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The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

# DOROT דורות

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## The New JDC Archives Database: A Glimpse Inside a Vast International Archive

by Naomi Barth

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC), the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization, has digitized an extraordinary collection of documents and photographs from the World War II era and has recently made them accessible to the public online. Inaugurated on May 2, 2011, Holocaust Remembrance Day, the database, entitled "Our Shared Legacy" encourages the public, especially Holocaust survivors and their families, to perform searches for themselves or others they know in a database of more than 500,000 names and to view and identify photos from twenty-seven countries where JDC operated during and after the war. The website—[www.jdc.org/sharedlegacy](http://www.jdc.org/sharedlegacy)—allows users to share their stories of receiving aid from the organization, which helps "the Joint" fill in the blanks about its impact during this tumultuous time in Jewish history.

Available for free to anyone in the world, Shared Legacy facilitates family history research, scholarly pursuits, and general Holocaust education. Great excitement has been expressed by the Jewish and general genealogical communities, with members petitioning for JDC records long before the database was launched. During 2009 and 2010, over 250 family historians consulted the JDC Archives about its treasure trove of genealogical records. Scholars perusing the names database will find notable figures, such as politician Menachem Begin, pop artist Peter Max, and Nobel Laureate Eli Wiesel, while academics searching through the image galleries will gain a broader picture of social history. Shared Legacy has also been used as a means for high school students to connect with the Survivor generation, with students and survivors scrolling the site together. Further educational initiatives will be developed.

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### The Names Index

The Names Index is a genealogical highlight of the Shared Legacy platform. The index includes the names of over 500,000 Jews aided by the JDC on six continents between 1933 and 1945 and 1945 to 1954. Genealogists can find names, former addresses, ages, and birth years for people who received financial help.

Despite the fact that many doors were closed to refugees during World War II, JDC worked tirelessly to assist transmigrants as they attempted to leave Europe. Significant among the records in the Names Index are the Barcelona Refugee Case Cards (1943–1945), listing the tens of thousands of Jewish refugees who streamed into Spain after the fall of France in 1940. The JDC office in Barcelona supported these refugees as they waited for their emigration papers and passage aboard a transatlantic vessel. The 8,000 cards list names, dates,

continued on page 3

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We support organizations, repositories, and archival projects through generous annual donations to insure the preservation of many of the Jewish community's treasured documents and to provide greater public access to them. Some of them are American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Center for Jewish History, Center Genealogy Institute, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, JewishGen, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Leo Baeck Institute, National Yiddish Book Center, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Membership benefits:

- free admission to our monthly meetings (September through June), featuring guest lecturers from a variety of disciplines, and field trips to libraries and archives;
- discount on admission to JGS events, such as all-day seminars;
- a subscription to our quarterly journal, *Dorot*, containing reports on monthly meetings, descriptions of items held by repositories and organizations, announcements of new books, feature articles on genealogical research, and tips on new Internet sites;
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JGS is a not-for-profit organization open to people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.

/.list of refugees, page 10 /

Nr.	Name and Family Name	B o r n		Comes from
		Locality	Year	
589	Bojko Dawid	Lwów	1906	Jasło
590	Baum Lejb	Józefów	1909	Lublin
591	Ben-Arcy Mosze	Ryga	1913	Warszawa
592	Bebin Szeja	Drohobycz	1920	"
593	Begin Menachem	Brześć	1913	"
594	Berenstejn Dawid	Suwałki	1908	Suwałki
595	" Rachel	"	1910	"
596	" Miriam	"	1936	"
597	Berkowicz Abram-Eliasz	Pińsk	1909	Warszawa
598	Berańczuk Samuel	"	1911	"
599	Birkenhejm Abram	Warszawa	1910	"
600	Bronstejn Szloma	"	"	"
601	Bret Abram-Hersz	Częstochowa	1921	Lublin
602	Bedenstejn Szmul	Chełm Lubelski	1919	Chełm Lub.
603	Belf Gitla	Kowel	1916	Mżawa
604	Berenfeld Jankiel	Międzyrzec	1911	Międzyrzec
605	Basel Sera	Nowogródek	1919	Warszawa
606	Boksenbaum Becelel	Włocławek	1916	Częstochowa
607	Berman Zelman	Mele Raczeki	1919	Mele Raczeki
608	" Izrael-Mojsze	Lejkowo	1882	Warszawa
609	Bekerkunc Hirsz-Lejb	Białobrzyn Radomski	1894	"
610	Bertman Artur	Warszawa	1912	"

List of Refugees, Vilnius (Vilna), Lithuania, February 4, 1940, AR 33-44, file 876. Courtesy of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives. Former Prime Minister of Israel Menachem Begin is listed as a recipient of JDC aid. Polish refugees escaping the Nazi regime found temporary relief in Vilna, which had been annexed by Lithuania.

internment camps in Spain, addresses in Barcelona, accompanying family members and file numbers. This is a resource not to be overlooked.

JDC continued its lifesaving work for hundreds of thousands of people in the aftermath of World War II, including but not limited to providing logistical help with emigration, paying for ship passage, and providing financial and programmatic help to Displaced Persons (DP) camps. JDC's post-Holocaust era work is captured by the collection of Munich and Vienna Emigration Cards (1945–mid 1950s), containing the names of 80,000 Jewish refugees registering with JDC to emigrate to places other than Israel. Included on these cards are given names and surnames, accompanying people, originating address, and country of destination.

An additional resource is the collection of Transmigration Bureau Records (1940–1956), which was established in New York to help refugees emigrate from Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Holland, Belgium, and Luxembourg, primarily to the U.S.

Its primary role was to accept deposits from friends or family overseas toward the travel costs of Jews emigrating from Europe. Included are deposit cards for 37,732 individuals who emigrated from 1940-1956, with the bulk from 1940–1942. Rich with genealogical information, these cards have addresses for both the recipient in Europe and the depositor in the West and note when multiple people are beneficiaries of the aid.

### Photo Galleries

In conjunction with the Names Index, the website contains fifty-eight photo galleries, organized by location and topic. Here one will find photographs from Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, British Mandate Palestine, China, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lithuania, Morocco, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Uruguay. Users are encouraged to view and tag photos that

they recognize. Within the first month of the database launch, 135 photo identification comments were submitted, with survivors and their children identifying themselves, relatives, and friends in the archival images. A photo from 1940 of five nurses caring for newborns in Sosúa, Dominican Republic, was tagged by user Alma Guzman. Guzman not only identified herself as the centerfold baby but even identified the nurse who delivered her, Martha Mondschein-Bauer! Allowing JDC to add these two names to the ever-growing database, Guzman's feedback enables the JDC Archives to strengthen Shared Legacy as a genealogical tool, and to better record history for posterity.

The Joint's work in the Far East is depicted in the Kobe, Japan, and Shanghai photo galleries, with the latter containing seventy-eight photographs of everyday life. The only country that did not require an entrance visa, China was a safe haven for 18,000 Jewish refugees from Central and Eastern Europe who were escaping from Nazism. JDC helped fund their flight over land and sea and supported them in Shanghai, where the conditions were harsh, food and employment scarce, and property often confiscated under false pretexts. By organizing soup kitchens, education, vocational training, hospitals, and an emigration office, JDC was involved in every minute detail of daily life, resettling tens of thousands of refugees worldwide. Highlights of the photo gallery are pictures of children at play, exercise classes, and celebratory moments. The scenes of life in Shanghai are complemented by close to 15,000 individual names, making Shared Legacy a comprehensive and astonishing resource for those seeking to research this period.

"I cannot express the profoundly deep connection I felt to my past and now to JDC when, out of nowhere, my young face popped up on the screen," said Claus Hirsch, a German-born Shanghai Ghetto survivor who found a photo of himself in the Ghetto during his search on the system. Hirsch, whose family was helped by JDC in China during the war, also found two historic lists on which appear the names of his mother, father, brother, and grandfather. Hirsch, a former treasurer for JGSNY who served for thirteen years on its Board of Directors, has been a volunteer with the indexing project for eighteen months, along with JGS members Simah Krauss, Susan Viuker-Lieberman, Toby Carliner-Sanchez, and Linda Cantor, past president.

