

DOROT דורות

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JGS Website Opens Doors to New Sources

The JGS website www.jgsny.org has a new look, thanks to Executive Council member Adam Bronstein who maintains the site. Thanks to the diligence of member Ada Greenblatt, the website has much new data about landsmanshaftn and cemetery resources. And thanks to the continuing efforts of JGS president Estelle Guzik, the Brooklyn naturalizations data-base continues to grow.

“Burial Societies in the New York Metropolitan Area” is the result of a 10-year JGS-NY effort to identify Jewish burial society plots in the New York City area. The database contains over 10,000 entries – landsmanshaftn, synagogues, family circles, fraternal organizations, labor unions – from almost 100 cemeteries in New York City, Long Island, Westchester and Putnam Counties and northern New Jersey. Be sure to read the

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News from the Center for Jewish History and Center Genealogy Institute Update

by Rachel Fisher, Director, Genealogy Institute

As many *Dorot* readers know, the Center Genealogy Institute (CGI) is the Center for Jewish History’s family history department. Since the CGI opened in October 2000, we have made considerable progress in helping family history researchers.

The CGI opened with a small collection of reference books. Now we have over fifty books to help visitors learn where to look for vital and other records in the U.S. and around the world. The public computers at CGI have access to Ancestry.com, so visitors can search Ancestry’s databases for free. The public computers will soon feature our own “web portal” to Internet sites in Jewish genealogy, helping to streamline the search, especially for novice researchers. Perhaps most important, we can now borrow microfilms from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Films can be borrowed for up to three months, for \$3.75 per film per month (payable by check or money order only—no cash). Nearly every day a family historian takes a step forward in his or her research, using the microfilmed vital and census records from Poland, Germany, Hungary, Belarus, and many other countries.

CGI is open Monday through Wednesday, 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, and Thursday, 12 noon to 8 PM. As many JGS members know, the CGI is now also open one Sunday a month, from

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Ellis Island News

There probably isn’t a genealogist around the world who hasn’t heard about the mid-April opening of the American Family Immigration History Center at Ellis Island. Just in case you missed the news, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation has developed a family history research facility whose focal point is a computerized database that provides automated access to the names and associated immigration data of more than 22 million individuals listed on the Ellis Island passenger manifests for the years 1892 to 1924.

The information from these documents covers 11 fields of information: immigrant’s given name, immigrant’s surname, ethnicity, last residence (town and country), date of arrival, age at arrival, gender, marital status, ship of travel, port of departure, line number on manifest.

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JGS Program Information

Sunday meetings begin at 2:00 PM and, unless otherwise noted, are held at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York (between Fifth and Sixth Avenues). The Center Genealogy Institute is open for networking with other researchers from 12:30 to 2:00 on JGS meeting Sundays. Members are reminded to bring their membership cards. Non-members will be charged \$3 for admission.

Sunday meetings will resume after the summer break on September 16. Check the JGS website www.jgsny.org for updated program information. In lieu of an October meeting, JGS will participate in the Family History Fair on Sunday, October 14. See "Upcoming Activities of Interest" for details. 🌐

Ellis Island News

(continued from page 1)

The process of extracting these records began in 1993 when the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) began the volunteer effort of transcribing the ship passenger manifests for the Port of New York between 1892 and 1924. This project was the culmination of a cooperative agreement between the National Park Service, the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation and the Church. Over 12,000 Church volunteers in 2,700 congregations throughout the U.S. and Canada donated approximately 5.6 million hours to complete the transcription of the estimated 22 million entries in the database. The Church also devoted 20 full-time staff members and 35 full-time missionary volunteers to work on this project.

This was the most difficult extraction project ever undertaken by the Church. Poor filming, multiple nationalities and ethnic groups represented by the passenger names, and numerous scribes with sometimes difficult-to-read handwriting all contributed to the difficulty of the project. In addition to the names of the immigrants to the U.S., the database includes U.S. citizens who were returning home, crew members, non-immigrant aliens, deportees and those who literally missed the boat. The Port of New York accounted for 71% of all immigrant arrivals to the U.S. during the period 1892-1924.

The database is available to the public at both the American Family Immigration History Center at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum (for a fee) and on the Ellis Island website at www.ellislandrecords.org (for free). Once an immigrant is found in the database, a copy of the original passenger manifest may be viewed on-line or purchased for a nominal fee at Ellis Island.

In the first weeks after the database was released for public searching, on-line access was extremely difficult because literally millions of people worldwide were trying to make connections over the Internet. Computer equipment was upgraded fairly quickly and access time has improved considerably. Users have identified various problems with information retrieval and data entry quality. See, for example, the excellent analyses posted at "Nu? What's New? News About Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu" on the avotaynu.com website.

Database errors may be reported via e-mail to dberrors@ellisland.org. In the subject line, indicate the type of error: manifest error, spelling error, ship image error or other database error.

Edward Rosenbaum and Stephen Morse have announced their collaborative effort to make searching the Ellis Island Database (EIDB) easier.

Morse's free "Searching the Ellis Island Database in One Step" website at sites.netscape.net/stephenpmorse/ellis.html offers a solution to one of the problems with the database—the inability to enter all of your information in one place. In

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Upcoming Activities of Interest

London 2001

July 8-13, London, England

The 21st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, sponsored by the JGS of Great Britain, will feature nearly 150 speakers. The conference, to be held at the Intercontinental Hotel at Hyde Park Corner in London, will host archive heads and staff from Lithuania and Latvia as well as Jewish genealogical experts from Canada, Australia, South Africa, Sweden, Argentina, the U.S. and elsewhere. Full details about speakers, topics, program schedule and hotel reservations may be found at the conference web site: www.jewishgen.org/london2001. A registration form was included with the Winter 2000-01 issue of *Dorot*. Additional copies may be downloaded from the conference web site. Conference e-mail may be sent to info.london2001@talk21.com.

There are several archives maintained by the British government that together hold millions of documents that are valuable for family history research. The larger of those archives – the Public Record Office, the Family Records Centre, the General Register Office for Scotland, the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, the India Office Archives and the National Library of Wales – all maintain their own websites, each of which provides introductions and tutorials for genealogists. The website www.familyrecords.gov.uk now provides links to the separate institutions as well as tutorials on British family history research.

Federation of Genealogical Societies 21st Annual Conference – September 12-15, 2001, Davenport IA

This Quad Cities Conference includes a wide variety of workshops as well as special sessions presented by the Association of Professional Genealogists. For information, contact FGS at P.O. Box 200940, Austin, TX 78720-0940; 888-347-1500; www.fgs.org; fgs-office@fgs.org.

Family History Fair

October 14, 2001, New York City

The annual Family History Fair, sponsored by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York, will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 14. The Jewish Genealogical Society will be an exhibitor and will present a speaker in lieu of a separate October meeting. The Fair will feature exhibits by numerous archives, libraries, genealogical societies and vendors of family history publications. Genealogy software and Internet websites will be demonstrated throughout the event, and more than a dozen genealogy professionals will present workshops on a variety of topics. This free event draws more than 600 people every year. The location of this year's Fair will be announced in July at the website www.nycarchivists.org/fhf.html.

Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City Oct. 25-Nov. 1, 2001

Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will offer their ninth consecutive trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The package includes seven nights of accommodations, research assistance and special opportunities to explore the vast holdings of the world's largest genealogical library. For detailed information, contact SLC Genealogical Trip, 155 N. Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

Researching Your Family History

November 1 & 8, 2001, New York City

Introductory course at the 92nd Street Y, co-sponsored by JGS. Check the JGS website for more information.

International Conferences on Jewish Genealogy

Mark your calendars!

2002: August 4-9 - Toronto, Ontario

2003: Washington, DC

2004: Jerusalem, Israel

News from the Center for Jewish History (continued from page 1)

12:30 to 2:00, before the JGS meeting at the Center. This is a good time to network with other researchers and benefit from the accumulated knowledge of other JGS members and CGI volunteers. Please check our website www.cjh.org/family for news of other schedule changes.

Our volunteers are increasingly well-trained and able to help researchers access the rich archival and library materials at the Center. The library and archi-

val collections here are incredibly varied—and there is no one catalog that describes them all. This means that staff, volunteers, and patrons must grow familiar with four cataloging systems of four different institutions— American Jewish Historical Society, Leo Baeck Institute, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and American Sephardi Federation. The Center is working to create an integrated catalog but this project will take some time.

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introduction and frequently asked questions page before beginning a search of the burial societies database. Accompanying this new database is an updated listing of Jewish cemeteries in the metropolitan New York area, including addresses and telephone numbers.

