

Toronto 2002: A Meeting Place

22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy – August 4-9, 2002

The 22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be an exciting event for those genealogists who travel to Toronto this summer. Conference programming includes many new features and speakers covering a wide range of topics, geographic regions and skill levels—from beginner to advanced. The Conference is being hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada at the Sheraton Centre Hotel in downtown Toronto. Program chair Peter Jassem has significant contacts in Eastern Europe and is coordinating an outstanding, Jewish-research oriented program.

A major emphasis will be “context.” Genealogy is more than a list of names, dates and places. What motivated the movement of our relatives from the Old Country to New York or Toronto or Minnesota? What was the historical and social context of the Jewish experience that affected our family histories? What are the myths and popular misconceptions that lead to errors or misunderstanding of the events that formed our personal histories? The Conference will feature a very strong contingent of speakers and a variety of topics, allowing you to better understand the historical context and background to your family history.

Speakers

Presenters have been selected representing major Jewish historical, genealogical and immigration-related institutions and repositories in North America and in Israel. Several historians from American and Canadian universities will attend. Authors on genealogy, Jewish history and heritage will present their research. Several archivists from Eastern Europe have confirmed their participation. Rabbis, historians, scientists, researchers, webmasters, translators of documents and Yizkor books, linguists, archivists, librarians, JGS presidents, IAJGS board members, key figures of JewishGen and JRI-Poland, SIG speakers, and genealogists from many countries will share their knowledge and excitement. Speakers are coming from Canada, the U.S., Eastern and Western Europe, Israel, South America, possibly China and other exotic places.

Among the speakers tentatively booked to make Toronto 2002 a great experience are:

Dr. Alexander Beider, author of books and articles on Jewish names

Edward Rosenbaum, webmaster of the Belarus SIG and a JGS president

Prof. Derek Penslar, director of Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto

Olga Muzychuk, director of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine

Helen Epstein, author and a special projects consultant at the Hadassah International Research Institute on Jewish Women at Brandeis University

Jerrold Landau, Yizkor book translator

Miriam Weiner, author of major reference books and East European expert

Arnold Tolkin, IAJGS Board Member and travel maven

Dr. Neil Rosenstein, expert on rabbinic genealogy

Stanley Diamond, on the award-winning JRI-Poland

Dr. Oleg Perzashkevich, historian from Belarus

Prof. Antony Polonsky, expert on Polish and Eastern European Jewry

Prof. Piotr Wrobel, chair of Polish Studies at the University of Toronto

Yale J. Reisner, director of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland

(continued on page 2)

In this issue...

Toronto Conference	1-6
Looking Back	7
JGS NY Programs/National & Regional Events	8
President's Corner	9
Book Review	9
JGS News	10
New Eastern European Archival Database	10
The 1930 U.S. Census	11
Genealogical Research at the Holocaust Museum	13
Sources of Information on Holocaust Victims and Survivors	14
Exploring the Details of Czarist Decrees	18
Miscellaneous Notes	20
JGS Friends	23

DOROT

The Journal of the
Jewish Genealogical Society

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© 2002 Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

DOROT (ISSN 0886-2796) is published quarterly
as Fall, Winter, Spring and Summer issues.
Subscription is by membership only.

ADVERTISING RATES FOR DISPLAY ADS

Full page \$150 • Half page \$80
Quarter page \$45 • Eighth page \$25

JGS, Inc. is a not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization.
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Dr. Neil Rosenstein (1977-79)

holdings, reading Hebrew tombstones, publishing a genealogy, archives, computers and more. A major emphasis will be on methods and techniques in genealogical research. Many speakers will explore how to achieve your research goals using a variety of tools.

Geographic Diversity

Most geographic areas of interest to Jewish genealogists will be covered. Learn about Jewish roots in Galicia, Kingdom of Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, Germany, Hungary, Scotland, England, Persia, Jamaica, Romania, Russia, Moldova, Chile, Spain, Bohemia, Slovakia, South Africa, Courland, Bavaria, Rhineland, as well as the mysterious Kingdom of Khazaria, the Muslim world and China.

You cannot come to Canada without learning about Canadian research. Canada was a major transit point for travel to the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Transit records will be available for research during the Conference.

Workshops

A four-hour Beginner's Workshop will be offered on Sunday afternoon. This will be preceded by a workshop designed to help initiate non-Jews researching a Jewish family line—or Jews with little Jewish education and background—into some Jewish customs and vocabulary. Also on Sunday afternoon, IAJGS will sponsor a workshop—for JGS presidents, officers, board members, potential volunteers and others—on various aspects of JGS programming and functioning.

Schedule

Sunday will be devoted to registration, meetings of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and afternoon workshops, followed by an evening Opening Reception and Opening Session. Throughout the Conference there will be numerous special programs, SIG and other meetings. The annual IAJGS business meeting will be held on Wednesday afternoon.

The typical program Monday through Thursday will include at least three concurrent morning sessions, organized by topics and level of expertise. A two-hour break will be provided for lunch, during which there will be sponsored luncheons with major speakers of interest to genealogists. Or wander through the underground shopping malls and food courts that connect all of downtown Toronto. Afternoons will offer two concurrent sessions. On Friday there will be limited programming ending at noon.

Monday through Wednesday evenings will feature a Jewish Genealogy Film Festival and ample time to explore Toronto, attend the theatre or recuperate, because the next day it all begins again. On Thursday evening, plan to attend the gala Closing Banquet. Special awards, a major speaker, kosher food and wine will make for a wonderful finish to your enjoyment of the Conference.

Registration

To gain the maximum benefit from the Conference, register early and plan your personal schedule ahead of time. Check the Conference website www.jgstoronto2002.ca for full details and updated information. Or contact JGS of Canada, P.O. Box 446, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M2N 5T1, Canada. Phone/fax: 905-882-2259. E-mail: info@jgstoronto2002.ca. A registration form is included (pages 5 and 6) in this issue of Dorot.

Toronto 2002: A Meeting Place (continued from page 1)

David Noyek Handler, author and president of the Litvak SIG

Peter Landé, on Holocaust genealogy research
Batya Untershatz, former director, Bureau for Search for Missing Relatives at the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem

Warren Blatt and **Michael Tobias**, on the databases of JewishGen
Speakers are subject to change.

Topics

A wide range of topics will be presented, including surnames, digital imaging, the Internet and genealogy, history, genetics, databases, research methodology, resources, translation, Yizkor books, Holocaust, missing relatives, inter-ethnic relations, Sephardim, Ashkenazim, census records, vital records, passenger lists, naturalization, rabbinic



22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Hosted by the Jewish Genealogical
Society of Canada (Toronto)

August 4 – 9, 2002

Sheraton Centre Toronto, Ontario, CANADA

TORONTO 2002: A MEETING PLACE - LIEU DE RENCONTRE



A Unique Conference

A Great Location

An Affordable Price

22nd IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy
c/o Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada
P.O. Box 446, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario M2N 5T1, CANADA
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 - Senior Archivists from the US, Ukraine, Belarus, Canada & more
 - World Class Experts
 - Huge range of topics!
- Most geographic areas, including Jewish roots in Galicia, Kingdom of Poland, Belarus, Lithuania, Ukraine, Germany, Hungary, Scotland, England, Persia, Jamaica, Romania, Russia, Moldova, Chile, Spain, Bohemia, Slovakia, South Africa, Courland, Bavaria, Rhineland, as well as the mysterious Kingdom of Khazaria, the Muslim World, and China.
- Special sessions on Poland are planned, including a panel of renowned scholars on the millennium of Polish Jewry, entitled **"Poles and Jews: A Common History, A Divided Memory"**
- Features on Canadian Research
- Workshops, Breakfast with the Experts, SIG Luncheons and More...
- Jewish Genealogy Film Festival
- Art and Photographic Exhibitions
- Closing Banquet (strictly kosher) with some BIG surprises and fun!
- Special Canadian Archives
- Great Toronto Resources
- Computer & Resource Rooms
- Largest Vendor Exhibition Ever
- Birds-of-a-Feather Meetings
- Special Interest Group Meetings
- Toronto & Canadian Tours at Special Rates
- Favourable currency exchange \$
- Fabulous Sheraton Centre Toronto– A safe, secure and wonderfully central location
- Camaraderie!

