

That you might recount it to a future generation

למען תספרו לדור אחרון

Psalms 48:14

DOROT דורות

תהילים מ"ח:יד

The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume 21, Number 1

Fall 1999

Upcoming Programs

Sunday meetings begin at 2:00 PM and, unless otherwise noted, are held at B'nai Zion, 136 East 39 Street, New York, NY (between Lexington and 3rd Avenues). A *schmooze* session starts at 1:30 PM to swap genealogical problems, solutions and anecdotes. *Postscript* sessions are short "how-to" presentations on a specific topic offered after the main program.

Reminder: non-members will be charged \$3 for admission. Please bring your membership card.

Finding Naturalization Records in New York City — October 17, 1999

Estelle M. Guzik, JGS President, will discuss the various courts in New York City in which an immigrant could file for naturalization, and will describe where these petition and declaration records are currently located. The lecture will highlight less well known finding aids, as well as new ones now available.

This meeting will be held at the Fashion Institute of Technology (FIT), Dubinsky Student Center, in conjunction with the Family History Fair (see "Special JGS Events"). The Dubinsky Center is at Eighth Avenue and West 27th Street, and can be reached from the 23rd St. station of the C and E lines, or from the south (32nd St.) entrance of 34th St. - Penn Station on the A, C and E lines.

To be announced — November 21, 1999

The program for the November meeting had not been finalized as of press time. Stay tuned to the JGS website and watch for the postcard mailing.

Polish Jewish Genealogical Research — December 19, 1999

Warren Blatt, Webmaster and Vice President of JewishGen, will provide an overview and introduction to researching Polish-Jewish ancestry. Topics to be covered include geographical and place-name history, sources for historical information, vital records repositories in Poland, how to find and translate Polish-Jewish vital records, business directories and telephone books, yizkor books and landsmanschaftn, maps and photographs, using Family History Library

microfilms, Internet sources, and Special Interest Groups for Jewish genealogical research in Poland.

Computers and the Internet in Jewish Genealogy — January 16, 2000

Suzannah R. Juni, a former member of the JGS Executive Council, will talk about the Internet, JewishGen and related topics.

SPECIAL JGS EVENTS

Family History Fair - October 17, 1999

The Jewish Genealogical Society will again act as a co-sponsor at the annual New York Archives Week Family History Fair, and will exhibit at the Fair from 12:00 noon to 5:00 pm. The Fair is being held this year at the Fashion Institute of Technology Dubinsky Student Center (see directions for the October meeting, above) because New York University's Loeb Student Center is being demolished and reconstructed. Admission is free. Dozens of libraries and archives, genealogical societies, vendors and computer demonstrations will be on view. Workshops on many topics will be provided throughout the afternoon, and the monthly JGS meeting will take place at the Fair. The Fair is presented by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York during New York Archives Week.

Researching Your Family History — November 11 & 18, 1999

Two Thursdays, from 7:00 - 9:00 pm, at the 92nd Street YM-YWHA at 1395 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY.

A joint JGS/92nd Street YM-YWHA program, similar to the successful program given last year. Discover the wide range of library and archival resources available locally and elsewhere, and learn how to gather information from your relatives. Topics include naming traditions, vital records, cemeteries, computer technology, census and naturalization records, passenger lists, yizkor books, Holocaust research, finding

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survivors and researching in Eastern Europe. Two sessions, \$40. Pre-registration required. Register through the Y, either in person, by mail or telephone (212-996-1100).

Beyond the Basics Seminar — March 12, 2000

The Sixth annual Malcolm H. Stern Memorial Seminar will be held, as in previous years, at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, One West Fourth Street (between Broadway and Mercer Street).

This day-long genealogical event will offer more than 15 classes in three simultaneous tracks, including programs for beginners and sessions on computers. JGS members will receive an information and registration brochure.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Salt Lake City Jewish Genealogical Research Trip — November 4-11, 1999

The sixth annual genealogical odyssey to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library will be led once again by *Avotaynu* publisher Gary Mokotoff and professional genealogist Eileen Polakoff. Pre-trip literature, introductory class and workshop, group discussions and problem-solving sessions, individual research consultations and on-site guidance from Mokotoff and

Polakoff, and accommodations next door to the Library at the Best Western Plaza Hotel are all included. The cost is \$695 based on double occupancy (\$910 single occupancy); airfare and meals are not included. Write to SLC Genealogical Trip, 155 N. Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621; 201-387-7200.

Southern Jewish Historical Society Annual Conference — November 5-7, 1999

Rather go south than west in November? The SJHS 24th Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia will include tours to historic sites, archives and museums as well as seminars and papers. The keynote speaker, Susan Stein, Curator of Monticello, will speak on the contributions made by the Levy family to the preservation of Monticello. In the 1790 census, Richmond was the fourth largest Jewish community in the colonies. Contact the SJHS at P.O. Box 5024, Atlanta, GA 30302-5024; or fax Herb Heltzer at 804-285-2888.

Salt Lake Institute of Genealogy — January 17-21, 2000

Rather be in Salt Lake City in January instead of November? The Utah Genealogical Association will hold their fifth annual Institute at the Best Western Plaza Hotel. Registrants will be offered a choice of one of eight courses, including American Records and Research, Thoroughly Sourcing the Midwest, Preparing a Family History in the New Millennium, Preparing for Accreditation, and two levels of Problem Solving Methodology. The latter was to have required initial application by September 1, followed by a review of projects to be submitted later in September. Tuition fees range from \$275 to \$335, depending on the course. Contact the UGA at P.O. Box 1144, Salt Lake City, UT 84110; 888-INFO-UGA; uga@softsolutions.com; www.infouga.org.

NGS 2000 Conference in the States — May 31-June 3, 2000

The annual National Genealogical Society Conference in the States will be held in Providence, Rhode Island with the New England Regional Genealogical Conference as the local host. Contact the NGS for further details: 4527 17th Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399; 800-473-0060; www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Twentieth Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy — July 9-13, 2000

Can't make it to Salt Lake in either November or January? Might as well start planning now for the first summer conference of the new millennium, to be held in this genealogical mecca next July.

JGS News

President's Corner

We did it! With the help of more than 100 volunteers, the 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy was an incredible success! It was the largest gathering of Jewish genealogists ever. A total of 1,313 individuals, from 38 States and 16 countries, attended the Conference.

I want to thank in particular the Co-Chairs of our Conference, Lucille Gudis and Michael Brenner, for their dedication and vision in putting the Conference together. We owe them a debt of gratitude for a job well done. In addition to Lucille and Mike, many of the subcommittee chairpersons deserve special note.

In particular, I want to thank Mark Nearenberg and Arthur Simpson for putting together that great Resource Room; Michael Levine, who organized the Computer Room; Linda Cantor, who managed Registration before and during the entire Conference -- and did so in the most efficient manner; Mila Begun, assisted by Naomi Freistadt, who arranged the tours; June Walzer who managed the Hospitality Room and Stuart Stahl who supervised audio arrangements. And of course, our hats are off to Jeff Cymbler for his lead in selecting and scheduling the speakers from universities, government agencies, archives and libraries as well as the genealogical community worldwide. Jeff was assisted by Hadassah Lipsius who served as our contact person with SIGs and arranged their meetings, and Nina Citron who assisted in communication with and arrangements for the medical community.

