

Upcoming Programs

All Sunday meetings begin at 2:00 PM. Unless noted otherwise, meetings are held at the Community House, Central Synagogue, 123 East 55th Street (between Park and Lexington Avenues), Manhattan. A *schmooze* session starts at 1:30, to swap genealogical problems, solutions and anecdotes. *Postscript* sessions are short "how-to" presentations on a specific topic offered after the main program.

Travels in Ukraine — November 21, 1993

Debra Braverman, JGS Treasurer, who recently returned from a research trip to her ancestral shtetls in Ukraine, will relay her experiences and findings.

Postscript: A Time to Gather Stones Together, 28-minute video documentary of a 1992 tour to Warsaw, Kiev, Lvov and smaller cities and towns in Poland and Ukraine, organized and led by Miriam Weiner.

Beginner's Workshop on Genealogy — December 5, 1993

Designed for the person who is just starting to explore genealogy and family history, the workshop will cover the basics of genealogical research. Taught by several experienced genealogists, the workshop will include records and charts used in research, where to find records and information about your family, and proven techniques for gathering family histories.

Topics to be covered include interviewing relatives, locating ancestral towns on maps, documenting your research, computers and genealogy, various types of source materials (censuses, city directories, passenger lists, naturalizations, vital records), and research facilities in the New York area and elsewhere. The workshop also will provide information on such Jewish topics as records of European Jewish communities, Holocaust research and Jewish names. Each participant will receive a copy of *Guide to Beginning Genealogy*.

Location: Temple Israel, 112 East 75th Street (between Park and Lexington Avenues), Manhattan.

Time: 12:00 noon to 5:00 PM.

Fee: For current JGS members - \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door. For non-members - \$35 in advance,

\$45 at the door. Package for new members - registration and 1994 membership - \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door. Advance registration deadline: Nov. 25, 1993.

To register: Send a check with your name, address and telephone number to JGS, P.O. Box 6398, New York, NY 10128.

Planning a Research Trip to Israel and JGS Annual Meeting — December 19, 1993

Dr. Sallyann Amdur Sack, author of *A Guide to Genealogical Research in Israel*, will discuss what genealogical resources are available in Israel and how to research them, both by going to Israel and by correspondence from the U.S. At our Annual Meeting, we will hold elections for the officers and members of the JGS Executive Council for 1994.

Postscript: An overview of the Thirteenth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, to be held in Jerusalem, Israel, April 29 to May 5, 1994.

Computers and Genealogy — January 16, 1994

What is a computer and how can you use it to do your genealogy? Learn about the differences between available programs for IBM-compatible systems, Macintosh, etc. JGS Executive Council member Eileen Polakoff will focus on what a computer can do for you, including forms it can produce and how data is entered, and how to choose the proper hardware and software for your needs.

Postscript: Using computer bulletin boards and other on-line data services.

Shtetl Geography: Locating Places in Eastern Europe — February 20, 1994

Gary Mokotoff, a JGS member and co-editor of *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*, will discuss the various historical and modern gazetteers for Central and Eastern Europe, and how you can locate and learn more about your ancestral shtetl by using gazetteers and maps.

Postscript: Using the Map Divisions of the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.

DOROT

The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

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JGS Phone: 212-330-8257

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One-Day Seminar on Jewish Genealogy — March 6, 1994

Workshops and lectures on a variety of topics of interest to Jewish genealogists in the New York area. Further details will be sent to all JGS members.

Location: Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1 West Fourth Street (between Broadway and Mercer Street).

What's New In New York Resources — March 20, 1994

A panel of genealogists will discuss recent genealogically-related acquisitions at the LDS Family History Center, the National Archives, the New York City Municipal Archives and the New York Public Library.

Postscript: Using the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library.

April 17, 1994

Topic will be announced.

Postscript: Genealogical resources available at the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research.

Holocaust Research — May 22, 1994

Jeffrey K. Cymbler, JGS Vice President, will discuss how to research the fate of family members who were caught in the Nazi claws during World War II. Resources to be covered include concentration camp records at the National Archives, Yad Vashem and Auschwitz, pages of testimony, survivor lists, International Red Cross, deportation lists, photographic archives, etc.

Postscript: What are and how to research Hebrew subscription lists.

How to Conduct Genealogical Research in Washington, DC — June 12, 1994

Suzan Wynne, a leader of the JGS of Greater Washington, will present this program, as well as the *postscript* on research in Galicia.

OTHER EVENTS

Beginner's Workshop

— November 21, 1993, Great Neck, NY

If you can't attend our Beginner's Workshop or want a double dose, the JGS of Long Island is holding its annual Beginner's Workshop at Temple Israel, 108 Old Mill Road, Great Neck, from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. Topics will include how to find and record information, interview relatives, locate towns, document research and sources, research facilities, Holocaust research and computers in genealogy. The fee, including materials and refreshments, is \$30; discounts are available for new members, families and those who register before November 10. For further information call 516-549-9532 during business hours, or 516-872-3765 evenings and weekends.

Roots X Seminar: A Decade of Genealogical Excellence — March 26, 1994, Plainview, NY

The Genealogy Workshop of the Huntington Historical Society will present an all-day program at the LDS Family History Center in Plainview. For information write to Roots X Seminar, 209 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743.

13th Summer Seminar/4th International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy

— April 29-May 5, 1994, Jerusalem, Israel

By the time you read this, you will have less than five months to lay plans to attend the Jerusalem gathering. The first International Seminar in 1984 was held here, and all who attended know first-hand how valuable a visit to Israel can be for Jewish genealogical research. Mark your calendars, renew your correspondence with relatives and friends in Israel, start combing your files

for information you need from sources in Jerusalem and people you want to visit in Israel.

