
The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

DOROT דורות

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“Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning”

by **Gloria Berkenstat Freund, Seminar Co-coordinator**

On Sunday, April 22nd, the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. will present an all-day seminar, “Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning,” the second program funded by the Lucille Gudis Memorial Fund. Lucille was a most valuable part of our JGS and the worldwide Jewish genealogical community; the Lucille Gudis Memorial Fund was created to perpetuate her interests and her generous spirit in helping her brother and sister genealogists.

The seminar will take place from 9:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Hebrew Union College, located at 1 West 4th Street and Broadway in Greenwich Village, Manhattan, with registration starting at 9:15 a.m. and the first lecture starting at 9:45 a.m. Further details about the lecture topics, along with a complete time schedule of the speakers, will be announced shortly.

The early registration fee for the seminar (including a kosher buffet lunch) is \$25 for JGS members registering by March 31; late registration is \$30. Early registration

is \$35 for non-members registering by March 31; late registration is \$40.

Five speakers will cover a wide range of Holocaust-related themes. They are:

- **NOLAN ALTMAN**, Coordinator, JewishGen Holocaust Database. He has presented his “How to Document and Research Your Family History” seminar to a university Holocaust history class and numerous adult education classes. He is Technical Coordinator for JewishGen’s JOWBR (cemetery burial indexing) project as well as Project Coordinator for the presentation of the English translation of the Deblin Yizkor book in an online format. Mr. Altman has had articles published in the following magazines and journals: *Stammbaum*, *FEEFHS Journal*, *Shemot*, *Avotaynu*, *Dorot*, and *The Jewish Magazine*.
- **ZVI BERNHARDT**, Assistant Director, Hall of Names and Deputy Director, Reference and Information, Yad Vashem. A member of the development team for the user interface for The Central Database of Holocaust Victims’ Names, he has been instrumental in the provision of Yad Vashem’s interdepartmental and interdisciplinary services to the public. He is also credited with administering the digitization of names of Shoah victims from Yizkor books, resulting in the addition of 250,000 names to the Central Database. As Yad Vashem’s liaison to genealogical organizations, Dr. Bernhardt has addressed numerous genealogy workshops and seminars and has worked closely with JewishGen, the 24th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy

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DOROT

The Journal of the
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Editor.....Joy Rich
Design and Production.....Joy Rich

.....Contributors.....

Linda Cantor Phyllis Kramer
Gloria Berkenstat Freund Peter Landé
Robert Friedman Michael Pertain

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JGS, Inc.

15 West 16th Street, New York, NY 10011
Telephone: (212) 294-8326
E-mail: <info@jgsny.org>
Website: <<http://www.jgsny.org>>

JGS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Linda Cantor, President
<linda@jgsny.org>

Steven W. Siegel, Vice President, Programs
<ssiegel@jgsny.org>

Michael L. Levine, Vice President, Membership
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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, 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. Among 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, and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Membership benefits include:

- free admission to our monthly meetings, featuring guest lecturers from a variety of disciplines (September through June) and 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 a day-long annual seminar;
- 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 Membership \$36
- Family Membership (two members) \$45
- Sustaining Membership \$60
- Supporting Membership \$100
- Patron Membership \$250
- Out-of-town Membership (for those who live more than 100 miles from New York City) \$25
- Out-of-Town Membership (receive local mailings, primarily meeting notices) \$36
- Non-U.S. Membership (air mail) US\$36

Sustaining and Supporting Members and Patrons receive two membership cards. 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 use the one on the JGS website at <http://www.jgsny.org/members.htm>. The subscription to *Dorot* is valued at \$6 per year. The balance of the membership dues is tax-deductible.

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

“Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning”

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in 2004, and groups in Israel, such as the Tapuz Family Roots forum.

- **JAN T. GROSS**, Norman B. Tomlinson Professor of War and Society at Princeton University. He was born in Warsaw and is now an American citizen. He has held academic appointments at the University of Haifa, New York University, University of Vienna, University of Paris, and Yale and Harvard universities, among many others. He is the recipient of many honors and awards, including a Senior Fulbright Research Fellowship, a fellowship from IREX (International Research & Exchanges Board), a Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship, the Distinguished Humanist Award from Ohio State University, and the Order of Merit, Knight's Cross from the Polish Republic in 1996. Dr. Gross was nominated for the National Book Critics Circle Award for non-fiction in 2002 and a National Book Award in 2001 from the National Book Foundation. Among his dozens of publications is his widely-discussed book, *Neighbors: Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*, Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2001, and his most recent book, *Fear: Anti-Semitism in Poland After Auschwitz. An Essay in Historical Interpretation*, Random House: New York, 2006.
- **PETER LANDÉ**, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum volunteer extraordinaire. He was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1937. He was a State Department Foreign Service Officer from 1956 to 1988. Over the past fifteen years, he has collected and processed numerous lists of Holocaust victims and survivors for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and JewishGen databases. These combined databases now total more than four million names. In 2001, Mr. Landé received the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies' Lifetime Achievement Award for his work on Holocaust records.
- **ROBERT MOSES SHAPIRO**, Assistant Professor of East European Jewish Studies, Holocaust Studies and Yiddish in the

Department of Judaic Studies at Brooklyn College of the City University of New York. He has been a Fellow of the Max Weinreich Center of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research and both a Fulbright Fellow and a Yad Ha-Nadiv Fellow at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He has edited two volumes: *Holocaust Chronicles: Individualizing the Holocaust through Diaries and Other Contemporaneous Personal Accounts*, Hoboken, NJ: Yeshiva University Press in Association with KTAV, 1999; and *Why Didn't the Press Shout? American and International Journalism during the Holocaust*, Hoboken, NJ: Yeshiva University Press in Association with KTAV, 2003. In 2006, Indiana University Press in association with the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum published his translation from Yiddish, Polish, German, and Hebrew of Isaiah Trunk's classic *Lodz Ghetto: A History*. Dr. Shapiro is currently completing the editing of his translation from Polish of the new catalog of the Ringelblum Archive of the Warsaw Ghetto at the Jewish Historical Institute in Poland. Other projects under way include translations of diaries from the Lodz ghetto.

The seminar “Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning” takes the place of our regularly scheduled April meeting. The last two seminar lectures will be open to all JGS members and will not require payment of a registration fee to attend those two lectures. The fee for non-members will be \$10.

For up-to-date information, visit the JGS, Inc. website at <<http://www.jgsny.org>>. ☆



President's Letter

by Linda Cantor

It's a pleasure to write to you for the first time as the president of the Jewish Genealogical Society. I want to take this opportunity to welcome back old members, say hello to new members for 2007, and wish everyone a Happy New Year.

I'm pleased to welcome our new Executive Council members, Jane Berenbeim, Edith Ewenstein, Avrum Geller, and Eden Joachim. All of them are active members of JGS, played major roles in last year's IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, and will be assets in their leadership positions.

I thank our retiring Executive Council members, Alex Friedlander, Estelle Guzik, Claus Hirsch, and Wendy Almeleh. Alex and Estelle both served JGS as president. Estelle edited two editions of our book *Genealogical Resources in New York* and led many of JGS's indexing projects, including the Brooklyn naturalization project. Alex edited *Dorot* for eleven years and was a member of the Executive Council for twenty-two years. Claus, who was on the Executive Council for thirteen years, was our treasurer and coordinated several workshops. Wendy worked as a JGS volunteer at the Center for Jewish History on several of our indexing projects. She served on the Executive Council for four years.

Our 2nd Annual Membership Brunch, held at the 92nd Street Y in December, was a resounding success. About 120 people were there enjoying a bagels-and-lox brunch before our meeting. Michael Pertain shared the story of how he "discovered" his cousin Morris Jaffe, the circumstances of Morris's unfortunate demise, and the research that unearthed the details. In addition to learning about the sad story of a young life cut short, we learned about resources useful in uncovering such information.

We have exciting plans for the upcoming year, including the all-day seminar "Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning," the 2nd Annual Lucille Gudis Memorial Fund Lecture Series. It will take place on April 22nd at Hebrew Union College.

Co-coordinators Hadassah Lipsius and Gloria Freund are lining up exciting speakers. Be sure to read the article on page one about this event and save the date.

On March 18th, Seymour J. Perlin, Ed.D., and Rita Perlin, Ph.D., will present "Remembrance of Synagogues Past: The Lost Civilization of the Jewish South Bronx." Later this year, on May 20th, Pamela Weisberger, Vice President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, will speak about "When Leopold Met Lena: Marriage, Divorce, and Deception in 1892 New York." And on June 10th, Risa Neuwirth, a professional family interviewer, will teach us about "Video Memoirs: Preserving Your Family History."

