

DOROT דורות

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Spring-Summer 2002

23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy—July 2003

It is not too early to make plans to attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. The conference will be held July 20–25, 2003, at the JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC.

The Conference will offer a wide range of significant topics covering:

- Source material and databases such as vital records, passenger arrival records, immigration and naturalization records
- Using the collections of the Library of Congress, National Archives, US Holocaust Memorial Museum, Family History Center libraries, and other repositories
- Accessing records in Eastern European archives
- Sephardic genealogy resources
- Technology
- Genetics
- Shtetl travel

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Toronto 2002: A Meeting Place 22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) presented an outstanding conference August 4-9 at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto. By all reports the week was a great success with varied programs and exhibits, excellent accommodations, professional audio-visual arrangements, high attention to details and good weather.



Members of the New York JGS at the Toronto Conference

Over 750 full-time registrants attended the six days of lectures, exhibits, films, meetings, meals and special events. Together with invited guests and day registrants, more than 1,000 individuals are estimated to have visited this amazing event.

The conference concluded with a banquet at which the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) presented achievement awards in four categories. Details on these awards are reported in the IAJGS article in this issue.

Information on purchasing tapes of most of conference sessions, including a list of available tapes, is available at the

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Acting Editor Steven W. Siegel
Layout & Design Maralyn Steeg
Contributing Writers

Debra Braverman Robert M. Kern
Rachel Fisher Barbara Krasner-Khait
Gloria Berkenstat Freund Paul Silverstone
Lucille Gudis Murray Stadtmauer
Miriam Weiner

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Address all correspondence to:

JGS, Inc.,
15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011
JGS Phone: 212-294-8326
E-mail info: info@jgsny.org
Web site: www.jgsny.org

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23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (continued from page 1)

- Jewish history and culture
- Lesser-known Jewish communities

The programs will be:

- Comprehensive – featuring talks on a wide array of high-interest topics, resources, geographical areas and historical periods presented by skillful, experienced, interesting speakers.
- Coordinated – talks will be organized within “strands” or themes so that conference attendees have ample opportunity to attend their choice of one or more sessions related to each major topic.
- Convenient – your research will be facilitated because the conference hotel is located only a short distance from the National Archives, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum, and the Library of Congress.
- Responsive – to the needs and interests of beginner, intermediate and advanced genealogists.
- Innovative – with presentations in several formats including lecture, hands-on demonstration in the computer lab, symposium panel, film, book and author talks, and “ask the expert” sessions which will be scheduled at various times throughout the day.

Each day, experts associated with the area archives and the US Immigration and Naturalization Service will present talks on research strategies and information sources of special interest to Jewish genealogists. In the first days of the conference, orientation sessions about the resources in each of the major repositories will be provided. And then, throughout the week, sessions will be provided at the conference hotel and at the major repositories about their specific collections and databases. Volunteers from JGSGW will be available on-site at each repository to help you use these materials.

The conference will also feature several overseas archivists delivering talks on a variety of geographic regions and genealogical topics. In addition to a large number of talks devoted to Ashkenazi interests, this year the conference will also include more talks of interest to those with Sephardic roots. Each large-group session will include time for interaction with the speaker to encourage questions and discussion.

Evening programming will be equally exciting, energizing and educational. The Opening Night session will feature a talk by John W. Carlin, Archivist of the United States. On Monday evening, the US Holocaust Memorial Museum will host a reception and tour for conference attendees only. Other highlights include films of genealogical interest, art exhibits, and displays of winning entries in a Jewish Education Contest, “From Generation to Generation.”

On Thursday evening, a gala banquet will culminate a memorable week. The guest speaker will be Hadassah Freilich Lieberman,

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.

wife of Senator Joseph Lieberman. Mrs. Lieberman, the daughter of Holocaust survivors, will provide a firsthand account of her family's experiences in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust and as immigrants starting a new life in America. Her father, who was a rabbi, survived a slave labor camp; her mother survived Dachau and Auschwitz. The family fled Eastern Europe in 1950, settling in Massachusetts where her father continued his role as a community rabbi.

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington invites proposals from potential speakers for the conference. Deadline for submission of proposals is December 31, 2002. Because of the extensive archival resources and tourist attractions in the Washington area, record attendance is expected. It is therefore important for attendees and speakers to plan early.

Presentation proposals must include the following six sections. If you submit more than one proposal, please use a separate page for each submission.

- Name, title, organizational affiliation, address, telephone, and e-mail address for each presenter
- Presentation title
- 100-word description of the presentation to be used in the conference program syllabus, CD-ROM and conference website
- 50 to 100 word bio of the speaker to be used in the conference program syllabus, CD-ROM and conference website
- A more extensive description, up to 500 words, describing the content of the presentation, identifying whether the presentation is geared to beginner or intermediate/advanced genealogists, and a description


of the speaker's prior lecture experience, with emphasis on Jewish genealogy. This information will assist the Program Committee to decide on the merits of the presentation.

- Audio-video and/or computer equipment required for the presentation

The presenters selected will receive free registration at the conference. All presenters invited to the conference must agree to submit a presentation summary, 1 to 4 pages in length (special programs may require additional material). Upon acceptance of the proposal, a date will be specified for submitting the presentation summary. The summary materials will be included in the conference syllabus and CD-ROM as resource for conference attendees. Presentations will also be professionally tape-recorded.

Each presentation will be scheduled for a one-hour time slot followed by a 15-minute question-and-answer period (75 minutes total time). The Program Committee will attempt to honor requests to schedule presentations on a date and time convenient to the presenter, but they cannot guarantee a specific schedule.

Proposals should be sent to Sheri Meisel, Conference Co-Chair, at smeisel@umd.edu or 7207 Garland Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912. It is preferred that e-mail submissions be formatted in Microsoft Word. The Program Committee will notify those submitting proposals of a decision by February 15, 2003.

For more information, please visit the conference website at www.jewishgen.org/dc2003. 

Toronto 2002: A Meeting Place

(continued from page 1)

JGS Toronto website www.jgstoronto.ca. Or call 905-305-8706 and request an order form to be mailed to you. Orders are processed by Metro Media Industries, 55 Torbay Road, Unit 14, Markham, Ontario L3R 1G7, Canada. Individual tapes are \$7. Any eight tapes with a storage album are \$55. Shipping: first tape \$2, each added tape \$1, maximum \$8. (All prices are US\$.)

The 650-page conference syllabus is also available for sale. It is a great reference source containing summaries of all the presentations, working papers, guides to Canadian genealogy and sources, lists of conference

attendees and loads of other information. It may be purchased at the website www.jgstoronto.ca or by mail to Harold Nissenthall, 2002 IAJGS Conference Planning Committee, 29 Holm Crescent, Thornhill, Ontario L3T 5M4, Canada or fax to 905-881-2134. Syllabus price is \$35 (US) shipped; each shipment includes a conference tote bag and a lapel pin. Payment is by check or VISA only. No deliveries to postal mail boxes.

The following Conference recollections were prepared by several JGS-NY members.

Edith Ewenstein-

Congratulations to the JGS of Canada (Toronto) for their hosting of the very successful 22nd IAJGS Conference. There is a great deal to say about the conference, but in this article I will touch just briefly on a few highlights. The hotel was comfortable and security was a continuous presence. At the Opening Session we were welcomed and greeted by people representing local, national and international organizations and even countries. Excellent graphics included the diverse logos of many Jewish Genealogical Societies.

I was especially interested in attending sessions of speakers I had not previously heard, and was rewarded with some very fine presentations by Canadians and others. Doing a bit of volunteering for the conference, I also had the pleasure of introducing two speakers. One was Ralph Yodaiken MD, whose own life has been truly fascinating. A pathologist by training, he also has worked for the U.S. government and as adjunct professor in Uniformed Health Sciences University at George Washington University Medical School. Years earlier he was a member of Irgun Zvai Leumi, helping with the escape of Irgun commanders from a British detention camp in Kenya. While chatting with him I suggested he write his autobiography, and he told me he is already working on it. I expect it will make a great read. The topic for his presentation was "Anti-Jew: How far back do we need to go?" The answer is back to the very beginning, that is, our departure from Egypt. Although over the centuries anti-Jewish sentiment and the often ugly and deadly accompanying actions of people and governments have sometimes diminished, it has never totally ended.

Michael Steinore's talk on the "Details of Czarist Decrees on Jews" was an excellent lesson in history as well as genealogy. In Czarist Russia Jews were treated in some ways as both citizens and aliens. They always were subject to certain restrictions. For instance, they were prohibited from living in certain areas and from specific types of work. They also were forced to carry a disproportionate burden with regard to taxes and military service. Jewish boys as young as twelve were drafted for a period of 25 years, during which time they were targeted for "assimilation," which really was an attempt to convert them to Christianity. Conversion was the goal of the Czars throughout the 19th century. I've been told that my own great-grandfather changed his name to avoid the Czar's army, so this topic held personal interest for me. Name changes and frequent moves were efforts to avoid this and retain their Judaism.

"Translating Yiddish to English" was the subject of Shirley Kumove's presentation, and she delivered it with both humor and insight. Although born in Toronto, her first language is Yiddish. Some of the expressions she used in her talk are familiar to many of us, but her explanation of their origin and intent was illuminating and fun. She has authored several books including collections of Yiddish folk sayings and also has translated works of Yiddish poets.

Toronto is a lovely, lively city and I tried to capture some of it with a visit to the Royal Ontario Museum which is a gem, and a few other brief ventures away from the conference and hotel. The Museum's special exhibit of treasures from Sanxingdui in the Chinese province of Sichuan, uncovered after 3,000 years, was magnificent. Even the weather was delightful and we New Yorkers were lucky to have missed another heat wave in our own city.

Paul Silverstone-

Following a reception, the Opening Session featured the Consul-General of Israel who made a sincere pitch for the 2004 Conference to be held in Jerusalem. In view of the situation today in Israel, it is to be hoped that the present troubles will have diminished by that time. The Polish Consul-General also welcomed the conferees.

The introduction of Jewish Vital Records from Quebec by Ruth and Stanley Diamond was of special interest as the present law of Quebec requires the closing of all vital records since 1900. In 1942 a Mr. Drouin drove around the province microfilming records which he then made available to all until his death in the 1970s. The microfilms were forgotten but fortunately have been rediscovered. Ruth Diamond has extracted the Jewish records. Through JGS of Montreal, these are now indexed and have been combined with some other synagogue and undertaker records, and available for a fee. A copy of the index was available in Toronto for those interested in ordering copies of particular records.

I attended the slide show by Alex Oldfield on Jewish Heritage in Poland. His photographs of former and present Jewish sites in Poland today evoked the tragedy that took place there.

The talk by Marco Carynyk, "Deadly Triangle: Ukrainians, Jews & Poles in the Summer of 1941," was sparsely attended and not well presented. But the material was riveting as Dr. Carynyk read quotations by those present at the awful events in Zolochiv

(Zloczow) in July 1941. Hundreds of people were killed by the Soviet secret police before they evacuated the town, and then more by local people and Germans after the occupation. It was most interesting to hear how Jewish, Polish, Ukrainian and German witnesses of the events saw different things happening.

In her talk on "Jewish Life in the Pioneer Upper Midwest," Susan Kaufman Tavenner portrayed a grim picture of life on the prairies for those who took part. Living in sod huts, isolated from neighbors and other Jews, settlers stuck it out for some years but eventually went to towns.

Very interesting was the talk by Gayle Riley on "Magnate Landowners' Records of Poland." It is little known that some very comprehensive records of the magnate landowners still exist and go back as far as the 18th century. She described the records of the Tarnowski family covering the period from 1310 to 1951, occupying almost 400 feet of shelf space. The records are in handwritten Polish but many have been indexed. These landowners, usually noble families, owned towns and villages as well as castles, and many of the people living there were Jews.

At the closing banquet, the featured speaker was the well-known writer and educator Dr. Irving Abella, who spoke about the lack of interest in studying early Jewish roots in Canada. He noted that the first Jews in Canada had arrived very early, in the 18th century, but their stories were not well-known even in the Jewish community. He stressed the greater unity of the Jewish community in Canada as compared with that of the United States and the lower rate of inter-marriage. The banquet was quite successful and the kosher meal was fine. It was announced that the 2005 Conference would be held in Las Vegas, not I presume a great source for research! It would be interesting to hold a conference in Warsaw.

Sharlene Kranz described resources to be available in Washington at next year's conference. There is to be a special after-hours tour of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum for attendees.