Much work was put into the Conference in the two plus years preceding. Bob Kraus held us all to a strict schedule so that the Conference Syllabus would be perfect — and it was! Lillian Faffer carefully selected vendors who could offer a range of materials to attendees. Adam Bronstein, our webmaster, kept registrants informed of program changes, hotel and travel information, registration and NYC resources, through our Conference web site. Adam also designed the format for our publication of the Kings County Clerk's Office Naturalization Index.. Dina Goldner and Edith Ewenstein arranged the dinner and program. Leslie Corn and Joy Rich contacted many repositories to make special arrangements for attendees. Evan Stolbach was in charge of finding volunteers. Maralyn Steeg developed our publicity materials and made contact with the various media, resulting in the most extensive coverage ever at a New York City genealogy event! Paul Silverstone made the special airline arrangements and found additional hotels for us when it was clear we would have an overflow crowd. Gerry Dunsky and Robert Kern worked on fund raising, and Claus Hirsch served as our treasurer. Allen Shifren developed the handy "Daily Planner." John Paul Lowens assisted throughout, in particular helping to

"break down" the Conference, returning materials to the various repositories and storing the remainder. There were many, many more volunteers, some of whom are listed in the Syllabus and others who helped us "on-the-spot" when we needed it. Thanks to all of you. We've gotten wonderful feedback because *you* made it happen!

Estelle Guzik

As you look back I'm sure all the faces flow into one mass. I'm the tall one from Albany and I'm putting my thoughts and thanks in letter form ... Email is gone so quickly; a piece of paper can stay and be shown around. You, the seminar staff and the JGS of New York City are to be complemented on the wonderful job that was done last week...I am not only speaking for myself but for all (eight) of our members that were present (from Albany JGS)... All of us benefitted a great deal from the seminar. This fall the syllabus will give us a good text for local workshops. Again, thank you, thank you. It was a tough job, well done.

Norman D. Tillman

After so many years away from active involvement in Jewish genealogy, I was awestruck and profoundly moved by what I found at the 19th annual conference this week. Remember, I go back to the days when the movement consisted of maybe half a dozen people working in lonely isolation, and the biggest challenge was encouraging other Jews to get involved. The sheer masses of enthusiastic devotees at this week's conference, the depth and breadth of scholarly research on display, the respect paid to the movement by archivists and journalists alike—these are the sort of things I dared to envision only in my wildest dreams way back when.

Perhaps most impressive of all, though, was the sophisticated manner in which this complex event was assembled and run so smoothly. It's hard to believe it was organized by volunteers rather than professionals. As one satisfied customer, I found the conference an incredibly good value, both as a research tool and a social event. So please—Michael, Lucille, Estelle, Jeff, Steve and everyone else—pat yourselves on the back for a job well done!

Dan Rottenberg

Those of us from Toronto who were at the convention sat around a table this evening to discuss our first meeting of the season, which will be reporting on what happened in New York. We all talked about our experiences,

the friends we met, the sessions, the research, the hospitality, I could go on and on.. The consensus was that you, your committee and volunteers did a tremendous job, so on behalf of all of us from Toronto, thank you.

Gert Rogers, President JGSC (Toronto)

To paraphrase Yakov Smirnoff, "What a Seminar!" Mike, and Lucille, and you (Estelle) - and everyone are to be congratulated on a show that would have pleased old P.T. Barnum himself. I could not believe the crowds at some of the lectures. The Phillies would be happy to draw such crowds at Veterans Stadium. The quality of the talks was excellent. My vote is for New York to host a Seminar every summer.

I marvel that year after year your group is able to hold onto your long-time members while bringing new ones to the fold. It was good seeing friends from years ago and meeting so many new people. On behalf of everyone in Philadelphia, thanks for all your hard work, hours of planning, years of studying, and miles of caring.

Harry D. Boonin

To let you know how much I appreciate what you did to present a flawless, and even more, superb, conference. For many of us, the most important aspect of the conference is making contact with those sharing our specific research. It was easier to do that at this conference because of the wonderful spaces for sitting and talking.

Please let everyone on your team know that I want to thank them for each job they did - from the hotel arrangements to the talks to the reception to arranging the SIG meetings and Birds of a Feather meetings and syllabus, canvas bag, pre-conference notifications — of course I've left out a lot — I don't know how to put on a conference!

Marian Rubin

The canvas bag and the syllabus can be purchased at the monthly meetings. The bag will be available for \$5.00, and the syllabus (shrink wrapped without the binder) will sell for \$25.00. Also available for sale at \$30.00 will be the long awaited CD-ROM version of the Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) that was distributed at the conference to those who had previously remitted orders. The conference syllabus can also be ordered by mail for \$25.00 plus \$6.00 shipping, directly from the JGS at P.O. Box 6398, New York, NY 10128.

JGS Wins IAJGS Award

At the banquet of the 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy, the International Association of

Jewish Genealogical Societies presented the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York) with the Outstanding Project Award for Advancing the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy. The award was made for initiating the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF). The JGFF (now JewishGen Family Finder) was conceived in early 1979 under the leadership of Dr. Neil Rosenstein, the JGS's first president, and was compiled by David Fiedler, a JGS founding member. The first edition, manually produced, was issued in July 1979. In 1982, Gary Mokotoff, then a new member of the JGS, volunteered to computerize the information. He and his wife, Ruth, continued to nurture the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder as it grew into what it is today. In 1996, ownership of the JGFF was transferred from the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York) to JewishGen, Inc., where it has become a cornerstone of the JewishGen website. In its award, the IAJGS noted that the Family Finder has been an invaluable resource for countless genealogists since its inception. By making it possible to link up with others via surname or ancestral town connections, scattered family members have found each other and much knowledge has been shared. Through this award, the IAJGS expressed its wish to show its deep appreciation to those who conceptualized and implemented the original Jewish Family Finder project.

In addition, the IAJGS made the following awards:

Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via Print Award -- Presented to Miriam Weiner, JGS (New York) former Executive Council member, for her book *Jewish Roots in Poland*. Miriam's success in presenting the first officially sanctioned lists of Jewish documents in Polish archives makes it an extraordinarily valuable resource tool. The book's pictures and illustrations bring the vanished world of Jewish Poland to life once again.

IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award — Presented to Arthur Kurzweil, a founding member of the JGS (New York) in deep appreciation of his trailblazing work which teaches us that learning about Jewish family history is possible, despite ages of community destruction, Diaspora and the Holocaust. The IAJGS expressed gratitude to Arthur for showing us the way, and for his past and continued inspiration to both Jewish genealogists and new Jewish genealogical societies that continue to be created worldwide because of his vision.

Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet Award — Presented to Jewish Records Indexing-Poland in recognition of an extraordinary database, available via the Internet, which recently reached a half-million entries and continues to grow. This database not only helps countless researchers but also demonstrates what can be accomplished through the cooperative energy of many volunteers and is an inspiration and model for databases covering other geographical areas. Stanley Diamond, Project Co-coordinator of the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland project accepted the award on behalf of all who have worked on this project.

