THE 1940 FEDERAL CENSUS

The National Archives, with its partner Archives.com, launched its new website ***1940census.archives.gov*** in preparation for its first-ever online U.S. census release, which will take place on April 2, 2012, at 9 a.m. (EST). The public is encouraged to bookmark the website now in order to more quickly access the 1940 census data when it goes live. No other website will host the 1940 census data on its April 2 release date.

On April 2, 2012, users will be able to search, browse, and download the 1940 census schedules, free of charge, from their own computers or from the public computers at National Archives locations nationwide through the new 1940 census website: ***1940census.archives.gov***.

A National Archives 3:13 minute video short on its YouTube channel (**http://tiny.cc/1940Census**) and on ***1940census.archives.gov*** provides a "behind-the-scenes" view of staff preparations and gives viewers tips on how to access the data once it is launched on April 2. This video is in the public domain and not subject to any copyright restrictions. The National Archives encourages the free distribution of it.

Background on the 1940 Census

While the original intent of the census was to determine how many representatives each state was entitled to send to the U.S. Congress, it has become a vital tool for Federal agencies in determining allocation of Federal funds and resources. The census is also a key research tool for sociologists, demographers, historians, political scientists and genealogists. Many of the questions on the 1940 census are the standard ones: name, age, gender, and race, education, and place of birth. But the 1940 census also asks many new questions, some reflecting concerns of the Great Depression. The instructions ask the enumerator to enter a circled x after the name of the person furnishing the information about the family; whether the person worked for the CCC, WPA, or NYA the week of March 24–30, 1940; and income for the 12 months ending December 31, 1939. The 1940 census also has a supplemental schedule for two names on each page. The supplemental schedule asks the place of birth of the person's father and mother; the person's usual occupation, not just what they were doing the week of March 24–30, 1940; and for all women who are or have been married, has this woman been married more than once and age at first marriage.

For the release of the 1940 census online, the National Archives has digitized the entire census, creating more than 3.8 million digital images of census schedules, maps, and enumeration district descriptions.

You can follow this on **Twitter** (using hashtag #1940Census), **Facebook**, **Tumblr**, **Flickr**, **YouTube**, and subscribe to our their blogs: **NARAtions** and **Prologue: Pieces of History**.

"Every man of the children of Israel shall encamp by his own standard with the ensign of his family"
—Numbers 2:2

JGSGW

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In This Issue...

JGSGW is actively seeking volunteers for Webmaster, Publicity, Publications and DNA Project Coordinator positions. Volunteers must be JGSGW members. Contact: jgsgw_dc@comcast.net

From The Editor

Those of us in the genealogy community know first hand how important census data is in helping us as we document our ancestry. The 1940 Census is a resource that has kept us waiting on the edge of our seats. Those of us who attended Steve Morse's talk at our November 2011 meeting received a preview of the information that will become available and should have a pretty good idea as to how to approach this census which was unlike any other preceding it.

Be sure to check out the page "New Digital Resources" as it includes information regarding the release of the 1940 New York City Telephone Directories which coincides with the 1940 Census release.

Jan R. Fine
Editor

JGSGW

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear JGSGW Members:

Come one, come all, come to the fair!

How lucky we are to live in the DC area and to have an opportunity to attend the 8th Annual Archives Genealogy Fair. The event, to be held this year on April 18-19, is FREE!!! What a deal!

The title of the fair is "Branching Out: Exploring Your Family Tree." Two days packed with workshops and vendor exhibits. Lots of opportunity to ask questions about genealogical resources and methodology. Here is a condensed list of the workshops.

- Introduction to Genealogy
- Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Naturalization Correspondence Files, 1906–1944
- The Centennial of the Sinking of the RMS Titanic: Passengers' Stories and What National Archives Records Hold
- Alien Files (A-Files)
- Preserving Your Family Collections Methods, Means and Best Practices for Oral History Projects

    ....And more than one dozen more workshops.

Be sure to check out the full schedule at http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/know-your-records/genealogy-fair/.

For those who have never been to the Archives or attended the Genealogy Fair, you should know that the event is held at the National Archives Building, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. The hours of the fair are 9:30 AM - 4:30 PM on both days. Tents are set up outside and most of the action takes place in these tents that are situated across from the Metro stop at the **Archives/Navy Memorial** stop on the Yellow and Green lines.

Thanks to JGSGW member Ernie Fine, we will once again have a display table at the fair, so be sure to stop by and bring a friend or two.

This is surely a highlight of the season, so take advantage and come to the Fair!

Wishing all a sweet Pesach,
Marlene Bishow
President
president@jgsgw.org

HOW 85,000 BECAME 7 MILLION
USHMM Holocaust Databases

by Peter Landé | originally printed by Avotaynu Winter 2011 reprinted here by permission of the author

Nearly 20 years ago I began to explore Holocaust records trying to learn the names and fates of Holocaust victims and survivors, first for myself and then for others as a volunteer at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM). This article is not about my personal efforts, however, but rather about the unique success of a small section of the USHMM in locating and making such information publicly available.

