

---

The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

# DOROT דורות

---

Volume 35, Number 3

Spring 2014

---

## Who was Jon Stedman, Patron of Jewish Genealogy?

by Karen S. Franklin

### Introduction

Genealogical research brings to light the lives of some extraordinary characters! On March 28, 1925, a headline in the *New York Herald Tribune* read, a “Soldier of Fortune Succumbs to Anthrax Contracted in Siberia.” Numerous newspapers carried the exotic story of that soldier of fortune, Benjamin Lagrange. A fur buyer, he was said to have been wounded in the Boxer Rebellion in China (1898-1900). He had been a purchasing agent for Russia during the Russo-Japanese War (1904-1905). *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* (Mar 27, 1925) reported that he “traveled through China, Japan, Siberia, India, the Malay Peninsula and the Near East.” *The New York Herald Tribune* article concluded, “Mr. Lagrange made his last trip to the East in 1922, when furs he had purchased were stolen in Peking. He went to Vladivostok in pursuit of the thieves. Bandits captured him just outside that city and held him prisoner for two months.” Lagrange contracted an anthrax infection during this imprisonment (which one newspaper reported as lasting three years). Lagrange died after his return to New York. It’s difficult to determine how much of the newspaper reporting is accurate, but the tale was sure to have captured the public imagination of the day.

Lagrange was a cousin of Jon Stedman, who stumbled upon this unlikely story while researching his own family history. Jon, who was not a typical Jewish genealogist, began his quest in 1958 when he was 25 years old, didn’t know he was Jewish until he was an adult, and never considered himself Jewish. Jon did not attend an IAJGS conference and, as far as we know, and he did not belong to a Jewish Genealogical Society.

Although he was self-taught, Jon became a knowledgeable and indefatigable researcher, pursuing family research about his own relatives, as well as those of others who interested him for over five decades. He visited libraries almost daily to do his research, traveling to them by bus rather than car, to save money, and he corresponded copiously. He refused to pay subscription fees to Ancestry and other genealogy sites. He sent for records, and then he sent for more.

Jon lived with his mother in Denton, Texas, never marrying or having children--genealogy was his life. When he died in 2009 at the age of 76, he left sizable gifts to genealogical and historical organizations so that others could continue the kind of work that was so dear

continued on page 5

### In this issue

<b>Who Was Jon Stedman, Patron of Jewish Genealogy?</b>	
by Karen Franklin .....	1
<b>President’s Postings</b>	
by Roni Seibel Liebowitz.....	3
<b>JGS Receives Generous Gift from the David Himmelberg Foundation.....</b>	3
<b>JGS Welcomes New Members</b>	
by Michael L. Levine.....	4
<b>Upcoming and Current Events.....</b>	8
<b>Online News.....</b>	8
<b>Steven Siegel Collection at AJHS</b>	
by Linda Cantor.....	9

<b>JGS Program Reports</b>	
by Steve Stein.....	10
<b>Solving Another Genealogical Puzzle</b>	
by Joseph Fibel.....	13
<b>Notes from All Over.....</b>	13
<b>In the Repositories.....</b>	14
<b>New, Recent and Noteworthy Publications.....</b>	15
<b>Upcoming JGS Programs.....</b>	17
<b>Questioning the Experts:</b>	
Linda Levi.....	18
<b>JGS Friends.....</b>	23

**DOROT**  
**The Journal of the**  
**Jewish Genealogical Society**

Editor.....Toby Carliner Sanchez  
Design and Production.....Jim Garrity

.....Contributors.....

Linda Cantor, Joseph Fibel, Karen Franklin,  
Larry Freund, Michael L. Levine, Roni Seibel  
Liebowitz, Toby Carliner Sanchez, Steve Stein

Photographs by Joy Kestenbaum,  
Roni Seibel Liebowitz

© 2014 Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.  
JGS, Inc. is a not-for-profit,  
tax-exempt organization.

JGS, Inc.  
15 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011  
Telephone: (212) 294-8318

E-mail: [info@jgsny.org](mailto:info@jgsny.org)

Website: <http://www.jgsny.org>.

Mail to: P.O. Box 631, New York, NY 10113-0631

**DOROT** (ISSN 0886-2796)  
is published quarterly as the  
fall, winter, spring, and summer issues.

Subscription is by membership only.

Back issues are for sale at

<http://www.jgsny.org/dorot.htm>.

To request permission to reprint an item,  
contact the editor at [editor@jgsny.org](mailto:editor@jgsny.org).

**DOROT** is indexed in  
*Index to Jewish Periodicals*.

**RATES FOR DISPLAY ADS**

Full page \$150                      Half page \$80

Quarter page \$45                      Eighth page \$25

Publication of an advertisement does not imply an  
endorsement or recommendation by JGS, Inc.

**JGS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

Roni Seibel Liebowitz, President

[president@jgsny.org](mailto:president@jgsny.org)

Jane Rosen Berenbeim, First Vice President/Program

[program@jgsny.org](mailto:program@jgsny.org)

Michael L. Levine, Second Vice President/Membership

[membership@jgsny.org](mailto:membership@jgsny.org)

Harriet Glickman Mayer, Vice President/Communications

Stewart Driller, Treasurer

Howard Rotblatt, Secretary

Steven W. Siegel, z"l, Past President  
(2011-2012)

Lanie Bergman

Hadassah Lipsius

Robin Brown

Lauren Shulsky Orenstein

Linda Cantor

Michael Pertain

Joy Kestenbaum

Paul H. Silverstone

Jeffrey Levin

Steve Stein

David Kleiman, z"l

Printed by The Sheridan Press, Hanover, PA

## WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

The Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., founded in 1977, was the first of over eighty such societies. Our approximately 900 members live in the New York metropolitan area, other states, and other countries. We hold membership in the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. We have an office in the Center for Jewish History and a library in the Center's Genealogy Institute.

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 Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, 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;
- free access to JewishData.com;
- discount on JGS publications, including *Genealogical Resources in New York*, an invaluable tool for genealogical research in New York City; and
- discounts from the JGS Friends listed on the inside back page of *Dorot*

Membership dues per calendar year:

- Regular Member \$36
- Local Member 25 years of age and younger \$18
- Family Member (two members) \$45
- Sustaining Member \$60 (two membership cards)
- Supporting Member \$100 (two membership cards)
- Patron Member \$250 or more (two membership cards)
- Out-of-town Member (more than 100 miles from New York City) \$25
- Foreign Membership (air mail) US\$36

You can become a member on-line via the JGS, Inc. website at <http://www.jgsny.org/>. Click on **Membership** in the top bar and then on **Join Now**. The application form will appear on-line. Be patient. Complete it and click submit. On the next screen, select a credit card and make payment.

You can also request a membership application by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 631, New York, NY 10113-0631, or you can print out the application on the JGS website at <http://www.jgsny.org>. Click on Membership in the top bar and "Join Now" (be patient). Complete the form and mail it to the above address. Please note that within the limits prescribed by law, your membership fee less \$12 attributable to the *Dorot* subscription is deductible as a charitable contribution.

JGS is a not-for-profit organization open to people of all ethnic and religious backgrounds.



## President's Postings by Roni Seibel Liebowitz

This year's IAJGS conference in Salt Lake City is the first one I will miss since 1999's conference in Los Angeles, CA. I am invited to a week event in Germany involving a documentary that I was involved with a few years

ago. My husband and I will then visit other places in Germany and end up in Poland, for a total of 3 weeks. So those of you who are attending the conference, please consider sharing some of your experiences there by writing up a program/lecture you attend or some other experiences you have at the Conference for *Dorot*.

This year LIVE is available in which you can view more than 60 sessions live streamed over the internet direct from the Conference from July 27 - August 1, 2014. If you cannot watch at that time, don't worry. LIVE! subscribers also have access to the videos on demand for up to 3 months after the conference. There are sessions for all levels of experience. For more information, go to: <http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/Live.cfm>. JGS, Inc. members received notification about a 10% discount for LIVE! You must use the discount code for JGS, Inc. The discount is available only to current JGS, Inc. members and is not sharable! If you forgot the code, contact a member of the Executive Council listed on the JGS website.

Our *Lunch and Learn* sessions, held before our regular meetings, provide a venue to share ideas, talk about brick walls, and just get to know each other in a less formal setting. We have so many skilled and talented JGS members, a few of whom have volunteered their time to help JGS with specific projects. We need your help....could be short term or longer, depending upon your availability. If you have techie skills, graphic design abilities, a flair for writing, knowledge about

DNA, ideas for a special project, brain-storming, or don't mind pitching in and assisting in any of these areas and more, please let us know and do volunteer to work with us. We want to get to know you as more than just a face in the audience. Get involved! Try it, you may really like it!

