

That you might recount it to a future generation

למען תספרו לדור אחרון

Psalms 48:14

DOROT

דורות

תהליכים מ"ד:14

The Journal of the Jewish Genealogical Society

Volume 10, Number 2

Winter 1988-89

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Visit to the New York Public Library - U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy Division -- February 15, 1989

Our February meeting will be held in the U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy Division (Room 315N) of the New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, on Wednesday, February 15, 1989, at 6:00 PM. Since the Genealogy Division closes to the public at 5:45 PM, we will enter at 6:00 PM (**sharp!**) through the rear entrance to the room, located near the 42nd Street elevators.

Participants will be given a brief orientation to the materials available in the Genealogy Division and will then be able to do research there and in the adjoining Microforms Division until the library closes at 9:00 P.M.

Where was Bubbie Born? The Changing Map of Europe, 1492-1952 -- March 19, 1989

JGS President Emeritus, Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, will offer a lecture/slide presentation on the historical geography of Europe, from the expulsion of the Jews from Spain until after World War II.

This meeting will be held at 2:00 PM at our regular meeting place: the third floor of the Central Synagogue Community House, 123 East 55th Street, between Park and Lexington Avenues in Manhattan. Everyone is invited to the *schmooze* session at 1:30

to swap genealogical problems, solutions and anecdotes.

Philadelphia Preview -- Plus -- En Route to the Golden Land -- April 16, 1989

Our April meeting will be held at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, 1 West 4th Street (corner Broadway), beginning at 1:30 PM. The afternoon will be comprised of two separate events. At 1:30, a panel of JGS members will discuss the various research facilities in Philadelphia in anticipation of the upcoming Summer Seminar there from June 25-29th.

At 3:00 we are all invited to attend a lecture at HUC-JIR by Professor Pamela Nadell of American University. In her program, "En Route to the Golden Land," Professor Nadell will describe the European emigration process and "business" from 1881-1914, including such topics as illegal border crossings, German control stations, train transportation, steamship voyages, etc.

Book Celebration Party -- May 21, 1989

Keep this date open for a party to celebrate the publication, by the JGS, of *Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area*, edited by JGS Vice President, Estelle M. Guzik. Details will follow.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Field Trip to Albany, NY -- Sunday/Monday, April 2-3, 1989

An informal field trip is being planned for people who would enjoy doing research in Albany at New York State repositories. For the most part, Albany offers materials from all parts of the state, other

than New York City, as well as local Albany (City and County) records.

However, the State Library does have the originals of the 1915 and 1925 state censuses for the entire state, including NYC. Marriage and death indices more than 50 years old, and birth indices over 75

years old are also available for upstate counties and cities (with a few exceptions) at the NYS Health Department.

The Best Western Hotel, which is not far from the Empire State Plaza (where these repositories are situated), is offering a group rate of \$40/night for a single room, \$46/night for a double, providing we reserve a minimum of 15 rooms. The cost is not much higher if we don't achieve the group rate.

If a sizeable group is formed, every effort will be made to have an orientation at the hotel on Sunday evening, April 2nd; and it may be possible to arrange to get together with some local Jewish genealogists.

For more information contact: Marsha Saron Dennis, 212/749-2219.

The Eighth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, Philadelphia, PA, June 25-June 29, 1989

The JGS of Philadelphia will sponsor this year's Summer Seminar, "The Philadelphia Connection," from Sunday, June 25 to Thursday, June 29, 1989, at the Holiday Inn, Independence Mall, 4th and Arch Streets.

Registration will take place Sunday afternoon, with the first Seminar function a 5:00 PM Welcome Reception at the nearby National Museum of American Jewish History. The Museum will have two interesting exhibits on display: "The American Jewish Experience," a narrative survey of more than three centuries of Jewish life in America; and JGS (NY) Executive Council member Karen Spiegel

Franklin's comprehensive exhibit of family history and genealogy, "L'dor Va Dor: From Generation to Generation."

Attendees will receive a syllabus upon registration, and there will be an orientation meeting at 8:00 PM on Sunday evening, featuring directors of the major research facilities, who will describe their holdings.

Seminar registrants will be able to do research at many fine resource centers in Philadelphia such as the Balch Institute, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Gratz College, Regional Branch of the National Archives, Free Library of Philadelphia, etc.

The schedule is designed to maximize daytime hours for research, and late afternoon and evening hours for lectures. "Birds-Of-A-Feather" meetings for groups sharing common concerns are also being planned.

On Wednesday, June 28th, Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern will address a combined meeting of Seminar registrants and members of the National Museum of American Jewish History in the Sanctuary of Mikveh Israel, the second oldest congregation in the US.

Later that same day, Dan Rottenberg, author of *Finding Our Fathers*, (and one of the founders of the JGS) will be the featured speaker at the banquet.

If you haven't already received material about the Seminar from the Philadelphia JGS and would like more information, write to: Jon E. Stein, Chairman, 332 Harrison Avenue, Elkins Park, PA 19117. Please enclose SASE.

CONFERENCE CALENDAR

The 1989 National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference, "Journey into Your Past," will be held in St. Paul, MN, May 17-20. John Phillip Coletta will speak at their banquet on "Our Ancestral Towns in Europe: No Package Tours Available."