Initially named the Survivors Registry when the USHMM opened in 1993, this small and often almost invisible section of the museum held information on approximately 85,000 Holocaust survivors and their families. It has since grown to include more than 200,000 names. Even excluding its International Tracing Service (ITS) collection, the Survivors Registry, now called the Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center, has a database of more than seven million records on individuals. This does not mean that seven million different persons are included in this database, but rather that many different pieces of information exist on Holocaust victims and survivors. Since information on a single individual may appear in numerous documents, for example, arrest, deportation, transfer, or death, the Resource Center's staff has no way to determine exactly how many persons are identified in the database.

The original planners of the USHMM, probably never considered genealogists to be a significant "stakeholder" group, much less saw a need to establish an office that might serve this audience. Holocaust survivor, Benjamin Meed, was one of the founders and a board member with other ideas. In 1981, he had planned the first World Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in Israel, followed by the 1983 American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in New York. These efforts, in turn, led to the establishment of the New York-based Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors.

This was done with the help of AVOTAYNU publisher Gary Mokotoff who was in the computer services business at that time. The Registry included a mixture of individual registrations and lists of survivors taken from various meetings essentially a testimonial collection. As the Registry grew, Meed decided that it could be better handled by the USHMM. Given Meed's importance in the establishment of the USHMM, he succeeded in his aim and a small office, the Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, was established.

The Registry began with a staff of four, headed by Radu Ioanid and a number of volunteers. During its lifetime, the Registry, and now the Center, has had eight directors and numerous volunteers, although I am the only volunteer from the initial group who still works there. Several decisions had to be made. First, since the USHMM is a federal government institution, it could not limit registration to Jews, though, in fact, probably 99 percent of those who have chosen to register are Jews. Second, we had to define what a "survivor" was, since no single definition had existed until that time. We decided to use a broad definition — any person who had been persecuted by the Nazis, including those who had fled German occupation, gone into hiding or survived through the use of false papers and other means. This definition since has come to be accepted by most governments and Holocaust institutions around the world.

Third, and most important, it soon became clear that visitors to the USHMM were far more interested in information on those who had perished than those who had survived. In the initial post-World War II years, public interest in the Holocaust generally, and in lists of victims specifically, had been relatively limited. Matters began to change by the 1980s with the publication of such books as *Schindler's Ark* and later, the movie *Schindler's List*. Jewish organizations that often had been ambivalent

> *Initially named The Survivors Registry with the opening of the USHMM in 1993, this small and often almost invisible part of the USHMM, began with information on about 85,000 Holocaust survivors and their families. It has since grown to include over 200,000 names.*

about focusing on Holocaust victims, now found this subject more interesting. In addition, fantastic technological leaps in technology changed research from copies and typed lists to scanned documents and computerized databases that could be posted on the web. Internationally, the collapse of the Iron Curtain in the early 1990s made access to Eastern European material possible, and, while it took longer, Western European countries gradually loosened access restrictions that had been maintained on "privacy" grounds. (Some of us who are rather cynical have found German *Datenschutz* [privacy laws], in effect, to be *Täterschutz* [perpetrator concealment], both for German and other murderers and their collaborators in many countries.)

USHMM management did not want to be seen as competing with Yad Vashem's Hall of Names, and Benjamin Meed wished to limit the Registry to survivors. Ignoring these views, and after some internal discussion within the Registry, Ioanid, began to develop databases of victims as well as survivors. Absent this decision, all that subsequently occurred with the databases probably would not have developed. The Registry decided to limit its databases to documentary sources while suggesting that testimonial material about victims be forwarded to Yad Vashem. This continues to be museum policy; testimonial submissions are accepted only when they relate to survivors and their families and not to victims.

The first projects undertaken by the Registry concentrated on the massive Captured German Records collection held at the U.S. National Archives, specifically Dachau concentration camp records and the Auschwitz *Personalbogen* (registration records). The learning experience began, and we made many mistakes. Almost all of the data entry was handled by volunteers, none of whom had ever before done such work. We eventually learned not to translate some information from German to English, such as professions (e.g., *Schlosser*); which can be rendered several ways into English; European dates were changed into American format. We soon discovered that a similar or identical name might appear in four or more documents, and we often could not determine whether the information related to a single individual or several persons with the same name. For example, the Center's database has 114 citations of the name Abraham Katz, and more than 390 citations of that name (including Kaz, Katsch and Kac) appear in the ITS Central Names Index. This led to the basic decision not to attempt to link individual citations, but rather to enter all of them separately.

The task we faced was immense. By the year 2000, the USHMM Archives had amassed an estimated 60 million pages of filmed material—and had no way to know how many of these pages held information on victims and survivors. Fortunately, archival technology has improved and for the past few years new acquisitions are scanned, making the collections far easier to copy and examine. In addition, the USHMM catalogue now indicates if a collection includes name lists. Currently, the Archives hold about 2,500 collections and at least 1,000 of them contain name lists.

