



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 1

Winter 2008-2009



ANNOUNCEMENT OF SITE AND DATE OF 2011 IAJGS CONFERENCE



For Jewish genealogists doing research on family in the United States there probably is no better place than in Washington, DC. And in 2011 that opportunity will come to fruition when the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be hosted in DC by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW); this time at the Grand Hyatt Hotel from August 14-19.

The beautifully appointed Grand Hyatt is centrally located on H Street between 10th and 11th Streets. A tunnel from the hotel lobby leads directly to the Washington Metro system for ease in traveling about the city to the National Archives, Library of Congress, Holocaust Museum, and other area sights. Chinatown and theatres are conveniently located. The hotel has 888 rooms and 40,000 square feet of conference space, which will be dedicated to the conference.

The conference programs will take place on two levels accessible from the main lobby by elevator and escalator. On one level there will be banquet and kosher food facilities, as well as the cyber classroom, resource room, theatre and smaller meeting rooms. On the other level, a massive ballroom will be divided into lecture halls and a comfortable central lounge for networking and relaxing between events. A vendor room will be adjacent to the lecture halls. The cyber café with sufficient computers connected to internet resources will be set up in the central lounge.

For conference attendees who will be staying at the Grand Hyatt, the guaranteed guest room rate has been negotiated at the same rate as the 2008 IAJGS conference in Chicago - \$199. As the conference draws closer, the program will be fleshed out to excite and interest the large group of attendees. Events at venues unique to Washington are planned.

Contact: Faith Klein, Conference Publicist

703-941-3818

< fklein3@verizon.net >

Mishpacha

JGSGW Officers and Committee Chairs for 2008 - 2009

משפחה

President	Jeff Miller SingingTM@comcast.net
VP Programming	OPEN
VP Membership	OPEN
VP Logistics	Victor Cohen Cohen.Vic@verizon.net
Corresponding Secretary	Sonia Pasis sonyaMSKP@verizon.net
Recording Secretary	OPEN
Treasurer	Eleanor Matsas ematsas@aol.com
Past President	Benjamin Fassberg BenjaminF@aol.com
Member-At-Large	Eugene Alpert gene1@ix.netcom.com
Database Manager	Barbara Garrard bwgarrard@hotmail.com
Hospitality	OPEN
Librarian	Gene Sadick elsadick2@verizon.net
Mishpacha Editor	Margarita Lackó mishpologia@uzidog.com
Publicist	Melanie Grishman mgrish7715@aol.com
Research Coordinator	Marlene Bishow MLBishow@comcast.net
Speaker's Bureau	Benjamin Fassberg BenjaminF@aol.com
Webmaster	Ernest Fine efine@cygnet.org
Workshop Coordinator	OPEN
DNA Project	Gene Sadick elsadick2@verizon.net

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.

Mishpacha by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW). All rights reserved. *Mishpacha* is intended to provide a free exchange of ideas, research tips, and articles of interest to persons researching Jewish family history. Permission for reproduction in part is hereby granted for other non-profit use, provided credit is given to the JGSGW and to the author(s) of the reproduced material. As a courtesy, we request letting us know that a published article is being used. All other reproduction without prior written permission of the editor(s) is prohibited.

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 >.

© 2008 Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc.

Table of Contents

2011 IAJGS Conference Announcement	1
The Highlight of My Trip to the Chicago IAJGS Conference	3
My Visit to Chicago	5
IAJGS Conference Chicago 2008	6
My Views Of The Chicago 2008 Conference.....	7
Chicago IAJGS Conference	9
The Unfinished Story.....	10
In Memoriam: Paul Armony	11
General Research	12
Domestic Research	13
Society News	
Welcome to our New Members	14
JewishGen Technical problems.....	15
President's Perspective	16
Upcoming JGSGW Programs	17
Other Genealogy Events "in the neighborhood".....	17

Special thanks to Liz Lourie & Larry Kohn

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

The Highlight of My Trip to the Chicago IAJGS Conference

by Bill Yoffee < kidsbks@rcn.com >

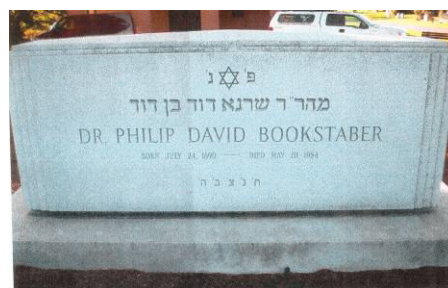
The Chicago Conference brought back memories of a person I first met over 70 years ago. Admittedly, I have reached an age (76) when reminiscing is an every day diversion, but I never expected this genealogical conference to stimulate my inquiry into the life of an unrelated person who had as much if not more influence on my life than my parents; a person I had not seen for 50



David "Bookie" Bookstaber.
25th Anniversary Banquet,
Harrisburg, PA, 1949

years and who died 44 years ago. This person was the rabbi of my childhood and my youth, and what I learned about him that I did not know before was, to say the least, startling. His name was Rabbi Philip David BOOKSTABER, referred to irreverently by everyone who was close to him as "Bookie".

