



Fall 2013

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Mishpacha

Quarterly Publication of
The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington

In Memory of

RITA KRAKOWER MARGOLIS

May her name be inscribed for a blessing.



Rita Krakower Margolis

It is with a heavy heart that I advise you of the passing of our former President and dear friend, Rita Krakower Margolis this morning, September 11, 2013.

Services will be held at Beth El of Montgomery County at 10:30 AM, September 12, 2013. Burial at King David Cemetary. Shiva Thursday night at Margolis residence.

Rita lost a 12-year battle with cancer, but right up to the end, she strived to ensure that her genealogical research would be a legacy for her family. For JGSGW, she served as a maven and model, attending our August meeting in spite of her illness. She never turned us down when we needed a leader or volunteer for a project. She served as JGSGW President from 1989-1991, From 1993-2003, Rita was the project leader for our cemetery project,. More recently, she co-chaired the Banquet committee at DC2011 IAJGS Conference. Last year, Rita chaired our genealogy education program at the Charles E, Smith Day School.

Our sincerest condolences to her husband Sol Margolis and to her children and grandchildren. She loved and cherished you all.

Marlene Bishow



Rita doing research at the National Archives.

“Every man of the children of Israel shall encamp by his own standard with the ensign of his family”
—Numbers 2:2

JGSGW

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Board of Directors, 2013-2014

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About Mishpacha

MISHPACHA is the quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc. (JGSGW), serving Washington D.C., Northern Virginia, and the Maryland suburbs. *Mishpacha* is distributed electronically. All rights reserved.

Free to members, subscriptions are \$30/\$30 foreign by email only. Membership dues are \$30 for individuals, \$45 for families, \$100 for Patrons, and \$500 for Life Memberships. Membership inquiries: PO Box 1614, Rockville, MD 20849-1614.

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JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for possible publication in *Mishpacha*. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or publish in revised form.

Submit articles to the editor: Jan R. Fine, at mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear JGSGW Members:

May you all be inscribed and sealed for a year of health and happiness!

As we commence this new year, I would like to share with you a summary of the two meetings of the Board of Directors held in July and August. It is the custom of the society for the first meeting of the Board of Directors to be focused on the selection of members to the appointed positions of the Board. Hence, on July 14, the elected officers met at my home for a meet and greet luncheon. The following volunteers were chosen to fill important positions in our society. Here is a list of those appointments:

Faith Klein	Past President
Vera Finberg	Librarian
Jan Fine	Mishpacha Editor
Sue Swift	DNA Project
Ernie Fine	Webmaster (would like to retire)
Marlene Bishow	Database Manager (would like to retire)
John Hirschmann	Assistant to the VP Communications
Sonia Pasis	"Cookie Lady"

Marlene and Ernie would like to retire from those appointed positions and we both hope that there will be volunteers to take over these important positions, please! We are also seeking to re-create our Speakers Bureau and activate our Research Coordinator position. Volunteers needed.

We reviewed our roles and focused on clarifying the duties and responsibilities of the new Vice President for Communications. Vic Cohen, Treasurer, reported on the finances of the society. We have a healthy financial position.

On August 18, a meeting of the full Board was held prior to our first general meeting. Introductions were made and Vic Cohen presented a proposed fiscal budget for 2013-2014. After some discussion, the budget was approved. We then discussed the attempts being made to reconstitute the Jewish Genealogical Society of Maryland.

Two exciting announcements were made. The first is that our May speaker, Dr. Sanford Sternlicht, Professor Emeritus of Syracuse University will also speak at the Library of Congress on May 19 in celebration of Jewish American History Month. This lecture will be co-sponsored by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington and the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington.

Additionally, I was pleased to announce that, thanks to Robin Meltzer, a new relationship has been established between JGSGW and the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy in Rockville. Through this arrangement, Academy students may earn public service credits while participating in JGSGW projects. The three projects defined are: 1) Photographing matzevot at area Jewish cemeteries. 2) Translating the Hebrew inscriptions on the cemetery markers, and 3) Create a new website for JGSGW.

