

DOROT דורות

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JGS 25th Anniversary Brunch

On November 3, 2002, one hundred and thirty-five people sat down to a lovely brunch at the Sutton Place Synagogue to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Jewish Genealogical Society. The room was beautifully decorated and the atmosphere festive as we joined together to observe this special occasion.

Alex Friedlander, president of JGS, welcomed us and introduced those past presidents who were with us on that day—Neil Rosenstein, Steven Siegel, and Estelle Guzik. Alex then presented Estelle Guzik with a plaque, thanking her for her dedication and hard work on behalf of JGS in such activities as the Brooklyn Naturalization project and the revision of the soon-to-be published **Genealogical Resources in New York**.



Debra Braverman, Miriam Weiner, Joseph Fibel and Hadassah Lipsius

After a benediction by Dr. Rosenstein, we began our lovely brunch, which included a full array of breads, smoked fish and salads, and omelets, crepes and

waffles, all made to order. As we ended this feast, our guest speaker, Miriam Weiner, started a presentation entitled “Looking Back...Looking Forward,” which traced the development of Jewish genealogy in the 25 years that JGS has existed.

Miriam spoke about the changes that have occurred because of computers, the introduction of the Internet, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the huge interest in genealogy. She noted that the collapse of the Soviet Union allowed her and many others to begin traveling to Ukraine and other former Iron Curtain countries to do genealogical research. Following her introductory remarks, Miriam took the audience on a tour of the “old country” with

a slide presentation that also presented an overview of the development of Jewish genealogy.

Some special thanks go to the people who made this event possible. Overall planning and organization were handled by Lucille Gudis, Hadassah Lipsius, and Linda Cantor.



JGS President Alex Friedlander and Estelle Guzik

The attractive 25th Anniversary Journal was created by Maralyn Steeg. We couldn't have organized the party without the help of our volunteers—Jordan Auslander, Adam Bronstein, Jane Foss, Gloria Freund, Larry Freund, Linda Greenman, Mike Levine, and Paul Silverstone. We also thank the many people who bought ads in the journal, thereby contributing to the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Education Fund. ☆

Linda Cantor

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DOROT

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Help Wanted

Dorot Editor – A responsible JGS member to be the volunteer editor of our quarterly publication. Duties include assigning articles, meeting reports and book reviews; editing materials prepared by others for accuracy and style; gathering information from printed and online sources, and original writing. Inquiries should be sent to info@jgsny.org.

E-mail Address

All e-mail to the JGS should be sent to
info@jgsny.org
The address jgsny@aol.com is no longer
being used.

JGS News

At the December 29th meeting, the annual election of officers and members of the Executive Council took place. The JGS welcomes new Executive Council members Wendy Almeleh and Valery Bazarov and thanks departing Council member Linda Greenman. Officers re-elected for 2003 are Alex Friedlander, President; Gloria Freund, Vice President-Program; Lucille Gudis, Vice President-Membership; Paul Silverstone, Treasurer; Linda Cantor, Secretary.

At the end of 2002, the JGS Executive Council approved donations to the following organizations with collections or services that assist our members:

American Jewish Historical Society: to begin microfilming the Boston Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society records.

American Sephardi Federation: to microfilm Turkish marriage records and translate an Italian manuscript on the names of the Jews of Libya.

Center for Jewish History: to co-purchase Jewish Biographical Archives.

HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society): to microfilm Shanghai HIAS files.

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies: for the Stern Awards fund.

Jewish Records Indexing Project-Poland: to support operating expenses.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society: to purchase a computer software program.

New York City Municipal Archives: to purchase copies of 1925 New York State Assembly District maps as a finding aid to the 1925 state census.

New York Public Library: to co-purchase microfilms of Bronx County naturalization petitions and declarations of intention.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research: to microfilm Minsk Jewish Community Council records. ☆

JGS New York Programs: 2003

January 19:

“Save It: Preservation of Documents, Photographs, Paper Memorabilia and Ephemera.” The search for information about family members inevitably leads to the accumulation of documents, photographs and paper memorabilia and ephemera. Stanley Bergman, head of preservation at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, demonstrates how to conserve these valuable papers and photographs.

February 16:

“Mining the Resources of JewishGen: The Yizkor Book Project, the Holocaust Registry and much more.” **JewishGen**, the premier Jewish genealogy discussion group and web site, continuously adds to the online resources available to genealogists searching for ancestral information and history. Already available on the JewishGen web site are Yizkor (Memorial) Book translations, the Holocaust Global Registry and numerous other databases. Joyce Field, JewishGen Vice President for Research, presents an overview of what’s there and what’s coming.

March 12:

“Genealogy 101” – Introductory course at the Jewish Community Center in Manhattan, taught by Linda Cantor and Lucille Gudis.

March 16:

“A Perspective on Polish Jewry in the Years Before World War II: Changes and Assimilation.” The American image of Polish Jewry is largely based on colorful depictions of shtetl life in Yiddish literature and personal memoirs. These portrayals have a great sentimental value, but the reality was somewhat different. Julian Buszgang, co-editor of the newsletter of the American Association for Polish-Jewish Studies, retraces the history and evolution of the Jewish community in Poland and explain the gradual changes that took place.

April 20:

Preview of the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held in Washington DC in July 2003, plus an introduction to research in DC – Sheri Meisel, President, JGS of Greater Washington, and a conference chair.

May 18:

“Records That Tell a Story: Jewish Records Indexing-Poland” – Hadassah Lipsius, JGSNY Executive Council member and Transliteration Coordinator and Board member of JRI-Poland, speaks about the work of JRI-Poland.

Using documents indexed by the project, she illustrates how they provide clues for a family’s history. Joint meeting with the Jewish Community Center – at the JCC, Amsterdam Avenue and 76th Street.

June 15:

An introductory survey of the new JGSNY book, **Genealogical Resources in New York**, edited by past president Estelle M. Guzik. Executive Council members Adam Bronstein and Lucille Gudis join Estelle on a panel to highlight information about some of the facilities and new resources discussed in the book.

Unless noted otherwise, JGS monthly programs are held at 2:00 PM at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between Fifth and Sixth Avenues), New York City. Members should bring their membership cards. Admission for non-members is \$3. The Center Genealogy Institute is open from 12:30 to 2:00 for networking with other researchers and access to resource materials and computers.

National Events

- IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy – Washington, DC – July 20-25, 2003. 23rd annual conference, hosted by Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. See separate article for full details. www.jewishgen.org/dc2003
- “Count Down to Discovery, A World of Hidden Treasures” – Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference – Orlando, FL – September 3-6, 2003. Hosted by the Florida State Genealogical Society. www.fgs.org/2003conf/fgs-2003.htm Phone: 888-FGS-1500. Of special interest to Jewish genealogists are sessions on “Accessing Records in Eastern Europe,” “Researching Your Jewish Ancestry in the Austro-Hungarian Empire,” “So You Have a Jewish Ancestor—Help for the non-Jewish Researcher,” “Building Your European Pedigrees Using Church Records, Jewish Records, and Civil Registration,” “Jewish Genealogy in Florida,” “How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust,” and “Welcome to the Big Apple: Research in New York City—Civil War to 21st Century.” The Association of Professional Genealogists offers a Professional Management Conference on Sept. 3 for an additional fee. ✕

New Book Available: *Genealogical Resources in New York*

The Jewish Genealogical Society is proud to announce the publication of **Genealogical Resources in New York**, the most comprehensive guide to genealogical and biographical resources in New York City and Albany, edited by Estelle M. Guzik.

Between the years 1880 and 1924, more than 12 million immigrants entered the United States through New York. Over 3.5 million of these were Jews, most of whom settled there. The city, state, and federal governments hold vast amounts of information documenting the lives of millions of New Yorkers and the immigrants who came through the New York metropolitan area. As a center of Jewish settlement, New York is also the home of many important Jewish archives and libraries. **Genealogical Resources in New York** will help the genealogist sort through the maze of these repositories, institutions, and government agencies to quickly find the information needed.

This 418-page hardcover volume provides details on the genealogical resources in more than 80 facilities—clearly and in a uniform format. Included for each repository is a comprehensive listing of its holdings, address, phone number, e-mail address, hours, finding aids, access, and copying facilities. Thirty-two government agencies and 50 libraries and archives are covered.

Facilities of interest to all genealogists include:

- National Archives
- NYC Municipal Archives
- County Clerks, Courts, and Board of Elections
- New York City and State vital records
- Ellis Island—American Family Immigration History Center
- Ellis Island—National Park Service Archives and Library

Among the entries of special interest to Jewish genealogists are:

- Center for Jewish History
- YIVO Institute for Jewish Research
- American Jewish Historical Society
- Leo Baeck Institute
- American Sephardi Federation
- Museum of Jewish Heritage
- New York Public Library—Dorot Jewish Division
- HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society)

The extensive description of holdings will save time for both the genealogist and the research staff by identifying which repositories contain the needed information—

whether genealogical and biographical materials, local historical and newspaper collections, maps and gazetteers, census records, probate records, naturalizations, name changes, vital records (birth, death, marriage), or voter registrations. The listing of available finding aids and the forms for ordering records will also produce faster results.

Estelle M. Guzik, editor of **Genealogical Resources in New York**, is a longtime member of the Jewish Genealogical Society—New York, and has served several terms as President and Vice-President. Estelle was editor of the Society's **Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area** (1989) and is a frequent contributor to **Dorot**, the Society's newsletter, and other genealogical publications.

Genealogical Resources in New York is \$49.95 plus shipping (and tax where applicable) and may be ordered on-line, by phone, fax, or mail. Orders may be placed by phone at 1-800-247-6553. The book is also available at the Center for Jewish History Book Store, 15 West 16th Street, New York. Complete ordering information and additional details are at www.jgsny.org/newbook.htm. ☆

Special Ordering Information for JGS-NY members

Current members of JGS-NY may purchase the book at a member's discount of 15% off the list price – \$42.50 per copy. **To obtain the discount, members must order directly by mail from the JGS – not through our distribution service in Ashland OH.** Complete the order form on the opposite page—but please note that:

- The member's price is \$42.50.
- Shipping rates are as shown on the form.
- NY residents pay sales tax of 8.625% (as of June 1, 2003) on book and shipping.
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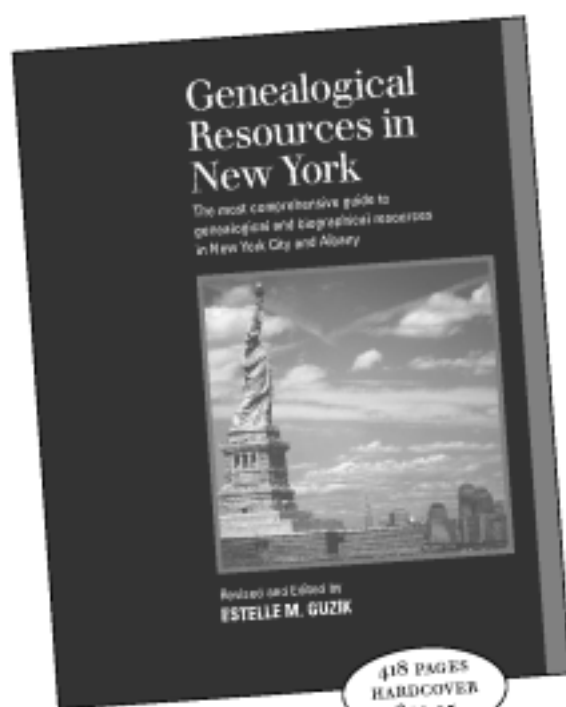
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THE DEFINITIVE KEY TO THE CITY...
Genealogical Resources in New York



Details on More than 80 Facilities

Building on *Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area*, published in 1989 by the Jewish Genealogical Society, this handsome, hardcover volume puts the details of more than 80 facilities at your fingertips, including:

- **52 Government Agencies**
 County Clerks, Courts, and Board of Elections
 NYC Municipal Archives
 National Archives
 New York City and State vital records
- **50 Libraries and Archives**
 New York Public Library
 Academic libraries and archives
 Genealogical and historical societies
 Jewish institutional resources
 New York State Archives and Library

Keep Up to Date

In recent years, new sources of genealogical information have emerged and are described for the first time in *Genealogical Resources in New York* in a concise, consistent format.