Wearing another hat, I am a board member of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) <http://jri-poland.org/>. On Feb 2013, JRI-Poland and the Polish State Archives signed a new agreement that expands access to Jewish records for historians. PSA announced that they are beginning a massive effort to digitize all vital records over 100 years old in their more than 30 Regional Archives. These will be available — free — on their National Digital Archives and Regional Archive websites. These images are being linked to the indices on JRI-Poland. This means that when you find an index on the website you will be able to see the actual record linked to that index. Of course, this will take some time, but already many of the indices are linked to images of the records. JRI continues to index newly available records. See the list of those records from the towns' records already digitized and instructions on how to access the images at [http://jri-poland.org/help/NDA\\_Guide.pdf](http://jri-poland.org/help/NDA_Guide.pdf). If your town is included, please consider volunteering by contacting [questions@jri-poland.org](mailto:questions@jri-poland.org)

JRI has also entered into an 8-year agreement with the Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw, at the Embassy of the Republic of Poland on April 10, 2014. This expands the relationship of the two organizations to promote research and educate genealogists interested in the family history and historic culture of Polish Jewry.

*Roni*

### JGS Receives Generous Gift From the David Himelberg Foundation

JGS is pleased to announce receipt of a substantial grant from the David Himelberg Foundation. This unrestricted gift, provided by JGS member Norman Himelberg, will help us continue funding grants we provide to organizations that do indexing work. It enables JGS, Inc. to collect and disseminate genealogical information to researchers and contribute to our ability to provide outstanding monthly programs and periodic workshops and seminars. We are very grateful to Norman Himelberg for his thoughtfulness and generosity.

## JGS Welcomes New Members

Name	City	State
Leonard S. Baskin	Monroe Twp	NJ
Richard Colburn	Chiangmai	Thailand
Lawrence Fagan	Los Altos	CA
Jeff Hest	New York	NY
Lewis & Janice Kampel	New York	NY
David Kanne	Glendale	AZ
Alana Lipkin	Framingham	MA
Don London	New Providence	NJ
Roderick Macneil	Philadelphia	PA
Dr. Lynda Mandlawitz	New York	NY
Franklin C. Marcus	Brooklyn	NY
Connie Newhan	Corona	CA
Lindsey M. Ottman	Flushing	NY
Maxwell Preston	Brooklyn	NY
Roseanne Price	Silver Spring	MD
Ruth G. Price	New York	NY
Charles Ross	Manchester	CA
Saundra Schoicket	Hummelstown	PA
Deborah Schultz	Plymouth	MI
Dorothy E. Taishoff	New York	NY
Stuart Torgovnick	New York	NY
Sherrie Wachsman	Palm Beach Gardens	FL
David Weiss	Rancho Cucamonga	NY
Bill Werther	Teaneck	NJ
Donna White	Milwaukee	WI
Diane J. Williams	Katy	TX

### JGS on Facebook



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 more than 1360 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.

## Who was Jon Stedman? continued from page 1

to him. Almost \$150,000 was directed to institutions that support Jewish genealogical research, a gift that is among the largest, if not the largest, ever to support Jewish family history. We may never know the entire story behind Jon's financial decisions, but we will long benefit from his largesse.

### Karen Franklin's Role

I first learned about Jon's work because, at the behest of his executrix Holly Hervey, I took on the task of organizing his research papers for their donation to the American Jewish Archives. This responsibility also included writing a book about the family.

The project was reminiscent of one I worked on from 2005 to 2007 for the family of Elizabeth Plaut. Though Elizabeth, the industrious and enthusiastic genealogist and wife of the distinguished rabbi and scholar Dr. W. Gunther Plaut, had written books about several branches of her family, she died before publishing on the Plauts. The family hired me to work with them to prepare a book. The trees and a brief history were published in *The Plaut Family: Tracing the Legacy* by Elizabeth Plaut, in 2007 by Avotaynu. Elizabeth's papers and research notes were sent to the Leo Baeck Institute. They have been digitized and are available at [cjh.org](http://cjh.org).

The papers of both Elizabeth and Jon reflect the way that genealogical research was conducted forty years ago. In both cases their records include boxes of correspondence with family members in pursuit of family information. Their communication resulted in meaningful, lasting relationships with distant cousins. Unfortunately the files are peppered with copious notes in pencil, often barely legible, on small scraps of acidic notebook paper. An archivist's nightmare!

Reading through Jon's papers was fascinating. Letters were interspersed with newspaper articles that must have taken years to locate. I could almost visualize Jon sitting in a cubby, turning the crank of microfilm reels to discover pertinent bits of information. Today one could easily find much of the information he sought on Ancestry.com and in other newspaper databases; however, Jon's dogged research and inexhaustible letter writing also turned up information that an impatient researcher today might miss. What follows are highlights of his story.

### Personal History

Jon Stedman, born in 1933 in Shawnee, Oklahoma, was always interested in family history, a passion that he shared with his mother, Sallie Ardath Tolson. His father, John Stedman, was absent for much of Jon's life, having divorced Sallie and remarried when Jon was just a child. It was only as a young adult in the 1950s that Jon discovered that his father's name at birth was Jesse Oppenheimer, and that John/Jesse had been married prior to his marriage with Sallie. Jon also learned that he was the sixth son of John Stedman. Five sons had been born from John's first marriage (two by the name of Jesse died in infancy). Jon learned that his father had moved from New York to Oklahoma, and that his father had been born Jewish.

From a half-brother, Jon discovered that his father was a bit of a scoundrel. He gambled all of the proceeds from an insurance business, leaving his clients without coverage, and then abandoned his first wife and children. He speculated that this might have led John to leave his life in New York for the Mid-West.

### Family History & Larger Contributions

The earlier family history that Jon uncovered makes for good reading: Jon's English ancestors arrived in New York in about 1816, and his great-great-great grandfather is buried in the historic Shearith Israel Cemetery on 21<sup>st</sup> Street in New York City. Jon identified many famous cousins among early American Jewish families.

Genealogists today benefit from Jon's research in the charts in Rabbi Malcolm Stern's ground-breaking magnum opus, *First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies 1654-1988*. He worked with Rabbi Stern from the early 1970s through the completion of the book's third edition. Charts on the Oppenheimer family from Gedern, Goldschmidt family from Dreisen, and Davis II are his contributions; he helped Rabbi Stern on many other trees as well. The charts are available on the American Jewish Archives web site <http://americanjewisharchives.org/publications/fajif/> and some of Jon's charts have been input on Geni.

Among the hundreds of Jon's files my very favorite story is about Captain Henry Benjamin Davis and his wife Margaret. Davis, born in New York in 1840, was the second oldest of twelve children of Benjamin Michael Davis, a sexton at the Wooster Street Synagogue (Shaaray

Tefila) in New York, and his wife Nancy Benjamin. When Captain Davis died at the age of 51 in 1892, his well-attended funeral was held in the Grand Army Hall in Brooklyn, and it is clear from the newspaper descriptions of the day that Davis was no longer a practicing Jew. Although an article in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* on February 15, 1892, describes the Captain as one of the army post's "most interesting characters", it seems that Davis's wife, the former Margaret Amanda Cabre, a self-described Civil War spy, was the focus of Jon Stedman's interest, for he wrote several inquiries and collected numerous newspaper articles attempting to learn more about her.

A draft of a letter dated 1 February 1970 addressed only to "Dear Sir" sets out the state of Jon's research:

*"In the course of working on a history of my father's family, I have come across some material of Civil War interest...According to the information that I have, Margaret Amanda Cabre was a Union courier behind enemy lines; was married at least four times, and was unable to get a Civil War widow's pension based on the services of my relative Captain Henry Benjamin Davis, her third husband, due to previous marital complications..."*

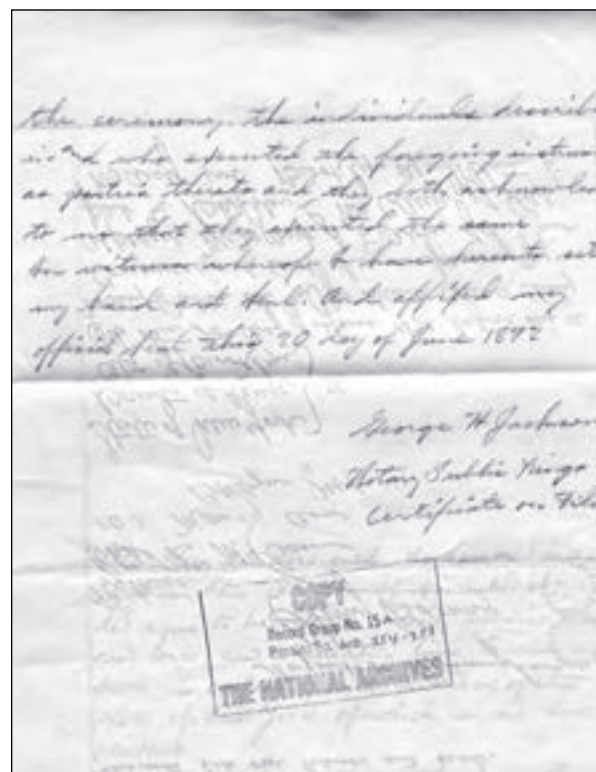
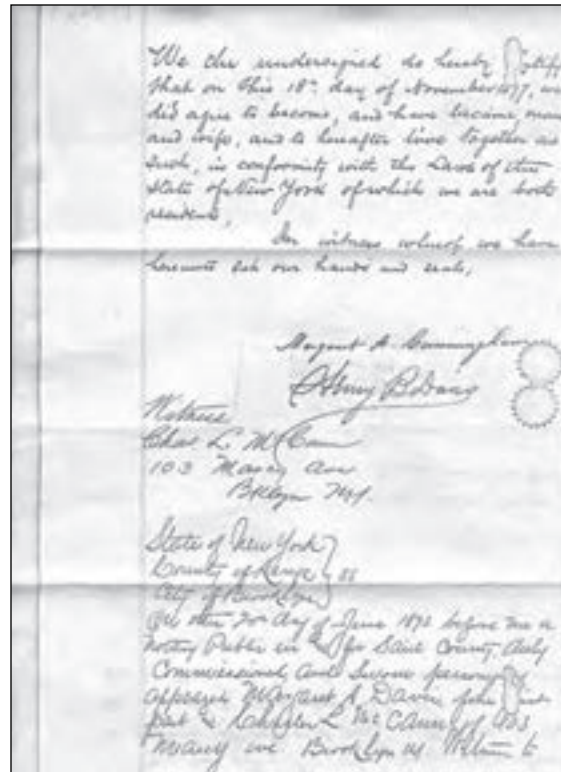
Unfortunately, we don't know if Jon sent this letter, to whom he may have sent it, or whether he received a response.