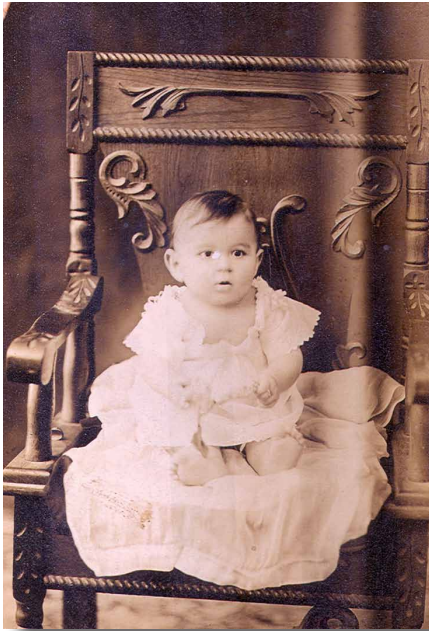
I am very excited to be working with such an enthusiastic group of Board members and I hope that you will be excited too and excited enough that you will want to participate with us in the positions and projects that are discussed above. Volunteers should contact me at jgsgw@jgsgw.org

L'shanah tovah,
Marlene

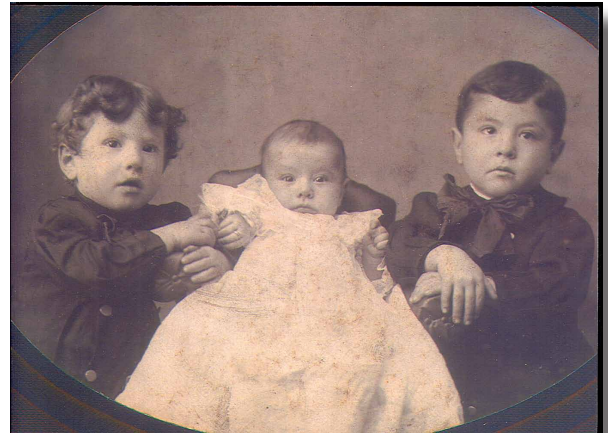
Marlene Katz Bishow
President

BABY PHOTOS

In the Last issue of Mishpacha JGSGW members were asked to send in photos of their pre-1930's ancestors baby pictures. The idea was to see what similarities and differences would surface and to share a bit of our own history with each other – just as we did with wedding images in the Spring/Summer issue. We hope you enjoy them.



Bill Yoffee sent us these two images of his family. They were from Harrisburg, PA.



Nate (left), Sam (middle), Ben Yoffee (right), sons of Tobias Yoffee. - Samuel Yoffee, born August 19,1905, is less than one year old. Nate was born in 1903 and Ben in 1900. Sam is the father of Bill Yoffee.

Bernard Bernstein- born April 13 1912, less than one year old, is Bill Yoffee's father-in-law.

Justin Loe

"This old family photo, from Grodno, circa 1902 has a baby in it. To clarify, the couple in the center, Ahron Meir Stern and Chayah Jonas (maiden name) are my great-great grandparents. "





"My grandmother Elise Tobias, born 1885."



"My mother Joan Lowenthal, born 1914."

Barbara Garrard

"My grandmother was born Elise TOBIAS, married surname LOEWENTHAL [so her picture as a child has her maiden name & the picture with her son Bendix (nicknamed Barney) has her married name]. My mother was born Joan LOEWENTHAL (married surname WOLF). My grandmother Elise was born in 1885."

All pictures were taken in Manhattan.



"My grandmother Elise Tobias and my uncle Bendix (Barney) Lowenthal 1912."



"All images were most likely taken in Providence, Rhode Island. "

Karen Steinfeld

Above: "Sam Landesberg is my great grandfather holding my great aunt Lillian (born in 1905) This photo was from 1906-7."



"The photo of Leo Landesberg (my grandfather) must be from around 1909 - 1910. He was born in Feb 1908."



"Circa 1915 From left to right: Albert Landesberg (my great uncle) Lillian Landesberg (my great aunt) Leo Landesberg (my grandfather)."



"This picture is my maternal grandmother Bessie Israel (born April 1906 in Baltimore,MD). The picture was taken in Providence, RI. After her mother died her father could not care for her and her brother so they were raised for by their maternal grandmother who lived in Providence. This is circa 1910."



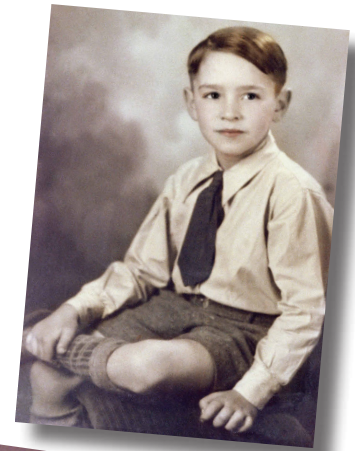
Above: "1908 portrait of my grandparents, Meyer and Ida Hellerstein, with the first 4 of their 10 children. (My dad was the 10th): Daughter Goldie (b. 1901) is standing at the left. Baby Jerome (b. 1907) is in Ida's lap. Daughter Mayme (b. 1905) is sitting in front of Meyer. Son Lou (b. 1903) is standing to his father's right."

