



משפחה

Quarterly Publication of
The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington

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

Volume 26, Number 4

Fall 2007

In Memoriam: Anita “Nikki” Pikus

The members of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington mourn the loss of
Dr. Anita Todres Pikus, Au.D.,
who passed away on Sunday, July 1, 2007.

She was “Nikki” to family and friends and loving wife of another founding member, Irwin Pikus; mother of Harold (Kelly) and grandmother of Lia and Henry.

Nikki was the first Editor of the JGSGW newsletter, *Mishpacha*, from 1980-1984. In 1984, she became the third president of the Society.

A native of New York, Nikki was proud to be an alumna of the High School for the Performing Arts and recipient of a BA from Hunter College. She earned a Master of Arts from Temple University and a Doctorate in Audiology from the Arizona School of Health Sciences of the Kirksville School of Osteopathy.

More information about her professional and academic accomplishments may be found at < <http://www.audiologist.org/news/details.cfm?id=251> >

Nikki will be missed by her JGSGW friends. May her soul be bound up with the angels.

Gifts to the JGSGW Library Fund may be sent in Nikki's memory to:

JGSGW Library Fund
c/o Eleanor Matsas, Treasurer
10312 Holly Hill Place
Potomac, MD 20850

Sadly,
Marlene Bishow, President
Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington



*Photo Courtesy of the Audiology Foundation of America.
Taken by Parry Heide.*

Mishpacha

(Continued on page 3)

JGSGW Officers and Committee Chairs for 2007 - 2008

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| President | Marlene Bishow MLBishow@comcast.net |
| VP Programming | Rochelle Gershenow rpgersh@comcast.net |
| VP Membership | Gene Sadick elsadick2@verizon.net |
| VP Logistics | Jeff Miller SingingTM@comcast.net |
| Corresponding Secretary | Sonia Pasis sonyaMSKP@verizon.net |
| Recording Secretary | Eugene Alpert gene1@ix.netcom.com |
| Treasurer | Eleanor Matsas ematsas@aol.com |
| Past President | Ben Fassberg BenjaminF@aol.com |
| Member-At-Large | Jeff Miller SingingTM@comcast.net |
| Database Manager | Marlene Bishow MLBishow@comcast.net |
| Hospitality | OPEN |
| Librarian | Judy Mostin White judymostyn@comcast.net |
| Mishpacha Editor | Margarita Lackó mishpologia@uzidog.com |
| Publicist | OPEN |
| Speaker's Bureau | Benjamin Fassberg BenjaminF@aol.com |
| Research Coordinator | OPEN |
| Webmaster | Aaron Werbel Werbel@mail.com |
| Workshop Coordinator | OPEN |

משפחה

Mishpacha is the quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc., serving Washington, Northern Virginia, and the Maryland suburbs. *Mishpacha* is distributed electronically.

Free to members, subscriptions are \$15 and \$20 foreign. Membership dues are \$30 for individuals and \$45 for families. Membership inquiries: PO Box 31122, Bethesda, MD 20824-1122.

Mishpacha by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW). All rights reserved. *Mishpacha* is intended to provide a free exchange of ideas, research tips, and articles of interest to persons researching Jewish family history. Permission for reproduction in part is hereby granted for other non-profit use, provided credit is given to the JGSGW and to the author(s) of the reproduced material. As a courtesy, we request letting us know that a published article is being used. All other reproduction without prior written permission of the editor(s) is prohibited.

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

© 2007 Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Inc.

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| In Memoriam: Anita "Nikki" Pikus..... | 1 |
| The Costa Clan | 4 |
| Reports from the 27th IAJGS Conference | 6 |
| IAJGS News | 9 |
| Overseas Research | 10 |
| Domestic Research | 11 |
| Society News | |
| Welcome to our New Members | 13 |
| President's Perspective | 14 |
| Summer Board Meetings | 14 |
| Upcoming JGSGW Programs | 16 |

Special thanks to Jeff Miller, Liz Lourie & Fred Kolbrener

The JGSGW Web Site is located at:
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw>

In Memoriam: Anita “Nikki” Pikus (Continued from page 1)

One of the best things about the development of organized Jewish genealogy over this past 30 years are the great people who have made it happen – and who then became wonderful friends.

Anita Pikus, who died unexpectedly July 1, filled both of those roles for me. Nikki, as everyone called her, was a remarkably accomplished woman with a huge variety of active interests, but she always found time when you needed her. She was my right-hand woman in the early years of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW). Nikki and her husband Irwin came to the meeting I called to form a society, was one of its five incorporators, its third president and long-time editor of *Mishpacha*, the JGSGW newsletter. In recent years, when Neville Lamdan and I set about to organize the International Institute of Jewish Genealogy (IIJG), Nikki, a friend of both of us and former neighbor of the Lamdans, was always right there to listen, make suggestions and offer to arrange meetings with people who might be willing to contribute. Hired to be the first clinical audiologist at the National Institutes of Health, Nikki went on to develop her field into a respected, integral part of medicine, to teach and to help bring about the development of an academic degree in the field. She will be missed in many spheres, but most of all I mourn the loss of a long time, dear friend.

Sallyann Amdur Sack



Niki and her husband Irwin in 1982.
Photo submitted by Marlene Bishow.

Nikki was a multifaceted gem of a genealogist. She was a walking encyclopedia when it came to the how, what and where of genealogical research. Her organizational skills were applied in forming the society, participating in the writing of its constitution along with the core group, editing its newsletter and guiding the membership as its third president. We will miss her astute assessments of the challenges of genealogical research and her enthusiasm for new avenues to explore such as the DNA projects and supporting academic acceptance of the field of genealogy. I will miss her as a genealogy colleague and as a friend.