The following lists pertaining to New York landsmanshaftn and other Jewish organizations have been added to the JGS website:

- Landsmanshaftn collections (918 organizations) in the YIVO Archives, with Record Group (RG) numbers for easy access by researchers. For smaller collections included in RG 123, the appropriate box number is also provided.
- Works Progress Administration (WPA) Yiddish Writers' Group Study (1938), English-language list of 1,487 organizations. (A Yiddish-language list of 2,145 organizations will be added in the future.)
- *American Jewish Year Book*: 1900-1901 edition, 294 organizations; 1907-1908 edition, 1,641 organizations; 1919-1920 edition, 2,302 organizations.
- Works Progress Administration (WPA) Federal Writers' Project, Survey of State and Local Historical Records: "Church Records Jewish - Synagogue" (1939): 2,092 organizations (New York City only).
- *Jewish Calendar, Lodge and Society Directory* (1905), compiled and edited by Alex Eli Jacobs: 1,301 organizations.
- Lodges listed in *The Jewish Communal Register of New York City* (1918-1919): 293 organizations.
- Translations of common Hebrew and Yiddish words in landsmanshaftn and burial society names.

Check out the updated Brooklyn naturalizations index of more than 248,000 records for the years 1907 to 1924. Proofing has been completed on all declarations of intention. Volunteers are needed to complete the proofing of petitions at the Kings County Clerk's Office. Let us know if you can help! Contact Estelle Guzik at jgsny@aol.com or call 212-294-8326.



Judengasse, Breisach, Germany
(detail from old map)

Thanks to the cooperation of the Mormon Family History Center in Manhattan and the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, an updated listing of microfilms and microfiche on indefinite loan in Manhattan is available on the JGS website. Films of particular interest to Jewish genealogists have been highlighted.

We're pleased to share the following plaudits received in connection with the website resources:

Two million thanks go out to you for this incredible resource. Bless you all for providing a service to all of us who are researching our families at the

NYC cemeteries. In one look-up, I have found the answer to one of the mysteries I had been searching for.

Gratefully yours,
Shari Kantrow

It's been a long time since we've "spoken" so I thought I'd let you know that the new JGSNY website looks just great! Whoever built that site deserves a big pat on the back.

Laura

During this festive Passover holiday, my newly-found family and I had additional reason to be thankful. My success would not have been possible without: 1) the JGS of New York, Ada Greenblatt, and many volunteers who have created a searchable database of "10,200 Burial Societies in the New York Metro Area." These are plots of landsmanshaftn, synagogues, family circles, etc., contained in about 100 cemeteries; and 2) Jewish Records Indexing - Poland who have a database of over one million 19th-century vital record indexes that include those for my ancestral Polish towns. Here is the short version of the story.

I was to be at Montefiore Cemetery in Queens for another reason. I searched for the Polish town of Tykocin in the Burial Society database www.jgsny.org/database/searchcity.htm and found that the Congregation Sons of Jacob Tiktiner had a plot at this Cemetery. The database identifies the location (block and gate) of the Congregation's plot.

With a map available from the Cemetery office, it was easy to find the Congregation's plot. I walked this small plot and came upon the graves of Arye ben Meyer (Leo) Plonsky and his wife

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New York Family History Center

New hours are in effect starting June 11: Tuesday, 1 to 9 PM; Wednesday to Friday, 1 to 7 PM; Saturday, 11 AM to 5 PM; closed Sunday and Monday. The list of indefinite-loan microfilms and microfiches held at the Family History Center, including many reels of Jewish vital records from Poland, Hungary and Germany, is located on the JGS webpage at www.jgsny.org/fhc.htm.

City Register's Office

The City Register's Office (New York County) moved in June from 31 Chambers Street, 2nd floor, to 66 John Street, 13th floor (between Broadway and Dutch Street), as part of a relocation of Department of Finance offices. The Register's new phone number is 212-361-7550. Deeds, mortgages and filed maps are recorded in the Register's Office.

The Real Property Assessment Bureau, formerly in the Municipal Building, has also moved to 66 John Street, 13th floor. The Assessment Bureau's new phone number is 212-361-7660. They will look up current block and lot numbers by phone, or people can search on the computers in the Assessment Bureau office.

Old York Library

The Old York Library was created by the late New York City real estate developer Seymour Durst. Beginning in the early 1960s and continuing for over thirty years, he assembled the largest private collection of New York City books, photos, prints, maps, newspapers, postcards, pamphlets, memorabilia and artifacts. The non-circulating collection includes many rare and unique books and ephemera. Most of the collection was gifted to The Graduate

Center, City University of New York by The Old York Foundation in September 2000, for the purposes of offering the public access and to encourage the development of innovative scholarship, school curriculum and a greater understanding of New York City. Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM; Thursday, 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM; other hours by appointment. Address: 365 Fifth Avenue (34th Street), New York, NY 10016. Information: 212-817-7241; info@oldyorklibrary.org; www.oldyorklibrary.org.

National Archives

The New York branch is now open Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8 AM to 4:30 PM; Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 AM to 8 PM; third Saturday of the month, 8:30 AM to 4 PM.

E-mail correspondence to the New York branch should be sent to newyork.archives@nara.gov.

Agudath Israel-Orthodox Jewish Archives

Agudath Israel has moved to 42 Broadway, 14th floor (between Exchange Place and Morris Street), New York 10004-1617. Rabbi Kolodny's phone is 212-797-8179; fax is 646-254-1600.

New York County Clerk's Office—Old Records Division

Hand-written ledger indexes to Declarations of Intention, 1907-1924, have been located at the Old Records Division.

New York Genealogical and Biographical Society

A new Technology Center opened on March 6 on the third floor of the Society's building to house the Library's microfilm, microfiche and CD-ROM collec-

tions. New equipment includes eight microfilm readers, a microfiche reader and three microfilm/microfiche reader-printers. Two new high-density microfilm storage cabinets permit all microfilm to be stored on the same floor for the first time in several years. Expansion of the microfilm collection is possible again. Future purchases include additional probate records (wills, letters of administration, administration bonds, guardianships), land and property records (deeds, mortgages, assessment rolls), and vital records (births, marriages, deaths) and the 1930 federal census. A new microfiche storage cabinet will allow growth in the fiche collection.

Book, periodical and manuscript collections remain on the fourth floor, where shelf space has been gained as well as space for additional bookcases. Please note that published vital records indexes are no longer accessible to non-members, because they have been placed on the third floor in the Technology Center. For more information about the Society, please visit its web site at www.nygbs.org.

New York Public Library

NYPL (42nd Street & Fifth Avenue) now has longer hours on Monday for several of the divisions of interest to genealogists. The General Research Division, Dorot Jewish Division, Slavic and Baltic Division, and Milstein Division of U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy are open Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Tuesday and Wednesday, 11:00 AM to 7:30 PM.

The Science, Industry & Business Library (SIBL, 34th Street & Madison Avenue) also

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Meanwhile, as we work on preparing a series of fact sheets on the resources at the Center, we are learning more and more about the collections here. This process takes time, but the dedication and persistence of the volunteers is paying off. In addition to a series of fact sheets on frequently-asked questions – *Starting Family History Research; U.S. Immigration Records; U.S. Naturalization Records; U.S. Census Records 1900-1920; Polish-Jewish Research; Research in Belarus; Introduction to Sephardic Research* – we are beginning to create a series on the resources at the Center. The following topics are available: *Family History Research at the American Jewish Historical Society; Family History Research at the Leo Baeck Institute; Family History Research at the YIVO Archives; Family History Research at the YIVO Library; Finding Synagogue Records; Yizkor Books; Landsmanschaften; French-Jewish Research at the Center; Holocaust Research at the Center; Sephardic Research at the Center; Romanian Research at the Center*. For copies of these fact sheets, visit our website at www.cjh.org/family/FactSheetRequest.html and complete the fact sheet request form. Or call us at 212-294-8324 and leave your name and mailing address and the titles of the fact sheets you would like.

Our programming is coming along as well. We now offer day-long group visits to the CGI and Center Reading Room for genealogical research. Limited to 12 people per group, these visits include an orientation to the holdings at the Center, research in the archives if relevant, assistance by CGI volunteers and a tour of the Center. To request further information, please call 212-294-8324 or e-mail GI@cjh.org.

The Center offers group tours, of course, with Center docents explaining the histories of the partner organizations and taking visitors through the galleries. If desired, these tours can end with an introduction to family history research at CGI. For more information about Center tours, contact Julie Kaplan at 917-606-8226 or jkaplan@cjh.org.

Volunteers who can translate Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian and other languages are on-site regularly or can be contacted to assist patrons in translating short letters, postcards and documents. All basic services are provided free of charge.

