



**Spring 2014**

Volume XXXV, Issue 3

# Mishpacha

Quarterly Publication of  
**The Jewish Genealogy Society  
of Greater Washington**

## MAY IS JEWISH AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

**JGSGW Activities in Support of Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM)**  
(more details on the May program page 13)

**May 4 – David Laskin, author of:**

***“The Family: Three Journeys Into the Heart of the Twentieth Century”***

**Location: JCCGW, Montrose Road, Rockville**

**3:00 PM Private reception for members of JGSGW with David Laskin**

**4:00 PM Presentation by David Laskin Followed by book sale and signing**

**Books will be \$20 by pre-sale to JGSGW members,**

**\$22 presale to non-members,**

**\$25 at the event.**

**Cash and checks only.**

**Pre-sale ends April 27.**

**May 18 - JGSGW Meeting at B'nai Israel, Rockville**

**1:00 PM – Speaker: Dr. Sanford Sternlicht**

***“The Immigrant Saga: the Lower East Side & Early Jewish American Writers”***

**May 19 – JGSGW program at the Library of Congress, African and Middle Eastern Reading Room (AHMD)**

**Noon - Speaker: Dr. Sanford Sternlicht**

***“The Immigrant Saga: the Lower East Side & Early Jewish American Writers”***

**May 22 – Library of Congress, James Madison Memorial Building**

**Noon – Speaker: Robin Meltzer**

***“Stories from the Syracuse Jewish Community, ” Documentary film***

**For the history of JAHM please visit:**

**[http://www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us/about\\_us.aspx](http://www.jewishamericanheritagemonth.us/about_us.aspx)**

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

# JGSGW

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Jan Fine at: [mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com](mailto:mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com).

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

Submit articles to the editor: Jan R. Fine, at [mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com](mailto:mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com).

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Dear JGSGW Members:

In keeping with the theme of this issue of Mishpacha, I have chosen to relate to you a personal story about DNA and genealogy.

In 1960, when my brother Steve was Bar Mitzvah, my father told me a story that I recalled and verified with him more than 40 years later. My dad's name was Sidney Melvin Katz. Katz being translated in the Hebrew as "Kohen-tsadiq" – righteous priest.

In preparation for my dad's Bar Mitzvah in March, 1936, the rabbi discussed the prayers and requirements for my father, as a Kohen. His father explained to the rabbi that they were Israelites, not Kohanim. Apparently there was quite a discussion and in the end, my grandfather prevailed. He told my father that the same discussion had taken place between his father and the rabbi on the occasion of his Bar Mitzvah and that this discussion had become a family tradition.

So, when my nephew, Jeff was of age and preparing for his call to the torah, my brother had the same discussion with the congregation's rabbi.

In 2001, soon after I learned about the use of DNA testing for genealogy, I was interested in purchasing the test kit, but once I learned that this testing could prove the Kohen lineage – BINGO, I decided to settle the 100+ year question. I ordered the kit and had my father tested. As four generations had asserted, the results showed that these Katz' are not Kohanim.

The results of this test took me in a different direction with regards to my own research. My paternal family was from Galicia. I have read that because the Austrian government only recognized civil marriages, in instances where a couple did not pay the civil marriage fee was married in a Jewish religious ceremony, the government considered the children to be illegitimate and they were given the surname of the mother, not the father. I can trace that line in Zurawno to about 1840 to my ggggrandfather, Aaron Katz, through his son Jacob. Surnames were adopted in Galicia in the later part of the 17<sup>th</sup> century and early part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Records for this period are scarce, so it is possible that I will not be able to get a paper trail that will help to resolve this question of what the paternal surname was, but I will keep on trying.

Wishing you all well in your research. I am amazed by how fast this testing is evolving.

Warm regards,

*Marlene*

Marlene Katz Bishow  
President

**Note:** This article originally appeared in NGS Magazine and appears here by permission of the author:

Wayne, Debbie Parker. "Using Y-DNA for Genealogy." National Genealogical Society /NGS Magazine 40/ (January-March 2014): 20-24.

## USING Y-DNA For GENEALOGY

by Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGLSM

This is one article of a series on using DNA for genealogical research. There are several types of DNA tests offered for genealogical purposes. Only like tests can be compared: Y-DNA to Y-DNA, autosomal DNA to autosomal DNA, and so on. To use DNA to solve a problem, an understanding of DNA inheritance and the limits of the evidence is paramount. This article covers Y-DNA.

### WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH Y-DNA?

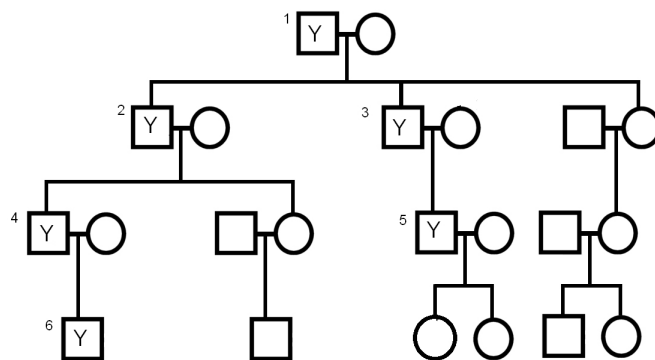
Only men have a Y chromosome. Women who want to use Y-DNA to answer a genealogical question must recruit a male to take the test. The male to be tested must have a straight patrilineal descent—through men with no intervening women—back to the ancestor of interest. Like mtDNA, Y-DNA provides conclusive evidence to answer some questions; less strong evidence for others. DNA test results can provide evidence to corroborate traditional research or clues to attack a brick wall.

