JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Meeting of May 17, 2015

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Pikesville Branch, Baltimore County Library

MINUTES

President Lara Diamond opened the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Dick Goldman reported on our group’s participation in the Jewish-American Festival to be held on Sunday, June 7 at Quarry Lake. Our booth at the festival will invite visitors to “find your ancestors within 5 minutes.” [Qualifier – ancestors must be in the U.S. in 1940 or earlier.]

Sue Steeble noted that the next issue of our newsletter, *L’dor V’dor*, will come out on July 1 and invited members to submit articles for future issues.

Lara invited first-time attendees to introduce themselves and mention their genealogy research interests.

The need for new monthly meeting locations was discussed. We’ll meet at the Pikesville library in June, but future meeting locations will have to be confirmed.

Lara introduced our guest speaker, Professor Kenneth Moss, Director of the Judaic Studies program at Johns Hopkins University. His topic was “The Jews of Eastern Europe in the Age of Mass Migration, 1881 – 1914.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Kenneth Moss Kenneth Moss Director of the Jewish Studies Program,****Associate Professor**** Modern Jewish history; Russia and Eastern Europe; nationalism; theory and practice of cultural history | Professor Ken Moss presented a talk of interest to many American Jews whose ancestors came here from Eastern Europe. His talk covered the broad themes that described the age of mass migration, which he described as the period 1881 to 1914.  Those themes included the birth of Jewish politics, the rise of Zionism and Socialism, and the movement from small towns to large cities.  He started by describing the enduring traditions of Jewish life: the shtetl, the Yiddish language, the calendar and life cycle events, the separate lives they lived from their non-Jewish neighbors.  With the collapse of the old shtetl economy many cultural changes followed. These included the rise of Polish Chasidism and Jewish nationalism, within the larger context of ethno-nationalism throughout Eastern Europe.  Further discussion of broad demographic-economic changes – the role of Jewish townsmen relative to Polish magnates, the typical occupations of other members of the Jewish community – rounded out a most fascinating and well received talk. |

**Next Meeting**

The next program will take place on June 28 at 1:30PM at the Pikesville Library (1301 Reisterstown Road). David Brill will present "Letters from a Judean", based on the correspondence of William Porter, a young Jew who left his home in Philadelphia in 1918 to join the Jewish Legion in pre-mandatory Palestine.

Top of Form