for *Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community*. Since much of the Jewish community's early history (including its historic 1876 synagogue) is rooted downtown, the Society felt an urgency to find a venue that reflected that history.

Enter the National Building Museum, whose home is the former Pension Building and a central site in the old downtown neighborhood where the Jewish community began. Solidifying the connection, the Society's exhibition expands on issues explored in the Museum's current long-term exhibition *Washington: Symbol and City*, about the growth and development of Washington, D.C., and its vibrant neighborhoods. Thus, the suitable partnership was formed, and both parties agreed to work together to bring the exhibition to the public.

"The Society's exhibition helps the National Building Museum continue its engagement with issues concerning the growth and development of Washington" said Chase Rynd, executive director of the National Building Museum. "Plus, as part of the Museum's strategic plan, we are seeking to put the word 'partnership' into practice and to work with other cultural institutions when it makes sense. This is a perfect opportunity to do so."

"Realizing that much of Jewish Washington's early history is rooted downtown in the Spring 2005

National Building Museum's neighborhood, and our exhibition explores issues important to the NBM, we were eager to partner with them for the show's presentation," Laura Apelbaum, executive director of the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington said. "Partnering with the NBM really is a perfect shiddach (match)."

Serving as "matchmaker" was Kathy Smith, executive director of Cultural Tourism DC. When she learned that the Society's long-planned exhibition had been left in the lurch with the City Museum's closing, Smith (who has been finding ways for the Washington's cultural institutions to work together for years) orchestrated the initial contact and conversation between the two institutions. "The East end of Downtown is coming into its own as a destination rich in historical and Cultural destinations, and the National Building Museum and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington are key to interpreting that part of town," she said. "This is a great partnership."

Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community will explore the neighborhoods, synagogues, and institutions that the local Jewish community has built as it spread from a tight cluster of synagogues and shops along 7th Street, up Georgia Avenue and 16th Street and into the Maryland and Northern Virginia suburbs. As in the National Building Museum's exhibition Washington: Symbol and City, visitors will explore the interplay of hometown Washington and the federal city. In Washington: Symbol and City the story of the Society's historic 1876 Synagogue, including its relocation to prevent demolition and its restoration, is presented. The Synagogue's story is expanded on in Jewish Washington, as are other stories that will provide visitors an opportunity to learn about one particular community in Washington in more detail.

The Museum is located at 401 F Street NW, Washington, D.C. Museum hours are Monday through Saturday from 10 am to 5 pm and Sunday from 11am to 5 pm. Admission is free. Museum Shop. Café. Public inquiries: 202.272.2448 or visit www.nbm.org.



MARCH-MAY 2005 SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY

YIVO at 80: Triumphs and Treasures Opening April 6

This exhibit celebrates the 80th Anniversary of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research by displaying its collections of more than 22 million archival pieces and 350,000 books related to Eastern European Jewry. On view will be rare rabbinical texts, posters, sheet music, DP camp photos and unique Judaica.

Lawyers without Rights through April 15, 2005

This exhibit examines the role of Jewish lawyers in Germany after 1933, and their central role in such legal issues as sociology, law, women's rights, and free speech. Descriptions of several prominent lawyers of that era and documents are mounted on panels. Photos and materials from the Leo Baeck Institute archives.

A Lifeline for Israel: The Hadassah Medical Organization, 1913-1967 through April 30, 2005

Through artifacts, historical photos and text, the exhibit traces the course of a medical organization that was begun by American Jewish volunteer women, who incorporated in 1912 as Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. The exhibit was made possible by generous grants from the Smart Family Foundation and Hadassah with the cooperation of the American Jewish Historical Society.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Starting Over: The Immigrant Experience of German Jews in America, 1830-1945
Opens May 15th, 2005**

2005 marks the 50th anniversary of the Leo Baeck Institute as well as a major milestone in American history: the 350th anniversary of the arrival of the first Jews to America. With this as backdrop and context, the LBI will mount an exhibit that focuses specifically on the contributions of German-speaking Jews to their new homeland.