CGI will offer free Family History Workshops on the first Thursday of every month, from 6 to 6:30 PM. Individuals interested in learning how to research and explore their family history are welcome to attend the workshops. After each workshop, staff and volunteers will be available for individual help.

In future CGI updates, look for more fact sheets, information about researching specific record groups at the Center, and news of our programs. The Center is located at 15 W. 16th St., New York, NY 10011.

Rachel Fisher, Director of the Genealogy Institute, earned a Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara, with a dissertation on Jewish genealogy.

Center Reading Room

The following rules are in effect in the Reading Room at the Center for Jewish History. Please cooperate with the staff by following them. Reading Room hours are 9:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Monday through Thursday. Only pads, pencils and computer laptops (without the case) are permitted in the Reading Room. All coats and large bags must be checked with Security in the 16th Street lobby. Purses, and bags no larger than 11½ x 8½ inches, are to be placed in a locker located vis-a-vis the public restrooms on the third floor. Keys for the lockers are obtained inside the Library entrance. Do not leave anything in a locker overnight.

Leo Baeck Institute

The LBI Master Catalog, consisting of the records of the Archives, Library, and Periodical Collections, is now on-line. The Catalog may be accessed through either the LBI's website www.lbi.org or the Center for Jewish History's website www.cjh.org.

In September 2001, the LBI Archives will open a branch at the Jewish Museum in Berlin. Microfilm copies of everything at LBI New York will be sent to Berlin, beginning with 3,500 reels of the most used collections. In some cases original documents will be considered for transfer (with microfilm copies remaining in New York), primarily where the materials deal with local German political issues at the end of the 19th century. Other originals are being loaned to Berlin for exhibition purposes. All archival materials remain the sole property of the LBI. A few donors have asked that their family papers remain exclusively at LBI New York.

American Sephardi Federation

ASF is continuing to work with the International Committee of Jews from Arab Lands and the Israeli government to seek restitution of Jewish assets that were lost to Sephardim when they were expelled from Arab lands. ASF is in the information-gathering stage of this effort and is seeking written testimony of Sephardim documenting their losses. Informants are

Overview of Past Programs

Organizing Genealogical Research – February 18, 2001

Rhoda Miller, Vice President of the Long Island JGS, presented a sensible system for coping with the massive amount of paper genealogical researchers accumulate. She stressed the importance of beginning the organization project with just a few papers at a time.

To start organizing, researchers should ask the following questions: “Is this piece of paper or information easily available elsewhere? When looking at information on the Internet, is it really necessary to print it? If yes, where will I put it? What am I going to do with it?”

Ms. Miller described her method of organizing documents, photographs, correspondence and all of the other papers, memorabilia, etc. that accumulate during the pursuit of genealogical research. She color-codes her research by families using a grandparent as a starting-off point. For example, a grandparent’s branch is assigned the color red and information about that family is kept in red loose leaf binders, red files, red hanging folders, on red computer disks, and so forth. Another family branch is assigned the color blue and yet another the color green and so on. It soon becomes routine to file away information according to the family/color. Retrieving a relevant piece of information is easy because each family branch has its own color.

All of us have stray bits of paper with no obvious place to file them. Ms. Miller suggests gluing the strays in a notebook (color-coded, of course) with a glue stick. She recommends storing large maps in art portfolios.

Her suggestions for organizing a “research segment” include asking the following questions: “What do I want to learn? What do I already know (including the social history of the era)? What and where are my resources? Who can give me expert assistance?” Ms. Miller advises that researchers should never take original documents, photos, etc. from the house; always use a photocopy.



Jewish Cemetery, Dukla, Poland

On genealogical expeditions, she suggests that researchers dress in layers to cope with under- or over-heated facilities, wear clothing with lots of pockets to carry research paraphernalia, and wear a “fanny pack” when pockets aren’t enough. She always keeps a small bag packed ready for a research trip. The bag contains coins for photocopiers, small snacks, pencils, pens, and whatever researchers might find useful at a research facility. Ms. Miller advises researchers to review and organize their materials before their trip. She suggests creating a research plan and writing in advance of arriving at an archive.

Lastly, she suggests clearing off your desk and putting everything in its place when you’re finished for the day.

Gloria Berkenstat Freund

Beyond the Basics March 4, 2001

Our annual “Beyond the Basics” genealogical seminar at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion drew a large audience despite a threatening snowstorm that kept some registrants away. The following members volunteered their expertise as teachers: Jordan Auslander, Mike Brenner, Rachel Fisher, Alex Friedlander, Ada Greenblatt, Lucille Gudis, Estelle Guzik, Claus Hirsch, David Kleiman, Gary Mokotoff and Lori Wenig. Fred Shaw, Steven Siegel, Ada, Claus and Lucille managed the day’s logistics. Thanks are extended to everyone.

Genomic Views of Jewish History – March 18, 2001

Guest speaker Dr. Harry Ostrer, Director of the Human Genetics Program at NYU School of Medicine, divided his research project’s agenda into four parts: Who We Are, Who Jews Are, Are Others Jewish and What Can Genetics Mean for Jews. The first two topics were quite technical. Basically the Y chromosome traces to a single male ancestor. MtDNA or Mitochondria is used to trace female ancestry. When all is said and done, Jews descend from Middle Eastern tribal groups.

Examples cited by Dr. Ostrer under the heading “Are Others Jewish?” included Conversos, Crypto-Jews in New Mexico and Ethiopian Jews (really Ethiopians who chose Judaism). Dr. Ostrer referred to the January 2001 article in *Hadassah Magazine*

Overview of Past Programs (continued from page 7)

(www.hadassah.org) about the Lemba, an African tribe that tested positive for the Kohanim gene. Dr. Ostrer said genetics can prove the “validity of the written record,” provide historical continuity and inform about migration and other population dynamics. Genetics can also offer a clue for diseases that are linked to certain populations. Diseases he cited were Tay-Sachs, Cystic Fibrosis, Canavan, Gaucher, Bloom, Fanconi Anemia, Niemann-Pick, Congenital Deafness and Familial Dysautonomia.

For information about Dr. Ostrer’s study or to find out how to participate, see www.med.nyu.edu/genetics/jewishorigins.html.

Paula M. Zieselman

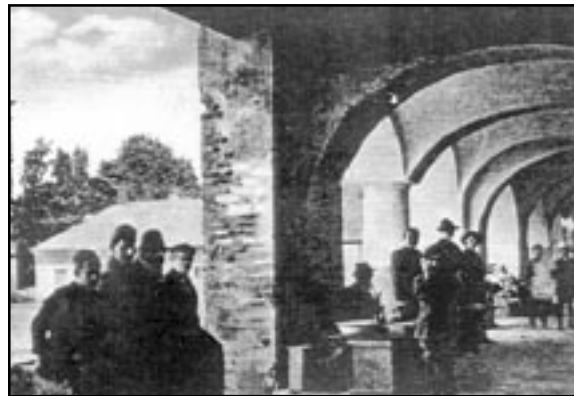
Reclaim a Piece of Your History: The HIAS Location and Family History Service **April 22, 2001**

Valery Bazarov, HIAS Location and Family History Specialist, described how the HIAS archives may be used for genealogical and location purposes. (HIAS = Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) The HIAS website www.hias.org/location.htm explains the services available. Estelle Guzik reviewed the holdings of HIAS records at the Center for Jewish History (YIVO Archives and American Jewish Historical Society). Please see **Table I** on page 9 for an overview of those materials (updated to May 3, 2001) and **Table II** on page 10 for a timeline of HIAS’ history.

Censuses of the Jews in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Poland, Lithuania, Galicia, Ukraine and Belarus) **May 20, 2001**

In an organized and fact-filled lecture, Jeffrey Cymbler presented

information about what census records exist for the area that was once the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth and is now Poland, Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus, why censuses were taken, and what genealogists can learn from them. Mr. Cymbler, an avid genealogist for 18 years, has traced his roots in Poland back eight generations. He has an extensive knowledge of Polish genealogical and Holocaust records, and he has traveled five times to Poland in search of his roots. As the lecture was quite detailed and comprehensive, only a representative selection of the



Marketplace Arcade, Zmigrod, Galicia, Austria-Hungary

information and analysis can be presented here.

Mr. Cymbler’s lecture covered the 16th century to 1931, discussing censuses from as far back as 1764. Mr. Cymbler noted that historians such as Raphael Mahler and Simon Dubnow are often credited with “saving” early censuses, but as historians they tended to record statistical data from the census rather than the actual names of people enumerated. A census is an official, periodic enumeration of a population. Censuses were usually taken in order to assess the amount of taxation for a particular population. The geographic area Mr. Cymbler discussed was, until 1795, one political entity

known as the Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom. Between 1772 and 1795, this area was partitioned three times, with Posnan and other western areas going to Germany, Galicia going to the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and parts of present-day Belarus, Ukraine and Lithuania going to the Russian Empire. In between remained the entity known as Congress Poland or the Kingdom of Poland.