Rita Krakower Margolis

The Costa Clan

By Sue Swift

Editor's note: to contact the author, please send a message to < mishpologia@uzidog.com >

When I started doing genealogical research in 1998 I had no more information about my paternal great-grandmother, Elizabeth COSTA, than her name and her marriage to Samuel SIMONSON in the fall of 1854. I entered the name COSTA in the *JewishGen Family Finder* (JGFF < <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/> >) database and was contacted by Len Spiegel whose great-grandfather was John COSTA. Although Len knew nothing about his great-grandfather either, we stayed in touch for several years.

In 2004, when Ancestry.com put the *New York Passenger Lists* from 1851 to 1892 online, I found Elizabeth COSTA's arrival record. It turned out that she had arrived from England just a few months prior to her marriage at the age of 20. She arrived on the ship "Sir Rob Peel" on 31 March 1854, together with John COSTA, age 30, and Isaac COSTA, age 6. Obviously, John was not her husband nor Isaac her son since she married Samuel SIMONSON only a few months later, on 1 November 1854. I gave Len this information and suspected that John might be Elizabeth's brother.

After searching through the New York City Death Index, I requested microfilms from the *Family History Library* (FHL) in Salt Lake City < <http://www.familysearch.org/> >.

I found Elizabeth's death certificate, which gave me the names of her parents, Moses COSTA and Matilda (Malka) ARYE, from London, England. The big breakthrough came several months after that when in September 2004, out of the blue, I got an e-mail from Gary Nelson asking if I might be related to any of several names, among them Moses COSTA. Within a few days, during which he called me from London, we had determined that I was a descendent of the Moses COSTA he had in a huge tree that went back to 1746 when the first known COSTA, Raphael DA COSTA arrived in London at the age of 21. I went from knowing nothing about Elizabeth to now having an ancestral tree going back to 1725 with hundreds of descendants, mostly in England but some as far away as Australia. Elizabeth was one of about 15 siblings, some of whom had died in infancy. The relatives in London had not known that any of the Costas had come to America.

In the meantime I had found the death certificate for John COSTA and was disappointed to discover that his parents, namely Raphael COSTA and Rachael ZUNDEL, were different from those of Elizabeth. However, we were now able to determine that Elizabeth and John were first cousins since Raphael and Moses were brothers. So Len Spiegel, with whom I was in contact for so many years, is my 3rd cousin. We learned from the birth records at *Bevis Marks*, the Sephardic Synagogue in London, England, that Isaac COSTA, who arrived in the U.S. at the age of 6 with Elizabeth, was John's son.

Furthermore, I later found that on 6 June 1860, Moses and Matilda COSTA, together with two other daughters, arrived in the U.S. on the ship "Margaret Evans."

In June 2006, I traveled to London together with one of my daughters as well as Len and his wife to attend a reunion of 35 of the COSTA descendants. It was great meeting the people with whom I had corresponded by e-mail for so long. In the Spring 2007 issue of *Avotaynu*, a 4th cousin, David Nathan, wrote an article about this reunion and the entire COSTA family tree.

(Continued on page 5)

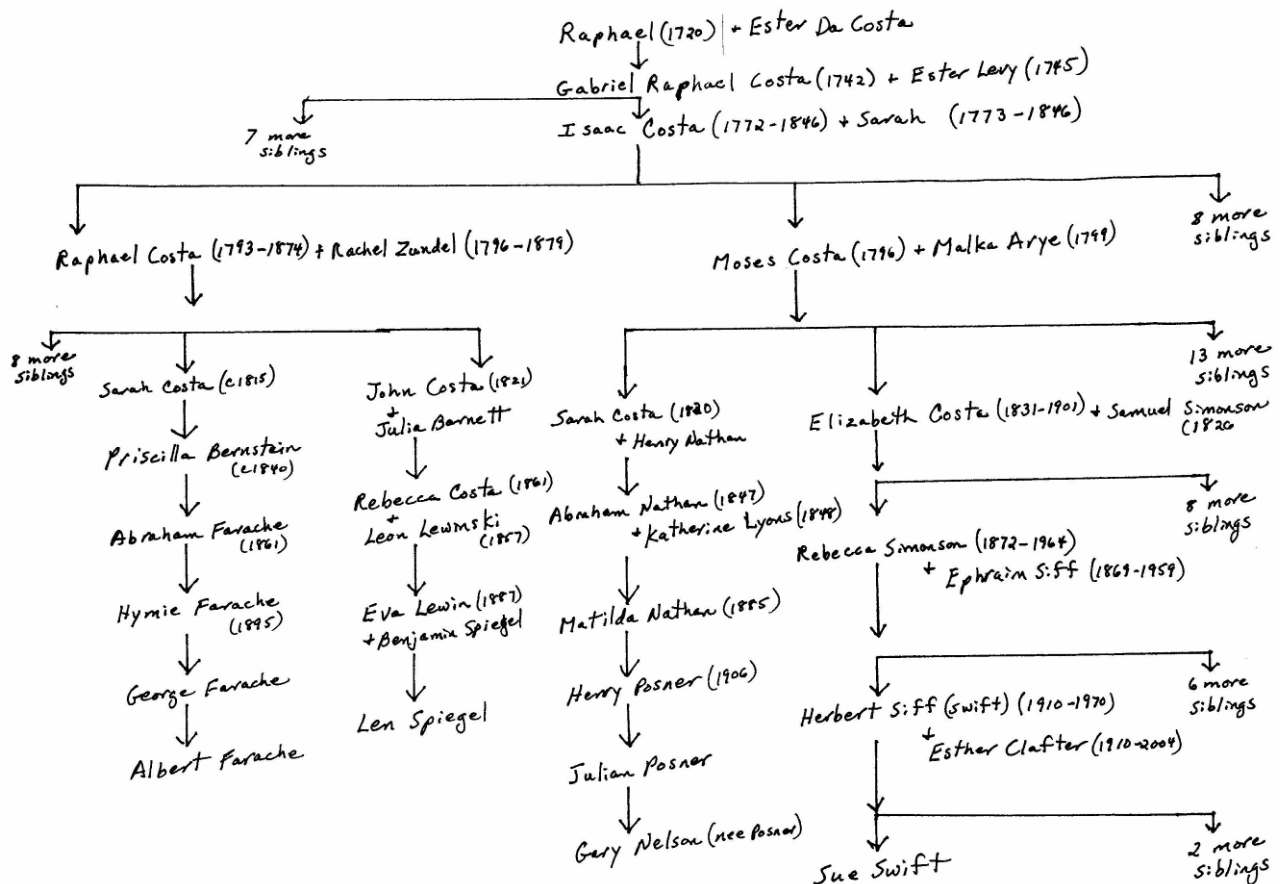
The Costa Clan (Continued from page 4)