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See the attached Registration Form and visit our Web site at

www.jgstoronto2002.ca

**22nd IAJGS International Conference on
Jewish Genealogy August 4-9th, 2002**
www.jgstoronto2002.ca
Sheraton Centre Downtown, Toronto, Canada



Please **print** all information. Send completed form with payment to:
IAJGS International Conference Toronto 2002 Registration,
P.O. Box 446, Station A, North York, Ontario M2N 5T1 CANADA
Tel/Fax: 905-882-2259 E-mail: info@jgstoronto2002.ca

	Self					Spouse/Partner Registered for Conference					
Salutation	Mr.	Mrs.	Ms	Dr	Miss	Salutation	Mr.	Mrs.	Ms	Dr	Miss
Category	Registrant		Speaker	Volunteer		Category	Registrant		Speaker	Volunteer	
First name						First name					
Last name						Last name					

Address												
				City					Province/State			
Postal code/Zip			Country				E-mail					
Telephone No. including int'l code												

Please choose ONE form of Registration: Regular OR Daily

CURRENCY (check one)	Canadian Funds <input type="checkbox"/>	US Funds <input type="checkbox"/>
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Regular registration <i>including Conference syllabus</i>	\$250 CDN (\$175 US) before May 31; \$295 CDN (\$205 US) from June 1	\$
Regular registration of spouse/partner <i>syllabus NOT included</i>	\$180 CDN (\$125 US) before May 31; \$215 CDN (\$150 US) from June 1	\$

Daily Registration - \$80 CDN (\$55 US) per day (*syllabus NOT included*)

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Total
Self						\$
Spouse/partner						\$

Extra copies of the syllabus @ \$30 CDN (\$20 US) each: please indicate number		\$
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Banquet Thursday August 8, 2002 – Tickets \$75 CDN (\$54 US) per person (strictly kosher)

Self (please check one)	Vegetarian		Fish		Chicken		\$
Spouse/Partner	Vegetarian		Fish		Chicken		\$

Other meals and activities will be available for purchase in April and May 2002.

Now calculate and enter Grand Total	\$
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For your convenience, registration is available at www.jgstoronto2002.ca

GENEALOGICAL INFORMATION

Print your name as you wish it to appear on your name tag

Self		Spouse/Partner	
-------------	--	-----------------------	--

Enter up to 4 family names you are researching, towns and countries. These will go on your name tag and in the Conference Family Finder. Enter towns as they appear in "Where Once We Walked"/U.S. Board for Geographic Names.

Self	Name	Town	Country

Spouse/ Partner			

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Are you a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)?		Self: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Partner: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Other Genealogical Societies? Please Specify:	Self	
	Spouse/Partner	
3. Member of SIG(s)? Please specify:	Self	
	Spouse/Partner	
4. Is this the first time you are attending an International Jewish Genealogical Conference?		Self: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Partner: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
5. Will you be staying at the Sheraton Centre Toronto?		Self: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Spouse/Partner: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

Indicate any special needs or assistance you may require	
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PAYMENT (indicate choice with 'X') Credit Card **Visa only** **OR** Cheque enclosed

Card No		Expiry Date (mm/yy)		Total \$	
Name on Card (please print)		Signature			

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE: Draw your cheque in Canadian or U.S. dollars to **JGS Toronto 2002**.
If booking from overseas, consult your bank for details.

Hotel Reservation Information:

Sheraton Centre Toronto, 123 Queen Street West,
Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5H 2M9
Tel: (416) 361-1000 Fax: (416) 947-4854
Toll-Free Reservations: 1-800-325-3535;
mention the conference for a special rate



IAJGS International Conference

Toronto 2002 Registration
Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)
P.O. Box 446, Station A,
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Tel/Fax: 905-882-2259
E-mail: info@jgstoronto2002.ca
Web site: www.jgstoronto2002.ca

Travel Arrangements:

Book your flights with Air Canada for a special rate:
Toll-free: 1-800-361-7585. Event code is CV264062.

Refund Policy: A full refund will be made upon written request postmarked by June 30, 2002. From July 1 – August 3, a refund will be made less a \$50 CDN administrative charge. Thereafter, there are no refunds. All refunds will be made in Canadian dollars.

Looking Back

by Estelle M. Guzik

As I step down from the JGS presidency, I want to thank all of you for your support and assistance during the past five years. Much has been accomplished that could not have been done without your dedication.

When I took over as JGS President in December 1996, I set several goals for myself. The first was to find a permanent home for the JGS and its library. Shortly after my election, JGS Executive Council member Steven Siegel and I met with the newly appointed Director of YIVO and raised the question of a home for the JGS at the Center for Jewish History, then under construction. Shortly thereafter the Center's partners created a Genealogy Task Force which Steve and I were asked to join. The Center subsequently established a Genealogy Institute, recommended by the Task Force. And in October 2000, when the JGS was invited to make the Center its home, our collection of genealogy reference books, CD-ROMs, newsletters and tapes were donated to the Center Genealogy Institute and are now accessible to all.

My second goal was to establish a web site for the JGS (NY). At a JGS meeting in the spring of 1997, I put out a call for volunteers and was fortunate enough to be approached at the end of the meeting by Adam Bronstein. Thanks to Adam's dedication and skill, the JGS website www.jgsny.org made its debut with a "virtual" **Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area** online in May 1997. The website has been enhanced over the years by Adam with databases created by our other volunteers and with links to New York sites of import to our members.

My third goal was to complete projects begun in prior years—

primarily efforts begun by JGS almost ten years earlier to create a database of burial societies in circa 100 New York Metropolitan area cemeteries. Ada Greenblatt volunteered to take over that project and we created a Cemetery Committee that Ada chaired. The database was completely overhauled and each cemetery was "walked" to verify and add data. Today, there are over 10,000 burial society plots—including those of landsmanshaftn, fraternal organizations, labor unions, family circles and synagogues—in the online database, and it is used as a primary resource for researchers focusing on a particular shtetl or family. Ada subsequently added many databases related to landsmanshaftn, including a list of cataloged landsmanshaftn collections at YIVO, all of which now appear on our website. We are grateful to Ada for these wonderful resources.

Finally, my goal was to open more vital (birth, marriage, death) records for genealogists in the New York area. While I failed in my original objective, we did meet this goal in part. More than 100 volunteers came forward to answer our call to computerize the index to naturalizations at the Kings County Clerk's Office. Over 263,000 records (petitions and declarations) were entered into the Brooklyn Naturalization Index that was completed in November 2001. E-mail messages expressing gratitude continue to pour in from all parts of the world. You did it!

I am optimistic that our wish to see more vital records opened in the coming years will be fulfilled now that our new mayor has appointed Brian Andersson, a friend and genealogist, to the position of Commissioner, New York City Department of Records and Information Services. Brian is remembered for his critical role in saving the

National Archives – Northeast Region branch during the last attempt to close that office.

During these five years (in Summer 1999), the JGS sponsored the 19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy, the largest gathering of Jewish genealogists before or after. More than 1,300 Jewish genealogists attended this spectacular event that was heralded by all. Hats off to co-chairs Lucille Gudis and Michael Brenner and the many volunteers who made this conference a great one.

As I write this farewell, I note that JGS volunteers are now working with the Center for Jewish History to index to the American Jewish Historical Society's Industrial Removal Office collection. Volunteers are computer-indexing YIVO's HIAS [Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society] collection, starting with the Holocaust cards that are the key to HIAS case files from the late 1930s to the early 1950s. Individual JGS members also volunteer to work on other Center projects—cataloging or computerizing important collections. It is truly exciting to watch these developments.

Many thanks to you all for letting me be part of this effort. I know you will continue to give our new president, Alex Friedlander, your fullest support.

Good luck in your research!

Estelle M. Guzik was president of the Jewish Genealogical Society for five years (1997-2001) and has served on the JGS Executive Council since 1980.

JGS New York Programs: Spring 2002

March 17:

“A Preview of the 22nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy – and Research in Toronto” – Garry Stein, President, Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)

A preview the Toronto Conference, August 4-9, 2002, and information about the main genealogical research facilities in Toronto. [Details of the Conference and a registration form are included in this issue of *Dorot*.]

April 21:

“Genealogical Research at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum” – Peter Landé

Mr. Landé, a volunteer at the USHMM Archives in Washington DC and an expert on its contents, will present a case history on how to do research on individuals using the holdings of the Archives. Through his efforts, it is now possible to do such research using the Holocaust databases at the USHMM. [A report on Mr. Landé’s presentation is included in this issue of *Dorot*.]

May 19:

“Mapping Your Way to the Past” – Alice Hudson and Matthew Knutzen, Map Division, New York Public Library

When genealogists make the leap from research in the United States across the Atlantic to searches in Europe, they often have trouble finding their ancestral towns. This program will focus on the use of traditional maps, as well as demonstrate how computer mapping can be a resource for the genealogist. Ms. Hudson is the division chief and Mr. Knutzen is her deputy.

June 16:

“Holocaust & War Victims Tracing and Information Center, American Red Cross” – Linda Klein

National & Regional Events in 2002

- National Genealogical Society Conference in the States – Milwaukee, WI – May 15-18. www.ngsgenealogy.org/2002cover.htm
- Roots XVIII, Huntington Historical Society’s 18th annual Family History Seminar – Five Towns College, Dix Hills, Long Island – Saturday, June 1. 631-427-7045. www.huntingtonhistoricalsociety.org/genealogy
- Living the Legacy: A Gathering of Descendants of the Shoah and Their Families – Chicago, IL – June 30-July 2. <http://chicago2002.descendants.org>. Includes the One Thousand Children Reunion, celebrating the lives of 1,000 unaccompanied children rescued between 1934 and 1945. www.onethousandchildren.org
- International Roots Conference – Dearborn, MI - July 14-18. www.rootsconference.com
- California 2002: A Goldmine of Diversity, sponsored by the Federation of Genealogical Societies and California State Genealogical Alliance – Ontario, CA – August 7-10. www.fgs.org/2002conf/fgs-2002.htm
- Eighth Annual History of the Catskills Conference – Monticello, NY – August 23-25. Memories of the Jewish “Mountains” and the Borscht Belt. <http://catskills.brown.edu>
- Family History Fair – New York, NY – Sunday, October 6. Annual event sponsored by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York. www.nycarchivists.org/fhf.html
- Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City – October 31-November 7. www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm

JGS Program Information

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. Coats, packages and backpacks must be left in the Center checkroom. The Center Genealogy Institute is open from 12:30 to 2:00 for networking with other researchers and access to resource materials and computers.

