
The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

DOROT דורות

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The Museum of Family History: An Overview

by Steven Lasky

The Museum of Family History is a virtual museum, i.e., it does not exist in the material world but rather in cyberspace—the Internet. I have long thought that the idea of creating such a museum was a good one because a museum typically is meant to present the best of what a culture has to offer. I wanted to present the best of our Jewish culture and our collective Jewish family history. Thus, I have created the Museum of Family History in the hope that I could create something worthwhile that was special, imaginative, novel, and beautiful, that might inspire others to care more about their own Jewish roots by serving as a tribute to all of our Jewish families and our collective history.

I would like the Museum not only to educate but also to promote intergenerational communication and encourage others who might want to learn more about their own family histories. I have always felt that it is very important to feel connected to our own Jewish roots. Without a good sense of where we came from, without the presence of Judaism and study in our lives,

what hope do we have for the future of our people? This is important for the preservation of Jewish identity. I did not want to create a website that was simply a display of photographs and essays; I wanted to appeal to our other senses as well. The Museum is, thus, a website of sight and sound and is interactive. While visiting the Museum, you can view video clips of Jewish documentaries and, by listening to available sound clips, hear the voices of our fellow Jews. There are stories told by those who survived the Holocaust and by those who lived in Brooklyn, New York, during the throes of the Great Depression. You can also hear from those who speak eloquently as loving children and grandchildren about their family members who are gone but not forgotten.

There is a great deal of genealogically relevant material in the Museum that should help you learn more about your own family history. I must admit, though, that my intention is not to make the Museum a site that is solely of interest to the Jewish genealogist but rather to all those who have a broader interest in modern Jewish history and in preserving our collective Jewish memory.

I would like others to believe as I do—that it is a mitzvah for each of us, in our own unique way, to do what we can to honor our Jewish ancestors—to learn about, preserve, and perpetuate our memories of them and the world in which they lived. I strongly believe that just because many of our family members are no longer with us in the physical world, our memories of them need not dwell on the rim of our consciousness, that it is possible for them to live on within our minds and hearts and even be made known to others. By learning much more about our ancestors, we can more fully appreciate who they were and the kinds of lives they led. Since we are products of those family members who came before us, we can perhaps more fully understand ourselves at the same time. I believe in this process—that the knowledge gained from such a journey through time

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DOROT

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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 almost 1,000 members live in the New York metropolitan area, other states, and abroad. 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 and repositories and archival projects through generous annual donations to insure the preservation of many of the Jewish community's treasured documents and to provide greater public access to them. Some of them are American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Center for Jewish History, Center Genealogy Institute, Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, JewishGen, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland, Leo Baeck Institute, National Yiddish Book Center, Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Membership benefits include:

- free admission to our monthly meetings (September through June), featuring guest lecturers from a variety of disciplines as well as field trips to libraries and archives
- 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
- discounted tuition at the day-long annual seminar "Basics and Beyond," which presents classes for all levels of researchers
- discounts on JGS publications, including *Genealogical Resources in New York*, an invaluable tool for genealogical research in New York City
- discounts from the JGS Friends listed on the inside back page of *Dorot*

Membership dues per calendar year are:

- Regular Member \$36
- 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
- Out-of-town Member (receive local mailings) \$36
- Non-U.S. Member (air mail) US\$36

You can request a membership application by mailing a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., P.O. Box 286398, New York, NY 10128-0004, or you can print out the application on the JGS website at <http://www.jgsny.org/members.htm>. Your *Dorot* subscription is valued at \$6 per year. The balance of your membership dues is tax-deductible.

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

President's Letter

by Linda Cantor

I'm looking forward to winter weather in the coming days. If it's cold or nasty outside, I don't feel so bad about the many hours that I spend working on family history on my computer. There are far fewer trips to the National Archives or the Municipal Archives than in the old days. Instead, I work on Ancestry.com or the various New York databases put together under the aegis of John Martino and the Italian Genealogical Group. It's amazing how much information I have gathered from all of the various online resources now available to us.

Have you considered volunteering for one of the many data entry projects that John Martino has organized? Without the work of John and his many volunteers, we would not have computerized, searchable access to many New York City vital and naturalization records (<<http://www.italiangen.org/databaselist.stm>>). If you have a computer and can enter data into Excel, you can help. Go to <<http://www.italiangen.org/predblist.stm>> to contact John and become a volunteer.

Have you been reading the series of articles by Ann Rabinowitz about researching your families in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, and the United Kingdom on the Internet? This issue of *Dorot* contains the third in a series of four articles, all of which provide much valuable information. I have successfully followed Ann's tips and have found cemetery information for Johannesburg and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, including

photos of the graves of several family members as well as a ketubah from Bulawayo. Who would have imagined that we could see a gravestone or read a document from Southern Africa without leaving home?

I would like to offer a special tribute to longtime JGS member Rosalind Frey, who passed away a little more than a year ago. Rosalind's dedication to genealogy and to the Jewish Genealogical Society showed not only in her membership but in her leaving a bequest to JGS. We will put Rosalind's bequest to good use in our educational outreach program and will remember her for this gracious gift.

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the 30th anniversary of the Jewish Genealogical Society and annual membership brunch on December 25th at the 92nd Street Y. Mike Karsen, a professional genealogy speaker and researcher, will present "Write Your Family History NOW" as well as a preview of Chicago research so we can prepare for the 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Mike is also the author of the JewishGen website "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" at <<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/Chicago>>.

Hope to see you at the next meeting.

Linda

Celebrate JGS 30th Anniversary

Join fellow members and guests of the Jewish Genealogical Society as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. The date is Tuesday, December 25, 2007. This event will take place at the 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Avenue, Manhattan. Cost is \$18 for members, \$25 for non-members and guests.

We will have a delicious brunch at 11:30 a.m., followed at 12:45 p.m. by the JGS Annual Meeting and program. Our guest speaker, Mike Karsen, will present "Write Your Family History NOW," a topic of particular interest to both beginning and advanced genealogists. Mike Karsen is a professional speaker and instructor and a faculty member of Newberry Library and Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. He has an active speaking schedule and has presented at state, national, and international conferences. Be sure to save the date and attend this special JGS program.

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makes us feel more deeply rooted and more familiar with our collective Jewish history, simply because much of what we learn is told to us by someone in our family, making it more personal and meaningful.

The Museum of Family History is slanted toward Jewish life in Poland, the United States, and the five boroughs of New York City. This is not because I believe these locations are the only ones worth talking about but because my own ancestors are from there, so it is what I know the most about. Having said that, there is certainly a good deal of material in the Museum from many other locations around the world where Jews lived and still live today. Material from elsewhere in the world is always welcome, though it must come from people like you. I welcome your material and your suggestions. I am always willing to listen to any ideas you may have.

The Scope of the Museum

For the most part, the Museum of Family History deals with Jewish history from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. The exhibitions and other relevant material often are about Jewish life in Europe at any time before World War II or in its immediate aftermath. So also with immigration, mostly through Ellis Island. The exhibitions often talk about the Jewish experience—predominantly about life in New York, where approximately seventy percent of all immigrants who entered through Ellis Island settled after immigrating.

The two most important pages for visitors to the Museum are the Site Map page and the Recent Updates page. The Site Map has links to virtually every piece of relevant material and feature mentioned on the website, and the Recent Updates page lets you know what is new at the Museum.

Exhibitions

There are numerous exhibitions available for viewing. Some are temporary, or “current,” while others should be considered to be permanent. Included within the array of exhibitions are those that:

1. display photographs of the many Holocaust memorials that exist in the New York metropolitan area, Canada, and Eastern Europe. There are also translations of many of the inscriptions found on these memorials.
2. display photographs of Europe and the Middle East in 1913 (the “Windows in Time” exhibition);
3. describe the life of Nina Finkelstein, a former



Grodno memorial, Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Flushing, NY

4. resident and survivor of the Kovno ghetto;
4. display photographs of the Zionist group, the Betarim, before World War II in Warsaw;
5. make available touching recollections of the experiences of various Holocaust survivors from such countries as Poland, Hungary, and the Ukraine (the exhibition “Walk in my Shoes...”);
6. describe the harsh life that existed for the Jews in the Pale of Settlement during the reign of the Czars;
7. describe the relationship between Jews and their conscription into the Russian Army during the time of the Czars;

8. deal with the process that our immigrant ancestors had to follow if they wished to immigrate to the United States—from leaving their home town to getting to their port of embarkation to their actual ship voyage and the interview process at Ellis Island—and, in general, provide a short history of United States immigration policy. You can even find an exhibition in the Educational and Research Center about trachoma, an eye disease that disqualified many ship passengers from entering the United States. Most of them were sent back by ship to their point of departure.
9. talk about life on the Lower East Side of Manhattan and in Brooklyn;
10. display old photographs of the synagogues of Europe and show photographs of the remaining synagogues located on the Lower East Side;
11. feature photographs of our families at work, both in Europe and in North America, generally before the Great Depression;
12. discuss the development of photography, lithography, and the many photographic studios of pre-World War I Europe.

Of course, there are many more exhibitions than these to explore. You will be able to find links to the other exhibitions on the Site Map page as well as a mention of future exhibitions you can expect on the “Coming Soon” page.

Immigration Lists

With the permission of the Ellis Island Foundation, I have put online lists of immigrants, both Jewish and not, who last lived in a particular town or city in Europe before entering the United States through Ellis Island. Organized by the town or city of last residence, they list the immigrant’s name, year of birth, and year of immigration. I have another list of tens of thousands of Jews who emigrated from England, entering the United States through Ellis Island up to and including the year 1924, but this list is not online and probably will not be. That list is quite long, and putting it online would require too many pages and would be cumbersome. Inquiries about such immigrations can be sent to me though the Museum’s e-mail at <steve@museumoffamilyhistory.com>.