It all began in the hotel restaurant one lunch time during the conference when I was sitting alone trying to prepare for an afternoon session. Sitting at the next table was a woman who was attending the conference. As I rose to leave I glanced over at her name tag and noticed her name was Pamela Buchstaber Smith, who I later found out is not even Jewish. Of course I asked her if she is any relation to Rabbi Bookstaber of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She said she is not only a distant cousin but she is researching his family. She recounted the fact that the family originated in the Ukraine and came to America around 1894. I told her that as far as I knew, Bookie was born in New York City and that he always bragged that he was born on February 12, Lincoln's birthday, but I wondered why his tombstone in the cemetery where my parents are buried gives a different date of birth. Because his family was so large, she couldn't be sure of the facts about him without checking her research, so she suggested that we both look into his background and compare notes.



The tombstone is in the "Circle of Honor" in front of the Bookstaber Chapel, Mt Moriah Cemetery of Temple Ohev Sholom, Harrisburg, PA.

Since Bookie came to Harrisburg in 1924, I decided to start with the 1930 Census, but he wasn't enumerated. This is possibly because he was living in a downtown hotel at the time. Then I decided to do a Soundex search on Ancestry.com, but the only references that came up were to the 1900 Census and the Hamburg Emigration Lists for the surname BUXTABER. I looked at the Hamburg list first and found that a Buxtaber family of five, a mother and four children who were listed as departing in June 1894 for New York, originating in Proskurow, Russia (now Khmelnytsky, Ukraine). The youngest child was named Feiwei, age 4. The 1900 Census for Manhattan, New York, listed a much larger Buxtaber family. However, the wife and four of the children had Anglicized names similar to the names on the Hamburg list. The next to the youngest was Philipp [sic], and all of these were listed as being 10 years older. All but the youngest child indicated that they were born in "Poland Russia", and the five listed their date of immigration as 1894. It had to be the same family. But was Feiwei/Philipp the person I knew? The Ellis Island records yielded nothing. A search of the 1910 Census yielded a BUCHSTABER family and Philip was listed as age 19, born in "Russia (Yiddish)".

Bookie traveled extensively abroad during his pre-World War II years in Harrisburg. One trip took him to Egypt, Syria and Palestine. He returned a committed Zionist. He was active in the Boy Scout Movement and another trip took him to the 4th International Scout Jamboree in Hungary. So I decided to check the ship passenger lists for the late 1920s and 1930s that recorded both new immigrants and returning citizens. In five instances he was recorded as having been born in

(Continued on page 4)

The Highlight of My Trip... (Continued from page 3)

REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after April 23, 1877 and on or before February 16, 1937)

SERIAL NUMBER U 1522 Philip David Bookstaber ORDER NUMBER K 466

1. NAME (Last, first, middle) Philip David Bookstaber

2. PLACE OF BIRTH (Country, State, Territory, County, City, Town, Village, or Post Office) Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

3. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Country, State, Territory, County, City, Town, Village, or Post Office) Same

4. TELEPHONE 2-4010

5. AGE IN YEARS 50

6. PLACE OF DEATH New York City

7. DATE OF BIRTH July 12, 1892

8. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS Miss Mary Jack, 208 W. 3rd St.

9. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS Minister, Congregation Shearith Israel, Harrisburg, Pa.

10. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS Harrisburg, Pa.

11. I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE

12. SIGNATURE Philip David Bookstaber

New York City on February 12, 1892. Why then did his tombstone record a birth date of July 24, 1890? As a clergyman, he was not required to have a Social Security Number, but I decided to check the Social Security Death Index anyhow. He applied for his number in 1957, and gave as his birth date July 17, 1890, when he was 67 years old. I remembered that he had a commission as a 1st Lieutenant and Chaplain in the Pennsylvania National Guard. (Once I saw him in uniform, but I couldn't understand why everyone called him Colonel.) So I decided to

check to see if he had registered for the World War II draft. He had, and he gave his place and date of birth as New York City, February 12, 1892.

Pam Smith sent me a Buchstaber family portrait with a picture of a young man who very closely resembled him. Everyone in Harrisburg knew that he was a widower whose wife died in the 1918 influenza epidemic. Pam also sent me a copy of her death certificate which noted that she was pregnant when she died in Cincinnati, Ohio, around the time her husband began studying there to become a rabbi. It also noted her maiden name and that she was buried in Louisville, Kentucky. I discovered in the 1910 Census that this was where she lived with her family and that her father was an undertaker. Checking further, I found Bookie's 1917 World War I draft registration card, filed in Louisville, indicating that he was administrator of a Jewish social service agency in Louisville. It stated unequivocally that he was a naturalized citizen born in Konstantine Russia on July 17, 1890. Later I found a record of his naturalization in the New York County Court in 1911 when he was 21. Now the title Colonel became clear, because I remembered that once when I visited Bookie in the study at his residence, he proudly pointed to a certificate showing me that he had been awarded the honorary commission of Kentucky Colonel.