The President's Corner

by Alex E. Friedlander

It is with both gratitude and humility that I take up the mantle of the presidency of the JGS. Gratitude to you for your confidence in electing me, and humility in following in the footsteps of our previous president, Estelle Guzik. In her five years as president, Estelle brought a level of commitment and dedication that will be hard to match. Her indefatigable work on behalf of the Society, its members and the genealogical world in general enriched all of us.

The success of the JGS in fulfilling its goals is due in no small part to the large amount of time and effort put forth by the members of the Executive Council, as well as to other JGS members who volunteer their services. My task would be much harder, if not impossible, without their assistance. The recent Beyond the Basics workshop, for example, could not have taken place without the able work of the people who organized and ran the event. In particular, Fred Shaw's role in assembling and coordinating the speakers, the scheduling, the syllabus (prepared by Bob Kraus) and the logistics of the workshop was indispensable. Claus Hirsch and Gerald Dunsky provided vital assistance to Fred. All the speakers gave freely of their time and

expertise; if only the caterer would do the same!

The balance of this year will see some interesting programs for our monthly meetings, put together by our new Vice President for programming, Gloria Freund. This summer the annual meeting in Toronto will provide a relatively close-to-home destination that is also an exciting place to visit for non-genealogical purposes. Information on registration can be found in this issue and on their website. Later this year we are planning a special event to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the JGS.

Anyone who has not yet visited the new "home" of the JGS, in the Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History, is missing a useful and congenial resource for doing research, particularly prior to the monthly meetings when volunteers and Council members are present to assist people. The computers at the Institute have access to all the major websites of interest to genealogists, and during the week the Institute is also the entry point for the library that serves all the facilities at the Center. In the near future we expect to be working with Rachel Fisher to develop ways of jointly serving our

membership, through special workshops or other means.

Genealogists have an unquenchable thirst for access to information, and facilitating that access is one of the functions of the JGS that I hope to enhance during the course of my presidency. Insuring access to genealogical information while protecting the privacy rights of individuals in these days of heightened security concerns requires a delicate balancing act, but it is my hope that we can act as a catalyst for either making existing records easier to access (through better indexing, online sites or more convenient resource facility hours) and/or expanding the types and time frames of records that are available.

Your suggestions in this area, or in any other area where you think the JGS might be able to help you, are always welcome. Your help in assisting in such efforts or in other activities of the Society is even more welcome. We would like to have your input; you can call us at our phone number at the Center (212-294-8326), e-mail us at jgsny@aol.com, or talk to me or any Council member at the meetings. I look forward to serving you and the genealogical community.

Book Review

by Rachel Fisher

Barbara Krasner-Khait. **Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors**. 2001, Heritage Quest. 290 pp. \$49.95 cloth, \$24.95 paper.

Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors is a user-friendly introduction to the basics of Jewish genealogical research. Krasner-Khait writes in a chatty, accessible tone that helps her demystify aspects of genealogy that can overwhelm the novice, such as the mystery of surname origins and how to find an ancestral town. Sometimes important but complicating details are sacrificed to the informal tone. However, there is no dearth of higher-level information about Jewish genealogy on the Internet and in other

reference books (to which Krasner-Khait generously refers), and **Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors** fulfills the current need for an un-intimidating and up-to-date introduction to Jewish genealogy.

Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors is divided into six parts: Building a Foundation; Finding Your Immigrant Ancestors; Special Topics (Rabbinic research, Holocaust research, and other topics); Birds of a Feather (the Internet); Researching Your Medical History; and Tying It All Together. In the style of the "Dummies" books, within each section there is "break-out" text in the

(continued on page 22)

JGS News

At the December 23rd meeting, the annual election of officers and members of the Executive Council took place. The JGS welcomes new Executive Council members Linda Greenman and Hadassah Lipsius and thanks departing Council members Michael Brenner and Marsha Saron Dennis, both of whom have served with distinction as President in past years. Alex Friedlander was elected President and Estelle Guzik has become Past President. Gloria Freund is the new First Vice President–Program and Lucille Gudis is Second Vice President–Membership. Paul Silverstone remains as Treasurer and Linda Cantor as Secretary.

At the end of 2001, the JGS Executive Council approved donations to the following organizations with collections or services that assist our members:

American Jewish Historical Society: to microfilm records of New York's Hebrew Orphan Asylum.

Center for Jewish History: for support of the Genealogical Institute.

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

JewishGen: to support operating expenses.

Leo Baeck Institute: to purchase microfilm copies of vital records and indexes of the Jüdische Gemeinde Wien (Jewish Community of Vienna).

National Archives–New York City: to purchase New York City city directories.

New York City Municipal Archives: to purchase a computer program to convert street addresses to block/lot numbers.

New York Public Library: to co-purchase a microfilm copy of the Manhattan death index 1868-1890.

YIVO Institute–Archives: towards creating a database and microfilming HIAS New York case files c1933-c1950.

YIVO Institute–Library: to purchase Yizkor books and other genealogically-related materials.

New Eastern European Archival Database

Researching ancestral documents in the “old country” is now much easier and quicker with the new website developed by Miriam Weiner for the Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc. The website www.rtrfoundation.org consists of two parts: a 275-page book and a searchable database (by town name) of archive documents for towns in Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova and Ukraine based upon the archival holdings of the foregoing countries.

While it may be tempting to first choose “Archive Database” from the menu and then initiate a “town or locality” search, a few minutes of patience will be well spent by reading/printing the Introduction and the pages within the Introduction relating to specific countries.

A town or locality search may be done in three ways: by exact town-name spelling (current), by the Daitch-Mokotoff soundex search, or by “begins with...” The results produce a list of document types in archives throughout the five countries. After you select documents for the town that interests you, clicking on “archive name” will take you to a page listing archive addresses and other contact information. To search for specific family names, it is then necessary to initiate a search of the relevant archive. Methods of archive access are included in Introduction and in FAQ (frequently asked questions).

The archive inventory data were collected and verified in official cooperation with the state archives in all five countries. The archivists have agreed to continue updating the inventory as new material becomes known.

The website menu includes: Introduction, Archive Acknowledgments, Archive Chapters, Archive Database, Maps, Foundation Data, Publications, Related Websites, Supporters and FAQ. Many of the website pages are excerpted chapters from *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*, supplemented by similar new chapters from archivists in Belarus and Lithuania (in PDF files in order to preserve the format from the books). Numerous links to other sites throughout this website will save the user extensive time. For example, there is a link to a website in Poland where one can find addresses of Urząd Stanu Cywilnego offices (civil registration offices usually located at the local town hall) throughout Poland. There are links to websites where one can find archives and libraries by country, throughout the world.

The home page includes information about which version of browsers work best with this website and instructions about downloading and using Adobe Acrobat Reader for

New Eastern European Archival Database continued

viewing PDF files on the website. See the Site Map on the home page for a detailed outline of the website. For questions and clarifications, see the FAQ section (last button on the menu).

There is no charge for access to this website and any page may be printed. The archive data are being continually updated and expanded as new information is received. The process of collecting and verifying data from archives is an on-going process. The website includes a form for submitting new/revised material and also a form for making contributions to the Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc. (a not-for-profit foundation) in order to support the continuing work of updating the archive inventories.

JGS-NY congratulates its longtime member Miriam Weiner for creating this database and sharing it freely with the Jewish genealogical community.

The 1930 U.S. Census

JGS Presentation on February 17, 2002 by John Celardo

The guest speaker is assistant director of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Northeast Region (New York), located at 201 Varick Street, New York; e-mail newyork.archives@nara.gov.

A federal census of the population has been taken every ten years since 1790. The 1920 census was opened to the public for the first time on March 2, 1992, seventy-two years after the census was taken. The 1930 census was to be released on April 1, 2002 – 72 years from the date it was conducted. The delay is because of privacy rules governing access to the census.

The 1880, 1900 and 1920 censuses are indexed for the entire country according to the Soundex system—devised by Remington Rand Corporation—by which similarly spelled names are placed together in the same segment of the index. A Soundex index exists for the 1910 census for 21 states—not including New York or New Jersey. Indexes of the 1910 census are now available on CD-ROM from Heritage Quest.

Censuses were first indexed during the 1930s, making access to them easier. Censuses were used as proof of age for Social Security benefits, at a time when many states did not have good vital records. However, little of the 1930 census was indexed—only Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia, along with some counties in Kentucky and West Virginia. Ancestry.com is selling digitized versions of the 1930 census and has released CD-ROMs for California, Connecticut, Delaware, District of Columbia, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Utah and Vermont. Additional states will be forthcoming.

