



# 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 28, Number 2

Spring 2009

## U.S. Emergency Passport Applications

By JGSGW member Suzan Wynne <[srwyne@erols.com](mailto:srwyne@erols.com)>

Mishpacha

Emergency Passport Applications were conceived in 1874 as a means of replacing a lost or stolen passport while traveling outside of the U.S. They were valid for six months, but could be renewed. The U.S. did not require that citizens traveling overseas have a passport for reentry until an order dated 21 June 1941, though an order in 1918 advised U.S. citizens to obtain a passport before leaving for travel outside the country. An Emergency Passport was a useful means of identification while traveling, particularly in countries where Americans were not fully welcome or during times of unrest. But this type of passport also had significance for thousands of wives and children of naturalized citizens as well.

Some context is needed to understand the significance of how the emergency passport came to be used by wives and children of citizens who, themselves, had never been in the U.S. Prior to September 1922, women could not become U.S. citizens in their own right, unless Congress passed a special bill on behalf of an individual woman desiring citizenship. Rather, citizenship for women was derivative, meaning that their citizenship status was derived from their husbands. Indeed, if a native-born American woman married a man who was not a citizen of the U.S., she actually lost her status as a citizen. However, women could obtain a passport if she was born in the U.S. or her husband was a citizen, naturalized or otherwise. Minor children of naturalized citizens, too, had derivative citizenship until they reached the age of majority.

Since the Emergency Passport was available to any citizen living or traveling abroad, wives of citizens who had never set foot on U.S. soil could appear at a U.S. consulate and apply for such a passport for themselves and their minor children. Not everyone entitled to take advantage of this loophole in the immigration law knew about it or used it. The vast majority of immigrant women and children with a naturalized citizen as a husband or father, entered the U.S. as immigrants and were processed as such before leaving Europe and after arriving at a U.S. port.

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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. *Mishpacha* is distributed electronically.

Free to members, subscriptions are \$20 and \$25 foreign. Membership dues are \$30 for individuals, \$45 for families and \$100 for Patrons. Membership inquiries: PO Box 1614, Rockville, MD 20849-1614.

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All JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for publication in *Mishpacha*. Submit articles to the editor: Margarita Lackó < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

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Special thanks to Liz Lourie, Larry Kohn & Fred Kolbrener

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

Emergency Passports were applied for and issued at certain relevant U.S. consulates in: Austria (Vienna); Belgium; Czechoslovakia; France; Germany; Great Britain; Holland; Hungary; Poland; Rumania; Russia; and Siberia. During WWI, refugees in Europe went to the nearest functioning U.S. consulate to apply for or renew their emergency passports. Documents, including proof of the husband's or father's U.S. citizenship, and photos, after the middle of 1914, were presented and an application was completed. Usually young children were on the mother's passport.

The most remarkable aspect of this arrangement was that the wife and minor children of a citizen could board a ship as U.S. citizens. Citizens did not have to undergo medical inspection at Ellis Island or another U.S. port of entry. Thus, an individual who might otherwise not have passed the medical screening, could avoid this dreaded procedure.

Families using the Emergency Passport route to reunite the family generally had been separated for at least five years, long enough for the husband to file a Declaration of Intent to become a citizen and then to be granted citizenship. However, from 2 March 1907 to 4 June 1920, the husband was eligible for a regular passport after he had filed his declaration of intent. How many used this opportunity to visit their families in Europe is not known.

The application forms exist in bound volumes. From about mid-1914 on, photos of the applicants became common. Since the photos have rarely seen the light of day, they are beautifully preserved. The applications are part of Record Group 59 (RG59), State Department Foreign Service Posts at the College Park campus of the National Archives, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740. The books containing the applications are categorized in the State Department's decimal system as 855. The books are stored in boxes; usually 3 or 4 are in each box.

I discovered these applications quite by accident while working on an indexing project for JGSGW many years ago. An archivist alerted me to the genealogical implications of the Emergency Passport. After several days of work with these records, trying to match names in existing indexes to the correct application, it became clear that the index was incomplete. In fact, the National Archives concluded that they had lost or misplaced the index for the 1915-1924 period. As it turns out, that wasn't quite the case, but when JGSGW volunteers were given permission to create an index of the Jews appearing in these books for that period, those were the years we covered.

The index covers the period just before the U.S. entered WWI, the war, itself, and the aftermath of the war, including the time when anti-immigration forces in the U.S. were successfully bringing to a halt, immigration from certain European countries. In the period before the U.S. entered WWI, Europeans were experiencing massive dislocation and refugees were desperate to get out of harm's way. Some passenger ships were still sailing, but when the U.S. entered the war, our ships were subject to attack by Germany and Austria and virtually all commercial sea traffic ended. The wives and minor children of U.S. citizens, unable to leave Europe, sought protection from the U.S. government in the form of an emergency passport, which could be shown as an important form of identity. After the war, possession of this document enabled people to leave Europe more quickly and easily.