For each facility, you'll find: facility name, address, phone number, e-mail address, hours of operation, description of holdings, geographic scope, finding aids, access and copying facilities.

What's more, you'll know which repositories hold genealogical and biographical materials, local historical and newspaper collections, maps and gazetteers, census records, probate records, naturalizations, name changes, vital records (birth, death, marriage), voter registrations, and more—all helping to make your visit or requests most productive.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND
 TABLE OF CONTENTS, CHECK OUR WEBSITE:
www.jgsny.org/newbook.htm

Genealogical Resources in New York

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The Ten Top Reasons to Attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC

by Milton R. Goldsamt and Elias Savada

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) will host the 23rd Annual International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Conference on Jewish Genealogy, July 20-25, 2003. It will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel, in downtown Washington, DC. JGSGW has hosted three well-received past International Conferences. In line with its awards for innovative programming, our society will spotlight a varied program featuring more than 100 speakers and authors.

Some of those new to the field may wonder: **Why attend such a major conference?**

Attending an international conference can help advance your research in an extremely effective way. And this year's event is expected to be the biggest international seminar ever, with between 1,200 and 1,500 attendees. Previous conferences have set a high standard, and this summer's session promises to match or exceed those. This is particularly true of its web site, www.jewishgen.org/dc2003. Recognizing the ease of the Internet, the Conference Chairs have arranged for online conference registration and hotel booking. In addition, there are tabs or sections with a wide variety of support features for all prospective attendees, including: help getting to and around in Washington; speaker listings, bios and presentation topics; information on vendors and exhibits; descriptions of area records repositories; summaries of tours and attractions (which can be purchased during and after you have registered); listings of local restaurants; an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) area; and a currency converter for those traveling from outside the United States. The Conference Chairs have anticipated that inquiries not answered at the web site may arise, and ask that any questions be sent to jgsgwdc2003@aol.com. A prompt answer will follow.

The Washington area holds a rich number of attractions that will appeal to many out-of-town attendees and the friends and family accompanying them for a visit to the nation's capital. Here, then, is the Top Ten list of reasons to attend!

Reason 10. The Cities of Washington and Baltimore, and Their Unique Attractions

Washington, Baltimore, and their metropolitan links are filled with first-rate museums and art galleries to satisfy every taste and interest, major theaters, historic neighborhoods, and such major attractions as the National Zoo, Union Station, Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, Baltimore Harbor, and Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Most attractions in Washington are reachable either by a short walk from the conference hotel, a quick Metro train or bus ride, or via local taxicabs. Public museums have no admission charge. The Smithsonian Institution consists of 14 museums, including the Air and Space Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. There are also the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and the National Galleries of Art. Three major theaters—National, Warner, and Ford's—are within blocks of the conference hotel and two others are a short Metro ride away.



A great deal more information about the sights and attractions of Washington and Baltimore can be found at the conference web site under the "About Washington" tab. Washington also has a myriad of restaurants with diverse cuisines. These include, as described at our web site's "Restaurants" tab, several food courts (including one adjacent to the conference

hotel) offering standard fare, vegetarian entrees, and salads. A kosher deli/fine dining restaurant is within walking distance of the conference hotel. Under the "Transportation" tab, you'll find key information about getting to or around Washington—by foot, taxicab, or public transportation. Union Station/Amtrak is minutes away from the conference hotel. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport also is quite close by via Metro or taxicab. Although we don't recommend driving, several parking lots near the hotel offer cheaper alternatives than the Marriott daily rate.

Discount travel arrangements to attend the Conference can be made through US Airways and Amtrak, as described at our web site. The city also is likely to be graced during conference week with warm weather and a gentle climate softened by well air-conditioned government, public, and private buildings. Need more information about sights in Washington? Then visit www.washington.org. The DC Visitor Information Center is across the street from the

The Ten Top Reasons to Attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC continued

conference hotel, at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, in the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center, should you need more detailed information.

One attraction that shouldn't be overlooked is the conference hotel itself. The spacious JW Marriott Hotel is well-located (to research repositories, major airports, the DC Metro system, Amtrak). You can walk easily to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, other museums, and the National Archives. By registering early, you can assure a highly reasonable hotel rate for the full conference period. Staying onsite makes it possible to enjoy the conference experience and its related activities. Conference attendees can obtain special group lodging rates for three days before and after the event (subject to availability), allowing you to extend your visit with touring, entertainment, or to complete family history research. This rate makes staying in Washington more affordable than many downtown hotels in most major American cities. For more details, please click on our "Hotel" tab.

Reason 9. Tours and Attractions for General and Judaic Interests

To complement the pleasure of attending the conference, arrangements for an assortment of tours and "extra-conventional" events are available for attendees and their non-registered guests and family. Fully described at the "Tours & Events" tab of the Conference web site, tickets can be purchased online during, or after, the registration process. Both general interest and Judaic interest tours and attractions are available. These events include a private after-hours tour and reception at the USHMM and tours of Jewish DC and Jewish Baltimore. There will be a daytime visit to Washington's major sights (**Washington's Treasures**) and evening bus excursions (**Monuments by Moonlight**), as well as tours of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate and gardens and an early-morning trip to the International Spy Museum. On the performing arts and entertainment side, we've reserved a block of tickets for the Capitol Steps, a political satirical revue. We are awaiting program announcements concerning evening entertainment at the nearby National and Warner Theaters. While the Conference will offer a wealth of lectures, discussions, research, and meetings focused on genealogy, there will be plenty of opportunities for outside fun during your Washington visit.



Reason 8. Nearby Records Repositories

While in Washington, you probably want to experience the first-hand pleasure of conducting your own research. Let us help you jump the hurdles in conducting research into your ancestral town, peruse Yizkor/memorial books, examine Holocaust records, photocopy passenger lists, or view naturalization records. Washington is blessed with a large number of major archival repositories with Jewish-relevant records. These archives represent vast opportunities to fill the holes in your genealogical tree. The JW Marriott Hotel is within walking distance or a short Metro ride from the Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Archives I, and the Library of Congress. Before attending the conference, you should read and re-read our web site information on these local facilities, as well as three well-informed articles that have appeared in *Avotaynu*. These cover some of the major features of the USHMM, the ProQuest electronic database (making it possible to search for any person or event that has appeared in *The New York Times* since 1851) available at the Library of Congress, and the National Archives' two buildings (one reachable via shuttle bus from the conference). (See *Avotaynu* articles by Peter Lande in the Fall 2002 issue, by Elias Savada in the Summer 2002 issue, and by Roberta Solit and Rita Krakower Margolis in the Winter 2002 issue, respectively.)

There are many other records repositories in the Washington and Baltimore areas. These include: the Library of Congress (LC) Local History & Genealogy Reading Room, which contains numerous city directories, and LC's Hebraic Section (<http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/amed/hs/hshome.html>), which covers Jewish studies and Israel and will offer researchers access to hundreds of Yizkor books; the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, and several repositories in Baltimore. A complete listing of these archival sites appears at the conference web site's "Repositories" tab. A detailed description of these sites' holdings, hours, and locations appears in JGSGW's newly revised **Capital Collections**, which comes free with conference registration. During the conference's opening days, orientation sessions will be held to acquaint attendees with each major repository's holdings. Throughout the week information sessions will cover specific collections and databases provided at each site.

The Ten Top Reasons to Attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC continued

Reason 7. The Cyber Classroom, Cyber Café, and Online Data Resources

There's nothing like scouring through archival records to give you the thrill of discovery. This is why the Cyber Classroom has been created, to offer registrants a first-hand opportunity to see and use the latest computer technology and web-based genealogy advances. In this room, computers will be used for CD-ROM and online research, instruction and tutorials, and to access the large collection of materials at JewishGen (such as the newly augmented Holocaust and Yizkor Book Necrology databases, the Ellis Island Foundation Database, and other search engines), Avotaynu (including the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index), Ancestry.com, and other genealogically-rich web sites. Nearby in the Ballroom level lobby, the Cyber Café will allow you to check your email while schmoozing with friends and sipping coffee. Both settings will be linked to the Internet via high-speed T-1 access lines. Computers all will be free of charge to conference registrants. We also will offer demonstrations of genealogy software and basic instruction for using computers in advancing your family research. This is the perfect setting for those of you who haven't yet hitched a ride on the information superhighway to learn what riches the Internet has for you. We expect to have more than 30 computers available for use by conference participants, more than at any prior IAJGS conference. Volunteers also will be available to help you use an extensive variety of online, offline, and paper materials.

What materials are likely to be present? The USHMM has agreed to allow Cyber Classroom users access to its **List of Name Lists**, which consists of a locality-by-locality listing of Holocaust material including name lists. This will be the first time this database has been available outside of the museum. By special permission of the LDS Family History Centers (through Regional Manager Alain L. Allard), New York City's microfilmed Department of Health birth, death, and marriage indexes will be available for viewing in our Resource Room.

Reason 6. The Vendor Area

Right now you can check out the list of exhibitors at the "Vendors" tab of our web site. In July, stop by the Vendor Area and have a first-hand opportunity to examine and purchase the most current and relevant books, soft-

ware, supplies, and other genealogical items that can directly benefit your family history research or Judaic interests. Avotaynu will anchor the room, offering old favorites and new additions, including Jeffrey S. Malka's recently-published comprehensive **Sephardic Genealogy**, the Gary Mokotoff-Sallyann Amdur Sack collaboration (with Alexander Sharon) of **Where Once We Walked, Revised Edition: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust**, and, as a perfect book for newcomers to the field, **Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy**. The book **Portraits of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside** will be offered by author Emily Rose at another booth. Israel Falkov will be offering postcards and views of Jewish towns and settlements in Eastern Europe. The National Yiddish Book Center, Simcha Sales, and Ideal Bookstore will be present, as will (among others) Yonina Blech-Hermoni and her offerings of ceramic raku Judaica work-seder plates. Local film/video processor Colorlab Corp. will counsel attendees on how to convert their 8mm and 16mm films and older videotapes to digital format.