The absence of indexes for New York and other states makes it a challenge to work with the 1930 census until additional indexes become available. In any case, Soundex indexes as well as the censuses themselves are generally unreliable. Census takers were told not to ask for name spellings. An example: a fellow named Narcisi Bailoni was listed on the census form as “Cheese Bologna” (along with his wife, Mary Bologna). If no one was home, census takers were instructed to get information from neighbors.

Methods for using an unindexed census

If the individual did not move from his/her 1920 residence, NARA microfilm T1224 can be used. By finding the known 1920 Enumeration District (ED), a table will provide the 1930 ED. The entries on T1224 are given in 1930 enumeration order. Since a 1920 ED may have been split into more than one 1930 ED (because of the growing population in the area), it might not match.

For a large community such as New York City, try to find out—before consulting the microfilms—where the individuals being sought were living in 1930. The streets on the census documents are written fairly clearly on the left side of the page. Begin with a street address, using such sources as naturalization records, birth, death and marriage records, city directories and other documents.

The New York Public Library is the greatest source for city directories. Directory listings include the name of the head of household, along with employable males (around 20 years old), male students, working women and women of marriage age. Check for the same addresses on multiple names

(continued on page 12)

The 1930 U.S. Census continued

that fit. NARA has a set of New York City directories for 1929, 1930 and 1931. There are street and avenue guides in some directories; the streets are in alphabetical order, with cross streets and corresponding house numbers. Also check telephone directories to locate addresses. Once the cross street has been identified, begin the hunt for the correct ED.

The following National Archives microfilms may be consulted:

M1283 – 1910 Cross Index – Streets and house numbers

T1210 – Description of Census Enumeration Districts, 1900

T1224 – Description of Census Enumeration Districts, 1830-1890 and 1910-1950. (1930 is available.)

M1931 – Index to selected City Streets and Enumeration Districts, 1930 Census. Two copies will be available at NARA (NYC).

NARA also has ED maps on microfilm, along with hard copies of the maps laminated in plastic. The NYC facility has as many ED maps as possible on the walls of the exhibit room as space permits. The 1930 ED maps were originally ward or precinct maps; officials hand wrote the borders and the ED numbers.

Researchers should use the ED descriptions in T1224 together with the maps to determine the correct ED for a given address. It is also a good idea to use modern maps to pinpoint locations. Become familiar with the neighborhood being researched. A website that will be helpful is www.mapquest.com.

On the census documents themselves, check for the address (street and number) on the left side of the page. During the actual census, the enumerator walked around a square block, building to building, so look through the entire ED to locate a particular address. Some streets and addresses may appear in several places within an ED. If a household was initially passed over, the census taker might have returned and then placed the data at the end of the ED. Check there, too.

Check the microfilm catalog to determine which roll of film contains your county and ED. The database of microfilms is online on the NARA website (the first numerals in the ED are the county number). The catalog is available on the NARA website.

There were more questions asked in the 1930 census than in the 1920 census—including whether the household had a radio—but for the most part the questions were the same.

Reported by Gloria Freund, with additional notes on using the census by Lucille Gudis

Useful websites for researching the 1930 census

NARA 1930 Census Microfilm Locator

<http://1930census.archives.gov>

Contains the microfilm lists for the 1930 population schedules and the Soundex indexes. Allows the user to search geographically for a specific place name to determine in which enumeration district it will be found. This gives you the information you need in order view the correct roll of microfilm.

Frequently Asked Questions

<http://1930census.nara.gov/FAQ.html>

How to Research the 1930 Census Microfilm

<http://1930census.nara.gov/beginSearch.asp>

Microfilm Samples

<http://1930census.archives.gov/MicrofilmSample.html>

Search Strategies

<http://1930census.nara.gov/searchStrategies.html>

Search Strategies: Geographic Method

<http://1930census.nara.gov/searchStrategiesGeographic.html>

Search Strategies: Other Geographic Resources

<http://1930census.nara.gov/searchStrategiesResources.html>

Search Strategies: Soundex Method

<http://1930census.nara.gov/searchStrategiesSoundex.html>

Registration Procedures for Viewing 1930 Census

www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930_census_viewing_procedures.html

Table of Contents for 1930 Census Information

<http://1930census.nara.gov/1930CensusInfoTOC.html>

1930 Census Research Problems Discussion Group

www.quicktopic.com/11/H/9WZJvVbUEanQi

1930 Enumeration Form

www.ipums.umn.edu/~pipums/voliii/form1930.html

1930 Enumerator Instructions

www.ipums.umn.edu/~pipums/voliii/inst1930.html

Census Questions (1930)

www.ipums.umn.edu/~pipums/voliii/93items.html

Useful websites for researching the 1930 census continued

Circa 1930 City Directories Available at NARA

www.nara.gov/genealogy/citydirs.html
Listing of microfilmed city directories available at the National Archives. Use as an alternative to an index or soundex.

Clues in Census Records, 1850-1930
www.nara.gov/genealogy/cenclues.html

ITWIT_Census1930
http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ITWIT_Census1930/
Devoted to making easier the conversion between street locations to census district numbers for the top 100 cities on the 1930 U.S. Census.

Obtaining EDs for the 1930 Census in One Step (Large Cities)
<http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census/>
Online searchable database for 56 of the top population areas in the U.S. which provides Enumeration District numbers based on street locations.

Also read these articles in the Spring 2002 issue of **Prologue**, quarterly of the National Archives:

"1930 Census: Preparing for the 1930 Census" by Constance Potter
www.nara.gov/publications/prologue/potter1930.html

"Genealogy Notes: The WPA Census Soundexing Projects" by Claire Prechtel-Kluskens
www.nara.gov/publications/prologue/kluskens.html

Genealogical Research at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

JGS Presentation on April 21, 2002 by Peter Landé

Mr. Landé began his talk by making it clear that although he works four days a week at the Holocaust Museum in Washington as a volunteer, he was speaking for no one other than himself. He said there are two basic principles of genealogy. The first, he explained, is plagiarize those who have come before you, and the second is choose your relatives carefully. As an example of both principles, he recalled his father who, before leaving Germany during the 1930s, spent his increasing spare time tracing his family back to the 14th century. Peter Landé began his own genealogical research after retiring from the U.S. Foreign Service. He said he now tells visitors to the Holocaust Museum that he can guarantee finding them a cousin, but he can't guarantee the quality of their cousin. He also disparaged the use of the word "all," as in "all of my relatives died in the Holocaust" or "all of my relatives survived."

Among several examples of successful research, he recalled coming across the Auschwitz file of a Jewish medical doctor held in the death camp since 1942. The file included a 1944 letter from the Swiss Embassy saying the British government had issued a visa for the doctor, giving him permission to travel to Palestine. Out of curiosity, Mr. Landé enlisted the help of a well-known researcher in Israel, asking her to search for the doctor. She wrote back that the doctor had indeed been released (the only Jew he knew of who had been released from Auschwitz) and had gone to Israel after the war. Since the doctor and his wife were now dead (of natural causes), Mr. Landé said he sent a copy of their file to their daughter in Israel—who never replied.

Among the Holocaust Museum's many sources of information cited by Mr. Landé are microfilms (in original Cyrillic) of the Extraordinary Commission established by the Soviet government in 1944-1945 to document what the Nazis had done on Soviet territory. Those records include the names of people killed by the Nazis (many of them Jews), organized town-by-town. The Holocaust Museum project to computerize the lists and transliterate the names into Latin letters, he said, is almost finished, with three-quarters of a million names already completed.

There are between 1 million and 1.5 million names now on Museum computers, mostly victims and survivors, but the Museum, Mr. Landé added, cannot put the material on the Web because of various legal issues. He mentioned well-known institutions that have refused to grant permission for various bureaucratic reasons, along with legal issues such as privacy concerns. But another major problem, he said, is the lack of sufficient volunteers to help computerize the documents and lists which, he said, are flooding the Museum. "If every one of you would do 100 names a night," he told the people at the JGSNY meeting, "we would make some progress." In answer to a question, he suggested interested volunteers contact the JewishGen Vice President for Research, Joyce Field.

Reported by Larry Freund

Sources of Information on Holocaust Victims and Survivors: An Overview

Prepared by U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum

* = see address in list that follows

Austria. *Totenbuch Theresienstadt* lists Austrian Jews who were deported to Theresienstadt. *Recht als Unrecht* lists Austrian Jews who had to submit property declarations in 1938. This material is also available on the Avotaynu website. *Gescheiterte Flucht* by Gabriele Anderl lists over 1,000 Austrians murdered in Yugoslavia. *Dokumentationsarchiv des österreichischen Widerstandes** has computerized the names of about 61,000 Austrian Jews who perished in the Holocaust, and this information can be accessed at www.doew.at. (More needs to be done on those who perished after being captured outside Austria.)

Belgium. *Memorial de la Deportation des Juifs de Belgique* lists 25,000 Jews and gypsies deported from Belgium, many of them non-Belgian, and identifies those who survived. It gives date of birth but not place of birth or profession, although this information is contained in the deportation lists.