It seemed that talks on using the Internet and various websites were particularly well attended. The art and photographic exhibits were worth seeing. The organizers are to be commended for all their efforts in producing a well-run and varied conference.

Rachel Fisher-

I attended the Toronto conference from Monday to Wednesday, August 5-7. In my experience the conference was beautifully organized and in a convenient, pleasant setting. Several lectures and events stood out for me.

Miriam Weiner's talk on the Eastern European Archival Database of the Routes to Roots website www.rtrfoundation.org demonstrated that the site offers much more for genealogists than a database. The database itself, which provides a listing of documents housed in Eastern European archives, by town, is a remarkable innovation and will speed many a genealogical search. But the website also offers links to related sites, such as map sites and the websites of Eastern European archives. Some of these sites were new to me and will provide not only help with my own research, but links we can place on the public computers at the Center for Jewish History. Ms. Weiner also explained the process behind the creation of the database. Understanding how the database was created allows one to use it to fuller effect.

Tuesday's series of lectures by esteemed professors of Polish Jewish history was overwhelmingly filled with information. While the professors could not be accused of scintillating presentation styles, their knowledge of the sweep of Polish Jewish history, and of the everyday lives of Jews in Poland during different periods, was impressive. Though I had to miss the finale of the series (a panel discussion), due to my own presentation on the Center for Jewish History, I appreciated the background knowledge provided by the lectures, which the practice of genealogy often sorely lacks.

I attended a moving presentation on "Life in Old Letters: Family, Separation, and Translation," by translator Kenneth Kronenberg. Mr. Kronenberg shared a series of letters he had translated from German—letters so voluminous it took him years to translate them. The letters consisted mainly of exchanges between a mother in Germany and daughter in Istanbul, who had traveled there to work as her family could no longer support her. The letters provide a bounty of genealogical information not only about the immediate family of the correspondents, but also about their friends and neighbors, about whom they gossiped with one another. Mr. Kronenberg suggested that genealogists find a way of sharing genealogical information about other people's families embedded in old family letters. Beyond the genealogy in the letters one finds, of course, the personalities. Hearing excerpts of the letters, one

could imagine the dreams and longings of the women who wrote them, and begin to understand the sensibilities of people who lived long ago. This lecture reminded me of why genealogy is worthwhile.

On a professional note, a private meeting was held of professionals who serve Jewish genealogists. Staff from the American Jewish Archives, the Center for Jewish History, the Leo Baeck Institute, JewishGen, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and the National Library of Canada attended. We enjoyed a fruitful discussion of how to reduce duplication, educate one another about our work, and answer reference inquiries more efficiently and effectively. The group plans to follow up with future meetings and an e-mail discussion list.

My congratulations to the conference organizers, whom I hope are now enjoying well-deserved vacations!

Miriam Weiner-

Last November program chair Peter Jassem contacted me and asked for recommendations for speakers. I suggested Teresa Swiebocka from the Auschwitz Museum, since I could not recall the JGS conferences ever having anyone from the concentration camp archives. She speaks fluent English and did two different lectures. I introduced her at both of them. The first program dealt with the actual documents in the archives, and the second lecture was on the background, history and future prognosis of the Museum. Both were very interesting even though the focus was different. I think I am somewhat knowledgeable about Holocaust documents and I have worked in the Auschwitz Archives a few times. But I was really astounded at how much more this archives has accumulated since I was last there seven to eight years ago. Anyone who had family in Eastern Europe during the Holocaust period should request a search of the Auschwitz Archives. The transports included people from many countries. There is extensive documentation of arrivals; lists of those who were transported elsewhere from Auschwitz; those who were in the camp hospitals; etc. I strongly recommend that Teresa be invited back to subsequent conferences. She is extremely professional and knowledgeable.

Another person I recommended for this conference was Olga Muzychuk, director of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Kiev. Olga is fluent in English and is the only archive director in Ukraine that I know of who speaks fluent enough English to be without a translator even during question-and-answer periods after lectures. (I clarified a couple of long-winded questions.) Olga did a slide presentation which included a brief overview of the archival system and structure. She then showed various archival documents and discussed indexing and computerization of records at her archives. She also participated in an "Ask the Expert" breakfast and was speaker at the Ukraine SIG luncheon attended by about 100 people. Olga was available from Saturday through Friday, answering questions from people who stopped her all over the hotel. She also is very personable and people really seemed to like her.

I also introduced Hal Bookbinder at his lecture, which was a different format from usual. He presented various stumbling blocks and "dead ends" in research and then asked for input from the audience. It worked very well because of the selection of questions and Hal's ability to cut people off in a nice way, but firmly. I learned quite a bit at this program because of the innovative approaches described by the participating audience members.

I gave two lectures, both new PowerPoint presentations. The first one, with sound effects (clip-clop of horses, sounds of farm animals along the highways, etc.), dealt with Archive Research in Ukraine and Town Visits. The second lecture was a PowerPoint presentation for 20 minutes and then a live Internet hook-up and a demo of the my website.

On a general note, I thought the conference was run quite well, the hotel was good and the programming was excellent. Audio-visual arrangements for speakers were handled in a professional manner by Harold Nissenthal, who did an incredible job. And the weather was good. ☆

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

Board Elections

At its annual meeting in Toronto on August 7, the following were elected to fill open positions on the IAJGS Board of Directors: Michael Brenner (Las Vegas), Judy Frazin (Chicago), Anthony Joseph (Birmingham, UK), Martha Lev-Zion (Negev, Israel), Daniel Schlyter (Salt Lake City), and Arnie Tolkin (Palm Beach Gardens). The directors also include Hal Bookbinder (Los Angeles), president; Anne Feder Lee (Honolulu), vice president; Joel Spector (Cherry Hill, NJ), secretary; Michael Posnick (Minneapolis), treasurer; Howard Margol (Atlanta), past president.

Stern Awards

The IAJGS collects voluntary donations from its members for the specific purpose of making focused awards to those who support our avocation. These are designated the Stern Awards in continuing recognition of the late Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, who contributed so much to Jewish genealogy. At the annual meeting, representatives approved the recommendation of the IAJGS Board that a \$2,000 award be made to the American Jewish Archives–Jacob Rader Marcus Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. This gift will assist in their efforts to digitize Rabbi Stern's book, **First American Jewish Families, 1654-1988**; create an updated guide to such genealogical items at the AJA as family trees, synagogue records, orphanage records, etc., and digitize and index the United Jewish Cemetery Plot Books and the Weil Funeral Home records, and make them available online in a searchable database.

Achievement Awards

Annually since 1998, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) has issued achievement awards to recognize outstanding individual and organizational contributions to Jewish Genealogy. Potential awardees are nominated by one or more of the 70+ IAJGS member societies and determined by a committee appointed by the IAJGS Board of Directors. This year's committee consisted of Ellen Shindelman, Past President, JGS of Greater Washington; Howard Margol, Past President, IAJGS; and Daniel Schlyter, IAJGS Board Member. The awards were presented by Howard Margol during the Banquet held in conjunction with the 22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Toronto, Canada, August 8, 2002.

- Lifetime Achievement Award – presented to Stanley Diamond in recognition of his distinguished service in the cause of Jewish genealogical research. His

negotiating skills and unselfish approach to capturing and sharing the indexing of Jewish records of Poland have made these widely accessible for the benefit of all. His creative molding of genealogical and genetic research techniques has added dimension to the field of Jewish genealogy. As founder and President of the JGS-Montreal and as a prolific writer and lecturer, he has motivated countless people to research their Jewish ancestry.

- Outstanding Contribution Award – presented to JewishGen in recognition of the Yizkor Book Project. The information on Jewish communities in Eastern Europe found in Yizkor books is uniquely valuable for Jewish genealogists. However, often written in Yiddish or Hebrew, many find their contents inaccessible. Project volunteers have translated portions of over 500 Yizkor books and other documents, making these valuable resources available to many more genealogists. Susan King, President of JewishGen, and Joyce Field, Yizkor Book Project Manager, accepted the award.
- Outstanding Project Award – presented to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Ottawa, Canada, in recognition of its Chernivtsi Cemetery Project. A three-person team traveled from Canada to the Ukraine, photographing 55,000 gravestones and copying over 1,800 pages of cemetery registers. This project preserves and makes available data that brings generations of ancestors to life, and provides an invaluable tool for serious research. Hymie Reichstein, President of the JGS of Ottawa, accepted the award.
- Outstanding Publication Award – presented to the Jewish Genealogical Society, Los Angeles, in recognition of its quarterly publication, **RootsKey**. The quality and scope of its articles demonstrate the highest standards of content and a professional level of presentation and editing. Using a clean and uncluttered format, **RootsKey** provides numerous original scholarly research articles in each issue and a wide array of news items on worldwide Jewish genealogical activities and resources. Hal Bookbinder, IAJGS President and a board member of JGS, Los Angeles, accepted the award.

For more information about the IAJGS, please consult its website www.IAJGS.org. The Jewish Genealogy Yearbook 2002 is now available online at this website. ☆

JGS New York Programs: 2002/2003

September 18:

"What's New at the Family History Center?" – Gloria Berkenstat Freund

A review of the resources at the New York Family History Center and what is newly available for Jewish genealogists through the Family History Center.

October 6:

"The Search for Family History Through Videotape Interviewing: How Finding Family Stories Can Heal" – Kate Wenner, novelist and former ABC 20/20 television producer

The author's personal story of uncovering family truths, a discussion of interviewing techniques, and excerpts of the documentary film of the speaker's intimate and emotional interviews with her father. This program is part of the annual Family History Fair sponsored by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, held at the City University of New York Graduate Center. JGS exhibits at and supports the Fair.

October 24 and November 7:

"Researching Your Family History" – Introductory course co-sponsored by JGS and the 92nd Street YMYWHA, taught by Linda Cantor and Lucille Gudis.

November 3:

JGS of New York 25th Anniversary Brunch – at the Sutton Place Synagogue – Miriam Weiner, guest speaker

November 24:

"What's New at the New York City Municipal Archives? What Can We Look Forward to in the Future?" – Estelle M. Guzik

December 29:

"JewishGen Now and Into the Future" – Susan King, founder and president of JewishGen. Annual election of JGS Executive Council members and officers precedes the program.

January 19:

"Conserving Documents, Photographs and Other Papers of Importance" – Stanley Bergman, Preservation Librarian at YIVO

February 16:

"Jewish Genealogical Databases, JewishGen Yizkor Book Project, and Other Tools for the Jewish Family History Researcher" – Joyce Field, JewishGen Vice President

March 12:

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

March 16:

"Assimilation in the World of our Pre-World War II Ancestors" – Julian Bussgang

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.

May 18 and June 15:

Programs to be announced

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 and Regional Events

- National Genealogical Society Conference in the States – Pittsburgh, PA – May 28-31, 2003. NGS's 100th anniversary conference, hosted by the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. www.eshow2000.com/ngs or www.ngsgenealogy.org
- "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

Archival Guides to Documentary Sources of Jewish Interest in the Former Soviet Union

by Debra Braverman

Project Judaica was established in 1991 as a joint venture by the Jewish Theological Seminary of America (JTS), the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and the Russian State University for the Humanities in Moscow as a program in Jewish studies and archival research. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, it became clear just how great the need was for such a program. Because Jewish studies had not been a part of Russian academia for several generations, there was a critical lack of Jewish academic and intellectual leadership. Underscoring this need was the fact that such scholarly resources as library facilities and textbooks were either minimal and outdated or nonexistent.

The principal goals of Project Judaica since its founding have been to train a generation of indigenous Russian scholars of Judaica, reestablish Jewish studies as a legitimate area of university study, foster the revival of Jewish life in Russia and discover and catalog Jewish-related materials held in FSU archives. The Jewish Archival Survey (JAS) was established and developed in order to inventory Judaica in Russian, Byelorussian and Ukrainian archives.

Millions of pages of materials relating to European Jewry and the Holocaust have been secreted in archival repositories throughout the FSU. As Project Judaica enters its second decade of existence, the JAS continues to work towards the objective of locating and describing all of these archival collections related to Jewish history and culture, in order to increase accessibility to scholars and researchers. This monumental research project has already resulted in the publication of three archival guides. Although two of these three guides are in Russian, they all contain descriptions of valuable resources of which the Jewish family researcher should be aware.