A genealogical society is only as good as its members. We need all of you to get involved in the society's activities. Come to meetings, volunteer for our various projects, and think of ideas for new projects. Are you willing to help us with the April 22nd seminar? Do you have an interesting article to submit to *Dorot*? Would you like to get involved in a research project, such as indexing the HIAS case files or the Hebrew Orphan Asylum records, both at the Center for Jewish History? Can you read old German script? Then we can use your help with indexing Nazi ID cards from Germany. Are you a survivor from Gombin (aka Gabin), Poland? In the Bund collection at the Center, there is a box of 155 small photographs obviously removed from Nazi ID cards. Less than ten have names written on the back, and it is important to identify these people by name. Please let me know if you are interested in any of these activities, and I will pass your name on to the coordinators.

Tell us what you would like your society to do and the topics you would like to see covered at our monthly meetings. Please share your thoughts with me and other Executive Council members. You can reach me at <linda@jgsny.org> or <info@jgsny.org>. ☆

Linda





Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning

The 2nd Annual Lucille Gudis Memorial Fund Lecture Series



The Holocaust was a seminal event in Jewish history, and it has affected almost every Jewish family. The Jewish Genealogical Society seminar “Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning” has been conceived to give those attending the most up-to-date information on how to research the events of the Holocaust as they relate to their families’ histories.



Sunday, April 22, 2007

Registration: 9:15 a.m.

Lectures: 9:45 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Hebrew Union College

1 West 4th Street @ Broadway, Manhattan

Distinguished Speakers

- Nolan Altman, Coordinator, JewishGen Holocaust Database
- Zvi Bernhardt, Deputy Director, Reference and Information, Yad Vashem
- Professor Jan T. Gross, author of *Neighbors: Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*
- Peter Landé, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- Professor Robert Moses Shapiro, translator of *Lodz Ghetto: A History*

Name _____ E-mail Address _____

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By March 31, 2007

- \$25 Early Bird Jewish Genealogical Society Member Rate
- \$35 Early Bird Non-Jewish Genealogical Society Member Rate*

April 1, 2007 or after

- \$30 Late Jewish Genealogical Society Member Rate
- \$40 Late Non-Jewish Genealogical Society Member Rate*

A kosher buffet lunch is included in the cost of registration.

Checks are payable to **Jewish Genealogical Society (or JGS, Inc.)**. Mail coupon and payment to:
Gloria Berkenstat Freund, Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., 142 West End Avenue, #5N, New York, NY 10023-6129
For Seminar questions, contact: dayoflearning@jgsny.org or call 212-294-8326.

*Join the Jewish Genealogical Society at the seminar and receive a \$10 discount towards membership! Visit our website at www.jgsny.org for membership details!

News from IAJGS

Jewish Genealogy Month

From 1999 through 2006, Avotaynu, Inc. promoted Jewish Genealogy Month. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies has taken this over. The month is used to encourage the pursuit of Jewish genealogy and related activities. This year, Jewish Genealogy Month is during Nisan 5767 (March 20-April 18).

IAJGS Salutes!

1. Purpose

- To encourage noteworthy projects and activities relating to Jewish genealogy that increase the availability of resources, demonstrate creative techniques others can use, or increase interest and participation in Jewish Genealogy.

2. Eligibility

- Recognition is open to non-profit organizations and individuals. Recognition does not disqualify such an organization or individual from being nominated for or receiving an Outstanding Achievement Award.
- For consideration, the project or effort must have been completed since January 1st of the prior year (exception: during 2006, projects or efforts completed since January 1, 2001, can be submitted for recognition).
- Segments or phases of a larger project may be considered. However, it is the result from that segment or phase alone which must meet the criteria.

3. Ineligibility

- Efforts or activities previously recognized by the IAJGS either through this program, through an IAJGS Outstanding Achievement Award, or through the Stern Award.
- "For profit" commercial organization.
- An individual serving on the selection committee is not eligible during their tenure as a committee member. However, an organization to which that individual belongs is not ineligible during that time.

4. Criteria for Recognition

- One or more of the following will be used to evaluate efforts and activities:
 1. Did the project or activity increase the availability of resources for Jewish Genealogy?
 2. Did the project or activity demonstrate creative techniques others can use?
 3. Did the project or activity increase interest and participation in Jewish Genealogy?

5. Process

- There is no limit on the number of worthy efforts or activities that may be recognized. Nominations must be submitted to the IAJGS Salutes committee (see below). They may be submitted at any time, and recognition will be ongoing throughout the year.
- Upon receipt of a nomination, the committee will consider it and within 30 days submit its recommendation to the IAJGS President.
- Upon the endorsement of the president, the organization or individual will be recognized on the IAJGS website.

6. What do those recognized receive?

- Recognition on the IAJGS Web Site.
- Publicity submitted by IAJGS to on-line digests and newsletters.

The IAJGS Salutes Committee:

Chair: Lyn Blyden, Seattle, WA <lyn@pupik.com>

Members: Rose Lerer Cohen, Jerusalem, Israel; Daniel Schlyter, Salt Lake City, UT

How to Submit:

Please send the following information to the IAJGS Salutes Committee Chair, Lyn Blyden, at <lyn@pupik.com>:

- Name of Individual or non-profit organization being nominated.
- Contact information for the Individual or non-profit organization being nominated (mailing address and e-mail address).
- Your contact information (mailing address and e-mail address).
- Date when the project or activity was completed.
- Describe in no more than 250 words why the project or activity satisfies one or more of the criteria described in Paragraph 4 above.

Thank you for helping us SALUTE individuals and non-profit organizations that have completed noteworthy projects and activities relating to Jewish genealogy!

JGS Program Calendar

IAJGS invites its member JGSs to submit information about their programs for 2007 for inclusion in a new feature on the IAJGS website, the JGS Program Calendar. The calendar is a month-by-month list of program titles, speakers, and dates. To view the calendar, go to <<http://www.iajgs.org>> and click "Calendar" or go directly to <<http://www.iajgs.org/jgscalendar07.doc>>. The calendar opens as an MS Word document.

Creation of the calendar resulted from a suggestion made at the IAJGS conference in New York City last August during the Management Sub-seminar. JGS Presidents felt it would be a useful way to learn where and when speakers would be appearing so they could try to schedule them for meetings at nearby JGSs. To send information to add to the calendar, e-mail Ellen Shindelman Kowitt at <grapevynwest@comcast.net>.

IAJGS Board of Directors 2007



Ada Green

Ada Green received the 2006 IAJGS Achievement Award for **Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product**. Ada is a member of JGS (New York) and a former member of its Executive Council.

“Recognizing her devoted and meticulous efforts to record burials in Jewish cemeteries in the New York City area and beyond. Since 1995 she has documented over 180 burial society and landsmanshaft plots and has single-handedly cataloged over 36,000 gravestone inscriptions worldwide. She has made records accessible to all on JewishGen and has encouraged and guided individuals and groups undertaking other transcription projects. Her tireless work is a model to other volunteers and a mitzvah to the Jewish souls whose memories she has rescued from oblivion.”

Did Cousin Rabinowitz Die in the Holocaust?: New and Old Sources of Information

by Peter Landé

The chaos of World War II and the Holocaust have made 20th century genealogical research in Eastern Europe difficult—sometimes seemingly impossible. While fairly good Holocaust records exist for Western European countries, records for the period 1939-1945 for Poland, the former Soviet Union, and other Eastern European countries have been fragmentary at best.

After 1939, families which had maintained extensive connections with their relatives in Eastern Europe found those contacts abruptly broken off. After World War II, contact could often not be reestablished, and many assumed that their relatives in the former Soviet Union and Poland had been murdered in the Holocaust. This was not an unreasonable assumption, given the existence of death camps and *Einsatzgruppen* in the area.

Many sought to memorialize their lost family members and seek closure by submitting Pages of Testimony to Yad Vashem's Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names (<<http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace>>). Others who saw these testimonials viewed them as confirmation of their own inability to explain the rupture in communications. However, in fact, only a very small percentage of Pages of Testimony reflect any firsthand information since, if the submitter had been present at those times, he or she would probably also have perished. What remains are largely conclusions drawn from the absence of actual information as to what happened to family members known to have lived prior to World War II and, to a limited extent, information drawn from secondary sources. Millions of Polish and Soviet Jews undoubtedly died in the Holocaust, and many of them will never be identified in any records—even with the opening of the International Tracing Service at Arolsen. Others died as soldiers in World War II or as a result of disease or starvation. Some survived but did not contact family members, since the advent of the Cold War made communication with Western relatives dangerous.

