



**Winter 2013**

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# Mishpacha

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

## *My Ancestral Connection to Newtown, Connecticut*

*By Marlene Katz Bishow*

When I heard the report of the horrifying event that cost the lives of 20 children and 6 teachers in the elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut; my immediate reaction was shock. Like so many others, including our President, tears welled in my eyes for the innocent lives lost and the loss of innocence for those who survived the events. For me however there was another aspect that brought these events home on a more personal level. My maternal grandmother, after whom I was named, Mollie Goldstein, grew up in Newtown and in my genealogical research over the 56 years that I have been engaged in such activities; I have developed a soft spot for this small town near the Connecticut-New York border.

The earliest photo that I have of Mollie was taken when she was about twenty years old – feeding chickens on the family's Brush Hill Road farm.



According to census records, after immigrating in the late 1880's, Betsey (Bashe Hinda) and Morris (Moshe Arye) Goldstein lived on the Lower East Side of Manhattan where they had a grocery store.

According to documentation from the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Hartford, Orthodox immigrants from Eastern Europe were encouraged to become farmers in Connecticut by social service agencies. Among the sponsors of such programs was the Jewish Agricultural and Industrial Aid Society, a subsidiary of the Baron de Hirsch Fund, established in 1891. These funds were generally given in the form of loans and were used, not only for purchasing land and homes principally in Connecticut, but also in the building of rural synagogues. Because of the distance from Newtown to Bridgeport, it is likely that Goldsteins participated in minyanim in the homes of nearby Jewish families in Newtown.

It was not until 1919 that the Adath Israel Synagogue was built in Newtown. The land for the synagogue was deeded to the congregation in 1914 and the building was completed in 1919. By that time, both Israel and Mollie had moved back to New York City, but their parents and Abraham remained in Newtown, as evidenced by the 1920 census. It is also interesting to note that in "Historical Connecticut Synagogues," (Fall, 1999, pages 125ff) there is commentary indicating "Adath Israel is significant because it was associated with a (Cont. page 4)

*"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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## MISHPACHA Spring 2013

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**Deadline for submissions:**

**March 1, 2013**

**Submissions should be made to the editor, 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 genners,

For years we have dug through microfilms and dusty documents, searched the web, corresponded with strangers and poured through old albums. Many have traveled to remote places to search in cemeteries and archives. We have spent endless hours carefully evaluating our findings in stacks of files and folders in variable states of order or disorder, and solved complex puzzles. Most of us have carefully recorded our research in specialized computer programs and then created CDs and DVDs which we have distributed to interested family members.

A century or so later, imagine a descendant locating a shiny disk. An elderly friend tells him it's a "DVD" but has no way to read it. (Do any of us still have a computer that can read an 8" floppy or even a diskette?) Finally after much effort in locating a DVD drive, the effort is useless because what is on the DVD needs a "program" to open it and that program—whose name she does not know—and its operating system ceased to exist decades ago.

Imagine the same descendant finding a thin manila folder or envelope containing some sheets of yellowing paper on which are a family tree. There might be a brief narrative history of the family or even a printed list of sources for the tree. No need for a special drive (will these even exist then?) or equipment to view the information. Ability to read is all that is necessary.

Some of us may have written books about our family with background histories, beautiful trees, photos, footnotes, and copies of important documents and distributed copies. That is ideal. Sadly, most of us have not. But how many of us have simply written down a comprehensive summary of their family history in a form an interested non-genealogist could read on a medium anyone can decipher.

Computers have become an ever greater part of our world but technology and storage media will continue to change. Our hard drives, tapes, and CDs may survive but the means to read them will certainly become obsolete. As such our research may become inaccessible and gather dust. On the other hand, if we wrote a summary on paper it would always be accessible with no special tools. And, because paper is perishable, if we made several copies distributed to many people the likelihood of our research surviving in useful form is greatly improved.

New Year's Eve is fast approaching with all its resolutions — most of which soon fall by the way side. I would like to suggest an important resolution which we all should endeavor to keep. We will write at least a *comprehensive summary* of our family histories and trees, print, and distribute multiple copies on paper. Those who have already done this, could add mini biographies, background history, photos and copies of important documents, and ideally make them available in book form.

The important thing is to make theses summaries available on paper and distribute multiple copies. Our research folders are important but too complex and boring for the casual descendant. Copies of a well written summary or book are more likely to be useful to future generations.

I wish you all a very happy New Year, packed full of *simkha*, good health and new discoveries.

Regards,

*Jeff*

Jeff Malka, [president@jgsgw.org](mailto:president@jgsgw.org)



(from page 1)

country congregation of members from Russia who immigrated to Newtown as farmers under the aegis of the Baron de Hirsch Fund." It further states that "Adath Israel is the only known country synagogue in western Connecticut and the only congregation in western Connecticut to have benefited from the programs of the Baron de Hirsch Fund...The parcel was a part of a larger farm owned by Nezvesky. Other Jewish farmers lived along Huntington Road, giving rise to the nickname 'Little Palestine' for the neighborhood."

In May, 1906, real estate records show that the Goldsteins purchased a ten-acre dairy farm in Newtown. Most of the Jews living in Newtown lived in a section referred to as "New Jerusalem," but their home was located on the other side of the outskirts of town on a road known today as Brushy Hill Road. In September, 1906 their three New York City born children (Abraham, Israel, & Mollie) were enrolled in the local elementary school. A record from 1909 shows that Israel was enrolled in Newtown High School and in 1914, he graduated from that school.