Reason 5. First-Rate Networking Opportunities

Networking is one of the most important reasons for attending a genealogy conference, and we'll provide lots of space and opportunities to do that. The conference is a wonderful opportunity to find a distant family member, a newly-discovered cousin, or even an entire family line. You can network with other conference attendees who are researching the same surnames or regions of the world, and be able to informally discuss your research on a first-hand basis with them. You'll be able to ask questions and learn key facts about the shtetl you're investigating, where key types of records are stored, or how to bypass hurdles in your research. You can unearth efficient research strategies that could save you valuable hours, days, or even years of wasted effort and money. You can schmooze with old friends and meet new ones. There will be lots of tables and chairs throughout the hotel and its meeting areas to encourage people to take a few minutes, sit, and chat.

What will this Conference hold for you? Our "Ask the Experts" tutorial sessions will be available on an individualized basis and free of charge during the week. We'll have an expert panel, including Sallyann Sack, Gary Mokotoff, Eileen Polakoff, Warren Blatt, and Randy Daitch, ready to help you solve those "brick walls" and

The Ten Top Reasons to Attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC continued

generational logjams in genealogical research. Appointments can be set up in advance to provide this personalized assistance, with a chance to sit in on others' sessions and learn by listening over a shoulder. There will also be two lecture sessions during the conference with Hal Bookbinder, IAJGS President, to identify common research problems in Jewish genealogy, and with Eileen Polakoff, Avotaynu's "Ask the Expert" columnist, to describe case studies using methods to surmount basic roads to successful Jewish genealogical research. More information about the "Ask the Experts" tutorial and lecture sessions can be found at www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/experts.html.

The conference also will hold many other networking opportunities. Be sure to attend the Birds of a Feather gatherings, where you'll meet others with common interests and those researching your ancestral town. You might find a relative among them. A number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have scheduled meetings at the Conference. Eight will have sponsored luncheons, including the Belarus, Geshet Galicia, Latvia, Southern Africa, and Hungarian SIGs. Reserve your seat at these luncheons while registering and while space still permits. We also intend to have a "SIG Fair" at the Conference, to provide resource information and excellent networking opportunities for those researching the geographic regions associated with various SIGs.

Reason 4. Book Talks/Author Appearances, Photographic Exhibits, and the Art/Essay Contest Display

Four types of Conference programs are sure to provide you with rich insights into the historical and cultural contexts underlying other information you gather via conference sessions, records repository research, or networking. Several noted authors will report on recently-published books they're written on genealogy-relevant topics. They include Blake Eskin on *A Life in Pieces: The Making and Unmaking of Benjamin Wilkomirski*, which delves into Holocaust child survivors in Riga, Latvia. A presentation will be made by Dr. Nehamia Polen, translator of *The Rebbe's Daughter: Memoir of a Hasidic Childhood*, which won the 2002 National Jewish Book Award. This book focuses on rabbinic genealogy and life in Koziencice, Poland during 1905-1906. Further information about these authors and their quality presentations can be found at www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/

[bookauthors.html](#). Speakers Rose Lerer Cohen and Saul Issroff will discuss their publication, *The Holocaust in Lithuania 1941-1945: A Book of Remembrance*.

The Conference also features a fascinating exhibition of 50 photographs taken on a Jewish heritage tour to Poland by Alex Oldfield of Ontario, Canada. These include scenes of the Warsaw Ghetto, a 16th-century synagogue in Tykocin near Bialystok, the Treblinka death camp and Majdanek concentration camp, many photographs of Kazimierz near Krakow, and street scenes of many areas of Polish life. The photographs will be available for sale during the Conference. Another historical exhibit consists of aerial photographs showing the history and growth of the Jewish community of Washington from its earliest beginnings in 1850 to the present. Finally, winning artwork and essays submitted by Washington and Baltimore religious school students about the theme *L'Dor Va-Dor: From Generation to Generation in Art and Prose* will be displayed. The artwork and essays will be judged for their originality, creativity, and contribution to the awareness of the importance of Jewish genealogy.

Reason 3. Conference Opening Address by Archivist of the United States John W. Carlin

Mr. Carlin's keynote address will launch the Conference week. He is the head of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which has the mission of being the nation's recordkeeper. Mr. Carlin has been Archivist of the United States since 1995 and has a host of major achievements to his credit, including the development of NARA's Electronic Access Project, through which thousands of records from the Civil War to the Cold War are now accessible via the Internet to schools and homes. Mr. Carlin received a commendation from the U.S. Senate for NARA's help in research tracing "Nazi Gold" looted from Holocaust survivors.

Reason 2. Conference Banquet and Speaker Hadassah Lieberman

Traditionally the Conference's closing evening and its banquet add a rich patina to the events, information gathering, and networking that have gone on during the week. IAJGS uses the occasion to commend major genealogical societies and individuals for their achievements and contributions to Jewish genealogy. A multi-media pre-



The Ten Top Reasons to Attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC continued

sentation also will be offered. This year's banquet is particularly enriched by having as its main speaker Hadassah Lieberman, wife and campaign partner of presidential candidate Senator Joseph Lieberman. Her touching and insightful talk will address genealogical themes. Mrs. Lieberman was born in Prague, Czech Republic, and is the daughter of Holocaust survivors of Dachau, Auschwitz, and a Jewish slave labor camp. She will provide a firsthand account of her family's experiences in Eastern Europe during World War II and as immigrants starting a new life in America. The Thursday evening banquet will be held in the JW Marriott's elegant Grand Ballroom and will offer a choice of delicious cuisine including several kosher options. Banquet tickets are available during and after you have registered online.

Reason 1. Renowned Speakers from Around the World

This year's program is a very rich one that responds to the needs and interests of beginner, intermediate, and advanced genealogists. Perhaps it represents, as Shakespeare might say, a "blessing devoutly to be wished"—a program so plentiful that it may be hard to attend all the sessions that you'd wish to! (The conference CD-ROM will have copies of hand-out materials from all presentations.) The agenda of over 100 highly qualified, expert speakers from the United States and abroad will feature in-depth talks on a wide array of high-interest topics, resources, geographical areas, and historical periods. The speakers come from within Jewish genealogy and outside, as the field comes to recognize that genealogy is intertwined with other intellectual spheres. The topics include Sephardic genealogy, many cultures (such as the Jews of Ethiopia, Shanghai, India, and Siberia), technology, and records preservation. Other talks will focus on tips for effectively using such archival sources as census records, the Ellis Island records database, Hamburg passenger lists, and Holocaust archives. Each day during the Conference week, experts associated with major area archives—the Library of Congress, National Archives I and II, USHMM, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service—will present talks on research strategies and information sources of special interest to Jewish genealogists.

A full listing of the over 100 speakers, their biographies, and topics of their talks may be viewed at the conference web site. Those appearing include the following internationally-known authorities: Valery Bazarov, di-

rector of the HIAS Location and Family History Service; Alexander Beider, an authority on Ashkenazic given names and surnames; Vitalija Gircyte, head archivist of the Kaunas Archives in Lithuania; Kinga Frojimovics, former director of the Hungarian archives; Stephen P. Morse, designer of the Ellis Island records search engine; Olga Muzychuk, director of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine; Peggy Pearlstein, area specialist in the Hebraic Section of the Library of Congress; Yale Reisner of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw; Marian L. Smith, historian for the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and Fay Zipkowitz, director of the Yiddish Book Department and Yiddish Cataloguer at the National Yiddish Book Center.

Our final advice? Don't hesitate to avail yourself of all the exciting activities here in Washington, its environs and, of course, at the Conference! Visit our web site to register online (a downloadable registration form

's also available). Early-bird registration for the full conference week is available at reduced rates through May 15, 2003: \$185 (individual) and \$285 (individual with spouse/partner). After May 15, individual registration jumps to \$215, the spouse/partner rate to \$340. Individuals (but not spouse/partners) registering for the full conference week receive a conference tote bag, the conference CD-ROM (containing the syllabus, speakers' materials, a newly-up-

dated version of **Capital Collections**, and demo software. It will work on both Windows and Macintosh platforms. Daily registration will be \$70, although no syllabus, CD-ROM, and tote bag are included.

Tickets for the Thursday evening banquet featuring Hadassah Lieberman (\$80) and the SIG luncheons (\$25) can be ordered during registration. Tours and events (various prices) also can be selected during registration, as can the souvenir shirt (\$12.50, assorted sizes). Space is limited at some events (particularly the Monday night session at USHMM), so it's best to register early.

What else? See you here in July! ☆

Milton R. Goldsamt and Elias Savada are, respectively, public relations chair and co-chair of the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. This article also benefited from suggestions made by the other conference co-chairs, Sheri M. Meisel and Benjamin A. Okner.



Book Review

by Alex E. Friedlander

Where Once We Walked – Revised Edition: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust. By Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack with Alexander Sharon. 2002. 736 pp. hardcover, 8½” x 11.” \$85 plus shipping from Avotaynu, Inc., 155 Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621; 800-286-8296; www.avotaynu.com.

When Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack published the original version of **Where Once We Walked** in 1991, it was conceived primarily as an aide to Jewish genealogical researchers who were both perplexed by the varying spellings of the names of their ancestral villages and struggling to identify and locate those towns. Within a few years of its publication, the book had become a primary resource not only for Jewish and non-Jewish genealogists but also for institutions and archives both in the United States and abroad. Known by the acronym **WOWW**, the book became a reference standard for other publications, web sites, and databases.

Now the authors, with the assistance of Alex Sharon of Calgary, Alberta (Canada), have published a revised edition. The format of the

main section is basically the same: the current spelling of each town is given, followed by alternative spellings and the current population; two spatial referents—a distance in kilometers and by the compass from a larger population center, and the latitude and longitude specifications; and a series of acronyms representing various reference sources where information about the town can be found. The format of the soundex section is also unchanged. The new edition thus appears at first glance to be simply a fatter and heavier version (even the cover looks the same), but that is not the case. The revisions are substantial.

The most important change is the conversion of the primary listings to conform to the modern spellings used by the contemporary political entities in Central and Eastern Europe, notably those created by the breakup of the Soviet Union, such as Ukraine and Belarus; and those created by the breakup of Yugoslavia into separate states such as Croatia and Serbia. The spellings used in the

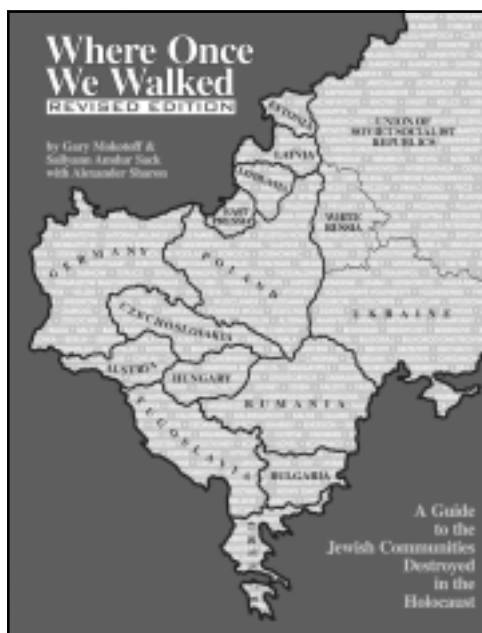
past are retained in the book, using the same format as previously (showing alternative spellings after the primary listing). This is particularly useful when consulting modern maps in trying to locate towns, but it means that the names of some of these towns are now so far removed from their familiar forms that it will be necessary more than ever before to use the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex coding chart. For example, the town often known in the past as Moghilev or Mogilev in Belarus is now known as Mahilyow, while Starokonstantinov in Ukraine becomes Starokostyantyniv. It should be noted,

however, that these name conversions are not completely consistent; instances were noted where the spelling in the new edition remained unchanged (for example, Sudilkov remains Sudilkov). It is not known whether this is due to inconsistencies in the changes made by these countries themselves, inconsistencies in the primary sources used for the updated version, or lapses in the course of the editing and computerization process.