This article focuses on some long-existing and some new documentary sources giving information on those from the former Soviet Union and Poland who did not perish in the Holocaust. These sources have apparently been rarely used by researchers, either due to language problems or their unavailability in many libraries. They should be consulted. In addition, new information has recently been obtained. For example, a list of over

150,000 Jews from the western Soviet Union who fled to Uzbekistan was placed on the Internet in October 2006. Research is also underway to identify a further several hundred thousand Soviet Jews who were able to escape the Holocaust elsewhere in Central Asia and in the Volga and Urals areas.

For purposes of illustration, I have examined some of the material by testing the name Rabinowitz (Rabinivich in Russian and Ukrainian, Rabinowicz in Polish, etc.), one of the most common Jewish family names in Eastern Europe, and its variant spellings.

Soviet Union

Uzbekistan and Central Asia

The most recent and dramatic “find” is a computerized database, prepared by Uzbek researchers and financed by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), of cards identifying about 152,000 Jews who fled or were deported to Uzbekistan in 1942. These Jews came primarily from the Ukraine and Belarus (including areas that were formerly eastern Poland) as well as Bessarabia, the Baltic States, and elsewhere.

The database, “Jewish Refugees in Tashkent,” based on the identity cards, can be searched at <<http://resources.ushmm.org/uzbekrefugees>>. The database has been transliterated into Latin letters in addition to the Cyrillic. It will also be made available to JewishGen (<<http://www.jewishgen.org>>).

The database contains an individual's family and given name, patronymic, year of birth, place of birth, and former place of residence. The cards themselves provide additional information, such as relationship to other family members (e.g., wife), former profession, and address and profession in 1942. The card may be viewed by moving to the last column for the name of interest and clicking.

Searching for the name Rabinowitz, I found dozens of entries, with most coming from Bessarabia, Ukraine, and Belarus. On a personal note, I found eleven persons with the name Landé from places that had not featured in my existing family tree, such as Slaviansk and Proskurov (now Khmel'nitskiy)—which I had to find in an atlas, not to speak of Odessa, Kiev, and Moscow as well as Kaunas.

Uzbekistan was only one of several Central Asian Soviet Republics, later independent countries, to which persons fled or were deported. Overall, it is estimated that over 1.1 million persons, about seventy percent of them Jewish, were evacuated to Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tadjikistan, and many other places in the southeastern parts of the former Soviet Union. Hopefully, future research will yield the names of these currently anonymous Jews. One estimate is that as many as 300,000 of these deportees perished due to diseases and starvation, while others died as Soviet soldiers during World War II. However, none of them perished in the Holocaust and, indeed, many later emigrated to Palestine/Israel or elsewhere.

In addition to Central Asia, hundreds of thousands of persons, Jews and non-Jews, fled to the Volga River and Urals areas of the Russian Federation. Material relating to this exodus is currently being filmed by the USHMM; initial reviews indicate that a substantial percentage of these persons was Jewish. It will take considerable time until the name lists contained in these collections are digitized.

The Extraordinary Commission collection (see below) also contains a list of over 15,000 Moldavians, mostly Jews, who were permitted to relocate to eastern parts of the Soviet Union in 1941. This list has been digitized and is available at the Survivors Registry at the USHMM.

Jews Who Died as Soviet Soldiers in WW II

Another older—though rarely-used—source of information is an eight-volume listing of about 75,000 Jews, including thirty-five generals and admirals, who perished while in the Soviet military in World War II. The eight volumes, called *Kniga pamiati voynov-evreev pavshikh v boiakh s natsizmom: 1941-1945 (Book of Memory of Jewish Soldiers Who Fell in Battle with Nazism 1941-1945)*, were published in Moscow from 1994 to 2002. The editors of this series are hoping to computerize further name lists in the two more volumes planned, but there is no way of knowing when this project will be completed.

Each volume contains an alphabetical list of Jews who perished and a short biographical description, including name, place of birth and residence, rank, military specialty, where the person perished, and the source of this information. Pictures of some of these persons follow at the end of each book. To give an example, Grigoriy Rabinovich, son of Abram, born 1904 in Ternovka in the Uman region, and resident in Leningrad at the time he entered military service, was a driver. He

died in 1944 and was buried 1.5 km from Kondusi in Estonia. In this single volume (vol. 7), there are thirty-five other listings of persons with the name Rabinovich. The geographic scope of this collection includes all parts of the Soviet Union as it existed in 1941.

The authors were able to compile this list of Jewish soldiers because Soviet military (and civilian) records list “Jewish” as a nationality. While a valuable source of information, this series obviously understates the number of Soviet Jews who perished as soldiers. Records are incomplete. And many Jews had the choice not to be so listed if their father was non-Jewish. Nevertheless, the authors estimate that 138,700 Jews perished, with 75,000 listed in these eight volumes. (Overall, over ten million Soviet soldiers died in World War II.)

More complete records of Soviet military deaths are held at the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation in Podolsk near Moscow. Requests for information can be sent to that ministry at 142117 Moscow Region, Podolsk, Kirova Street 74.

International Historical-Enlightenment Human Rights and Humanitarian Society Memorial (commonly called Memorial)

Deportations within the Soviet Union and descriptions of the Gulag and other forced labor destinations within the Soviet Union have long been featured in fiction and non-fiction books. Estimates of the number of persons “deported” have ranged from one million to as many as four million. Many perished, while others survived and returned. For years, Memorial, located in Moscow, has been trying to identify and determine the fate of all who were deported or murdered locally between the late 1930s and 1953, roughly the Stalinist era. Memorial cooperates with dozens of regional and local organizations inside Russia itself as well as parts of the Ukraine, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Latvia, and Georgia. So far, they have identified about one million persons and have published fifty “books of memory” containing the names of several hundred thousand persons. A list of these books is available on Memorial’s website (<<http://www.memo.ru>>). Only a small number of copies of each book were published, and they are extremely difficult to locate. However, researchers interested in any particular book may find that it is available at the Library of Congress.

While not on its own website, Memorial, fortunately for genealogists, furnished a digitized copy of its name lists to the USHMM and allowed this material to be placed on the Internet, where it is available through Dr. Stephen P. Morse’s “Searching the Gulag Database in

Cousin Rabinowitz

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One Step” (<<http://www.stevemorse.org/russian/gulag.html>>).

As previously stated, with respect to all Soviet records, Jews are considered a nationality, and it is, therefore, possible to identify these persons separately. To my surprise, such a search only yielded about 22,000 names, a very small percentage of the overall database. This small number may reflect the limited scope of Memorial’s work so far in areas of the former Pale. Two areas that are included and may be of particular interest are Odessa and Ivano Frankivsk (city and surrounding areas).

In addition to the aforementioned sources, Ster Iakovlevich Elisavetskii’s *Polveka zabveniiia. Evrei v dvizhenii soprotivleniia i partizanskoi bor’be v Ukraine 1941-1944 (Half a Century without Recognition: Jews in the Resistance Movement and the Partisan Struggle in Ukraine, 1941-1944)* lists 2,924 Jews who died as partisans in the Ukraine. This list only gives name and year of birth and includes, for example, Avram Rabinovich, born 1900.

Extraordinary Commission

Even before the war ended, Soviet authorities began to compile records from towns and villages that the Germans had occupied. Their purpose was not genealogical but rather to have an account of the damage caused by Germany as history and as a tool for justifying German reparations after the war. Many of these town-by-town accounts include the names of the persons who perished there. A finding aid listing the hundreds of communities included in this massive (about 20,000 pages) collection is available on JewishGen. Copies in Russian of the reports on individual towns may be obtained from either Yad Vashem or the USHMM (RG 22.002M). Some of the name lists have been digitized and are available on JewishGen, while others are still being processed. It is expected that, ultimately, 500,000 names, Jews and non-Jews, will be identified.

Poland

Karta Center

Parallel with the work of Memorial in Moscow, Karta Center in Warsaw, commonly called Karta (Pages), has sought to document Soviet repression of Poles within Poland’s prewar boundaries. It has focused on identifying and establishing the fate of all Poles, Jews and non-Jews, who were either deported by the Soviets

from 1939 to 1941 or immediately after World War II as well as those Poles who were murdered in such places as Katyn. Karta estimates that one million persons, Jews and non-Jews, were deported or murdered. Up to now, they have come up with over 200,000 names. Unlike the Soviet Union, Poland did not consider Jews as a nationality, so it is impossible to know what percentage of these persons were Jews.