Mollie graduated from Newtown High School in the class of 1916. She was one of 17 students to graduate that year and she was most likely the shortest, as she was less than five feet in height. Apparently she had a theatrical bent, as she participated in the class play. Her role was that of the Widow Maguire in "Strenuous Life." In the high school publication, "The Bugle," it was noted that Mollie had one of the highest averages in the class. She was "more of an observer than a participant" in athletics, but "during a spelling contest, she was one of four Juniors who defeated the Senior class." She also had a keen interest in history. At the Newtown high School graduation on June 19, 1916, Mollie delivered an essay entitled "National Preparedness."

Abraham registered in the draft registration of 1917, although he did not serve, but he lists his occupation as "Farmer" and his home as "Newtown." For years later, he died of nephritis and he was buried in the Agudas Achim cemetery in Fairfield.

Israel's name is found on the War Memorial in the town square in Newtown. The plaque bears the inscription "...with Rightousness and Peace for all."

On Friday, August 29, 1919, the town's newspaper, *The Newtown Bee* carried a story with the headline

(next page)

4

**SEE DIRECTION NO 9 ON THIS**

A record of the number of different scholars registered in the school  
Great care should be given to ascertaining names of parents and actual ages of children. T

Num- ber	NAME OF BOYS	AGE		Date of last birthday	ATTENDANCE			
		Yrs	Mos		Fall term	Win- ter term	Sum- mer term	Total in the year
32	Robert Fairchild	13		Nov. 28, 1908				
33	Israel Goldstein	14		Sept 2, 1909				
34	Leo Kirby	13		Jan 18, 09				
35	Frank Kinney	14		Oct 24, 1908				

1909 Register of students attending Newtown High School



This memorial in the town square includes the name of Israel Goldstein.

Form 1 3-92 REGISTRATION CARD 375 No. 39

1 Name in full Abraham Goldstein 24

2 Home address Newtown 1375 Conn

3 Date of birth September 9, 1893

4 Are you (1) a natural-born citizen, (2) a naturalized citizen, (3) an alien, (4) or have you declared your intention (specify which)? Natural born citizen

5 Where were you born? New York City, New York, U.S.A.

6 If not a citizen, of what country are you a citizen or subject?

7 What is your present trade, occupation, or office? Farmer

8 By whom employed? Myself

9 Where employed? Newtown

10 Have you a father, mother, wife, child under 12, or a sister or brother under 12, solely dependent on you for support (specify which)? Father & mother

11 Married or single (which)? Single Race (specify which) Caucasian

12 What military service have you had? Rank \_\_\_\_\_ branch \_\_\_\_\_

13 Do you claim exemption from draft (specify grounds)?

I affirm that I have verified above answers and that they are true.

Abraham Goldstein

6-1-18 A. REGISTRAR'S REPORT

1 T.H. medium, or short (specify which)? Medium Slender, medium, or stout (which)? Slender

2 Color of eyes? gray Color of hair? dark brown Bald?

3 Has person lost eyes, leg, hand, foot, or both eyes, or is he otherwise disabled (specify)?

I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

William Robinson  
(Signature of Registrar)

Precinct 1

City or County Newtown

State Conn

June 5, 1917  
(Date of registration)

(from page 4)

of "BRUSHY HILL BARN OWNED BY MORRIS GOLDSTEIN BURNED." The beginning of the article is quoted here:

*"In the first of the heavy electrical storms of Sunday night the large barn of Morris Goldstein on Brushy Hill was struck by lightning and burned with all its contents. The barn was struck shortly after midnight and was soon a mass of flames. The barn was a landmark and could be seen from neighboring towns to the north. It was a large structure, 73 x 40 feet.*

*There was destroyed 22 tons of hay, last year's crop of rye and this year's crop, a gasoline engine, about \$200 worth of new lumber and all their harnesses and most of the farm tools..."*

After Abraham's death, his parents sold the farm for \$1 and returned to New York City, where Morris taught cheder and prepared students for Bar Mitzvah. Betsey died in November, 1931 and Mollie passed away one month later, leaving behind a husband and three young children; one of whom was my mother, age 5.

In May, 2000 a paid researcher located the Newtown home of the Goldsteins and took photographs for me. The farm is no more, but the home that my grandmother grew up in still stands (with some modern updates). Stone walls more than 100 years old still stand and the current residents indicate that the house was built about 1790. The peaceful appearance of the home has spoken to me, until today, as representing this little peaceful town and has become a part of my ancestral memory.



*This is the home where the authors' grandmother Mollie Goldstein, lived in Newtown.*

## Volunteers Needed

**JGSGW is actively seeking volunteers for the following positions:**

- Webmaster
- Publicity
- Publications
- Speakers Bureau Coordinator

**Volunteers must be JGSGW members. Contact: [president@jgsgw.org](mailto:president@jgsgw.org)**



# IMAGES OF THE HOLOCAUST

by Peter Landé

Over the past twenty years I have helped to develop and make available databases identifying hundreds of thousand Holocaust victims and survivors. However, at least for me, the real image of the Holocaust remains elusive. Perhaps it is the sheer immensity of the event that makes it difficult to envisage. At the risk of offending survivors and family members of those who perished, the quotation "The death of one man is a tragedy, the death of millions is a statistic" seems to apply.

This contrast was reinforced most recently when I attempted to identify by name and fate a collection of Auschwitz prisoner photos. A word of explanation—in 1941 and much of 1942 prisoners not only received a number but also were photographed. Unfortunately, most of these photos have been destroyed or lost but a small sample of them, about 2,500 men and women, was sent by the Auschwitz Museum to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, where I work as a volunteer.

The photos are full face, right and left, prisoner number, and, by insignia on the uniform, type of prisoner, e.g. Jew, Jehovah's Witness or Political Prisoner. What was lacking was name or ultimate fate and without that they would remain anonymous.