Evocative photographs are featured in the thirty-two galleries of camps and installations for Displaced Persons (DP) after the Holocaust. In the immediate wartime period, DP camps were hastily constructed in Allied-occupied Germany, Austria, and Italy. The

camps were sites of reconstruction and renewal, and Shared Legacy documents the rich educational, cultural, and religious life that was created in grim circumstances. One sees the schools for children, the training classes for adults, and the yeshivas and holiday observances as well as theatrical and musical activities. The photo galleries contain images of daily life in Fohrenwald, Feldafing, Bergen Belsen, Landsberg, Linz, and Salzburg.

## Share Your JDC Story

Within the first month of the database launch, forty-eight people shared their JDC stories. Among them are tales of escape to India, memories of the first postwar Seder in Munich in 1946, accounts of JDC-sponsored ship passages, and countless anecdotes of lifesaving food and supplies. One man writes, "We got to DP Lampertheim with nearly no belongings; therefore, the packages distributed by the Joint Distribution Committee had a very strong impact on me, being a six-year-old child. I always wondered, "Who are those angels called 'Joint?'" Creating an extra layer of interactivity, the website aims to add personal stories to JDC's vast international archive and reconnect with former recipients of aid.

The JDC Archives Names Index is an ever-growing resource for those engaged in family history research, with more records being added periodically by volunteer genealogists. Currently searchable by surname and given name, it will soon be cross-indexed to allow more narrow searches by location and time period. Earlier JDC records, such as genealogically-rich remittance lists from 1915–1921, will be added to the database soon. The diverse photo galleries help contextualize the documents, supplementing the historical narrative depicted by the Names Index.

JDC will launch its Global Archives later this year, which will make available enormous collections of newly-digitized documents, finding aids, online exhibitions, an interactive timeline, and 20,000 photos from 1914 to the present. Shedding light on the past, the JDC records succeed in encapsulating 20<sup>th</sup>-century Jewish history for genealogists, from the newly-initiated amateur to the most adept enthusiast.

The online address for Shared Legacy is <http://archives.jdc.org/sharedlegacy>.

The JDC Archives continues to look for volunteers able to commit one day a week for six months to the Names indexing project. Those interested are encouraged to contact [archives@jdc.org](mailto:archives@jdc.org).

*Naomi Barth is the Indexing Project Coordinator in the JDC Global Archives. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is the world's leading Jewish humanitarian assistance organization. JDC works in more than seventy countries and Israel to*

*alleviate hunger and hardship, rescue Jews in danger, create lasting connections to Jewish life, and provide immediate relief and long-term development support for victims of natural and man-made disasters. To learn more, visit [www.JDC.org](http://www.JDC.org). ☆*



Nurses with newborn babies outside of the medical clinic in JDC's refugee settlement, Sosúa, Dominican Republic, c. 1940, Courtesy of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives.

Martha Mondschein-Bauer is third from left, holding the newborn Alma Guzman.



A physical education class at the Shanghai Youth Association School supported by JDC, Shanghai China, c. 1946, Courtesy of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives. Claus Hirsch is one of the students in this photo.

## Upcoming and Current Events

### Washington, D.C.

AUGUST 14-19, 2011

#### International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

The 31<sup>st</sup> Annual IAGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Washington, D.C. at the Grand Hyatt Washington from August 14 to August 19. The conference website, [www.dc2011.org](http://www.dc2011.org), contains a complete list of all events, arranged according to the day, the subject matter, geography, and the level (beginner, intermediate or advanced).

There are pre-conference events on Friday and Saturday, August 12 and 13, including Shabbat dinner and services (both Orthodox and egalitarian). Throughout the conference there will be daily minyanim and kosher food for all meals. All facilities are ADA-compliant.

The 160 sessions will cover such topics as: Cemeteries & Burial, Genetics, Internet & Software, JewishGen, Publishing, Research, Maps, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum & Holocaust, and talks on research in every part of the world where Jews have lived.

There are lectures and/or Special Interest Group and Birds of a Feather meetings on:

Argentina, Asia, Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bukovina, Canada, Cuba, France, Galicia, Germany, Hungary, Israel/Palestine, Latvia, Lithuania, Moravia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Sephardic history, Southern Africa, Southern U.S., Syria, U.S., Ukraine, and the United Kingdom.

The conference website, [www.dc2011.org](http://www.dc2011.org), contains all the necessary information about hotels, traveling

to D.C. and getting around the city, museums and repositories, SIGs and BOFs.

### New York City

#### Three Interesting Exhibits at the Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC

Through August 31, 2011

##### Looking Back: The Jews of Morocco

Through September 2, 2011:

##### Images of a Lost World: Balkan Sephardic Life

Through November 30, 2011

##### Simon Dubnow: Missionary for History, A Visionary of Diaspora

September 18, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

##### JGSNY Meeting – “Computers & Genealogy”

Speaker: David Kleiman

Location: UJA Federation, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Conference Center  
130 East 59<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC

October 16, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

##### JGSNY Meeting – “Routes to Roots Foundation Update”

Speaker: Miriam Weiner

Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC

November 20, 2011, 2:00 p.m.

##### JGSNY Meeting – “Odessa: Genius and Death in a City of Dreams”

Speaker: Charles King

Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC ☆

### Correction

In the last issue of *DOROT*, there was a mistake in Irwin Weintraub's article, "Let My People Sow: Jewish Agricultural Settlements in the United States." The Homestead Act of 1862 gave would be farmers 160 acres, not 1160. The author apologizes for the error.



## JGS Program Reports

March 6, 2011

### “DC2011 – A Capital Conference”

by Steve Stein

Marlene Bishow, President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, the host organization for the 31<sup>st</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy this coming August, gave a preview of the features and innovations of the upcoming conference. The conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt Washington in the center of DC from August 14 to August 19. The conference’s website is [www.dc2011.org](http://www.dc2011.org).

The Conference hotel is located close to the White House and other tourist sites, as well as to several conference resources, such as the National Archives, which is within walking distance. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and the Library of Congress are each a short cab ride away. The Grand Hyatt Washington is accessible from Union Station and Reagan National Airport on the DC Metro subway.

The Conference is proud to be ADA-compliant and to announce that all food served will be kosher, under the supervision of the Vaad Harabanim of Greater Washington. Both Orthodox and egalitarian minyans will be offered.

From a programmatic perspective, the conference will offer at least 150 different talks on a variety of tracks. The talks will be targeted to various levels of expertise, including beginners. There will be a film festival, a fair for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Birds-of-a-Feather groups (BOFs), a Vendor Showcase, Internet Hot Spots, two classrooms, and several hands-on training sessions. There will be one SIG breakfast and eleven SIG luncheons, and several embassy experiences.

A unique feature of this conference will be a Repository and Resource Fair on Monday afternoon, August 15, with representatives from more than two dozen Washington-area facilities offering onsite research during and after the conference. These are listed on the conference website, with their website addresses. Some of the major sites include:

- National Archives-Washington ([www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington/](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington/))
- National Archives-College Park, Maryland ([www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/](http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/college-park/))
- Library of Congress ([www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov))
- United States Holocaust Memorial Museum ([www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org))



Marlene Bishow, President of the JGS of Greater Washington, giving a preview of the upcoming IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, to be held in Washington, D.C. August 14-19.

In particular, the records of the International Tracing Service, which are now housed at the USHMM, will be available for research. No tickets are needed to conduct research.

Wednesday, August 17 is ProQuest Day! ProQuest will provide open access to their considerable collection of searchable newspapers all day, hours to be announced. Included are the New York Times, Washington Post, and many more.

And for the Shabbat prior to the conference, August 12-13, a complete Shabbat experience will be offered, which will include Shabbat Scholar Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, the well-known author and TV and radio host.

The conference will be providing updates as the event approaches. Join the discussion group, keep checking the website, and most of all, plan to come to the conference!

