
The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

DOROT דורות

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Summer 2014

Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry by Jordan Auslander

Jews of Hungarian descent tend to be an odd and varied bunch and that shows up in our genealogical resources. In the summer of 2015, many IAJGS Jerusalem conferees may want to make a trip, well off the beaten track, in the north of Israel, to the town of Safed (Tsfat). A curious structure rests upon a hilltop, with the unwieldy name of The Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry. It is the labor of love of Hava and Yosef Lustig. The Lustigs are nearing retirement; their son Ron Lustig now serves as the museum's executive director.

I first became aware of the Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry in the course of my own research. Natan Ben Chaim – a distant cousin living in Israel, who started life in Budapest as Imre Auslander, son of Hugo Auslander, born in Munkacs, Hungary, now Mukachevo, Ukraine – arrived in Israel as a 20 year old Zionist in 1938; he put me in touch with Altie Gadish, who was also researching his Auslander ancestors.

Altie was a data entry volunteer at the museum; he was also born, as Aaron Goldstein, in Mukachevo when it was in Czechoslovakia. Altie survived the Holocaust, married Leah Katz in Szeged, Hungary and, in 1946, made his way to, what was then, Palestine.

Gadish donated many of the documents that comprise the Auslander family folder amongst the approximately 200 surname loose-leaf binders in the museum's cabinets. The Auslander-donated dossier includes pages from the 1869 census and copies of other vital records, which allowed me to determine that Altie's father Hugo Goldstein's mother, Sali Shifra née Auslander descended from a line unrelated to mine. One of the hazards of Hungarian genealogical research stems from the 1787 adoption of (and imposition of some) surnames. The tantalizing coincidence of uncommon surnames does not necessarily denote consanguinity.

Why Hungarian Speakers?

Hungarian Jews lacked a sense of place even as they steadily gained rights and freedoms. Data from 1876 shows a statistical Jewish presence in almost 10,000 of Greater Hungary's 17,600 localities. Outside of the major cities, the highest concentration of Jews was in Carpatho-Ruthenia, in the foothills of the Northeast. Many assimilated, some converted, and others remained rigidly orthodox. What most of these Jews had in common was fluency in Magyar, the Hungarian language, because for that alone they were counted as

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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

Summer seems to fly by faster than any other season. I hope you all took advantage of the late sunsets and sunny skies and enjoyed the outdoors. Although I know from experience that for those of you who work the school calendar, the summer is the time to get to the archives and do some heavy duty research. Whatever you did, hope it was productive and enjoyable. As mentioned in my last posting, I could not attend the IAJGS conference this year, first time since 1998, so we would love to hear more about it from those who were there. It's not too late to send in articles about the sessions you attended and other experiences you had. I hear there were many new and informative presentations.

If you are planning a trip to Poland, be sure to see the new Museum of the History of Polish Jews, which has its grand opening October 29-30, 2014. It is located on the ruins of a prewar Jewish neighborhood where the Warsaw Ghetto was established in World War II. Although during my visit, all sections were not yet open to the public, I was able with a guide, to see many of those in progress and a changing exhibit that was open to all. The Museum's Core Exhibition will engage visitors about the world of Jews from their arrival as traveling merchants ten centuries ago to the modern revival of the Jewish community today. There are multimedia representations of Jewish life during the interwar years. Additionally, the Resource Center at the Museum will have special access to the JRI-Poland database and website. I look forward to returning to take more time exploring this wonderful Museum during my next visit.

This issue of *Dorot* contains an outstanding article by Jordan Auslander about the Memorial Museum of Hungarian Speaking Jewry in Safed, Israel. Don't miss it! I'm sure you'll also want to read the article by JGS Executive Council member Linda Cantor who presents a very informative piece about the German-Jewish Children's Aid organization. Created in 1934, learn how this organization received unaccompanied orphaned Jewish children leaving Germany for the United States. Also, Neil Rosenstein informs us about Judge Judy's remarkable Jewish family history. A must read is the Questioning the Experts interview with Gloria Berkenstat Freund, a former Executive Council member of JGS.

We have been very fortunate in having Norman Himelberg as an enthusiastic member and supporter of our society. He has been most generous in the past, and has again presented JGS with a most significant grant from the David Himelberg Foundation. He requested that the funds support general indexing, tablets, computers, and other equipment as needed, and the indexing of Polish Jewish records. With the rising costs of venues, technology, and program fees, this is a great help. Thank you again, Norman. We gratefully accept all donations... large and small. Your donations will help us continue to provide special programs and engage in worthwhile projects. All donations to JGS, Inc. are tax deductible and very much appreciated.

Finally, as we celebrate the New Year, I wish you a bright and blessed year filled with good health, love, peace, happiness and joy in your heart and guidance to discover that missing link in your family tree!! L'Shanah Tovah! ☆



SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, December 21, 2014 11 a.m.

JGS Members' Brunch

Sutton Place Synagogue
225 E 51st Street, New York, N.Y. 10022

Details to follow at a later date

JGS Welcomes 16 New Members

Name	City	State
Susan Atlas	Bronx	NY
Richard Brooks	Owensboro	KY
Eden Buenaventura	Middletown	NJ
Lawrence Fagan	Los Altos	CA
Faye Landsman	Bronx	NY
Roderick Macneil	Philadelphia	PA
Franklin C. Marcus	Brooklyn	NY
Seth Morgulas	New York	NY
Connie Newhan	Corona	CA
Lindsey M. Ottman	Flushing	NY
Sandra Schoicket	Hummelstown	PA
Iris Selig	Damariscotta	ME
Hilary Stillman	New York	NY
David Weiss	Rancho Cucamonga	CA
Elaine G. Yaffe	New York	NY
Anne Zimmerman	Sherman Oaks	CA

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 1594 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.

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

The IAJGS 2014 Award & Grants

by Mark Nicholls, Secretary IAJGS

IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award 2014 Alexander Beider

In recognition of his many significant contributions to the specialized science of the origins and forms of proper names and surnames of persons as applied to the field of Jewish genealogy, as well as, for the scholarly works that he has authored that have become over time the indispensable reference resources for genealogists and families who are researching their ancestors.

IAJGS Program Award 2014 Montefiore Census Digitization

In recognition of the exemplary work of Mathilde Tagger, Billie Stein, and Rose Feldman as well as the numerous volunteers from the Israel Genealogical Society and the Israel Genealogy Research Association who created the database, transcribed and translated all five 19th century censuses which document the Jewish population of Eretz Yisrael between 1839 and 1875. This project enables the availability of Sir Moses Montefiore's records to all genealogy researchers with roots in Ottoman Empire Palestine.

IAJGS Outstanding Publication 2014 Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island New York *Lineage*

For excellent design, editing and original content of a quarterly Jewish genealogy newsletter. *Lineage* stands out for effectively engaging the members of JGS Long Island to become more actively involved in their society as well as becoming better skilled in conducting their family research.

IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet 2014 Jewish Records Indexing – Poland

JRI-Poland is recognized for providing since 1995 searchable on-line indices of Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland and for its recent ground breaking multi-year agreement with the Polish State Archives (PSA) in a massive effort to digitize all vital records in more than 30 regional archives. This initiative will dramatically expand access to records for family historians tracing their Jewish roots to Poland and make them freely available online.

Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant JewishGen Latin American SIG

For their project relating to Jewish colonies in Latin America. They plan to digitize census records and passenger lists of Jewish immigrants in the agricultural colonies in Argentina, sponsored by the Jewish Colonization Association.

John Stedman Memorial Grant JewishGen Ukraine SIG

For their work relating to Odessa Document Acquisition and Translation Projects. They plan to obtain copies of the Jewish vital records stored in the State Archives of Odessa, Ukraine, translate and make the indexes available in a searchable format.

International Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Competition 2014

The winning poster was designed by **Marcia Hirsch** from the JGS of Illinois. This year International Jewish Genealogy Month will be from October 23 – November 22, 2014, according to the Hebrew month of *Heshvan*. ☆



Memorial Museum, Hungary continued from page 1



Family Folders document 1

“Magyar” or ethnic Hungarian in the census. Fudging the ethnographic statistics was a thing in the pre-World War I Kingdom of Hungary because ultimately it was a fragile coalition.

Some history and geography is needed here. Hungary today is less than a third of its former self. Because Hungary was to blame for causing the First World War – by triggering all sorts of unfortunate alliances, when, too weak to punish Serbian terrorists on its own, it formed a coalition with Germany, who then invaded France via Belgium – the allied victors were keen that such aggression should never happen again. So, they addressed what they perceived as the fundamental weakness with the Kingdom of Hungary – it’s broad coalition of ethnic component states. Using the demographics of the 1910 Hungarian census, post Versailles with the Treaty of Trianon, Hungary was stripped for parts. Slovakia and Carpatho-Ruthenia were sheared off and grafted onto Bohemia and Moravia to form Czechoslovakia. The predominance of Romanian speakers in Transylvania destined it to become part of a Greater Romania. To the South,

Serbia, Croatia and Slovenia were sheared off and mashed into another artificial state that the allied victors christened Yugoslavia. The Burgenland, a strip to the West, was fused to Austria. Even Poland was gifted a small salient.

