



Vol. 6, No. 1 2003

# Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future  
Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc.

## GUIDELINES FOR GENEALOGICAL SELF-IMPROVEMENT AND GROWTH

*Recommended by the National Genealogical Society*

Faced with ever-growing expectations for genealogical accuracy and reliability, family historians concerned with improving their abilities will on a regular basis—

- study comprehensive texts and narrower-focus articles and recordings covering genealogical methods in general and the historical background and sources available for areas of particular research interest, or to which their research findings have led them.
- interact with other genealogists and historians in person or electronically, mentoring or learning as appropriate to their relative experience levels, and through the shared experience contributing to the genealogical growth of all concerned.
- subscribe to and read regularly at least two genealogical journals that list a number of contributing or consulting editors, or editorial board or committee members, and that require their authors to respond to a critical review of each article before it is published.
- participate in workshops, discussion groups, institutes, conferences and other structured learning opportunities whenever possible.
- recognize their limitations, undertaking research in new areas or using new technology only after they master any additional knowledge and skill needed and understand how to apply it to the new subject matter or technology.
- analyze critically at least quarterly the reported research findings of another family historian, for whatever lessons may be gleaned through the process.
- join and participate actively in genealogical societies covering countries, localities and topics where they have research interests, as well as the localities where they reside, increasing the resources available both to themselves and to future researchers.
- review recently published basic texts to renew their understanding of genealogical fundamentals as currently expressed and applied.
- examine and revise their own earlier research in the light of what they have learned through self-improvement activities, as a means for applying their new-found knowledge and for improving the quality of their work-product.

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## **New Databases Delivered to UNLV**

Three databases were delivered to the University of Nevada Las Vegas in January. The index to surnames appearing in the 2002 issues of the Family Legacies newsletter and the index to articles appearing in 2002 were sent to the Special Collections Department. An updated cumulative index of surnames and articles from 1998 through 2002 was also sent.

Copies of all temple bulletins from Temple Beth Shalom for 2002 and an index of all surnames appearing in all issues was also delivered to Special Collections. The database for 2002 contains 2,074 names.

Copies of all of the indexes are also held by the JGS librarian, Janet Farino.

## **23rd Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy**

**July 20-25, 2003  
Washington D.C.**

**JW Marriott Hotel  
1331 Pennsylvania Ave., NW**

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) warmly invites genealogists of all levels and interests to attend the 23rd Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The location is Washington, DC—a capital city filled with spectacular family history resources and sight-seeing attractions. Washington provides renowned research repositories in a magnificent cosmopolitan city!

For more information over the coming months log on to—

**[www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/](http://www.jewishgen.org/dc2003/)**

## **New Leadership In 2002 Elections**

Elections were held in December 2002 for officers and trustees for the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc. The results were:

President	Charlotte Showel
Vice President	Henry Yellowitz
Secretary	Marilyn Brenner
Treasurer	Sam Showel
Trustees	Janet Farino Marilyn Barkan Mary Barkan Michael Brenner

The new officers and trustees met in January 2003 and appointed the following committee chair:

2005 International Seminar –  
Michael Brenner

Publicity	Marilyn Barkan
Speakers Bureau	Jack Oliver
Cemetery Project	Sam Showel
Historian	Maxine Muse
Sunshine	Myrna Adler and Maxine Muse
Beginner's Seminar	Steve Kitnick
Liaison to Jewish Federation and JCC	Nadine Kaufman

Janet Farino will continue as the society's librarian and Mary Barkan will continue as the editor of the Family Legacies newsletter.

## **Join Us For Lunch And Excellent Conversation**

Join members of the JGS before each scheduled meeting for a brown bag lunch. Bring your lunch goodies to the multipurpose room at the Sahara West Library at 12:30pm. Munch and chat with fellow members about research problems, successes and failures. Whining will be allowed. Advice will be freely given! Photos of ancestors or grandchildren will be admired. No one will be on a diet. Clean up will take place before the 1pm meeting.

# You See Tomato, I See Zucchini

By Mary Barkan

I love databases and indexes. It is exciting to conduct genealogical research from your home PC. However, some caution needs to temper the excitement when a new database or index comes on line.