A number of different methods were used to collect the material. At times, an agreement was signed with a specific archive and its staff would undertake the work as a project for which the archive was paid. Other times, an agreement would be made with an individual staff archivist, who would work on behalf of the JAS in the archive in her/his spare time. Occasionally, if neither of these approaches was feasible, an outside archivist was hired to examine the holdings of the archive. An exception to this was in Belarus; since their archival system is centralized, an agreement was reached with the Ministry of Archives, which oversees all the archives in the country.

Because there is so much material of interest held in the archives of the FSU, the archivists tend to rely on inventories and other finding aids. Much of the guides' contents are descriptive, since it was impossible to examine very document held in every file of every collection. The exception to this is the Special Archive (described below), for which no inventories exist.

The first guide, **Documentary Sources on Jewish History in the Archives of the CIS and the Baltic States – Preliminary List of Collections**, compiled by Dmitri A. Elyashevich, was published in Russian in 1994. The book lists 938 collections held in 92 archives situated in 61 cities of the FSU. These collections include private papers of individuals as well as records of Jewish institutions and organizations. There are geographic, subject and name indexes. This guide is out of print but can be consulted at the JTS library (call number DS135.R9E47 1994 Reference).

The second guide to be published, **Jewish Documentary Sources in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus: A Preliminary List**, edited by Dorit Sallis and Marek Web, came out in 1996. This English and transliterated Russian guide lists over 1,000 archival collections relating to the history and culture of Jews in these three countries. One example is collection 185, Elisavetgrad Main Synagogue records, 1844–1915, held in the State Archives of Kirovograd (Ukraine) Province. This work can also be seen at the JTS Library (call number CD1711.J48 1996 Reference).

These first two volumes, as preliminary listings, do not contain the detailed descriptions of either the third published volume or those yet to be compiled and/or published. **Jewish Documentary Sources in Moscow Archives**, edited by Mark Kupovetsky, Evgenii Starostin and Marek Web, was published in Russian in 1997. There is a Table of Contents and an Introduction in English. The Introduction states that these archives “contain unique collections of documents on Jewish history and culture from the Middle Ages to the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. These include materials pertaining to Russian and Soviet Jewry, the modern history of European Jewry, the Holocaust and Soviet-Israeli relations.” Files of prominent figures and such organizations as **Poale Zion** are included. A general history of the organization is given as well as the nature of the holdings. An example is the records of the Jewish Section of the Communist Party of Lithuania and Byelorussia, held in the State Archives of the Russian

Federation. The collection includes correspondence, minutes of meetings and conference materials; some of the collection is in Yiddish. The central state archives as well as institutional and municipal archives are included. This guide can be consulted at the JTS Library (call number DS135.R9D624 1997 Reference).

The next guide is currently being prepared for publication by the end of 2002. **Jewish Documentary Resources in the Archives of Belarus**, which will be published both in Russian and English, is edited by Mark Kupovetsky, Marek Web and Eduard Savitsky. It describes more than 1,100 collections in 32 repositories throughout the Republic of Belarus. Many of the records relate to pre-war Jewish communities in Byelorussia destroyed in the Holocaust. Approximately 20% of the collections relate directly to the Holocaust. These include records of Jewish participation in Soviet-sponsored partisan brigades as well as Soviet investigatory commissions on wartime collaboration with the Nazis, including anti-Jewish activities. This volume is the result of six years of cooperative effort between the JAS and the Belarus Archival Administration.

Jewish Documentary Sources in the "Trophy Collections" of the Special Archive (Osobyi Arkhiv) is in the editorial stage with publication anticipated in 2003. This guide concerns the Jewish collections held in the "Special Archive" in Moscow, whose very existence was concealed until the end of the Soviet Union. This repository contains the "trophy collections" looted by the Nazis and seized by the Soviet Army in Germany at the end of World War II. The "Special Archive" includes more than 100 collections of Jewish communities and organizations from France, Germany, Austria, Holland, Croatia, Greece and other European countries, from before the Second World War. Since the holdings came from Nazi archives within Germany, there are no Russian records.

Access to this archive has always been tightly controlled. Some of the collections were catalogued by Project Judaica staff and students, since the staff of the Special Archive had no knowledge of Yiddish and Hebrew. This is a unique and extraordinary collection of Jewish historical documentation whose contents will soon be accessible after being held in secret for almost 50 years.

During this past year, the JAS work in the archives of St. Petersburg and the Russian provinces was completed.

Because of the large number of collections amassed, there are now two volumes planned: one for St. Petersburg describing 500 collections and the second for the Russian provinces, with 1,000 collections. The manuscripts of these two guides are in the editorial stage, with an expected publication date of 2004.

Work is also proceeding on archival guides to collections in Ukraine. Over 1,500 collections have been described and stored in the JAS database to date. The JAS archivists have estimated that there is a total of 10,000 collections of Jewish interest in Ukrainian archives, which will necessitate the publication of a multi-volume series over a period of years. The first volume in this series will be on the Kiev oblast, with publication projected for 2004. Additional volumes will be on Vohlyn, Podolia, eastern Ukraine (including Karkov), southern Ukraine (including Odessa) and western Ukraine. JAS work in Ukraine, which holds the largest number of Jewish and Holocaust-related collections, will continue for several additional years.

Project Judaica, including the Jewish Archival Survey, is an entirely grant-funded organization. Several funders, such as the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany (Claims Conference), the Nazi Persecutee Relief Fund and the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, have specifically earmarked their donations for JAS work with Holocaust-era records. Its work in surveying and publishing guides to Holocaust-era collections held in the archives of the FSU is an important part of the Survey's overall mission.

Although the first guide published is out of print, the other two guides which have already been published can be purchased from JTS Press, 212-678-8031. Further information about Project Judaica is available on the website www.jtsa.edu/schools/pj.

These inventories have become possible only since the dissolution of the Soviet Union, with the opening up of archives, especially those containing records of Jewish interest, to the public. Although these are different types of records than the vital records that genealogical researchers more commonly work with, such holdings relating to Jewish life both in Tsarist and Soviet Russia can help to give a more complete picture of our ancestors' and relatives' lives and times.

Debra Braverman is Assistant Director of Project Judaica and a past member of the JGS Executive Council. ☆

What's in a Name: Spelling of Names in a Search for Family

by Gloria Berkenstat Freund

It started with a childhood memory of my parents visiting my father's cousins Michal and Yachet Seifert in Toronto. My sister and I never accompanied them on these visits because it was summer and we stayed in our summer bungalow in the Shawangunk Mountains of New York to escape the threat of polio.

Starting in the middle 1960s, my husband Larry and I began to travel to Toronto each year to visit his Canadian relatives. I always thought about looking for Michal and Yachet. But I hadn't been bitten by the genealogy bug as yet, so I never acted on these thoughts. Ten years ago when family history research became an important part of my life, I looked up the name in the Toronto phone book, but there were no listings. This spring I was going through my father's 1939 address book, the one he brought to America from his birthplace, Brzeznicza, Poland. I found that he had written the name and address "M. Seifert, 623A College St, Apt. 1, Toronto, Canada" on the last page. I also found an envelope in my late father's papers for a New Year's card from "Mr. and Mrs. M. Bernholtz" of Toronto. As I prepared to attend the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Toronto, I recorded these names and addresses in my Toronto notebook.

Then I received an e-mail from Rhoda Miller of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island, informing me that it was possible to do an on-line search of the Canadian 1925-1935 passenger list index at the National Archives of Canada website www.archives.ca/o2/02011802_e.html. Rhoda had written that the site might be of limited value because of the narrow range of years indexed. I was lucky. Michal was in the index and, because of a feature that allows for alternate spellings, I found him even though the surname was spelled Zeffert, not Seifert. From the index I learned that in 1927 at age 24, Michal, born in Poland, had sailed on the Metagama to St. John, New Brunswick. The index also gave me the reel number with the volume and page of the passenger ship manifest.

In August, I arrived in Toronto a few days before the Summer Conference, determined to find Michal, or more likely his descendants.

I headed to the Toronto Reference Library to do a search of the Toronto city directories and telephone directories. In the 1952 city directory, I found a Max (not Michal) Seifert living at 623A College St. In the reverse section of the city directory (where I could find who lived at a given address), living at 623 College Street was Max

Bernholtz and at 623A Mrs. Rose Farshin. In 1949, Mrs. Sarah Seifert, "draper Paradise Waist," was living at 623A. Max Seifert was not listed after 1959.

Tucked into a pocket of our Conference Syllabus was a pamphlet, *The Jewish Traveller's Guide to the City of Toronto*, and in it was a listing of the ten Jewish cemeteries serving Toronto. I knew that the Dawes Road Cemetery is one of the older ones. I called its cemetery office first and asked if they had a listing of a grave for a Max or Michal Seifert. They did and I was told that his wife Sarah was buried next to him. I asked for the name of the person who was listed as the contact person and was told that it was Morris Farshin. There was no listing for Morris Farshin in the Toronto telephone directory. While I was attending SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings at the Conference, Larry took the subway and bus to the Dawes Road Cemetery. The office directed him to the Chenstochover Aid Society section. There, in the same area, he found the graves of Max/Michel (not Michal) Seifert (who died in 1961) and his wife Sarah. Adjacent to their graves were the graves for Rose Farshin and several members of the Bernholtz family: Sarah, Yetta (Yachet), Max (Yachet's husband), Yeshia Gershen, Fanny, Morris and Shaindel. Larry returned to the office, asked for the name of the person now to be contacted about the Farshin and Bernholtz graves, and was given the name and phone number of Beverly Farshin Pancer.

Descendants of Yeshia Gershen Bernholtz

- 1 Yeshia Gershen Bernholtz 1860- 1938
+ Shaindel Unknown
- 2 Sarah Bernholtz 1908 - 1987
+ Michel Seifert 1902 - 1961
- 2 Rose Bernholtz 1884 - 1963
+ Morris Farshin
- 3 Beverly Farshin
+ Irving Pancer
- 2 Moishe Yitzhak (Morris) Bernholtz 1892 - 1943
+ Feiga 1894 - 1972
- 3 Sarah Bernholtz 1921 - 1921
- 2 Abraham Mattithiah (Max) Bernholtz 1885 - 1959
+ Yachet (Yetta) Seifert 1892 - 1960
- 3 Samuel Bernholtz
- 2 David Bernholtz

When Larry returned to the Conference hotel and gave me the news, I ran up to our room to call Beverly. She wasn't home and I left a message explaining that I was

looking for information about Max Seifert, using the name for Michal that appeared in the city directories. She returned my call and said that she had gotten chills when she heard my message. She knew Max as Uncle Michel. He was her favorite uncle and because he and her Aunt Sarah had no children, she was like a daughter to him. Sarah's family name was Bernholtz. Yachet Seifert was Uncle Michel's sister and Beverly's aunt. Yachet had married Max Bernholtz, her Aunt Sarah's brother. Beverly gave me the telephone number for Yachet's son, Sam. I called him and learned that the Bernholtz family originated in Czestochowa, a Polish city with many connections for my father's Berkenstat family. This was on our last day in Toronto, so I was unable to visit with my newfound cousins.

As is often the case, I knew more about the family than did either Beverly or Sam. We are still trying to establish exactly how we all connect. I know that Michal and Yachet were my father's cousins, but I don't yet know the details of that relationship. The earliest Zajfert/Seifert on my family tree is Malka Buchman Zajfert, my great-grandmother's sister born in 1834 in Brzeznicza, Poland, who married Szlama Zajfert in 1854.

Descendants of Icek Zajfert

- 1 Icek Zajfert
 - + Laie Unknown
- 2 Szlama Zajfert b: 1819 in Brzeznicza
 - + Bluma Frayman b: 1819 in Nowa Brzeznicza
d: Nov 1853 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Wolek Zajfert b: 18 Sep 1835 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Laia Zajfert b: 20 Dec 1837 in Brzeznicza
d: 17 Oct 1838 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Icek Berek Zajfert b: 1839 in Brzeznicza
d: 14 Jul 1840 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Haym Mosiek Zajfert b: 1840 in Brzeznicza
d: 4 Dec 1840 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Haja Sora Zajfert b: 1841
- 3 Ides Zajfert b: 15 Nov 1844 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Herszlik Zajfert b: 17 Sep 1847 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Siejwe? Zajfert b: 2 Dec 1850 in Brzeznicza
d: 22 Dec 1851 in Brzeznicza
- 3 Gnendla Zajfert b: 14 Sep 1853 in Brzeznicza
d: 16 Feb 1854 in Brzeznicza
- *2nd Wife of Szlama Zajfert:
 - + Malke Buchman b: 28 Aug 1834 in Brzeznicza
 - 3 Ruchla Zajfert b: 8 Dec 1854
 - 3 Zelda Zajfert b: 4 Jan 1859
 - 3 Binem Zajfert b: 6 Sep 1862
 - 3 Laja Zajfert b: 26 Aug 1864

While I was busy with lectures on another day, Larry took the subway to the North York Library to look at the passenger ship list for Michal Seifert. On that manifest, Michal gave the name of his brother Icek Zafert, living at 50 Robert Street in Toronto, as his "destination" in Canada, and the name of his mother Frajdla Zajfert, living in Przedborz, Poland, as his "nearest relative in the country from which you came." Przedborz was given as his place of birth. From Michal's headstone, I learned that his father was named Simcha Binem.

