JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Meeting of January 26, 2014

1:00 – 3:30 pm

Jewish Community Center – Park Heights

MINUTES

Dick Goldman, Co-President, opened the meeting and asked for brief reports from the JGSMD board members.

Susan Steeble reported that the first issue of our quarterly newsletter, ***L’Dor V’Dor***, was distributed to members at the beginning of January. The debut edition of the on-line newsletter ran 28 pages. Submissions for the April edition are welcome now.

Susan is also continuing her work as the interim public relations chair.

Our treasurer, Robin Thomas, reported that our society now has 52 paid members. Our receipts from membership dues have enabled the JGSMD to acquire our own projector for use in our meeting presentations.

Secretary Joe Nathanson reported that minutes of our monthly membership meetings are available through the December meeting. They should be available to the members via the group’s web site.

Suggestions from the floor included requests for different options for refreshments. One example given was that of ***fresh fruits.***

**Featured Presentation**

Dick Goldman was our featured speaker on this occasion, giving his presentation on the ***Litvak-Galitzianer Wars***. He began his talk referring to a map of Eastern Europe and noting the “gefilte fish line.” North of the line in the land of the Litvaks, people preferred their gefilte fish with a peppery flavor. The Galitzianers (in the former Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia) to the south were known to like their dishes on the sweet side and added sugar to the gefilte fish recipe. This principle was taste-tested later in the program, when attendees were able to sample both savory and sweet versions of potato kugel prepared in the JCC kitchen.

Dick also introduced a humorous side to the Litvak-Galitzianer war by presenting first a vintage film of the Klezband followed by a video of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band, with members of each side of the “war” verbally sparring and kibitzing with each other.

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| ***Richard Goldman***  ***Dick Goldman***  ***Co-President, Jewish Genealogy Society of Maryland*** | **"The great 'war' between the Litvaks and the Galitzianers; Jewish cultural geography," was presented by Dick Goldman.**  Understanding the context in which our ancestors lived brings them to life and help us visualize their activities as well as understand their hopes and dreams. In Eastern Europe there developed a deep division between two committed Jewish groups who responded very differently to the worlds in which they lived. This informed and shaped their language, dress, food, customs and religious practices.  The presentation explored how these differences occurred and how they help to fill out our own family histories. Understanding this “cultural geography” provides further context for our own genealogical explorations. |

**Additional Announcements**

Hannah Berger was welcomed to the JGSMD board as our new program chair. Dick Goldman will be offering introductory Jewish genealogy courses at the Myerberg Center and the Pikesville Senior Center in upcoming weeks. Refer to the JGSMD web site for details.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting was announced for February 23, 2014 at 1:00 pm, at the JCC – Park Heights. [***The meeting location was later changed to Baltimore Hebrew Congregation, 7401 Park Heights Avenue, Baltimore 21208.]***

### At the February meeting Suzan Wynne, author and speaker on Jewish genealogy topics,will take us through the step-by-step process of genealogy research to tell the history of a particular family history.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30 pm.

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