When ancestry.com, a subscription service, announced that they would place the entire 1930 census images on line with a searchable every name index, I was thrilled. No more poring over badly filmed microfilmed images for me. I would sit back and let the records spill out of my printer. The reality was that I poured over computer images, struggled with the name index and though images did emerge from my printer, they didn't exactly spill out.

The second 1930 census state ancestry.com placed on line was Utah. I had been researching a family who arrived from Tichintz, Russia at the Port of New York, spent a few months in Rochester, New York, and then moved to Salt Lake City where they opened a tailor/clothing shop. The Evdasin family had been in Salt Lake City since the early 1900s and I had several records for them in that city. I had photocopies of pages from the Salt Lake City Directories and records from the Jewish Cemetery.

The original family consisted of two brothers, Esy and Philip Evdasin. Both married and raised families. I typed in Philip's name and was rewarded, instantly it seemed to me, with the 1930 census record for his family. This was easy! Philip was listed with his wife Leah (Gerelik) and their children. Then I typed in Esy's name and he wasn't there. OK, maybe he was using a different first name. I typed in Evdasin leaving the first name blank. Up popped the notation for Philip and his family members but no Esy. Well I thought Esy is probably not a common name in Salt Lake City so I typed in Esy leaving the surname blank. There was indeed an Esy in the city but his last name was not Evdasin it was Fradashik! I selected the record and studied the census page image. There was Esy with his wife Dena (Mednick) and their child. I thought that the Evdasin name was pretty clear though slightly misspelled as Evadashin. But, then I was looking for Evdasin. The indexer obviously saw Fradashik not Evdasin. Had Esy not had such an unusual name I would have been back to searching through the microfilmed records with bad eyes and eventually a bad attitude.

As of January 2003 ancestry.com has the entire 1930 United States census on line. I use it all the time to search for records and think it is a wonderful research tool. The every name index allows me to use all the first names in a given family to find the right family. This is wonderful when searching through Cohen families in Brooklyn! The images have been cleaned up and, though rather small on an 8 1/2 x 11 sheet, are clear and very readable. Their uniform size allows for easy filing. However, when I don't find a person's record on the first try I use all the search tools I can think of because I now know that a human being indexed this census, and where I see Evdasin they might just see Fradashik. The old rule holds true even in cyberspace – any name, first or last, can be spelled a million different ways and we often will need to search them all.

_____ Alice B	_____ Wife
_____ Philip J	_____ Son
_____ Sarah	_____ Daughter
18.5 Esy Fradashik, Esy	_____ Single
_____ Dena	_____ Wife

*Ancestry.com 1930 census entry for Esy Evdasin listed as Esy Fradashik in the every name index*

# The Joy of Computers – The Agony of Backups

By Jack Oliver

Isn't Family Tree Maker and others programs like it a great way to keep track of all the information that we've been able to obtain over the years? It certainly has been for me. In order to insure that we preserve all these records, it's necessary to backup our data on a regular basis. You do, don't you? Okay, so I don't do it as often as I should.

After I found all the easy stuff about my family and information became more difficult to obtain, I started scanning and entering photographs into my program along with additional data as I obtained it. Because of the size of the file with the addition of photographs, it became necessary to use CDs for my backup instead of floppies as I had been doing. (I was running out of space for all the floppies required). The only problem with CDs is that it starts to be a collection itself. After you burn the second CD, the first one therefore becomes a backup for the second one. Pretty soon I found I had a bunch of backup CDs that, probably wouldn't be used, except for the latest one. Although as I said, I didn't backup after every entry, I felt confident that in the event of a loss of data on my computer, I could reinstall everything except for the very latest. I was happy and content.

About a year ago I obtained a laptop computer. I installed Family Tree Maker but when I attempted to restore my data from my backup CD, I discovered that this new computer couldn't read the CD. Since I had used the CD to restore to my desktop computer in the past I assumed that the problem was with the CD drive in the laptop. Mistake number one.

Recently I started having a problem with my desktop computer. My faithful son-in-law/computer guru, Bill, offered to see what he could do with it. I told him I was concerned about all the data on my C drive, which he thought he might have to reformat, so he suggested that we just copy it all onto the D drive. Sounded good to me. I felt I was covering all bases for, in addition to my backup CD, I had also printed a copy of everything up to that point. Mistake number two. "That point" was about five years ago.

