



Family Legacies

Linking the past with the present and the future

Jewish Genealogy Society
of Southern Nevada - West

Vol.4, No.1 Winter 2001

Election of Officers and Trustees Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada West

At the December 2000 meeting elections were held for officers and trustees. Each will serve a two year term beginning in January 2001. Serving on the Nominating Committee were Shirley Wiener and Myrna Adler.

Officers and trustees to serve two year terms are:

President: Carole Montello
Vice-President: Henry Yellowitz
Secretary: Marilyn Hulnick Barkan

Treasurer: Sam Showel
Trustees: Janet Farino, Jack Oliver, Ella Perla and
Charlotte Showel

Continuing positions for the society include:

Meeting Host—Henry Yellowitz
Family Legacies Editor—Mary Barkan

Librarian—Janet Farino
Newsletter Associates—Janet Farino,
Shirley and Phil Weiner

In This Issue—Joan Adler and Bobby Furst share photos and their travel journal from a trip to the Ukraine. Below is a picture postcard of one of the hotels they stayed in during their interesting trip. This issue presents the first of a four part series on their journey.



Paradis Hotel and Restaurant, Krasilov, Ukraine



Researching at the Family History Library, Salt Lake City Part One—Before You Go

Members of JGS Southern Nevada West jaunt off to Salt Lake City for research trips year round. A scenic drive of about five hours or a quick one hour in the air can put you at the door of the world's largest genealogical library. Preparation is the key to a successful trip. This article is the first in a four part series of ideas, tips, and useful information from members who have made the trek to Salt Lake.

Time spent before your trip will make your research more successful. Make a list of research questions you hope to answer.

Use the online library catalogue (www.familysearch.org) or purchase the library catalogue on CD to search by location for records available at the library. If you find a microfilm you'd like to search add the film number and brief description to your research list. If the film notes for the microfilm indicate that the microfilm is located in the VAULT, you will need to write to the library before your visit. List all the films held in the vault that you would like to use and include the dates of your visit. When you arrive at the library your films should be waiting for you!

Don't forget to include books on your research list. Books from the Family History Library do not circulate. Use the online library catalogue to make a list of books you'd like to search. Schedule some time during your trip to research and photocopy pages from books. The library no longer holds a copy of Where Once We Walked. A favorite of Jewish genealogists this book is out of print. Borrow the copy held by JGS Southern Nevada West before you go. The library does contain many gazetteers you can use to locate towns in Europe. At last report the library held only the first three volumes of Migration From The Russian Empire. The library holds a set of Encyclopedia Judaica which can offer fascinating information on family names and ancestral towns. In the past this encyclopedia has been moved around the library. You may need to ask about its current location.

If you plan to take your laptop to the library,

make sure you have a locking device to provide security.

Soundex all the surnames on your research list before your trip. This will save you time when your research the U.S. Census, passenger arrival records to the port of New York, and some New York City vital records. Be sure to soundex all variants of the names and as many misspellings as possible. You can use your computer to soundex names at JewishGen (www.jewishgen.org) or use the Family Tree Maker program. Type your surnames on a sheet or two of paper and make the font size at least 18, and the print bold. You'll have a ready, easy to read, reference for your work.

Be sure to pack your driver's license or other photo identification. Some records are held in the library at the library attendant window. To use these records (the vital records on microfiche for Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, are one example) you need to leave a photo id with the attendant.

Plan to be an early riser and arrive at the library at opening. The library discards books and offers them for sale and low, low, prices. The discarded books are placed on a bookshelf near the library attendant window and coat rack on the main floor. This floor contains the U.S. books and computer room. If you see a book in the discarded area you want to purchase, take it to the library attendant window.

Don't forget your checkbook. The Family History Library is a non-profit organization. Materials purchased from the library are tax deductible. If you purchase CDs, research guides, or discarded books from the library, plan to purchase all the items at one time and write a check.

Make a list of new books you might want to buy. Near the library in the Crossroads Mall there is a genealogy book/supply store. If you purchase books or materials here you won't have to pay shipping costs.

