



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 26, Number 3

Summer 2007

New home for the JGSGW Library!!!

Judy Mostyn White, JGSGW librarian

Greetings and Happy Family Hunting!

Do you remember JGSGW's library?

For the past year, our library has been boxed up. But I remember what it used to look like. Since 1996, I have been our society's librarian, replacing Rita Permut, who wanted to spend more time writing her own genealogy.



Back then, our library was housed at the Isaac Franck Jewish Public Library (IFJPL) on Hunters Lane, Rockville, MD, where the Jewish Day School is now. We used to have our library entirely locked up, and access for our members was limited to a few hours a month when Rita would be there to supervise. When I became librarian, I left a key with the staff of the IFJPL, so that our members could have access whenever the IFJPL was open. However, our members used the library most heavily only just before our monthly meetings, which were often held at the IFJPL.

In 1998, the IFJPL moved us along with them to Wyaconda Road, Rockville, MD, a smaller facility located in a warehouse. JGSGW was no longer able to have meetings there, and the library was not often used. Although the IFJPL was physically smaller, they generously gave us more space for our growing collection. They were good to us in many ways. They gave us plastic covers for our books with book jackets, they ordered supplies for us, they let us use their library software so we could print professional labels for our books, they donated books to us that they thought we would want, and they always agreed to my requests of them. Our members also had the benefit of the use of genealogically interesting books in their collection.

Despite our excellent relations with IFJPL, we find we are better off if we move our collection away. When they moved a year ago to 12230 Wilkins

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Mishpacha

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משפחה

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

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Special thanks to Jeff Miller, Liz Lourie & Fred Kolbrener

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

New Home for the JGSGW Library... (Continued from page 1)

Avenue, Rockville, they moved to a beautiful but smaller building. There is no room for our collection to be stored with theirs, no room for us to have our meetings there, less access to our collection for our members, and no room for us to grow our library.

Thanks to Marlene Bishow, our President, we now have a new home at B'nai Israel Congregation (6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD). We shall have our collection in the second floor of B'nai Israel's library in the Chod Media Center. This is especially good for us because there is room for us to expand, and because we are hoping our members can use our library before our monthly meetings, which are often held there. Also, the facility is quite beautiful.

We plan to have new lockable shelving made for our library and add a library table for comfort while working on research. Once completed, we will reshelve our books and other materials and reopen. Our plan is to keep our library locked, and open it during designated hours each month for our members and for B'nai Israel congregants to use.



We shall need lots of volunteers. We need some of you to help with the initial work of moving our boxes of materials from Wilkings Avenue to B'nai Israel, reshelving, doing an inventory, etc. We also might need someone with a truck or large SUV to transport our boxes from the Isaac Franck Library to B'nai Israel. Then we shall need volunteers to staff the library on a regular basis. During that time, a volunteer would unlock our materials, watch that no one removes anything from the premises, reshelve if necessary, and have free time to do his or her own research. Please consider helping us out either on a one-time basis or on an on-going basis. So far, the following JGSGW members have already volunteered to help:

Thanks to Elaine Apter, Jonina Duker, Melanie Grishman, Michael Kaltman, Evelyn Margolis, Evelyn Saile, Hank Schonzeit, Shelley Sparrow, Ben Terner, Nancy Weinberg and Bob Weiner for volunteering to help. I will be in touch with them as soon as I know anything definite.

Just to refresh your memory on what we have in our library, we have over 500 books, 31 binders filled with genealogy information, CDs & DVD's, over 44 microfiches, over 80 maps, and numerous periodicals. I am looking forward to getting us all set up in our new location so JGSGW members can once again do research.

Please let me know if you can help, on a one-time basis or on a continuing basis. Contact me at < judymostyn@comcast.net >.

Till next time, Happy family hunting!



Wonder and Curiosity

By Charles Polinger < chapol-99@excite.com >

When I read about my immigrant relatives who lived in Europe before coming to America, it always makes me wonder. It is more than a curiosity that I have. I am frustrated by the lack of knowledge about my relative's lives in the "old days" and in the "old country." My thoughts drift to my distant family, and how their lives must have been before and just after their arrivals in America around the turn of the century. How many of you have had the same concerns?

I wonder how and why Rebecca (Bessie, Becky) SHRADER and Peter (Pincus) FOGEL or VOGEL, left their homes in Russia. Where in Russia, by the way, did each of them live? How did one travel from Russia to England in the late 1800s? By foot or by train? Did Peter run away to avoid service in the Russian military, as once was rumored?