Descendants of Simcha Binem Seifert

- 1 Simcha Binem Seifert
 - + Frajdla Unknown
- 2 Michal Seifert 1902 - 1961
 - + Sarah Bernholtz 1908 - 1987
- 2 Yachet (Yetta) Seifert 1892 - 1960
 - + Abraham Mattithiah (Max) Bernholtz 1885 - 1959
- 3 Samuel Bernholtz
- 2 Icek Seifert

Now that I have come forward in time in my search for Michal and Yachet, I have to return to Toronto to meet Beverly and Sam. I have to go backward in time, back to Polish records to find the ancestors that connect us.

I take away from this search something that I have known almost from the beginning of my research, but that has been underlined by my Michal/Max/Michel Seifert/Zajfert/Zafert research: I must never let the spelling of a name interfere with my research. Spelling is often arbitrary. People often write what they hear. I will continue to look for the Seiferts using every imaginable and maybe even unimaginable spelling I can.

Gloria Berkenstat Freund is Vice President-Program of the Jewish Genealogical Society. ☆

Book Review

by Lucille Gudis

John J. Newman. **Uncle, We Are Ready! Registering America's Men, 1917-1918**. 2001. Heritage Quest. 278 pp. plus CD-ROM. \$49.95 hardcover, \$29.95 paper.

A guide to researching World War I draft registration cards, this book is divided into two sections. The first gives a detailed history and very comprehensive explanation of all the regulations pertaining to the draft for World War I. The second section contains tables listing every draft board by state and territory. The fully-searchable CD-ROM provides an additional 214 pages of maps, newspaper copies, draft board lists, lottery numbers, and population estimates. This CD specifically includes the National Archives draft registration maps and sections of the published reports of the Provost Marshal General, giving local board numbers, their addresses, and other maps and research tools.

World War I draft registration cards have always been a great resource in my family research. On many of these documents, the place of birth is the country or province or the nearest large town. I have sometimes found on these cards the exact name of the town where my relative was born when it appeared nowhere else. Some of the cards may give the nearest relative—and if the man was single, they may give the name of his mother or father. One card listed the nearest relative as a father who was in Russia and never came to the United States. Many women who had lost track of their sons or husbands made inquiries to the Selective Service Administration in the hope that they had registered for the draft.

Over 24 million men registered for the draft for World War I. Of those registered over 3,877,033 were foreign born. Every man had to register. Race, nationality or allegiance made no difference. They included the “floating population”: those at sea, abroad, training camps, schools. They registered men in jail, reformatories and hospitals. All were required to register—“alien friend” or “enemy alien.” If an “alien friend” had not filed his Declaration of Intention, although he had to register he was exempt from service after November 8, 1917.

Who were “enemy aliens”? Those aliens who came from Germany, Austria-Hungary, Turkey and Bulgaria. Aliens from the countries controlled by those at war with the United States until July 10, 1918, which included Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Rumania, were considered “enemy aliens.”

Because the registrant gave the information orally, the card reflected what the registrar heard. The name was often recorded phonetically. Date of birth was given with no proof presented. Thus an immigrant who gave one age on the passenger list—in order to obtain admittance to this country—could now adjust the date of birth.

The registration cards were designed to determine who was eligible for meeting draft criteria. Cards were distributed based upon the 1910 Census. There were three registrations: June 5, 1917 (black ink); June 5, 1918 and August 24, 1918 (blue ink); September 12, 1918 (red ink). A national lottery, to determine the order in which registrants were to be called for military service, was held June 20, 1917, June 28, 1918, September 30, 1918 and October 1, 1918.

The Naturalization Act of May 9, 1918, provided that any alien serving in the military may file a Petition of Naturalization at his military base or in the nearest court to his base (not at his permanent residence). They did not have to file a Declaration of Intention nor have the five-year residency requirement. A man living in New York City but based at Fort Devin, Massachusetts, for example, would have filed his Petition in Massachusetts, and that Petition would be found today at the National Archives in Waltham, Massachusetts.

A week before the registration, the local newspapers printed boundaries of the local draft boards and maps to help locate the boundaries.

The original cards are held in Southeast regional branch of the National Archives (Atlanta). Each National Archives regional branch has microfilm copies of the cards for those states in its jurisdiction. The Family History Library (FHL) has the entire collection of draft registration cards on microfilm. The FHL catalog indicates if there is a map for a particular city. Major libraries have excellent collections of maps; these may include the map for draft registration.

Uncle, We Are Ready! Registering America's Men, 1917-1918 is a well-written book and added greatly to my understanding of the Selective Service System and the draft registration system of World War I.

Lucille Gudis is a professional genealogist and a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society Executive Council. ☆

JGS Welcomes New Members

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Jeanne L Anderson | New York NY | Rochelle Klink | Clementon NJ |
| James Blum | Scarsdale NY | Nurit Kraus-Friedberg | Brooklyn NY |
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| Connie Buchanan | Winston-Salem NC | Dmitriy Margulis | Brooklyn NY |
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| Matis & Roberta Feinsmith ... | Fair Lawn NJ | Lisbeth G Schwab | Berkeley CA |
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| Howard Frank | Brooklyn NY | Hilda Shepulsky | Brooklyn NY |
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| Valerie Josephson | Fair Lawn NJ | Harriet Yankwith | Jackson Heights NY |
| Nancy Kaszerman | New York NY | Sharon Zane | New York NY |
| Loretta E Kelleher | East Meadow NY | | |
| Renee R Kesler | Edgewater NJ | | |

(as of July 31, 2002)

The Trials, Tribulations and Travails of a Holocaust Researcher

by Robert M. Kern

I had known for many years, through direct information in my immediate family, that my maternal grandfather had lost a branch of his family in Poland during the Holocaust. Specifically I knew that at least one of his sisters, along with her spouse and children, and one of his brothers, and his spouse and children, had been murdered by the Nazis. There was even the possibility of another sister having been murdered. But I could not prove through my own independent research whether or not that sister had even survived long enough to be exposed to the Holocaust in the first place (although I **did** know when and where in Poland she had been born).

My first avenue of research began in November 1992, when I wrote to the International Tracing Service (ITS) in Arolsen, Germany. I gave them the name of one of my grandfather's brothers. True to their reputation of being notoriously slow, it took them almost two years—until October 1994—to respond to this first query, only to inform me that they needed not only the first and last name of the Holocaust victim, but his exact date and place of birth. Furthermore, to my dismay, they informed me that the surname in question, Rubinfeld, was somewhat common, and this therefore created a further hindrance to their ability to proceed any further on the matter. (I had previously regarded the name as being **uncommon**.)

My next course of action was to hire a certain prominent Jewish researcher to actually go to my grandfather's shtetl of birth—Biala, Rzeszow, Poland—in order to glean as much vital data as she could on my grandfather and his siblings. This researcher did, indeed, learn many things about my grandfather's siblings. Now armed with this more detailed vital information, I contacted the ITS again and supplied them with what they wanted: my granduncle's exact date and place of birth. Three months later, I heard from them once again, with a brand new "roadblock"—**now** they needed to know my exact relationship to the Holocaust victim! Almost a year and a half after that, they sent me an acknowledgment letter, thanking me for my clarification of relationship, but also forewarning me that they probably would not come up with any positive results as to my granduncle's fate. Then, almost a year and a half after **that** letter, they sent me still another, only to say that they were continuing with their research and would not neglect to contact me on the status of their endeavors.

Two months after that, I received a letter that contained a "bombshell" that I was totally unprepared for: they had

located a cousin—presumably a son of the aforementioned granduncle, although they did not specify the exact relationship! This person, one Michael Rubinfeld, resided in Haifa, Israel. Because I knew that my granduncle did, indeed, have a 19-month-old son as of September 1941, I was truly hopeful this gentleman was, in fact, that son, and that he had somehow miraculously survived extermination. The ITS even sent me a name release form, whereby I had to give written consent for my name and address to be given to this newly discovered "cousin" in Israel. I promptly did this and also wrote to him as quickly as possible. His response bore a major disappointment: all of the names of his family, and also the names of the shtetls where they came from in Poland, were totally foreign to me—except for his father's first name of Izak, which coincided with the first name of my granduncle. Hence, the mistaken presumption by the ITS that he was my cousin. He even went out of his way to say that, while he would like to claim me as a long-lost cousin, he could see that we were in no way related!

But this was not my largest disappointment with the ITS. I received word of their final results of the search for the fates of my granduncle, Izak Rubinfeld, and three other members of that immediate family, which I had submitted to ITS in the interim. It turned out that they could come up with nothing on any of them. As it was now December 2000, altogether it had taken more than eight years for them to reach this final, plaintive result. While it was certainly a letdown, it was not a great shock, as it had always seemed to be an uphill battle from the outset to learn anything of significance.

In the meantime, in anticipation of just this negative outcome, I had gone to yet two other sources, in the hope of coming up with something more substantive. The first of these two alternative routes began in December 1999, when I filled out four "tracing inquiry" forms for these same four Rubinfeld relatives in Poland, and submitted them to the American Red Cross at their local branch office in White Plains, NY. I was informed that they would be in contact with their Holocaust Tracing Center in Maryland. I was once again advised that this search could, because of all the research avenues involved, take a long time—perhaps even rivaling that of the ITS—up to a maximum of eight years! Now, in their case, it was apparent exactly why it might take that long. They were doing much networking, perhaps even more than the ITS. Aside from consulting with the ITS itself, they also went through other organizations, such as the Polish Red

Cross and some Jewish groups. It seemed like I would have a greater chance of learning something than I had with the ITS, even if it meant waiting just as long. As it turned out, it was much shorter than eight years—almost two and a half—when I finally got the results from the Red Cross in January 2002: once again, negative on all four searches. Once more, while I wasn't shocked, I was disappointed and certainly not thrilled.

The second alternative route was a private researcher in Jerusalem, whom I had first contacted by e-mail and then hired in November 2001. He was to also check all possible sources available to him on those four family members. Among other areas of his focus were a cross-referencing with the ITS records from Arolsen, in this instance on microfilm; several Yizkor books for the Rzeszow shtetls in Poland; and Yad Vashem records for all Rubenfels. I was, to be sure, not that optimistic that anything would be gained from all this. My suspicions were confirmed when he reported in June 2002 that he had not located anything of relevance to me, only several Rubenfels that I had never heard of before. Thus, they weren't "mine."

When it finally became apparent that nothing would be learned about any of my Rubenfeld relatives in Poland, I hit upon one final angle for this researcher in Jerusalem to investigate: the fate of the ghetto where my aforementioned granduncle, Isak Rubenfeld, was last heard from, in September 1941—at which point he quit sending correspondences to my grandfather here in the U.S., and my grandfather's letters to him in Poland were "returned to sender" back in the U.S.! This ghetto was Blazowa, Rzeszow, Poland. The Jerusalem researcher accessed, through source guides at Yad Vashem, some valuable translations on Blazowa. The most important was a brief description, by survivors of that shtetl, of what happened during the Holocaust. (Note: this translation did not give any specific names of individuals in Blazowa; it

only detailed what happened to the village itself.) From this, a story emerges that almost certainly clarifies what happened to my granduncle: beginning in June 1942, the Jewish community in Blazowa was liquidated, with its residents expelled to the neighboring Rzeszow ghetto. The vast majority of Blazowa's Jews who were sent to Rzeszow were then expelled from there in July 1942, along with the residents of Rzeszow and others from additional towns in the region—to the Belzec death camp.