The low resolution Y-DNA test provides strong evidence for some situations. (1) Was Native American ancestry inherited down the direct paternal line? Native American ancestry can be indicated, but DNA cannot isolate to a specific tribe. (2) Could two men share a common ancestor or not?

More comprehensive tests may be needed to answer other questions. Framing your genealogical question in the context of the known family tree will help determine which test should be taken and who should be tested. Surname project administrators can be invaluable in helping determine which test can provide evidence for your particular research problem.

### Y-DNA INHERITANCE

Y-DNA is passed from a father to his sons. Daughters do not inherit Y-DNA. This inheritance pattern is illustrated in figure 1 where men are depicted as squares and women as circles. The father (1) passes his Y-DNA to his sons (2) and (3). Son (2) passes his Y-DNA to grandson (4) who passes it to great-grandson (6). Son (3) passes his Y-DNA to grandson (5) who does not pass on his Y-DNA as he only has daughters. Of the descendants on the bottom row, only great-grandson (6) will pass the Y-DNA of his paternal great-grandfather (1) to the next generation.



Y-DNA Inheritance Patterns, © 2013, Debbie Parker Wayne

Figure 1..

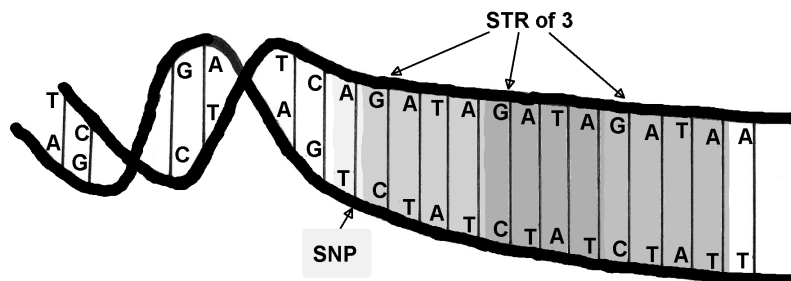
Y-DNA passes from father to son unchanged, unless a mutation occurs. A mutation is a change caused by a copying error when the DNA is duplicated. Mutations occur at random intervals and locations. These mutations allow us to trace a family using DNA, grouping those with like changes. Two men with an exact Y-DNA match, or a small number of mutations, share a paternal ancestor. While statistics can predict probabilities for how far back that common ancestor might be, the random nature of DNA mutations makes it impossible to predict the exact number of generations back to a common ancestor. The DNA results must be combined with a well-researched paper trail.

(next page)

## WHAT IS Y-DNA?

Y-DNA is one of the chromosomes found in the cell nucleus. The X and Y chromosomes are known as the sex chromosomes. Men have one each X and Y chromosomes; women have two X chromosomes. The Y chromosome consists of about 59-million locations. For genealogical purposes we now utilize a small number of those 59-million locations.

When a chromosome is uncoiled it resembles a ladder as illustrated in figure 2. Each rung of the ladder is called a base pair. When the chemical at a base pair mutates it is called a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP, pronounced snip). When a segment of the DNA has a small, side-by-side, repeating pattern it is called a short tandem repeat (STR, pronounced stir). Both SNPs and STRs may be referred to as markers or locations. Each of these markers has a name assigned.



SNP and STR Illustration, © 2013, Debbie Parker Wayne

Figure 2.

The markers identified as genealogically significant are tested for ancestry purposes. Traditionally, STR tests are used for more recent ancestry and SNP testing for deeper ancestry. New discoveries show SNPs can be useful for genealogy in some situations.

## Y-DNA TEST RESULTS CONSIST OF MULTIPLE PARTS

One part of the test results will be a haplogroup name. This represents the deep roots of the patrilineal ancestry—the origin of ancestors long ago. Two people in the same haplogroup share a common ancestor, but it might be tens of thousands of years ago.

A few years ago the haplogroup names were short and easy to remember: R1a, R1b, 12a. As the Y-DNA tree split into more branches the names got longer and harder to remember: R1a1a1g2, j2a4h2a1. Today, we use the first digit or two of the older name followed by the defining SNP for that branch of the Y-DNA tree. For example, a man originally assigned to haplogroup Mal a is now in haplogroup R-M198 (or R1-M198). His true haplogroup has not changed, his DNA has not changed, only the way we name the group has changed.

The second part of Y-DNA test results depends on whether an STR or SNP test is performed.

The most common test done for genealogy is an STR test for a certain number of markers: 25, 33, 67, etc. The results consist of marker names and the number of repeats at that location. For example, DYS39313 indicates the location on the Y chromosome named DYS393 contains thirteen repeats of the pattern seen at this location. The results are compared to those of other testers to find relatives with closely matching values. Comparing multiple markers helps group families with a common ancestor.

For a SNP test the results consist of marker names and either the chemical found at that location (G, C, A, or T, defined in the mtDNA article in the last issue) or a symbol indicating whether this location contains a mutated value (indicated by a plus sign) or the unchanged ancestral value (indicated by a minus sign). M198+ indicates the mutated value is seen at marker M198.

We can expect more Y-DNA tests in the coming years. Tests for millions SNPs and even the full Y-chromosome are now advertised. Soon enough data will be available to show how useful these tests will be for genealogy.

## USING Y-DNA TEST RESULTS

The steps for using Y-DNA test results are similar to those for mtDNA, but the databases used and the values compared are different.