American Jewish Historical Society
May 18-22, Los Angeles, CA

Association of Jewish Libraries
June 18-21, Washington, DC

Note: Federation of Genealogical Societies 1989 Conference, scheduled to be held August 16-19 in Seattle, WA, has been canceled. Their next planned Conference will be held August 15-18, 1990 in Salt Lake City.

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JGS NEWS

New Executive Council Elected

The 1989 Executive Council was elected at the December 18, 1988, meeting of the JGS. The officers are President, Steven W. Siegel; Vice-Presidents, Marsha Saron Dennis and Estelle M. Guzik; Secretary, Eileen Polakoff; Treasurer, Gary Mokotoff; and President Emeritus, Malcolm H. Stern.

The other members of the Executive Council are Debra Braverman, Michael Brenner, Sandra Cohen, Jeffrey K. Cymbler, Nancy Deutsch-Sinderbrand, Joseph Fibel, Karen Franklin, Alex E. Friedlander, Sheila Kieval and Miriam Weiner.

The JGS thanks most sincerely Ira S. Goldberg, David M. Kleiman, Andrew Siegel and Gwynn Russler Zatz for their past service on the Council.

New Program Chairman

Jeff Cymbler has agreed to become our new Program Chairman. Our thanks to Ira Goldberg, who served in that position for a year-and-a-half, for having carried out his responsibilities so ably and graciously.

New Editor of *Dorot*

Beginning with this issue, JGS Vice President Marsha Saron Dennis will be the Editor of *Dorot*. Steven Siegel will remain as Contributing Editor.

Andy Siegel and Karen Franklin edited *Dorot* for two years and did a superb job. Andy specialized in production, while Karen gathered and edited the text. During the course of Karen's term as editor, *Dorot* won the National Genealogical Society's newsletter competition for organizations in our class (from 300 to 1,000 members). We are all extremely grateful to

Karen and Andy. They set very high standards for *Dorot*, and we hope we will be able to build on their excellent record. To Andy and Karen from everyone in the JGS: Thank you.

News from the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies

In a memorandum to Member Societies, AJGS President Gary Mokotoff announced the formation of three new JGS's: Miami, Broward County (Florida) and the Capital District (Albany, NY). Gary wrote, "All are the result of efforts by Miriam Weiner who lectures nationally on Jewish genealogy." One hundred fifty people showed up at Miriam's lecture in Albuquerque, NM, and an assessment is being made on the feasibility of starting a JGS there as well.

Gary and Miriam have developed a 32-document starter kit to assist these new societies. The package includes "everything you would ever need" to run a JGS, including samples of meeting announcements, memberships applications, bylaws, newsletters, etc.

Gary reported that the response to the microfiche project (See *Dorot*, Volume 10, Number 1) has been excellent, and the project is proceeding.

On the other hand, the newsletter indexing project has not been as enthusiastically received. Gary requests that each JGS designate a person to index its newsletter, and send the name of the designee to AJGS Secretary, Laura Klein, 1062 S. Alvira Street, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

Finally, Gary reported that AJGS had thus far received its annual contribution from 21 societies.

NEWS FOR COMPUTER GENEALOGISTS

We have received the following items from JGS Secretary Eileen Polakoff, who is also co-chairperson of the New York Personal Computer Genealogy and Family History Special Interest Group:

The NYPC Genealogy and Family History SIG will meet at 6:15 PM on Thursday, March 23, 1989, at Community Service Society, 105 East 22nd Street, 4th floor conference room. The topic will be an overview of Commsoft's Roots III software. Roots III offers many powerful features for handling family information and deserves serious consideration from

anyone using a personal computer for genealogy and family history work.

Attention PAF Users! Since the release of version 2.1 in Spring 1988, there have been upgrades and updates to PAF. To order the latest version, 2.13D, send a copy of the registration card supplied to PAF owners, along with a letter requesting replacement floppy disks. Write to PAF Unit, Salt Lake Distribution Center, 199 West 1700 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104.

PAST PROGRAMS

An Overview of Polish Research - November 20, 1988

Our speaker, Jonathan D. Shea, is the founder and President of the Polish Genealogy Society of Connecticut and a faculty member of the Language Department of the Central Connecticut State University.

The first part of his presentation was a slide show with taped narration which gave an introduction to Polish history, geography, record keeping and emigration patterns.

The principal Polish archives is in Warsaw, with regional archives located in each of the 49 provincial capitals. The records are in a variety of languages, such as Latin, Polish, Russian, German, Yiddish, etc., depending on when and where they were generated.

After the audio-visual part of the program, Jonathan addressed issues of genealogical research in Poland now. Despite the destruction of some records during World War II, the vast amount of Polish vital statistical information still exists. The Polish government has an official Archives Department that does genealogical research for foreigners searching their roots.

It was recommended that a researcher should know a number of key words in those languages in which a document might be recorded--words such as "born," "died," "married," "witness," etc. Judy Frazin of the JGS of Illinois has put together a translation guide for 19th-century Polish documents. Jonathan has written a similar book for documents in Russian. Translation guides for other languages are also available.

