



# 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 27, Number 3**

**Summer 2008**

## **NEW LIBRARY FOR JGSGW MEMBERS**

By Eugene Sadick, JGSGW Librarian < [elsadick2@verizon.net](mailto:elsadick2@verizon.net) >

Mishpacha



Librarian Gene Sadick ready to greet library users  
(Photo courtesy of Vera Finberg)

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) has operated a Library since its incorporation in the 1980s. In the past, the Library has been physically located within the Isaac Franck Library. However, in 2007, JGSGW reached a formal agreement with the B'nai Israel Synagogue to house the Library in their Chod Media Center. During the winter of 2007-2008 the JGSGW holdings were transferred to B'nai Israel, new bookcases were ordered, and then the 65 boxes of holdings, including about 550 books, were unpacked and placed on the shelving in proper

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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 Liz Lourie & Fred Kolbrener

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

order. The effort was managed by the JGSGW Library Steering Committee and volunteers. The Committee, acting as a team, will take control of managing the Library. The Committee is staffed by:

Eugene Sadick – Librarian  
Vera Finberg – Associate Librarian  
Elaine Apter –Associate Librarian

The Library's formal mission is to provide access to published Jewish genealogical information, historical and current, in various media and to foster research in these subjects for the benefit of members searching for missing or unknown ancestors.

The Library will accomplish this mission by acquiring and organizing important materials relating to Jewish communities and Jewish individuals throughout history. The Library staff will also provide guidance to researchers for effective access to published or online sources. They will also provide guidance for access to the Internet to examine the various databases available in the Jewish genealogy community. The staff will not do research for individuals but will suggest resource materials for the researchers to use.

By mutual agreement, JGSGW and B'nai Israel administrators have scheduled Library hours as follows:

During June, July, and August, the Library will be open on Mondays from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM and on Wednesdays from noon to 3:00 PM.

Starting in September until the end of May, the Library will be open on Mondays from 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM and on Wednesdays from noon to 3:00 PM.

The Library will also be open the first Sunday of each month from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

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

The Library is open to members of JGSGW and B'nai Israel. Each researcher must show an Identity Card, issued either by the JGSGW Librarian or Membership Chairman. Members of B'nai Israel receive cards from their Librarian. The cards are different for each organization.

There is no single list of media associated with researching family history. Jewish genealogy is a process of searching published listings and, if possible, asking for information from relatives or friends of the family. Helpful information includes names of ancestors, towns, immigration records and census data. The files at the U.S. National Archives, the U.S. Holocaust Museum and the Ellis Island immigration records contain a wealth of information. The Internet also offers valuable information. Websites such as JewishGen, including Jewish Records Indexing (JRI) – Poland, and Ancestry.com are good starting points.

JewishGen provides guidelines for beginning family history research. Our Library staff can assist you in identifying relevant sources in the Library and can direct you to sources not included in our Library holdings.

JGSGW also publishes *Capital Collections*, a directory of sites in the Washington, DC area that contain Jewish genealogy research resources.

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The Library has current holdings of approximately 550 books. Back copies of journals, newsletters, audio and video tapes, CDs and DVDs, foreign language books, active journal subscriptions, periodicals in the fields of genealogy history, Jewish studies, news articles, newsletters, microfilm and microfiche documents and CD's of various conferences. There is a nearly complete collection of *Mishpacha* and JGSGW Membership Directories. There are also JGSGW scrapbooks with photos, meeting announcements and other historical documents.

Library materials are for research only and do not circulate at any time. All materials are stamped with a notice of ownership by JGSGW and a notice that the material may not be removed from the Library. To prevent accidental removal or theft, the security guard at the entrance to B'nai Israel may request to examine visitors' personal papers when they exit the building.

The Library has 12 desktop computers, provided for use by B'nai Israel. The software includes Microsoft Office Suite with the XP Operating System and includes Excel and Word. Another key software package available is Family Tree Maker 16. All of the computers have Internet access, but no printing capability.

The Library also has a scanner and a microfiche reader. A photocopy machine will be acquired in the near future. At that time, a single copy may be made without charge on each visit to the Library. However, there will be a fee for copying multiple pages from one or more books. The Librarian on duty must be contacted before any copies are made. Copyright regulations will be enforced. ☆

### WISH LIST from the Library Committee

- ☆ **A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire** by Alexander Beider, Revised edition 2008. \$118. Avotaynu
- ☆ **A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames** by Lars Menk. \$89. Avotaynu
- ☆ **Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genalogical Sources in Israel** by Mathilde Tagger & Yitzhak Kerem. \$45. Avotaynu
- ☆ **Genealogical Gazeteer of the Kingdom of Hungary** by Jordan Auslander. \$46. Avotaynu
- ☆ **The Lurie Legacy** by Neil Rosenstein. \$85. Avotaynu.
- ☆ **Map Group for Poland** \$11.95 Avotaynu
- ☆ **Map Group for Russia.** \$22.95 Avotaynu.