Luckily, the International Tracing Service had a collection of Auschwitz prisoner numbers, often, though not always linked to the names of the prisoners who had received these numbers. Although prisoner numbers were often used more than once it was often possible to narrow the search by consulting the picture for gender and type of prisoner. It was also possible to eliminate from consideration prisoners who arrived much later when photographing largely ceased due to a shortage of photographic paper. Once I had a name it was usually possible to develop further information, including their fates, utilizing International Tracing Service and USHMM files.

*Copy of Doc. No. 518499#1  
(/0001-123/0095/0017@1.1.2.1)  
in conformity with the ITS Archives.*



(Cont. next page)

(Continued from page 6)

I cannot guarantee that 100 percent of the identifications is accurate but I am convinced that almost all are correct. The resulting information has been put into a database and is available on JewishGen ([jewishgen.org](http://jewishgen.org)) as well as the Steve Morse website ([stevemorse.org](http://stevemorse.org)). Family members may request copies of individual photos.

Most of these prisoners perished in Auschwitz, often within a few months of the time that they were photographed. In such cases, these are their last signs of life and death. A small minority of the prisoners survived, almost all in cases as a result of transfers from Auschwitz to other camps, and I sometimes was able to follow what subsequently happened. Whether they perished or survived, these photos are living images for me, far more than lists or even pictures of groups.

In a different sense, the photos illustrate the random nature of fate –why did prisoner XX survive while prisoner X perished, although they both arrived on the same day and were the same category of prisoner. What follows are a few examples taken at random that illustrate what occurred. The first five were Jews, the next two Polish political prisoners and the final two Jehovah's Witnesses. There follows an unusual story of a different kind of prisoner.

Bergsohn, Chaim #63038 born Feb 1 1919 in Makow, arrived September 1942

Transferred Gross Rosen/Dachau. Survived. Emigrated Israel.

Lyser, Wolf #63041 born August 10, 1910 in Hochenbourg, arrived September 1942

Died December 24, 1942

Goldenberg, Wolf #67224 born June 22, 1911 in Galatz, arrived October 1942

Died January 31, 1943

Hakman, Alter Chaim #37493 born August 22, 1901

in Wierzbica, arrived June 1942

Died June 27, 1942

Hakman, Rachmil #37495 born March 18, 1925 in Radom arrived June 1942

Transferred Greiffenberg. Survived

Porczek, Johann #21783 born October 7, 1900 in Birkental, arrived October 1941

Died March 15, 1942

Grosicki, Leonard #62441 born 1925 or 1926 in Ostrowiec, arrived September 1942


Transferred Buchenwald. Survived. Returned Poland.

Conclowski, Klara #45295 born 9 August 1899 in Tannhausen, arrived May 1943

Transferred Ravensbrück/Sachsenhausen. Survived. Returned Germany.

Solik, Heinrich #20049 born February 2, 1900 in Rybnik. Arrived August 1941

Died November 22, 1941

The first thirty arrivals who received numbers in Auschwitz were Germans, and many appeared to have been "Berufsverbrecher" i.e. habitual criminals. The prisoner who received the number 2 was Otto Küsel, born May 16, 1909 in Berlin and transferred from Sachsenhausen in May 1940. He and others were assigned the role of "Kapos", privileged prisoners and de facto overseers of other prisoners. In December 1942 Küsel walked out of Auschwitz with three Polish prisoners. They went to Warsaw where he reportedly helped the resistance. In September 1943 he was captured and sent back to Auschwitz. While escapees who were captured were usually publicly hanged, he was just put in solitary confinement for some time and then transferred to Flossenbürg. He survived there as well, and after the war testified at a war crimes trial. He was offered honorary Polish citizenship, but declined. 

*This article presents the personal views of the author.*



## JGSGW Co-Presents Two Films with Washington Jewish Film Festival

The Washington Jewish Film Festival will be held in venues all across the DC metro area from January 3-13. This year, JGSGW is excited to co-present two films with the WJFF that focus on Jewish Genealogy and Heritage – *When Day Breaks* and *How to Re-Establish a Vodka Empire*. Film synopses for both films are below.

### When Day Breaks

In the latest from Serbian master Goran Paskaljević, recently retired Misha Brankov is entrusted with a battered box excavated from the site of a former Nazi death camp. Scanning the documents inside, Brankov makes a jarring discovery: his real name is not Brankov, but Weiss.

The son of Jewish musician Isaac Weiss, the infant Misha was entrusted to family friends before the Weisses were sent to the camp. Digging deeper, while also seeking to fulfill his father's musical legacy, Misha struggles through a collective national amnesia to uncover the truth about his past.

<http://washingtondcjjc.org/center-for-arts/film/WJFF/23-wjff-films/when-day-breaks.html>



*When Day Breaks* will be presented:

- Sun, January 6, 2:00pm – Warner Bros. Theater at the National Museum of American History
- Tue, January 8, 6:15pm – Avalon Theatre

*How to Re-Establish a Vodka Empire* will be presented:

Wed, Jan 9, 6:15pm – Morris Cafritz Center for the Arts, DCJCC

### How to Re-Establish a Vodka Empire

When British filmmaker Daniel Edelstyn travels to the Ukraine in search of his roots, he discovers that the vodka distillery opened by his great grandfather in 1904 is still in operation. Impetuously, he decides to become an entrepreneur and import the vodka to the UK - despite his utter lack of business experience. Artist Hilary Powell helps Edelstyn invoke the spirits of his ancestors with inventive animated sequences.