REGISTRATION CARD No. 111

Philip David Bookstaber 26

729 South Second, Louisville, Ky.

3 Date of Birth July 17, 1890

4 Place of Birth Naturalized citizen

5 Place of Birth Konstantina, Russia

7 Name of Employer Supt. Y. M. H. A. General Secy

8 Name of Employer 211 Young Men's Hebrew Association, Louisville, Ky.

9 Name of Employer Father

10 Marital Status Single

11 What military service have you had? None

12 I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Signature: Philip David Bookstaber

It is impossible to recount all of the things that Bookie taught me. For instance, in Sunday School, as young children, he taught us to shake hands looking the other person straight in the eye. He taught us the virtue of being on time: he used to say Sunday School begins at 9:45, not 9:44 or 9:46, but 9:45. He also taught us the virtue of perfect attendance: he called us "hundred percenters". His favorite admonition was "Let's not pussyfoot" (Let's not beat around the bush.) He never preached about Zionism from the pulpit because his congregation was split between pro and anti-Zionists, and some of the most influential members were anti-Zionist. However, I will always remember the Friday evening service on the day in May 1948 when Israel declared its independence. The title of his sermon was "There is no longer a Zionist question. It is now a reality", and he added, "Let's not pussyfoot about it". I came away a committed Zionist.

It is not difficult for me to reconcile my deep admiration for this individual who taught me to be proud of my Jewish heritage and the essentials of human ethics and standards of behavior, and who gave me a thirst for Jewish learning. This is in spite of the fact that I now know he was living under false pretenses during the time I was close to him. He also taught me to be a "straight shooter" by not pussyfooting. I can only justify what he did by the fact that as a Reform Rabbi, ministering to a congregation in the pre World War II era where the most influential members were third and fourth generation German Jews, it was not advantageous to be known as an East European "green horn". Others in my own family who were born in Europe suffered indignities for that reason. Today, having been born abroad and "made it" in America is a true mark of distinction. ☆

My Visit to Chicago

By Cynthia Gerstl < cindyg19@verizon.net >

I really did not expect to find any substantial genealogical information at the 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Chicago. In fact, I hadn't even planned on going until my daughter's girlfriend invited me to stay at her place. Not only did I find previously unknown relatives, but I had a wonderful time. As usual, I took several computer classes, hoping that eventually I will retain some computer information, and also attended a number of informative lectures.

In addition, I had a private tour of the Chicago Jewish community by a distant relative. I accompanied him to Menorah Gardens cemetery where I helped him find a number of "his" relatives. I was quite surprised to see tombstones with pictures on them, as we don't usually put pictures on the stones in DC cemeteries. And imagine my shock when my cousin called me over and told me to look carefully at his Aunt Minnie's picture, who, it now appears, might also be related to me. I must say, it is not a particularly pleasant experience to see your own face peering back at you from a tombstone.



I also attended the Belarus SIG Luncheon and was surprised to have a young woman introduce herself as a possible distant relative. When she brought over her aunt, I thought I was looking at my own grandmother, Sarah JACOBS (née BABLOWSKY (a.k.a SIMON)). There was such a striking likeness. And while I know little about this side of the family from Virbalis, Lithuania, I did know that several members of my SIMON and LEVITT families ended up in Kansas City and in St. Louis, Missouri. What a thrill to find out that I was talking to two members of the St. Louis family!

And to think, I almost didn't go to this year's conference in Chicago!

Researching:

In Lithuania and Byelorussia: KOREN, LEVITT, BABLOWSKY (a.k.a SIMON), BAYARSKY, WEINSTEIN, JACOBS, and SHAUDINISKY.

In Austria and Hungary: GERSTL, HACKER, HAUSER, GLASER, GROSSMAN. ☆

Next IAJGS Conference

< <http://www.philly2009.org/> >



IAJGS Conference Chicago 2008

By Vera Finberg, Assistant Librarian < vera.finberg@verizon.net >

Many of the events I attended at the 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Chicago < <http://www.chicago2008.org/> > were connected with the Austria-Czech SIG (Special Interest Group) < <http://www.jewishgen.org/AustriaCzech/> >.

The Conference keynote speaker was **Randy Schoenberg**, president of the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust and coordinator of the Austria-Czech SIG, among other things. His speech *Recovering Nazi-Looted Art - A Genealogist's Tale* on the recovery of the Gustav Klimt paintings was fascinating. Randy also made the introduction of the movie, *Stealing Klimt*.

The Austria-Czech SIG events were on Wednesday. **Dr. Lenka Matusikova**, Archivist and Deputy Head of the First Department of the National Archives in Prague, Czech Republic, presented the *Historical Sources for the History of Jews of the Czech Lands Deposited in Czech Archives*. She spoke about the Catholic control records (church records that duplicated the Jewish community vital records) as well as the Jewish school records and association records available. She also gave us news of a new subscription source for early Czech Jewish records from 1520-1670 (pre surnames), < <http://www.bmsj.eu/> >. **Dr. Hubert Steiner**, from the Austrian National Archives, spoke on the *Jewish Files in the Austrian National Archives: The Work and Results of Austria's Historians Commission*. This examined the various types of files on Jews from the Nazis, including the Vermögensanmeldungen, where Jews listed all their property, the Aryanisation records for turning over Jewish businesses and the Vermögensverzeichnisse which handed over any remaining property before deportation. He mentioned Post-Nazi era records which are not available for research unless you are related to a person and have his consent.