What was gained from all of this that is in some way positive? On the surface, it would probably appear that it was all a waste of time and money. But further thought on it convinces me that sometimes things can be learned not just from what is found, but also from what *isn't* found. And this instance might just be a perfect example of that philosophy. It would seem that, because no deportation or death camp records ever materialized, they almost certainly never existed for my four family members.

The next logical conclusion would be that none of them were ever sent to a death camp at all. They more than likely died in a ghetto somewhere in Poland from malnutrition or disease, or were killed inside the ghetto by the Nazis. This was the situation for many Jews in Poland, especially in the early phase of the Holocaust, before the mass exterminations in the camps occurred. While it's true that many Polish Jews were sent to the death camps and, thus, records do exist for them, it's also true that, as in this case, many didn't survive long enough to even see the inside of an extermination camp. So, for all of the disappointments I endured throughout this almost 10-year time frame of Holocaust research on my family, I still feel that it was a learning, worthwhile and overall positive experience!

Robert M. Kern is a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society. ⚡

The Power of Cooperation: A Three-Way Success Story

by Barbara Krasner-Khait

With more than 1.6 million records from more than 260 Polish towns, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) project has come a long way from its humble beginning as Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project in 1995.

Certainly, receiving the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies award for Outstanding Contribution via the Internet—at the 1999 Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in New York City—was a significant milestone for the project. Soon afterward, the funds donated to the project by the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. enabled new ones. JRI-Poland proposed that the \$6,000 grant be applied to launch a formal program to index genealogical holdings at the Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) in Warsaw. Discussions began in October 1999 and the formal program launched in early July 2000 in association with Professor Feliks Tych, director of the JHI, and Yale Reisner, director of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogical Project. JRI-Poland hired an experienced, multilingual transliterator to take on the complex indexing and provided a computer.

Ten Projects Seeded

Behind making these new projects possible lay a solid foundation of JRI-Poland's extensive and successful experience in indexing LDS films and Polish State Archive holdings of vital records. In particular, project management experience played a key role. Similar to other JRI-Poland projects, each group of indices will be funded by those researchers with a specific interest in the material through individual project fundraising activities. Work began on the Krakow Jewish Community Marriage and Bann Registers. Copies of records referenced in the JRI-Poland database search can be ordered directly from the Ronald S. Lauder Genealogy Project. Says JRI-Poland project coordinator, Stanley Diamond, "Like many projects in the world of Jewish genealogy, the JRI-Poland/JGSNY/JHI indexing initiative exemplifies the power of cooperative effort by volunteers and contributors with a common interest."

Ten projects have either been completed or are in progress, including the indexing of more than 10,000 entries from the Warsaw Ghetto deaths files thanks to a more recent JGSNY grant. Other projects are in the planning stage and will be announced on the JRI-Poland website at www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl.

Project No. Town and Project Description

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Krakow Marriage and Banns Registers, 1877-1939 |
| 2 | Wyszkw Banns 1890-1910 |
| 3 | Zniesienie Death records, 1914 |
| 4 | Dzialoszyce Birth, Death, and Marriage and Marriage Supplements, 1829/1846 |
| 5 | Wroclaw Matzevah/Gravestone files, ca. 1900-1939 |
| 6 | Kaskada Birth, Marriage, and Death records, 1915 |
| 7 | Biala Podlaska Jewish Census, 1939 |
| 8 | Warsaw Cemetery Records and Photographs |
| 9 | Polish Aliyah Passports |
| 10 | Warsaw Ghetto Death Records |

Making An Impact

Some of these projects are already bearing successful fruit. Judy Wolkovitch, who serves as the Krakow Town Leader, for example, received a request from a fellow researcher. She was looking for documents on her husband's father and grandparents and believed a marriage record for Emma Kam and Hynrek Ringel would be included in the JHI holdings of Krakow marriage and bann registers, ca. 1920 or later. Wolkovitch was quickly able to locate the 1924 marriage between Hersz Ringel of Przemysl and Ester Kam of Tarnow. The researcher was so delighted she made a substantial donation to the project.

Wolkovitch also found a connection for herself. She had been working on her son-in-law's British Ansell family when she came across a marriage in 1888 between Elizabeth Casper and Isaac Moses Kirschbaum. From a death announcement in London's *Jewish Chronicle*, she discovered that Isaac came from Krakow. She says, "From the JRI-Poland database, I was able to trace the family back three generations without having to leave my computer! Now if I can only find the descendants, I will have a terrific tree for them!"

In another case, a researcher from Israel received the JPEG file of photos from the Warsaw Cemetery project. She says, "We now know the Hebrew name of my husband's uncle. In the database, his Polish name was listed. Since my husband's father and mother were the only members of their families to survive, and his father died when he was young, the fact that we now have something—even if it is only a picture of a tombstone—is very important to us."

Historic Encyclopedias Online

Jewish Encyclopedia

Thanks to The Kopelman Foundation, an online version of the **Jewish Encyclopedia** may be consulted at www.jewishencyclopedia.com. This website contains the complete contents of the 12-volume publication that was originally issued between 1901 and 1906. The **Jewish Encyclopedia**, which recently came into the public domain, contains over 15,000 articles and illustrations including hundreds of photographs. While the original edition has no index, the website is completely searchable. The online version contains the unedited contents of the original encyclopedia. Since the original work was completed almost 100 years ago, it does not cover a significant portion of modern Jewish history, e.g. the creation of Israel, the Holocaust, etc. However, it does contain an incredible amount of information that is remarkably relevant today.

Encyclopedia Britannica

The 1911 **Encyclopedia Britannica** has been scanned and placed on the Internet at www.1911encyclopedia.org by PageWise, Inc. This edition of the encyclopedia consists of 29 volumes and 44 million words, and was prepared by more than 1,500 authors. However, the actual title of this online encyclopedia, **Encyclopedia Britannica**, is never mentioned on the website! The site is not fully searchable and individual articles must be retrieved one-by-one. Nevertheless, as Gary Mokotoff remarked in the April 7, 2002, issue of **Nu? What's New? News About Jewish Genealogy**, "Old encyclopedias can be valuable in research because they give a perspective on history as it existed in its time period; in this case, 91 years ago. Biographies are presented for persons important in 1911, who do not appear in today's editions or appear in a condensed form."

The Power of Cooperation continued

The Power of Collaboration

Joint projects between JRI-Poland, JGSNY, and JHI are built on a solid foundation of success through collaboration. Says Diamond, "Timing is vital and we can never forget that the JGSNY grant enabled JRI-Poland to move quickly and with confidence when the doors opened for us at the JHI."

Barbara Krasner-Khait serves on the Board of Directors for the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Project. An award-winning freelance writer, her articles regularly appear in Heritage Quest, Ancestry, and Family Chronicle. She is also the author of Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors (Heritage Quest, 2001). ☆

Rediscovering Our Polish Shtetl

(continued from page 20)

Thanks to the cooperative efforts of the Wielkie Oczy school, the church, the town officials, local activists, and our Internet-based fraternal order, some semblance of Jewish culture has been re-established in a small Polish town, even though not a single Jew resides there anymore.

Murray Stadtmauer, Rabbi of the Jewish Center of Bayside Hills, Bayside, New York, is active in the Catholic-Jewish Relations Council of Northeast Queens. The website which may be consulted for background information is www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/wielkieoczy. ☆

Rediscovering Our Polish Shtetl: The Restoration of Vilkotch

by Rabbi Murray Stadtmauer

In 1880, there was a Jewish majority in the town of Wielkie Oczy (Vilkotch in Yiddish), my father's shtetl (hometown) in southeast Poland. In 1900, shortly before the arrival of my father's family, there was still a significant Jewish minority (42%).

Now, with a total population of only 1,000, there are no longer any Jews residing in the town. But there is a Jewish "presence" once more.

The old Jewish cemetery has been cleared, restored and fenced. The town's middle school holds an annual essay contest celebrating the cultural diversity of the past. Also, in the school, the tenth of June now commemorates the Nazi expulsion of the Jews from the town. And a town engineer has completed a survey of the abandoned and dilapidated old shul (synagogue) building to determine if it, too, can be restored.

How this all came about in the last three years is in itself a heartwarming tale of international cooperation and personal commitment, mediated mostly via the Internet. It involves leading Christian townspeople of Wielkie Oczy and descendants of former Jewish residents of the town, now scattered throughout the world.

It all began in 1999 when David Majus, a Polish Jew who now resides in Israel but still holds Polish citizenship, decided to visit his father's hometown while on a business trip to Poland. Mr. Majus himself was born and raised in other locales of southern Poland after World War II, but his father had been reared in Wielkie Oczy. His nostalgic side trip sparked a renewed interest in Jewish culture and history in the town.

The sad plight of the old Jewish sites in Wielkie Oczy previously came to public attention when Richard Majus, David's father, in 1992 wrote a "Personal History" of his early life in the town. This account, later translated into English and posted on a Shtetlinks website, concluded with comments on the deteriorated state of the cemetery and the shul building as observed in 1985.

Nothing much was done to correct conditions in the 1990s, although a number of visitors began to photograph the sites and publicize these circumstances. Some of the photographs are now included on the website, which is maintained by Stephen Landau of White Plains, NY, grandson of an early Wielkie Oczy émigré to the U.S. David Majus and others contribute material to the website, with Mr. Majus also translating Polish documents into English.

On his visit to the area in 1999, Mr. Majus also encountered a local activist, Bogdan Lisze, who as a personal crusade had undertaken to preserve what he could of the Polish Jewish heritage in the vicinity. Mr. Lisze, who identifies himself as a member of a "Bible Students' group," at first acted alone in all his ventures, but, upon prompting from Mr. Majus, began to work cooperatively with the local civic and religious leaders of Wielkie Oczy.

In meetings with Father Jozef Kluz, the local Roman Catholic parish priest at the time, Mr. Majus and Mr. Lisze secured support for the restoration of the abandoned cemetery. Father Kluz publicly urged his parishioners to return all materials that had been removed from the cemetery, including headstones that had been used to pave walkways at homes and barns.

The next step in the reclamation of the old cemetery was to have it cleared of all vegetation and debris accumulated over six decades of neglect. This was undertaken in March 2001 by eighty students of the town middle school, under the direction of the school principal, Mrs. Jadwiga Palczynska, and their teachers.

After learning of these activities, I presented a resolution before the April 2001 meeting of the Catholic-Jewish Relations Council of Northeast Queens, of which my wife and I are longtime members. In this resolution, we thanked all the residents, and especially the schoolchildren of the town, for their efforts in clearing and restoring the Jewish cemetery.

On his next trip to Wielkie Oczy in late April 2001, David Majus presented Polish-language copies of this resolution to key personnel involved in the reclamation project. The school director and the local priest were both deeply moved that their deed had been noted and hailed in "distant America." Mr. Majus also made sure that the schoolchildren themselves would feel appreciated and rewarded for their efforts. While on this visit, he purchased needed reference books for the school library.

The funding for the cemetery project and for the school gifts came from members of the Vilkotcher Chevre (Fraternal Order of Jewish Descendants of Vilkotch), most of whom were recruited through the Internet. The initial cost of \$3800 was met by contributions from eleven members, with more donors joining later.

What is especially noteworthy is that, thus far, the entire effort has been local, without participation of any major Jewish or Polish agency. Indeed, Father Kluz of the Roman Catholic Parish of Wielkie Oczy, in seeking early support, had written to three major agencies in April 2000—the Nissenbaum Family Foundation in Warsaw, the Preservation of Antiquities Authority of Przemyśl, and the Society for Preserving Antiquities in Lubaczów. As far as can be determined, only the Nissenbaum Foundation responded, advising that, as of that time, all of its resources were committed to other projects. The organization offered words of encouragement but no material help.

According to David Majus, the major organizations and official agencies tend to place greater emphasis on large towns, and are mostly concerned with preserving Jewish cultural sites where Jewish communities still exist. Small, remote villages are generally neglected. Rabbi Hertz Frankel, a Brooklyn rabbinic leader active in the restoration of Jewish cemeteries, concurs. Advised of our activities, Rabbi Frankel remarked, “I wish every Polish *shtetl* had such a *chevre* to look after its cemeteries.” Additionally, the Israeli ambassador to Poland, Dr. Shevach Weiss, has sent us a warm letter of commendation.

Following the cemetery restoration, our *chevre* launched another project, an annual essay contest in the middle school on the general theme of communal coexistence in Wielkie Oczy. While our society sponsored the program and provided the awards (three prizes), the actual choice of topic and appointment of judges were left to the school principal.