Some researchers who are familiar with the older (Russian) name forms may find it more convenient to use the original edition of **WOWW** when looking up towns,

rather than going through the process of consulting the soundex section to find the modern transliteration in the new edition. It will also be interesting to see whether major online databases that have standardized the spellings of towns based on the original version of **WOWW**—such as JewishGen, or Miriam Weiner’s Eastern European Archival Database on her Routes to Roots Foundation web site—will convert all their spellings to conform to the new version of **WOWW**.

One reason for the expanded size of the book (from 542 to 736 pages, including the introductory section) is the increased number of towns covered, from 22,000 in the original edition to over 23,500 in the revised edition. The town lists now cover 448 instead of 416 pages, and the soundex section now comprises 134 instead of 96 pages. This is also due to the increased number of spelling variations. But there are two other important additions to the book. One is that the list of references has been expanded to include six new or enlarged sources: **Finding Your**



Book Review continued

Jewish Roots in Galicia by Suzan F. Wynne; both of Miriam Weiner's landmark books on Poland, Ukraine and Moldova; the 1996 compilation of records in the Lithuanian archives by Rhode and Sack; Dov Levin's book **The Litvaks**; and additional volumes of **Pinkas Hakehillot**. Many towns also have added references compared to the original edition, for example where the Family History Library has newly filmed records from towns that were not represented in the LDS catalog at the time the original edition was published.

There is also one reference that has been omitted from the revised edition: the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF). When the first edition of **WOWW** was published, the JGFF was a database maintained by the Jewish Genealogical Society. It is now—as the JewishGen Family Finder—a list of some 60,000 researchers with over 300,000 surnames and town names on the JewishGen web site. Perhaps the immense scope of the JGFF database made including it an unwieldy or excessively time consuming process at this point; or perhaps there were proprietary issues. Whatever the reason, the omission of this reference is disappointing. It would certainly be just as useful to know that there are references to a town in the JGFF as to know that there are microfilms of records from the town at the Family History Library.

The other important addition to the book is a new section of over 100 pages titled "Index to Nearby Towns." It is an index designed to be used with a multi-step, logical but somewhat complicated process to locate towns using both a coding system and a grid based on the latitude and longitude coordinates. The index is numerically ordered by three digit numbers for the latitude and longitude, truncating the second digit of the minutes measurement for each. Step-by-step instructions are given for how to use the index both to find towns within the same grid formed by all towns within the resulting ten minute (i.e. one sixth of a degree) range, and to find towns within adjacent grids. A complete search using this method would result in a map of all towns within a half degree latitude and longitude range surrounding the original town, and in fact an example of such a map is shown.

One could, of course, simply obtain a map showing the primary town of interest and visually find the adjacent towns, without going through such a convoluted process. However, most maps easily available to researchers are unlikely to show many of the smaller towns; so there is some utility to this methodology.

The revised edition of **Where Once We Walked** is a valuable addition to both genealogical and geographical reference sources. It could become an even more effective research tool if it were published in a searchable CD-ROM version (or on a web site) that would eliminate the need to cross reference alternative spellings to the main listing, or to calculate the soundex code from the phonetic or older versions of a town name. Such an electronic data base might also expand the reference source acronyms to include links to the specific resource (for example, to link an LDS notation to the Family History Library catalog or a YB notation to the actual title of the Yizkor Book). Meanwhile, the genealogical community can only be thankful for what the authors describe as their "seemingly endless obsession with the map of Jewish Europe." ☆

Alex E. Friedlander is the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

JGS Welcomes New Members

Tina B. Carver Bronx NY
Denver Public Library Denver CO
Joan Galfund New York NY
Roberta & Jerome Jainchill Somers NY
Jacqueline Jille New York NY
Howard Klau New York NY
Ada Korson New York NY
Caryn A. Leifer Mount Laurel NJ
Clayton Library Houston TX
DAR Library Washington DC
Marilyn H. Newman Palm Beach Gardens FL
Richard Obshatcko Hewlett NY
Herbert Schnur Rego Park NY
Charlotte Swartz Natick MA
Philip Udaskin Adams NY
Devora Wilkenfeld New York NY
Daniel Zirinsky Great Neck NY
John Zirinsky New York NY

Next-Gen Genealogy

Get the Kids Involved! Why We Mustn't Overlook the Future as We Research the Past

by Ira Wolfman

When I was growing up in 1950s Brooklyn and Queens, my grandparents were dear and remote at the same time. For me, each visit to "Bobi" and "Poppi" was an intense dose of Yiddishkeit (though I'd never heard that word). Our car ride to East New York was like a time-machine to the smells and sounds of Eastern Europe, from which all four of my grandparents had come in the early 1900s.

I came away from each encounter with my old-world elders warmed by the feeling that, in some wordless way, they loved me. Beyond that, however, I asked little, and understood less, about my parents' parents.

By the time I was 22 years old, all four of them were dead. Then, as the years passed and I discovered genealogy, I sadly realized that during the many hours we'd spent together, I'd never asked any of my grandparents about their lives in Eastern Europe, and they'd never volunteered a word.

How much I regret that now!

This is a classic emotion for Jewish genealogists (probably all genealogists): We spend so much time gathering and classifying information about the past, and developing ways of presenting it. We love to discover things about our ancestors. Then we look back and realize that we'd let precious jewels—our older family members and their life stories—slip through our fingers when we had them.

That opportunity is, of course, gone. But I believe that there is a major step we can take to ensure that this cycle of neglect and regret stops: We can actively involve our children—and/or grandchildren—in genealogy now, while they are young.

It's my perception that very few genealogists actually take that step. Despite family history's explosive growth over the past decade, "ancestor-detecting" is frequently seen as "dad's hobby" or "grandma's obsession"—not something with a lot to offer young people.

Of course, kids have probably always been more interested in tomorrows than yesterdays. But that doesn't mean they aren't susceptible to the genealogical bug. As the author of a book about genealogy for kids, I've given a number of talks over the past ten years to elementary and middle-school classes. I've found that kids can be

excited by family history if they are exposed to kid-friendly aspects of research and if they are trusted and given an active role.

I'm the battle-scarred father of two sons—one a teenager, the other rapidly getting there—so I know that this is not an easy task. But I am blessed that all four of my children's grandparents are still alive, and I'm determined not to let the opportunity this represents completely get away.

My perhaps not-so-modest proposal is that all genealogists should find time to share the excitement of our pastime with the younger generation. For one thing, passing on our knowledge and passion can be very satisfying—and the end result might even be the emergence of an enthusiastic research assistant!

But even more important, the benefits to kids are enormous: Poking around the family's past gives youngsters new insights into their parents' and grandparents' lives. It can make history come alive. It also may turn the process of developing academic skills (such as researching, examining evidence, problem-solving, and writing) into an adventure.

Here are some suggested ways to expose your children to the joys of genealogy:

Discuss your family history together. Family names are an easy way to open the topic. For example, talk with your child about his or her first name. How did you choose it? What does it mean—and in which language? Is there a history of the name in your family? If your child was named after someone, talk about that person. Also explore your family name—is it original? What does it mean? Kids are often fascinated to discover that last names aren't just sounds but actually relate to ancestors' professions, physical characteristics, or parents' (almost always fathers') first names.

Have your children conduct interviews. This can be enormously rewarding. Your child can start close to home...with you. Even if your kids are as young as seven or eight, they can ask about your childhood, how you met your spouse, how they came into your life. Teach them how to use a tape recorder and make notes, and/or have someone run the camcorder.

(continued on page 22)

Jewish Genealogy Cruise Sponsored by International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

There are lots of excuses for not pursuing your genealogy:
“I wouldn’t even know where to begin.”

“There is no one left who has any information.”

“All the records have been destroyed.”

With some guidance, you can successfully explore the massive amount of records available, and go on to discover the roots and branches of your family tree.

Join us on the first-ever IAJGS Jewish Genealogy Cruise. It’s an ideal way to get started. Here is your chance to take advantage of a unique opportunity that you’ll remember for years to come—a valuable Jewish genealogy experience combined with a memorable cruise to Key West and Cozumel on Carnival’s M/S Fascination.

Check your calendar. December 1 to 5, 2003, is a great time to get away and enjoy the tropical Caribbean. And what a great excuse to travel ... Genealogy! This cruise is designed to get you excited about your ancestors, teach you how to pursue your genealogical research and have fun. You will have the opportunity to learn from IAJGS experts through formal lectures and informal question-and-answer sessions.

We depart Miami on Monday, December 1, at 4 pm, calling at Key West from 7:30 am to 2 pm on Tuesday, and at Cozumel from noon to 10 pm on Wednesday. We return to Miami at 7 am on Friday morning. While at sea, you will have the opportunity to attend lectures and informal gatherings with experienced Jewish genealogists, as well as enjoy all the hospitality the ship has to offer. And, while the lectures and informal gatherings will be valuable to everyone interested in Jewish genealogy, they will be especially valuable for the intermediate genealogists or for those just getting started.

Tentative speakers and experts include:

- Peter Landé, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Volunteer (Washington, DC) - Expert on Holocaust research
- Daniel Schlyter, IAJGS Director, LDS Family History Library Collections Specialist (Salt Lake City, UT) - Expert on Eastern Europe resources and research
- Hal Bookbinder, IAJGS President (Los Angeles, CA) - Expert on computers, Jewish geography and Jewish history
- Michael Brenner, JGS, Inc. (NY) Past President (Las Vegas, NV) - Expert in U.S. Jewish genealogical research, especially in the New York area

- Martha Lev-Zion, President of SIG Latvia; Israel Genealogical Society (Omer, Israel) - Expert in Israeli and Latvian, especially Courland, genealogical research
- Howard Margol, IAJGS Past President (Atlanta, GA) - Expert in Lithuanian Jewish genealogical research
- Michael Posnick, IAJGS Treasurer (Minneapolis, MN) - Expert in U.S. Jewish genealogical research
- Joel Spector, IAJGS Secretary (Cherry Hill, NJ) - Expert in Russian documentation and Philadelphia area genealogical research
- Arnold Tolkin, IAJGS Director (Long Island, NY and Palm Beach, FL) - Expert in starting one’s genealogical research and in planning travel to ancestral shtetls

For more details, visit www.jewishgen.org/ajgs/Cruise/Cruise.htm or call 1-888-840-5240. ☆

CRUISE WITH YOUR ANCESTORS from just \$150* per person

Whether you’re just starting to grow your family tree or are a seasoned genealogist, you are sure to benefit from the first International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies cruise, round-trip from Miami from December 1-5, 2003.