While no restrictions exist on the use of material obtained from the U.S. National Archives, one major collection obtained from another United States government agency limits access to staff and further restricts provision of copies of documents. Most agreements that permitted the USHMM to film material in European countries are bound by restrictions. Restrictions vary by country of origin, or even by collection, but they follow a basic pattern. A typical agreement includes something like, "The duplication of whole reel (one or more reels) and the publication of more than ten complete documents in any individual work require a written authorization of …." This means that patrons have unlimited access to almost all European-origin collections held at the USHMM, and copies of individual documents may be provided to inquirers. Complete collections, however, may not be provided without the consent of the national or local archive where the material was filmed, and such permission is rarely granted. A few European archives even imposed much stricter restrictions. In one case, a national archive even barred staff from looking at the collection until a given number of years after the end of World War II. Fortunately, these extreme restrictions are rare and most have expired with the passage of time.

> *It was decided to use a broad definition of survivor – a person who had been persecuted by the Nazis, including those who had fled German occupation, gone into hiding or survived through the use of false papers, etc.*

USHMM volunteers have long been indexing names taken from collections, and these databases are used to assist visitors or respond to inquiries. Progress in indexing collections was glacial, however, and much more assistance clearly was needed if we were to make a dent in extracting the names from the millions of pages of archival material. The then Chief Archivist, Henry Mayer, made the crucial decision in 2000 that, unless unusual restrictions applied, extracting names from collections and making the resulting databases, but not the documents themselves, available on the web was in accord with most international agreements.

The next problem was to locate organizations or individuals outside the USHMM who were prepared and able to index documents, since it was clear that museum staff and volunteers never would be able to handle such a massive task. Cooperative arrangements were made with JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org) and several other organizations such as Jewish Records Indexing–Poland to undertake this indexing. The resulting databases were placed on these institutions' websites and shared with the USHMM. These arrangements have worked out well, and JewishGen's online Holocaust database now includes more than 150 collections with more than two million names, most drawn from USHMM documents; other organizations carry several hundred thousand names on their websites. In all cases, copies of the documents from which the names were extracted may be obtained only from the USHMM.

A combination of passage of time and improved technology also played a major role in opening up new sources of information. European governmental and semigovernmental organizations (e.g., museums and memorial sites) that developed their own databases were, in many cases, willing to share them with the USHMM, although most remain reluctant to place material on the web. Nevertheless, many restrictions on access and availability remain, often with no seeming rationale. For example, the German government's 1939 census of Jews is available almost everywhere in the world through Mormon Family History Centers, but access to the computerized version of this collection, which would permit easier searches, still is restricted by the German central archives. Some German memorial sites have placed information on the web or published lists in book form. Other German memorial sites still restrict access to information on those who perished and are even more restrictive about those who survived. In November 2011, one memorial site donated an extremely useful book to the USHMM listing all those who had perished in that camp, but added that the book would not be publicly distributed.

In addition to the USHMM holdings, the museum had a hodgepodge of information from a variety of sources ranging from Yad Vashem's Hall of Names and archives, JewishGen, Jewish Records Indexing–Poland and a sprinkling of web forums dealing with specific geographic areas, memorial books and biographies/autobiographies. Even within a single institution, policies regarding the public display of information were difficult for outsiders to understand. Many have wondered, for example, why fewer than half of the more than seven million name citations that have been collected and included in the internal USHMM database, and are readily available to museum visitors, still are not available on the USHMM's website.

Then in 2007 "the elephant", the International Tracing Service (ITS) based in Bad Arolsen, entered the room and dramatically added to public interest.

Then in 2007 "the elephant," the International Tracing Service (ITS) based in Bad Arolsen, Germany, entered the room and dramatically added to public interest. There is not space here to describe the history of this institution, which was created after World War II in an effort to reunite families and identify victims. Suffice it to say that ITS, nominally governed by an 11 member state directorate, had become in practice the fiefdom of a single Swiss Red Cross official who was determined not to share this collection with any outsiders. This arrangement was recently terminated, and a professional archivist is to be selected to head ITS. This was true, although the ITS had come to hold the world's largest collection of information on Holocaust victims and survivors, estimated at 50 million records relating to 17 million individuals. As is the case at the USHMM, an individual's name may appear in several documents. For several years, Paul Shapiro, director of the USHMM's Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, struggled to force ITS to share its collections with its member states, although

only the United States initially showed any interest in acquiring copies. The reasons for this disinterest varied by country, and a full history of what took place must wait for the book that Shapiro is writing.

An agreement reached by the ITS government council in 2007 provides for the sharing of copies of ITS holdings: Each Government shall receive upon request a single copy of the archives and documents of the International Tracing Service. Each Government may make these archives and documents accessible for research on the premises of an appropriate archival repository in its territory, where access will be granted in accordance with the relevant national law and national archival regulations and practices.

The USHMM was chosen by the U.S. State Department to be the repository in the United States, and copies of ITS material have gradually arrived since 2007, a process that still is not complete four years later. Since the material began to arrive at the USHMM, Center staff has attempted valiantly to organize material from this byzantine collection. ITS has never had a professional archivist and it shows.