(next page)



Complete your paternal lineage as far back as possible. Document this to share with Y-DNA matches looking for a common ancestor. List your paternal ancestral names, dates, and geographic origins. The more information included the easier it will be to determine when a person is common to two family trees. For example:

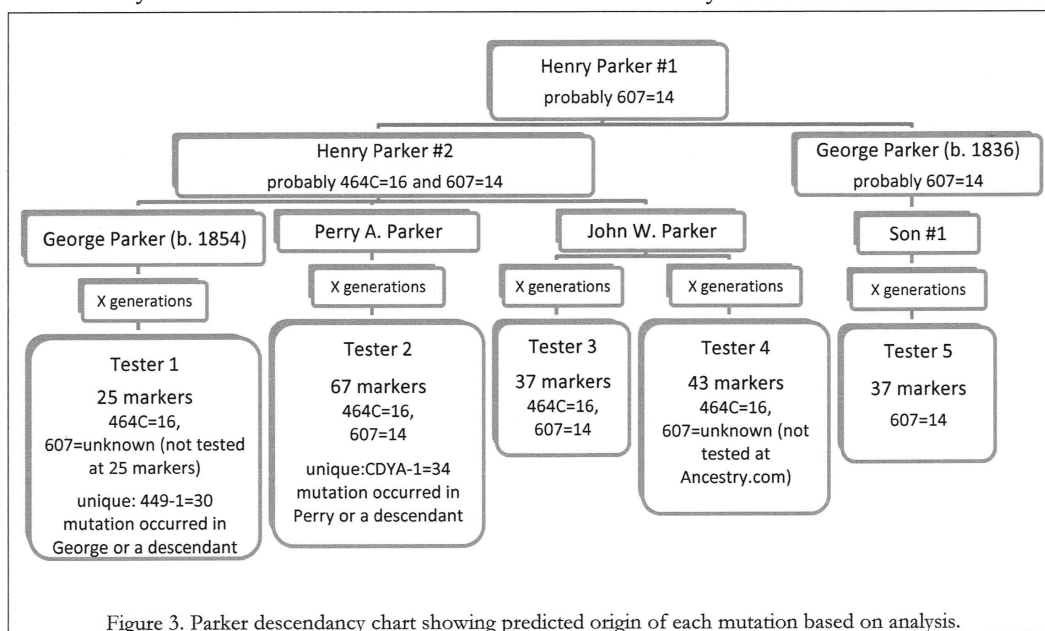
Perry Anderson Parker (1856, Milam County, Texas, to 1925, Dallas County, Texas) .. m2. Tennessee Angeline Maples (1874 to about 1906, Texas) ...  
Henry Parker (1825, South Carolina, to 1902, Hood County, Texas; lived in Illinois, Arkansas, and Texas), m1. Nancy Black (1835, Alabama, to 1902, Travis County, Texas)

Create a privatized pedigree chart. For example, list information on your earliest known ancestor down to a great-grandparent or a recent generation that is no longer living. Include geographic locations and dates as above.

Join a surname project as well as Y-DNA haplogroup, lineage, and geographic projects. Ask questions of project administrators who can be very helpful in DNA analysis. To find more potential matches upload data to public databases ([YSearch.org](http://YSearch.org)). Investigate privacy and security policies before uploading data.

Search all databases and project lists for matches. Review any ancestral information shared online, and contact the match person for more information. If a common ancestor cannot be identified by name, look for patterns that provide research clues such as geographic locales, spouses' names, etc. Matches may not have posted everything they know online. Some people don't respond to contact, but an attempt should be made. Be patient; the person may respond months after an initial query.

When mutations occur a proof argument may be needed to support the relationships indicated by the traditional research. DNA mutations occur randomly: Multiple mutations can be found in a few generations or many generations can pass with no mutations in the markers being tested. Figure 3 shows male descendants of Henry Parker #1 who have tested varying numbers of markers. The "Tester" boxes list the markers where differences are found between each tester and closely related Parkers. Four marker mutations in these few generations appear to make a dose relationship statistically unlikely. However, when we correlate the descendant chart with the mutations we can see marker 607 likely changed with Henry #1 or an ancestor then was passed down to all of the descendants. Marker 464C likely changed with Henry #2 then was passed down to all of his descendants. Marker 449-1 likely changed with George (b. 1854) or one of his descendants. Marker CDYA-1 likely changed with Perry or one of his descendants. While this family shows more mutations than commonly



seen, the pattern of mutations fits with the descendancy indicated by the traditional research. Some markers appear to mutate more often than others.' In the Parker family shown all of the markers except 607 are fast-mutating markers. A logical argument can be made once we correlate the mutations with the descendancy chart and mutation rates. This same process can be used to correlate SNP changes as genealogical evidence supporting a lineage.

## UNEXPECTED TEST RESULTS

Not everyone who tests will find useful matches immediately. Those with rare haplogroups and rare SIR marker values may see few or no matches until someone with the same rare DNA signature takes a test. Patience is a virtue in this situation.

Finding no matches to those with the same surname happens more often than most people expect. The misnomer "non-paternity event" (NPE) is used to describe this situation. (Misattributed paternity is a more accurate term, but NPE is in common use.) An NPE could be caused by: an inaccurate paper trail, name change, undocumented adoption, a child taking the surname of a stepfather, an illegitimate child using the surname of the mother, sperm donation, two related men who took different surnames when surnames were first adopted, and other possibilities as well as paternity attributed to the wrong father. The event could be recent history or many generations back. To discover the truth of the matter more research and DNA tests may be needed.

While documents may contain false information, DNA does not lie. Val D. Greenwood's advice applies to genetic evidence as well as traditional research:

*"If you are afraid of skeletons then stay out of closets. And if you are ashamed to have ancestors who do not meet your own social standards then stay away from your genealogy."*<sup>4</sup>

## RESOURCES

This article is a short introduction to Y-DNA. For information on tests offered by different companies see each vendor's web site and the International Society of Genetic Genealogists (ISOGG) Wild pages.' For information on haplogroup nomenclature and a graphic representation of the human Y-DNA tree see the ISOGG *Y-DNA Haplogroup Tree*.' The ISOGG Y-tree is currently the most up-to-date tree available. It is referenced by scholarly and scientific papers as well as by genetic genealogists.