Following Ms. Bishow's presentation, JewishGen Board of Governors members (and JGS members) Karen Franklin and Gary Mokotoff solicited input from the meeting attendees of ways that JewishGen could better serve the Jewish genealogical community. JewishGen successfully serves more than 350,000 users with databases containing millions and millions of records, as well as many other resources. A lively discussion ensued, with many observations and suggestions that Gary and Karen will bring to the Board of Governors for evaluation.

April 10, 2011

**“Researching Israeli Genealogical Resources in Your Jammies”  
by Steve Stein**

Daniel Horowitz, webmaster for the Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) and member of the board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), gave the April meeting attendees a lot of new and updated online and other resources to use for researching Israeli records. And for those who are Hebrew-language challenged, there are a number of tools to ease the way. Mr. Horowitz showed what several of the sites look like and the kind of information they have. (See his “Genealogical Resources in Israel,” following this report.)

First and foremost is the IGS site itself, at [www.isragen.org.il](http://www.isragen.org.il). Too numerous to mention here, the site lists a number of databases, which together contain more than 100,000 names. The organization is in the process of having a single search engine in the near future.

Equally important and valuable is the Yad Vashem website at [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org). In addition to the well-known database of victims' names and pages of testimony, the site has photo archives, library catalogs, and Shoah-related lists of individuals from a variety of sources. Mr. Horowitz recommended the Advanced Search. For those visiting Israel, the Bad Arolsen collection can be found onsite at both Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and in Ramat Gan, for in-person research.

A key to any research of records substantially in Hebrew is to have a “cheat sheet.” Copies were handed out at the meeting, with a pronunciation guide for the Hebrew alphabet and many words commonly found in



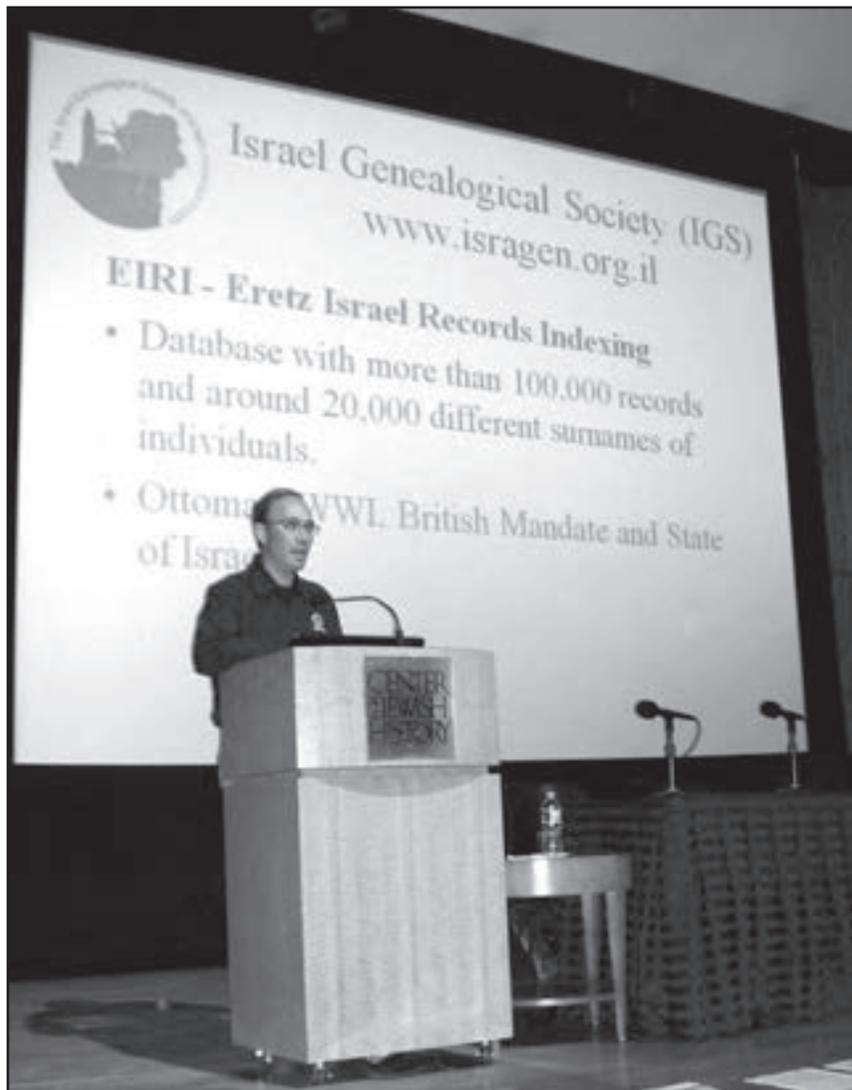
Gary Mokotoff and Karen Franklin listening to suggestions for improving JewishGen.

Hebrew characters, English transliteration and English translation. The handout, which is reprinted at the end of this report, had “shem mishpacha” – last name – and other similar terms of use to genealogists.

Use directory sites such as [english.b144.co.il](http://english.b144.co.il), which contains phone numbers of all telephone subscribers (not only Bezeq's). Steve Morse's front end transliteration tool (found at [www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/bezeq.html](http://www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/bezeq.html)) is most helpful. The English site doesn't have as many features as the Hebrew version at [www.b144.co.il](http://www.b144.co.il), and may be challenging to use at times, but the information found there is invaluable for finding current Israeli residents.

As for records concerning the deceased, there are a number of important sites. Izkor has a Hebrew-only site – Fallen Soldiers in Service of the IDF – which can be found at [www.izkor.gov.il](http://www.izkor.gov.il) (Steve Morse has a front end here too). The large Chevra Kadisha site at [www.dat.gov.il/religion/console/mng/kadisha\\_search.aspx](http://www.dat.gov.il/religion/console/mng/kadisha_search.aspx) (again, see Steve's site for English) contains burial records for several organizations. Other sites exist for civilians ([www.laad.btl.gov.il](http://www.laad.btl.gov.il)); Ashdod ([www.ashdod-kadisha.co.il](http://www.ashdod-kadisha.co.il)); Tel Aviv ([www.kadisha.biz](http://www.kadisha.biz) with a Morse site); Haifa ([www.kadisha.net](http://www.kadisha.net)); Tirat Carmel ([www.mdt.org.il](http://www.mdt.org.il)); Petach Tikva ([www.sgula.org](http://www.sgula.org)); and Jerusalem ([www.mountofolives.co.il](http://www.mountofolives.co.il)).

Other important sites for research include the Dinur Center for Research Hebrew University at [www.dinur.gov](http://www.dinur.gov) for finding books and genealogical



Daniel Horowitz, webmaster for the Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) and member of the board of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS).

resources, the Hebrew University at [www.huji.ac.il](http://www.huji.ac.il) for finding employees, alumni, etc., Central Zionist Archives at [www.zionistarchives.org.il](http://www.zionistarchives.org.il), Beit Hatefutzot – Museum of the Jewish People at [www.bh.org.il](http://www.bh.org.il); and Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at [sites.huji.ac.il/archives/](http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives/).

A couple of interesting projects are underway and should be available soon. One is the Museum of Jewish Soldiers in World War II, which will cover all countries, at [www.jwmww2.org](http://www.jwmww2.org). Another is a resource regarding name changes effected upon arrival in Palestine / Israel.

More generic translation / transliteration tools can be found at Steve Morse's site, at Miriam Weiner's Routes to Routes site ([www.rtrfoundation.org](http://www.rtrfoundation.org)), and of course at Google Translate.

Mr. Horowitz answered a number of questions about other possible resources, such as whether the Bad Arolsen records will be online (they won't) and the existence of old phonebooks to locate past addresses (some are available). The latter may be useful, for example, in locating where contributors of Pages of Testimony may have lived and where their children or grandchildren may live today.

Mr. Horowitz may be reached at [www.SearchingForMyRoots.com](http://www.SearchingForMyRoots.com), [daniel@genealogy.org.il](mailto:daniel@genealogy.org.il) or [im@searchingformyroots.com](mailto:im@searchingformyroots.com).