It is clear that the phrase "on the premises" in the agreement was intended to bar both further distribution of the collection and/or placing the material on the web. One could take the position that placing the collection on a website located "on the premises" of the USHMM would be permitted, but, even leaving aside legal considerations, it would be expensive and extremely difficult technically, given the chaotic structure of the collection. This option has not been considered to date.

A far more feasible option would be for individuals or organizations to come to the USHMM and download portions of the collections of interest to them and then place this data, or an index to it, on their own website. Such downloading and subsequent placing on the web is barred neither in the international agreement nor by United States government/USHMM archival procedures.

While no connection exists between USHMM archival holdings and the opening of the ITS records, the resultant spurt in public interest in Holocaust records has increased pressure on the USHMM to "do something" about providing effective access to information included in its own archival records, while still honoring the international agreements that govern the acquisition of collections.

Agreement with **Ancestry.com**

It also has whetted interest by Ancestry.com, the largest commercial online provider of genealogical information. Ancestry's website, which includes thousands of collections with millions of names, and permits members who pay a fee to search for names and to see and print the documents in which these names appear. (Some databases are not fee based.) Availability of documents is key to Ancestry.com's methodology.

For years, USHMM personnel who attended international Jewish genealogy conferences held informal talks with Ancestry.com officials. The talks were friendly, but also frustrating. Ancestry.com repeatedly expressed interest in placing USHMM documents and name lists on its website and offered to permit free public access to such documents. They were told that, however desirable it might be to provide for greater public access to USHMM documents, all holdings were subject to the agreements under which they had been obtained, many of which had forbidden placing the collections and/or documents on the web. The two organizations seemed to be at an impasse.

In 2010, a senior Ancestry official and I reviewed the now familiar roadblock to Ancestry—USHMM cooperation, and I suggested a compromise that would meet both organizations' goals. For years, the USHMM had cooperated with JewishGen and other organizations, permitting them to develop and place databases on their websites—but without the documents from which the names had been drawn. Genealogists who found names of interest and wanted copies of documents still had to request them from the USHMM. While this did not fit into Ancestry.com's normal pattern, why could not a similar arrangement not be negotiated if Ancestry.com were willing to forego the placing of images of documents on its website? The Ancestry official agreed to consider this approach.

The World Memory Project

A few months later, an Ancestry.com team came to Washington and a cooperative agreement was reached. Called the World Memory Project, it essentially follows the same model that USHMM had established with JewishGen, but is greatly improved in scope and technology. Scanned collections with significant name content are shared with Ancestry.com, whose volunteers then enter the names and

related information into databases. This material is made available at no cost to interested persons who may simply access the names via www.worldmemoryproject.org, then "Search and register."

No fees are imposed for any aspect of the World Memory Project, and online visitors are invited to participate as volunteers in entering data. One can search with or without soundex. If a name of interest is found, one sees the documentary information regarding that individual. Researchers who want a copy of the relevant archival document may request it from the USHMM. Having found a name of interest, one may simply click on "collection description," "learn more" and "ordering documents." One would complete the required information, which includes citing detailed information on the document being sought, and send the message to the USHMM which, in turn, will mail a copy of the actual document. Unfortunately, the procedure is not outlined yet on www.worldmemoryproject.org (a USHMM website).

Researchers also may access Project listings through the Ancestry.com website, even without becoming a member. Simply go to Ancestry.com and then Search and enter a name of interest. Those who want to test the system, may use Leo Lande as an example. Unfortunately, the website does not explain how you can obtain a copy of the document from which the name was taken, and researchers must go to www.worldmemoryproject.org to order the document.

Limitations of the Project

Is the World Memory Project a panacea for those who seek information on family members who perished or survived the Holocaust? No. First, no records exist for millions who perished during World War II and the Holocaust. Second, at least at this stage, the World Memory Project can access only USHMM material that already has been scanned. Thousands of records currently available only on film cannot be included in the project, at least until substantial funds become available to scan the films. Third, internal USHMM procedures may result in some collections not being included, although, in my opinion, many more clearly should be. Fourth, although it is available in scanned form, current United States policy bars the inclusion of ITS material in the project. This may change, but

probably not in the immediate future. Fifth, many sources of information have copyright restrictions or were acquired under terms that bar placing the material on the web, for example, the German 1939 census.

Having noted these limitations, however, the real question should be whether this source of information is significantly better than what is currently available—and the answer is a resounding *yes*! Until now only four collections have been made available, but this will grow at a pace that would have been inconceivable through existing programs. Moreover, it will correct and augment information currently available elsewhere on the web. For example, one collection that I hope will be included lists the name of Polish and German Jews who were sent from Łódź and nearby cities to work details in the Warthegau area. The information sometimes includes dates of death and further transfers. Thus, new and corrected information will be available on Germans currently listed in the *Gedenkbuch* (memorial book) as having perished (*verschollen*) in Łódź and Poles who are simply listed as residents in the Łódź ghetto.

With all its shortcomings, and some promised improvements, the World Memory Project has immense potential, and I recommend that genealogists not only utilize this new research tool but also participate in the indexing that makes this possible.