#### THREE WAYS TO DONATE:

1. Write a check payable to JGSGW and give it to Gene at the next meeting.
2. Purchase the item(s) yourself and present it to the library.
3. Write a check payable to JGSGW and snail mail it to our new P.O. Box

**P.O. Box 1614**  
**Rockville, MD 20849-1614**

Summer Library Hours: Mondays 6-8:30 PM and Wednesdays 1-3 PM

## **“THE MYTH OF THE MARRANO NAMES”<sup>1</sup>**

Reviewed by JGSGW member Rosine Nussenblatt < [rossinuss@yahoo.com](mailto:rossinuss@yahoo.com) >

In this short paper, Brazilian historian Anita Novinsky who is an authority on the history of the Jews and Marranos in colonial Brazil, claims that the interest in Marrano family names in Brazil since 1992 and the myths regarding the origins of the names may distort the real history of the Anusim (forced converts) and their descendants because Marrano names are not unique. Rather, they follow the Portuguese tradition of names representing animals, plants, towns, and villages. According to Novinsky, there is scant documented evidence to explain how the names were adopted, but there are legends about these names that do not always reflect the reality.

The name Marrano, given to individuals of Jewish or supposed Jewish origins, has been much studied and various meanings have been attributed to this word. A commonly accepted meaning is that it means pig and refers to individuals accused of the “crime” of Judaizing, or being secret Jews. Given its derogatory meaning, others prefer to use the term New Christian. In Hebrew, Jews converted under duress are called Anusim.

A quick reminder of the historical events that led to the forced conversions of Jews in the Iberian Peninsula at the end of the 15<sup>th</sup> century will be helpful. In 1492, the Catholic Spanish monarchs expelled the Jewish population of their territories in Spain proper and elsewhere. With much hardship, Jews left by boat for territories mainly under Moslem rule and by land for places such as the Kingdom of Portugal, and in much smaller number for the Kingdom of Navarre.<sup>2</sup> The map of Portugal was then dotted with numerous Jewish communities; and with the arrival of the Spanish Jews, the Jewish population of the Kingdom of Portugal increased significantly. In December 1496, only five years later, King Manuel I (1495-1521), who wanted to marry the daughter of the Spanish sovereigns, ordered the expulsion of Jews from Portugal, but changed his mind very soon after, fearing the economic loss that would result from such an expulsion. The expulsion of the Jews of Portugal was therefore quickly transformed into a forced conversion.

Life was difficult for New Christians even before the Portuguese Inquisition started in 1536. In 1506, the populace in Lisbon massacred many New Christians. Later on, when they were allowed to leave Portugal, many New Christians headed for the Portuguese colonies including Brazil, in search of a better life. However, the Portuguese Inquisition was also active in the colonies.

Historians, Novinsky tells us, estimate that the Portuguese Inquisition (1536-1821), whose reach included Brazil and other colonial possessions, conducted between 39,000 to 40,000 trials, 80% of them involving the “crime” of Judaizing.

For this paper, Novinsky used as a main source the “Book of Guilties” (“Rol dos Culpados”), which she had found back in 1965 in the National Archives of Portugal. This book contains the names of each Portuguese individual in Portugal or in the Portuguese empire suspected of Jewish heresy. From this book, she studied the names of 1,819 individuals (1,098 men and 721 women), imprisoned or suspected of heresy, who lived in Brazil in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (mainly from 1710 to 1736). “1,076 Brazilians were imprisoned during the colonial period and the highest percentage of them was accused of the crime of Judaism.”

In this article, Novinsky lists twenty names (and their frequency) and offers a vignette for each of them: Rodrigues (137 times), Nunes (120 times), Henriques (68 times), Mendes (66 times), Correa (51 times), Lopes (51 times), Silva (47 times), Fonseca (33 times), etc. Novinsky also offers a table of over 200 Marrano names in alphabetical order and in order of frequency.

*(Continued on page 6)*

Here are some of her findings based on Inquisitorial sources:

- o The most common Marrano names are also those used by Old Christians and mainly designate villages and towns where they came from.
- o The Brazilian Marranos had two or three names they used simultaneously.
- o Members of the same family carried different names, and the names skipped two or three generations.
- o Brazilian Marranos kept their ancient Portuguese surnames even after returning to Judaism.
- o There is no documented proof that names of trees, plants, and fruits belong only or most of the time to Marranos.

