



משפחה

Quarterly Publication of
The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington

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

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Summer 2009

Success At The National Archives

by Renee Domogauer" < ddomo@verizon.net >

Mishpacha

I never expected to learn anything about my maternal grandfather's journey from Russia to America. Even as a child, long before I knew anything about genealogy research, I had heard the stories. My mother told me that he had left Russia to escape the czar's army; an aunt agreed that he had escaped - and had left behind a wife and children. My uncle remembered it all differently. He said his father remained in touch with his mother and brothers; he wrote to them in Minsk until just before WWII. There was the scandalous supposition that he had come by his passport papers in a questionable fashion. The stories were colorful and suggested a mysterious man whose past would not easily be uncovered. One thing everyone seemed to agree upon: he had changed his name when he arrived on these shores. His American name was Louis LEVINE. No, this wasn't a man we were likely to learn anything definitive about.

So, when I began to dabble in genealogical research I focused on the French-Canadian Catholics - my father's family. They were easy to track down. The Russian Jewish connection remained in the background until two significant events in my life: my mother's death and my retirement. Both opened doors that changed the course of my research.

My mother had not been on good terms with her siblings so I had little knowledge of my aunts and uncles. With her death, I felt somehow drawn to explore relationships with long-lost family members. In the process, I discovered cousins I hadn't seen since childhood and, after a great deal of digging, located a very distant cousin. Neither of us had even known the existence of the other. I visited with aunts and uncles and had long chats about what they remembered about my grandparents. My retirement, after 26 years of teaching, gave me the necessary time to follow leads and explore my findings.

Each meeting, each conversation with my new-found family members added one tiny piece of the puzzle. Each piece, as in a jigsaw puzzle, meant little until matched up to an adjoining piece.

(Continued on page 4)

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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:

Margarita Lackó < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

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Special thanks to Liz Lourie, Larry Kohn & Fred Kolbrener

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



It is time to prepare for the 2009 IAJGS Philadelphia Conference!

Hurry! If you have not registered yet, pre-registration is open until 24 July 2009 for \$295 for the week. After 25 July, you can only register on-site.

Those under the age of 21 can register for a bargain price, only \$50 for the entire conference! So, bring your children, grandchildren, nephews or nieces to introduce them to the fascinating world of genealogy. If they don't like lectures, they can go to computer workshops or enjoy the Film Festival.

Get ready to learn about Jewish genealogy, see old friends and make new ones. You might even find a relative or two.

Look at the Resource Guide < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsp/2009RG.htm> > the JGSGP has prepared, and the exhibits presented by The Museum of Family History < http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsp/MOFH_Philadelphia.htm >

The Computer Training Workshops and the Special Hands-On Workshops fill up fast. So, go to < <http://www.philly2009.org/> >, click on Registration Update and select Optional Programs. Here you can also reserve your SIG luncheon, the Banquet, tours, etc.

Check the Conference website for updates. Download the Conference Program (subject to change) and begin planning your days.

Subscribe to the Philadelphia '09 Conference Discussion Group where you can get many tips regarding research, food, cemeteries, etc.

Most of all, ENJOY!

WWII Lost Jewish Assets

National Archives and Records Administration

Tuesday, June 23, 11 a.m.
Room G-24, Research Center (Enter on Pennsylvania Avenue)

Miriam Kleiman will speak about her research at the National Archives, looking into the issue of lost Jewish assets in Swiss banks during World War II.

(This lecture will be repeated at the National Archives at College Park, MD, in Lecture Room B, on Thursday, June 25, at 11 a.m.) < <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington/> >

Each snippet of information was stored until it made sense, until it fit. An aunt told me that my grandfather had studied for the rabbinate and spoke many languages. Another reminded me of the candy stores my grandparents operated in New Jersey and New York. Yet another aunt told me that although my grandfather had been a somewhat dispassionate man, as a baby I had brought him great joy. My uncles told me about the house painting business the boys in the family ran along with their dad. Maybe I *could* learn more about the LEVINES, after all.

I started in the obvious places. I subscribed to Ancestry.com and easily found census records for Celia and Louis LEVINE. There they were in 1910 on Mulberry Street in Newark, New Jersey with their first child and with a boarder. His occupation: candy store operator. By the 1920 Census, he is a house painter and they have five children and by 1930, nine children. Easy! Old photos found in my mother's apartment took on new meaning - like the one of him with the "Painters, Paper-hangers & Decorators" union taken on its 20th anniversary in 1922. My aunt in Florida found a copy of my grandparents' wedding license. It was too delicate to copy so she read the information to me over the phone.