Peter Landé, a retired U.S. foreign service officer and recipient of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Lifetime Achievement Award, lives in Washington, DC. The views expressed in this article are his own and in no way should be taken as those of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. He is a member of JGSGW.

RootsTech 2013 Conference is scheduled for March 21-23, in Salt Lake City, Utah. For more information click here .

I attended the 3-day RootsTech Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, February 2-4, 2012. This was the second year of the Conference. While I wasn't able to attend last year, I was told that it was well-received by the genealogical community. With sponsors from the both technology industry and the genealogical community, the RootsTech has attracted users and developers from the USA, Canada, Europe, and other areas. The intent is to introduce technologists to genealogists, and thereby assist in making genealogical information more widely available. For example, a speaker from Google estimated that only about 5% of genealogy data is available to search engines - and he was talking about data that is accessible via the Internet, but has not been indexed by Google or other search providers.

The Conference had approximately 4500 attendees, with another 4000 daily online viewers. There were more than 70 vendors, and about 150 sessions - with additional workshops, and spontaneous sessions that attendees could create simply by signing up for a time and a topic.

The Conference included educational sessions divided into both "user" and "developer" tracks. Attendees were free to attend sessions of their choice from either track. In addition, there were keynote sessions to kick off each day.

Unlike the IAJGS-sponsored Jewish genealogy conferences, this is a non-ethnic-oriented conference. As such, I discovered many exhibitors that I was unfamiliar with — some, as you would expect for a conference held in Salt Lake City, oriented towards the LDS Church applications (e.g. FamilySearch.org). Among the exhibitors familiar to our Society members were Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, MyHeritage.com, and FamilyTreeDNA.com.

In addition to Ancestry and MyHeritage, other providers to the DC2011 Resource Room, included the New England Historic Genealogy Society (NEHGS), FindMyPast (recently purchased by brightsolid, which we're apparently going to hear more from in the coming year), and Fold3 (formerly Footnote. com).

The show had a cyber-cafe with computers available for users and wireless internet service was available throughout the conference floors. There was no "resource room" for attendees, with computer access to vendor databases. However, in many instances vendors at the RootsTech Conference were happy to demonstrate the capabilities of their site by performing searches for attendees. AmericanAncestors.org (NEHGS), for example, was helpful in my own research. brightsolid had a large display area with multiple computers available for attendees to use to search their databases - also helpful to me for research.

While I did not see anyone else from JGSGW, I did see some familiar faces: Elise Friedman of FamilyTreeDNA; Steve Morse, one of our most popular speakers; Jan Meisels Allen of the IAJGS; and Daniel Horowitz, who shared our table at last year's NARA genealogy fair and was a vendor at DC2011.

Overall, this show was quite different than other genealogy conferences I have attended, because of its dual-track approach (users and developers). I came away with some new ideas, both for our website (jgsgw.org) and for my own research. One example would be to use QR codes with the meeting calendar on jgsgw.org - so readers could download meeting information directly into their smartphones. We will see how that goes - let me know if you are wildly enthusiastic about the idea.

Ernie Fine
efine@cygnet.org
Ernie Fine lives in Ashburn, VA

JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

"The Chosen Folks: Writing about the Jews of Texas"
Speaker: Dr. Bryan Edward Stone

Dr. Stone's talk will focus on the themes of his recent book, "The Chosen Folks: Jews on the Frontiers of Texas." By addressing specific topics such as the transient sixteenth-century Sephardim who may have been the first Jews in the state, the establishment of permanent Jewish communities in Texas, and later immigrations such as the Galveston Movement, Stone explains the intricacies of Texas-Jewish identity.

The ways that Texas Jews defined themselves in opposition to others with whom they shared their state — and in opposition to Jews elsewhere — provide insights into how Jews construct and maintain their distinctive identity in places where they are an extreme minority. As such, the historical insights of The Chosen Folks are relevant to Jewish communities across the United States.

Date: **Sunday, April 15, 2012**
Time: **1:00 PM Schmooze,**
           1:30 PM Meeting followed by Program
Location: **B'nai Israel Congregation , 6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852**
           301-881-6550   **www.bnaiisraelcong.org/**

Bryan Edward Stone's first book, "The Chosen Folks: Jews on the Frontiers of Texas", was published in 2010 by the University of Texas Press. He is an Associate Professor of History at Del Mar College in Corpus Christi and a Visiting Professor at the Schusterman Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, where he teaches a summer course on Texas Jews.

JGSGW May Meeting

JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

"Finding Living People on the Internet"
Speaker: Ron Arons

Why search for living people? You might find cousins you never knew before. You might find people who might know more about your family than can be found in genealogical documents. This talk provides scores of websites to find almost any living person whether you know their surname or not (yes, you read correctly). Ron will provide numerous real-life examples of how these websites can be used individually and together.