It is possible, however, to search this collection by name in two different ways. One method is to consult the twenty books, mostly organized by place of origin, published up to now by Karta (these are listed on Karta’s website). For example, *Deportowani w obwodzie archangielskim: alfabetyczny wykaz 9320 obywateli polskich wtwiezionych 1940 roku z obwodu bialostockiego (Deportees to the Archangel Area: Alphabetical Index of 9320 Polish Citizens Who Were Deported from the Bialystok Area)* identifies persons who were deported in 1940 from around Bialystok to the Archangel region. To take one of five persons named Rabinowicz, David Szlama Rabinowicz, born 1906, father’s name Szai, was deported to the Murmansk area. His fate is not given, but in other cases, a person is listed as having died or been repatriated to Poland after World War II. With the invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 and the urgent need for military manpower, many of these “Poles” were absorbed into the Soviet military, while others, following an agreement with the Polish Government in exile, constituted the Anders Brigade. If they died in combat, their names may turn up in *Kniga* (above) or *Ksiega* (below).

The second search possibility is to go to Karta’s website, Osrodek Karta (<<http://www.karta.org.pl>>), use the Polish settings on your search engine, and simply type in any family name. This site does not include a Soundex, so users should enter various possible spellings.

Central Committee of Polish Jews

With the end of World War II, many Polish Jews returned to Poland either from German concentration camps or from the Soviet Union, while others came out of hiding inside Poland. About 250,000 of them registered with the Central Committee of Jews, the Polish Jewish umbrella organization, in order to get assistance and to locate lost family members. Their registration cards, as well as a composite alphabetical list, have been microfilmed and are available at the USHMM (RG 15.057M). The single list gives name,

names of parents, year of birth, place of residence in 1939, and postwar place of residence. The cards themselves often provide additional information. All of the material is organized in a Polish Soundex system. To give the reader a sense of this source's magnitude, there are over 300 persons with the name Rabinowitz (with various spellings).

For some years, the Jewish Historical Institute (JHI) in Warsaw has been attempting to consolidate this and other information into a single computerized database. However, lack of funding has slowed this effort, which is about one-third to one-half completed. New funding has recently been obtained, and it is hoped that this project will be completed. Until then, inquiries may be sent to the USHMM or JHI (<<http://www.jewishinstitute.org.pl>>).

Other Polish Sources of Information

Many books have been published in Polish listing World War II and Holocaust victims. Some are memorial books from Auschwitz, Majdanek, and Gross Rosen, while others list Polish soldiers or persons from specific professions, e.g., art historians and musicologists, who died in the war. See <<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/spx/class/Biography/Polishnio/polvictims.htm>>. The most extensive list of victims is contained in the five-volume series *Księga pochowanych żołnierzy polskich poległych w II wojnie światowej*, which lists 104,094 soldiers who died in the war. Unlike Soviet sources, Jews are not separately identified, but Rabinowicz turns up again. This list gives name, rank, year of birth, and place of former residence as well as date of death, e.g., Mieczysław Rabinowicz, born November 24, 1915, rank of corporal, died September 6, 1939, in Gniewoszów. Benjamin Meirtchak, in his five-volume *Jewish Military Casualties in the Polish Armies in World War II*, Tel Aviv, 1994-1999, covers much the same territory but limits himself to Jews who died in the Polish armed forces. It includes about 6,500 names. In volume four of this series, he includes the names of Polish Jewish soldiers who died in the resistance, a category not included in *Księga*, above.

Other Eastern European Lists

There are numerous lists of survivors not organized by nationality, many of which have been available for years. The largest of these are *Sharit ha-Platah* (over fifty persons with the name Rabinowitz) and World Jewish Congress lists, each with about 50,000 names but with considerable overlap. Both are available on JewishGen (<<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/>

[Holocaust/0103_Sharit-haPlatah.html#Search](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/0131_World_Jewish_Congress.html#Search)> and <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/0131_World_Jewish_Congress.html>) and are primarily compiled from post-war Displaced Persons camp lists located in Germany that contained a large number of survivors originating in Eastern Europe.

Researchers should be aware that tens of thousands of Eastern European Jews were sent, directly or indirectly, to forced labor camps located in Germany and France. These included Lithuanians, Poles, Czechs, and, the largest number, Hungarian Jews, who, fortunately, were not deported until spring 1944. By 1944, the labor shortage in Germany was so serious that a substantial percentage of arrivals in Auschwitz were sent on to other camps. While Auschwitz records were largely destroyed, records for many of the receiving camps are available, some on the Internet and others through memorial sites or books. It is difficult to know what percentage of these Jews perished or survived, but a random sample of fifty Jewish prisoners who arrived in Dachau from Auschwitz in 1944 indicates that over half survived in Dachau until liberation, about 30% perished there, and about 10% were transferred elsewhere. These include many Jews from Lodz who were initially sent to Auschwitz but were then sent on to other camps. (Lists of Jews transferred from Auschwitz to various German concentration camps, as well as the records for concentration camp Flossenbürg with thousands of Hungarian Jews, are currently being computerized by volunteers, with more volunteers welcome by JewishGen.)

Going beyond Eastern European research but including it are two research aids which relatively recently became available on the web, the USHMM's Holocaust Name Lists Catalog Search and Yad Vashem's Shoah-Related Lists Database. The former can be reached at <<http://www.USHMM.org>>. Click Research, Survivors Registry, and Research Services and then scroll down to Holocaust Name Lists Catalog Search and click Launch. Or go directly to <<http://resources.ushmm.org/Holocaust-Names/List-Catalog/search>>. It is a list of lists, i.e., an inventory of name lists relating to specific places. As such, it does not offer the names themselves but rather refers the researcher to the location of name lists at the USHMM and elsewhere. Yad Vashem's Shoah-Related Lists Database, available on Yad Vashem's website, is similar in nature but also, in many cases, includes the actual text of relevant documents, permitting the researcher to immediately look for names of interest.

Cousin Rabinowitz

continued from page 11

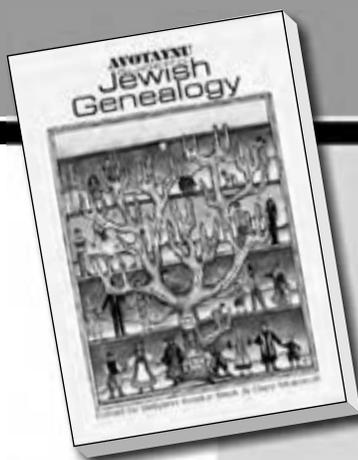
Some conclusions

While it will probably never be possible to establish the fate of millions of Eastern European Jews in the years 1939-1945, do not automatically assume because someone vanished off the family radar screen between 1939 and 1945 that they perished in the Holocaust. Well over one million Jews resident in the Soviet Union and Poland in the period 1939-1945 did not, though many of them undoubtedly died of starvation, disease, or while serving as soldiers.

Research the places where they most likely lived and the aforementioned sources. While Soviet Jews were rarely transported to the concentration camp system, there are some exceptions in the Baltic States; most Polish Jews were sent to camps. Those who were sent to such camps as Auschwitz and Stutthof were sometimes sent westward. Thus, even if they did perish, they did not necessarily perish in the first place to which they were deported.

Perhaps when the ITS/Arolsen collections become available and, ultimately, when this and other material is digitized, searches will become much easier. For now, you need to continue to examine all the old and new sources of information and never give up the hope that information on a long-lost Rabinowitz will turn up. Of course, you will still have the problem of linking your new find to your family tree—a problem that will remain so long as access to modern vital records in Poland and the former Soviet Union remains difficult. ☆

(Peter Landé came to the United States from Germany as a young child. For the past fifteen years, he has been working with other volunteers and the staff of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to develop a single database listing all who perished in or survived the Holocaust. For this work, he was given a Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.)



edited by
Sallyann Amdur Sack
and Gary Mokotoff

AVOTAYNU GUIDE TO Jewish Genealogy

The definitive guide to Jewish genealogical research. Written by more than 60 authors, each an expert in his own field. The list of authors is a veritable Who's Who in Jewish Genealogy. Its more than 100 chapters cover all important aspects of the rich body of information available to do Jewish genealogical research. Each chapter in Researching by Country of Ancestry typically has (1) history of the Jewish presence in the country, (2) what records are available, (3) how to access records, (4) addresses of repositories and other institutions, (4) bibliography, and (5) Internet addresses. This book is of immense value to both the novice just starting out and to the experienced researcher.