One may ask what happened to the Marranos during the Dutch period. Novinsky mentions that under Dutch rule in the northeastern part of Brazil (1630-1654) some New Christians tried to go back to Judaism. They adopted Jewish first names, but often kept their Portuguese last names. For example, Luis Formido became Daniel Formido and Simão Franco Drago became Isaac Franco Drago.

The most interesting finding is that the majority of the Marrano names were names from the Old Christian aristocratic families. Novinsky writes: "Practically all the Marrano names repeat the names of the Portuguese families that have coats of arms." Some names, which I would have expected to be more common, were not: for example, Abreu (3) and Toledo (1).

According to Anita Novinsky, we don't know the criteria used by Marranos to adopt Christian names. Therefore, to find out whether Christian names are also Marrano names, "the only possible way is to investigate their frequency in the inquisitorial records." Ongoing research on Marranos is being pursued at the University of São Paulo.

Given the fact that Brazil was the land where most New Christians from Portugal went voluntarily or involuntarily (they were exiled there as punishment) the public interest for Marrano names is not surprising. For genealogists interested in Sephardic/Marrano names the "Dicionário sefardi de sobrenomes" published a few years ago is an excellent resource.<sup>3</sup>

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1. Anita Novinsky in *Revue des Études juives*, Tome 165, juillet-décembre 2006, fascicule 3-4 pp. 445-456. In English - Peeters

2. The Kingdom of Navarre expelled all its Jews a few years later, in 1498.

3. "Dicionário Sefardi de Sobrenomes/Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames - Including Christianized Jews, Conversos, Marranos, Italians, Berbers, and their History in Spain, Portugal and Italy" by Guilherme Faiguenboim, Paulo Valadares and Anna Rosa Campagnano. Publisher Fraiha, São Paulo, Brazil. Second revised edition, 2005- Includes a bibliography. ISBN: 85 85989 20 3

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*Tarbut Sefarad* has launched a project to list the names of the Jewish martyrs that were tortured and killed during the Inquisition. Just as Yad Vashem in Jerusalem is recording every Jewish victim of the Holocaust, the descendants of Spanish Jews and of anusim, will create a database and place it in the Internet. At the moment there are a few lists of names.

You can read about the project here < <http://tinyurl.com/53fwjo> > Caveat: the site is in Spanish.

## FINDING A LOST RELATIVE

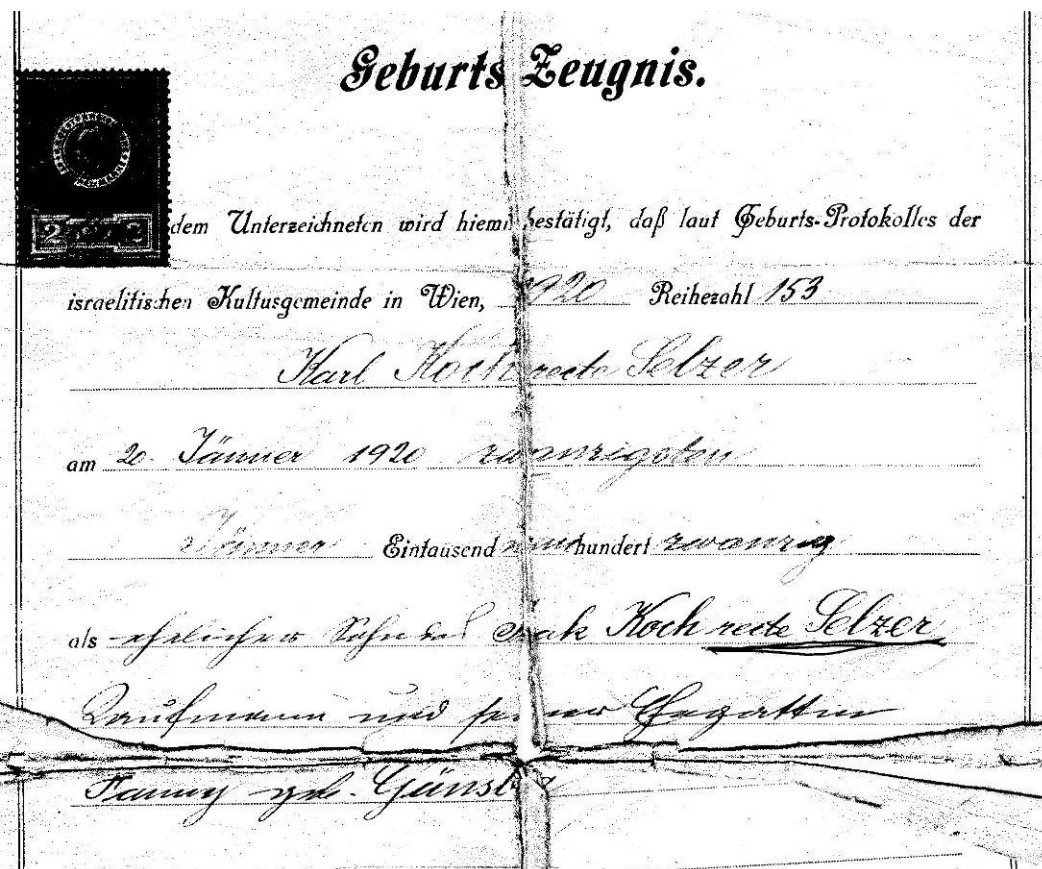
By Milton Koch < [miltonkoch@comcast.net](mailto:miltonkoch@comcast.net) >