Basically, before you go, you need lists! Not only will they organize your research, they will save you valuable library time.



Our Trip To The Past

By Joan Adler and Bobby Furst

(Editor's note—Joan and Bobby produced a CD Rom containing notes from their Ukrainian travel journal and photos. They traveled with a guide identified in this text as Alex. Towns visited included: Rzeszow, Lviv, Volochisk, Khmel'nitskij, Krasniilov, Slavuta, Yarmolintsy, Gorodok, Sharovka, Kuzmin, Khmel'nitskij; Minkivtsi, Kamenetz Podolski, Khotin, Shashlik, Kalytintsy, Zhuravlintsy, Veseltsa, Cherni Ostrov, and Sharovechka. Portions from the CD appear here and in the next three issues of *Family Legacies*.)

We are sisters, Joan Adler and Bobby (Barbara) Furst. Joan lives in New York and Bobby lives in California. We have a brother, Lee, who also lives in California.

We started to work on our genealogy when our brother received an email from someone who shares our maiden name, Brautman. This man asked our brother if they were related. Our brother didn't know, or care, so he forwarded the note to us. We were intrigued.

We grew up in Brooklyn, NY knowing only six relatives. That's six in total; from our mother and father's side combined. The idea that we had other relatives was tantalizing. We wrote to this man, explored who he was and didn't find a common link. But we were hooked. That was almost four years ago. Since that time, we have been obsessed.

This journal, which you are about to read, is the product of our enthusiasm for genealogy and our need to remember and document everything. Perhaps, as you read through its pages, you will find information about your own family or shtetl. If not, we hope, at the very least, we inspire you to visit the towns where your ancestors originated and to share your discoveries with the genealogical community.

It is impossible to convey how moving this experience has been.

Khmel'nitskij and Regional Archives

Tuesday, August 8th: All during the night, there were thunderstorms and we woke to a damp and rainy day. We decided to spend some time in the local archives rather than traipse around the countryside. The closest archive is in Khmel'nitskij, so that's where we headed first. We had read Miriam Weiner's book, *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*, which lists where the Ukrainian documents are stored. Bobby brought copies of the pages listing the archives that would be of interest to us. ZAG, the municipal archive as opposed to the regional archive, sounded like they might have some interesting records. They are supposed to hold the post 1900 records according to Miriam Weiner.

We found the ZAG office in a three or four story building that seemed more like an apartment house than an of-

fice building. There was a small brass plaque outside the door but we never would have found the archive if Alex hadn't known it was there. We entered the building through a small doorway. The entryway was very dark. No lights were on. The walls and floor are cement; very damp and very cold. In front of us there were two or three uneven stairs up to a small landing. On this landing, there was one door but it had no sign on it and we didn't know if there was an office or apartment inside. We ascended to the second floor. There was a double door before us and, again, there was no sign announcing that the archive was located here. We entered and found ourselves in a dark, narrow room that smelled of mildew. It was unlit. The only furniture in this room was an upholstered couch, a wooden desk and chair and two more upholstered chairs. At the end of this room, there was a doorway to a room that was well lit. Here, there were four desks and three women working. They all looked unhappy and tired. Only one of the women had a computer but she was sitting at a back desk, not interested in us, and obviously not going to be of any help. The woman closest to the door at the first desk asked what we wanted. She had several stacks of 5" X 8" ancient record books on her desk that she had been going through, and she was clearly unhappy we had interrupted her. We were almost salivating, wanting to handle and look through her books.

After a lengthy conversation, which Alex reported to us, she denied she had any records from Slavuta even though our pages from Miriam's books told us she did. She finally agreed to look at some vital records from Slavuta and found one record from that town but it wasn't for our family. While all of this was going on, we sat in the anteroom in the dark. A man and woman came in and that woman spoke with a different woman than the one who had been "helping" us. The man waited with us in the dark room. The woman was finally given a form to fill out and was told to do it at the desk in the anteroom. At this point, the light was turned on.

We were frustrated by the archivist's lack of interest or cooperation. The woman suggested we go to Gorodok. They might have our records. We immediately drove there and went to the Town Hall.