## NOTES

1. "What is the Y Chromosome?," *Genetics Home Reference, Your Guide to Understanding Genetic Conditions*, U.S. National Library of Medicine; National Institutes of Health (<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/chromosome/Y>).
2. "Y-DNA SNP testing chart," Wiki, ISOGG (online at [http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Y-DNA\\_SNP\\_testingLchart](http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Y-DNA_SNP_testingLchart)).
3. "Mutation rates," Wiki, ISOGG (online at [http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Mutation\\_rates](http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Mutation_rates)). "Y-Chromosome Marker Significance Chart," ISOGG (online at <http://www.isogg.org/markersigltrn>).
4. Val D. Greenwood, *The Researcher's Guide to American Genealogy*, 4th ed. (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing, 2000), 12.
5. "Y Chromosome DNA tests," Wild, ISOGG (online at [http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Y\\_chromosome\\_DNA\\_tests](http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Y_chromosome_DNA_tests)). "Y-DNA STR testing chart," Wiki, ISOGG (online at [http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Y-DNA\\_STR\\_testing\\_chart](http://www.isogg.org/wiki/Y-DNA_STR_testing_chart)). "Y-DNA SNP testing chart," Wild, ISOGG (online at [http://www.isogg.org/wild/Y-DNA\\_SNP\\_testing\\_chart](http://www.isogg.org/wild/Y-DNA_SNP_testing_chart)).
6. "Y-DNA Haplogroup Tree," ISOGG (online at <http://www.isogg.org/tree/index.html>).

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*Debbie Parker Wayne, CG, CGL, is experienced using DNA analysis, as well as more traditional techniques, for genealogical research in Texas, the South and West. She coordinates the Practical Genetic Genealogy course at the Genealogical Research Institute of Pittsburgh and is the Texas State Genealogical Society's DNA Project Director. See <http://debbiewayne.com/> for more information.*

## Genetic Testing and FamilyTreeDNA

### by Sue Swift, JGSGW Family Tree DNA Project Coordinator

#### BASIC GENETICS INFORMATION

Every human being has 26 chromosomes in the nucleus of each cell. Two of those are the X and Y chromosome. A male has an X and Y chromosome. A female has two X chromosomes. A male can only inherit a Y from his father whereas the X comes from his mother. A female gets an X from both her mother and her father.

Therefore, a living male today has a Y chromosome that has passed down many generations thru the Paternal Lineage. Over time slight changes may occur to the Y chromosome thru mutations or other factors. But if two living males have the same or almost the same Y chromosome it is virtually certain they have a common male ancestor. The smaller the number of differences the closer the probability. FamilyTreeDNA doesn't analysis the complete chromosome but utilizes SNPs and compares all the males in its database to each other. It then reports to you how close a match you are with someone else.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for the females since each X chromosome can come from either a father or mother. However, there is another source of DNA inside the cell known as the Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), which exists within the cell body but outside the nucleus. This DNA is passed from mother to mother inside the egg cell. However, because this DNA is not part of a chromosome, it is subject to more rapid changes and is more widespread in any population of women and is therefore not as definitive a test as the Y-DNA is for males.

#### FAMILYTREEDNA

More detail about Y-DNA and mtDNA testing can be found on the tutorials at the [FamilyTreeDNA.com](http://FamilyTreeDNA.com) web site. As there is so much info on it I cannot cover it all and I would suggest you look at their web site to read more about DNA testing. There are different levels of testing starting around \$99 with higher levels costing more.

The objective of the testing is two fold. First, to verify if two seemingly related people may truly be genetically related. Second, to find possible matches amongst people who are unknown to you. Once you have been tested your results are compared with everybody else in their database and you can email people who seem to have a close match with yours.

Within FTDNA there are projects you can join. A project has a common theme such as surnames, geographic areas, or societies. You can choose either to do the testing first or join a project first. One advantage of joining a project first is there is generally a discount on the test cost. FTDNA also offer several promotional prices several times a year.

JGSGW's project consists of members (or family members) of our JGSGW. Currently there are 52 members who have had their Y-DNA tested and 40 members who have had their mtDNA analyzed. There are also several other projects with a Jewish heritage theme.

There are several companies that do genetic testing but FTDNA has the largest database of Jewish individuals and is the one with which JGSGW is affiliated. Once you have done the testing they also allow you to put your results on FamilyFinder.



## AFTER 700 YEARS — A FAMILY REUNION MADE POSSIBLE BY FAMILYTREE DNA

by Linda Friehling, JGSGW Member



*The author, Linda Friehling, is seated at left with her DNA family!*

A number of years ago I discovered that I have a Factor V Leiden mutation. A hematologist friend of mine was surprised because as he said, "I thought your background was Eastern Europe, but this mutation is more common in Western Europeans, in particular Spain."

This sparked my curiosity so I obtained a kit from FamilyTreeDNA and sent off my specimen for DNA analysis. As far back as I was aware my family was Ashkenazi Jewish. The results that came back were a total surprise, L2, Africa!

Flash forward several years and a lot of inquiry and reading, and I am sitting around a table on a sunny afternoon overlooking Baltimore Harbor with 6 of my "Genetic Cousins", half of us are Ashkenazi, half of us are African American. We share family stories and photos, astonishing family resemblances, and have kept in touch through Yahoo groups. The most recent common ancestor is calculated to be about 700 years ago, which could correlate with the beginning of the Spanish Inquisition.