How was their life in Manchester, England, where they lived before coming to America? Manchester was in the heart of the new industrial revolution in England and the location of the new steam locomotive line to Liverpool, a prominent seaport. In his book, *How We Got Here*, Andy Kessler describes competition for the railroad, which was completed in 1830. Numerous passengers like Bessie and Peter were possibly able to travel cheaply to this seaport town by rail. Manchester had a large Jewish population in the late 1800s. Peter and his father, Fisal, were carpenters; why did they decide to uproot and leave for another country? I imagine Manchester being a soot-filled industrial town, with factories churning, and open markets where people might have bought the daily fruits and vegetables. Kessler describes Manchester as being the "...key center of England, laden with iron-works and mills and manufactories." How was sanitation, and did the people live comfortably? Did they have trusted friends and family nearby? What was their social life and entertainment like?

Surely, the word must have been out that life was better in the new country, America. Jobs had to be plentiful, or so it seemed, for so many people to migrate here. Were Rebecca and Peter living in England for several years, or was this just a stopping-off place while they planned to travel to America? Bessie was 30 when she left England. I imagine that she lived in England at least 13 years. She did raise three children with first husband, Morris SHRADER, and the oldest, born in England, was 13 when Bessie and her five children traveled abroad. Whatever happened to Bessie's first husband, Morris? Why doesn't he show up anywhere except on his daughter Mary's British birth certificate? Did he die suddenly of some grave illness, or did he just leave the family? Why would Peter, a tall, handsome man, judging by his pictures, marry Bessie when she already had three children by another husband? What made Peter send Bessie, and now five young children, across the ocean to be with him in New York? Didn't he plan to return to England someday? I wonder and I fantasize about this.



Peter & Bessie Vogel
with Anna & Dora

Thanks to Ancestry.com, I discovered that Bessie and her five children (three by Morris and twins by Peter) traveled the two weeks from Liverpool, England, to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on the ship *Haverford* on May 16, 1906. How was life on the ship during this time? Surely it didn't match my last cruise, with a private cabin and bath, TV, balcony, all-you-can-eat buffets, and great entertainment! How were conditions for Bessie and her family onboard the S/S *Haverford*? It is likely that they traveled steerage class and had no privacy during their voyage (I certainly wouldn't mistakenly call this a cruise). I've read quite a lot about steerage class, with crowded conditions and poor sanitation, and lack of privacy. How did Bessie manage with her brood, including 3-year-old twin girls, Dora and

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Anna? What did they eat and where did they sleep? Were they comfortable, or miserable, or something in between?

I try to imagine what life must have been like in Philadelphia and New York when Bessie arrived with her children. How did she manage to travel to New York and be with Peter? Did she take a train or some sort of horse-drawn carriage? There were no buses or planes, of course, back then, so how did people with little means travel from one city to another? I imagine by train. In Brooklyn, New York, how did the family live? Were they crammed into tenements like so many others who came to the land of the free and plenty? Did they have sufficient food and health care? Did the kids attend school, or did they help dad, or work in some other way? I wonder and I imagine.

Performing genealogy research to me has been something like peeling back the proverbial onion. With every piece of information, or layer of the onion, more is discovered, but more is left to be opened. In the end, how far can I peel back the onion? Will I ever discover the truth about life and conditions for my relatives? Will I ever know if my grandfather, Simon POLINGER, walked from Romania to Germany like so many others in order to catch the ship to America? Did he spend any time in the hotels in Hamburg, Germany, which were quickly set up to accommodate the many emigrants traveling to America? Did he laugh, cry, or lament leaving Europe? Was he excited or anguished at leaving his family and homeland?

I suppose I will never find out the answer to these many questions, but that doesn't stop me from trying. After all, we genealogists are a hearty, determined and inquisitive bunch, and we don't give up easily. There's always another "layer of the onion" to drive our curiosity and imagination. ☆

Looking for a way to celebrate...
or a way to commemorate,

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a donation to the...

JGSGW
Library
Fund

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

Research in the Ukraine

by Johanna Marshall < marshalljohanna@hotmail.com >

My father and three of his sisters were born in Odessa, now known as Odesa, Ukraine. When he died, I received his family records. They were all in Russian (I didn't read Russian at the time), so I had them translated. I have a family register, some birth certificates, a marriage certificate, and two original passports - one of which turned out to belong to someone not related to us, but that's another story. One of the documents also had the address where they lived in Odesa: 102 Bazarnaya Ulitsa (Market Street).

I learned that the family of my paternal grandmother, Golda Rivke KOSACHINER (others have spelled it KOZACHINER) were originally registered residents from Tulchin (Tul'cyn), Ukraine, a city in Vinnytska (Vinnitsa) oblast, about 180 miles northwest of Odesa.

I also learned that my paternal grandfather, Mendel Davidovich MOVSHOVICH, was a registered resident of a place called Karelichy, which is about 70 miles southwest of Minsk in what is now Belarus, but previously was in Lithuania, Poland, and also the Russian Empire, depending on who won the battles that were frequently fought over that territory. How he got to Odesa and met my grandmother is currently a mystery.

