Mishpacha

IS JEWISH FOOD REALLY JEWISH?
Suzan Wynne, JGSGW

Because so many of the Jews who immigrated to the U.S. were from Eastern Europe, most of us have come to associate certain foods with being Jewish.

Need I mention such delectable foods as sweet and sour tongue with raisins, chopped chicken liver, corned beef, sauerkraut, borscht, kasha, bagels, rye bread, kosher dill pickles, pickled carrots, potato kugel, sponge cake….well, you get the point. But were these foods really Jewish or did others in Eastern Europe eat the same foods, perhaps with their own distinctive ethnic twists? Let's examine that issue a bit.

When our relatives lived in Eastern Europe, food preservation was a universal and major problem. Because the growing season was short, food preservation was a necessity for everyone and this created many of the foods that we associate with "Jewish" food. A hard freeze would enable some people to use blocks of ice from a nearby body of water to assist with food preservation but to ensure a stock of food for winter, much effort had to be expended in acquiring and preserving food during the growing season. Common methods of food preservation included pickling, smoking, salting, canning, and drying.

Crops that thrived in the region consisted of various grains, mushrooms, cabbage, root vegetables (mostly onions, potatoes, carrots, and beets), nut trees, and plants that produced seeds such as poppy, celery, and caraway, which flavored many dishes. Fruit was plentiful in the summer but only apples, if carefully handled, would survive in their original form through the winter. Potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and beets also could be successfully cold stored if kept cool, dry and away from animals and bugs.

Protein was most often eaten in the form of dairy, eggs or beans because meat was expensive. Jews only ate meat that was from an approved animal and then only from an approved part of the animal so kosher butchers

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משפחה

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All JGSGW members are encouraged to submit their genealogical research experiences for publication in *Mishpacha*. Submit articles to either editor: Sharlene Kranz < SKranz_99@yahoo.com > or Margarita Lackó < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

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The JGSGW Web Site is located at:

http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw

often sold unapproved parts of butchered animals to restaurants and non-Jews. Of course, since Jews did not eat pork products, pigs were raised and eaten exclusively by non-Jews. Cows were not only raised for their milk and their meat, but for their skins, which were turned into leather goods. Beef was expensive and most people, regardless of ethnicity, when they could afford meat at all, consumed less costly parts of the cow, such as tongue, liver, stomach and intestines. Jews ate the stomach and intestines stuffed with fat, onions and flour to make *derma* and *kishka*. Marrow bones were used to make soup stock and the marrow was then a prized delicacy.

Chickens were, perhaps, the most universally eaten protein in Eastern Europe, both in the form of eggs and meat, though geese, wild turkeys, and ducks were widely available in the weekly market as well. Every part of the chicken or other poultry was used, including the neck which was stuffed, and the feet, which colored the chicken soup a desired yellow. Chicken eggs were plentiful and formed the basis of Jewish businesses that sold eggs and dairy products, both in Europe and in the U.S. Because they were a relatively inexpensive source of protein, Jews and non-Jews, alike, used eggs in many dishes and baked goods. When I was in Poland, soup was served with a hard boiled egg in the middle. Fish was highly valued by Jews but, unless a community was on or very near a body of water with edible fish, it was fairly costly. The major issue with fish was preservation so fish like herring were pickled and salmon was smoked or salted. Carp was a river fish commonly found in Eastern European waters so it was fairly available year round.

Grains such as wheat, rye and barley and a variety of beans were staples throughout the region. The main meal of the day typically consisted of a bowl of soup (such as mushroom & barley, schav or sorrel soup, or borscht made in many different ways with beets), a hunk of dark bread slathered with fat or, if it was a dairy meal, with butter or farmer's cheese and a slice of onion. Potatoes were also used in many meals. Children attending cheder spent long days at their studies with a lunch break that was typically a hard boiled egg or a boiled potato, a bagel or bread and an apple. Wheat and other grains formed the basis for many meals, in addition to bread: noodles for soup and kugel, matzah balls, and porridge. Barley appeared in the ways that we in the U.S. use rice. It was, along with the potato, useful as a thickening agent in soups.

Fruits of all types, but most typically, plums, grapes, pears and apples, were dried or canned. Cabbage was turned into sauerkraut. Cucumbers were pickled with garlic, bay leaves and mustard seeds for flavor. Carrots were preserved by pickling, as well. Sour cream, delicious as it is, was originally spoiled cream. Farmer's cheese, a less creamy form of cottage cheese, lasted longer than cottage cheese and was useful for adding protein to kugel and many other dishes. Sugar from sugar cane might have been available, but it would have been prohibitively expensive for most people. Most cooks used sugar produced from beets, as is true in Eastern Europe today.

Several dishes that were distinctively Jewish were *cholent*, *tsimmes* and *gefilte fish*. *Cholent* was a casserole that was prepared on Friday and placed in a cooling oven, often at the nearest bakery, to slowly cook and remain warm for the main midday Shabbat meal. *Cholent* was as variable as the cook. Typically, the dish included beans, onions, carrots, potatoes (both white and sweet), poultry or meat, and cabbage. Fat was usually placed on top to keep the food from drying out, though some cooks topped the dish with dough to solve that problem. The pastry topping made something like a pot pie. *Tsimmes* is probably another dish uniquely consumed by Jews. Made with carrots, sweet potatoes, prunes and a good amount of sugar, it was one of those dishes that adults loved and children hated. *Gefilte fish* was chopped fish, sometimes all whitefish but usually a combination of carp, whitefish and pike, mixed with bread crumbs or matzah meal, eggs, and onion. The finely chopped ingredients were formed into balls or ovals and simmered in fish stock made with fish heads and bo-

nes. Galitzianers and Hungarians liked their fish sweet, while Lithuanians did not.

