

שם טוב

# SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO

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June 1989 - Tammuz 5749

## Cemetery project

Toronto celebrated its Sesquicentennial in 1984, with Jews having lived there since its inception. However, the first Jewish burial ground was not acquired until 1849, with the first interment taking place about one year later. This first cemetery is on Pape Avenue (formerly Centre Road) and contains about 200 graves.

The second oldest Jewish cemetery in Toronto is on Jones Avenue (acquired in 1883). Other cemeteries are located on Dawes Road, Royal York Road, Fairlawn Avenue, Wilson Avenue (Mount Sinai), Bathurst Street, (Bathurst Lawn, Beth Tzedek) and Birchmount. The newest location is Pardes Shalom. Most of the cemeteries have several sections - each administered by either a Synagogue or Burial Society. Because of this splintering, records are also fragmented.

The JGS of Toronto has begun to identify which records are available and where they are located. We are beginning with the two oldest cemeteries and will eventually cover the others as well. Hopefully, the information can then be computerized to provide easy accessibility to researchers.

The two funeral parlours in Toronto, Benjamin Park Memorial Chapel and Steeles College Memorial Chapel, have records of the burials they performed - covering approximately the last 50 years. These records are computerized.

Holy Blossom and Beth Tzedek Synagogues are also being involved in this project, since both organizations have records.

From a perusal of JGS newsletters, it appears that many similar Cemetery projects are underway in Washington, D.C., Boston, Chicago, Montreal, and Eastern Canada.

To tackle a monumental task as this, it seems prudent to take a close look at the logistics first. The formation of a research team could be the beginning, followed by the creation of a four-phase agenda: 1.) Transcribe the information from tombstones to index cards; 2.) Photocopy all cards, plot maps and other information; 3.) Design a computer programme for the above; 4.) Entry of all data.

We are aware that time is against the researcher and the longer we neglect this worthwhile, important project, the less complete our task will be!

Dedicated volunteers are urgently required to help with this project! Interested persons are asked to contact either myself, Gert Rogers or Bill Gladstone in order to take the initial step to form a research team.

Dr. Rolf Lederer  
President, JGS of Toronto

## Too many bytes - no bites...?

Could the timely presentation at the May 3rd meeting, on the much discussed role of the computer in genealogy, have exposed a latent computer illiteracy among many of our members...?

Mr. Ken Gowie's own fascination with genealogy and his subsequent involvement with the computer made for an interesting evening for those who were familiar with the subject matter. He gave much acclaim to bulletin boards, a seemingly endless network having sprung up over all of North America, offering the computer genealogist access to databases and to like-minded enthusiasts, hitherto unknown. Numerous programmes with impressive databases but with very little graphic capabilities were mentioned, and IBM-compatibility seemed a foregone conclusion. Looking back on my own experience with a Macintosh Computer, years of research and collecting names and data have prompted me to evolve a system of charts peculiar to my personal circumstances and adapted to my own fondness of the visual. The result became a set of clear, uncluttered charts, providing not only me but even a novice with a quick understanding of the often delicate interrelationships of people.

When mailing questionnaires to would-be relatives, these charts have proven to be of significant help, - even to relatives who "couldn't remember" (for lack of seeing the threads of the interwoven family tapestry), were suddenly aroused by the visually appealing layout of my charts, and quite easily came forward with names and events.

From the outset, I had aimed at a system of charts that could accommodate the plethora of names, dates and places which were accumulating all too rapidly. Now lacking is a database for an alphabetized 'searchable, sortable' body of facts. Lacking in the marketplace is the kind of software that contains all the above, adding perhaps a capability to convert dates of the common era to those of the Jewish calendar, (and vice versa), Perhaps another feature that could relate one's own family dates to historic events in Jewish history, and yet another feature that automatically assigns reference numbers to names and charts for easy sorting and searching...