Full details will be distributed as an eight-page insert in *Avotaynu*, which also will be sent to many non-subscribers. Full registration, including air fare on El Al (New York/Tel Aviv), seven nights at the Jerusalem Crowne Plaza (formerly Jerusalem Hilton) and the seminar itself, will cost \$1,645. For information about the Seminar, contact AJGS, 1485 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666; 201-837-8300.

JGS News

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting, for the purpose of electing Executive Council members and officers for 1994, will be held at the start of the December 19 meeting at Central Synagogue Community House. The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate: President, Marsha Saron Dennis; Vice Presidents, Jeffrey K. Cymbler and Debra Braverman; Secretary, Nancy J. Deutsch-Sinderbrand; Treasurer, Lucille Gudis; Council members Jordan Auslander, Michael Brenner, Joseph Fibel, Alex E. Friedlander, Estelle M. Guzik, Susannah R. Juni, Sheila Kieval, Gary Mokotoff, Eileen Polakoff, Steven W. Siegel and Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern.

Dues Increase

Annual membership dues for 1994 will be \$20 for metropolitan area members. Out-of-town membership dues for 1994 remain \$12. Dues invoices will be mailed in early December. New members who joined after August 1993 are considered paid-up through 1994.

Administrator Appointed

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Sandra Cohen, a former Executive Council member, as JGS Administrator. Several years ago the Executive Council appointed a Planning Committee to examine current JGS activities and make recommendations for the future. After much discussion, the Committee urged the Council to retain the services of a paid, part-time Administrator, because Council members and other volunteers have been spending an excessive amount of time on clerical tasks. The Council concurred and determined that the JGS has the financial resources to cover this expense. Sandra's duties will be phased in over the next several months.

New Membership Brochure

An attractive JGS membership brochure is now available. Thanks are extended to JGS member Lois Bender, a professional graphic designer, for creating the artwork and seeing the project through to completion.

Copies may be obtained at JGS meetings. Please give the brochures to friends who are potential JGS members.

Jewish Genealogical Family Finder

Individuals may purchase a copy of the September 1993 version of the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder, which contains 28,000 entries from some 2,050 participants. The price is \$40, with checks payable to JGS, Inc. Orders should be sent to AJGS, 1485 Teaneck Rd., Teaneck, NJ 07666. JGS members are encouraged to submit the surnames and localities they are researching to the Family Finder. There is no charge for the first 16 entries. Submission forms are available from AJGS (address above); please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope when requesting a form.

Family History Fair

The JGS was one of 40 organizations and vendors, and one of nine financial supporters, of the Family History Fair held on Sunday, October 10. Sponsored by the Archivists Round Table of Metropolitan New York as the opening event of New York Archives Week, the Fair was held at New York University's Loeb Student Center in Greenwich Village. The chairman of the Fair was Steven Siegel, JGS Past President.

The JGS exhibit was coordinated by Joseph Fibel and staffed by volunteers Jordan Auslander, Al Berk, Cynthia Cohen, Debra Braverman, Marsha Saron Dennis, Lucille Gudis, Susannah Juni, Yale Reisner, Rabbi Malcolm Stern and Vivian Zelvin. Mark your calendar for next year's Fair: Sunday, October 9, 1994.

Past Program

Russian-American Genealogical Archival Service (RAGAS) — September 19, 1993

RAGAS is a non-profit organization whose coordinator, Patricia A. Eames, was the first speaker at our meeting. A public affairs specialist at the National Archives, Eames gave a history of the evolution of RAGAS. The Commission on Soviet-American Archival Cooperation (COSAAC), one of several delegations of Ukrainian and Belarussian archivists in existence since 1987, decided to start considering genealogical research in 1989. With the permission of Don Wilson, the Archivist of the U.S., Eames helped establish a clearinghouse called SAGAS (Soviet-American Genealogical Archival Service). Due to the fall of the Soviet Union, all agreements formed under COSAAC were discontinued except for genealogical research. In April 1992, the National Archives Volunteer Association and the AROS Society, Ltd. (Archives of Russia) signed an agreement creating RAGAS as the first step in the development of the two-year program that we have today.

Eames described the procedures that are followed when a request is received. RAGAS relies heavily on modem and E-mail communications. First the region of the town is determined. Requests go right into the computer. They are sent by E-mail to Moscow, then forwarded to an archivist in the region in which the town is located. It is this archivist who does the research. A paper copy is sent later to Moscow by a trusted messenger.

Eames provided some statistics. Of the 367 requests that have been received to date, 182 have been Jewish requests. Of these 182, 46 have received replies. Thirty-one of the 46 replies have been positive. The 15 negative responses have included an explanation of why the information was not found and, when possible, will list documents that were found with the family surname but not for the first names requested. She stressed that we shouldn't apply American standards to this research.

The National Archives supports RAGAS for three reasons: to improve archival access in all ways; to help them improve the speed with which they access the records, and to establish professional and reasonably economic standards for obtaining records. Eames thanked Gary Mokotoff, Sally Ann Sack and *Avotaynu* for their continued support.

We were then introduced to Vyacheslav Mikhailovich Pleskunov, Director General of AROS, Dimitri Arkadevich Panov and Vladislav Yevgyenevich Soshnikov, archival specialists and staff members of AROS, and Donya Platoff, RAGAS treasurer and past president of the National Archives Volunteer Association. Pleskunov described the procedures that are followed when a request is received. He suggested that town descriptions should be as specific as possible. When there is a positive result, the requester will receive a report on the findings and the documents that were found. When there is a negative result, the members of AROS may go to the local archives themselves to try to find information that the local archivists could not. He pointed out that processing genealogical requests is not the primary function for the local archivists.

In the course of helping genealogists, AROS is trying to develop lists of the sources available at the different archives. This will make it faster for them to respond to our requests and allow them to guide local archivists. They are beginning to develop such lists in those archives that they feel will have the most Jewish information. They hope to eventually write a guide to Jewish genealogical materials in Russian archives. The largest number of requests so far has been for the Minsk archives. Pleskunov suggested that a fund be established to support Jewish genealogical research in the local Russian archives. He advised that people not send requests directly to the local archives since they don't specifically do research. He concluded by displaying

copies of a report done for a specific family and some Russian documents that a requester might receive.

