



משפחה

Quarterly Publication of
The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington



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

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Winter 2004

Research News from the USHMM

Deborah Dworski, JGS GW

Several items of genealogical interest surfaced during the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's recent Tenth Anniversary celebration.

■ Two years ago, the Jewish community of Vienna was preparing a vacant apartment for sale when it discovered more than 300,000 documents inside the attic. Apparently the Jewish Community of Vienna owns various properties around the city. This particular apartment had been vacant for years, and the Community decided to sell it. I presume the Community was doing a walk-through prior to sale when the discovery was made.

■ The collection of Jewish records includes reports, letters, W.W.II deportation lists, responses to Gestapo requests, name card files, photos, maps, charts and much more. Roughly half of the collection is comprised of an estimated 115,000 name cards/files. Microfilming of the material, which is badly decaying, began in July 2002; the project has been dubbed “the Jewish Source Initiative.” Approximately 200,000 pages have been filmed to date. The complete collection will be accessible sometime within the next year. However, no finding aids or organizational schemes exist at this time. There is a plan for a bilingual descriptive archival scheme, but it will probably not be ready when the collection is opened for study.

■ During the 1950s tons of documents from the Jewish Communities of Europe were shipped to a garage depot in Jerusalem for eventual inclusion in the Central Archives of the Jewish People. The items have remained at the depot for the last fifty years, most documents unsorted and in their original shipping crates. Much of the material is decaying, and there is now a proposal for a joint microfilming effort among the Holocaust Museum, the Central Archives and the European Jewish Communities. The collection includes more than 700,000 Holocaust-related pages.

■ Two major search enhancements are being added to the Holocaust Museum's database. First, one can now search for records using a person's name. Although this improvement has not yet been officially launched, it is already accessible at: <http://www.ushmm.org/namesearch>.

Mishpacha

Continued on Page 10

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The JGSGW Web Site is located at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw>

משפחה

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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 (donna@expressive-designs.com)

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

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Table of Contents

Research News from the USHMM	1
Message from the President	3
Library News	4
Polish Treasures Found in the Library of Congress	6
Changes to JRI-Poland Order System Now Effective	7
The Jewish Community in Poland Today	
Bialystok Update	
Call for Presentations	8
From Nu? What's New?	9
Key Dates in Ellis Island Immigration History	11
Certificates of Marriage	12
Attention Montgomery County, MD Residents	
California Vital Records	13
New Jersey State Archives	
Jewish Names in the Alexandria Library Database	
"A Tarnow Connection" Book available.	14
The Jews of Monastir	
WWI Draft Registrations	15
Ukrainian State Archives	
Majdanek victims lists available	
New Denmark JGS Formed	

Message from the President

Several months ago an announcement was made by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum that there would be a gathering of holocaust survivors during the week-end of November 1 and 2 at the Museum in Washington, D.C., the 10th anniversary of the dedication of the Museum. I wondered whether JGSGW



might be able to play a part in what would probably be the last such gathering of the survivors since most of them are in their late 70's and eighties.

I called our own Peter Lande and asked him if there might be a part that JGSGW could play a part at the gathering. Peter made inquiries at the Museum and found out the Museum was very much interested. It was mutually agreed that JGSGW would ask those in our membership who had specific geographic knowledge of Jewish genealogy to come to the Museum on Sunday, November 2nd, 2003, when the survivors would be meeting there. It was anticipated that the survivors or members of their family would be trying to locate either old friends or members of their family whom they had lost contact with either in Europe or in the US.

JGSGW members Suzan Wynne, Boris Feldblyum, Ralph Baer, Hans Hirsch, Peter Lande and myself were assigned to the computer room where one could search for survivors of the Holocaust and the survivors came in droves and they did search. All of us collectively were able to help so many survivors or their families. Some of the lasting impressions that have been burned into my mind as well as all of us who were there that day begin with one in particular. Two separate families had come into the computer room within several minutes of

each other. One family was from England and the other family was from the United States, neither one of whom knew that the other was to be at the "gathering". Suddenly, one of the members of the Family from England spied one of the members of the US family and called out her name. It was her uncle whom she hadn't seen in almost 60 years. Tears of joy streamed down each of their faces as they embraced and I must admit that there was a lump in my throat at this sight.