<http://washingtondcjjc.org/center-for-arts/film/WJFF/23-wjff-films/how-to-re-establish-a-vodka.html>



Click [here](#) for full schedule:

<http://washingtondcjjc.org/center-for-arts/film/WJFF/23rd-wjff/schedule.html>

For more information on the Festival, visit: [www.wjff.org](http://www.wjff.org)



## WORKSHOPS FOR JGSGW MEMBERS

These two workshops are a FREE BENEFIT of your JGSGW membership.

### Jewish Genealogy Beginners Workshop

Instructor: Marlene Katz Bishow

The role of the family archivist and historian will be explored in the context of the how to begin researching your Jewish ancestors. Where do you start and where to go next? Collecting and preserving family photos and interviewing family members will be discussed, as well as getting started with JewishGen.

Participants will receive a copy of the JGSGW publication: *"Jump-Start Your Jewish Genealogy Research: A Beginner's Guide."*

Participation in this workshop is a benefit of membership in JGSGW. **Reservations are required.** Send an email to [jgsgw@comcast.net](mailto:jgsgw@comcast.net). Class limited to 20 participants.

Sunday, March 10, 2013  
Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm  
B'nai Israel Congregation  
6301 Montrose Rd, Rockville, Maryland 20852-4120

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### Jewish Genealogy Intermediate Workshop

Instructor: Jonina Duker

What can be learned from the study of the Jewish tombstone (matzevah)? This workshop will explore customs and symbols associated with Jewish burials, including a discussion of the Hebrew calendar, as well as the history and meaning of personal names and surnames. The workshop will also address the basics of effective search queries in Google, as well as an introduction to [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) and optimizing searches there.

Participants will receive a copy of the new JGSGW publication: *"Intermediate Topics in Jewish Genealogy Research."*

Participation in this workshop is a benefit of membership in JGSGW. **Reservations are required.** Send an email to [jgsgw@comcast.net](mailto:jgsgw@comcast.net). Class limited to 20 participants.

Sunday, April 21, 2013  
11:00am until 1:00pm  
B'nai Israel Congregation  
6301 Montrose Rd, Rockville, Maryland 20852-4120

# News And Announcements

## IAJGS in Boston 2013

We are pleased to announce that the official website for the 33rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (Boston 2013) is now in operation at [www.iajgs2013.org](http://www.iajgs2013.org). To view the publicity video for the 2013 IAJGS conference in Boston [click here](#) or go to: <http://youtu.be/ALLDaaWj2ZY>

The Program Committee is accepting proposals for papers via the website. The closing date for submissions is January 6, 2013. To read the call for papers, mouse over the "Speakers" tab on the website and click on the "Call for Papers" item.

Marlis Humphrey, IAJGS co-chair  
Heidi Urich, JGSGB co-chair  
Jay Sage, JGSGB co-chair  
Email Address: [chairs@iajgs2013.org](mailto:chairs@iajgs2013.org)

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## Exciting Opportunity to Assist Jewish Museum of Maryland and JewishGen

The Jewish Museum of Maryland, in cooperation with JewishGen, is looking for volunteers to assist in the indexing of several historical documents in the Museum's collection for eventual uploading to the JewishGen web site. This is an exciting opportunity and a way for genealogy enthusiasts and those interested in the history of Jewish Baltimore to contribute to a very important project. The information to be indexed includes midwife records as well as birth and marriage notices in the Baltimore Jewish newspaper. The volunteers would work at the Jewish Museum Maryland, 15 Lloyd Street in Baltimore. The work will involve editing and revising historical records by comparing them with the original documents from which they were compiled. Guidance will be provided by Museum personnel. The only skill needed is a basic understanding of computers. Knowledge of Excel is a plus but not a requirement.

If you are interested in joining this important project, please contact:

Deborah Weiner,  
Research Historian & Family History Coordinator,  
Jewish Museum of Maryland  
Tel: 410-732-6400, ext. 224,  
or  
JewishGen:  
Tel: (301) 469-0099  
e-mail: [fishnet@pipeline.com](mailto:fishnet@pipeline.com).

### WEDDING GOWN PHOTOS

**Do you have pictures of your relatives or old friends in their pre-1925 wedding gowns?  
Mishpacha would like to print them in our next issue as part of a feature.**

**Please send them to the editor at: [mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com](mailto:mishpacha.jgsgw@gmail.com).**



## JGSGW January Meeting

### JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE “We are Here: A Lithuanian Encounter” Speaker: Ellen Cassedy

Ellen Cassedy set off into the Jewish heartland of Lithuania to study Yiddish and connect with her Jewish forebears.

When she read something given to her by an uncle, she learned something she had never suspected, and her journey to Lithuania changed her forever. What had begun as a personal quest expanded into a groundbreaking exploration of how people in Lithuania – Jews and non-Jews – are confronting their Nazi and Soviet past in order to move forward into the future.

**Date:** Sunday, January 13, 2013

**Time:** 1:00 PM - Schmooze

1:30 PM - Short Business Meeting, Announcements and Program

**Location:** Congregation Har Shalom 11510 Falls Road, Potomac, MD 20854

301- 299-7087 [click here for directions](#)



Ellen Cassedy, the author of *We Are Here*, has explored the world of the Lithuanian Holocaust for ten years. Her book began as a personal journey to connect with her Jewish forebears, but soon expanded into a larger quest, into how people in Lithuania – Jews and non-Jews alike – are engaging with their Nazi and Soviet past in order to move forward into the future.

Ellen is a frequent speaker about Jewish and Lithuanian issues, and a regular contributor to *VilNews*, the international web magazine based in Vilnius, Lithuania. She lives near Washington, D.C.

Ellen's award-winning play, *Beautiful Hills of Brooklyn*, celebrates the spare beauty of a small but important life. Based on the diary of an actual elderly woman, it was adapted into a short film that qualified for an Academy Award nomination.