In my family, the concept of a green vegetable was limited to iceberg lettuce served in the Eastern European style of a slice or two of cucumber on the side and slathered with a dressing that I now know to have been popular in Russia. It was creamy, included bits of pickles, and it was pink from beet juice. And then there was the ubiquitous cabbage. Cucumber was pickled with onion and sugar. Celery, both stalks and greens, was mainly used in soups, as were dandelion greens and the sour sorrel. Though not green, this discussion reminds me that, until the first quarter of the 20th century, tomatoes were widely considered to be poisonous. To this day, my 92 year old father avoids eating tomatoes. If other vegetables were grown in Eastern Europe, I am unaware of them being consumed by other than animals. For instance, mustard is commonly grown as a crop and in the wild in Eastern Europe and, yet, the greens were apparently not used for human consumption.

A word about fat and *gribenes*. Aaah, the wonderful taste of this artery-clogging delicacy. *Gribenes* were the product of slowly frying bits of poultry skin, usually, a goose or a chicken, in its own fat and onions, until the skin becomes crispy and dark. Sort of like eating pork rinds I guess, though having never tried them, I can't say. When a chicken or goose was baked or boiled, the idea was to capture as much fat as possible. The liquefied fat was poured into in glass or crockery jars. The resulting *schmaltz* was used for cooking just about everything as well as the topping on bread. In my mother's kitchen, it was never refrigerated but sat yellow and hard on the window sill year-round.

Suzan Wynne's new book, *The Galitzianers: The Jews of Galicia, 1772-1918* is now available locally from Politics and Prose, 5039 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington or ordered online from < www.Wheatmark.com > or from Amazon Books. ✡

Current Newsletters available electronically from the editor:

Atsmi Uvsari - Utah JGS
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Montreal Forum - JGS Montreal
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The Galitzianer – Gesher Galicia
Venturing Into Our Past - JGS Conejo Valley & Ventura County, California
Zichron Note - San Francisco Bay Area JGS

Just send me an email request < SKranz_99@yahoo.com > and I will forward any of these newsletters to you.

Society News

President's Letter

Dear JGSGW Members:

What a great time we live in for genealogists. My addiction to genealogy began about fifty years ago. Back then a researcher was mostly on their own. No organizations to speak of, no computers, no internet, etc., etc…..

Now, we not only have Jewish Genealogy Societies and other organizations; we also have powerful computers on our desktops or laps; complete with high-speed internet connectivity wherever you wander in your home, school, mall, and restaurants. A deceased relative, Herman Lee Summers, in the 1970's, handwrote letters and annual updates of the SHOMER/SOHMER/SOMMERS family "SAGA". He collected data and manually calculated statistics about where the relatives lived by location and nationality. He organized contacts within each family group, branch or city. In 1980, he finally typed (on an electric typewriter) a family history document and it is amazing how many of these, his last product, have survived. I married into the family and I am currently updating the 25-year old document, as no direct relatives could be coaxed into undertaking the project.

Enter into this new era, sophisticated DNA testing. Not only can participants find relatives; they can also gain insights into the anthropological history of the family. Test results can indicate if a male has the Cohanim allel pattern. Tests are available in 12, 37, and 67 chromosome matches, as well as mtDNA testing for females. There are also upgrades for people who were previously tested. Participants can join more that one project at no additional cost.

At our June 11 meeting, Schelly Talalay Dardashti reported on her recent story of DNA study of 25 families, 22 of whom are Jewish. Although most of the participants initially identified themselves to be of Ashkenazi origin and from diverse areas of birth, the study shows that they are descendents of a common ancestor – most probably of Sephardic origin.

By joining a group, participants can get better pricing from FamilyTreeDNA, the premier provider of DNA testing kits and analysis. I have therefore contacted Bennett Greenspan, President of FamilyTreeDNA to set up a project for JGSGW members. Participation is optional and no information other than a list of last names has been given to them. They do not have addresses, phone numbers or email addresses. You will not be contacted by them, unless you order a kit and provide the information.

To link to the website, < http://www.familytreedna.com/ > a member need only click on the link on the JGSGW homepage. The kit(s) will be mailed to you, as will the results. When we have a reasonable sample, results will be reported in *Mishpacha*. In the near future we will also have a workshop to further explain the benefits of testing.

Marlene Bishow, President

Notes from the Outgoing Research Chair: What we've done
Suzan Wynne, JGSGW Research Chair Emeritus

During the past two years, I have served as research chair for JGSGW. When I took over the job from Roberta Solit, there was still a small team of volunteers working toward completing the index to the Danzansky-Goldberg Funeral Home records. Bill Sher was coordinating the effort, while working part time at the Funeral Home. There were only a few more books to index at that point. When I realized that JGSGW did not have specific authorization from the new corporate owners to publish the index on our website or through JewishGen, I met with staff of the funeral home to discuss how to proceed. Many months later, despite my best efforts, the international corporation that owns the funeral home, rejected the concept of publishing the index. They demanded that the indexing work be stopped immediately, that all books be returned to the funeral home, and that no data be made available to anyone outside of the funeral home. There was some vague threat of a lawsuit if we did not comply.