The result of this dismemberment was that the Hungarian speaking Jews were subjected to another Diaspora as they remained in place during the inter-war years, where they suffered a harsh economy and a fascist backlash that blamed them for Béla Kun’s 1919 communist revolution.

While fascism arrived early, the Holocaust came late to Hungary, since, as a member of the Nazi Axis, it had autonomy, unlike conquered countries like Poland. As Soviet armies advanced, the end game was clear. As Hungary made overtures to the allies for a separate peace, Germany took over the country in March of 1944. The genocide was in full swing and the Nazi abattoir ramped up to slaughter the 400,000 Hungarian Jews, who, while deprived of positions and property; persecuted, and pressed into Labor Battalions, were not yet subject to methodical annihilation.

About 100,000 Hungarian Jews survived the war, most



Yosef Lustig, Rony Golan , Jordan Auslander, Chava Lustig

linguished in Displaced Persons (DP) camps. Many found their way to Israel. Safed was among the Israeli towns with a nucleus of Hungarian speaking ex-pats and a history going back to the 19th century.

As the community grew in Safed and the rest of Israel, the Lustigs started their collection of donated memorabilia from everyday life in, as their website puts



Rony Golan, "search engine"

it, "The Jewish Communities of Hungary, Transylvania, Slovakia, Carpathian Russia (Trans- or Sub-Carpathia, now Western Ukraine), Bachka (Serbia), Banat (Western Romania) and Burgenland (Eastern Austria)."

As the pioneer generation aged, Hava and Yosef Lustig took their personal and inherited collection of items, which defined Jewish life in Greater Hungary, and, in 1986, organized the museum concept. They formed a 30-person board and expanded their collection efforts. The Safed facility opened to the public in 1990. What followed turned the museum into more than a folk-life exhibit.

Donations of family histories followed personal effects. As a response, community folders were created and maintained, encompassing such genealogically relevant items such as Jewish Community and vital records, cemetery records including headstone photos, maps and burial registry (Pinkas Hakehilot) records.

Other Hungarians are sentimental about their lost empire. In March of 2008, the President of Hungary, during a state visit to Israel made a point of visiting the museum.

The museum is open only from 9AM to 2PM (1PM Fridays); it does not have a large full time staff; there are some volunteers and interns who enter data, as was Gadish's passion. I have been in discussions with the museum's director, Ron Lustig, about putting the museum's catalogue on-line, at least an overview, to give web browsers world wide a sense of the extent of their holdings.

While Lustig says that the museum's internal cataloging meets international standards, much of it is in Hebrew. Other concerns involve implicit agreements with donors of such items as the family folders and vital records.

The potential of off-site access to the museum's holdings is tantalizing, if they are as extensive as Lustig describes:

Family Name Binders

Lustig estimates the Museum has about 200 of these, which contain information on numerous other surnames beyond the titular. While Lustig says these have all been digitized, the names in the contents of such apparently have not been cross-referenced by names and localities encompassed. The Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) has posted a partial inventory of 110 titles of the Museum's Family dossiers on their website [<http://www.isragen.org/>]. Then click Research Tools, next Archives and Libraries in Israel, then Countries, and click Memorial Museum of the Hungarian Speaking Jewry Safed.

Adam	Hameiri	Reisman
Auslander	Hamori	Revesz
Bacs	Hochmann	Revesz Pal
Baneth	Kalman	Rosenberg
Bar-Josef	Kastner	Sajo
Barsi	Keleman	Sas
Ben-Porat	Keleti	Schonfeld-Alper
Bettelheim	Kemeny-Kohn	Sharon
Biro	Klein	Springer-Denes
Burger	Kohen	Steier
Csech Arnold	Kohn-Buzas	Steiner
Dalos	Komoly	Lang-Sugar
Danus	Komer	Szalai
Denes	Korodi	Szamosi
Deutsch	Kovacs	Szanto Erno
Drechsler	Kramer	Szanto
Eden	Landau	Szatmari
Eisdorfer	Lang	Szerdai
Ellenbogen	Lazar	Szombat
Epler	Levinger	Talmi
Epstein	Lobl-Vidor	Taubner
Epstein Zsuzsa	Lowinger	Vadas
Erdos	Lowy	Vajda
Fabian	Lukacs-Epstein	Varadi
Farkas	Makai	Varsanyi
Federer	Markovics	Vertes
Feher	Mejir	Virag-Fenyó
Feuerstein	Melcer	Yakobovitz
Fischel	Munkacsi	Zahavi
Frankl	Nobel	Zarkani
Fuhrer	Pajor	Zohar
Gayer	Peri	
Geller	Pilitz	
Gestetner	Polak	
Giladi	Portos	
Goitein	Refael	
Halasz	Reif	

Location Archive - in addition to hundreds of blue binders, there is information on their computers for over 3000 communities. Some include cemetery photos, maps and internment lists. The IGS site says the Museum has data on 500,000 Hungarian (presumably Jewish) burials. [Integrating this archive into HSIK's Kehila links will create something of great beauty and utility.]

Vital Records – a collection of, perhaps, thousands of donated documents. (The collection is random, based on donations, and some may be redundant with the All Hungary Database, but that the copies are scanned is significant.) These are searchable by location and appear to be Lustig's pride and joy, especially in conjunction with their Locality Archive.



Family Folders 1869 document

Pros & Cons

In five rooms in its main building and a separate new exhibition hall to be opened next month, the museum does a wonderful job displaying aspects of Hungarian life. It also serves as a learning center, hosts conferences, and supports restoration projects, such as the ark from the Tokaj synagogue on display. A visitor can admire folk art and lace, variations in Hungarian military uniforms (helpful if one has photographs of uniformed ancestors). There is a model of Budapest's Dohany Synagogue and images are available of over 600 other Hungarian shuls with notes about their fate.

What is not on display is of great interest to the descendants of the very communities the Museum commemorates. One notable exception is the computerized information center established with the help of the Claims Conference.

Themes listed on their website Claims Conference page are:

The life and history of some 1200 Hungarian speaking Jewish communities

The Zionist underground in Hungary during the Holocaust
Commemoration of Holocaust victims

Museum Collections

Historic background

The IGS also cites:

Library of secular and rabbinic literature related to Hungary or by Hungarian Jews

Lists of victims/survivors -- lists of victims of the Holocaust

Lists of survivors living in Budapest in 1945-46 with personal information

Computerized information center, video collection.

Under Ron Lustig's leadership the Museum continues its fine work serving as an enclave of preserved 19th and 20th Century life in the Hungarian speaking lands. Unfortunately the museum offers a minimal internet presence, the lack of an internet accessible research portal to the genealogically relevant collection categories, much less an inventory of its holdings. While their entire collection has been electronically catalogued, much of that information is in Hebrew. Much of the original source material is in the Roman alphabet. The reality of the Hungarian Diaspora is that most do not read or speak Hebrew.

Lustig's concerns are control and custody of the museum's holdings. He has thousands of visitors every year, but his resistance to expanding his internet presence stands in the way of the museum's own mission statement of attracting more individual donors of funds, records, artifacts and records, whose numbers encourage support from larger funders.

Then there is the critical question of location. Almost all the museum's resources are only available on-site. Visiting the Museum becomes almost a pilgrimage, and while that may be flattering, it curtails its utility and mission.

The genealogical resources augment the cultural collection and significantly broaden the facilities appeal well beyond the historical and sentimental.

The chicken/egg situation may be that by limiting informational requests to snail mail and personal visits, the small staff is not overburdened. Constrained exposure limits the means to increase its physical,



Locality Index example



Altie Gadish

Personal and group tours are available in Hebrew, Hungarian and English. Groups are asked to book in advance.

The museum is open Sunday to Thursday between 9:00am and 2:00pm and Friday between 9:00am and 1:00pm.

Cost for individuals is 20 NIS; Cost of a guided tour is 35 NIS

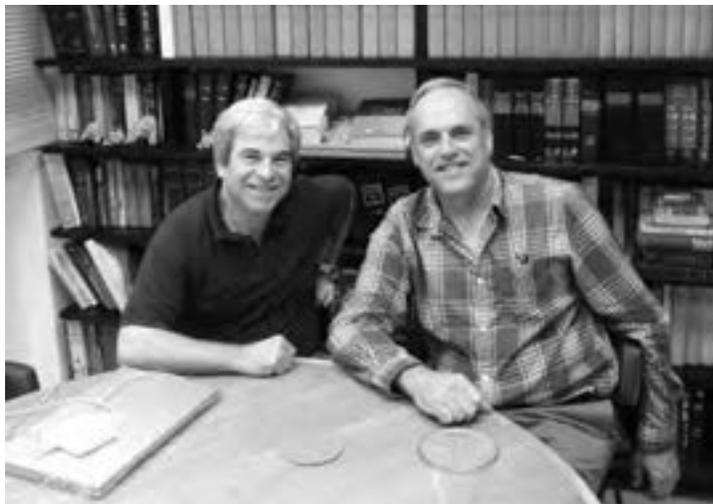
Tel no: 04 692 5881; fax: 04 692 3880

Email: museum@hjm.org.il

www.hjm.org.il

On The Web

Their website: <http://www.hjm.org.il/>. The home page opens in Hebrew but gives English, Russian and Hungarian language options.