Alice Raanan

"These photos are from my father's side of the family. All were taken in Denver:"



Right: "Daughter of my great aunt and uncle Rose and Charles Hellerstein. This photo dates from the 1890s."



Right: "My father Stanley Hellerstein (b. 1926) (My Dad actually is still alive.) He was so much younger than the children pictured above that by the time he was born, his sister Goldie already had 2 children!"



Left: "Heinz-Felix Frischwasser, my husband's father, was born in Vienna in 1926. I believe that this photo was taken in the late 1920s because he appears to be only 3 or 4 years old."



Above: "My great uncle Moses Hellerstein and my great aunt Tzivia with infant daughter Goldie from around 1912. Moses and Tzivia were married in 1890. They were essentially childless for 22 years until she was born in June of 1912."



Left: "This photo is of my great grandparents, Elkunah and Czerna Grosser and their first three children. It was taken about two years after her arrival in the US in 1901 , as the little girl on the left (my grandmother Ida Grosser), and the boy on the right (Herman Grosser) were born in Baranivka, Russia in 1898 and 1900 respectively. The baby, Samuel, was born in Philadelphia in July 1902. The photo was taken to show the relatives back home how things were going for the family. I recently met with the grandson of Elkunah's brother Moishe who remained in Labun, the family's hometown. This man grew up visiting his grandfather every summer until the war, and remembered seeing this photo on the wall of his grandfather's home."



Above: "This is a photo of my father, Barney Roth, taken about 1911 in Trenton NJ. He was the youngest of four brothers but was much younger than his siblings. His brothers all had biblical names - Aaron, Isadore, Benjamin, but my father's real name was Barney. This was a trial to me as a child as school officials and others kept wanting to change it to Bernard, and wouldn't believe me when I said it was really Barney. His parents died when he was young, and i don't think he really knew where the name came from. My research has found several Bernards, Bernaths, and other variants in my grandparents family, but no Barneys."



Above: "This photo is of (L-R) my Great Great Grandmother (Leah Tepper), her daughter Rose Cohen , and Grandson Hy Cohen, along with someone I know only as Mema Chaya. This was taken about 1915 in Philadelphia. probably in an alley near 4th and Front St where they lived and had a business. (the names noted on the bottom were a late addition and Rose is incorrectly identified as her sister Bess. I have compared early photos of both Bess and Rose to this one and decided that is definitely Rose, the mother of Hy.)"

Mary-Jane Roth

"These photos were all taken in Philadelphia."



Lara Diamond

"One of these pictures was taken in Kolodne., Ukraine, then Austia-Hungary and the other was taken in McKeesport, PA."

"This picture is my great-uncle, Isadore Joshowitz, along with my great-grandmother, Esther Rutner Joshowitz in approximately 1916. The picture was taken in what is now Kolodne, Ukraine (then Austria-Hungary) and probably sent to Isadore's father Josef who was already in America at that time. I love the bugle in his hand!"



"This picture shows my grandmother Minnie Joshowitz (later Tolchin) as an infant, along with Isadore aged 9, and both of their parents. This was taken in McKeesport, PA in 1922."

JGSGW October Meeting

JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

“Obscure Records of Citizenship and Nationality”

Speaker: Marian L. Smith

This presentation will focus on lesser-known federal records of derived citizenship, repatriation, and correspondence covering a variety of citizenship-related problems and topics. While the records discussed were created after 1906, some involve events that occurred years or decades before. In addition to case studies and examples, the presentation will provide guidance for researching the records at either USCIS or the National Archives.

Date: Sunday, October 13, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze,
1:30 PM Meeting followed by Program

Location: GW Hillel, 2300 H. St. NW, Washington, D.C.
[click here for directions](#)



Marian Smith is the Chief, Historical Research Branch at the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (formerly the INS).

In the Next Issue...

Winter Program Information

SOCIAL MEDIA and more.

Please email your stories about how social media has helped in your research, share your blogging experiences - your own blogs or blogs you read - to the editor: Jan Fine at: mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com

Mishpacha wants all of your stories!

Please send them in!

MISHPACHA Winter 2013-14
Planned release December 15, 2013

Deadline for submissions:

November 15, 2013

Submissions should be made to the editor,
Jan Fine at: mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com.