Researchers should keep in mind that ancestors' names were probably different before they emigrated. And it was also suggested that requests for information from Poland be written in Polish to speed up the process.

All records for that part of Poland controlled by Russia were moved to Soviet archives and are not currently available. Passport information from areas that were previously part of Austria are now kept in Vienna. However, vital statistics from those (previously-Austrian) areas were kept in local registers.

The mayors of Polish towns kept the day-to-day records of town events. If the town had no town hall, these ledgers were sometimes kept in the Mayor's home -- and might be found there today.

Some of the old population books, in which people moving from one town to another had to register, can still be found in the local town hall.

In conclusion, Jonathan said that Polish records can be found in official archives, town halls and even private homes. Moreover a great deal of the material has been microfilmed and is available at Mormon Family History Centers. The Polish Genealogy Society of Connecticut, one of a number of such societies in the U.S., maintains substantial archival materials, including cemetery and burial records (for non-Jews).

In answer to a question about sending money to Poland with research requests, Jonathan suggested sending small amounts of dollars as a contribution; the amount should be determined by how much work is to be done.

--Joseph Fibel

Russian Business Directories of the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries: An Unusual Source for the Genealogist -- December 18, 1988

Our speaker was Harold Rhode, President of the JGS of Greater Washington. Since his lecture at the Seventh Summer Seminar in Washington last June, when he spoke about Russian Business Directories he had found in the Library of Congress and in the Slavonic Division of the New York Public Library, Harold has found more sources of interest for genealogists researching Russian and Soviet families.

The NYPL has some business directories (called "Calendar for all Russia") for 1895, 1899, 1902-03 and 1911-12. A 1913 supplement for the 1912-13 directory can be found at Columbia University. The 1911-12 directory includes an alphabetical list of Gubernias and Oblasts (provinces and districts).

There is a Business Directory for all Lithuania in 1922, when the Baltic States (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) were independent countries.

City directories, entitled "Vsia [all] + town name," exist for many cities including Kovno and Warsaw. Since Russian names include the patronymic, it is often easy to identify Jews; and some communities seem to show a high percentage of Jews.

Va'ad Ha-hevrah (in Microform Division of the Library of Congress), published for 1890-1901 -- first in Hebrew, later in Russian -- lists by towns the

donors to agricultural colonies in Syria and Palestine. If the NYPL has any of these volumes, check the catalogue under: Russia -- History and Culture.

Harold cautioned that researchers would do better to use pre-revolutionary Russian maps (before 1917), as the Soviet maps are deliberately distorted. He also pointed out that the researcher should be alert to changes of town names. For instance, St. Petersburg became Petrograd in World War I, and since 1918 has been known as Leningrad.

Harold found some of the sources in a bibliography of all pre-revolutionary books, published in Russia by Zayankowski.

--Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern

Surrogate's Court Records -- January 22, 1989

JGS member B-Ann Moorhouse spoke to the group on the use of Surrogate's Court records for genealogical research. B-Ann, a Certified Genealogist, has a long career working for attorneys who specialize in settling estates.

The files in Surrogate's Court deal with assets. The majority are probate, when someone has died and left an estate. The Surrogate "probates," or approves a will. If someone dies intestate, without a will, the assets must be administered.

Although the circumstances surrounding probates may differ, the basic procedure is the same and all papers, which are public documents, contain the same types of information. B-Ann recommends *Black's Law Dictionary* as the best reference in order to understand the legal terminology in the records.

When a person dies intestate, a close relative petitions the court for Letters of Administration. The petition lists all relatives, degree of relationship, addresses, certification of death and estimates of the value of all property. When the petition is approved, after a court hearing, Letters of Administration are issued and an administrator is appointed; this enables the estate to be distributed.

When a person leaves a will which names an executor, the petition is for Letters Testamentary. The petition contains the will's date, those named in the will, those entitled to inherit if there were no will and the estate's estimated value. After several

administrative steps and notices of petition to nonrelatives mentioned in the will, the petition is filed, there is a court hearing and the will is admitted to probate.

On occasion, special circumstances may require a change in the proceedings. If the named executor does not want to or cannot serve, he or she signs a Renunciation which allows an alternate to file a petition for special Letters of Administration. A similar situation exists if the executor dies during the proceedings.

Other circumstances require searches. If the original will is in a safe deposit box which is sealed after the death, application is made for an Order to Search Safe Deposit Box. This allows limited access, in the presence of witnesses, in order to locate the will. A similar situation may exist if the deceased's home has been sealed. In this instance, the application is for an Order to Search Premises.

A citation is issued to any person entitled to receive notification of petition filing and hearing. If no response is made to the citation, consent to the will's provisions is assumed. Such notifications may be made by mail or personal service, or, if an address is unknown, by newspaper notice.

In certain cases guardians are appointed. A testamentary guardian serves unknown heirs. A more familiar case is that of the general guardian, who serves a minor child. The general guardian files a petition for Letters of General Guardianship and serves jointly with the Surrogate. While a general guardian must file an annual report concerning the estate's assets and expenditures, a testamentary guardian does not have to formally account for the estate in court, unless challenged.