Albert Farache, myself, Len Spiegel, and Gary Nelson at the June 2006 COSTA reunion

Albert is our research guru who looks up all the birth, marriage, and death records at *Bevis Marks*, the Sephardic Synagogue in London. Gary is our Internet guru and the one who initially contacted me. His great-great-great-grandmother and my great-grandmother were sisters.

On the wall in the background is the family tree as it was known in June, 2006. It takes up most of three walls. Since then, several more descendants have found us so it has grown even more. ☆





REPORTS FROM THE 27th IAJGS CONFERENCE IN SALT LAKE CITY

Austria-Czech Interests

Vera Finberg < hjfinberg@earthlink.net >

My genealogical interests lie mostly in the areas covered by the Austria-Czech Special Interest Group (SIG), so I enjoyed the SIG's programming and lunch.

Mr. Julius Muller, director of *Toledot, Jewish Family History Center* in Prague, Czech Republic, and a professional genealogist, spoke first on the Jewish Census records of Bohemia and Moravia from 1724-1811. The purpose of the censuses was to limit the Jewish population according to the *Familianten laws*.¹ While early Censuses do not give surnames, the census of 1793 does, and is very detailed in the information given. It was recently published by the National Archives in Prague < <http://www.nacr.cz/eindex.htm> >. In a second lecture, Mr. Muller spoke on Jewish vital records in Bohemia and Moravia from 1788 to 1949. While the Jewish community kept its own records, the Catholic parish was required to keep duplicates that may still exist, in contrast to the Jewish records which were destroyed by the Nazis. The lectures gave an excellent summary of Czech Jewish resources.

Dr. Ingo Zechner, Head of the *Holocaust Victims Information and Support Center of the Jewish Community* in Vienna, Austria, in his lecture "Rebuilding the Archive of the Jewish Community, Vienna," brought us up-to-date on the "recently discovered" portion of the *Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien* (IKG; Jewish Community Vienna) records. When the IKG decided to sell the building, an apartment with hundreds of boxes full of documents stacked to the ceiling had to be vacated. Officials of the IKG and Dr. Zechner had a closer look at the stored material and realized the treasure that was there. Unable to cope with the restoration, cleaning and indexing of these materials, the *Kultusgemeinde* and the *United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* (USHMM) in Washington, DC, signed a contract of cooperation to deal with this matter. The end result is that these records are being digitized, and should be available to the public in the not too distant future.

In addition to this programming, Nancy Levin Arbeiter's lecture on "Oceanic Journey to America: Traveling Steerage Class" was eye-opening for the horrible conditions that prevailed and how eventually laws were passed that improved the situation.

I took two computer labs: "Using Excel for Genealogical Databases" by Barbara Starkey and "Advanced Family Tree Maker" by David Van Valkenburgh. I also had great success in using the Austro-Hungarian maps (Austrian Pre-World War I Military Map Series) in the Resource Room (the maps are copies from the Library of Congress) to find the town where my great-great aunt was born.

I spent many hours in the Family History Library (FHL), especially delving into Viennese Meldezettel (police notifications for visitors to Vienna). Those using this resource (3173 reels) know how impossible it is to determine the correct reel using the filing system originated by the Viennese. The FHL is indexing these films. Eventually, access should be much improved, and I won't need to try 12 microfilms to find my KOHNER family. Thank goodness I wasn't ordering them at \$5.50 per roll. ☆

1 . See JewishGen's Austria-Czech SIG "Bohemian Familianten Town Index" < <http://www.jewishgen.org/bohmor/familianten.html> >.

(Continued on page 7)

Musings on the conference

By Nancy Weinberg < na_weinberg@yahoo.com >

Preparing for the trip to Salt Lake City was very time-consuming for me, but time well spent. After shaping up each of my families in their respective notebooks and in my computer program, I felt ready to go. I had spent time searching the holdings on the Family History Library Catalogue < http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp >, making lists of specific records to pull as soon as I reached the Family History Library (FHL). I also had secured myself a roommate to share the successes at the end of the day.

In looking over the schedule, I determined that my first chance to break free to visit the Library would be Tuesday. Since going to Salt Lake City was a researcher's dream, I booked my hotel room through Sunday morning.

As the conference unfolded, I enjoyed most of the lectures I signed up for, but found many conflicts with programming. At other times, nothing appealed to me; however due to the fortunate location, I was able to use those times to be in the FHL.

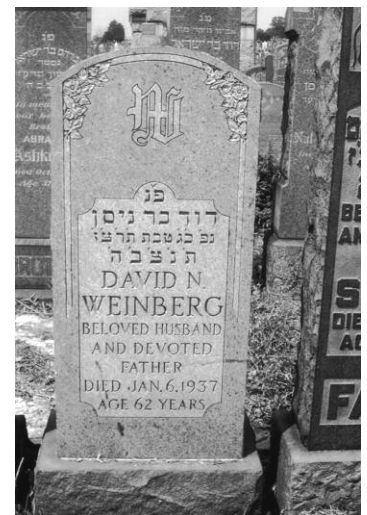
One of the more valuable talks was by Ron Arons, entitled, "Using the Internet Beyond JewishGen & Steve Morse's Website." The printed syllabus given was a wealth of listings on newspapers, maps, language translations and professional directories.