Jordan Auslander and Ron Lustig

financial and staff resources that a research portal at JewishGen's Hungarian research could potentially provide. Efforts to address this are underway, but the Museum is currently preoccupied with Holocaust 70-year commemorations and organizing a traveling exhibit with several venues in the United States on the itinerary.

Physical Location

The museum is located on HaPalmach Street, in the Wolfson/Saraya courtyard opposite the Yigal Allon Cultural Center, in Safed, Israel

As of this writing, their current posted newsletter is Number 43, September 2014.

Jordan Auslander, a long-time JGS member, is a New York-based forensic genealogist, lecturer and entertainer and has pursued cases across the United States, Europe and Israel. His publications include an index to Jewish vital records in the Slovak Archives, and a genealogical gazetteer of Hungary. ☆

Upcoming JGS Programs

NOVEMBER MEETING: November 23, 2 p.m.

No One Remembers Alone: Memory, Migration and the Making of a Jewish Family

Speaker: Patricia Klindienst

Writer, teacher, scholar, and public speaker, Patricia Klindienst has made the American immigrant experience her subject for more than a decade. At our November meeting, she will speak about the exhibit she created – first mounted at the Yiddish Book Center and now scheduled to open at Yale’s Slifka Center in October – called *No One Remembers Alone: Memory, Migration, and the Making of an American Family.*”

The exhibit grew out of six years of research reconstructing the migration stories of a family of Jews who fled Czarist Russia at the turn of the 20th century. The resulting visual and narrative mosaic recreates, through the story of one family, the situation in Russia that moved Jews to leave, and the heated immigration debate in the US as millions of immigrant Jews arrived. Beginning with the story of two young lovers, Abram and Sophie, who fled Czarist Russia following the failed revolution of 1905, the exhibit recreates the migration story of an entire family of Russian Jews scattered across three continents. Drawn from hundreds of archival photographs, postcards, and documents entrusted to her by dozens of family members,

After earning degrees from Hampshire College, Boston University, and Stanford University, Ms. Klindienst, an award winning scholar and teacher, began her career as

an interdisciplinary scholar at Yale. She has since left the profession in order to write for a broader audience.

Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6thAvenues), 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 networking with other researchers and access to research materials.

DECEMBER MEETING: December 21, 2014 at 11:00 A.M.

ANNUAL JGS MEMBERS’ BRUNCH AND MEETING

Location: Sutton Place Synagogue, 225 E 51st Street,, New York, N.Y. 10022 (Please note the special time and place)

Program: Ask the Experts (sneak peek)

Panel: Karen Franklin, Robert Friedman, Avrum Geller, Hadassah Lipsius

This is a wonderful opportunity for you to submit those genealogy questions that have been lingering and preventing you from moving forward in your research. Please submit your questions now, so that our panel members have time to review them. Send them to JGSNY at info.jgsny@verizon.net. ☆

Photo Credit Correction

In *DOROT*’s issue of Fall 2013 (Volume 35, No. 1, page 16) we printed without a credit picture of Michael Pertain and members of his family, whom he visited during the 2013 IAJGS Conference in Boston. The photographer of that picture was Chou Nguyen. We apologize for the omission.



JGS Program Reports

by Steve Stein and Michael Pertain

May 18, 2014

“Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) Citizenship Records: Beyond the Basics” by Steve Stein

Most of us have at one time or another looked at naturalization records for our immigrant relatives. At the May meeting, held at the Center for Jewish History, our speaker, Zack Wilske, Historian for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), reminded us that there are many more documents that might be available to help us in our research.

Mr. Wilske briefly reviewed the history of the organization, formerly the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), and its policies. As most researchers know, the INS took over the naturalization process from local courts in 1906. All records since then have resided with the USCIS, except for ships' passenger lists, which reside at the National Archives and in various online databases. The Naturalization Files, known as “C-Files,” contain the declarations (“first papers”), petitions (“final papers”), and

certificates we are most familiar with. Some records are restricted unless the record is more than 100 years old, or the person's death certificate can be produced. Of course, there are “orphan” petitions for those who were never naturalized. There are also certificates for individuals who did not go through the conventional naturalization process and/or five-year residency requirement.

The bulk of Mr. Wilske's talk focused on other, less common files, which in some cases may be extremely valuable in documenting details of applicants and naturalized citizens not available in the more common documents. Among these documents are a variety of Correspondence Files. In Record Group 85, spanning the years 1906 thru 1944, including Entry 26 and other entries, one may find correspondence related to nationality matters. A subject index (NARA T-458) and a name index (NARA A3388) may be applicable to searching these records. The name index contains about 140,000 entries, and the indexing system is not strictly alphabetical; rather, it is a mixture of alphabetical groupings in reverse chronological order. Mr. Wilske expects that Ancestry.com will probably be interested in incorporating these indices in the near future. These indices are searchable by the general public. Some records exist only in microfilm form, the original records having been destroyed.

Researchers working at the USCIS also have access to the Master Index, which will allow searches of the following records on a fee-for-service basis. Among these collections are:

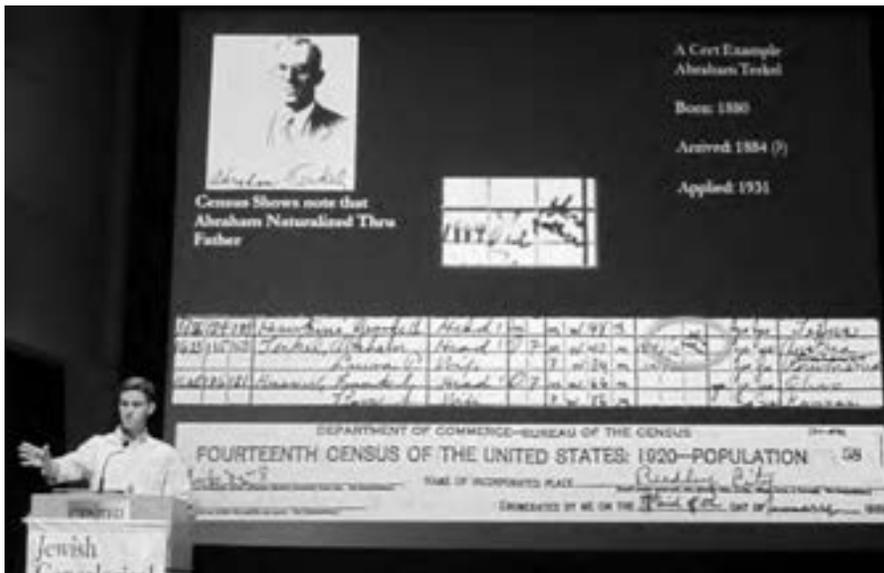
Visa files, 1924-1944, containing additional information on those seeking permanent residence in the U.S. after 1924.

Registry files, 1929-1944, documenting the creation of immigrant arrival records for immigrants who entered the U.S. prior to 1924 who otherwise cannot locate a record of arrival.

Alien Registration Forms (AR-2), 1940-1944, documenting those who were still not



Zack Wilske responding to questions about the citizenship records of the Immigration & Naturalization Service (INS)



Zack Wilske demonstrating a case of derivative citizenship with a census return, noting that the individual was naturalized through his father.

U.S. citizens at the outbreak of World War II. These records contain much information about arrival, current address, marital status, profession, military service, etc.

Alien Files (A-Files), 1944 to present, since World War II and currently the primary system for documenting immigrants; many of the earlier records are available through the USCIS Genealogy Program (www.uscis.gov/genealogy) subject to the 100-year restriction mentioned earlier.

Overseas Military (OM) certificates (1942-1946), documenting an expedited naturalization process during military service.

Derivative Certificates (A-Certificates, which are not the same as immigrant A-files), documenting administrative procedures leading up to the issuance of certificates to individuals that passively acquired citizenship after birth.

Mr. Wilske then gave several anecdotes of individuals with interesting cases, all of whom had paper trails documenting their situations.

Native-born female citizens who lost their U.S. citizenship (prior to 1922) when they married a non-citizen.

Individuals whose parents renounced or lost their U.S. citizenship.

Individuals who inherited, or thought that they inherited, citizenship through a naturalized parent.

Individuals naturalized overseas through military service.

Mr. Wilske concluded by describing the fee structure for conducting research. There are differing fees if one already knows the document and just needs a copy, vs. if one needs to have a search conducted. It is best to consult the website listed earlier for the most current information. He also mentioned that one can sign up for a monthly mailer, and that the USCIS runs a series of monthly webinars.

The talk was followed by a Q&A session.

(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.)

June 22, 2014

“Finding the Only Child’s Niece: Truth and Fiction in Genealogical Sources”

by Michael Pertain

How confident should we feel in the documents we discover and the stories we are told as we research our ancestral roots? “Not much,” said forensic genealogist and former JGS Executive Council Vice President Debra Braverman during her June 22nd presentation, **Finding the Only Child’s Niece: Truth and Fiction in Genealogical Sources**. Ms. Braverman walked us through four cases she had investigated in which sworn affidavits and other legal documents, as well as family lore, contained misinformation, sometimes accidental, sometimes intentional.