JGSGW November Meeting

JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

Beginner's Workshop

10:00 AM – Noon at B'nai Israel

Are you new to Jewish genealogy or looking for some fresh ideas on new sources or how to approach a "brick wall." then register for our Beginner's Workshop. The workshop is a members-only benefit. Attendees will receive a copy of the JGSGW publication: "Jump-Start Your Jewish Genealogy Research: A Beginner's Guide."

Workshop limited to 20 members. Send registration request to: jgsgw@jgsgw.org

"Cadastral Maps, Landowner, School, Magnate & Voter Records: New Horizons for Genealogists"

Speaker: Pamela Weisberger

Galician (Austrian, Polish and Ukrainian) cadastral, property, school and voting records are valuable genealogical resources, especially when vital records are sparse. Historical maps show locations of synagogues, cemeteries, and schools, often with the names of landowners written onto the plots. Using Geshher Galicia's database and interactive mapping portal, you can chart a family over several generations. Landowner records show property valuation/inheritance patterns and voter records document the residents of a single dwelling, showing ages, occupations and place of birth. This presentation will cover their relevance as an alternative source of genealogical/community information and will also highlight other unique records that are now part of the "Galician Archival Records Project," such as "people who suffered during the war" and magnate records, which illustrate the relationships between Polish (and Jewish) nobles and the Jews who ran their mills, taverns and inns. Be prepared to expand your view on how these insightful -- and accessible -- documents can to bring your ancestors to life.

Date: Sunday, November 3, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze,

1:30 PM Meeting meeting with announcements and introduction of new members and visitors

2:00 PM Main Program

Location: B'nai Israel Congregation, 6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852



Pamela Weisberger is the 1st V.P. and program chair for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, president and research coordinator for Geshher Galicia, Inc., and was co-chair of the 2010 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. A professional genealogist, writer, and internationally-known lecturer, she has conducted research in Polish, German Ukrainian, Hungarian and Austrian archives. She created the Galician Archival Records Project and the Geshher Galicia Cadastral (Virtual) Map Room. One of her specialties is historical newspaper research. She holds a B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis and an M.S. from Boston University.

JGSGW

SPECIAL NOVEMBER PROGRAM FOR MEMBERS

"A JGSGW Day At The National Archives"

JGSGW has arranged for a very special three-part program at the National Archives and Records Administration. The first part of the program is a private, guided tour of *"Discovery and Recovery: Preserving Iraqi Jewish Heritage,"* featuring 24 artifacts recovered from a flooded basement in Saddam Hussein's intelligence headquarters. The NARA exhibition marks the first time these items have been on public display. Display highlights include a Hebrew Bible with commentaries from 1568, a hand lettered, decorated Haggadah from 1902, and an official 1918 letter to the Chief Rabbi regarding the allotment of sheep for Rosh Hashanna. The exhibit also explains details of records recovery and preservation.

The second program segment is a lecture by Rebecca Sharp, Archives Specialist, on Immigration and Naturalization Service Bureau of Board of Special Inquiry records. Boards of Special Inquiry were convened at Federal immigration stations to consider the cases of immigrants who failed an initial inspection. Immigrants who appeared untruthful, or whose story seemed suspicious, were detained in dormitories until their BSI hearing. BSI records can provide valuable details about an immigrant's life story, relatives and reasons for coming to the United States.

A third, optional activity is the opportunity to register for or renew a NARA researcher card. There will also be a lecture on research room regulations. If you wish to renew a researcher card, please provide the card number with your registration information.

The same program will be presented on November 4th and November 6th. Space for this program is limited – only 20 members per session by preregistration only. To register, send your full name, address and telephone number (and NARA researcher card number if applicable) by October 15, 2013 to Jeff Miller, VP Programs at VP_Programs@jgsgw.org

Monday, November 4 and Wednesday, November 6, 2013, 9:40 a.m.

National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 700 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC

[Click here for NARA website.](#)

**By Reservation Only!
Sign up early and
don't miss out!**

JGSGW December Meeting

JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

“Genealogy and the Next Generations”

Speaker: Elijah Schulman,

Presenting: “Simcha in Selma: Back to My Family’s Roots”

When Elijah’s ancestors came to the United States, instead of staying in New York like most Jews, they went to the south, specifically Alabama. For his Bar Mitzvah Project, Elijah Schuman chose to raise funds for the Mishkan Israel Temple in Selma, Alabama.