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JGS Program Reports

November 19, 2006

“Cuba’s Jewish Community: The Golden Years, 1906-1958”

Dr. Jay Levinson, author of *Jewish Community of Cuba: The Golden Years: 1906-1958* (see “New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications” in this issue for ordering information), addressed an audience fully half of whom had been born in Cuba or had moved there with their parents or on their own.

The first rabbi on Cuban soil was Dr. Joseph Krauskopf, an American serving in the United States Army who visited there in 1898. Gedaliah Mendelsohn, the second rabbi (1917-1920), commuted to Cuba from his home in Key West, Florida. For several centuries, possibly dating back to Columbus’s arrival, Jews had lived in Cuba, yet no Jewish community existed. But on August 5, 1906, eleven wealthy Jewish businessmen held a meeting. Most of them had been born in Eastern Europe, immigrated to the United States, and then been sent to Cuba by their American employers. They formed an organization whose purpose was to establish a synagogue/social club and a cemetery. When a cemetery had not yet been established by the time the organization’s treasurer died in September, he had to be buried in a Catholic cemetery in Havana.

The Ashkenazi synagogue Hebrew Congregation of Cuba, later known as United Hebrew Congregation, was established in Havana in 1906. It was associated with the Conservative movement from 1906 to 1924 and Reform from the mid-1920s until its building closed in 1982, the congregation having become moribund about 1960. B’nai Brith met there beginning in 1943. The records of UHC through 1920 are in Jerusalem.

Guanabacoa Cemetery, outside of Havana, was founded in 1910. A second section opened in 1942 for the burial of Sephardim. Burials in Guanabacoa Cemetery are included in the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) at <<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery>>. Additional information about Jewish cemeteries in Cuba is on the JewishGen website at <<http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery/atl-caribbean/cuba.html>>.

Sephardic Jews moved to Cuba in the early 1900s because it is proximate to the United States and is a Spanish-speaking country. These Sephardim from the Ottoman Empire established Congregation Chevot

Ahim in Havana in 1914. It split in the mid-1950s and closed in early 1990. Its records have been lost. A synagogue of the same name, also comprised of Jews from Turkey and the Balkans, was founded during the same time period in New York City.

The YMHA, established in Havana by David Blis in the 1910s, attempted to unite the Ashkenazim and Sephardim socially, but its efforts failed.

Both Ashkenazim and Sephardim lived in the provinces, as far out as Guantanamo. The synagogue now in Guantanamo is maintained through funding by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Passengers traveling in tourist and steerage classes disembarked at Ellis Island; those who could afford to pay more went instead to Red Hook. Immigration to Cuba stopped during World War I. To enter the U.S. without a visa, there was a wait of a year or more while travel paperwork was being arranged. An economic collapse in 1920 was precipitated by the plunging cost of sugar. The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee beseeched Jews not to go to Cuba.

Congregation Adath Israel, a synagogue for Eastern European Jews, started in an apartment in 1923 and used rented space from 1925 to 1958. When a split occurred in 1928, Kneseth Israel was formed. Polish/Galicianers remained members of Adath Israel. Orthodox Russian and Lithuanian immigrants were the members of Kneseth Israel from 1928 through 1948 when the two synagogues united. They split again in 1950. No records exist for Kneseth Israel. Records for Adath Israel exist for 1940, but access to them is very problematic.

Peddling was an important occupation in the 1920s and early 1930s. Some of the peddlers became manufacturers. Yiddish newspapers began in that era, and community organizations, such as Centro Israelita, were formed.

In 1959, most of the Jewish community’s members dispersed to other countries after the advent of the Cuban Revolution. The Jewish population, once fifteen thousand, now stands at less than fifteen hundred.

[Ed. note: Contact information for synagogues, congregations, and Jewish organizations in Cuba is on the websites of The Jews of Cuba at <<http://>>
continued on page 14

JGS Program Reports

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www.jewishcuba.org/synagogues.html and The Cuban-American Jewish Mission at <http://www.thecajm.org/info.html>.]

(by the Editor)

December 24, 2006

“The Curious Case of Morris Jaffe: A Glimpse into Immigrant Life in New York at the Turn of the Twentieth Century”

JGS held its second annual Members’ Brunch, planned and run by vice presidents Steven W. Siegel and me, Michael Pertain, on December 24, 2006. Like last year, the brunch took place at the 92nd Street Y, a congenial setting. And, once again, excellent catering was provided by Bagel Hole Caterers of Brooklyn. Steve welcomed the members and guests, and I offered the *Hamotsi* (prayer before meals).

Conversation at the tables was animated, stories were shared, and friendships were set in motion or deepened. It was an opportunity for JGS members to get to know one another a bit better and, of course, exchange genealogy stories with people who are actually interested. Next year, again!

Vice President, Membership: Michael L. Levine
Secretary: Michael Pertain
Treasurer: Paul H. Silverstone
Members-at-Large: Valery Bazarov, Jane Berenbeim, Adam Bronstein, Stewart Driller, Edith Ewenstein, Gloria Berkenstat Freund, Avrum Geller, Eden Joachim, Roni Seibel Liebowitz, Hadassah Lipsius, Susan Stone.

At the regular monthly program, I gave a presentation entitled “The Curious Case of Morris Jaffe: A Glimpse into Immigrant Life in New York at the Turn of the Twentieth Century,” summarized here.

After finding the tombstone of Morris Jaffe in a family cemetery plot, I decided to try to find out what happened to him. His death certificate told me that he was murdered at the age of eighteen. This set me on a journey of discovery to uncover the details and find out what happened to end my cousin’s young life in 1913.

An item appeared in the Sports section of *The New York Times* on March 29, 1913, describing the story of an eighteen-year-old Morris Jaffe, a boxer who was murdered in a Harlem apartment a few blocks from his home. He was the third of eight children of Lithuanian-Jewish immigrants. The article reported that



Steven W. Siegel, Vice President for Programs, welcomes JGS members.

The annual meeting and election of officers and members of the 2007 Executive Council followed. The slate proposed by the Nominating Committee and elected by the membership was:

President: Linda Cantor

Vice President, Programs: Steven W. Siegel

his brother, also a teenager, fought a boxing match to pay for Morris’ burial.

Finding that news article only heightened my curiosity. To get more background, I looked for his birth certificate and census records. A search of the 1910



JGS members eating and chatting during brunch

federal census found a Morris Jaffie, age fourteen, not with his family but at the New York House of Refuge, a notorious reform school which was being investigated for cruelty and abuse of the inmates. Microfilm from the New York State Archives of intake records from this institution confirmed that our Morris was indeed at the House of Refuge from 1909 to 1911. Additionally, the record indicated that he was sent there for stealing razor blades and had been abused at the institution. Both the *Times* article and the court records suggested that Morris's unlawful acts and his boxing career were undertaken to support his impoverished family. Meanwhile, the family reported on the 1910 census that their son was dead, apparently feeling too embarrassed to admit that he was at a reformatory.

My next project was to determine who the perpetrator was and what his fate had been. I hoped to uncover the reason for the murder. The *Times* article did not divulge either detail. Since it was a homicide, an inquest had been held. The inquest report, procured at the New York City Municipal

Archives, yielded the perpetrator's name as William Johnson, which led me to his court record. The court record revealed that the perpetrator, who had had previous run-ins with the law, had run from the scene after "killing the young man" and thrown the gun in the Harlem River. Despite this, the court failed to request any punishment. Johnson's advocate requested that he be given a "chance," since he didn't get a big brother for four months after his previous parole.

I found the lack of punishment or explanation for the homicide peculiar, thus my reference in the title to the *curious* case of Morris Jaffe. I thought that perhaps this was a mob-related hit and the court authorities were paid off to be lenient to Johnson. My presentation was followed by a discussion of what Morris's story reveals about our immigrant ancestors' lives and how to

uncover these family stories.

☆

(by Michael Pertain)



Linda Cantor, newly-elected President, second from right in front row



Eden Joachim, newly-elected Executive Council member, second from right in front row

Metro Area Repository Round-up

American Jewish Historical Society—Boston HIAS Case Files

Microfilming of the case files of refugees assisted by the Boston Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, 1930-1977, has been completed for surnames beginning with the letters A through Led. HIAS primarily assisted the refugees with immigration and naturalization services. The original records, in the custody of the American Jewish Historical Society in Newton Centre, Massachusetts, are being microfilmed for the AJHS branch in Manhattan. The microfilm can be used in the Center for Jewish History's Reading Room. Additional information was published in *Dorot* in the fall 2003 (vol. 25, no. 1) issue.