Town Lists

A number of “main index pages” have been created.



Makow Mazowiecki Holocaust memorial, Makow Mazowiecki, Poland

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Though limited in number, they list links both to pages within and outside of the Museum website that may be of interest to those researching a particular town or city. Also, a page called “TownSites” lists links to many independent websites that concern specific locations within Europe, including all of the extant JewishGen ShtetLinks pages.

Postcards from Home

This has always been a favorite project of mine. I named this permanent exhibition “Postcards from Home” because, in a sense, these “postcards,” a few thousand family photographs taken in pre-war Europe, have a similar degree of sentimentality attached to them as postcards might elicit when sent to a family member from afar—sent, perhaps, by someone you might never see again. These photographs were taken for any of a number of reasons, perhaps before someone emigrated. Or perhaps they are simply family portraits that were brought to a family member who had already emigrated. Some were taken by family members with their own cameras; others were taken in a photographer’s studio. They might have been or become family heirlooms, memories of departed family members handed down from one generation to the next. Whatever the case, you can look carefully at any face in these photographs and imagine what kind of soul the person was and what kind of life experiences he or she might have had.

Placing your own pre-war family photographs in this exhibition is a wonderful way to honor your ancestors and allows the memory of them to be kept alive. It also lets you share your precious photographs with family members near and far who have been clamoring for copies of these photographs. This is, of course, one of the advantages of the Internet.

I continue to receive photographs for this exhibition; thus, the exhibition continues to grow. In an attempt to make this exhibition more genealogically relevant—and perhaps with the hope of making more connections

between people with an interest in the same town or family name—the web pages on which the photographs are placed are listed within the exhibition by country, then by town, and also by surname, allowing any interested party to find who or what they are looking for more easily. Your photographs of family from Europe taken at any time before the end of World War II are welcome.

The Cemetery Project

I currently have a database of more than 210,000 burials in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area, Connecticut, Western Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Over the past two or three years, I have made hundreds of visits to cemeteries and now possess more than 100,000 photographs of New York and New Jersey gravestones. I did this because I want to help researchers connect with their ancestors. Rabbi Edward

Cohen is responsible for the burial data from Connecticut, Western Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and we must be grateful to him for his hard work. For the most part, information about the New York burials can be found nowhere else. For now, the website only permits you to search for a specific burial if you happen to know the name of the town associated with the particular society plot that a person is buried in. One can only search on any of a large number of unique surname lists to see if your surname of interest is listed there. Once you know the name of the town associated with a burial plot a person is buried in, look for the specific surname on that town list. Then, if your search has been successful, contact me to see if I have the information or gravestone photograph you are looking for. There are gravestone photographs for roughly half of the 210,000 burials, i.e., only for New York and New Jersey burials. The

information available within the Museum cemetery database varies, but it is available upon request.

Also within the scope of the Cemetery Project is a “Society Gates” exhibition with photographs of the gates that front many of the society plots. Included with these photographs are the names of the officers and members



The Gniazdowicz family, my great-grandparents and probably my grandfather as a youth, of Sniadowo, Poland

inscribed on the gateposts. You might even find a family surname on a post.

Within the Cemetery Project, you can also find contact information for many of the cemeteries in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area as well as links to their websites, which may, in certain instances, contain searchable databases. I also have a page that answers questions commonly asked by those searching for information about a particular burial. There are also nearly one hundred grounds maps for most of the cemeteries in the New York-New Jersey metropolitan area as well as for cemeteries in South Florida, Chicago, Canada, and other locations. This is, of course, a resource that allows you to more easily prepare for a visit to a family grave. Be sure to visit the website of the Jewish Genealogical Society (New York) at <http://www.jgsny.org> to search for the location of a particular society plot.

Map Room

The Museum has dozens of topographic maps of pre-war Poland as well as some of the adjacent territories to its east. These are not only interesting to look at but might also be helpful by giving you a picture of the terrain in which your ancestor's village might have been located in. For example, was the town near a forest or in a mountainous area, or did a river run near or through the village? Also, since sometimes even very small shtetls may be included on a particular map, you might be able to search certain latitudes in order to locate a small town you might be interested in.

The Yiddish World

We know, of course, how rich our Jewish cultural heritage is and how much of a contribution the Jewish people have made within the creative arts, whether it be writing, acting, producing, etc. The many ways in which we, the Jewish people, have continued to express ourselves creatively ever since the first Purim shpiel was performed have become legendary. Within "The Yiddish World" wing of the Museum, you can see photographs of and read biographical stories about the lives of our dear Yiddish actors and writers, many of whom were immigrants. You can see photographs of the casts and crews of various productions in Europe and the United States. You will get a real feel for the



My great-uncles Charlie and Sam Burak and their mother, Sheina Gitel Burak nee Drejarsk

creative talent our people have expressed over the last two centuries.

In the early part of the twentieth century, many of our ancestors depended on the Yiddish theater as a diversion from their daily, arduous lives. To me, this Yiddish world is a most fascinating one and one whose history is worth preserving. I feel that we can learn a lot about ourselves by reading about those who so eloquently expressed themselves as creative and intelligent people. We must work with great dedication and diligence to preserve such a wonderful world for present and future generations. I wish I had much more material to add to this part of the Museum. I ask that anyone who has such material and believes as I do in the need to preserve our culture consider sharing it with others through the Museum.

Stories from Our Ancestral Homes

Here you can read about the lives of those of our ancestors who lived in Europe and somehow managed to emigrate to the United States and Canada before World War II and the Holocaust. These interesting stories do a wonderful job of painting a picture of what shtetl and city life were like so long ago—what life was like not only for the storytellers themselves but perhaps for our own ancestors as well.

The Holocaust

One cannot create a website about Jewish family history without dedicating at least a portion of it to the memory of the Holocaust. This is not just to remind people that we must do what we can so that such a time will never come again but to put a face on and give voice to those who managed to survive such a horrible time. The Museum wishes to give survivors the opportunity to express themselves and tell others of their experiences, so please contact me if you have a story to tell. Of course, we know that for many, the very thought of recalling such a painful time does not allow them to tell their story, and this, of course, is understandable.

Be sure to visit and explore thoroughly the exhibition "Walk in my Shoes: Collected Memories of the Holocaust" and hear the voices of some of our survivors. Read about the last minutes of Chaim Rumkowski, the appointed head of the Lodz ghetto *Judenrat*, and the

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last words he spoke as he descended from the train that carried him and various Lodz policemen to their final destination at Auschwitz. Listen to the words of Mengele when he was at Auschwitz and the remarkable statements he made about the Jewish people.

You will also see modern-day photographs of the remnants of a number of the former concentration camps, now memorial sites, museums, and learning centers. Learn which concentration camp records are available to all of us (in the Museum's "Education and Research Center") in the United States. Discover what information was gathered from Jews and others when they first arrived at Buchenwald concentration camp. There is also a separate webpage of links to many Holocaust-related websites.

Living in America

What was life like for our family members after they were allowed to immigrate into the United States? What kind of struggles and hardships were they forced to endure? How did they spend what leisure time they had? Life on the Lower East Side is discussed as well as the time when many who wished to escape the overcrowded conditions there pushed eastward and northward to such regions as Brooklyn and the Bronx around the turn of the twentieth century.

Also visit the small exhibition containing sound clips that serve as the personal testimony of some of those who lived in New York during the Great Depression as they talk about their family life back then.

The Screening Room

The desire to make this website a multimedia and interactive one has led me to create a virtual "screening room." Here you can view short video clips of documentaries with a Jewish theme. I have created "The Screening Room" to support those whose valuable filmmaking and documentation about our collective past is so important. I am hoping to add other videos to the site, e.g., performances from the Yiddish theater, either live or as streaming video, as well as performances of Yiddish music. Please contact the Museum if you have any audio or video that might be suitable for these purposes that may be used on the Museum website with permission, or without permission if it is in the public domain.

Education and Research Center

As the title implies, the Center (ERC) is meant to

educate and to *facilitate research*, especially by those interested in learning more about and obtaining and understanding documents relating to their own family histories. It is my intention that the ERC grow by leaps and bounds in the coming months and years. For now, it contains examples and explanations of what is available on the Internet, i.e., the kinds of documents available and what they may tell you. Many archives as well as examples of the many records and documents they contain will be discussed, especially those in the New York metropolitan area.

I also try to assist you in learning how to decipher cursive script (handwriting), whether it be the confusingly illegible script often found on ship manifests or the foreign cursive script we wish we could read and translate within the vital birth, marriage, and death records we eagerly try to acquire. Tutorials will be given and case studies explained in detail in the hope that the logic I use to search for my own answers might increase your chances for success.

As said earlier, one of the Museum's missions is to educate. Besides the aforementioned tutorials, guides for pronunciation have been established for several languages, replete with sound clips à la Berlitz, with tables explaining how to pronounce the language's various consonants, vowels, and diphthongs. To date, guides for Magyar (Hungarian), Lithuanian, Romanian, and Polish (a large guide) have been put online; guides for Russian and Yiddish are next. The names of towns and cities in each country have been used to demonstrate proper pronunciation, and for each language a speaker native to that land has been employed to enunciate each town name clearly, twice.

Individual web pages have been created to facilitate the search for information for a particular country or region. These fall under the heading "Research Groups," and links to these pages may be found on the Site Map page. Web pages have been created that list all significant material for the countries of Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, and Ukraine as well as for the former Galicia and the region around and including Bialystok, Poland. On these pages, links have been provided to each relevant piece of information.

