



Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society
of Southern Nevada - West

Vol. 3, No. 3, September 2000

November 19th Meeting

Resources At The National Archives

Bill Doty, Archivist
National Archives
Laguna Nigel, California

1pm

Sahara West Library
9600 West Sahara

**Hadassah
Archives
Donated To
UNLV Project**

Jo-Ann Geller,
past president of
Hadassah Las Vegas
Chapter has arranged
the donation of
archives from the Las
Vegas Chapter to the
UNLV project. The
local chapter was
formed in 1964.

The donation
includes ten years of
archives spanning the
formative years of the
group from 1964 to
1973. Included are
banners, award
plaques, calendars,
papers, photos and
yearly scrapbooks for
seven years.

When
cataloguing and
indexing is completed
in September the
collection will be
housed at the Special
Collections
Department,
Dickerson Library,
University of Nevada
Las Vegas.



On-Line Genealogy Columns and One Newsletter

Beginning and advanced genealogists often discover that they need more information about a particular area of research. When a mentor is unavailable you can turn to your computer for assistance.

There are many genealogy columns on line that discuss specific aspects of genealogy. Most sites offer archives of past columns. Aside from information, columns offer up to date information on items of interest to genealogists at all levels. Following is a list of columns and one newsletter. All are free. The title of one article from the site follows each listing.

A must for Jewish genealogists is a newsletter provided by Avotaynu. Nu? What's New provides the latest information on many aspects of Jewish genealogy. It is sent by email twice a month. Recently, editor Gary Mokotoff described a new search engine he had located which was especially good at locating information on small towns in Eastern Europe. Recent issues have chronicled news of the offers for U.S. census pages on line. To be added to this mailing list, go on the internet to <http://www.incor.com/avotaynu.htm> Subscription is easy and free.

www.ancestry.com/learn/library/columnists/main.htm is the Ancestry site with several columnists. While Ancestry is a subscription service, reading the columns is free. This site offers a different columnist each day and archives past columns. A useful feature at each column is the ability to print out the article and/or email the article to a friend.

Monday—Julianna Smith offers tips and information on topics of interest to genealogists. Past columns included “Using the Internet to Follow Up on Leads”.

Tuesday—alternating are Kip Sperry and Drew Smith. Kip Sperry’s “Questions and Answers” provides information on a wide range of genealogy subjects. “Digital Genealogy” by Drew Smith provides information on using computers in genealogy. A recent article for beginners was “Your Software

Toolbox..”

Wednesday—Dick Eastman writes “Dick Eastman OnLine” about items of general interest in genealogy. Recent articles included “Creating Your Own Genealogy CD-ROM Disks” and “Illinois State-wide Marriage Index 1763-1900 Online”.

Thursday—Liz Kerstens writes “GC Extra” a column addressing genealogy via new technology. Kerstens recently wrote on “International Laptop Travel”.

Friday—George G. Morgan serves up “Along Those Lines” Past articles included “Tips For Transcribing/Abstracting/Extracting Documents”.

The popular RootsWeb site is home to Myra Vanderpool Gormley’s column “Shaking Your Family Tree.” This column also appears in print in the Los Angeles Times newspaper. Past columns are archived at this site. Once a week you can read the column at www.rootsweb.com/~reguide/syft/

Many genealogists use the popular Family Tree Maker program to document their work. The Family Tree Maker site at www.familytreemaker.com/#current presents columns on several aspects of genealogy. Perhaps the most useful is a column “Ask Technical Support” which answers questions about using Family Tree Maker. A recent article “Backing Up Your Family File” demonstrates how useful this site can be.

www.cyndislist.com contains many links to genealogy columns and newsletters. From the main page scroll down to the category “Magazines, Journals, Columns, and Newsletters”. From here you can access dozens of general and special interest columns.

Genealogy columns offer fast, interesting, and wide ranging reading for genealogists. Hop on the internet and read!