To further support this, the Genographic Project (through Nat. Geographic Foundation) reported the Mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) of a woman living in Capo Verde, off the coast of Senegal, and in that paper there are 2 exact genetic matches and several other women that are close matches. Jews expelled from Spain landed on these islands, and Jewish merchants travelled there and along the North African Coast. How my Great.....grandmother escaped slavery and made her way to Vilnius (probably generations later) with a Jewish husband I will never really know. But it was certain to have been quite a story. What I do know is that I have matches from Poland, Germany, Lithuania of course, but also from all parts of Africa, South America, and Spain. Tracing our genetics enriches the details of our history and our roots.

## THE NAME REMAINS THE SAME

by Robin A. Meltzer

Sometimes, an embarkation list is more than a record of passengers boarding a ship. Sometimes, an embarkation list is a thank you note, a belated acknowledgement of a kindness done in 1950 at Radio City Music Hall.

On a trip to Manhattan, teenager Elaine Levine and her mother Gertrude Wagner Levine went to see Sid Caesar perform for Voice of the Army. After the show, mother and daughter were in an elevator, excitedly reviewing the evening's entertainment, when who should step in but Mr. Caesar himself. "He was very tall," recalls Elaine. "I wanted to ask him for an autograph, but I was too shy. So my mother asked, 'Mr. Caesar, would you please give my daughter your autograph?'" "I can do better than that," he said. And with a broad smile, he signed the script from the performance and handed it to the delighted teen. For many years after that, whenever Sid Caesar was on television, Gertrude would exclaim, "Sid Caesar! What a nice man! What a mentsch, to sign his script for my daughter!" I heard this story many times growing up, because the shy teen in the Radio City elevator was my mother.



*Elaine Levine and her mother Gertrude Levine, 1949*

Sid Caesar passed away on February 12, 2014 at the age of 92. Thousands of press reports mourned the comedic genius who shaped television's golden age. Many tributes repeated a bit of family lore from Mr. Caesar's autobiography, that his father Max, a young immigrant from Poland, had his name changed by an immigration official at Ellis Island.

The propagation of the name change myth did not go unnoticed by Jewish genealogists. On Schelly Talalay Dardashti's facebook group "Tracing the Tribe," Judy Zimmer bemoaned this latest popularization of the inaccurate tale. Schelly suggested that this prominent case was an opportunity to bust the myth. Group members Todd Knowles, Banai Lynn Feldstein, Mark Halpern, Anita Geismar and Elise Friedman collaborated in finding biographical material, census records, a passport application and marriage license showing that the family was likely from Dombrowa Tarnowska in Galicia, that Max had an older brother Joseph, that their mother's first name was Dora, and that the family was living in New York City by the late 1880s. On jewshdata.com, I found headstone photographs for Joseph (Hebrew name "Zelig") and Dora ("Dvora"). Group member Joy Kestenbaum volunteered to go to Yonkers to get Max's Hebrew name, the one likely used on his passenger manifest, from his headstone. The cemetery office said that with several feet of snow still on the ground, the search would have to wait. But there was enough information to begin searching for the proof that the Caesar family name was not changed on arrival: an embarkation list and manifest for Dora and Joseph.

Searching 1880s manifests can be very difficult. By the time the originals were imaged in the 1930s, many had faded significantly, or had paper loss at the fold lines. Problems with illegibility and incompleteness meant that a good number of these manifests could not be indexed. The brevity of information also means that it is sometimes not possible to differentiate between persons with the same name.

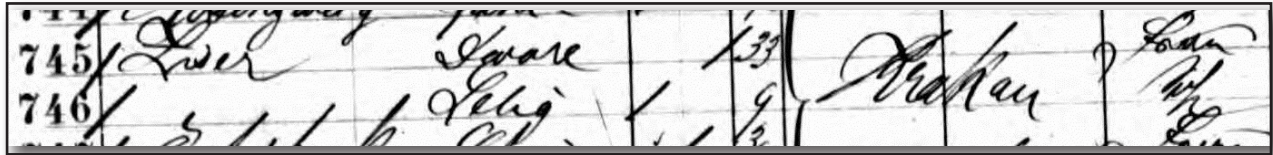
Starting with spellings for the phonetic "SEEZER" gleaned from jewishgen's kehillalinks page for Dombrowa Tarnowska, I tried C-S-R, C-Z-R, S-S-R, S-Z-R, Z-S-R. No luck with exact, wildcard and vowel substitution searches. I looked for anyone under 20 with Austrian nationality arriving in the United States from 1880 to 1890, first name only, last name only. I tried common transcription error substitutions, like capital "L" for capital "S." I ran searches using stevemorse.org's One Step utilities, on CastleGarden.org, ancestry.com and the

*(Cont. page 11)*

(from page 10 )

Immigrant Ship Transcriber's Guild. Nothing, although I did find a manifest for a Mendel ZITHERSPIELER.

After five or six hours, it was getting very frustrating. I called my mother and told her about the project, but that I was about ready to give up. "No," she said. "Sid Caesar was such a mensch, such a kind man. He autographed that script for me. You should do something nice for his family. Keep looking!" So I brewed another mug of tea and sat back down for another go round, this time from the end of the alphabet.



*Hamburg embarkation list entries for Dora ZISER (line 745) and Selig ZISER (line 746), traveling on the S. S. Lessing, departing Hamburg, Germany on November 16, 1881.*

Starting with a broad search on ancestry.com, I gave another try to "Z-S-R" from Austria, no first names, no port, no year. This time, the results looked a bit different. I started clicking through, ready to check another "no" on my search log.

And then – on a Hamburg list – in looping German script -- Dwore and Selig ZISER, an Austrian mother, age 33, and son, age 9, embarking on November 16, 1881 on the S. S. Lessing for the port of New York. The names, ages and nationalities matched the known records. BINGO!