Within the Center, the Museum will soon offer assistance in interviewing family members so that you can ask them more confidently about their own life history as well as that of others in their family.

Suggestions will be made for methodology, potential questions will be proffered, and available recording equipment will be discussed.

Coming Soon

The Recent Updates page is usually revised when new material is added to the site. It also describes what will be exhibited in the near (or sometimes distant) future. Because I do not have an online forum to ask for specific material aid, volunteers, or other assistance with the website, I must find other means to get the message out to help the Museum grow. One can visit the "Call Box" on the "Opportunity" page to learn what type of material is needed by the Museum.

I post information and updates about the website to the JewishGen discussion groups during the first week of each month. But to be sure you are aware of the latest additions to the website, check the Museum's Recent Updates page regularly on your own. I hope to have online a searchable database for all of the cemetery burial data at some point in the future. If and when this happens, it will be announced on the Recent Updates page.

If you have a desire to see material of greater interest to you on the website and are willing to contribute in some way to getting it online, please contact me. If you have any material that might fit in with the theme of the Museum, do not hesitate to contact me. The Museum website's URL is <<http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com>>. I can be reached at <steve@museumoffamilyhistory.com>.

Whatever your interests may be, I hope you will

find something to your liking at the Museum and visit it often. The Museum is open all the time, and you are always welcome to visit. In the future, you will see fascinating interactive "floor maps" of this virtual museum. The Museum will also display several meal menus for its virtual delicatessen and restaurant, including regional dishes. So if you are hungry, you will be able to enjoy a virtual meal or a delicious dessert.

As the founder, director, and curator of the website, I hope you will enjoy your visits to the Museum as much as I enjoy presenting it to you. It feels wonderful to do something so worthwhile. Remembering those who make up our family tree is important, isn't it? That I have the imagination, creative ability, independence, and time to do all of this is a blessing. Without the independence and the time, I could not have accomplished a fraction of what I have done since I first put the site online and announced it at the IAJGS conference in Las Vegas in 2005. I encourage all of you to create your own unique work to whatever degree your abilities and life situation allow. By doing this, you will perform your own mitzvah by honoring and preserving your own family's legacy for present and future generations. ☆

(Dr. Steven Lasky is a semi-retired optometrist from New York. He most recently spoke about the Museum of Family History at the IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City in July 2007. He has been recognized by the IAJGS under their "IAJGS Salutes" program for his website, "created with dedication and diligence to 'honor and preserve the memory of our ancestors for present and future generations.'")

Jewish Data Cemetery Additions

Jewish Data, a database to which JGS members have access as a benefit of membership, has posted additional cemetery records. An addition of a record batch from Washington Cemetery on McDonald Avenue in Brooklyn, New York, founded in 1867, brings the total posted for that cemetery to more than 20,000 images. Bayside Jewish Cemetery in Ozone Park, New York, has a total, so far, of over 5,000 images posted. The 12,000 records and images posted from Mount of Olives and Har Menuchos, both in Jerusalem, and from Tiberias, Israel, all of which are in Hebrew, have been indexed in English and are easily searchable. The images from Israel are of mostly large, flat monuments, some of which record the decedent's city and country of origin. More than 4,000 images from the Jewish Cemetery on Shoemaker Road in Dalton, Pennsylvania, have also been posted. They cover the years 1916-2006.

Preserving Memories

by Risa Neuwirth

“To this day, every Friday night I bless candles in memory of my mother, and there isn’t one Friday night that I don’t see her in my mind, blessing our candles at home...” My gaze is riveted to the television screen as I watch my mother speaking. She begins weeping quietly, remembering the large family she lost in the Holocaust. “I had a beautiful childhood, a warm, close-knit, loving family, and I think it’s what sustained me through everything.”

It was the day after my mother had passed away following a long struggle with Alzheimer’s Disease. My brother and I were sitting down with the rabbi to plan her funeral service. He had asked us to bring along any memorabilia we might have of her before she became ill. In searching for photographs and mementos, we’d come across a videotape Mom had given us ten years earlier, an interview she’d done for the Shoah Foundation, the Spielberg project that documents the testimonies of Holocaust survivors. Back in 1995, when she’d recorded it, we had watched with a critical eye and dismissed it—she was nervous through much of it and had left out many important stories and details. We’d put the tape on a shelf and forgotten about it.

That day, we walked into the rabbi’s office and handed him the videotape. “Oh, let’s look at this together,” he said, as he escorted us to a room with a television. I had a moment of panic at the thought of watching the tape only hours after seeing her at the morgue. My heart contracted as the rabbi turned on the television and we sat down.

Suddenly, my mother’s image appeared on the screen. The sight of her alive and well—the Mom we hadn’t seen since she’d fallen ill—took my breath away. Unable to speak or walk for the last two years, our mother had been a shadow of her former self. She’d always been a dynamic woman—strong, vibrant, articulate, charming, with a love of life and an optimism that belied the trauma of her youth. And there she was, as I wanted to remember her.

The knot in my stomach began to ease as I watched my mother speaking animatedly, with all of her familiar facial expressions and gestures. I remembered that proud look in her eye whenever she would talk about her four sisters—“My father was known throughout Antwerp as ‘Mr. Gajst and his beautiful daughters!’”—and her nostalgic recollection of warm Shabbos dinners with their delicious food and happy singing

of *zmiros*. I soon realized that watching this video was far more comforting than it was painful. It was actually wonderful to see her again!

During the week of *shiva* that followed, friends and relatives gathered at my brother’s house, and everyone wanted to see my mother’s video. We watched it over and over again—ninety minutes of stories, spanning her childhood in Belgium to the present. We heard how, at the age of seventeen, she’d hidden herself in Brussels after her whole family had been taken away. She described her eventual arrest by the Gestapo, followed by nearly three years at Auschwitz. Then the surreal tale of liberation and her subsequent emigration to America, where she became a fashion model and later met the man who was to become our father...stories my brother and I had heard throughout our lives. My younger son, who’d been a toddler when my mother was stricken with dementia, was now ten years old. He watched her interview intently, riveted by the images and stories of the grandmother he’d never had a chance to know.

As I sat there, I realized how fortunate we were to have this video. To be able to watch her telling her own stories, in her own words, and to have these stories preserved for us. It really was like seeing her alive again. In the midst of my grief, it felt joyful and cathartic. I knew in that moment that we had something invaluable and precious and all too rare. How I wished I had a similar video of my father, who’d passed away in 1998. All *his* great memories and anecdotes—building his family’s first radio as a boy in Germany, his old army stories from when he was drafted soon after arriving in America, his lifelong love of the Yankees—and the boyish grin he often wore as he reminisced were now preserved only in our fragile memories.

It was then that I realized I could help others have what I had. I’d worked for an oral history library for a few years and had been immediately drawn in by the powerful, complex stories of peoples’ lives. More recently, I’d been a producer and casting director in the film and television industry, helping to create television shows, short films, and documentaries. The combination of these experiences seemed to converge, and it was clear that my life’s paths had literally led me to this moment.

And so, inspired by the discovery of my mother’s taped interview, I decided to devote the rest of my days to helping others have what I have, a living, vivid memoir

for themselves, their children, their grandchildren, and all the generations that will follow. With the knowledge I've gained, I tell as many people as I can about how, with the aid of today's digital technology, creating a legacy for their families is not only simple but almost imperative. I speak publicly to teach people how they can record their loved ones' memories, sharing my knowledge of how to optimally position and set up a video camera, basic lighting and audio techniques, and guidelines for the interview process.

I hope my sons will show my mother's interview to their own children so that they can spend some time getting to know their courageous great-grandmother who was brimming with life and love throughout her days...and beyond. ☆

(At the JGS program on June 10th, Risa Neuwirth spoke on the topic "Video Memoirs: Preserving Your Family History." Please see "JGS Program Report" below.)

JGS Program Report

June 10, 2007

Video Memoirs: Preserving Your Family History

Risa Neuwirth is the founder of LifeStory Productions, a video biography company based in Manhattan (<<http://www.LifeStoryProductions.com>>. A film and television professional, she worked freelance in the American Jewish Committee's Oral History Library transcribing hundreds of taped oral histories and learning the art of interviewing. Her article, "Preserving Memories," starts on page 10.

Ms. Neuwirth pointed out that you who are alive today are tomorrow's history. Your lives and your memories will be a genealogical treasure for your families and should be preserved for them. One form for preserving them is the video memoir, also known as a video biography. It is never too soon to interview others or be interviewed yourselves. You need not wait until they or you are elderly. If someone has already passed away, you can record their stories on their behalf.

People being interviewed sometimes feel daunted about being on camera. They might think that they are not interesting or have not done anything exciting in their lives. A good interviewer will capture the person's essence. If they are listened to intently, people will open up and will remember details they thought they had forgotten. You can help them to relax and to forget that a video camera is rolling.

An interview can range in length from one to two or even three hours, depending on the stamina of the interviewee. A two-hour interview can generally provide an ample amount of information. If a couple is being interviewed, interview each one for an hour and then have them speak together for up to an hour. Or, they might express a preference for being interviewed

only separately or only together. Start the interview chronologically, but do not feel bound to continue that way. The interview is not a textbook about someone's life. Tailor the interview to the individual. Capture the memories that you and they want captured. Do whatever is needed to make them feel comfortable.

Those who want to conduct the interview themselves can use their own camcorders. The three levels of video cameras are consumer, prosumer (a step up from consumer level, these have additional features, such as a way to connect an external microphone), and professional. Choose a video camera that is easy and comfortable to use. Follow the guidelines on Ms. Neuwirth's handout "Recording a Video Biography" about the setting, type of equipment, placement of the video camera, lighting, and interview process. Twenty-two sample questions are also on the handout.

