



Vol. 6, No. 2 2003

Family Legacies

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

JGSSN, Inc. Cemetery Project Update

Under the leadership of Sam Showel the JGS Cemetery Project is actively seeking volunteers. Currently Marilyn Barkan, Jack Oliver, Ella Perla and Myrna and Ed Adler are working to collect data at various cemeteries.

Maxine Muse and Jo-Ann Geller have updated Jewish burials at the Veteran's Cemetery of Southern Nevada in Boulder City, Nevada. The last data from this cemetery was entered in March of 2000. This active cemetery is heavily used by veterans of the United States military, their wives and dependants.

Other active and inactive cemeteries in the Las Vegas area are scheduled to be surveyed. Those cemeteries include: Woodlawn with a Jewish section and a Veterans section, Edenvale with Jewish burials throughout the cemetery, three Palm cemeteries with Jewish sections and burials outside the Jewish section, Bunker's Memorial Gardens with a Jewish sections and scattered burials, and Davis Paradise Valley Cemetery with a Jewish section and scattered burials in other sections. Volunteers will also contact



Sam Showel, chairperson of the cemetery project records data at a Las Vegas cemetery.

several funeral homes in Las Vegas including King David, Davis, Bunkers, and Palm to make sure that all locations of Jewish burials are identified.

Sam is seeking volunteers—both those who can read Hebrew and those who cannot—to visit local cemeteries. If no Hebrew reader is available to accompany the volunteers, Sam has proposed taking digital photographs of the tombstones for translation later.

Shirley and Phil Weiner generously donated all of the cost to print the forms volunteers need for this project

Once all the cemeteries have been surveyed, a schedule for updating the active cemeteries will be planned. Data from this on-going project will be submitted to the IAJGS Burial Registry project. If you would like to volunteer contact Sam Showel at

Lvsamchar@yahoo.com



Volunteer Maxine Muse at the Memory Gardens Cemetery

The Jewish Sports Hall of Fame

Is there a famous sportsperson in your family tree? To find out visit the web page of the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame at www.jewishsports.net. Information on the website gives the history of this organization—“The International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame/Yad Le’ish Hasport Hayehudi was formally inaugurated on July 7, 1981. Its predecessor, the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame, was founded in the United States in May 1979. The original Hall of Fame included only American Honorees. The International Hall of Fame honors athletes and sportsmen and sportswomen throughout the world.”

The site lists members elected as of January 2003. Honorees are listed in alphabetical order of surname. Each listing includes the names of the honorees, their country, their sport/field and the year of their induction. By clicking on the Sports/Field of an honoree you are taken to a biography of that person.

The fascinating list of honorees includes:

Bacher, Ali	South Africa	Cricket	1991
Bernstein, Jack	USA	Boxing	2000
Lazarov, Lydia	Israel	Yachting	1982

The site also describes the various special awards given by the group and gives directions for submitting nominations. New honorees are elected annually and anyone can submit a nomination.

This is an interesting site for genealogists to explore. Since honorees are from all over the world, you may find a relative listed or wish to submit your ancestor.

Paseo Verde Library Genealogy Room

Residents of Henderson, Nevada have a new library and a new genealogy room. The Paseo Verde Library is located just off the 215 freeway at 280 South Green Valley Parkway in Henderson.

The library is part of the Henderson District Public Library system. Locations of other libraries and hours of operation can be found at their website at www.hdpl.org

The Paseo Verde Library has a genealogy room with computer access too Heritage Quest databases and Reference USA. The genealogy room is staffed by a growing number of volunteers. Many of the 100 volunteers are members of the Clark County Nevada Genealogy Society.

Two members of JGS Southern Nevada, Inc. volunteer at the library. You can find Norm Laefer and Gil Shaw at the genealogy room at noon on each Thursday of the month except the last Thursday.

Israeli Independence Day

JGS Southern Nevada, Inc. participated in the Israeli Independence Day celebrations at the Sands Hotel Convention Center on May 4th.