There are several different types of wills which are acceptable in New York State. Besides the usual type drawn up by a lawyer, these include holographic (handwritten) wills, oral (nuncupative) wills, and joint and mutual wills, which are made by married couples.

B-Ann cautioned researchers that although the petition is the substantive portion, the many other papers also in the file can be extremely useful. Through the examination of these files, one may be able to discover heretofore unknown relatives.

--Debra Braverman

NOTES FROM ALL OVER

The November-December 1988 issue of *NGS Newsletter* features an article about the JGS. The article, part of our award for winning the 1987 NGS Genealogical Newsletter competition in our class, was prepared by Marsha Dennis (with a lot of help from Steve Siegel).

Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion has announced an exhibition of paintings by Mikhail Turovsky, "Shoah." The paintings were created by Mr. Turovsky after his 1980 arrival in the U.S. from the Soviet Union. The exhibition, in the HUC-JIR Brookdale Center, will run from February 7 to July 28, 1989. Gallery hours are 10 AM - 4 PM, Monday - Friday, and on selected Sundays. In conjunction with the exhibit, HUC is offering a series of programs on the Russian Jewish Experience. In addition to Dr. Pamela Nadell's presentation (see Upcoming Programs section for April), on March 5th Dr. Hannah Kliger will present a lecture titled "Home Away from Home: Jewish Immigrant Associations in America," and on March 12th Dr. Dan Jacobs will discuss "Is there a Future for Jews in the USSR?" The lecture programs, also in the Brookdale Center, all begin at 3 PM.

The January 1989 newsletter from the Illiana JGS informed readers that the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture is collecting names of Lithuanians who came to the US before World War I. Write to the Museum's Genealogy Department, 6500 S. Pulaski, Chicago, IL 60629 to receive a questionnaire.

The November 1988 National Archives Calendar of Events had an article on the preservation of records. The article described techniques used by the Archives, and concluded: "Two helpful sources of information on archival quality supplies, readings on preservation topics, and the availability of conservation treatment services are The Society of American Archivists, 600 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605, and The American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, 1400 16th Street NW, Washington, DC 20036."

"Disease and Death in the Nineteenth Century: A Genealogical Perspective," by James Byars Carter, MD, in *National Genealogical Society Quarterly*, December 1988, includes a glossary of medical terms

and definitions. The article is adapted from Dr. Carter's paper, "Early Diseases, Epidemics and Terminology of the Nineteenth Century," presented at the 1988 NGS Conference in Biloxi, MS. Dr. Carter's original presentation was taped by Triad, and is available from them at PO Box 120, Toulon, IL 61483. Order Tape No. BIL-101.

Suzan Wynne, Editor of *Mishpacha*, the quarterly publication of the JGS of Greater Washington, wrote in the Winter 1988 issue of having a computerized alphabetical index to the complete list of Jewish towns in Galicia. The towns are keyed to the correct administrative districts and subdistricts, which were responsible for collecting the vital records of the region's Jews. Suzan wrote that "These districts comprised the record collection system in southern Poland from 1847 to 1942. ...Today the records are still stored in this fashion and it is helpful to know the administrative districts in order to ask the Polish government to search for family records from this region." Suzan offered to answer all mail inquiries that include a SASE. Send your request to her at 3128 Brooklawn Terrace, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

The January 1989 issue of *Morasha*, the newsletter of the JGS of Illinois, published the names and dates found on tombstones in Keheleth Jacob Anshe Drohiczen Cemetery. Members of the JGSI joined other Jewish groups in Chicago's northern suburbs to restore the neglected cemetery and record the information on the tombstones.

The November/December 1988 newsletter from the Immigrant Genealogical Society, PO Box 7369, Burbank, CA 91510-7369, describes the availability of 11x17 color-xeroxed copies of maps from the 1902 *Cram Atlas*. In addition to a map of the German Empire, they have maps of a number of US states and cities, as well as some Canadian provinces. If you are interested, write to them for more information. Members of the IGS get a discounted price. Membership dues are \$15/year.

QUERY FROM USSR: A letter has been referred to us from Sandy Titanik of Moscow, who is searching for Meltzer relatives who left Pinsk in 1914 to settle in the Bronx. If anyone is interested in helping, please call the JGS at 212/722-8456, and we will get a copy of Titanik's letter to you.

PROFILES

In our Fall 1988 issue, *Dorot* began a series of profiles of JGS Executive Council members. Nancy J. Deutsch-Sinderbrand, a member of the Executive Council, has been working on these profiles, based on questionnaires filled out by the Board members. These articles are the product of Nancy's collaboration with her subjects. In this issue we offer profiles of three very active Jewish genealogists.

GARY MOKOTOFF

In April 1979, Gary Mokotoff received an unsolicited letter from Israel that said, "Noticed your unusual name in the 78-79 Mensa Register. Also noticed that there are very few families here with the same name." The letter continued by listing the 11 persons named Mokotoff in the Tel Aviv phone book.

In response, Gary sent letters to the named persons asking "are we related?" This act was the beginning of Gary's involvement in genealogy which, he says, "is no longer a hobby but a passion."