Greetings from Home: 350 Years of American Jewish Life Opens May 17th, 2005

Greetings from Home: 350 Years of American Jewish Life is a landmark exhibition that tells the story of the first Jewish people to arrive in America.

The Center for Jewish History is located at 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues) in New York City. Box Office: (917) 606-8200 to make reservations. General Information: (212) 294-8301. Open Monday - Thursday 9am to 5:30pm; Friday 9am to 2pm; Sunday 11am to 5pm.



ANNOUNCEMENT OF GROUP TRIP TO

WESTERN BELARUS

(Bereza, Brest, Cherne, Divin, Drogichin, Gorodets, Grodno, Kamenets, Kobrin, Krasnoye, Linovo, Malech, Malorita, Pinsk, Pruzhany, Selets, Shereshevo, Tevli, Volya, Wysokie, Zapрудy, Zhaber, Zhabinka)

EASTERN POLAND

(Bialystok, Konstantynow Nad Bugiem, Lukow, Siedice, Terespol)

SEPTEMBER 2005

A group of people who belong to the Brest, Belarus Research SIG and additional people from around the world are planning a trip to Brest with individual guided one or more days in
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two day side trips to any Shtetl(s) of your choice within 100 kilometer radius of Brest (see web page for complete details).

- A special two (2) day side trip is planned to Pinsk.
- A special two (2) day side trip is planned to Grodno.

The trip starts on September 20, 2005. The duration is nine (9) nights and the land only cost is about US \$1,850 (without dinners) or about US \$2,100 (with dinners every night except Saturday).

- The complete itinerary can be seen at:
- http://www.brest-belarus.com/Brest_Trip.shtml

To join the group trip to Brest and the surrounding Shtetls and/or to ask any questions about this trip, please contact in Los Angeles, California, USA (If you want to call, please only between the hours of 9AM - 6PM California time, Monday through Friday): Larry Schenker - Tel: 310 441-1488

Larry Schenker, Brest, Belarus Research SIG

WEBMASTER http://www.brest-belarus.com/Brest_Trip.shtml

E-mail: lpasca@earthlink.net



Our condolences to JGSGW Recording Secretary Richard Meyersburg on the death of his wife Georgia Garner Meyersburg on February 4, 2005.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Friends at JGSGW,



We would like to thank so many of you for coming to our presentation on Preserving Jewish Historical Sites in Belarus. It does make a difference that somewhere in America people are still care about the past of tiny Belarus. It doesn't take long to forget our tragic past and move on to the future. For Belarus it took 70 long years, but thanks to people like you who remind us that there is no future without knowing and remembering our past. Meeting with you helps us to feel your interest and support in a matter of preservation and research of sights of Jewish Heritage in Belarus. It was a pleasure to speak with you.

We wish you and your families' good luck in your research. We are hoping that some of you will come to visit us in Minsk.

Yuri & Irina Dorn.

Selected manuscript volumes from the Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States now online

"Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States," a presentation of selected manuscript volumes from the Library of Congress' Manuscript Division, is now available on the Global Gateway Web site at <http://international.loc.gov/intldl/pldehtml/>

Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States is a presentation of the first 13 manuscript volumes of a larger collection of 111 volumes compiled in Poland in 1926 and delivered to President Calvin Coolidge at the White House to honor the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

Richly illustrated with original works by prominent Polish graphic artists, the collection includes the greetings and signatures of national, provincial, and local government officials, representatives of religious, social, business, academic, and military institutions, and approximately five-and-a-half million school children. At President Coolidge's behest, this unique gift was transferred to the Library of Congress, where it remained largely forgotten for some seven decades. In 1996 the collection was "rediscovered" serendipitously during the visit of Polish First Lady Jolanta Kwasniewska and other dignitaries from the Embassy of Poland. The collection generated such intense interest that the Library, in cooperation with the Embassy of Poland, organized a special program on May 2, 1997 to showcase this symbol of the enduring friendship between Poland and the United States.

This searchable online presentation is a complete facsimile of the six oversized presentation volumes and the seven volumes of secondary school signatures. More than an impressive artifact, the collection is an important, largely unexplored primary source for genealogical, historical, and sociological research for it includes the signatures of nearly one-sixth of the population of Poland as it existed in 1926.