Ellen's Yiddish translations appear in *Pakn Treger*, the magazine of the National Yiddish Book Center and in *Beautiful as the Moon, Radiant as the Stars: Jewish Women in Yiddish Stories* (Warner Books). She is currently at work translating fiction by Blume Lempel.

Ellen is a former columnist for the *Philadelphia Daily News* and the author of two books for working women. Her articles have appeared in *Huffington Post*, *Haaretz*, *Jewish Journal*, *Hadassah*, *The Jewish Forward*, *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, *Lilith*, *Bridges*, *Utne Reader*, *Polin*, and *Shofar: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Jewish Studies*.

## JGSGW February Meeting

### JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

### “The Stones Speak: Recent Genealogical Findings from the Bulgarian Zone of Occupation in Greece”

Speaker: Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos

Due to the brutality of the Bulgarians in the Occupied Zones of Northeastern Greece (Thrace and Macedonia) there are few descendants to shed light on Jewish genealogy (from 97-100% of the Jewish population perished in the Holocaust). Only amid the weed-covered tombstones do we get a glimpse of centuries of Jewish presence. Join us as Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos reveals recent genealogical findings from the Bulgarian Zone of Occupation in Greece. Ms. Ikonomopoulos is the Museum Director of Kehila Kedosha Janina in New York City.

Date: Sunday, February 10, 2013  
Time: 1:00 PM Schmooze,  
1:30 PM Meeting followed by Program  
Location: TBA



**Marcia Haddad Ikonomopoulos** is the Museum Director of *Kehila Kedosha Janina* in lower Manhattan. She is also President of *The Association of Friends of Greek Jewry*. She is a former Teacher of Judaic Studies, and a prolific author.

**Translator** of Greek Jewish Holocaust Memoirs, *I Survived Death* by Heinz Kounio, published by Sephardic House Fall of 2002, *Salonika Ghosts* by Erika Kounio Amariglio, publication TBA.

**Author:** *Remembering the Jews of Corfu*, Los Muestrros, March 2002, *The Romaniotes*, Viewpoint, March 2002, *Your Guide To Jewish Greece*, *Your Guide To Jewish Italy*, *The Names of the Jews of Ioannina*, *The Story Behind the Statistics: Variables Affecting the Tremendous Losses of Greek Jewry During the Holocaust*, Originally published in issue 1 of The International Sephardic Journal [2004], Republished in Journal of the Hellenic Diaspora [Spring 2008], *Voices From the Salonika Archives*, Los Muestrros, December 2006, *The Jews of Corfu*, *The Romaniote Jewish Community of New York*, Journal of Modern Hellenism, Spring 2008, Regular contributor to La Lettre Sepharade.

**Editor:** *Yannina-Journey to the Past*, *In Memory of the Jewish Community of Ioannina*, *The Portuguese Nation of Antwerp and London in the Time of Charles V and Henry VIII*, *Ten Gold Medals: Glory or Freedom*.

She holds BA degrees from Brooklyn College and Queens College, as well as Masters degrees from the New School For Social Research and Queens College. In addition, she is multi-lingual (Italian and Greek).



## JGSGW March Meeting

### JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

Lecture: "Searching New York Roots"

Speaker: Avram Geller

New York City has for two centuries been the golden door into which Jewish immigrants entered America. Avram Geller will explore the wealth of resources to discover family roots and connections through New York area resources. This will include both great buildings and the stuff inside them, and also many online resources. Quite a number of these resources are hidden in plain sight, and it will be revealed where to find them and how to use them. He will focus on New York City archival and library resources with an emphasis on finding the less obvious treasures which lie therein. He will also give practical tips on conducting your on-site research in New York City, getting below the surface when you visit an archive, a library, a courthouse, etc. and throw in some tips on going below the surface to arrive there.

Avram will be available after the meeting answer questions on a one-to-one basis.

**Date:** Sunday, March 10, 2012

**Time:** 1:00 PM Schmooze  
1:30 PM Meeting followed by Program

**Location:** B'nai Israel Congregation  
6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 881-6550  
[click here](#) for directions



**Avram Geller** has been engaged in genealogical research on a professional basis for 10 years, after many years of researching his own family who immigrated to New York City from the Russian Empire and settled in New Jersey. He is a member of the Executive Council of the Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc., a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society. He is a consultant to the community of genealogists for his expertise in New York area resources.

In addition to presentations on New York area research at genealogical conferences, he has conducted family history workshops in assisted-living facilities, synagogues, and Jewish service organizations. He is a volunteer with DOROT, an agency providing social services to help elderly New Yorkers live independently. He has been a member of the Jewish People's Philharmonic Chorus, performing music set to Yiddish text.

He was previously Vice President – Marketing Services of Block Drug Company, a manufacturer of healthcare and household products, and was recognized as a specialist in marketing to older adults. He is a graduate of the University of Iowa. Avram and his wife Arleen, a media sales executive and jewelry designer, live in Soho; his son Seth is an advertising sales manager in Baltimore, and his son Jeremy is a press officer in the Consulate of the State of Israel in New York.

## JGSGW April Meeting

### JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

### “Routes to Roots in the "Old Country"— Where Are The Surviving Documents and How To Obtain Them?”

Speaker: Miriam Weiner, Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc.

This presentation will focus on the Routes to Roots Foundation website (RTRF) at [www.rtrfoundation.org](http://www.rtrfoundation.org) including a live “tour” of various components of the website. Our speaker, Miriam Weiner, has worked officially with the archivists throughout Eastern Europe beginning in Poland in 1989, then Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and Lithuania. She has received unprecedented cooperation from the archives in identifying and publishing information about surviving Jewish and civil records.