In the nine years since those 11 letters were written, Gary has documented over 850 descendants of his great-great-great-grandfather, Tuvia David Mokotow, a merchant of Warka, Poland; and has demonstrated that every person named Mokotoff, Mokotow, Mokotowski or Mokotowicz, living or dead, is descended from this ancestor.

His research has taken him to Israel and England as well as on numerous trips to Washington, DC and Salt Lake City. Gary's ancestors all came from Poland: Mokotow from Warka, Taratotsky from Bialystok, Cemnic from Jalowka and Wlodower from Praga/Warsaw.

Gary joined the JGS in 1980 and has been a member of the Executive Council since 1983. He has been Treasurer since 1985. His areas of special expertise include computer applications and LDS (Mormon) resources. He has some knowledge of Hebrew, Yiddish, Polish and German.

Currently the President of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and publisher of the magazine *Avotaynu*, which has the largest circulation (over 1,000) of any publication devoted to Jewish

genealogy, Gary is also a member of the Advisory Committee for the Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center at Beth Hatefutsoth in Tel Aviv.

Gary was a lecturer at the 1984 International Seminar on Jewish Genealogy and has spoken at every Summer Seminar since 1985. He also lectures in his home area of Northern New Jersey.

Planned projects include working with HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) to determine the feasibility of indexing the names of the more than four million persons helped by this organization, and writing a *Gazetteer of Eastern European Jewry* (which he calls the "Shtetl Finder to end all Shtetl Finders").



Gary was educated in the public schools of New York City and the University of Chicago. After finishing college, he worked at IBM as a programmer, developing the software IBM supplied with its early (1959) commercial computers. "The computer industry was so young at that time", he said, "that the entire programming development effort of IBM was located on one floor of 425 Park Avenue in New York."

In 1968, he got the itch to go into business for himself and founded a software company which is located today in Teaneck, New Jersey.

His involvement with computers has benefited the genealogical community in many ways. Gary is creator of the Jewish Genealogical Family Finder, which now has over 16,000 entries from more than 1,000 contributors; and co-creator of the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex Code, a method of indexing surnames and places recognized as being superior to the one used by the United States government. HIAS has accepted the system as its new method of soundexing its files.

He has been involved in so many indexing projects (Palestine Gazette, Russian Consular records and others) that his computer now contains over 60,000 unique surnames which he recently made available in a Consolidated Surname Index.

A second generation American, Gary became involved in furthering the interests of the American Holocaust survivor movement as the result of

discovering that more than 250 descendants of Tuvia Mokotow were murdered during this tragic period. His company maintains the National Registry of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, a data base of over 65,000 survivors and their children.

Gary was born and raised in New York, spending his youth on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, and his teenage years in Queens. After marrying a "Jersey girl" in 1965, he relocated to the Garden State where he now lives with his wife Ruth and three descendants, Alexis, Jessica and Gregory.

Dorot readers can contact him at his business, Data Universal, by telephone (201/837-2700) or mail (using a SASE) at 1485 Teaneck Road, Teaneck, NJ 07666.

EILEEN LYONS POLAKOFF

Eileen Polakoff joined the JGS in 1984 and has been a member of the Executive Council since 1986. She has served as Membership Committee Chairperson (1986 and 1987); and coordinator of the First and Second Beginners' Workshops (1987 and 1988), Event Arrangements for the JGS Tenth Anniversary Brunch (1987), and a JGS workshop, Computers in Genealogy (1988). She was also the Advance Coordinator and committee member for the Sixth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City (1986). She is an occasional contributor to *Dorot*.

Eileen earns her living as a professional genealogist doing a wide variety of research for clients exploring their family histories, proving relationships for probate cases and finding lost heirs. Her specialty is New York City (1880 to present) and Jewish family history in Eastern Europe and America, and she travels regularly to Washington, DC and Salt Lake City to do research. She also lectures on Jewish genealogy and teaches workshops on beginning genealogy.

She is a Co-founder of the New York Personal Computer Special Interest Group on Genealogy and Family History which meets once a month in New York.

Eileen was raised in Massachusetts, living in Somerville, Hopkinton and Hyannis. After two years at Cape Cod Community College, she spent a year in Wichita, Kansas, where she worked as a VISTA

volunteer, administering part of a city-wide one-on-one tutoring project and assisting with a local community anti-poverty program and a senior citizen's out-reach program. She earned her B.A. degree in 1976 at the College of New Rochelle-School of New Resources.

Eileen has lived in New York for 20 years, the last ten with her husband, Jack, who operates his own business, producing and writing corporate videos.

Eileen's previous careers include "being the only woman employee in a NYC Sanitation Department garage for four years in the early 1970's, followed by a job in the Office of Operations for the Mayor of New York."

It was at these jobs that Eileen feels she developed her many organizational skills. Furthermore, she has been active in local and borough-wide politics, working as an organizer for several campaigns.

Eileen's interest in researching her family roots was ignited ten years ago, when she and Jack were first engaged. They attended two family Bar Mitzvahs in one month, and Eileen recalls that she "had a lot of new names to learn."