David Dilts, AG of the FHL gave a useful talk on "Canadian Immigration: Research Strategies, Indexes & Records." Loretto Szucs was also informative on her presentation "Finding Answers in Naturalization Records and Ethnic Sources." Also useful was a talk given by Linda Reiss Volin on "Using Fashion Clues to Date Old Photographs."

Lastly, a talk by the Ancestry.com folks convinced me to buy the latest version of Family Tree Maker 2008 which seems to combine the best features of the program with the Ancestry tree building sites. Just when I have mastered the old program, I decided to move on to the next version. I had promised myself I wouldn't get swayed.....

I used every afternoon and evening up to closing time in the Library to slowly work my way through my lists of records to pull. I made three major discoveries during the week: two through networking and one through my own research.

A potential SMOLEN relative contacted me on a message board the first day of the conference. Fortunately, I noticed it and made contact with two sisters the next day. After exchanging information, we concluded that we really couldn't connect our families. However, why not have dinner together? While crossing the street to go to dinner, my new companion noticed the tombstone photograph of David WEINBERG that I was displaying on the outside of a notebook. I said that he was probably related in some way to my line, but I brought it along mainly so I could get the stone translated and then hopefully pass it along to someone who might appreciate it. While crossing the street, in the middle of the intersection, she translated the words on the stone and I nearly fainted when she told me he was the son of my patriarch!

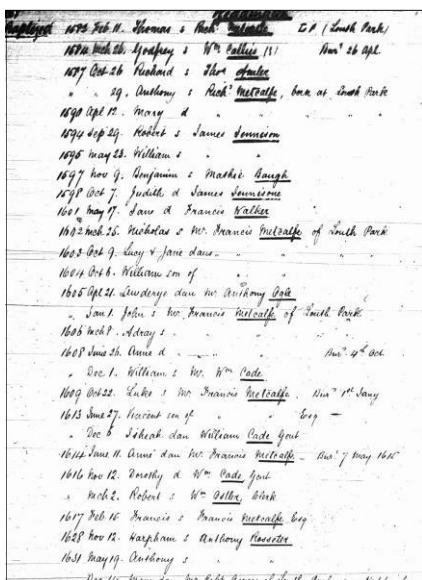


(Continued on page 8)

My other networking experience was similar: As I was walking through the conference area, Steve Lasky < <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com> > noticed I was researching ABELOFF families.

"Oh, I've got them in my cemetery database," he said.
 "Yes, I am sure you have, they are in Acacia, Queens, NY," I responded.

Although anxious to run back to the Library, I agreed to sit a minute while he checked his database. There they were, with another family that I suspected was related, and three more ABELOFFs. He confirmed they were associated with the Bialystok burial society, but his data also provided me the names of some smaller towns and alternate spellings of the family name. I never would have assimilated this information so quickly without his help.



My third discovery came independently! I confirmed and obtained copies of original records from early English church records. It was thrilling to view records from 1595! I learned that my PURITAN English family was likely part of the group that first immigrated to Holland, then back to England before eventually coming to Watertown, Massachusetts, in the United States, in 1632. I saw originals and made copies of actual christening and marriage records, giving me some missing female maiden names.

In comparison to the conferences in New York City and Washington, DC, this one just didn't measure up. Many of the speakers and topics, although very good, were repeats. It seemed to me that the attendance was also down. Many more people seemed to be carrying their own computers this time, making the Resource Library onsite far more accessible. All in all, it was a fun week, but mainly because of the FHL. ☆



2007 AWARDS

Mathilde Tagger of Israel received the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her huge impact on the advancement of Sephardic Jewish genealogy, including personal research, scholarly publications and personal assistance to researchers.

Lars Menk of Berlin received the IAJGS Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy Award for his remarkable book "A Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames."

The US Holocaust Memorial Museum received the IAJGS Stern Award to be used for its upcoming project to index materials it receives from the International Tracing Service (ITS). The Board announced that in the future the name will be changed from Stern Award to Malcom Stern Grant to clarify that it is for a proposed project.

Yad Vashem honored Donald Hirschhorn of the JGS of Palm Beach County, in recognition of his activism, dedication and outstanding volunteerism as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project. ☆

IAJGS NEWS

Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President

Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Competition

The Jewish Genealogy Month, which will be celebrated on the month of Cheshvan, will fall between 30 October and 27 November 2008.

The Poster Competition is now open and the 2007-2008 Poster Competition Committee is looking forward to receiving many submissions from our member societies. The deadline for receipt of submissions is 1 April 2008 and should be sent to Marilyn Brenner (Chair) at < lvarteest@yahoo.com >.

The winning artist will win a free registration to the 2008 IAJGS Conference in Chicago (17-22 August 2008). The winning poster will be unveiled at the Conference.

Please go to < <http://www.iajgs.org> > (click on the "Jewish Genealogy Month" tab), to find all the details about this competition.

SALUTES Program

The SALUTES Program encourages noteworthy projects and activities relating to Jewish genealogy that increase the availability of resources, demonstrate creative techniques others can use or increase interest and participation in Jewish Genealogy.

The 2007-2008 Salutes Committee is ready to begin receiving nominations. To see the details about the SALUTES program and how to submit nominations, go to < <http://www.iajgs.org> > and click on IAJGS Salutes tab. Please send nominations to Ron Arons (Chair) at < reaxprs@ix.netcom.com >.

Future IAJGS Conferences

The 2008 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will take place at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, Chicago, Illinois, on 17-22 August 2008.