*(Steve Stein is a member of the JGS Executive Council. He is a software systems professional in the telecommunications industry and has been researching his own and his wife's Eastern European genealogies for more than thirty years.) ☆*

# Genealogical Resources in Israel

## By Daniel Horowitz

<http://www.SearchingForMyRoots.com> - [im@searchingformyroots.com](mailto:im@searchingformyroots.com)

Sites mentioned in the lecture presented on April 10, 2011 :

- “Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel” by Mathilde Tagger and Yitzhak Kerem ([www.avotaynu.com/books/TaggerKerem.htm](http://www.avotaynu.com/books/TaggerKerem.htm))
- Israel Genealogical Society - IGS - Eretz Israel Records Indexing ([www.isragen.org.il](http://www.isragen.org.il))
- Yad Vashem ([www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org))
- International Tracing Service - ITS - Bad Arolsen ([www.its-arolsen.org](http://www.its-arolsen.org))
- International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies - IAJGS ([www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org))
- JewishGen - ([www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org))
- MyHeritage Genealogy Search ([www.myheritage.com/research](http://www.myheritage.com/research))
- Bezeq 144 - Israel phone directory (English: <http://english.b144.co.il> or Hebrew [www.b144.co.il](http://www.b144.co.il))
- Stephen Morse
  - English Front-End for Bezeq ([www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/bezeq.html](http://www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/bezeq.html))
  - English Front-End for Tel Aviv Burial Database (<http://stevemorse.org/hebrew/kadisha.html>)
- Izkor - Fallen Soldiers in Service of the IDF ([www.izkor.gov.il](http://www.izkor.gov.il)) ([www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/izkor.html](http://www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/izkor.html))
- Chevra Kadisha - Burial societies ([www.dat.gov.il/religion/console/mng/kadisha\\_search.aspx](http://www.dat.gov.il/religion/console/mng/kadisha_search.aspx))
  - Civilians ([www.laad.btl.gov.il](http://www.laad.btl.gov.il))
  - Ashdod ([www.ashdod-kadisha.co.il](http://www.ashdod-kadisha.co.il))
  - Tel-Aviv/Yafo ([www.kadisha.biz](http://www.kadisha.biz)) ([www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/kadisha.html](http://www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/kadisha.html))
  - Haifa ([www.kadisha.net](http://www.kadisha.net))
  - Tirat Carmel ([www.mdt.org.il](http://www.mdt.org.il))
  - Petach Tikva ([www.sgula.org](http://www.sgula.org))
  - Jerusalem ([www.mountofolives.co.il](http://www.mountofolives.co.il))
- Dinur Center for Research Hebrew University of Jerusalem ([www.dinur.org](http://www.dinur.org))
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem ([www.huji.ac.il](http://www.huji.ac.il))
- Central Zionist Archives ([www.zionistarchives.org.il](http://www.zionistarchives.org.il))
- The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People - CAHJP (<http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives/>)
- Jabotinsky Institute in Israel ([www.jabotinsky.org](http://www.jabotinsky.org))
- Beit Hatfutsot – Museum of the Jewish people ([www.bh.org.il](http://www.bh.org.il))
- Museum of the Jewish soldier in WW2 ([www.jwmww2.org](http://www.jwmww2.org))

### Translation Tools:

Stephen Morse [www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/eng2heb.html](http://www.stevemorse.org/hebrew/eng2heb.html)

Google Translate [translate.google.com](http://translate.google.com)

Hebrew <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/webart/ForeignAlphabets--Hebrew.pdf>

Yiddish <http://www.rtrfoundation.org/webart/ForeignAlphabets--Yiddish.pdf>

### Hebrew Alphabet:

Name	Phonetic	Numerical value	Letter
Alef		1	א
Bet	B / V	2	ב
Gimel	G	3	ג
Daled	D	4	ד
Hey	H	5	ה
Vav	V / O / U	6	ו
Zain	Z	7	ז
Het	J	8	ח
Tet	T	9	ט
Yud	Y	10	י
Caf	K	11	כ

Name	Phonetic	Numerical value	Letter
Lamed	L	30	ל
Mem	M	40	מ
Nun	N	50	נ
Samech	S	60	ס
Ayin		70	ע
Pei / Fei	P / F	80	פ
Tzadik	TZ	90	צ
Kuf	K	100	ק
Reish	R	200	ר
Shin / Sin	SH / S	300	ש
Tav	T	400	ת

**Keywords:**

<b>English</b>	<b>Phonetics</b>	<b>Hebrew</b>
Search	<i>chipuz</i>	חיפוש
First Name	<i>shem prati</i>	שם פרטי
Last Name	<i>shem mishpacha</i>	שם משפחה
Cemetery	<i>beit almin</i>	בית עלמין
I.D. Number	<i>teudat zehut</i>	מס. ת. זהות
Fathers Name	<i>shem av</i>	שם אב
Mothers Name	<i>shem em</i>	שם אם
Spouse Name	<i>shem ben/bat zug</i>	שם בן/בת זוג
Death Year	<i>shana ptira</i>	שנת פטירה
Sex	<i>min</i>	מין
Date	<i>taarich</i>	תאריך
City	<i>yishuv</i>	ישוב

## World Memory Project Invites Participants

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Ancestry.com have combined their resources to create the World Memory Project. It is designed to allow anyone, anywhere to help build the largest free online resource of information about victims and survivors of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution during World War II. It will come into existence only with the help of thousands of volunteers.

The World Memory Project uses software and processes developed by the Ancestry World Archives Project, an established community that has spent years helping to preserve historical documents and make them available online for free. It starts with the United States Holocaust Museum creating digital images of historical documents. Then, using special software developed by Ancestry.com, contributors like you will help to make these documents searchable online by typing in (keying) the information from the digital images into a database.

There are currently 10 collections ready for keying. Among these are: Ain, France, Selected Holocaust Records; Eure-et-Loir, France, Selected Holocaust Records; Czech Republic, Records regarding Jews deported to Terezin and Poland; Munich, Germany, Displaced Jewish Orphans at the Ulm Children's Home, 1945-1946, Palestine; Illegal Immigration from Nazi Occupied Europe, 1938-1946; Poland, Jewish Holocaust Survivors Registered in Warsaw, 1945-1946; Romania, Family Questionnaires for Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Victims, 1945.

For information on how the World Memory Project will work and how to get started "keying" in information to help it grow, go to [www.ancestry.com/wmp](http://www.ancestry.com/wmp) or [www.WorldMemoryProject.org](http://www.WorldMemoryProject.org).

## All Stammbaum Articles from 1922 to Date Are Available Online

All issues of *Stammbaum*, the Leo Baeck Institute's English language journal of German-Jewish genealogy, are available Online at [www.lbi.org/Stammbaum.html](http://www.lbi.org/Stammbaum.html). The focus is on German history in every land where German was or is spoken: the German Republic as well as Austria, Switzerland, Alsace, and Bohemia. All the articles and books reviewed over the years are listed and accessible with a click. One can read such interesting and genealogically useful articles as "The *Aufbau* Indexing

Project," "Tips for Deciphering German Records," "The Dachau Database," "Oppenheimers & Other Families in Frankfurt," "How to Read a Family Register," "Village Life in the Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century," "Websites Supporting German-Jewish Genealogical Research," and "German Jewish Research: An Introduction." Those interested in the always fascinating topic of family and given names will find useful information in "German Jewish Family Names Connected with Place Names" and "The Development of Jewish First Names in the Austrian Empire." Claus Hirsch, longtime JGS member, authored several articles.

## Names of Eastern European Jews Living in Antwerp 1840-1930 Now Online

FamilySearch has obtained the names of Eastern European Jews who lived in Antwerp from 1840 to 1930 from the Belgian Archive and made them accessible at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org). Click on Europe, then Belgium, Antwerp, Police Immigration Index, 1840-1930. There are 343,930 names on the list.