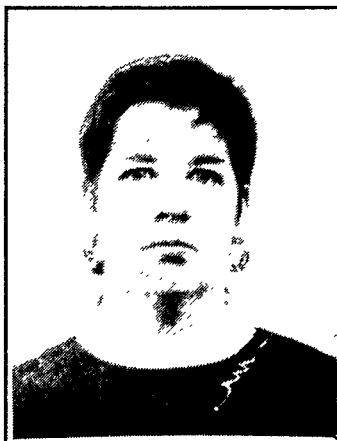
With her future mother-in-law's help, Eileen produced a family tree with 44 names on it. Now, she says, "The latest version has at least 1,200 names prepared for the second Schwartz *mishpoche* family reunion. You might say the genealogy bug had bitten me and I was infected with a virus that has taken over my life -- I love it!"

In fact, she describes her avocations as genealogy and family history, and notes how difficult it is to divide her time between her personal research and her professional work.

Eileen's family came to the U.S. from England around 1627 and from Ireland between 1850 and 1900. She has a genealogy prepared in the 1860's by her fourth cousin five times removed for the Stickney branch of her family. She has a goal "to someday update my

Stickney branch to the present -- and to confirm early research done on my 17th century New England family lines using 20th and 21st century techniques."

Eileen belongs to a number of professional societies, including the Association of Professional Genealogists, the NY Genealogical and Biographical Society, New England Historic Genealogical Society,



Federation of Genealogical Societies and National Genealogical Society. In addition to the New York JGS, she belongs to many JGS's around the world, and is an official observer and representative at the NGS Task Force on Special Projects Registry. With Marsha Dennis, she is organizing a Committee of Professional Jewish Genealogists.

Eileen enjoys swimming, traveling, cooking, reading, entertaining, attending theater, movies and museums and "just experiencing life in New York" with her friends and extended family.

Dorot readers can contact her directly at 240 West End Avenue, Apt. #15A, New York, NY 10023 (enclose a SASE). She is willing to be helpful with short questions, but since she earns her living as a professional genealogist, help with larger research problems must be contracted from her. She can be reached at 212/787-4371 until 9:30 PM for brief telephone queries.

KAREN SPIEGEL FRANKLIN

Karen joined the JGS in 1984 and became a member of the Executive Council in 1986. She served as the editor of *Dorot* in 1987 and 1988; and it was during her tenure that *Dorot* won first prize (for organizations with 300 - 1,000 members) in the National Genealogical Society's newsletter contest.

Karen's area of expertise is German Jewish genealogy. Her American roots go back to 1837, and she has curated an exhibit on her family history, "From Generation to Generation: The Story of an American Jewish Family." The exhibit was displayed at The Judaica Museum of The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale, the Temple Judea Museum at Keneseth Israel (Elkins Park, PA) and The American Jewish Archives (Cincinnati, OH). The exhibit is scheduled for display at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia in June, to coincide with the Eighth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy.

Karen's book, *Eleven Generations of the Gerstle Family*, traces one side of her family to 1670. She has written several articles which have been published in *AMIT Magazine*, *Wellesley* (the alumnae magazine of Wellesley College) and *United Synagogue*

Review; and has contributed to the forthcoming *Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy*, edited by Miriam Weiner and Arthur Kurzweil. Karen performs a small amount of research for lawyers and other clients.

Karen was born and raised in Elkins Park, PA. She received her B.A. from Wellesley College and M.A. from the Department of Religion at Temple University. Karen and her husband, Stephen, were married in 1978 and later moved to New York. Stephen is rabbi of the Riverdale Temple; and Karen is currently the director of The Judaica Museum at The Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale. She and Stephen live with their three sons, Ross, Andrew and Joshua, in Yonkers, NY.

Karen began tracing her roots while still in college, when she found a letter in her basement from Albert Einstein to her grandmother. The 1939 letter was in reference to one of her grandmother's cousins living in Germany who needed an affidavit to emigrate. Her curiosity piqued, Karen decided to find out who the cousin was and what happened to her.

Though the cousin has yet to be properly identified, the subsequent research resulted in the establishment of the line back to RASHI (Rabbi Solomon ben Isaac of Lorraine, born 1040). Two other ancestors were traced back to 1349, when they perished in the Frankfurt pogroms triggered by the black death plague.



Karen's research has resulted in two family reunions. In 1984 almost 100 Gerstle cousins from as far away as Costa Rica gathered in New York. Most recently, the Martinson family (of coffee fame) met for the first time to celebrate the visit of Martin Martinson of Moscow, and Nicolay Klemptner, a recent immigrant from Riga, now living near Detroit.

Most of Karen's ancestors are from Germany, from such towns and cities as Erfurt, Berlin, Frankfurt, Mansbach, Erdmannrode, Ichenhausen, Welbhausen, Obernbreit, Elmshausen, Schrimm and Schroda (Posen).

In 1987 Karen visited West Germany on a genealogical research trip. In addition to meeting several cousins there, Karen was able to locate the graves of her great-great-great-great-grandparents in a cemetery near the East German

border. She also identified homes where her ancestors had lived, and found the cemeteries where many of her forebears were buried.