Despite some success, I was still convinced that delving further into my grandfather's past was hopeless. I had never planned to search for his naturalization papers. Was it because I still expected his very common name to be impossible to trace? Or, perhaps I wasn't sure where to begin. But there I was, in the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton - in a special room, poring through indexes devoted to naturalization documents. It was so easy. The search took less than half an hour. Here was the biggest puzzle piece I could ever imagine finding. Here were the original naturalization documents, the "Declaration of Intention" and the "Petition for Naturalization." Here were his responses to questions about his birth and home city in Russia and his family and, unimaginably, the name of the ship he sailed on and the date: the S.S. Finland which had sailed from Antwerp on 24 October 1904.

No. 12788

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION

To the Honorable the Common Pleas Court of Essex County, New Jersey:

The petition of Louis Levine hereby filed, respectfully sheweth:

First. My place of residence is 80 Monmouth St. Newark, New Jersey.
(Give number, street, and city or town.)

Second. My occupation is Painter & Paper-hanger.

Third. I was born on the 15 day of April, anno Domini 1 883, at Kovno Russia.

Fourth. I emigrated to the United States from Antwerp on or about the 28 day of Oct., anno Domini 1 904, and arrived in the United States, at the port of New York, on the _____ day of _____, anno Domini 1 904, on the vessel Finland.
(If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, the character of conveyance or name of transportation company should be given.)

Fifth. I declared my intention to become a citizen of the United States on the 16 day of Sept, anno Domini 1 918, at Essex Newark in the Common Pleas Court of Essex Co. N.J.

Sixth. I am married. My wife's name is Celia Levine (34). She was born in Russia, and now resides at Newark - N.J.
(Give number, street, city or town, and State.)

I have five children, and the name, date and place of birth, and place of residence of each of said children is as follows:

<u>David</u>	<u>born July 20 - 1909</u>	} all born and residing in Newark - N.J.
<u>Dabara</u>	<u>Aug 7 - 1912</u>	
<u>Abraham</u>	<u>Oct 25 - 1915</u>	
<u>Joseph</u>	<u>Dec 23 - 1917</u>	
<u>Robert</u>	<u>Feb 7 - 1919</u>	

(Continued on page 5)

Further research on Ancestry.com and Ellis Island.com was, however, very frustrating. Even with the exact ship name and date I could find no evidence of his sailing to America. Then I made a trip to the National Archives in Washington, D.C. The primary purpose of the visit was not my grandfather. On that visit, I searched for evidence of my grandmother's and great-grandmother's arrival in New York City in 1890. Nothing. I was up against the proverbial brick wall and feeling quite glum.

"One of the very best genealogists is here today; she can probably help you," said a very sympathetic staff member.

"Oh, thanks, I could use some direction."

I was at last in the good hands of an expert researcher. But despite her determination and incredible skill she was unable to find them in Castle Garden records.

Since I had her attention, I reluctantly described another search I had been having problems with - documentation of my grandfather's sailing to America. I filled her in; showed her his naturalization papers. Why couldn't I find him in Ellis Island records? Why couldn't he be found on his ship, the S.S. Finland? Were his naturalization papers bogus? Was that the problem?

She checked every "L" listing and could find nothing for Louis LEVINE in either place. Even she showed signs of frustration. Then, just when I thought I could not look at another inch of microfilm, I had a thought. I remembered something that might help the search. No, I thought, it is a ridiculous long-shot. I really wanted to get out of there. I was bleary-eyed. If we set off on another course, I would be there forever.



Louis Levine, approx.
1904 in Newark, NJ

But, she was so knowledgeable, so willing to help, this oh-so-kind genealogist. I convinced myself that I would offer this one last, albeit useless, piece of information: his other name. Years before, my uncle told me that his father had revealed to him his "real" name. Could it actually be his birth name; the name he had left behind in Russia? Could it be the name he registered on the ship? My uncle didn't know how it was spelled. He thought it sounded like Yasvan. I had long dismissed this little tidbit. How likely was it that this "deathbed" revelation had any significance? Surely, this was *not* a part of the puzzle.

"I think I might know my grandfather's real name," I said to her reluctantly. There it was. It was out. Would she now declare that my time was up? Would she order me out of the Archives?

No, not at all! She immediately began searching the ship manifest for the name, using spelling variants. Would it likely have been spelled with a "Y" or perhaps an "I" or was it a "J?" BINGO! There he was - Elie JASWAIN (See page 6). We found a "Record of Detained Alien Passengers" and "List of Alien Passengers." It all fit: ship, sailing date, profession, city of origin, age: a 21 year old painter from Minsk; on his way to Brooklyn. I was speechless. As my eyes got a bit watery, I asked her if her researchers are often brought to tears.

"Oh, yes, it happens," she said.