The most convenient access to both the digital images (volumes 1-13) and to the index of elementary school place names (volumes 14-110) is through the European Division Homepage. The URL for the site is

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/egwinv/egwdir.html>



Military Records on-line

Joan Parker, Immediate Past President, JGS of Greater Miami, Inc.

Online Military Indexes, Records & Rosters of Soldiers

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/>

How to Find World War One Draft Cards 1917-1918

<http://www.genealogybranches.com/worldwaronedraftcards.html>

How to Order Military & Pension Records for Union Civil War Veterans (by Cyndi

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Howells)

<http://www.oz.net/~cyndihow/pensions.htm>

Confederate Civil War Pension Records - Where to Order Them (listed by state)

http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/military/confederate_pension_records.html

Online World War II Indexes & Records

<http://www.militaryindexes.com/worldwartwo/>

Be sure to check the section called "Where to Order Records." Be aware that many of the records were lost in a fire in 1973.



Volunteer Effort Announced

Joshua Levy <joshualevy@yahoo.com>

The Jewish Temple Archive Project (JTAP) is a volunteer project to create a list of archives of Jewish temples for genealogical purposes. Each entry will contain the temple's location, years of operation, and the current location of its archives. (In the future there might be an inventory, also.) This will make it easy for genealogical researchers to find Jewish temple records for their ancestors based on where and when their ancestors lived.

Because there are over 3000 synagogues right now (and far more in operation in the past), I can use a lot of help in tracking down the archives for these congregations. So, if you are interested in volunteering, please email me (joshualevy@yahoo.com) .

Volunteers will be asked to put in 2-5 hours per month, although you can surely put in more! Most of the work will be emailing or calling temples and asking them about their archives. Sample emails and call scripts will be available, or you can use your own.



Estonia's Jewish Community Starts Building New Synagogue in Tallinn

By Jari Tanner, Associated Press Writer

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) - Estonia's Jewish community broke ground Thursday on a new synagogue to replace the house of worship destroyed by bombing in World War II.

More than 4,300 Jews lived in the Baltic state before the war, but the Soviet occupation of Estonia in 1940 led to the abrupt end of Jewish cultural autonomy and hundreds of Jews were deported.

Hundreds more were sent to concentration camps when the Nazis invaded in 1941.

Now, some 3,000 Jews live in Estonia, most of them in the capital, Tallinn, and others in the towns of Kohtla-Jarve, Narva and Tartu.

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"It will be a synagogue for all Jews living in Estonia," Cilja Laud, a spokeswoman for Jewish Community of Estonia, told The Associated Press.

The new 200-seat synagogue with a pillar-covered entrance is being built next to the Estonian Jewish Community center and school, Laud said. Besides hosting worship services, the synagogue will also prepare and distribute kosher foods.

Tallinn's last synagogue was built in 1882 and destroyed in 1944 as Nazis fled the country ahead of the Soviet Red Army.

The International Commission for the Investigation of Crimes against Humanity has said that some 10,000 Jews of all origins, deported by the Nazis to Estonia from Germany, Lithuania and Poland among others, were killed there during World War II.

The cost of the synagogue was not revealed, but Laud said the U.S.-based Rohr Family Foundation was shouldering most of the costs.

"But it's a major project so we also hope to receive local donations from businesses and other organizations," she said.




Jewish Herald-Voice Indexing Project Underway

Don Teter, Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society

Our organization is undertaking a project to index all of the life cycle events (births, deaths, engagements, marriages, bar/bas mitzvahs, unveilings, birthdays, anniversaries) published in the Houston TX Jewish Herald-Voice since its founding in 1908. The index of articles from 1908-1933 may be found on JewishGen. Additional years will be added as completed.

To access the database open JewishGen and click on "Databases" under "Research", then click on "America" and the "Houston Jewish Herald-Voice Database". Instructions for using it and obtaining copies of the articles are given. It should be noted that in the index posted to date, news from cities all over the state was sent in and published. In the ensuing years this has not been done as frequently.