I realized that I was going to need help. Through JewishGen I located Miriam Weiner < <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/> > and hired her to do research in Ukraine. She found a great deal of information in the Odesa archives and the Vinnitsa archives, as well as the Chmelnitsky archives. Unfortunately, the information that would tie all of the family together is in the Kamenets Podolskiy archives, which was destroyed by a fire in 2003. There was also some information found in Chişinău (Kishinev), Moldova, but that didn't really tie anything together.

Miriam told me about *Yad Vashem* < <http://www.yadvashem.org.il/> >. In the *Shoah Victims' Database*, I found a submission with my grandmother's family name. Later I was searching the *Family History Library* catalogue < <http://www.familysearch.org/> > and I ran the name of the person who submitted the Pages of Testimony to *Yad Vashem*. I found her on a list of deceased people with an American Social Security Number. She had died in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, although her original address when she submitted the names to *Yad Vashem* was in Kiev (now Kyiv), Ukraine.

I telephoned Philadelphia's Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS) and explained the situation. The lady I spoke to remembered the name. She said; "This lady has a daughter, and I have the daughter's name. Would you like me to telephone her and put the two of you in touch?" I said "yes." Through the daughter, I have found a number of family members who have come to the United States since Glasnost. I met several of them when I visited San Diego, California earlier this year. I also have a family tree from them going back three or four generations. Although we can't prove it for sure, the patriarch of the newly arrived Russians/Ukrainians maintains that their oldest ancestor and my great-grandfather, Michael Mordko KOSACHINER, were brothers.

I also made another connection on JewishGen. I met a man currently living in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, whose mother (Bluma KOZACHINER, spelled with a Z) had the same first and last name as my great grandmother. She was originally from Tomashpil/Tomashpol, Ukraine. Tulchin and Tomashpol are about 10 miles apart. We have not been able to establish exactly how we are related, but our family name is so unusual and has only been found in a very limited area of Ukraine that we are sure we are related.

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In 2004 a cousin and I visited Ukraine. We went on a two-week cruise with Viking River Cruises on the Dnieper River. What attracted me to the cruise was the fact that we would spend two days in Odesa. When we arrived, I hired an interpreter and went to the archives, which is actually located in what used to be a synagogue at 18 Zhukovskogo. We then went to the address where my grandparents had lived.



102 Bazarnaya Ulitsa, Odesa, Ukraine

The building was in very shabby condition. The higher numbers further northwest on Bazarnaya Ulitsa had some nice buildings, including one which I was told housed the local stock exchange.

My interpreter told me that she believed the building was built around 1820-1830. If she is correct, its sad condition is due to age and poor maintenance. Seeing this house made me feel really glad that my grandparents came to the United States.

There are still a number of gaps in the family genealogical chart. I am trying to trace the offspring of one of my grandmother's sisters, Manya, in England--so far without much success. I am also searching for some more information on another of my grandmother's sisters, Dasha, who died in Paris, France, before World War II, but the Etat Civil seems to have no record of her, even though I have proof of her existence and addresses where she lived, and so the search goes on. Hopefully one day we'll have the rest of the story. ☆

My father, Nathan Rothschild

By Evelyn Saile < saile@verizon.net >

My father, Nathan ROTHSCHILD, did not know where he was born. When we asked him, he said Berdichev. We thought he was joking and as children, this sounded "funny" to us.

When I became interested in searching family roots, I contacted the Polish Archives for a copy of his birth certificate. They responded rather quickly and I discovered he was actually born in Nowogród (77.0 miles, 123.8 kilometers NNE of Warszawa, Poland) in Łomża gubernia under the Russian Empire. His birth certificate listed him as Nossen Yankel ROTHSCHILD born in 1892.

Through various references with JewishGen, I found that his family actually lived in a shtetl called Piątница (10 miles, 16 kilometers ESE of Nowogród) where his family resided from the 1790s.

His father, Wolf Baer ROTHSCHILD (ROTSZYLD in Polish), was probably born in Piątница. He was possibly a Rabbi, but I have no proof. Records classified him as a dignitary and a workman. Family lore says he sat and studied Torah all day while my grandmother worked. However, he died in 1892 in Piątница at the age of 38 from an unknown cause. A point of interest is that Wolf Baer's father's last name was MEJEROWITZ. I cannot account for the change in name. The family always used ROTHSCHILD.

My father's mother, Eni Libe KOLINSKY (called Anna in USA), was born between 1854 and 1859 in Kovno (today known as Kaunas), Lithuania, which is 58 miles (94 kilometers) WNW of Vilnius.