After an informal lunch, Siggers had the choice of seeing the movie *Nicholas Winton: The Power of Good* followed by a panel discussion, about Nicholas Winton and his rescue of 639 Czech Jewish children, or hearing **Fritz Neubauer** talk about the *Last Letters from Łódź as a Genealogical Source*. Finally **Henry Wellisch** gave a presentation on *Vienna, Budapest and Prague: Three Great Jewish Communities*.

Besides these events, I attended an interesting presentation on *Argentina: Land of Promise, Tensions and Conflict for the Jews* by **Victor Mirelman**. I knew nothing about the Jews of Argentina and was surprised to learn about the different waves of Sephardic immigration from the Ottoman Empire and North Africa as well as from Central Europe and Lithuania/Russia. I was astonished to learn how the various communities kept themselves apart and at the number of Jews in Buenos Aires. I was also fascinated to learn about their strong Zionist orientation. The history of the Jews and the regimes was also new to me. I also attended **Diane Freilich's** *City Directories- Unique Uses, The International Tracing Service Record Collection* by **Gary Mokotoff** and *Poor Jews Temporary Shelters and Their Archival Legacy* by **Nicholas Evans**. I have used the Poor Jews Shelter Database, but this gave me background information on the formation and purpose of the shelters. I certainly did not know that there were also women's shelters.

The choice of programs was at times overwhelming and the pace exhausting. Disappointing were the programs that one could not attend due to over capacity of the rooms. One such program was *Jewish Research on Footnote.com* by **Beau Sharbrough**. I did attend a couple of movies, but they were disrupted by people entering and exiting during the showing. This often happened because the movie times did not correspond to the session times and attendees could not tell when a movie went beyond its scheduled time and was still showing when the next one was due to start. The Resource Room computers were heavily used and more Russian and Yiddish translation sessions were needed. The books were not as well used. ☆

My Views Of The Chicago 2008 Conference

By Milt Goldsamt < miltrgold@comcast.net >

Overall, I had mixed views of this year's IAJGS International Conference of Jewish Genealogy. There definitely were some strong positives at the Conference, and yet some surprisingly annoying features, which detracted from my fully benefiting from being there. These are my opinions based on how I like to prepare for these conferences.

With that as context, let me turn to the positives I found at the Conference:

- Some excellent sessions and workshops were held at Chicago 2008. The excellent talks (and their handouts in the Syllabus) included these topics, in no particular order: *One-Step Web-pages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Search Tools (revised for 2008)* by **Stephen Morse**; *U.S. State Court Research and City Directory - Unique Uses* by **Diane Freilich**; *Advanced Googling for Genealogists* by **Michael Marx**; *Gazetteers, Maps and Geographic Dictionaries for Jewish Genealogical Research in Poland* by **Matthew Bielawa**; and two talks by **Julian** and **Faye Bussgang**: *Books of Residents and Other Lesser Known Polish Sources* and *Polish Pronunciation and Basic Grammar for Understanding Documents*. The quality computer workshops I attended included *Using WORD & WORD Tables for Genealogy & Other Computer Shortcuts* by **Phyllis Kramer**, a natural instructor with contagious enthusiasm, and *Spreadsheets: A Powerful Tool in Genealogy Research* by **Susan Weinberg**, who very earnestly tried to cover too much material in the time allotted.
- The session summaries provided on the conference Web site, which helped me a great deal in selecting sessions to attend, especially among sessions occurring at the same time.
- Some quality movies were shown that I deliberately made time for, and was very pleased to have done so (something I regretfully haven't done in past years): *From Shetl to Swing*, *Unlikely Heroes*, *A Tour of Hasidic Williamsburg* and *Watermarks*. I was sorry I missed *The Counterfeiters (Die Fälscher)*.
- This year's Conference had a number of other useful features: (1) Good coverage of local records repositories and restaurants (as listed in the Syllabus), and the recently available database Footnotes.com (where I was surprised to find several new records on my grandfather, and on a friend's family, which I am helping research) (2) Courteous, friendly, and attentive conference hotel personnel (3) A 10% discount for food purchased in the hotel and billed to one's room if you mentioned being a conference attendee (4) Good attention to the needs of those keeping kosher at all Conference luncheons, the Banquet and at other times via a kiosk of food offerings (although the food pricing seemed high)..

In contrast, I was troubled by some things that I thought detracted from preparing for or attending the Conference. Such issues included the following:

- Inadequate pre-conference FAQ responses. Certainly some of these topics could have been anticipated by seeing the scope of FAQs used in the past. Issues concerning the cost of airport shuttles, for example, were triggered only by questions raised on the Conference mailing list. Other topics provided at the conference itself, might have been more effective or reassuring to out-of-towners or conference first-timers if done earlier.