I am an only child and lost both my parents many years ago. After having several boxes in my basement from my parents' apartment for over 30 years, I finally decided to see what was inside. To my astonishment, there were a few papers from Europe: my paternal grandfather Isak KOCH's death certificate from 1923 in Vienna, Austria, my paternal uncle Karl KOCH's birth certificate from 1920 in Vienna, as well as an entry pass of my father's to Luxemburg. Since I had never heard about any living relatives of my father's parents other than his siblings whom I knew about, I began an attempt to look for information.

Through *JewishGen Communities Database* < <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/> >, I was able to confirm the birthplace of both my grandfather in 1878 in Jagielnica (now Yahilnytsya, Ukraine), and grandmother in 1884 in Podwołoczyska (now Podvolochisk, Ukraine). This then allowed me to obtain from *Jewish Records Indexing - Poland* < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/> >, with a small contribution, the spreadsheets of both of their birth towns. However, I still could not determine if there were any survivors on my paternal side.

Over the next year or so, I tried again to look up some information without much luck, even though I could determine, from the spreadsheet I had obtained, that my grandmother had several siblings. But, regarding my grandfather, Isak KOCH, I could not make any matches, although I did locate him on the spreadsheet of his birthplace in Galicia.

This past winter, I was going to Cuba on a mission with B'nai Brith and, since I was born there but



didn't remember anything about it (I left when I was 18 months old), I began looking through my parents' boxes again for pictures, etc., from my infancy. I came across a baby book - which I did not know existed. There I learned the first names of my paternal great-grandparents, Chaim and Schlome.

In previous documents, I had noticed in two places another "family name", other than KOCH on my uncle's birth certificate - SELZER, written as "recte Selzer". I learned through

inquiries that this could have been his mother's maiden name, since Jewish weddings in the

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1800s in Galicia were not recognized, thus children maintained their mother's name.

As a result, I once again visited *JewishGen* and placed my newly found great-grandmother's first name - Schlome - with the last name SELZER. To my great surprise, and pleasure, it gave me a line containing my great-grandfather's name, Chaim KOCH, along with my grandfather's name and the town in which he was born - Jagielnica - a fact that I knew, and could now confirm as a match.

I then returned to the spreadsheet I had obtained several years ago, resorted the columns with my great-grandmother's name first, then my great-grandfather's, and sure enough, 5 siblings along with my grandfather's name came up!!!

I then began trying to find them via *JewishGen* - to no avail.

However, searching the *Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony* (POT) < [http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY\\_HON\\_Entrance](http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Entrance) >, I found one of them who was exterminated in Belzec in 1942, along with his wife and daughter. There was a POT submission from someone in Israel, dated 1991. I wasn't sure if this person was still living there, or even alive.

I posted a question about this POT, on the *JewishGen Discussion Group* mailing list < <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/DiscussionGroup.htm> > and received a response from someone in Israel who stated that the person who attested to this death, was indeed alive, and living in Haifa - "was I interested in having them be contacted"? Since this was my only lead in the hopes of finding any possible lost/unknown relatives, I asked him to pursue this contact. Within 24 hours I received an e-mail, with the subject "WOW!!" - telling me that, not only was the person who attested to the death, a relative of mine, but there was another relative alive in New York City.

I absolutely was frozen in my seat. You see, I lived in New York City with my parents for 30 years and I know my father never knew of any other relative. I made contact with the person in Haifa, who is my second cousin. She informed me that her uncle, my first cousin once removed, is alive, living in Brooklyn and is 95 years old. Naftali KOCH is my father's first cousin!!!