Since his father died shortly after my father's birth, his mother apparently took the family to Berdichev (today known as Berdychiv), Ukraine, where he spent a part of his youth. In 1861, Berdychiv (93.1 miles, 149.8 kilometers WSW of Kyiv) was a thriving Jewish community and the second largest Jewish community in Russia. She was a baker, and must have had some family there because it is quite distant from Piątница. She had 4 children to support. Lottie, Gussie, Rose and, the youngest, Nathan (my father).

For some reason she left Berdychiv and went to Kolno (89 miles, 144.0 kilometers NNE of Warszawa) in Łomża gubernia, near the old German border but at that time still considered Russia. Again, I think she had family there because I find her maiden name of KOLINSKY recorded in the list of Łomża 1897, done by José Gutstein < <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Lomza/News.htm> >. Kolno is only a few miles from her birthplace of Kaunas in Lithuania. All records concerning the people of Kolno were destroyed by a fire in 1932.

My father's three sisters arrived in the USA first; they were unmarried. My grandmother followed her older daughters with my father, then 11 years old, in 1903 through the port of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, where the entire family remained. According to my father's citizenship papers, he came from Kolno.

Lotta (Lottie) married Jacob GAMSON, Gussie (Goldie) married Levi ABRAMOWITZ, and Rose married Herman VERBITSKY. They all lived in Philadelphia.

I made one interesting observation on the birth certificate of my father's sister Lotta, also born in Nowogród. It states on the bottom that she was baptized, which would never have happened with my grandmother who was a very devout Jew as was my aunt Lotta (Lottie) during her entire life. I have no idea how this may have happened.

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Society News



Current Newsletters available electronically from the editor:

- “Atsmi Uvsari” - Utah JGS
- “Chronicles” - JGS Greater Philadelphia
- “Discovery” - San Diego JGS
- “Family Gatherings” - JGS Broward County
- “Generations” - JGS of Michigan
- “JGS-NYT” - JGS of Denmark (in Danish)
- “Mishpochology” - JGS of Southwest Florida (Sarasota)
- “Montreal Forum” - JGS Montreal
- “News ‘N Notes” - St. Louis Genealogy Society
- “Newsletter” - JGS Great Britain
- “Scatered Seeds” - JGS Palm Beach County
- “Shem Tov” - JGS Canada (Toronto)
- “Toldot” - JGS Argentina (in Spanish)
- “Venturing Into Our Past” - JGS Conejo Valley & Ventura County, California
- “Zichron Note” - San Francisco Bay Area JGS

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Barbara & Michael GRUENBERG

Estelle G. GUTTMAN

Tony HAUSNER

Vicki G. NELSON

Edith RATNER

Carol L. ROBERTS

Rosine ROSENBLATT

Vladimir SALITA

Fern S. & Ronald SOLOMSON

Judy STEIN

Mark STONE

Changes in Dues

Because of the increases to rental facilities, travel costs for speakers and other expenditures, the Society needed to raise the membership dues for the first time in the history of the Society. The revised dues structure, effective July 1, 2007, is as follows:

Individual Members: \$30 /year or \$80 /3 years

Family Members: \$45 /year or \$120 /3 years

Non-member visitors at meetings: \$5 per meeting. If they join after the first meeting, the \$5 fee will be applied to membership dues.

JGSGW MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

What a wonderful finale to a great year! Our last meeting of the year on June 10 at the Potomac Community Center provided an opportunity to acknowledge all the wonderful members who give of their time to make JGSGW a dynamic and exciting organization. Beautiful certificates were presented to each of the volunteers by Gene Sadick, our Membership Vice-President, and by Marlene Bishow, our President. Networking and great conversation were much facilitated as people stood

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

presented to

<i>Gene Alpert</i>	<i>Liz Lourie</i>
<i>Elaine Apter</i>	<i>Rita Margolis</i>
<i>Harriet Armoza</i>	<i>Don Melman</i>
<i>Marlene Bishow</i>	<i>Rich Meyersburg</i>
<i>Beryl Blickstein</i>	<i>Jeff Miller</i>
<i>Jonina Duker</i>	<i>Lorraine Minor</i>
<i>Glenn Easton</i>	<i>Gary Morin</i>
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<i>Dave Fox</i>	<i>Ben Okner</i>
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<i>Mike Getz</i>	<i>Arline Sacks</i>
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<i>Jean Holz</i>	<i>Bill Sher</i>
<i>Ruth Hurwitz</i>	<i>Leon Taranto</i>
<i>Faith Klein</i>	<i>Ben Terner</i>
<i>Margarita Lackó</i>	<i>Martin Wald</i>
<i>Aaron Werbel</i>	