Case Study #1 – Finding the Only Child’s Niece: Ten years prior to her death, Armida Bologna Walsh Colt signed an affidavit detailing the facts of her life. After her death, it was found that much of what she had stated was false. She claimed, among other things, that she was born in 1913, was an only child and was divorced in 1937. An examination of several other documents,



Debra Braverman speaking at the June JGS meeting on the topic, "Finding the Only Child's Niece: Truth and Fiction in Genealogical Sources."

such as censuses, military records and a will, revealed that she was the eldest sister of at least five siblings, was born in a different year than claimed, and was still with her husband three years after the affidavit claimed she was divorced. After separating the facts from the fiction, we were invited to speculate as to whether Walsh Colt was guilty of lying or was simply omitting facts or was even misinformed herself. The answer required far flung research into the lives of other family members and fascinating discoveries illustrating Ms. Braverman's thesis.

Case Study #2 – How Many Children did the Family Really Have? The surviving family of Caroline Tripaldi stated that her parents had only two children, Caroline and her brother. Census records and vital record indices told a very different story, with three additional children appearing in the 1930 census. Ms. Braverman demonstrated how, using birth indices and death records, she was able to separate fact from fiction to discover that, although there were more children than the surviving family had thought, they were not the children listed in the census.

Case Study #3 – What Do You Do When You Find Lost Family? Michael Jablonski always told everyone he was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. After his death, research in Holocaust records found numerous family members, including brothers in Israel, Canada and Brazil. The Israeli brother, Gedalia, had given pages of testimony to Yad

Vashem about several family members who had been killed in the Holocaust, but did not include his brother, Michael, among them. Did he not know whether his own brother survived or not? The investigation led to Ms Braverman's contacting Gedalia's children, and learning that, indeed, Gedalia knew that Michael had survived. Because Michael had saved Gedalia from death, Gedalia's family believed that learning of Michael's death would have killed him.

Case Study #4 – Who's Your Daddy? In 1943, Carol Eldridge's mother and grandmother signed an affidavit explaining her mother's birth and early life. Almost 70 years later the accuracy of this document was called into question when Carol Eldridge died without a will in 2009. Ms Braverman was asked to establish her next of kin eligible to receive an inheritance. The affidavit containing "facts" about Carol's mother proved to be full of errors as Ms Braverman delved into the lives of three previous generations of this family to uncover who this person was. She discovered that Carol Eldridge's mother, Viola, was of mixed race -- black and Asian -- and possibly not legally married. In those days, being either black, Asian or unmarried would by itself be a cause for society's disapproval, and the misinformation provided was probably purposeful to protect the family's secrets.

Ms. Braverman left us with three admonitions:

- Never accept what you are told, no matter who tells you.
- Never assume anything.
- Always think outside the box.

During the question and answer period that followed this fascinating presentation, a gentleman commented that he had hired Ms. Braverman to be the forensic genealogist for a case with which he was involved, and her research and testimony were so flawless that he won his case without Ms. Braverman even being cross examined by the other attorney present. Incidentally, he became aware of Ms. Braverman after hearing her speak at a previous JGS meeting!

Michael Pertain, an ordained rabbi and educator, has been active in the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. since 1999, serving for several years as Vice President, Secretary and member of the Executive Council. He has taught classes on researching family history and taught for many years in the New York City school system. For the past few years he was an adjunct in the Brooklyn College SEEK program, where he taught English and counseled students. ☆

German-Jewish Children's Aid

By Linda Cantor

Working as a volunteer at the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) has given me the opportunity to work on many interesting projects from our history in World War I all the way through the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. One of the most interesting that I've worked on involves the records of the German-Jewish Children's Aid (GJAC), an organization created in 1934 in New York by the Baron de Hirsch Fund, B'nai B'rith, the Hofheimer Foundation, the American Jewish Committee, the New York Foundation, and the American Jewish Congress. (In time the National Council of Jewish Women, the National Refugee Service, HIAS, and JDC got involved in this project.) These records are currently being indexed and will appear on-line at the JDC Archives in the near future. (<http://archives.jdc.org/>)

The function of GJAC was to be the receiving organization for unaccompanied or orphaned Jewish children emigrating from Germany to the United States. It provided the funds, visas and other necessary papers and placed the children (mostly into foster homes) once they arrived. In most cases the children were sent by parents seeking to get them out of Germany or were already orphaned.

JDC's records consist of lists of children who were waiting to go to the United States from Amsterdam, Holland under the auspices of the Comité Voor Joodshen Vluchtelingen (Committee for Jewish Refugees). From

and aided in the overseas emigration of Dutch Jews.

The records include the names, places of birth and dates of birth of the children as well as the names and addresses of family members and friends in the U.S. This Dutch group asked GJAC to contact these family members and ask for financial assistance as well as willingness to sponsor the children, along with the appropriate needed documents.

Working on these records got me wondering about the fate of these children. Did GJAC succeed in getting them out of Amsterdam? The lists that I worked on were dated November 1940 and Holland had already fallen to the Nazis. The U.S. had restrictive quotas that made it difficult to get visas for the children. So I decided to investigate some of the children. Unfortunately it was easier to document those who did not get out by looking up Pages of Testimony and Holocaust lists on Yad Vashem (www.yadvashem.org).

One of the cases that I researched was that of sisters Hanna and Mary Offentier, who were from Berlin. Hanna was born in 1923 and Mary in 1928, and they listed two uncles in the Bronx. I found several Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony for Hanna, one of them completed by Mary. So I knew that Mary had survived and was living in Israel in 1956. I have no way of knowing why one survived and one did not, or if the

Offentier Hanna	18.1. 23	Berlin	a)	Offen, Michael,	1710 Andrews Ave.,	Bronx N.Y.	uncle
Offentier Mary	4.7. 28	Berlin	b)	Offen, Joseph,	4627 Furman Ave.,	Bronx, N.Y.	uncle

1933 on, JDC supported the Committee for Jewish Refugees, which provided care and emigration aid for thousands of Jewish refugees from Germany. Until the German occupation in 1940, JDC supplied about 20% of the total cost of all refugee programs (primarily medical and childcare for the indigent). After the occupation, JDC continued to fund welfare activities

uncles were able or willing to help. Hanna was sent first to Westerbork and then to Auschwitz.

I also looked for information about Hanna Roettgen, born in 1924 in Bochum, Germany. Her listing included an uncle living in Brooklyn. Sadly, I found a Yad Vashem listing for Hanna indicating that she died

Category III/second list.

Name	Christian Name	Date of birth	Place	Relative's Name	Relationship
Roessler	Sophie	25.8.26	Cologne)	a) Necha, Adolf, 44 Water Street, Philadelphia	uncle
Roessler	Paula	12.11.21	Cologne)		
Roettgen	Hanna	10.4.24	Bochum/Lindern	a) Roettgen, Fritz, 2-12 Calhoun Place, Brooklyn, N.Y.	uncle

in Auschwitz. She is also listed in the *List of Murdered Jews from Germany* found in Gedenkbuch (see <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/index.html.en>), which shows that she was deported from Westerbork Concentration Camp in the Netherlands to Auschwitz in Poland. Again, there is no way to know if the uncle tried to help or was simply unsuccessful.

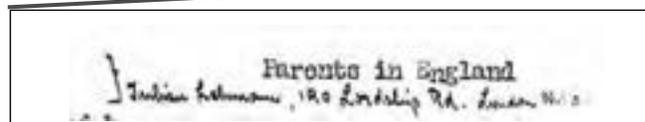
I noticed an entry for an Ericka Lehmann, who listed her American relative as Governor Herbert Lehman. There was no entry in Yad Vashem for Ericka, so I contacted Karen Franklin, who is an exhibit researcher at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York and Director

But none of these records are on line, must be used in person and are difficult to use without an accessible index. If you find your relative on the JDC's German-Jewish Children's Aid list, then you definitely want to pursue the materials held by YIVO.

Please contact JDC at archives@jdc.org if you are interested in becoming a volunteer. You need to be comfortable using a computer and willing to come to their midtown Manhattan office to do the work. You'll be treated well and it's a most rewarding task.

52/v Lehmann	Erika 7. 9.30. Hamburg	a) Governor Herbert Lehmann, New York
53/v1 Levy	Ursel 1. 2.33. Dortmund	a) Falkenstein, Erik, 53rd Str. 1459 East, Chicago b) Falkenstein, Julius, 140 North, 34th Str. Omaha, Neb.

of the Lehman Family Rescue Activities Project, to see what she knew. She was able to tell me that Erika was not only not Governor Lehman's niece but was not even related to him. Nevertheless, the Lehman family did get her an affidavit, but she went to England instead. So we know that there was one happy ending here.



Linda Cantor, a retired teacher for the New York City Department of Education, has been researching her family history for over 30 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. ☆

There is some information on the GJAC children in two collections at YIVO, at the Center for Jewish History. Since some of these children who did get out traveled to the U.S. with the help of HIAS, you might find records for them in the YIVO HIAS collection. And YIVO has records for German-Jewish Children's Aid (GJAC).