These are, most probably, all features that can easily be combined in one comprehensive software package by a computer mind, - a mind whose pre-occupation is not the all-consuming search for ancestors.

At this presentation, though, I couldn't help but feel that the computer was becoming an end in itself, as more excitement about the technology became apparent.

Are we not tempted to get waylaid by the miracles of technology? Do we not lose sight of the principle reason for our all-consuming pastime? We could in fact develop another mania, running parallel to our urge to trace our ancestors: computing.

I can tell of late nights, when I sat starry-eyed, if not bleary-eyed before a word-processor, turning out yet one more letter to a distant shore, shooting an arrow into the dark, in the hope of an answer to a totally new theory... In this age of low frustration tolerance, one may easily revel in the thought of instant genealogical results, farfetched and wonderful...

But the joy of anticipation: the thrill of the arrival of a letter with a long awaited final detail to the puzzle of a signature on a crucial Ketuba just deciphered... Can this be rivalled by an instant FAX or by a message on a screen...?

(The Metro Toronto Reference Library carries quarterly magazines devoted to computer genealogy, keeping the enthusiast abreast on the ongoing progress in this field)

Peter Cullman, Editor

### At our meetings:

At a well-attended meeting on March 29, Cantor Zvi Slotki enlightened us about his own illustrious family of rabbis and scholars, many of them living for many generations in Eretz Yisroel, having emigrated from Poland. The obvious advantage of scholarly documentation may have given some members in the audience the renewed urge to look even further for proof of a rabbinical trace in their own families...

### Membership lists

All attending, paid-up members received updated membership lists at the meeting on May 3. The lists will form part of membership/resource material for easier communication among persons with similar areas of research. Additional copies are available at future meetings for those who didn't attend.

### New Members

We are pleased to welcome two new members to our society:

MR. HOWARD SHIDLOWSKY, of Toronto  
MRS. HILDE WEISS, - of Toronto

# Descendants of Moses ben Simon of Schneidemühl

(Lewin Simonstein's second marriage)

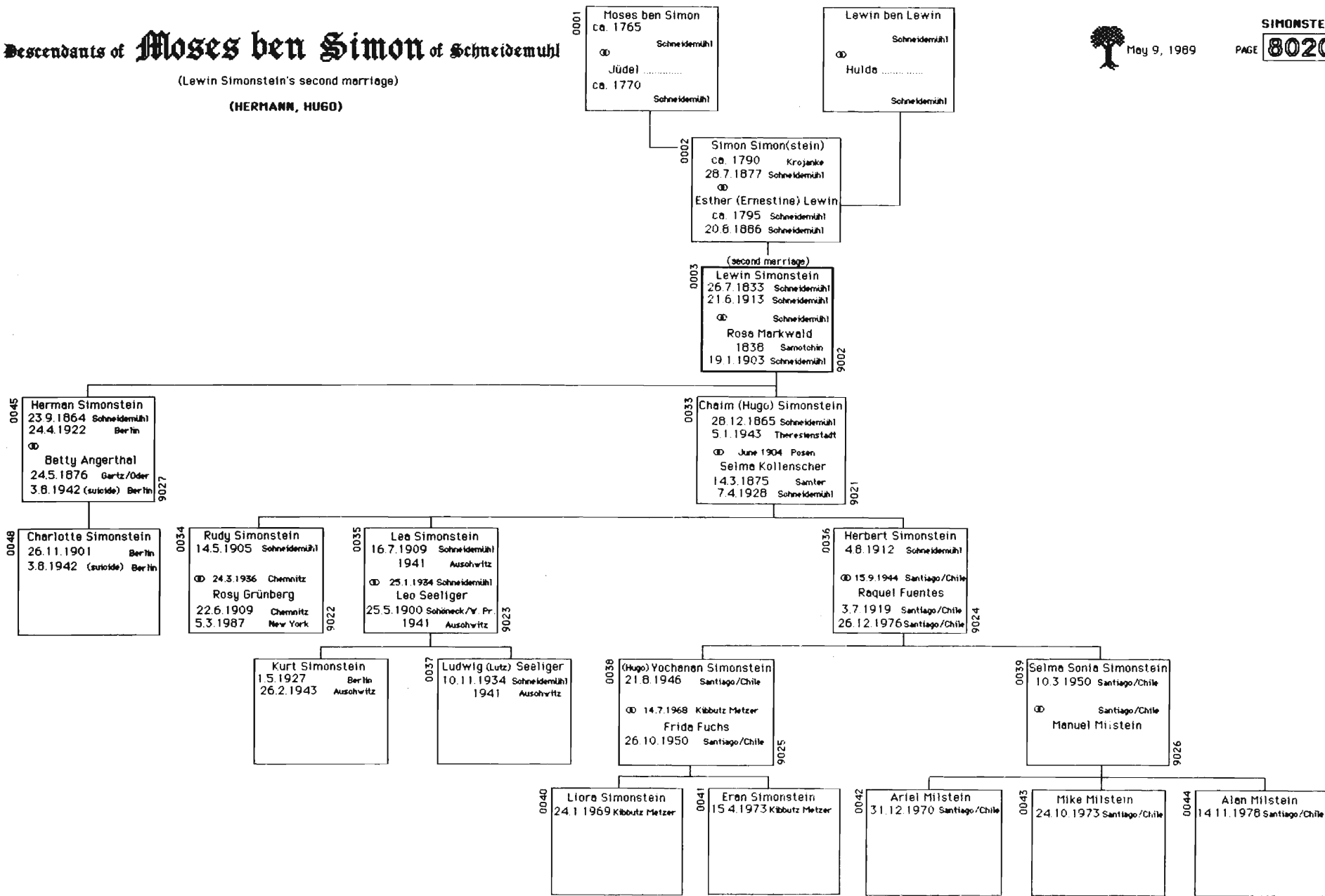
(HERMANN, HUGO)