Another lady came up to me and asked how we could help her find any of her relatives who survived the holocaust. Her family was from Vienna and she had the feeling that all of the relatives had been sent to the gas chambers. The lady's last name was Torzyner, her married name. The name had a familiar sound to it but I couldn't remember how or where I had heard that name. She and I went over to the bank of computers in the room and Mrs. Torzyner typed in her name. What a surprise Mrs. Torzyner had. Information on herself turned up as well as her picture when she was a young beauty. "How did my picture get in there she asked in great surprise. I never sent it in". We didn't figure out how the picture got into the database, but we did know that someone had submitted the picture. Mrs. Torzyner later told me that probably why I recognized her name was because her late husband, Jacque Torzyner had been president of The World Jewish Congress for many years. We also found out that Mrs. Torzyner lived in the San Francisco area and suggested that she get in touch with the Jewish Genealogy Society of San Francisco and told her how to do that.

Those other JGSGW members who helped out at the museum can relate many more such stories from throughout that day. In fact, around one o'clock in the afternoon when the lumps in our throats didn't go

Continued on Page 10



Library

JGSGW Library News

by Judy Mostyn White, JGSGW librarian

Greetings and Happy Family Hunting!
The JGSGW library collection is housed
at: Isaac Franck Jewish Public Library
[IFJPL]

4928 Wyaconda Road
Rockville, MD 20852
Telephone: 301-255-1970

The IFJPL hours change seasonally, but generally they are open all day on Mondays and Wednesdays, afternoons and evenings on Tuesdays and Thursdays, Friday mornings, 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 IFJPL. 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, DAN GROSS, for frequent general help at the library, especially with the catalog. This time he helped get a new shelf for our audiotapes.

NEWS

Our audiotape collection is now being housed at the library. The audiotapes have not been catalogued yet. Like all our resources at the library, they must be used at the library. They do NOT circulate. The IFJPL has a tape recorder we can use to listen to the tapes there.

NEW BOOKS

DS 135 .L53 J345; "The shtetl that was: by Ralph Jaffe, published 1997. History of Jewish Kavarskas, Lithuania. Donated by JGSGW member, Ira Leibowitz. Thank you, Ira.

DS 135 .P6 K68; "Time of Stones" by Monika Krajewska, published 1983. Pictures of Polish/Jewish cemeteries and tombstones, in several languages, including English. Donated by the Estate of Sheila Ratner Moskow. We are grateful.

N 7255 .U47 G63; "Carved memories: heritage in stone from the Russian Jewish Pale" by David N. Goberman, published 2000. Pictures and explanations of carvings on Jewish tombstones from West Central Ukraine, West Ukraine and Moldova, with an essay and bibliography.

NA 5921 .S74; "Synagogues of Romania" by Aristide Streja and Lucian Schwarz, published 1997. Explanations and pictures, with bibliography. Oversize book. Donated by JGSGW member, Roberta Solit. Thank you, Roberta.

D 804.65 .S8713; "They were true heroes" by Yakov Suslensky, published 1995. Biographies of Righteous Gentiles in

Ukraine. Donated by JGSGW member, Harold Rhode. Thank you, Harold.

DS 135 .R7 S76; "Studia et acta historiae Iudaeorum Romaniae" published 1996. Articles on the Jews of Romania, Moldova, etc.

DS 135 .P62 B87; "Sefer Busk" edited by Abraham Shayari, published 1965. Yizkor or memorial book for Busk, Poland, in Hebrew or Yiddish, with a section in English and Polish. Donated by the Isaac Jewish Public Library. Thank you to the IFJPL for this book and for many favors.

OLD BOOKS

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

PB 268 .R663; "Singular samples of Jewish documents & inscriptions from Moinesti, Bacau & Iasi Romania" collected and assembled by Paul Pascal, published 1995. Shows headstones, report cards, Jewish community balance sheets, donor lists, Jewish burial records. Old call number G49.9.

CD 5941 .G476; "Gesamtarchiv der Deutschen Juden" by Peter W. Lande. Part 1 is the collected archive of the German Jewish community, consisting of 4 columns: locality, number of documents, years included, & location; part 2 is a list of German Jewish vital records from Leipzig Institute for Genealogy filmed by the LDS Family History Library. Old call number G27.5.

DK 511 .V4 K686; "Pamiatnaia Knizhka Kovenskoi Gubernii" published 1895. Record book of the Kovna region for 1895; statistics covering different professions with names & addresses; in Russian; names of Jewish officials start on p 179; vol 2 has statistics of the distribution of citizens, births, deaths, commerce, etc.; vol 3 has names of Jewish officials on p 174, name index on p 151.