His father, Feibisz KOCH, the person who died in Belzec, was my father's uncle! I spoke with Naftali, have since met him and his daughter, son and their spouses. He was astounded to hear this story and to learn of my father's existence, though he is now dead. My father had been in Dachau in 1938/1939 and then released. He had left his birth town, Potok Zloty (now Zoloty Potik, Ukraine), for Vienna with his parents when he was very young, while the rest of the family stayed in Galicia, some being captured and others escaping the Holocaust. My new-found cousin in Brooklyn had learned of my father's arrest, and made the assumption that he and his family had died - but we were actually living about 10 miles from each other for about 20+ years!

The lesson to be learned is that there always seems to be some information "staring you in the face", but it may require several visits to documents, sources, etc., before a connection suddenly becomes obvious.

Now, I am on the search to learn about my paternal grandmother's family - Feige BARBASCH GINSBERG. I am quite excited about the prospect of possibly making another amazing and extremely exiting contact with my "lost relatives". ☆



# CHICAGO

## 28th IAJGS CONFERENCE NEWS

Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile, Chicago, Illinois

17-22 August 2008

< [www.chicago2008.org](http://www.chicago2008.org) >

Co-Sponsored by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), the JGS of Illinois and the Illiana JGS.

*Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland* < [www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago](http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago) >.

These are just some highlights of the fantastic program:

- The opening reception at the Chicago conference will be in Susan King's honor and is being jointly sponsored by the IAJGS and JewishGen, an affiliate of the Museum of Jewish Heritage -- A Living Memorial to the Holocaust. Susan recently retired from JewishGen, a website she founded and that we all have come to rely on.
- E. Randol Schoenberg will be our keynote speaker on "Recovering Nazi-Looted Art - A Genealogist's Tale", at the Opening Ceremony.
- A representative of the Museum of the History of Polish Jews will be the speaker at the JRI-Poland Luncheon.
- Don't miss our gala Banquet. Join us for "Who Towed Noah's Ark? An Evening of Urban Stories which Bring The Bible to Life." Get the inside scoop on these and other stories when Lisa Lipkin entertains us for an evening of original midrashim, designed to keep you laughing for forty days and forty nights.
- Computer Workshops, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) meetings, Breakfast with Experts, a Jewish Film Festival, genetics and DNA, experts from European archives, Resource Room, Exhibitor Room and much more...

Other news:

- On-line registration ends on Friday, August 8, 2008. Mailed registrations must be received no later than Friday, August 8, 2008. Daily registration is also available.
- Go to the Conference website to obtain travel discounts.
- Subscribe to the Conference Discussion Group to receive last minute information and tips, such as airport shuttle, downtown transportation, nearby restaurants, etc.
- Waldheim cemetery map < <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/cp-maps-fl-ca-il-oh.htm> >.

We look forward to seeing you at the Conference!



## Overseas Research

### Great Britain Marriage Authorisations Index

Louise Messik, Website and Database Manager JGSGB < [information@jgsgb.org.uk](mailto:information@jgsgb.org.uk) >

The searchable index, covering the years 1880–1886, carries the name of the bride and groom together with the intended date of marriage and synagogue where the ceremony will take place. These are authorisations that give the permission to allow a marriage to take place in a synagogue under the auspices of the United Synagogue.

It is an ongoing project between the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain and the United Synagogue. The full copy of an authorisation may be ordered on line.

Detailed description and definitions can be found at < [www.jgsgb.org.uk](http://www.jgsgb.org.uk) >. The search engine is in < [www.theus.org.uk/support\\_services/find\\_your\\_family/marriage\\_records](http://www.theus.org.uk/support_services/find_your_family/marriage_records) > (please ensure that you copy the entire web address into your browser).

### Holocaust memorials - public and private

Celia Male has created an interesting “Internet photobook”. The Holocaust Memorials Collection include public and private memorials mostly from Austria.

*The emphasis is on memorials associated with Austria notably Vienna; Mauthausen; Burgenland; Czech Republic {Bohemia & Moravia} and places closely associated with the destruction of Jewish communities in these areas as well as Slovakia and Hungary.*

< <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cam37/sets/72157603905805036/> >

While at the site, check the “Jewish cemeteries in Vienna and Salzburg“ and “Jewish cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia” collections. Also featured is the “Vienna WWI Jewish War Memorial - Zentralfriedhof Tor 1“ < <http://www.flickr.com/photos/cam37/sets/72157600774064187> >

Looking at the site you can use:

- Thumbnail - slide the cursor over each picture to read contents.
- Detail: Individual shots - all magnify, so you can read names and annotations.
- Slide show - all are annotated. In the slide show, you can read the annotation by clicking on the letter \*I\* in the centre of each slide, and choose to view them slow, medium or fast speed.

There is a lot of detail and annotation to read.

