JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Meeting of March 27, 2016

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Hadassah of Greater Baltimore

3723 Old Court Road, #205

Pikesville, MD 21208

MINUTES

President Lara Diamond opened the meeting promptly at 1:30 pm. There were just a few new attendees who were invited to identify the focus of their respective family searches.

Dick Goldman will be returning from his sojourn in Florida and with his return will be a new course in genealogy that he will be teaching at CCBC – Owings Mills. The course begins on April 19 and runs for 8 ½ weeks.

It was also announced that at our August meeting, Marion Smith, Historian at the USCIS\* History Office and Library will be our guest speaker. In advance of that meeting, members are invited to submit questions involving immigration records that they have been trying to resolve. Questions should be submitted by April 10 to jgsofmd@gmail.com

Reports from JGSMD board members began with Sue Steeble, who reported to the group that the next issue of our newsletter would be sent to members on April 1. Also, we are continuing to offer members opportunities to submit their “brick walls.” Forms for making those submissions were among the available handouts.

Joe Nathanson, who has offered to facilitate the Galicia Special Interest Group (SIG), said that he would be available at the end of the meeting to discuss specific issues with members regarding their Galicia-related searches.

Our treasurer, Fred Handelman, reported that we now had 101 paid members and our treasury balance stood at $4,382.

Edie Shlian reported on the cemetery project. Given the many questions raised in the ensuing discussion, there is strong interest in this project within JGSMD.

Lara Diamond was our featured speaker on this occasion and she gave us a preview of the topic that she will be presenting at a genealogy conference in Toronto in June. The title of the topic: “Your Ancestral Town May Not Be So Ancestral.” Lara’s summary of her talk is provided below.

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| Lara-Diamond *Lara Diamond is President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland (JGSMD) and has been researching her family for 25 years since she was too young to have a driver’s license and had to rely on her mother as a chauffeur. Lara has traced all branches of her family back to Europe and most multiple generations back in Europe using Russian Empire-era and Austria-Hungarian Empire records. Most of her research is in modern-day Ukraine, with a bit of Belarus and Poland as well.*

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 | The featured topic “Movement between Towns in Eastern Europe” (a.k.a. “Ancestral Towns May Not Have Been So Ancestral”), was presented by Lara Diamond. Many researchers, once they have discovered the town from which their ancestors left Eastern Europe, assume that their families must have lived in that town or the vicinity for many generations. While this was true for some families, there was significant movement through broad swaths of Europe by many Jews for a variety of reasons. The speaker demonstrated the breadth of some families’ movements with examples from her own research and discussed the types of documents used to trace those families’ travels.  |

**Next Meeting**

The next program will take place on April 17, 2016 at 1:30PM at the Baltimore Hadassah office. Our speaker will be Mary Ann Evan of the Kensington Family History Center.

\* USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Service, formerly INS and now part of the Department of Homeland Security).

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