Although the front of this building is quite nice in a municipal sort of way, we were directed to a side entrance that is not as nice. We found a line of people standing in the rain, waiting to be admitted. Most of them appeared anxious or unhappy. The hallway inside had no lights on and the familiar mildew odor seemed to have followed us from Khmel'nitskij.

Alex walked into the building and indicated that we should follow him into the room. A nicely dressed woman was sitting at a table in the middle of a well-lighted room of about 16 feet square. Beside her table and chair, the only other furniture in this room there were three chairs for visitors. We were invited to sit in them.

(continued page 4)



Our Trip To The Past, continued

The woman had an ancient phone on her desk and a few papers, but nothing else; no computer, no typewriter, no electronic equipment of any kind, no ledgers or books. We noticed that she was using an abacus to prop open the large window behind her. Later, we learned that many people in Ukraine use the abacus, instead of an adding machine or cash register, to figure out sums.

The woman listened patiently while Alex explained what we wanted. She even smiled once or twice. We were encouraged to have found someone who cared a little and who looked like she might be cooperative. Unfortunately, she had no records for us. She suggested we go back to Khmel'nitskij to the Regional Historical Archive. We were getting pretty familiar with Khmel'nitskij by now and Alex thought he would have no difficulty finding the address.

The Regional Historical Archive is in a building that looks like a tall apartment building with a small parking lot in front. We walked up the six or eight steps to the entrance of the building and found ourselves inside a dark, damp lobby. To the right, there was a glass enclosed, 4' X 6' room where a security guard sat at a desk reading the newspaper in the dark. There was a rather lengthy discussion between Alex and this man.

Alex was made to fill out a form and then the man agreed to let us go to the archive. When he saw that Joan had a backpack and Bobby was carrying a purse, he demanded we leave them in his office. We didn't want to do this because we were carrying our passports, airplane tickets, credit cards and money for the trip. Alex told him we would not leave our things there and the man reluctantly allowed us passage to the archive. We walked up a flight of stairs to the second floor and found the first attractively decorated area in a government office. The hallway had a woven rug on its wooden floor that reminded us of an American Indian design. The area was bright. There were bulletin boards in the hallway with informational fliers tacked to them that seemed to be about interesting programs. We entered the archive, which had no sign on the door or any other way we could have told that this was the right place. We were constantly reminded that we were lucky to be traveling with Alex.

The room we entered was large. It held two desks where two women sat shuffling papers. By now we were not surprised they had no computers or any other equipment, not even a manual typewriter. There was a wall of small drawers that looked like they belonged in a pharmacy (like the old fashioned pharmacies that had boxes of loose herbs to be measured out) and one piece of furniture that held about ten rows of boxes of large file cards.

Alex went into one of his lengthy discussions with one woman. He kept translating for us as he went along. After much discussion, we learned there were vast gaps in the records. This archive had nothing prior to 1917. After that, what they had was sparse, some records from one village and nothing for another. They had incomplete lists of cooperative farm workers for a

village or recently unclassified KGB detention records, also incomplete.

We asked to see anything between 1917 and 1930 and they asked us to be more specific. We asked to see the cooperative lists from 1917 to 1930. After much discussion, we were told they only had the cooperative lists after 1944. Then we asked to see the detention lists and we were told they were kept in a specially locked place and the only person with the key was on vacation. Alex asked if there was anyone else, like the director, who had a key. One of the women got the director. He gave us the third degree. Alex went through the entire process again; explaining who we were, what we wanted, what we would do with any information we found, and why we wanted it. We felt the director was very suspicious of us in general and not very willing to give us access to anything. He wanted to know who Alex was, his background, why he was traveling with two Americans, and why Alex wanted to see the records. By this time, we were so frustrated that we asked to see the detention lists, just so we could feel we had done some research – of any kind. He finally agreed to give us access to the lists of those killed during the war. But only if we would fill out some forms. We agreed. He left.