I reported the situation to the JGSGW Board and the consensus was to end the project. Marlene Bishow was, subsequently, given all of the disks that had been generated over the 10 years of the project's life. Because the disks were created using an array of software, some are no longer readable or transferable to readable formats. Should Marlene ever succeed in reading the older disks and merging the data into a database, at a minimum, the index should be given to the funeral home to facilitate their response to requests for information.

Meanwhile, Roberta Solit was helping me to transition to my new role as chair of the Research Committee. She had given JewishGen some of the indices that JGSGW volunteers had created in 1986-1995 at the National Archives. The indices were from two record groups within the collection of U.S. State Department records: from Record Group (RG) 59 (series 1910-1929), correspondence that the State Department had with U.S. citizens about family members in various parts of the world; and, Record Group (RG) 84, records about Jews visiting consular posts in Palestine and Romania.

When I met with new JGSGW president, Sharlene Kranz, in Fall 2004, she handed me a stack of materials that she had been given by Ben Fassberg. Among the materials were several pieces:
1) Emergency Passport Applications (RG84) made by Jewish citizens and the wives and children at various consular posts in Europe, 1915-1926;
2) a small database to Record Group 59 regarding relatives in Germany; and
3) a computer run still bound in the old blue plastic binding that we used to take to meetings in the early days of JGSGW.

The computer run, dated 1987, consisted of a massive database of names from Record Group 59 regarding relatives in Russian Poland, 1910-1929. I hadn't seen this material since the late 1980s and Roberta couldn't recall ever knowing about the material. Confirming that the data had never been placed on microfiche by Gary Mokotoff, we concluded that it was probably the only place that the data existed. As with all of the documents that had been indexed from RG 59, the records covered the war years and the immediate aftermath when there was much anxiety on the part of relatives about family members whose fates were often unknown. JGSGW volunteers indexed the Jewish names appearing in those records because the State Department's index system made the records inaccessible.

The run was in poor condition. It was printed out on an old dot matrix printer with a bad ribbon and the lettering had faded badly. Also, the data in the run had never been edited and it was full of errors and inconsistencies. After much discussion with experts in scanning, I concluded that the best thing

to do would be to rekey the data. I broke the computer run up and recruited volunteers to do the data entry. Gary Morin created a template for the data entry which he supplied to JGSGW volunteers: Ben Fassberg, Suzanne Fialkow, Rochelle Gershenow, David Harris, Rita Margolis, Leslie Montroll, Nancy Morgan, Anne Nozinsky, Sonia Pasis, and Alan Simon. Gary and I did data entry for twenty pages each. I also keyed the other index regarding family members in Germany (or Prussia). The volunteers have completed their work and the resulting database will shortly appear in AAmerica.@ on JewishGen.

The index to Jewish names appearing in The Emergency Passport Applications, 1915-1926 was, fortunately, easier to deal with because it was in excellent condition and printed out by a laser printer. The Emergency Passport Applications were heavily used by the wives and children of men who had come to the U.S. and had become U.S. citizens. Until 1922, women and minor children derived citizenship from their husbands and fathers. Having a U.S. passport made it easier for these family members to enter the U.S. and, during WWI, afforded a degree of protection in war-torn Europe. The applications, themselves, provide incredible genealogical data and pristine photos. They are stored at the National Archives in College Park. Eli Savada, who was able to scan this index, deserves a huge thank you for carrying out this task. Go to AAmerica.@ on JewishGen. ✡

JGSGW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY

A committee of JGSGW members, including Ben Fassberg, Marlene Bishow, and Don Melman, has been working on the forthcoming JGSGW Membership Directory. All paid-up members of record as of October 1, 2006 will be included in the directory.

The last published membership directory for the society was printed in 2003. Due primarily to prohibitive printing costs, the directory has not been printed since then. Ben found a more cost-effective printer in Johnstown, PA and now we can once again go to press.

As with the previous publications, the membership will be listed by the member's name, as well as by names being researched and cities/towns/shtetls being researched. Members who paid dues in the INDIVIDUAL category ($25) are entitled to up to six name entries; each with one ancestral city/town and/or country. Members who paid for FAMILY membership are permitted up to ten name listings with cities/towns and/or country.

If you are not sure if you have provided your research targets or if you want to add or change your listing, please send an email with the new or corrected information to:
< JGSGW_DC@COMCAST.NET >

Directories will be distributed at the October and November meetings of the society. Any directory not picked up at a meeting will be mailed in mid-November. One directory will be provided to each membership. *From Marlene Bishow.* ✡

JGSGW BOARD MEETING NOTES

The first meeting of the 2006-7 JGSGW Board of Directors was held on June 25, 2006 at the home of President Marlene Bishow. The following board members were present: Marlene Bishow, Rochelle Gershenow, Sonia Pasis, Gene Sadick, Gary Morin, Judy White, Jeff Miller, Aaron Werbel, and Ben Fassberg.

The meeting was a long, but productive one. Among the issues discussed was the matter of dues for the coming year. The Board confirmed that dues will remain at $25 for individuals and $37.50 for families. The three-year dues plan is $65 for individuals and $100 for families. A change was made to the structure of dues for new members. It was agreed that new members will pay dues at the same rate as current members; however, if the new member joins after March 1, the dues will be paid in full through September of the next calendar year. Invoices will be mailed to 176 members whose membership dues are due on/about July 1.

The board approved the expenditure of up to $1,800 for the printing of the 2007 Membership Directory, subject to the receipt of one more bid for printing. Members in good standing as of October 1, 2006 will be included in the directory. The first distribution of the directories will be at the October 22 meeting. Another distribution will be made on November 12.