There was no complete census before 1764, as previous to that time the Jews were taxed in a lump sum, as a group. However, there were occasionally “inspections,” or censuses of

particular districts. In addition, noblemen sometimes conducted censuses of the Jews on their privately-owned lands. Some of those censuses are pre-served at AGAD, the Archiwum Głowne Akt Dawnych (The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw). To determine which noble

owned your ancestral town, consult the multi-volume gazetteer, *Slownik Geograficzny*, available in the Center for Jewish History Reading Room and the Slavic and Baltic Division of the New York Public Library, or check the multi-volume *Starozytna Polska*.

In 1764, the legislature passed a law proclaiming that Jews would be taxed per head, and there would be a census to determine how many Jews were living in the Polish-Lithuanian Kingdom. Many Jews avoided being enumerated to avoid taxes. Only fragments of this census remain. Mr. Cymbler displayed part of the census from Brzezany, listing the name and occupation of the

(continued on page 17)

Table 1
HIAS Collection at the Center for Jewish History
(includes affiliates and predecessor organizations)

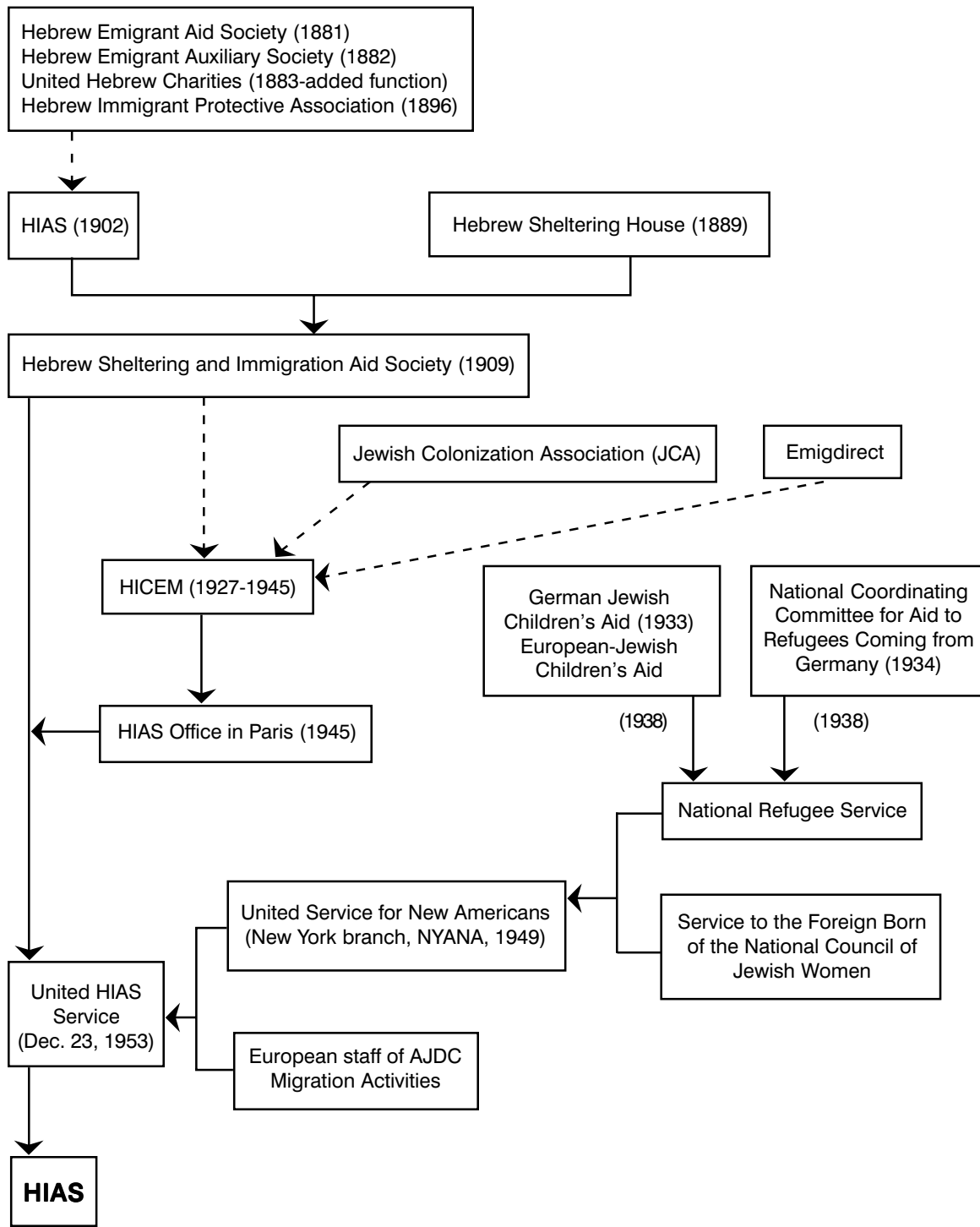
YIVO Archives

- RG245.1 HIAS Board of Directors and Steering Committees Records, 1913-1952.
- RG245.2 HIAS Ellis Island Bureau Records, 1905-1923.
- RG245.3 HIAS Foreign Relations Bureau: Family-Search Case Files, 1915-1923.
- RG245.4 HIAS and HICEM Main Offices, New York Records, 1909-1950.
- RG245.4.12 Europe, 1917-1951. Includes Austria, Baltic States, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Danzig, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Yugoslavia.
- RG245.4.13 Central America, South America, West Indies, 1921-1949.
- RG245.4.14 Australia and New Zealand, 1911-1951.
- RG245.4.15 Far East (Japan, Siberia, Shanghai, Philippines, Siam).
- RG245.4.16 Africa (N. Africa, S. Africa, Abyssinia, Mauritius), 1936-1945.
- RG245.4.20 Transportation, 1936-1945.
- RG245.4.21 Individual cases and Lists of immigrants, 1940-1945.
- RG 245.4.26 HIAS Histories.
- RG 245.4.28 HIAS and USNA Community Relations Department: Location Services/ Jewish Agency for Palestine, c1939-1953.
- RG 245.4.41 HIAS Records of Arrival, Index Cards, 1909-1978. [MKM 27-1 to 71]. Master Card index, 1938-1972 (most 1945-1970) [MKM 27-72 to 76].
- nc HIAS Cross Reference Index (a/k/a Central Files Case Record Cards), 1955-1982 (most 1960s-1970s) HIAS Soundex [MKM 28-1 to 49].
- RG 245.5 HICEM European Office Records, 1935-1953.
- RG 245.6 HICEM/HIAS Office in Lisbon Records, 1940-1951.
- RG 245.7 HIAS European Office (Post War, "HIAS III") (Migration Bureau of the Paris Office of the American (Jewish) Joint Distribution Committee), Case Files and Records, 1944-1962.
- RG245.8 United HIAS Service, Main Office, New York Records, c1954-1967.
- RG245.8.1 NRS-USNA-UHS Case File Index Cards (Holocaust Cards)- HIAS Soundex.
- RG245.9 HIAS-Chile Office (HICEM - Santiago), Case Files and Records, 1933-1971.
- RG 245.10 Central Committee for German Speaking Refugees (Prague) (HICEM-Czechoslovakia) Records, 1927-1939.
- RG246 United Service for New Americans, 1943-1955.
- RG 247 National Coordinating Committee for Aid to Refugees from Germany Records, 1932-1940.
- RG 248 National Refugee Service Records, 1938-1946.
- RG 249 German-Jewish Children's Aid (European-Jewish Children's Aid), 1933-1953.
- RG 334 Comite National de Secours aux Refugies Allemands Victimes de L'Anti-Semitism (Paris) (National Aid-Committee for German Refugees: Victims of Anti-Semitism) Records, 1933-1934.
- RG 335.3 AJDC War Orphans Bureau, 1919-1923.
- RG 335.6 Personal Services Department (Transmigration Bureau) of the American (Jewish) Joint Distribution Committee Records, 1946-1957.
- RG 447 Oberlander Trust Fund of the Carl Schurz Foundation.

American Jewish Historical Society

- I-96 Boston HIAS Records. Case files, late 1920s to 1970s; arrival cards, 1882-1929, ports of Boston and Providence. [Records are at AJHS facility in Waltham, not at Center.]