The National Archives has indexes to Emergency Passport application on microfilm:

M 1371, rolls 10 & 11 contain the index to 1874-1906

M1848, rolls 57-59 contain the index for 1906-1918 (1915-1918 overlaps with the index that JGSGW prepared)

Not on microfilm but in a card index: Berlin 1895-1902

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The applications, themselves, for 1877-1906 are on 56 rolls of microfilm, but this was prior to the time when wives and minor children of naturalized citizens were using the Emergency Passport as an immigration device on a widespread basis. There were few, if any, photos found for that period.

The index that JGSGW created for 1915-1924, is now online with JewishGen. Search in United States records. You will be prompted to provide a surname and an optional given name. The index fields include: surname; given name; birthplace (town and country); box number; book number (ignore the zeros in front of the number); and page/application number (ignore the zeros in front of the number). Please remember that the place of birth is not relevant to the consulate where the application was made. Jews from Galicia, for instance, were expelled by the invading Russians and scattered to many countries, often moving several times to escape the fighting. Sometimes multiple applications will be found for the same family since the passport was only valid for six months.

Once you have reference information, you can go to Archives II to view and copy the relevant application; hire someone to do that for you; or, order a record by mail:

Archives II  
National Archives & Records Administration (NARA)  
Textual Reference Branch  
8601 Adelphi Road  
College Park, MD 20740

There are several options for obtaining an image of the application page(s): 1) the page can be photographed using a regular or digital camera (no flash allowed); 2) there is a special machine that digitally records the page (you can bring your own flash insert or purchase one for \$25 on the first floor); 3) you can request that the page be photocopied, though this may not be possible if the book is thick; or 4) you can request that the page(s) be microfilmed. NARA is working toward a better solution than photocopying or microfilming by mail order. The digital recording machines are available to researchers but, as of January 2009, they are not currently used to fulfill mailed requests. ☆

### JGSGW Library opening hours

Sunday, March 15 - 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
Sunday, April 5 - Closed  
Sunday, May 3 - 10:00 AM to noon  
Sunday, June 7 - Closed (JGSGW annual meeting)

Wednesdays & Thursdays - 1:00 - 3:00 PM

The Library will not be open during Jewish and secular holidays.

For current times, please see our website < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw> >

## Book Review

By Peter Landé < [pdlande@starpower.net](mailto:pdlande@starpower.net) >

Anna Fischer's *Erzwungener Freitod, Spuren und Zeugnisse in den Freitod getriebener Juden der Jahre 1938-1945 in Berlin* (Forced Suicide, Traces and Evidence of Jews Driven to Suicide 1938-1945 in Berlin) Text Verlag 2007, is a fascinating insight into an aspect of the Holocaust that is largely ignored. (The title is somewhat of a misnomer, since it includes suicides beginning in 1933.) Hundreds of Jews in different parts of Germany facing persecution and, ultimately deportation, chose to commit suicide. The author has chosen to focus on Berlin, with the largest number of Jews in Germany, where she was able to document 1,677 suicides. Undoubtedly, there were many more, since it was often difficult to determine whether a "natural" death was a suicide or not.

This book consists of two parts. The first part has brief biographies of 42 individuals/families who chose to end their lives. While brief, these stories illustrate German Jewish life, both before and during Hitler's assumption of power. Some members of these families succeeded in emigrating from Germany, others were unsuccessful, and some chose until near the end not to believe that the "final solution" would affect them, Jews who believed themselves to be totally assimilated, veterans of the German army in WWI, etc.



Amazingly enough, particularly compared to other countries under Nazi rule, while there are no hard numbers, it is estimated that over eighty percent of German Jews were successful in escaping from Germany in the 1930s when this was still possible. Those in this book and the more than 120,000 Jews listed in the German Government's Gedenkbuch (Memorial Book) did not escape. To add a personal note, in my own family most were able to emigrate, some were not and died in Auschwitz, while a few, miraculously, survived in hiding until the end of the war.

The second part of the book is a listing of those persons where the author could establish from various records that they had committed suicide. The names are organized by year, and alphabetically in each year, with family, maiden and given name and dates of birth and death. Most were buried in the Weissensee Cemetery, where their graves can still be seen. Again, on a personal note, my great great grandfather was the builder of the Weissensee cemetery and his grave is located in the Ehrenreihe (honored row) at that cemetery.

Most of these names also appear in the Gedenkbuch, sometimes marked as suicides, sometimes not. However, for some unexplained reason, suicides prior to 1936 are not included.

For genealogists interested in Berlin, this book, available at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM < <http://www.ushmm.org/> >), is a useful tool to check for family members. For those who can read German, it offers a glimpse of the tragedy which befell German Jews. ☆

## Emotional Trip to Bad Windsheim, Germany

Written by Phyllis Waldmann

### Introduction

by Rita Krakower Margolis, past president JGSGW

Two years ago my husband Sol and I met Phyllis and Otto Waldmann in the Conservative synagogue in Jerusalem. We met again in Jerusalem last spring and Otto told us of an invitation he and his brother Kurt, the only known survivors of Bad Windsheim, Germany, had received to attend a 70th anniversary commemorative service of Kristallnacht and dedication of a monument in memory of the Jews of that city who perished in the camps. Otto and Kurt, along with Otto's wife Phyllis, travelled to Bad Windsheim for this observance in November 2008. This is the account of their trip. Of additional interest is the reference to the book, *Die Juden in Windsheim nach 1871* (The Jews in Windsheim after 1871). The authors are: Horst Steinmetz/ Helmut Hofmann.