Outstanding Programming That Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy Award — Presented to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Michigan in recognition of its programming which demonstrated a high level of creativity, organizational talent and cooperative spirit. The IAJGS commended the JGS of Michigan for its ability to offer its members such a diverse range of stimulating activities "which cannot help but energize novice and experienced family researchers alike." Steve Rosman accepted the award for the JGS of Michigan.

Outstanding Publication by a Member of the IAJGS Award — Presented to the Israel Genealogical Society for its periodical, *Sharsheret Hadorot, Family Roots Research* for excellent coverage of topics ranging from scholarly articles based on original research to news items about genealogy activities and resources in Israel, and for generously sharing that information with genealogists around the world by presenting those articles in both Hebrew and English. Jean-Pierre Stroweis, President accepted the award on behalf of the Society.

The 1999 IAJGS Awards Committee included: Anne Feder Lee, Honolulu, Chair; Carol Baird, San Diego, member; Henry Wellisch, Toronto, member.

Past Programs

The 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy — August 8-13, 1999

Though called the "19th," this year's conference was an unprecedented event in the numbers of attendees it commanded, the depth of knowledge it offered, and the respect it garnered from many scholars, writers and archivists of Jewish history. The conference, subtitled "New York . . . Gateway to America," was organized and hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York, with an all-volunteer staff headed by co-chairs Lucille Gudis and Michael Brenner. At the Marriot Marquis in Times Square, the conference welcomed over 1,300 attendees - well above last year's record of 800 - from 38 states and 15

countries, including Argentina, Belarus, Brazil, Denmark, France, Sweden and Ukraine. The largest groups attending from outside the U.S. were from Canada, England and Israel.

The conference offered attendees a wide range of information and advice about genealogy, and it also explored the subject with a depth that single-day seminars cannot provide. Outside the hotel the conference offered tours of Jewish interest, discount admissions to local Jewish Museums, and special research opportunities such as extended hours at archives just for conference attendees. Inside the hotel the lectures - and there were several hundred of them - were complemented by a well-stocked resource room, an organized, user-friendly computer room, and a convenient vendor room. Many of the lectures themselves covered topics that have not been addressed at previous genealogy conferences, such as genetics and genealogy, the scholarly study of demography and history, and the use of non-traditional sources to reconstruct the feeling of ancestors' lives.

Tours of Jewish neighborhoods, contemporary and historical, allowed attendees to experience Jewish New York as it is and was. In addition to visiting the Lower East Side, tour-goers walked through Hasidic Brooklyn and the Upper East Side. Research opportunities abounded at many New York repositories, including the Municipal Archives, the City Clerk's Office, and the LDS Family History Library. The conference had no shortage of the necessary lectures on the fundamental skills of genealogy, such as finding naturalization documents, reading Hebrew and Yiddish, understanding passenger arrival records and finding and understanding 19th century Polish-language records. The high-tech area was covered as well, with talks on digital imaging and a look at the future of Jewishgen. The conference organizers made sure to provide learning opportunities for out-of-towners, with lectures on New York repositories scheduled in the morning so people could apply their new knowledge at the actual repository later in the day.

In addition to the thorough selection of fundamental topics, this year's conference was distinguished from previous conferences by lectures on scholarly historical research, the genetics of the Jews, and the creative imagining of ancestors' lives. In a thorough lecture, for example, Professor Gershon Hundert explained the demography of 18th century Polish Jewry. His meticulous overheads listed genealogical treasures like gazeteers, community books, and works of bibliography, and where to find them. Professor Hundert provided some inside tips about resources hidden in the stacks at the Central Archives for the Jewish people at Hebrew University. Professor Michael Stanislawski of Columbia University overturned some genealogists' assumptions about the edicts of the Russian Czars and their effects on the Jews. Professor Stanislawski urged his listeners to remember that

family legends, while containing an emotional reality that cannot be disputed, do not always convey history accurately.

The conference was also distinguished by the presence of creative writers, such as Helen Epstein, author of *Where She Came From: A Daughter's Search for her Mother's History*, the story of her search for the pre-Holocaust history of her mother, grandmother and great-grandmother in Central Europe. Ms. Epstein discussed the usefulness of scholarly sources and non traditional sources like the memoirs of other people in imagining the details of her ancestors' lives. Although she did not have her grandmother's diary, for example, she read diaries and memoirs of women who grew up in her grandmother's place and time, to get a feel for the life her grandmother had led. Extremely well attended were the lectures by scientists such as Dr. Robert Burk of Albert Einstein Medical Center, on how Jewish genealogists' knowledge of family history can help geneticists understand how genes are inherited and how they affect health. At an evening panel that was marked by a pleasant, informal quality, Dr. Burk was joined by Dr. Robert Desnick, chairman of the Department of Human Genetics at Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, Stanley Diamond of the Beta-Thalassemia Research Project and Professor Vivian Moses of the Centre for Genetic Anthropology at University College in England. There, Mr. Diamond shared some interpersonal strategies for the sometimes awkward task of gathering health information from relatives.

Thursday evening brought the much-anticipated banquet, with over four hundred people present. The speaker was Stephen J. Dubner, author of *Turbulent Souls: A Catholic Son's Return to His Jewish Family*, his memoir of returning to Judaism after being raised by his parents, zealous converts to Christianity. Mr. Dubner spoke humbly about his attempts to find and understand genealogical documents, and movingly about his joy of learning about his family's Jewish history and finding his Jewish relatives. The IAJGS distributed its awards at the banquet (see above), and musical entertainment was provided as well.

This year's conference was most unusual for the respect it was accorded by the media. In New York, a city with lots of news, the conference was written up by Clyde Haberman in *The New York Times* and featured on New York City's CBS news. Indeed, when the history of Jewish genealogy is written, perhaps the 19th Annual Conference will be seen as a turning point.

Rachel Eskin Fisher

Correction - April Meeting Summary. In the previous issue of *Dorot*, the summary of the presentation by Paul Silverstone on the Aliyah Bet and Illegal Immigration to Palestine incorrectly stated that the Irgun established the Mossad Aliyah Bet. It was the Hagannah, not the Irgun, that established the Mossad Aliyah Bet.

New York Resources Update Estelle M. Guzik

National Archives and Records Administration, Northeast Region

The New York State Health Department has provided NARA-Northeast Region, 201 Varick Street, with additional vital records indexes for upstate New York. An additional two years of birth (to 1923), death and marriage indexes (to 1948) are now available to researchers. NARA has also agreed to accession most of the remaining naturalization records from the US District Court, State of New Jersey. These include records from the Trenton office as well as the index to the Camden records already at NARA. Call (212) 337-1301 to determine whether this transfer has already occurred.

NARA in Washington has added two new pages to its web site:

- (1) 1930 Federal Population Census: www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html
- (2) Clues in Census Records, 1790-1840: www.nara.gov/genealogy/oldclues.html

New York Public Library, Us History, Local History & Genealogy Division

The New York City Department of Health had second thoughts about transferring additional birth and death indexes to the NYPL Genealogy Division and as a result, the transfer of the 1983-1998 indexes to the NYPL Genealogy Division did not occur. Please make this correction to your 1999 Conference Syllabus, Section E, page 18. However, Ruth Carr, Chief, of this Division, announced at the 19th Annual Conference that the Library had acquired the Holland-America Line passenger lists, 1900-1940. These were cataloged and available in the Microforms Division just in time for the Conference.