A very interesting question-and-answer period followed. It covered a wide range of topics. The information elicited included:

- There are urgent and non-urgent requests. An urgent request may take 2-3 weeks time but may cost \$300. A non-urgent request could take six months but could cost half as much.

- Documents are available throughout the Ukraine.

- Civil registration was begun in the 1830s but this varies based on the locality. There are not separate religious records. Rabbis submitted records to the government and these became civil records. These are in Russian and Hebrew. There are also customs records and photographs, and German records. Since all records are at minimum in Russian, AROS and local archivists are able to locate them.

- RAGAS cannot fulfill requests for documents for places that are in present-day Poland or in the Baltic states. The Washington office will send back to the researcher any requests that are outside the geographic scope of RAGAS.

- The information on a Russian birth certificate consists of year, sex, the name of the person who performed the Bris, Latin date, Jewish date, town of birth, name and occupation or economic status of father, name of mother and child's name.

- Records from different periods of time are in different archives. Records from before the Russian Revolution were treated differently than records from after the Revolution. Some books of documents are being restored and may not be available. There is no obstacle to obtaining records in the historical archives. It may be more difficult to obtain records from civil records offices that have more recent records.

- There are secret police files but you can only see your own files, or must prove a relationship to see someone else's files.

- Records are not being microfilmed by the archives because it is very expensive. This is why they suggested a fund. The Mormons are microfilming records.

- The Czarist censuses are available for the 19th century but they do not have full sets. Only Odessa has been located for the 1897 census.

- Tax records—revision lists—contain a lot of genealogical information but are scattered for different geographical areas and time periods.

- When a name is submitted to RAGAS in English, different variations on the Russian spellings and pronunciations are provided to AROS. There are gazetteers for this purpose.

- Czarist army records are located in the Military Soviet Archives in Moscow. It has preserved records related to army officers. There are sometimes records on lower level individuals. They are not indexed. It

might be easier to find similar records in a regional archives if you know where the person was drafted.

- While Odessa has a well-kept Jewish cemetery, the cemeteries in Belarus and the Ukraine were poorly preserved. It is unlikely that there are listings filed in the archives of the gravestones in the Jewish cemeteries.

Two types of forms that can be used to submit requests to RAGAS were distributed. The forms are simple to make translation easier. Some people include naturalization documents and other papers that include the town name on them to help AROS correctly identify the family's town. For more information on RAGAS, write to P.O. Box 236, Glen Echo, MD 20812.

Hearty thanks are extended to JGS member Yale Reisner for translating into English the Russian-language presentations of our guest speakers. Yale also presented a *postscript* on Project Judaica, the Moscow-based program jointly sponsored by the YIVO Institute, the Jewish Theological Seminary and the Russian State Humanities University. Yale recently returned from a year as the site supervisor in Moscow.

Sheila Kieval

New York Repository News

New York Public Library

The Central Research Library of New York Public Library, at 42nd Street and Fifth Avenue, is again open on Monday, from 10 AM to 6 PM. Although the U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy Division—and most of the other specialized units—are *not* open on Monday, the Microforms Division is open. Additional hours are Tuesday and Wednesday, 11 AM to 7:30 PM, and Thursday to Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM. For a recorded schedule of Central Research Library hours, call 212-661-7220.

New York Family History Center

The LDS Family History Center, at 125 Columbus Avenue (corner of 65th Street), is now open on the following schedule: Monday, 12 noon to 5:30 PM; Tuesday to Friday, 10 AM to 8 PM; Saturday, 10 AM to 5:30 PM. Call 212-873-1690 for further information.

Our members should be aware that the JGS continues to pay the difference between regular loans and indefinite loans of microfilms of Jewish records brought into the New York Family History Center. Consequently there is a significant collection of Jewish records for Poland, Germany and Hungary right here in New York.

National Archives—Northeast Region

The National Archives in New York has acquired two new microfilm collections of genealogical interest:

- World War I Draft registrations for New York City, most of New York State and Bergen County, NJ.

- Russian Consular records for the New York consulate.

JGS Executive Council member Lucille Gudis, who is a National Archives volunteer, is preparing a finding aid for the Draft registration records. At present these films are not in the self-service cabinets but must be requested from the staff.

Microfilms of New York passenger arrival lists are now available into the 1920s, and later films continue to be added. Eventually the entire set of New York lists will be available at this research facility.

U.S. District Court Naturalization Division

The Naturalization Division of the U. S. District Court, Southern District of New York, is now open Monday to Thursday, 8:30 AM to 5 PM, and Friday, 12 noon to 5 PM. Because the office is staffed by one person, it is recommended that you call in advance: 212-264-5884. The office is in Room 2905 of the Federal Building at 26 Federal Plaza, Manhattan.

Brooklyn Business Library

Following a major renovation, the Business Library of Brooklyn Public Library has reopened at its original location, 280 Cadman Plaza West, in Brooklyn Heights. Their new phone number is 718-722-3333.

Notes From All Over

NGS Writing Contest

The National Genealogical Society is sponsoring its eighth annual Family History Writing Contest. Entries, which cannot be previously published manuscripts, can be in one of two categories—"Early American Families" or "Contemporary and Later-Immigrant Families"—and are due by February 28, 1994. The winner gets a free trip to the June 1994 NGS conference in Houston. For contest rules, write to NGS Family History Writing Contest, 4527 17th Street North, Arlington VA 22207-2399. A publication which explains the rules and formats of NGS-published articles is available for \$5 from the same address.

Is There a Doctor in the Family?