Recently Karen sent some of her family papers to the National Air and Space Museum (NASM). The letters and drawings belonged to her grandfather, Julian Spiegel, an aircraft designer for Rumpler before and during World War I. Expecting them to "lie undisturbed for eternity," Karen was shocked to receive a letter from a researcher who wrote, "I've been searching for your grandfather since 1953."

The researcher and a curator from NASM visited Karen to examine additional family materials, and the NASM is planning to exhibit one of the planes her grandfather designed. The assistant curator has promised to display a photograph of Julian Spiegel with the exhibit.

Dorot readers can contact Karen by mail at 104 Franklin Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705; or by telephone at 914/963-1059 in the evenings.

GLEANINGS FROM NEW BOOKS

Joe Haines, *Maxwell*. Houghton Mifflin, 1988. 525 pp. \$19.95.

Robert Maxwell, né Ludvik Hoch, was born June 10, 1923, in Solotvino, Maramures, Ruthenia, Czechoslovakia (Ruthenia is now Karpatska-Ukraina, USSR). This British publisher, politician and multi-millionaire is the son of Mehel and Chanca Slomowitz Hoch. Chapter 2, "Escape from Poverty," discusses life in Solotvino from 1923 through World War II. There are also references to Sziget, across the river Tisza from Solotvino. Hoch/Maxwell left Solotvino in 1940.

Herbert G. Goldman, *Jolson: The Legend Comes to Life*. Oxford Univ. Press, 1988. 411 pp. \$22.95.

Singer and entertainer Al Jolson was born Asa Yoelson in 1886 in Seredzius, Lithuania. He died in 1950. His father, Rabbi Moshe Reuben Yoelson, né Moshe Reuben Hesselson, was the son of Meyer Hesselson. Yoelson was a fictitious name, assumed by Meyer and a brother to avoid army service. Jolson's mother, Naomi Cantor, was born ca. 1860, and died in 1895. The family settled in Washington, DC. The book is about Jolson's career, with minimal information about life in Russia.

Howard Simons, *Jewish Times: Voices of the American Jewish Experience*. Houghton Mifflin, 1988. 418 pp. \$22.95.

The author interviewed 227 Jewish Americans across the US. They are identified before each conversation by name, age, occupation and place of residence. Unfortunately the book lacks indexes and there is no way to locate names, places or subjects.

Sydney Stahl Weinberg, *The World of Our Mothers: The Lives of Jewish Immigrant Women*. Univ. of North Carolina Press, 1988. 325 pp. \$22.95.

Traces the experiences of Jewish immigrant women from their origins in Russia and Poland to their new lives in the U.S. in the early 20th century. It tells the compelling stories of "ordinary" women who lived in extraordinary times. Oral histories of 46 such women form the core of this book. Free to speak of what was important to them, some women emphasized dramatic incidents, but most told of daily events, for these women considered family, work and education the cornerstones of their lives. Some of the material was taken from published memoirs and collections of unpublished oral histories.

--Steven Siegel

EXTRA! EXTRA! *continued from page 12*

Finally, there are three indexes -- name, place and subject -- to help readers find their way through the book.

Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area is a genealogist's treasure chest and will be treasured by all who own it! The list price for the book is \$24.95 plus \$2.50 for postage and handling. (New York State residents add appropriate sales tax.) A special pre-publication offer of \$19.95 plus postage and sales tax is being offered to all who order before March 15, 1989. Send your order to JGS, P.O. Box 6398, New York, NY 10128. Checks are payable to the Jewish Genealogical Society.

**Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.
Ending Balances
Year Ending December 31, 1988**

Opening Balance 1/1/88	7,173.11
Less Prepaid dues	(1,936.00)
Income - 1988	10,803.48
Less Expense - 1988	(7,600.52)
Less NYPL Contribution	(5,000.00)
Prepaid 1989 dues	4,321.00
Prepaid Resource Guide Exp.	(1,490.00)
	<hr/>
	6,271.07
<u>Cash in Banks</u>	
Midlantic/North Savings	5,602.15
Midlantic/North Checking	668.92
	<hr/>
	6,271.07

**Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.
Statement of Income and Expenses
Year Ending December 31, 1988**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expense</u>
Dues	7,710.50	
Interest Income	409.98	
Family Finder	137.75	
Tapes/Books	441.80	116.00
Computer Workshop	1,372.00	1,638.12
Beginners' Workshop	330.00	205.39
Dorot	304.00	2,212.77
Other Income	97.45	
Meeting Room Rental		625.00
Honoraria		252.00
Mailings		706.24
Contributions		320.00
Copying/Postage		823.98
Bank Fees		31.72
Stationery/Supplies		114.93
Miscellaneous Expenses		554.37
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	10,803.48	7,600.52
Operating Surplus		3,202.96
<u>Extraordinary Expenses</u>		
NYPL Contribution	5,000.00	
Prepaid Resource Guide Exp.	1,490.00	

**JGS WELCOMES
NEW MEMBERS**

The following individuals have joined the JGS since Dec. 1, 1988:

Paul Alperson	Scottsdale, AZ
Jeri Berman	New York, NY
Vivian Berry	New York, NY
Diana Bloom	New York, NY
Alan Cleinman	Oneonta, NY
Florence Duitz	Baldwin, NY
Barry Feigenbaum	Brooklyn, NY
Michael D. Feldman	N Miami Beach, FL
William R. Feldman	Superior, AZ
Jeanne Gart	Washington, DC
Sarah F. Gold	Brooklyn, NY
E. C. Goldsmid	Langley, BC, Canada
Philip Harris	New York, NY
Joel Hirsch	New York, NY
Dorienne Jaffé	Vancouver, BC, Canada
Les Kanturek	Kew Gardens, NY
Sylvia Kauffman	Miami Beach, FL
Roberta Kilkenny	New York, NY
Alan Kimbarow	Bayside, NY
Bonnie H. Leader	Gainesville, FL
Andrea T. Leff	Short Hills, NJ
M. Lenzky	Brooklyn, NY
Simon B. Lerner	New York, NY
Philip & Rhonda Liss	Las Vegas, NV
Ann Lowen	New York, NY
Jeffrey M. Maynard	Brooklyn, NY
Marievelyn Page	New York, NY
Karen G. Schneider	Fresno, CA
Eric Schwartz	Amherst, MA
Rick Shields	Jamaica, NY
Mildred Sklar	Bronx, NY
Benjamin Solomowitz	Brooklyn, NY
Robin A. Stein	San Francisco, CA
Louise Stewart	New York, NY
Mrs. E. W. Stix	St. Louis, MO
Randall Swan	New York, NY
Eleanor A. Tritchler	Kenmore, NY
Patricia A. Tuchman	Champaign, IL
Murray A. Tucker	Jersey City, NJ
Franklin Wechsler	New York, NY
Martin Weil	New York, NY
Jacob E. Wilamowski	Bronx, NY
Jeanne Woods	Coos Bay, OR

EXTRA! EXTRA! NEW RESOURCE GUIDE IMMINENT!

The JGS is proud to announce the publication of its new book, *Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area*.

The idea for this book was born in 1985 with the Resource Guide put together for the participants of the Fifth Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in New York City. Even before the conference was over, attendees, librarians, archivists, even a book dealer, urged us to publish the conference materials in a more permanent form.

Extra copies of the Guide sold out rapidly as word spread within the genealogical community -- Jewish and non-Jewish -- that the material was unique. And so, in 1987, we put out a call for volunteers and began the process of updating and expanding the book.

The final product, compiled by more than 50 members of the JGS and edited by Estelle M. Guzik, includes more than twice the number of facilities covered in the 1985 version and more than three times the amount of data. Of the 104 facilities from the New York metropolitan area covered, included are:

- 52 government agencies
- 32 libraries (16 public, 16 private)
- 20 archives (8 public, 12 private)

In addition to Agudath Israel of America, Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion Library, Jewish Theological Seminary Library, Leo Baeck Institute, New York Public Library Jewish Division, Yeshiva University and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, this new edition adds chapters on the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archives, Bund Archives of the Jewish Labor Movement, Hadassah Archives, Jewish Theological Seminary Archives of Conservative Judaism, Young Men's & Young Women's Hebrew Association (92nd Street "Y") Archives, Sephardic Archives and Center for Holocaust Studies, Documentation and Research.

Additional units of the New York Public Library now covered include the General Research Division, Miriam and Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, Slavic and Baltic Division (formerly Slavonic Division) and Performing Arts Research Center at Lincoln Center. The chapters on the NYPL U.S. History, Local History and Genealogy Division, Map Division, Microforms Division, Annex and Schomburg Center have been expanded. The new book includes the Brooklyn Public Library

Business Library and Central Library, Queens Borough Public Library and Queens College Historical Documents Collection.

Among the private libraries and archives included for the first time are New York University's Tamiment Institute Library and Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, Bronx County Historical Society, Staten Island Historical Society and Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences.

The majority of the facilities covered are in New York City. Six suburban counties in New York State (Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester) and New Jersey (Bergen, Essex and Hudson) are included, as well as major repositories of records in the state capitals of Albany and Trenton.

For each facility the book provides the holdings, geographic scope and time span of records, finding aids, access, copying facilities, address, travel directions, hours of operation, etc.

The book identifies collections of Jewish records from all over the world located in the New York area. Here a researcher can find synagogue records from US cities such as Atlanta, Charleston, Cleveland, Erie, Philadelphia, Milwaukee, Nashville and New York, and foreign countries including Egypt, France, Surinam and Syria. Holocaust records, including oral histories, Yizkor books, survivor lists and deportation lists, are covered.

The book describes 40 repositories with genealogical and biographical materials, 38 with local historical and newspaper collections, 30 with maps/gazetteers, 23 with census records, 23 with probate records, 21 repositories holding naturalization records, 18 having vital record indexes, 18 with name change records, 16 holding marriage records, 15 with divorce records, 11 holding birth or death records, 10 with voter registration records, and much, much more. Details are provided on the two (sometimes three!) sets of marriage *and* birth/death records that exist in New York City.

One appendix includes nine sample forms for birth, marriage and death records of New York City, New York State and New Jersey agencies covered in the book. These can be photocopied for ready use. Another appendix contains a newly-revised Yizkor book bibliography prepared by Zachary Baker. Our volunteers have obtained call numbers for these books at five Judaica libraries.

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