Volunteers Jack Oliver, Hank Guzik, Steve Kitnick, Roz and Hy Silkes, Davida and Jim Handler, Marilyn Barkan, and Charlotte and Sam Showel distributed genealogy flyers and answered questions at the well attended event. A display of genealogy records adorned the booth.



Hy and Roz Silkes greet visitors at the JGS booth.

The French Connection

By Ella Perla

I was curled up on the couch in the winter of 1997 reading my newly arrived copy of AVOTAYNU. Not expecting to make any earth shattering discoveries I began reading an article by Gary Mokotoff titled “AJGS Announces Plans for a Family Tree of the Jewish People.” I glanced at the example given, an excerpt of the Jewish Genealogical People Finder and lo and behold I spotted the name Gisele Perla, the same name as my husband’s Aunt, the half-sister of my husband’s father. There couldn’t be two people by that name. I looked at the other names: André Foiret, Guichet Foiret, Jean-Claude Foiret, Babusiaux, Bourguignon. Who are these people? So my quest began.

The first thing I did was send off an email to Gary Mokotoff, the publisher of AVOTAYNU. He immediately answered me. These people are related to Gary through a family member that was the second wife of Andy’s grandfather, Avram Perla. He sent me an extensive family tree of this branch of Andy’s family. It turns out that Avram Perla had a total of eight children, 4 of whom were from the second marriage.

We had a business trip to Paris in June of 1998. Since I didn’t have any addresses I didn’t know if I would have any luck making contact. I had the concierge at our hotel look up the names for me in the phonebook. The only name I was able to find with a Paris phone number was André Foiret. The concierge made the call but no one was home. I was relieved as my French is very limited and I knew that Uncle André was elderly and probably didn’t speak English. Before we left Paris I wrote a letter and mailed it to Uncle André and hoped for the best.

I attended the IAGS conference in Los Angeles and introduced myself to Gary Mokotoff. He said that my discovery was proof of the importance of the Family Tree of the Jewish People. I put the Perla genealogy files away for awhile.

One day in August of 1999 I had a phone call from Christine and Jean Claude Foiret. They were in San Francisco on vacation and were headed to Death Valley and then to Las Vegas for a few days. We arranged to meet them in front of the Luxor. Andy was to wear a distinctive hat and that is how they were going to find us. We met Christine and Jean Claude and their two sons, Guichet and Josquin in front of the Luxor. We all hugged and felt instantly that we were family. They came to our home for lunch. It was a delightful afternoon. We bid them “au revoir” and planned to get together again in the future.

One day in August of 2000 I had a phone call from Christine and Jean Claude. They were in Utah headed towards Las Vegas (They never give us warning.) and I would meet them at their hotel. I took them to the Paris for dinner, (they loved it) and we got together again the next day. Unfortunately Andy was out of town. Now they had email so we would communicate throughout the year. I also began to communicate with Andy’s Aunt Rosette and Uncle Gerard Gobitz who also lived in Paris. My nephew and his wife and baby were headed to Paris. I gave them the Foiret phone number and they all got together.

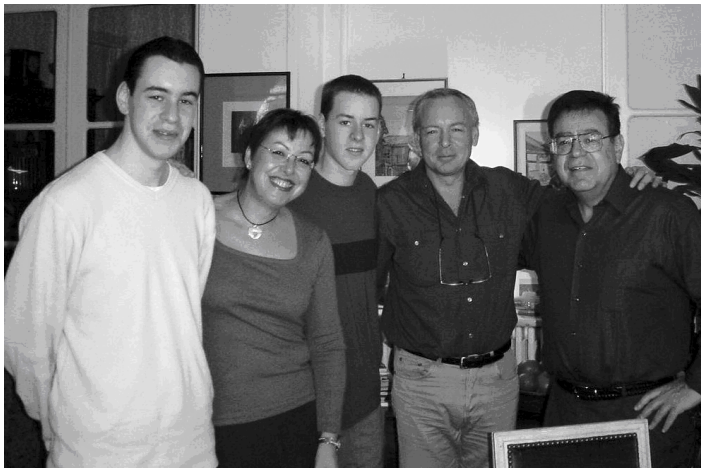
August of 2002 rolled around and I was headed to New York to spend a week with Andy’s sister. One evening we went to my nephew’s apartment in Manhattan. They had a surprise for me – you guessed it! The French cousins were in town. We had a surprise reunion and Andy’s sister and brother-in-law met them for the first time.