So I had found, with scarcely a hiccup, every document I had searched for –for the one family member who promised to be the most enigmatic. However, I am still up against the proverbial "brick wall" for all those easy-to-locate family members. ☆

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARI

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, to be delivered to the U. S. Immigration Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

S. S. Finland sailing from Antwerp October 29th 1904 Arriving at Port of NEW YORK 9th NOV 25 1904

Table with columns: No. on List, NAME IN FULL, Age, Sex, Married or Single, Calling or Occupation, Able to Read, Write, Nationality, Race or People, Last Residence, Final Destination, Whether having a ticket to such final destination, By whom was passage paid?, Whether in possession of \$50, and if less, how much?, Whether ever before in the United States, and if so, where and when?, Whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.

Arrival of Elic Jaswain, as listed in the Ellis Island Database. See "Success At The National Archives" article (front page).

Encyclopedia of Jewish Women

Gail T. Reimer, Executive Director Jewish Women's Archive

The Jewish Women's Archive (JWA) launched the free, online version of Jewish Women: A Comprehensive Historical Encyclopedia < http://jwa.org/encyclopedia >, edited by Professors Paula Hyman of Yale University and Dalia Ofer of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, originally published by Alice and Moshe Shalvi of Shalvi Publishing, Ltd.

Internet users will have free and easy access to 1,700 biographies, 300 thematic essays, and 1,400 photographs and illustrations on the Jewish Women's Archive website

The online edition has an improved user interface, which provides thematic and visual links and extensive cross-references, along with many new Web 2.0 features, including the ability for users to discuss and update current biographies and to submit new ones.

National Yiddish Book Center

Submitted by Ben Fassberg

The National Yiddish Book Center < http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/ > offers online access to the full texts of nearly 11,000 out-of-print Yiddish titles. Click on Yiddish Books (left column) then on Browse by Subject/Keywords. It will take you to the Steven Spielberg Digital Yiddish Library available through the Internet Archive.

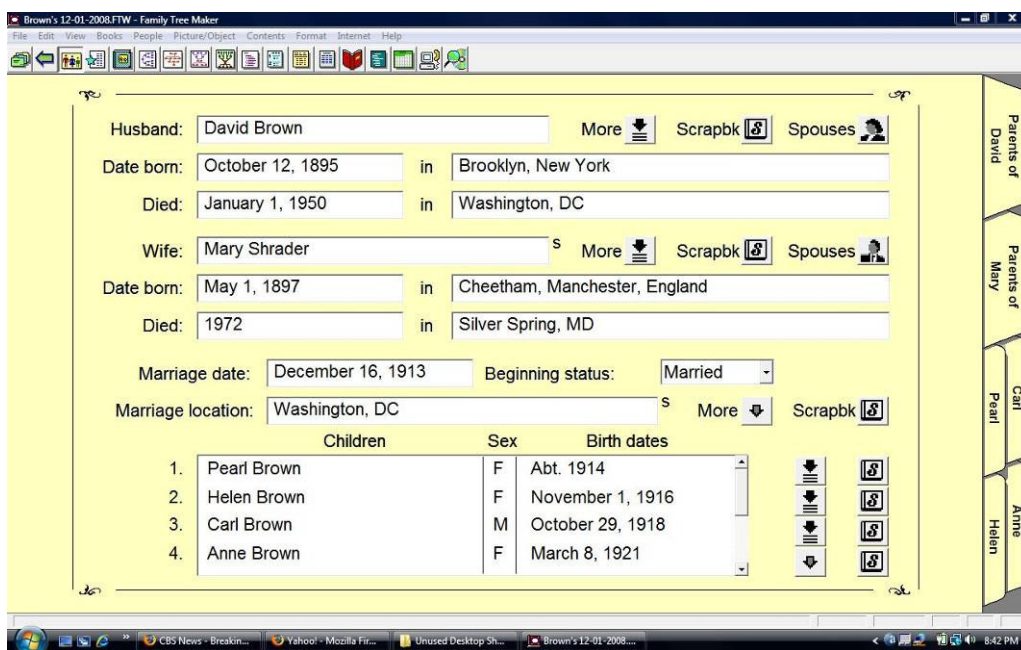
Review-Family Tree Maker 2008

By Charles Polinger < chapol@ymail.com >

Before I go forward with a review of a recent version of Family Tree Maker, a popular genealogy software program, I would like to qualify my remarks. First, I am a fairly frequent user of the computer and the Internet, and I mainly use the computer for e-mail, news, searching, research, genealogy and record keeping. I had my first home computer in 1987, a dinosaur with no hard drive but with a color monitor. So, I am not a computer expert by any means, and don't pretend to be one.