May 9, 1989

SIMONSTEIN

PAGE 8020



## The Gedenkbuch donated

The JGS of Toronto has received a generous donation of the 'Gedenkbuch' from the society's president Dr. Rolf Lederer.

Adding to the millions of 'Pages of Testimony' in Jerusalem's Yad Vashem, this monumental work lists in its two volumes of nearly 1000 pages each the names of 128,081 German Jews who were murdered or committed suicide for fear of deportation during the Nazi reign, - alphabetically by name, with place of deportation, date of birth and date and place of death.

The West German Bundesarchiv needed 25 years to produce this memorial book. The idea came from Israel, when in 1961 Yad Vashem requested from the Bonn government a list of all deported Jews of Germany. Even though the sources were not fully explored at that time, the W-German government undertook then, in agreement with Yad Vashem, to create a memorial book "as a high moral duty".

In reading the history of this book in the addendum it becomes clear why a quarter of a century was needed to create this work. Every conceivable source, from the International Red Cross in Arolsen to local government and population registers had to be consulted and examined time and again in order to avoid any omissions. As painstakingly as the W-German government undertook the research, the lament remains that the political situation prevented the inclusion of the victims who then lived in the part of Germany that has since become known as DDR.\* It is thus hoped that in a revised issue the historic facts from the other German State can be included as well; the public at large has also been asked to report to the Bundesarchiv any omission that did occur, - a truly complete work can then be presented in the future.

This book does not only belong in every library in Germany, in every archive, but also should it be available to every survivor and descendant. They will find the names of relatives and friends who were not fortunate to survive. In every synagogue and in every school there should be a place for this memorial book!

(\*See also: Yad Vashem News.)

## New Czechoslovak Genealogical Society

If your area of research encompasses the political/geographical quilt that includes Bohemia, Moravia, Silesia, Slovakia and Ruthenia, known as Czechoslovakia, then the newly formed Czechoslovak Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 16225 St. Paul, MN 55116, USA, is in your realm. One year individual membership (includes ten issues of their newsletter SLOVO) costs US \$10.00. Enrolment forms are also available at our next meetings.