### Jewish Immigrants in Johannesburg

An interesting site that illustrates the achievements of Jews in Germany before Hitler’s rise to power. There are many biographies of Jews who fled Nazi Germany by emigrating to South Africa. It describes the problems they faced when they arrived as refugees.

< <http://www.goethe.de/Ins/za/prj/jue/enindex.htm> >



## Domestic Research

### USCIS Publishes final rule on charging for records

The US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS), formerly called the INS, will begin its fee-for-service genealogy program on August 13, 2008. The reason for the rule was to streamline and improve the process for acquiring genealogically relevant historical records of deceased individuals. Due to the demand for documents which created a backlog, requests under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) took months if not years to complete.

The amount per index or record/file request (from a microfilm) will be \$20 and \$35 for a textual record.

The types of historical records available under the new program are:

1. Naturalization certificate files (C-files) from September 27, 1906-April 1, 1956 (from all federal, state, municipal courts and more);
2. Microfilmed alien registration forms from August 1, 1940 to March 31, 1944;
3. Visa files from July 1, 1924 to March 31, 1944; Registry files from March 2, 1929 to March 31, 1944;
4. Alien files numbered below 8 million and dated prior to May 1, 1951.

You may view the final rule at: < <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/pdf/E8-10651.pdf> > .

To request records under this new program, a special form must be used:

- Form G-1041 for Index Search Request
- Form G 1041A for Records Request

Requests may be submitted electronically through its site < <http://www.uscis.gov> >. Requests made on-line MUST be paid by credit card. When submitting a written request, the only form of payment accepted is a cashier's check or money order in the exact amount. As genealogical request information may only be obtained on deceased individuals, the subject is presumed dead if their birth date is over 100 years old. For those less than 100 information (primary or secondary document - such as death record, published obituary, etc) must be provided to the satisfaction of the USCIS that the individual is indeed deceased.

Jan Meisels Allen  
Director, IAJGS and  
Chairperson, Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

### Nationwide Gravesite Locator

Search for burial locations of veterans and their dependents in U.S. Veterans Administration National Cemeteries, state veterans cemeteries and various other military and Department of Interior cemeteries. Search results include date of birth, date of death, burial location and rank. There is also a link to the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) which provides information on service members buried in overseas cemeteries.

< [http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL\\_v1](http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1) >

## Virginia: Early Jewish Settlement

From Schelly Talalay Dardashti's blog "Tracing the Tribe"

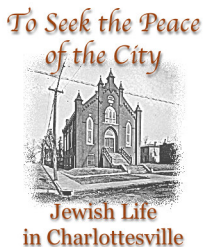
< <http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com/> >

"To Seek the Peace of the City, Jewish Life in Charlottesville" is a fascinating history of early Jewish settlement in Charlottesville, Virginia. Other sections cover business and commerce, Jefferson and the Jews, community establishment, religious institutions, the Levys at Monticello and other sections.

Thanks to researchers in the South, documentation of Jewish history in this region has increased and covers large port cities to rural towns, reflecting the diversity of Jewish immigrants in America.

Charlottesville's history reflects colonial-era Sephardic Jews and 19th century immigrants from Germany and then from Lithuania and Belarus. According to the website, it's important to note that the town was the home of Thomas Jefferson and that the University of Virginia, which he established, was the first American higher education institute that did not impose or require a particular theology of students or faculty.

"To Seek the Peace of the City" was produced in 1994 to spotlight 19th and early 20th century Jewish life in Charlottesville and the University. It expanded on a 1993 exhibit, "Jewish Life at Mr. Jefferson's University," which was part of the school's commemoration of Jefferson's 250th birthday.



*Though few in number, Jews were a part of the European colonization of Virginia. Expelled from Spain in the very year that Columbus encountered America, they tried to re-establish their communities in northern and central Europe, North Africa, Palestine, Turkey and the city-states of Italy. These Spanish and Portuguese Jews, called the Sephardim, were among the first to settle the Americas, hoping to find places where they could maintain their distinctive Jewish traditions. By the 1640s Sephardic Jews had established trade networks connecting New York, Charleston, Newport, Philadelphia, the Caribbean, and Brazil. Many quickly became prominent and respected professionals.*

*Ashkenazic Jews, with a style of worship typical of the Germanies and Russia, also sought the New World as a refuge. During the 16th to 18th centuries in Europe, Jews were living as a barely tolerated minority in Germany, Austria, and Poland, and somewhat less precariously in Holland and Italy. Eager to find a safe foothold in the New World, Jews participated in the exploration and settlement of the Atlantic coast of the Americas. A Jewish metallurgist from Prague, Joachim Gaunse (or Jacob Gans), was in Virginia as early as 1585 as part of the first English attempt to settle North America at Sir Walter Raleigh's Roanoke Colony. Early Sephardic settlers of Virginia included Dr. John de Sequeyra, a specialist in the treatment of the mentally ill, who arrived in Williamsburg in 1745; in his role as a general practitioner, he was the physician of George Washington's stepdaughter Martha Parke Custis. Also prominent were members of the aristocratic Car-doza and Seixas families.*

The virtual exhibit website is at < <http://www.lib.virginia.edu/small/exhibits/seek/> >.