"Seven months ago my husband Otto WALDMANN, as well as his brother and several others, received an invitation from the city of Bad Windsheim to return to Germany to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht. Both Otto and his brother Kurt were born in Bad Windsheim. On that date, the 9th of November, 1938, they and their mother were taken to jail. They were released two days later. Under threat of death and with only a few possessions that they could carry, they left the city early the next morning to go to their grandfather in Würzburg. They remained in Würzburg until they received their papers to leave for the United States where they would reunite with their husband and father.

"Seventy years later Otto and Kurt stood side by side in front of the house where they had lived as well as all the other buildings of their childhood. From the moment we arrived, the various volunteers of the city were as gracious and caring as could be. They were most accommodating to our needs and went out of their way to make sure that whatever we wanted to do while visiting could be arranged. This included visits to two of the Jewish cemeteries where grandparents are buried and a trip to Marktbreit, the city where the HAUSMANN family lived (Otto and Kurt's mother).

"Otto and I arrived late Thursday evening from Israel and left early Tuesday morning to return to Israel. Friday was spent walking around the city and seeing both the old and the new. We spent Shabbat walking around some more and visited with Helmut Hofmann who, some 20 years ago, had coauthored the book, together with Horst Steinmetz, about the Jews in Windsheim. This book has more information about the Jewish families of Windsheim than anyone could possibly have gathered. These two non-Jews began the process and traveled to the United States, England and Israel to interview those who survived. At that time it was not easy for them. They were ostracized by many for doing it.

"On Sunday, the day began with a concert given by a man who is a journalist, singer and church musician. He comes from Bad Windsheim but is well known throughout Germany. He wrote several songs about what had happened seventy years ago and he himself has been to Israel many times and brought church groups over. His music was as moving and emotional as anyone could have imagined.

(Continued on page 7)



“At 4:45 pm everyone gathered near where the synagogue had stood and listened as church bells throughout the city and, as we later learned, throughout the county chimed for fifteen minutes. This was followed by an unveiling of a monument which was erected in memory of those who came from Bad Windsheim and perished in the camps. Four WALDMANN names were listed. Each name was read and there were stones for us to place on the monument. At last, a place of honor for those who were stripped of their lives. From there everyone walked silently to the church a few blocks away for a memorial service which included Jewish music, speeches by several of the family members who were in attendance including Otto's brother Kurt. Psalm 121 was read in Hebrew by me and in German by the Catholic priest. A group of high school students read short poems and sang “Dona, Dona” in German. It was such an emotional experience for everyone in attendance be they Jew or non-Jew. The church was filled beyond capacity. We were totally drained.

“The issue of forgiveness is so complex, and we just don't know how to answer it. This town finally acknowledged what happened after seventy years. Incredibly of all the people that were in Bad Windsheim on the 9th of November 1938, the only two Jews who are alive today are Otto and his brother. They were robbed of their childhood and had to come to a new country where they were not exactly welcomed with open arms. Their strength and character are a tribute to their parents and relatives who loved them.

“All in all it was an experience which will be with us as a reminder of where we came from and who we are. Our trip was so emotional, but as our plane touched down on our return to Israel our hearts were filled with hope and strength.” ☆



## Live *Hatikva* Broadcast



In 2008, on the occasion of Israel's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday, hundreds of individuals and communities around the world congregated to simultaneously sing *Hatikva* (the Jewish National Anthem) at exactly the same time. The wide span of participants was so great, that it made the possibility of a new Guinness World Record.

On the eve of Israel's 61<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, April 29, 2009, Jews around the world will again unite to sing *Hatikva*. The goal is to make the *Hatikva* initiative grow to become an annual tradition increasing by number, each passing year. < <http://www.livehatikva.org/> >

## Mormons continue to Baptize Jews

By Marlene Bishow < [mlbishow@comcast.net](mailto:mlbishow@comcast.net) >

After more than 13 years of negotiations with the Mormon Church over posthumous baptism of Jews killed in Nazi concentration camps, Ernest Michel, honorary chairman of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors, said, on November 10, 2008: "Baptism of a Jewish Holocaust victim and then merely removing that name from the database is just not acceptable." He went on to say to the Church that it must "implement a mechanism to undo what you have done."

In the mid-1990's the two groups entered into an agreement that Michel's group hoped would end the practice of wholesale baptism of Jewish Holocaust victims and remove the names of those already so baptized. Alert researchers have discovered that although thousands of names were initially removed from the Church databases, in recent years many more were added.

The proxy baptism allows faithful Mormons to have their ancestors baptized into their Church. However, instead, using genealogy records, the Church also permits the baptism of people who have died from all over the world and from different religions regardless of whether they are related to a member of the Church or not. Mormons are free to copy a list of names from public records and have the ceremony performed for persons not known or related to them. Mormons stand in as proxies for the person being baptized and immerse themselves in a baptismal pool.

In one instance an entire tribe of American Indians was baptized by the Mormons when they digitized the records of a New England town. In another instance a Jewish genealogist discovered that her Orthodox great-grandparents, who both died in 1936, were baptized when their names were harvested from the New York City marriage record from 1905 of their oldest son.