If so, the American Medical Association provides a search service of their database on information concerning the professional background and activities of more than 350,000 U.S. physicians from 1878 to 1969. The files usually include dates of birth and death, information on schooling and places of practice, and the obituary from the *Journal of the AMA*. The files are incomplete prior to 1905 but comprehensive after that date. The search fee is \$15 per individual, prepaid by check

or money order. Specify the first and last name—they will not do searches on surnames only—and the time period or location, if known. Write to: American Medical Association, P.O. Box 10623, Chicago, IL 60610.

AJC Oral History Library

The Oral History Library of the American Jewish Committee continues to expand. The materials are now housed at the New York Public Library Jewish Division and contains interviews of more than 2,000 persons, categorized into two broad subject areas: General Biography (memoirs of various prominent American Jews) and Special Collections (thematic). The collections include such topics as American Jews in Israel, Eldridge Street, Hebrew Orphan Asylum, Jewish Repertory Theatre, Jews of Shanghai, Lautenberg Collection of East European Jewish Communities, South African Jews in America, Soviet Jewish Emigrés and many more.

A third catalogue has been published with seven new special collections, entries for over 800 previously unlisted memoirs with a summary of the contents of each, and an alphabetical index of the entire collection listed in all three volumes. It can be purchased for \$15. All three catalogue volumes are available for \$25, or the first two may be purchased separately. Write to: AJC, 165 East 56th Street, New York, NY 10022. Checks are payable to the AJC Oral History Library.

Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center

An informative and detailed description of the holdings of—and means of accessing—the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center at the Balch Institute is provided by Elaine Bunny Kolinsky in the Summer 1993 issue of *Chronicles* (JGS of Philadelphia). The Archives Center has the Philadelphia HIAS collection (records of immigrants and immigrant-related materials) as well as records of various congregations, cemeteries, burial societies, welfare organizations, microfilms of Philadelphia Jewish newspapers and more. The immigrant records themselves often include important genealogical information from interviews, New York arrival data for persons who came via New York but were naturalized in Philadelphia, and cross-references to ship manifests.

Boston Jewish Cemetery Index

Warren Blatt, a Board member of the JGS of Greater Boston and diligent researcher who has contributed important material to the Suwalki-Lomze SIG publication (*Landsmen*), is coordinating a transcription and indexing project of Boston Jewish cemeteries for which there are no other known records. In the Summer 1993 issue of *Mass-pocha* (JGS of Greater Boston), Warren has printed a computerized index of over 800 grave-stones in the Sons of Benjamin Cemetery on Grove Street in West Roxbury, Boston. The index includes

name, date of death and location; the full transcriptions will be published later this year together with those now being compiled from the Beth Abraham Cemetery.

Romanian Special Interest Group Journal

Another newly-formed SIG to publish is the Jewish Genealogical Special Interest Group for Romania, which has produced three issues of *ROM-SIG News* in the past year. The Romanian SIG was born at a Birds-of-a-Feather meeting at the Eleventh Summer Seminar in New York in 1992, and its editor is JGS-New York member Gertrude Singer Ogushwitz. For more information, write to Paul Pascal, 184 Strathearn Road, Toronto, Ontario M6C 1S4, Canada.

South Africa Research

Paul Klein in Cleveland has found some new openings to acquire information from the South African archives. He shares his successful methodology and some useful information in an article in the June 1993 issue of *The Cleveland Kol* (JGS of Cleveland). Correspondence samples make the paper trail requirements clear, and a copy of an updated information guide to genealogical documents provided by the Transvaal Archives Depot gives specific information on how to obtain vital records.

London Research

The *Jewish Chronicle* no longer runs a free "Missing Relatives" column. For a fee it is possible to place an advertisement in their "Personal" advertising column. The *Jewish Chronicle* is located at 25 Furnival Street, London EC4A 1JT, England.

An alternative is to place a listing in the "Reader's Interests" column of *Shemot*, the journal of the JGS of Great Britain. The first listing is free to new members, or £5 for the first 30 words and £1 for each additional ten words; checks or bank drafts must be in British currency and are payable to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain. Send to: 36 Woodstock Road, Golders Green, London, NW11 8ER, England.

The Jewish West End Project is documenting the history of the Jewish community in London's West End, which had an immigrant community from the late 19th century similar to the better-known East End community. A research committee has been established under the auspices of the London Museum of Jewish Life, with a goal of a major exhibition to open in May or June of 1994. The committee, chaired by Sally Fiber, is looking for any family history information, memorabilia and the like. Mrs. Fiber is especially interested in data on former students or members of the Jews Westminster Free School, the West Central Boys Club and the West Central Girls Club. Write to her at 8 New Farm Lane, Northwood, Middlesex, HA6 1HD, England.

European Research Service

A Genealogical Research Center has been established in Geneva, Switzerland to specialize in the area comprising France, Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland and old Prussia. The director is Jacques J. de Guise, and he and his staff claim a number of years of expertise and fluency in several European languages. They will visit ancestral towns, photograph them, provide a history of the area, locate living relatives and research private collections. It is not clear what expertise this group has in specifically Jewish research, or what their fee structure is. The address is Case Postale 187, CH-1211 Geneva 25, Switzerland; tel. 011-41-22789-4195.

Hungarian Census

In 1848 Hungary conducted a census of the Jews throughout the country (including part of modern-day Slovakia). This information has been filmed by the LDS Family History Library. The census is similar in many respects to the 1900 U.S. Census, and includes names, ages, country and city of birth, years of residence for foreigners (both for Hungary and the specific community), occupation and other items. One column classifies the "behavior" of the individual as either good, honest, bearable or suspicious. A useful description of this census and catalogue of the six reels of film is provided by Debbi Korman in the Summer 1993 *Roots-Key* (JGS of Los Angeles).