# Society News



## Current Newsletters available electronically from the editor:

- “Chronicles” - JGS Greater Philadelphia
- “Discovery” - San Diego JGS
- “Family Gatherings” - JGS Broward County
- “Family Legacies” - JGS Southern Nevada
- “Generations” - JGS of Michigan
- “Illiana” - Illinois/Indiana JGS
- “JGS-NYT” - JGS of Denmark (in Danish)
- “Mishpochology” - JGS of Southwest Florida (Sarasota)
- “News ‘N Notes” - St. Louis Genealogy Society
- “Perth Jewish Roots” - JHGS Western Australia
- “Quest” - JGS Connecticut
- “Scattered 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

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

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS

### General Fund

A previous donation made by Robert P. Herzog, in recognition of extensive research done by Marlene Bishow, was used to buy a Laptop computer.

### Library Fund

Eugene Alpert

Harriet Epstein

### Books

Marlene Bishow

Sallyann Sack

Dr and Mrs. Alan N. Glazier, in memory  
of Sharon Glazier and Connie Solomon

Note: details about the books will be posted shortly.

## JGSGW New Mailing Address

Please note that effective June 1, our mailing address will change to:

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



## The President's Perspective

As I prepare to be your President for 2008-2009, several thoughts come to mind.

First, I wish to share with you my reasons for choosing to serve in this capacity. I love being involved in Jewish genealogy and making friends in the many ways that we have of networking in Jewish genealogy. I have learned much from having reunions with newfound cousins and reestablishing connections with some distant and some not so distant relatives.

Second, I have learned so much from members of this organization in the nine or so years that I have embraced this pursuit of my roots and wish to share my knowledge with others, both new and more experienced Jewish genealogists.

Third, I am indebted to the many leaders we have had in this organization and to the contributions of dozens of members, current and former, on whose shoulders I now stand. I seek to make some small difference by bringing to JGSGW my talents on behalf of all. We will try to move further along the path towards technological modernization, to expand the scope and depth of resources available to us in our genealogical pursuits. We are seeking to increase our membership and more fully represent the community by attracting those active in synagogue and community organizations.

I look forward to hearing from many of you throughout the year, and all are welcome to contribute whatever they can in the way of their time, talents, and ideas to our common objectives. We need everyone pitching in if we are to undertake and successfully conduct the research projects, dynamic meetings, and conferences that we all wish to have.

My concept of any leadership position is that it entails organization, delegation, and coordination. Leaders form and work with teams to accomplish their objectives. It is my intent to include as many members as possible in the conduct of our affairs.

At this time, we have a need for members to take on the following responsibilities:

- Workshop Coordinator
- Database Manager
- Hospitality Chair

If you would like to participate in any way in the planning or conduct of our society activities, please contact me so we can discuss how you can make a difference.

Yours in friendship,

*Jeff Miller*  
President

## JGSGW MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON



### **CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION** *presented to*

<i>Eugene J. Alpert</i>	<i>Margarita Lackó</i>
<i>Elaine A. Apter</i>	<i>Elizabeth S. Lourie</i>
<i>Ralph N. Baer</i>	<i>Jeff Malka</i>
<i>Marlene Bishow</i>	<i>Rita Krakower Margolis</i>
<i>Benjamin C. Fassberg</i>	<i>Donald B. Melman</i>
<i>Vera L. Finberg</i>	<i>Eleanor Matsas</i>
<i>Ernest G. Fine</i>	<i>Richard Meyersburg</i>
<i>Rochelle Gershenow</i>	<i>Jeffrey A. Miller</i>
<i>Melanie Grishman</i>	<i>Sonia Pasis</i>
<i>Irene Saunders Goldstein</i>	<i>Gene Sadick</i>
<i>David W. Harris</i>	<i>Marian Smith</i>
<i>Ruth Hurwitz</i>	<i>Leon B. Taranto</i>
<i>Michael Kaltman</i>	<i>Benjamin B. Terner</i>
<i>Faith Klein</i>	<i>Aaron Werbel</i>
<i>Logan J. Kleinwaks</i>	<i>Judy Mostyn White</i>
<i>Frederick A. Kolbrener</i>	<i>David Zinner</i>



***In Recognition of  
Valuable Contributions  
2007 - 2008  
Jewish Genealogy Society of  
Greater Washington***

## JGSGW Launches Project to Catalog Jewish Vets at Arlington Cemetery

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

His life ended prematurely by Lou Gehrig's disease, Kenneth Poch spent his last 10 years as the self-appointed historian of the Jewish soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery. On Sunday, June 8, 2008, at the annual Membership Appreciation Luncheon of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW), outgoing President Marlene Katz Bishow announced that the Society has been given a unique gift and a rare opportunity; the family of the late Kenneth Poch donated to the Society his extensive research on the Jewish soldiers buried at Arlington National Cemetery.