Place the camcorder between you and the interviewee so that the questions as well as the answers will be picked up. An external microphone can be placed between you and the interviewee or given to the interviewee to hold. Or a lapel microphone can be clipped onto the camcorder. Talk a little and then replay it to see if everything was recorded properly. If you decide to edit the interview afterward, do not edit out the questions or the answers will lose their context. Adding photographs during the editing process is the most time-consuming aspect of the entire process. It is easier and less expensive to put all of the photographs at the end. Then, transfer the videotaped interview to a DVD.

If you prefer to hire a professional interviewer, choose one with proven skills who uses professional-quality equipment and works with a professional camera operator and editor. Interestingly, interviewees will tell stories to a professional interviewer that they have not

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JGS Program Report continued from page 11

told family members. This might be because they know that the professional interviewer has not heard any of the stories before or because they did not think to tell the stories to their families. Ms. Neuwirth recounted how surprised some clients were to hear stories on the DVD that they have never been told.

If you want a number of family members to be interviewed and find the cost of separate interviews prohibitive, it is better to have them interviewed together than not at all. Although the possibility exists that people will interrupt each other, remember that the interview does not have to be perfect.

Digital media (such as DVDs) are predicted to last 100 years or more. They are far more durable than film and the magnetic tape used in videotape, which are susceptible to stretching, breaking, and tearing. It is advisable to have the contents of magnetic tapes transferred to DVDs. In the meantime, keep your tapes

away from magnetic fields. If, in the future, it appears that there soon might not be equipment available to play DVDs, as has happened with other media, transfer their contents to the next new digital format before DVDs are phased out.

Always make a “master copy” of the DVD and store it in a protective case. A DVD is subject to scratches or other damage when it is touched and played, so keep the master copy in pristine condition by not playing it. Put your “use copy” of the DVD in a plastic case to protect the silver image when the DVD is not being played.

If you would like to have a copy of the handout, e-mail Ms. Neuwirth at <RisaNeuwirth@aol.com>. She will also be glad to offer additional guidance and answer questions for people who would like to record their own video memoir. ☆

(by the Editor)

Discount on

Genealogical Resources In New York

Genealogical Resources in New York, published by the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. and revised and edited by Estelle M. Guzik, is now being offered to current JGS members for a discounted price of \$29 (15% off the list price) plus shipping. To obtain the discount, members must order directly by mail from JGS (not through its distribution service). The shipping charge to a U.S. address is \$6 for the first copy and \$2 for each additional copy. New York residents should add 8.375% sales tax to both the price of the book and the shipping fee. Shipping to a non-U.S. address costs \$10 for each copy.

Mail a check made payable to Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. to Book Orders, JGS, P.O. Box 286398, New York, NY 10128-0004 or pay with a Visa, MasterCard, American Express, or Discover card and include the card number, expiration date, name on the card, signature, billing address of the card holder, daytime telephone number, e-mail address, and shipping information, i.e., name and address (not a post office box). Members can also purchase the book at the Center for Jewish History Book Store at 15 W. 16th Street in Manhattan and receive the discount by presenting their JGS membership cards.

Non-members can purchase the book at the discounted price of \$35 by ordering online from JGS's distribution service at <<http://www.atlasbooks.com/marktplc/00937.htm#order>> or by calling (800) 247-6553 toll-free. Shipping to a U.S. address costs \$6 for the first copy and \$2 for each additional copy. New York residents should add a sales tax of 8.375% and Ohio residents a sales tax of 7.25% to both the book and the shipping fee. Shipping to a non-U.S. address costs \$10 for each copy.

A description of ***Genealogical Resources in New York*** is on the JGS website at <<http://www.jgsny.org/newbook.htm>>. The Table of Contents is shown at <<http://www.atlasbooks.com/marktplc/00937contents.pdf>>.

Metro Area Repository Round-up

NARA: Finding Aids

Lists of some records on microfilm that are held by the National Archives branch in Manhattan are now online. They are:

“Select List of Microfilm of Genealogical Value”

<<http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/holdings/microfilm-select-list.pdf>>

“Microfilm List of Passenger Arrivals for the Port of New York 1789-1957”

<<http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/finding-aids/immigration-microfilm.html>>

“Naturalization Records”

<<http://www.archives.gov/northeast/nyc/finding-aids/naturalization-holdings.html>>

NARA: Copy Fees Increased for Court Records

As of October 1, 2007, the National Archives charges the fees below for copies of court records:

- Bankruptcy cases: cases of individuals, not of businesses.
- Docket Sheet: a pre-automation paper docket listing the documents filed in the case, i.e., an outline of the case.
- Entire Case File: All of the documents in the file are included. If the file has more than 150 pages in it, NARA bills it as a large package (\$70.00) and adds a labor charge in fifteen-minute increments. If a large package exceeds one box, a \$10.00 handling fee is added for each additional box.

Researchers can visit whichever regional NARA facility holds the particular case files and view them, flag the desired documents, and request that copies be made. The cost is 90¢ per page plus a minimum handling fee of \$10.00 per box retrieved.

The quickest way to obtain copies off-site is through NARA’s Order Online! service at <<http://www.archives.gov/order-online/>>

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SMALL PACKAGES:		
Bankruptcy - Preselected Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Discharge of Debtor (or Order of Dismissal or Final Decree) ○ Voluntary Petition ○ Summary of Debts and Property ○ Schedules D, E and F 	NATF Form 90	\$25.00
Bankruptcy - Docket Sheet	NATF Form 90	\$25.00
Civil - Docket Sheet	NATF Form 91	\$25.00
Criminal - Preselected Documents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commitment or Probation/Commitment Order or Sentence ○ Indictment 	NATF Form 92	\$25.00
Criminal - Docket Sheet	NATF Form 92	\$25.00
Court of Appeals - Docket Sheet	NATF Form 93	\$25.00
LARGE PACKAGES:		
Bankruptcy - Entire Case File	NATF Form 90	\$70.00
Civil - Entire Case File	NATF Form 91	\$70.00
Criminal - Entire Case File	NATF Form 92	\$70.00
Court of Appeals - Entire Case File	NATF Form 93	\$70.00

From a 1924 Photograph to a Meeting in Amsterdam

by Gloria Berkenstat Freund

About twelve years ago, I visited my oldest cousin, then in her early eighties. As always, we began speaking about our family and she mentioned having boxes of old family photographs. She led me to a closet in her Manhattan apartment; on its floor were three large cardboard cartons. We spent the rest of my visit looking through the photographs. There were many that I had never seen of people I had only heard about, but one image really stirred my genealogical juices. It was a photograph of a little girl. On the back was an inscription in Yiddish that reads: "In remembrance to our family from our daughter Fraida Baila, born 1922 October 21. Amsterdam, September 12, 1924."

My interest in this photograph was two-fold. First, one of my maternal great-grandmothers was named Frajda Bajla Blajcher (the Polish spelling on her marriage record). Second, I knew that two of my mother's first cousins had emigrated to Amsterdam from their home in Radomsko, Poland. All I knew was that the cousins, sisters Gitl and Manja Gliksman, had married two brothers from Radomsko and had lived in Amsterdam. I asked another of my mother's cousins, also born in Radomsko, if she remembered the names of the two brothers. Her reply was that she only remembered that their surname ended in "ski."



Fraida Baila Przyrowski

The only other bit of information I had was a piece of paper given to me many years earlier by my late aunt, our Gliksman family "correspondent," who had been an avid letter writer, keeping in touch with family all over the world. The decades-old paper contained two addresses in Amsterdam, one for someone with the surname Kool and another with the surname Brandon. Letters I wrote to both addresses were returned as undeliverable.

In early 1996, a posting appeared on the JewishGen Discussion Group that gave the postal address of the

Joodse Genealogie, the Jewish Genealogy Society in the Netherlands. I contacted the society, providing them with the limited information I had about my family in Amsterdam. I asked for suggestions as to how I could try to find my family, not knowing if any of them had survived the Second World War. I received a response with the tragic information that Gitl Gliksman and her husband, Mozes Chaim Przyrowski, had perished in the Sobibor extermination camp, as had her sister Manja Gliksman and Manja's husband, Dawid Przyrowski.

It was at this time that I learned about the book *In Memoriam*, published in The Hague, which contains the names of about 103,000 Jews living in the Netherlands who had perished. According to a helpful librarian at the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library, the only copy in a U.S. library was at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. Another posting to the JewishGen Discussion Group resulted in a response from a woman in Cincinnati who, coincidentally, had the book at home. She discovered that, in addition to the four family members I had learned about, a fifth, Jacques, the son of Gitl and Mozes Haim, also perished at Sobibor. However, there was no listing for Fraida Baila Przyrowski.

Believing that Fraida Baila may have been married and, therefore, was not

listed under her family name, I ordered a copy of *In Memoriam*. When it arrived, I went through it line by line looking for a Fraida Baila. There was none! This gave me hope that she had survived. In April 1997, I filled out a search form for Fraida Baila Przyrowski and sent it to the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing and Information Center of the American Red Cross.

I also wrote to Batya Unterschaltz, then working with the Search Bureau for Missing Relatives in Jerusalem, asking her to determine if Fraida Baila Przyrowski

might have emigrated to Israel. Her response was, "Unfortunately, we found no info. on the above. Sorry!"

I received my first response from the Red Cross Tracing Center in August 1997, informing me that "Although no information has become available regarding the sought person, tracing efforts are continuing through the Netherlands Red Cross...for Fraida Przyrowski."