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The French Connection— continues

To make a long story short, we went to Europe for Christmas this past year and spent a weekend in Paris. We stayed in a hotel in Neuilly Sur Seine, a short walk from the Foiret residence. Not only did we spend time with Christine and Jean Claude and their teenaged sons but we also got to meet Aunt Rosette and Uncle Gerard and their two sons, Claude and Bernard and their granddaughter Evelyne. Aunt Rosette at 77 is the last surviving sibling of Andy's father, and Gerard who is 80. Gerard has written two books on the Holocaust in France. They all spoke some English and Evelyne had spent a year studying in England so she acted as the translator. It was a moving experience when Rosette pulled Andy aside and through Evelyne told him that his father had helped them by sending food and money when they were very poor during the war. She also spoke of how she avoided being sent to a deportation camp. To say the least, the weekend in Paris is one that we will never forget.

Hopefully when August rolls around I will pick up the phone and hear "Bonjour Ella."



Josquin, Christine, Guilhem and Jean Claude Foiret
with Andy Perla—Paris, 2002

Salt Lake City Trip

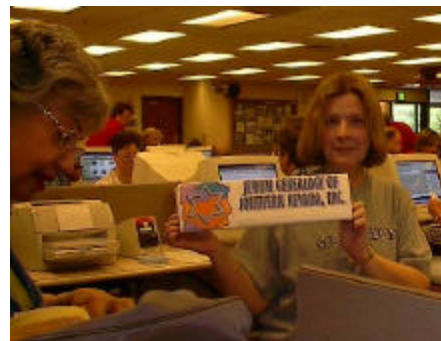
In June JGS members laden with research lists traveled to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. The trip was organized by Charlotte Showel and offered opportunities for beginners and experienced researchers.

A class in U.S. Records gave members an overall view of records held by the library, handouts describing the sources on each floor of the library, and hints on how to use the library finding aides.



Jon Anderson, Michael Brenner and
Rhoda Welt attend the U.S. Records Class.

Each morning and afternoon JGS volunteers were available to help members with research. Everyone had some successes.



Afternoon JGS volunteer Mary Barkan holds the JGS Southern Nevada sign while Sybil Greenberg searches her files for questions.

Charlotte Showel announced that she hopes to make this trip to the world's largest genealogical library an annual event for JGS members.

Temple Beth Sholom Yahrzeits On Line

Yahrzeits for Temple Beth Sholom can be found at <http://www.bethsholomlv.org>

Beth Sholom is the oldest synagogue in Las Vegas. Many of the Yahrzeits date from the 1940s. The website does not maintain a cumulative index but lists those Yahrzeits that are currently being observed.

A surname search on any search engine will often produce hits for various synagogues around the United States. How can it be that your great grandmother's name is listed on a website for a synagogue in Maryland? As Americans move around the country they still observe Yahrzeits. You may find information in unusual locations. Many synagogues are posting Yahrzeits on their websites. These synagogue postings are another tool for the researcher.

Beginner's Workshop

In April a very successful Beginner's Workshop was sponsored by JGS Southern Nevada, Inc. Organized by Michael Brenner and Steve Kitnick, the workshop covered a variety of topics of interest to beginners: the U.S. Census, Vital Records, Immigration and Naturalization, Yiskor Books and Landmanshaften, Oral Histories and Websites. Speakers included Carole Montello, Michael Brenner, Marilyn Brenner, Steve Kitnick, and Mary Barkan. A syllabus containing handouts for each topic was given to each attendee. The few remaining copies were available for sale to members at the May meeting of the society.