"I Scored at a Jewish Singles Mixer: Genealogically Speaking"

by Steven J. Kitnick

In July of 1996, I attended the International Jewish Genealogical Seminar held at the Park Plaza hotel in Boston. My primary reason for attending the seminar was to network. I always seem to get my best results by shmoozing.

My major research goal was to determine how I was related to South Africans Bertha [Norwitz] and Philip Frame, and how Bertha was related to my maternal great-granduncle Berel Orelowitz, the brother of my maternal great-grandfather Yitzhak Yosef "Joseph" Orlovitz.

I first learned about my South African relatives in January of 1979, while I was in Miami on business working the Dallas-Pittsburgh Super Bowl. My late great uncle Sam Lovitt [nee, Orelowitz] told me his uncle Berel Orelowitz had immigrated to South Africa.

Several years later, I learned that members of my Levine branch of the Orelowitz family had maintained contact with the South Africans. My second cousin Michael Ledeen's [nee, Levine] family had extensive contact over the years. A few attended the Bar Mitzvah of another second cousin Richard Levine c. 1952. However, no one was able to tell me how we were linked.

While shmoozing at the Jewish singles mixer at the seminar - a social event that I suggested to seminar chair Warren Blatt - I made a connection that offers further evidence that life's happenstances may be more than random, unrelated events. Call it coincidence. Synchronicity. The Baal Shem Tov would call it Bashert.

Among those in attendance was my friend Dr. Saul Issroff, a native born South African now living in London, and a recognized expert in Lithuanian and South African Jewish genealogy and history. Saul was aware of my desire to link Bertha [Norwitz] Frame to my Orelowitz family tree.

At the mixer, Saul was chatting with seminar attendee and local Boston resident Susan Kormis. When their conversation turned to South Africa, Susan mentioned that she had a friend named Lorraine Norwich who was from South Africa. Saul told Susan that I was researching the Norwitz and Norwich family names. Saul then introduced me to Susan.

I gave Susan my hotel room number and asked her to forward it to her friend. The following day her friend telephoned. I told Lorraine I was related to Bertha [Norwitz] and Philip Frame - the late textile magnate, industrialist, and founder of The Frame Group in Durban, South Africa. Lorraine told me they were her aunt and uncle. Bertha was her father's sister. Lorraine was my third cousin!

Later, my "new" cousin Lorraine came over to the hotel. She brought a three-ring binder of genealogy, family history, and photographs compiled and written by her mother Rose [Sive] Norwich, the wife of the late Dr. Isadore "Oscar" Norwich [nee, Norwitz, formerly Noriskin]. Included among the photographs was a picture of her paternal great-grandfather Berel Orelowitz.

My foremost research goal was accomplished. My reason for attending the seminar fulfilled. As other seminar attendees were at lectures or doing research, I was shmoozing in the Captain's Bar having drinks and "scored" at the Jewish singles mixer: genealogically speaking.



From Our Photo Album



Dear Fellow Genealogist,

I have a Ukrainian question I hope you can answer!

I am trying to find information about my grandfather Jacob Rassner. I believe that he was the only member of his family to settle permanently in the United States. My research includes checking every clue to learn where he lived before coming to the United States.

Sometime around 1929 – 1933 he had a family member visit him in Detroit, Michigan. I have always heard that this brother or nephew was visiting from the Old Country – possibly from the Ukraine. No one can remember the visitor's name. This mystery man was kind enough to bring me a dress. My parents were proud enough to have a photo taken of me wearing the gift. I wonder if anyone can tell me if the dress is Ukrainian in design and further if it is typical of some specific region of the Ukraine. The dress in the photo was handkerchief thin, with bright red flowers in garlands of bright green.

I know this is a long shot but maybe someone will recognize the design. Thank you for any help you can give me. Maybe the mystery man left not only a lovely gift for me but also a clue to my ancestors.