A Catalogue of Genocide Database Project Eventually Will Document Most of the 6 Million Jews Killed in the Holocaust

By Bill Broadway, Washington Post Staff Writer
Saturday, December 11, 2004; Page B09

The lives of thousands of Holocaust victims are coming to light in a new database that allows anyone with an Internet connection to research the fate of family members and friends sent to Nazi death camps.
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More than 3 million names are included in the digital archive, which was launched last month by Yad Vashem, the Holocaust center in Jerusalem. The ultimate goal is to have most or all of the estimated 6 million Jews who were executed, Avner Shalev, chairman of Yad Vashem's directorate, said in a telephone interview from Israel.

Until now, family members and friends who contributed the names of victims did so by submitting forms called testimonies and mailing or delivered them to Yad Vashem, which has collected biographies, journals, photographs, letters and other documents since the 1950s.

With the introduction of the \$22 million database, contributors can sit down at a computer, type the address www.yadvashem.org into a Web browser, enter the database and click on "submit new pages of testimony." Up comes a form for the victim's name or names, place of birth, profession, wartime "travails" (deportation, ghetto, camp, death march, hiding, escape, resistance), approximate age at death and other details.

Those looking for people already on the list use the sophisticated search engine to comb through millions of pages of information by entering the person's first or last name, including hundreds of variants: birth date, country of residence, names of other family members and the submitter's name.

Each of the testimonies "stands in lieu of a tombstone that doesn't exist," said Sallyann Sack, a Bethesda psychologist who founded the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington 24 years ago and is editor of *Avotaynu*, an international journal of Jewish genealogy.

Sack said it is the equivalent of giving an identity to thousands of men, women and children who died nameless, often placed in mass graves, or no graves at all, and whose destinies could only be guessed at by relatives who eluded the death trains by hiding or escaping to other countries.

Two-thirds of the names were obtained from testimonies submitted to Yad Vashem since the 1950s, most of them scanned into computers and digitally categorized over a six months in 1999, Shalev said. About 1,000 people, most of them college students in Jerusalem, worked in two shifts to record the documents.

The remaining 1 million names were gleaned from other computerized lists, including deportation, camp and ghetto records.

When possible, biographical information is cross-checked with other documents, including ship registries and postwar accounts written by survivors, Shalev said. Fact-checkers also examine testimonies for historical probability, such as location of execution sites based on a person's country of birth, and look for possible duplications.

Although submitters occasionally provide incorrect details because of the complexity of events and circumstances surrounding the Holocaust, Shalev said, he knows of no cases of deliberate misrepresentation.

The database, which can be accessed in English or Hebrew and is free of charge, is unprecedented in scope and availability of information, said Barbara Vines Little, president of the Arlington-based National Genealogical Society.

"This is a unique collection [of a kind] that does not exist on any other level," she said. "Individuals will be able to use this information to connect to living family members that they did not know existed and to rebuild families about which they knew little or nothing."

One of the early users was Jerry Zeisler, a 50-year-old business consultant from Leesburg who logged on within hours of the launch Nov. 22 to search for members of his mother's family. He and his sister, Bonnie Frederics of Tucson, worked simultaneously while e-mailing each other.

Among the testimonies they found were those of Zlata Adelson, a great-grandmother of theirs who was born in Butrimantz (Butrimonys), Lithuania, in 1879, and Benzion Adelson, her son born in 1911. Zeisler and Frederics knew that Zlata and Benzion had died in 1941 because they were listed in a postwar account of the Jews of Butrimantz -- one of many such books, called yizkor, written by survivors who wanted to chronicle the lives of those who had died.

They also hit upon a surprise: The person who submitted the victims' names, in 1955, was Reuven Adelson, another son whom surviving family members assumed had died in the Shoah with his mother and brother. Reuven was pictured with Benzion in the yizkor book but was not among those listed as killed in 1941.

According to the database, Reuven had left Lithuania in 1939, apparently for Palestine. So Zeisler and Frederics got in touch with Elizabeth Levy, a genealogist they met on another Web site who lives in Israel. Levy called the Edelsons listed in the telephone white pages, and one turned out to be Reuven's widow, who told her she has three grown children and a grandchild in Israel.