This project was also very warmly received. The three prizewinners were announced at a school assembly on June 10, which marked the 60th anniversary of the Nazi expulsion of the Jews from Wielkie Oczy.

The 2002 prizewinners and their themes are as follows: First Place (300 zloty)—Urszula Kaciuba, age 15: “Polish-Jewish-Ukrainian Relations in Wielkie Oczy.” Second Place (200 zloty)—Magda Knap, age 16: “History of the Jews in Wielkie Oczy As Seen Through Polish Eyes.” Third Place (100 zloty)—Anita Kracyła, age 16: “A Historic Outline of Jewish Culture in Wielkie Oczy Between the Wars” [100 zloty = \$25]

In addition, each student participant, whether a winner or not, and the teachers and other notables of the town received a letter from our fraternal order expressing

gratitude once more for the “act of humanism and charity” in restoring our cemetery. The letter concluded on a sentimental note:

“We are the children and grandchildren of Wielkie Oczy citizens of the past. A few of us have already visited you. Others hope to visit in the future. But whether we meet or not, we are surely bonded together by ties of history and memory.”

It was signed by three representatives of the Fraternal Order of Jews from Wielkie Oczy: Stephen Landau, David Majus and myself.

According to our local informant, Bogdan Lisze, the assembly program left a strong impression on the youngsters of the school. Many who had not participated in the 2002 essay contest said they would do so next year.

Other local notables who contributed to the success of these projects are Father Joseph Florek, the current priest; Władysław Strojny, the *wojt* (town mayor), and Andrzej Trzcinski of the University of Lublin, a specialist in Polish-Jewish studies who has photographed and recorded all the headstone inscriptions of the cemetery. Mr. Trzcinski, at his own expense, has visited the site twice to perform this task.

The next project of our fraternal order will be the restoration of the town synagogue, a brick structure that appears to be architecturally intact. This, of course, is a more costly project and is still in the planning stage.

The political impact of this “international” effort in a small Polish town has not gone unnoticed. As elsewhere in Europe, there has been a swing to the right in Poland, strengthening the ultra-nationalist, anti-democracy parties. In the latest Polish elections, in Podkarpackie Province, a poor rural area which encompasses Wielkie Oczy, the two extremist right-wing parties (Samoobrona and LPR) together drew 25 % of the vote. But in Wielkie Oczy itself, these two parties combined pulled only 10.5%.

A historical sidelight is also of genuine interest. The middle school of Wielkie Oczy is called the Jan Kochanowski Gimnazjum No. 1. It is named for a famous Polish humanist poet of the Renaissance, Jan Kochanowski (1530-1584). The teachers and students of Wielkie Oczy have surely lived up to the legacy of this poet.

(continued on page 18)

HIAS Boston Individual Arrival Cards, 1882-1929

by Howard Margol

On September 13, 2001, I learned that the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) had a filming crew in New York available to film records. As the Coordinator of IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) Special Projects, I felt this would be a wonderful opportunity to film some Jewish records in the New York area. Coming right after the terrible events of September 11, it became even more important for original records to be filmed and the microfilm masters to be stored safely in a vault inside a mountain near Salt Lake City, Utah.

After a number of e-mails and phone calls, arrangements were made between the GSU and the American Jewish Historical Society to film the HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) Boston Individual Arrival Cards—24,000 in all—covering 1882-1929. The filming of the arrival cards was completed in May 2002. Special thanks for the initiation and completion of this project go to Keith Rose, Collection Development Specialist, in Salt Lake City and to Lyn Slome, Director of Library and Archives, American Jewish Historical Society.

The films are now available for viewing at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City and can also be ordered at any Family History Center around the world. I was just in Salt Lake City and had the opportunity to view four of the nine rolls of microfilm. The clarity of the film is excellent and the records are very legible. The records are arranged alphabetically, which makes it very easy to select the correct roll of film of interest. In many cases, additional information is on the arrival cards that is not included on the ship passenger manifest.

The microfilmed arrival cards may be viewed at the American Jewish Historical Society at the Center for Jewish History in New York. The original records, including case files, may be accessed at the American Jewish Historical Society's new Boston-area facility on the Hebrew College campus: Gann Library, 160 Herrick Road, Newton Centre MA 02459; 617-559-8880; reference@ajhs.org.

Background

HIAS agents in Europe would contact HIAS in Boston and give them the name of a family coming to Boston,

the name of the ship they would arrive on, and the date of arrival. A HIAS representative would meet the family at the dock and would help them on their way. If the family did not have contact with a HIAS agent in Europe, they probably would not have been met at the Boston dock by a HIAS representative and no arrival card for them would have been generated.

If an arriving immigrant had a problem with immigration officials, HIAS would get involved and do everything possible to help solve the problem on behalf of the immigrant. In this case, an arrival card would be filled out even though prior contact in Europe had not occurred.

There are a number of Boston HIAS arrival cards where the immigrant family actually arrived in New York. In each case, the family's final destination was Boston and the HIAS record followed them to Boston. If your ancestor arrived in New York and they were going to Boston, it would be a good idea to check out the Boston HIAS arrival cards.

Even though the filming of the HIAS records was not an IAJGS Project per se, the project was facilitated by IAJGS. Hopefully, IAJGS can originate and manage future projects of genealogical value as well as be instrumental in facilitating genealogical projects by other organizations.

Film Title: Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society card file, 1882-1929, AJHS collection I-96

Microfilm roll numbers:

2318189 Aaronowitz, Julius - Botkewitz, Jacob
2318389 Botkewitz, Jacob - Fingerman, Chaye
2318390 Fingerman, Chaye - Grubstein, Taube
2318391 Grubstein, Taube - Kushnir, Chaika
2318392 Kushnir, Chaika - Markman, Louis
2318509 Markman, Louis - Rabinowitz, Zipora
2318510 Rabinowitz, Zipora - Shatora, Marion I.
2318511 Shatora, Marion I. - Weiner, Chaim
2318512 Weiner, Chaim - Zywotoski, Zersh

Howard Margol is the past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. ☆

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(as of July 31, 2002)

New York Repository Round-up

Center for Jewish History–Genealogy Institute

The Genealogy Institute and the American Jewish Historical Society have developed the Samberg Family History Program, a two-week, interdisciplinary seminar for high school students in the New York metropolitan area. The program will be offered twice each summer during, respectively, the first two weeks of July 2003 and the last two weeks of July. Each student will discover his or her family history and connect the family story to Jewish history. Participants will study immigration history, learn the skills of genealogy research, and take part in field trips and group activities. After the two-week program has ended, each student will continue to work on a literary, historical or artistic project telling a story from his or her family history. Full details are available at www.cjh.org/family or by contacting the program at samberg@cjh.org; 15 West 16 Street, New York, NY 10011, or 212-294-8324. Applications must be received by April 3, 2003.

American Jewish Historical Society

If you have wondered why and when your family settled in the west, midwest, northeast or south—or even in Canada—you might find the answer in the records of the Industrial Removal Office (IRO). This organization assisted Jewish immigrants from 1899 to 1922 to find jobs outside the New York City area and paid for transportation to their new homes. A group of JGS volunteers is indexing this previously inaccessible collection so that genealogists and historians can locate information on their families.

This is a work-in-progress. Work can be done at home if you have Excel, Access or another compatible program. It is estimated that more than 40,000 families were assisted by the IRO. To date, over 6,000 records have been entered into the database. Several thousand more have been computerized and are being proofed. Volunteers who have contributed to this project include Esther Brownstein, Barbara Frank, Bobby Furst, Shirley Gerstel, Ava Gorkin, Estelle Guzik, Sheila Heitner, Ken Kravitz, Jeffrey Levin, Robin Newman, Susan Mann, Ann Rabinowitz, Carol Raspler, Renee Resky, Toby Sanchez, Cladia Schellenberg, Doug Seidman and Rebecca Simmons.

More volunteers are needed. If you would like to participate in this effort, please contact Adina Anflück, Project Coordinator, American Jewish Historical Society, at 212-294-6204 or by e-mail at aanfluck@ajhs.org.

AJHS has placed on the Internet database indexes to the following collections. The databases may be accessed at www.ajhs.org/research/Archives.cfm and www.cjh.org/academic/findingaids.

- Jewish Immigration Information Bureau, Galveston Immigration Plan. Records, n.d., 1901-1920. JIIB was the branch of the Industrial Removal Office responsible for receiving immigrants in Galveston and relocating them in communities across the US. Between 1907 and 1914, 10,000 immigrants traveled through Galveston. Records in the collection include ship passenger lists and correspondence about specific immigrants.
- American Jewish Committee, Office of War Records. Records, 1918-1921
- Hebrew Orphan Asylum of the City of New York. Records, n.d., 1855-1985. There is one roll of microfilm containing Admissions and Discharges, 1862-1884; Admissions and Discharges, 1884-1907; Index of Children, 1860-1900. A grant from JGS-NY paid for this filming.

Leo Baeck Institute

Vital records and indexes for the Jewish Community of Vienna are now available on 111 microfilm rolls at the LBI, thanks to a grant from JGS-NY. Births cover the years 1826-1938; marriages, 1857-1938; deaths, 1826-1931; circumcisions, 1870-1914. These materials were acquired from the Jüdische Gemeinde Wien.

YIVO Institute for Jewish Research

A new, online edition of YIVO's *People Of A Thousand Towns*, a videodisc of 17,000 photographs of Jewish life in Eastern Europe, is now available in YIVO's shared reading room at the Center for Jewish History. "The photographs constitute a visual record of thousands of pre-World War II Jewish communities in Poland, Lithuania, Russia, Ukraine, Latvia, Estonia, Romania, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia," said YIVO Photo Archivist Krysia Fisher. "They span the late nineteenth century to the early 1940s and document the lives of large Jewish centers as well as many smaller towns and villages. In some cases, the pictures are the only known photographic traces of communities later wiped out by the Nazis."

People Of A Thousand Towns was created as a videodisc connected to a computer database in 1981-1987 with funds from the Charles H. Revson Foundation. Over the past 14 years, it has been used extensively by curators, filmmakers and other research-

ers. The 2002 edition of the catalog, an Internet-based research tool, 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.

Museum of Jewish Heritage

Construction is underway on a major addition to the Museum of Jewish Heritage—A Living Memorial to the Holocaust in New York's Battery Park City. In fall 2003, the Museum plans to open the doors of its new East Wing, which will incorporate classrooms with multimedia capabilities, a theater, special exhibitions galleries, a Living History Center, memorial garden, café and catering facilities, and Museum offices. The new building will be fully integrated with the original facility in a seamless design that will highlight the unique features of both structures. With this expansion, the Museum will be better equipped to teach the legacy of the Holocaust and 20th century Jewish history to a broader audience.

The Living History Center will provide visitors with an interactive, educational experience within the context of the Museum visit. The Center's innovative, cutting-edge technology and extensive databases will enable visitors to conduct genealogical research and to pursue in-depth study of the artifacts, photographs, and testimonies represented in the Museum's collections. The center will also serve as an archive for the Steven Spielberg Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation.

The current Library holds about 8,000 items and is continually growing. With plans to automate and expand, the new Library will feature an online catalog available to all staff, volunteers, and researchers, and will also offer expanded access to electronic reference resources. The Library will remain accessible to educators and scholars by appointment, while Museum staff will use its resources to develop curriculum and public programs.

Ellis Island Database

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc. and JewishGen, Inc. announced a new working relationship to provide enhanced search capabilities for the Ellis Island Database. The one-step search tools developed by Dr. Stephen Morse, with assistance from Michael Tobias and Erik Steinmetz, will serve as a valuable aid to the thousands of individuals researching their families who came through the Port of New York and Ellis Island between 1892 and 1924. Over 40% of Americans have ancestral records in the Ellis Island Database located at the American Family

Immigration History Center at Ellis Island and online at www.ellisland.org. The Foundation and JewishGen will work together with the developers to ensure that these useful search engines and tools will be continuously available to the public. They are now available at www.jewishgen.org/databases/eidb.