New Publications continued from page 21

of the questionnaire, as well as the riveting story of An-sky's almost messianic efforts to create a Jewish ethnography in an era of revolutionary change. These survey questions revive and reveal shtetl life in all its wonder and complexity."

About the Muslim World

Benjamin Stora, editor, *A History of Jewish-Muslim Relations: From the Origins to the Present Day.* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2014).

1,152 pages. 250 pages of photos, illustrations and maps. Bibliographies and index. \$75 hardcover

From the publisher: "This is the first encyclopedic guide to the history of Jews and Muslims since the birth of Islam until today. Richly illustrated and beautifully produced, the book features more than 150 authoritative and accessible articles by an international team of leading experts in history, politics, literature, anthropology and history." Available as an e-book for the iPad. ☆



Judge Judy: From The Beth Din Judges To The Family Court Judge

A Five Hundred And Fifty Year Saga

By Dr. Neil Rosenstein

When thinking about writing this article, the biblical verse that came to my mind was from the Book of Samuel I, Chapter 18:7:

“Saul has slain his thousands and David his tens of thousands.”

Five hundred and fifty years ago Rabbi Meir Katzenellenbogen, 1482-1565, the *Av Beth Din*, that is, Head of the Rabbinical Court of Padua, Italy, known by the acronym “*MaHaRaM* Padua,” was the respected judge of hundreds, if not thousands of litigants. About the same time, his distant relative, Rabbi Moses Isserles, 1520-1575, known by the acronym *ReMA*, the eminent Ashkenazic rabbi, Talmudist, Posek (decisor), and judge, renowned for his fundamental work of Halacha (Jewish Law), entitled *HaMapah*, which is a commentary on the *Shulchan Aruch* (Code of Jewish Law) and served as the Head of the Rabbinical Court of Cracow, Poland.

Their 21st century famed descendant, Judge Judy, is known and admired by millions of TV viewers for her reputation as one of the toughest court judges in the United States.

Judge Judy was born Judith Susan in Brooklyn in 1942 to Murray Blum, a dentist, 1917-1989 and Ethel Silverman, 1922-1980. Murray was the son of Jacob (Jake) Blum, a plumbing shop owner in Brooklyn, 1874-1950 who married Lena Mininberg, 1884-1968. Jacob’s original surname was Israelit when he arrived in New York in 1903. Two years later he was naturalized. His family was known for its rabbinical roots which were from Novogradok. Jacob’s father was Samuel Israelit who lived in Novogradok with his wife, Rebecca, and was in the business of selling sickles in partnership with other family members in Novogradok. Samuel was the son of Rabbi Moses Mordecai Israelit, 1797-1884, a

distinguished wealthy merchant, surnamed Israelit after his father-in-law, Naftali Herz Israelit of Novogradok. He was an official of the Novogradok *Chevra Kadisha* (Burial Society) for 37 years. Another son of Rabbi Moses was Rabbi Elimelech Israelit, a Zionist and author, born in Novogradok on January 30, 1851 and died in Jaffa on September 22, 1939. He was married



Rabbi Meir of Padua's tombstone crest (a crouching cat)



Rabbi Moses Isserles

in Zhetl on January 17, 1873 to Miriam (died 1922 in Jerusalem), the daughter of Menachem Rabinovich of Zhetl. He joined the Zionist movement after yeshiva graduation and immigrated to Palestine in the summer of 1891 with his wife and children, settling in 1896 in the then southernmost settlement of *Be'er Tuvia* (initially called Castina) where he was a farmer and worked for the Zionist Congress. He was in correspondence with Herzl during the early part of the 20th century and the family has letters from 1901-2 in their possession. (See the 1902 letter from Herzl on page 17) In 1922 he moved to Jaffa where he died. He was the author of *Zichron LeRishonim*, a family genealogy, published in Jaffa, 1914; *Zichron LeRishonim veTorah LeAchronim* (part two with comments for his children and grandchildren); *Kastina Moshava BeNegev Eretz Yisrael*; *HaKikayon*; *HaPrida* (his last years and his gifts to the Jewish National and University Library); and *HaChibur HaAcharon* (his last work with additions to *HaPrida*).

Unfortunately we do not know who Rabbi Moses’ father was, but his mother was Brayna, daughter of Rabbi Zvi Hirsch Eisenstadt, Av Beth Din of Lyubcha (Lubetsch in Yiddish) and Mir. He is recorded with his wife (his first cousin), Ita, in the 1784 census of Lyubcha. Rabbi Zvi Hirsch was the son of Leah, who married Rabbi Michael Eisenstadt, Av Beth Din of Kletsk and Mir, son of R. Meir Eisenstadt (1670-1744), known as the *MaHaRaM* Eisenstadt or *MaHaRaM* Ash or *Esh*, and author of *Panim Me'ivot* (see epitaph below). His



Elimelech Israelit letter from Herzl

Novellae (novel insights) can be found in *Ketonet Or*, (published Frankfurt on Oder 1754) to which he wrote an approbation. They had seven sons.

His mother, Brayna, was descended from a very large family that was extensively researched by the late Bernard Kouchel, noted Jewish genealogist and founder of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Florida, who died in 2013.



Meir ben Iszak Eisenstadt grave

Leah, mentioned above as the wife of Rabbi Michel Eisenstadt, was the daughter of Rabbi Judah Leib Mirkes (his original surname was Meisels; Mirkes was either his mother or mother-in-law) who was the Av Beth Din of Mir and had married the daughter of Rabbi Zvi Hirsch, son of Rabbi Gershon of Prague (a descendant of the *Tosfot YomTov*, R. Lipman HaLevi Heller, 1579-1654). Rabbi Judah Leib was the son of Rabbi Solomon Zalman Meisel(s), named after his maternal grandfather, *Av Beth Din* of

Mohilev who married the daughter of R. Joseph, son of R. Simha, *Av Beth Din* of Mohilev, R. Solomon Zalman, son of Rabbi Simha Bonem Meisels of Mohilev, son of R. Judah Lieb of Cracow, son of R. Simha Bonem Meisels, *Av Beth Din* of Cracow (1545-1624), son-in-law of R. Moses Isserles of Cracow. Rabbi Simcha Bonem of Cracow was the son of Rabbi Judah Meisels, a seventeenth century printer and author in Cracow.

Rabbi Simcha Bonem of Mohilev was the son-in-law of R. Solomon Zalman Katzenellenbogen, son of Rabbi Abraham Abrashky Katzenellenbogen, son of Rabbi Saul Wahl Katzenellenbogen, who was said to have been a Polish Jewish King “for a day” (or perhaps one night). Saul Wahl is the topic of an in-depth historical book I wrote (*Saul Wahl: Polish King for a Night or Lithuanian Knight for a Lifetime*) and was published in 2006.

Saul Wahl was the son of Rabbi Samuel Judah Katzenellenbogen, *Av Beth Din* of Padua and Venice, son of Rabbi Meir Katzenellenbogen mentioned above.

We have, in this article, traced the illustrious ancestry of a popular and prominent New York personality, generation for generation back to multiple prominent chief rabbis of large East European communities, some being the greatest of their generation, of four of the most prominent Jewish families of Ashkenazic origin, Eisenstadt, Heller, Katzenellenbogen and Meisels – surnames that were in use for centuries before the Jewish masses adopted their own surnames.



Epitaph of Rabbi Yom Tov Lipman HaLevi Heller

Neil Rosenstein, M.D., a retired surgeon, was one of the founders in 1977 of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. and was its first president. He has accumulated a vast collection of material on Jewish genealogy, especially in the field of rabbinic families and dynasties and is the author of many works on the subject. His magnum opus, “The Unbroken Chain,” was published in 1976 in a single volume; republished in 1990 in two volumes; and will be published again in 2014 in three volumes with much new material and a detailed names index. ☆

Online News

The Entire Brooklyn Eagle, 1841-1955, Is Now On Line

All the articles from Brooklyn's famous newspaper, *The Brooklyn Eagle*, from its beginnings in 1841 to its demise in 1955, following a strike, are now fully accessible at no charge from the Brooklyn Public Library's site, <http://bklyn.newspapers.com/>. One may search by name, year or subject.

Access the addresses of 3200 County Clerks

Our country's 3,200 county clerks maintain the records of birth, death, marriage and divorce, but not all county offices have digitized this vital information. It may often be necessary to write directly to the clerk's office to request information. A quick way to find the needed address in Montana, Iowa or other states is to go to www.county-clerks.com, click on the state and then the county.

Pennsylvania Birth and Death Certificates Are On Line

Pennsylvania death certificates more than 50 years old are gradually becoming available from Ancestry.com and are considered easier to read than the documents obtained directly from the Pennsylvania Department of Health. Birth certificates more than 105 years old will become available in 2015. At present, the available death certificates cover 1906 through 1944; the next set will cover 1944-1963. The address is <http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5164/>.

Those without an Ancestry subscription may access the information at their public library or at the Center for Jewish History at 15 West 16th Street in Manhattan. The records have recently become available from another source, the Pennsylvania State Archives (www.portal.health.state.pa.us), which has birth certificates from 1906-1908 and death certificates from 1906-1963.