DK 511 .V4 S343; "Pamiatnaia Knizhka Suvalkskoi Gubernii" published 1873. Record book of the Suwalki region for 1873, statistics, in Russian; names of Jewish officials start on p 101; essay on Jews p 103. Old call number G41.3.

F 201.3 .H437; "To make a dream come true" edited by Linda Gordon Kuzmack and Shulamith Weisman. Stories of the residents of the Hebrew Home of Greater Washington, DC. Old call number G65.

DS 135 .L5 V555; "Voting list of the Vilkomir Jewish community" published 1923. Voters in the Vilkomir, Lithuania, Jewish community council; in Yiddish; oversize book. Old call number D.

DS 135 .L5 B5791; "Kehilah council register Birzh Lithuania" published 1923. Community council register of the Birzh (Birzai) Lithuania Jewish community; in Hebrew; oversize book. Old call number D.

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 mostyn@erols.com. Just please don't telephone between 6-8 pm or weekend mornings. Till next time, Happy family hunting!



POLISH TREASURES FOUND IN THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

By Faith Klein, JGSGW

One of my fantasies as a young girl was to find hidden treasure, like gold doubloons on the beach. As an adult the thought of uncovering hidden documents, previously unknown replaced that old dream, as I became a devoted, inveterate genealogist.



At the International Jewish Genealogy Seminar last July 2003 in D.C. I fulfilled that fantasy. And where is that treasure that I discovered? Why, right here under our noses, in good condition, in excellent care at the Library of Congress.

The treasure consists of over 5 1/2 million names, in 111 volumes, of Polish citizens representing more than 1/6 of the total population of Poland in 1926. These volumes were presented to President Calvin Coolidge by Poland on the 150th anniversary of American Independence. This gift is a declaration expressing the esteem, gratitude and friendship of the people of Poland. It includes the signatures of the president of the republic, national and regional officials, religious authorities, (including Jewish groups) members of social organizations and those of millions of Polish school children on both elementary and secondary levels.

For example, volumes 7-13 contain an estimated 500,000 signatures of teachers and pupils of 1000 secondary schools. Volume 8 contains a sheet with signatures of faculty and students of the Private Coeducational Hebrew Gymnasium at Kowel. Volume 14-109 contains sheets bearing names of signatures of teachers and pupils of some 2000,000 elementary schools. In total there is an estimated 5 million names, plus many photos of schools, teachers and pupils. Some 235 school districts are represented and these districts

are clearly listed in a brochure describing this collection, which was exhibited in 1997 when the new European Reading Room opened. You may access this brochure on line by going to www.loc.gov/rr/european. Go to the European division home page and then to the European exhibits of LOC. The brochure is titled "Emblem of Good Will". If one can identify one of these school districts where an ancestor may have resided, the volume containing that school district can be requested for viewing at the Manuscript Reading Room of LOC.

Since these volumes are stored off site, the request should be made 1/2 to a full day in advance. E-mail requests can be made a day in advance also.

Surnames are not indexed. Starting this fall, Ronald Bachman, Polish specialist in the LOC European Reading Room, has organized a project which involves a digitization of all the secondary schools. Ultimately this index will be available on the Internet when completed in about a year. It will be an index of the translated names of all the secondary schools including all the towns. Many of these towns are in the Ukraine today, Ron pointed out that the pictures in the volumes are random, usually at the beginning of the volumes. The elementary schools volumes hold the most pictures. Further indexing is dependent on possible future funding. Currently, the LOC has online a 1939 residential directory to Warsaw as well as a commercial directory of all of Poland in 1923, including Dansk.

For Jewish genealogists this previously unknown resource promises opportunities for research and viewing. For now one needs to define school Districts, which include several towns. If it had not been for the 2003 seminar this collection might never have come to our attention. It was serendipity!

On Thursday, July 23, as coordinator for the LOC for the seminar, I escorted archi

vists Olga Muzychuk, Director, Central State Archives of the Ukraine in Kiev, Vitalija Gircyte, Chief archivist of Kaunas Regional Archives, Kaunas, Lithuania and Alexander Avraham, Director of Hall of Names, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem to a presentation at the LOC. Olga presented some books from her archives. Attending from the LOC was Michael Grumberger, head of the Hebraic section, Peggy Pearlstein, specialist in the Hebraic section, Ronald Bachman, Polish specialist in the European Reading Room and Dr. Josephus Nelson, Archivist of the Library.