(Continued on page 8)

- The Daily Planner lacked the hours that Exhibitors and the Resource Room would be open. Granted, the Daily Planner was well designed; however, since those hours were the same each day, one combined listing could have been used to save space. The Daily Planner also lacked codes alongside sessions to provide page numbers of speaker bios, presentation summaries and presentation materials. This would have allowed attendees to find those topics faster in the Syllabus.
- The oversized Syllabus binder was hard to navigate easily. It lacked an accompanying CD. It had good coverage, especially of handouts, film descriptions, and the Family Finder listing. However, presentation summaries were arranged only in alpha order, which assumed you knew the exact title of the talk you wanted to find. If these summaries had been arranged by day of presentation, attendees could more easily carry around a given day's talks for reference purposes.
- The Conference tote bag was useful and colorful, but why was that style chosen versus the more functional briefcase style used at the Salt Lake City 2007 Conference, or the better designed New York 2005 Conference version?
- Some movies began about five minutes ahead of the scheduled time: Why? Who wants to miss the beginning of a movie, one that won't be shown again at the conference? (Sometimes these movies seemed to be run automatically, with no one there to assure that they began at their scheduled time.)

In summary, if there was one thing I considered the MOST important to improve in this year's conference, that would have been the coordination of the Daily Planner with several sections of the Syllabus, both of those "core tools" needed at the Conference.

Perhaps these things won't happen again and at the very least, will help in planning future conferences.

Milt Goldsamt is a research psychologist and statistician who has been researching his family since the 1980s. He has attended about eight past Conferences, and served as Public Relations Coordinator at JGSGW's DC2003 International Conference of Jewish Genealogy.



A few JGSGW members who made it to the photo-shoot at the IAGJS Chicago. Photos: Cindy Gerstl

Chicago IAJGS Conference

By Jeff Miller < singingtm@comcast.net >

I wrote an e-mail blog during the first days of the Conference. Some of my entries are summarized below.

I arrived on Saturday afternoon at the Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel. The registration area was still in the organizing setup when I stopped by after dinner at what my watch said was about 8:30 PM. Except they were not ready for their opening scheduled for 8:34 PM (CST) – after sundown following Shabbat. I realized belatedly that the problem was not theirs; I hadn't adjusted my watch from East Coast time, so I was an hour early.

After receiving the Conference binder, I spent some time looking at the Family Finder for anyone who might be researching similar surnames or towns as I am. One tip for first-timers is to make a plan of which sessions you would be interested in attending, or what you would like to accomplish each day, so you are not overwhelmed by the many choices that are presented.

Lunch in the conference area was at a kiosk where snacks and sandwiches were offered in two lines, one for kosher and one for non-kosher. As I expected, the kosher was more expensive, but I was surprised to see it offered fewer choices.

Over-programming oneself is always a temptation, particularly for me, since I have been involved in various JewishGen organizations. I created a conflict for myself by overcommitting as a Volunteer Introducer for four speakers, agreeing to be the co-Chair of the LitvakSIG Election Committee, and having signed up for a computer Adobe Elements workshop.

Planning a conference can be an exciting and problematic undertaking. Some of the problems the Conference planners encountered included underestimating the number of participants interested in attending certain sessions. The solution was to add extra sessions during the week.

Our first of two JGSGW picture sessions was scheduled on one of the days at the noon hour. This meeting planning thing is hard. I had not considered that sessions ended and began at 12:30 PM rather than noon. So people did not want to leave sessions early just to take a picture. We tried to change this by sending out an e-mail and posting a sign on the bulletin board. Some people got the message and I got several pictures of small groups but no total group picture.

The Conference overall went well and most speakers I heard did excellent jobs. Unfortunately, a number of speakers cancelled at the last moment due to illness.

Ron Arons and Mike Karsen did a very entertaining joint presentation on *Chicago*, the musical, and researched the two female killers who were the subjects of the musical. Their humorous presentation was entertaining and well-researched. The substantial audience was appreciative. We learned about a variety of sources and types of material you can find when you go looking.

I enjoyed an interesting session on GEDCOM by Beau Sharbrough -- all you ever wanted to know about why it was created in the early 1980s by the Mormons, how it is used today to transfer basic family tree information, and why it is limited to transferring the data fields for the families but not attached images or other fields. ☆

The Unfinished Story

By Peter Landé < pdlande@starpower.net >

There is a tendency to look at the Holocaust, concentration camps, or cities/ghettos as aggregates. This is understandable, since it seems impossible to understand the horror of the Holocaust in individual terms. Yet, in my opinion, the Holocaust cannot be understood except in person by person, family by family terms. Numbers cannot explain what occurred. On the other hand, no single story is in itself sufficient.

The following information was found by a volunteer at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM < <http://www.ushmm.org/> >), in Washington, D.C., who was going reel by reel through thousands of pages of archival information relating to the L'vov/L'viv/Lemberg region during the German occupation. She is in the process of photo-copying each page where the names of a victim appears, which, in turn, will permit JewishGen < <http://www.jewishgen.org/> > volunteers to prepare an index so that family members can find material relevant to their particular histories. This "story" is neither unique nor typical, but, I believe, should be heard, even though it is incomplete. The two pages of documents are available to anyone who is interested.