Reuven died in 1975 in an automobile accident, never having again seen his sister -- Zeisler's grandmother -- and other family members who immigrated to the United States, despite having made efforts to do so.

"This puts closure on one chapter and opens up another with cousins in Israel we knew nothing about," Zeisler said. "It's been very, very exciting."

Shalev, 65, said that most of his family died in Polish death camps and that he has made every effort to ensure that all are included in the database. But there are some holes, including the name of one of his father's nieces who was killed. Those who could have provided her name are dead.

That's the biggest challenge the project faces, uncovering more details from Holocaust survivors who have avoided talking about the horror all their lives, he said. Soon

the last of the survivors will be gone, and so too the memories of others who were killed.

"We know for sure there are still thousands of Jewish families, and some non-Jewish families, who know something about somebody who died in the Shoah," he said. "We must convince them to come forward."



New Website announced

Roberta Newman <rnewman12@nyc.rr.com>

Jews in America: Our Story -- (www.jewsinamerica.org), the Internet's most comprehensive resource of documents, photographs, films, and artifacts on the American Jewish experience -- covers the entire sweep of American Jewish history, from colonial times to the present day. The web site offers an almost year-by-year chronicle of the history of American Jewry, beginning in 1654 with the arrival in the New World of 23 Jewish refugees from the Portuguese Inquisition in Recife, Brazil. They were not the first Jews to set foot in North America and only a few of them stayed, but the group's success in obtaining official permission to remain in the colony set a precedent for other Jews who followed in their footsteps.

The web site includes:

- A scholar-reviewed timeline of American Jewish history and a gallery of over 500 images drawn from the collections of the Center for Jewish History's partners: American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.
- Mini -documentaries and audio/video presentations on selected people, events, topics, and issues.
- Special presentations that allow viewers to learn more about selected artifacts and "turn" their pages with the click of a mouse.
- Short essays on topics such as "Politics," "Daily Life," and "Arts and Entertainment," as well as basic bibliographies for each major time period.
- Thousands of links to other web sites, providing a key portal to the study of both American and American Jewish history.



Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland (now on JewishGen)

Mike Karsen <Mikekarsen@aol.com>

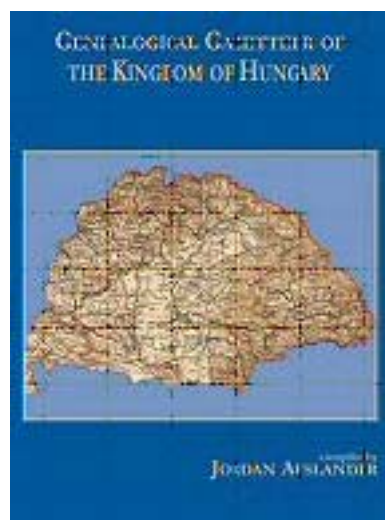
A new website has recently been developed by Chicagoan Mike Karsen. "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" contains information on more than 75 research locations to aid the Jewish/Chicago researcher. The site contains specifics about each location-including address, phone, fax, e-mail, website, a description of the resources available and information about accessing the records.

In addition to the location information, the website has a section organized by the type of record-including vital records, residence records, life in Jewish Chicago, arrival records, and "old country" information. These web pages guide the user by each record type to the locations where the information can be found. The website can be found at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago>.

Notes from Nu? What's Nu by Gary Mokotff

New Book: Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary

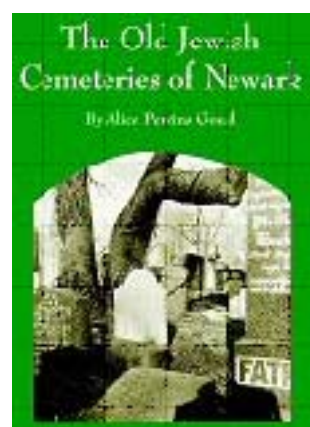
Avotaynu has just published a Genealogical Gazetteer of the Kingdom of Hungary. It provides information about more than 12,000 towns within the 19th-century borders of the Kingdom of Hungary that today comprise regions of Austria, Croatia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic and Ukraine. For each community, information by religion is provided for the population. If there was no synagogue (or church), the town where each congregation worshiped is indicated. This is key to identifying the Roman Catholic diocese, the church of record for the events of all faiths, including Jewish, prior to civil registration in the 1850s. It is also useful in searching possible places of burial. Additional information about each town includes alternate names and its current name if no longer in Hungary. Towns can be searched alphabetically by their current name, former name or alternate name(s).