The Red Cross received a reply from the Netherlands Red Cross in April 2000 with the information that Freida Bella Przyrowski had been married to Ernst Baruch Levy. He had perished in 1944 "in the neighborhood of O s w i e c i m (Auschwitz)." Freida Bella, the spelling used by the Dutch Red Cross, had been brought to the Schveningen prison in 1943 and then to the Westerbork transit camp, from which she escaped. In 1948, she married again and had a son and a daughter. Freida Bella died in 1992. I was notified that "... further information is being gathered of the closest relatives. You will be informed of the result through a letter in the near future."

The "near future" arrived five years later in August 2005 when I received a phone call from the American Red Cross alerting me that a cousin had been found. I was asked if someone could visit me to give me the information, but I persuaded the person on the phone that the visit was unnecessary, and I was given the name, address, and telephone number of my newly-found cousin. The cousin is Freida Bella's son, Michael. I called him immediately. He was expecting my call because he had to give the Red Cross permission to release his contact information to me.

As with most of the Dutch population, Michael speaks excellent English. We had a warm conversation. He informed me that Freida Bella had a younger sister, Flora, who was still alive, and he gave me her address and telephone number. I called Flora, and our conversation was equally warm. We maintained contact for the next

two years, exchanging photographs and family stories.

In June 2007, my husband, Larry, and I finally traveled to Amsterdam to meet Flora, her husband, Maup, and Michael. Joining us on the trip was my cousin Rachel and her husband, Alain, from Toulouse, France. Flora's mother, Rachel's mother, and my mother were first cousins and, together, Rachel and I were meeting Flora and Michael for the first time.

Our hotel in Amsterdam was undergoing a major renovation, so there was no place there for us to meet. Therefore, our very emotional, very solemn first meeting took place in an empty comedy club a short walk from the hotel. Over cups of tea, we forged a strong family bond, reuniting three branches of the Gliksman family whose ancestors had last been together in Radomsko, Poland, in the earlier years of the last century. The next day, Larry, Rachel, Alain, and I traveled to Haarlem to spend the afternoon at the home of Flora and



Rachel, Flora, Gloria, and Michael in Amsterdam

Maup and to have dinner together. They related to us their stories of survival during the Nazi occupation.

Eighty-three years have passed since the photo of Freida Baila was mailed in Amsterdam and arrived in New York City. This photo provided the first clue in a long search that lasted twelve years. It brought about the reconnection of our family, leading to another photo taken in Amsterdam, this one of Flora, Rachel, Michael, and me. It will be the first of many such photos. ☆

(Gloria Berkenstat Freund was the executive director of a non-profit organization before deciding to devote full time to memorializing her ancestral towns in Poland and their people. She began studying Yiddish in 1996 and has been translating Yizkor Books for Polish, Ukrainian and Lithuanian shtetlekh for the past few years. Gloria was the Vice President - Programs for JGS and the Program Committee Chair for the 26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.)

Notes from All Over

National

NGS Conference Lectures on CD

Lectures delivered this past May at the National Genealogical Society Conference in the States can now be purchased on CD-ROM. To view a list of the more than one hundred titles available, download the Excel file at <http://www.jamb-inc.com>. Descriptions of the lectures are at http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2007/conf_program.cfm. An individual CD-ROM costs \$12.00; when purchasing ten or more, the cost is \$11.00 each. A shipping fee will be added.

Official Military Personnel Files Opened

The Official Military Personnel Files (OMPFs) of Army, Army Air Corps, Army Air Forces, Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard military personnel who served and were discharged, retired, or died while in the service during the twentieth century but prior to 1946 are being opened by the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC). An OMPF typically includes documents outlining all elements of military service, including assignments, evaluations, awards and decorations, education and training, demographic information, some medical information, documented disciplinary actions, and, sometimes, photographs of the individual and official correspondence. Six million of fifty-seven million files have been opened; the entire collection will be open by 2067.

Obtain copies of records by writing to NPRC, 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132, faxing (314) 801-9195, or submitting a written request through eVetRecs (<http://vetrecs.archives.gov>) or Standard Form 180 (SF-180) (<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>). Original records can be viewed at the NPRC Archival Research Room Tuesdays through Fridays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Central Time. Call (314) 801-0850 to make reservations.

Copy fees are waived for veterans and their surviving spouses and children if the records are needed to validate a benefit or entitlement. The fees for OMPFs are \$15.00 for five pages or less, \$50.00 for six pages or more, and 75¢ per page for Persons of Exceptional Prominence (PEP). The latter are records of famous individuals, such as former presidents, famous military leaders, decorated military heroes, celebrities, entertainers, and professional athletes who left military service and have been deceased for at least ten years.

International

Index of Terezin Prisoners

The computerized index of Terezin prisoners, located at Beit Theresienstadt, the Theresienstadt Martyrs Remembrance Association (<http://www.bterezin.org.il>), contains personal details about Jews deported to the Terezin ghetto from other areas of Czechoslovakia and from Western Europe, including Austria, Germany, Holland, and Denmark, as well as Jews living in the town of Terezin who were deported to the East prior to the establishment of the ghetto on November 24, 1941. The ghetto, a concentration and transit camp, was portrayed by the Nazis as a model settlement for Jews in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia.

The database was created from the original card index in the Czech Republic. Partly typed and partly handwritten, including in Gothic letters, some of the cards were written in Czech and some in German. These variables led Beit Theresienstadt to decide not to optically scan the cards. Instead, the data was rewritten on forms by hand. It was rewritten in English to provide wider access. To verify the data, it was cross-checked with such other sources as the cards of other family members, people's transport numbers to and from the ghetto, and lists of communities. It was then transcribed into a computer, copied onto a disk that was then brought to Beit Terezin, and copied to a hard drive there. Work on the database continues, with complementary and additional information being entered from testimonies, books, historic documents, and lists of victims. Additionally, questionnaires were distributed among members of the Theresienstadt Martyrs Remembrance Association so they could supply additional biographical information.

To request a name search, write to Beit Theresienstadt, Givat Haim Ihud, Emek Hefer 38935, Israel, or phone 04-6369515, fax 04-6369793, or e-mail btterezin@ghi.org.il. Financial donations are welcome and are used to support preservation, research, publications, exhibits, curricula, workshops, and other educational projects. Write a check made payable to Beit Theresienstadt or provide Visa credit visa information. Requests for special research will be evaluated and confirmed.

The July 2007 issue of Beit Theresienstadt's newsletter is posted in English at <http://www.bterezin.org.il/newsletter/english63.pdf>. ☆

The Hottest Online Sources for Researching Your Families in the U.S., Canada, South Africa, and the UK, Part 3

by Ann Rabinowitz

In this, the third part of a four-part series, the most popular websites for researching your Southern African or related genealogy are provided. Due to the movement of South African Jews to other places in recent decades, sites will be included in Part 4 of this series for locating information in Israel, Australia, and other locales. **It is important to note that individuals who are researching their Litvak roots should also research South African sources, as approximately 95-98% of South Africa Jews were Litvaks!!!**

Much of South African research depends on taking tidbits of information and following a trail across many websites, some of which have already been discussed in the first two parts of this article. These other websites will be cited along with the new ones discussed in this part.

National Archives of South Africa

<http://www.national.archsrch.gov.za/sm300cv/smws/sm300dl>

This free website is the major government resource for South African research and contains references to deaths, estates, naturalizations, photographs, commercial and legal items, and other such materials. The main page allows the researcher to choose either the RSA option, which contains all of the archives repositories and national registers for non-public records in South Africa, or any of the individual repositories. Sometimes, choosing an individual repository can bring up unusual and unexpected information. In addition, you may find that a number of the references may be in Afrikaans.

It is possible to combine the information from this site and the Rootweb site, which is discussed below, for a dynamic interactive combination of records.

The researcher can locate material by a surname or even a locale. For instance, looking for the Getz family, you will find approximately 300 documents dealing with various aspects of different Getz families including naturalizations, immigrations, changes of surname, estates, divorces, business dealings, etc. Another fairly common Jewish surname, Kaplan, is found to have 3,654 entries of all sorts. In addition, if you view the town of Salt River, South Africa, you will find approximately 5,913 entries for the town. You can

narrow this down by putting a surname, business name, or other criteria in the search engine.

In death or estate (wills) data, many times, the wife's maiden name is given and the spouse is mentioned as either predeceased or surviving. This may be the only time this information is found online or in any records. An interesting example is that of Rose Gay Bloem, who is listed as "formerly Getz, born Menachamson, born in Johannesburg, Germiston, Divorced, Deceased Estate, 1973". This is quite a bit of vital information to receive in one record.

The available divorce records also provide the maiden name or prior married name of the wife. One such instance spawned a voluminous set of references that I found for Phoebe, a friend's mother. She was listed under her maiden name, her first married name where her husband died, and her second married name in her divorce reference. Not only that, the husband Phoebe divorced was listed in the records along with his first wife, who died, his second wife, Phoebe, whom he divorced, and his third wife, whom he divorced as well. There was even a death record for him. What a goldmine for a family researcher! Given this data, the researcher can go to the Rootweb site mentioned above and described in the next section and locate cemetery records for the individuals. It is easy to connect the families then, as the plot numbers are usually adjacent or close to each other.

Immigration papers are another type of record to be found. These can be most helpful, as the references alone can provide needed information, such as the one for "Miss R. Kaplan who was now Mrs. Hirschowitz" from 1938. The actual file for this would likely contain many pieces of important information on this person and her family. If you were to look further in the Archives, you could search for "Kaplan and Hirschowitz" and would turn up the 1961 death record for Babs Rebecca Hirschowitz, born Kaplan, surviving spouse Louis Hirschowitz. Following the trail of Babs Rebecca Hirschowitz, you would then look in the RootWeb Site and find that she did indeed die in 1961, her nickname was Babsie, and she was buried in Bethal, South Africa. You now would have quite a bit of information on this person.

continued on page 18

The Hottest Online Sources continued from page 17

Sometimes, one finds unexpected information in the records from the Archives. I found, for instance, a divorce recorded for a relative who I did not know had a first and second wife. I only knew of the woman who turned out to be his second wife. I do not believe his second wife ever knew that there had been a first one. What was postulated by the family later was that the first wife had been married in order to get out of Lithuania and that they divorced within a short period afterwards. Both people went on and married others and had their own separate lives after that. The only memory of the event had been the divorce record sitting silently on a shelf in the Archives since 1949.