Ukraine Research

JGS member Miriam Weiner, the coordinator of "Routes to Roots" genealogy tours, describes her personal research and visits in the Ukraine in a copiously illustrated article in the Fall 1993 issue of *Emunah*. Photos of the interiors of the Central and State Archives in Lvov and Kiev; synagogues in Priluki, Kiev, Shepetovka, Kishinev and Ataki (Moldova); the cemetery in Ivano Frankovsk (formerly Stanislawow); old postcards and more are interspersed with descriptions of Miriam's experiences on her various trips.

Israel Research

It is time to start preparing for the Fourth International Seminar next Spring in Jerusalem. *Zichron Note* (San Francisco Bay Area JGS), in its Autumn 1993 issue, has commenced a series that updates resource information for Israel. The articles are by Bob Weiss, SFBA JGS President, and also will appear in part in *Avotaynu*. The first article describes published sources (including various *Avotaynu* articles), Jewish Agency Search Bureau, Yad Vashem, Central Archives, Israel State Archives, Jewish National and University Library, Central Zionist Archives, burial societies and the telephone company. The brief descriptions must be supplemented with one or more of the major published sources.

A second article, to be published in November, will cover sources outside of Jerusalem and will include a guide to public transportation to the various sources.

Guenzburg Manuscripts Microfilmed

The large private collection of Hebrew books and manuscripts amassed by the Guenzburg family of Paris and St. Petersburg, comprising some 2000 manuscripts dating back to medieval times, was incorporated into the Lenin State Library (now the Russian State Library) in Moscow after the death of Baron David Guenzburg in 1910 and became inaccessible for the most part. In Summer 1992, following an agreement between the Russian State Library and the Jewish National and University Library, the entire collection was microfilmed. A complete set of 235 reels of film (1,870 manuscripts) costs \$23,912 plus handling and postage, perhaps somewhat beyond the budget of most readers. However, individual reels can be purchased and are priced at \$.08 per frame. Further information can be obtained from the Institute of Microfilmed Hebrew Manuscripts, Jewish National and University Library, P.O.B. 503, Jerusalem 91004; fax 972-2-511-771.

Jewish Tour to Latvia and Lithuania

Enterprise World Travel is offering a 12-day trip from New York to Copenhagen; Vilnius and Kaunas, Lithuania; and Riga, Latvia for \$2,299 on SAS. A one-day optional "roots" tour, in which participants can search for their families' hometowns or surviving relatives, is also available. To prepare for the trip, participants are advised to read *Lithuanian Jewish Communities* by Stuart and Nancy Schoenberg (Garland Publishing, 1991). For further information, contact Enterprise World Travel, 1150 Connecticut Ave. NW #515, Washington, DC 20036; 202-296-7050; fax 202-296-4213.

Roots IV is Here

The latest version in the *Roots* programs, *Roots IV*, is now available. An upgrade from *Roots II* or *Roots III* is \$79. Competitive upgrade from any other genealogical software program is \$99. The list price is \$195. For information call Commsoft at 800-32-ROOTS.

Hebraica & Judaica Auction

Swann Galleries in New York City is holding its semi-annual auction of Hebraica and Judaica on December 16, at 10:30 AM. These auctions often include items of genealogical interest. An illustrated catalogue is available for \$25. Swann is located at 104 East 25th Street, New York, NY 10010; 212-254-4710.

Reunion Planning Guide

Holiday Inn Worldwide is distributing a free 50-page guide to planning family, military and school re-

unions. Contact Holiday Inn Reunion Planning Guide, 3 Ravinia Dr., Suite 2000, Atlanta, GA 30346-2149; 800-447-7300.

Jewish Sites in Denmark

Denmark: Jewish Points of Interest is a free booklet available from the Danish Tourist Board, 655 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10017; 212-949-2326.

Book Reviews

Using Roots III - A Step By Step Guide. By Terry and Jim Willard. 1993. \$22.95 plus \$3.00 p&h. PC Ancestry, RFD 1 Box 620, Greene, ME 04236; 800-441-5220.

The latest independent supplementary manual to using Commssoft's genealogical computer program, *Roots III*, provides a clear, concise and direct approach to getting around within the program. Once you find the desired section, the format of the Willards' step-by-step instruction is crystal clear. Every step is broken down into its most detailed component with no previous knowledge on the part of the reader assumed. The visual format is refreshingly well-organized and easy to read. Every point is illuminated in neat rows and columns of numbered, shaded boxes, complete with notes about what to expect to see on the screen before and after each step, notes about what *Roots III* will do with the information once it is entered, and most reassuringly, cross references to the applicable pages in Commssoft's *Roots III* manual where one can look for further information.

Unfortunately, the topical references are somewhat lacking, making it difficult to locate the needed topic at a glance. The organization of the book's sections corresponds exactly to the main menu layout of the program. Indeed, studying the Unit and Chapter headings actually helps in learning how to move within the program. However, the table of contents does not disclose the names of the units. One must turn to the first page of each unit to discover its topic. This makes for further inefficiency in locating the needed section. In practice, questions often arise in the context of attempting to implement a desired task, e.g., linking parents to an individual's record. If you do not already know which menu section one needs to utilize for the task at hand, one needs a topical look-up tool, such as an index. The most unfortunate weakness of the Willard book is its lack of an index.

Perhaps the authors tried to compensate by providing lengthy descriptions for each chapter title. However, the chapter titles are so lengthy that it becomes inefficient to scan the table of contents for the described topic. It would have been helpful if the table of contents

at least highlighted key words. Because each chapter title begins with the phrase "How to...", the reader must read past all the "how-tos" to locate the subject of the chapter.

One perhaps unavoidable pitfall of trying to simplify instructions for a versatile program which has many features, is that it may be impossible to simplify instructions for readers who don't want to get confused by lots of details without omitting descriptions of the very options and tools that make a sophisticated program such as *Roots III* a delight to use. For example, the authors begin each series of steps from the *Roots III* main menu. One of the beauties of using the program is that there are actually many shortcuts. Instead of going back to the main menu and pressing, say, [N] for a names search, you can press [Alt-N] from any place at all within the program, which could save several keystrokes. In fact, the entire main menu can be accessed by pressing [Alt] and viewing all the first letters of the main menu at a special shortcut menu bar at the bottom edge of the screen. It would be nice if future editions of this book include an added column to show alternate methods of accessing the facilities described. These alternative access notes would not necessarily clutter the simplicity of the book's design for beginner users if the notes were in a separate column which could be ignored by beginners, if they so choose.