The author is Jordan Auslander of the New York Jewish Genealogical Society. Auslander spent more than five years compiling the information which was based on the 1877 gazetteer, *Magyarország Helységnevtára* (Hungarian Gazetteer), by Janos Dvorzsak.

New Book: The Old Jewish Cemeteries of Newark

Avotaynu has published a new book about the cemeteries of Newark, New Jersey. Titled *The Old Jewish Cemeteries in Newark*, it traces the establishment of the Newark-area cemeteries from the middle of the 19th century to the end of the 20th century. Consequently, it describes the nature of the Jewish society in the area during that period. Intertwined with the description of the historical development of the various cemeteries are tales about the lives of the Jews who are buried in the different sections and the lives of their descendants. The book is unique in that it traces the history of the Jews using cemetery records, obituaries, and the memories of their descendants. Included in the book are copies of old documents and pictures.



Since there are no longer any offices for the cemeteries, readers will find very helpful the diagrams of the five cemeteries, with lists of the sections and the dates of their establishment.

Author of the book is Alice Perkins Gould whose roots are in the city. The book is 108 pages and sells for \$19.00. Ordering information and the Table of Contents can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Newark.htm>.

Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames

One of the more important books for genealogy not published by Avotaynu is Dicionário Sefaradi de Sobrenomes (Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames). The book won the "Best Reference Book" award of the Association of Jewish Libraries for 2003. It is now available through Avotaynu.



Published in Brazil, it is a compilation of 17,000 surnames presented under 12,000 entries. All names were used by the Jews who lived in Spain and Portugal for 15 centuries and later spread across the world as Sephardim, marranos and conversos. The book includes hundreds of rare photographs, family shields and illustrations. In addition to the dictionary portion, there is a 72-page summary of Sephardic history, before and after the expulsion from Spain and Portugal, and a 40-page linguistic essay about Sephardic names, including a list of the 250 most common surnames.

The book is 528 pages, hardcover and sells for \$50.00.

A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames

Avotaynu's latest major work is A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames by Lars Menk. It is the largest book we have yet to publish: 832 pages- a work nearly ten years in the making. My archived files on the book show Menk first approached Avotaynu in August 1997 with the dictionary, and he has been improving on it ever since.



The dictionary identifies more than 20,000 German-Jewish surnames from the pre-World War I Germany. From Baden-Wuerttemberg in the south to Schleswig-Holstein in the north. From Westfalen in the west to East Prussia in the east. In addition to providing the etymology and variants of each name, it identifies where in the Germany the name appeared.

The book will retail for \$89.00. Sample pages from the book, its complete Table of Contents, and ordering information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/menk.htm>.

Online Guide to Genealogical Resources in Israel

One of the permanent fringe benefits of the Israel Genealogical Society sponsorship of the 2004 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is that they placed on their web site information about many of Israel's resources for genealogy. They identify a large number of institutions giving names, addresses, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses, websites, hours of operation and even public transportation to the facility. You can link to the various facilities from the IGS home page at <http://www.isragen.org.il>. Click on one of the links in the lower left corner identified as "Archives in Israel" and "Resources in Israel."

Index to Births, Marriages and Deaths of England and Wales

The website <http://www.freebmd.org.uk> claims to have indexed more than 92 million births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales from 1837-1910. The database is in great demand and response time can be slow. The operators state it is least busy between midnight and 6:00 a.m. GMT. Some images of the actual registers also are available.

A comparable site exists for an index to the 1891 and 1901 censuses. It is located at <http://freecen.rootsweb.com>. Once an individual is located in the index, it is possible to display all members of the household who are listed in the index.