Before the official presentation and acceptance ceremony, each of those present introduced themselves and briefly described their official positions, their holdings and information of interest to those attending. Ron mentioned the Polish collection of 1926 to Olga, as he was very involved in contributing to the brochure which was published in its honor. Imagine the surprise and joy with which those of the Hebraic staff and Alexander Avraham and myself greeted this revelation. We were immediately aware of the wealth it contains for those of us doing genealogical research of Polish origins.

After a special tour of the LOC for the archivists, we were also given a rare visit to the manuscript section where some of this collection resides. It is under the jurisdiction of the Manuscript section because all the volumes are "handwritten", fulfilling the definition of a "manuscript". We saw Volume 2, which is bound in white leather and contains 281 pages of signatures and seals in addition to many separate pages devoted to art by leading Polish painters and graphic artists of the day.

I could hardly wait to share the discovery of this source with my fellow genealogists. As I learn more about the collection and its availability I will keep you informed... this is no fantasy.



Winter 2003-2004

Changes to JRI-Poland Order System Now Effective

Mark Halpern willie46@comcast.net

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland is very pleased to announce that the "Shopping Basket System" is now live for ordering records from fourteen (14) branches of the Polish State Archives (PSA) and their subsidiary branches. The list of these branches can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psabasketlist.htm>.

The system allows researchers to create a "Shopping Basket" for copies of records to order by clicking on index entries in the results webpage of a JRI-Poland database search. Orders can be saved and subsequently amended, modified, or deleted. When a researcher is ready to order, payment can be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or US Dollar check or money order.

For more information, please see the News Release at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/neworder.htm>

A Step-by-Step Tutorial of the system can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psabasketinst.htm>.

The Jewish Community in Poland Today

Ada Holtzman ada01@netvision.net.il

The web site of the Jewish Community nowadays in Poland is at: <http://www.jewish.org.pl/>

Bialystok Update

The Bialystok website has been updated in the Holocaust section: <http://www.zchor.org/bialystok/bialystok.htm#holocaust>



**24th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish
Genealogy
Renaissance Jerusalem Hotel, Israel
July 4 - 9, 2004**

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

The Israel Genealogical Society is pleased to invite proposals from potential speakers for the 24th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The Conference will be held on July 4-9, 2004, in Jerusalem, Israel. English will be the official language of the conference. A number of lectures will be presented in Hebrew with simultaneous translation into English.

CONFERENCE SUBJECTS/AREAS OF INTEREST:

<http://www.ortra.com/jgen2004/interest.asp>

GUIDELINES FOR SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS:

Authors wishing to present a paper at the Conference should submit an abstract either by e-mail to jgen2004@ortra.com as a WORD ATTACHMENT, or mail it on a diskette in WORD FORMAT to reach the Conference Secretariat by December 31, 2003 together with 3 original copies. Material should be sent by Airmail in a padded envelope marked "Do Not Fold". Proposals, whether accepted or declined, will not be returned. Make sure you retain a copy of your proposal.

Sorry, FAX submissions will not be accepted!

El Al airlines will be offering discounts (10% in coach, and 15% in business class) for persons planning to attend the 24th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

On the second day of the Conference, July 5, Yad Vashem will make a special effort to have their staff available to offer advice and assistance. That evening, there will be a commemorative event at Yad Vashem in the Valley of the Lost Communities, an area of the Yad Vashem complex that includes monuments that bear the names of 5,000 Jewish communities that were destroyed in the Holocaust. An example of part of the exhibit can be seen at http://www.yad-vashem.org.il/exhibitions/valley/valley_intro.html.



From Nu? What's New?

Search Bureau Functions Taken Over by Central Zionist Archives

Zalman Shazar research@jazo.org.il

The function of the Search Bureau for Missing Relatives of the Jewish Agency, run for decades by Batya Unterschatz until she retired two years ago, has been taken over by the Central Zionist Archives in Jerusalem. The new title of the agency is Search Bureau for Information About Immigrants. The office will research and provide information on immigrants to Palestine/Israel.

Israeli Telephone Book Portal at Stephen Morse Site

Some time ago, Stephen Morse, author of the best portal to the Ellis Island Database, added English-to-Hebrew and Hebrew-to-English character translators to his site. He has now added a logical extension to this capability with a lookup portal to the Bezeq Israeli telephone book which is available only in Hebrew. The Morse portal can be found at his Home Page <http://www.stevemorse.org>.