Muriel Levett Schloss 10390 Wilshire Blvd. #1103, Los Angeles, CA 90024 or email at UCLAMema@aol.com

Friends of The Library A Genealogical Source

Look at the workspace of a genealogist. Computer equipment and paper spill onto almost every surface. What space remains is often covered with towers of books. The search and purchase of books can occupy lots of time and money. You may find that local Friends of the Library groups can help in both areas.

Almost every public library, and many university libraries, have support groups raising money to fund library projects. Many of the groups appear under the general name of Friends of the Library. One of the big fund raisers for these groups is book sales. Books come from basically two sources—some books are donated by community members and groups and other books are discarded from the library itself.

The book sales and book stores of Friends of the Library groups are excellent sources for genealogists. Often books for sale are offered at prices much reduced from those in chain book stores, used book stores, and book sites on the internet.

What might a genealogist find through the Friends' groups?

Foreign language dictionaries—most commonly English-German, English-Spanish, English-French and sometimes Hebrew-English, Polish-English and on and on.

Reference books—telephone directories, criss-cross directories, Who's Who, maps, atlases, directories of membership and on and on.

History books—both for the locale of the library, regional books, national histories, histories of ethnic groups, and on and on. Don't forget county histories, chronicles of social movements, etc.

Travel books—travel guides usually offer excellent street maps, specialized travel books may describe locations off the beaten path which can describe the area around the shtetl you are researching. These books offer great background material.

Check with your local public library to see what groups in your area hold book sales. On your travels make a point to stop into the local library to visit. There may be a Friends' book store on site. www.booksalefinder.com lists book sales and book stores for many Friends' groups around the country. Click on a state and determine if a book sale fits into your calendar. If you "need" that Polish-English dictionary the Friends' group may be just the spot to get the book and please your budget.



A Guided Walking Tour in London of The Old Jewish Quarter “a shtetl called Whitechapel”

By Mary Barkan

This year, during a trip to Europe, my family enjoyed a walking tour of the Jewish East End of London. We like taking guided walks and during a previous stay in London had included, to the delight of our children, a Jack the Ripper walking tour. Part of that tour had covered some areas of the East End. However, this time our schedule placed us in sync with the program of London Walks. This tour company has been around a while and offers dozens of guided walking tours. Some tours like that of the Jewish East End are not offered every day so we were delighted to join our guide on a Monday morning outside of the Tower Hill Underground station. Gradually about 20 others joined our group, we each paid 5 pounds, and at eleven thirty we were off.

Our guide began with a short history of the Jews in England. London Walks guides know their stuff and ours was no exception. We examined architecture, touched the old walls of London, heard about Roman London, learned about the earliest Jewish settlers, got the dates straight for expulsions of the Jews from England and learned about the earliest Sephardic settlers. At several stops he displayed prints from old magazines showing occupants of the East End at work. Life was often difficult and work was hard to come by. We learned about matchbox sellers, tatters, shop keepers, and employees of the needle trades.

We were most interested in a visit to Bevis Marks Synagogue. The London Walks brochure assured us that we would see the outside of the synagogue and that sometimes a guide from the synagogue would open the building. Then we rounded a corner, entered a gate and stood in from of this important Jewish landmark. The door opened and Henry Valier stepped outside to welcome us. The synagogue requests a one pound donation per person and we were pleased to contribute. Inside Henry gave us a moment to savor the beauty of the interior and then seated us for a short

talk on the history of the building and the community.

We were amazed to discover that our seats dated from the Cromwellian period, that a chandelier hanging above had been donated by a synagogue in Amsterdam, and that the ark housing was Victorian in design. The building had been designed by a Quaker and the interior faintly reminded one of the plain serenity of a Friends' meeting house. We were allowed to explore the interior and Henry answered additional questions. This was the highlight of the tour!

All too soon we were off to view the exterior of the Sandy Synagogue and the Soup Kitchen which served the East Side during the Depression years. Our two hour walk ended too soon.