The information to be gleaned from the Archives can provide an amazing amount of historical data too, as I learned from a search for my family name Choritz. The search produced a reference to a 1911 South African Supreme Court case that pitted Mordechai Choritz against Simon Hersman and Samuel Segal and involved my great-uncle, the great-uncle of Dr. Saul Issroff, and another man, all over the sale of nineteen bags of potatoes. Given the reference at the Cape Town Archives, I was able to get the over-250-page handwritten transcript of the trial, which had been produced by a British justice. The transcript, which included testimony of Afrikaans farmers from the area of Caledon, South Africa, said much about the Afrikaans and British view of the Jewish immigrants who settled in the small towns in South Africa and provided the foundation of much of its commerce. This find actually resulted in a unique bit of South African Jewish history.

In addition to the above types of data, one can find business deals, both successful and those not so, the purchase of property, repairs and renovations of properties, planning and zoning cases, and other such commercial items of interest. Odd bits of information can be obtained as well relating to newspaper articles, photographs, and other such memorabilia. Unfortunately, the actual items are not digitized and available online. An example is two references to the well-known South African Jewish sculptor Lippy Lipschitz. Both references are to letters and other such personal matters which can be obtained from the Archives.

You can either write to or go to the Archives or hire a researcher to obtain a copy of the material in the files. Many times, if the material is too fragile, it will be put on microfilm. All materials from the Archives

will involve a cost to the researcher. Presently (as of September 14, 2007), there are no cameras or recording or imaging devices allowed in the Cape Town Depot of the Archives. This puts a damper on certain kinds of personal research and means that researchers will be forced to pay for all copies of records. It is not known when this restriction will be lifted.

Rootweb aka SA Jewish Rootsbank

http://chrysalis.its.uct.ac.za/CGI/CGI_ROOTWEB.EXE

Sponsored by the Centre for Jewish Migration & Genealogy Studies at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, this free database will eventually cover the 15,000 Jewish families who settled in South Africa during the period 1850–1950. This site is a wonderful source for research, as it contains records for births, cemeteries, communities, congregations, deaths and estates, marriages, military records, naturalizations, passenger arrivals, SA general, shipping manifests, and SA-Israel. Primary are the 1924–1929 immigration arrivals and the cemetery records. New records are added as they are located and inputted.

You can do a general search of all of the available databases by surname and first name, and there is also a facility where you can “tick here to find similar sounding names,” this database’s version of the Daitch-Mokotoff Index. Your search will result in numerous pieces of information. For instance, by searching for the not very common Jewish surname of Baker, you can come up with approximately eighty-three listings. The listings cover immigration, burials, naturalizations, Jewish Colonial Trust, and Jews serving in World War I.

Trying Kaplan here, you can find approximately 1,103 entries (remember, when I searched the National Archives of South Africa for Kaplan, there were 3,654 entries). Searching for one of the most common Jewish surnames, Rabinowitz, you will find approximately 383 entries. Of course, not all records for all families are to be found in the database yet. For instance, not all cemeteries are covered or all years.

The 1924–1929 arrivals are taken from a series of three logs kept by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. They are extraordinarily helpful in tracing families who were unable to reach the United States due to immigration restrictions and those who were searching for new opportunities following the

deprivations of World War I. They very often have the name of the actual town the family came from. Sometimes, the town that is listed is the place in which the family was last living or the port where they were before shipping out to South Africa. An instance of this is for one of my families who was listed as coming from Libau, Latvia, which was actually the port of departure and not their place of residence. So, you have to be quite circumspect about the results of the search with this database (as with most databases).

An interesting aspect of the database is that it includes the name and address of the person the immigrant was going to. Very often, you find the name of an "Uncle Hymie," the person who brought everyone over from either his family or his shtetl. Unfortunately, you cannot presently search by country or shtetl in this database. If you were able to, you might find someone like Mr. Sternfeld from Kupiskis, Lithuania, who brought over his nephew, his brother-in-law, and his brother, or Louis Perlson from Panevezys, Lithuania, who brought over his father, his brother, and his cousin, or D. Centner from Warsaw, Poland, who brought over his nephews, niece, and his brother, or I. Solomon from Ekaterinoslav, Ukraine, who brought over his nephew and nieces, or A. Anziska who, as an employer, brought over an entire family from Ukmerge, Lithuania, to work for him.

The database includes the name of the ship the person traveled to South Africa on; you can cross-reference that with the information contained on the passenger manifests and the data in the Poor Jews' Temporary Shelter Database. This will often enable you to determine the exact route your ancestor took to South Africa.

Eventually, the digitized departure manifests for ships traveling from Great Britain to South Africa will be included on this site. This will be a wonderful addition to the data available to South Africa Jewish researchers. At present, all but part of 1922 and up to the 1930s has been digitized, according to project director Dr. Saul Issroff. All digitizing activity for this project is waiting to be completed until the British Archives are open once again. The Archives are presently closed to facilitate the digitizing being done by findmypast.com.

Southern African Jewish Genealogy SA-SIG

<http://www.jewishgen.org/safrica/>

This is a major portal on JewishGen with which to discover your Southern African roots in Angola, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Kenya, Madeira, Mauritius,

Mozambique, Namibia, South East Africa, Swaziland, Zaire, Zambia, and Zimbabwe. It is divided into Articles and Commentaries, Lists and Directories, Links to JewishGen, *SA-SIG Newsletter*, and Board.

Another important facet of this free site is the many databases containing information such as immigration, naturalizations, and vital records. There are also stories and other pieces which provide historical information vital to a researcher's ability to understand the South African Jewish community and their ancestor's life. One fascinating aspect of the site is the discussion and the photographs from the Habonim movement, a youth organization, as well as other such youth groups.

The SA-SIG Newsletter is a wonderful resource with its many first-hand stories and histories of families and places in Southern Africa. The newsletter was formerly only available to members of the SIG, but it now can be accessed online on this site from the first issue in January 1999 to the latest in June 2007. The present issue covers such diverse topics as a discussion of photographs from the Cape Jewish Orphanage, an extract from a memoir by the late Bernard Woolf regarding his participation in the escape from Gil Gil, Kenya, a story about Muisenberg, a memoir about a samovar of the Katzman family from Mogilev, Belarus, a story about a pharmacist in Hillbrow, and, lastly, a piece on Mrs. Sarah Glueck, the colorful postmistress of Lady Grey. It is well worth your time to read through these newsletters.

In addition, through the SA-SIG web site and JewishGen, you can access the South Africa InfoFiles, the work of Dr. Saul Issroff and otherwise known as "Jewish Genealogy in South Africa" (Parts A and B), housed at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/#SouthAfrica>.

Also on JewishGen is "JewishGen Databases – South Africa," located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/SAfrica/sayb.htm>. This contains biographical references to the "Who's Who" listings in *The South African Jewish Year Book: Directory of Jewish Organizations and Who's Who in South African Jewry 1929* and *The Jew in South Africa: A record of What Individual Jews Are Doing in Various Spheres of the Country's Life*, 1945. As these are not readily available to most researchers, this online database is invaluable for tracing family information; such details as birth dates, birth places, parents' names, and spouse's names are provided. An example of the type of information contained in the Who's Who listings is the following: Hillman, Wolf, Merchant. Born in Zabelen. Resided in Talsein, former Kourland, now known as

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The Hottest Online Sources continued from page 19

Latvia. Came to South Africa in 1891. President of the South African Jewish Orphanage, Johannesburg. Postal Address: P.O. Box 2954, Johannesburg.

The resources on the SA-SIG site are updated regularly, so you will be assured that the latest information is always at hand.

NOTE: The next issue of *Dorot* will contain the fourth and final installment of this article. ☆

(Ann Rabinowitz, a native of Manchester, England, now lives in South Florida and has been active in genealogy for many years. She is involved in and writes about British, Lithuanian, and South African research.)

Metro Area Repository Round-up continued from page 13

[//www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html](http://www.archives.gov/research/order/orderonline.html)>. Most major credit cards are accepted. Requests can also be made by mail or fax by submitting the forms at <http://www.archives.gov/research/court-records/bankruptcy.html>> (the web page includes order forms for all of the above record types, not just bankruptcy records) to the appropriate NARA facility, along with payment. Additional information about court copies can be obtained at <http://www.archives.gov/frc/court-records.html>> or by e-mailing frc@nara.gov or calling (301) 837-3176.

NYPL: Sunday and Monday Hours at Humanities Library

At the New York Public Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Library, these divisions are now open on Sundays from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.: Microforms Reading Room, General Research Division (Public

Catalog Room and Main Reading Room), and Periodical Room. On Mondays from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., the divisions now open are the United States History, Local History and Genealogy Division, Microforms Reading Room, Periodical Room, Art & Architecture Collection, and General Research Division (Public Catalog Room, Main Reading Room).

Brooklyn Public Library: Ancestry.com Onsite

A terminal in the Brooklyn Collection on the second floor of Brooklyn Public Library's Central Library provides access to Ancestry.com on a first-come, first-served basis for a period of thirty minutes or longer, depending on demand. Time can be reserved by calling (718) 230-2762 during the Brooklyn Collection's open hours (Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m., Fridays, 10 a.m.-1:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.). ☆

Back Issues of Dorot

Several volumes of *Dorot: The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society* have been added to JGS's back-order issue list. *Dorot* contains valuable information for Jewish genealogists, such as feature and shorter articles and regular columns.