Table II
HIAS History Timeline



New Publications

Of Jewish Interest

Alexander Beider. *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their origins, structure, pronunciation and migrations*. July 2001, Avotaynu. 704 pp. \$85 cloth, plus shipping. The more than 15,000 given names represented here have their origins in 735 root names (450 masculine, 285 feminine). Order from the publisher at P.O. Box 99, Bergenfield, NJ 07621; 800-286-8296; www.avotaynu.com.

Carl S. Ehrlich, "Onomastics," in *Reader's Guide to Judaism*, edited by Michael Terry. 2000, Fitzroy Dearborn Publishers. Onomastics, the study of names, is explored in short reviews of nine books including Beider, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, Guggenheimer, *Jewish Family Names and Their Origins*, and Kaganoff, *A Dictionary of Jewish Names and Their History*, among others.

Betty N. Hoffman. *Jewish Hearts: A study of dynamic ethnicity in the United States and the Soviet Union*. 2001, State University of New York Press. 282 pp. \$62.50 cloth, plus shipping; \$20.95 paper, plus shipping. This ethnographic study compares the changing ethnic identity of Russian Jews who settled in Hartford, Connecticut between 1881 and 1930 with that of Soviet Jews who remained in Russia after the Revolution, became Soviet citizens, and emigrated after 1975. Although both groups were labeled "Jews," their internal definitions of what constituted being Jewish and their personal experiences were radically different. The author is project director of "Witness to War:1941-1945: The Soviet Jewish Experience" at the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford. Order from the publisher at CUP Services, P.O. Box 6525, Ithaca, NY 14851; 800-666-2211; orderbook@cupserv.org; www.sunypress.edu/sunyp/backads/html/c49459.html.

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. *Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog CD-ROM*. 2001. \$25 plus \$3 shipping and handling within North America (\$5 s&h outside North America). Order from IAJGS at P.O. Box 251683, West Bloomfield, MI 48325-1683; 248-681-0805; www.iajgs.org. Installation of the CD-ROM places the entire database on your hard drive. The database is also available on the Internet at www.jewishgen.org/databases/fhlc.

Barbara Krasner-Khait. *Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors*. 2001, Heritage Quest. 290 pp. \$49.95 cloth, plus shipping; \$24.95 paper, plus shipping. A comprehensive, concise guide to discovering family history from the old country and chronicling immigration to the U.S. The book guides a researcher through the myriad of publications, archives, institutions and web sites that hold the keys to locating even the most hard-to-find ancestors. Historian-author Barbara Krasner-Khait is the contributing editor on Jewish genealogy for *Heritage Quest Magazine* and serves on the Board of Directors of the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Project and on the Steering Committee of the Galicia Special Interest Group. She is a member of JGS of North Jersey and Jewish Genealogical Society (New York). Order from the publisher at P.O. Box 540670, North Salt Lake City, UT 84054-0670; 800-760-2455; www.heritagequest.com.

Knyha Pamiati Ukrainy [Memorial Book Ukraine]. In Cyrillic. Includes Jews and non-Jews who died or were missing in action during World War II. Biographical data such as father's name, year of birth, date of death or date missing in action, occupation and religion are provided. Each volume contains approximately 15,000 names. For each oblast in Ukraine, multiple volumes are being published, with approximately 250 expected. Not all oblasts have started or finished this tribute. YIVO has volumes for Chernigov, Ivano Frankovsk, Lvov, Rovno, Sumy, Ternopol, Volynsk, Zakarpatska, Zhitomir, Stasuk, Ivan Archipovich, Teofipol, Veilkiy Vitchiznya, Khmelnytsk and Kiev. Others may be acquired in the future. The New York Public Library, Slavic and Baltic Division, has most of the volumes issued to date.

Benyamin Lukin, Alla Sokolova and Boris Khaimovich. *Sto evreiskikh mestechek Ukrainy: istoricheskii putevoditel, Podoliia* [Historical Guide: 100 Shtetls of Ukraine. Jewish Communities of Podoliya]. Number 2. St. Petersburg, 2000. 704 pp., 380 photos, 50 maps. In Cyrillic. Describes the Jewish communities in southeast Podolia (now southern Vinnitsa Province), where local Jewry was not totally annihilated during World War II since most of this region was incorporated into Romanian Transnistria. The communities discussed in depth include Bershad, Bratslav, Chernivtsy, Chechelnyk, Myastkovka, Peschanka, Tomashpol, Trostyanets,

New Publications continued

Tulchin, Shargorod, Shpikov and Yampol. No. 1 in this series (1997, revised and enlarged 1998) was devoted to Jewish communities of the northwestern part of Podolia: detailed essays on Medzhibozh, Zinkov, Proskurov, Satanov, Letichev and Derazhnya; shorter entries on Gorodok, Kuzmin, Kupin, Mikhalpol, Nikolayev, Staraya Sinyava, Tarnoruda, Feshtin, Chornyi Ostrov, Sharovka and Yarmolintsky. Future volumes will cover Kamenets-Podolskii and southern Volin. The authors would like to publish these works in English and are looking for funding. Order from P.O. Box 39042, Jerusalem 91390, Israel; telephone/fax 972-2-5635716; archives@vms.huji.ac.il, nektob@mscc.huji.ac.il. The YIVO Library has these volumes under call numbers DS 135 R93 U5, /90828.

Pamiats: Aktsiabrski raion... [Memorial: Aktsiabr District (Belarus)]. Other volumes in this *Pamiats* [Memorial] series cover the districts of Babruisk, Cherykau, Homel, Horki, Klichau, Klimavichy, Kruhliany, Mahiliou, Petrykau, Rahachou, Rechytska, Shklou, Vetka, Zhytkavichy. Minsk, 1988-

1998. In Cyrillic. 15 vols. Each volume includes lists with biographical information about Jewish and non-Jewish residents of the district who perished in the repressions which occurred in the 1930s as well as those who died fighting in World War II. YIVO has these volumes under call numbers /98875, /98883-98885, /98930-98932.

Angela Shire, editor. *Great Synagogue Marriage Records 1791-1850*. 240 pp. £19.95 paper, plus shipping. Detailed records of marriages that took place at the Great Synagogue, Duke's Place, London, from 1791 to 1850. They include the English and Hebrew names of the bride and groom, and of their fathers. Some 4,000 marriages are recorded and over 10,000 names are listed. Fully indexed. Many entries are annotated by the editor, with invaluable cross-references to other sources. A sample page may be viewed at www.eclipse.co.uk/exeshul/susser/samplepage.htm. Order from Frank J. Gent, Culver House, Exeter Road, Crediton, Devon, EX17 3BH, UK; fax (+44) (0)1363 776927; fjpg@susserarchive.org.uk.

South African Jewry

The first three books below are available from Scarecrow Books, P.O. Box 44163, Linden, Johannesburg 2104, South Africa.

Morris Abrahams. Edited by Naomi Musiker. *Jews of Johannesburg*. 2001, Scarecrow Books. \$35 (U.S.). First publication of a manuscript written in 1901, this is a fascinating account of early Johannesburg Jewry, covering the years 1886 to 1899. Abrahams was a Rand pioneer and the secretary of the Chevra Kadisha.

Naomi Musiker, compiler. *Guide to the Manuscript Archives of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies*. 2001, Scarecrow Books. \$40 (U.S.). Covers all aspects of South African Jewish history and activities during the past century. Musiker is archivist, South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

Gustav Saron; edited and augmented by Naomi Musiker. *The Jews of South Africa: An illustrated history to 1953 with an epilogue to*

1975. 2001, Scarecrow Books, in association with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. \$50 (U.S.). First scholarly history of South African Jewry. Includes bibliography, detailed index, photographs. Saron was associated with the South African Jewish Board of Deputies for almost half-a-century.

My Childhood in Trishik: the memories and other writings of Ita Hersch [1871-1958]. \$20 includes shipping. Translated from Hebrew by Joshua Jacobson; edited, annotated and introduced by Joshua Levy. Describes life in a Lithuanian shtetl, then in Warsaw and finally in Elsburg in the Transvaal. Order from Joshua Levy, P.O. Box 8462, Emmarentia 2029, South Africa; telephone/fax +27 (0)11 646 1845; shlevy@hixnet.co.za.

John Yang. *Mount Zion: Sepulchral Portraits*. 2001, D.A.P./Distributed Art Publishers. xx, 90 pp. \$35 cloth, plus shipping. This fine-art photography book illustrates 58 miniature, mostly deteriorated, photographic portraits on tombstones – enamels – in the 80-acre Mount Zion Cemetery in Maspeth, Queens, New York City. Between 1994 and 1998,



A group of Holocaust survivors, Poland 1945-46

New Publications continued

Yang scoured more 180,000 Jewish graves in search of these artifacts. An enamel is a small photographic image burnt into a porcelain or metal tablet, then glazed and set into a tombstone. Enamels were popular among eastern European immigrants in the early 1900s. "Trip to Mount Zion Cemetery" by Donna Balopole, reproduced from the JGS Newsletter of September 1980, appears as an appendix. Order from the publisher at 155 Sixth Ave., 2nd floor, New York, NY 10013; 800-338-2665; www.artbook.com; dap@dapinc.com.