Date: **Sunday, May 6, 2012**
Time: **1:00 PM Schmooze,**
       1:30 PM Meeting followed by Program
Location: **Congregation Har Shalom 11510 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854**
       301- 299-7087   http://www.harshalom.org/

For years **Ron Ahrens** has given presentations on genealogy and Jewish criminals across the country, including presenting for ten years at the IAJGS conferences. In 2005 Ron won a NY State Archives grant for his historical criminal research involving Jews in NYC. In 2008, Ron published The Jews of Sing Sing, a true crime book about Jewish criminals who served time 'up the river' at the famous prison in New York. That same year, Ron appeared on the PBS TV special The Jewish Americans and talked about famous Jewish criminals of Manhattan?s Lower East Side. Last year, Ron published WANTED! U.S. Criminal Records, a genealogy reference book designed to help others research historic criminals across the US (Jewish or not). Recently, Ron has expanded his product line to include new products: a variety of black sheep toys and a line of 'Black Sheep of the Family'-logoed t-shirts, polo shirts, and sweatshirts. Ron studied at Princeton and the University of Chicago.

Annual Membership Appreciation Luncheon*

JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

"Bureau of Naturalization Records for Genealogists"
Speaker: Zack Wilske

This presentation will use examples drawn from naturalization case and correspondence files to introduce researchers to the Bureau of Naturalization file series that is part of the records of INS now stored at the National Archives in Washington, DC. The records, which document the years 1906-1944, contain thousands of case correspondence files for aliens and citizens who had questions or concerns about nationality and citizenship. A newly available name index makes these previously under-utilized records accessible to Genealogists. The presentation focuses on Bureau of Naturalization file but will include examples of a wide array of early 20th century immigration and nationality records.

Date: **Sunday, June 10 2012**
Time: **12:30 PM Luncheon**
                  1:00 PM Program
Location: **Potomac Community Center,**
                  11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854
      301-983-4471   click here for the: Potomac Community Center website

* Details of Potluck Luncheon to follow.

Zack Wilske is a historian with the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). His research interests include the history of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) and the uses of INS records for genealogists and historians. He has presented regularly at the National Archives and several genealogy conferences, including the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC in 2011.

Broken Brick Wall Reveals a Mountain ... and a Murder?

by David Schneider

My mother's maiden name is Bernstein. Thirty-five years ago she told me that she had an uncle in New York, William Bernstein, who had children named Abe Bernstein and Goldie Niedelman. She also told me that Goldie's husband had a coat factory. Using that information, along with Ancestry.com, the SSDI, and the Social Security Administration, I was able to find the names of William's wife, four children, and their spouses. However, I was not able to locate any living descendants of William. (The only names I could find were common names such as Fred Bernstein or the first names of females who changed their surnames upon getting married.)

In October of 2011 I went to Salt Lake City with a group organized by Gary Mokotoff. With the help of the microfilm records at the Family History Center and the Proquest Obituary Website, I was able to obtain the name and address of a 90-year-old grandson of William named Haskell. I recently went to Florida and visited with Haskell and a cousin of his.
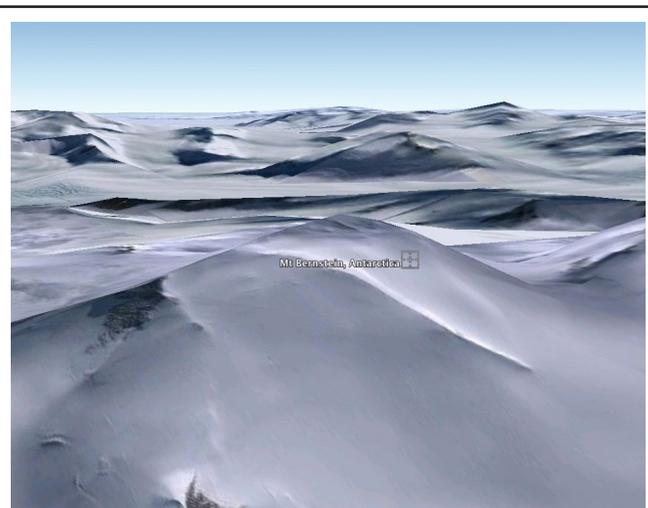
The most interesting piece of information I learned from my second cousins is that there is a mountain in Antarctica named Mount Bernstein that was named for one of my relatives. Do you know of any other mountains with Jewish names?

In the last few days I made further inroads into my brick wall problem. I started out trying to find living members of my grandfather's brother, William Bernstein. I located several of William's grandchildren (all in their 80s or 90s) and learned that Mount Bernstein in Antarctica was named for William's late grandson Fred Bernstein.

I have been searching for a ground-level photo of Mount Bernstein. I wrote to the US Geological Survey, Fred's old navy exploration unit, and a National Geographic photographer who specializes in Antarctica and leads tours there. No luck. However, a few days ago (with help from the NY Times, the 1930 census, WhitePages. com, and some phone calls) I located a daughter of Fred. Lo and behold, she lives in Montgomery County! We recently met for dinner and talked for two-and-a-half hours. She was unaware that she has nearly 200 relatives from Maryland.