This announcement followed a two-month stretch during which Morse's original website and one-step tools were unavailable to researchers because the Foundation had complaints about the website. The great news is that the tools are once again available to researchers.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

Members of the NYG&B can search and download images via remote access from ProQuest's every-word-searchable database of **The New York Times**. The database includes approximately 3.5 million pages, from the newspaper's founding in 1851 through 1997. From their home computers through a "Members Only" area in the NYG&B's website, members can search **The New York Times**, then save, print, or e-mail the scanned image of the article. There is no extra fee to members for this service. By entering keywords, researchers can search birth, marriage, and death notices, property transfers, wills for probate, judgments, advertisements, ship arrivals, photographs, feature stories, and much more—every word of **The New York Times**—in one step. The annual fee for membership is \$60 for residents of New York City, and \$50 for all others. For more information, visit www.nygbs.org. An in-depth article by Leslie Corn about this resource is available online at www.nygbs.org/info/articles/proquest1.html. It was originally published in **The NYG&B Newsletter**, Spring/Summer 2002.

New York Public Library

NYPL will soon implement a program of registering its readers in The Research Libraries. As of early 2003, personalized ACCESS cards will be required for readers to request materials within the closed-stack collections. The card will not only allow the Library to track its valuable collections, but give users an immediate indication of whether materials are available. Eventually, ACCESS card holders will also be able to submit electronic call slips, to make advance reservations and place holds on items, and to gain remote access to the electronic resources of The Research Libraries—all over the web—as well as to make reservations for computers, media stations, and training classes.

The four research libraries that make up the New York Public Library—Humanities and Social Sciences Library, Science, Industry, and Business Library, Schomburg Center for Research in Black

New York Repository Round-up continued

Culture, and New York Public Library for the Performing Arts—are closed on Mondays since September 9 due to budget cuts.

Recent microfilm acquisitions in the U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy Division:

- Manhattan Death Index, 1868-1890
- Brooklyn Death Index, 1848-1898
- Richmond Death Index, 1847-1897
- 1930 U.S. Census for New York and Puerto Rico

New York Family History Center

Due to construction of a LDS temple, the Family History Center at 125 Columbus Avenue will be closed from December 2002 through spring 2003. During this time period, microfilms on indefinite loan at this facility will be unavailable. Researchers may arrange for new film loans at the Genealogy Institute of the Center for Jewish History, or at Family History Centers in other parts of New York City and in the suburbs.

NYC Municipal Archives

The index to City Clerk marriage license records, 1908 to 1951, will be available shortly at the Municipal Archives. Actual City Clerk marriage license records, 1908 to 1929, have been at the Archives for some time already. Marriage license records, 1930 to 1951, must be obtained from the City Clerk's Office. The Municipal Archives also has NYC Health Department marriage returns up to 1938.

The Archives now offers full-color, heirloom birth, marriage, and death certificates. They are computer-scanned from the original paper records, not copied from microfilm, and are printed on acid-free, heavyweight paper. They can be certified upon request at no additional charge. The cost is \$35 for the first page of the certificate and \$10 for the reverse side or for

additional copies of the same certificate. Name, event, borough, year, and certificate number are required.

New York County Clerk's Office—Division of Old Records

Hours of service have been extended to Monday to Friday, 9 AM to 3 PM, with no lunchtime closing. Previously this facility was open Tuesday and Thursday only.

National Archives—New York

The Italian Genealogical Group is coordinating a volunteer project to prepare a computerized index to the naturalization certificate stubs in the US Southern District Court from 1906 forward. Data from approximately 400,000 stubs have been entered so far. The database does not include petitions that were denied or canceled. Searches may be done at www.italiangen.org/southern_district_records_intro.stm.

Brooklyn Business Library

Brooklyn Public Library's Business Library has new, expanded hours: Monday and Tuesday, 1 to 8 PM; Wednesday and Friday, 10 AM to 6 PM; Thursday, 1 to 6 PM; Saturday, 10 AM to 5 PM. The library's new website is www.biz.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

NYC Health Department

The agency's name has been changed to New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

NYC Department of Buildings

This agency's headquarters and its Manhattan borough office have relocated from 60 Hudson Street to 280 Broadway. The new phone number is 212-566-5000. Website is www.nyc.gov/buildings. ☆

Jewish Roots in South Africa

A new Centre for Jewish Migration and Genealogy has been formed as part of the University of Cape Town's Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research. Moira Schneider, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's Cape Town correspondent, reported last spring: "The centre aims to map 15,000 Jews who arrived in South Africa between 1880 and 1930, from their place of origin to their destination in South Africa. It will span five or six generations, including parents of the original immigrants who may have been left behind, as well as their descendants. A host of archival material, including ship

departure lists, marriage and divorce records, burial lists will complete the picture.

"The university's involvement stems from the fact that the new dean of the school's Faculty of Humanities, Robin Cohen, has a special interest in population migration. He's very interested in getting this information on Jewish migration 'because certain aspects can be related to other migrations,' philanthropist Mendel Kaplan, who helped organize the project, said. The project is linked to another Kaplan family undertaking, the new South African Jewish Museum.

News from Israel

Safed Records

Haim Sidor, coordinator of the Safed Foundation Genealogical Project, reports that great strides are being made in providing vital historical and genealogical information and making it available online. The Safed Foundation, a non-profit corporation with U.S. tax-exemption status, is dedicated to the development of Safed.

The Safed Old Cemetery Survey List (in Hebrew and English), originally paid for by the Safed Rabbinical Council and recently translated thanks to the efforts of the Safed Foundation, is now available for online searching at the Safed Foundation website. This listing of over 3,000 names, from the 15th through the 20th century, contains all legible gravestone name inscriptions from the Old (upper) Jewish Cemetery, one of the oldest continuously used Jewish cemeteries in the world. Included are the name, father's name, dates, etc. as well as the grave location. The list can be found at www.safedfound.org.il. Go to "Ancient Cemetery," then "Search Tombstone List," where hints and a disclaimer are provided. Type in the search box a name or part of a name. Problems or questions should be directed to haim@safedfound.org.il. This is a work-in-progress and the Foundation would appreciate feedback to guide in bringing more such information in the future.

In addition to further research and editing of the Cemetery List, several other projects are planned. A survey of historical/genealogical materials available in and about Safed is being prepared and will be indexed shortly and placed online. British Mandate birth registrations, 1865-1948 (about 1,200 names), have been located and translated and may be consulted at www.safedfound.org.il/search2.asp. A list of births, 1924 to 1929 (fewer than 100 names), is online at www.safedfound.org.il/search3.asp.

Ketubbot Digitization Project

Elhanan Adler, Director of MALMAD-Israel Center for Digital Information Services, reports that the Jewish National and University Library (JNUL) has announced a further update and revision of its David and Fela Shapell Family Ketubbot Digitization Project. The **ketubbot** [marriage contracts] registry has been expanded with images and bibliographic data from additional collections. **Ketubbot** from the following collections are included and have been integrated into the database and country list: JNUL; Bar-Ilan University Library; Library of Congress; "Khan" Museum & Archives, Hadera; Mishkan L'Omanut, Museum of Art, Ein Harod; Yale University Library; Collection of David Sofer, London; Gross Family Collection, Tel-Aviv; Lehmann Family Collection, New York. Several additional collections in Israel, Italy and the U.S. have already agreed to participate in the project, whose goal is to provide a worldwide digital repository of **ketubbot** for the use of historians, genealogists and art historians.

The project website <http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/ketubbot> has also undergone a major revision, and the primary geographic navigation tool has been enhanced with thumbnail images of each **ketubba**. For the benefit of those accessing the site via slower dial-up modems, a text-based index is also provided.

Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People

The Central Archives has relocated from the Givat Ram campus of Hebrew University to 46 Jabotinsky Street, Jerusalem. CAHJP serves as the "National Archives" of the Jewish people in the Diaspora by collecting and preserving the archival remnants of Jewish communities throughout the world. It is especially rich in material from Central and Eastern Europe and thus is an important genealogical resource. Information about the archives can be found at <http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives>. ☆

Jewish Roots in South Africa continued

This connection has sparked the interest of another university professor who will study the way museums function.

"At the International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in London in 2001, Kaplan met Saul Issroff, a former South African now living in London. After discussions with him and Cape Town businessman David Susman, the project was launched. Issroff is directing the new centre, while Susman has provided

some startup capital. Issroff sees the centre catering to the public by providing reference services to family history researchers and adult education programs to the community in general. The institute will also encourage study at a graduate level. While the primary focus of the centre will be on South African Jewry and its origins, said Kaplan, the center's planners hope it will cooperate with major international academic institutes, archives and genealogy groups." ☆

New and Recent Publications

Of Jewish Interest

Most Jewish titles listed below may be purchased through the JewishGen Mall at www.jewishgenmall.org or by mail to JewishGen Inc., 2951 Marina Bay Drive, Suite 130-472, League City, TX 77573. Questions should be sent to donsandyh@earthlink.net. All proceeds from sales on the JewishGen Mall help support the mission of JewishGen, Inc. Prices shown below do not include shipping.

Melody Amsel. **Between Galicia and Hungary: The Jews of Stropkov.** 2002. Avotaynu. 352 pp. hardcover. \$35. This unusual *yizkor* (memorial) book about the Jews of Stropkov, Slovak Republic, written in Hebrew and English, is also a history with a rich description of life in rural Slovakia. The author used not only primary sources but also personal memoirs and numerous interviews with survivors in Slovakia, U.S. and Israel. There is a complete list of all the Jews of Stropkov and neighboring communities as of 1942, with survivors identified.

Rabbi I. Nathan Bamberger. **A Bronx Palace of Torah.** 2002. Bamberger Family Library (phone 718-549-6496). 186 pp. \$18.95. The history of the Kingsbridge Heights Jewish Center, a major Bronx synagogue that was established in 1924 and closed recently. Very few books have been published about the vast Jewish community that once flourished in the Bronx.

Galina Baranova. **Jews Evicted from Suwalki Gubernia in the Summer of 1915.** Landsmen Press. 67 pp. paperback. \$19. Some lists of Jews evicted by the Czar in 1915 exist at the Lithuanian Archives. Data on 4,152 evictees extracted from such lists for 18 localities in Suwalki gubernia are given, including age, residence, place of permanent registration, familial relationship, and area to which evicted. The place of registration information extends the geographical scope of this book to many nearby towns. Parents of evictees who were not with them are also named, permitting reconstruction of whole families over three or four generations. The researcher is Head Archivist of the Lithuanian State Historical Archives.

Irwin M. Berent. **Norfolk, Virginia: A Jewish History of the 20th Century.** 2002. JewishHistoryUSA.com (phone 757-855-1272). 249 pp. \$19.95. A comprehensive

history-based on original documents, contemporary newspaper articles, and personal accounts-of a community that dates back to the 18th century.

J. C. H. Blom, R. G. Fuks-Mansfeld, I. Schoffer, editors. **The History of the Jews in the Netherlands.** Translated by Arnold J. and Erica Pomerans. 2002. Littman Library of Jewish Civilization. 508 pp. hardcover. \$69.50. Originally published in Dutch and widely acclaimed for the breadth of its coverage. Ten scholars contributed to this book, each describing Jewish life in a particular period, from the Middle Ages to the present.

David Cesarani, editor. **Port Jews: Jewish Communities in Cosmopolitan Maritime Trading Centres, 1550-1950.** 2002. Frank Cass. 200 pp. hardcover. \$59.50. An important study of Jews who lived in trading ports throughout the ages, including Amsterdam, Hamburg, Odessa, and several Far Eastern ports.

Erdal Frayman, Mose Grosman, Robert Schild. **A Hundred Year Old Synagogue in Yuksekkaldirim, Istanbul.** 2000. Galata Ashkenazi Cultural Association of Istanbul. 100 pp. hardcover. \$34. This book on the Ashkenazi-Turkish Jews of Eastern European origin explores the arrival of Ashkenazim in Turkey in the 1500s; establishment of the Ashkenazi community; foundation of an educational system; the community's rabbis, presidents and cantors; principal Ashkenazi synagogues, charitable organizations and cemeteries; the group's culture, and information on professors at Turkish universities. Included is a complete burial list (3,000 graves) in the Istanbul Ashkenazi cemetery.

Danek Gertner and Jehoschua Gertner. **Home is No More: The Destruction of Kosow and Zabie.** 2000. Yad Vashem. 250 pp. hardcover. \$24 including shipping from Israel. The story of two small but vibrant Jewish communities in Poland and of their bitter end when the Nazis occupied the area and began to implement the Final Solution. The authors' direct involvement in the lives of the community is reflected and enables readers to view the events that took place through the eyes of two generations, an uncle and nephew, who were among the few that survived the destruction of their native towns.