Brooklyn Historical Society—Library Open

Closed since 1999, the Brooklyn Historical Society library reopened on January 10th on a part-time schedule. It plans to expand its hours after the first quarter. High usage is anticipated. Manuscripts and archival collections can be used by scheduling an appointment at <archivist@brooklynhistory.org>. To use the image database, make an appointment at <photos@brooklynhistory.org>. For reference questions, contact the reference librarian at <reference@brooklynhistory.org>. BHS's online catalog is accessible at <<http://www.bobcat.nyu.edu>>; click "Connect to BobCat" and then "Brooklyn Historical Society."

Hours: Wednesdays and Fridays, 12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.; third Saturday of the month, 12:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Open Thursdays, 5:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m., for BHS members only. Website: <<http://www.brooklynhistory.org/library/library.html>>; telephone: (718) 222-4111; fax: (718) 222-3794.

YIVO—Letters of Anne Frank's Father Uncovered

JGS (New York) past president Estelle M. Guzik, a volunteer archivist at YIVO, found herself in June 2005 looking at an uncataloged file of approximately eighty letters written by Otto Frank. The letters were formerly in the possession of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, which transferred its archives to YIVO during 1948-1974. Pleading letters to friends, family, and government officials and letters from relatives in the U.S., written from April 30, 1941 through December 11, 1941, are testimony to the frantic attempts by Mr. Frank to save his family—his wife, daughters, and mother-in-law—by finding a way out of Nazi-occupied Holland, perhaps through Spain to Portugal or to France, the U.S., or Cuba. The Franks, a German Jewish family who moved to Amsterdam from Frankfurt after the Nazis came to power, began their two years of hiding in an attic in July 1942. They were discovered and arrested. Only Mr. Frank survived the Holocaust. At a press conference on February 14th, YIVO declassified and released the documents. ☆

Upcoming and Current Events

Jewish Genealogical Society

March 18, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly program: "**Remembrance of Synagogues Past: The Lost Civilization of the Jewish South Bronx,**" presented by Seymour J. Perlin, Ed.D., and Rita Perlin, Ph.D. In 1930, there were hundreds of synagogues and more than 360,000 Jews in the South and West Bronx, Hunts Point, and Morrisania. By 2004, there were four active community synagogues and fewer than 3,500 Jews in the same area. This illustrated program will explore what happened to the synagogues and their neighborhoods when their Jewish population moved away from this once vibrant community.

April 22, 9:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

2nd Annual Lucille Gudis Memorial Fund Lecture Series: "**Family History and the Holocaust: A Day of Learning**" A description of this all-day seminar and a registration coupon are included on page five.

May 20, 2:00 p.m.

Monthly program: "**When Leopold Met Lena: Marriage, Divorce, and Deception in 1892 New York,**" presented by Pamela Weisberger. First came love, then came marriage—but on the heels of the baby in the carriage came accusations of adultery and two trials in New York City's Court of Common Pleas. The unexpected discovery in the newspaper of a divorce

decree led to scandal-ridden court transcripts held at the New York City Municipal Archives and revelations of a family secret. Enjoy the ride as Besser v. Besser is deconstructed, and learn how present-day genealogical research can be used to solve 19th-century mysteries.

June 10, 1:45 p.m. (note earlier starting time)

Monthly program: “**Video Memoirs: Preserving Your Family History**,” presented by Risa Neuwirth. Learn from an expert how to record a videotaped memoir. This takes some advance planning and basic video skills, but it is an effective way to preserve a great deal of information in only a few hours.

** The Jewish Genealogical Society’s monthly programs are held from September through June.

Fee: free for JGS members with a current JGS membership card; \$5 for non-members.

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

Local

Through March 30

American Jewish Historical Society: The exhibition “The Photographic Study of the Lower East Side, 1934” depicts the neighborhood during its legendary days as a thriving Jewish community. Period maps and architects’ renderings of the neighborhood’s streets and buildings in the 1930s are included as well as contemporary photographs of the sites.

Fee: free.

Location: Great Hall, Center for Jewish History.

Through April 15

Bronx County Historical Society: The exhibition “Mapping the Bronx” features the society’s extensive holdings of loose maps and atlases illustrating the borough since the 1850s.

Hours: Saturdays, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Sundays, 1:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Fee: \$3 for adults; \$2 for children, students, and senior citizens.

Website: <<http://www.bronxhistoricalsociety.org>>; telephone: (718) 881-8900.

Location: Museum of Bronx History, Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Avenue between Van Cortlandt Avenue East and East 208th Street, Bronx.

Through June 24

Yeshiva University Museum: The approximately 450 photographs in the exhibition “And I Still See Their Faces: The Vanished World of Polish Jewry” portray the faces of Polish Jews and their everyday activities prior to the Nazi invasion. The photographs and albums, whose owners had perished, were scattered throughout Poland during the war and were saved from obscurity by the Shalom Foundation. Personal stories accompanying the photographs evoke the destroyed world of over three million Polish Jews.

Hours: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

General admission fee: \$8 for adults; \$6 for students with ID and senior citizens.

Website: <<http://www.yumuseum.org>>; telephone: (212) 294-8330.

Location: Rosenberg and Winnick Galleries, Center for Jewish History.

March 28, 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

New York Public Library: Class. “Serendipity in the Stacks, or ‘Is THAT in the Jewish Division?’” From the virtual world of online exhibitions to the realia of beer bottles and energy-drink cans, the collections of the Dorot Jewish Division cover the spectrum from the erudite to the decidedly odd. Personal archives, which shed light on the lives and work of late 19th-century Jewish intellectuals, share stack space with *pashkevlim* (polemical broadsides) from Jerusalem. Religious and secular manuscripts, postcards, photos, theater placards, and books in a variety of Judaic languages demonstrate the breadth of the collection. Prerequisite: Participation assumes a basic level of computer skill and experience.

Fee: free.

Location: Classroom B, Celeste Bartos Education Center, South Court, 1st floor, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street.

March 29, 6:30 p.m.

Jewish Museum: Lecture and book signing. Daniel Mendelsohn will give a brief lecture about his new book, *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*, the story of his search for the truth behind his family’s tragic past in World War II. Mr. Mendelsohn was the guest speaker at the October 2006 JGS meeting.

Fee: free with museum admission. The Jewish Museum is a **JGS Friend**. See the list of JGS Friends on page twenty-three for information about the two-for-the-price-of-one discount offered to JGS members.

Upcoming and Current Events continued from page 17

April 14, 10:00 a.m.

Bronx County Historical Society: Anthony Greene will lead a walking tour of historic Morrisania, one of the Bronx's oldest neighborhoods. Call (718) 881-8900 to make a reservation.

Fee: \$10 for members; \$15 for non-members.

Location: meet at 138th Street and Third Avenue.

April 17, , 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

New York Public Library: Class. "Genealogy Computer Lab." Use the Library's numerous genealogical databases to research family history. An experienced genealogy librarian will be available to assist participants and to demonstrate the electronic databases. There is no formal instruction. This lab is self-paced and hands-on. Not recommended for beginners. Prerequisite: Participation assumes a basic level of computer skill and experience.

Fee: free.

Location: Classroom B, Celeste Bartos Education Center, South Court, 1st floor, Humanities and Social Sciences Library, 5th Avenue and 42nd Street.

April 25, May 31, and July 12, 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.;
June 13, 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

New York Public Library: Class. "Serendipity in the Stacks, or 'Is THAT in the Jewish Division?'" See March 28 listing.

June 19, , 2:15 p.m.-3:15 p.m.

New York Public Library: Class. "Genealogy Computer Lab." See April 17 listing.

National

May 16-19

National Genealogical Society: The 2007 Conference in the States and Family History Fair will have the theme "Rediscover Virginia: 400 Years of Family History." Day-long tracks on DNA, the Library of Congress, National Archives records, and Virginia records and repositories will be featured.

Fee: early registration (by April 6, 2007), \$175 for NGS members, \$210 for non-members; thereafter, \$210 for members, \$245 for non-members.