A new benefit of membership is the JGSGW DNA Project. The website for the project is < www.familytreedna.com/public/JGSGW >. There will be a mailing to members explaining the project and how to participate and realize a significant savings on the test kits.

Treasurer Gary Morin reported that we have paid our IAJGS dues. He is in the process of entering financial data into accounting software, so that we can track and report on our expenses more easily. He is also examining the possibility that we can combine our accounting and membership databases.

The JGSGW library has been housed at the Isaac Frank Jewish Public Library for several years. The IFJPL recently moved to a new facility at 12230 Wilkins Avenue in Rockville. As of this writing, the JGSGW collection has not been shelved and the materials will probably not be available until after the summer. Please watch our website for an announcement of the re-opening.

The calendar for 2006-7 has been posted to our website. Our meeting in October will be held at Adas Israel in Washington, DC. A spring meeting will be held in Virginia, and for the June meeting, we will return to the Potomac Community Center. The remaining meetings will be at B'nai Israel in Rockville.

The September meeting will be an off-site meeting in Baltimore. Dr. Yaffa Eliach will be the guest speaker in October and Mike Karsen will make the presentation in November.

Members and guests should register at the entry door to our meetings. A book containing a list of members in good standing will be located there and members should sign in next to their name. Guests should register and are welcome to attend one meeting at no charge, but if they do not join, there will be a charge of $5 for each subsequent meeting.

We are accumulating data on synagogues and Jewish organizations in the tri-state area for a database to be used for publicity.

The Speaker's Bureau, once an important outreach of JGSGW, has been reconstituted under the leadership of past president, Ben Fassberg. Several presentations have already taken place and more are planned, including a 6-week course in genealogy at the JCC in Rockville, to be taught by JGSGW members.

The board approved a research project at the National Archives. Mike Getz, our Research Chair, will lead the project. We will index immigration correspondences from 1882-1906 under the sponsorship of historian Marian Smith. We will have a workshop at the Archives downtown during July and Ms. Smith will introduce the correspondence files that we will index.

Several workshops have already been planned for the coming year. In addition to the workshop at the Archives, which will have two sessions in July, there will also be a FamilyTreeMaker Beginner's workshop in July. Our Beginner's Genealogy Workshop will also be held on November 12, 2006. As always, this workshop and all others will be open to members only, but new members may join on the day of the workshop.✡

JGSGW Library News
Judy Mostyn White, JGSGW librarian

Greetings and Happy Family Hunting!

The JGSGW library collection, along with the Isaac Franck Library, has moved to Wilkins Ave, Rockville, MD. However it will not be available for use during the summer or for slightly longer than that, while the interior of the building is being renovated. The new location is not very far from the present location, about a mile north. As soon as we are settled there, look on our web site for directions to the new location. If anyone can help me do an inventory after the move, please let me know. You may contact me at < judymostyn@comcast.net >.

Virginia members should be aware of the Jack Klein Memorial Library of Jewish Genealogy & History, located at Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Rd, Alexandria, 703-370-9400. Contact JGSGW member, Faith Klein, for more information.

NEW BOOKS

E 548 .O36; "Hispanic confederates" by John O'Donnell-Rosales, published 1998. List of names with US Civil War military reference, includes Sephardic Jews, bibliography.

N 7415 .S5 v.4; "Jewish tombstones in Ukraine and Moldova" by David N. Goberman, published 1993. In English and Russian.

BM 496.8 .K331; "Subscriber lists Petach-Tiqva" by Shlomo Katzau. Vol. III; In Hebrew, geographic index, congregations, list of books + how many people from each shtetl subscribed. Donated by JGSGW member, Harold Rhode. Thank you, Harold.

DS 135 .U42 K75; "Kribo-Ozer". Yizkor book for Kribo-Ozer, Ukraine; in Hebrew.

BM 750 .F76; "Sefer Toldot Eliyahu" by Aryeh Leib Frumkin, published 1900. In Hebrew; includes bibliography; biography of rabbis, Poland and Lithuania. Donated by JGSGW member, Harold Rhode. Thank you, Harold.

DS 135 .L5 B579; "Voting register of the Birzh Jewish community" published 1922. Jewish voters in Birzh (Birzai) Lithuania; in Yiddish; oversize book.

DS 135 .L53 C464; "Kovne cemetery list" produced by Yitzhak bar Moshe Devortsky. Burials in the Kovno (Kaunas) Lithuania cemetery from 18 Aug 1941-31 Dec 1943; includes family name, first name, father's name, address, age, Hebrew & secular dates of death, location of burial; in Yiddish; oversize book.

OLD BOOKS

Here are some of our older books that have been entered some time ago into the computer system of the IFL, with a description and their new call numbers:

DS 135 .L5 R6; "Die Juden in Litauen" by Leo Rosenberg, published 1918. History of Lithuanian Jews, in German. Old call number G33.4.
DS 135 .P6 K675; "Czas kamieni" by Monika Kamienska, published 1982. Pictures of Polish/Jewish tombstones, in Polish. Oversize book. Old call number OG49.

DS 135 .P62 O88; "Memorial book to the Jewish community of Ostrow-Mazowieck" edited and compiled by H. Chrust, published 1960. Yizkor book for this Polish town, in Hebrew and Yiddish, with an English introduction. Old call number G44.

DS 135 .R9 B8; "Geschichte der Juden in Riga" by Anton Buchholtz, published 1899. History of the Jews in Riga, Latvia, up to the founding of the Riga Hebrew Community in 1842, in German. Oversize book. Old call number OG29.2.