The official name of the Genealogy Division has been changed to Irma & Paul Milstein Division, U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy. On August 16, 1999, the Division began to work on the massive stack moves required for their upcoming relocation to the first floor (The new room is located just above the Jewish Division). The move of stack books is the first step, and should continue into September. During this period stack collections will be inaccessible. The relocation of the reading room cannot be predicted yet but may take place in the fall. It is unknown whether or when the reading room will close for this transition. The new location will include microfilm readers and access to some microfilms now held in the microforms division. Call (212) 930-0828 before coming.

New York Public Library, Microforms Room

The NYPL has completed the renovation of its new microforms facility in Room 100. Many of the genealogical resources of the Library are on microfilm or microfiche and can be accessed here even when the Genealogy room is closed. Once the Genealogy Division has relocated, some of the resources located in the Microforms room, such as the vital records indexes, will be relocated to the Genealogy Division.

Family History Center

The LDS Family History Center located in Manhattan at 125 Columbus Avenue (corner 65th St), 2nd floor, has a collection of 6,000 microfilms on indefinite loan. Many of these films are of interest to Jewish genealogists. These include 19th-century vital records for selected Jewish communities in Eastern and Central Europe; the 1938 German census of Jews; NYC vital records indexes: births, 1881-1965, Health Department marriages, 1888-1957, deaths, 1888-1965; Hamburg passenger departure lists, 1850-1934 and much more. Thanks to Dr. Donald Snow, Director of the New York Center, the complete list of indefinite-loan films at the Center can be found on-line at www.genealogy.org/~uvpafug/nyfhc

The complete catalog (excluding the indefinite loan locations) is available on the Family History Library web site at www.familysearch.org/Search/searc/catalog.asp. Additional naturalization indexes and/or records from the Bronx, Queens, Nassau and Suffolk Counties and the National Archives-Northeast Region have been microfilmed by the Family History Library and may be ordered at FHCs around the world.

Kings County Clerk's Office, Naturalizations

The JGS, in partnership with the Italian Genealogy Group of New York and the German Genealogy Group, is in the process of computerizing the indexes to Brooklyn naturalization records, 1907-1924 (Earlier indexes are included in the WPA Index of all NYC courts, 1792-1906). To date, almost 60,000 names have been entered into the database, or about 20% of the 258,000 records in this office. The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has agreed to microfilm these indexes. More volunteers are needed to complete this project. If you can help enter data from home or at the County Clerk's Office, or can assist with photocopying and proofing, please contact Estelle Guzik at JGSNY@aol.com or call the JGS at (212) 330-8257. A printout of the first 37,500 entries is available at the National Archives-Northeast Region, 201 Varick Street, NYC, and at the Family History Center in Plainview, Long Island.

The Center for Jewish History

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research located at the Center for Jewish History, which had reopened to researchers on Monday, July 19, 1999 on a limited by appointment only basis, is now open without the need

for advance appointment. It is still advisable to call or email in advance of a visit to make sure that the material one is planning to use is on-site (some material is still stored in New Jersey). To contact the YIVO Library, email YIVO3@metgate.metro.org or call 294-6134 (Aviva Astrinsky, Librarian). For the YIVO Archives, email YIVO2@metgate.metro.org or call (212) 294-6143 (Fruma Mohrer, Archivist). Note: The Archivist prefers telephone contact. Include your day-time telephone number in any phone or email message in case the Librarian/Archivist needs to speak with you directly. Call between 9:30 am and 5:30 pm.

Before calling or emailing, be prepared to describe to the librarian/archivist the kind of information you are seeking. Be as specific as possible. If you have access to the Guide to the YIVO Archives, refer to the specific record group(s) that you wish to use and be prepared to tell the archivist what you are seeking. If you are interested in printed material in YIVO's library, e.g. a yizkor book for your town, you may want to consult the 1989 edition of Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area to determine if YIVO has it. The current entrance to YIVO at the Center for Jewish History is at 22 West 17th Street, between 5th & 6th Avenues.

YIVO News reported the following additions to its collection:

- (1) Family histories: Chargarutsky/Sharoll family from Tolna, Hungary; the history of the Wolpe family from Lithuania; the history of the Grostein family of Idaho; the Caplan and Werner family histories as well as memoirs by Lewis Caplan; papers of the Croman family of Chicago; memoirs of Beckie Blachinsky; papers of the Cuperman family; and Radunski family papers.
- (2) Landsmanshaftn: Netherland Israelitish Sick Fund, the second largest landsmanshaft in New York (addition to collection); Lomzher Young Men's Benevolent Society.
- (3) Census: The Archives also received a donation of the 1858 Oshmiany, Lithuania census of Jews.

Yeshiva University Library

Yeshiva University library catalog is now available via the web. Connect to the University's main page at www.yu.edu and click on Libraries. On the bottom bar you will find a link to the YULIS catalog. (Alternatively you may connect to the catalog directly at www.yu.edu/libraries/yulis.htm). In order to see Hebrew you will need to download Hebrew characters into your browser.

New York Area Cemeteries

Ada Greenblatt, JGS Cemetery Chairperson, prepared instructions for travel to New York area cemeteries by public transportation. A copy of the memo can be found on the Conference web site at members.aol.com/nyc99conf/cemeteries.htm.

Notes From All Over

IAJGS News

Howard Margol, past president of the JGS of Georgia, was elected President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies at the 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Also elected were Hal Bookbinder (Los Angeles), Vice-President; Marilyn Natchez (Detroit), Treasurer; and Arline Sachs (Alexandria, VA), Secretary. Continuing as At-Large Board members are Karen Franklin (Yonkers, NY) immediate past president of IAJGS, Rob Sealtiel (Israel), Bruce Kahn (Rochester, NY), David Fielker (Great Britain), and Anne Lee (Hawaii). Two open At-Large board positions were filled by special election subsequent to the conference. The new At-Large members are Gladys Paulin of the Orlando JGS, and Fred Davis of the Boston JGS.

Ancestry Adds Canadian Telephone, Civil War Databases

Ancestry.com (www.ancestry.com) has announced the addition of 12.2 million Canadian telephone directory records to its increasing collection of international research databases. The directory provides an individual's name, address, province, postal code and age, in addition to the telephone number. The additional Canadian records bring the total number of telephone and address listings at their web site to 274 million records. Unlike many of the databases at the Ancestry site, these telephone listings are available free of charge.

Ancestry has also announced the addition of a Civil War Research Database. Created by Historical Data Systems, Inc., The Civil War Database is a work-in-progress, with additional records to be added every two weeks. The database currently contains digitized, indexed and interlinked roster records for more than two million soldiers. Included within the searchable database as of mid-July were more than 2,700 regimental chronicles, 1,000 officer profiles, 3,300 battle synopses and more than 1,000 soldier photographs. A large amount of information in the Civil War Database has previously been unavailable, or inaccessible, to the public.