"They tell me, that my parents' Jewishness has not been altered but ... 100 years from now, how will they be able to guarantee that my mother and father of blessed memory, who lived as Jews and were slaughtered by Hitler for no other reason than they were Jews, will someday not be identified as Mormon victims of the Holocaust?" Michel said.

Earlier this year the Vatican issued an order to Catholic dioceses worldwide to withhold member records from the Mormons so that Catholics could not be baptized.

For many Jews, the practice of baptism is a reminder of other atrocities against their ancestors, such as the forced conversion of Jews under the Inquisition.

Researchers who donate their research to the Mormon libraries or publish their family histories on the Internet should understand that they are inviting these posthumous baptisms of family members who lived their lives proudly as Jews. As Ernest Michel pointed out, what will be the reality in a century from now, when a descendent finds your name on the future equivalent of FamilySearch.com?

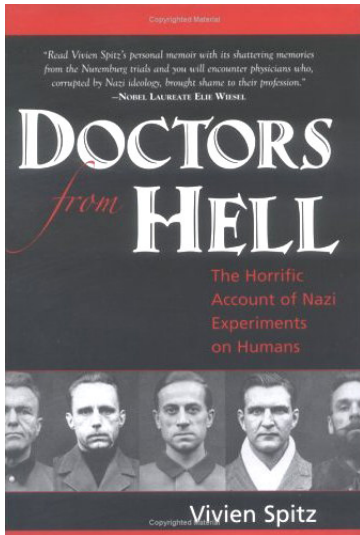
Jewish genealogist Bernard Kouchel summed up the feelings of many when he wrote on a JewishGen infofile: "The wrongful baptism of Jewish dead, which disparages the memory of a deceased person is a brazen act which will obscure the historical record for future generations." For further reference, see < <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/ldsagree.html> >. ☆



## **Doctors from Hell, A Book Review**

By Johanna Marshall < [marshalljohanna@hotmail.com](mailto:marshalljohanna@hotmail.com) >

Vivien Spitz was a young woman employed at her first court reporting job in Detroit, Michigan, when a representative from the War Department visited the firm trying to recruit court reporters to cover the Nuremberg trials. Because Vivien was partly of German descent and because she wanted to see for herself whether the images she was seeing in the movie newsreels were real, she signed up to take part in the trials.



First, Ms. Spitz had to pass the Civil Service examination which required a court reporter to write 200 words per minute with 95 percent accuracy. Second was the age requirement; one had to be at least 21 to work on this assignment. Ms. Spitz, a graduate of the Gregg Business College of Chicago, passed the Civil Service examination with a score of 98 percent. However, she had to wait a short while because she was only 20.

Once she was of age and accepted, she reported to Westover Air Field in Massachusetts and was interviewed by a major who tried to discourage her. He explained that Nuremberg was a bombed-out city. Before the war, Nuremberg was a city of about 450,000; in 1946 it was largely rubble. There was no heat, except from fireplaces, no water fit to drink without the use of chlorine pills, and hundreds if not thousands of decaying, unrecovered bodies buried under the rubble, along with the accompanying stench. There was also danger. Many Germans continued to fight the Allied occupation, and they would shoot and occasionally bomb Americans or other Allied personnel they saw in the streets. Vivien Spitz, however, was determined to go.

Ms. Spitz describes flying to Germany on a military plane along with soldiers who were going to relieve those who had served during the war. She describes how the Palace of Justice at one point had a few planks serving as a bridge between different sides of the building because the rest of the inside of the building had been bombed out all the way to the basement.

Ms. Spitz explains how the Nuremberg trials were organized. The first part of the trials, which took place before Ms. Spitz arrived, concerned the trials of the major Nazi leaders. The subsequent proceedings covered the trials of diplomats, politicians, cabinet ministers, leading industrialists, SS officers, medical doctors, and others. Ms. Spitz mainly reported the medical case which charged 20 physicians and three of their assistants with crimes against humanity.

Ms. Spitz also tells us who the judges were, how the trials were reported, how the transcripts were produced on a daily basis. She also details the various experiments the doctors performed on men, women, and children against their will and the results of these experiments. There are excerpts of testimony and photographs of the defendants as well as of some of their victims. There are also photographs of Nuremberg and of the trial in progress.

Ms. Spitz had signed a one-year contract with the War Department. When the year was up, she tried to get transportation back to the United States. However, transportation home was not immediately available. She had to wait several months before being able to return. In the end, she paid for her own transportation from Paris. Once back home, Ms. Spitz at first had a difficult time getting re-acclimated to the differences between Nuremberg and the U.S. She also suffered from nightmares for quite a while.

*(Continued on page 10)*

Subsequently, Ms. Spitz went back to being a court reporter, working in the U.S. District Court in Denver, Colorado. She married, raised two sons, and went on with her life. Later she was recruited by the United States Congress to report our nation's proceedings. Eventually she became the Chief Reporter in the U.S. House of Representatives, from which she retired some years ago.

Many years after returning to America, packing up the artifacts from her time in Nuremberg, and essentially letting go of the past, what motivated Ms. Spitz to write *Doctors From Hell*?