Ken Poch (Date unknown)

Inspired by the 1992 book by Mel Young "*Where They Lie: Someone Should Say Kaddish*", Ken took it upon himself to visit the graves, say Kaddish (the Jewish prayer for the dead) and place a small smooth stone on the headstone as a sign that someone had visited the grave. These visits caused him to inquire as to how many Jewish soldiers were actually buried at the famous national cemetery. As of January, 2008, there are more than 330,000 total graves at Arlington, but it was not until after World War I that it was permitted to include a religious symbol on the headstones. The headstones of many Jewish soldiers bear a Star of David, but not all.

The research donated to JGSGW includes the meticulously organized photos, letters, surveys and other items gathered by Ken. After Ken's death, his family hastily gathered together his personal belongings, including the binders and boxes with his research and since his death in late December, 2003, these items have been lovingly stored at his sister's home in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Ernie Fine, a member of JGSGW, who knew Ken and had discussed his Arlington project with him, arranged for the transfer of the materials.

Last December, the society launched their second Cemetery Research Project. The plan is to index all grave sites of Jews buried in the greater Washington, D.C., area. In the first Cemetery Project, from 1988-1992, the Society indexed and researched two of the oldest Jewish cemeteries in the nation's capital: *Macpelah*, the old cemetery of Washington Hebrew Congregation and the old cemetery of Adas Israel Congregation on Alabama Avenue in the southeastern section of the city. This research has been formatted in computer spreadsheets and submitted to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR). As part of the new project, JGSGW volunteers will visit the cemeteries and photograph the tombstones, gleaned from them and other sources, the information contained in the inscription, including the Hebrew name of the deceased and his or her father's name, if included.

Plans are being formalized as to how the research materials will be presented, but it is certain that all of the photos and documents will be digitized and the index prepared in the JOWBR format, with a more extensive version to be retained by JGSGW. The target date for completion of the project is 2011, when this group will host the 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies in Washington, D.C. ☆



## ATTENTION! NEW MAILING ADDRESS!



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

### Library opening hours

July and August

Mondays - 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Wednesdays - 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM

September through May

the first Sunday of each month - 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Mondays - 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Wednesdays - 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM

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

### DC2011 JGSGW Conference

Looking for volunteers with experience in the following areas  
to help with our next conference:

- ⇒ **PROJECT MANAGEMENT**
- ⇒ **CONFERENCE PLANNING**
  - ⇒ **FUND RAISING**
  - ⇒ **PUBLICITY**
- ⇒ **WEB DESIGN & MAINTENANCE**

Please send a message to < [jgsgw\\_dc@comcast.net](mailto:jgsgw_dc@comcast.net) >  
with name, contact information, and background/experience.

## JGSGW Meetings January - June 2008



David Zinner



Paul Shapiro



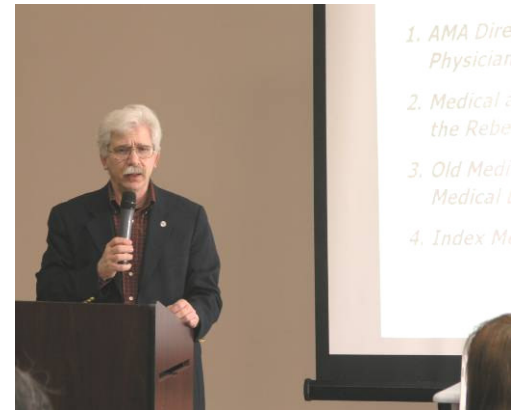
Marian Smith



Vera Finberg, Assistant Librarian



Rabbi Leonard Cahan



Dr. Stephen Greenberg



Warren Blatt



Marlene Bishow, Warren and Debra Blatt, and Rochelle Gershenow

Photos: courtesy of Marlene Bishow and Larry Kohn



## 2008-2009 TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE



September 14, 2008  
October 19, 2008  
November 16, 2008  
December 14, 2008  
January 25, 2009  
February 8, 2009  
March 15, 2009  
April 19, 2009  
May 17, 2009  
June 7, 2009

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