John J. Hartman and Jacek Krochmal, editors. **"I Remember Every Day": The Fate of the Jews of Przemysl During World War II.** Translated by Agnieszka Andrzejewska. 2002. Towarzystwo Przyjaciół Nauk (Przemysl, Poland) and Remembrance and

Reconciliation, Inc. (Ann Arbor, MI). English and Polish editions. 315 pp. hardcover. This American-Polish and Jewish-Christian collaboration tells the story of the Holocaust in a Galician town in southeast Poland. The book consists of memoirs of Jewish survivors, Polish and Ukrainian rescuers, and townspeople who lived through the years of World War II. In addition the authors present a history of the town's Jewish presence dating back 1000 years, a history of the Holocaust period, and a psychological analysis of Polish-Jewish relations in our time.

Andrea Kalinowski. **Stories Untold: Pioneer Jewish Women, 1850-1910.** 2002. Museum of New Mexico Press. 32 pp. paperback. \$14.95. Multi-media collage artist Kalinowski uses digitized quilt patterns to frame in photos and testimony the true stories of Jewish pioneer women gathered from archives, university libraries, and historical societies. Using many first-person narratives and archival photographs, the quilts are at once an homage to these seldom told stories and a tribute to the sisterhood, community, and comfort that quilts were to pioneers.

Herman Kruk. **The Last Days of Jerusalem of Lithuania: Chronicles from the Vilna Ghetto and the Camps, 1939-1944.** Edited by Benjamin Harshav. Translated by Barbara Harshav. 2002. YIVO and Yale University Press. 656 pp. hardcover. \$45. The long-awaited English translation of a Bundist activist from Warsaw who fled to Vilna at the beginning of World War II. Kruk organized and oversaw the Vilna Ghetto library, and also played an active role in several of the ghetto's social welfare and cultural organizations. Along with poet Abraham Sutzkever and others, Kruk secretly worked to rescue and hide many rare books and artifacts from the Nazis. Like Emanuel Ringelblum in the Warsaw Ghetto, Kruk was a resolute chronicler of day-to-day life under the Nazis with full awareness that he might not live until the war's end. He hoped that his diary would survive to reveal the horrors of that time to future generations.

Jeffrey S. Malka. **Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World.** 2002. Avotaynu. 390 pp. hardcover. \$45. A guide to researching Sephardic ancestry through archives as ancient as 12th-century Spanish notarial records or as recent as today's country repositories. The origins of Sephardic surnames and clues derived from their origins and meanings are explained. Author of the award-winning website "Resources for Sephardic Genealogy" www.orthohelp.com/geneal/sefardim.htm, Dr. Malka is

descended from a long line of Sephardic rabbis. His grandfather was the chief rabbi of Sudan, 1906-1949.

Larry N. Mayer and Gary Gelb. **Who Will Say Kaddish?: A Search for Jewish Identity in Contemporary Poland.** 2002. Syracuse University Press. 384 pp. hardcover. \$39.95. An exploration of the fragile resurgence of Jewish life and identity in post-Communist Poland. Mayer (writer) and Gelb (photographer), themselves descendants of Polish Jews, explore reports that Jewish life is being rekindled in modern Poland. What they discover are three generations of Jews-Holocaust survivors and their children and grandchildren-with differing historical perspectives. As survivors' descendants learn of their hidden Jewish heritage through deathbed revelations, a compelling drama about personal identity unfolds.

Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack with Alexander Sharon. **Where Once We Walked: Revised Edition -A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust.** 2002. Avotaynu. 736 pp. hardcover. \$85. The award-winning WOWW has been completely revised and updated to reflect the changes in the political geography of Central and Eastern Europe since WOWW was published in 1991. The new edition identifies more than 23,500 towns in Central and Eastern Europe where Jews lived before the Holocaust.

Benjamin Nathans. **Beyond the Pale: The Jewish Encounter with Late Imperial Russia.** 2002. University of California Press. 426 pp. hardcover. \$54.95. A surprising number of Jews lived literally and figuratively "beyond the Pale" of Jewish settlement in tsarist Russia during the half century before the Revolution of 1917. Long-closed Russian archives were used in this study.

Shimon Redlich. **Together and Apart in Brzezany: Poles, Jews, and Ukrainians, 1919-1945.** 2002. Indiana University Press. 224 pp. hardcover. \$24.95. The author draws on the historical record, his own childhood memories, and interviews with those who lived in this small eastern Polish town to construct this account of the changing relationships among the town's three ethnic groups before, during, and after World War II.

Houman Sarshar, editor. **Esther's Children-The Jews of Iran: Their Story, Their History, Their Lives.** 2002. Jewish Publication Society. 468 pp. hardcover. \$110. The comprehensive story of the Jews of Iran-from their earliest documented settlement in 722 BCE to the present. Lavishly illustrated in color with more than 500

images of manuscripts, monuments, individual and family portraits from private and public archives the world over. Includes 25 articles by authors and scholars in the field of Judeo-Iranian studies, and a comprehensive bibliography of over 600 books and journal articles. This book was the brainchild of the Center for Iranian Jewish Oral History (www.cijoh.org), P.O. Box 2543, Beverly Hills, CA 90213-2543; phone 310-472-3012; e-mail info@cijoh.org.

Jeffrey Shandler, editor. **Awakening Lives: Autobiographies of Jewish Youth in Poland before the Holocaust.** 2002. YIVO and Yale University Press. 496 pp. hardcover. \$35. The candid and passionate writings in these autobiographies not only reveal the personal struggles, ambitions, and dreams of fifteen young Polish Jews in the 1930s, they also offer remarkable insight into the nature of ordinary Jewish life in Poland during the years between the world wars. These autobiographies were selected from hundreds that were written for contests in the 1930s conducted by the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, then based in Vilna.

Andrea Simon. **Bashert: A Granddaughter's Holocaust Quest.** 2002. University Press of Mississippi. 288 pp. hardcover. \$28. Haunted by her grandmother's Old World stories and bigger-than-life persona, the author undertook a spiritual search for her lost family. In her grandmother's village of Volchin, Belarus, where the last known family members had lived, she followed the trail of the death march taken by the local Jews to the place of their slaughter in fall 1942. During the same period, in Brona Gora, a forest between Brest and Minsk, some 50,000 Jews were shot. Simon was in one of the first American groups to visit this little-publicized site.

Of General Interest

Patricia Kennedy Grimsted. **Trophies of War and Empire: The Archival Heritage of Ukraine, World War II, and the International Politics of Restitution.** 2001. Harvard Papers in Ukrainian Studies. 798 pp. paperback. \$19.95. Of interest to all those studying contemporary rebuilding of cultural and intellectual institutions in Eastern Europe, historians of Ukraine and eastern Europe, and specialists on the retrieval of assets lost to the Nazis or Communist regimes.

Diane Kovacs. **Genealogical Research on the Web.** 2002. Neal-Schuman Publishers. 194 pp. paperback. \$55. This dynamic text features tips, techniques, and

resources on how to efficiently unearth an amazing array of genealogical "gold" on the Web.

Gordon Remington. **New York State Probate Records: A Genealogist's Guide.** 2002. New England Historic Genealogical Society. 176 pp. paperback. \$19.95. A guide to locating probate records in New York State from the past 300 years. It also gives practical information on how to access those records through the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, in addition to each of New York's 62 County Surrogate Courts (in charge of probating estates in New York State), other repositories, and references to published abstracts in both books and periodicals.

Gordon Remington. **New York State Towns, Villages and Cities: A Guide to Genealogical Resources.** 2002. New England Historic Genealogical Society. 80 pp. paperback. \$17.95. A guide to locating published and transcribed records for New York State's nearly 1,700 municipalities. Tables give information on each of New York's towns, villages, and cities: the county in which it is located, the date of organization or incorporation, church and cemetery records and the repositories in which they are found, and other valuable information.

Ira Wolfman. **Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Off-Line Genealogy for Kids.** 2002. Workman Publishing Co. 228 pp. paperback. \$13.95. (50% discount on orders of 10 copies or more purchased from Workman, Special Markets, 708 Broadway, New York NY 10003; 800-722-7202 ext. 7509 or 212-614-7509) "The Official Ellis Island Handbook," completely revised and updated version of **Do People Grow on Family Trees?** (1991). A comprehensive, kid-friendly genealogical primer that utilizes both online and off-line sources to help children trace their family history. The companion website at www.workman.com/familytree includes several forms and charts that may be downloaded and printed. ☆

Center for Jewish History • Genealogy Fellowship for 2003

The Center for Jewish History announces a Genealogy Fellowship, which represents each of the five constituents (American Jewish Historical Society; American Sephardi Federation; Leo Baeck Institute; Yeshiva University Museum; YIVO Institute for Jewish Research) and is intended for academic candidates. The award supports original research in the field of Jewish Studies, which focuses on a specific family whose history sheds light on broader themes in Jewish history, or which examines the history of Jewish family life. Preference may be given to those candidates who will draw on the resources of more than one collection. The fellowship carries a stipend of a minimum of \$10,000 and is for a period of one academic year for one doctoral student who has completed all requirements save the dissertation (a.b.d.). It is expected that the candidate will:

- Conduct research using the Center archival and library resources for the duration of the stipend;
- Participate in a Center for Jewish History Seminar and deliver a minimum of one lecture (during or beyond the grant period) based on research at the Center and the collections used.

Eligibility:

Open to qualified doctoral candidates in accredited universities.

Requirements for Application:

- **Curriculum Vitae**, including contact information, education, publications, scholarly and/or museum activities, teaching experience, and any other relevant work experience;
- **Area of interest and knowledge of relevant languages** stated in a cover letter, and how they relate to one or more of the constituent organizations' missions;
- **Official graduate school transcript;**
- **Specific research proposal** of no more than three pages, including aims for research during the period of the fellowship, whether there are plans for publication, and how the resources of one or more of the partner organizations will contribute to the work;
- **Three letters of recommendation**, including from the students' academic advisors, which address the significance of the candidate's work for the field as well as the candidate's ability to fulfill the proposed work.

The schedule for application and award is as follows:

- Applications are to be mailed to the attention of **Diane Spielmann, Director of Public Services at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011;**
- Receipt of application is due by **February 1, 2003;**
- Committee to review applications by **March 15, 2003;**
- Announcement of grant recipients by no later than **April 1, 2003;**
- Commencement of grant period, **August 15 – September 15, 2003;**
- Conclusion of grant period, **June 30, 2004.**

JGS Friends

JGS members are encouraged to patronize our "friends" listed below. Make use of your current JGS membership card and take advantage of the special offers we have arranged for you. If you have suggestions for new partners, please let us know.

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15 West 16th Street
917-606-8220 • www.cjh.org/facilities/shop.html

JGS members receive a 10% discount for purchases of books and gifts at the Center's shop. The shop carries many books of genealogical interest as well as Judaica.

Hours

Sun. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Mon. - Wed. 10:00 AM - 5:45 PM
Thurs. 10:00 AM - 7:45 PM

THE JEWISH MUSEUM
1109 Fifth Avenue, at 92nd Street
www.TheJewishMuseum.org

JGS members receive free admission for a companion on presentation of a signed membership card (2-for-1). \$7 adults, \$5 students and seniors.

Hours

Sun. 10:00 AM - 5:45 PM;
Mon., Tues., Wed. 11:00 AM - 5:45 PM;
Thurs. 11:00 AM - 8:00 PM ("Pay What You Wish after 5:00 PM");
Fri. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

Special Exhibitions

The City of K: Franz Kafka and Prague (through Jan. 5)
Light x Eight: The Hanukkah Project 2002 (through Feb. 2)
Adolph Gottlieb: A Survey Exhibition (through March 2)

THE NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
122 East 58th Street
(between Park and Lexington Avenues)
212-755-8532 • www.nygbs.org

JGS members get a 30% discount on the daily fee requested for use of the Library. For \$7, you have access to tens of thousands of genealogies, histories, biographies, bibliographies, newsletters, indexes, compiled records and journals, many useful to the Jewish genealogist. (Note: The manuscript, microform and CD-ROM collections may only be used by NYG&BS members.)

Hours: Tues. - Sat., 9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

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18 First Place, Battery Park City
212-968-1800 • www.mjhnyc.org

JGS members receive a \$2 discount on the regular admission price - \$7 adults and \$5 students/seniors.

Hours

Sun. to Wed. 10:00 AM - 5:45 P.M.;
Thurs. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM;
Fri. and the eve of Jewish holidays 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.

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Yahrzeit: September 11 Observed (through January 5)

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www.tenement.org

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.*

Hours

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



Jewish Genealogical Society

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