In March 1943 in Schodnica, Drohobycz district (now in Ukraine), an elderly impoverished Greek Orthodox widow, Maria SOWALA, was approached at her house by a Jewish woman named BINDER with a boy (no further identification given), asking to be hidden in the Sowala house. Maria Sowala did not know the Binder family, who had resided in Boryslaw, and her reasons for taking them in at great risk for herself are unknown. In the later records she is described as "eine grosse Judenfreundin" (a great friend of Jews), but there is really no evidence that this was true. Whatever the reason, two months later when a second Jewish woman, Ela HERZDÖRFER, this time with her daughter, Sonia, approached Maria Sowala, she also agreed to conceal this family. The concealment was successful until June 1943 when the police raided the house and arrested Maria and the two Jewish families. The Jewish families were "ausgesiedelt" (deported). Maria Sowala was put on trial and she admitted what she had done. She stated that she had done this out of sympathy for the families, and had received nothing from them. She was found guilty and sent to Drohobycz for further processing.

There is nothing further in the file to indicate what happened to the Binders or the Herzdörfers, though most Jews from that area were sent to death camps. There is also nothing to indicate what was done with Maria Sowala.

This is an incomplete story, one of millions, but one that should not be lost. ☆

JGSGW Library opening hours

September through May
First Sunday of the month - 10:00 AM to Noon
Mondays - 6:00 to 8:30 PM
Wednesdays & Thursdays - 1:00 to 3:00 PM

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

In Memoriam: Paul Armony

Paul (Pinchas) ben Joseph Armony (a.k.a. Kestenbaum)

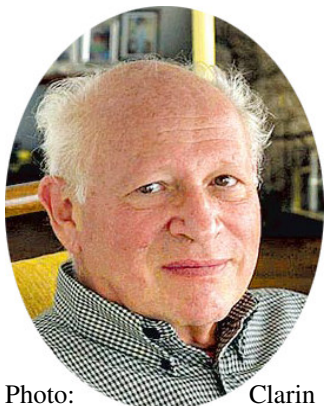


Photo: Clarin

The *Asociación de Genealogía Judía de Argentina* (AGJA) regrets to inform you of the death of our friend and colleague **Paul Armony** who passed away on Friday, 24 of October 2008 (25 Tishrei 5769) and rests in La Tablada cemetery, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Paul, born on 6 September 1932 (6 Elul 5692) in Montevideo, Uruguay, arrived to the Port of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 10 October 1943 (one day after Yom Kippur).

On 16 July 1996, Paul got together with six people and they decided to create the *Sociedad Argentina de Genealogía Judía* (SAGJ, Argentinian Society of Jewish Genealogy). A year and a half later, it officially became the *Asociación de Genealogía Judía de Argentina* (AGJA), with Paul as President.

In September 1996, Paul published the "Boletín N° 1 de la SAGJ". This was their first newsletter and had 20 pages. By N° 4, the journal acquired its current name: **Toldot** and in 2001 it received the Outstanding Publication Award, at the 21st IAJGS Conference in London.

Abraham Lichtenboim, director of the IWO (Jewish Research Organization) said: "If there are data bases, digitalization of cemeteries and an association, it is because of Paul Armony's work." (Agencia Judía de Noticias (AJN, Jewish News Agency, < <http://tinyurl.com/5dh5gv> >)

These databases include names of Jewish immigrants to Argentina, Jewish burials in Jewish and non-Jewish cemeteries in Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Perú, Bolivia and other South American countries, lists of names of the first Jewish Colonies, Sephardic and Ashkenazi surname lists, and much more. (There is a small fee to search in these databases.)

Paul, you will be missed!

AGJA Website (in Spanish) < <http://www.agja.org.ar/> >

Jewish Genealogical Research in Argentina < <http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/Argentina.html> >

IAGJS Spotlight < <http://www.iajgs.org/spotlight3.html> >

Mishpacha needs your stories!

- * 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 >



General Research

Jewish Family History Collection

Ancestry.com has also partnered with the *American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee* (JDC, < <http://www.jdc.org/> >), a Jewish rescue organization committed to providing relief for Jews in more than 70 countries. The agreement between JewishGen and Ancestry.com was announced in the Fall 2008 (Vol 27, Num 4) issue of Mishpacha. You can search these databases, for free, at < <http://ancestry.com/jewishfamilyhistory> >. Gary Mokotoff gave a very successful Webinar (web-based lecture) introducing us to the website and suggesting strategies on how to use it. To listen the Webinar, go to < <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx> > and click on *Discover Your Jewish Family History at Ancestry.com*. You need to fill out the form.



GenSoftReviews

Louis Kessler, a genealogist and programmer for over 30 years, created GenSoftReviews < <http://www.gensoftreviews.com/> >, a new website that allows users of genealogy software to rate and review programs they've tried or used. This will make it easier for people looking for programs to compare and select the software that is right for them.

Guidelines and Standards for Dates

Some examples from the "Rules for Archival Description" or RAD - very helpful!
See < <http://www.cdncouncilarchives.ca/archdesrules.html> >

25 Jan. 1982	definite date	[ca. 1980].....	approximate date
[before 1867].....	terminal date	[after 5 Jan. 1867].....	terminal date
[1892 or 1893].....	one year or the other	1982-1984.....	date range
[199-? - 200-?].....	date range with uncertain decade	[2000?].....	probable date
[197-].....	decade certain	[186-?].....	probable decade
[19-].....	century certain	[18-?].....	probable century

Jewish Graveyard Rabbit

This blog on international Jewish cemeteries < <http://jewishgraveyardrabbit.blogspot.com/> > was created by Schelly Talalay Dardashti, believing that Jewish cemeteries, no matter the location, share the same language, traditions and customs. The blog covers restoration/preservation projects, reading Hebrew tombstones and learning about the genealogical information on them, Jewish law and tradition (death, burial, mourning), news and other relevant topics. Sephardi, Mizrahi and Ashkenazi will be addressed where differences exist. Photographs will be included as well as extensive links to sites providing relevant information. Researchers who have visited an ancestral cemetery are invited to participate with their personal experiences and photographs.