Those who want to get a head start on research possibilities in Chicago are urged to go to Mike Karsen's excellent website < www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago >. A google search for "Jewish Chicago" will also lead to many interesting items.

The 2009 IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.



***BEST WISHES FOR A
HEALTHY AND HAPPY
NEW YEAR.***



Overseas Research

Lodz Cemetery One Step Search

Roni Seibel Liebowitz, Lodz Area Research Group Coordinator

Steve Morse has created a One-Step search engine for the Lodz Cemetery database indexed by Marek Szukalak in Lodz. See Marek's Lodz Foundation website and the Cemetery Plan in English at < <http://www.jewishlodzcemetery.org/cmentarzEN.html> >.

Steve Morse's One-Step Search is located at < <http://stevemorse.org/lodz/lodz.html>>.

Be careful with exact searches on name -- the full name must match exactly. So if you enter just the last name, it will not match exactly because the name in the record contains a first name as well.

Russian state archives

Posted in JewishGen

Jewish-relevant Russian state archives listed at ArcheoBiblioBase < <http://www.iisg.nl/~abb/index.html> > include, among others:

- (1) Archive #B1 - pre-revolution records of the central highest-level judicial, penal, and political and criminal investigatory agencies; Kingdom of Poland records; post-Revolution papers.
- (2) archive #B4 - pre-Revolution Russian military history, including "local military administration and military agencies of the Russian Empire from the end of the seventeenth century until March 1918".
- (3) archive #B8 - records in the formerly top-secret Central State Special Archive. It contains "archival materials of foreign origin from European countries that were captured by Soviet Army at the end of World War II in Germany, Poland, and Czechoslovakia and brought back to Moscow".
- (4) archive #C6 - "All-Russian Cheka, the State Political Administration, the Consolidated State Political Administration, the People's Commissariat (and subsequent Ministry) of State Security (NVKD/MVD), the Committee on State Security of the USSR (KGB), and related or subservient predecessor organs".

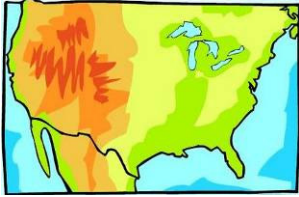
For more information, please contact Richard J. Astor < richardastor@astorlaw.com >

Index of Foreigners in Antwerp, Belgium

The City Archive of Antwerp, Belgium, < <http://stadsarchief.antwerpen.be> > has placed the scanned images of the index of foreigners who were registered in the city between 1840 to 1930. It can be found under the heading "Vreemdelingendossiers" (Aliens Registers) < <http://tinyurl.com/3xzvsu> >.

They are indexed in alphabetical order and contain last name, first name and file number for the period 1840-1885, and last name, first name, file number, birth place and birth year for the period 1886-1930.

Be aware that the records are in Dutch, so when searching, look for different spellings.



Domestic Research

NARA Increases Fees

From Jan Meisels Allen, director IAJGS and chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has announced their final rule on increased charges. To view the final rule, which becomes effective on October 1, 2007, please go to: < <http://tinyurl.com/22xgtt> >.

There is minimum fee of \$15.00 per order for mail order requests. Bellow, a sample of some of the charges (for further fees, click on the above URL):

| Type of record | Order form | Fee |
|---|--------------|---------|
| (1) Passenger arrival lists | NATF Form 81 | \$25.00 |
| (2) Federal Census requests | NATF Form 82 | 25.00 |
| (4) Land entry records | NATF Form 84 | 40.00 |
| (5) Full pension file more than 75 years old (Civil War and after), up to and including 100 pages | NATF Form 85 | 75.00 |
| (6) Full pension file (pre-Civil War) | NATF Form 85 | 50.00 |
| (7) Pension documents packet (selected records) | NATF Form 85 | 25.00 |
| (8) Bounty land warrant application files | NATF Form 85 | 25.00 |
| (9) Military service files more than 75 years old | NATF Form 86 | 25.00 |

Report on International Tracing Service

Nu? What's New? Volume 8, Number 14

Paul Shapiro of the U.S. Holocaust Museum (USHMM) received a standing ovation for his keynote address at the opening session. He described the history of making accessible the records of the International Tracing Service located in Bad Arolsen, Germany. While his description of the events was polite, it was clear that there were many obstacles placed in the path of public access by a variety of interest groups. The next morning Shapiro described the future of public access to these records. Some of his comments were:

* It has yet to be determined when the records will be useable at USHMM (or other facilities) because the Museum has not seen the data and does not know how well it is organized for information retrieval. Shapiro noted that ITS has never had a trained archivist or historian to organize the records according to archival standards.

* Although the wheels are grinding to make the records available to the member countries, they cannot be made available to the public until the remaining three countries that make up the commission—France, Greece, and Italy—approve the release.

* Once available to the public, USHMM plans to give highest priority to inquiries by Holocaust survivors and their families. He noted that survivors are a dying generation and time is of the essence for them.

* There will be public access at the Museum once the system is set up.

Cook County (Chicago), Illinois, Digitizing Vital Records

From Jan Meisels Allen

The Cook County (Chicago, Illinois) Clerk announced that newly digitized vital records will be available on-line by January 2008. The vital record documents - without Social Security numbers - will include birth certificates that are at least 75 years old, marriage certificates more than 50 years old, and death certificates more than 20 years old.

The web site is part of a massive effort to digitize the county's 24 million vital records, which date to 1871, when record-keeping began after the Chicago Fire wiped out previous stockpiles.

The genealogy Web site will offer a tutorial for people interested in researching family trees and allow users to search for relatives by name. Once the proper person is found, users can pay a fee to download records and print them at home. For more information, go to < <http://tinyurl.com/yrwl5o> >.