In conclusion, *Using Roots III - A Step by Step Guide* is a useful tool for beginners. However, once users gets started, they will need to enhance their reference collection with additional resources which are more look-up oriented and which provide pathways into the more uniquely powerful versatility of *Roots III* which has made it the state-of-the-art genealogical software package.

Commssoft has announced a new release, *Roots IV*, which will be available in late 1993. Although the new release will have a quite different user interface, this book may prove useful in the meantime, and/or for users who wish to delay upgrading to *Roots IV* until the Windows version comes out in mid-1994. In any case, it should be noted that Terry and Jim Willard are already working on a guide to *Roots IV*. We hope that their new guide will follow the same logical and clear format as their *Using Roots III* guide, but that it will incorporate an index and a better table of contents to enable faster access to their excellent instructions.

Susannah R. Juni

German-English Genealogical Dictionary. By Ernest Thode. 1992. xxxv, 286 pp., paper. \$29.95 plus \$3.00 p&h. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687.

A more appropriate title for this useful volume would have been *German-English and Latin-English*

Genealogical Dictionary. On many pages, up to half the words translated are Latin. Thus the buyer is getting a two-for-one value. And the book lives up to its name. The author has created a comprehensive reference work that includes many combination words, abbreviations or acronyms, legal terms and family relationships, geographic and historical terms and much more. One might argue that at times he overdoes it—as in 19 words in sequence describing various forms of stomach ailments (cold, spasm, cancer, bellyache, etc.)—but that thoroughness is more often to the benefit of the genealogist struggling to use Cassell's or Langenscheidt's Dictionary to translate an obscure compound word.

The dictionary is organized in a manner that focuses on the needs of the genealogist who does not know German. Thus there is no etymology, grammar or pronunciation guide; but at the same time there are no separate listings for abbreviations or place names, no separation of words with and without umlauts, and no nesting of portions of compound words. Everything is listed in alphabetic order, and words with umlauts are also re-listed with an "e" (e.g. Königsberg is also listed, in its alphabetic location, as Koenigsberg).

In his zeal to include any possible terms involving family relationships, Mr. Thode includes many compound words which are likely to be rarely encountered but that are not easily found if at all in the standard German dictionaries. Where else would you find out, for example, that Keuschheitsehe means unconsummated marriage, or that Kinderentfuehrer(in) means kidnapper of children. In the process, he includes numerous words and terms of importance to genealogists, including obscure abbreviations (s.v. = siehe vorn = see in front/above; S.v. = Sohn von = son of; s.w.v. = siehe weiter vorn = see above), real estate and legal terms (Grunderwerb = acquisition of land) or occupations (Knoespler = wooden shoe maker). I could find none of these examples in Cassell's Dictionary.

Any genealogist working with documents in the German language—or in the Latin language—would profit from the presence of this book on his bookshelf. Perhaps some enterprising author will do the same thing for Polish, Russian or Hebrew some day.

A. Friedlander

Guide to Genealogy Software. By Donna Przecha and Joan Lowrey. 1993. 206 pp., paper. \$24.95 plus \$3.00 p&h. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687.

If anyone doubted that the amount of genealogical software has proliferated to the point of chaos for someone trying to decide which program to use, this book dispels any such doubts. The authors found 155 programs to review, including 32 major tree-making GED-COM-compatible programs, 9 others that are not GED-

COM-compatible, no less than 86 utility programs, and 28 miscellaneous programs such as data bases and shareware useful to genealogists. The book is billed by the publisher as "a Consumer's Guide to genealogy software," and the authors state in the Preface that their original intention "was to provide a complete list and evaluation of all currently available genealogy software."

The authors of this book are certainly qualified to accomplish such a task. Ms. Przecha is the author of two books on *Roots III*, a founding member of the Computer Genealogy Society of San Diego and a regular contributor to several magazines on genealogical computing. Ms. Lowrey has written two books on *Personal Ancestral File*, teaches classes in this software and is also a founding member of the San Diego society, past president and current editor of its newsletter. The book starts off promisingly with a well thought out section describing the various types of traits to evaluate in genealogical software, and what kind of questions to ask about these features.

But, as the authors note in their Preface, it became impossible to achieve their original intention. Citing the wide variety of programs, the entry and exit of programs from the market as well as frequent upgrades, and the different goals of various software products, the authors decided that "to do an in-depth analysis of so many programs would be presumptuous." Instead, they did a sampling of programs, including all the more popular or important software, presenting "concepts and guidelines." That might still have worked if the authors were successful in their attempt to "point out characteristics of a program that are markedly different from other programs."

Unfortunately, the manner in which the book is organized makes it quite difficult to obtain such comparisons. Each program is written up separately, with information divided into a few categories (basics, data entry, data management, printed charts, other features, and comments). The categories do not match the categories of traits outlined in the first part of the book, and are only loosely organized to be comparable between programs. This problem is compounded by the use of one single paragraph for each category, which can run as long as half or three-quarters of a page for major programs. There is no use of indents, tables or other devices to make it easy to identify the points covered under each general category and thus compare to another program.

For example, compare three major programs under the category Data Entry. *Family Roots* (which, judging by the skimpy writeup, was not very carefully reviewed) starts off, "Eight million names, unlimited marriages per person and children per marriage." Nothing is said about how data is entered. *Family Tree Maker* starts off, "1200 individuals per file, multiple files supported,

99 marriages per individual, 99 children per marriage." A detailed description of the family "card" method of data entry follows. *Roots III* starts off, "Data entered through individual edit screen and marriage edit screen. Maximum of 65,000 names..." Nothing more is said about what is on the edit screen, and information on the number of marriages is 14 lines further in the paragraph.