Shmuel Spector and Geoffrey Wigoder, editors. *The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust*. September 2001, New York University Press in association with Yad Vashem. 3 vols. (1,824 pp.) \$395 plus shipping (\$325 plus shipping for orders received before Dec. 31). Based on the *Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities (Pinkasei Hakehillot)*, a multi-volume, Hebrew-language project directed by Spector (encyclopedia.communities@yadvashem.org.il), this condensed, English-language publication chronicles more than 6,500 Jewish communities. NYU Press outbid other publishers for this title, allegedly paying in the low six figures. Order from the publisher at 838 Broadway, New York, NY 10003; 800-996-6987; www.nyupress.nyu.edu.

Of General Interest

Angus Baxter. *In Search of Your German Roots*. 4th edition. 2001. Genealogical Publishing Co. 128 pp. \$11.95 paper, plus shipping. This new edition of a classic guide to German research includes, for the first time, telephone and fax numbers, e-mail addresses and web sites. The work reflects many changes in the location of both national and local archives and genealogical societies resulting from the unification of Germany. Order from the publisher at 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687; www.genealogical.com.

Karen Clifford. *The Complete Beginner's Guide to Genealogy, the Internet, and Your Genealogy Computer Program*. 2001. Genealogical Publishing Co. 376 pp. \$24.95 paper, plus shipping. "A manual for modern genealogy—designed for the beginner but useful even to the most seasoned researcher," says the publisher. See above for ordering information.

James P. Maher. *Index to Marriages and Deaths in The New York Herald*. Vol. III: 1864-1870. 2001,

Clearfield Company. \$70.00 cloth, plus shipping. Previous volumes cover 1835-1855 and 1856-1863. This latest volume includes 42,240 marriage entries and 165,175 death notices. Order from the publisher at 200 E. Eager St., Baltimore, MD 21202; 410-625-9004; www.genealogical.com.

Elizabeth Shown Mills, editor. *Professional Genealogy: A manual for researchers, writers, editors, lecturers, and librarians*. 2001. Genealogical Publishing Co. 680 pp. \$44.95 cloth, plus shipping. "A manual by professionals for everyone serious about genealogy," says the publisher. Twenty-nine chapters written by nearly two dozen scholars and practicing professionals cover the following topics: research skills and the analysis of evidence; writing and compiling genealogical research; the core genealogy library collection; genealogical ethics and standards; editing and publishing; and those issues integral to the profession of genealogist. See above for ordering information.

National Archives and Records Administration. *Microfilm Resources for Research: A Comprehensive Catalog*. 2000. \$5.00. This edition lists over 2,700 NARA microfilm publications, including 200 new microfilm publications issued since the 1996 edition which it supersedes. (For microfilm publications issued during the year 2000, see "Microfilm Publications Issued in 2000" at www.nara.gov/genealogy/yr2000mp.html.) Order from NARA at 800-234-8861 or Archives 2 Research Support Branch (NWCC2), 8601 Adelphi Rd., College Park, MD 20760-0001. Check is payable to National Archives Trust Fund.

National Archives and Records Administration. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*. 2001, 3rd edition. 420 pp. \$39 cloth, plus shipping; \$25 paper, plus shipping. This complete revision of the 2nd edition (1995) includes new information on the 1920 census, increased coverage on naturalizations, references to more than 300 new microfilm collections, enlarged chapters on African-American and Native American genealogical research and more coverage of the NARA Regional Archives facilities. See above for ordering information. www.nara.gov/publications/guide.html#genguide.

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

JGS Welcomes New Members

Natalie Appel	New York NY	Linda & Gary Mayer	Hopewell Jct NY
Jeffrey Arkin	Fresh Meadows NY	Marian Levine McClellan	Woodstock NY
Anne & Murray Axelrod	Brooklyn NY	Dr Saul & Nelly Mednick	Bronx NY
Dena Barbara	Jamaica NY	Martin Meyers	Montclair NJ
Jane Berenbeim	New York NY	Dorothy Morrill	Great Neck NY
Terry Blumer	Mamaroneck NY	Judith W Nadelmann	New York NY
Polly Bookhout	New York NY	Leonard Oken	Valley Stream NY
Sharon Brevoort	Ann Arbor MI	Caryn & Robert Perlman	Forest Hills NY
Flo Brodley	Somers NY	Sheryl Pollack	Middle Village NY
Judy Brown	New York NY	Maxine Potchinsky	Vestal NY
Carol Caruana	East Meadow NY	Estelle Reingold	New York NY
Bernard Cedar	Budd Lake NJ	Jonathan Rigbi	New York NY
Marcos Chusyd	Sao Paulo Brazil	Dr Sara Kaffe Rosenberg	New York NY
Jane Coelho	New York NY	Howard Rothman	Stamford CT
Eric J Ellman	N Bethesda MD	Rennie M Salz	Fair Haven NJ
Elise Simon Goodman	New York NY	Larry Schallop	Yorktown Hts NY
Evelyn Goodman	New York NY	Ruth Ann Schwartz	Brooklyn NY
Robin Haag	Brooklyn NY	Eric Schwartzman	New York NY
Anita Hecker	New York NY	Jay L Sealine	Long Beach NY
Burton & Zeld Heller	Tappan NY	Winnie L Segal	Hartsdale NY
Dr Saul Issroff	London UK	Marcus L Shoobe	Albany NY
Gloria Karmin	New York NY	Florence Silver	Brooklyn NY
Howard A Kornfeld	New York NY	Jack J Sobrin	Hopewell Jct NY
Jerald Kreppel	Bronx NY	Burt Solomon	Mt Kisco NY
Roni Krinsky	Sunnyside NY	Claire Steinberger	New York NY
Judith Kubran	Brooklyn NY	Evelyn Stephens	Bayside NY
Janeen Lambert	Sterling Hts MI	Michael Sucher	Brooklyn NY
Eleanor Lange	Manhasset NY	Maurry Tamarkin	Brimfield MA
Martin Lefkovits	San Francisco CA	Mark P Tavalin	Rego Park NY
Nina Leichter	Larchmont NY	Marina & Rozalia Voyskun	New York NY
Sheila J Levine	Forest Hills NY	Libby & Brenda Warren	Brooklyn NY
Muriel & Sam Lewis	Bayside NY	Selma & Harold Wasserman	Westfield NJ
Beatrice Lewis	Princeton NJ	Pamela A Weisberger	Santa Monica CA
Paula Litzky	New York NY	Amy Weprin	New York NY
Milton J Lowenstein	New York NY	Roberta White	New York NY
Robert Mandelbaum		Matt Yarom	Geneva IL
& Jonathan O'Donnell	New York NY	Irwin Zamore	Hastings-on-Hudson NY
Robert Mandelkern	Hackensack NJ		

New Publications continued

guide to researching World War I draft registration cards, which give valuable genealogical information for over 24 million American men born between 1872 and 1900. Part I explains the process of registration, analyzes the information found on the cards, and offers a methodology to examine contemporary sources like newspapers, city directories and maps to provide a strategy for locating individuals. Part II includes the National Archives and Family History Library film numbers for every local draft board, incorporating the filming breaks for divisions of names. The fully-searchable CD-ROM has an additional 214 pages of maps, newspaper copies, draft board lists, lottery numbers and population estimates, including 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 research tools. Order from the publisher at P.O. Box 540670, North Salt Lake City, UT 84054-0670; 800-760-2455; www.heritagequest.com. For information about World War I Draft Registration Cards and a complete list of National Archives film numbers, also see the National Archives webpage at www.nara.gov/genealogy/w1draft.html.

James G. Ryan, editor. *Irish Church Records: Their history, availability and use in family and local history research*. Second edition. 2001, Flyleaf Press, Dublin, Ireland. 207 pp. \$46 (U.S.) cloth, \$33 paper; prices include airmail shipping. Chapter 7, "Irish Jewish Records as a Genealogical Source," was

(continued on page 18)

Miscellaneous Notes

Hamburg Emigration Database

Work continues in Germany on the computerized indexing of Hamburg passenger departure lists. The on-line search engine is at www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm.