Virginia Genealogical Society Conference

"The Road Goes Both Ways"

2-3 November 2007, Roanoke, VA

Registration Deadline is 22 October 2007

<http://www.vgs.org/>

Records Preservation and Access Committee

The Records Preservation and Access Committee, a joint committee of the Federation of Genealogical Societies & the National Genealogical Society, is now at its permanent website:

< <http://www.fgs.org/rpac/index.php> >

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) has established a Public Records Access Monitoring Committee to share information about new legislation and any threat it may pose to genealogical researchers having access to the records they need to be successful in searching out their Jewish ancestry. < <http://www.iajgs.org/legislation/legislation.html> >

Jewish Communal Register of New York City, 1917-1918

From Logan J. Kleinwaks < kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu >

The Jewish Communal Register of New York City, 1917-1918 is viewable and searchable through Google Books at < <http://books.google.com/books?id=ptPTTKYiLNAC> >. Among much else, it includes brief biographies (often with year of birth, year of immigration to U.S., occupation, and address) of many organization presidents. If you do not see a button to "Read this book" or "Download PDF," it is probably because Google is blocking you because of country-specific copyright concerns.

The Museum of Family History

The website < www.museumoffamilyhistory.com > has been updated. Look for new items in Postcards from Home (from towns in Belarus, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Poland and Romania), Map Room (Pre-World War II topographical maps for areas surrounding Vilnius, Minsk and Pinsk), and Cemetery Project (surname lists and society gate photos/listings for New York/New Jersey society plots associated with towns in Belarus, Poland and Tiraspol. For the latest updates, from the home page, click on Site Map.

Society News



Current Newsletters available electronically from the editor:

- “Chai from Colorado” - JGS of Colorado
- “Discovery” - San Diego JGS
- “Family Gatherings” - JGS Broward County
- “Family Legacies” - JGS Southern Nevada
- “Generations” - JGS of Michigan
- “Illiana” - Illinois/Indiana JGS
- “Montreal Forum” - JGS Montreal
- “Morasha” - JGS Illinois
- “News ‘N Notes” - St. Louis Genealogy Society
- “Newsletter” - JGS Great Britain
- “Quest” - JGS Connecticut
- “Scatered Seeds” - JGS Palm Beach County
- “Shalshélet” - JGS Oregon
- “Shem Tov” - JGS Canada (Toronto)
- “Toldot” - JGS Argentina (in Spanish)
- “Venturing Into Our Past” - JGS Conejo Valley & Ventura County, California
- “Zichron Note” - San Francisco Bay Area JGS

To request a newsletter, send an e-mail to < mishpologia@uzidog.com >.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS

Arden ALEXANDER

Marti ASNER

Booker BROOKS

Lily DALVA

Deborah DWORSKI

Justin LOE

Jeff MALKA

Bob NUSENBLATT

Bension VARON

Harris WEINSTEIN

Members' Achievements

Eugene (Gene) Alpert, JGSGW Recording Secretary, and Olga Zabludoff were elected to the Board of Directors of the Litvak SIG. Gene is Member-at-large & Membership Coordinator. Olga is coordinator of the LitvakSIG District Research Groups project.

Photo Credit

Thanks to Ben Terner for the photos taken at the JGSGW Membership Appreciation Luncheon, printed in *Mishpacha* Summer 2007.

Empty Chairs

Looking to get more involved with the society? We have a great opportunity for you. There are two positions currently open: **Research Chair (Board Position)** and **Workshop Chair**. If you are interested in joining our dynamic team of board members, e-mail < JGSGW_DC@comcast.net >.

The President's Perspective

As we begin the New Year, we have already had one exciting meeting, with Jeff Malka as our speaker. Be sure to watch our website and the mail for information about future meetings planned by our able VP of Programs, Rochelle Gershenow.

As any member who has been to a meeting in the past 6 months or read *Mishpacha* in that time knows, we are finally going to have a home for our JGSGW Library. The opening should occur early this winter. The move will cost us nearly \$25,000, including professional movers and beautiful new shelving and furniture. This is the single largest purchase by the society in its 27-year history. How can we afford this?

Although we have received some generous donations, the vast majority of the funding will come from our savings. These savings are from the proceeds from the 1995 and 2003 IAJGS Annual Conferences hosted by JGSGW. If you attended any of the conferences, you may have noticed that these successful events were the result of a lot of planning. If you were a volunteer working at these conferences, then you may well remember the long hours of hard work and the personal gratification for a job well done.

This summer I received a request from IAJGS President, Anne Lee, asking if JGSGW would consider hosting another conference. After all, Washington, DC, is chock full of great resources for Jewish genealogical research. The Board has not considered this request as yet, due to our pre-occupation with relocating our library. The conference would be in 2011 or 2012. This seems like a long time from now, but it is not too early to put together a conference leadership team, and to do some preliminary planning. I am sharing this information with you before the Board considers our response, to give our members an opportunity to give us feedback and consider volunteering for the positions of chairpersons. In 2003, we had a triumvirate that comprised top leadership. That seems to be a good model. Please consider whether you have the qualifications to manage this major event and if you have a strong feeling either way regarding whether JGSGW should host the event. You may contact me personally or give your input to any Board member before the end of October.



Wishing you good health, happiness and prosperity in the New Year.

Marlene Bishow
President

SUMMER BOARD MEETINGS

Submitted by Marlene Bishow, President

Two Board meetings were held during July and August. The primary focus of both meetings was the JGSGW Library.

At the meeting on July 5, 2007, the Board reconfirmed a previous vote to donate \$250 to Jewishgen. The check was sent on July 29. Jeff Miller, Member-At-Large, agreed to continue in the function of Publicity Chair, and Ben Fassberg offered to assist. Jeff will also serve as the Vice President for Logistics. Rochelle Gershenow, VP for Programs, reviewed the program calendar. We will meet twice this year in VA and once in DC.