Eleven New Databases Available from the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGA)

The new databases, all pertaining to military service in the World War I period are available from <http://genealogy.org.il/>. The titles are:

- ✧ First Jewish Battalion at Gallipoli, 1915
- ✧ Re-enlisted Russians, Zion Mule Corps, 1917
- ✧ Young Jewish Officers, Ottoman Army, 1917
- ✧ List of Argentine Jewish Legion Legionnaires, 1918
- ✧ Petition for Mercy, 1919
- ✧ Decorations & Medals Given to the Zion Mule Corps, 1919
- ✧ Jewish Legion Members in Jerusalem, 1922
- ✧ Commonwealth Forces Who Died During World War I in Palestine
- ✧ Index of Biographical Materials of Jewish Legionnaires
- ✧ List of Members of the Jewish Legion in Israel
- ✧ List of Veterans Who Want to Settle on Land

Also newly available is their new publication, *Researching Your Female Ancestors in Eretz Israel*. ✧

Notes from All Over

How to Preserve a Scrapbook

The genealogy help column from *The KOL, Journal of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland (Spring 2013)* contains a useful suggestion for preserving family photo albums for future generations. The writer, "Tante Jennie," recommends either taking the scrapbook to a professional conservator, which would be quite expensive, or taking a digital photograph of the cover of the album and each page. One may then print out a copy or copies or have a printed book prepared by a professional printer. The digital images could be put on a DVD and copies made for family members.

The original album should be placed in an archival storage box and stored in a room where the temperature and humidity vary very little. The temperature should not exceed 70 degrees Fahrenheit (but cooler is better), nor should the relative humidity rise to more than 50%.

It is wise to print out the copies, because if not, years later, when DVD's and other devices may have become obsolete, there will be no way of accessing them.

Archivists from Loyola Marymount University, Temple Beth El in Detroit and elsewhere who belong to the listserv of archivists, who work alone (known as

lone arrangers) agreed on photographing the cover, but suggested scanning the pages as is, plus each individual item, and then moving the individual photos to archival quality sleeves.

Reminder: Identify the People in Your Family Photographs

The New England Archives of the American Jewish Historical Society reminds all family genealogists to write the names of the people in the photograph, or as many as you know and the date or your best guess, an obvious tip, but often left undone. The names should be written on the back of the photo with a soft lead pencil, along the edges. The National Archives recommends using a felt tip film marking pen for resin backed photographs, but giving it time to dry before stacking or inserting the pictures in plastic sleeves. Photo should be stored only in acid free materials.

For digital photographs, the AJHS recommends “embedding metadata with the picture” and creating file folders on the computer with the date and place where the photos originated, such as “Boston Walking Tour, June 2014.” Also, back up the photos and copy

them onto external drives, flash drives or online storage sites and make hard copies.

Another helpful recommendation is to create an inventory of all your photographs, back it up and make copies of it.

The Virtual Jewish World Is a Useful Source of Online History

At www.jewishvirtuallibrary.com, one has Jewish history of all places and historical periods at one’s fingertips plus biographies and articles on women, food, military, food, religion and statistics. For genealogists, the history section gives a good background on the worlds of our fathers at various periods. For example, the story of Hungary is told in the following sections: Middle Ages to Ottoman Empire, Ottoman & Hapsburg Empires, 19th Century, Emancipation and World War I; Inter-war Period, The Holocaust, Post World War II Hungry, Communist Rule, and Hungary Today. To get to the history material, click Travel, Virtual Jewish History Tour, and select the continent and country of interest. ☆

JGS Welcomes New Member Robin Brown to the Executive Council for 2014

Robin Brown has been involved with genealogy for seven years. She often visits the Municipal Archives on Chambers Street to research her family. Her father’s family is from the Lodz area in Poland and her mother’s from Galicia. Robin squeezes in time to do research when she is not busy with her other avocation, which is also her vocation. She is an avid bridge player and an ACBL certified Bridge Director and Teacher, attaining the rank of Gold Life Master. Competitively, she has represented her district in the Grand National Teams and the North American pairs events at the National



Bridge tournaments. Her teaching experience includes teaching bridge on cruise ships, local adult education programs, community centers, and senior centers. Robin ran the District 3 Newplicate program and served as the President of the Westchester County Bridge Association Board, where she chaired the Tournament, Hospitality, Membership and Education Committees. In her first year of playing bridge she won the North American Ace of Clubs Rookie of the year race and the Mini-McKenney medal for her unit, and she has won this many times since. ☆



In the Repositories

Maps, Biographies & Much More in the Online YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe

There is always something interesting to discover in this online repository of interesting articles, images, audios, videos and maps related to genealogical searches. Almost any well-known and less well-known person has a biography in the *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*.

To understand the worlds in which our ancestors lived, consider such articles as “Karlin As a Lithuanian Hasidic Center” and “Minsk as a Misnagdic Center.” Among the topics discussed in the numerous in-depth articles are: amulets and talismans, crafts, curses, food and drink, daily life, languages and literature, and the famous folk character (based on a real person) Hershele Ostropolyar.

Among the 60 maps are the following: “Misnagdic and Hasidic Cities in Eastern Europe in the Early 19th Century”; “Poland before 1795” and “Poland 1795-1939”; “Jewish Agricultural Settlements in South Ukraine and Crimea 1920s-1930s”; “Bucharest, the Jewish District 1875, showing three synagogues and other items”; “Krakow-Location of the 19th Jewish District”; and “Centers of Bund Activity.”

Among the 1,452 images are: “Klezmer Musicians from Russia, 1912”; “Photographs of the Children of Zvi Friedland, 1933”; “Yisakhan Dov Rokeakh, the Third Belzar Rebbe, Out for a Walk with His Hasidim during a Visit to a Spa in Marienbad, 1926.”

American Jewish Archives Online Finding Aids

There are 28 pages of online Finding Aids for all the major manuscript collections at the American Jewish Archives (americanjewisharchives.org). Among them are famous and not so famous people (Rebecca Gratz, Moses Montefiore, Felix Warburg, Maurice Samuel); records of congregations; B'nai B'rith lodges; Jewish orphan homes and benevolent societies; and records of loans made by the Jewish Agricultural Society from 1921 to 1963.

Also, how to donate one's personal and family papers is explained in the “AJA Collection Policy” and the “Guide to Donating Your Personal and Family Papers to a Repository.”

Upper Midwest Jewish Archives at the University of Minnesota Library

People from Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin and North Dakota will find this site useful. There are histories, photographs, leaflets, and newspapers on Jewish hospitals, community centers and congregations and Jewish camps. For example, there are records of the history of early Jewish immigrants to North Dakota, records of the Jewish Camping Association, services performed by Jewish women during World War II, family records of prominent individuals, oral histories, and a cookbook collection. The URL for the site is <https://www.lib.umn.edu/umja/> ☆

New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications

About Germany

Gotz Aly, *Why the Germans, Why the Jews: Race Hatred and the Prehistory of the Holocaust*. (New York: Metropolitan Books/Macmillan, 2014). 304 pages. \$30 hardcover

From the publisher: “A provocative and insightful analysis that sheds new light on one of the most puzzling and historically unsettling conundrums. Why the Germans, why the Jews? Countless historians have grappled with these questions, but few have come up with answers as original and insightful as those of maverick German historian Gotz Aly. Tracing the

prehistory of the Holocaust from the 1800s to the Nazis' assumption of power in 1933, Aly shows that German anti-Semitism was, to a previously overlooked extent, driven in large part by material concerns, not racist ideology, or religious animosity. As Germany made its way through the upheaval of the Industrial Revolution, the difficulties of the lethargic, economically backward German majority stood in marked contrast to the social and economic success of the agile Jewish minority. This success aroused envy and fear among the Gentile population, creating fertile ground for murderous Nazi politics. Aly shows that the roots of the Holocaust are deeply intertwined with German efforts to create greater social equality. Aly is one of the most respected

historians of the Third Reich and received the National Jewish Book Award, the Heinrich Mann prize and other honors.”

About Poland & Russia

Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern, *The Golden Age Shtetl: A New History of Jewish Life in East Europe*

(Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2014). 448 pages. \$29.95 hardcover, photographs

From the publisher: “The shtetl was home to two-thirds of East Europe’s Jews in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, yet it has long been one of the most neglected and misunderstood chapters of the Jewish experience. This book provides the first grassroots social, economic, and cultural history of the shtetl. Challenging popular misconceptions of the shtetl as an isolated, ramshackle Jewish village stricken by poverty and pogroms, Petrovsky-Shtern argues that, in its heyday from the 1790s to the 1840s, the shtetl was a thriving Jewish community, as vibrant as any in Europe. He brings this golden age to life, looking at dozens of shtetls and drawing on a wealth of never used archival material. The shtetl, in essence, was a Polish private town, belonging to a Catholic magnate, administratively run by the tsarist empire, yet economically driven by Jews. Petrovsky-Shtern shows how its success hinged on its unique position in this triangle of power – as did its ultimate suppression. He reconstructs the rich social tapestry of these market towns, showing how Russian clerks put the shtetl on the empire’s map, and chronicling how shtetl Jews traded widely, importing commodities from France, Austria, Prussia, and even the Ottoman Empire. The book describes family life, dwellings, trading stalls and taverns, books and religious life, and the bustling marketplace with its Polish gentry, Ukrainian peasants, and Russian policemen.”