Czechoslovakia. The Statny Ustredny archives in Bratislava, USHMM* and Yad Vashem* archives have copies of Slovakian deportation lists. This material, as well as a census of Slovakian Jews in 1941, are being computerized. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's *Register of All Persons Saved from Anti-Jewish Persecution in Slovakia* lists survivors who returned to Slovakia. The two-volume *Terezinska Pametni Kniha: Zivdovske Obeti Nacistickyh Deportaci Z Cech A Moravy 1941-1945* lists approximately 15,000 Czech Jews who were deported from Bohemia and Moravia. The USHMM* has lists of victims from Boskovice and Bardejov.

Estonia. The USHMM* archives has partial records from the Klooga concentration camp with about 2,500 names, and YIVO has records on various Jewish communities. *Kuudad 1941* lists Soviet deportations from Estonia just prior to the German invasion. Many Jewish names are included. Eugenia Gurin-Loov's *Holocaust of Estonian Jews 1941* has several lists of Jews who were murdered in 1941. Also consult the files of the Extraordinary Commission (see Soviet Union, below) and Stutthof files (see below).

France. Klarsfeld's *Deportations from France*, organized by transport, remains the only published sources of information on Jews deported from France, most of whom were non-French. (A finding aid by family name is available on fiche and the deportation lists themselves are currently being computerized at USHMM.*) A new edition of this book is promised for the near future. It is hoped that this will include such information as maiden names and names which appear in other sources (see below). Beginning in 1986 and

continuing through the mid 1990s, the *Ministere des Anciens Combattants et Victimes de Guerre* published in the *Journal Officiele* lists of deportees from France (Jews and non-Jews) who perished during the Holocaust. Known survivors are not included. The lists are only roughly alphabetical and take considerable time to use. The lists furnish information that is not contained in the Klarsfeld books, e.g. maiden names for women and includes Jews not listed in Klarsfeld. These lists supercede *List Officiele des Decedes des Camps de Concentration*, which was published much earlier. The USHMM, Yad Vashem* and the International Red Cross have partial information on dates of death for French Jews in Auschwitz. However, none of the sources cited above include this information. In addition, YIVO and the USHMM* have large filmed collections of documents from the *Union general des Israelites de France (UGIF)*, 1940-44, consisting of information on persons in various camps, residents of orphanages, old age homes, asylums, hospitals, internees with mixed marriages, etc. There is no personal name index to this collection and a search is difficult unless one knows where an individual was held or employed. Another part of the UGIF collection, 65,000 membership cards, is available at YIVO, but not at the USHMM.

Germany. The German Government's *Gedenkbuch* includes the names of about 125,000 Jews, formerly resident in West Germany and Berlin, who are believed to have perished in the Holocaust. A new edition of this book listing all victims within Germany's 1937 borders is scheduled to be completed in 2002, and should substantially increase the number of identifiable victims. A large number of cities and towns, primarily in western Germany, have published their own memorial books. These include Berlin, Hamburg, Stuttgart, Nürnberg and Köln. The 1939 census of German Jews (approximately 234,000 names) covers all of Germany, except for Thuringia and a few Rhineland cities, where the records have been lost. The census is available through any LDS Family History Center. (The two-volume *Juden in Thuringen Biographische Daten* helps close this gap.) The difficulty in using the census is that one must know where the individual being sought lived in 1939 (not where he/she was born), since the information is organized by place of residence. Within each locality, the names are organized alphabetically. A finding aid to names on a "Land" basis may be available in the near future. *Theresienstadt Gedenkbuch* lists 44,000 Jews deported from Germany to Theresienstadt and this, plus the recently rediscovered filmed collection of German deportation lists to all destinations (see Captured German Records on JewishGen) provide much more information than was previously the case.

Sources of Information on Holocaust Victims and Survivors continued

Greece. While many Greek names turn up in Auschwitz and other camp records, extensive deportation lists have not been found so far. The USHMM library has one memorial book in Greek which lists 4,172 Jews from smaller communities (not Salonika or Athens), as well as a list from Volos. **The Jewish Martyrs of Rhodes and Cos** includes a large number of names for these islands. "Property declarations" for Thessalonika, which were required from Jews during the German occupation, are available at the USHMM. A memorial book of Greek Jews published by the Athens Central Board of the Jewish Communities in 1979 (in Greek) is available in Yad Vashem* and at the USHMM*.

Hungary. Hungary is unique in that the 1944 census of Jews and the family histories which Hungarian Jews were forced to prepare have survived. Both are held in Yad Vashem. One part of the census, Hajdu County, has been published and other parts may be published in the future. Yad Vashem* has published **Names of Hungarian Jewish Women in the Stutthof Concentration Camp**. Yad Vashem does not have the staff to reply to written inquiries, but Professor Gabriel Bar Shaked there has up to now been willing to look into family histories in response to letters. Other sources include the two-volume **Names of Jewish Victims of Hungarian Labour Battalions**, which contains the names of 30,000 Jews who were deported, **Names of the Deported Jews from Hajdu County**, as well as **Counted Remnants**, which lists 65,000 Budapest Jewish survivors. Lists of victims from Mako, Mezokovesd, Ujkecok and Des are available at the USHMM*.

Italy. A large number of Jews, of various nationalities, deported from Italy are listed in Liliana Fargion's **Il Libro dalli' Italia della Memorial Gli Ebrei deportati**, while Francesco Folino's **Ferramonti un Lager d Mussolini** discusses Italy's largest concentration camp and lists many Jews held there.

Latvia. Extraordinary Commission victim lists exist for over 25 Latvian communities. The USHMM* archives also has a large collection of material acquired from the Latvian Historical Archives in Riga. This material, in Latvian or German, primarily deals with German administration of Latvia, but includes lists of escaped Jews, Jewish property which was seized and Jews used as forced laborers. The collection is only partially catalogued. Large numbers of Latvians were sent to Stutthof and this camp's records should be consulted. A project to computerize the names of all Latvian Jewish victims has been begun.

Lithuania. There is fragmentary information on Jewish communities in various cities including Kovno. Also see Extraordinary Commission records, Nancy Schoenburg's

Lithuanian Jewish Communities, and extensive filmed records held at the USHMM* archives. The Lithuanian State Archives has more information on victims. The Jewish Museum in Vilnius has published a book, **Vilnius Ghetto: List of Prisoners Vol. 1**, which lists Jews in the ghetto, street by street, and a volume 2 which provides an index to these names. Many Lithuanians were deported to Stutthof in 1944 and this camp's files should be consulted. Many Lithuanians, Jews and non-Jews, were deported to the Soviet Union. A partial list of these persons, organized by community, has been published in **Lietuvo 1941-52 Metu Tremtiniai**. A project is underway to computerize the names of all Lithuanian Jewish victims, and 44,000 names have been recorded so far.

Moldavia. See Romania.

Netherlands. A number of lists of Dutch and non-Dutch Jews who were deported from the Netherlands and who perished have been available for some years, but these lists are fragmented and difficult to use. These are consolidated in book form under the title **In Memoriam**. A collection of information on Jews in Amsterdam 1940-45 (RG 41.003M at USHMM) may also be helpful. Also see Survivors (below).

Poland. No transport lists for Polish victims have been located up to now. The USHMM* and Yad Vashem* have the largest single list of Polish (and non-Polish) victims presently available in **Lodz - Names**, with over 200,000 names of persons who were interned in the Lodz ghetto. It also has extensive records on the Cracow ghetto as of 1940/41 (RG 15.056 at USHMM). While both of these lists are alphabetical and have been computerized, they are not yet available on the web. Unfortunately, there is no similar list for Warsaw, but a 1941/42 Warsaw phone book, as well as fragmentary lists from several other cities, such as Zdunska Wola, Mszana Dolna, Biscupice, Wisznice, Jaszew, Zamosc and Bedzin, are held at the USHMM. The Jewish Historical Institute has lists from various Jewish communities. Yad Vashem has identity cards for Radom. (See Survivors, below, for information on Polish survivors.)

Romania. The USHMM* has 500 reels of film containing records on Romania, Transylvania and Transnistria (RG-25.004M and RG 51.010). Among these are lists of survivors who returned, correspondence concerning persons who were deported and/or returned. Unfortunately this material does not take the form of lists, and searches are extremely time-consuming. There is also some material on the Czernovitz ghetto as well as a number of small lists from Cluj, Iasi, Golta, Ploesti, Bivolari Neamt and Vaslui. **Tragedia Mefkure** by Albert Finkelstein lists those who died in the 1944 sinking of the Mefkura refugee ship in the Black Sea.

Sources of Information on Holocaust Victims and Survivors continued

Soviet Union. The Extraordinary State Commission compiled extensive lists of those killed in the Holocaust and the circumstances of their deaths. No one has counted the number of names contained in the lists but there may well be three-quarters of a million. The lists, organized by town, have been filmed and are currently only available in Moscow, Yad Vashem* and the USHMM*. The USHMM has prepared an index, alphabetically listing the towns where name lists are included. It should be noted that these lists are best for smaller towns, where survivors knew more about those who perished. Less information is available for larger cities. The lists are in Russian and are of variable quality and legibility. They are gradually being translated and computerized. Until such time, the Museum will search these files for family names if a specific town(s) is identified. The USHMM also has partial lists of work permits in the Lvov and Brest ghettos and material listing victims in Borisov, Grodno and Zemin. There is an extensive list of residents in the Pinsk ghetto and this is being computerized. The museum also has partial records for camps run by Romanians in southern Ukraine to which many Ukrainian Jews were sent. These lists are not indexed.