## Nonprofit Helps Jewish Families Trace Moravian & Bohemian Ancestors

*Toledot*, a new Jewish family history center, based in Prague, offers research tools for people looking for information about their Moravian and Bohemian ancestors. Its goal is to coordinate genealogy projects, develop Jewish genealogy data bases and preserve Jewish heritage for future generations. Its main activity at present is digitization. Julius Muller, the founder, is currently putting a collection of 220 books on line from the genealogical organization, Jewish Familants [sic] of Bohemia, which contains three generations of descendants from the Czech Republic. So far, he has digitized half the books. You may read more about *Toledot* and Julius Muller in the Prague Post, an English language newspaper, at [www.praguepost.com/tempo/8140-nonprofit-helps-jewish-families-their-ancestry.html](http://www.praguepost.com/tempo/8140-nonprofit-helps-jewish-families-their-ancestry.html) and in the Spring, 2011 issue of *Avotaynu*.

## Turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Newspaper Articles about Jewish Immigrants

The Museum of Family History, [www.museumoffamilyhistory.com](http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com), is a good site to visit in order to get the feel of historic events (photographs, newspaper articles, artworks, etc.). Their online exhibit, "A Multitude of Immigrants, American Newspapers and How They

Addressed the Immigration Issue,” contains such articles from the period 1891 to 1910 as “Smuggling Immigrants Into this Country: How undesirable persons get into Canada and then are run over the border,” “More Immigrants Will Land on these Shores in 1903 Than in any Previous Year, Experts Estimate,” “Pauper Jews Coming: Results of Kishinef,” “Immigrants Patched Up: Trachoma Getting In,” and much more.

### Free Online Genealogy Research Courses

FamilySearch, the genealogy arm of the Mormon Church, now has 140 online genealogy courses available at no charge. Most of the courses take 30 minutes to complete, and are geared to novice, intermediate, and advanced researchers. Among the subjects are “How to research your family in Australia, England, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand, Poland, Russia and the United States,” “Professional Genealogy Accreditation,” and “Reading Handwritten Records.” This course deals with Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Scandinavian Gothic and Spanish records. The site address is [www.familysearch.org/learn/researchcourses](http://www.familysearch.org/learn/researchcourses).

### American Jewish Yearbooks from 1899 – 2008 Are Online

This rich source of information contains scholarly, comprehensive articles about Jewish issues of the time, a list of events of the year, a necrology of prominent Jews, a directory of Jewish organizations and their officers, and population statistics. Each edition covers the Jewish year from September to September. The online address is [www.ajcarchives.org/main.php?GroupingId=40](http://www.ajcarchives.org/main.php?GroupingId=40).

### How to Donate to JewishGen and IAJGS While Purchasing Books or Genealogy Services

If you purchase something from Amazon, but access it through the site of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) at [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org), your purchase will benefit the IAJGS. The link to Amazon is at the bottom of the IAJGS page. If you plan to subscribe to Ancestry.com, do so through JewishGen’s home page, so that JewishGen benefits. Go to [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org), click on “Powered by Ancestry.com” at the top right of the page, and JewishGen will get a credit for the referral.

### New Version of Personal Ancestry Writer II Now Available

Personal Ancestry Writer II, also known as PAWriter, is a free genealogy program for Macintosh computers. The latest edition, PAWriter Version 98, was released on April 29, 2011 and is available for download at [www.lanopalera.net/Genealogy/AboutPAWriter.html](http://www.lanopalera.net/Genealogy/AboutPAWriter.html). A software license must be agreed to in order to mount the disk image.

### Free Maps Available from the National Atlas

The National Atlas is a free map-making platform sponsored by the U.S. Department of the Interior, which lets you build your own maps to illustrate your family history or to use in a book. There are no copyrights for the maps, so they may be used for commercial as well as personal purposes. In most cases, you can choose from hundreds of layers of geographic information, and each map layer can be displayed individually or mixed with others. Once you assemble the layers you want, you can print the map or save it electronically. The National Atlas site is at [www.nationalatlas.gov/](http://www.nationalatlas.gov/). ☆



Facebook©

### JGS on Facebook

JGS, Inc. has created a group page on Facebook (<http://www.facebook.com>), an online social networking facility. After you join Facebook, you can reach JGS’s page in any of these three ways: (1) Go to the JGS website (<http://www.jgsny.org>) to link to the page. (2) Go directly to the page at: <http://www.facebook.com/#!/group.php?gid=62112838856> (3) Log in to Facebook and search for “Jewish Genealogical Society–New York.”

We hope you will join the nearly 450 members of the JGS Facebook group. The page includes details about our upcoming meetings and follow-up reports about the presentations. We welcome comments and reactions to the meetings as well as suggestions of topics for monthly meetings.

# Notes from All Over

## Eretz Israel Records Indexing Announces Its List of Online Databases

The volunteers of the Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) have produced genealogical databases with more than 100,000 records and around 20,000 individual surnames. The database explains how to search and lists the records that are currently available from the Ottoman period, the World War I years, the British Mandate, and the State of Israel. Each list comes with FAQ and specific search tips. The site can be reached via Google at Eretz Israel Records Indexing or Israel Genealogical Society [www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/1/53/4548.asp](http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/1/53/4548.asp)

## Tips on Taking Care of Family Archives

Among the various sites that deal with archival preservation, here are two which can be trusted to be accurate:

- 1) At the National Archives and Records Administration's site, [www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/preservation/family-archives/index.html), you will find a list of eleven questions covering such basic issues as preserving family papers, choosing a photo album, removing photos from old albums, digitizing photo collections, and much more.
- 2) From the National Museum of American History: <http://blog.americanhistory.si.edu/osaycanyousee/2010/11/you-asked-we-answered-takin>

When you reach this site, look at the right hand column and click on "You Asked, We Answered," for detailed answers to preservation questions regarding papers, photos, films, scanning documents and photos, digitizing, etc.

## Articles on How to Understand and Interpret Old Family Photographs

Jayne Shrimpton, a dress historian, portrait specialist and photo detective, is the author of numerous articles on how to understand and interpret old photographs, which are available at: <http://blog.findmypast.co.uk/category/family-photos>

Ava Cohn, a photo genealogist, discusses the same issues on her site, [www.sherlockcohn.com;index1.html](http://www.sherlockcohn.com;index1.html) or look at her article in the Fall 2010 issue of *Avotaynu*, which is titled "Photo Identification: The Process of Finding and Interpreting Clues in a Photograph."

## Translations of 16 Useful German Words from the Hamburg Passenger List Headings

(reprinted from *Branches, the Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, Inc.*, Fall-Winter, 2010).

Zuname = surname  
Vornamen= given name  
Geschlecht = gender  
mannlich = male  
weiblich = female  
Alter = age in years  
Familienstand = family status  
verheiratet = married  
geschieden = divorced  
ledig = single  
verwitwet = widowed  
Beruf = occupation  
Stellung = position  
Bisheriger Wohnort = residence  
Ziel der Aufwanderung = destination  
Ort und Staat = place and state

## How to Access FBI Files

Does the FBI have a file about you or any of your relatives? Quite possibly, they do, and, if so, you are in very good company. An easy way to find out is to go to [www.getgrandpasfbifile.com](http://www.getgrandpasfbifile.com), type in the name of the person in whose past you are interested and the cities where he/she lived, and you will quickly receive a sample letter addressed to the Freedom of Information Officer in the listed cities. All you have to provide is the name, dates of birth and death, and some evidence of the death, such as the Social Security Death Index Record, death certificate, obituary notice, etc. Everything is explained on the site, including possible costs (although the first hundred pages of documents are free). ☆



## Metro Area Repository Round-up

### New York Public Library to Offer Members a Book Sharing Program with NYU & Columbia University Libraries

The Manhattan Research Library Initiative (MaRLI), a new joint venture between NYU, Columbia University and the New York Public Library, will allow NYPL members to check out materials from any of the institutions, including millions of previously non-circulating volumes. This will enable them to expand access to their resources without having to purchase more books. About 700 users have already registered since the launch of the program. The pilot program is expected to run until June, 2012, after which it will probably be expanded to more users.