How had Jon learned about Margaret's activities? Her obituary in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* on April 11, 1913, states that she "saw service during the Civil War, and frequently performed duties which carried her into the enemy's lines." The obituary of her daughter, Mary Wright, indicates that her mother "was in the employ of the North during the Civil War as a messenger between the armies." I tried to ascertain just how one would confirm these statements, and wrote to American Jewish historian Professor Jonathan Sarna. He replied that "the story sounds juicy", but had no suggestions as to where one might seek records of Civil War "spies".

Mary Wright's obituary stated that she was a daughter from Margaret's first marriage to James Hart. Upon Hart's death, Margaret claimed his Civil War pension, but the Pension Board awarded it to another of Hart's wives.

An obituary for Margaret falsely listed her second husband as Henry Davis. Actually Margaret was married twice prior to her marriage with Davis. Her second husband was William Cunningham who contracted tuberculosis and died on January 20, 1880, at the House of Rest, a sanatorium in Tremont, New York. It is not clear when

William Cunningham contracted the disease, nor whether his marriage to Margaret Cabre Hart was ever annulled or ended by a divorce, but on November 18, 1877, Margaret A. Cunningham and Henry B. Davis entered into what seems to be a common law marriage. They signed a document (see below) that was witnessed by Chas. L. McCann. Fifteen years later in the city of Brooklyn, New



York, McCann appeared before a notary public to attest to the fact that he had witnessed the first document.

This record is like none I have ever encountered in my research. It would seem that Margaret A. Cunningham was still married to William Cunningham at the time of her marriage to Davis. Jon found the marriage records in a National Archives pension file for Henry Davis. From what I can determine, and I presume this was Jon's assumption as well, Mary was a bigamist, and later used the "common law" marriage document to support her request for a pension, which was denied. Jon wrote in his notes that Margaret married a fourth time in 1907 to a man by the name of Metcalfe. Margaret Hart Cunningham Davis Metcalfe died in 1913.

## DNA

That Jon was a pioneer in his approach to genealogy is clear from his interest in DNA. Today there are over a million records in the Family Tree DNA database [familytreedna.com](http://familytreedna.com). Jon was one of the very first to submit a sample of his DNA in the spring of 2000. In fact, his kit number is 68. Jon followed the progress of scientific discoveries and interpretations in the field. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the advancements that have been made in recent years.

In order to update Jon's research, I sent for upgrades to his DNA tests. The new results led to a most moving of email exchanges with a person who contacted me with an email reading, "Jon and I have 291.34 shared cM, with the longest block being 62.99." This would be a match of some significance in any case, but what makes this story particularly interesting is that the person who wrote is adopted, seeking the family of her birth parents, about whom she knows little. Imagine her surprise to learn that the match was made to DNA taken 14 years ago! We have not yet figured out her exact connection to Jon, but the research is ongoing.

## John's Legacy

Jon's bequest was divided among institutions that were of direct help to him in his years of research, and, as his executrix, Holly Hervey wrote, "This was something Jon was really interested in, projects that would open more doors to research records available to all those addicts looking for one more name, or another date."

With this goal in mind, Holly established a fund through the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies in memory of Jon's father, John Stedman, to support database projects. The award is given annually in addition to the

Malcolm Stern grant (that supports availability of resources for Jewish genealogical research), and is presented at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

The American Jewish Archives <http://americanjewisharchives.org>, the repository for all of Jon's papers, received support to properly describe, digitize and care for Jon's collection of trees, photographs and research notes. We hope this will serve as an example to all donors of family papers and collections to remind them to contribute to the institutions that preserve their histories.

JewishGen was a recipient of funds, as it fulfills Jon's wish to "make more research records available", and Jon's notebooks and research papers were full of copies of JewishGen general discussion group postings with information about how to do research, and with copies of correspondence to individual genealogists whose names he found on JewishGen.

The Leo Baeck Institute also benefitted from Jon's gift. Jon was in contact with the Institute early on in his research and throughout the years about his German ancestors. LBI is a pioneer in the online accessibility of its collection, with over 90% of the archival collections digitized and available at [cjh.org](http://cjh.org). Jon's gift has been directed in part to develop a family history search portal so that records of genealogical interest can be more easily located within its database.

What can we learn from Jon's story? Though Jon's decades of extraordinary work have been almost invisible to the Jewish genealogy community, his legacy reminds us of the opportunities to keep our ancestors' memories alive not only on paper and online, but by contributing generous support to our colleagues through our collaboration and sharing, and to the institutions that facilitate the research, collect documents, and preserve our histories and heritage for future generations.

And we can also learn that everyone has a few colorful characters on the family tree.

*Karen S Franklin is Director of the Family Research Project at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York City. A past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and past chair of the Council of American Jewish Museums, she is currently co-chair of the Board of Governors of JewishGen and chair of the Memorial Museums committee of ICOM (International Council of Museums). Karen serves on the Advisory Board of the European Shoah Legacy Institute and was awarded the 2012 ICOM-US Service Citation for her work in Holocaust-era property restitution. She is vice president of the Obermayer German Jewish History Awards. ☆*

## Upcoming and Current Events

**Salt Lake City, Utah, July 27 – August 1, 2014**

**The 34<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy**

**New-York Historical Society, June 12 – September 21, 2014**

**“I Live. Send Help.” 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Exhibit of the Work of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee  
170 Central Park West at 77<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY**

Pictures, letters, artifacts from the history of JDC’s work in over 80 countries. The accompanying book at \$29.95 has eight introductory essays, numerous photographs and documents, which together tell the story of the wars, dislocations, suffering, rebuilding of Jewish life in Europe, North Africa and Israel over the past 100 years. The exhibit is discussed in this issue’s “Questioning the Experts,” which is an interview with Linda Levi, Director of the JDC Archives, who oversaw the exhibition and edited the book. ☆

## Online News

**Digital Archive of Jewish Life in Poland Now Available**

The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research recently launched a “Digital Archive of Jewish Life,” which illustrates Jewish life in Poland before World War II. The website, <http://polishjews.yivoarchives.org>, provides access to thousands of documents, manuscripts, photographs, artworks, film and audio recordings.

**Jewish Vital Records from Vilnius Records Are Now On Line**

The Litvak SIG (Special Interest Group) has translated all the Jewish vital records from Vilnius for the years 1837-1915. There are 194,881 records, including approximately 60,000 birth records, 21,000 marriage records, 3,900 divorce records and 104,000 death records. Records after 1915 are not available, because of privacy restrictions. Go to [litvaksig.org](http://litvaksig.org) and then to the All Lithuania Database and look for the Vilnius records.

**Lithuanian Internal Passports 1919 to 1940 Are Available**

The site for this source is <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/InternalPassports.htm>.

**Gesher Galicia Adds New Records for 18 Towns to the All Galicia Database**

Birth, death, and marriage records dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> century until 1942 are now available at <http://search.geshergalicia.org>. Not all sites have the same records. Some have birth records, some have marriage records, etc. The total number of records in the all Galicia Database is 290,826 from 121 different sources. Also on Gesher Galicia are maps, town histories and back issues of *The Galitzianer* from 1993 to date.

**New Website for Researching Jewish Cemeteries**

CAJAC, formerly known as the Community Association of Jewish At Risk Cemeteries, has changed its name to the Community Alliance for Jewish-Affiliated Cemeteries, and it has a new website, <http://www.cajac.us/>, which describes its work and how it can assist synagogues, societies and others to preserve cemeteries. Also, it organizes community service days at local cemeteries.

**How To Do Canadian Jewish Research**

The place to go to get started on Canadian research is <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/#Canada>, where you will find a “Guide to Canadian Jewish Genealogical Research,” the Montreal Jewish General Hospital Archives and much more. ☆





## Steven Siegel Collection at AJHS by Linda Cantor

The Steven Siegel Collection, the papers of our past president and long term JGS Executive Council member, are now available at the American Jewish Historical Society at the Center for Jewish History. They were processed by Yakov Illich Sklar as part of the Leon Levy Archival Processing Initiative, made possible by the Leon Levy Foundation.