Domestic Research

New National Personnel Records Center Slated for St. Louis, Missouri

Submitted by JGSGW member Milt Goldsamt

From the Federal Daily E-mail Newsletter:

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) announced plans for construction of a new national personnel records center in St. Louis, Mo. The facility will open in March 2010 and will replace the 1950s-era Military Personnel Records Center and a portion of the Civilian Personnel Records Center. To see more, go to < <http://www.archives.gov/> >.

Cook County, Illinois, Naturalization Online

An index to Cook County (Chicago) Circuit Court Declarations of Intention are now on-line at < <http://www.cookcountyclerkofcourt.org/NR> >. This is an ongoing project and when finished it will cover from 1906-1929. Eventually the Supreme Court Declarations will also be available. The search engine permits searching by surname, occupation and address.

Ed. Note: Although the engine searches partial text (matches the text anywhere in the word), transcriptions have many errors.

Criminal Convictions On-Line, State of Connecticut

The state of Connecticut has placed its criminal and driving charges starting with January 1, 2000 on-line at no charge < <http://www.jud2.ct.gov/crdockets/SearchByDefDisp.aspx> >. A Last Name is required to perform a search; year of birth, court location, and category type (criminal or motor vehicle.) are optional. Results are delivered in a table that includes defendant' name, birth year, court, docket number, disposition (guilty, bond forfeit, etc.) and the sentencing date.

Ed. Note: trying the search engine, unexpectedly, I found a third cousin!

Free Public Records Finder

Index of useful links to public records available elsewhere on-line. It contains links to phone directories, criminal, court and property records, as well as vital records, voter registration and much more. Most of the links are to free sites. There are some links to records from around the world but mostly these are to white and yellow pages organized by continents. < <http://freeprf.com/> >

Free subscription-based websites at NARA

Footnote, a subscription based website, is now available, free-of-charge, from any National Archives (NARA < <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/> >) facility nationwide. Also available are Ancestry and Heritage Quest.

New Mailing Address for FOIA Pension Requests

From: <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/newsletter/2008-summer.pdf>

For submitting a request for a Civil War or later pension application file.

FOIA/Privacy Act Officer
Veterans Benefits Administration (20M33)
Department of Veterans Affairs
810 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20420

Society News



Current Newsletters available electronically from the editor:

- “Chronicles” - JGS Greater Philadelphia
- “Discovery” - San Diego JGS
- “Family Gatherings” - JGS Broward County
- “Family Legacies” - JGS Southern Nevada
- “Illiana” - Illinois/Indiana JGS
- “JGS-NYT” - JGS of Denmark (in Danish)
- “Mishpochology” - JGS of Southwest Florida (Sarasota)
- “News ‘N Notes” - St. Louis Genealogy Society
- “Quest” - JGS Connecticut
- “Shem Tov” - JGS Canada (Toronto)
- “Venturing Into Our Past” - JGS Conejo Valley & Ventura County, California

To request a newsletter, send an e-mail to < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

PATRONS

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Nonie Akman | Ruth W. Hurwitz |
| Vic & Marla Cohen | Martin L. Kamerow |
| Lois Hechinger England | Mark Stone |
| Fonya Helm | Stephen Rockower |

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

- | | | |
|--|------------------|-----------------|
| Suzanne Amdur | Suzanne Forman | Peter Landé |
| Lee Anne Ayres | Blanche Gewirtz | Ann E. Lane |
| Howard N. Bernstein
& Andrew Silberfeld | Rita S. Gordon | Leslie A. Leven |
| Patricia Bulhack | Barbara Harkaway | Paul Levit |
| Ramona Cohen | Sara Harris | Michelle Marks |
| David G. Doernberg | Fonya Helm | Patti Maslinoff |
| Krana Dworkin | Irwin Kaufman | Lisa Sokol |

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

General Fund

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Vic Cohen | Leslie A. Leven | Lisa Sokol |
| Robert Heyman | Paul Levit | Harris Weinstein |

Library Fund

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Arden Alexander | Arnold Gross | Marvin Turkanis |
| Patricia Bulhack | Barry Shay | Harris Weinstein |
| Marcia Goldberg | Les Trachtman | |

MEMBER NEWS

Speedy recovery to:

- **Ben Turner**, longtime member and former Board Member (Treasurer & Programs VP) had surgery on September 30.

Congratulations to:

- **Glen Easton**, who was elected President of the Jewish Communal Service Association of North America.

Mazal Tov to:

- **Sallyann Sack**, Founder and first President of JGSGW, and **Irwin Pikus**, JGSGW Founder, who got married on October 12. May you be inscribed in the Book of Life.
- **Marlene Bishow**, former JGSGW President and current DC2011 Co-chair for Programs, is celebrating the arrival of her new grandson - Max Aaron Bishow, born November 3.