- 4-day cruise to Key West and Cozumel.
- “How to Get Started” searching on the Internet.
- Guest lectures and “Ask the Experts” sessions to address your genealogical questions.
- A great networking opportunity.

Call 1-888-840-5240
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www.iajgs.org

* Plus port charges, government fees and IAJGS registration fee. All starting at less than \$464 per participant, or \$394 for accompanying family members not participating in the genealogical aspects of the cruise.

South African Jewish Genealogical Research

By Ann Rabinowitz

Part I—South African Resources in America

As the Research Coordinator of the South Africa SIG, I am asked, many times, how to locate primary or secondary resources for South African Jewish research outside South Africa. This is due, in part, to an increasing number of South Africans who have settled in the U.S. and want to research their families, and to Americans who have found that they have a South African family connection.

My first suggestion to researchers is to go to the South Africa SIG web site on JewishGen www.jewishgen.org/safrica, which has an enormous amount of InfoFiles, databases and tools for beginning genealogical studies. In addition, a second tremendous resource for locating existing materials on South African Jewry is the book **Bibliography of South African Jewry** by Veronica Bellington, Librarian, Jewish Studies Collection, University of Cape Town, published in Cape Town by Jewish Publications-South Africa, Kaplan Center for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town, 1997. This can be found at the New York Public Library and YIVO among other locations.

While much of the pertinent material on South Africa is either located in South Africa or held in a limited number of private hands, there are, at least, three major repositories in the U.S. that presently have holdings and one Internet resource worth mentioning:

- **Mormon Family History Centers (throughout the U.S.)** – The Centers have access, upon request, to various microfilmed records for the Jewish community in South Africa for specific time periods. These records include such areas as emigration and immigration, applications for naturalization (Cape Colony only), death certificates, estate/probate documentation (death notices, wills, and liquidation/distribution accounts), and other miscellaneous records such as birth, marriage and death records for particular areas as well as City Directories for certain years.

In 1997, when I visited the Gardens Shul in Cape Town, SA, I found that the Mormons had microfilmed the records. With the cooperation and permission of Ben Resnick, head of the Chevra Kadisha, I took notes on what records and years were covered in the Gardens Shul material and copied the first record for each book that I then put into a database.

This database is now on the SA SIG web site www.jewishgen.org/safrica. Further information on this and other South African Jewish records held by the Mormons is available through the work of Roy Ogus, SA SIG American Coordinator, and can be found on the SA SIG web site as well www.jewishgen.org/safrica/mormon.htm.

- **University of Texas, Austin, TX** – The University has the largest collection of South African Jewish material in the U.S., both in *belles lettres* and periodicals, according to Nathan Snyder, Judaica Librarian and collection bibliographer. The collection is housed in the Perry-Castañeda Library (PCL) and can be accessed by going to the site www.lib.utexas.edu/pcl.

The materials were made available through the efforts of Prof. Seth Wolitz, Marie and Edwin Gale Chair of Judaic Studies, who obtained the donation of material in 1996 and 1999 from Prof. Joseph Sherman, University of Witwatersrand, now Corob Fellow in Yiddish Studies, Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies.

The collection, dealing with periodicals as well as manuscripts and papers, covers much that has never been published before either in Yiddish or translated into English. The periodicals are a magnificent collection that includes *Der Afrikaaner Yiddisher Zeitung*, *Dorem Africa* and the English-language *Jewish Affairs*.

South African Yiddish authors, many of whom were born in Lithuania, are included in the University collection: M. Ben Moshe, Nathan Berger, H. (Haiman) Erlikh, Richard Feldman, Morris Hoffman, N. Levinski, Hyman Polsky, Wolf Rybkov, Chaim Sachs, Levi Shalit, J. M. Sherman, Hersh Shishler, Mendl Tabatzkin, David Wilkin and David E. Wolpe. In addition, the unpublished papers and manuscripts of poet David Fram <http://staff.lib.utexas.edu/~cshroer/nathan/fram.htm> and short story writer Samuel Leibowitz <http://staff.lib.utexas.edu/~cshroer/nathan/leibowitz.htm> can be found in the Rare Books Section of the the Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection of the Library.

While these particular authors may not be familiar to you, their family names may be and could pro-

vide clues to further family research, especially as the material includes where the families were from originally and possibly other genealogically significant details. An example of how you may find exciting surprises in this material is the file for Samuel Leibowitz (1912-1976), who was born in Panevezys, Lithuania, and lived in Johannesburg. Using the online address for the Leibowitz material (see above), I checked through the items listed in his file. There I found a reference to a letter he wrote in 1943 to my relative Leslie Yodaiken, a well-known Irish Jewish poet and writer. I was then able to send away to the Library and obtain a copy of the letter.

What are the chances that I would find any connection to my Irish family in a South African Yiddish author's file located in a Latin American Collection at the University of Texas? So, don't be hesitant about looking through such resources even though you don't expect to find anything. You may be surprised at what you do find.

- **YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, NY** – There are now a number of South African items available that are complementary to YIVO's Lithuanian holdings. This connection is due to the large number of Lithuanian Jews who went to South Africa. The initial portion of this South African collection that I have donated to YIVO includes three quite rare and hard to come by resources:

1929 South African Jewish Year Book, edited by Morris De Saxe and associate editor I.M. Goodman, Johannesburg: South African Jewish Historical Society, 1929.

This is the inaugural volume in a series of twelve Year Books, the last being for the period 1976-1977, that provide a "Who's Who" section, historical vignettes of the Jewish community, and demographic details. The entries in the "Who's Who" section very often contain photographs of the individuals. The "Who's Who" entries have been put into a database on JewishGen which can be accessed at www.jewishgen.org/databases/sayb.htm.

The Jew in South Africa: A record of what individual Jews are doing in various spheres of the country's life, edited by Rabbi Maurice Konvisser and Dora Sowden, Johannesburg: Century Publishing, 1945.

This volume contains very much the same type of "Who's Who" information as the Year Books, but has greater focus on religious personalities and anecdotal data. Much of the material was obtained through direct interviews with the individuals. Many of the accompanying photographs depict the individuals in military uniform due to the proximity of the publication to the end of World War II. Like the 1929 Year Book, this volume can also be found in the JewishGen database at www.jewishgen.org/databases/sayb.htm.

South African Jewish Board of Deputies Immigration Registers, 1924-1929.

The three unpublished registers covering the years 1924-1926, 1927-1928, and 1929 were the product of a South African Jewish Board of Deputies mandate. The originals are to be found in the Kaplan Centre Archives in Cape Town, SA, and photocopies are located in the South African Jewish Board of Deputies Archives in Johannesburg, SA, and the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People in Jerusalem.

The registers are a critical means of determining where families may have originated in *der heim* and when and where they came to in South Africa. A photocopy of the unpublished registers will be available to researchers in early 2003 at YIVO. This resource can also be found in a sample database containing the first 500-plus records on the SA SIG web site www.jewishgen.org/safrica/sa.htm. The three entire registers are in the process of being fully computerized and, according to project coordinator Debby Myers in Cape Town, they will be available online sometime in early 2003.

Additional resources that I will be donating to YIVO in the near future will relate to various "Who's Who" listings for South African Jewish women that will also be available in database format on the SA SIG web site.

YIVO also has copies of the South African weekly Yiddish newspaper **Der Afrikaaner Yiddisher Zeitung**, which was published in Johannesburg from 1942 to 1971. This publication has a fascinating series on shtetls from *der heim*. The series was first located by Ada Greenblatt and written up in **Dorot**, "Pre-War Lithuanian Series in the **Afrikaner Yidishe Tzeitung**," Summer 1996, p. 6.

The various articles provided me with much information about not only the shtetls, but the people who came to South Africa from the individual shtetls. The New York Public Library and the Library of Congress in Washington, DC, also have this publication on microfilm, in addition to the previously mentioned University of Texas.

It is hoped that others will donate their materials to YIVO to expand their holdings and thereby make them available to both those living in the New York Metropolitan area and visitors to New York.

- **ebay.com** – A new source for South African documents is to be found on ebay.com, the international flea market on the Internet. Unfortunately, as people pass away, their personal documents are either thrown away or sold in yard sales, flea markets or at auction. With genealogical study now such a growing activity, these documents have become attractive items to purchase.

Regular perusing of the offerings on ebay.com under such topics as Judaica, Lithuania, South Africa, or other countries will bring up various items including school documents, passports, letters, and the like. An example of this is what Dr. Neil Rosenstein, formerly of Cape Town, found on ebay.com.. He was able to obtain a letter from his grandfather's bookstore in Vilnius, Lithuania, to Rabbi Nochum-Mendel Rabinowitz, in Cape Town. In addition, there have been cases where people have recognized that their expired South African passports have been put on ebay.com and they have had to retrieve them from possible sale.

With the exception of the Mormon Family History Centers, you may be able to obtain copies of materials or references from the above resources through the inter-library loan program at your local university or public library. In fact, I have requested materials from YIVO's library at a small cost for the copying, and I plan to obtain periodical materials from the University of Texas in the coming year. Items for sale on ebay.com are accompanied sometimes by extensively documented material and very often photographs. These can be downloaded and copied on your own printer, if you aren't interested in purchasing the actual item.

There are various other large repositories in the U.S., such as the Library of Congress and major universi-

ties, which have resources relating to South Africa's literary, historical, economic, and political life, and they even have such early 20th-century periodicals as **South Africa Magazine**.

Conclusion

It is important to note that there are actual South African resources available in America and particularly copies of important primary or secondary documents. In the future, I am hoping that other documents will surface and be donated to the major repositories mentioned here or to other libraries or archives in areas where former South Africans have settled, such as Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, San Diego, and South Florida. I would encourage any South Africans who have such materials to consider donations that will allow the preservation of these materials for use by other researchers.

Americans have wide access to the Internet and JewishGen and can obtain many other records relating to South Africa. These will be discussed in a future article: Part II - South African Internet Resources. ☆

Ann Rabinowitz, a native of Manchester, England, has been involved in genealogical research since childhood. She is formerly the newsletter editor and a board member of the JGS of Greater Miami and is presently a member of the JGS of Palm Beach County. As the SA SIG research coordinator, she has produced numerous databases for South African resources that can be found on the SA SIG web site, including materials on South African shipping and immigration, naturalization, community profiles, and other related matters.

Shtetl Museum

The Shtetl Foundation has begun construction in Rishon Lezion, near Tel Aviv, of the world's first open-air shtetl theme park. The \$100 million project was developed by noted Holocaust historian Yaffa Eliach, a retired Brooklyn College professor, author of **There Once Was a World: A 900-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok**, creator of the "Tower of Life" photo exhibit on Eishyshok at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and founder of the Center for Holocaust Studies in Brooklyn (which merged in 1991 with the Museum of Jewish Heritage). See www.shtetlfoundation.org for more information.