### NYPL Has 275,000 Photographs On Line

In the New York Public Library's Digital Gallery ([http://digital\\_gallery.nypl.org](http://digital_gallery.nypl.org)) one can find thousands of photographs on many topics. Of special interest to Jewish genealogists would be "Russia & Eastern Europe in Rare Photographs 1860-1946" (5,091 items), or "Poland in Photographs, 1939-1944" (317 items), or "Ellis Island Photographs from the Collection of William Williams, Commissioner of Immigration, 1902-1917," or "The Lewis Hines Collection, 1905-

1938," or "The Pageant of America in Photographic Archives, 1860-1920," to name just a few. There are several ways to access the list of collections, among them: <http://digitalgallery.nypl.org/nypldigital/explore/dgexplore.cfm> or <http://digitalgallery.nypldigital/dgssubjectbrowserese> or just go to New York Public Library Digital Gallery and select from among the many listings.

### Two Extensive New Bibliographies at the Center for Jewish History

CJH recently announced the online availability of two important bibliographies: "Center for Jewish History Holocaust Resources: An Annotated Bibliography of Archival Holdings," and "Women in Daily Life: A Selective Bibliography." Each bibliography lists the relevant items held by the CJH member organizations. The Holocaust bibliography, compiled by Emmanuel Darman, contains materials catalogued as of May, 2006, such as diaries, memoirs, artifacts and lists of individuals. It consists of 2,000 different items in 32 languages, over 3,000 individual names and 300 organizations from 700 locations. It spans the period from the late 1920s to the late 1950s. The second bibliography deals with the domestic life of women. To view the actual documents in the Center's Lillian

## New York City Death Index Project 1949 - 1963

John Martino, Italian Genealogy Group Special Projects Coordinator, has started a new project indexing New York City deaths, 1949-1963. These records cover the years between what the NYC Municipal Archives has on microfilm and the beginning of the Social Security Death Index.

Because it will take many volunteers to complete this project, **we need your help!** If you can type into an Excel or similar spreadsheet template, you can work on this important project. Send an e-mail to John Martino at [JohnM16881@aol.com](mailto:JohnM16881@aol.com) with your name, your mailing address, and your e-mail address.

John will mail the pages to be typed into the computer to you with instructions. When you are finished, you simply e-mail the completed file back to John.

John has managed many indexing projects that have been of tremendous help to all genealogists with roots in New York. Many JGS members are volunteers, and JGS has made several financial contributions to these projects. If you are not already working on this, please pitch in with a little time and become a Martino volunteer.

Goldman Reading Room, one must make an online reservation and describe one's research interest. The bibliography websites, [www.holocaustresources.cjh.org](http://www.holocaustresources.cjh.org) or [www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org) bibliographies provide information on how to do a "simple search" or a "guided search."

### **YIVO Launches New Website**

A new YIVO website, "The Milstein Online Archives of the New York Jewish Community," will preserve and document the historic legacy of Jewish New York with an emphasis on the histories of and archival treasures of five major agencies: the 92<sup>nd</sup> Street Y, The Educational Alliance, FEGS Health Human Services System, NYANA and Surprise Lake Camp. The online address is [www.milsteinjewisharchives.yivo.org](http://www.milsteinjewisharchives.yivo.org). The new site is sponsored by the Milstein Family Foundation and the Paul and Irma Milstein Foundation.

### **Coroner's Records and Medical Examiner's Death Records at the New York City Department of Records**

The New York City Coroner's records of deaths in Manhattan from 1895 to 1898 and 1915-1917 and of Brooklyn deaths from 1898 to 1917 are available on microfilm and must be viewed in person. For the period 1918-1946, one may file a search request with the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. The form is available online in PDF Format. These later records are available only to the next of kin. The access

address is [http://nyc.gov/html/records/html/collections/collections\\_coroner.shtml](http://nyc.gov/html/records/html/collections/collections_coroner.shtml).

### **City Hall Library Has Extensive Research Resources**

The Library's paper and microfilm collections range from the 17<sup>th</sup> century to the latest government announcements and include newspapers (*The City Record*, *The Chief*, *New York Law Journal* and the dailies); neighborhood files, city histories, annotated street name indexes and many other items. One may access reference assistance by a personal visit to the library, a prior appointment, a telephone inquiry, email, letter or inter-library loan. One may also subscribe to *City Hall Library Notes*, a monthly report on recent acquisitions. The Library's address is 31 Chambers Street, Room 112, New York 10007, and the website is <http://nyc.gov/html/records/html/about/chlibrary.shtml>.

### **New York Municipal Archives Changes Fees**

As of March 28, 2011, the New York City Municipal Archives no longer charges \$5 per day to use a microfilm reader for searching vital records indexes and birth, marriage, and death documents. The charge for a copy of a vital record when you are there in person is now \$11 per item. All other charges remain the same and may be found at [www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/home.shtml](http://www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/home.shtml). ☆

## **The Jewish Genealogical Society website opens the door to**

- Jewishdata.com (accessible by members of JGS)
- NY Naturalizations: Database of the Index to Brooklyn Naturalizations (1907-1924); Other New York Area Naturalizations: links to searchable online New York State naturalization indexes by county
- Cemeteries: Map of New York Area Jewish Cemeteries; Directory of Jewish Cemeteries in the Metropolitan New York Area; Burial Societies in the New York Metro Area; New York Area Cemetery Directions
- NY Area Resources: a comprehensive list of repositories in the metropolitan New York area
- Dorot: downloadable issues: spring 2000-winter 2005-2006; list of highlights of back issues: 1979-2008
- Events: Announcements of upcoming JGS monthly programs and events
- New York Landsmanshaftn and Other Jewish Organizations: links to indexes, databases, and directories, such as *American Jewish Year Book*; Landsmanshaftn and other town and country-related organization organizations incorporated in New York County, 1848-1920; WPA Survey of New York City Synagogue Records, 1939
- Memorial Database of Jewish Soldiers, Partisans and Workers killed in action during the Nazi era
- Inventory of LDS Microfilms and Microfiche on Indefinite Loan at the Center for Jewish History
- Other: links to other sites that may be of interest to the JGS community



<http://www.jgsny.org>

## New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications

### About Places

Jan Bazant, Nina Bazantova & Frances Starn, editors, ***The Czech Reader: History, Culture, Politics***. Durham, N.C. Duke University Press, 2010, 568 p., 80 il., \$26.95 paper

From the publisher: “*The Czech Reader* brings together more than 150 primary texts and illustrations to convey the dramatic history of the Czechs, from the emergence of the Czech state in the tenth century, through the creation of Czechoslovakia in 1928 and the Czech Republic in 1993, into the twenty-first century. It is a rich introduction to the turbulent history and resilient culture of the Czech people.” Reviewers describe it as a “real gem,” and “a unique and highly valuable contribution to understanding the Czech interpretation of their own history.”

Michal Galas & Antony Polonsky, editors, ***Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry, Volume 23: Jews in Krakow***. Portland, Oregon: International Specialized Book Services for the Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2010, 584 p., 20 il., 10 tables, \$29.95 paper

From the publisher: “Krakow—one of the great centres of Jewish culture in east-central Europe—has always had a special place in the hearts of its Jewish inhabitants, much more so than was ever the case elsewhere in Poland. Considering Jewish life in the city from a wide range of social and cultural perspectives, primarily in the last two centuries, the contributors to this volume present a fascinating detailed panorama to explain why this should have been the case. The volume brings together the work of leading historians from Israel, Poland, and the United States to explore how the relationship evolved, including the nature of relations between Poles and Jews in Krakow, the effect of the more tolerant atmosphere which prevailed in the Austro-Hungarian empire, as well as economic factors. It also considers how Jewish life in Krakow has been remembered by Holocaust survivors, and how it is portrayed in post-war Polish literature.”

Andras Gero, ***The Austro-Hungarian Dual Monarchy, 1867-1918***, Enfield, U.K.: New Holland Publishers, 2009. 240 p., 300 photographs, \$50.

From the publisher: “The era of the Austro-Hungarian

empire, occupying the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is perhaps the most exciting period in the modern history of this region. In an atmosphere of increasing tension, as an empire doomed to collapse, it saw unparalleled economic, cultural and intellectual achievements, fundamentally influencing the cultures of the people and nationalities living there, both positively and negatively. This new study of the dual monarchy by accomplished Hungarian historian, Andras Gero, takes a modern look at the period, analyzing the body, spirit, and soul of the empire, as well as exploring the daily lives of its citizens, problems of territory and nationality, and finishing with a look at the heritage it left behind.”