DS 135 .R93 D6481; "Dokszyc-Parafianow book" eidted by David Sztokfisz, published 1970. Yizkor or memorial book for Dukshitz-Parafianov in Minsk Gubernia. In Hebrew and Yiddish. Oversize book. Old call number OG53.5.

DS 135 .L53 J65; "The history of the Jews in Latvia 1561-1923", publication date unknown. In Yiddish. Old call number G29.1.

DK 511 .K55 K5; "The Lithuanian territories: ethnographic and statistical matters of the district of Kovna (Kaunas)" by P. Klimas, publication date unknown. Breakdown of the various nationalities of the Kovno district, largest group is Lithuanian (66%), Jews are 14%; in French. Old call number G32.6.

If you have any questions or comments about our library, suggestions for new purchases, or want to volunteer, you can reach me at 301-977-0154, or at < judymostyn@comcast.net >. Just please don't telephone between 6-8 pm or weekend mornings. Till next time, Happy family hunting! ✡

Overseas Research

Review your Pages of Testimony
By Margarita Lackó < mishpologia@uzidog.com >

During the 24th IAJGS Conference, which took place in Israel in 2004, I submitted many Pages of Testimony (PoT) at Yad VaShem. Several months later, they appeared to be uploaded in *The Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names* although I noticed that some were missing. I thought of giving the volunteers at Yad Vashem some time because probably they received thousands of new PoTs during the conference week and after.

Not long ago, I looked again and found that the names of three of my father's aunts were still missing. So I began a thorough search of the database < http://www.yadvashem.org/lwp/workplace/IY_HON_Welcome >. My thorough search involved reviewing each of the several hundred PoTs for victims born in my grand-aunts' birthplace, Dunajska Streda, Slovakia (previously known as Dunaszerdahely, Hungary). I also reviewed everything I submitted. Ultimately I found two entries for my father's aunt, Ella LEDERER nee GRÜNWALD. One should have been mine and I was curious to see who submitted the other.

| | | | Place of Residence | | | |
Name	Town	District	Region	Country	Birth Date	Source
Lederer Ella					1891	Page of Testimony
Lederer Ella					1891	Page of Testimony

(partial list of victims named Ella Lederer)

The short individual biography and the transcribed Full Record Details of both entries were exactly the same. But clicking on the actual scanned PoTs resulted in a great surprise. One PoT was for my grand-aunt Ella LEDERER nee GRÜNWALD, the other was for another of my grand-aunts, Rozsi

nee LEICHT. So... there it was ... one of my "lost" names. This was a lucky find but I am at a loss as to how to find my other missing names! ....

If you submitted a PoT, please review it. Do not only look at the transcribed information but also control if the Page of Testimony that is displayed on the left side of the biography is the correct one for that person. If you find an error, click on "**More Details**" on the individual biography page to go to the transcription page. Then click on "Correct our Deciphering" on the bottom of the screen. ✡

Jewish Genealogy Group Forming in Spain

More than 500 years after the Jews were given proffered baptisms (submit to baptism or leave the country), a Jewish genealogy group is forming in Spain. The Jewish community of Barcelona invited American Dr. Jeffrey S. Malka to speak to the group last month about Sephardic genealogy and discuss with them the formation of a genealogy group.

Malka is the author of *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World*; contributor of a number of chapters in *Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy*, including the chapter on Spain/Portugal; and founder of the award-winning website, "Resources for Sephardic Genealogy," located at < http://www.orthohelp.com/geneal/sefardim.htm >

Montreal City Directories Online

Montreal city directories for the period 1842-1999 have been placed online by the Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec. The website is in French, but the early directories are in English. Later directories are in English and French. They can be found at < http://bibnum2.banq.qc.ca/bna/lovell/ >

German Bundesarchiv Updates Gedenkbuch

The German archives has published a new edition of the *Gedenkbuch*, a memorial book to the German Jews murdered in the Holocaust. The original book, published in 1986, included more than 128,000 names. The new edition, published in four volumes, contains 150,000 names. The first book

was published by the then West German archives and did not include names of Jews from cities in East Germany. This is the principal source of the additional names.

In the new version, in addition to the alphabetical list for Germany, the register contains a complete list of the mass "deportations" from pre-war Germany, Austria and three parts of the modern Czech Republic, the Sudetenland, Bohemia and Moravia.

The archives said it was able to expand the register after finding new documents following German reunification in 1990. Survivors, relatives and private historians also assisted in the research. The archives is working to compile a complete list of all Jews living in Germany, 1933-1945. (From *Nu? What's Nu?*)

Czestochowa Updates
Dan Kazez < http://www.crarg.org >

Here are three important Czestochowa updates:

1. The International Landsmannschaft of Czestochowa Jews and their Descendants is planning a **trip to Czestochowa**, October 11 through October 14, 2006. Details will soon appear on their web site < http://www.czestochowajews.org >. Contact Lea Wolinetz (wolinetz@optonline.net) or Isabelle Horon (isabellehoron@yahoo.com) for details.

2. CRARG has completed a long and intensive project on the **Czestochowa Hasag records**: We have (1) typed and proofed the index, (2) added and proofed complete dates of birth from the nearly 5000 registration pages, (3) scanned all of the registration pages, and (4) re-scanned all the registration pages to improve image quality.

I have placed on CRARG's free, public-access search engine the complete collection of typed data for this Czestochowa Hasag material. To search, click on "Holocaust" on this web page: < http://www.benkazez.com/dan/crarg/ >.