The RTRF website includes a comprehensive searchable archive database by town name, covering document holdings relevant to Jewish life in five countries (and portions of two others) in Central and Eastern Europe, an image database, and multiple searchable name databases for various localities. The website is updated regularly with new/revised archive data, additional name databases and images as well as articles by archivists, historians and others.

In addition, Miriam will discuss the new collaboration between RTRF and the Center for Jewish History (CJH) in New York City. The CJH website features its Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) which integrates the holdings of CJH’s five partners into one searchable database, as well as separate pages for each of the five partners and a page for the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute.

**Date:** Sunday, April 21, 2013

**Time:** 1:00 PM - Schmooze      1:30 PM - Short Business Meeting, Announcements and Program

**Location:** B'nai Israel Congregation

6301 Montrose Road, Rockville, MD 20852, (301) 881-6550, [click here for directions](#)



For more than 30 years, **Miriam Weiner** has been a leading figure in the genealogical research world. She is an acclaimed lecturer throughout the United States and abroad. In 1985, she was the first Jewish genealogist certified by the Board for Certification of Genealogists. For all of those years, she has been a member of JGSGW.

Miriam’s syndicated column, “Roots and Branches” has appeared in over 100 Jewish newspapers and periodicals. She is the co-editor of The Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy and author of two ground-breaking books entitled Jewish Roots in Poland and Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova. Through her travels, Miriam is the Creator of the Eastern European Archival Database which includes Jewish and civil records from archives in Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Moldova and Ukraine.

She is the President of Routes to Roots Foundation, a customized travel/research service in Poland & the former Soviet Union. Formerly, she was the Executive Director of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors and Senior Advisor for Genealogy Services in the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute.

Miriam is a recipient of the IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award (2003) and in 1999 and 2000 she received the annual media award for each of her two books. She is the only individual to be honored on three separate occasions by the IAJGS.



## JGSGW May Meeting

### JGSGW IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE “Genealogical Travels”

Presenters are being sought to form:

A panel of JGSGW members who will relate their experiences planning for, during and after their genealogical adventures. The panel will be limited to 5 presenters.

Volunteers will be asked to share a 15 minute presentation on one aspect of their travels. Examples of these may include

- Planning the trip. Was it with a tour group or private travel?
- Finding and working with a tour guide or tour company – considerations, mode of transportation, expenses...
- Accommodations & food
- Experiences with the local residents, town hall, libraries, archives, cemeteries...
- Sharing with your family.....photos, recordings, maps
- What have you done with what you saw and learned..... How did this trip affect you?
- Lessons learned and future travel

Date: May 5, 2013

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Virginia location TBA

Question and to volunteer, please contact Marlene Bishow at [jgsgw@jgsgw.org](mailto:jgsgw@jgsgw.org)

# New Digital Resources

## From The Leo Baeck Institute

You can now view the recording of the launch of DigiBaeck, the online archive of 3.5 million documents at the Leo Baeck Institute. The speeches and panel in this video will be of interest not only to those with German-Jewish heritage, but to anyone concerned with the digitization of archival material.  
<http://www.lbi.org/2012/10/digibaeck-launch-access-centuries-of-germanjewish-history-online/>

## American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee: Cyprus Collection

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (AJJDC) Cyprus Collection (1945-1949) is available online for the first time. The collection includes 16,667 pages of textual files including personal letters, group petitions and newspapers published by the deportees. From 1946 until the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, the British confined some 53,000 Holocaust survivors on the island of Cyprus. From August 1946 to February 1949, the deportees lived behind barbed wire in 12 camps on Cyprus. During this period, 53,000 Jews passed through the camps, 2,200 children were born in the camps, and 150 Jews died there--nearly all of the deportees were survivors of the Nazi death camps. The collection also has 180 photographs taken at the detention camps.

- Photogalleries  
<http://archives.jdc.org/sharedlegacy/photo-galleries/gallery-cyprus-detention-camps.html>
- To read more about the collection: <http://archives.jdc.org/about-us/articles/jdc-cyprus-collection-now.html>
- To view highlights the files go to: [http://search.archives.jdc.org/query.asp?site=ideaalm&lang=ENG&param=%3Cquery\\_operation%3Eload%3Cquery\\_operation%3E%3Cquery\\_id%3E101204\\_27%3Cquery\\_id%3E](http://search.archives.jdc.org/query.asp?site=ideaalm&lang=ENG&param=%3Cquery_operation%3Eload%3Cquery_operation%3E%3Cquery_id%3E101204_27%3Cquery_id%3E)
- To see more of the collection go to search the collection and type in "Cyprus" in the query box  
<http://archives.jdc.org/archives-search/?s=archivestopnav>  
There are video tutorials available to help you search.

## Austrian Records

The Austrian National Fund which distributed restitution to Austrian survivors is planning to publish on the internet a database entitled: **Online - Findbuch Fuer Opfer Des National Socialismus**, Online - Finding Book for Victims of National Socialism. It will go on line in January 2013. For further details visit: <https://www.findbuch.at/>

## From the Galicia SIG

January 1, 2013 will be the official debut of the Gesher Galicia re-designed website, with a "members only" portal to our "Gesher Galicia Family Finder" and a searchable database containing 20 years of issues from "The G," which means that members will be able to search all the articles by surname, town name or keyword terms. The members portal will require a log in and password that will be provided to all current members over the first few weeks in January.

The new website will offer dazzling searching capabilities and quick access to the All Galicia Database so you can trace family members and learn more about your cities, towns and shtetls, including links to photos, videos, maps and other research pages.