Yugoslavia. The Federation of Jewish Communities in Belgrade is preparing a list of all Yugoslav Jewish victims of the Holocaust. This project is moving very slowly and cannot be accessed at present. In the meantime, *Jugosloveni u Koncentracionom Logoru Ausvic 1941-45* by Tomislav Zugic lists 17,000 Yugoslavs deported to Auschwitz, while *Deca Na Lomaci Rata u Neza Visnoj Drza vi Hrvatskoj 1941-45* Jasenovac lists 19,500 children killed in the Jasenovac concentration camp. The USHMM* has a list of 6,000 Croatian Jewish victims and a list of Belgrade Jews whose property was expropriated. Jasu Romano's *Jevreji Jugoslavije 1941-45* lists Jews who were deported and gives brief biographical information. Zamila Kolonomus' *Evreite vo Makedonija vo Vtorata svetska vogna 1941-45* lists 7,148 Macedonian Jews who were deported to Treblinka.

Concentration camps. Fairly extensive records exist for the following major camps: Dachau, Buchenwald, Theresienstadt, Mauthausen and Stutthof. Dachau records have been digitized and can be ordered from JewishGen. Partial records exist for Auschwitz, Sachsenhausen, Neuengamme, Ravensbrück and Gross Rosen. Fragmentary records exist for Majdanek. The following books contain lists of camp victims (none are complete): Dachau: *Zmarle Polacy w Dachau 1939-45* (mostly Polish victims) and *Martyred Jews of Dachau* (mostly Lithuanian and Latvian victims). Bergen Belsen: *Gedenbuch Bergen Belsen*. Neuengamme: *Totenbuch Neuengamme*. Gross Rosen: *Ksiega Zmarlych Wiezniow Kl Gross-Rosen*. Gurs: *Sie sind nicht vergessen* (1,400 German Jews) and *Le Camp de Gurs liste victimes*.

Auschwitz: *Sterbebücher von Auschwitz* (85,000 names) and *Memorial Book The Gypsies at Auschwitz Birkenau* (10,000 gypsies). *Auschwitz Chronicle* is a day by day account of what took place there and includes a few thousand names. Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka: There are no name lists from these death camps but, if one wishes to check on what happened to particular transports, *Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka* gives the dates of arrival of trainloads of people from various locations. It can be assumed that almost all persons sent to any of these camps perished on the date of arrival or the next day.

Some camps' records (particularly Dachau, Buchenwald, Mauthausen) are available on film at the National Archives in College Park, Maryland. A finding aid, *Captured German Records*, is available on JewishGen. Others, such as Stutthof (305 reels of film) and Sachsenhausen as well as fragments from other camps are on film at the USHMM* archives. The Auschwitz Museum*, Majdanek*, Theresienstadt*, Gross Rosen* (has card catalog of 60,000 victims) and Ravensbrück* have replied to inquiries in the past.

Survivors. Just as there is no single list of Holocaust victims, there is also no single list of Holocaust survivors. Survivors often did not end up in the countries whence they came, so that e.g. Greek survivors turned up in Belgium. Until the numerous survivor lists are computerized and collated, the most useful, largest and most accessible source (for those who can find someone to do the research at Yad Vashem*) remains the filmed ITS records discussed above. The largest single computerized database of survivors and their immediate families is maintained by the Survivors Registry at the USHMM*, about 170,000 names. This information was published in book form in 1996, and a new edition in book and CD form was released in 2001. Survivors and their families who have chosen to register are listed by names and by birthplace and location during the Holocaust. Current addresses are not given but, if requested, mail will be forwarded to them. Work is almost completed at the USHMM on computerizing roughly 33,000 names of persons who appeared in 1945-46 issues of *Aufbau* as survivors. These will be made available on the web but, for now, inquiries as to specific names may be sent to the Survivors Registry at the Museum.

Among the printed materials are extensive lists of displaced persons in camps after World War II, and 60,000 names are consolidated in *Sharit Ha-Platah*. This is currently being computerized. The *Register of Jewish Survivors*, a two-volume work published in 1946 by the Jewish Agency for Palestine, lists about 60,000 survivors, mostly Polish. The USHMM has a filmed list of 300,000 Polish survivors arranged alphabetically (unfortunately, with an involved soundex system). This list includes

Sources of Information on Holocaust Victims and Survivors continued

name, names of parents, year of birth, pre- and post-Holocaust city of residence. This is being computerized by the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. Using these lists as a base, one can often determine where these survivors went by inquiring through the Red Cross. The Swiss Government archives recently published a list of about 22,000 Jews who were admitted to Switzerland; this list can be examined at the USHMM. (Unfortunately no similar list exists for those who were denied admission.) Other collections of survivor lists exist at

YIVO, the National Archives and HIAS. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington has made an extensive survey of State Department visa and consular service records and these are available on microfiche. The list of name changes which appeared in the *Palestine Gazette* (available on microfiche from Avotaynu) gives both previous and new names; it is a useful way of overcoming the difficulties in researching families who emigrated to Palestine/Israel, where name changes often took place.

Addresses

Auschwitz

Panstwowe Muzeum Oswiecim-Brzezinska
Ul Wiezniow Oswiecimia 20
32-600 Oswiecim, Poland
Tel. 48 33 8432022
Fax 48 33 8431934
Email muzeum@auschwitz.org.pl

Austria

Dokumentationsarchiv des
Österreichischen Widerstandes
Altes Rathaus
Wipplingerstrasse 8
A-1010 Vienna, Austria
Tel. 43 1 534367171
Fax 43 1 53436 369901771
Email docarch@email.adis.at

Bergen Belsen

Gedenkstätte Bergen-Belsen
D-29303 Lohheide, Germany
Tel. 49 5051 6011
Fax. 49 5051 7396
Email nlpb@politische-bildung.de

Buchenwald

Gedenkstätte Buchenwald
D-99427 Weimar, Germany
Tel. 49 36 43 430
Fax 49 36 43 43010
Email buchenwald@t-online.de

Dachau

Dachau KZ Gedenkstätte
Alte Römerstrasse 75
85221 Dachau, Germany
Tel. 49 8131 1741
Fax 49 8131 2235
Email gedenkstaette@infospace.de

Flossenbürg

KZ-Grab-und Gedenkstätte
Flossenbürg
Gedächtnisallee 5-7
92696 Flossenbürg, Germany
Tel. 49 9603 921980
Fax 49 9603 921990
Email
infozentrum@flossenbuerg.de

Gross-Rosen (Rogoznica)

Muzeum Gross-Rosen
Skrytka pocztowa 217
58-300 Walbrzych, Poland
Tel. 48 74 8421580
Fax 48 74 8421594
Email pmgr@wb.onet.pl

Majdanek

Panstwowe Muzeum Na Majdanku
Droga Meczennikow Majdanka 67
20-325 Lublin, Poland
Tel. 48 81 7442647
Fax 48 81 7440526
Email archiwum@majdanek.pl

Mauthausen

KZ Mauthausen
Erinnerungsstrasse 1
A-4310 Mauthausen, Austria
Tel. 43 7 2382690
Fax 43 7 2384889
Email mauthausen-memorial@mail.bmi.gv.at

Natzweiler

Natzweiler-Struthof
Direction Interdepartmentale des
Anciens Combattants et Victimes
de Guerre

Service de Strasbourg

Cite Administrative
67084 Strasbourg Cedex, France
Tel. 33 3 88767899
Fax 33 3 88767889

Neuengamme

KZ Gedenkstätte Neuengamme
Jean-Dolidier Weg 39
21039 Hamburg, Germany
Tel. 49 40 42896512
Fax 49 40 428966525
Email info-gedenkstaette-neuengamme.de

Ravensbrück

Mahn und Gedenkstätte
Ravensbrück
Strasse der Nationen
17698 Fürstenberg, Germany
Tel. 49 33093 6080
Fax 49 33093 60829
Email mgr@brandenburg.de

Sachsenhausen

Stiftung Brandenburgische
Gedenkstätten
Strasse der Nationen 22
16515 Oranienburg, Germany
Tel. 49 3301 200414
Fax 49 3301 200433
Email "Hans Coppi" gmsachs@t-online.de

Stutthof

Panstwowe Muzeum Stutthof
ul. Muzealna 6
82-100 Sztutowo, Poland
Tel. 48 55 2478353
Fax 48 55 2478358

(continued on page 18)

Addresses

(continued from page 17)

Theresienstadt

Terezin Memorial
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Fax 420 416 782245
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Fax 001 202 4799726
Email registry@ushmm.org

Yad Vashem

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91034 Jerusalem, Israel
Tel. (central) 972 2 6443400
Fax (central) 972 2 6443443
Fax (Hall of Names) 972 2 6443579
Email (Hall of Names) names@yadvashem.org.il
Fax (Archives) 972 2 6443719
Email (Archives) holocaust.resources@yadvashem.org.il

Pages of Testimony

Submitting Pages of Testimony for Holocaust victims to the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem in Israel has become easier. Last summer Madeleine Okladek—a member of JGS-New York—approached Incline Software, producer of Ancestral Quest (AQ, a major family tree software) with the idea of generating Pages of Testimony as a feature of the AQ software. Incline Software had already produced a special Jewish edition of Ancestral Quest as part of the Living Heirs project. The benefits of this new feature are three-fold:

- Make it simpler for those with information on Holocaust martyrs to submit Pages of Testimony for them.
- By having the computer generate the page from the genealogical data already entered, the pages would be more legible (as opposed to the more common method of filling the pages out by hand). This would aid researchers in looking at the pages later, and make it easier for Yad Vashem to digitize the records accurately.
- As non-genealogists hear about and use this feature to document Holocaust martyrs, they may be encouraged to get involved in researching their family.