Speaking of Eishyshok

In the January 26, 2003, issue of the e-magazine **Nu? What's New? News About Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu**, editor Gary Mokotoff reported on the more than 100 spelling variants of Eiskes, Lithuania (Eishyshok, in Yiddish) found in the Ellis Island database by Joseph Fibel, a former JGS-NY Executive Council member. The list includes Aisechok, Aisheszuk, Ajsaschok, Auseschok, Echissok, Eischechok, Eischischk, Ejschischok, Ischiski, Iszisaok, Oischeschok, Ojszyszok, Uscichuk, Uscieczka, and Uszezek. For the full list, read this back issue at www.avotaynu.com/nu.htm.

The Occident and American Jewish Advocate

The first seven years of this seminal American Jewish periodical, published from 1843 to 1868 in Philadelphia, are now available online at www.jewish-history.com/Occident/index.html. Subtitled **A Monthly Periodical devoted to the Diffusion of Knowledge on Jewish Literature and Religion**, its founder and editor was Isaac Leeser (1806-1868), a German-born rabbi, writer and educator who came to the U.S. in 1824. **The Occident** was the first successful Jewish newspaper in America and an important forum on Jewish life and thought.

Of particular interest are the news articles on Jewish communities, synagogues and benevolent societies in the U.S. and overseas. There is a full table of contents for each volume from which the articles are linked.

Air Photos of New York (and Southern California)

The University of California Los Angeles Department of Geography Air Photo Archives maintains one of the largest collections of oblique historical air photos in the world. While the majority of this collection covers southern California, the Archives has completed cataloging its extensive New York collection of more than 5,000 photos and negatives covering the years 1921 to 1955. The Archives' New York photos are the work of Fairchild Aerial Surveys, which UCLA acquired in 1965. The Fairchild photos are oblique shots, which differ from vertical air photos by their ability to show historical scenes in greater natural detail. Profits from the UCLA Air Photo Archives are used to support graduate students at the Geography Department. Additional information is available at www.geog.ucla.edu/airphoto.html or 310-206-8188.

Jews in Iwaniska, Poland

Iwansker descendants in Canada, Israel and the U.S. seek anyone who has roots in Iwaniska (in Yiddish, Iwansk), a shtetl 170 km. south of Warsaw. They need help in obtaining suitable material to create a portrayal of Jewish life in Iwansk. The account will appear in the ShtetLink web site on JewishGen. No yizkor book was ever written for Iwansk. Personal and family recollections of life in the shtetl as well as copies of photographs, maps, drawings or other documents would be treasured. All contributors will be acknowledged in the JewishGen site. For more information, contact Norton S. Taichman, 51 Wynnedale Rd, Narberth PA 19072; e-mail: nstaichman@comcast.net.

The Fourth Ward: Life and Death in New York, 1860-1870

The web site <http://vm.uconn.edu/~pbaldwin/ward4.html> provides a detailed image of working-class life in one small part of urban America in the mid-19th century. The Fourth Ward was a working-class district by the East River waterfront of lower Manhattan. It was a rough, poor, sometimes unhealthy neighborhood, but not the worst in the city. Throughout the mid-19th century, the people of the ward were, like other working-class New Yorkers, coping as best they could with problems brought on by rapid urban growth and industrialization. Some succeeded, some didn't.

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Center for Jewish History–Genealogy Institute

Robert Friedman, a past member of the JGS-NY Executive Council, is the new Director of the Genealogy Institute. He succeeds Dr. Rachel Fisher, who works now as the Center's Educational Outreach Coordinator.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

- Fruma Mohrer was appointed permanent Chief Archivist in December 2002. Ms. Mohrer, who has been a member of the YIVO Archives staff since 1978 and Acting Chief Archivist since September 2001, succeeds Marek Web, who guided the YIVO Archives from 1970 to 1992. She is a graduate of McGill University and received her J.D. degree in 1993 from New York Law School. She is the co-author with Mr. Web of the **Guide to the YIVO Archives** (1998), which was named the "Best Judaica Reference Book" by the Association of Jewish Libraries.

- The new Internet edition of YIVO's **People of a Thousand Towns**, a collection of 17,000 photographs of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, may be accessed at <http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org>. Drawn from the large photographic collections of the YIVO Archives, the photos document Jewish life in large Jewish centers as well as many smaller towns and villages from the late 19th-century to the early 1940s. An earlier edition of **People of a Thousand Towns** was created as a videodisc in 1981-1987 with funds from the Charles H. Revson Foundation. The 2003 edition was made possible with funds from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and was developed in consultation with the New York firm Data Based Media.

- YIVO has received a \$200,000 grant from the Charles H. Revson Foundation for **Jews in Eastern Europe: The YIVO Encyclopedia**, a multi-volume reference work now being prepared under the supervision of Professor Gershon Hundert, Chair of the Department of Jewish Studies at McGill University.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

- In memory of her father, The George Rich New Jewish Members Fund has been established at The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society by Joy Rich, Director of the G&B Library and mem-

ber of JGS. The fund will pay for the first year of G&B membership for a limited number of people who (1) were born to at least one Jewish parent, (2) identify themselves as Jewish, (3) are conducting research on their Jewish ancestry, and (4) have not previously been members of the G&B. To apply, please contact her at joyrich@nygbs.org.

- The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society is an authorized branch library of the Family History Library and part of the research system of the Genealogical Society of Utah. The G&B asks non-members for a donation of \$10 for the use of the Technology Center and its equipment. This donation entitles them not only to view the microfilm they have borrowed from FHL, but also to use the book and periodical collections in the library. The donation is not requested for an initial visit to view the FHL catalog for ordering purposes. The rental fee for microfilm, based on current FHL charges and paid by the researcher, is \$4 per reel for 30 days. Two renewals are permitted for 45 days each at a fee of \$4 per reel.

New York Public Library

The NYPL Picture Collection, housed on the third floor of the Mid-Manhattan Library (455 Fifth Ave. at 40th St.), contains more than one million images, some dating back to the 1700s. Through a major initiative to digitize 30,000 images by 2003, it is possible to consult portions of the collection online at <http://digital.nypl.org/mmpco/index.cfm>. The collection includes images clipped from books, newspapers and magazines, as well as digitized copies of original photographs, prints and postcards. The library hopes to put more images online as funding becomes available.

Brooklyn Public Library

The **Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online** (1841-1902) is available with fully-searchable scanned images of the actual pages at <http://eagle.brooklynpubliclibrary.org>. The period now online includes all of the years for which there is no index as well as the eleven years during which an index was published. Access can be gained either by date of issue or by keyword searching. This important newspaper includes information about Brooklyn and Queens and was published until 1955. Funding is being sought to digitize the remainder of the years of publication.

Columbia University–Rare Book and Manuscript Library

The Language and Culture Archive of Ashkenazic Jewry is an extraordinary resource for research in Yiddish studies, ranging over language, ethnography, folklore and music, anthropology, linguistics, Germanic and Slavic studies, and aspects of Central and East European history. The collection consists of 5,755 hours of audiotaped field interviews with Yiddish-speaking informants collected between 1959 and 1972 in 603 Jewish communities in North America, in Central and Eastern Europe, and in Israel. Because the material on the tapes is unique—there are no transcriptions—and the tapes have been rapidly deteriorating, a preservation project has been underway for several years to re-record the tapes on new analog tape stock and to create CD-ROM versions of the recordings to enhance scholarly access to the materials. Information about the project is found at www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/projects/digital/lcaaj.

Columbia University–Augustus C. Long Health Sciences Library

Archives and Special Collections has added the College of Physicians and Surgeons Obituary Database to its web page. It contains approximately 5,700 death notices that have appeared in *P&S*, the medical school's alumni magazine, as well as in the *Columbia Alumni Bulletin* (1911-1957). Obituaries dating from 1911 to the present are included, with 1850 being the earliest class represented. Besides *P&S* alumni, entries for some *P&S* faculty members, and for recipients of Columbia's Doctor of Medical Science degree (MSD), Doctor of Philosophy degree (PhD) and Certificate in Psychoanalytical Medicine (PSY) are also included. The database will be updated quarterly and may be accessed at <http://cpmcnet.columbia.edu/library/archives/archdbs.html>.

Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

As of January 1, 2003, the renowned Jewish genealogy web site JewishGen became a division of the Museum of Jewish Heritage. The Boards of the Museum and JewishGen approved the plan in December. An Internet pioneer, JewishGen was founded in 1987 by Susan E. King and has grown from a bulletin board with only 150 users to a major grassroots effort bringing together hundreds of thousands of individuals worldwide in a virtual community centered on discovering Jewish ancestral roots and history.

“For many Jews, knowledge of their family history perished in the Holocaust; JewishGen fills in the missing pieces of the puzzle,” said Dr. David G. Marwell, Museum Director. “Our Museum allows visitors to identify with the themes of 20th-century Jewish history and has helped our public to identify with Holocaust survivors and opened new doors of understanding. With JewishGen, we will be able to take our message worldwide.”

“Genealogy research is much more than just searching for names, dates and places,” said Susan King. “It is vitally important that researchers also understand the details of Jewish heritage and history; the Museum provides context for the lives being researched. That's what makes this relationship so exciting. Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust will also allow us to professionalize what has been an all-volunteer effort.”

Ms. King, who will report to Dr. Marwell, will be the Managing Director of JewishGen and will remain in Houston where JewishGen is based. Michael Tobias and Warren Blatt, longtime volunteers, will become full-time employees.

The Museum is located on the waterfront of Lower Manhattan in Battery Park City. The Museum's core exhibition is organized around three themes: Jewish Life a Century Ago, The War Against the Jews, and Jewish Renewal. With more than 2,000 photographs, 800 artifacts, and 24 original documentary films on display, the Museum uses personal stories and artifacts to present 20th-century Jewish history and the Holocaust in a context of universal truths that speak to people of all ages and backgrounds. The Museum is completing an 82,000-square-foot addition that will contain a theater, classrooms, and special exhibition space, among other facilities. The East Wing, set to open in fall 2003, will enhance the Museum's mission of remembrance and education.

NYC Municipal Archives

Estelle M. Guzik, JGS past president, discussed “What's New at the New York City Municipal Archives? What Can We Look Forward to in the Future” at the JGS meeting of November 24, 2002. The following is a summary of her presentation:

The Municipal Archives collection ranges from Almshouse records to the Works Progress

New York Repository Round-up continued

Administration's records about synagogues. The Archives is the primary place to go for vital records, particularly the birth, marriage and death records initially collected by the NYC Department of Health. The important new development is the addition of an index to the marriage records maintained by the City Clerk.