One woman started looking in the card files to see if they had detention records for our particular towns. She said they did but we would have to give her specific names of individuals. She would have to call one office to get an index number and then another office and give them the index number to learn if they had the record - a long and complicated process. We asked if we could see the casualty records for our towns. She looked at her records again and said she didn't have any for our towns.

Another aside: Records in Ukraine are only just becoming available since the break-up of the Soviet Union. However, they are kept in many different places with very little organization. They have no indexing system, no master list of where any records are kept, no computers and no incentive to help people like us. We have hired a man who lives in Odessa and who has provided us with some wonderful older records from Kamenetz Podolsk. More on the Kamenetz Podolsk Archives later. It would be incredibly expensive and time consuming to try to get the records from some of these other archives.

One other comment: It is absolutely necessary to hire someone who can read the records, knows how to get the archivists to do the research since the researchers are not allowed to see or handle the books in most cases, and who can do this at a reasonable rate. The records are written in handwritten Cyrillic. Even if we were able to read Cyrillic, the Cyrillic we would learn is the typewritten alphabet and the handwriting in no way resembles this. Going to the archives in Ukraine reinforced for us how difficult it will be to learn more about our ancestors. But we will keep trying.

Our Trip To The Past © 2000, Joan Adler and Bobby Furst



Genealogy and Videotape

By Jack Oliver

In the not too distant past, the written word, photographs, home movies and audio tape recorders were about the only way to preserve family history. Today that has all changed with the advent of the video camcorder. One of the best ways to use this great invention is to video members of your family, particularly the older members. Recording the memories of their early life and that of their deceased family members that they remember will be a revered treasure for generations to come.

To accomplish this, obviously some equipment is required. A camera, tripod, microphone are the basics. A few accessories might help but are not essential. Video monitors, wireless microphone, headset, to name a few are a few additional accessories that might be useful but not necessary.

Once the equipment is set up, place the participants in a comfortable chair. Having a husband and wife to work with is a plus. Another good grouping would be a brother and sister. The reason for this will be explained later.

The use of an external microphone is preferred since the built-in mikes on most cameras are not of the best quality. In addition, these mikes are usually good only for a distance of about six feet.

The normal light available in a typical room should be sufficient. If not, be prepared to provide one or more additional lights. There should be an overhead light and one from the side to help eliminate shadows.

There are two concerns in making a tape. One is to provide information; the other is to prevent the user from becoming bored. The former is accomplished by asking the participants leading questions of your choosing. This is best done off camera or editing out later. The latter requires that you, the videographer, change your shots or settings as you proceed. If you watch movies or television shows, you'll notice that most scenes only last five to ten seconds each. In the case of two people talking, the camera doesn't stay on any one person very long.

The scene is constantly changing from one viewpoint to another. This is all designed to keep the viewer interested. So how do you accomplish this when you're taping just one or two people for an extended time? By varying your shots, i.e., start with both people, (assuming you're doing a couple), then zoom in on the one who will speak first. You can use a full, or almost full, body shot. Then a short time later, a face close-up. This can be followed by a shot from the waist up. After awhile, you can cut to the second person and do the same thing with them. When you feel the time is right, cut back to the first person and so on. Another way to prevent boredom is to move the camera during the session. Stop the camera and move to one side of the person and then later, to the other side. One more thing is to move the person to another location so that the background is different. The use of a zoom lens should be kept to a minimum.

Plan on about two sessions that should have occasional for breaks.

When completed the tape should be edited to eliminate any nonproductive parts. In addition, at this time transitions, titles and background music can be added.

The final results can be viewed for years on either videotape or even a CD for a much longer period.

Nevada Fact

From Into Their Own; Nevada Women Emerging Into Public Life, Anita Ernst Watson, Nevada Humanities Committee ISBN 1-890591-06-8, 2000

“There were two Jewish benevolent groups helping the Comstock communities by 1865, and a Hebrew congregation in Eureka by 1876.”