(Continued on page 15)

The Board noted the passing of Anita "Nikki" Pikus. She was a signatory on the society's Articles of Incorporation, third President, and first Editor of *Mishpacha*. (See the article in this issue.) The Board decided that a plaque honoring Nikki and all deceased past Presidents, would be hung in the library. It was also agreed that memorial donations would be accepted for the Library Fund in Nikki's honor.

Marlene Bishow, President, reported on her research regarding the physical move of the JGSGW Library to B'nai Israel. She spoke to four local movers. The Board voted to use a professional mover to move the 55 cartons of books from their present location. Ben Turner has agreed to serve as move coordinator. The Board agreed that membership cards would be issued to current members, and that these cards would be used to gain admittance to the new library. B'nai Israel members will be welcome to use the library, but they will be required to show their B'nai Israel library card. No non-members will be admitted.

On August 13, 2007, a Board meeting was held in the B'nai Israel Library for the purpose of finalizing the order for library furniture. Fred Goodman, chairman of the B'nai Israel Library Committee, provided a pricing proposal in advance of the meeting. Several options were presented regarding the width of a map cabinet. The Board voted to buy the largest cabinet (42") and to add a divider to one drawer to accommodate microfilm. The Board reviewed the quality and construction of the library furniture, as what we are purchasing is the same as is currently in the B'nai Israel Library, except that all of the JGSGW furniture will have locking glass doors. The Board voted to fund \$23,000 from our savings for the purchase.

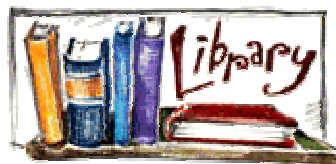
The Board also agreed that no books will be moved and no purchase order will be issued until we have a signed Memorandum of Agreement with B'nai Israel. Ben Fassberg, past President and an attorney, will draft the Memorandum for presentation to the attorney and principals at B'nai Israel. Marlene and Ben noted that Larry Trope, Executive Director of B'nai Israel, and members of the B'nai Israel congregation have reported that their Board of Directors and congregants are very excited about our request to have the JGSGW Library housed at B'nai Israel.

Before adjourning, the Board voted to participate in a "Street Fair" at B'nai Israel on August 23. Gene Sadick, Sonia Pasis, Ben Fassberg and Marlene Bishow will represent JGSGW.☆

Looking for a way to celebrate or a way to commemorate,

Always in good taste a donation to the...

JGSGW Library Fund



For donations of \$18 or more,
we will send an attractive card
to the person or family.

UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS

October

Workshop Members Only!
Date: Sunday, October 14, 2007
Time: 11:00 AM
Location: Bnai Israel, Fanaroff Auditorium, Rockville, MD
Speaker: Dr. Michael Matsas
Movie: "The Last Greeks of Broome Street"
Topic: The Jews of Ioannina

In Manhattan, a small shul on the Lower East Side has been named a "National Treasure." It was built in 1926 by the descendents of Jewish slaves who were deported to Rome in the early days of the Diaspora. Their stopping point was Ioannina, then Greece during the reign of Alexander the Great (356-323 BCE), a part of the Roman Empire. The earliest reported evidence of Jews in Ioannina is 1319. It was there that they developed a litany written in Greek and Hebrew and developed customs unique to their sect. They are neither Sephardic nor Ashkenazic. The filmmaker, Ed Ashkenazi, son of one of the founders of Kehila Kedosha Janina, tells the story of its founding and of the attempts by members of the community to retain the rich traditions of the place of their birth.

Dr. Michael Matsas, a retired dentist, was born in Ioannina, Greece in 1930. After we view the movie, he will talk about the city of Ioannina and its Jewish community--where the Jews came from, what were their occupations, their way of life, and what happened to them in 1944. He has spoken at the United States Holocaust Museum, Kehila Kedosha Synagogue in NY, the JCC, and other places about the Greek Jews in relation to the book he wrote called "The Illusion of Safety, the Story of the Greek Jews during the Second World War." Mike is the husband of our JGSGW Treasurer, Eleanor Matsas.

The movie is 28 minutes and the workshop should be over by 12:15 PM to allow participants to have time for lunch before the afternoon program.

Program
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Speaker: Logan J. Kleinwaks
Topic: "Searching Online Historical Directories"

Many pre-World War II Central and Eastern European business and address directories have been scanned and made available online as part of library digitization programs. Unfortunately, they are presented online as images, not as searchable text. Logan will describe how to use a search engine he developed based on optical character recognition (OCR) software to search these directories, with an emphasis on how to find what you are looking for despite errors introduced by the OCR process. The OCR-based approach allows data from print sources to be made searchable very quickly, with little manual intervention. Its applications to other Jewish genealogy projects will be discussed also.

As a bonus, there will be a brief presentation of a new tool to reunite families separated by the Shoah, which allows email addresses to be associated with Pages of Testimony found on Yad Vashem's website, and automatically matches people associated with same Pages.

(Continued on page 17)

UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS *(Continued from page 16)*

Logan Joseph Kleinwaks, Coordinator of the JewishGen Danzig/Gdansk-SIG, is a hobbyist genealogist living near Washington, D.C. with a research background in physics and mathematics. He is the creator of the online tools < www.ShoahConnect.org >, for Page of Testimony research, and < www.kalter.org/search >, for searching historical business directories, as well as the general genealogy site < www.FamilyTreeRegistry.org >. His broader genealogical interests include the photographic documentation of Jewish cemeteries, improving Internet access to genealogical information, and privacy.