Our condolences to:

- **Elaine Apter**, JGSGW volunteer librarian, whose husband **Richard G. Apter** passed away October 5.
- the family of **Howard N. Bernstein, M.D.**, a new member, who passed away November 8. He was living in Rockville, MD. The surviving spouse is Bernice G. Bernstein.

Editor's Note - JewishGen Technical problems

Last September, after it was announced that the Fall 2008 issue of Mishpacha could be downloaded from a JGSGW webpage, I received several messages from members stating that they could not get to it. When clicking on the link, the webpage displayed an error message.

The JewishGen servers are still housed in Houston, Texas, and, thanks to Hurricane Ike, there was a major power outage. So everything that was contained in the JewishGen website was down. The JGSGW site is hosted by JewishGen and, consequently, was also not functioning.

When you encounter an error message in a JewishGen webpage, and a hurricane is busy doing its best to attract attention, you can assume that the power is out. Try the link a few days later.

On other occasions, it could happen that there is a technical problem and the website site is temporarily unavailable. For updates on this matter, please check the JewishGen blog at < <http://jewishgen.blogspot.com/> >. "The blog is carried on external servers, so it will generally be available even when the website is not," writes Dick Plotz, Manager of Mailing Lists, JewishGen.



Visit the JGSGW Arlington Cemetery website at < <http://www.cygnet.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.

The President's Perspective

Have you ever been to an IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy? I hope that the articles included in this issue of *Mishpacha* about this year's conference held in Chicago have stimulated your curiosity to attend one or more in the future.

Future IAJGS conferences will be held in Philadelphia in 2009, Los Angeles in 2010, and here in Washington, D.C., in 2011.

If you have attended one or more conferences, consider what you enjoyed about your experiences and how you have benefited from them. If you would like to contribute in some way to making a conference successful, consider volunteering for the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. It will be hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) and held in Washington, D.C., during the summer of 2011. Very soon we will be announcing exciting news about DC2011.

Your Board is eager to have your input and participation for the current year as well. How can we make your Jewish genealogical experience more meaningful? Have you checked out our newly relocated library in the Chod Media center at B'nai Israel? Have you schmoozed with new members at a JGSGW meeting to learn about their interests and share yours? 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*? Have you made a breakthrough in your research, or encountered a brick wall that you would care to share with fellow members?

We all gain by sharing our experiences with our fellow members, and learn from others through 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

JGSGW New Mailing Address

**Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington, Inc.
P.O. Box 1614
Rockville, MD 20849-1614**



UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS

December

Program

Date: Sunday, December 14, 2008
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA
Speaker: Carol G. Freeman
Topic: "Solving and Creating Family Mysteries: Integrating U.S. Census records with the New York City Archives"

Carol G. Freeman is an expert genealogy researcher who has worked extensively with records in the United States and England as well as numerous on-line resources. Her presentation will discuss her sleuthing into New York City Municipal Archives and her reconciliation of these records with U.S. Census data, as she separated fact from myth in reconstructing her family's history in the United States.

For up-to-date information, please visit our website < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw> >

Other Genealogy Events “in the neighborhood”

Tracing Your Family Roots TV Show < <http://tracingroots.nova.org> >

Sponsored by JGSGW, the TV Show is scheduled to air on Montgomery County Access Cable Channel 19 on Tuesdays at 10:00pm and Thursdays at 6:00pm.

The show also airs on cable in Fairfax County, Virginia, on Channel 10 during the second and fourth weeks of each month. The times are Sunday at 1:00pm, Wednesday at 8:00pm and Saturday at 7:30am.

Genealogy at National Archives < <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/> >

Twice a month, in Room G-24, Research Center of the National Archives Building, Washington, DC (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue). These programs are free and open to all.

Introduction to Genealogy: Staff archivists present one-hour lectures on basic genealogical research and techniques in Federal records.

Wednesdays, January 7, February 4 & March 4 at 11am

Saturdays, January 24, February 21 & March 21 at 10am

“Help! I’m Stuck”: An archivist with extensive experience in genealogy and the records of the National Archives will be available to assist with your research questions. Upon arrival, please sign up for a 20-minute appointment in the Research Center.

Saturdays, January 24, February 21 & March 21 at Noon–4 pm

The **5th Annual Genealogy Fair** will take place on April 22, 2009. The fair is an all day open house with guidance on wide variety of genealogical research topics with NARA staff and volunteers.

2009 Annual Conference, Virginia Beach Genealogical Society

Tell Me About It, features author, teacher, publisher, and wit, John Philip Colletta.

Central Library, Virginia Beach VA

March 28, 2009 at 8:30am - 4:30pm

See < <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~vavbgs/2009-conference.html> >



2008-2009 MEETING SCHEDULE



December 14 - Beth El, Alexandria, VA
2009

January 25 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD

February 8 - Adas Israel, Washington, DC

March 15 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD

April 19 -

May 17 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD

June 7 - Clara Barton Community Center, Cabin John, MD

Please see our website
< <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw> >
for programs and location

The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington, Inc.
PO Box 1614
Rockville, MD 20849-1614

First Class Mail