With the ship's name and embarkation date, it should have been easy to find the manifest. Except there was no record of the S. S. Lessing entering the port of New York in November or December 1881. Just what I needed - another mystery. I ran a Google search that soon yielded an answer: a NorwayHeritage.com article revealed that the S.S. Lessing lost part of its rudder in a North Atlantic hurricane. The crew managed to turn the ship around and make port in Plymouth. The steerage passengers remained there for two weeks, then boarded the S.S. Rhenania for New York. The article provided the microfilm series and roll number for the manifest, which Elise Friedman used to locate Dwore and Selig ZISER, mistranscribed as "FIZER." The S. S. Rhenania sailed into New York Harbor on December 24, 1881, but passengers were not allowed to disembark until December 27<sup>th</sup>. Why? Smallpox had broken out in steerage. What a saga!

Schelly Dardashti contacted a Caesar family spokesperson and one of Sid Caesar's daughters, who are eager to learn more. If not for that bit of family lore, they would have never "met" Dora, or learned of her harrowing journey to America. The myth, plus an autograph from Dora's grandson, brought the truth to light.

Thank you, Mr. Caesar.

*Robin Meltzer is V.P. Communication JGSGW*



## JGSGW April Meeting

### JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A DOUBLE HEADER PROGRAM

**Date:** Sunday, April 6, 2014  
**Time:** 1:00 PM Schmooze,  
1:30 PM Meeting with announcements and introduction of new members and visitors  
2:00 PM Main Program  
**Location:** Beth El Hebrew Congregation, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA  
[click here](#) for directions

#### **PART ONE: “GenealogyIndexer Search Engine”**

**Speaker: Logan Kleinwaks**

[GenealogyIndexer.org](#) is a free website offering full-text search of more than 400,000 pages of historical directories (business, address, telephone), yizkor books, Polish and Russian military documents, community and personal histories, Galician secondary school reports, and more. Containing millions of personal names – often with places of residence, street addresses, and occupations, and sometimes with vital dates or patronymics – this huge and growing collection is mostly comprised of data not searchable elsewhere. This talk will focus on recently added sources, new ways to search, and highlights from the past. Recipient of the IAJGS 2012 Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product.

#### **PART TWO: BEGINNER'S WORKSHOP:**

3:00 - 5:00 PM

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

Workshop limited to 20. Send registration request to: [jgsgw@jgsgw.org](mailto:jgsgw@jgsgw.org)



Logan Joseph Kleinwaks is the creator of free genealogy websites including [GenealogyIndexer.org](#), a full-text search engine of historical directories and other sources, and [ShoahConnect.org](#), a tool for reuniting families separated by the Shoah through Page of Testimony research. His broader genealogical interests include the photographic documentation of Jewish cemeteries, improving Internet access to genealogical information, and privacy. A hobbyist genealogist living in Reston, he has a research background in physics and started the literacy charity *Book Wish Foundation* ([www.bookwish.org](http://www.bookwish.org)), which aids refugees from the genocide in Darfur.

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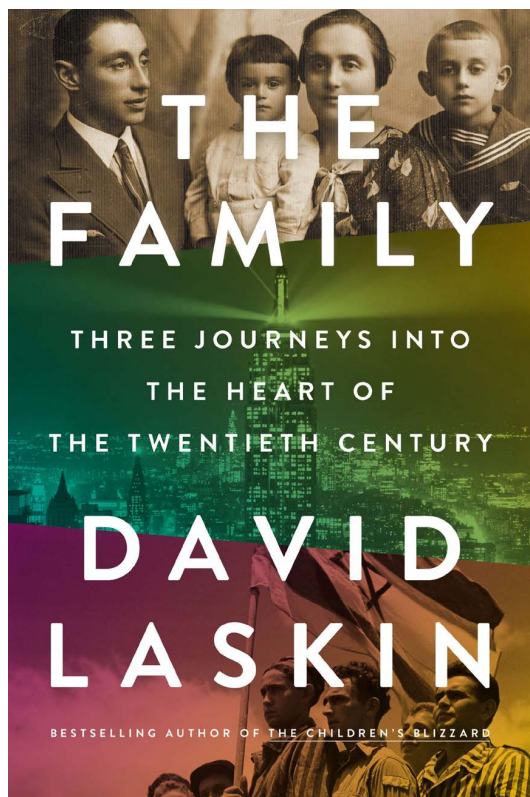


In celebration of Jewish American Heritage Month, join us for a:

## Book Talk & Signing

Co-sponsored by  
**The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington**

"The unspeakable tragedies and improbable triumphs of the European Jewish diaspora in the 20th century have been told many times but rarely quite so compellingly as in David Laskin's *THE FAMILY*. Mr. Laskin's chronicle could have been written in tears—of torment and scarce joy—and it is at once anguishing and inspiring."—Wall Street Journal



## David Laskin

### Sunday, May 4, 2014

**3:00 p.m. Meet the Author**  
**Reception for JGSGW Members Only**  
**4:00 p.m. Presentation**

**Free of Charge**

For advance book sales, email:  
[jgsgw@jgsgw.org](mailto:jgsgw@jgsgw.org)

To pre-register, email:  
[dgoldberg@jccgw.org](mailto:dgoldberg@jccgw.org)

Book prices:  
\$20 by pre-sale to JGSGW members,  
\$22 presale to non-members,  
\$25 at the event.  
Cash and checks only.  
Pre-sale ends April 27.

For more information, contact Debby Goldberg at 301.348.3816 or [dgoldberg@jccgw.org](mailto:dgoldberg@jccgw.org).



## JGSGW May Meeting

### JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A TWO-PART PROGRAM:

#### Part One: "The Immigrant Saga: A Memoir of the Lower East Side and Early Jewish American Writers"

Speaker: Stanford Sternlicht, Ph.D.

