JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Meeting of May 18, 2014

1:00 – 3:30 pm

Hadassah office, Pikesville

MINUTES

Dick Goldman opened the meeting by noting that at the June meeting there will be an election of officers for the 2014-2015 program year.

Dick also announced that he would be providing genealogy classes at the Myerberg Center starting in June. The classes will be on Tuesdays, 1 – 2 pm, with details on the center’s web site.

We were also reminded that the International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS) will be holding its annual conference July 27 through August 2. Among many other projects, IAJGS is coordinating an effort to index and photograph tombstones in Jewish cemeteries worldwide.

First time guests were again invited to introduce themselves and their particular family research interests.

Susan Steeble, our publications chair, again discussed JGSMD’s “Brick Walls” service. For those up against a genealogical “brick wall”, Sue provided a handout explaining how JGSMD members can help break it down. Members are encouraged to write up their challenging research problem and submit it for posting to the JGSMD web site.

Instructions and questions are posted on our web site at <http://jgsmd.org/brickwalls.html>.

For our June meeting, our speaker will be Lauren Shulsky Orenstein of KinFinderNYC, who will describe some of the many Jewish genealogical resources to be found in New York City. Later in the summer the society will plan a field trip to New York on a week day when more resources will be available.

For our mid-May program, with the baseball season well underway, we had a double-header on our bill. Both featured home team players hit home runs. Lara Diamond described the successful searches for members of her family in various parts of Ukraine. Hanna Berger described the search that involved family in her native land of Romania.

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| ***Lara Diamond***

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***Hanna Berger***

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 | ***Researching Family Histories in Europe***First, Lara Diamond detailed some of the strategies she has used to get family history documents from inside Ukraine. These have included:* hiring researchers privately
* crowd sourcing research for specific towns, and
* utilizing the Family History Library's resources.

Lara reports that these strategies should be applicable to much of Eastern Europe. Then, Hanna Berger, founder of Bat Ami Strul Productions, demonstrated how video can bring to life that “world long gone.” MyHeritage. Ancestry. FamilySearch, TreeLines.com –etcetera ad infinitum … All of these are great tools for every genealogist to organize those scribbled notes in with or without added stories and comments. But, Hanna asserts - to make those dry notes come alive, to see and hear and smell their world, to tug at the heart strings of family, friend and even strangers, you’ll need something more. Hence, her powerful video productions.  |

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Sunday, June 22, 1:00 – 3:30 pm at the JCC – Park Heights.

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