As of the end of 2000, the following years have been indexed:

1890: Direct and indirect lists complete

1891: Direct and indirect lists complete

1892, 1893, 1894: Direct lists partly accessible

“My History Is America’s History”

This excellent website and companion guidebook, prepared by the National Endowment for the Humanities, are dedicated to family history. Check it out online at www.myhistory.org. With summer-time being prime family reunion season, check the site for good ideas on how to make your family gathering a time to remember. Complimentary copies of the guidebook were distributed to all who attended the Family History Fair in New York City in October 2000.

British Empire in Colour

Amanda Sealy, Associate Producer, TWI, is working on a new history series for British TV. She is urgently seeking *any* colour film or home movies of life in India, the Far East and elsewhere, between 1930s -’70s, that reflects any aspect of everyday life across the British Empire. She is also looking for diaries and letters from this period, and would like to include the experiences of Jewish people in India, the Middle East and Far East. This series will be similar in style to “British War in Colour” and “Colour of War” (World War II), both of which included amazing, previously-unseen colour film, matched with moving testimony from letters and diaries of the “ordinary” people who lived through it all. Contact Ms. Sealy at +44 20 8233 5649; asealy@imgworld.com.

Family History Centers in Long Island

A new Mormon Family History Center has opened in Nassau County at 10 Peninsula Boulevard, Lynbrook. Call for opening hours: 516-599-8079. The facility has two microfilm readers and one microfiche reader but no microform printers. A computer and computer printer are available.

A Family History Center also opened recently in Port Jefferson Station. Long Island’s original and largest Center is in Plainview. For addresses and hours of these and other Centers, see www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHC/rameset_fhc.asp.

What Other JGS Periodicals Say

Copies of the following newsletters may be consulted at the Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute:

Bayou Branches (JGS of New Orleans), Spring/Summer 2001:

JGSNO members’ research list and update of Cemetery Project.

Branches (JGS of Greater Miami), March 2001: JewishGen, Inc.

Chronicle (JHS of Southern Arizona), February 2001: “The Short History of a Jewish Nobody—My Search for Isador Iltzky of Arizona” by Alfred E. Lipsey.

Chronicles (JGS of Greater Philadelphia), Winter 2000:

“A Brief History of Dutch Jewry” by Sally S. Mann and Harriet Rudnit.

Discovery (San Diego JGS), Winter 2001:

“The Pincus Connection” by Len Pincus, “Lessons Learned—A Past Found” by Carol Davidson Baird and a bibliography of their Library holdings.

Etsi—Revue de Genealogie et d’Histoire Sefarades, October 2000:

“Les listes nominatives dans les archives de l’Alliance Israelite Universelle” and “Sephardic Family Names in Amsterdam, 1598-2000.”

Etz Chaim (JGS of Greater Orlando):

“Exploring Internet Myths” by Juliana Smith and “Grandad’s Medal for Mom” by Doug Dooling.

Generations (JGS of St. Louis), January, February, March 2001:

“Research Hints—Business Records” by C. Edwin Murray lists all the people who worked for the firm in 1911-1912 and were listed in 50th Anniversary Catalog. “What’s in a Name? Occupations” by Chuck Jackson lists surnames associated with occupations.

Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society (Flossmoor, IL), Spring 2001:

“Why the Archivists in Germany Were Waiting for Me” by Ellen Lucas Kahn.

Jewish Historical Society of Central Jersey Newsletter, Winter 2000-2001:

“Sephardic Jews Found in Northern New Mexico” by Gloria Golden.

The Kosher Koala (Australian JGS), September & December 2000:

“My Lucky Research” by Miriam Shifreen and reports from regional societies.

Miscellaneous Notes continued

- Lineage* (JGS of Long Island), Winter 2001:
“Jewish Genealogy on the Information Superhighway” by Bruce Kahn Ph.D. is a valuable list of Internet sites of interest to Jewish genealogists.
- Maajan die Quelle* (Swiss Society), December 2000:
“Genealogische Systematik,” “Die ersten Generationen der Muellheimer Familie Zivi: Nachkommen des Aaron Mosche Zivi,” “Hochzeitsliste des Naftali ben Schimon Blum,” “Mitteilungen und Hinweise,” “The Homburger Family from Karlsruhe,” book reviews and a discussion of JewishGen, Inc.
- Mekorot* (JGS of Buffalo), Winter 2001:
“Temple Beth El of Greater Buffalo: Membership 1900 to 1940.”
- Mishpochology* (JGS of Southwest Florida), March 2001:
“Candy Store Evening” by Sandra Krisch describes her experience using the Family History Library at last year’s conference in Salt Lake City.
- Nizkor* (Sacramento Jewish Genealogy Society), Oct./Nov./Dec. 2000:
Includes a catalog of materials in their library.
- Quest* (JGS of Connecticut), March 2001:
Discussion of JRI-Poland and a list of Connecticut libraries and archives.
- Revue du Cercle de Genealogie Juive*, Winter 2000:
“Le Convoi 73,” “Levi Nathan Luftspringer ou la passion du jeu,” book reviews and questions and answers.
- Scattered Seeds* (JGS of Palm Beach County), Winter 2000:
“Family Reunion Tips.”
- Sharsheret Hadorot* (Israel Genealogical Society), February 2001:
“The Politzer Tribe,” “Developing a Jewish Genealogy Library” and book reviews.
- Shemot* (JGS of Great Britain), March 2001:
In light of recent online discussions on the hows and wherefores of immigration to and through the UK, the illuminating article by Nicholas Evans, “A roof over their heads: the role of shelters in Jewish migration via the UK, 1850-1914,” gives a detailed history of the treatment of these transmigrants and the terrible conditions to which they were subjected. Anglo-Jewish philanthropic organizations were anxious to ensure that the housing was indeed temporary and the Aliens Act (1905) restricted immigration even more. Evans cites two web sites: www.museumsnett.no/mka/ssa/hull.htm and chrysalis.its.uct.ac.za/shelter/shelter.htm, containing most of the registers of the inmates of the Poor Jews’ Temporary Shelter.

This issue of *Shemot* also includes “Publishing a Family Newsletter,” “The Poor in Mid-Victorian England,” “Jewish Budapest” and book reviews.

Z’chor (Pittsburgh JGS), Winter 2001:
“Back to Basics: A Short and Randomly-Selected Resource Guide.”

ZichronNote (San Francisco Bay Area JGS), February 2001:

Les Shipnuck reports on a reply received from the Civil Registry Archives in Vilnius in less than a month. He was seeking vital records from the Suwalki Gubernia and obtained them at no charge. The address is: Lithuanian Archives Department (Lietuvos Archyvu Departamentas), Lithuanian Central Civil Registry (Lietuvos Centrinis Metriku Archyvas), K. Kalinausko 21, 2600 Vilnius, Lithuania; Jovanita Vaineikiene, Director. This issue of *ZichronNote* also includes “An Unusual Source for Family Information—Dublin, Ireland Alien Registrations,” “Uncle Jack’s Crossing,” “Debeikiai to Alabama: Small Shtetl to Small Town Life” and a bibliography, “Jewish History in U.S. Cities and States.”

Paula M. Zieselman

Ellis Island News (continued from page 2)

addition to being able to specify the name of an immigrant, Morse’s page lets you easily include the age, year of arrival, gender, first name, ship, ethnicity and port of departure. It also allows you to search in ways that are not otherwise possible—such as by entering only the first letter of the last name. Furthermore the Ellis Island website restricts the allowable choices of ports/ships/ethnicities based on the name or partial name you enter, whereas Morse’s page doesn’t.

Rosenbaum’s shareware program, “Ellis Island Database Name Permutations,” available at members.bellatlantic.net/~elr228/eidb.htm, offers you possible alternate spellings to use in searching for an immigrant. These alternate spellings are based upon letters that were easily confused with each other when the EIDB was created, as well as alternate spellings based upon the American Soundex code and the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex code. Rosenbaum’s program also allows you to specify the immigrant’s age, year of arrival, gender, first name and ship. In addition, the program will create a customized web page that contains links to search the EIDB for each alternate spelling.

Ruchel (Rose). This was interesting since my gggrandfather was Leyb Plonsky and one of his sons was Meyer. This information had become available through the indexing of Tykocin and Bialystok records by JRI-Poland.

Upon arriving home, I searched the Social Security Death Index and, sure enough, found a Leo Plonsky who died in NY in 1986, the same year as was on the footstone at the cemetery. I ordered the Social Security Application, which I received in about 3 weeks. This document confirmed a relationship as Leo's parents were Meyer Plonsky and Leah Gittel Shapiro, the same names that appear on other birth documents received through the Polish State Archives/JRI-Poland project.