Undoubtedly, some type of arrangements will be made to tour the East End during the 21st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy this July. Or, if your plans include a visit to London at another time you can walk with London Walks. Information on all the guided walks can be found at www.walks.com The history of the Bevis Marks Synagogue and the synagogue community can be found at www.aldgate.freeserve.co.uk The Bevis Marks site also contains photographs of the interior and exterior of the building.

Wear comfortable walking shoes, take a jacket and umbrella, and you won't be disappointed with a visit to this area of London.

21st International Conference On Jewish Genealogy

**July 8-13 2001
Intercontinental Hotel Park Lane
London, England
www.jewishgen.org/london2001**



Background

Organizations

NA'AMAT

Did your ancestors belong to one of the popular Jewish organizations? Information about these organizations can enrich your family history project. The information below and more about Na'Amat can be found on the organization's website at www.naamat.org

The women who moved to pre-statehood Israel in the Second Aliya (wave of immigration) from 1904 - 1914 were educated and idealistic. They left their comfortable homes in Eastern Europe and endured great hardships to travel to and live in Palestine. Most were in their late teens or early twenties.

Although they were raised in traditional homes, they were imbued not with religious fervor, but with socialist-nationalist ideological passion. They were no longer willing to wait for the messiah whom they had been taught would rescue the Jewish people from their oppression. These women were convinced that it was time to take matters into their own hands; that only in a homeland of their own would the Jewish people escape the anti-Semitism and persecution rampant in Eastern Europe.

They were untrained as agricultural workers, jobs were hard to find, and hunger and disease ravaged these newcomers. Nonetheless, they were able to organize agricultural settlements and build the Israeli Labor movement with their brothers.

Not only socialists and Zionists, these women were also feminists. They had expected to find real equality in the socialist-Zionist society they were building. But instead of preparing the soil and building the roads alongside men, they were relegated to the kitchens and laundries.

In 1921, they protested, coming together from all over the land to form the first feminist movement in Palestine. NA'AMAT (then called *Moetzet Hapoalet* – the Working Women's Council) had the goal of protecting the rights of the women, making her a full partner in the life of the Labor movement, the founding of the state and the future of the Jewish people.

Rachel Yanait Ben Zvi was one of those women. She worked very hard to establish a tree nursery in the middle of the desert. But a lack of water was threatening its existence. So Rachel wrote to her friend Sophie Udin in New York, requesting help. With 6 other American women, Sophie raised \$500 for the well and sent it to Rachel. These seven women decided at that moment that that was only the beginning of what they could contribute, and so formed NA'AMAT USA (then called Pioneer Women).

Thus began the partnership which morally and

spiritually linked American Jewish women with the women struggling to build a homeland and to find equality for themselves in Israel. Their work began with agricultural training schools and expanded into providing day care for children of working women and vocational training for women who wanted to work. As times have changed, so have women's needs and NA'AMAT's approaches to improving the status of women.

As immigrants poured into Israel after the state's founding, NA'AMAT became heavily involved in their social integration. NA'AMAT was also the first Jewish women's organization to provide social services for Arab and Druze women. When Nelly Karkaby, an Arab woman, began working for NA'AMAT in 1959, only a handful of Arab women were permitted to work outside of their homes, primarily as teachers. Nelly realized that the status of Arab women could advance only through social and economic independence, and she set about expounding the benefits and dispelling the restrictive myths about working women to young Arab women and their parents.

The times have changed and the problems are different. Yet today, almost 75 years after its founding, NA'AMAT USA has remained committed to the idealistic goals of its founders.

NA'AMAT has marched into the 1990s with an enormous agenda. There is its work with new immigrants; the legal aid department that was begun after the Six Day War to serve war widows and orphans and continues to provide legal aid to women; Mehad, the support program for single parent families; the five Centers for the Prevention & Treatment of Violence in the Family; and the new state-of-the-art battered women's shelter and counseling center in a suburb of Tel Aviv, and so much more.