Conference website: <<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2007>>

Conference blog: <<http://ngsrichmond2007.blogspot.com>>

Complete program listing: <http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2007/conf_program.cfm>

Registration: <<http://www.eshow2000.com/ngs/2007/registration.com>>

Further information: <<http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>>

Conference questions: <lund@ngsgenealogy.org>

Registration questions: <conference@ngsgenealogy.org>

Location: Greater Richmond Convention Center and Richmond Marriott Hotel, Richmond, Virginia.

July 15-20

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies: The 27th Annual International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference on Jewish Genealogy will include international experts, a film festival, breakfasts with experts, computer training workshops, special photographic exhibits, a resource room, special interest groups, access to the extensive resources of the Family History Library, and a vendor room. Among the session tracks are Europe (Eastern, Central, and Western); Eretz Israel (pre- and post-1948); genetics and DNA; the Holocaust; immigration, naturalization, and migration; Jewish history and sociology; methodology; Sephardic/Mizrahi; photograph and document preservation; rabbinic research; repositories; South and Central America; technology and Internet resources; the United States, including specific locales; and Yiddish theater and Jewish music. Hosted by IAJGS.

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

Location: Hilton Salt Lake City Center, Salt Lake City, Utah.

July 15-21

National Institute on Genealogical Research: Founded in 1950 and held annually, NIGR is an intensive program offering on-site examination of federal records. It is designed for experienced researchers. It is not an introduction to genealogy. This year's focus is on commonly-used immigration, military, land, cartographic, African American, and non-population census records. Complementing those core lectures will be presentations on lesser-known federal records useful to family historians. One day will be spent at Archives II in College Park for presentations on its resources and for research. Enrollment is limited. Tuition: \$350 for applications postmarked on or before May 15th; thereafter, \$400.

For additional information about the program or to obtain an application brochure, visit the institute's website at <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~natgenin>>. To sign up for the mailing list, e-mail <NatInsGen@juno.com> or write to NIGR, P.O. Box 724, Lanham, MD 20703-0724.

The website provides information about scholarships. Location: National Archives, Washington, D.C., and College Park, Maryland.

August 15-18

Federation of Genealogical Societies: This year's annual FGS conference is themed "Meeting at the Crossroads of America." Allen County Public Library (ACPL) is the local host. Vendors, free computer labs at ACPL, and the Association of Professional

Genealogists' Professional Management Conference will be featured.

Fee: early registration (postmarked by June 1, 2007) \$155; thereafter, \$185.

Website: <<http://www.fgsconference.org>>; telephone: (888) FGS-1500; e-mail: <fgs-office@fgs.org>. ACPL e-mail: <Genealogy@ACPL.Info>; telephone: (260) 421-1225.

Location: Grand Wayne Center, Fort Wayne, Indiana. ☆

Online News

Center for Jewish History Catalog Online

The Center for Jewish History is pleased to announce the launch of its new online catalog. The combined library and archives collections of the American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, and Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute may now be searched via a link from the Center's home page at <<http://www.cjh.org>> or directly at <<http://www.catalog.cjh.org>>.

From the Easy Access menu in the lower left corner of the CJH home page, clicking on "Search the CJH Catalog" leads to Basic Search. Advanced Search, Browse, and search history are also available from links across the top of the page as well as a Basket function for printing, saving, and/or e-mailing a list of items selected during the search.

In Basic Search, the entire catalog can be searched at once or the search can be limited to a single repository. In Advanced Search, a search can also be limited by language, year, and/or format (archives/manuscripts, books, or journals/periodicals).

From the list of search results, click an item number in the left-hand column for the full record for the item. Click on a Repository link in the list of search results to go to a screen from which a hold request may be placed for the item. However, before a hold request can be placed, an online form must be filled out to register for a library card.

Many catalog records for archival collections include embedded links that lead directly to the online finding aids and searchable databases that were previously available only through the Center's website. See,

for example, the catalog entry for AJHS's Industrial Removal Office records (Collection I-91).

The catalog also contains links to a growing number of digital images from the various collections. For example, hundreds of photographs from the Leo Baeck Institute's Albert Einstein Collection (AR 136) can now be accessed online. The "CJH Resources" link at the bottom of each screen connects to a page with links to a variety of external electronic resources.

This catalog is the product of several years of intensive work by teams of library, archives, museum, and information technology professionals in the U.S. and Israel and was made possible by a major grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Feedback on the catalog is encouraged by using the Comments link found at the bottom of each screen.

(by Robert Friedman, Director, Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute)

Eldridge Street Synagogue Congregants List

The Eldridge Street Project, a non-sectarian organization formed in 1987 to protect and restore the Eldridge Street Synagogue, has posted a list of congregants, 1850s-1950s, on its website at <http://www.eldridgestreet.org/get_involved_fc_loc_ac.htm>. The synagogue was completed in 1887 as a house of worship for K'hal Adath Jeshurun, a congregation of immigrants from Russia, Rumania, and Poland. The congregation, founded in the 1850s, was the first Russian Jewish congregation in America. The list was compiled from historical documents found in the building, including the Congregation's minute books and ledgers back to 1892, seat tickets, and cemetery records as well as documents held in New York City archives. Included on the list are

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the congregant's surname, first name or initial, and the year(s) or decade(s) in which the person was found in the records. The Project has additional information on some congregants, indicated by a capital letter after their entries, such as occupation, address, or their position as an officer of the synagogue. A brief description of eight other Lower East Side synagogues is on the website at http://www.eldridgestreet.org/about_u_n_os.htm.

Ellis Island Database Gold Form

An enhanced Ellis Island One-Step search form has been posted on Dr. Stephen P. Morse's website (<http://www.stevemorse.org>). The Gold Form is capable of simultaneously searching for any of the twenty-five million passengers in the Ellis Island Database as well as every transcribed field. There is no requirement to fill in any specific field. The Gold Form is listed under "Ellis Island Search Forms and Ship Arrivals (1892-1924)" on Dr. Morse's website.

Because of its additional search capabilities, the Gold Form is the form of choice and has made the Blue and Gray forms obsolete. The Blue Form could search any or all fields, but it could only search for Jewish passengers. Conversely, the Gray Form could search for all passengers, but it could only search four fields: name, age, year of arrival, and town. The Gold Form can search for traveling companions, a feature the Blue Form had but the gray did not. The user can specify which fields to display on the results page and how to sort those results.

Although the Gold Form also renders the white one obsolete, Dr. Morse will keep the White Form on his website. The two forms use different search engines: the white uses the ellisland.org search engine, while the gold uses a One-Step search engine. Consequently, they may provide slightly different results.

GenClass Online Jewish Genealogy Classes

Two online Jewish genealogy classes—one basic and one advanced internet research—are being offered by GenClass (<http://www.genclass.com>). The basic class will be offered in May and October and the advanced in June and November. The instructors are Schelly Talalay Dardashti and Micha Reisel who, from 2004 to 2006, taught MyFamily.com's online Jewish genealogy classes.

Each four-week practical class includes a detailed course curriculum, online class chats, and an interactive bulletin board for posting questions to the instructor

about the lessons. Each week, two lessons are made available for students to download. Students can work at their own pace, as with an independent study course. The fee is \$29.95 per class.

International students are welcome. Past classes have included people living in Australia, France, England, Canary Islands, and elsewhere. Students sometimes meet others who are researching the same names and towns of interest and they begin to work together.

Jewish Genealogy: Basic Introduction (Part 1)

This systematic class on the basics provides an overview of what Jewish genealogists need to know to track their families. Students will learn about calendars, languages, handwriting, soundex systems, reference books, an introduction to Internet research, geography, origins and meanings of Jewish names, origins, lifecycle events, emigration and immigration, honoring their ancestors, sharing discovered information, and networking with researchers of the same names and areas.

Jewish Genealogy: Researching on the Internet (Part 2)

This class builds on the basics course, providing detailed information about search engines, general genealogy sites, Jewish genealogy sites, JewishGen, Holocaust research, archival research sites, and many other resources accessible from the comfort of home. New resources continually appear on the Internet, and the class is updated each time it is offered.

All of the instructors previously offered classes through MyFamily.com, which no longer offers them. The former instructors, as a group, developed GenClass—Online Genealogy Classes to offer both specialized and general classes. They are interested in receiving suggestions for additional classes.