JGS President Charlotte Showel reported favorable reactions from many participants. Comments included the suggestion that the event be extended to an entire day.

JGS Southern Nevada, Inc. intends to sponsor this useful event each year for beginners.

President's Message

What an exciting start to our year! JGSSN held its first "Beginner's Seminar" in April. Thanks go to Steve Kitnick and Michael Brenner who co-chaired the seminar, and to our wonderful speakers, Mary Barkan, Marilyn Brenner and Carole Montello, as well as Steve and Michael who also participated in the program. We send a special "Thank You" to Temple Beth Sholom as they provided us with their social hall, set up tables and chairs, and surprised us with coffee and treats. We are looking forward to the next "Beginner's Seminar" in 2004.

Our dedicated Past President, Carole Montello, has begun the "Mentor Program," and a number of new JGSSN members have enrolled to learn more about the researching process. The "Cemetery Records Program" is now being chaired by Sam Showel who is also our Treasurer. He and his busy crew worked hard to record Jewish burials before the hot summer days began. With the help of Jack Oliver, Jo-Ann Geller, Maxine Muse, Marilyn Barkan and Ella Perla, they made tremendous progress and the recording should be done before the end of this year.

A group of JGSSN members and their spouses just returned from the first group trip to Salt Lake City. It was so successful that we plan to make it an annual event. Everyone had at least one discovery and the successes began to increase before we departed Salt Lake City. In May, Sybil and Iz Greenberg opened their home for a barbeque/meeting where we discussed preparation for the upcoming trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Aside from good food and socializing, I believe this meeting helped to make the research trip worthwhile.

In addition to all this activity, we have started the groundwork for hosting the IAJGS 2005 Seminar here in Las Vegas. Michael Brenner is the Chairman for this event. The seminar will certainly be something special for the IAJGS Silver Anniversary in the Silver State.

As you can probably tell, I am very excited about the first half of 2003 and am looking forward with great anticipation to the rest of the year.

Charlotte Showel, President
JGS of Southern Nevada, Inc.

Jewishgen and Yarmulkes

By Mary Barkan

The Discussion Group on Jewishgen (www.jewishgen.org) always contains fascinating information. Topics discussed are wide ranging from announcements of new databases to the differences in Jewish cuisine around the world. In February 2003 someone posted a question about using yarmulkes as a genealogy tool. Comments and ideas soon arrived from all over the world. The following is a sample of the comments and serves to demonstrate, yet again, why the Jewishgen Discussion Group is endlessly useful and interesting.

From: Haviva Langenauer, Palm Beach, Florida - There was a recent post regarding the possible use of inscribed yarmulkes to discover genealogical connections. In my own case, I have a stash of inscribed yarmulkes in my drawer, but I am not related to most of the names. Fancy yarmulkes are given out in my synagogue as gifts from the family when there is a Bar/Bat Mitzvah. The inscribed yarmulkes from family weddings and bar mitzvahs are mixed in with these so a genealogist might have a lot of red herrings in trying to find clues in this way.

In a follow - up email, Haviva wrote me -

The part I left out of my post is that I attend a conservative synagogue on a regular basis, so I have many kippot of non-relatives. Families try to outdo each other, so I have some beauties. I have one with musical notes for a musician bat mitzvah, American Flag borders for the patriots, gorgeous colors to match the flowers or the decor of the room. Sometimes there is a 'double-header' so the family of one child is identified by one color, and the other bar mitzvah child's family by another color. I have gorgeous Hai inscriptions. All of these are very fine quality, mostly made of leather, and I have received them as gifts merely because I happened to be in the synagogue on the day of the celebration. I am NOT a relative. My grandchildren delight in going through the kippoh drawer to choose something that matches their clothing that day.

I also have hats from Turkey with mirrors and embroidery that serve as kippot, but these don't have names inside.