Karen Auerbach, *The House at Ujazdowskie 16*
(Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013). 264 pages. \$30 hardcover

From the publisher: “In a turn-of-the-century, once elegant building at 16 Ujazdowskie Avenue in the center of Warsaw, 10 Jewish families began reconstructing their lives after the Holocaust. While most surviving Polish Jews were making their homes in new countries, these families built on the rubble of the Polish capital and created new communities as they sought to distance themselves from the past.”

Reviewers wrote: “This is an interesting and often

moving tableau about the efforts of some wounded people to overcome their personal tragedies, while redefining their community loyalties.” “Filled with strongly drawn portraits of fascinating individuals, Auerbach’s book is an immense work of retrieval. She expands the range of Polish history, of Jewish history, and of the borderlands between them.”

Erica T. Lehrer, *Jewish Poland Revisited: Heritage Tourism in Unquiet Places* (Indianapolis, IN: Indiana University Press, 2013). 296 pages. \$28 hardcover

From the publisher: “Since the end of communism, Jews from around the world have visited Poland to tour Holocaust related sites. A few venture further, seeking to learn about their own Polish roots and connect with contemporary Poles. For their part, a growing number of Poles are fascinated by all things Jewish. Erica T. Lehrer explores the intersection of Polish and Jewish memory projects in the historically Jewish neighborhood of Kazimierz in Krakow. Her own journey becomes part of the story as she demonstrates how Jews and Poles use spaces, institutions, interpersonal exchanges and cultural representation to make sense of their historical inheritances.”

Nathaniel Deutsch, *The Jewish Dark Continent: Life and Death in the Russian Pale of Settlement*
(Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2011). 384 pages. \$36.50 hardcover

From the publisher: “At the turn of the twentieth century, over forty percent of the world’s Jews lived within the Russian Empire, almost all in the Pale of Settlement, where the Jews of the Pale created a distinctive way of life little known beyond its borders. This led the historian Simon Dubnow to label the territory a Jewish ‘Dark Continent.’ Just before World War I, a socialist revolutionary and aspiring ethnographer named An-sky pledged to explore the Pale. He dreamed of leading an ethnographic expedition that would produce an archive, which would preserve Jewish traditions and transform them into the seeds of a modern Jewish culture. Between 1912 and 1914 An-sky and his team collected jokes, recorded songs, took thousands of photographs, and created a massive ethnographic questionnaire. Consisting of 2,087 questions in Yiddish – exploring the gamut of Jewish folk beliefs and traditions, from everyday activities to spiritual exercises to marital intimacies – the Jewish Ethnographic Program constitutes an invaluable portrait of Eastern European Jewish life on the brink of destruction.

Nathaniel Deutsch offers the first complete translation

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 Gloria Berkenstat Freund, an active JGS member for many years, a long-time volunteer with JRI-Poland and currently a translator of Yizkor books for the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project.

DOROT: What got you started with your own genealogy?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: Two things. First was the 1977 television series “Roots.” After watching it I asked my parents to give me a family tree. It was very basic and didn’t go past their grandparents. Then, a number of years later, I discovered the vaccination certificate of my husband Larry’s father. I showed it to him and that started him on his genealogy. I was helping him and he said to me, “Why don’t you do your own?” And so I started.

DOROT: With just those trees from your parents, where did you go from there?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: I was totally unknowledgeable about the basics of genealogy. I did read Arthur Kurzweil’s *From Generation to Generation*, but I really didn’t know where to start. I sent a letter to the Polish State Archives asking for the vital records of family members whose names I knew. I received some records, but at a very high cost. Then one day I saw an ad in a pennysaver for a local genealogy society meeting, which I attended – the Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island. The speaker was Gary Mokotoff and he was speaking about the records available at the Mormon Family History Centers. My major two towns are Nowo-Radomsk or Radomsko, as it is now known, and Nowa Brzeznicza, both in Poland.

The microfilms for those two towns were available at the Family History Center at West 66th Street and Columbus Avenue, having been put there by the Jewish

Genealogical Society of New York (the films are now at the Center for Jewish History). I put the first microfilm for Nowa Brzeznicza in the reader and, knowing nothing about the records at the time, I was very excited when I turned to the first record and noticed the name

Mendel Berkensztat on it, my surname being Berkensztat. I proceeded to make copies of the first six documents, all with Mendel’s name. I then realized that something must be wrong; they couldn’t all be records for Mendel Berkensztat or his immediate family.

Using a vital records template published by the Church of Latter Day Saints, I learned that Mendel was just a witness to all of those documents. But I systematically went through all of the microfilms for my two towns, the records going

at that time from 1826 to 1888, extracted all of the information for my family, printed many of the records, and started to create a tree. I had been given Family Tree Maker by a cousin who had started doing a little bit of genealogy, but his tree was very basic and more for his family that had married into mine. But little by little, I added the new data I found onto the family tree and each tree now has about 3,500 people, if not more.

DOROT: What do you mean “each tree?”

BERKENSTAT FREUND: I started with two separate trees, my father’s Berkensztat tree and my mother’s Gliksman tree. I then merged the two, so now the merged tree with all of the branches now has about 7,000 names.

DOROT: What were you able to do in terms of deciphering those vital records handwritten in Polish script decades and decades ago?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: I had one asset: I had lived with my family in Belgrade in what was then Yugoslavia and had learned Serbian. Serbian and



Polish are similar, so I was able to read dates, numbers, etc. There are published lists of the Polish words for months, occupations, and family relationships, and so after working with the records for a few weeks I had memorized all of the key words; I knew that after a particular word, whatever followed was the name of the father or the name of the mother, the name of the child, the town in which the event took place. The handwriting varies on the documents but once you get a familiarity with the surnames, the given names and the town names, it becomes easier to read them. Also, there's a pattern in Jewish naming so that, for example, when a man died, his grandsons tended to be named after him, so it became easier to read each document.

DOROT: How many years ago did you start?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: I think it's roughly 25 years ago.

DOROT: As you continue to do research, what are the major changes between then and now in terms of the availability of records and what you can look at to establish your various family members?

From the Russian Era Indexing-Poland Project to JRI-Poland

BERKENSTAT FREUND: The first advance was the creation of what was then called the Russian-Era Indexing-Poland Project (REIPP), founded by Stanley Diamond, Michael Tobias and Steve Zedeck. The purpose of this project was to index all the microfilms (created by the Latter Day Saints) of Polish records from the era when Poland was ruled by Russia. REIPP eventually evolved into Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland), covering all of the Polish-Jewish records. I became the town leader for my towns and a number of towns surrounding them, which meant that I organized the indexing of the microfilms for those towns. In many cases, I did the indexing myself. Then a new project under JRI-Poland was created for the Polish State Archive branches, in which JRI-Poland hired local people to index records in the Archives that are older than 100 years (because of the privacy law in Poland, newer records cannot be indexed). The databases they created eventually were entered on line at the JRI-Poland site (jri-poland.org) and they can now be searched. Records can be found by putting in surnames, which is helpful, because family names are often found in towns where one wouldn't expect to find any relatives. One of the things that I learned that surprised me was that our families in Eastern Europe

were much more mobile than I had thought. They moved around a lot more than I had believed. Now JRI-Poland and the Polish State Archives have a project to digitize all of the records and they will be accessible, making it possible to go to the indexes and link to the actual records.

Another important member-financed project focuses on a local area in Poland: the Czestochowa-Radomsko Area Research Group (www.crarg.org). Researchers who have roots in that area combine monetary resources. Someone we have hired works in the Archive creating databases of all of the records that can be found there: Books of Residents, Holocaust records. That's another source for information.

DOROT: Have these resources made a difference in your own understanding of not only who your family members were, but also how they conducted their lives, where they were and so forth?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: The Books of Residents show where they moved, when they moved. The original birth, marriage and death records have the occupations of the men, which makes it easy to determine if there's a pattern; some family members continuing in the same occupation through the generations. Another source that I have used a great deal is interviewing people. My family was greatly affected by the Holocaust and I have interviewed every survivor who I could meet from the area, particularly from my father's hometown and, as a result, I have a very good understanding of life in the shtetl, what happened during the Holocaust. It's helping me as I write narratives about my family. I don't think genealogy is just entering names into a family tree. I think the most important part is creating a narrative that can be passed down through the generations. These people, our ancestors, led interesting lives, and I think it's important that we know what those lives were like. Particularly because so many families and so many Jewish genealogists have the terrible history of the Holocaust and how it affected their families, we can't let the memories of these people be forgotten and denied.

DOROT: What are you actually doing in terms of creating what you call a narrative?