Other classes being offered are Adoption Investigation, Basic English Research, Canadian Research: Intro to the Great White North, Canadian Research: Nitty Gritty of the Great White North, Eastern European Genealogy (basic and intermediate), Family Tree Maker 16 (basic and advanced), Genealogy Research in the Great Lakes States, Jump Start Your Genealogy, Lost Friends and Family Investigation, Native American Genealogy, Northeastern United States Genealogy, Organizing Your Family History, Salt Lake City: The Largest Genealogical Library in the World & Why You Don't Have to Go to Salt Lake City, World's Largest Genealogical Library or Why You Still Don't Have to Go to Salt Lake City, Write Your Family History Step-by-Step, and Scottish Genealogy: A Comprehensive

Introduction. The 2007 schedule is posted at <<http://www.genclass.com/schedulere2007.htm>>.

International Tracing Service—“Hitler’s Secret Archive”

“Hitler’s Secret Archive” is a thirteen-minute report about the International Tracing Service (ITS), an arm of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Bad Arolsen, Germany. After World War II, ITS’s mission was to search for missing or displaced non-Germans and reunite families. Currently, ITS assembles, classifies, and evaluates records of concentration camp prisoners, deportees, displaced persons, and German-born children under eighteen years old at the end of the war who had been displaced or separated from their parents. The report aired on CBS’s “60 Minutes” on December 17, 2006. It can be watched at <http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?id=2274705n>. An advertisement precedes the video. The ITS website is at <<http://www.its-arolsen.org>>.

The eleven member nations of the International Commission, the decision-making body, called an unscheduled meeting to be held in early March ahead of the annual session in May in order to assess how quickly the files can be opened to researchers.

JewishGen Online Basic Genealogy Course

JewishGen offers a Basic Genealogy Course geared to beginners consisting of eight weekly lessons that can be downloaded as PDFs or in MS Word. The course covers genealogy forms and formats; assembling family trees; organizing and tracking information; interviewing; Jewish naming conventions; U.S. vital records, U.S. censuses, and U.S. passenger manifests; and using JewishGen’s website and databases. It will also share hints and tips with students on how to best use their computers and the Internet. All classes offer individualized help through an online forum where questions, family information, and photographs can be posted.

The Basic Genealogy Course will be offered quarterly: January, April, July, and October. The Intermediate Genealogy Course, scheduled for late 2007, will cover more advanced topics. There will also be Advanced Genealogy Courses in historical research by country, genealogical software, and genetics. Some of these courses may be made available in multiple languages.

The tuition for the Basic Genealogy Course is \$36; however, those who qualify for value-added services by virtue of a \$100 annual donation to JewishGen

are welcome to enroll at no additional charge. To do so, send a note and JewishGen ID to <Jewishgen-Education-Support@lyris.jewishgen.org>.

Enroll at <<http://www.jewishgen.org/education>> by selecting Basic Genealogy Course. Details of the course, the background of the instructor, and the requirements are posted online. The course can be paid for either online with a credit card or with a check drawn on a U.S. bank at JewishGen’s secure server. *(by Phyllis Kramer, Vice President, JewishGen Education)*

National Archives Digitization Project

Selected records in the custody of the National Archives are being digitized by Footnote, Inc. The 4.5 million pages already completed are available for viewing at no charge in NARA’s research rooms in Washington, D.C., and in its regional facilities. Millions of additional historical documents remain to be digitized. As they are completed, they will be placed online for use in NARA.

Many of NARA’s documents were never microfilmed. Documents that had been filmed are being digitized first. After an interval of five years, all of the digitized images will be accessible at home at no cost through the National Archives website.

Queens County Supreme Court Naturalizations

Queens County Supreme Court naturalization records, 1906-1957 (plus some earlier years), have been indexed by the German Genealogy Group, Italian Genealogical Group, and members of the Genealogy Federation of Long Island. The approximately 60,000 records can be searched by surname, with or without at least the first two letters of a first name and with an initial, if applicable. A printable form for ordering an original-size copy of a record for \$10 is provided. Search at <<http://www.italiangen.org/QueensSearch.asp>> or <<http://www.germangenealogygroup.com/suffolkcountymarriagesearch.asp>>.

Suffolk County Marriage Certificates

The three organizations mentioned above have also indexed Suffolk County marriages, 1908-1935 (the websites state that the index concludes with 1936, but a search by year produced only one 1936 marriage). The index can be searched by any or all of the following: groom’s surname, groom’s first name, bride’s surname, bride’s first name, certificate number, and marriage year or span of years.

Search the index at <<http://www.germangenealogy>

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group.com/suffolkcountymarriagearch.asp> or <<http://www.italiangen.org/suffolkcountymarriagearch.asp>>. A "Mail-in Application for Genealogical Services" is available for ordering a copy or abstract at \$5 each.

Dr. Stephen P. Morse has created a One-Step search form for the index which provides additional methods for searching by first name and surname. The One-Step is listed under "Births, Deaths, and Other Vital Records" on his home page at <<http://www.stevemorse.org>>. ☆

New, Recent, and Noteworthy Publications

Of Jewish Interest

Jay Levinson. *Jewish Community of Cuba: The Golden Age, 1906-1958*. Nashville: Westview Book Publishing, 2006. 268 pages. Includes appendices, notes, glossary, and index. \$24.95. Softcover. Order from the publisher at <<http://www.westviewpublishing.com/Bookstore/Non-Fiction/580-06-1007.asp>> or purchase at the Center for Jewish History's Fanya Gottesfeld Heller Book Store. The Fanya Gottesfeld Book Store is a **JGS Friend**. See the list of JGS Friends on page twenty-three for information about the discount offered to JGS members.

From the publisher: "*Jewish Community of Cuba* tells the story of Ashkenazim and Sephardim fleeing from persecution abroad and finding refuge in Cuba, their trials and tribulations of adjusting to a new country, and the building of a vibrant Jewish Community. The Cuban Jewish Community grew from a parlor meeting

of eleven Jews in 1906 to a network of schools and synagogues throughout the country. This is a story of peddlers going from rags to riches, Belgian refugees setting up a wartime diamond industry, and an American Mafioso in search of respectability. While reading this book, you will experience the Cuban Jewish Community in its Golden Age. This all came to an abrupt end in 1959, after the Revolution. The table of contents, preface, introduction, and the first eleven pages of chapter one can be viewed at <<http://www.westviewpublishing.com/Bookstore/PDF/JCC.pdf>>.

"Jay Levinson has written extensively about Jewish sites and history. Levinson holds a Ph.D. from New York University and is currently an adjunct professor at John Jay College. In writing this book, Dr. Levinson conducted copious interviews, reviewed documents in archives, referred to period newspapers, visited sites, and traipsed through Cuban graveyards to search for information." ☆



27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

July 15-20, 2007
Hilton Salt Lake City Center
Salt Lake City, Utah

Hosted by IAJGS.

Registration is open on the conference website at <<http://www.slc2007.org>>.

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Members of JGS are encouraged to patronize JGS Friends. Use your current JGS membership card to take advantage of the special offers we have arranged for you. If you have suggestions for new partners, please let us know.

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www.cjh.org/facilities/shop.html

JGS members receive a 10% discount on purchases of books and gifts at the Center's shop. The shop carries many books of genealogical interest and Judaica for the holidays as well as everyday use.

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Sun, 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
Mon-Thurs, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
Open prior to all evening events.

THE JEWISH MUSEUM
1109 Fifth Avenue
(at 92nd Street)
(212) 423-3200
www.TheJewishMuseum.org

JGS members receive free admission for a companion (2 for the price of 1) on presentation of a signed JGS membership card. \$12.00 adults, \$10.00 senior citizens, \$7.50 students. Children under 12 free. Saturdays free.

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Thurs, 11:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.
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Hours

Visitors Center and Museum Shop: Mon, 11:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Tu-Fri, 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m, Sat-Sun, 10:45 a.m.-6:00 p.m. (212) 982-8420

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Hours

Sun, Mon, Tues, Th, 10:00 a.m.-5:45 p.m.
Wed, 10:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. (free after 4:00 p.m.)
Fri and the eve of Jewish holidays, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (EST)
Fri, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (DST)

THE NEW YORK
GENEALOGICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
122 East 58th Street
(between Park and Lexington avenues)
(212) 755-8532 www.newyorkfamilyhistory.org

JGS members get \$3.00 off the suggested \$10.00 donation for use of genealogies, histories, biographies, newsletters, and compiled records. (Note: The manuscript, microform, and CD-ROM collections and the online resources are available only to NYG&BS members.)

Hours: Tues- Sat, 9:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m. (Th, 12:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.)



Jewish Genealogical Society

P.O Box 286398
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That you might recount it to a
future generation, Psalms 48:14

למען תספרו לדור אחרון, תהלים מ"ח:14