The synagogue itself is a beautiful building that can still be visited today. But unfortunately, nearly all of the children of the congregation members left Selma for the big cities, and the congregation slowly died out. Now, there are only seven remaining members, all over the age of sixty. Since there are so few members left, the temple is used less and less, and has fallen into disrepair. That is why Elijah’s project is raising money to help restore the building. Once it is fully restored, the members may choose to donate additional funds to the Institute of Southern Jewish Life to be used as a museum.

Following the main program, there will be a discussion of how to engage the younger generation in genealogy. The discussion will address current JGSGW projects involving the Melvin J. Berman Hebrew Academy and the Charles E. Smith Day School, as well as plan for a NextGen program in DC.

Date: Sunday, December 8, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze,

1:30 PM Meeting meeting with announcements and introduction of new members and visitors

2:00 PM Main Program

Location: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 23304

[click here](#) for directions



Elijah Schulman, now 13 and a bar mitzvah, is a resident of Bethesda, MD. He is an 8th grader at Takoma Park Middle School. Please visit www.elijahschulmanbarmitzvah.com for extra details, articles, photos and links about Elijah’s project.

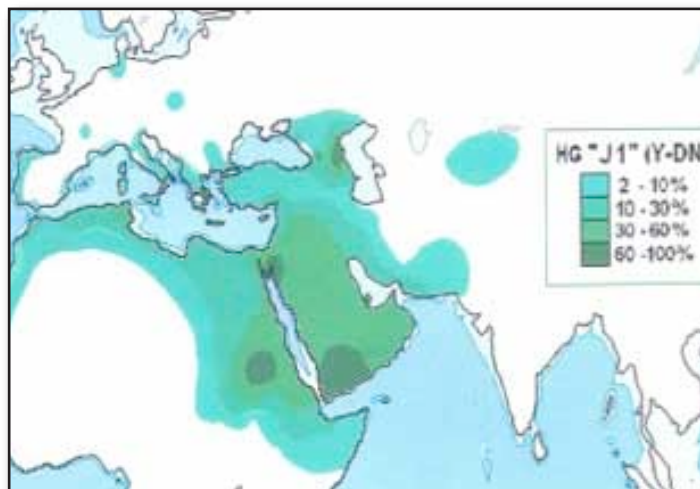
SEARCHING FOR LITVAK ROOTS IN SICILY

By Bill Yoffee

Why would a Litvak be searching for his roots in, of all places, Sicily? Proudly, I claim to be 100% Litvak. My father's family has been documented as far back as the late 18th Century to Kovna gubernya (Pakruojis, Birzai and Linkuva), now in the Panevezys District of Lithuania. My mother was born in Dolginovo, which at the time was in Vilna gubernya. But where did their ancestors come from? Since Jews were invited to Lithuania/Poland in the 16th Century, obviously they had to come from somewhere else. There are numerous theories. One is that they migrated from the Rhineland during periods of persecution especially during the Crusades, the Reformation and the Renaissance. Another is that they migrated by way of Emilia Romagna (North Eastern Italy) and Bohemia. Still another is that they came from the Middle East by way of southern Russia. All of these may have some validity but none tells the whole story.

In my quest for an answer in my own case, I have considered several documented facts and several suppositions. First there is my surname which is derived from the Hebrew root word Yud Peh Heh (Yaffe or Jaffe meaning beautiful), a word that is old enough to have appeared in early Biblical texts. Second there is my yDNA, J1c3 (or J P58) which indicates a Jewish origin in the Middle East, possibly in or near what is now Israel. This DNA is common among men who are Cohanim (whose DNA is called CMH or Cohen Modal Haplogroup) of which I am NOT one.

A third factor is the Jewish Diaspora and the pattern of J1 migration that has been revealed by current scholarship. My surname has been found throughout the Mediterranean Basin, particularly along the northern rim, in places like Turkey, Rhodes, Italy, Sicily and Spain. This is the same region where J1 (including J P58) is also common. In Northern Europe, J1 is far less common, although the surname was quite common in what is now Lithuania.