In days gone by, I used to have a tray with about six neatly folded kippot that would be for the use of dinner guests in my home. With the practice of giving out kippot for these fancy occasions, where I am not necessarily an invited guest but just a synagogue attendee, my collection of kippot with inscriptions has become huge. My guess is that this practice is about twenty years old. I even have a hand crocheted kippot with a label inside for the name of the child and the date of the celebration. This was lovingly done by the grandmother who took more than a year to crochet kippot and provide them for all the males.

From: Schelly Talalay Dardashti, Israel - Thanks to D Pitchon for such an interesting, and obvious, resource.

I went to my "bag" of souvenirs of weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs, and even some from memorial services (shloshim). All of these things have been sitting around forever and I really never thought of them as a tool. I have many more back in the US in storage. My review today actually gave me some missing exact dates of weddings and deaths, and full names of some children (including their Hebrew names). This is the headwear equivalent of the box of photos in the closet! The main difference is that these are labeled! The ones (black suede) for the shloshim (30-day memorial services after death) I have not seen anywhere other than the Iranian community in Los Angeles.

From: Michael Bernet, New York - In the Orthodox communities in Brooklyn, the printed yarmulke serves a different purpose. For special occasions on Shabbat (during the morning service, or in the afternoon), when a famed cantor or renowned speaker is to be heard in the synagogue, "tickets" are sold to members of other synagogues who wish to attend. Since in halakha it is not permitted to carry anything on the street on Shabbat, not even a ticket, the yarmulke worn under the black hat serves that purpose. These may be useful to genealogists who seek to trace the public acclaim of an ancestor.

SLC Cheat Sheet

Traveling to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City is always exciting. Hearts beat faster at the thought of all the records to be searched and all the discoveries to be found.

But experienced researchers know that any on-site research is only as successful as the pre-trip preparation. A "To Do List" is a must. Good researchers keep a running To Do List—adding new records to search and deleting those located and studied. Knowing exactly what you want to find in Salt Lake City keeps you focused on your search.

One aspect of preparation is to look up the microfilm numbers you will need before the journey begins. The Family History Library Catalog can be found on line at www.familysearch.org If you want to search Poughkeepsie newspapers it pays to see if the library has any copies before you arrive with a list of 24 obituaries to look up. If the library has no Poughkeepsie newspapers you can devote that time to another research area.

But part of the research fun at the library is the discovery of the unexpected. Suppose you find an obituary and learn that the person did live most of his life in upstate New York but was actually born in New York City. Now you need to consult records in New York City. Since you didn't know about this before your trip, you will be exploring the library catalog to learn what records are available for the time period indicated in the obituary. Sometimes the library catalog listing of records for New York City can be time consuming to consult.

This is where a cheat sheet can come in handy both at the library and at home when consulting the library catalog. Basically a cheat sheet lists the number of one microfilm in a record group. By typing in the number in the search field for microfilm/fiche in the library computer or at the online library catalog you are taken directly to the record group. If you want to consult birth records for New York City, you would type in 1322457 which would whisk you to the Index to New York City Births, 1881-1965. Type in 1379683 and you go directly to the Soundex Index for Passengers Lists for the Port of New York. From there it is easy and fast to locate the film number you need.

Membership Application

Name_____

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City_____State_____Zip+4_____

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_____ \$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

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Family Legacies is printed four times each year -
Summer, Winter, Spring, and Fall. Articles,
manuscripts, notable news may be submitted to:

Editor Mary Barkan

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P.O. Box 370522

Las Vegas, NV 89134

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Queries are printed on a space available basis at a cost of
\$2.50 for 50 words, then 25 cents for each additional
word, excluding name and address.

JGSSN, Inc. does not endorse or recommend
any services or product advertised or mentioned in
Family Legacies.

Family Legacies is exchanged with those
member societies of IAJGS which provide copies to
JGSSN, Inc. of their newsletter. Subscriptions are
\$10.00 per year. Back issues \$3.50 each.

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

July 20th – Every Picture Tells A Story

August 17th – NO MEETING

September 21st – Genealogy Web Sites

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