Individual back issue from volumes 24-27 (fall/winter 2002/2003-summer 2006) cost \$5 per copy. Individual back issues from volumes 6-23 (September 1984-spring/summer 2002) cost \$3 per copy. A package that includes volumes 6-23 is available for \$100. The cost of shipping is already included in all prices. Back issues of volumes 1-5 (summer 1979-April 1984) are no longer in print. Some of the highlights of back issues of *Dorot* are listed at <http://www.jgsny.org/dorot.htm>>.

Upcoming and Current Events

Jewish Genealogical Society

December 25, 2007, 11:30 a.m.

Brunch and program: **Celebrate JGS 30th Anniversary**. Join fellow members and guests of the Jewish Genealogical Society as we celebrate our 30th anniversary. We will have a delicious brunch at 11:30 a.m., followed at 12:45 p.m. by the JGS Annual Meeting and program. Our guest speaker, Mike Karsen, will present **Write Your Family History NOW**, a topic of particular interest to both beginning and advanced genealogists. Mike Karsen is a professional speaker and instructor and a faculty member of Newberry Library and Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies. He has an active speaking schedule and has presented at state, national, and international conferences. Be sure to save the date and attend this special JGS program.

Please note that this event will be held on a Tuesday. Admission: members \$18; non-members and guests \$25. Location: 92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Avenue, Manhattan.

January 20, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly program: **State of the Art: Researching and Restitution**. Karen S. Franklin will demonstrate how Jewish genealogical research has been utilized to help her solve looted art cases in New York, the Netherlands, Israel, and Ukraine. Ms. Franklin has researched cases for the Origins Unknown Agency and the Commission for Looted Art in Europe. She is a co-author of the Council of American Jewish Museums' Resolution on Nazi-Era Looted Art, adopted in January 2007, and will describe how this resolution affects claimants and the Jewish community. She will also discuss how individuals who may wish to research or claim art may do so.

Admission: JGSNY members free; non-members \$5. Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th avenues), Manhattan.

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History will be open from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. for networking with other researchers and access to research materials and computer resources.

February 17, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly program: **Arthur Szyk: An Artist's Self-Portrait in Documents**. Rhoda Miller will present a case study of the life of political cartoonist, illuminist,

and illustrator Arthur Szyk (1894-1951) through the use of genealogy documents. Szyk is noted for his extraordinarily detailed art involving Jewish themes, anti-Nazi cartoons, advertising, and illustrations in which he typically includes self-portraiture as well as characterizations of his family. While Szyk was a ubiquitous artist during the World War II era, this is the first time his life has been examined in the context of his involvement with bureaucratic systems during his most prolific periods. The detail of his self-portrait through documents is revealed through genealogical research strategies that intertwine rabbinic research, Polish records, the Holocaust, American immigration, and naturalization as well as FBI investigation. His Jewish, anti-Nazi, and Zionist themes are explored as an expression of his personal and artistic life.

Admission: JGSNY members free; non-members \$5. Location: Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th avenues), Manhattan.

The Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute at the Center for Jewish History will be open from 12:30 p.m. to 1:45 p.m. for networking with other researchers and access to research materials and computer resources.

March 16, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

The topic will be announced on the JGS website (<<http://www.jgsny.org>>).

April 13, 2008, 2:00 p.m.

The topic and location will be announced on the JGS website (<<http://www.jgsny.org>>).

New York

Through December 31, 2007

American Sephardi Federation: **The Historic Synagogues of Turkey: by Joel A. Zack**. This exhibition of photographs offers a glimpse into an intriguing world: the synagogues of the largest Jewish community in any Muslim country. Synagogues, large and small, monumental and humble, once dotted nearly every city and town in the vast and powerful Ottoman and its successor, the Republic of Turkey. Of these synagogues, scores have been abandoned and collapsed, often with little record of their existence. Others stand proud and well-maintained. Photographs by Devon Jarvis, drawings by Ceren Kahraman. Hours: Sunday, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Monday-Thursday, 9:30 a.m.-5:00

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Upcoming and Current Events

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p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Admission: free. Location: Leon Levy Gallery & Constantiner Gallery, Center for Jewish History, 15 West 16th Street (between 5th and 6th avenues), Manhattan.

February 19, 2008, 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

New York Public Library: **Uncovering Your Roots: An Introduction to Genealogy Research**, presented by Ruth Carr, Chief, The Irma and Paul Milstein Division of United States History, Local History and Genealogy. This class introduces some of the key resources in one of the country's largest free public collections of genealogical tools, including passenger lists and census records. Seats are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The classroom will be opened ten minutes prior to the beginning of the class. For more information, e-mail <SouthCourt@nypl.org> or call (212) 930-9284. Admission: Free. Location: Celeste Bartos Education Center, South Court, 1st floor, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street (enter from Astor Hall).

National

May 14-17, 2008

National Genealogical Society: NGS's annual **Conference in the States and Family History Fair** will be held in Kansas City, Missouri. Topics announced to date include adoption, African American, Board for Certification of Genealogists skill building track, computers, DNA, genealogical essentials, German, homesteading, land, methodology, Midwest, migration, military, National Archives, Native American, research in the states, and writing. Download a registration brochure from <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>>; order a printed brochure through <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/reqregbrochures.cfm>>; and read conference and hotel information (and register online beginning January 1, 2008) at <<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2008>>.

August 17-22, 2008

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies: The **28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy** will be held in Chicago, Illinois, at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile. It is being co-sponsored by IAJGS, JGS of Illinois, and Illiana JGS. Look for further information on the IAJGS website at <<http://www.iajgs.org>>. ☆

Online News

Jewish Genealogy Podcast

Jewish genealogy is the subject of an interview with Schelly Talalay Dardashti in an episode of DearMYRTLE's Family History Hour Podcast. A descriptive announcement of the podcast is on the dearMYRTLE website at <<http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2007/09/dearmyrtles-family-history-hour-4-sept.html>>. Listen to the podcast online or download the file to an MP3 player by using the download feature at the bottom of <<http://podcasts.dearmyrtle.com/2007/09/13/dearmyrtles-family-history-hour-4-sept-2007.aspx>>.

Topics covered include research projects that genealogically reconstruct villages destroyed in the Holocaust, hidden children, art looted by the Nazis, the International Institute of Jewish Genealogy, DNA, Sephardic and Ashkenazic genealogy, JewishGen, the start of Jewish genealogy in the U.S., and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies' International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

Ms. Dardashti writes the sole blog focused on Jewish genealogy, "Tracing the Tribe" (<<http://www.tracing>

<<http://www.tracing>>). She authored the *Jerusalem Post*'s Jewish genealogy column "It's All Relative" for several years and has written for genealogy newsletters and journals and U.S. newspapers. She also teaches Jewish genealogy classes online.

SephardicGen's New Databases

SephardicGen (<<http://www.SephardicGen.com>>), a website for Sephardic genealogy, has added these databases to its collection:

- Gazetteer of Localities with Jewish Communities in the Sephardic Diaspora
- Consolidated Master Index of Sephardic Surnames from the Sephardic Databases on the website
- Index of Arditti [Benyamin, ed.]: Prominent Jews of Bulgaria in the 19th & 20th Centuries
- Galante, A. [History of the Jews of Turkey]. Istanbul, 1941. 9v. Annotated index of the first four volumes [including Istanbul, Izmir, and Anatolia Peninsula]
- Faro Cemetery in Portugal. Index of Burials (1838-1932)

A list of all of SephardicGen's databases with links to them is at <<http://www.SephardicGen.com/databases/databases.html>>.

NYPL Collections Scanned by Google Now Accessible via CATNYP

The full text of some of the books in the general collections of the New York Public Library's Humanities and Social Sciences Library and its Science, Industry and Business Library can be viewed online at no cost in Google Book Search. Periodicals and journals are already accessible in Google Book Search. In winter 2008, it will be possible to link to them via CATNYP. Google is digitizing items that are in the public domain (i.e., published before 1923) and are in good enough physical condition to be scanned. No plans have been made to scan material from NYPL's special collections.

Access to the digital copies is available through CATNYP, NYPL's online catalog (<<http://catnyp.nypl.org>>). After a title link is clicked, the words "full text available via Google" will be displayed if a digital copy is available. Next, click the link to Google Book Search. The full text is searchable in Google Book Search but not in CATNYP. A PDF file of a complete volume can be downloaded from Google Book Search.

To learn how to find NYPL's Google Books in CATNYP, go to <http://catnyp.nypl.org/screens/help_googlebooks_faq.html>. To see a searchable

list of all of NYPL's Google Books in CATNYP, see <<http://catnyp.nypl.org/search/XGoogle+Books+Library+Project>>. For more information about what will be viewable in the future, see <http://catnyp.nypl.org/screens/help_googlebooks_about.html>.

NARA's Find & Request Feature

"Find & Request" is a new feature on the National Archive website (<<https://eservices.archives.gov/orderonline/start.swe?SWECmd=GotoView&SWEScreen=GPEA+Micr>>) for beginning the process of obtaining information from NARA. The feature provides a list of available products, many of which can be ordered online, a list of online resources, the ability to send a reference request to the appropriate archival reference staff in NARA's nationwide system, and a means for NARA to communicate with researchers about their requests. Free registration is required to use Find & Request.