J1 Distribution in the Middle East, Africa and Mediterranean Basin

In October 2010, my wife, Barbara and I decided to go to Northern Italy for a vacation. One of our principal stops was Bologna, the Renaissance capital of Emilia Romagna. We chose Bologna because it had a ghetto that has been preserved as a memorial to a large and intellectually productive Jewish community during the Renaissance. The nearby University of Bologna is the oldest university in Italy and one of the oldest in Europe. One fact that attracted me was that Rabbi Moses Jaffe lived there during the 15th Century and may have even lectured at the University. His son Abraham of Bohemia was the Prefect of the Jews of Poland in 1512 and his 3rd great grandson was Rabbi Mordechai Jaffe of Prague in Bohemia (author of the *Libushim*, a code of Jewish law) The Bologna



Nardo Bonomi, The Dispersion of the Jews of Sicily

(next page)

(from page 12)

Ghetto houses a Jewish museum that tells the history of that Jewish Community which was subject to many periods of persecution. The history explains that this region of Italy, formerly known as Emilia Romagna, contains many cities and towns that are rich with Jewish history, though few Jews remain; cities such as Ferrara, Mantua, Padua, and Cremona, all of which we were able to visit. It is also the location of the town of Soncino, which became an important center of printing of Hebrew books and other Jewish literature.

The Jews of Emilia Romagna came from different places. Some were Sephardi Jews who had been expelled from what became the Kingdom of Spain in 1492. Surprisingly, to us, many like Rabbi Moses Jaffe came from the Rhineland, possibly to escape the terror accompanying the Reformation. Many later migrated to Bohemia and Poland to escape the local persecution. They became the Ashkenazi. We never realized that this part of Italy had such a rich Jewish history comparable to the 2000 year old Jewish community of Rome. Jews from Sicily—that never even occurred to us.

When we returned home, I started to read about the Jews of Italy, and suddenly I became aware of the fact that

there was a major Jewish community in Sicily that was at least as old as Rome's community and perhaps even older. At its peak, it consisted of 8% to 10% of the island's population, centered in major cities such as Syracuse, Catania, Palermo and Messina, but existing as well in over 50 other towns and villages. Unfortunately, during the 15th Century, Sicily was ruled by King Ferdinand of Aragon whose Edict of Expulsion of the Jews of Spain in 1492 applied as well to the Jews of Sicily who were the vast majority



Bagno Ebraico (Mikva) of Syracuse

of its literate and economically productive population. Most of these Jews were Mizrahi who were part of the Diaspora following the Roman conquest of Judea, while some had followed earlier Greek and Phoenician and later Arab traders. Others were imported as slaves by the Romans. But where did they go after the Expulsion? There is evidence that, like the Sephardi, they too spread out over the rest of the Mediterranean Basin and migrated also to any place on the Italian peninsula where Jews were welcome. Can it be that some also migrated to Poland and Lithuania from Italy?

Every effort was made by the Roman Catholic Church and its Inquisition to erase any evidence that the Jewish community of Sicily ever existed. They almost succeeded, but not quite. The most significant relic that remains, deep underground beneath a hotel in what was once the Giudecca (ghetto) of Syracuse, is a mikva that is well over 600 years old and has been measured and certified Kosher.

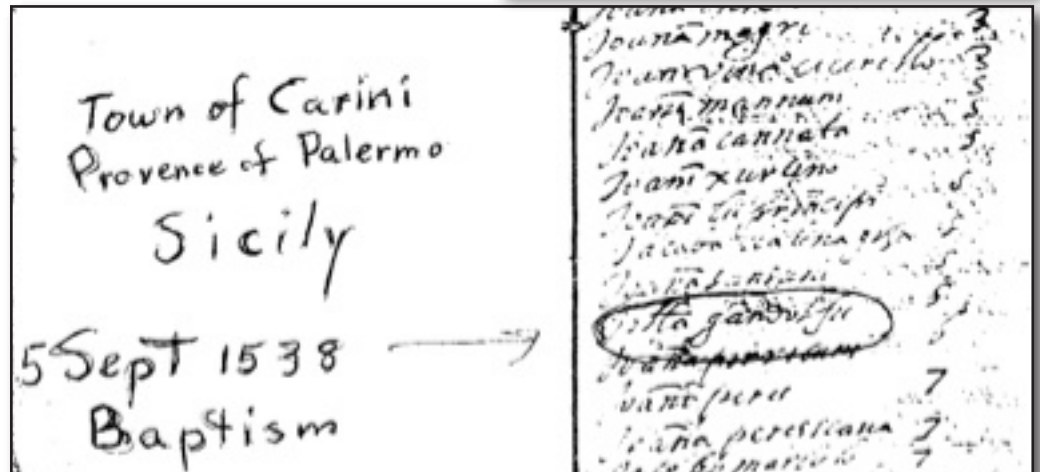
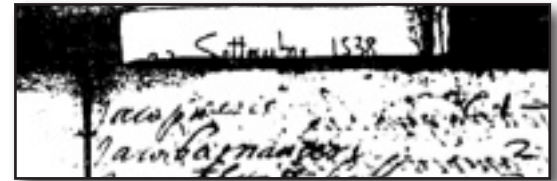
The remains of several synagogues have been located under churches that have been built over them. Some inscriptions have been found in unusual places, one most significantly on the inner wall of the Cathedral of Monreale outside Palermo. The police station in the resort town of Taormina was once a synagogue. Many Sicilians are in the process of trying to document their descent from *Conversos* and *Anusim* that remained in Sicily after the expulsion.