## Newspapers.com

[Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) announced the launching of a new paid website offering an historical collection of more than 800 U.S. newspapers dating from the late 1700s into the early 2000s: [www.Newspapers.com](http://www.Newspapers.com). Most of the newspapers on the site (over 15 million of the 25 million pages) are NOT part of [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) records accessible for US and World subscribers. Most of the launch newspapers were purchased from an unnamed third party. [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) will be obtaining their new content themselves off of microfilms they are digitizing. There are no current plans to remove any of the existing newspapers on [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). However, their current plan is to make [newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com) the primary site for historical newspapers content--other forms of newspaper content such as obituaries, and other newspaper content may continue to be added to [Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). (next page)

# New Digital Resources

(from page 14)

Ancestry.com is offering a 7-day free trial but one must provide their credit card information--which will be charged after the seven days if you do not cancel the subscription before the end of the 7-day trial. For non-Ancestry.com subscribers who wish to take advantage of the 7-day free trial go to: [www.newspapers.com](http://www.newspapers.com). The price for non-Ancestry.com subscribers is \$79.95. For Ancestry.com subscribers they are offering 50% off their regular rate for \$39.95. For ancestry.com subscribers who wish to take advantage of the 7-day free trial go to: 7-Day Free Trial for Ancestry.com Members

## On Making Family Trees

It was only a matter of time before Martha Stewart would have her name debut in MISHPACHA.

This site provides step-by-step instructions and ideas to help make a beautiful family tree.

<http://www.marthastewart.com/275136/make-a-family-tree/@center/276976/memorykeeping-crafts>

## On Preservation of Family Photos

After Hurricane Sandy caused so much devastation in the New York and New Jersey area, it became clear that first aid for cherished images and documents would be a necessity. The Family Curator is a great place to go to learn how to protect and how to care for damaged photos.

<http://www.thefamilycurator.com/home/2012/10/30/5-first-aid-tips-for-water-damaged-family-photos.html>

## JGSGW Facebook Page

JGSGW now has a Facebook page. Posted there you can find resources and interesting information that will help you as you research your family. You need to set up a facebook page and then join the group. Information is posted almost daily. There are already 61 friends who have joined us there.

The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/JGSGW/> or you can [click here](#).

## The American Century Project

The American Century Oral History Project, in which juniors engage in in-depth interviews with people who have been a part of history, was founded by history teacher Glenn Whitman at St. Andrews Episcopal School in Potomac, Maryland. By recording these personal stories students provide an original written account of people's lives. This research and record are not only a service to their interviewers and their families but to their school and to the records of history.

Glenn Whitman, St. Andrew's Dean of Studies, is the author of "Dialogue with the Past: Engaging Students and Meeting Standards through Oral History," (AltaMira Press 2004) that examines oral history as an educational and historical methodology. The book is based on a nationally recognized oral history project conducted each year by St. Andrew's history students.

Though not a traditional type of database for genealogists, the wide range of topics covered and the fact that it originated in the society's geographical area might provide genealogists with a new source of information. Subjects who have been interviewed come from all over the world and from diverse backgrounds.

The project can be viewed [here](http://www.mdch.org/) at Maryland Digital Cultural Heritage. <http://www.mdch.org/>

To view the collection of projects, on the home page under "Search the Collections", choose "American Century Project - St. Andrews Episcopal School". In the second blank box type "American Century Project" and then press "search". This will allow you to view all of the articles in the the database. You can search within the results for specific topics.

*\* Astute readers will note that the title of this project alludes to the title of Studs Terkel's book, My American Century. All students are required to read this book prior to embarking on their oral history project.*

(next page)



# New Digital Resources

(from page 15)

## **Bnai Brith Transfers Archives to American Jewish Archives**

Last June Bnai Brith archives and its Holocaust collection were transferred to the Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives in Cincinnati, Ohio. It is a discreet collection and not merged in with the other collections at the American Jewish Archives. Bnai Brith was the first national federated benevolent organization in the United States--it traces American Jewish history from the 19th century into the 20th century--from all facets of American Jewish community

More information is available at:

<http://www.bnaibrith.org/8/post/2012/08/bnai-brith-archives-transferred-to-ohio.html>

You can access the American Jewish Archives website at:

<http://americanjewisharchives.org/genealogy/>  
Not all of the Bnai Brith archives are yet searchable.

## **United States Census Pathfinder e-book**

Michael Hait, a well-known professional genealogist, completed a free PDF e-book, called the United States Census Pathfinder which includes a compilation of available information from government and independent websites about the US census from 1790-1940. Census information grew each year from the inception in 1790 to 1940--the most recently released census. The census is an essential tool for every genealogist.

To access the US Census Pathfinder [click here](#) or go to:

[http://haitfamilyresearch.com/pdf\\_files/Census\\_Pathfinder.pdf](http://haitfamilyresearch.com/pdf_files/Census_Pathfinder.pdf)

The Pathfinder is copyrighted.

## **Time Life Never Before Published Photos From Ellis Island in 1950 and Inside Nazi Occupied Poland 1939-1940**

Most of us concentrate on the immigrants that arrived at Ellis Island in its earlier years and forget that it while it opened in 1892 it was receiving immigrants until November 1954. Time-Life recently posted 30 photographs never previously published by famous Life photographer Alfred Eisenstadt who visited Ellis Island in the fall of 1950. Nearly one-third of all Americans can trace their ancestry to one of the 12 million people who arrived in the US at Ellis Island at New York Bay.