November

Program

Date: Sunday, November 11, 2007
Time: 1:30 PM Schmooze time; 1:45 Program
Location: Historic Adas Israel Synagogue, 701 3rd Street NW (3rd & G Streets), Washington, DC
Speaker: Wendy Turman
Topic: "Preserving Your Family's or Synagogue's History (tips on safeguarding family treasures)"

In this joint program, co-sponsored with the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington (JHSGW), Wendy Turman will talk about a variety of ways to preserve and care for family history materials such as photographs, scrapbooks, old letters and documents, highlighting some of the current preservation issues in the Society's collections. She will also provide an overview of the Society's archival collections and their use in genealogical research.

Wendy Turman, who holds an advanced degree in museum studies, has been the Archivist of the JHSGW for the past seven years. She manages the archival, photographic, and object collections and is responsible for preservation as well as accession and loan documentation, archival processing, and cataloging. Her previous museum positions include working with the National Museum of Health and Medicine, the Smithsonian Institution's "America's Smithsonian" Exhibit, and National Museum of American History.

Optional tour of the award-winning exhibit, Jewish Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community, 3:00-3:45 pm at the nearby 6th & I Historic Synagogue. Space is limited for the tour. Advance registration suggested. Call Diane Goldman at (202) 789-0900 or email < info@jhsgw.org >.

December

Program

Date: Sunday, December 16, 2007
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: Bnai Israel, Fanaroff Auditorium, Rockville, MD
Speaker: Ralph N. Baer, Ph.D.
Topic: "Researching Pre-World War II German-Jewish Genealogy"

Jewish research in Germany can best be divided into three eras: prior to about 1800, from about 1800 to soon after German unification in the 1874, and post-unification. It is simplest to start from

(Continued on page 18)

UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS *(Continued from page 17)*

the most recent and work backwards. Copies of vital records starting in 1876 can be obtained from the local Standesamt (registrar's office) but are currently only available to direct descendants. In the middle period, vital records usually started to be kept at approximately the time permanent family names were adopted in the Kingdom, Principality, Duchy, etc., of interest. This date varies by place but is usually prior to the 1830's. The content and form of these records greatly differ. In some regions, Jewish records were kept separately from Christian records, and in some cases they are together with them. Prior to this date there is even more variability, and almost every town has different types of records available. Examples of records will be shown and methods of obtaining them will be discussed.

Ralph N. Baer was born in New York City in 1948. His parents, grandparents, and last living great-grandparent fled their native Germany in the 1930's. He has a doctorate in mathematics and has worked as a research scientist in the Acoustics Division of the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, DC, since 1974. His interest in personal genealogy was piqued by a vacation in Germany in 1977, and he has been there to research his family on several subsequent occasions. Dr. Baer is a charter member of JGSGW and has given several previous presentations to the Society. He is the author of about a half dozen articles which have appeared in *Stammbaum*, the *Journal of German-Jewish Genealogical Research*, and has also written for *Avotaynu* and *Mishpacha*.

January

Program

Date: Sunday, January 6, 2008
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: Bnai Israel, Fanaroff Auditorium, Rockville, MD
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

February

Program

Date: Sunday, February 3, 2008
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: Beth El Hebrew Congregation, Alexandria, VA
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

March

Program

Date: Sunday, March 16, 2008
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: Bnai Israel, Fanaroff Auditorium, Rockville, MD
Speaker: Ave Sloane
Topic: "Solving your Genealogy Puzzle with USCIS Records"

(Continued on page 19)

UPCOMING JGSGW PROGRAMS *(Continued from page 18)*

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has records, which document the arrival and later naturalization of millions of American immigrants. The public will be able to request index searches and/or copies of historical records relating to deceased persons. The record sets that will be available are: (1) Naturalization Certificate Files (C-Files) issued 1906-1956; (2) Alien Registration Forms (AR-2) issued 1940-1944 and AR-2 forms issued 1944-1951; (3) Visa Files issued 1924-1944 and Visa Records issued 1944-1951; (4) Registry Files issued 1929-1944 and Registry records issued 1944-1951; and (5) Alien Files numbered below 8-million (contents dated prior to 1951). If you have an ancestor who immigrated and arrived after 1892 and was naturalized between 1906 and 1956, the future USCIS Genealogy Program will be able to help in your family history research. The USCIS Genealogy Program will be a fee-for-service program designed to provide genealogical and historical records and reference services to genealogists, historians and others seeking documents maintained within the historical record systems.

Ave Sloane was assigned to "stand up" the Genealogy Program at the Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in January 2006. While new to the field of Genealogy, as Chief of the legacy INS FOIA office in Washington, DC, she became familiar with the historical records and the process used to search for and provide family history information to the public. As a result of this assignment, Mrs. Sloane has become passionate about Genealogy; researching her own family back to the 1840s (so far). Mrs. Sloane has 29 years of public service. She began her Federal career at the Department of Agriculture. She was a FOIA Officer with the Food Safety and Inspection Service for 17 years. Mrs. Sloane holds a B.A. degree in History from Howard University.

April

Program

Date: Sunday, April 13, 2008
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: TBA
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

May

Program

Date: Sunday, May 18, 2008
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: Bnai Israel, Fanaroff Auditorium, Rockville, MD
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA

June

Program

Date: Sunday, June 8, 2008
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze time; 1:30 Program
Location: Potomac Community Center Social Hall, Potomac, MD
Speaker: TBA
Topic: TBA



2007– 2008 MEETING SCHEDULE



2007

- Oct 14 - The Jews of Ioannina (workshop)
 - Searching Online Historical Directories
- Nov 11 - Preserving Your Family's or Synagogue's History
- Dec 16 - Researching Pre-World War II German-Jewish Genealogy

2008

- Jan 6 - TBA
- Feb 3 - TBA
- Mar 16 - Solving your Genealogy Puzzle with USCIS Records
- April 13 - TBA
- May 18 - TBA
- June 8 - TBA

The Jewish Genealogy Society
of Greater Washington, Inc.
PO Box 31122
Bethesda, MD 20824-1122



First Class Mail