I have used Family Tree Maker Version 6 (FTM V6) for at least 10 years and I was always impressed by how easy it was to use and the astonishing results one could get after entering data. I believe FTM should have left well enough alone, and not changed their program as drastically as they have done in more recent versions. Whereas my V6 was so easy to use "even a caveman could do it," I find Version 2008 (V2008) to be cumbersome, non-intuitive and confusing. Items are not located where I expect them to be and the manual is not very useful. If I do not use FTM V2008 for awhile, I have to reorient myself to the program.

To me, modern programs should be user friendly, intuitive, easy to use, and useful. I am not asking for much; this is what I expect. Think about many popular programs: Google is a simple-to-use, but powerful search engine; Quicken used to be a very easy-to-use financial records database; Turbo Tax once was simple to use; FTM used to be a simple, intuitive genealogical records file. I like to find information where it should be, and I like to have consistency in a program. That is why I feel warm and fuzzy inside whenever a program has tabs, as I know what I expect to find when I click these.



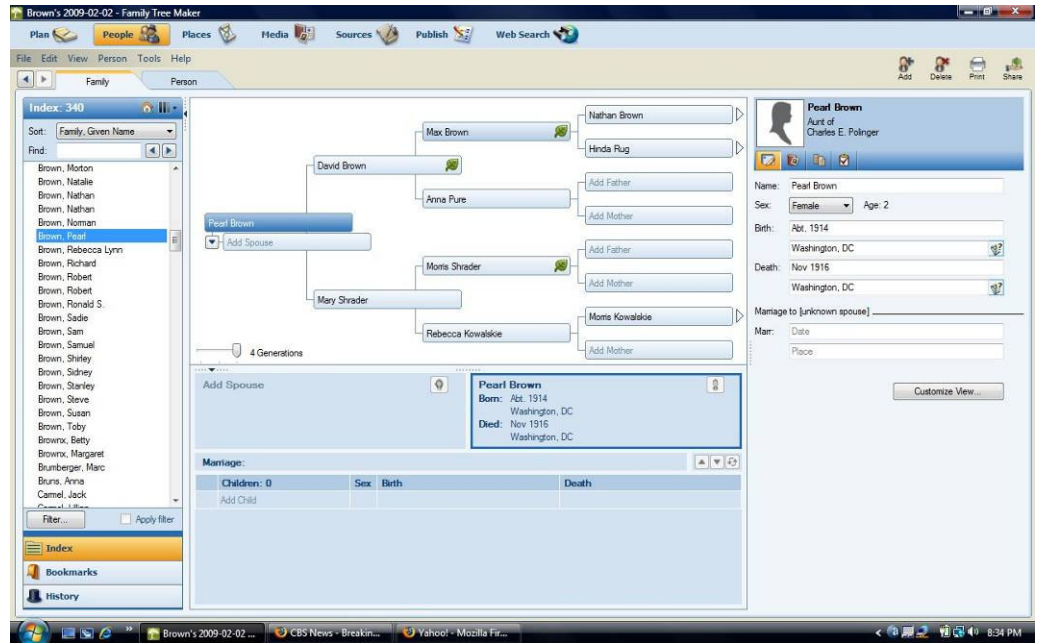
Example of Family Tree Maker Version 6

As I write this, I am about to smash my computer because I can not figure out how to add a date of birth to an individual on V2008. This is an example of how FTM has gotten less user-friendly over the years. (Turns out you have to right click on a certain person's screen to add facts).

That being said, I find that FTM has gotten different, but not necessarily better with age. I was forced to buy V2008 because I wanted to upgrade, and other recent versions were not compatible with Vista. Some of my other favorite programs are also not compatible with Vista. I did switch

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back to my FTM V6, and still rely on it, as it works just fine and is simple to use. The V2008 has a family chart as the home base, on the main screen. You need to select a lead person, and that person pops up every time you use the program, like it or not. Whereas V6 gave data fields, V2008 shows a section of a family tree. This should be easier to see and use, but it is not. Trying to manipulate data from the chart view is not easy and takes many steps. Under V6, if I wanted to know about Uncle Harry's children, I would click on their names to the right of the screen. Under V2008, Uncle Harry's children are not in view on the main screen, but are instead on a dropdown list, hidden from view. Information listed on the left side of the screen and at the bottom can be removed from view by clicking a small arrow. This way, you can remove unwanted clutter from the screen, but they failed to make it simple.



Example of Family Tree Maker Version 2008

Family Tree Maker, once a *Broderbund* program, is now part of the Ancestry.com company and so as you would expect, FTM is designed to interface with Ancestry.com's website, thereby enticing you to subscribe to it. Not that it is a bad thing, because I think highly of Ancestry.com, but with older versions of FTM you had independence from other programs. FTM 2008, and likely 2009, offer greater ability to attach photos, documents and data downloaded directly from Ancestry.com. With the older version, you had to type this information into FTM separately, so this is a slight improvement.