One day she read in the newspaper that a local high school teacher of the German language was the source of some controversy for teaching that many people think the story of the Nazi atrocities was a "holohoax." Ms. Spitz decided that people should hear the truth and the facts, especially from someone who had been there, a witness. She brought out her collection of documents, photographs, and slides from her time in Nuremberg and put together the lecture that she has given to thousands of people since detailing her experiences living in postwar Nuremberg and reporting the trials. From these lectures grew the request for a book, which she eventually wrote.

If you are looking for some light reading, you won't get it from this book which is a gripping factual account of some of the horrible things that happened during the Second World War and the people who were involved. It is grim reading, but it gives a clear picture of what happened. ☆

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A copy of *Doctors from Hell: The Horrific Account of Nazi Experiments on Humans* by Vivien Spitz (Sentient Publications, 2005) was donated by Johanna Marshall to our JGSGW library. Thank you, Johanna!

### Jewish Burials at Arlington National Cemetery

New database entries have been received for the Jewish Burials at Arlington National Cemetery website; it is planned to have the database updated during the month of March 2009.

Visit the JGSGW Arlington Cemetery website at < <http://www.cygnat.org/anc2008/> >. To submit additional names of persons buried at the cemetery, please use the forms available from the "Contact Us" page of the website.

### *Mishpacha* needs your stories!

I would like to hear what YOU are interested in.....

- \* Do you have a problem finding your ancestor in some database? Write your questions and we'll try to answer them.
- \* Did you find your ancestor in some database? Tell us what steps you followed so that others can learn.
- \* Did you find/meet an x-times removed cousin? Share your joy with us.

Please participate in the continuing success of our newsletter by sending your comments, questions, findings or stories to me at < [mishpologia@uzidog.com](mailto:mishpologia@uzidog.com) >.

## In Memoriam: Morris Thompson

By Faith Klein < [fklein3@verizon.net](mailto:fklein3@verizon.net) >



When Morris Thompson died on Jan 6, our community lost one of its finest gentlemen. At 96, Morris was still an active contributing member of the Greenspring Retirement Community in Springfield, Virginia, where he had been living for the past 10 years. Sophia, his wife of 68 years died in 2004. They had moved there from Vienna, Virginia, where they had belonged to Beth El Hebrew Congregation, in Alexandria. The Thompsons were bulwarks of that community. Morris was president of the congregation and Sophia also had many official titles to her credit. It was at Beth El that Jack Klein, one of the founding members of JGSGW got Sophia interested in genealogy and lured her into being the first recording secretary, a position she held until just before they moved to Greenspring. Although Morris never held any official title in JGSGW he was also an active, contributing genealogist. Morris was a civil engineer for the U.S. Geological Survey's Topographic Division and shared with us all his expertise with maps as they related to genealogy. He wrote and edited books and won awards in his field. But besides maps, Morris was well skilled in Yiddish and helped many in translations and the teaching of its intricacies. ☆

## National Archives (U.S.) 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



The National Archives is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> year with a new exhibition featuring big records, big events, and big ideas. **BIG!** opens Friday, March 13, 2009. A special web page, < <http://www.archives.gov/75th/> > shines a spotlight on defining moments in the agency's history through the decades. The website will also feature a guest book for researchers to share their stories of discovery and of how the agency has made a difference in their lives.



- \* The conference website is on-line. Please visit < <http://www.philly2009.org/> >.
- \* Win free registration. Go to < [www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/mfh-iajgs.htm](http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/mfh-iajgs.htm) > for details.
- \* Subscribe to the Philadelphia '09 discussion group. Go to the conference website and click on Conference Discussion Group (left-hand buttons)
- \* Register for the conference and the hotel via the conference website before March 28 and you could win a free hotel room.
- \* Early bird registration offers a discount and remains in effect until April 30, 2009.

## JewishGen's ViewMate

ViewMate is still not operational on JewishGen; however, family researchers can now submit images they need assistance identifying/ translating on the JewishGen blog.

Submit an image:

1. Save your image in a JPEG or PDF format only. Any other format will not be posted.
2. E-mail < [viewmate@mjhny.org](mailto:viewmate@mjhny.org) > with your image saved as an attachment.
3. The subject line must be: ViewMate.
4. In the body of the e-mail, provide a brief description of what you need help with.
5. Include your name, e-mail address and JGID. Your e-mail address and JGID will not be posted.

View an image that has already been posted:

1. All images will be posted on the blog in the special section for ViewMate.
2. The file name will be "Name of Submitter - Current Date."  
(e.g., John Smith - 01/08/2009)
3. Visit the JewishGen Blog homepage at < [www.JewishGen.blogspot.com](http://www.JewishGen.blogspot.com) >, and select "[CLICK HERE FOR VIEWMATE.](#)"
4. You will now see a list of all images that have been submitted.

Notes:

1. We will confirm that images have been received, but we will not confirm when they will be/ have been posted.
2. Generally speaking the images will be posted within 2-3 business days.
3. Once your image has been posted, you may announce it on the JewishGen Discussion Group. Be sure to include a link to the specific URL with your image or tell people to search for the appropriate file name (e.g., John Smith - 01/08/2009).
4. Unfortunately we cannot provide technical support at the current time. If a file image that is sent to us does not work, we will not post it. Please do not e-mail us with inquiries as we do not have the manpower to answer them.