Captain Fred J. Bernstein

Mount Bernstein *is a prominent mountain, 2,420 m, which forms a part of the northern wall of the Linder Glacier in the Lanterman Range, Bowers Mountains. Mapped by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) from surveys and U. S. Navy air photos, 1960-64. Named by Advisory Committee on Antarctic Names (US-ACAN) for the late Captain Fred J. Bernstein, Asst. Chief of Staff for Operations and Plans, U.S. Navy Support Force, Antarctica, 1967 and 1968.*

Headlines from some of the Aspen Daily Times articles regarding the murder of Hyman Bernstein.

One by-product of my research of William Bernstein is that some of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who haven not communicated with each other for many years, are talking, emailing, and exchanging photographs. One of William's granddaughters has even been having telephone phone conversations with relatives she had never met.

Here is another family story that I learned about during my search for family ties. I had heard many versions of this story from relatives but managed to get the true story when I did research in Salt Lake City. With help from the people at Family History Center I learned about newspaper articles that told the story about my relative Hyman Bernstein.

On July 7, 1892, Hyman was brutally murdered on a mountain in Routt County, Colorado. Israel Engel, an employee of Hyman, was accused of the murder. Engel maintained his innocence and turned to his fellow Jews in Colorado for help. The B'nai B'rith Order sent out an appeal to the lodges of the Southwest asking them to provide funds for Engel's defense. The Jewish community of Colorado packed the courthouse every day of the sensational trial and the Colorado newspapers reported every minute detail of the trial. On April 21, 1893, Engel was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and sentenced to one year in prison. Following the trial, Sarah, Hyman's widow, and her daughters (along with William Bernstein) moved back East.

There are at least twenty-five newspaper articles related to the murder and trial. If you are interested in reading through them you can fine them on the coloradohistoricnewspapers.org website where you can search "Bernstein" in the Aspen Daily Times.

David Schneider lives in Silver Spring, MD. He is a member of JGSGW.

The author meeting relatives for the first time.

Traveling in New York City this Spring?
Here is something to consider adding to your itinerary.

Museum of Jewish Heritage
Presents
Emma Lazarus Exhibit
and
Walking Tour
Smart Phone App

Emma Lazarus, c. 1866
Courtesy of
Antoinette Geyelin Hoar

Emma Lazarus was an American Jewish poet born in New York City in 1849, a child of Portuguese Sephardic Jews, best known for her sonnet inside the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty, The New Colossus...give me your tired your poor, your huddled masses...". This is the focus of a new app for a walking tour of the Manhattan, from Battery Park to the Upper east Side. One is taken back in time to the sights and sounds of the life in New York in the second half of the 19th century.

One also learns about Lazarus' Jewish identity and her Sephardic lineage dating back to her great great uncle Gershom Mendes Seixas, who served as the spiritual leader of Shearith Israel, New York's first Jewish congregation, and his brother Moses, who authored a very famous letter to George Washington. One stop is at the home of Judge Benjamin Nathan, Lazarus' uncle, who was murdered there in 1870. The crime affected Lazarus deeply and rocked New York's elite society. Edith Wharton's family's home stood next door to Nathan's

The Museum of Heritage, A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, of which JewishGen is an affiliate, has created an app for a walking tour of Emma Lazarus' New York- including her Jewish heritage. This is tied to the Museum's new exhibit which starts October 26 through the summer of 2012. It is a downloadable walking tour visiting 19 sites that helped shape Lazarus' legacy. The Museum's exhibit is in conjunction with the 125th anniversary of the Statue of Liberty. http://www.mjhnyc.org/emma/

...give me your tired your poor, your huddled masses...".

New Digital Resources

1940 New York City Telephone Directories

The New York Public Library (NYPL) is digitizing all of the 1940 New York City telephone directories. They plan to have them available on theirwebsite at the time of the 1940 US census release April 2, 2012. There will be a separate website for this, but at this time that url is not known.

However, there will be a link to that website at the time from the NYPL. Go to: www.nypl.org and in the search box type in 1940 telephone directories. When on the NYPL website search box make certain that the NYPL.org button is clicked "not" the catalogue.

For those of us with family in New York City in 1940 this will be an invaluable tool to help with location for searching the 1940 census as it will not be name indexed when first released. Name indexing will take at least six months and different organizations will be working on name indexing. In order to search before the name index is available one needs to know location of the person being researched. Also be aware that in 1940 not everyone could afford a telephone, and therefore, it is possible that the person(s) you are searching may not be found in the telephone directories.

The NYPL digitized telephone directory release will be a seamless tool as they are working with Steve Morse with the One-Step Website, which will help with the locational tools necessary to find the correct Enumeration District (ED) on the census . Here is the information for NYPL: Irma and Paul Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy

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American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archive

The New York Times reported on March 3 about the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee providing digital access to its treasure trove of archival materials. To read the article go to: http://tinyurl.com/7wc2shw

To read the original New York Times article click here:

There will be a searchable index for every document, photograph and record card, an essential tool considering that the Joint's archives contain over 500,000 names and 100,000 photographs. To search the archives go to: http://archives.jdc.org/

Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz Archive

While working on Yizkor Books Translation Project a fellow volunteer asked if I knew how to access the Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz Archive. Having never heard this name before I went to Google and typed it in. A few short clicks later I found that I had entered a treasure trove of information including documents, drawings and photographs from this amazing archive.