There were two sets of documents for marriages: one filed with the Health Department (from 1866 to 1937), the other with the City Clerk's Office (starting in 1908). In addition to its collection of Health Department records, the Municipal Archives holds the City Clerk's records and indexes up to 1929. Now a duplicate set of the indexes for these valuable records from 1930 to 1951 has been microfilmed and is available in the Municipal Archives. These multi-page marriage documents tend to be more valuable than the Health Department's documents and include such data as details of previous marriages. The first page of the City Clerk's marriage document is an affidavit, the second page is the license, the third page contains signatures and a fourth page includes parental consent forms, used infrequently.

The City Clerk's indexes are handwritten and arranged by borough, then by year in groups of months by the first two letters of the surname. (There are separate indexes for brides and grooms.) The entries were recorded when the affidavit was filed, not when the marriage took place. This could occur up to two months prior to the actual marriage date. Thus, finding an indexed document can be challenging. Knowing the marriage date, perhaps by first researching the more familiar Health Department documents at the Archives (up to 1937), may make the task easier.

Once an entry is found in the index, the next step is to apply to the City Clerk for the actual record. (Records from 1930 to present are at the City Clerk's Office.) Request the affidavit as well as the license, to insure that you receive both. Research is also possible at the City Clerk's Office in the Municipal Building (second floor), but it requires a letter from a genealogical society, an appointment, and a certified check for the \$5 fee. (JGSNY will supply such a letter upon the request of a member.) One microfilm reader at the Clerk's Office is available two hours per day (12 to 2), five days a week, allowing time for perhaps five researchers per week at most. Photocopies still cost \$15.

Records within the past 50 years are available only with the written permission of the parties involved. The Municipal Archives staff will not research the City Clerk's indexes nor the records up to 1929. These indexes and records are available to researchers for on-site use. The indexes are kept behind the desk and must be requested, unlike the Health Department indexes which are in open stacks. City Clerk's marriage records (1908-1929) are in open drawers on the Chambers Street window wall.

Because the Health Department is reluctant to part with additional vital records, interested researchers are petitioning the city for the release of those documents.

In addition to the vital records at the Municipal Archives, other holdings useful for the family researcher include:

- Original materials from the WPA survey of synagogues (1939) with detailed information about each of the synagogues. An index to these records was created by Ada Greenblatt and is available on the JSG web site www.jgsny.org.
- Tax Department photographs of each property in the city (1940), with new finding aids available, including an online search engine at the Department of Finance/City Register's Office web site www.nyc.gov/html/dof that translates street addresses into the block and lot numbers necessary to retrieve the photographs.
- Applications for Theater Matrons permits (1940) that include a photograph, birth date and country of birth, name of spouse (or deceased spouse), name and ages of children.
- Pistol license applications that include a photograph, fingerprints, age, and reason needed.
- Coroner's records—a new collection from the Old Records Division of the County Clerk's Office. Refilming of these microfilmed documents (Manhattan/1823-1918) and indexes is now underway.

Full details about all Municipal Archives holdings are included in the new JGS book, **Genealogical Resources in New York**.



Next-Gen Genealogy

(continued from page 13)

Encourage the kids to conduct interviews with family elders. Doing an interview opens up a new kind of relationship, that of interviewer and interviewee. This role change can bring new understanding and perhaps even closeness to a relationship. It certainly can help kids see that grandma wasn't born at age 70!

You, of course, should offer your child good advice about how to conduct interviews. But let the kids do the interviewing themselves—without help from the resident family expert. The power that comes from being the questioner—and in charge—is a great thing for children to experience at any age.

Create a family history photo book together. Assembling pages of photographic history makes the people in your family's past come alive, and can lead to playful and entertaining conversations about them. Photographs are great for sharing with older family members—who were these people? What was happening in this picture? What do you remember about that day?

I recently went with my nine-year-old son to a Family History Art Workshop at Wave Hill Gardens and Cultural Center in the Bronx. They'd suggested we bring a selection of family photographs with us. At first, my son was loudly unenthusiastic. But we arrived to find a dozen families with kids between age 5 and 12 eagerly at work, making good use of colored construction paper, tissue paper, glue, crayons and markers.

The kids were urged to draw a decorative cover sheet, then fill in a simple "family tree" chart, and add pages of stories, pictures, or drawings of anyone and everyone in their family. My son warmed to the task in this room filled with the sounds of enthusiastic kids. And when the pages were assembled into a family book—well, he was extremely happy with his creation (as were we).

I'm not naïve enough to suggest that children will jump with joy at the prospect of learning more about their family. But I know it can be done, and that the present-day rewards are real for our children. And who's to say that the benefits won't continue to be felt 30 or 40 years from now in the form of rich memories...and fewer regrets? ☆

This is the first of what is planned as a number of columns on extending genealogy's reach to our children and grandchildren. "Next-Gen Genealogy" is written by JGS member Ira Wolfman, author of Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Off-line Genealogy for Kids (Workman Publishing, 2002). Please feel free to send us comments, or suggested topics for future columns.

Return to the Mountains – History of the Catskills Conference

Did you love the films *Sweet Lorraine*, *A Walk on the Moon*, and *Dirty Dancing*? Do you remember the great comedians and singers you heard get their start? Remember the parties in the staff quarters, the midnight suppers, canasta and mah jongg by the pool? Remember Ruby the Knish Man at the bungalow colonies? Those experiences will come alive at the Ninth Annual History of the Catskills Conference, when the Catskills Institute again convenes a talented group of speakers at Kutsher's Country Club in Monticello the weekend of August 22-24, 2003.

Speakers include Aurora Flores on "Mambo in the Catskills," recalling the incredible influence of Latin music in the resorts; Deborah Dash Moore on "The History of Jewish Leisure and Vacationing"; Joe Dorinson and Henry Foner on "Ain't No Mountain High: Hoop Dreams in the Borscht Belt," recounting the famous Catskills summer hotel basketball leagues; Shelly Altman on writing the screenplay for the film on Catskills hotel life, *Sweet Lorraine*, and Irwin Richman on "Home Movies," using old film footage to examine the history of bungalow colony life.

There will be an opening night event with a slide show of Catskills history accompanied by live music, plus a speak-out session, where participants will make brief presentations of their own histories. A special treat this year is a three-hour bus tour, *Hotels of the Catskills*, narrated by Phil Brown, based on his books *Catskill Culture: A Mountain Rat's Memories of the Great Jewish Resort Area* and *In the Catskills: A Century of Jewish Life in 'The Mountains'*. It will allow attendees to trace the path of Catskill resorts, some still standing and others in ruins.

Now in its ninth year, the conference is one of the major activities of the Catskills Institute, a group of Catskills veterans who work to preserve the many important elements of Catskills culture. The Catskills Institute publishes the newsletter *In the Mountains*, runs a website <http://catskills.brown.edu>, coordinates research activities, and collects archives for its special collection at the American Jewish Historical Society.

Full conference fee is \$50 (members who join for \$25 pay only \$25). The *Hotels of the Catskills* bus tour (Saturday 2-5 PM) is \$20 additional. Preregistration for the conference is recommended. Registration forms are available on the website <http://catskills.brown.edu>. Optional hotel reservations may be made at Kutsher's at 800-431-1273 or 845-794-6000, or via their website www.kutshers.com. ☆

Book Review

by Barbara Krasner-Khait

Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Off-Line Genealogy for Kids. By Ira Wolfman. Workman Publishing Co., 2002. 228 pp. paperback. \$13.95. A companion web site at www.workman.com/familytree includes several forms and charts that may be downloaded and printed.

For many years, Ira Wolfman's first genealogy how-to for kids, *Do People Grow on Family Trees?* (Workman, 1991), stood out as a classic reference guide. Move over. His new book, billed as a completely revised and updated version and endorsed as *The Official Ellis Island Handbook*, deserves room on all public, school, and personal library shelves. Wolfman says it was a long time in the making and his hard work pays off. The book is comprised of eleven chapters, beginning with a foreword by genealogy Internet guru Cyndi Howells and the original foreword to the first edition by Alex Haley. Haley's intro is inspirational still and lets kids know the value and importance of family stories. Chapters cover: Ancestor Detectors at Work; Getting Started; It's All about...Us!; What's Your Name?; How We Got Here; Becoming a Citizen; The Great Record Hunt; Catching Your Ancestors with a Net; Where the Records Are; "My Story's a Little Different"; and Getting Connected. Appendices include a dictionary of American last names, correspondence log, abstract of citizenship papers, Freedom of Information Act, and Further Reading.

Like the introductions, the first chapter inspires with its range of success stories. Anecdotes give a comprehensive cross-section of backgrounds that readers could identify with; they whet the appetite. Wolfman also offers a web site as a companion to the book, essential for feeding kids' curiosity and hands-on experience. In addition, he's mindful of the possible curricular use of the book (having kid-tested it with a third grade class) with "In this chapter you will learn" boxes that begin each chapter.

Wolfman ably presents alternative family structures, so important to today's kids in and out of the classroom. He covers an array of genealogical applications such as school and Boy Scout projects. Readers will be encouraged to learn project management techniques through

recordkeeping systems and using the Internet. By advising them to start with their own stories, he gives them the opportunity to experience early success, inspiring them to dig deeper. Sample letters take the guesswork out of record and interview requests, although I would have liked to have seen more coverage of phone and e-mail communications, especially when personal visits are not possible.

Wolfman addresses not just the mass migration of 1880-1924 but also more recent immigration and the link of readers' families to American history. He also discusses internal migrations, a subject that's often overlooked. Of particular value is Chapter 10, "How My Story Is Different," a frequent lament.



The one weakness is the Further Reading section. Several books listed, including Ancestry's *The Source* and Bill Zimmerman's *How to Tape Instant Oral Histories*, have been updated and those new editions are not represented.

The book is comprehensive, understandable, and instructional. It could easily be used by a child as well as a teacher. At first glance, it may seem that it takes too long for the reader to get to

records and documentation, but kids need to first understand the framework for genealogical research and how to best organize themselves. Ample sidebars create visual and informational texture. While a beginner's guide, even the most experienced family historian can learn a thing or two.

The Jewish genealogist will certainly recognize and identify with Wolfman's personal examples as well as those he borrows from mavens Gary Mokotoff, Eileen Polakoff, and Miriam Weiner. For the Jewish genealogist of any age, *Climbing Your Family Tree* will make a great addition to your knowledge and book shelf. ☆

Barbara Krasner-Khait writes frequently for children's magazines, including Babaganewz, Calliope, Cobblestone, and Footsteps. She is also the author of Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors (Heritage Quest, 2001) and serves on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Records Indexing - Poland project.

New and Recent Publications

Of Jewish Interest

Benita Baker. "Discovering Roots: Businessman Stanley Diamond is changing the face of Jewish genealogy," in **The B'nai B'rith IJM**, Spring 2003, pp. 24-27+. A feature on Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, its founder Stanley Diamond, and the genetic research that started the project.

Charles E. Hoffman. **Red Shtetl: The Survival of a Jewish Town Under Soviet Communism**. 2002. American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee. 223 pp. hardcover. The only study ever made of how a particular shtetl, Shargorod, managed to hold on to its Jewish traditions long after the Iron Curtain closed it off to the world in 1917. Ironically, Shargorod's Jewish history only came to an end in the past few years, when the doors to immigration were opened after the collapse of the Soviet Union. To order a copy, contact mediaresources@jdc.org.