Read more about this collaborative effort between Yad Vashem (www.yadvashem.org), Incline Software and Madeleine Okladek at www.ancquest.com/pr052401.htm. A demo copy of Ancestral Quest—Jewish edition may be downloaded from www.ancquest.com/jewished.htm.

Exploring the Details of Czarist Decrees

by Michael Steinore

Introduction

In general terms, the tenuous legal position of the Jews in Czarist Russia is well known. The Jews were simultaneously treated as aliens and citizens. As aliens, they were confined to the Pale of Settlement, limited to a few occupations on the periphery of an agrarian economy, and considered a separate nationality, needing passports to travel, even within the Pale. As citizens, they were obligated to pay taxes and serve in the military, except these obligations fell more heavily upon them than on any other citizens. The 19th-century Russian Czars used the Czarist decree, or *ukase*, as the primary instrument of controlling the Jewish population. There were two main goals of these decrees. First, to dislocate and impoverish the Jews by unceremoniously uprooting them from some places, thereby crowding them together in others. Second, to convert the Jews to Christianity, or at least assimilate them into the Russian citizenry, initially through the Cantonist system and lengthy military service, later by curtailing Jewish education and encouraging attendance in Russian schools. The Czars' obsession with the Jews in their

Empire resulted in a continual flow of new laws. During the 19th century, they issued more than 1,500 decrees concerning Jews, based on a conservative estimate.

Creating The Levanda Index

I began to wonder if this prolific law-making could serve as more than just a general historical backdrop to Jewish life in the Pale. What would the details of these laws reveal that would help genealogical researchers, and how did one go about finding the decrees that specifically concerned Jews? After locating some excellent resources and translating several laws, I created the Levanda Index web site: www.angelfire.com/ms2/belaroots/levanda.htm. It provides detailed information on the nature of Czarist decrees and their effect on Jews. The site currently incorporates material from three complementary 19th century resources:

- In 1874, the Russian writer Vitaly Osipovich Levanda published a useful book for historical research on Jews in Czarist Russia: *Polnyi khronologicheskii sbornik*

Exploring the Details of Czarist Decrees continued

zakonov i polozhenii kasaiushchikhsia Evreev: ot Ulozheniia Tsaria Aleksieia Mikhailovicha do nastoiashchago vremeni, ot 1649-1873 g. In English, "The complete chronological collection of laws and legal positions concerning the Jews: from the Legal Code of Czar Alexsei Mikailovich to the present time, 1649-1873." The volume extracts and excerpts from an 88-volume set of Czarist laws those decrees, or portions thereof, that concerned Jews. Just as useful, Levanda created an extensive, cross-referenced subject index to these decrees, which are numbered from #1 to #1073. This index gives the web site its name.

- In 1872, Eugene Schuyler, the senior U.S. diplomat in St. Petersburg, Russia, wrote a letter to U.S. Secretary of State Hamilton Fish, detailing the legal position of the Jews in Russia, and perceptively commenting on the detrimental effect they were having on the Jewish population.

- In 1891, U.S. Secretary of the Treasury Charles Foster, whose department administered immigration matters, formed a commission to investigate the causes that were inciting immigration to the U.S. His commissioners traveled extensively throughout Europe and Russia, collecting substantial material on emigration procedures and laws, through interviews and document gathering. Among the items in the 1892 Foster Commission report is a condensed summary of many Czarist Laws regarding Jews, brought current to the year 1890.

Observations

The decrees translated so far from Levanda's Index have convinced me that Czarist laws have a number of important genealogical uses:

- Decrees can refer to relatively unknown documents that would be valuable additions to the repertoire of resources if they exist. For example, in Levanda #154 (1827), Czar Nicholas I applied the Cantonist system to Jewish youth, requiring Jews as young as 12 to serve in the military for 25-year terms. Section V. of this law, excerpted below, describes "Call-up books" (**Ocherednyi Knigi**) that recorded columns of information about Jewish conscripts similarly to revision lists:

§ 38. Call-up books are produced every 3 years, to get a true count of Jews registered in communities who are subject to recruit conscription.

§ 39. The community, during the course of 3 years, records in its Call-up book any increase or decrease in the true count of such Jews.

§ 40. Every 3 years, communities must present one copy of the Call-up book to the Provincial Revenue Department.

Another example is Levanda #689 (1853), regulating metrical books, which are registers of Jewish births, deaths, marriages and divorces. There were two copies of each metrical book, a private copy kept by the rabbi, and a public copy eventually surrendered to the Archives. Article 10, excerpted below, suggests that separate metrical books may have been kept and separately stored for Jews serving in the military or in the police:

10. For Jews in the military services, decisions on issuing metrical books and filling the responsibilities of the rabbis as well as storing the books for previous years for the Army and Navy departments are left to the discretion of the nearest top commanders of these departments. For service in the police in St. Petersburg and Moscow and for lesser Jewish bureaucrats, these books are issued by the Board of Deans, where they are returned back for storage.

Where, and whether these Call-up books and metrical books for Jewish military/police service exist, should be pursued.

- Decrees give additional insight on known genealogical resources. For example, Levanda #609 (1850) describes in detail who compiled the revision lists for Jewish merchants, petty townsmen and farmers on the 9th Revision:

... for Jewish merchants and petty townsmen, the lists should be compiled by means of specially sworn leaders amongst the settled inhabitants, in numbers found to be worthy of trust, among them the rabbi, who knows in detail the whole community, together with the elders of the community, under observation of the City Duma or the magistrates and the Town Council. b)..... z) for Jewish farmers, settled on Crown lands or landed estates, by means of specially chosen and trusted leaders, with the participation of rabbis and under supervision of the regional administration of State lands and subject to local courts.

On the same topic, Levanda #823 (1859), issued after the 9th Revision was completed, indicates there were significant doubts about the accuracy of the age of Jews reported in it, and specified how they should be verified. Another example is Levanda #643 (1851), issued to control the movement of Kingdom of Poland Jews entering the Russian Empire. The decree suggests that a large number of internal passport documents were created, because numerous circumstances required them, including transporting timber along waterways:

Exploring the Details of Czarist Decrees continued

Article 26. Jews who are draymen may obtain on a general basis, passports for departure to those gubernias where Jews are allow permanent settlement, as well as to adjacent ones. ... Jews engaged in transporting by water and by land can also receive passports but only to those gubernias where settlement of their coreligionists is permitted or in adjacent ones. The term of these passports is restricted to the time of actual timber-floating and transportation.

• The details of decrees are sometimes essential to get answers to important questions such as Jewish residence and resettlement. The right of Jews to reside temporarily or permanently inside or outside the Pale of Settlement is usually only generally described. However, laws transcribed by the Foster Commission show how nuanced this right was, depending on one's social class, origin and destination. Below, for example, are the rules of residence in the city of Sebastopol, Taurida gubernia:

Jews from other towns who possess factories, or are merchants of one of the two guilds, are permitted to enter Sebastopol only for the purpose of doing business at the fairs, or, if they are contractors, for the supply of the Government with goods for that town; but for the sake of carrying on such business they are not permitted to employ Jews except those who are their servants or clerks. Jews living in the neighborhood of Sebastopol, and in other towns of the Pale of Jewish Settlement, are permitted to enter Sebastopol only for business on the established market days. Young Jews may only come to Sebastopol for the sake of learning a handicraft.

• Decrees provide specific information on the nature of most of the occupations that Jews were allowed to enter. The brief samples above included information on rabbis and draymen and merchants, but Levanda's Index includes laws addressing fully three dozen different occupations, including those held exclusively by Jews: rabbi, cantor, melamed, and feldsher.

Conclusion

As useful as these laws can be, one must use caution in assessing their effect on a single individual or family. While a decree may have been implemented exactly as written, numerous sources suggest decrees could be enforced casually, as well as more severely than written. Occasionally, the Czars would supplement a decree with secret, usually harsher implementation instructions. Jews, in response, were likely to ignore or evade decrees whenever possible, or circumvent them with bribes, a situation that of itself sometimes resulted in follow-up decrees to tighten the loopholes.