We knew Steve as an archivist and genealogist but he had many other interests and pursuits, well represented in this eclectic collection. Steve was actively involved with his alma mater Cornell University (where he was a member of Cornell Hillel's Board of Trustees, board member of the Cornell Alumni Association, the Cornell University Council, and was the national coordinator of the Cornell University Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association. He had received Cornell's prestigious Frank H. T. Rhodes Exemplary Alumni Service Award in 2011), Congregation Beth Simchat Torah, the Jewish Historical Society of New York, the Council of Research Libraries in Jewish Studies, the Archivists Round Table of the Metropolitan New York, and the Family History Fair.

The collection, which represents all of the above organizations plus the Jewish Genealogical Society and Steve's personal work, contains correspondence, publications, manuscripts, minutes, official documents, photographs, project proposals, seminar and conference materials, and original genealogical research. You can see a list of the holdings at <http://findingaids.cjh.org/?pID=2067948> and arrange to use the collection by

appointment with Director of Library and Archives of the American Jewish Historical Society. You can contact AJHS at American Jewish Historical Society, Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011, E-mail: [reference@ajhs.org](mailto:reference@ajhs.org).

*Linda Cantor, a retired teacher for the New York City Department of Education, has been researching her family history for over thirty years and has done considerable research on her Lithuanian, Galician and Volhynian roots. She coordinates the Rokiskis, Lithuania town SIG and is the webmaster for five KehilaLinks sites. She was president of JGS, Inc (New York) from 2007 to 2010 and is currently an Executive Council member. ☆*



Steven Seigel (z"l) at the JGS Brunch in 2009

### **SPECIAL NOTE!**

***Genealogical Resources in New York***, edited by Estelle Guzik,  
is on sale for a greatly reduced rate of only \$12 +\$3.50 shipping in US.  
For more information check our website [www.jgsny.org](http://www.jgsny.org)

# JGS Program Reports

by Steve Stein

March 23, 2014

## “My Father’s Wars: Migration, Memory and the Violence of a Century” by Steve Stein

A family story – both personal and in a cultural and historical context – was the presentation at our March meeting given by Alisse Waterston, cultural anthropologist and professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The story is documented in her latest book, *My Father’s Wars: Migration, Memory and the Violence of a Century*, in which she places the life of her father, Menachim Mendel Wasersztejn a.k.a. Miguelito Wasserstein a.k.a. Michael Waterston a.k.a. Don Miguel Waterston, against the backdrop of the events of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and three countries.

The story, as genealogists have come to know and expect, was reconstructed from fragments and photos into what Professor Waterston calls an “intimate ethnography,” a concept also used by colleague Barbara Rylko-Bauer in her book *A Polish Doctor in the Nazi Camps*. It refers to placing the story of an individual or family in an anthropological context. Both books spend time examining the effect of events on the second generation, which has an intense relationship with a



Alisse Waterston explaining the life and travels of her father in the context of the historical events of the time.

traumatic past and a stake in preserving it.

Professor Waterston’s story of her father began where he was born, as Menachim Mendel Wasersztejn, in Jedwabne in Poland, northwest of Bialystok, in 1913 (or so). The cities of Lomza and Bialystok are also mentioned in those pieces of documents. She further collected data by interviewing several individuals, taking several trips, examining legal documents, financial papers, and her mother’s unpublished memoir. She separated piles of stuck-together photographs, usually able to preserve them.

The early story was centered around World War I and the destruction it wrought. The memory of a young brother who died at age four of pneumonia played a key role as well; Professor Waterston played a recording of her father recalling it with sadness. After the war, his mother wanted to leave Poland, but the U.S. borders effectively closed in 1924 with strict new immigration laws. Menachem Mendel, his mother, sister Sara and brothers (Motel, Yankel, Yosef and Chaim) managed to get into Cuba, arriving at different times. They settled first in Havana and later moved to Manguito, located in the sugar producing province of Matanzas (on the western side of Cuba). Menachim Mendel became Miguelito, Motel became Manolo, Yankel became Jacobo, Yosef became Jose, and Chaim became Jaime. Professor Waterston described their first venture in the town, a store, called “El Cañon Aleman,” (the German Cannon) so named because the locals thought that Wasersztejn sounded German, and how her father was called “Polaco” or “Polaquito” (Pole, little Pole) when he said that he was Polish. (During a research trip with her father back to Manguito, they found people who remembered them and the store).

Professor Waterston went on to describe their life in Cuba, as well as further events that happened both to the family in Cuba and to the family still in Poland, including the massacre in Jedwabne, and how they interwove against the backdrop of the Holocaust, of anti-Semitism, and ultimately to Miguel’s immigration to the U.S. and his service in the American armed forces. Trying to relate these family events with the political and historical events of the time served to illuminate that context as well as to bond with her father in a way not otherwise possible.

April 27, 2014

## “A Visit to the Bialystoker Synagogue”

The April meeting found JGS’ers on the road again in pursuit of another bit of New York Jewish history, this time to the Bialystoker Synagogue on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. Our group was hosted by Rabbi Zvi Romm at the synagogue. Following the lecture and brief tour of the sanctuary, we made our way over to the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy Visitor Center for a view of their exhibit.



Rabbi Romm, who has been the rabbi of the orthodox Bialystoker Synagogue since 2002, began with a history of the congregation and the synagogue building. In the 1800s, congregations usually organized around the place of origin of the immigrant members; there were actually two congregations on the Lower East Side whose members hailed from Bialystok, part of the Russian Empire at the time. The building on Willett Street,

Rabbi Zvi Romm sharing the history of this beautiful synagogue

has it that the building was a stop on the Underground Railroad prior to the Civil War.

A marble plaque in the lobby notes the names of members who contributed to the purchase of the building. The purchase price of the building in 1905 was in excess of \$50,000. A major pogrom in Bialystok that same year accelerated the rate at which emigrants from Bialystok arrived and settled on the Lower East Side, and the congregation continued to grow. The dinner journal from the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala dinner in 1928, which was shown to attendees, also reflects the strong ties to the city of Bialystok.



JGS members hearing about the Bialystoker Synagogue

Though the actual connection to Bialystok faded after World War II, a spiritual connection remains. The Jewish population of Bialystok, two-thirds to three-quarters Jewish on the eve of World War II, was virtually wiped out. Nevertheless, the current mayor of Bialystok, now a city in Poland, visited the synagogue in 2013 and presented the seal of the city to the synagogue.

now co-named Bialystoker Place, was built in 1826 as a Methodist church. The two congregations, both of which formed in the late 1800s, joined in 1905 to purchase the building, though not without some controversy: in order to decide whether a former church could, according to Jewish law, become a synagogue, a “sh’ailah” – question of Jewish law or halachah – had been posed to Rabbi Joseph Saul Nathansohn in Poland (the answer was “yes”). And though the interior was completely redone as a synagogue, one can still see in the ceiling the outline of a door to the roof. Legend

There are no known early photographs of the interior of the synagogue. The stained glass windows most likely date back to the original purchase of the building. The ark was modeled after the one in the Great Synagogue in Bialystok, later burned to the ground by the Nazis. The ceiling murals and other decorative artifacts were begun after the war, in an effort to restore joy to the congregation in the aftermath of the Holocaust. A number of Jewish themes, such as the Tower of David and the Temple Mount, as well as symbols of



Michael Pertain leading us to the Visitor Center of the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy



Members are introduced to the exhibits which illuminate the world of New York's Jewish immigrants in the early 20th century.

the Zodiac, beautify the ceiling. The tablets of the Ten Commandments are depicted in blue to represent the sapphire in which the tablets were carved, according to Jewish tradition. In addition to the main ark, there are two smaller arks which hold other scrolls, such as the Book of Esther (the "Megillah") and Song of Songs, read on holidays throughout the year.

Due to a number of factors, the building fell into some disrepair in the 1970s, but an effort to restore the synagogue successfully accomplished that in the late 1980s. The artist in charge of the restoration, Paolo Spano, still comes by periodically to check up on his

work. With the advantage provided by the many co-ops that have arisen since the 1950s in the part of the Lower East Side adjacent to the synagogue (synagogue attendees must walk on the Sabbath and holidays), the congregation continues to flourish as an Orthodox synagogue today, with daily prayer, study and other activities every day throughout the year.

During the Q&A session, several attendees described their families' historical connections to the Bialystoker Synagogue. Rabbi Romm pointed out that the synagogue does not hold any historical records of note, particularly about past membership, other than the plaque in the lobby and the yahrtzeit plaques in the back of the sanctuary. Some records may be found at the Center for Jewish History.

At the conclusion of the Q&A session, attendees were free to look around at the sanctuary more closely, including the sizable women's balcony. See more information about the synagogue at [www.bialystoker.org](http://www.bialystoker.org). Rabbi Romm also acknowledged the presence of his cousin, JGS Executive Council member Hadassah Lipsius.