After a topic, sub-topic, and subject category are selected, related available products or online resources will be listed or an online form will be displayed for submitting a question to the staff. Among the topics are Domestic Programs, Legislative Records, Military and Military Engagements, Military Service Records, People and Groups (such as census, immigration, and civilian Federal employees), U.S. Courts (U.S. Supreme Court, Federal Appeals Courts, Federal District Courts, and other Federal courts, including bankruptcy files and naturalizations), Electronic Records, and Maps, Charts, and Plans. ☆

New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications

Of Jewish Interest

Lawrence J. Epstein. *At The Edge of a Dream: The Story of Jewish Immigrants on New York's Lower East Side, 1880-1920*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2007. 320 pages. Includes bibliographical references and index. \$40.00. Hardcover. Map, photographs. Order online at <<http://www.josseybass.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0787986224.html>>, or call (415) 433-1740, fax (415) 433-0499, or write to 989 Market Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-1741.

From the publisher:

"This beautiful book tells the nostalgic tale of how millions of Jewish immigrants entered America through the portal of the Lower East Side. There in New York City they struggled and ultimately flourished in a neighborhood that was the center of Jewish work,

family, and culture. For more than fifty years, the Lower East Side spawned newly-minted Americans, including entertainment icons like George Burns and Ira Gershwin, gangsters like Meyer Lansky, and an extraordinary array of people who would go on to transform American society."

Lorie Conway. *Forgotten Ellis Island: The Extraordinary Story of America's Immigrant Hospital*. New York: HarperCollins, 2007. \$26.95. 208 pages. Hardcover. Photographs. Order online at <http://www.harpercollins.com/books/9780061241963/Forgotten_Ellis_Island/index.aspx>, or call (212) 207-7000 or write to 10 East 53rd Street, New York, NY 10022.

From the publisher: "A century ago, in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, one of the world's greatest public

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hospitals was built. Massive and modern, the hospital's twenty-two state-of-the-art buildings were crammed onto two small islands. The Ellis Island hospital was at once welcoming and foreboding—a fateful crossroad for hundreds of thousands of hopeful immigrants. Those nursed to health were allowed entry to America. Those deemed feeble of body or mind were deported. Three short decades after it opened, the Ellis Island hospital was all but abandoned. As America after World War I began shutting its border to all but a favored few, the hospital fell into disuse and decay. With many never-before-published photographs and compelling, sometimes heartbreaking stories of patients (a few of whom are still alive today) and medical staff, *Forgotten Ellis Island* is the first book about this extraordinary institution.”

The author's website at <http://www.forgottenellisland.com/FEI.swf> includes the sections “Timeline,” “Virtual Tour,” “Patient Stories,” “Faces of the Feeble-minded,” “The Making of *Forgotten Ellis Island*” (the film to which the book is a companion), and “Related Links to Ellis Island.”

Aubrey N. Newman, Nicholas J. Evans, J. Graham Smith, and Saul W. Issroff, eds. *Jewish Migration to South Africa: The Records of the Poor Jews Temporary Shelter, 1885-1914*. Cape Town, South Africa: Kaplan Centre for Jewish Studies and Research, University of Cape Town, 2007. 504 pages. Price: 200 ZAR including postage (approximately \$28 US, 14GBP). Soft cover. Illustrated; photos, sketches, tables, maps. To order, e-mail Janine@humanties.uct.ac.za with full credit card details (American Express not accepted), fax 021 650 5151, or write to Janine Blumberg, Kaplan Centre, University of Cape Town, Private Bag, Rondebosch 7701 South Africa. ISBN: 0-7992-2315-8.

From the University of Leicester: “A new study has been published of *Jewish Migration to South Africa*. It represents an unusual application of undergraduate studies and academic research. For some years students in the Department of History included Computing Studies within their degrees. One of their options was an analysis of the records of a stream of migrants leaving eastern Europe between 1896 and 1914. As a result there was created in the University a unique archive containing details of nearly 40,000 individuals passing through the doors of the Poor Jews Temporary Shelter in London. The Registers listed their names, ages, occupations, places of birth, and their destinations. Many of them travelled to South Africa

and this in turn has enabled historians to understand many of the factors unique to that stream of migration.”

14 Years of “The Galitzianer”

Gesher Galicia is pleased to announce the creation of a fully searchable CD containing past issues from our quarterly journal, *The Galitzianer*. *14 Years of “The Galitzianer”* contains complete PDF files for all issues of *The Galitzianer* published between February 2001 and August 2007 and PDF files for all of the material available in electronic form from most of the remaining issues since fall 1993 (the first issue published). The CD is Mac and PC compatible. For more details about the CD, go to <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/html/FourteenYears.html>.

The CD can be ordered online or by mail. The prices for current (dues paid) Gesher Galicia members are \$22 for the U.S. and Canada, including \$2 for shipping, and \$24 for other countries, including \$4 for shipping. For non-members, the prices are \$42 and \$44. Remember that subscribing to the Gesher Galicia discussion group does not mean that you are a member of the Gesher Galicia SIG. If you are interested in joining, the membership link is http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/join_gg.html. Our home page is <http://www.geshergalicia.org>. Order through PayPal at <http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/paypal.html> or send check or money order to Leon Gold, c/o Gesher Galicia, Inc., P.O. Box 1674, Goleta, CA 93116-1674 USA. Funds from the sale of this CD will go towards continuing Gesher Galicia research projects and our Gesher Galicia research grant program.

Thanks to Ed Goldstein, Mark Heckman, Shelley Pollero and Logan Kleinwaks for their hard work, advice, and input in creating a CD that will be of great benefit to many Galician researchers.

Pamela Weisberger
Research Coordinator, Gesher Galicia
pweisberger@hotmail.com

Of General Interest

Elizabeth Shown Mills. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2007. 885 pages. Includes appendices and indices. \$49.95 plus \$4.00 shipping. Hardcover. To order, phone (800) 296-

6687 or (410) 837-8271, e-mail <sales@genealogical.com>, or use the form at <<http://www.genealogical.com/images/pdf/orderform.pdf>> to order online, by fax, or by mail (fax (800) 599-9561 or (410) 752-8492 or write to Genealogical Publishing Company, 3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 260, Baltimore, Maryland 21211).

From the publisher: “*Evidence Explained* begins with a simple question: Why do we invest so much of our energy into the citation of sources? Followed immediately by the intriguing answer: Because all sources are not created equal. As a citation guide, *Evidence Explained* is built on this simple question and answer. According to the author, there are no historical resources we can trust at face value. Records simply offer evidence, and their assertions may or may not be true. To decide what actually happened, we must understand those records. To analyze that evidence and judge what to believe, we also need particular facts about those records. Thus, *Evidence Explained* has two principal uses: it provides citation models for most historical sources—especially original materials not

covered by classic citation guides such as *The Chicago Manual of Style*. Beyond that it can help us understand each type of record and identify each in such detail that we and our readers will know not only where to go to find our source, but, equally important, the nature of that source so that the evidence can be better interpreted and the accuracy of our conclusions properly appraised.

“Highlights: Covers all contemporary and electronic sources not discussed in traditional style manuals, including digital, audio, and video sources. Explains citation principals and includes more than 1,000 citation models for virtually every source type. Shows readers where to go to find their sources and how to describe them and evaluate them. Teaches readers to separate facts from assertions and theory from proof in the evaluation of evidence. Most importantly *Evidence Explained* discusses source citations for every known class of records, including microfilm and microfiche, and records created by the new digital media: websites, digital books and journals, DVDs, CDs, audio files, podcasts, and e-zines.” ☆

JGS Welcomes New Members

JGS of Long Island	Dix Hills NY	Frederick McCarty	Galt CA
Naomi Acheson	New York NY	Aida Melamed	Fort Lee NJ
Raanan & Nicole Agus	New York NY	Rosemary Minsky	Nuevo CA
Arye Barkai	North Miami FL	Connie Newhan	Corona CA
Beverly Beiman	New York NY	Michael Notis	Allentown PA
Louis Blumengarten	Brooklyn NY	Bernard Partegas	Dallas TX
Eileen Brenner	Hazleton PA	Lome Piasetsky	New York NY
Beryl Edgecombe	New York NY	Shelly Pomeranz	Kenmore WA
Nechemyah Fried	Lakewood NJ	Jane Remer	Tucson AZ
Mel Garfinkel	Brooklyn NY	Ruth Rosenberg &	
Alexandra Goldberg	Oak Park MI	Miriam Kahn	New York NY
Sandi Goldsmith	Alpharetta GA	Herbert Ruffine	New York NY
Jo Ann Goldwater	Montreal West QC	Marilyn Saposh	Fort Lee NJ
		Elias Savada	Bethesda MD
Jeffrey Gorney	Syracuse NY	Douglas Schancer	Derry NH
Sarah Greenberg	Bridgeport CT	Judith A. Shappee	Gilbert AZ
David Haas	Suffern NY	Jane Scheiber	New York NY
Judith Haddad	New York NY	Maurice Schenk	Anaheim CA
Martin Kaminer	New York NY	Michele Seligmann	Port Chester NY
Debra Kaufman	Venice CA	Annette Silberman	Encino CA
Thomas Kennedy	College Point NY	Marilyn Silva	Glendale CA
Enid Klass	New York NY	Anthony Solis	Los Angeles CA
Joan Koster-Morales	Windham NY	Monica Talmor	Hamden CT
Sandra Krisch	Carefree AZ	Keren Weiner	Monterey MA
Tina Levine	Forest Hills NY	Martin Zafman	Hallendale Bch. FL
Richard & Gail Maidman	New York NY		

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(917) 606-8220
www.cjh.org/facilities/shop.html

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Open prior to all evening events.

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(at 92nd Street)
(212) 423-3200
www.TheJewishMuseum.org

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Fri, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (DST)

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

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