Prior to this utility, it was necessary to key in the Hebrew name to search the Bezeq directory. This required Hebrew keyboard capability in your operating system environment. The Morse utility eliminates this requirement.

IAJGS Offers Films to Member Societies

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies now has a film lending program for member societies. It is in conjunction with Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles (JCLLA). A list of films of interest to genealogists can be found at http://www.iajgs.org/film_lending_library.htm.

There are more than 1,000 films in the JCLLA lending library. If you see a film of Winter 2003-2004

interest and are a member of a JGS, suggest it to the society's leadership. If you are not a member of a JGS and wish to join one, a complete list of IAJGS member societies can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/members.html>.

One video in the lending library I highly recommend is "Nobody's Business," an award-winning documentary that is a poignant, humorous look at the conflict between a genealogist and his reclusive father. The genealogist is trying to convince his father that family history is important, and his elderly father's attitude is that nobody cares and it is nobody's business. Another excellent video is "The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe."

Images of Broadships for Trans-Atlantic Steamships

Avotaynu co-owner Sallyann Sack discovered an interesting Internet site that shows advertisements for the steamship companies that made Trans-Atlantic voyages. They often include photographs or sketches of the ships. You can dress up a family history web site with these images. They are located at <http://www.timetableimages/maritime>.

Canadian Research

The Canadian Genealogy Centre, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Ottawa announce the release of a new database on the Canadian Genealogy Centre Web site. This database contains the names of thousands of immigrants to Canada who became naturalized in the early 20th century.

Visit the Canadian Genealogy Centre Web site at: <http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/> and use the genealogical research section. For more information, please contact: Louisa Coates, Media Relations, Library and Archives of Canada (613) 992-9361 lcoates@archives.ca

Continued from Page 1

The search results will not only provide the source of the name match (to the right), but also the exact location of the name match, such as a page or frame number. Also, by clicking on the source itself one can read a description of that particular archival collection. Eventually one will be able to create his or her own personal family file in which to store research results at the web site.

■ Within the next six months the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum also plans to unveil a new online geographic finding aid known as GEOFF (Geographic Fact Finder). One will be able to type in the name of an ancestral shtetl and then view all of the known spelling variations of the same town. An online map system will aid in locating multiple towns with the same name. It will also be possible to find all towns and villages within a certain mile radius of a designated starting point. Other details such as the Jewish population of each shtetl will also be available. The source of information for GEOFF is the very popular book Where Once We Walked.



Continued from Page 3

away, Peter Lande and I walked out of the museum building and to two huge tents on the Museum grounds where the survivors were having lunch. Hundreds of round tables were set up and on each one was a stand with a label - Auschwicz, Bergen Belson, Matthausen, Kovno, Warsaw, and on and on with towns from which so many of the survivors had originally come. As Peter and I walked around the room we saw people who although not related to each other, had come from the same towns, or had been in the same concentration camps or had discovered some long lost relative they hadn't seen in over 60 years. Up on the stage was a Klezmer band playing so many old Yiddish, Hebrew, German, Polish, Romanian folk tunes and as we passed among the table some people were recalling the words and singing lustily.

It was a day I'll never forget and that lump in my throat stayed with me for quite a long time. That day also made me realize how grateful I am that my parents and some of my grandparents came to this blessed country before they were destroyed.

Sincerely

Ben

Benjamin C. Fassberg
President



NOTICE

This edition of Mishpacha is being delivered to our members electronically. If you received this issue in a paper format, but would prefer it electronically, please let us know at: dfsmetsfan@yahoo.com

Key Dates in Ellis Island Immigration History

Notes from a talk by
John P. Colletta

To the JGSGW, September 2003

In Colonial Times, the largest port in America was Philadelphia. Other important ports were Boston, New York, Baltimore, and New Orleans.

In 1820 - Congress mandated Federal manifests: captains of incoming ships must hand over lists of all passengers upon entering U.S. waters.

1825 - opening of the Erie Canal makes New York the major port.

1849 - steamships start making regular Atlantic crossings. Beginning of move from the Age of Sail, to the Age of Steam; by the 1880's most crossings are made by steam.