A major shortcoming of this book is the lack of consistency in narrating the key features of each program, both in terms of what is included and the order in which the features are described, as well as the lack of a more easily visualized arrangement of the information. On the other hand, there are over 70 charts illustrating the types of reports and printouts produced by the programs. This is a very useful aspect of the book, although again hampered by inconsistency. It is not clear, for example, whether only those programs which show descendant charts are capable of producing them or whether others can do so as well. It would also be helpful to know the number of users of each program. The relative popularity of a program is some indication both of its value and also of the likelihood of support through either the company that produces it or through fellow users. The extent of the writeup for each program in the book is no necessary indication; the brief description referred to above of *Family Roots* belies the fact that over 17,000 copies have been sold, according to the March/April 1993 *NGS/CIG Digest* (National Genealogical Society Computer Interest Group).

Ultimately any attempt to present a guide to genealogical software is going to run into a problem identified by the authors in the Preface: the frequent upgrades and changes in the programs. At least two of the three programs cited as examples above already have updated versions on the market that have different parameters from those cited in the book. For example, *Family Tree Maker* now has a version 3.0 that allows 2400 instead of 1200 individuals per file. Perhaps inquiries to the companies producing the software might have identified more of the upcoming changes (no mention is made of *Roots IV* although it was being promoted many months in advance), but that would only extend the time frame of validity by a limited amount.

Guide to Genealogy Software is certainly of interest as a reference tool to be consulted, but should not be viewed as a primary means of deciding what program to buy. Reviews in such computer genealogy journals as the *NGS/CIG Digest* or *Computer Rooters Quarterly*, examination of specific software or demonstration disks, evaluations from current users, and perusal of more detailed discussions such as those found in *Computer Genealogy* (ed. Richard Pearce and revised 1991—reviewed in Autumn 1991 *Dorot*) should all be primary sources in making an intelligent decision. It would, however, be nice to see a comprehensive, well-structured

and definitive evaluation of the various genealogical software packages. The seeds of such a book are in the *Guide to Genealogy Software*. Perhaps a future edition will come closer to that goal.

A. Friedlander

State Census Records. By Ann S. Lainhart. 1992. 116 pp. \$17.95 plus \$3.00 p&h. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687.

This is a useful, well-organized and easy-to-use guide to the types of information in, years collected and where to find State Census records. The author, a professional genealogist and former reference librarian at the New England Historic Genealogical Society in Boston, has combed each census for each state to describe in detail what can be found and where it can be accessed.

In addition to the fact that some early Federal censuses (including most of 1890) are missing, there are also significant differences in information available from the State and Federal censuses. For example, the 1925 Iowa state census asked for the names of parents, including the mother's maiden name; the 1875 and earlier censuses in New York asked for county of birth in New York; the 1905 Rhode Island census included information on the number of years resident in Rhode Island and the number of months resident during the census year in the town. Furthermore, some states have made census records after 1920 available. The 1925 censuses for Iowa, Kansas, New York, North Dakota, Rhode Island and South Dakota are open to the public, as are the 1935 censuses in Florida, Rhode Island and South Dakota and even the 1945 censuses in Florida and South Dakota. But because the state censuses are less consistent (some states like Pennsylvania or Ohio have none), not as universally available and less well-known, many genealogists tend to focus only on the Federal census documents. This book removes any excuse for not seeking out the often valuable information to be found in the State census records.

Organized alphabetically by each state that has taken a State census since 1790 (all but eight have), the book provides information for each state on the depository of the original records and how to access them; whether the records are available from the Family History Library (the Mormons have filmed much of this material); the contents of any indexes, published or otherwise; and most importantly, each item listed for each census. The information provided appears to be accurate, although the description of sources is not complete (as the introduction states).

This is a reference work that should be consulted by anyone doing genealogical work in census records, and

that should be owned by anyone engaged in serious genealogical research.

A. Friedlander

American Passenger Arrival Records. By Michael Tepper. 1993. 144 pp., cloth. \$19.95 plus \$3.00 p&h. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687.

While this book is a scholarly overview of the origins, contents and development of the various records kept of passengers arriving by ship in the United States, it is not a comprehensive guide to the genealogist on how to use these records. The book does contain good information on the years for which lists and indexes are available at each port, and the microfilm series number in the National Archives. This information is both contained in the narrative and listed in tables. However, there is no easily found presentation of the details of the information contained in these lists unless one prowls through the narrative, and no discussion at all of how to use the indexes to reference the page and list numbers, which is one of the more complex tasks facing the genealogist in attempting to access the lists.

The author, the managing editor of Genealogical Publishing Company (the book's publisher), is clearly an authority on the history and complex details of these lists. He spells out in well-written chapters the origins of the list requirements, the ways in which the lists were kept and transferred between depositories, and the details of record availability by port. The book is organized by the three basic periods of record keeping: the Colonial period; the era of Customs Passenger Lists (basically 1820 to 1897 with later dates in a few ports), and the modern Immigration Passenger Lists (from 1897 onwards, with a few earlier dates in some ports). Tables at the end of the chapters on the Customs and Immigration lists (starting at pp. 96 and 125) summarize the dates for which original lists or copies/abstracts were kept, the National Archives microfilm series numbers, and similar information on indexes. These tables are one of the more useful features of the book, but they are updated and rearranged versions of the information in the *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives* and thus much of the information can be found there as well.

There is a two-page discussion of the Canadian Border entry records at the end of the chapter on Immigration Passenger Lists (p. 121) as well as a brief appendix on the Hamburg emigration lists. However, as with the main body of the book, these are general descriptions of the development of this information and how the current records can be accessed, with little useful "how-to" detail for genealogists.