(next page)

(from page 13)

Why did I feel that I had to visit Sicily, which Barbara and I did in October 2011?
There was of course the evidence that most Sicilian Jews were of Mizrahi origin. Family Tree DNA says that I have Mizrahi ancestry. Then there was my DNA, J1c3 (J P58) which is said to have been common among Sicilian Jews. And several lists of family surnames of Sicilian Jews contained Jaffe, Joffe and De Joffe. Finally, an incredible and accidental discovery of a document from the town of Carini in the Province of Palermo sealed the deal.

In the course of my habitual surfing of the internet for genealogical facts and factoids, I came across a website called The Carini Exchange. <http://www.cariniexchange.com/> It was created by a person who has documented his Christian Sicilian ancestry to the town of Carini, a suburb of Palermo. It contains scanned images of a vast number of original hand written church and civil records from the town that contain genealogical information as far back as the early 16th Century. On the very first page that I examined, a record of baptisms for the month of September 1538, I found the name of "Joffa." He or she was no doubt one of the *Conversos* or *Anusim*, probably a Secret Jew who remained in Sicily after the Expulsion and who belatedly underwent baptism for protection from the Inquisition. Or so I would like to believe. It so happens, probably not coincidentally, that the baptism took place on the 5th of September 1538, the day after Yom Kippur in the Hebrew year 5299 (See Note.)



Jewish Calendar Conversions in One Step

[Stephen P. Morse](#), San Francisco

From creation to the year 10,000

For years prior to 5700 (1939 civil), simply change the century value

53rd Century in Jewish era

1538 CE September 5

5299 Tishri 1

ה'רצ"ט זש"ר א

Monday, weekly torah reading = Vayelech (Diaspora and Israel)

Gregorian Julian

Civil calendar in use today is the Gregorian one

Clockwise from top: Segment of hand written "baptism" record from Carini indicating date, segment of same record indicating name of ancestor, calendar conversion of Carini baptism date to Jewish calendar date from Stevemorse.org cropped to fit this page, Note as indicated from text of article.

Note: Kol Nidre, the prayer recited on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, is translated as follows:

"All Personal vows we are likely to make, all personal oaths and pledges we are likely to take between this Yom Kippur and the next Yom Kippur, we publicly renounce. Let them all be relinquished and abandoned, null and void, neither firm nor established. Let our personal vows, pledges and oaths be considered neither vows, nor pledges nor oaths."

Maybe he or she was my ancestor. I may never know for sure but it makes a great story. We visited Carini briefly in the hills behind Palermo where, before the Expulsion, there was known to be a large Jewish community. It was unremarkable, and any evidence of Jewish life was long gone. Still it gave me a feeling of a connection with my ancestors.

(next page)

A remarkable relic of the Jews of Sicily is the frequent use of the street name or district name "Giudecca", another designation for what is more often called "Ghetto" in Italian. Most people in Sicily with whom I spoke, even in the tourist offices, know it has something to do with Jews, but are unaware of the history behind it.

Some controversy exists as to the importance of Yom Kippur and Kol Nidre to the *Conversos* and *Anusim* in the period following the Expulsion. This settles the issue for me, particularly, as you will note, no baptisms took place in Carini on Yom Kippur 1538.