Following the visit to the Bialystoker Synagogue, Executive Council member Michael Pertain took us over to the Lower East Side Jewish Conservancy Visitor Center on Grand Street ([www.lesjc.org](http://www.lesjc.org)). Of particular interest is the exhibit about the history of Michael's family, the Kling and Niman families. The mini-tour was hosted by Michael and Executive

Director Laurie Tobias Cohen, who noted that the Conservancy will be losing its home temporarily during the upcoming redevelopment surrounding the Essex Street Market site, but eventually plans to have a new home there. In the intervening two to three years, the organization will remain in operation, and will continue to operate tours of the Jewish Lower East Side.

*(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 35 years.) ☆*

# Solving Another Genealogical Puzzle

By Joseph Fibel

My stepdaughter, Ronna, a poet, recently asked me to help her find a poem she had written years ago about the funeral of her maternal great grandmother, Minne Rivl Olkenitz Lipkunsy, whom she was fortunate to have known quite well.

Minne, called Minnie in the U.S., was born in Voronova (now Werenow in Belarus) in 1883 and died in New York in 1970 at the age of 87. Two years ago a relative gave us a large poster labeled "Voronova Ladies Auxiliary, 1928-1938." The poster is composed of several dozen small pictures of the women in the Auxiliary and there in the center is a picture of our Minnie Lipkunsy, president. We framed it and hung it up in our den.

After looking at the poster during a recent visit, Ronna decided to work on a new version of her lost poem about her great grandmother and asked us the date of Minnie's arrival in the U.S. Unfortunately, I was unable to answer that question, although I had searched unsuccessfully for the answer in the past. Ronna's mother, my wife Harriet, had grown up knowing both her grandparents, Minnie and Abe Lipkunsy. But the arrival date was a missing fact about which I now began a new search.

Minnie's husband, my wife's grandfather, Abraham Zvi Lipkunsy, was born in Radun, now in Belarus, in 1875. As soon as the Ellis Island Database came on line, I found his arrival on the *SS Zeeland* of the Red Star Line on February 5, 1902. He had come through Antwerp and had listed his former residence as Vilna, where we knew he had his own tailor shop. On his arrival Abe stayed with a cousin on 86<sup>th</sup> Street, and he very quickly opened his own New York City tailor shop. We knew that Abe and Minnie had married in Voronova, but when did she arrive?

I returned to the Ellis Island Database, to search

for Minnie again. She could have been listed under her maiden name of Olkenitz or Olkenitzsky or Olkenitzski. She could have chosen to use her married surname of Lipkunsy, and she could have been listed with a first name of Minne Rival or just Minne. So one by one I tried each of those things. Finally, I tried "sounds like Lipkunsy" without a first name, and the answer turned up!

Minne appears on the manifest of the *S.S. Bluche*, which arrived in New York on December 17, 1902, 10 months after her husband Abraham. Her city of origin is shown as Voronova, so she obviously had gone home to her family after her husband left for America, while waiting for him to send her a ticket. The ship was owned by the Hamburg American Line, and it sailed from Hamburg. Minnie is listed as coming to her husband. However, she apparently used Rivl as her traveling name, but the volunteer who wrote the index listed her as Risfve. When I looked at the handwritten copy of the manifest, it looked like Rival to me, but of course, I already knew her name. So I was very happy to be able to give all this information to Ronna to use in her new poem.

Minnie and Abe had three children. After Minnie died in 1970, Abe retired to the Daughters of Israel Home in the Bronx, where he lived to be 102 and a half.

*Joe Fibel has been a JGS member since 1976 and served on the Executive Council for 13 years. He writes frequently for Dorot, writes a genealogy column for his synagogue bulletins and teaches genealogy classes there. He had an extensive career in international marketing and sales, and for over two decades was president of Velox Equipment Corporation, which exports spare parts of U.S.-made heavy equipment. He can be reached at [jfibel@joefibel.com](mailto:jfibel@joefibel.com). ☆*

## Notes from All Over

### Genealogists Declaration of Rights Needs Signatures

In this age of secrecy, there are legislative efforts to deny access to federal, state and local public records because of fears of identity theft and fraud. The Records Preservation & Access Committee of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) urges genealogists to sign a "Genealogists' Declaration of Rights," which advocates open access to the records

of births, deaths, marriages, divorces, probate and other public records. The Declaration, available at <http://bit.ly/gen-declaration> has been approved by National Genealogical Society (NGS), the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and the IAJGS. The Declaration will be presented at the 34<sup>th</sup> IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City this summer (July 27-August 1). A large number of signers will help make legislators aware of the significant size

of the genealogy audience in the United States and that their needs should be considered.

### Two Additional Sources for Translated Yizkor Books

Jack Berger ([jsberger@sigmaxi.net](mailto:jsberger@sigmaxi.net)) has translated nine Yizkor Books and has two more in process. Available are memorial books for Zelva, Dereczin, Szczebrzeszyn, Cieszanow, and Belica (each costing \$54). Also available are the *Zamosc Memorial Book* at \$75 and *The Zamosc Memorial Book –The Trilogy* at \$100. The length varies from 200 to over 800 pages. Sponsors are welcome. Florette Lynn ([www.theseweremember.com](http://www.theseweremember.com)) has translated Yizkor Books for Ivenets and Kamin.

There is an up to date list of available translated Yizkor books at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html> and information about two recent translations can be found in “New, Recent and

Noteworthy Publications” in this issue.

### Ellis Island Has Time-Life Photos of Warsaw & Kutno 1939-1940.

The websites for these pictures is <http://life.time.com/history/world-war-II-color-photos-from-nazi-occupied-poland-1939-1940> or go to <http://life.time.com/history/ellis-island-rare-photos-from-the-gateway-to-a-new-world-1950/#1>. The photographs were taken from inside Nazi occupied Poland by an ardent Nazi named Hugo Jaeger.

### A Warning from Hurricane Sandy

As the frequent news of hurricanes, tornados, floods and fires reminds us, we never know when dangerous events will occur. In the rush of the moment, there may be no time to protect photographs and documents. *The Family Curator* at [www.thefamilycurator.com](http://www.thefamilycurator.com) explains how to care for damaged photographs and how to prevent damage from occurring. ✧

## In the Repositories

### International Database of Oral History Testimonies

This is a catalog listing the location of Holocaust oral history collections worldwide. Over 125 entities (museums, universities and other major institutions plus local community organizations) are listed. The catalog contains names, addresses and contact information for each organization and a description of the oral history collection and technical information regarding the formats used, finding aids, etc. The address is [www.ushmm.org/research/collections/oralhistory/search/](http://www.ushmm.org/research/collections/oralhistory/search/).

### B'nai B'rith Archives Transferred to American Jewish Archives

The new material, which will be kept separately from the other collections in the American Jewish Archives, contains documents about all facets of Jewish life from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and includes a Holocaust collection. As yet, not all of the collection is searchable. B'nai B'rith was the first national federated benevolent organization in the U.S. The web addresses to learn more are <http://americanjewisharchives.org/genealogy/> and [www.bnaibrith.org/8/post/2012/08/bnai-brith-archives-transferred-to-ohio.html](http://www.bnaibrith.org/8/post/2012/08/bnai-brith-archives-transferred-to-ohio.html).

### Reference Databases at the New-York Historical Society

The New-York Historical Society has numerous digitized databases, but the majority must be used on site at 170 Central Park West at 77th Street, which is across the street from Central Park and the American Museum of Natural History. Information at <http://www.nyhistory.org/library>. These databases include:

“American National Biography,” which is updated semi-annually and has 80,000 hyperlinked cross references.

“American Periodicals Series Online,” which contains fully searchable, digitized images of American newspapers and journals from 1740 to 1940.

“Ancestry.com Library Edition,” which contains 4,000 fully searchable databases of key sources.

“Gateway to North America: The People, Places and Origins of 19<sup>th</sup> Century New York.

“History Cooperative,” which contains indexing and full text articles from 22 scholarly periodicals.

The Library site also contains interesting blogs. ✧

## New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications

### Books about the Sephardic and Mizrahi Experience

**Yaron Harel, *Syrian Jewry in Transition, 1840-1880*.** (Portland, OR: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2010). 320 pages, \$27.95 paperback.

From the publisher: “This pioneering study offers a comprehensive account of Syria’s key Jewish communities at an important juncture in their history, that also throws light on the broader effects of modernization in the Ottoman Empire. The Ottoman reforms of the mid-nineteenth century accelerated the process of opening up Syria to European travelers and traders, and gave Syria’s Jews access to European Jewish communities. The resulting influx of Western ideas led to a decline in the traditional economy, with serious consequences for the Jewish occupational structure. It also allowed for the introduction of Western education through schools run by the Alliance Israelite Universelle, which influenced the structure and administration of Jewish society in Syria and changed the balance of the relationship between Muslims, Christians, and Jews. Initially, Syria’s Jewish communities flourished economically and politically in these new circumstances, but there was a developing recognition that their future lay overseas. After the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869, the bankruptcy of the Ottoman Empire in 1875, and the suspension of the Ottoman constitution in 1878, this feeling intensified. A process of decline set in that culminated in large scale Jewish emigration, first to Egypt and then to the West. From that point on, the future of the Syrian Jews lay in the West, not in the East. Detailed and compelling, this book covers Jewish community life, the legal status of Jews in Syria, their relationship with their Muslim and Christian neighbors, and their links with the West. It draws on a wide range of archival material in six languages.”