This collection includes hundreds of different surnames. Jews at Hasag came from Czestochowa, Radomsko, and cities around Europe. If you find a Hasag record of interest, and would like a digital copy of the registration page, please let me know, and I can send it to you easily. Just send me the file name.

3. We are now beginning to type **handwritten Czestochowa records**. Do you have experience reading European handwriting? If yes, I hope you will volunteer. No knowledge of Polish is needed. We do our typing in Word (and later convert to Excel). Here is a sample: < http://www.benkazez.com/dan/-Help/0506-CzeRad1-0691.jpg >.

Jewish cemeteries in Poland data base
Marianna Hoszowska < mariannah@epf.pl >

I'd like to invite you to the *Foundation for the Preservation of the Jewish Heritage* in Poland website where you can find a data base of the cemeteries (with short info on each) managed by the Foundation. Go to < www.fodz.pl > to visit the website.

The complete data base of more than 400 Jewish cemeteries is available only in Polish but we've just started translating it to English.

List of translated entries:

Augustow	Babimost	Bakalarzewo	Baligrod	Baranow Sandomierski
Barcin	Barczewo	Barlinek	Bartoszyce	Barwice
Belzyce	Biala	Biala Rawska	Bialobrzegi	Bialogard
Bialy Bor	Bialystok	Biecz	Bielsk Podlaski	Bieniowice
Biezun	Bilgoraj	Bircza	Biskupice	Biskupiec
Bisztynek	Blazowa	Bledow	Bledzew	Bobolice
Bobrowniki	Bocki	Bodzanow	Bogoria	Bojanowo
Boleslawiec	Boleszkowice	Bolimow	Braniewo	Bransk
Brodnica	Brojce	Brok	Brzeg Opolski	Brzeziny
Brzozow	Bukowsko	Bychawa	Byczyna	Bydgoszcz
Chelmza	Chodel	Choszczno	Chorzele	Ciechanowiec
Ciepielow	Cycow	Czarne	Wlodawa	

1926-1930 Polish business directory search improvement
"Logan J. Kleinwaks" < kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu >

When searching the 1926/1927, 1928, 1929, or 1930 Poland and Danzig Business Directories at < www.kalter.org/search >, search results are now organized according to geographic region (e.g., Wojewodztwa Tarnopolskie, Wilenskie, Wolynskie, etc.). This should make it easier to identify relevant results when many matches to the search term are returned.

Tel Aviv Chevra Kadisha Provides Online Death Records

The Tel Aviv Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society) < http://www.kadisha.biz/ > has placed online information about persons buried in the six cemeteries in the Tel Aviv area. Included is the name of the decedent, given name of father, date of death (both Hebrew and secular) and name of cemetery. The site is completely in Hebrew. To search for an individual or generic surname search, you must type the information in Hebrew. If you do not have a Hebrew keyboard use the Stephen P. Morse English to Hebrew transliteration program located at < http://stevemorse.org/hebrew/eng2heb.html >. The Chevra Kadisha site is shut down on Shabbat and holy days.

French Memorial List

There is a web site that provides individual memorials for about 35,000 Holocaust victims and some survivors located at < http://www.torati.com/memorial/ >. The names were submitted by individuals; they are not from some organized list. The site, which is in French, also has provisions for adding names to the list. Key in a surname in the "Mots clés" box and click the "Valider" button. Individual memorials are then displayed in which the surname exists either for the person memorialized or the submitter. There is limited information about the memorialized person. The principal genealogical value of the site may be the name of the submitter. (From *Nu? What's Nu?*)

A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia & Estonia
Published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain
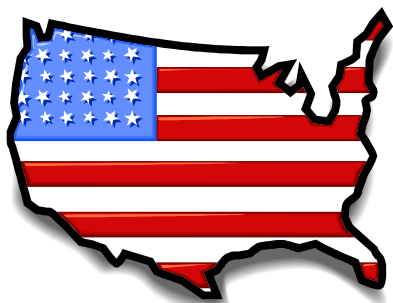ISBN: 0-537669-9-3   (144 pages - paperback)
Price: £6.75 (UK) - £8.95 (US$16)(Overseas) prices include postage

This is the eighth publication in the Jewish Ancestors series published by the JGSGB. The intention is to provide an insight into Jewish genealogy in the former Russian Empire with special reference to the laws governing Jews in the Baltic countries of Latvia and Estonia. Subjects include a brief history of Latvia, information on archival research inside and outside Latvia, conscription, emigration, the Holocaust in Latvia including Rumbula memorial, cemeteries, museums and libraries. The Internet section has been updated with useful URLs and details of databases on the net. There is a short guided tour of what Jewish sites to see when visiting Riga and includes a number of maps and colored pictures. A listing of Jewish Firms in Riga in 1891 has many names and addresses.

The Estonian section includes a short history of the Country, archives and resources, Holocaust, Jewish schools and education, bibliography and references. Part of a list of birth records for Werro and Yuriev will be of interest.

The author, Arlene Beare, is a past Chairman of the JGSGB Latvian Special Interest Group. She is the Latvia SIG's co-ordinator of the Jewishgen Latvia Database and has extensive knowledge of research in this part of the world.