Best of luck with all of your research,

Avraham Groll

Administrator of JewishGen

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# Society News



## Current Newsletters available electronically from the editor:

- “Atsmi Uvsari” - Utah JGS
- “Chai from Colorado” - JGS of Colorado
- “Chronicles” - JGS Greater Philadelphia
- “Family Gatherings” - JGS Broward County
- “Family Legacies” - JGS Southern Nevada
- “Generations” - JGS of Michigan
- “Illiana” - Illinois/Indiana JGS
- “JGS-NYT” - JGS of Denmark (in Danish)
- “Mishpochology” - JGS of Southwest Florida (Sarasota)
- “Montreal Forum” - JGS Montreal
- “Morasha” - JGS Illinois
- “News ‘N Notes” - St. Louis Genealogy Society
- “Newsletter” - JGS Great Britain
- “Perth Jewish Roots” - JHGS Western Australia
- “Quest” - JGS Connecticut
- “Scattered Seeds” - JGS Palm Beach County
- “Shem Tov” - JGS Canada (Toronto)
- “Venturing Into Our Past” - JGS Conejo Valley & Ventura County, California
- “Zichron Note” - San Francisco Bay Area JGS

To request a newsletter, send an e-mail to < [mishpologia@uzidog.com](mailto:mishpologia@uzidog.com) >.

## PATRONS

Nonie Akman

Vic & Marla Cohen

Lois Hechinger England

Fonya Helm

Ruth W. Hurwitz

Martin L. Kamerow

Stephen Rockower

Mark Stone

Julia Tossell

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Diana (Dee) Aronson

Barbara Becker Cline

Richard Cooperman

Albert Glassman

Sherry Levy-Reiner

Ellen Passman

Barry Perlis

Stephen Snyder

Julia Tossell

Debra Weston



## The President's Perspective

Your Board has been busy. Have you enjoyed the programming? Have you visited our library at the Chod Media Center at B'nai Israel to explore the resources that are available? Would you like to make a contribution to future planning and programming? Without the active participation of our members, such programming cannot continue.

There are many opportunities to help. We are currently looking for volunteers to continue what we have begun. Our Programming Committee has already lined up presenters for the fall of 2009 and would love to work with the incoming VP Programs and Program Committee to ensure a full schedule of programs into 2010. If you would like to contribute in some way to this endeavor, please contact me at < [jgsgw\\_dc@comcast.net](mailto:jgsgw_dc@comcast.net) >.

How can we improve? Let us know about your interests and how you think we can get better. How can you contribute? Would you like to lead a Workshop on some area of your expertise related to genealogy? We're always looking for new faces and contributors.

One of the challenges we face is membership. We have had a vigorous push to bring in new members this year, with modest successes. We are always looking for new ideas on how to reach out to the larger community and attract new members. If you have ideas, or better yet, care to take on this challenge as our incoming VP Membership or member of the Membership Committee, please contact me at < [jgsgw\\_dc@comcast.net](mailto:jgsgw_dc@comcast.net) >.

Have you an interest in reaching out to the community, by introducing genealogy to youth groups, or to seniors in assisted living or other facilities? Let me know of your interest. There are opportunities for us to make a difference. How about writing an article on your experiences for *Mishpacha*, or become a participant in our Speakers Bureau?

How can we make your Jewish genealogical experience more meaningful? Did you participate in the Richmond trip, and have you told a fellow member about what you learned, or written about your experience for *Mishpacha*? Would you be interested in participating in a trip to New York in the 2009-2010 timeframe? Let us know of your interest, and if you would like to help in organizing such a trip.

Have you made a breakthrough in your research, or encountered a brick wall that you'd care to share with our fellow members? Have you shared this experience with the members of our Society, either by writing an article for *Mishpacha* or by coming to a meeting and letting us all know about your success or challenge.

We all gain by sharing our experience with our fellow members, and learn from others through our involvement and participation in the programs of our Society. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Society event, and to hearing from you about your interests.

Yours in friendship,

*Jeff Miller*  
President

## Summaries of the Minutes of JGSGW Board Meetings

The JGSGW Board of Directors met several times during the previous year. Highlights of the reports and actions are as follows:

### June 23, 2008

Minutes of previous meetings were not reviewed for approval. President Jeff Miller opened the discussion of scheduling future Board meetings, with options for hosting by Board members in their homes, or at B'nai Israel. The Board approved the appointments of Marlene Bishow ((former President) (as Research Coordinator)), Aaron Werbel (Webmaster), Margarita Lackó (*Mishpacha* Editor), Gene Sadick (Librarian), and Melanie Grishman (Publicist) to the Board. The Board now consists of 14 members with a quorum of 8. If future appointments are made, these numbers would be adjusted.

The Board discussed whether to provide different dues arrangements or assessments for certain members receiving *Mishpacha* by mail, at considerable cumulative cost to JGSGW, rather than by e-mail.