Some of the pictures in this gallery appeared in the November 13, 1950 issue of LIFE Magazine  
To see the gallery go to: original url:

<http://life.time.com/history/ellis-island-rare-photos-from-the-gateway-to-a-new-world-1950/#1>

Time-Life also posted photographs from Inside Nazi Occupied Poland in 1939-1940-- a German photographer and ardent Nazi named Hugo Jaeger documented the brute machinery of the Reich, including the Nazi invasion of Poland in 1939. LIFE.com presents a series of photos from Warsaw and from the town of Kutno, 75 miles west of the Polish capital, in 1939 and 1940. In June 1940, all of Kutno's roughly 8,000 Jews were forced into the ghetto .

To read more: [click here](#) or go to:

<http://life.time.com/history/world-war-ii-color-photos-from-nazi-occupied-poland-1939-1940/?iid=lb-gal-viewagn#1>

# Resources: Oldies, But Goodies

## JewishGen Online Classes

New JewishGen Basic Genealogy Class starts January 4

JewishGen's Basic Genealogy Course is a four week course focusing on your immigrant ancestors and their immediate families in the United States. The course contains downloadable lessons and is a personal mentoring program where students post an ancestral branch (one surname), set objectives for their research, and work one-on-one with the instructor.

Requirements: Students must be comfortable browsing the Internet and downloading files and have 8-10 hours per week to read the lessons, search online and interact with the instructor. To meet the needs of international students this course is open 24/7.

Tuition for Basic Genealogy is \$80, but this fee is waived if you qualify for the Value Added Services.

Registration is open, <http://www.jewishgen.org/education>.

Please review the details at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/education/description.asp?course=30004>

For further questions please email: [JewishGen-Education@lyris.JewishGen.org](mailto:JewishGen-Education@lyris.JewishGen.org)

## JewishGen Videos

JewishGenEducation has created a series of five-minute webcast videos to assist you with your preparation and your research. Here is the link: <http://www.jewishgen.org/education/>

Here is the list of titles:

- Prepare For Your Search (for USA researchers)
- Navigate JewishGen
- Find Your Ancestral Town (for USA researchers)
- Communicate with Other Researchers:

- JGFF: The JewishGen Family Finder -- for Surnames/Towns
- FTJP: Family Tree of the Jewish People -- for over 5 million people
- JewishGen Discussion Groups

- Special Interest Groups and Hosted Organizations

- Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

- Jewish Genealogy Websites & Organizations

- Jewish Genealogy Websites - Part I (JewishGen and IAJGS/JGS)
- Jewish Genealogy Websites - Part II

# JGSGW

## Welcome to our New Member

Mary-Jane Roth of Alexandria, VA

## and Returning Members

Marilyn & Charlie Bernhardt

## Patrons as of Fall 2012

Vic and Marla Cohen  
Alan Levitt  
Stephen Rockower  
Rochelle Zohn

## Lifetime Members

Jonina Duker & Alan Lichtman  
Elizabeth H. Margosches & Donald B. Melman

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## Condolences

JGSGW sends our deepest sympathies to:

The family of Beryl Blickstein

Shelley K. Pollero on the loss of her mother,  
Frieda "Frenchy" Kellerman

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## R'Fuah Shlayma

Harriet Armoza  
Rita Krakower Margolis

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## JGSGW Wishes Mazel Tov to

Irene Saunders Goldstein on the marriage of her son Eric.

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## Donations

### Library Fund:

Polly Craighill  
Renee Domogauer  
Irv Hecker

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



# JGSGW Library

## JGSGW Genealogy Library Hours and Information

REVISED LIBRARY HOURS STARTING JANUARY 2013

First Sunday of the month: 10 AM - 12 noon  
3 PM - 4:30 PM after JGSGW meetings at B'nai Israel  
Wednesdays 11-3, By appointment only. 24 hours notice required.

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.

## New Library Acquisitions

*City of Promises* - a 3 volume set on the History of New York.

Vol. 1 - *Haven of Liberty: New York Jews in the New World 1654-1865*  
Vol. 2 - *Emerging Metropolis: New York Jews in the Age of Immigration 1840-1920*  
Vol. 3 - *Jews on Gotham: New York Jews in a Changing City, 1920-2010*

*Mordecai: an Early American Family*, by Emily Bingham.

2012 IAJGS Conference Recordings now available.

## Other Society Newsletters Available Electronically

*Venturing Into Our Past*, JGS of the Conejo Valley  
and Ventura County, December 2012, January 2013  
*Shalshelet*, JGS Oregon, Fall 2012  
*Scattered Seeds*, JGS Palm County, Florida, Fourth Quarter 2012  
*Researcher News*, National Archives, Summer 2012  
*Jewish Genealogy Downunder*, Australian JGS, September 2012  
*News 'n Notes*, St. Louis JGS, October 2012  
*Branches*, JGS Greater Miami, September 2012  
Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society, Fall 2012  
*Mishpachology*, JGS Southwest Florida, Fall 2012 and December 2012

Contact the editor at if interested.

## 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 Meeting Calendar

### Fall 2012 - Summer2013

**Tuesday, September 11, 2012 - National Archives, Washington, DC**  
**Sunday, October 14, 2012 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD**  
**Sunday, November 11, 2012 – Beth El, Alexandria, VA**  
**Sunday, December 09, 2012 - Potomac Community Center, Potomac, MD**  
**Sunday, January 13, 2013 - Har Shalom, Potomac, MD**  
**Sunday, February 10, 2013 – Olam Tikvah, Fairfax, VA**  
**Sunday, March 10, 2013 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD**  
**Sunday, April 21, 2013 - B'nai Israel, Rockville, MD**  
**Sunday, May 05, 2013 - City Of Fairfax Library, Fairfax, VA**  
**Sunday, June 09, 2013 Potomac Community Center, Potomac, MD**

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)**