We offer a 33% trade discount to Bookshops. E-mail: < publications@jgsgb.org.uk >
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Domestic Research: Focus on New York

Present and Upcoming NYC Area Cemetery Interment Search Engines
Ada Green < adagreen@att.net >

Cemetery records for Mount Hebron Cemetery in Flushing, Queens, are now online at < www.mounthebroncemetery.com >. We were delighted to hear from several conference registrants who made important finds there. A similar database, created by Mount Carmel Cemetery in Glendale, Queens, is at < www.mountcarmelcemetery.com >, and Mount Moriah Cemetery in New Jersey recently put up a grave locator (searchable by name and organization only) at < www.mountmoriahcemeteryofnewjersey.org >. Also newly on line is the database for Mt. Zion Cemetery in Maspeth, Queens, NY, at < www.mountzioncemetery.com >.

-- Mount Zion Cemetery (Maspeth, Queens). An interment search engine is currently in the works and may be online before the conference. It is being developed by the same company that produced the Mount Hebron and Mount Carmel websites. Because of its size and age, Mount Zion is one of the New York City area's most important cemeteries for research on first-generation Eastern European immigrants. Also due to age, many gravestones there are illegible or non-existent. Since Mount Zion's oldest records are not yet computerized, the database may not be comprehensive. We can only hope that some of those illegible graves will be included in the database; even if not, an in-

terment database for Mount Zion will be a wonderful aid to New York research.

-- Mount Judah Cemetery (Ridgewood, Queens) is also working on an interment search engine, also designed by the firm responsible for Mount Hebron's and Mount Carmel's sites. The database may be online before the conference.

-- Mount Lebanon Cemetery (Glendale, Queens) has an interment search engine under consideration but not in the works.

-- (Old) Montefiore Cemetery (Springfield Gardens, Queens), Beth David Cemetery (Elmont, Nassau), and Cedar Park/Beth El Cemeteries (Paramus, NJ) have no plans to put records online.

Please note that many New York area Jewish cemeteries have yet to computerize their records, which of course is a necessary first step before considering an online database.

See the Conference's cemetery page at < www.jgsny2006.org/ny_cemetery_information.cfm > for information on Jewish cemeteries in the New York metropolitan area, including links to their websites, which will be added as the information becomes available. And don't forget to use our landsmanshaft database at < www.jgsny.org/searchcity.htm > as an aid to your cemetery research.

A special thank you to Steve Lasky < www.museumoffamilyhistory.com > for first alerting me to this important development in cemetery research.

One-Step Form for Mount Hebron & Mount Carmel Cemeteries
"Diane Jacobs" < thegenie@patmedia.net >

Steve Morse has just added a One-Step form for searching the online databases for Mount Hebron and Mount Carmel Cemeteries. Among other things, his form lets you get back more than 200 hits (if you search on the cemetery websites directly, they stop giving hits after 200). It also gives you more choices in specifying names, and it unifies the two cemeteries with a single search form.

Steve's form is in the "Births Deaths, and Other Vital Records" section of his One-Step website at < http://stevemorse.org >. If you have any questions, please contact Steve directly.

NEW YORK CITY/STATE LINKS
"Joan Parker" < joanparker@intergate.com >

Here are some other links for New York City & State...

Online New York Death Indexes & Records < http://www.deathindexes.com/newyork/ >

Online Searchable New York Naturalization Records & Indexes
< http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/newyork.html >

New York Naturalization & Vital Records Databases < http://www.italiangen.org/databaselist.stm >

New York Genealogy and History Resources - NY GenWeb Site
< http://www.rootsweb.com/~nygenweb/ >

Cyndi's List - New York < http://www.cyndislist.com/ny.htm >

New York Passenger Lists Quick Guide 1820-1957 < http://www.genesearch.com/newyork/ >

New York Newspapers (current) < http://www.usnpl.com/nynews.html >

New York Newspapers (historical) - scroll to the NY section
< http://www.researchguides.net/newspapers.htm >

Sources of Obituaries and Vital Records for New York City
"Joy Rich" < joyrichny@earthlink.net >

      This is a list of some online sources of obituaries and vital records for New York City or where to find them, intended to help you with your research and prepare you for the conference.

FINDING OBITUARIES IN OR FROM NEW YORK CITY NEWSPAPERS:
SOME ONLINE SOURCES OF NEWSPAPERS AND OBITUARIES OR WHERE TO FIND THEM

Contact information for New York City libraries with newspaper collections
< www.jgsny2006.org/research.cfm >

Brooklyn Eagle, 1841-1902 (full text of the newspaper)< www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/index.htm >

Links to death notices and obituaries in Brooklyn, Queens, Manhattan, and Long Island newspapers (older Long Island newspapers also covered Brooklyn and Queens)
< www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Newspaper/index.html >

List of names of Brooklyn, etc. newspapers < www.rootsweb.com/~nynassa2/linewspaper.htm >

New York State Newspapers on Microfilm at the New York State Library
< www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/city1.htm > (click on a city)
< www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/county1.htm > (click on a county)

New York State Newspapers on Microfilm at all New York State Locations
< www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/city4.htm > (click on a city)
< www.nysl.nysed.gov/nysnp/all/county4.htm > (click on a county)

Early American Newspapers, Series I, 1690-1876 (available to members of Godfrey Memorial Library, < www.godfrey.org >) Read about it at < www.readex.com/scholarl/earlamnp.html >

NewspaperArchive Elite/Heritage Microfilm (available to members of Godfrey Memorial Library)
Read about it at < www.heritagemicrofilm.com >

Newspapers on Microfilm at the Queens Public Library's Long Island Division, including Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens newspapers (older Long Island newspapers also covered Brooklyn and Queens) < www.queenslibrary.org/central/longisland/longisland_collect.asp?page=newspapers >