After you perform countless hours of research and post your information on a database like FTM, the reward is in the sharing of the information with others. With V6, I printed out various forms of my information, which was amazing to me. It appeared that I had created the organization charts and genealogical trees, whereas all I had done was enter the data into the correct fields and FTM did all the rest. FTM 2008 does this as well, but under a heading "Publish" where you find a wider variety of reports and charts. Most are similar to V6, but one popular report called Genealogy Report has changed. FTM now uses one called either Ahnentafel Report or Register Report. I am still not certain if I like these as well as the Genealogical Report in V6. The Ahnentafel Report baffles me, and I believe it is a descendants tree, whereas the Register Report is an ancestry tree. Again, FTM has added confusion instead of keeping it simple.

In conclusion, I am still learning how to use FTM 2008, and so far it is neither user-friendly nor convenient to use. I am afraid if I do not use it regularly, I will forget the "tricks" needed to enter data. FTM has offered a "critical" update to the V2008, but, although I have followed FTM's complex instructions, I have been unable to install this update. ☆

Ed's note: A new version of FTM is out and we would like to hear from members who use it.

Márton FISCHER's Tombstone

By Margarita Lackó < mishpologia@uzidog.com >

I traveled many times to Budapest, Hungary, to visit my mother's sister, her daughter and grandchildren. Even though my Hungarian is not very good, I had almost no problem communicating with my aunt. At that time, I didn't know that the word *genealogy* existed and never thought of asking about my great-grandparents.

Fast forward many years.

My grandmother's birth record says that she was born in 1895 in Gyöngyös, Hungary, and her parents were Márton FISCHER and Fáni HANOFER.

In August 2001, my husband and I went to Hungary. Among other genealogy-related stuff, I carried printed charts of my family tree to give to cousins and a list of addresses in my ancestral towns.

After a few days of doing research in Budapest and Miskolc, and visiting the cemeteries in Abaújszántó and Tolcsva, we arrived in Gyöngyös. The Town Hall was already closed, so we went directly to the Jewish cemetery after asking for general directions.

There was no caretaker to be seen so we squeezed our way between the gate and the fence. The first impression was that it looked pretty neat. We were in a kind of square where the grass was well kept. On the right we saw the Holocaust memorial. On our left and in front we saw what looked like a nice peaceful forest. That was the first impression. We were very wrong. The nice peaceful forest was actually a jungle that had claimed much of the cemetery. I don't know how much time we spent trying to find my great-grandfather's (Márton FISCHER) tombstone but sadly we were not successful. I do know that after this adventure, we were full of scratches and maybe even spiders crawling on our backs.



We went to Hungary again at the end of April 2005. I still had not found a record of my great-grandfather's death. But this time I had two old black and white photos, taken before 1945 at a cemetery, which I suspected was in Gyöngyös. In one of the photos my mother's sister is praying in front of the tombstone of FISCHER Márton. The other photo, although difficult to see, I suspected was my mother in front of the same tombstone.

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The cemetery seemed like it might have been cleaned the year before and, because it was April, there was not too much vegetation growing yet. It was very easy to walk around most of the paths. I still could not find my great-grandfather's tombstone. I was beginning to think that maybe the black and white photos were not taken at the Gyöngyös cemetery but somewhere in a village nearby.



Looking again at those old photos, I realized that the tombstone beside my great-grandfather's was of better quality and maybe would still be standing. So I began searching for the black tombstone of Guttman Soma. Although the upper part had fallen and was standing on the side, I found it! However, beside it there was no tombstone to be seen, just ivy crawling on the dirt.

Because in 2001 this cemetery was a jungle, I came prepared this time with scissors, water, garden gloves, a rug, etc. After clearing away

the ivy and the dirt, I saw my great-grandfather's resting place for the first time.

Now I know that he must have been a learned man (Ha chaver R'), his Hebrew name is Mendel Hirsch (or Hersch) and that "he died to the sorrow of his family on Yom Kippurim", in the year 5665.

This tombstone creates more puzzles for me but I will write more about this on another occasion.

My point in sharing this story is to emphasize the value of looking for other, seemingly inconsequential clues. I could not find my great-grandfather's tombstone because it was buried under dirt and ivy. But by looking at clues in the photos I had, I was able to find it. ☆



Genealogical Standards

Nu? What's New? Volume 10, Number 2

Gary Mokotoff has now produced a *Proposed Standard for Names, Dates and Places in a Genealogical Database*. It has been reviewed by more than ten specialists who offered comments on the draft work as it progressed (without necessarily endorsing the standard as a whole). The proposal, published in AVOTAYNU, XXIV, 3 (Fall, 2008), can be found at the *International Institute for Jewish Genealogy* (IJG) website at < <http://www.ijg.org/home/standards.html> >

Jewish Autographs

I was searching for information on Adolph Zukor, who was an apprentice at my great-great-uncle Blau's department store in Abaújszántó, Hungary, before immigrating to the United States. I found a picture of him and his signature. The *HAVEL's House of History* has a database with pictures and autographs of Political & Religious Leaders, Nobel Laureates and Jewish Autographs. Go to < <http://www.havelshouseofhistory.com/> > and click on Reference Directory.