Barbara and Bill Yoffee Visiting Carini, 20 October 2011

Bill Yoffee
Panevezys District Research Coordinator, LitvakSIG
Administrator of Jaffe Surname Project, FTDNA



JGSGW Members At the IAJGS Boston Convention

JGSGW

Welcome to our New Members

Sharon Brown, Silver Spring, MD
Beverly and Mel Cook, Washington, DC
Suzanne Hudson, North Bethesda, MD
Estelle Katz, Rockville, MD
Sophie Krasik, Alexandria, VA
May Leiner, Rockville, MD
Louis Offen, Rockville, MD
June and Marvin Rogul, North Bethesda, MD
Samantha Shlakman Pashevsky, Vienna, VA

and Returning Member

Michael Kaltman, North Potomac, MD

Lifetime Members

Jonina Duker & Alan Lichtman
Susan E. Iseman & Dennis J. Berg
Elizabeth H. Margosches & Donald B. Melman

Patrons as of Fall 2012

Vic and Marla Cohen
Alan Levitt
Stephen Rockower
Steve Rabinowitz
Rochelle Gould Zohn

Condolences

JGSGW mourns the passing of our member:
Rachelle "Shelley" Sparrow
on August 17, 2013
May her memory be a blessing

R'Fuah Shlayma

Joe Bishow, husband of Marlene Bishow
Harriet Armoza

JGSGW Wishes Mazel Tov to

Carol Freeman on the birth of her granddaughter, Alyssa, in May.

Donations

Library Fund:

Renee Domogauer
Carol G. Freeman
Robert M. & Florence Jones
Karen Metchis & Rick Piltz
Alice Hellerstein Ra'anan
Marlene Silverman

General Fund

Polly Craighill
Alan S. Cooper
Richard Cooperman
Carol G. Freeman
Mark E. Levy
Fran & Robert Raab

Memorial Donation

Mary-Jane Roth,
In Memory of Bobby Tepper

JGSGW Library

JGSGW Genealogy Library Hours and Information

The library will be open Wed Oct 2 from 11-3 by appointment only and then every Wednesday 11-3 by appointment only. We will also be open Sunday, Nov 3 from 10-noon and Sunday, Feb 2, from 10-noon.

The library now has access to 3 databases, available in the library with assistance of the JGSGW Librarian:

Ancestry.com – Worldwide edition
Fold3 (mainly military records)
GenealogyBank (many historical U.S.newspapers with obituary and death notices).

Recent Additions:

DS 135 .L5 R67 vol. 2 2007 , Rosin, Josef. *Preserving Out Litvak Heritage. Vol. 2; a history of 21 Jewish Communities in Lithuania.*

DS 135 .L5 R67 2009 Rosin, Josef. *Protecting Our Litvak Heritage; a history of 50 Jewish communities in Lithuania.*

CS 71 .H4 2012 Hecker, Irv and Hecker David. *Harry and Sally Hecker, Our Parents Story.* (Congratulations Irv on a beautiful and intersting family history. Irv Hecker is a member of JGSGW.)

CS 71 .P372 2007. Plaine, Patricia. *A Man Named Herzel; the story of Herzel H.E. Plaine and his family.*

NA 4690 .L48 2009, Levitt, Ellen. *Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn; The Stories Behnd How and Why Many Brooklyn Synagogues , Now "Ex-Shuls" Were Converted to Other Uses.*

NA 4690 .L482 2011 Levitt, Ellen. *Lost Synagogues of the Bronx and Queens.*

NA 4690 .L483 2013, Levitt, Ellen. *Lost synagogues of Manhattan; Including Shuls from Staten Island and Governors Island.*

Call Vera Finberg, JGSGW Librarian at 703-978-6990, vera.finberg@verizon.net
The JGSGW Library is closed for Jewish and Federal Holidays.

Other Society Newsletters Available Electronically

Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society,
Summer and Fall 2013
JGSGB Tracing Jewish Roots, July 2013
Maajan Die Quelle, JGS of Switzerland, Juni 2013
Mishpochology, Jewish Genealogical Society of
Southwest Florida, June 2013
Morasha, The Jewish Genealogical Society of
Illinois, Summer 2013
Researcher News, National Archives, Autumn 2013

News 'n Notes, St. Louis JGS,
June, July, August, September 2013
Scattered Seeds, JGS Palm County, Florida,
Spring/Summer 2013
Shalsholet, JGS Oregon, Summer and Fall 2013
Shem Tov, Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto,
June 2013
Venturing Into Our Past,
JGS of the Conejo Valley and Ventura
County, July, August, September 2013

Contact the editor at mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com if interested.

JGSGW Meeting Calendar

Fall 2013 - Summer 2014

Sunday, August 18 2013

Sunday, October 13, 2013

Sunday, November 3, 2013

Sunday, December 8, 2013

Sunday, January 12, 2014

Sunday, February 9, 2014

Sunday, March 9, 2014

Sunday, April 13, 2014

Sunday, May 18, 2014

Sunday, June 8, 2014

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc.
PO box 1614
Rockville, MD 20849-1614



Please Visit Our Website for Updates

www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/JGSGW/