Charles King, ***Odessa: Genius & Death in a City of Dreams***, New York: W.W. Norton & Co., 2011, 352 p. \$27.95.

From the publisher: “Odessa was the Russian empire’s gateway to the Middle East, its foremost commercial port, and home to one of the most progressive and successful Jewish communities in all of Europe. When Mark Twain visited, he found its vibrant mix of nationalities, religions, and social classes to be America in miniature. Created as a model of enlightenment by Catherine the Great and her colorful paramour, Gregory Potemkin, Odessa grew as a haven for Russians, Jews, Ukrainians, Greeks, Italians and others seeking fortune and adventure at the meeting place of empires. But the twentieth century brought pogroms, the Russian civil war, Bolshevik rule, the Second World War, and a Romanian occupation which killed tens of thousands of Jews, in one of the untold episodes of the Holocaust.” Please note that Charles King will speak about Odessa at the JGSNY meeting on November 20, 2011.

### About Yiddish

Neal Karlen, ***The Story of Yiddish: How a Mish-Mosh of Languages Saved the Jews***, New York: Morrow/Harper Collins Books, 2009, 324 p., \$13.99.

From the publisher: “A delightfully unconventional tale of a people, their place in the world and the fascinating effort that held them together. Yiddish is an unlikely survivor of the ages, much like the Jews themselves. Incorporating antique German dialects and elements from more than a dozen other tongues, the Yiddish

language bears the impact of the many places where European Jews were briefly given shelter. Neal Karlen's unique, brashly entertaining, yet thoroughly researched retelling of the language's story, reveals that Yiddish is a mirror of Jewish history, thought and practice."

## About Sephardim

Aviva Ben-Hur, *Sephardic Jews in America: A Diasporic History*, New York: New York University Press, 2009. 336 p. 8 il., \$37.00.

From the publisher: "A significant number of Sephardic Jews, tracing their remote origins to Spain and Portugal, immigrated to the United States from Turkey, Greece, and the Balkans from 1880 through the 1920s, joined by a smaller number of Mizrahi Jews arriving from Arab lands. Most Sephardim settled in New York, establishing the leading Judeo-Spanish community outside the Ottoman Empire. With their distinct languages, cultures and rituals, Sephardim and Arab-speaking Mizrahim were not readily recognized as Jews by their Ashkenazic coreligionists. The failure among Ashkenazic Jews to recognize Sephardim and Mizrahim as fellow Jews continues today. More often than not, these Jewish communities are simply absent from portrayals of American Jewry. Drawing on primary sources, such as the Ladino (Judeo-Spanish) press, archival documents, and oral histories, *Sephardic Jews in America* offers the first book length academic treatment of their history in the United States, from 1654 to the present, focusing on the age of mass emigration."

Dell F. Sanchez, *Out from Hiding: Evidence of Sephardic Roots Among Latinos*, Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, Inc., 2010, 184 p., \$26.95.

From the publisher: "Dr. Dell Sanchez began his journey into the lineage of his Latino family when it surfaced from the research of Jewish survivors of the Spanish and Portuguese Inquisitions of the 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>

centuries. The more Sanchez dug into the historical record, the more he began to suspect his own Sephardic Jewish roots. The DNA of his mother and father served to prove his suspicions. *Out from Hiding* includes six crucial topics that prove the evidence of Sephardic Jewish roots among Latinos. These are: historical and genealogical records, DNA evidence, onomastics dealing with the Sephardic origin of surnames, material evidence found within the Sephardic Latino community, oral histories disclosing family secrets of thirteen Sephardic Latinos, and Sanchez's professional observations and prognostications of the Sephardic Latinos' future."

Edgar Morin, *Vidal and His Family: From Salonica to Paris, the Story of a Sephardic Family in the Twentieth Century*, Portland, OR: Sussex Academic Press, 2008, 330 p. \$37.50.

From the publisher: "Edgar Morin, one of France's greatest living intellectuals, tells the story of his father, Vidal Nahoum, but also the story of Sephardic Jews and of Europe. In this 'holographic history,' Vidal's story, and that of his family, carries within it the flowering, decline, and death of Jewish culture in Spain, the passage from Empires to Nation States, the complex relations between Jews and Gentiles, between East and West, and, ultimately, the history of the twentieth century itself. Vidal was born in 1894 in the Ottoman Empire's great Macedonian port. His great-grandfather came from Tuscany and spoke Italian. His mother tongue was fifteenth-century Spanish. He learned French and German as a child. When he was an adolescent, he dreamed of living in France; he was deported there as a prisoner, and then liberated by the French Prime Minister. He lived through the Balkan wars, the collapse of the Ottoman Empire and two World Wars." A reviewer writes, "The book is well written ...and is truly a saga worth reading for the light it sheds on a subject not often described in readable, compelling publications." ☆

Dear Readers,

DOROT would like to receive your suggestions on how you plan to preserve your family records for future use by your relatives. What steps have you taken to preserve and pass on your material? Send your replies to [info@jgsny.org](mailto:info@jgsny.org). Thank you.

# QUESTIONING THE EXPERTS

**DOROT questions JGS members about their genealogical adventures and elicits their advice for those embarking on similar paths**

## Interview with Estelle M. Guzik

DOROT: To begin, how long have you been working on genealogy in general and more specifically, on your own family history?

GUZIK: I started in 1970. That year, I traveled to Vienna and met one of my father's cousins. Fannie and her mother Gisela managed to get out of Vienna in 1939 and made their way to England, where they remained during the war years. When I met Fannie, she was in the midst of putting together a family tree -- mainly to recover property of an uncle of her mother and my father. She was trying to identify the descendants to see who had rights to his property. Before the war, there were well over 100 first cousins. For me, this encounter turned into a life-changing event.

Fannie began by asking me questions about my father's family -- the children of Lazar (Elazar Yehuda) Guzik and Masha nee Landesman.. My father was one of 11 children, five of whom and my grandfather died in the Holocaust. I thought I knew the names of my father's brothers and sisters. I certainly knew the names of the survivors, but as it turned out, I could not remember all 11 children. That was very upsetting to me. I promised Fannie that I would talk to my father when I returned to the U.S. and send her the information. I went home and asked my father those questions and never stopped asking. I wanted to know about everyone. So many were lost in the Holocaust. And so I started recording what I learned. I began by making a tree with only names on it.

My sister Marsha was living in Elmont and in 1977 invited me to a lecture by a fellow named Arthur Kurzweil who was a visiting scholar at their synagogue. He gave two lectures that weekend, and in the very first, he talked about records. Records!! I had imagined that everything was destroyed. It never occurred to me that there were records. My uncle Charlie, who emigrated from Poland in 1914, once told me about another branch of our family that had come to America -- the children

of a sister of my great-grandfather. At the time, I was surprised to learn that we had another Guzik family in the United States, and here was Arthur telling us that I might be able to find them!

That was about the same time -- 1977 -- that the Jewish Genealogical Society was formed. The JGS had already had its first meeting when Arthur spoke to the Elmont group. Arthur suggested to the audience that those interested in tracing their families should join. That was the beginning. (Arthur, along with Steve Siegel and Rabbi Malcolm Stern, were among the founders of the JGS -- the very first JGS in the United States.)

DOROT: You mentioned that this began during a visit to Vienna. Does that suggest where

your focus of research has been?

GUZIK: No. Only one branch of our family lived in Vienna, but I have done research there. I'm happy to tell our readers that the complete collection of pre-war Vienna Jewish community records (1826-1938) is at the Center for Jewish History/Leo Baeck Institute collection. These are the records of the Israelitische Kultusgemeinde. The primary focus of my research was Poland. My mother's family emigrated from Poland to Germany around the turn of the century. My father's family also traces back to the geographic area that is Poland today.

DOROT: They emigrated from Poland to Germany?

GUZIK: Yes. Chaim and Eige (Adele) Ingber, my maternal grandparents, moved from Tarnow, Poland to Hannover, where two of their children were born. Later, they moved to Berlin, where my mother and two younger brothers joined the family.

DOROT: In what part of Poland did they originate?