Genealogy Software for Mac

- * Learn about your options at Mac Genealogy < <http://www.macgenealogy.org/> >. You can transfer your data from a PC by exporting a GEDCOM and importing it into the new program on the Mac.
- * The July 2008 issue of *Family Tree Magazine* has an article regarding genealogy programs for Mac. You can read this magazine at our JGSGW library.
- * Doris Nabel (JewishGen Discussion Group, 18 Feb 2009) created a yahoo group called "gen-mac_users-schmoozers". You must be accepted into the forum before you can post messages, retrieve archived messages, access files, etc. The *MAC Users Schmoozers BOF* will meet at the 29th IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia.
- * See Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter:
< http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/09/genealogy-progr.html >
- * Check out the FAQ on the JewishGen website that discusses the different programs available for Macs and PCs < <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/faq.html#Computers> >



Mishpacha needs you!

- * Tell us what steps you followed to find an ancestor so that others can learn.
- * Share your joy with us when you found/met an x-times removed cousin.
- * Identify newly discovered databases or useful articles that helped with your research.

Please participate in the continuing success of our newsletter by sending your comments, questions, findings or stories to me at < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

Society News



Current Newsletters available electronically from the editor:

- "Family Gatherings" - JGS Broward County
- "Family Legacies" - JGS Southern Nevada
- "Generations" - JGS of Michigan
- "Mishpochology" - JGS of Southwest Florida (Sarasota)
- "Morasha" - JGS Illinois
- "News 'N Notes" - St. Louis Genealogy Society
- "Newsletter" - JGS Great Britain
- "Perth Jewish Roots" - JHGS Western Australia
- "Quest" - JGS Connecticut
- "Scatered Seeds" - JGS Palm Beach County
- "Shem Tov" - JGS Canada (Toronto)
- "The Kol" - JGS Cleveland
- "Venturing Into Our Past" - JGS Conejo Valley & Ventura County, California

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

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WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

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| Michael Kaltman (books) | Bension Varon (family history) |

The President's Perspective

As we approach the completion of our year in office, I am proud of what your Board has accomplished. We have had some wonderful programming this year, a trip to learn about Jewish Richmond, some exciting workshops, signed a contract with the Grand Hyatt and made great progress in our planning for the 2011 IAJGS Conference in Washington DC, and advanced Jewish Genealogy through our research project involving digitizing of Jewish burials at the Arlington National Cemetery.

Your Board has been busy developing initiatives to bring in new members into the Society with fresh ideas and enthusiasm. We have sought to increase the benefits of membership through enhancement and accessibility of the Society library holdings.

I wish to thank all who have participated and contributed to our growth and successful operations this past year, and I will be recognizing those who have contributed at the upcoming June appreciation lunch. Don't miss it. We will not only recognize of those who have made our year outstanding, but we will have exciting presentations by the President of the JGS of Philadelphia and by our founder Dr. Sallyann Sack-Pikus.

Have you enjoyed the programming? Our Programming Committee has already lined up presenters for the fall of 2009 and looks forward to working with the incoming VP of Programs and Program Committee to ensure a full schedule of programs into 2010. If you wish to join this team, please contact me.

Have you researched your family using our library at the Chod Media Center at B'nai Israel? We are also currently looking for volunteers for our library, to continue what we have begun.

Would you like to make a contribution to future planning and programming? How can we improve? Let us know about your interests and how you think we can get better. How can you contribute? Would you like to lead a Workshop on some area of your expertise related to genealogy? We're always looking for new faces and contributors.

Without the active participation of our members, such programming and resources cannot be provided. *We need your help now.*

There are many opportunities to help. We are actively recruiting for a new Treasurer, for a Publicity Chair, Recording Secretary, and for a VP for Membership. We have had a vigorous push to bring in new members this year, with modest successes. We are always looking for new ideas on how to reach out to the larger community and attract new members. If you have ideas, or better yet, care to take on this challenge by volunteering for one of the openings, please contact me at < jgsgw_dc@comcast.net >.

We all gain by sharing our experience with our fellow members, and learn from others through our involvement and participation in the programs of our Society. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming Society event, and to hearing from you about your interests.

Yours in friendship,

Jeff Miller
President

Summaries of the Minutes of JGSGW Board Meetings

The JGSGW Board of Directors met several times during the previous year. Highlights of the reports and actions are as follows:

September 7, 2008

The Board voted to approve the President's nomination of Ernest (Ernie) Fine as our new Webmaster.