Without a Treasurer's report due to the Treasurer's absence, the Board cannot precisely determine its present budgetary needs. The largest single expense on a recurring basis is the cost of facilities for holding meetings. While having events in Virginia at Beth El is financially advantageous as they do not charge us, and provides more opportunities for members in Virginia to attend, having meetings in multiple places carries the disadvantage of confusing people. There is a need to balance familiarity and comfort, and the fact that most members reside in Montgomery County, close to the JGSGW Library at B'nai Israel. There was more discussion about sources of additional funding to provide needed funding for the library and programming.

Jeff Miller presented a proposed schedule for JGSGW monthly meetings, including dates and venues. After a discussion the Board approved the schedule. Other items were discussed including topics for special meetings, the publication schedule for *Mishpacha* and the notion of having three co-chairs for the 2011 DC Conference to be hosted by JGSGW.

### July 20, 2008

The Board approved the Minutes for the Board meetings held February through May 2008. The Board reviewed the process for preparing and approving minutes. Gene Alpert tendered all Minutes to Leon Taranto, his successor as Recording Secretary. JGSGW has a 3-drawer filing cabinet with a lock in its Library. One drawer was designated to house the Board's important papers, and two others for the Library's use.

Treasurer Eleanor Matsas reported a total balance of \$24,236.52 as of June 30, 2008. A checking account for the 2011 IAJGS conference was established in anticipation of expenses associated with planning for the conference. The Board discussed past IAJGS conference financial experience and lessons learned.

No budget has yet been prepared for the 2008-2009 fiscal year, and input has been solicited from Committee chairs for purposes of preparing a budget.

Harris Weinstein, Vice President for Programming, reported on the status of programs. Several ideas for field trips and special meetings were discussed. Vic Cohen, Vice President for Logistics,

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reported on the status of dates and venues for meetings. As a year-end program, June 7<sup>th</sup> is confirmed for the Clara Barton center. Planning is underway for the Richmond trip, which was moved by Board decision to October.

It was reported that not all correspondents with JGSGW are yet aware of our new mailing address, as indicated by the occasional receipt of correspondence directed to our old address. There is, therefore, a need to notify all correspondents of our new address.

Sonia Pasis, Corresponding Secretary, raised the question of responsibility for sending out notices of meetings. For snail mail, she suggested keeping notices limited to a single page, front and back, stripped of e-mail addresses that are often embedded in notices.

The Board established a Committee of three persons as Co-Chairs responsible for planning the 2011 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy: Marlene Bishow, Vic Cohen, and Sue Isman. Jeff Miller noted that Marlene, as moderator, is the designated single point of contact for IAJGS with the 2011 Conference committee.

Melanie Grishman, Publicist, led the discussion on sending letters to synagogues and other organizations to generate publicity, and publishing notices and articles in bulletins and the Jewish Week.

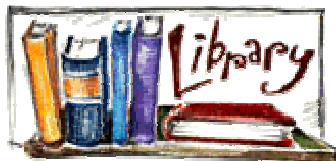
The Board discussed ways to expand member interest in and use of the Library, such as devoting one monthly meeting specifically to the Library to focus attention on subject areas of interest or coverage, and having short sessions as part of monthly meetings.

After a discussion the Board voted to publish a Membership Directory, and to distribute it electronically only. Publication is expected in 2009, toward the end of the upcoming season. The Board also reviewed the expense of printing and mailing *Mishpacha*, the number of copies, the cost per copy, and the mechanics and responsibility for its distribution.

Mark Stone, Vice President for Membership, provided an overview concerning membership cards. Form letters, and an updated brochure, are available for corresponding with new members. Separate form letters can also be sent to members who have not renewed. One issue is follow-up with guests attending programs. Ben Fassberg noted that one past source for expanding membership is the *Avotaynu* subscriber list. Other avenues for attracting members were discussed.

An update was given on proposed revisions of the By-Laws which were proposed but not voted on by last year's Board. The proposed new By-Laws will be submitted to the current Board for a vote and, if approved, submitted to the membership for approval. ☆

## JGSGW Library Fund



For donations of \$18 or more, we will send an attractive card to the person or family.

## UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS

### March

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2009  
Location: B'nai Israel, Fanaroff Auditorium, Rockville, MD

#### **Workshop**

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
Leader: Jonina Duker  
Topic: "Workshop for Beginners"

**Advance Registration is required.** Register at < [jgsgw\\_dc@comcast.net](mailto:jgsgw_dc@comcast.net) >. No charge for JGSGW members. Non-members wishing to participate in this workshop may join JGSGW up until the day of the workshop and participate if there is space available.

Enrollment is limited to 20

Jewish family history does not have to be a mystery. We and our ancestors all leave a paper trail that can unravel the story of our families for many generations, across the ocean and into the smallest of shtetls.

Join us for our free (to members) Beginner's Workshop

- ✧ A great start for the novice...
- ✧ Even if you have been a member of JGSGW for a while, a great way to get back to the basics...

Jonina Duker is a well-known Jewish genealogist and educator. This will be a 2-hour session jam-packed with resources, helpful hints and motivation.