In 1925, when NA'AMAT USA came into existence, the world was between two devastating wars. The Jewish people were dispersed throughout the world, with no political power, no place where we were truly safe. The Jewish homeland did not exist and we could not even dream that we would see its creation in our lifetime.

Today NA'AMAT USA is part of the World Movement of NA'AMAT, and with chapters in sixteen countries, it is the largest and widest-reaching Jewish women's organization in the world.

Our commitment to the social and political action of NA'AMAT Israel runs parallel to our commitment to social and political improvements for here in the United States. Many of the issues that NA'AMAT has focused on in Israel face us here -- women's rights, child well-being, constitutional issues, and social welfare, to name a few.



Seeking ...

Denise **AZBILL**, 6361 Bruma Ave., Las Vegas, NV, 89122, famaz@prodigy.net Seeking information on **WEIDENFELD** (Stanislawow, Jezupol, Skala, Galicia; Akron, Ohio); **ZWIRNBAUM** (Skala, Galicia; Olean, New York; Eldred, Pennsylvania; Shinglehouse, Pennsylvania); **BLEIMAN** (Ohio, New York, New Jersey); **GLICKMAN** (Bukowina); **KATZ**, **ZUCKERMAN** (Olean, New York; Akron, Ohio); **ZEIDNER** (Eldred, Pennsylvania); and **WIESENTHAL** (Skala, Galicia).

Muriel **SCHLOSS**, 10390 Wilshire Blvd. #1103, Los Angeles, CA 90024. UCLAMema@aol.com Seeking ...Ancestors/descendants of Jacob **RASSNER**, b. abt., 1871 in Russia, arrived Port of New York, 1 Sept 1892, lived in New York City; from 1920-1947 lived in Detroit, MI. Also seeking ancestors of Jacob Mordecai (Max) **COHEN** b. 1861, Jerusalem (then Turkey), arrived in U.S. 1886, agent for Charity Institute, mohel, shacket, Rev.

Reunion

Did you attend P.S. 56, P.S. 94, or JHS 80 (Mosholu Parkway Jr.), in the 40s or early 50s? If so, contact Jack Oliver at jako@juno.com or (702) 228-6943

We Remember

Howard Geller who died in Las Vegas on 8 August 2000. With his wife, Jo-Ann Geller who survives him, he was active in the JGSSouthern Nevada West project to survey Las Vegas cemeteries. Recently he had assisted Jo-Ann in collecting Hadassash materials for donation to the UNLV Jewish Migration to Las Vegas Project.

Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

_____ \$20.00 Family Membership

_____ \$15.00 Individual Membership

Please make checks Payable to JGSSN-West
Mail To: JGSSN
P.O. Box 29342
Las Vegas, NV 89126

JGSSN-West membership runs from
January to December

JGSSN-West Information:
Carole Montello at: carmont7@juno.com

Family Legacies is printed four times each year - Summer, Winter, Spring, and Fall. Articles, manuscripts, notable news may be submitted to: Editor Mary Barkan
JGSSNWest
P.O. Box 29342
Las Vegas, NV 89126

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-West 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-West of their newsletter. Subscriptions are \$10.00 per year. Back issues \$3.50 each.

Calendar 2000
JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

October 15 – Ethics in Jewish Genealogy and Family History–Steven Kitnick

November 19 –Resources At The National Archives
Bill Doty, Archivist National Archives
Laguna Nigel , California

December 17–Me and My Genealogy

Officers and Board of Trustees

President - Carol e Montel l o

Vice-President - El l a Perl a

Secretary - Shirl ey Kl eiman

Treasurer - Sam Showel

Trustees:

Henry Yel l owitz, Janet Farino,

Jack Ol iver, Charl otte Showel

Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada - West

P.O. Box 29342

Las Vegas, NV 89126

Don't Miss the November 19th Meeting –

Resources At The National Archives

Bill Doty, Archivist National Archives

Laguna Nigel , California