Databases from JGS Southern Nevada West

The following databases hold information of interest to genealogists and historians. Please note that originals held by the Special Collections Department at the University of Nevada Las Vegas are available to researchers only at the Lied Library on the UNLV campus. Photocopies of relevant pages may be requested from JGS Southern Nevada West by email at the address listed or by U.S. mail at JGS Southern Nevada West, P.O. Box 29342, Las Vegas, NV 89126-3342. Photocopies will vary in quality; some original sources are in deteriorating condition. Copy charges are \$2.00 per page which includes postage within the United States. For fees outside the United States please email the Society. Copied pages are folded and mailed in standard U.S. business envelopes.

Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter, Calendars 1993-2001, Name Index, 3,891 entries:

Calendars and Index are held by UNLV Special Collections Department.

Copies of the calendars and Index are held by JGS Southern Nevada West.

Email searches: marybarkan@mindspring.com

Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter, 1965 Scrapbook Name Index, 967 entries:

This database indexes names found on each page and may reference photos, newspaper articles, chapter newsletters, publicity releases, etc. Names may appear on more than one page and in more than one category.

Scrapbook and Index are held by UNLV Special Collections Department.

Copy of the scrapbook and Index are held by JGS Southern Nevada West.

Email searches: marybarkan@mindspring.com

Las Vegas Year 2000 Temple Bulletin Index 12,962 names:

This database indexes the names appearing in the temple bulletins for the following Las Vegas Synagogues for the year 2000: Temple Beth Sholom, Ner Tamid, Ahavat Torah, Adat Ari El, Bet Kneset, Midbar Kodesh, Beth Am and Chabad. Not all synagogues published bulletins for each calendar month. In addition, some monthly issues may be missing. Some names appear in bulletins for several synagogues. Because the index contains the names of donors, speakers, politicians, entertainers, etc., not all names are Jewish. Copies of the Chabad entries are not available for photocopying.

Bulletins and Index are held by UNLV Special Collections Department.

Copies of the bulletins and Index are held by JGS Southern Nevada West.

Email searches: marybarkan@mindspring.com

Southern Nevada Veterans Cemetery, Boulder City, Nevada, 434 entries:

Original Index is held by IAGJS.

Copy of the Index is held by UNLV Special Collections Department.

Copy of the Index is held by JGS Southern Nevada West.

Email searches: hagnjag@aol.com

Family Legacies Newsletter Surname Index 1997-2000:

Index is held by JGS Southern Nevada West.

Copy of the Index is held by UNLV Special Collections Department

Email searches: janfar@wizard.com

Family Legacies Newsletter Article Index 1997-2000:

Index is held by JGS Southern Nevada West

Copy of the Index is held by UNLV Special Collections Department

Email searches: janfar@wizard.com



Future Searchable Databases

Temple Beth Sholom Bulletin—2001
Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter Scrapbook 1966
Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter Scrapbook 1967
Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter Scrapbook 1968
Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter Scrapbook 1969
Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter Scrapbook 1970
Hadassah, Las Vegas Chapter Scrapbook 1971

Background Books—Nevada

Who Are The Women Of Las Vegas 1984 Edition

Published by Who Are They Publishing Corporation, Las Vegas, Nevada, in 1984, now out of print, this book may be available through inter-library loan. The 1984 volume contains biographical information about the following Jewish women who were active in Las Vegas community affairs:

Eva Coira Bortman
Eileen Milstein Brookman
Renee Shulman Diamond
Betty Schiff Goldmann
Carolyn Goldmark Goodman
Rochelle Winnick Hornsby
Edythe Sperling Katz
Jane Terrell Leonard
Phyllis Paulsen Mark
Flora Esformes Mason
Florence Shilling McClure
Lynn Leshgold Rosencrantz
Reva Feuer Schwartz
Fanny Goldwater Soss
Christine Fullilove Triner
Irene Miller Vogel

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JGSSN-West membership runs from
January to December

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

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JGSSNWest
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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.

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Calendar 2001
JGSSN-West Meeting Schedule
Sahara West Library 9600 W. Sahara 1pm

April 15th—Members Only Field Trip

May 20th- A World of Maps

June 17th—Genealogy and Videotape—jack oliver

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Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada - West

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International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy

8-13 July 2001 London, England

www.jewishgen.org/london2001