**Beverly Mizrahi, *Paths to Middle-Class Mobility among Second Generation Moroccan Immigrant Women in Israel*** (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2013). 216 pages. \$44.95 hardcover.

From the publisher: “While first generation immigrant women often begin their lives at the bottom of their new societies, the fates of their adult daughters may be very different. Little research has been done to examine the opportunities or constraints that second generation women face and the class achievements they make. In

this volume Beverly Mizrahi presents an in-depth study of 40-50 year old Moroccan women whose parents made up part of the largest ethnic group to enter Israel after its establishment in 1948 and whose mothers began their lives at the bottom of the economic and social ladder.

The book begins by examining the historical background and culture of Jewish communities in Morocco and then analyzes the life history narratives of six second-generation Moroccan women to show how they used their education, employment, spousal relationships, and motherhood to achieve middle class mobility for themselves and their children. Simultaneously, they constructed new classes and new ethnicized feminine identities.”

### Books about the European Jewish Experience

**Henry Eaton, *The Origins and Onset of the Romanian Holocaust*** (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2013). 224 pages, \$29.95 paperback.

From the publisher: “The first mass killings of the Romanian Holocaust in late June to early July 1941 brutally claimed thousands of victims and marked the beginnings of the government’s plan to ‘cleanse the land of Jews.’ Moreover, of all the Third Reich’s allies, only Romania undertook its genocide campaign without the intervention of Himmler’s SS. Author Henry Eaton traces the historical path of the tragedy by examining both Romania’s anti-Semitic history and looking at the initial mass killings in detail. He persuasively challenges the idea that Romania’s adoption of murder as a state policy was due to outside pressures.”

**Esther Kuznitz, *YIVO and the Making of Modern Jewish Culture & Scholarship for the Yiddish Nation*** (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2014). 716 pages, \$76 hardcover.

From the publisher: “This book is the first history of YIVO, the original center for Yiddish scholarship. Founded by a group of Eastern European intellectuals after World War I, YIVO became both the apex of secular Yiddish culture and the premier institution of Diaspora Nationalism, which fought for Jewish rights throughout the world at a time of rising anti-Semitism. From its headquarters in Vilna, Lithuania, YIVO tried to balance scholarly objectivity with the commitment to the Jewish

masses. Using newly recovered documents that were believed destroyed by Hitler and Stalin, Cecilia Esther Kuznitz tells for the first time the compelling story of how these scholars build a world renowned institution, despite dire poverty and anti-Semitism.”

**Shaul Stampfer, *Families, Rabbis, and Education: Traditional Jewish Society in Nineteenth Century Europe.*** (Portland, OR: Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2010). 428 pages, \$29.95 paperback.

From the publisher: “The family and the community, which were in a very real sense the core institutions of East European Jewish society, underwent very rapid change in the nineteenth century. These essays look at the past through the prism of the lives of ordinary people with results that are sometimes surprising, but always stimulating. The topics they treat are varied, but the concern to explain what lay behind the visible reality is common to all of them.”

## Two New Yizkor Books Published

**Dr. George Gorin, editor, *Grayewo Memorial (Yizkor) Book.*** ([www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org): Yizkor Books in Print Project, 2014). \$49.95 from JewishGen or \$36 from Amazon.

From the publisher: “Jews have been living in Grajewo (also known as Grayava or Graevo, Grayeve or Grayevo) in the Bialystok province since the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The book tells the story of the town’s suffering during the Soviet occupation and transfer of the population to Auschwitz and Treblinka after the Nazi invasion.”

**Elieser Steinman, editor, *Brest-Litovsk, Volume II Encyclopedia of the Jewish Experience,*** ([www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org): Yizkor Books in Print Project, 2014). \$56.95 from JewishGen or \$41 from Amazon.

From the publisher: “Compiled in 1958 by Brest survivors and former residents from many countries, and newly translated, this book tells the story of Brest-Litovsk (Brisk in Yiddish), a town in which Jews have lived for six centuries. The Brisker Yeshivah attracted scholars from all over Europe. Among the famous residents were Rabbis Solomon Luria and Joel Sirkes, three generations of the Soleveitchik dynasty, and Menachem Begin.”

## Books About Genealogy

**Francois Weil, *Family Trees: A History of Genealogy in America*** (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2013). 304 pages, \$27.95 hardcover.

From the publisher: “The quest for roots is an unending American preoccupation, and the story of America’s search for identity illuminates the story of America itself, according to Francois Weil, chancellor of the University of Paris, a professor of history, and the former president of the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales.” A reviewer wrote: “Weil considers why America’s present and future oriented society with blended cultural values so treasures knowledge of group identities. Clear, fully annotated, subtly analyzed, timely and nuanced, this book offers both general and academic readers a new view of genealogical research in America in a ‘why they did it’ rather than a ‘how to do it’ presentation.”

**Daniel Wagner, editor, *Selected Lectures on Genealogy: An Introduction to Scientific Tools.*** (Rehovat, Israel: Weizmann Institute of Science, 2013). 210 pages. Price unlisted.

From the publisher: “A few decades ago the ‘hard sciences’ – mathematics, biology, computer sciences and so on – played no significant role in the field of genealogy. Nowadays, genealogy is undergoing a rapid transformation: what used to be mainly an activity similar to stamp collecting, practiced mainly by the elderly, has become a field of sample information and knowledge. The impact of the fast growing number of intricate scientific facets in this field makes it indispensable that genealogists are offered a basic set of introductory tools in the relevant aspects of the hard sciences.”

“This book, the first of its kind, is a collection of ten basic articles and can be used as a reference to find scientific methods suitable to one’s genealogical pursuit. The aim is to prepare the student genealogist with a basic understanding of the scientific operations relevant to genealogical problems and to enable him/her to communicate successfully with scientists in case help is needed. Research in modern genealogy will not progress and develop without the scientific tools of the ‘hard sciences.’”

“The authors of the book’s articles are Alexander Beider, Nachum Dershowitz with Edward M. Reingold, Stephen L. Egbert with Karen G. Roekard, Kamila Klauzainka, Stephen P. Morse, John A. Nairn, Nadev Shnerb with Yosef Maruzka and David Kessler. Jean-Pierre Stroweis, and H. David Wagner.” ☆

Editor’s Note: Many of you have met Danny Wagner at IAJGS conferences. He is a fellow genealogist and very active in the field in Israel.



## Upcoming JGS Programs

**SEPTEMBER MEETING: September 21, 2014  
at 2:00 PM**

### ***Finding Granddad's War***

**Speaker: Jeffrey Badger**

Jeffrey Badger, author of the book *Finding Granddad's War*, will tell us the story of his tracking down the World War II army pals of the grandfather he never knew, and talk about using military records – for both World War I and World War II – for family history research.

To discover the grandfather he never knew, Jeff Badger, armed with only a handful of photographs that his deceased grandfather brought home from World War II, set off to find his grandfather's war buddies.

He found and interviewed 32 elderly Army-engineer veterans from his granddad's unit, including his grandfather's four best buddies. Their firsthand accounts created an intimate and honest portrait of their war: the work of an engineering maintenance company working behind the lines to repair equipment for the infantry, retrieving damaged equipment from the front, avoiding German snipers, building bridges in Germany under enemy fire, coping with the death of a best friend. One Jewish GI said the hardest part of the war was the anti-Semitism - not from the Germans, but from his fellow GI "buddies". The author then tracked down the Jewish GI's main antagonist to get his side of the story.

A book signing will follow the lecture.

Jeffrey Badger was born in Dublin, California and grew up in Ogden, Utah and Uvalde, Texas. He attended the University of Texas at Austin, Pennsylvania State University and Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland, where he received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. He has lived in six states and five countries and now works independently as a consultant/expert in the grinding of metal. In 1998 he became obsessed with finding and then telling the story of his deceased grandfather's WWII unit, the 978th Engineering Maintenance Company. He said, "You hear about the infantry and the great battles, but you don't hear about the other 90% of GIs who were fighting the war but in a different way. I

wanted to tell their story." In his research he interviewed 32 veterans and also civilians in France, Holland and Germany who knew them in 1944/1945

Admission: JGS members are free, guests \$5 at the door.

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at CJH will be open before the meeting at 11:00 a.m. for networking with other researchers and access to research materials and computers.

**Location:** Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street, New York, NY.

---

---

**OCTOBER MEETING: October 26, 2014 at  
2:00 PM**

**Passenger Manifests and the Immigrant Voyage  
Speaker: Phyllis Kramer**

Phyllis Kramer, the Vice President for Education at Jewishgen will present a talk on Passenger Manifests and the Immigrant Voyage— a comprehensive review of the immigration process beginning with a family's trip to the port of embarkation in Europe.

The recipient of the 2011 IAJGS award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy for her creation of the Jewishgen Education program, Phyllis is a genealogist with primary interest in Eastern European Jewish research. She has served as Jewishgen's VP of Education since 2005 and a member of its advisory board of governors since 2009.

**Location:** Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues), Manhattan.

Admission: JGS members are free, guests \$5 at the door.