#### **Program**

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 PM Program  
Speaker: Dr. Louis Blumen  
Topic: "Jewish Medicine in Medieval Times"

Dr. Blumen, a retired Cardiac and Thoracic Surgeon, is a graduate of Brown University in Providence, RI. He received his M.D. degree from Tufts University Medical School. He did his residency and further training in Cardiac and Thoracic Surgery in Boston and went on to practice surgery for more than 50 years. In the course of his career Dr. Blumen held professorships at Harvard, Tufts and the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Blumen, a member of the faculty of JSSA's Himmelfarb Mobile University, speaks frequently on this and other topics, including the history of the Sephardic communities of Newport, RI and New Orleans, LA.

Dr. Blumen is a World War II veteran. He grew up and attended public school and Hebrew school in Newport, RI.

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## April

Date: Sunday, April 12, 2009  
Location: Tikvat Israel Congregation, 2200 Baltimore Road, Rockville, MD

### **Special Program**

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:15 PM Program  
Speaker: Steve Morse  
Topics: "One-Step Webpages" and "From DNA to Genetic Genealogy"

This double session promises to be twice as interesting. Well-known developer of genealogy database search tools, Steve Morse will provide us with not one but two programs:

### **1:15 PM: One-Step Webpages: A Hodgepodge of Lesser-Known Gems**

This is a sequel to the Potpourri talk (read abstract on Steve's website < <http://stevemorse.org/abstracts.html> >). There are too many utilities on the One-Step website to be covered in a single talk, so many of them found their way to the cutting room floor when the Potpourri talk was being edited. However several of those are quite useful. This talk describes those gems that you might not otherwise be aware of. They range from problems with genealogical searches to problems with identity theft to problems with DNA.

### **2:30 PM: From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask**

The study of genetics that started with Gregor Mendel's pea experiments in 1865 has now entered the genealogy field with Megan Smolenyak's coining of the term "genetealogy" in 2000. To understand the genealogical aspects requires an understanding of some of the basic concepts. This talk introduces genes, chromosomes, and DNA, and goes on to show how DNA is inherited. That knowledge of inheritance can be used for finding relatives you didn't know you had, learning about your very distant ancestors and the route they traveled, and determining if you are a Jewish high priest (Kohan)

**(NOTE: Because April 12 is during Passover, no refreshments will be served and no food may be brought into the synagogue.)**

## April

Date: Sunday, April 19, 2009  
Location: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA

### **Program**

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:15 PM Program  
Speaker: Constance Potter  
Topic: "It's called research, not data retrieval: Searching for records online and off"

Constance Potter, an archivist at the National Archives in Washington, DC, specializes in federal records of genealogical interest. She speaks at national conferences and locally. She is also the contributing editor to the "Genealogy Notes" section of *Prologue*.



## UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS *(Continued from page 18)*

Since Connie started working in reference in 1986, she has noted that technology and access have changed, but the records and researchers have not. With the advent of Ancestry, Footnote, and Heritage Quest, researchers spend more and more time online; people think that if it is not online, it does not exist. This lecture will explain some of NARA's records that are not online, and how to use online sources to locate those records.

*Connie is not only extremely knowledgeable about the records but she is also a very entertaining speaker. You certainly don't want to miss this meeting.*

### May

Date: Sunday, May 17, 2009  
Location: B'nai Israel, Fanaroff Auditorium, Rockville, MD

#### **Program**

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 PM Program  
Speaker: Professor Daniel Schwartz, GWU  
Topic: "The Ghetto in Jewish History and Memory"

See JGSGW website for details < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw> >

### June

Date: Sunday, June 7, 2009  
Location: Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 Macarthur Blvd, Cabin John, MD 20818

#### **Annual Member Appreciation Luncheon - Members only**

Time: 1:00 PM  
Speaker: Dr. Sallyann Sack  
Topic: Standing on One Foot:  
"The International Tracing Service of the Red Cross: Strategies for the Genealogist"

For 60 years the vast store of Holocaust documents housed in the International Tracing Service (ITS) were not available to the public. That changed in November 2007. The first group to take advantage of the new open-door policy was 40 Jewish genealogists who visited the ITS at Bad Arolsen, Germany, in May 2008 and were given full access to vast numbers of records relating to Holocaust victims and survivors. The ITS Bad Arolsen contains all of the many records maintained by the Nazis on each person that entered their system, including all the persons who lived in their concentration camps. These records consist of each of the places a person was located, daily entries on their activities, detailed personal information, etc. All of this information will be invaluable to genealogists, among others. Learn more about the kinds of records that exist and how they may be accessed from members of the research group that visited Bad Arolsen.

Sallyann Sack, Ph. D., our guest speaker, is the Founding President of JGSGW. She has made three trips to the ITS and organized the group that visited in May. She is the editor, co-founder and co-owner of Avotaynu (the leading journal for Jewish Genealogy), president of Avotaynu Foundation, a past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award.



## 2008-2009 MEETING SCHEDULE



- March 15 - Beginner's Workshop
  - Jewish Medicine in Medieval Times
- April 12 - One-Step Webpages &
  - From DNA to Genetic Genealogy
- April 19 - It's called research, not data retrieval:
  - Searching for records online and off
- May 17 - The Ghetto in Jewish History and Memory
- June 7 - Annual Member Appreciation Luncheon
  - The International Tracing Service of the Red Cross: Strategies for the Genealogist

Please see our website for updates  
< <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw> >

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First Class Mail