Eleanor Matsas provided the Treasurer's Report. As of August 29, 2008, the cumulative balance is \$29,388. Upcoming expenses for the conference will include about \$1,000 for stationery or correspondence expenses. We received revenue of \$5,340 for membership renewals from July 1, 2008 to September 6, 2008, \$132 from Capital Collection Sales, and donations of \$947 and \$135 for the Library and General Funds. Eleanor requested that all budget requests for committees be submitted by October 2.

A report on membership was presented by Jeff Miller. Requests mailed to former members to re-join the Society attracted three former members to renew. The Board discussed the action to be taken if a member has not paid.

Harris Weinstein led a discussion of the September program at B'nai Israel, and October trip to Richmond. The Board discussed publicity for the event (*e.g.*, flyers), transportation and pickup points in Maryland and Virginia. Additional programs were reviewed.

Gene Sadick reported that members rarely use the Library. As a possible means of promoting use of the Library, one option is to more prominently feature the Library and its contents on our Website. The Board voted to make the Library available to anyone in the community who wants to use it in November, as a Jewish Genealogy Month initiative.

Marlene Bishow reported on the DC 2011 Planning Committee's ongoing work for the conference to be held August 14-19. The Grand Hyatt is a leading candidate for the 2011 conference. The pluses and minuses of this venue were discussed in some detail. The committee received other proposals but were much more expensive. There was also a discussion concerning the Society's financial exposure for the Conference and hotel.

The Board discussed and considered proposed revisions to the By-Laws and reached a general consensus on a number of key points including a provision that Board members and officers should begin their new terms on July 1st, to coincide with the Society's fiscal year. To assist with the Board's continuity it is desirable for the President to call a joint meeting for the incoming and outgoing officers and Board members.

November 9, 2008

Treasurer Eleanor Matsas reported that as of November 29, 2008, the cumulative balance in the Society's four bank accounts is \$32,841.28 which includes revenue of \$915 for membership renewals from September 7 to November 8, 2008; \$535 from New Members; \$54 from Capital Collection Sales; donations of \$224 (\$35 for the Library Fund, and \$170 for the General Fund) and a net profit of \$313.15 from the Society's Richmond trip program (\$1,335 revenues less \$1,021.85 expenses). Fred Goodman reported that the Society's map cabinet in the Library has been repaired and provided the keys. The required payment of \$1,877 was given to him.

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Vic Cohen reported on the success of the Richmond trip, based on the general and positive feedback, including some accolades, received from members who participated. The Council for Aging performed superbly in providing the needed bus. Jeff Miller added that Richmond will put the cemetery names into a database and coordinate with JGSGW.

The Board voted unanimously that a revised draft of the By-Laws be circulated by November 19th, with a vote to be held by the Board by November 24th concerning whether the proposed revised By-Laws shall be approved and presented to the Society's membership for consideration.

Sue Isman, for the 2011 Committee, briefly reviewed and distributed copies of the proposed contract with the Hyatt for the 2011 Conference. Discussion of the hotel selection process followed. The 2011 Committee received 5 proposals. After visiting two sites, the Committee determined that the Grand Hyatt had provided the preferable offer. Sue stated that the Committee had obtained a number of concessions from the Grand Hyatt, which compared favorably to the concessions obtained for the conferences in 2003 (D.C.) and 2010 (Los Angeles). All food we provide will be kosher. The food for the conference will be meat and parve, with no dairy. Several members of the Board expressed concerns about meeting contract minimums for the conference. These were discussed. The Board approved, with no votes against, and one member abstaining.

December 7, 2008

In his president's report Jeff Miller welcomed Barbara Garrard, our new Database Manager. The Board discussed whether to convene a nominating committee for the three vacant Board positions, but decided not to do so at this time. Instead they decided to informally make suggestions to fill the vacant positions. Potential nominees were discussed.

Jeff reported that Harris Weinstein and Carol Freeman, have made progress not only in developing programs for the remainder of the 2008-2009 year, but have started identifying potential programs for the fall of 2009 as well.

The role of the Recording Secretary is critical, and one of the functions is to maintain a "Minutes Book" of all minutes of Board meetings. A volunteer or volunteers are being sought to assume this responsibility.

Copies of the potential revisions and copies of the original By-Laws were handed out for comparison. On Sept 7th the committee had approved a version of the By-Laws, then reopened questionable areas again in November. Several motions were made and passed as the Board agreed to a number of significant changes to the Sept 7th version of the Revision to the By-Laws. ☆

Jewish Burials at Arlington National Cemetery

A big Thank You to the members who volunteered to participate in the Mitzvah Days, taking digital photographs and identifying grave locations!