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at CJH will be open before the meeting at 11:00 a.m. for access to research materials and computers and networking with other researchers. ☆

# QUESTIONING THE EXPERTS

**DOROT questions both JGS members and outside experts about their genealogical skills and elicits their advice for those embarking on their own genealogical path.**

**Interview with Linda Levi, Director of the Archives of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and Assistant Executive Vice President for Global Archives**

DOROT: The Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) is now marking its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which takes us back to 1914. What were the reasons and circumstances for the creation of the JDC back then?

LEVI: World War I had broken out and there was a Jewish community that was deeply affected by the war in Europe and in Palestine. There were tremendous needs and three different groups in America had organized to respond to the emergency. The severity of the situation brought the three groups together to create a Joint Distribution Committee.

We had three segments of the community: the group of primarily more-established German Jews, who were part of an effort by the American Jewish Committee; a group of Orthodox Jews that had been established in a Central Relief Committee of the Union of Orthodox Congregations of America; and later, a third group, the socialists and labor groups had also organized a People's Relief Committee. The three groups came together to create a Joint Distribution Committee of American Funds for the Relief of Jewish War Sufferers.

DOROT: Here in New York there is a formal archive, which is part of the JDC. What was the thinking that went into the establishment of an archive and when did that happen?

LEVI: The JDC Archives was established in the 1960s. The JDC Archives actually has two centers, not only in New York. We also have an archival center in Jerusalem. They are related as part of one global JDC Archives. JDC is an organization that has always valued its history, an organization that always learns from its history and is very proud of its history. When we embark on a new endeavor, we often look to the past

to see how we organized such endeavors in the past. So we draw from the Archives. We're also very conscious of the fact that, given the depth and the breadth of the organization's work in so many places at so many critical points in history, the records of our organization are one of the most important repositories of modern Jewish history.

DOROT: What are the main components of the archive in New York?

LEVI: The Archives of the Joint are the institutional records of the Joint. They include our text collections of our files and records. We have a large photo collection, probably over 100,000 photos dating back to our earliest years. From its beginnings, JDC was seeking to use photographs as a means to

educate the public here in the United States about the needs and about the work of the Joint overseas. We have what is considered to be a very important and significant photo collection of Jewish life around the world, and we have a collection of approximately 160 oral histories, with the transcripts as well as the sound recordings. We have a collection of other speeches and sound recordings, and we have a collection of films, primarily films that were produced by the JDC.

DOROT: Is there anything in the JDC Archives that is of value and interest to genealogical researchers?

LEVI: A tremendous amount of material. For example, JDC was very involved in the Displaced Persons camps following World War II and in other efforts for relief and rescue during the World War II era. For our work with DPs after the war, we had an Emigration Service that operated out of Vienna and Munich. The JDC Archives has index cards with all of the individuals who were helped by the JDC Emigration Service. That material is included in a Names Index that is available on line. As another example, JDC assisted refugees who escaped across the Pyrenees from France and got to Barcelona.



We have index cards for the families that were being helped in Barcelona. That also has been indexed. We have indexed all of our lists dealing with people helped in Shanghai. We have indexed certain very large lists of Polish Jewish refugees in 1940 who had gotten to Vilna and were being assisted by the Joint at the time. We have tried to select large lists that would be of genealogical interest to large groups of people and to index them. That effort continues all the time. Today we are trying to expand the scope of those lists. We are now working on Egyptian Jewish refugees who left Egypt for France or for Brazil. Those lists have just recently been indexed. We also have some very important lists from the 1915-1920 period when families in America were trying to get money to their relatives in Eastern Europe or to family in Palestine. These remittance lists have been indexed. They include names and addresses of the depositors of the funds – usually from America – but also the names and addresses of the family overseas. They're interesting. You can see some names changed. The names and addresses in both countries are important. I know that Gary Mokotoff of *Avotaynu* has identified a family member on a remittance list.

DOROT: What is the best way for a genealogical researcher to access the material, to discover, first of all, what it is you have and then to get their eyes on it?

LEVI: A lot of our material is available on line at [archives.jdc.org](http://archives.jdc.org). Our Names Index is accessible on the home page. What is included in the Names Index is only material that has already been indexed. On the website, family researchers can find a list of the lists already indexed. That means one can check the list first to see if any of those lists pertain to one's family background. But that is the first and easiest way for people who think that their families were helped by JDC. The second way is to go into the database and the Search the Archives section of the website. The researcher can enter into the text collections. If one doesn't find specific information about their family, one can certainly find reports describing the situation in the city that their family came from and the work that JDC was doing in that place at any particular time. So it is certainly very helpful for background information and often, also, for specific information. We have files with ship lists of people who were assisted by JDC; there are lists of prisoners of war who were assisted after World War I by JDC. There are a number of different avenues that can be explored on line. If there is a specific inquiry and question, one can contact the JDC Archives at [archives@jdc.org](mailto:archives@jdc.org) with a specific question, and our archivists will be happy to be of assistance.

DOROT: So if a researcher were looking for something in a file that may not have been indexed yet but suspects there may be information in that file, can they get access to the actual material?

LEVI: The material is part of our text collection and has been digitized for the most part. Much of our information from our New York collections – our records from 1918 through 1974 – is available on line. In cases where the material is not available on line, genealogists are welcome to contact us at [archives@jdc.org](mailto:archives@jdc.org).

DOROT: You said part of the JDC archival collection is physically located in Jerusalem. Would the same apply to that material as well in terms of what can be accessed and how it can be accessed?

LEVI: Portions of that material can be accessed on line. Our Jerusalem office includes our Stockholm Collection from the post-war years, our Cyprus Collection, our Istanbul Collection and our Geneva office records. The Stockholm, Istanbul and Cyprus material is available on line. The Geneva material from 1945 to 1954 is available on line. Other collections are currently being processed. As we complete the processing and complete the digitizing, in time, those will be available on line. It's a matter of resources and certainly our intent is to make more and more material available on line. We are now working on processing our Aden collection on Operation Magic Carpet. This was the effort from 1948 to 1949 to bring Yemenite Jews to Israel. JDC played a central role in this and we have a very large and historically very important archive on this.

DOROT: You mentioned finding a name on a remittance list. Do you have many similar success stories?

LEVI: Hundreds if not thousands. I myself have found my grandfather and my great grandfather in our records, some of it in our Names Index but most of it in our text collection. Many of my JDC colleagues have found family members. The genealogy public would be proud to know that the Names Index of our Archives is by far the most popular feature of our on-line holdings. The Names Index is drawing tremendous attention around the world.

DOROT: People have been able to use that Name Index to trace information about their families and individual relatives?

LEVI: Yes, one of my recent stories that I tell is, we have

just recently created an app for our Names Index to be accessible on Facebook and as soon as we did it, it drew large numbers of additional people to the Names Index. And I noticed the comments of a group of siblings after they learned from the JDC Emigration Service card of their grandparents that the original preferred destination of their family had been Australia. And there were comments on our Facebook saying, “We could have been Aussies! Did you know this? I didn’t know this.” So there are surprises for people. A second example that I can give is, a personal friend who was in a DP camp after the war and knew that her family was helped. She had a copy of the Emigration Service card, but in her search of the Names Index, she also found the card of her aunt and uncle who came from Hungary after 1956. Then, when she researched in our general Archives database, she found the story of what was happening in 1921 and the situation that led to her grandparents having left wherever it was they were in Ukraine. And the stories that she read in our reports corroborated the family lore about the situation in Ukraine that led to her grandparents leaving.

DOROT: Many members of the New York Jewish Genealogical Society have worked at JDC as volunteers to help sort through this material. What kind of work have they been doing? What kind of skills would new volunteers need, what hours would be required, what kind of work might they be doing?

LEVI: The volunteers have really been the backbone of our Names Index. Were it not for the group of devoted volunteers who have been working with us for the last three to four years, we would not have this Names Index. Our staff identifies these lists, and the volunteers have been in-putting data from the lists into a database. Knowing what an important service this provides to genealogists and family historians in the future has been their calling. Many of our volunteers are active members of the JGS of New York. There is always room for more. We are looking for people who are computer savvy but not sophisticated. It is basically a data-entry job. People need to be ready to commit to volunteer for one day a week for a period of about six months, because it does involve training people and we want to make sure we have people who are really committed to this cause. There clearly is a meeting of minds between our desire to make this information accessible to people researching their family history and Jewish genealogists who are committed to finding information, who are familiar with different spellings of place names. They have been very helpful to us in solving some of the questions that come up when we to

look at the data. We’re totally grateful to this cadre of volunteers. Without them we would not have a Names Index. Those interested in volunteering can contact us at [archives.jdc.org](http://archives.jdc.org).

DOROT: Is there a need for particular language skills?

LEVI: There isn’t a need for language skills, but when someone has language skills, they sometimes can be helpful in working on certain kinds of lists. For example, we have some early lists that are in German and we have one volunteer who has been working on that list. We are also able to sometimes pick a list that is particularly meaningful to a particular volunteer. One of our volunteers was a refugee himself in Shanghai and he is the person who worked on many of the Shanghai lists.

DOROT: I understand that you have been involved in an exhibit marking the JDC’s centennial year.