Index to Kishinev Birth Records Now Online

A vital record index to Kishinev (now Chisinau, Moldova) has been added to the All Romania Database on JewishGen. It is located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania/KishinevVRs.htm>. The All Romania database now contains more than 190,000 records.

The Kishinev index contains more than 25,700 birth records, 6,400 marriage or divorce records and 17,875 death records. When completed this database will contain birth, marriage, divorce and death records from 1829 to 1915 but will not contain all years because some records have been destroyed.

Jews-Officers in the Polish Armed Forces

Avotaynu Foundation has reprinted *Jews-Officers in the Polish Armed Forces* compiled by Benjamin Meirtchak. The 300-page book identifies nearly 5,000 Polish-Jewish officers who fought in the Polish Army in World War II. Each entry provides name, birth date, military rank, service branch, and death circumstances when applicable.

According to the book's author, 200,000 Polish Jews fought against Nazi Germany in the ranks of the Polish Armies on Polish soil and in exile. Despite the tremendous Jewish military

Spring 2005



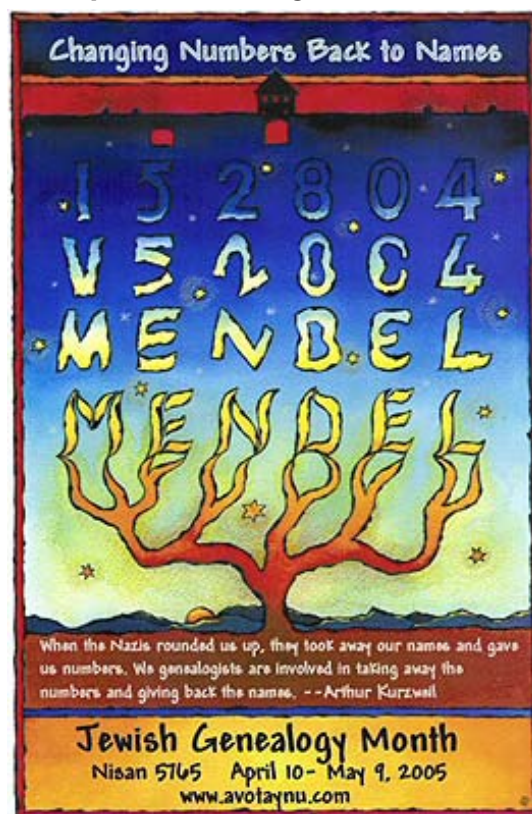
contribution to the Polish war efforts, the official Polish historical bibliography of WWII ignores this Jewish phenomena. The purpose of this book, the author states, is to rectify this historical injustice and to commemorate the Jewish fighters in the struggle against Nazi Germany.

The author was a captain in the Polish army. In 1999, the Polish government awarded him the Commandory Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland and promoted him to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (retired). Ordering information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/polishofficers.htm>.

New Book: The Naturalized Jews of the Grand Duchy of Posen in 1834 and 1835: Revised Edition

Avotaynu has just published a revised edition of *The Naturalized Jews of the Grand Duchy of Posen in 1834 and 1835*, by Edward David Luft. The book provides a list of the original 5,173 persons living in the Grand Duchy of Posen with information on their names, towns of residence, occupation, and additional commentary. The law that created the census and an English translation is included. Genealogists searching for 19th-century ancestors in Posen (today Poznan) will find this work essential. The revised edition adds a number of chapters not in the first edition: * Analysis of persons who are citizens of Prussia and of Posen (dual citizens) * Analysis of the women listed in the book * Detailed analysis of the professions in the book * Lists first names of the persons naturalized *

Jewish Genealogy Month April 10 - May 9, 2005





JGSGW Meeting dates 2005:

April 17 - Congregation Har Shalom

Schmooze at 1:30; meeting 2-4pm

Speaker: Marion Smith, INS.

Topic: "The Ellis Island Name Change Myth"

Morning workshop at 11AM: Film:

"My Grandfather's House."

May 22 - U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

2pm Speaker: Yale Reisner

June 26 - JCC of Northern Virginia

Program: Pot-luck lunch and installation of new officers.

October 16 - Temple Beth El in Alexandria

2pm Celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington!

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