Queens County Sentinel (marriage and death names and dates abstracted from the newspaper)
< www.nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/mainqueenscountysentinel.html >

Index to the New-York Daily Tribune, 1875-1884, 1895
< www.loc.gov/rr/news/news_research_tools/nytribindex.html >

FINDING NEW YORK CITY BIRTH, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH RECORDS:
SOME ONLINE SOURCES OF BIRTH, MARRIAGE, AND DEATH RECORDS OR WHERE TO
FIND THEM

Contact information for obtaining death dates from wills and letters of administration from the Surrogate's (Probate) Court in each county in New York City < www.jgsny2006.org/research.cfm >

Links to Brooklyn (and Long Island) births
< www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Birth/index.html >

Births from Queens County Sentinel < www.nyvagenealogy.homestead.com/QUEENSBIRTH.html >

Links to Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, etc. marriages
< www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Marriage/index.html >

New York Marriage Records < marriagedatabase.com/newyork/marriage-records.htm >

Links to Brooklyn, Long Island, Manhattan, etc. deaths
< www.bklyn-genealogy-info.com/Death/index.html >

Online New York Death Records, Indexes, & Obituaries
< www.deathindexes.com/newyork/index.html >

New York City groom index, bride index, and death index posted on the Italian Genealogical Group's and German Genealogy Group's websites (listed under "Births, Deaths, and other Vital Records")
< www.stevemorse.org >

List of vital records at the Municipal Archives
< www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/holdings.shtml >
births: < www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/birth.shtml >
marriages: < www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/marriage.shtml >
deaths: < www.nyc.gov/html/records/html/vitalrecords/death.shtml >

List of LDS Family History Library microfilms of New York City vital records and indexes
< www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/nycv-lds.html >

Links to New York vital records < www.worldvitalrecords.com/new-york-vital-records.htm >

Death Certificates in New York Archives
"Joy Rich" < joyrichny@earthlink.net >

If a resident of New York City died outside of the city, the town in which the person died was supposed to notify the New York City Department of Health. The person's name and date of death would be listed in the death index, but in place of a certificate number there would be a letter of the alphabet. The key to the letters indicates if the death occurred in the state of New York (town not named) another state (state named), or another country (country not named).

Deaths that occurred in the state of New York outside of New York City are listed in indexes held by the New York State Department of Health < http://www.health.state.ny.us/vital_records/death.htm > and the National Archives regional facility in Manhattan.

Input sought for new book on Jewish immigrants on the Lower East Side
Renee Steinig < rsteinig@suffolk.lib.ny.us >

Dr. Lawrence J. Epstein, an author and educator here on Long Island, is working on a new book about Jewish immigrants on the Lower East Side. The book will be edited by Arthur Kurzweil and co-published by the Lower East Side Tenement Museum.

Larry is a Professor of English at Suffolk County Community College and a leader in the Long Island community. He has lectured widely on American popular culture and is the author of many books, including "The Haunted Smile: The Story of Jewish Comedians in America" and "A Treasury of Jewish Anecdotes".

His new book "will take a 'You Are There' approach, letting readers feel what it was like to live in a tenement, work in a sweatshop, shop on Hester Street on a crowded Thursday night, and so on." Larry would welcome any stories, letters, documents, or photos that would be useful. Please invite your members to contact him at < LJE321@aol.com > with any suggestions.

Steve Morse's 1790-1930 Census Browser
"Joy Rich" < joyrichny@earthlink.net >

Steve Morse has added a "1790-1930 Census Browser" to his website. For each federal census year, the towns or counties enumerated on each roll of microfilm are listed. Free and slave schedules are included.

Click "1790-1930 Census Browser," listed under "US Census and Soundex (1790-1930)" on Steve's home page at < http://www.stevemorse.org >. On the next page, "Browsing the US Census Microfilms in One Step (1790-1930)," click "View All Rolls." On the next page, "Description of US Census Microfilm Rolls, 1790-1930," the page is arranged by census year, then state, then roll number.

A subscription to Ancestry is needed to view the images. After finding the roll number, go back to "Browsing the US Census Microfilms in One Step (1790-1930)" to select the year (which automatically changes the series number), roll number, and frame to be viewed and click "Display Frame."

Wanted by Stephen P. Morse: A Few Good Volunteers

Stephen P. Morse is looking for volunteers to help develop a 1940 U.S. Census Enumeration District Finder. The 1940 census is unindexed and organized by enumeration district. Consequently, when it is made available in 2012, it will not be possible to find a household without knowing the street address and the enumeration district of the address.

Morse has developed systems that convert street addresses to enumeration districts for the 1910, 1920 and 1930 censuses. While all three censuses have been indexed by Ancestry.com, Morse's ED finder system is valuable where the name cannot be found using the Ancestry.com index but the street address is known. Morse plans to develop ED finders for about 200 cities. Persons interested in volunteering should contact him at < steve@stephenmorse.org >. (From *Nu? What's Nu?*)

New IAJGS Member
"ANNE LEE" < federlee@msn.com >

On behalf of the IAJGS, I am very pleased to announce that we have a new member: the JGS of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The President is Phil Goldfarb and they will be publishing a newsletter called "The Muse."

2006-7 TENTATIVE MEETING SCHEDULE FOR JGSGW

September 10, 2006
October 22, 2006
November 12, 2006
December 10, 2006
January 14, 2007
February 11, 2007
March 11, 2007
April 22, 2007
May 6, 2007
June 10, 2007

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