***In Recognition of
Valuable Contributions***

2006-2007

***Jewish Genealogy Society of
Greater Washington***



Members enjoying a delicious lunch and great conversation at our last meeting

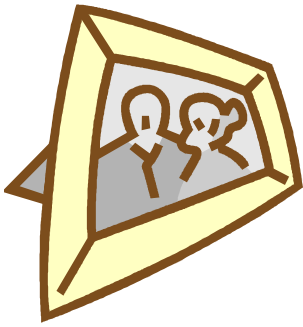
around the food tables selecting from a wide array of food brought by members to our potluck luncheon, or at the luncheon tables. And the pièce de resistance was our entertainment for the afternoon. Flory Jagoda took us on an historical lecture journey to a Sephardic community in the small town of Bosnia. She shared slides of the village and her musical family from before World War II, and highlighted her presentation with community and holiday songs, ballads, and romansas to provide us with a true view of a vanished culture. ☆



Flory Jagoda, Susan Gaeta and Howard Bass sharing with us the culture of the Jewish Sephardim in Bosnia through music.

Flory's music inspired Elizabeth Margosches, Sam and Sarah Stulberg, and Sonia Pasis to perform a Syrto folk dance from the Macedonian region.





The President's Perspective

I share a dream with many JGSGW members that someday we will have a library where we can do research and use the many books and resources that had been amassed by the society over the years. Since I joined in 2001, I found the JGSGW library to be inaccessible and inconvenient. As a trained problem solver, I privately decided that I would dedicate my efforts as president to solve this issue.

Now that we have found a home for the library at the Chod Media Center at B'nai Israel, we face some additional challenges; not the least of which is to determine the operational hours for the library once the relocation has taken place. Our librarian of 12 years, Judy Mostyn White will lead the transition efforts and the operations going forward, and it is very rewarding to see how many members have volunteered to help.

Our library will continue to be non-circulating. Part of our commitment to B'nai Israel is that we will open our library for use by their congregants and participate in programs to foster interest in Jewish genealogy for their school students and various special interest organizations. If we have members who are interested in genealogy education, I hope that they will contact me to discuss how we can use existing materials or develop our own.

We will also put together workshops and programs to familiarize our members with the resources in the library. A guide to the library's holdings and map will be developed to facilitate and encourage use.

We have a wonderful opportunity before us. I know that we can live up to the promise and continue to expand and grow this library to meet the needs of our members.

Wishing you all a great summer!

Marlene Bishow
President

Thank you, Ben!

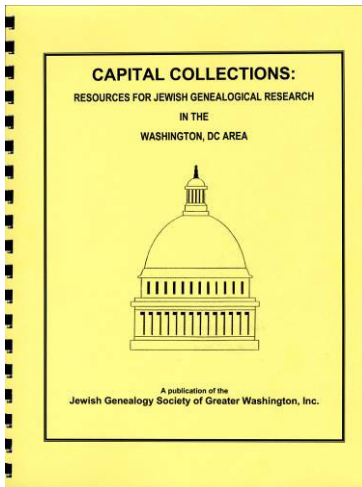


Ben Okner is retiring as a member of the Board of Directors of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington after seven years as Corresponding Secretary and twenty-five years as a member.

He joined JGSGW in 1982. During the 1980s he was an active participant in various JGSGW projects to index State Department records at the National Archives. In 1989, he was elected as Member-at-Large, under then-president, Rita Krakower Margolis. Beginning in 1999, he served as Corresponding Secretary, a position he has held through the 2006-7 program year. Ben was one of the three co-chairs of the 23rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Washington, DC, in July, 2003. More than 1,200 genealogists attended the conference and the program received rave reviews

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CAPITAL COLLECTIONS



It's a Capital publication.....

Announcing the publication of the newly updated and expanded fourth edition of "*Capital Collections: Resources for Jewish Genealogical Research in the Washington, DC Area*," published by The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington.

If you plan a trip to the nation's capital or you are a resident of the area, you will find this 103-page guide to be indispensable. Resources, phone numbers, websites and security information has been updated. Newly identified sites have been added. There is also a new section on public transportation, including a map of the DC Metro system.

The contents include:

- ✧ Getting Around The DC Metro Area **NEW!**
- ✧ National Archives And Records Administration
- ✧ NARA Archives II At College Park, Maryland
- ✧ The Library Of Congress
- ✧ The U S Holocaust Memorial Museum
- ✧ National Museum Of American Jewish Military History
- ✧ Daughters Of The American Revolution (Dar) Library
- ✧ Family History Centers
- ✧ National Library Of Medicine
- ✧ House Of The Temple Library And Museum **NEW!**
- ✧ Washington, DC
- ✧ Maryland (*Including Special Sections On Baltimore And Anapolis*)
- ✧ Virginia (*Including Northern Va And Richmond*)
- ✧ Synagogues In The Washington Area
- ✧ Cemeteries In The Washington Area And The Synagogues & Burial Societies Using Them
- ✧ Cemeteries In The Baltimore Area And The Synagogues & Burial Societies Using Them

The book is bound and lies flat for ease of use. It is certainly a MUST for genealogy libraries.