Visit the JGSGW Arlington Cemetery website at < <http://www.cygnat.org/anc2008/> >.
To submit additional names of persons buried at the cemetery, please use the forms available from the "Contact Us" page of the website.

Volunteers needed



There are a number of opportunities currently available to make your JGSGW perform more effectively. Here is a list with very brief descriptions for your consideration:

Membership and Greeting: Prepares the sign-in list, sets up the membership table at meetings, greets and directs members and guests, and tracks meeting attendance.

Recording Minutes for Board Meetings: Takes minutes at the JGSGW Board meetings (about 6-8 per year), writes them up and distributes them to Board members for comments and corrections. Audio recordings are made of the meetings, providing an additional source of input for the minutes.

Technology Committee Members (3 to 5 people required) and Chairperson: Review our present and future technology needs and recommend changes that might be implemented in the next 3-5 years.

Library Volunteers:

1. To staff the library Monday nights, 6:00 - 8:30 PM, Thursdays 1:00 - 3:00 PM. Volunteers will be trained in answering basic questions about the resources that are available.
2. The library has many binders of articles and clippings that need to be reviewed to make certain that the information is still up-to-date and useful to us.
3. We have a long list of Internet sites that need to be organized in a more user friendly fashion.

JGSGW will also need volunteers interested in serving on the Board, in both elected and appointed positions (e.g. programming, publicity). See < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw/board.html> > for a list of JGSGW Board Members.

If you are interested in participating in any of these functions or would like additional information, please contact Jeff Miller, JGSGW President, at < JGSGW_DC@Comcast.net >.

JGSGW Library Summer Hours

Wednesdays - 1:00 - 3:00 PM

By Appointment: Call Gene Sadick (301) 434-8561

Monday 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Thursday 1:00 - 3:00 PM

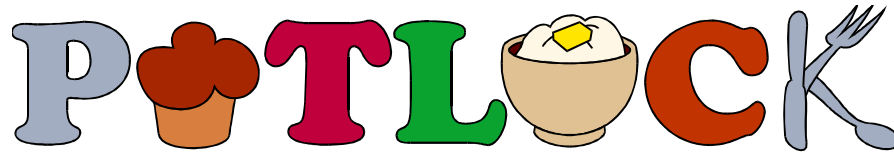


Hours for the library after general meetings at B'nai Israel will be announced at the meeting.

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

For current times, please see our website < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw> >

Join us at the Member Appreciation



Sunday, June 7, 2009

Clara Barton Community Center, 7425 Macarthur Blvd, Cabin John, MD 20818

Annual Member Appreciation Luncheon - Members Only

Program

12:30 Luncheon and member recognition

1:30 Fred Blum, President of JGS Philadelphia

Subject: IAJGS 2009 Conference

2:00 Speaker: Dr. Sallyann Sack

Topic: Standing on One Foot: "The International Tracing Service of the Red Cross: Strategies for the Genealogist"

For 60 years the vast store of Holocaust documents housed in the International Tracing Service (ITS) were not available to the public. That changed in November 2007. The first group to take advantage of the new open-door policy was 40 Jewish genealogists who visited the ITS at Bad Arolsen, Germany, in May 2008 and were given full access to vast numbers of records relating to Holocaust victims and survivors. The ITS Bad Arolsen contains all of the many records maintained by the Nazis on each person that entered their system, including all the persons who lived in their concentration camps. These records consist of each of the places a person was located, daily entries on their activities, detailed personal information, etc. All of this information will be invaluable to genealogists, among others. Learn more about the kinds of records that exist in the ITS at Bad Arolsen and how they may be accessed.

Sallyann Sack, Ph. D., our guest speaker, is the Founding President of JGSGW. She has made three trips to the ITS and organized the group that visited in May. She is the editor, co-founder and co-owner of Avotaynu (the leading journal for Jewish Genealogy), president of Avotaynu Foundation, a past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and recipient of its Lifetime Achievement Award.

Tracing Your Family Roots TV Show

Tracing Your Family Roots, sponsored in part by JGSGW, is shown on channel 19 in Montgomery County, Maryland, on Mondays at 5:30 PM and Wednesdays at 10 PM. The show is hosted by JGSGW past-presidents Sallyann Sack and Arline Sachs, and produced by Sid Sachs in Fairfax County, Virginia. It also airs on Fairfax Public Access (channel 10) every second and fourth Sunday at 1:00 PM. Consult your TV listing for the guest and subject. < <http://tracingroots.nova.org/> >



LAST MEETING OF SEASON

- June 7 - Annual Member Appreciation Luncheon
- IAJGS Conference Preview
 - The International Tracing Service of the Red Cross: Strategies for the Genealogist



Please see our website for our
2009-2010 Meeting Schedule
< <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw> >

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