"The Levanda Index" is a work in progress, because accurately translating the Russian-language decrees is quite difficult. As of this writing, the site includes a translation of Levanda's subject index of every decree concerning Jews up to 1873, the translated text of several decrees, the 1872 Schuyler letter, and the summary of Czarist decrees on Jews from the 1892 Foster Commission report. Explanatory notes and background information accompany these historical works.

Michael Steinore is the author of numerous articles and web pages on Jewish genealogy. He is researching the Katznelson family from Bobruisk Uezd, Belarus, especially the towns of Urechye and Lyuban. He can be reached at michaelsteinore@msn.com.

Miscellaneous Notes

1901 Census for England and Wales

The on-line version of the 1901 census for England and Wales was taken off-line within days of becoming available on January 2. The demand for this resource was so overwhelming that the computer systems failed. The Public Record Office website www.census.pro.gov.uk has details. The 1901 Census returns for England and Wales are available for public consultation on microfiche—without a personal name index—at the Public Record Office at Kew. Many local libraries and record offices throughout England and Wales also have microform copies of the 1901 returns for their local areas.

American Jewish Historical Society

Volunteers Needed – JGS is working with the AJHS to create an index to the Industrial Removal Office records, 1899-1922. The project is well underway and about 25% completed. Volunteers are needed for data entry—at home or at AJHS—and proofing completed work—at AJHS. If you can give a few hours of your time, let us know by e-mail to: jgsny@aol.com.

Two Databases Online – Indexes to two AJHS collections, created with JGS assistance, are now online. Check "Selected Finding Aids" at www.cjh.org/academic/findingaids/AJHS/institutionlist.html for the index to Jewish Immigrant Information Bureau (Galveston, Texas) collection [I-90] and American Jewish Committee

Miscellaneous Notes continued

Office of War Records collection, 1918-1921 [I-9]. The latter includes questionnaires completed by 6,300 Jewish servicemen after World War I.

Hungarian Jewish History

A new virtual exhibition at the website of Beth Hatefutsoth—the Nahum Goldmann Museum of the Jewish Diaspora—is dedicated to the story of Hungarian Jewry from the Middle Ages until the 20th century. The website's address is www.bh.org.il/V-Exh/hungary/call.html. The virtual exhibition, "In the Land of Hagar," focuses on five main subjects: history, economy, religion, culture and the image of the Jew. The exhibition boasts interactive maps, audio and video clips, in addition to visual material emphasizing the complexity of Jewish life in Hungary and its impressive heritage. Further information includes an extended list of many hundreds of Jewish communities within the territory of historic Hungary, a rich bibliography, addresses of points of interest linked to Judaism in Hungary today and more.

The Beth Hatefutsoth website also includes "Budapest—Our New Jewish Community in Focus" at www.bh.org.il/communities/budapest.asp and "The Great Synagogue in Dohany Street in Budapest" at www.bh.org.il/communities/synagogue/budapest.asp.

Jewish Cemeteries in the Czech Republic

Keshet—The Eternal Houses is a project to catalog Jewish cemeteries in the Czech Republic. Czech actor and theater director Jaroslav Achab Haidler's personal mission is to document the Czech Republic's Jewish cemeteries and to prepare a comprehensive Internet database for them. Keshet will last 10 to 15 years and will include the estimated 340 Jewish cemeteries located in Czech regions of Moravia and Bohemia. "At the moment, I mainly document the cemeteries, but my dream is that money will be found to repair and to maintain as many as possible," Haidler says. He adds, "We must act quickly because we are running out of time."

Additional information about Keshet is available through the Bohemian-Moravian SIG by contacting Alexander Woodle at awoodle@flash.net. Mr. Woodle reports, "I am fortunate to have met and worked with Achab. His passion for his work knows no bounds, but he needs help in accomplishing his task. Currently he has only trained a couple of other people to record the epitaphs from the hundreds of cemeteries in Bohemia and Moravia."

Judaica and Hebraica in Washington DC

The *Washington Post* has reported that "one of the best, most underused collections of Judaica and Hebraica in the country is located at George Washington University" in Washington DC. Donated six years ago by the family of I. Edward Kiev, the chief librarian of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York City, the collection contains more than 18,000 books and manuscripts on religion, philosophy, the classics and the arts. Information about the Kiev Collection may be found at www.gwu.edu/gelman/spec/kiev.

Reuven Schlencker, a rabbinical scholar and cataloguer at the university's Marion Gelman Library, calls the archive "one of the top 10 university collections of Judaica in the country." Besides the Library of Congress, no other area library approaches the Kiev Collection in range and depth of Judaic studies, he said. The full article may be read at www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A18743-2002Apr20.html.

The Jewish Catskills

In the Catskills: A Century of Jewish Life in "The Mountains," a new book by Phil Brown (Columbia University Press) is a collection of fiction, non-fiction, music, and graphics. It complements the author's earlier *Catskill Culture: A Mountain Rat's Memories of the Great Jewish Resort Area*. Selections range from such classic fiction writers and essayists as Abraham Cahan, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Herman Wouk and Hortense Calisher, to more modern writers such as Sidney Offit, Allegra Goodman, Terry Kay, Eileen Pollack, Thane Rosenbaum, Vivian Gornick and Harvey Jacobs. Recent scholarship by Irwin Richman, Abraham Lavender and Clarence Steinberg, and Martin Boris is included, as are memoirs by such people as Tania Grossinger, Arthur Tanney, Moss Hart and Joey Adams.

New Online NGS Newsletter

The National Genealogical Society has started a free online newsletter, *UpFront with NGS*, that is designed for members of the National Genealogical Society and the genealogical community. The newsletter will carry the latest genealogy news, information about upcoming events and brief articles. *UpFront with NGS* will be distributed as a read-only, weekly mailing list. To subscribe, send a blank e-mail message to NGS-L-request@rootsweb.com with the word "subscribe" in the body of the message. NGS is based in Arlington, VA and may be reached at www.ngsgenealogy.org.

Miscellaneous Notes continued

Rabbinic Genealogy Resources Online

The Rabbinic Genealogy Special Interest Group (Rav-SIG) has launched the comprehensive Rabbinic Genealogy Bibliography. More than 300 resources for rabbinic genealogical research are listed in such categories as bio-bibliographical dictionaries, Chassidic rabbis, biographies, family genealogies, Sephardi and Mizrahi resources, regions and countries, periodicals, audiotapes and CD-ROMs. Indexes by author and by names of rabbis found in the bibliography are also provided.

The bibliography is a major step forward in aiding both novice and experienced researchers in discovering and understanding little-known resources in a variety of

languages. Especially useful are critical comments describing contents, and methodology in the use, of these resources. The bibliography will be a constantly evolving project, as new resources are added and commentaries by knowledgeable researchers are contributed. A link to Hungarian resources may be accessed from the Table of Contents.

The Rav-SIG Bibliography Committee, chaired by Dr. Neil Rosenstein, is composed of Chaim Freedman, Hadassah Lipsius and Daniel Polakovic. The bibliography is located at www.jewishgen.org/Rabbinic/infofiles/biblio.htm.

Book Review

(continued from page 9)

margins, in the following categories: Quick Tip (extra information); Quick Hit (Internet addresses); Definition (explaining jargon and Yiddish or Hebrew terms); See Also (cross-references to other sections of the book); On the Bookshelf (referrals to other reference works); For More Information (sources for in-depth information); and Case Study (anecdotes illustrating research techniques). Often the most practical and useful information can be found in the "break-out" text, while the main text provides a general overview of the topic.

The sequence of the book's sections is logical, with the first section providing a general overview of Jewish history and the development of Jewish surnames. The historical overview is simplistic, seeming to be the result of a cursory reading of several works of general Jewish history. The surname sub-section relies heavily on Alexander Beider's work and gives him ample credit. The second section, on finding immigrant ancestors, is probably the most crucial for beginning researchers. Passenger, naturalization, and vital records are explained, and sample documents are included.

The "Birds of a Feather" section, focused on the Internet, is of course critical for any new book on Jewish genealogy. Krasner-Khait enthusiastically shares anecdotes of research success stories made possible by the Internet, and gives readers a clear "lay of the land." The chapter is somewhat heavy on URLs and explanations of specific databases, many of which have already

changed. In a chapter on the Internet, it may have been more effective to give examples of the types of resources available, rather than giving the impression that the reader will find exactly what is being described in the book on the web. The medical history section also addresses contemporary interests and effectively explains how genealogy can provide important health information for families.

The design and layout of the book occasionally leave something to be desired. It is not always clear what is a "break-out" section and what is the main text of the chapter, and some section headings seemed to be in the same design as the sections themselves, making it difficult to know when a new section is beginning. Editing could also have been more thorough. For example, Bukharan is incorrectly spelled "Bukharian," and some of the personal anecdotes could have more compelling narratives. A more important characteristic of the book, however, is its generous, warm, and clear tone: Krasner-Khait shares her own stories and those of others, refers to other Jewish genealogy experts often and credits them for their contributions, clearly explains genealogical records and how to find them, and generally makes the reader feel that "I can do that, too!"

Rachel Fisher is the director of the Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History. Her doctoral dissertation was a study of genealogy's impact on Jewish identity.

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