The story of the massive Jewish emigration to America from Eastern Europe (1882-1924) is one of America's greatest success stories. And it was the Lower East Side of Manhattan, the traditional reception area of NYC from the great Irish Famine (1845-1849) until today, that was their first American home.

The Lower East Side was (and is) a magical place teeming with people. Even in my childhood there were African Americans, Poles, Ukrainians, and Irish living in the predominantly Jewish area, and of course, just next door was and is China Town and Little Italy. What did the Jewish Immigrants do for a living? What was religious and cultural life like? What did they eat, read, see for entertainment, and what games did the children play in an area that had a population density as great as Calcutta.

Of particular interest is how and why did many Jewish writers come to write in English rather than in Yiddish, their mother tongue? These writers, such as Abraham Cahan, Anzia Yezierska, Marya Zaturenska, Michael Gold, and Henry Roth broke new ground and made the way for the next generation, the great generation of Jewish American writers: Saul Bellow, Norman Mailer, Bernard Malamud, Philip Roth, and others.

Dr. Sternlicht will also be speaking on Monday, May 19, 2014 at noon at the Library of Congress, African & Middle Eastern Reading Room, James Madison Building, Washington, District of Columbia.

Date: Sunday, May 18,, 2014

Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze,

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

Location: B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, MD

[click here](#) for directions



Sanford Sternlicht is Emeritus Professor of English at Syracuse University. He has a B.S. from SUNY: Oswego, MA (with distinction) from Colgate University, and PhD from Syracuse University. He has been Leverhulme Visiting Professor of English at the University of York, England and a Fulbright Senior Visiting Professor of English at the University of Pecs, Hungary. He has lectured nationally for the English Speaking Union of North America. Sternlicht has been a New York Council for the Humanities Speaker in the Humanities since 2008. A former United States Naval officer, Sternlicht has published 4 books on Naval History including: *Uriah Philips Levy: The Blue Star Commodore*.

## JGSGW May Meeting

**JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A TWO-PART PROGRAM:**

### **Part Two: Documentary Film:**

### **“Stories from the Syracuse Jewish Community”**

Speaker: Robin Meltzer

What do you do if there are few or no genealogic resources for your hometown? Create new ones. Cousins Linda Epstein, a certified archivist, and Robin Meltzer, an attorney, realized that their genealogic research required information not held by libraries or archives, but perhaps kept by their grandparents' friends and neighbors. To uncover these items, they joined together in December 2011 to found the facebook group “Jewish Community of the 15<sup>th</sup> Ward, Syracuse, New York.” Now at over 500 members, group participants have contributed thousands of images, including family photos, letters, scrapbooks, headstone photos, vital records and business ephemera from the 1870s onward. This fully searchable database has solved many dozens of family mysteries and brought about several family reunions. Inspired by these discoveries, group member and producer Jay Lurie began filming a documentary on Jewish Syracuse history in May 2011. Robin joined the project as associate producer. The completed film will be broadcast on public television in Central New York and shown at genealogy and Jewish heritage events.

Robin Meltzer will also be speaking on Thursday, May 22, 2014 at noon at the Library of Congress, Mary Pickford Theater, James Madison Building, Washington, District of Columbia 20540.

**Date:** Sunday, May 18,, 2014

**Time:** 1:00 PM Schmooze,

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

**Location:** B'nai Israel Congregation, Rockville, MD

[click here](#) for directions



Robin Meltzer is JGSGW Vice President of Communications. As an attorney and genealogist, Robin has 30 years of research experience. Robin has also written and co-written several articles on Jewish genealogy and local history for the *Jewish Observer of Central New York* and *Mishpacha*, the JGSGW newsletter.

## JGSGW June Meeting

### MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

**Program:** Seth Kibel in Concert – enjoy a toe tapping program of klezmer music interwoven with an engaging narrative on the history of this unique musical form and its impact on Jewish culture. Seth will be accompanied by pianist Sean Lane.

**Date:** Sunday, June 8,, 2014

**Time:** Noon Meeting and Luncheon,  
1:00 PM Program

**Location:** Potomac Community Center, 11315 Falls Road, Potomac, MD  
[click here](#) for directions

Please bring a dish to share. Plan for each dish to serve 8.

If your last name begins with:

A - G Dairy Entree (kugel, pasta dish, blintzes, tuna salads, etc.)

H - M Side Dish (Salads, rolls, olives, cheese and crackers, etc.)

N - Z Dairy or Parve dessert: cookies, cakes, fruit, etc.)

**Reminder:** This is a members only event. No guests.



Seth Kibel is one of the Mid-Atlantic's premier woodwind specialists, working with some of the best bands in jazz, swing, and more. Wowing audiences on saxophone, clarinet, and flute, Seth has made a name for himself in the Washington/Baltimore region, and beyond. He is the featured performer with The Alexandria Kleztet, Bay Jazz Project, Music Pilgrim Trio, The Natty Beaux, and more. Winner of 24 Washington Area Music Awards (Wammies), including "Best World Music Instrumentalist" (2003-11) and "Best Jazz Instrumentalist" (2005, 2007-8, 2011-12). For more information, visit <http://www.sethkibel.com/>.

# JGSGW Library

## JGSGW Genealogy Library Hours and Information

The library will be open Sunday May 4 from 10 AM - Noon - Last Sunday until the fall.  
Wednesdays 11 am - 3 pm thru July 3 by appointment: a minimum 24 hours notice appreciated;  
The library will be closed on Wednesday, April 16, Wednesday June 4.