The book is an "updated and enlarged" version of the original 1988 publication. The enlargement is a total

of eight pages. There is, of course, appropriate updating to include newly filmed or indexed material, new and ongoing projects and publications, and the like. Researchers using this book should make sure they are using the 1993 version, as the two are virtually identical in appearance and content, even to the cover illustration.

American Passenger Arrival Records would become a much more valuable book if it included detailed guidance on how to actually use the indexes and lists to find information. In its present format it stands as a well-researched survey of these records that will be of interest to scholars and professional genealogists. Most genealogists will find that other available sources in libraries and archives provide all the information they need.

A. Friedlander

From the Editor

In the Spring 1992 issue of *Dorot* we reported on the correspondence between Ancestry and *Dorot* concerning Ancestry's decision to put a "hold" on review copies because of unfavorable reviews. We invited reactions from our readers on this subject. Very few readers responded, but most of those who did agreed with *Dorot's* position.

Alan Katzenstein said to "tell it like it is...tell us what's good and [what is not]." Sita Likuski wrote directly to Ancestry and copied us; she told Ancestry that she felt *Dorot's* reviews were balanced, disagreed that the reviews were so negative, and pointed out that "I depend on reviews from *Dorot* and other Jewish genealogical newsletters to make my purchasing decisions." The new managing editor at that time (July 1992) replied to Mrs. Likuski, telling her that he was "concerned about the message that has been communicated to the Jewish research community via the *Dorot* publication. I believe that all scholarly reviews are valuable not only for the marketplace, but also for the publisher." He copied us on his letter to Mrs. Likuski, but Ancestry never contacted *Dorot* directly.

Dr. Milton Goldsamt noted that a review "can be considered a *market test resource*" and that "Reviews can serve as a source of reactions or suggestions for improving a publishing house's products so that they better fit the needs of a specific target audience." Dr. Goldsamt believes that "A critical review should be viewed as an ongoing process to improve book quality" and suggested that reviewers "are making *constructive rather than critical* comments."

At least one reader partially supported Ancestry. Gary Mokotoff, publisher of *Avotaynu*, pointed out that a publisher has every right to decide to whom they wish to send review copies.

New Books, Etc.

Of Jewish Interest

Sidney Sorkin. *Bridges to an American City: A Guide to Chicago's Landsmanshaften, 1870 to 1990*. Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., 1993. 480 pp., cloth. \$68.95 plus \$3.00 p&h. The author identifies almost 700 of the groups that existed in Chicago at one time or another. Order from the publisher at 62 West 45th Street, New York, NY 10036; 212-764-1471.

Der Judenfriedhof Endingen-Lengnau. Menes Verlag Baden, 1993. 400 pp. in 2 vol. Sfr 100. An illustrated catalogue of inscriptions of the graves of some 2,700 persons buried since 1750 in the joint cemetery of the Jewish communities of Endingen and Lengnau. From the 17th to 19th centuries, these were the only localities in Switzerland in which Jews were allowed to live. Order from the publisher at Postfach 5070, 5405 Baden (AG), Switzerland.

Of General Interest

William F. Hoffman. *Polish Surnames: Origins & Meanings*. Polish Genealogical Society of America, 1993. 295 pp., paper. \$16.50. Includes a section on Jewish surnames in Poland. Order from the publisher at 984 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, IL 60622.

Joel R. Simon. *1866 Brooklyn Marriage Index*. The author, 1993. 66 pp., paper. \$9.00 postpaid (\$9.77 for NY State residents). An index to the 844 marriages recorded in Brooklyn in 1866 comprises 25 pages of this book. There are bride and groom indexes, each listing the matching spouse, date of marriage and certificate number. Because records were kept starting in April, an appendix lists marriages recorded in the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* from January to April. Other appendixes index matrimonial actions (divorces), and supplementary information on the married parties such as children born in 1867. Introductory material provides advice for further research. This is the first volume of a projected series. Order from Mr. Simon at P.O. Box 201, Oceanside, NY 11572-0201; 516-536-5048.

Gen-Book (version 2.1) is a new computer program that permits constructing a book directly from *PAF 2.2* data files into *WordPerfect 5.0/5.1* files or *WordPerfect for Windows*. Various ID numbering systems and formats can be used, and *WordPerfect* will generate a table of contents and a name index. The program also works with Microsoft's *Word for Windows 2.0*. *Gen-Book* costs \$59.95 (\$64.30 for California residents) and requires an IBM or compatible computer. The software

can be ordered from Clement Custom Programming, 2105 Country Lane, Auburn CA 95603.

John Maxtone-Graham. *Crossing & Cruising: From the Golden Era of Ocean Liners to the Luxury Cruise Ships of Today*. Charles Scribner's Sons, 1992. 311 pp., cloth. \$30.00. Chapter 1, "Emigrating to New York," describes the facilities for departing emigrants at European ports, and the conditions for steerage (third class) passengers on board the ships, at the turn of this century. Order from the publisher at 866 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

The following two items are available from Russell D. Earnest Associates, P.O. Box 490, Damascus, MD 20872-0490; 301-253-9070.

- *Make Heirlooms Part of Your Family History* by Russell D. Earnest. \$9.50 plus \$2 p&h.
- *The What Shall I Write Handbook: for Editors of Family and Genealogy Society Newsletters*. 80 pp., paper. \$16 plus \$2 p&h.

John Philip Colletta. *Finding Italian Roots: The Complete Guide for Americans*. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1993. 129 pp., paper. \$11.95 plus \$3.00 p&h. The author is a well-known genealogical lecturer and author who spoke at the 1992 Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in New York. Order from: 1001 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21202-3897; 800-296-6687.

JGS Welcomes New Members

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Matilda Brandwine
J. Michael Eisner
Jerome Entin
Frances Gerson
Ava Gorkin
James M. Herzberg
Lloyd Jassin
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New Haven, CT
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