The Jews of the Middle East and North Africa in Modern Times. Edited by Reeva Spector Simon, Michael Menachem Laskier and Sara Reguer. 2003. Columbia University Press. 432 pp. \$57.50 hardcover, \$24.50 paperback. A reference volume on the social and cultural history of Sephardi/Mizrahi Jewry over the past two centuries. Part II is a country-by-country survey that covers Ottoman Turkey, Ottoman Balkans, The Turkish Republic, Syria and Lebanon, Eretz Yisrael/Palestine 1800-1948, Iraq, Iran and Afghanistan, Yemen, Egypt and the Sudan, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco.

Pittsburgh and Beyond: The Experience of the Jewish Community, A Guide to the National Council of Jewish Women Pittsburgh Section Oral History Collection. 2002. The collection comprises over 500 interviews that document the community and also provide a larger view of life in the 20th century. The guide is also available on Internet at www.library.pitt.edu/guides/archives/ncjw.pdf and includes revisions and additions made since the initial publication.

Walter Roth. **Looking Backward: True Stories from Chicago's Jewish Past**. 2003. Academy Chicago Publishers. 305 pp. \$27.95 hardcover. Illuminates the largely unknown characters and events that defined Jewish life in Chicago from the late 19th century to the end of World War II, exploring Jewish participation in art and industry, culture and progress, as well as examining the many challenges involved in making a life in Chicago.

Ronald Schechter. **Obstinate Hebrews: Representations of Jews in France, 1715-1815**. 2003. Univ. of California Press. 339 pp. \$60 hardcover. The Jews of 18th-century France represented less than one percent of the population, yet Enlightenment writers, revolutionaries and even Napoleon discussed the Jewish population at length.

Alfonso Toro. **The Carvajal Family: The Jews and the Inquisition in New Spain in the Sixteenth Century**. Adaptation (and translation) by Frances Hernández. 2002. Texas Western Press, The University of Texas at El Paso. 525 pp. \$50 hardcover. The original Spanish work describes the experiences of the Carvajals, a Spanish Jewish family, during the Inquisition in Mexico and is based on a variety of key sources, most importantly the records of the Holy Office in the General Archive in Mexico.

Of General Interest

Patricia Law Hatcher. **Locating Your Roots: Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records**. 2003. Betterway Books. 240 pp. \$21.99 paperback. A description of the process of identifying, finding and interpreting the most common types of land records.

Nancy Hendrickson. **Finding Your Roots Online**. 2003. Betterway Books. 240 pp. \$19.99 paperback. The author specializes in Internet genealogy and is webmaster of www.ancestornews.com.

Thomas Jay Kemp. **Virtual Roots 2.0: A Guide to Genealogy and Local History and the World Wide Web**. 2003. Scholarly Resources. 350 pp. \$20.97 paperback plus CD-ROM. A succinct guide that allows readers to pinpoint precisely all contact points for any web site.

Marjorie C. H. Renino. **The Guide to Genealogical Research for Westchester County**. 2003. Westchester County Historical Society. 300+ pp. \$45 (+ \$10 shipping) spiralbound. Order from WCHS, 2199 Saw Mill Road, Elmsford NY 10523. The second edition was issued in 1987.

Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman. **In Their Words: A Genealogist's Translation Guide to Polish, German, Latin and Russian Documents. Volume II: Russian**. 2002. Language & Lineage Press. 496 pp. \$30 (+ \$4 shipping) paperback. Includes over 88 Russian-

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Their Spirits Have Found a Home: New Collection Documents Jewish Life in Eastern Europe

by David A. Taylor

On October 30, 2002, at a ceremony in his office, Librarian of Congress James H. Billington announced the acquisition of the Aaron Ziegelman Foundation Collection. The collection includes over two thousand rare photographs, photographic negatives, motion pictures, letters, maps, oral histories, and other materials that richly document everyday life in the Jewish community of Luboml, Poland, prior to its obliteration during World War II. The collection was donated to the Library by its creator, Aaron Ziegelman, of New York City, the executive director of the foundation.

“The Jews of Luboml had dreamed of coming to America, a place they referred to as the golden land,” said Aaron Ziegelman. “Even though they never reached our shores, their spirits have now found a home at the Library of Congress.” Ziegelman said he and his wife were overwhelmed by the symbolism. “When I saw the official [instrument of gift] document signed by a boy from Luboml and Dr. Billington, who signed on behalf of the United States of America, so many emotions enveloped me,” he said.

According to Fred Wasserman, associate curator at The Jewish Museum in New York City (and curator of the exhibition **Remembering Luboml: Images of a Jewish Community**), the materials in the Ziegelman collection came from approximately one hundred families scattered over three continents. Typical of Jews who left many little towns in Poland between 1918 and the mid-1920s to seek better lives for themselves, these people emigrated from Luboml to the United States, Canada, and Latin America; others settled in Palestine before the state of Israel was created in 1948.

The materials in the Ziegelman collection provide a unique and detailed view of the traditions and other aspects of Jewish life in the market town or *shtetl* of Luboml (*Libivne* in Yiddish). Luboml, established in the 14th century, had one of the oldest Jewish communities in Poland, and is representative of other Eastern European *shtetls*. Located two hundred miles southeast of Warsaw, it is now part of Ukraine. Materials in the collection document, for example, local schools, businesses, recreational activities, religious life, holidays, and weddings.

Aaron Ziegelman was born in Luboml in 1928. When he was ten years old, he left Luboml with his mother

and sister and came to the United States, settling in New York City. Ziegelman attended college and became a successful real estate entrepreneur. Desiring to enrich his memories of the vibrant community of his childhood, and also to share the story of Luboml's Jewish community, Ziegelman organized a research project in 1994 that would engage archivists, anthropologists, and historians in the collection, preservation, and analysis of information about Jewish life in Luboml, obtained from survivors and other sources.

The creation of this documentary collection led, in turn, to the development of a major traveling exhibition, **Remembering Luboml: Images of a Jewish Community**; a book, **Luboml: The Memorial Book of a Vanished Shtetl**; and the documentary film, **Luboml: My Heart Remembers**.

According to Michael Grunberger, head of the Library of Congress's Hebraic Section, the Ziegelman collection “adds a remarkable dimension to the already rich Judaic collections in the Library of Congress. The collection is about how Jews lived before the Second World War, not how they died; it depicts Libivners not as victims but as human beings fully engaged in the business of living; and it serves as a window looking out onto a vanished world, providing us with a clear view of a time and place that is no more.”

Among those attending the acquisition ceremony on October 30 were Aaron Ziegelman and his wife Marjorie; the honorable Premyslaw Grudzinski, ambassador of the Republic of Poland; Jill Vexler and Fred Wasserman, director and curator, respectively, of the exhibition **Remembering Luboml: Images of a Jewish Community**; Eileen Douglas and Ron Steinman, producers of the film **Luboml: My Heart Remembers**; Peggy A. Bulger, director of the Library's American Folklife Center; Michael Grunberger, head of the Library's Hebraic Section; and David Taylor, coordinator of acquisitions for the American Folklife Center. During the ceremony, James Billington commended Aaron Ziegelman and his associates for having “kept alive a memory that others sought to destroy.”

That evening, the new, fifty-six-minute-long documentary film **Luboml: My Heart Remembers** was screened in the Library's Mary Pickford Theater. After the screen-

Their Spirits Have Found a Home continued

ing, Aaron Ziegelman, whose foundation supported the film's producers talked about the creation of the film.

Peggy Bulger praised Ziegelman and his colleagues for the outstanding work they have done on the Luboml project. She quoted New York congressman Jerrold Nadler, who described their work as "a project of passion and nobility, a project dedicated to the preservation of a world lost to us. It was a world of happiness and light. A world of families and children, of community and spirituality. It was the world of the Polish town of Luboml."

The Aaron Ziegelman Foundation Collection will reside at the Library's Archive of Folk Culture. "We are thrilled that Aaron Ziegelman has donated this wonderful collection to the Library," said Peggy Bulger. "It is an incredibly rich collection that will permit researchers to better understand myriad aspects of a Jewish community's culture as they existed before World War II." ☆

David A. Taylor is coordinator of acquisitions for the American Folklife Center. Gail Fineberg, editor of the Library of Congress Gazette, contributed to this article, which appeared originally in Folklife Center News, Winter 2003. The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 and placed in the Library of Congress to "preserve and present folklife" through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibitions, and training. The Center includes the Archive of Folk Culture, which was established in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world.

New and Recent Publications

(continued from page 24)

language documents and extracts from American and European sources, analyzed and translated; sections on Russian grammar, phonetics and spelling; information on locating records in America and Europe; maps showing Russia's changing borders and divisions; a vocabulary with over 4,000 entries; and a list of over 700 Christian and Jewish given names with equivalents in English, Latin, Lithuanian and Polish. Volume 1 in this series covers Polish-language documents. ☆

Notes from Here and There

(continued from page 18)

This web site was created by Peter C. Baldwin (University of Connecticut) and includes both essays and primary sources. Among the latter are:

Views of lower Manhattan, showing most of the developed portion of New York City at this time, and maps of the Fourth Ward itself: Ward Boundaries and Population Density, 1870; Panorama of Manhattan looking Southeast, 1866; Panorama looking Northeast, 1860s; Sanitary Map and Social Chart, 1865; Detail from Sanitary & Topographical Map, 1865; Detail from Dripps' Street Map, 1863.

<http://vm.uconn.edu/~pbaldwin/ward4p1.html>

Sanitary Map and Social Chart of the Fourth Ward of the City of New York

<http://vm.uconn.edu/~pbaldwin/sanmap50.html>

"Introductory Statement by the [Central] Council of the Citizens' Association" (1866)

<http://vm.uconn.edu/~pbaldwin/hygienei.html>

Excerpts from Report of the Council of Hygiene

<http://vm.uconn.edu/~pbaldwin/ward4p3.html>

Excerpts from "Report of the Fourth Sanitary Inspection District"

<http://vm.uconn.edu/~pbaldwin/hygiene.html>

Jacob Riis: How the Other Half Lives

A hypertext edition of this classic 1890 study of tenement life in New York City is available at www.cis.yale.edu/amstud/inforev/riis/title.html. The online version reproduces the full text and all the illustrations from the original print edition.

Steve Morse Web Sites

The homepage for Steve Morse's One-Step web site has moved. That's the page that contains the links to all of his individual One-Step tools: portals to the Ellis Island Database, census records and other functions. The new web address is www.stevemorse.org. ☆

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212-423-3200
www.TheJewishMuseum.org

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(between Park and Lexington Avenues)
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JGS members receive a 25% discount on admission and tours, and 10% on purchases. Tours include the tenement house, the Confino family apartment, and the neighborhood walking tour. Purchase tickets at the Visitor Center, 90 Orchard Street. *Free parking.*

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Visitor Center: Mon. to Sun., 11:00 AM - 5:30 PM
Check with the Museum for the tour schedule.



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That you might recount it to a
future generation, Psalms 48:14

למען תספרו לדור אחרון, תהילים מ"ה:14