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

## Recent Additions:

*The following were donated by Sol Margolis in memory of Rita. Krakower Margolis:*

**Map: Roumanie, Rumania, Roumanie.** Ravenstein Verlag, Bad Soden, Germany 1995.

**Geoffrey Weisgard and Gesher Galicia Kraków: A Guide to Jewish Genealogy.**  
Great Britain, 2011

*And So They Came: Jewish Experience of Settlement in Maryland, 1656-1929: The Inaugural Exhibit of the Jewish Heritage Center of the Jewish Historical Society of Maryland.*  
Baltimore, 1987.

*Threads of Life: Jewish involvement in Baltimore's Garment Industry.*  
Baltimore, MD, Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, 1991.

*Fertile Ground: Two Hundred Years of Jewish Life in Baltimore.* [Exhibit curator, Barry Kessel]  
Baltimore, Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, 1992.

*Cornerstones of Community: The Historic Synagogues of Maryland, 1845-1945.*  
Baltimore, MD, Jewish Museum of Maryland, 1999.

*Hana Greenfield, Fragments of Memory: From Kolin to Jerusalem.*  
First ed. Jerusalem, Gefen, 1990.

**Gesher Galicia Family Finder: 19th ed.,**  
Gesher Galicia, Inc. 2011.

*Eli E. Faber, Time for Planting; The First Migration, 1654-1820. (Jewish people in America; v.1)* Baltimore, Johns Hopkins Press, 1992.

*How We Lived: A Documentary History of Immigrant Jews in America 1880-1930.*  
Edited by Irving Howe and Kenneth Libo. New York, R. Marek, 1979

*Eli E. Evans, Provincials; A Personal History of Jews in the South.*  
New York, Free Press, Simon and Schuster, 1997.

**Ronald Sanders,**  
*Shores of Refuge, A Hundred Years of Jewish Immigration.*  
New York, Schocken, 1998.

**Charles Fenyvesi,**  
*When The World Was Whole; Three Centuries of Memories.*  
New York, Viking, 1990.

**Alfred J. Kolatch,**  
*New Name Dictionary; Modern English and Hebrew Names.* Revised and expanded.  
Middle Village, N.Y., Jonathan David, 1994.

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# JGSGW Library

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## More Recent Additions:

*City of Promises; Volume 1 – Haven of Liberty: New York Jews in The New World; 1654-1865.* Howard B. Rock.

N.Y., New York University Press, 2012.

Vol. 1

*City of Promises; Volume 2– Emerging Metropolis: New York Jews in The Age of Immigration, 1840-1920.* Annie Polland and Daniel Soyer. N.Y. New York University Press, 2012

*City of Promises; Volume 3 – New York Jews in a Changing City, 1920-2010.* Jeffrey S. Gurock. N.Y. New York University Press, 2012.

*Mordecai An Early American Family,* Emily Bingham, N.Y. Hill and Wang, 2003.

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The JGSGW Library now has a number of subscription databases available:

Ancestry.com (World edition)

Fold3 (military)

Genealogybank.com

Newspapers.com

## Other Society Newsletters Available Electronically

*Branches*, The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, February 2014

*Illiana Newsletter*, Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society, Spring 2014

*Morasha*, The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois, Spring 2014

*News 'n Notes*, St. Louis Genealogical Society, March 2014

*Shem Tov*, Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, March 2014

*Venturing Into Our Past*, JGS of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County,  
February and March 2014

Contact the editor at [mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com](mailto:mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com) if interested.

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## READING RECOMMENDATIONS

If you would like to share more reading recommendations with Mishpacha please submit the title, author and a brief description of the book to the editor at [mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com](mailto:mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com).



# JGSGW

## Welcome to our New Members

Sue Bennis, Westlake, OH  
Mona Berch, Silver Spring, MD  
Vivien Clair, Washington, DC  
Linda Friehling, Great Falls, VA  
Alina Gawlik, Falls Church, VA  
Stuart Glickman, Rockville, MD  
Philip Goldsmith, Alexandria, VA  
Anne Goldstein, Bethesda, MD  
Miriam Isaacs, Washington, DC  
Heidi Kaplan, Arlington, VA  
Jim & Sherri Lieberman, Potomac, MD  
Eric Singer, North Potomac, MD  
Earl R. Lissit, Potomac, MD  
Robert & Joan Spiritas, Potomac, MD  
Jerry Stein, Alexandria, VA

## Lifetime Members

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

## Patrons

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

## JGSGW Wishes Mazel Tov to

Renee Domogauer on the publishing of her children's book "Washington Oak Kittens".

## R'Fuah Shlayma

Ernie Fine

## Donations

### General Fund

Vivian Clair

### Library Fund

Stuart Glickman

Please remember JGSGW when making a donation in honor or in memory of friends and relatives. JGSGW has the following funds established:

- General Fund
- Library Fund
- Research Fund
- Joanie Miller Fund

## JGSGW CEMETERY PROJECT

Help document local Jewish cemeteries.

- Take pictures of headstones
- Collect information for data entry
- Contribute to JOWBR

## JGSGW CEMETERY PROJECT

Does your congregation have an affiliated cemetery?

Help JGSGW make contact for gathering data from cemetery records.

Contact by email:  
JGSGW@JGSGW.org  
for details.

## **JGSGW Meeting Calendar**

### **Fall 2013 - Summer 2014**

**Sunday, August 18 2013**

**Sunday, October 13, 2013**

**Sunday, November 3, 2013**

**Sunday, December 8, 2013**

**Sunday, January 12, 2014**

**Sunday, February 9, 2014**

**Sunday, March 9, 2014**

**Sunday, April 6, 2014**

**Sunday, May 18, 2014**

**Sunday, June 8, 2014**

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



**Please Visit Our Website for Updates**

**[www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsgw)**

**Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/JGSGW/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/JGSGW/)**