Rosters published by the Adjutants General for each state involved in the War have been compiled as part of the database and are available in a uniform and searchable format. These rosters include the military records for each member of a particular state's military forces, pension index records, 1860 census records, GAR records, Roll of Honor records, Medal of Honor Records and Regimental histories. Researchers using the Adjutants General reports database may find information ranging from the soldier's name, residence, date of entry, regiments, companies, rank, promotions and transfers, to events (such as POW, wounded, etc.) and how and where the sol-

dier exited the military (discharge, desertion, muster out or death). Some states also include in their official records a soldier's birthplace, age at enlistment, occupation and physical description.

Ancestry has also expanded the search engine for the Periodical Source Index (PERSI), a subject index of genealogy and local history periodical articles written in North America since the Eighteenth Century. These articles have been culled from both English- and French-language publications. Ancestry.com and the Allen County Public Library first published PERSI on CD-ROM in 1997. Previously, PERSI was only available in print or on microfiche and was very expensive (the current printed edition contains 30 bound volumes). The index catalogs more than 5,000 total titles and more than 1.3 million citations, listing every article according to locality, family (surname) and/or research methodology. Users can follow a link from the citation to information about the publisher of the periodical. If the publisher no longer exists, users are encouraged to check a publication's availability with their local library or historical society; or to contact the Allen County Public Library, which owns a copy of each periodical indexed in PERSI, for photocopies of articles.

Halifax Pier 21 Web Site

Halifax's Pier 21 was Canada's equivalent of New York's Ellis Island: not the only entry port to the country, but probably the best known. Over the years hundreds of thousands of immigrants were greeted into Canada's heart through the facilities of Pier 21. Now, like the restoration efforts at Ellis Island, the facilities of Pier 21 are being preserved for the future. A web site (www.pier21.ns.ca) has been established, devoted to the history of Pier 21, the immigrants who entered Canada through its doors, the volunteers who eased their entry, and the history they made together. The web site includes immigrant stories and photographs of diverse types of immigrants, including "war brides" from World War II, "guest children" who were sent to safety in America during the war, refugees from the European war theater, and soldiers who left Canada through Pier 21.

There is a bibliography of printed and online resources, and an as yet incomplete list of ships that departed from or arrived at the port facilities in Halifax. This list is arranged by topic (displaced persons, evacuees, war brides, soldiers, etc.), then alphabetic by the name of the ship. Some of the ships' names are linked to separate pages with a picture of the ship, a physical description, and a short summary of its service.

Genealogical Software Upgrades

The Family History Library web site is offering free copies of the newest version of its Personal Ancestral File software program. The Windows-based PAF 4.0 is available at www.familysearch.org. The latest version includes new multimedia features and enhances many features of PAF 3.0. PAF 4.0 will also be available on CD-ROM for a nominal price in early 2000.

Parsons Technology has also announced an upgrade of its software, Family Origins 8.0. New or improved features include the ability to open and work in more than one database at a time, and drag and drop information from one file to the other; the ability to search for individuals by record numbers or other user specified criteria; an hourglass tree, mailing labels utility, and calendar utility; internet features, scrapbook improvements and several other items that look very similar to features found in Family Tree Maker (which is now under the same corporate umbrella). Order from Parsons Technology, 1700 Progress Drive, P.O. Box 100, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233-0100; 800-223-6925; www.shoptlc.com.

Emigrant Savings Bank Database

Monica Bennett's has upgraded the New York Emigrant Savings Bank web site, which can be found online at the Genealogy Exchange and Surname Registry site: www.genexchange.com/esb/ The records often contain information about an emigrant's birthplace, military history, street address, next of kin, and much more. The data covers individuals from 14 states, from Maine to California. The site features a new improved look, and a vastly increased search functionality. In addition to expected search capabilities such as full or partial surname, and first name, the new search engine offers some surprising capabilities. One new search function is the ability to map out an entire city block of people that had bank accounts. Simply fill in a street address, City, and state in the appropriate search fields and retrieve a list of all persons that lived in a given city street. A simple search of "Orange Street" in "Manhattan", "NY" will bring up all records currently registered in the database for that street. A new "how-to" guide is also featured.

Tax and Property Records Online

A number of states now have property ownership, deed and tax roll information on line in searchable formats. Most are organized by county, searchable by address, and in a few states (notably Florida and New York) by surname as well. A great deal of information on property sales and valuation can be found at these sites, but they are most useful genealogically as an alternative to telephone directories for locating persons by name or address. There are also cases where the owner of a property may not be the actual resident, but could be a relative. A site providing links

to more than 50 such sites, covering more than 150 counties and including all the counties of Maryland and New York, can be found at www.geocities.com/PicketFence/4798/ Developed by Jan Weinmann, the site is updated every few weeks. Jan is also adding a link to online voter registration rolls, but this is in its infancy (as of press time, one county in Alabama).

Holocaust Claims Database

Avotaynu has posted a database of 29,000 Holocaust-era Jewish names at their web site. The database was created by Mike Radel, a member of the Philadelphia JGS, substantially assisted by Bob Wascou, president of the Sacramento JGS, from documents provided by Gregg Rickman, aide to former U.S. Senator Alphonse D'Amato. The information comes from two sources: a list of unclaimed Swiss bank accounts released by the Swiss government, and collection of files held in the Austrian State Archives in Vienna. To access the database, go to www.avotaynu.com and click on "What's New?"

The Swiss banks have created a \$1.25 billion dollar compensation fund. Individuals may have a legitimate claim to some of this money even without ever having had a Swiss bank account. If you recognize the name of a relative, you or someone in your family may be an heir to unclaimed Holocaust-era assets. The class of those entitled to compensation includes anyone forced to do slave labor during the war; anyone denied entry into Switzerland when they were seeking refuge, or mistreated by Swiss authorities after entering; and anyone whose assets were confiscated by the Nazis. However, a letter signifying intent to file a claim must be postmarked *no later than* October 22, 1999.

Internet Indexes to British Vital Records, Jewish Chronicle Deaths

A project is underway to post a searchable database of the indexes to the births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales between 1837 and 1898. Called FreeBMD and hosted by RootsWeb, the site thus far has about 300,000 records up; but since this is only .15% of the total, the odds of as yet finding an ancestor are small. To try out the database, or to volunteer to help, go to <http://freebmd.rootsweb.com/>

Another developing database on-line is an index to death notices in the London Jewish Chronicle. This one is working backwards, and so far has 1995-1998 entered. A project sponsored by the JGS of Great Britain, the searchable index can be found on their web site at www.ort.org/jgsgb/ The JGSGB also has an extensive family finder index based on their own member's research. The index can be searched by surname and then referenced to the surnames and code numbers of the researchers. To contact the researchers requires sending an Email message to jgsgbres@ort.org.

Finding Polish Villages

Locating small towns or villages in Poland that may have similar or identical spellings to other towns, or that do not seem to exist beyond a ship list or naturalization record, can often be a challenge. The Spring 1999 issue of *Pathways and Passages* (Polish Genealogical Society of Connecticut/ Polish Genealogical Society of the Northeast) has a feature article on this subject, which includes descriptions of several key published gazetteers that can help in solving such problems. Pages are illustrated from four of these sources, with descriptions of their contents and advice on how to use them. Contact the Society at 8 Lyle Road, New Britain, CT 06053; 860-223-5596.