1855 - Castle Garden established in lower Manhattan, the first immigrant receiving station in the U.S. Run by the State of New York, Castle Garden had been an arsenal in the War of 1812. It was purchased by the State of New York to serve as the immigrant receiving station.

1875 - the federal government begins to get involved in immigration. Congress passes a law forbidding the entrance into the U.S. of criminals. The Supreme Court holds that the federal government has the right to pass laws regarding the admission of immigrants. New York and the federal government co-manage immigration into NY.

1882 - a peak year for steamship travel.

1885 - Congress passes the Alien Contract Labor Law, which forbids promising work to any immigrant before they come to America.

April 18, 1890 - Federal government terminates its contract with New York, and takes over immigration, using the Barge Office in lower Manhattan. Begins construction of Ellis Island. Between April 18, 1890 and January 1, 1892, over 525,000 immigrants are processed at the Barge Office.

Office.

January 1, 1892 - Ellis Island opens, the first federal immigration receiving station. The federal government also takes over other entry ports. Ellis Island is built entirely of wood.

January 14, 1897 - fire at Ellis Island; destroyed. Processing of immigration is relocated back to the Barge Office while Ellis Island is rebuilt. Between January 15, 1897 and Dec. 18, 1900 all immigrants landing at NY are processed at the Barge Office.

December 17, 1900 - Ellis Island re-opens.

1907 - another peak year for immigration; 1-1/2 million people enter through Ellis Island.

1921 - the Emergency Quota Act of 1921 limited the number of immigrants based on national origin.

1924 - the Immigration Act of 1924 geared entry quotas to the 1900 Census. Visas were required for the first time. Now that immigrants were processed at their point of departure, Ellis Island closes as an immigrant receiving station.

1924-1934 - Ellis Island is used as a detention center for immigrants.

1934-1954 - Ellis Island is on the government's 'excess property' list.

---notes taken by Sharlene Kranz

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Bolino, August C. The Ellis Island Source Book. 1985.

Guillet, Edwin C. The Great Migration: The Atlantic Crossing by Sailing Ship Since 1770. 1963.

Hopkins, Albert A. The Scientific American Handbook of Travel. 1910.

Kraut, Alan M. The Huddled Masses: The Immigrant in American Society 1880-1921. 1982.

Novotny, Ann. Strangers at the Door. 1971.

Pitkin, Thomas M. Keepers of the Gate: A History of Ellis Island. 1975.

Tifft, Wilton S. Ellis Island. 1971.

Certificates of Marriage Performed by Rabbi Moses Aaron Horwitz, Congregation Talmud Torah, Washington, DC, 1912-1933

Rabbi Moses Aaron Horwitz was rabbi at the Congregation Talmud Torah in Washington, D.C., from late 1912 until his death in 1935. (He was succeeded by Rabbi Joshua S. Klavan, who was in turn succeeded by his son, Rabbi Hillel Klavan.) The synagogue, which was an Orthodox congregation founded in 1889, was originally located at 467 E Street, SW. It later moved to 14th and Emerson Street, NW and in 1959 merged with Congregation Ohev Shalom (located at 5th and I Streets, NW). The successor is known as Congregation Ohev Shalom Talmud Torah and is located at 1600 Jonquil Street, NW (16th and Jonquil).

During the two decades he served, Rabbi Horwitz performed a number of marriages. Each couple obtained a Marriage License from the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Washington, D.C. and then had a limited period to present the license and be married. Rabbi Horwitz kept the original license as well as a Certificate of Marriage that he issued at the wedding. Approximately 75 of the certificates and 230 of the Marriage Licenses still exist. The names of the brides and grooms are listed on the website <http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/WashDCMarrgs.html>, alphabetically, as well as a chronological index by date of the license (not by wedding date). Although the handwriting on most of these documents is clear, there may nevertheless be some spelling or transcription errors. If you believe that one of these documents belongs to your family, please contact Rabbi Horwitz's great-grandson, David Gordon, at tiganeasca@interaccess.com.

Unless otherwise indicated, the only document available is a Marriage License issued by the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Winter 2003-2004

the District of Columbia authorizing Rabbi Horwitz to perform the marriage. The date listed is the date the license was issued, not the date of the wedding.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/WashDCMarrgs.html>



Attention Montgomery County, MD Residents

The entire historical run of The New York Times is now available online in a full image digital archive at the Rockville Library. Beginning with the first issue in 1851, the archive provides access to every issue of the newspaper through 2001.