I called Montefiore Cemetery and they were nice enough to provide information about the next-of-kin. Using an online telephone directory, I found the widow of the next-of-kin. Three phone calls later, I had contacted the Family Historian.

While in New York for Pesach, I visited my new third cousins and verified our connection, added a branch to my family tree and connected the Plonsky family of Tykocin to families in Bialystok and Ciechanowicz.

The many Jewish Genealogy resources on the Internet have made searching so much easier. In this example of success, the online database of Polish vital records available through JRI-Poland at www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/jriplweb.htm and the New York area burial societies database available through the JGS of New York at www.jgsny.org/database/searchcity.htm were the keys to success. And, don't forget JewishGen, which hosts and links all these very useful resources.

Mark Halpern
West Conshohocken, PA

Ellis Island News (continued from page 16)

These two powerful search tools can be used in conjunction with each other. From Rosenbaum's program you can specify that the customized web page contains links to Morse's website instead of the Ellis Island website. By doing so you get all the power of the alternate spellings provided by Rosenbaum together with the versatile searching abilities provided by Morse.🌐

Overview of Past Programs

(continued from page 8)

head of household, along with the number of people in other categories (sons, daughters, spouses of children, servants). Jadwiga Muszynska has published transcripts of the extant 1764 census from the Sandomierz and Lublin provinces in her book *Zydzi w Miastach Wojewodztwa Sandomierskiego I Lubelskiego w XVIII Wieku: Studium Osadnicze* [The Jews in the Towns of the Sandomierz and the Lublin Provinces in the 18th Century: A Study of the Settlement of the Population].

After the partitions, censuses were conducted separately by Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Russian Empire. "Revision lists," some of which are available from the Family History Library, were called such because they were revisions, or corrections, of information from a previous census. In the Russian Empire, people were counted in the town where they were registered, not the town where they were living, when the two were different.

Mr. Cymbler displayed examples from 18th-century censuses of Bedzin and Warsaw. He noted that until the beginning of the 19th century, Jews were not permitted officially to live in Warsaw. Later censuses not only enumerate the Jews of Warsaw but list the towns they came from. He also pointed out that 17th- and 18th-century censuses do not include surnames, as in most areas Jews had not taken them yet. However, using patronymics (the fact that people are identified by their given name and their father's name) makes it possible to use these censuses for genealogical research.

Accompanying the lecture was a thorough bibliography of articles and books that extract, summarize or analyze information from censuses of the Jews in the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth (Poland, Lithuania, Galicia, Ukraine and Belarus) until 1931. For those who missed the lecture, Mr. Cymbler will be presenting on this same topic at the Jewish genealogy conference in London this summer.

Rachel Fisher

The Jews of Central Europe Before World War II June 17, 2001

A panel of Central European experts – Jordan Auslander, Bob Friedman, Claus Hirsch and Martin Perl – explored from a historical perspective how to research Jewish ancestry from the regions of Germany, Austria, Hungary and Czechoslovakia. This program will be reviewed in the next issue of *Dorot*. 🌐

New York City Update (continued from page 5)

has longer hours: Monday, Friday and Saturday, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM; Tuesday and Thursday, 10:00 AM to 8:00 PM.

The Milstein Division has received the microfilms of Queens naturalization records previously filmed by the Family History Library but not readily accessible at the Queens County Clerk's Office. They consist of indexes and petitions, 1794-1906; index cards to petitions, 1906-1941; declarations of intention, 1906-1926 (indexed in each volume). The films are available in the self-service cabinets in Room 119 and were purchased in part through a gift from the JGS.

The Slavic and Baltic Division has recently acquired newspapers for Minsk district, 1838-1917; Kiev district, 1838-1917; Mogilev district, 1838-1918.

Alice Hudson, chief of the Map Division since 1981, was honored, along with seven other city workers, by the Fund for the City of New York with its annual Sloan Public Service award. JGS members frequently are the beneficiaries of Ms. Hudson's love for cartography. She was profiled in *The New York Times* on March 11, 2001. 🌐

New Publications (continued from page 14)

written by Raphael Siev, Honorary Curator of The Irish Jewish Museum, Dublin. Order from the publisher at 4 Spencer Villas, Glenageary, Co. Dublin, Ireland. www.flyleaf.ie.

Joseph M. Silinonte. *Street Index to the 1892 New York State Census, City of Brooklyn*.

2001. 138 pp. \$30 plus \$3 shipping (New York State residents add sales tax). This index to more than 5,000 street addresses was created from information in the 1891 Brooklyn Registry of Voters. Arranged by street name and house number, the index provides ward and election district numbers to simplify searches in the 1892 New York State Census for the

City of Brooklyn. Also included are the street and avenue directory from the *1891/92 Brooklyn City Directory*, listing house numbers and intersecting streets. This index omits the four Kings County towns that were not part of the City of Brooklyn in 1892: Gravesend, Flatbush, New Utrecht and Flatlands. Order from the author at P.O. Box 737497, Elmhurst, NY 11373; www.nostonesunturned.com; jmsnycgen@aol.com. 🌐



Marketplace circa 1920s, Zmigrod, Poland

News from the Center for Jewish History

(continued from page 6)

asked to complete a questionnaire that calls for genealogical data as well as details on personal and communal property in country of origin. For further information, contact ASF at the Center for Jewish History, 15 W. 16th St., New York, NY 10016; 212-294-8350. 🌐

Albany Report

The New York State Archives and New York State Library Manuscripts and Special Collections unit have relocated their public research facility from the eleventh floor to the third floor of the Cultural Education Center (CEC), Empire State Plaza, Albany. The relocation will facilitate a \$7.5 million renovation of the eleventh floor of the CEC, to be completed in 2003. The relocated research room on the third floor of the CEC is open to the public Monday to Friday (except State holidays), 9 AM to 5 PM. State Archives records and State Library manuscripts and other special collections have been moved to less

accessible locations in order to prepare for the renovation. For information on the availability of materials, contact:

New York State Archives,
Cultural Education Center,
Room 3043, Albany, NY 12230;
518-474-8955;
archref@mail.nysed.gov;
www.archives.nysed.gov.

New York State Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections,
Cultural Education Center, Room
3041, Albany, NY 12230; 518-474-6282;
www.nysl.nysed.gov.

The Albany County Hall of Records has moved to a much larger building at 95 Tivoli St., Albany, NY 12207; 518-436-3663. Public hours are Monday to Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. 🌐

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.

CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY BOOKSHOP

15 West 16th Street
917-606-8220 • TheShop@cjh.org

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

Hours

Sun. 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Mon. - Wed. 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM
Thurs. 10:00 AM - 8:00 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

Until October 14, the Museum and Shop hours are extended to the following schedule:
Sun. 10:00 AM - 5:45 PM
Mon., Wed., Thurs. 11:00 AM - 5:45 PM
Tues. 11:00 AM - 9:00 PM
Fri. 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Special Exhibitions

Marc Chagall: Early Works from Russian Collections (through October 14). *There is a \$2 per ticket surcharge for admission to this exhibition in addition to Museum admission.*

Voice, Image, Gesture: Selections from The Jewish Museum's Collection, 1945-2000 (through August 5)
August Sander: Persecuted Jews (through July 22)

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 can only be used by NYG&BS members.)

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

MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE: A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST

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. 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Thurs. 9:00 AM - 8:00 PM
Fri. and the eve of Jewish holidays 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM.

Special Exhibitions:

Citizens Betrayed: The Hungarian Forced Labor Battalions 1939-1945 (through September 3)

JUDAICA TREASURES

226 West 72nd Street (west of Broadway)
212-724-2424

JGS members are entitled to a 5% discount on purchase of books and gifts of Jewish interest.

Ketubot • Mezuzot • Talitim • Chupah Rental • Silver
Benchers & Kipot • Books & Tapes • Invitations

Hours

Sun., 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Mon. - Thurs., 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM
Fri., 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

LOWER EAST SIDE TENEMENT MUSEUM

97 Orchard Street
(between Broome and Delancey Streets)
Call for special events: 212-431-0233
www.tenement.org

JGS members receive a 25% discount on admission and tours, and 10% on purchases. Tours include the original apartment, the Confino family apartment, and the neighborhood walking tour. Purchase tickets at the Museum Gallery, 90 Orchard Street. *Free parking.*

Hours

Gallery open: Tues. - Fri., Noon - 5:00 PM
Sat. and Sun., 11:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Check with the Museum for the schedule of apartment tours and the neighborhood walking tour.



Jewish Genealogical Society

P.O Box 6398
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www.jgsny.org

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למען תספרו לדור אחרון, תהילים פ"ה: 14 14:14 generation, Psalms 48:14
That you might recount it to a future generation, Psalms 48:14