Genealogical Clues in Czarist Decrees

This is the title of an informative article by Michael Steinmore in the May/August 1999 issue of *Zichron Note* (San Francisco Bay Area JGS) that surveys the history and effects of the numerous decrees, ukases and laws in the Russian empire between 1775 and 1908. The core of the article is a table listing 45 dates when one or more manifestos, regulations, ukases, laws or events took place during this period. For each date, the ukase/decreed/law is described along with its effect on Jews and the political subtext or theme. For example, the Ukase of April 13, 1835 (anticipated by rumors the previous year) prohibited Jews from marrying before age 18 (males) or age 16 (females). Along with the rumored exemption of married men from conscription (which turned out to be untrue), the result was "hundreds of thousands" of marriages of Jewish minors. Contact the SFBAJGS at P.O. Box 471616, San Francisco, CA 94147; www.jewishgen.org/sfbajgs.

Carved Memories: Photographs of Jewish Tomstones

Anne Halliwell

An exhibition of photographs of Jewish tombstones from the Russian Pale of Settlement by an 87 year old Saint Petersburg photographer, David Goberman, will open at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in January 2000. The tombstones date from the seventeenth through the nineteenth centuries. The photographs, remnants of a large and vibrant Jewish presence dating from the 1400's in this part of the world, represent a vanished period of Jewish culture and heritage – the "old world" that literally predates the vast Russian Jewish immigration just before and after the turn of the century. The photography provides a link with ancestral roots that continue to be strongly felt, although the specifics are often lost to the maelstrom of history.

The relief carvings on the tombstones are exceptionally decorative, and are said to have inspired Russian painters such as Marc Chagall, Natan Altman and Anatoly Kaplan. Images on the stones are sometimes religious in nature but also record a wide variety of subjects. Professions are captured in a scholar's books on a bookshelf (inscribed "here lies a very learned man"), a peddler's wagon, a carpenter's tools. Beautiful animal images – lions, birds, goats – are carved in abundance, including some animals with such expressive faces that they appear human.

Goberman began collecting images of the tombstones in the 1930's, and continued his work through the 1950's. He is known as the preeminent chronicler of these carved works of art. Chronicling these tombstones has been a life long pursuit for Goberman, and one that has been fraught with personal risk. During World War II the Nazis destroyed Jewish tombstones as they battled their way across Poland, Ukraine and Russia. Subsequently, during long years of Soviet neglect and worse, many of the remaining tombstones photographed by Goberman were uprooted and used for factory steps and as liners of fish ponds. The photographs Goberman has taken remain in many cases the only record of these works, reminding us of the generations of human lives buried beneath them and of the once active communities they reflect.

The chronicling of the stones and what they depict was suspect during the Soviet period. Goberman has published nine books on various forms of folk art within Russia and the Republics. These simultaneous projects created protection, or cover, for the tombstones study and ultimately allowed for the preservation, as photographs, of these beautiful carvings. Since the collapse of the Soviet Union, Goberman's work has been acquired for the permanent collection of the Russian State Museum in St. Petersburg, a belated recognition of their place in the history and art of Russia.

During years of pogroms, in the late 19th and early 20th century, Jewish tombstone carvers were among the many who emigrated to the United States.

Quite a few were fortunate enough to find work in stone masonry, constructing buildings up and down West End Avenue and Riverside Drive in Manhattan. The same elaborate motifs, such as candelabra and lions, that originate from the decorative designs of tombstones in the Russian Pale of Settlement were carved into these New York City buildings where they adorn the facades to this day. The Brooklyn Museum plans to arrange walking tours of the Upper West Side to coincide with the exhibit.

The show will be organized and presented "shtetl by shtetl." The photographs can thus be seen as part of a "family album" for American Jews, many of whom count descendants from this region. A book of photographs will be published by Rizzoli in conjunction with the exhibition. The meaning of the imagery and

the history of the communities will be included. Goberman has written an essay discussing motifs of the tombstones and has drawn maps for the book; there is also a long essay by Gershon Hundert (see the summary of the Summer Conference, above) on "Jewish Life in Eastern Europe" and a foreword by Robert Pinsky, Poet Laureate of the United States. The museum also plans to circulate the exhibit to other venues. It is expected that several additional museum exhibitions will be arranged elsewhere in the States, and that the exhibit will travel to Europe as well.

The Brooklyn Museum of Art would like to have Goberman attend the opening of the exhibit, and given his advanced age, the museum accelerated the opening. The exhibition will run from January 14th, 2000 through April 30th, 2000 at the museum on Eastern Parkway in Brooklyn (take the #2 or #3 train to Eastern Parkway - Brooklyn Museum station). There will also be a gallery show of the photographs at the Soho Triad Fine Arts Gallery from February 24th to April 2nd. Soho Triad is located at 107 Grand Street in Manhattan.

Anne Halliwell, together with Kenneth Pushkin, represents David Goberman in the United States. They are responsible for creating the Goberman Archives.

Book Reviews

Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages From the Past and Archival Inventories. By Miriam Weiner. 624 pp., 1999. Co-published by The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc. and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, in cooperation with the Ukrainian State Archives and the Moldovan National Archives. \$60.00 plus \$8.00 shipping (NJ residents add sales tax). Order from The Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, P.O. Box 2879, Clifton, NJ 07015-2879; 800-742-5403; www.rtrfoundation.org.

When *Jewish Roots in Poland*, the first book of Miriam Weiner's planned trilogy, was published (the third volume will be on Lithuania and Belarus), the *Dorot* review (Winter 1997-98 issue) called it a magnum opus, and Dr. Michael Berenbaum suggested in his Foreword to the book that "it must surely rank as her finest" contribution to memory. What then can one say about this new book? It would have seemed impossible that the first book could have been surpassed in quality and content, yet that is the inescapable conclusion easily drawn after examining this encyclopedic survey of Jewish life, Jewish history and archival holdings in Ukraine and Moldova.

Numbers alone do not convey the scope and beauty of this book, let alone the obvious dedication and expertise by both the author and her supporting cast. But some numbers are worth citing nonethe-

less. There are more than 1200 illustrations or photographs in the book, including an astonishing 970 color photographs of 190 towns. There are over twice as many pages of individual town descriptions, covering three times as many towns as the first book on Poland. The book itself is 8½ x 11" (as was the first), but 160 pages larger, and weighs a hefty six pounds. The archival inventory contains over 5000 record entries for nearly 1400 towns.

The skillful layout and graphics, the outstanding quality of the photographic reproductions, the copiously illustrated articles on research, the numerous and various references and bibliography (including a comprehensive list of Yizkor books) and the extensive cooperation and contributions from archivists that were all hallmarks of the book on Poland are again found in this new book. What makes the involvement of the archivists from Ukraine and Moldova all the more remarkable is that until recently, as part of the Soviet Union, they were both more inscrutable and more disorganized than their counterparts in Poland. Miriam seems to have a special genius for eliciting this cooperation, for cajoling numerous persons at all levels of the archives "to reveal the concealed, to make known their treasures, to share what they have," as Dr. Berenbaum noted in the Foreword to both books. Her success in this endeavor is evident in the letter of acknowledgment from Dr. Ruslan Y. Pirig, Director of the Main Archival Administration in Kyiv, found in the opening pages of the book. Dr. Prig states that "We are very grateful to Miriam Weiner for the huge amount of work performed in cooperation with more than 100 Ukrainian archivists..." and that "...the enthusiastic efforts of Ms. Weiner deserve our full support."