The issues of the newspaper are available in full page format, as well as article images that can be printed or emailed as PDF documents. Within the archive, researchers can search or browse articles, display and classified ads, comics and cartoons, and editorials and commentary, and view photos, maps, and graphics.

The Historical New York Times is part of ProQuest Historical Newspapers (TM). In addition to offering the Historical New York Times at the Rockville Library, Montgomery County Public Libraries (MCPL) also provides access to current articles from The New York Times, in addition to eight other national newspapers, including The Washington Post, which are a part of Proquest National Newspaper 9 online database, in all library branches and from home with a library card.

To access the Historical New York Times, visit the Rockville Library.

To access the National Newspapers 9 database, follow this link:
<http://proquest.umi.com/pqdweb?RQT=301&UserId=IPAuto&Passwd=IPAuto&AUID=250631>

California Vital Records

Pamela Weisberger pweisberger@hotmail.com

Take heart, California genealogical researchers!

Despite the recent change in law regarding obtaining copies of California birth and death records, I have found that the procedure for ordering these records is unchanged (as well as simple and quick) IF all one needs is an "informational certified copy" as opposed to an "authorized certified copy."

(The informational copy contains identical information to a certified copy--and should be all one needs for genealogical research--but has the legend:

"for informational purposes only" printed across it, and would not be acceptable for any legal purposes.)

Ordering an "Informational Copy," in California, does NOT require the inclusion of the "Notarized Certificate of Identity," even if requesting by mail. The order form is confusing at first glance, because it reads: "mail requests must be accompanied by a notarized certificate of identity," however, this is the case ONLY if one checks the box requesting the "authorized copy." IF, however, one checks the box reading: "I am requesting an INFORMATIONAL copy" then one does NOT need to include any notarized proof of identity.

Prior to ordering, I confirmed this fact by phone call (with a live person!) in the County Clerk's office in LA, and in the past few months have ordered, and received, several mail-in requests for death records--all in under two weeks.

(Keep in mind that birth records are now \$18 and death records \$13 for Los Angeles County.) If you would feel more confident confirming this ordering procedure before mailing, you can phone the specific California County Recorder's Office which has your records to double-check these details.

It is best NOT to order from the California Office of Vital Records in Sacramento, as the response time can take up to 14 weeks. Writing to the County Recorder's Office where the event occurred will be faster. The link to those offices is: <http://www.dhs.cahwnet.gov/hisp/chs/OVR/localregindex.htm>

New Jersey State Archives

Eden Joachim esjoachim@optonline.net

The state of New Jersey Archives, (located in Trenton, New Jersey) catalog is now available on-line in browseable format.

The URL is www.njarchives.org/links/catalog.html

There are links to all sorts of genealogically relevant collections including vital records, census records, wills and probate information as well as historical information. This database will prove an invaluable tool in preplanning trips to the Archives.

Virginia

Jewish Names in the Alexandria Library Database

Suzanne S. Levy Suzanne.Levy@fairfaxcounty.gov

To search for Jewish names in the Alexandria Library's naturalization database, go to the following URL:

http://www.alexandria.lib.va.us/lhsc_genealogy_resources/citizen/citizen.html

If you scroll through the names you will find lots of Jewish ones--and of course many from Russia, Poland, etc. Miesche Leibowitz is a good example. Tells his port of entry and place of residence with wife and children as well.



"A Tarnow Connection" Book available

IF your ancestors came from the town of Tarnow, 45 miles east of Krakow, then you should buy this book.

Tarnow was established in 1330, and in The 15th century, the king transferred it to the local aristocratic family, which already owned several other towns. It was virtually privatised and stayed like this until 1772 when Poland was partitioned for the first time.

This comprehensive book has been lovingly compiled and includes some excellent photos. Tarnow is viewed from every aspect: historical, geographical and commercial. Apart from a short history of the town, there are stories about it gleaned from 1890, descriptions and photos of individual streets and buildings. There is a section on the Holocaust and a list of Polish Righteous Non-Jews, and long lists of names of people who were allowed to work in local factories making fur coats or linen, or employed in the wood factory. There are lists of family shtetls, names of people and the trades they carried out: Felber Schiffa, the midwife, or Bleiweis Ozjasz, the wood wool maker, and copies of business cards are shown.