The Ghetto Fighters Kibbutz, Lohamei Haghetaot, was founded in 1949 by Holocaust survivors from Poland and Lithuania. It was established in Israel in the western Galilee between Acre and Nahariya. The Ghetto Fighters House is very first Holocaust museum in the world and also the very first founded by survivors of the Holocaust.

Link to the Ghetto Fighters House Museum: http://www.gfh.org.il/Eng/ From here you can click on the links to The Center for Humanistic Education, the Archives, their Partisans Site and much more.

NEW DIGITAL RESOURCES

National Jukebox

The Library of Congress presents the "National Jukebox" --an online destination for 10,000 rare, historical recordings. The program's assets were provided by Sony Music Corp. There are musical and spoken word recordings from 1901-1925--music and voice recordings of our grandparents/parents generations. The collection includes Sony Music's entire pre-1925 catalog-comprising thousands of recordings produced byColumbia Records, OKeh, and Victor Talking Machine Co. among others - and represents the largest collection of such historical recordings --and presidential speeches of Wilson, T Roosevelt, and presidential aspirants ---that has been

made publicly available for study and appreciation online. I typed in "Jewish" in the search field and 128 selections came up including Yiddish songs.

Click here to go to the site:
http://www.loc.gov/jukebox/

submitted by
Jan Meisels Allen
IAJGS Director-at-large and IAJGS Chairperson,
Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

32nd IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

JULY 15 - 18, 2012

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About Mishpacha

MISHPACHA is the quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc. (JGSGW), serving Washington D.C., Northern Virginia, and the Maryland suburbs. Mishpacha is distributed electronically. All rights reserved.

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JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for possible publication in Mishpacha. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or publish in revised form.
Submit articles to the editor: Jan R. Fine,

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JGSGW

Donations

The JGSGW Board of Directors has made the following Donations

on behalf of the JGSGW:

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USHMM in honor of Peter Lande
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B'nai Israel – Chod Media Center

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Next Issue of MISHPACHA...

Summer 2012

Planned release on July 1, 2012

Deadline for submissions:

June 1, 2011

Submissions should be made to the editor, Jan Fine, by email.

JGSGW

JGSGW Genealogy Library Spring Hours

Wednesdays: 1:00 – 3:00 PM
Sunday, April 15, 3 PM - 5 PM after the
JGSGW meeting
Sunday, May 6: 11 AM - Noon

For assistance, please contact
Vera Finberg - 703-978-6990,
vera.finberg@verizon.net

JGSGW Library New Acquisitions for Spring 2012

DS 135 .E8 E45 2001 **Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust.** Editor in chief Shmuel Spector; Foreword by Elie Wiesel. 3 volumes.

PZ 7 .S472 IN 1985 Sendak, Philip, **In Grandpa's House**. translated by Seymour Barofsky. Pictures by Maurice Sendak.

CS 71 F55 2011. Finberg, Vera. William Solomon Finberg. Example of Shutterfly product.

BM 225 . B22 C457 2000. Schein, Jan Bernhardt. **On Three Pillars; the history of Chizuk Amuno Congregation 1871-1996.**

F145 .J5 B7 1971 Brandes, Joseph. **Immigrants to Freedom; Jewish Communities in Rural New Jersey since 1982.**

DS 117 .J8513 1998 Barbavi, Eli, editor, Miriam Eliav-Feldon, editor English Editon. **Historical Atlas of the Jewish People; from the time fo the Patriarchs to the Present.**

CS 71 .B383 C677 2010. Sohn, Joan. **36 Letters; One Family's Story.**

Please remember that our library has an extensive collection available for all members to use. Our catalog includes both printed and electronic material.

The JGSGW genealogy library is located at the B'nai Israel Congregation, 6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, Maryland 20852. It is co-located with the Chod Media Center on the second floor. Details about the library can be found on the JGSGW website.

Other Society Newsletters Available Electronically

"Branches" JGS Greater Miami
"Shemot JGS Great Britain
"Morashan" JGS of Illinois
"Shem Tov" Toronto
"Venturing" JGSCV (Conejo Valley and
      Ventura County)

Paris Organizing committee newsletter
JGS Great Britain

Contact the editor at if interested.

JGSGW Meeting Calendar

September 2011-June 2012

September 11	Temple Beth Ami	1:30 pm – 4:00 pm
October 23*	B'nai Israel	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
November 13	Olam Tikvah	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
December 11	B'nai Israel	11:00 am -4:00 pm
January 8	Adas Israel	1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
February 12*	B'nai Israel	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
March 11	Beth El Hebrew Congregation	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
April 15*	B'nai Israel	11:00 am – 4:00 pm
May 6	Har Shalom	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
June 10	Potomac Community Center	11:00 am - 4:00 pm

* Board Meeting from 11:00 AM - 12:45 PM, Meeting and program from 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc.
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