Pricing:

\$18 per copies + \$5 S&H

\$12 for single-copies for JGS libraries

\$12 for JGSGW members

Check must accompany order. Send order to:

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc.

P.O. Box 31122

Bethesda, MD 20824

Att: Capital Collections

Member's Corner

Can you help?

Editor's note:

Following are requests from members asking for genealogical research advice. We would like this column to be an interactive one and would appreciate participation by members of the Society in answering these queries. If you can provide more advice or tips, please send your response to me at < mishpologia@uzidog.com > so that it can be printed in the next *Mishpacha*.

Tracking my Jewish heritage

My great-grandmother, Bertha or Betty MORNINGSTAR (aka MORGENSTERN from Szered, Hungary, now Sered', Slovakia) has been the subject of years of research culminating in the information that her coming to America was via Louisville, Kentucky, a fact that was unknown to me until I started my research years ago. The *Filson Historical Society* < <http://www.filsonhistorical.org/> > in Louisville was a great help to me in that endeavor.

My hang-up has been finding out information about her husband, my great-grandfather, Jacob STRAUS, a dentist apparently from Bavaria, born probably around 1822 or 1823, and died in 1884 in New York.

The attempt to find his birthplace in Europe or even his whereabouts in the States prior to 1870 has been very frustrating. He should have appeared in the 1860 census in Kentucky and the 1880 census in New York, but he does not. Also, no wedding record was found.

Jacob STRAUS was definitely in America by 1860. I have a record of his being a witness at a wedding of the MORNINGSTAR family in Louisville in 1858.

He may have married Bertha or Betty MORNINGSTAR that year since their eldest son, Lewis, was born in 1859.

The 1870 census from Brooklyn, New York, lists the birthplace in 1862 of their daughter, Hattie STRAUS (married a WEIDENBACH), as Kentucky while their youngest son William, my grandfather, was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1864.

He has been a very elusive character. Added to this are the numerous people with his same name and even approximate time of birth, which adds to the confusion.

If anyone out there either in the organization or elsewhere can give me some leads I would appreciate it.

(Continued on page 15)

Member's Corner *(Continued from page 14)*

Thank you very much.

Benjamin Goldsmith Straus
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Bowie, Maryland 20716
Phone 301-464-0972
E-mail: BenjaminStraus@aol.com

A:

In searching the 1870 Census using Ancestry.com for Jacob Straus and family members, I found two different entries that may be related family members. Jacob, a dentist from Prussia, born 1825 (age 45), is living with Bertha, age 35; they are listed in Manhattan, 7th ED, 16th Ward, page 26, without children. A Brooklyn entry also exists in the 1870 Census for Joseph Straus and family members. Joseph is a dentist from Prussia, born 1825 (age 45). He is living with wife named Caroline, age 34, from Hungary, and children all born in New York (none in Kentucky). The children are Louis, age 10, Hattie, age 9, and William, age 6.

< Jeff Miller >

Thank you, Ben! *(Continued from page 12)*

Ben earned a PhD in Economics from the University of Michigan and has worked as an economist in numerous government agencies over the years. He got started in genealogy in 1982--just about 5 years after the last person in his family that could have helped him with his family history had died! He joined JGSGW at that time and attended the first International Conference in Israel in 1984. He has traced his father's family back to the 1700s, and in 1995, he visited ancestral towns in Ukraine (Odessa, Tulchin and Bershada) and met several family members still living there. After more than 20 years of searching, he has finally found his mother's passenger ship record in the Ellis Island data.

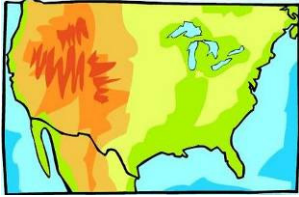
We sincerely thank Ben for all of his efforts in behalf of the society and we hope that he will continue to attend meetings and make contributions to our efforts. ☆

My father, Nathan Rothschild *(Continued from page 8)*

I have no information regarding my grandmother's background, other than her birthplace and maiden name. I really want to explore my grandmother's genealogy, but have no leads. I know nothing about her parents or siblings. Sometime around 1905, she married Samuel EDELSTEIN in Philadelphia.

My father Nathan was a building contractor, had a great love of music, and was quite an intellectual. He spoke many languages and helped to support quite a few artists during the years of the WPA.