The author visited Tarnow in 1998 and 2001 and took photos of the cemetery. There is a section on USA and British immigration, what life was like in America and England when the immigrants arrived, the benefit societies which helped or ignored them, the housing problems they faced and a description of a typical working day in a match factory, with young girls earning a pittance and being fined for being untidy! A snapshot of life at the turn of the century is given with a series of advertisement from newspapers, photos of dismal streets, and the announcement of a tailors' strike in 1889.

The book ends with Tarnow trade directories for 1891 1922 and 1926.

Winter 2003-2004

Published ABP. (2002) 576pp. Available from author at leonard77@btopenworld.com

Last Century of a Sephardic Community, The Jews of Monastir 1839-1943

by Mark Cohen,

Focuses on one model Balkan Sephardic community to tell the story of the Sephardic Jews. Through the story of Monastir (today's Bitola, Macedonia), readers get an intimate portrayal of the social and political upheavals that transformed and finally ended Sephardic life in the Balkans.

In addition to the historical narrative, the book includes:

1) A 50-page collection of Sephardic folklore in Judeo-Spanish, with original English translations by leading scholars in the United States and Israel. Also included are the names of the Monastir Jews who recited the folklore when it was collected in 1927 and 1930.

2) More than 80 rare photographs and illustrations. Many of the individuals depicted in the photos are named.

3) The complete list of the 3,276 Monastir Jews killed in the Holocaust, including their ages, occupations, and street addresses.

Written to appeal to non-academics, LAST CENTURY has nevertheless won scholarly approval for its original research into archives in Israel, France, England, Canada, and the United States. The book's first chapter was published in the peer-reviewed TURKISH STUDIES ASSOCIATION BULLETIN (Fall 2000), and another article has appeared in HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY (Summer 2003). A third article is forthcoming in Oxford University's JOURNAL OF JEWISH STUDIES (Spring 2004).

The book is available through the publisher at www.sephardicstudies.org. The price is \$34.95.

WWI Draft Registrations:

New York 1917-18 (Partial/Images and index)

Ancestry.com has recently updated its exclusive collection of World War I Draft Registration Cards, adding images and indexes for additional New York cities and counties.

Cities currently available for New York include: Binghamton, Bronx, Brooklyn, Elmira, Jamestown, Poughkeepsie, and Rochester.

Counties currently available for New York include: Albany, Chautauqua, Chemung, Chenango, Clinton, Columbia, Delaware, Dutchess, Erie, Essex, Franklin, Fulton, Genesee, Greene, Hamilton, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Livingston, Madison, Monroe, Montgomery, and Nassau.

States currently available include:

- Florida (Images and index)
- Georgia (Images and index)
- Maryland (Images and index)
- Montana (Images and index)
- New York (Partial/Images and index)
- North Carolina (Partial/Images only)
- Pennsylvania (Partial/Images only)

Ukrainian State Archives

Denise Azbill

A website for the Ukrainian State Archives is located at: <http://www.archives.gov.ua/Eng/index.php> This is a great site with a lot of information about how to obtain records. They give two options for research: having the State Archives do it, or an organization they formed called the Ukrainian Center for Genealogical Research.

Majdanek victims lists available

Ada Holtzman ada01@netvision.net.il

To all those who have inquired if there are lists available of prisoners and/or victims murdered in Majdanek, the historian of the museum, Mr. Robert Kuwalek informs:

"At our archive, at Majdanek we have the lists of the prisoners but not complete. There is "Death Book" from 1942, and information about the deceased prisoners in 1944. The big hole is for 1943 when the big deportations from Warsaw and Bialystok ghettos arrived to Majdanek. We have only several documents about it and no transports` lists. If you have some names for the checking, I can do it in our archive - we have alphabetical catalogue of the names. Most of the Jewish names which we have in our archive are from 1942."

The museum has a web site: <http://majdanek.pl/en/>

Inquiries can be sent to the archive: archiwum@majdanek.pl

New Denmark JGS Formed

The website is hosted by JewishGen and found at the URL:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-denmark/>

At present the website is only in Danish, but it will be translated into English as soon as possible.

JGS-Denmark is an independent society but will, naturally, cooperate closely with JewishGen's Scandinavia SIG (Denmark):

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Scandinavia/denmark.htm>



JGSGW Meeting dates 2003-2004:

December 14 at Har Shalom
January 11, 2004 at Har Shalom
February 8 at Har Shalom
March 14 at Har Shalom
April 18 at Har Shalom
May 16 at Har Shalom
June 27, 2004 at JCC of Northern VA

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