GUZIK: Galicia. They lived in many of the little towns in Galicia. My father was born in a tiny place called Lecka. It was a "suburb" of the shtetl Blazowa. The



Estelle M. Guzik

“big” town nearby was Rzeszow. My great grandfather Chaim Guzik lived in Strzyzow. And, Kombornia (where he was born) was the town where my paternal great great grandparents lived.

DOROT: That visit to Vienna introduced you to the need to look for family?

GUZIK: Yes. I realized that I knew little about my family. I grew up without grandparents. And it seemed to me at that point that it was important to remember them, to put their names into some context and let the rest of the family know who we are and who we were. I think my parents and cousins were very happy about that. As I branched out and started interviewing other relatives, they considered this almost a sacred project -- a very important project for them also. To the question -- Do I think I'm finished? The answer is no. I'm never going to be finished, because I want to know all the descendants; I want to know all about them., and I want to fill in “the blanks” on the people who died and on the living.

DOROT: You began this genealogy work several decades ago. For someone just starting out now, it's a different playing field, isn't it?

GUZIK: Some things have not changed. Interviewing your relatives is still an important first step; it's going to save you a tremendous amount of time later.

But research is much easier now. You can pull information together much more quickly today than when I started. We know where the records are now. More books have been written, and more records have been indexed and/or digitized, but not everything. The Internet is a wonderful tool and a very important place to start. But do not limit your research to records on the Internet. There are still more records out there. One important repository that did not exist back when I started is the Center for Jewish History. There are many collections at the Center that need to be “mined.” And a group of volunteers is doing just that.

DOROT: What sorts of records are available at the Center for Jewish History and elsewhere that people might not be aware exist?

GUZIK: The JGS tried to answer that question by publishing *Genealogical Resources in New York* in 2003. It is a reference volume, but one that was meant for genealogists. While all libraries have catalogs, most do not highlight the genealogical content of their collection. *Genealogical Resources* does exactly that.

Here's a sample list of the kinds of records that exist, but are not currently available on the Internet:

Boston HIAS Case Files, 1920s to 1970s (AJHS I-96, Reels 1-111)  
Bundists (YIVO - Index to several published volumes & biographical questionnaires)  
German Identification Cards – Kennkarten (YIVO, RG 222)  
German Jewish Children's Aid (YIVO MKM 8.1-8.31)  
Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, NRS-USNA-HIAS Index (YIVO MKM 29.1-29.10)  
United Service for New Americans (YIVO RG 246)  
Hungarian Society (YIVO RG 1869)  
Leipzig Jewish Community Collection, 1935: membership cards (LBI AR 2167)  
And much, much more.

Current volunteers who work on indexing projects at the Center for Jewish History include: Wendy Almeleh, Jane Foss, Goldie Gold, Ellen Goldstein, Estelle Guzik, Barbara Kaufman, Loraine Korn, Susan Lieberman, Sue Margolies, Selma Perlstein, Barry Pierce, Maxine Spiegel, Sophie Tarnagurskaya, Paula Zieselman

DOROT: Let's talk about your own family research. Was there a breakthrough that you recall or has it been a process of small steps?

GUZIK: It's a process of small steps, but some small steps lead to major breakthroughs. I have tried to create family trees for each of my grandparents' and great grandparents' families.

One of the branches which I started without any information was my mother's grandmother's family – the Klapholz family. With the exception of her name and place of birth, Frieda Ingber nee Klapholz, born in Nowy Sacz, my mother knew little. She did, however, recall that there were two families in Hannover that were somehow related – an Eigermann family and a Kanner family. No first names. Nothing.

Frankly, I did not think a family tree was even doable. And then, a breakthrough! My niece married a young man whose family was from Nowy Sacz, and miracle of miracles, his great grandmother was also a Klapholz – Anna/Channa Lustig nee Klapholz from Nowy Sacz!

No, we have not connected the two trees ...yet. The three of us went to Poland together and came back with over 300 records. We put together a huge family tree for Michael and a smaller family tree for myself.

On my Guzik family, the first breakthrough came in an earlier visit to Poland and later, from JRI-Poland. My father believed the Kombornia family was buried in Korzcyn. And so I visited the cemetery. It had about 200 tombstones, all in Hebrew or Yiddish, and no family names on the tombstone. My great grandfather was Mordechai Tzvi Guzik. My uncle Herman, born in 1895, was named after him. And so, I walked among the stones looking for Mordechai Tzvi. There was only one, Mordechai Tzvi ben Yechiel Mechel. ("ben" = son of). But we had no "Yechiels" on the family tree, and when I tried to translate the Hebrew date to the Roman date, I guessed (incorrectly) "1904." I surmised this could not be my Mordechai Tzvi. But I photographed the tombstone anyway, because it was the only Mordechai Tzvi that I found.

I went home and developed my photos. I checked the date against a book that I had and realized I had erred. This Mordechai Tzvi died in 1884! He could be my guy! I turned to my father and said, "I found a Mordechai Tzvi but his father's name is Yechiel Mechel, and we don't have any Yechiels in the family." (This is after years and years of interviewing my father.) He said, "What do you mean we don't have any Yechiels? My brother Mechel was Yechiel Mechel. And Uncle Mechel was Yechiel Mechel!"

In all the years of interviewing, he had never mentioned the full names of these relatives. Everyone called them by their middle names. It was a tradition in my family. When I was born, I was Estelle Marion Guzik, and my father's family called me "Marion." So this was Yechiel Mechel, my great great great grandfather. Later, JRI-Poland uncovered the records of both my great grandfather and my great great grandfather, for which I am very grateful.

DOROT: Would you say that someone researching Galicia should definitely look at JRI-Poland?

GUZIK: Not only look at JRI-Poland indexes, but contribute to and participate in the Jewish Records Indexing effort. Do all that you can to open more records. Support JRI Poland. And if your family comes from Lithuania or Belarus – support those efforts!

DOROT: Is there one set of data that you haven't been able to get your hands on that you think would make a big difference?

GUZIK: Let's not forget New York City birth, marriage and death records. More than 20 years have gone by since the NYC Health Department and City Clerk's

Office transferred records to the Municipal Archives. It's time for them to become available. They need to hear from the JGS and its members. Other jurisdictions open marriage and death records after 50 years. And every year an additional year is added.

DOROT: The records on microfilm are available at the Municipal Archives but only up to certain dates.

GUZIK: Yes. The Municipal Archives currently has New York City birth records to 1909; death records to 1948 and marriage records to 1937. Happily, the Italian Genealogy Group and its sister organizations (including members of the JGSNY) participate in an indexing project. The city agencies should utilize these volunteers to index the remaining records. This is a great resource.

DOROT: Thank you.

*Estelle M. Guzik has been a member of the JGS almost from its inception in 1977, serving as president from 1996 to 2001 and vice-president from 1985 to 1990. She prepared the 1985, 1989 and most recently the 2003 editions of Resources for Jewish Genealogy in New York, all of which were published by the Jewish Genealogical Society. The 1989 edition, Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area, was selected by the New York Public Library Research Libraries as the best reference book of 1989.*

*During her term as JGS president, she and numerous volunteers cataloged the burial plots in New York and New Jersey cemeteries of more than 10,000 landsmanshftn, synagogues, family circles, labor unions and Jewish organizations. Also, she coordinated the work of 100 volunteers from JGS and the German and Italian Genealogy Groups, who together indexed over 253,000 naturalization records filed in the Kings County Clerk's Office, 1907-1924. The results of all these efforts are available on the JGS website at [www.jgsny.org](http://www.jgsny.org).*

*In June 2005 while she was indexing some 100,000 Holocaust documents in the archives of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, she stumbled upon some hitherto unknown letters of Otto Frank, the father of Anne Frank.*

*Currently, Estelle is the coordinator of a project to index Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society records at YIVO and the American Jewish Historical Society, and she mentors high school students each summer in the Samberg Family History Program. ☆*

# JGS Friends

JGS members are encouraged to patronize our Friends listed below. Make use of your current JGS membership card to take advantage of the special offers we have arranged for you.

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Sunday, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.;  
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Open during all evening events.

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