I think it is important not to become intimidated by people who have enormous family trees when you have very little. They may have been doing research for many years and many are willing to help you discover your own family. JewishGen < <http://www.jewishgen.org> > is a great help and I know I will continue looking for my own roots. ☆



Domestic Research

U.S. Immigration Collection Border Crossings from Mexico 1903 - 1957

Ann Rabinowitz < annrab@bellsouth.net >

(Adapted from *JewishGen* Discussion Group Sig Lists)

As part of their U.S. Immigration Collection, Ancestry.com < <http://www.ancestry.com> > has initiated a section devoted to border crossings from Mexico during the period of 1903 - 1957. It includes many ports of entry in Arizona, California, Texas and New Mexico.

The information contained on the cards can include the name, age, birth date, birth place, gender, ethnicity/nationality, names of persons accompanied by, port of arrival, and arrival date.

Often, the name of the shtetl the person was from originally is specified. There may be no other record with this information for the person. Naturalization dates and the certificate numbers are often given. In addition, many times the maiden name of a female is included.

Be advised that many names are misspelled or corrupted as the cards are hard to read. Many names are of Sephardic origin or have been converted to more Spanish-sounding names but in many cases Jews did not have the designation of "Hebrew" in the entries. People travelled to America from Mexico not only for immigration purposes, but to visit friends and relatives, to conduct commercial activities, or to get medical treatment. They also filled in the nationality of the country that they lived in, so you should also search for the particular country your family may have been from.

This is a terrific database where one may find previously unknown relatives. Many people went to Mexico as they could not enter the U.S. at the time of their immigration due to restrictive quotas.

Obtaining Visa Records

From Gladys Paulin < paulin@genealogybygladys.com >

To order a copy of a Visa request record for aliens who entered on or after July 1, 1924, one needs the following information to submit a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Request:

- * The immigrant's name and date and place of birth
- * the port, name of ship and date of arrival (or port and date of border crossing)
- * clearly state you are requesting the "Visa" file or "Visa Packet"

The request can be made by letter or on the FOIA request form G-639, which is available at:
< <http://149.101.23.2/graphics/formsfee/forms/g-639.htm> >

FOIA requests are to be sent to:

USCIS National Record Center
FOIA Division
P.O. Box 648010
Lee Summit, MO 64064-5570

You will receive an acknowledgement with a case number. Keep that case number because you will need it to follow up, if necessary.



Overseas Research

Rare Hebrew Books On Line

The *Society for the Preservation of Hebrew Books* has scanned more than 11,000 volumes of rare and out of print works of American Authors, and a broad range of Jewish tradition, law and custom, including commentaries, legal analysis and rabbinic journals published in Hebrew, English and Yiddish, by Jewish scholars all over the world. The collection is available at < www.hebrewbooks.org > for free download.

Nechama's List

Update of "Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog"

Nechama's List < <http://www.nechamaslist.com/> > is an updated version of the original database of Jewish records at the Family History Library (FHL), compiled by Nancy Goldberg Hilton. It contains a detailed description of over 600 titles of newly filmed Jewish records which were added to the FHL catalogue between January 8, 2001 and November 8, 2006.

Pronunciation Guides

Steven Lasky has created a guide to pronunciation for the main language of Hungary, i.e. Magyar. See < www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/erc-gtp-hungary.htm >. He enlisted a native speaker of Magyar to aid him in presenting the proper pronunciation of more than two dozen names of towns and cities in today's Hungary. A table includes instructions on the proper pronunciation of Magyar vowels and consonants. He also created other lists for Lithuanian, Romanian and Polish languages.

These guides might also help genealogists in imagining alternate spellings of many of these towns, based not on the correct spelling but on how the word actually sounds.

Browse through the Site Map to find much more < <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/> >.

New Jewish Sources Found in Vienna

In 2000, officials of the *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien* (IKG; Jewish Community Vienna) found wooden cabinets and 800 dusty boxes in a vacant building containing about half a million pages of detailed records of the community during the Holocaust. They include card files, letters, emigration and financial documents, deportation lists, books, photographs, maps, and charts.

After years of categorizing, preserving and microfilming the materials - a joint project of IKG and the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (USHMM) in Washington - the documents are about to be officially unveiled at the *Jewish Museum Vienna*.

In the 1950s, the archive of the IKG had been transferred to *Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People* (CAHJP) in Jerusalem. The Holocaust-relevant records are being microfilmed. Once the component projects in Vienna and Jerusalem are completed, the entire Holocaust-relevant archival collection of about 2 million pages will be made available at the USHMM in Washington.