About this time, I bought a new computer. When I tried to use the same type of blank CD that didn't work in my laptop and it didn't work, I realized my mistake was in thinking my problem was with the drive and not the CD. Mistake number three.

Bill discovered to my dismay, that the computer was terminal and that I may have damaged one or both of the hard drives. Now I was really concerned as I realized that my collection of CD backup disks could only be read by a computer that didn't work anymore! I had horrible thoughts of losing all my compiled data beyond what I had printed out so long ago. The thought of retyping everything and trying to recover all the lost data was enough to start me thinking of terminating my interest in this passion we call genealogy.

I spent a couple of terrifying weeks before I finally heard that Bill was able to recover all my data from my hard drive.

So what did I learn from all this experience? Backup, backup, backup. Make sure your backup will work. Print a hard copy of your data. Do whatever you can to assure that you can retrieve what you've worked so long and hard to accomplish.

## Family Tree Maker Graduates

Members of our society enjoyed one of the benefits of membership in February. Two classes were offered on using the Family Tree Maker genealogy software. Each class met for three Mondays to learn the ins and outs of the program. This is the third year the class has been offered free to members and taught by Mary Barkan.

The class stressed entering family data and citing sources. Students learned how to best use this program for Jewish genealogy. How to enter bar/bat mitzvah dates, Hebrew names, who a person was named after, and European and American names—all were addressed in the class.

Participants also learned how to use the program to print out a variety of reports, how to enter photographs into the program and how to construct a family book.

If you have questions you now have several more experts to consult— Graduates of the afternoon class were Gil Shaw, Roberta Wisnosky,

Sybil Greenberg and Rhoda Welt. Graduates of the evening class were Michael Brenner, Marilyn Brenner, Marilyn Barkan, and Henry Yellowitz.



Marilyn Brenner asks a question during the hands on Family Tree Maker class.

## Name Changes United States Immigration and Naturalization Service

Do you have a story about the family name being changed at Ellis Island? Puzzled about how your Cohen name came from the Makagon surname?

Visit the Immigration and Naturalization Service site at [www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/aboutins/history/articles/NAMES.htm](http://www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/aboutins/history/articles/NAMES.htm) for some interesting information about immigrant names and names changes.

You can read the INS's top reasons why immigrant names were changed. "Among the reasons for the 'incorrect' names were the immigrant's use of :

- A fictitious name
- The name of another person
- The true name in a misspelled form
- The surname of the stepfather instead of the natural father
- The surname of a putative father in the case of an illegitimate child
- A nickname
- The name used because of foreign custom, such as the given name of the father (with or without prefix or suffix) for the surname, the name of the farm, or some other name formulated by foreign custom
- The maiden name instead of the married name
- The maiden name of the mother instead of the father's surname ."

There is an essay on the immigrants' tendency to change their names which is loaded with interesting reasons immigrants changed their surnames. The myth that names were changed at Ellis Island is addressed along with reasons why such changes probably did not occur.

In the section "Name Change Stories" you can read how the INS had to deal with immigrant names. "When an immigrant's new name no longer matched that shown on their official immigration record (ship passenger lists) he or she might face difficulties voting, in legal proceedings, or naturalization. Letters from immigrants to the INS illustrate this problem."

Then you can read actual letters to the INS regarding name change problems. All the letters were found among INS records now at the National Archives (Record Group 85) in Washington DC, specifically Administrative Records Relating to Naturalization, 1906-1944 (Entry 26). Included in the letters are: How Amber became Bahash, How Eichhorn became Horn, How Asszony became Miazaroz, How Kohnovalsky became Cohn, How Diamond became Cohen, How Shukowsky became Zakotsky and what must be an all time favorite, How ? Became ?

This is a terrific site with lots of information of use to family historians.

## Las Vegas Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

The fire insurance maps made by the Sanborn Company can be interesting additions to family history. The detailed maps show streets, buildings, and businesses. It is possible to locate addresses which no longer exist. If your grandfather's grocery store burned down or if it was destroyed by highway construction you can use the Sanborn maps to see what the neighborhood was like before disaster or development occurred.