The most notable difference between the two books is the expansion and change of focus in the illustrated descriptions of the towns. What was 100 pages on 28 towns in the book on Poland has been expanded to over 200 pages on 56 towns in Ukraine plus 27 pages on 7 towns in Moldova; and added to that is a separate chapter called "Town Clips" with photographs from another 26 towns - a total of over 260 pages on 89 towns. The focus of these sections has also changed. In *Jewish Roots in Poland* each town had a half or full page historical description, text describing synagogues, Jewish cemeteries, Holocaust memorials and other cites of Jewish interest as well as a list of selected readings. All this has disappeared in the new book, although some of the information appears in the descriptions of the photographs. Thus the pages on these towns are devoted exclusively to reproductions of photographs and post-cards, although at a loss of some useful types of information.

A new section called "The People and Places" comprises 22 pages in the center of the book which contain a poignant photographic essay of contemporary Ukraine and Moldova, illustrating transportation,

shopping, daily life, education, scenery, Judaica, and new found relatives. This section is preceded by an informative eight page chapter on the current status and outlook of the Jewish community of Ukraine. The chapter's author, Josef Zissel, who in his politically active life was twice imprisoned for a total of six years, is now both the president of the Vaad in Ukraine and vice-president of the Jewish Congress in Ukraine (both organizations which he was instrumental in founding). "The People and Places" is followed by a 20 page chapter on the Holocaust (primarily in Ukraine), with text, maps and photographs. This chapter includes an unusual article by the vice-director of the State Archive of Vinnitsa Oblast, who is a specialist on the history of the Jews of Podolia.

As with her previous book, many *Dorot* readers will be tempted to turn first to the 100 page list of archival inventories. This list is organized in the same fashion as the book on Poland, with one significant change: there is only one section with holdings sorted alphabetically by town. Unlike the previous book, there is no separate section with holdings sorted by repository. The page headings highlight the phrase "by town," implying an original intent to include the alternative sort; obviously something had to give in order to keep the book from becoming unwieldy in size or weight. The listing by repository did have some utility both for identifying towns that a researcher might not think to look for, and for planning trips or correspondence to an archive, but its omission in favor of expanding the photographic content of the book was probably a sound editorial decision. The inventories are formatted similarly, showing the years for each type of record held in the archive and the shelf list numbers (i.e. Fond/Opis/Delo numbers). The wide variety of documents includes vital records, census records, voter and tax lists, land and school records, notary and hospital records, Kahal records, Holocaust and Occupation lists, police and draft registration files, and ~~There~~ a bibliography is also formatted differently. *Jewish Roots in Poland* had extensive bibliographical sections organized first by time period, then on cemeteries and synagogues, and concluding with short sections on genealogy, periodicals, biographies, films and gazetteers. The bibliography for *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova* has minimal information on cemeteries and synagogues (perhaps because there is little published on these topics for these countries), but includes 13 pages of town histories and Yizkor books, two pages of articles from *Avotaynu* and an extensive bibliography of archival inventories in these two countries. In addition, the typeface in the bibliography is smaller than in the first book, so there is in fact much more information packed into these 32 pages - substituting in part for the lack of bibliographical references in the chapters on the individual towns. The use of photographs along the full page margins for every page of the bibliography (instituted in the

first book) is continued here, with numerous photographs from cemeteries in various towns.

Taking the place of Jeffrey Cymbler's excellent chapter on Polish-Jewish genealogical research in the previous book are a variety of contributions from scholars and archivists. In the Introduction, a ten page article by Professor ChaeRan Y. Freeze of Brandeis University, revised and adapted from her article in *Avotaynu* (Spring 1997) discusses genealogical research in the Ukrainian and Moldovan archives. The first chapter contains three short articles, all adapted from material previously published elsewhere: one by Professor Zvi Gittelman of the University of Michigan on past and present Jewish culture in these countries, and two by Hal Bookbinder. Chapter 4 contains a ten page article on the Ukrainian archives by the Deputy Director, adapted from a 1994 *Avotaynu* article, followed by five short articles by the directors of five different archives in Ukraine. Accompanying all of this material are a wonderful variety of illustrations of all sorts of documents; Chapter 4 alone is followed by 16 pages with illustrations of some 36 documents from the Ukrainian archives. This kaleidoscopic encyclopedia of images and information on Jewish life, Jewish history and genealogical research in Ukraine and Moldova is priced far below its intrinsic value, thanks to a number of contributions listed opposite the title page as well as to the support from the author's Foundation and YIVO. It is a handsome and fascinating addition to the library of almost anyone interested in Judaic culture or history, and is indispensable for any genealogist or historian researching the Ukraine or Moldova.

Alex E. Friedlander

Stones of Remembrance (Avnei Zikaron). Researched and compiled by Dr. Neil Rosenstein and R. Dov. Weber, based on the manuscript *Avnei Zikaron* by Samuel Zvi Weltsman of Kalisz. 244 pp., 1999. The Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy. \$59.95 plus \$8.00 shipping. Order from the publisher at 654 Westfield Avenue, Elizabeth, NJ 07208; 908-353-5575; ccjgen@aol.com.

Samuel Weltsman (1863-1938) was a bibliographer, researcher of Jewish history and religious Zionist who achieved some fame during his lifetime. He spent many years collecting material from numerous sources on the history of his native Kalisz, its rabbis and scholars, but died before he could publish a work on the subject. In the course of his research, he traveled to many cities in Poland and beyond visiting cemeteries and recording the epitaphs on stones of eminent Jews buried in these towns. Nearly 1000 inscriptions of prominent men *and women* from some 50 communities were listed in his manuscript, a microfilm of which is in the Jewish National and University Library, Department of Manuscripts and Archives in Jerusalem. Most of the stones from which these epitaphs were taken are long since vanished or de-

stroyed, which makes the information in the manuscript all the more valuable.

The bulk of the cemeteries were in towns and gubernias near Kalisz, although Kalisz itself is missing from the manuscript (even though Weltsman includes Kalisz on the title page list, reproduced on page 9). However, there are significant numbers of entries from towns much farther afield, including Bialystok and even towns in Lithuania and Belarus (for example, Lida). Breslau (Wroclaw), Poznan, Krotoszyn, Lask, Lissa (Leszno) and Bialystok account for 554 of the 911 epitaphs.

Rosenstein and Weber have taken this manuscript, and commentary by R. Mordecai Weitz, added their own research and published an interesting and useful genealogical treatise. The core of the book is a series of English language data base sorts, listing the town, surname, given name, father's name and date of death for each epitaph, along with an identifying number. This last corresponds to the entry number in the original German typed index, which is reproduced on 35 pages preceding the database lists. Each list is sorted alphabetically, the first by town, the second by surname (including female maiden surnames), the third by given name and the last by father's name. Following the lists is a 20 page section labeled "The Comments," which contains additional biographical or genealogical information taken from each epitaph and occasionally augmented by the commentary from Weitz or research by the authors. These comments may simply give an age at death or an occupation, or they may give substantial genealogical information. In a number of instances, the authors have identified the surname which was not in the original epitaph.