LEVI: Yes, the exhibit for JDC’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary – called “I Live. Send Help.” – extends through September 21, 2014 at the New-York Historical Society. We invite people to attend. The exhibit attempts to give an overview of 100 years of JDC’s work through photos, documents, artifacts, films and sound recordings from the JDC Archives.

DOROT: That should open your material and the knowledge of it to a wider community.

LEVI: There is a companion book that has been published called *I Live. Send Help*.

DOROT: Were you involved in the creation of the exhibit?

LEVI: Absolutely. The JDC Archives, as a department, has been working for over three years on research for this exhibit. We’ve been working very closely with the curator of the exhibit from the New-York Historical Society, Marilyn Kushner. It has been a very long process, a very exciting process for the department, and we are very proud of the exhibit.

DOROT: Did you have some difficult choices in deciding what went to the Historical Society?

LEVI: Those who work in the Archives are very much aware of the many, many places in which JDC worked and the many important activities that JDC is and has been involved in. But we learned very quickly that an

exhibit can't show everything and you have to make choices. Those choices came with great difficulty. We were taught by Marilyn that what you want to convey is a story, and a story often has a document, a photo, a film, a sound recording, and an artifact, things that can enrich and strongly portray a story. We were searching for those kinds of stories and the search for artifacts led us in many different directions. We don't have a large artifact collection. We were able to identify some interesting artifacts that were lent to us for the exhibit. I should say here that if anyone has artifacts that are related to the work of the JDC, we would be happy to both know about them and potentially receive them so that they can be used for future exhibits of this nature.

DOROT: Have you done your own genealogical research?

LEVI: No, I have not personally done it. However, I'm the daughter of an extremely avid Jewish genealogist who has been working on both sides of my family for dozens of years and has published several books on his findings that have been disseminated to relatives around the world. So I've grown up with a love of genealogy, with an understanding of what it means. So I get excited when I find a document about my family in our Archives. But I'm not the genealogist. It's my dad who at the age of 94 is still at it.

DOROT: What part of the world has he researched to trace both sides of your family?

LEVI: My dad's family is from Germany, my mother's family is from Vienna. The branches have led to Pressburg, to Budapest, Germany, Austria and some Czechoslovakia.

DOROT: Is material still coming into the JDC Archives?

LEVI: Yes, we accession material from our more current collections all the time. We have the role of trying to figure out what in our ongoing records really is of historical, archival interest, and that's a whole process. We have a challenge today of working in an era when records are really kept digitally. We don't write the kinds of beautiful reports that used to be written. But we are trying to figure out, with e-mails being our primary source of communications, what the best way is to archive our digital records, and we've had some projects going in that direction.

DOROT: What is the thinking on that in the archivist

community in terms of the preservation of documentary material that is digital?

LEVI: There is an expertise on digital archiving. Books have been written on this. There are courses taught in schools of library science on this. We engaged a consultant, Professor Bill Saffady, who has helped us develop a project in our New York archives to archive our digital email records. But it's a complicated project to apply internationally. Many technical issues need to be worked out in order for it to work as one archive.

DOROT: Philosophically, though, the idea seems the same: taking old records and putting them in an archival system that then becomes available to researchers.

LEVI: Yes, in a very broad way.

DOROT: In your list of priorities for taking the traditional material that has not yet been sorted, what would you like to become available in the months and years ahead?

LEVI: We're working right now on a project that is very exciting. Our records from the JDC Warsaw office from immediately after World War II, from 1945 to 1949, were confiscated by the Polish government at the time, by the Communist government. Most of those records were later put in the basement of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw. For JDC, those are fugitive records. We are now working in collaboration with the Jewish Historical Institute to digitize that entire collection. That will make it accessible on line to the researching public. It is a very important collection that dealt with the search for relatives and the assistance that JDC was providing in Warsaw right after the war. Warsaw was the head office of our efforts in Poland. It is a very large collection. It was microfilmed on 444 reels of microfilm. We are very excited about this project. On our agenda also is the Jerusalem Collection, which includes Operation Magic Carpet records. It also includes the assistance coming from our Jerusalem office to refugees in the post-war period in Europe and elsewhere as well as assistance to refugees who came from Europe to Palestine in 1945, in the pre-state years. We are also looking to continue with our Geneva collection. We have catalogued the collection from 1955 to 1964. We are looking for funding now to be able to microfilm it and digitize it.

DOROT: What kind of material is in that Geneva collection?

LEVI: Geneva was our overseas headquarters. It includes continued work with refugees throughout Europe, the development of our programs in North Africa, our work in South America, our work in Israel. It contains essential material about the work of the JDC in those years, helping to rebuild the Jewish community in Europe in the post-war period.

DOROT: Do the languages of that material vary?

LEVI: The languages do vary somewhat but the language of communication with the headquarters of JDC was always English. Since Geneva was a headquarters office, most of the language of that collection is English. There is some material in other languages as well.

DOROT: So it seems like an on-going project with no visible horizon. It must be very exciting.

LEVI: It's very exciting. It's very exciting to see where we've come in the last five years and we have enough challenges to continue the work in the coming five years. We're proud to have been able to make as much material as possible available to the researcher public and we are always ready to help family genealogists.

DOROT: Thank you.

*Linda Levi is Assistant Executive Vice President of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, where she directs the JDC Archives, one of the most significant collections in the world for the study of modern Jewish history. The JDC Archives include 3 miles of text documents, 100,000 photographs, over 6,000 books, and 250 audio-recordings including oral histories. The JDC Archives are situated in two centers, NY and Jerusalem.*

*Ms. Levi previously served as Assistant Executive Vice-President for Program Planning and Budget. She has traveled extensively throughout the JDC world, including Israel, the former Soviet Union, Eastern Europe, Latin America, and Africa & Asia. JDC, or the "Joint" as it is known to its tens of thousands of beneficiaries worldwide, is the major instrument of American Jewry for meeting global Jewish needs.*

*Ms. Levi is a graduate of New York University. She received a MA in Contemporary Jewish Studies from Brandeis University. ☆*

## 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: 1984—2012; 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>**

# 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.

If you have a suggestion for a new Friend, please e-mail it to the Editor at [editor@jgsny.org](mailto:editor@jgsny.org).

---

---

## **THE MUSEUM AT ELDRIDGE STREET**

12 Eldridge Street, between Canal & Division St (just south of Canal St)  
New York, NY  
212-219-0888  
[www.eldridgestreet.org](http://www.eldridgestreet.org)

JGS members receive **free admission** for a companion (2 for the price of 1). \$10 adults; \$8 students/seniors; \$6 children 5–18. Free Mondays (up to 6 people), Sunday–Thursday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m., Friday 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

### **Tours of the restored Eldridge Street Synagogue**

Tour: From Ellis to Eldridge: Immigrant History

Tour: Beyond the Façade: Architecture and Preservation

Special programs and other tours by appointment—see website [www.eldridgestreet.org](http://www.eldridgestreet.org)

---

---

## **THE JEWISH MUSEUM**

1109 Fifth Avenue (at 92nd Street)  
New York, NY 10128  
(212) 423-3200  
[www.TheJewishMuseum.org](http://www.TheJewishMuseum.org)

JGS members will receive **free admission** for a companion (**2 for the price of 1**). \$12 adults; \$10 senior citizens; \$7.50 students. Children under 12 free. Saturdays free.

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Saturday,  
11:00 a.m.–5:45 p.m.;  
Thursday, 11:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.;  
Friday (EST: Nov–Mar) 11:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.;  
(DST: Apr–Oct) 11:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Closed on Wednesdays and major legal and Jewish holidays.

---

---

## **MUSEUM OF JEWISH HERITAGE: A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HOLOCAUST**

36 Battery Place, Battery Park City  
New York, NY 10280  
(646) 437-4200  
[www.mjhnyc.org](http://www.mjhnyc.org)

JGS members will receive a **\$2 discount** on the general admission price (\$12 **\$10** adults, \$10 **\$8** seniors, and \$7 **\$5** students). Children 12 and under free. Wednesdays, 4:00 p.m.–8:00 p.m., free. JGS members receive **15% off** all purchases in the Museum Shop.

Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 10:00 a.m.–5:45 p.m.;  
Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m. (free after 4:00 p.m.);  
Friday and the eve of Jewish holidays, 10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. (EST);  
Friday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (DST).

Closed Saturdays, Jewish holidays, and Thanksgiving Day.

---

---

## **YESHIVA UNIVERSITY MUSEUM AT THE CENTER FOR JEWISH HISTORY**

15 West 16th Street  
New York, NY 10011  
(212) 294-8330  
[www.yumuseum.org](http://www.yumuseum.org)

JGS members will receive **free admission** for a companion (**2 for the price of 1**). \$8 adults; \$6 seniors and students.

Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, 11:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.;  
Monday, 5:00–8:00 p.m (Free)  
Wednesday, 11:00–8:00 p.m. (5:00–8:00 p.m. Free)  
Friday, 11:00 a.m.–2:30 p.m. (Free)



## **Jewish Genealogical Society**

P.O Box 631  
New York, NY 10113-0631  
[www.jgsny.org](http://www.jgsny.org)

Address Service Requested

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Hanover, PA  
Permit No. 4

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

למען תספרו לדור אחרון, תהלים מ"ח:14