The University of California Library – Berkeley web page at <http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/EART/snb-intr.html> has information about the Sanborn maps taken from the Library of Congress description. In part the site offers this description of the maps—

“Tracing the development and growth of cities and towns has been a popular study in recent years. Fortunately for the researcher on such a quest, the cartographic collections of the Library of Congress contain thousands of maps and atlases of urban areas, dating from as far back as the sixteenth century up to the present. Of particular note among the Library's holdings is an extensive collection of maps of American cities and towns, giving detailed, accurate information about their buildings and other structures. The Sanborn Map Company of Pelham, New York, produced many such maps.

The Sanborn map collection consists of a uniform series of large-scale maps, dating from 1867 to the present and depicting the commercial, industrial, and residential sections of some twelve thousand cities and towns in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. The maps were designed to assist fire insurance agents in determining the degree of hazard associated with a particular property and therefore show the size, shape, and construction of dwellings, commercial buildings, and factories as well as fire walls, locations of windows and doors, sprinkler systems, and types of roofs. The maps also indicate widths and names of streets, property boundaries, building use, and house and block numbers. They show the locations of water mains, giving their dimensions, and of fire alarm boxes and hydrants. Sanborn maps are thus an unrivaled source of information about the structure and use of buildings in American cities.”

Copies of Sanborn maps for Las Vegas can be found at two locations—

The University of Nevada Las Vegas (4505 Maryland Parkway) holds Las Vegas maps from 1928 through 1961 with corrections.

According to Arthur K. Cabrales, reference librarian at the Clark County Library (near Flamingo and Maryland Parkway) the reference department has the following Las Vegas maps—February 1923, January 1928, New Report March 1943, New Index March 1943, and Additional Index March, 1945.

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### **Janet Farino** **Jewish Genealogy Society of** **Southern Nevada, Inc.** **Member of the Year 2002**

At the December 2002 meeting Janet Farino was named Member of the Year 2002. Janet is a charter member of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc. and has served as society librarian and is a past secretary. She has contributed articles on her research to Family Legacies, assists in proofreading issues, and is currently a trustee on the Board of Directors. In all, an honor well deserved.



Janet Farino, Member of the Year 2002

JGSSN Presents

## A Beginner's Genealogical Workshop

Passenger Records  
Census Records  
Vital Records  
City Directories  
On Line Databases  
Oral Interviewing  
*And More*

**Sunday, 6 April 2003**  
**1:00-5:00 PM**  
**Temple Beth Sholom**  
**10700 Havenwood Lane**  
**(corner of Town Center Drive)**  
**Las Vegas**

Pre- Registration includes a syllabus \$20.00

Registration at the door includes a syllabus \$25.00

2003 JGSSN Membership  
(NEW MEMBERS ONLY) - \$10.00

To participate fill out this form and send with a check payable to JGSSN to:

JGSSN  
P.O. Box 57022  
Las Vegas, NV 89137

Name\_\_\_\_\_

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Email\_\_\_\_\_

For additional information call  
363-8230 or 258-7890  
or email [jgssn@yahoo.com](mailto:jgssn@yahoo.com)

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## Membership Application

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Name\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_

City\_\_\_\_\_State\_\_\_\_\_Zip+4\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\_\_\_\_\_

EMail\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20.00 Family Membership

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 Individual Membership

Please make checks Payable to JGSSN, Inc.  
Mail To: JGSSN, Inc.  
P.O. Box 370522  
Las Vegas, NV 89134

JGSSN, Inc. membership runs from  
January through December

JGSSN, Inc. Information:  
Charlotte Showel at [jgssn@yahoo.com](mailto:jgssn@yahoo.com)

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**Calendar 2003**  
**JGSSN, Inc. Meeting Schedule**  
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

**April 13th—Second Sunday of the Month—  
Michael Green—the History of the Jews of Las Vegas**  
**May -Member get together**  
**June—No Meeting—Happy Father's Day!**

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**Officers and Board of Trustees**

President - Charlotte Showel  
Vice-President - Henry Yel Lowitz  
Secretary - Marilyn Brenner  
Treasurer - Sam Showel  
Past President—Carole Montel Io

Trustees:  
Janet Farino, Marilyn Barkan,  
Mary Barkan, Michael Brenner

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