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum < <http://www.ushmm.org/> >
Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien < <http://www.ikg-wien.at/> >

Lithuanian or Baltic Research

The *Centre for Studies of the Culture and History of East European Jews* covers a number of Lithuanian topics and places. In the Gallery "Jewish Heritage in Regional Museums of Lithuania" section you can search for photographs using three drop-down menus: museum, topic and object. In many cases, the photographer is also mentioned. You can find documents, business enterprises, portraits, buildings, houses that do not exist anymore, etc. In the Publications section, you will find articles on various shtetls which provide links to JewishGen, Beth Hatefutsoth and others. Caveat: several articles are in Lithuanian. Visit this site at < <http://www.jewishstudies.lt/index.php?138774898> >

Jews of Greater Hungary during the Holocaust

NEVEK (NAMES) < <http://www.neveklarsfeld.org/> > gives you access to details on more than 400,000 Jews of Greater Hungary and their fate during and following the Holocaust. It has recently been updated. Most records contain year and place of birth. Many include parent's names, spouse's name, next of kin, address, etc.

The names have been collected from official sources such as:

- ✧ some lists of Jews to be deported in the Spring of 1944, compiled by the Hungarian Gendarmerie
- ✧ cards of Concentration Camp inmates (Stutthof, Mauthausen, Lichtenworth, Starsshof, Sarvar)
- ✧ cards of the Labor Battalions maintained by the Hungarian Army
- ✧ census of survivors in Budapest carried out by the *Joint Distribution Committee* (JDC) in 1946.

The project, whose Director is Dr. Gavriel Bar-Shaked, is incorporated in The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names < <http://www.yadvashem.org/> > but the NEVEK website provides more complete information per record.

Sephardic and Ashkenazi Tombstones

Mathilde Tagger, Sephardim SIG Coordinator

Why are the Sephardic tombstones horizontal and lay on the earth while the Ashkenazi ones are vertical? Here are in short all the reasons/suggestions expressed by the group:

1. Geography: Jews borrow the horizontal or vertical tombstones from the environment in which they live.
2. Vandalism: In Europe (the old country) Ashkenazi fearing from vandalism preferred less exposed stones.
3. Equal status: One can find Sephardic and Ashkenazi tombstones vertical as well as horizontal.
4. Talmud (I cite): "The origin of the tombstone (in the Talmud) was not as a memorial but as a demarcation, but rather as a warning to Kohanim to stay away from an area of tum'ah (ritual impurity). To achieve this purpose, it had to be slightly larger than the grave itself (as discussed in Tractate Mo'ed Kattan, in Tractate Shekalim of the Jerusalem Talmud). Thus, it necessarily lay flat. The Talmud impliedly discourages the use of tombstones as a memorial. Indeed, Torah commentaries question why the Patriarch Yaakov built a memorial for his wife Rachel, something which he should have known prophetically the Talmud would discourage. (Conversely, how could the Talmud discourage that which Yaakov had done?)

The upright tombstone is most likely a Diaspora innovation borrowed from the gentile world.

This last answer is for me the most convincing because it is documented and based on the Jewish tradition.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

FEEFHS



Federation of East European Family History Societies

12-14 July, 2007

Best Western Salt Lake Plaza Hotel At Temple Square
Salt Lake City, Utah

For more information, go to < <http://www.feefhs.org/> >

27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

15-20 July 2007 at the Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Utah



Visit the conference website at < <http://www.sl2007.org/> >

View the full program at
< www.iajgs.org/2007Conference/ConferenceSchedule.pdf >

The 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held at the Chicago Marriott hotel on 17-22 August, 2008. The Chicago conference is being hosted by IAJGS in cooperation with the JGS of Illinois and the Illiana JGS.

Federation of Genealogical Societies

15-18 August 2007, Fort Wayne, Indiana



A Meeting at the Crossroads of America will be hosted by the Allen County Public Library at the Grand Wayne Convention Center.

For more information, go to < <http://www.fgsconference.org/> >

Jewish Genealogy Trip to "The Candy Store"

18-25 October 2007, Salt Lake City, Utah



For the 15th consecutive year, veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will be offering a research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Additional information can be found at < <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm> >

The Israel Genealogical Society

12 November 2007, Beit Wolyn, Korazin 10, Givatayim, Israel



The Third Annual Seminar on Jewish Genealogy's theme is

The Wandering Jew:

Jewish Migration Between The 18th to 20th Centuries

More information and details at: < <http://www.isragen.org.il/NROS/YY2007/index.html> >



2007– 2008 TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE



September 9, 2007 - TBA
October 14, 2007 - B'nai Israel
November 11, 2007 - Joint meeting with JHSGW
December 16, 2007 - B'nai Israel
January 6, 2008 - B'nai Israel
February 3, 2008 - B'nai Israel
March 16, 2008 - B'nai Israel
April 13, 2008 - Olam Tikvah, Fairfax, VA
May 18, 2008 - B'nai Israel
June 8, 2008 - Potomac Community Center

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