Town Histories & Individual Narratives

BERKENSTAT FREUND: I am first writing a history of each town, Radomsko and Nowa Brzeznicza. I probably will do additional ones for other towns in which my

family lived, such as Czestochowa. It's particularly important for me to write a history of Nowa Brzeznicza. It was a shtetl of approximately 150 Jewish families. There is not much information published about it. I've been able to gather a great deal of information through interviews with survivors. I think it's important that it be available so that people know what life was like in this particular shtetl.

DOROT: Are you writing about the people themselves, your family members and perhaps others who lived there?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: I am writing a chapter on each individual. My hope is to do one for everyone on the tree, but there will be chapters combining the stories of many family members because I don't have time in 10 lifetimes to do 7,000 chapters. But I am writing a narrative for each major individual in my life. I'm lucky to have many letters written by my grandparents, my aunt and my uncles before they perished and have been able to glean a great deal of information about their lives and their hopes for the future. I have documents about my father, including his certification in Poland as a mechanical draftsman, along with many pictures. I'm combining all of this into each chapter.

DOROT: You also have been involved in the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project. Would you tell us about the project and your role in it?

The JewishGen Yizkor Book Project

BERKENSTAT FREUND: There are over 1,000 Yizkor or memorial books that were mostly written after the Holocaust. They are about the life, the history, the people, what happened during the Holocaust in communities in Eastern Europe and elsewhere. They can include photographs, sheet music, many, many interesting articles about the organizations, the politics in each community. JewishGen created a project to translate these books, which were published mostly in Hebrew and Yiddish. Translators are working on the books. As the English translations are finished, they are uploaded to the Yizkor Book Project site on JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/) and are accessible to everyone.

JewishGen is now making the translations available in printed form as books on demand. That gives people the opportunity to have the entire history of their shtetl or town or city available in printed form. I found my mother's copy of the Radomsko Yizkor book and was

very frustrated that I couldn't read it. I started taking Yiddish lessons about 15 years ago (I was able to understand spoken Yiddish but I couldn't read it). I had a fantastic teacher, Pesach Fisman. Within two years of attending his classes he had taught me enough that I could begin to translate the Radomsko Yizkor book. After about 10 years I was accomplished enough to be able to do this full time and I am now translating for the JewishGen Yizkor Book Project numerous Yizkor books. One translation that I completed, for Czestochowa, was the first book from the project that was available in print. Incidentally, Czestochowa has the most Yizkor books of any city or town. If someone wants to "page through" a Yizkor book, most have been digitized in a joint project of the New York Public Library Dorot Jewish Division and the National Yiddish Book Center. They are available at <http://legacy.www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbookonline.cfm>.

DOROT: How much can researchers learn about their families from these Yizkor books?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: A great deal. You may not find your family name in it or, if you do, you may not find a lot of information about the individuals. But, because the study of our family history does not only involve the "who," but also, the what, the how, the where and the why, we can get a good idea of how our families lived within a town by reading these books. You may be lucky as I was. The first time I looked through the Yizkor book for Radomsko, I couldn't read it, but I went through it page by page to look at the photographs in the hope that I would find someone who I recognized and was startled to discover that there were two photographs of classes in the *folks-shul*, the people's school – the Jewish public school in Radomsko – in which my mother appeared. I then discovered a photograph of my grandfather and there was an article accompanying it, which I translated a number of years later. There are maps of the towns in the books that can give you a feeling of where the family lived in relation to the synagogue, to the mikvah, to all the important locations within a town.

DOROT: If someone is researching a town that has an untranslated Yizkor book, how would they get that translation started?

BERKENSTAT FREUND: They should contact Lance Ackerfeld, the Yizkor Book Project manager, via the Yizkor Book Project site. He will give them the information needed. They will have to set up a project, fund raise to pay a translator to do the translations. A

good way to have that done, I have found, is that people are often interested in a particular chapter and are willing to fund it. The table of contents can be translated immediately and that will lead to interest because people will see topics that interest them, names, possibly, that interest them and they will be willing to help fund raise and contribute to have a Yizkor book translated.

DOROT: Getting back to your own research, can you think of any discoveries that you made that were either particularly welcome, satisfying or helpful in learning more about your family members?

A Photo and a Remark That Led to Two Discoveries

BERKENSTAT FREUND: There are two things that I discovered in my research that were very fulfilling. I once visited a cousin who had two or three large cartons of family photographs. One of them was a photo of a little girl. On the back, written in Yiddish, were the words: “Our Daughter, Frayda Bayla” along with the date of her birth in Amsterdam. I knew that I had Gliksman cousins who lived in Amsterdam before World War Two. There were two sisters who had married two brothers in Radomsko and had emigrated to Amsterdam in the early 1920s. I asked my cousin who was their first cousin, and had emigrated from Poland to the U.S., if she knew the married name of these two sisters. All she remembered was that their last name ended in “ski.” I was at a loss on how to proceed until sometime later when I learned that the Dutch government had produced a book called *In Memorium*, which was a list of all of those living in the Netherlands who had perished in the Holocaust. I posted a note to the JewishGen discussion group about the book and immediately received a reply from a woman who at that moment had a copy of the book that she had borrowed from a library and offered to look for the names in which I was interested. I asked her to look for the surname Gliksman, the birth name of my two cousins. I was fortunate that their family names appeared along with their married names, which turned out to be Przyrowski. She sent me the information and using that, I wrote to the Red Cross and asked them to do a search for any information about this family. About eight years after my original letter, I received a phone call informing me that they had found the son of Frayda Bayla, the girl in the photo. I called him and learned that his mother had survived the war. It was his grandmother, Frayda Bayla’s mother, who had perished. His mother, Frayda Bayla, he told me, was now deceased, but her sister was still alive. With that discovery, my husband and I took a trip to Holland, met these cousins, and we became family immediately and we have been in contact ever since.

In another instance, my husband and I were going to the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society conference in Jerusalem in 2004. I had hoped to meet with Berkensztat cousins with whom I had been in contact through letters. I knew they were family members, having been told by a cousin that everyone with that name from Poland was from the same family, but I didn’t know how we were connected. Just two weeks before our departure, my researcher in Poland, Petja Schroeder, sent me information showing that these cousins in Israel were descended from siblings of my grandmother (Krajndl nee Berkensztat). I now knew how they were related to me. My husband Larry and I met with many of my Israeli Berkensztat cousins and were struck by how some of my newly found cousins looked just like my father at the same age as they now were.

DOROT: What about research problems that you’ve had and the steps you may be taking to solve them?

Difficult Research Problems

BERKENSTAT FREUND: In one branch of my Berkensztat family, my great grandmother was named Hinda Majer. Her branch of the family seems to have come from Dzialoszyn, Poland. We are often told as researchers that during the war all the records burned, which turned out to be mostly untrue, but for Dzialoszyn, it seems to be true. There are very few records from that town, perhaps 20 very early records, and I have not been able to find much about that branch of the family. I’m trying various ways to work around it, using the 1929 Polish directory of businesses. So far that has proved unsuccessful. So that is a major hole in my research.

Another unsolved matter that I hadn’t really thought about until I was working on my narrative concerns my father’s sister, Zelda Berkensztat. She perished in the Holocaust. I have letters that she wrote to my father in the United States in which she mentioned being engaged to a man named Gershon from Dzialoszyn. Unfortunately, she never mentioned his surname. She broke off the engagement. She seems to have been a very vibrant person and she seemed to want to do things with her life, which was cut short. I am trying to learn Gershon’s surname. It’s not a very important fact, but I’m sure it is one most genealogists would relate to. Once we are presented with a riddle, we want to solve it. I’m trying to work through this one using pages of testimony at Yad Vashem. I’ve so far found only one

Gershon from Dzialoszyn and I have to pursue whether that might be him.

DOROT: Has what you've learned about your family and the family members you've met as a result of your research made a difference to you?

The Lesson Learned from Genealogy

BERKENSTAT FREUND: It has made a big difference. Through meeting those who are related to me around the world – Brazil, Argentina, Israel, Britain, Australia, Belgium, France – I've learned the importance of family. I always felt that but even more so now. I find it very interesting that when I'm meeting a cousin for the first time, there's an immediate feeling of kinship. We connect on a level that's different from when two people meet who are complete strangers with no shared history. And in each case, we've maintained that feeling of family and closeness even though we may not see each other for years and years. But now, through the Internet and Skype, through Facebook, we are in constant contact, and also through handwritten letters.

DOROT: Thank you.

Gloria Berkenstat Freund has a degree in political science from Queens College. She was the executive director of a non-profit organization. After beginning her genealogical research about 25 years ago, she discovered the Radomsko Yizkor Book about her mother's birthplace. Unable to read the Yiddish text, she undertook the study of Yiddish and translated the Yiddish sections of the book. She now works with the JewishGen Yizkor Book translation project as a translator. Her translation of The Destruction of Czenstochow was the first book to be issued by JewishGen's Yizkor Books in Print project.

Gloria has created KehilaLinks sites for her ancestral towns Nowa Brzeznicza and Radomsko and has volunteered with JRI-Poland, indexing microfilms, as a town coordinator and was the Archive Coordinator for the Piotrkow Tybunalski branch of the Polish State Archives. She was the program chair for the 2006 New York IAJGS conference and was a JGS Executive Committee member for over 10 years, also serving as vice president for programming. ☆

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>

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