The final section of the book contains box tree diagrams of 20 (primarily rabbinical) families represented in 190 of the epitaphs. The entry number of each epitaph is noted for any individual contained in these trees. Individuals who appear on these charts are cross-referenced in the comments section, making it relatively easy to find them on the charts.

The book comes with a CD-ROM that contains graphic images of the microfilmed pages from the original handwritten manuscript. Although potentially useful to more serious scholars, it is fortunate that all the relevant information is translated and contained in the book itself, because accessing and using the disk is the least successful part of this effort. The single page in the book that mentions the CD-ROM gives no instructions on how to open and read it, other than describing the two methods of reading the images (included freeware, "IrfanView," will read .tif images, and Adobe Acrobat software will read PDF images). There is no installation utility on the disk, so a user must have some versatility with file management techniques in Windows to access the material. There is also poor on-line help within the software explaining how to read the pages, and the IrfanView options for

increasing or decreasing the magnification did not appear to work properly.

Alex E. Friedlander

Ancilla to Toledot Charlap. By Arthur Menton. 1999, 650pp. \$69.50 plus shipping; NY state residents add sales tax. Order from King David Press, P.O. Box 108, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724; 516-754-1742.

This book is the sequel and companion volume to *The Book of Destiny: Toledot Charlap* published three years ago and reviewed in *Dorot*, Fall 1996. The first volume was a major genealogical and biographical treatise on the descendants of a family that has elicited much interest over the generations among Jewish genealogical researchers. The Charlap family claims descent from King David, and various branches of the family have passed down a handwritten pedigree that traces back this heritage through Spain, Portugal and the Babylonian exile to the royal families of Judah and Israel. Although there has been disagreement amongst scholars on the matter, it is generally accepted that the Charlap family comes as close as any in proving such claims of descent.

The bulk of this volume consists of two sections. The first contains 337 box diagrams charting the various branches of this family that were described in the original volume, with each box containing only the name and unique identification number of an individual. The second section lists the 16,118 individuals in order of their identification number and, for each person, gives basic genealogical information: birth, marriage and death dates and places, name of spouse, place of residence and occupation. Those individuals for whom new or additional information was obtained since publication of the first volume have additional text, ranging from a paragraph to a page, providing this information. Immediately following the identification number for each person in this section is the number of the first plate they appear on (although persons who appear on more than one plate are not so identified), a useful cross-reference tool that is only briefly mentioned in the introduction and might have been more prominently identified in this section.

There are a number of different genealogical software programs on the market, but it is not clear that the author used any of them in constructing his trees.

The individual boxes do not contain surnames if they are the same as those in the previous generation, an omission frowned on by most major programs. Much more troubling is the inability to go back up the generational ladder from one chart (called "plate" in this book) to the previous chart. For example, the box for Louis Marvin, ID#10239 in plate 86, shows that his line continues on plate 96. But on plate 96, which begins with Louis, there is nothing to indicate on what previous plate he appeared. Combined with the absence of even years of birth or death on these plates,

it becomes impossible looking at any given chart to guess either where in time it falls, or what part of the family it connects to.

There is a way to make the backwards connection, but it requires cross-referencing the individual listings in the second section to the original plate on which they appear. Furthermore, the text listings in the second section are in numerical order of the identification number, not in alphabetical order - and *there is no index*. Hence there is virtually *no way of finding either a listing or a box in this book for any individual in the first volume!* An individual in this new book can be located in the first volume, because the latter does have an index; but making a connection in the opposite direction is all but impossible unless one is willing to browse the pages in the relevant chapter(s), figure out the line of descent back to a point where a plate can be identified in the list of plates at the front of the new volume, and then work back down through each subsequent plate while continually cross-referencing the corresponding descendant lines in the first book - an awkward, time-consuming and not always successful process.

How can a responsible genealogical work, especially one of this magnitude, be published without an index? How are other researchers, family members or any users of the book expected to find people in the text or on charts without an index? Menton is not alone in this failing; *Dorot* has commented negatively on the absence or inadequacy of indexes in some other major genealogical works by reputable authors published in recent years, including Wisniewski's *Jewish Bialystok...* and Rosenstein's *The Gaon of Vilna...* The omission of an index is especially hard to fathom in this era of computerization. In this case, the result is particularly disastrous; the claim that this is a companion volume to *The Book of Destiny* is tenuous indeed if one cannot find where someone from the first book is charted or listed in the new volume.

The author, an engineer, writer, executive and university professor, has established a well deserved reputation as a serious genealogical scholar through his work over the years on this project. This reviewer is one of many who holds the author's work in high esteem. It is thus doubly disappointing to find this singularly awkward genealogical vacuum in his latest work. One would hope that a supplement can be created in the near future that would index the entries in *Ancilla to Toledot Charlap* so that it can become a functional genealogical text.

Alex E. Friedlander

In Print

Of Jewish Interest

Harry D. Boonin. *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia: a History and Guide 1881-1930*. Jewish Walking Tours of Philadelphia, 1999. 208 pp. paperback, 8½" x11". \$29.95 plus \$3.00 shipping. Based on research into numerous sources in several languages, both in Philadelphia and in archives and libraries nationally, the book consists of two major sections. The first is a history of the Jewish Quarter in South Philadelphia, the occupations, living conditions, immigrant paths of arrival, profiles of prominent persons and cultural life.

The second part of the book is a travel guide which brings alive the events that are associated with people of the past, and identifies the various buildings and institutions. Includes appendices, glossary, atlases and other finding aids, with a combined subject and name index; and a 34 page "Notes and Acknowledgements" section with 463 source notes. The author, a well known genealogist and historian, is the founding president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Philadelphia and recipient of the Society's first Malcolm H. Stern award. Order from Jewish Walking Tours of Philadelphia, P.O. Box 52160, Philadelphia, PA 19115; 215-934-7184; www.boonin.com.

Doreen Berger, ed. *The Jewish Victorian: Genealogical Information from the Jewish Newspapers, 1871-1880*. Robert Boyd Publications, 1999. 600 pp. £34.95 plus £6.00 (surface) or £13.50 (airmail) shipping. An anthology of over 20,000 entries translated from British Jewish newspapers, including births, marriages, deaths, obituaries, contemporary accounts of events, communal honors, academic and rabbinic community news, narratives and pedigrees. Scheduled publication date is October 8, 1999. Order from the publisher at 260 Colwell Drive, Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 7LW, United Kingdom; 01993-201182; boydpubs@aol.com.

Of General Interest

Elisabeth P. Bentley. *The Genealogist's All-in-One Address Book*. Genealogical Publishing Co., 1999. CD-ROM, \$29.99. Includes the most recent editions of three of Bentley's directories: *The Genealogist's Address Book* (see *In Print* in *Dorot*, Winter 1998-99), *County Courthouse Book*, and *The Directory of Family Associations*. The courthouse guide includes the types of records and facilities available, hours and fees, addresses and phone numbers for 3,125 counties plus 1,577 New England towns and Virginia cities. Requires either Family Tree Maker or the Family Archive Viewer installed on one's computer (the latter is included on the CD-ROM). Order from the publisher at 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687; www.genealogybookshop.com.

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