Excerpts from **Yad Vashem News** March 1989:

Possible future cooperation between Yad Vashem and archives in East Germany were recently discussed by their respective representatives. Both parties came to an understanding that there will be an exchange of archival material as well as of archival missions. In the coming months, Yad Vashem's first such mission will travel to the DDR to search for documents. This understanding will also encompass exchange of information with other archives and museums in Israel and the DDR, which will be conducted via Yad Vashem.

**Yad Vashem has requested that the government of the DDR undertake to prepare a record of the Jews who perished in the Holocaust, whose place of origin is today in the DDR.**

## New Documentation in Yad Vashem's Archives

With the assistance of the 'Society of Former Residents of Lodz', Yad Vashem's Archives recently completed the computerization of the list of over 204,000 residents of the Lodz ghetto, the second largest of the ghettos in occupied Europe. These records were made and kept by the Judenrat in the ghetto. The entries contain information about the name, date of birth, occupation, residence before transfer to the ghetto, address in the ghetto, and fate, for each of the people imprisoned within the ghetto walls. Also included are dates of death, and dates of deportation from the ghetto.

Just published:

"UNDER FIRE - The Stories of Jewish Heroes of the Soviet Union".

Compiled by Gershon Shapiro. Translated from the Russian by Rose Lavoott. A collection of 150 biographies and descriptions of the heroic deeds of Jews who were awarded the distinction of "Hero of the Soviet Union" during the war between Germany and the Soviet Union, 1941-1945. 645 pp.

Yad Vashem's chairman Dr. Yitzhak Arad to visit U.S.S.R.

On route to visit the Lithuanian Jewish Cultural Society, Dr. Yitzhak Arad will visit Moscow in an attempt to make contact with the relevant archives in the U.S.S.R. which deal with Holocaust documentation. It is hoped that Dr. Arad's visit will lead to the establishment of links between Yad Vashem and institutions in the U.S.S.R. with whom Yad Vashem has common interests.

## Philadelphia meeting...

The eighth National Seminar on Jewish Genealogy will take place in Philadelphia from Sunday, June 25th to Thursday, June 29th, 1989.

## Old Letters

By Dr. Rolf Lederer

My great-grandfather, Bernhard Simon (Bar) Lederer, (1834-1900) was a collector. He retained correspondence addressed to his father and uncles, and in turn passed these onto his sons. Julius Lederer, my father's late cousin, brought a portion of these to the United States when he fled Gladenbach, Germany in 1937. Julius had divided the letters between his brother, sister and himself. I gather that the brother's portion was lost in transit to North America, the sister was a Holocaust victim.

The letters that survived and which are now in my possession make for fascinating reading. I have between forty and fifty letters and they cover the period 1840-1880. Many were written to the folks left behind in Gladenbach by relatives who had emigrated to the United States, - a few letters were written from other places in Europe, though chiefly from Darmstadt.

My great-great grandfather's brother, Salomon Lederer, was a prolific letter writer who describes his experiences in the New World during a 25-year period (1853-1878). The earliest letter in 1853 gives an account of the Trans-Atlantic crossing on which he was accompanied by his daughter, Minna. Some of the highlights of his writings include visits to Lowell, MA., where another daughter, Sophie Steiner, lived. In the 1860's he was in Cincinnati with his son, Jacob, and while there he attended the circumcision of his grandson, Theodore.

Eventually, he settled in Albany, N.Y. where yet another daughter, Caroline (or Kattie) Fleischmann lived, and where he died.

Sophie Steiner moved with her two sons to San Francisco. (Her name appeared on the Railroad Passenger list.) She survived the 1906 earthquake and fire and died there in 1912 at the biblical age of 93.

The major portion of the other correspondence emanates from New Orleans, LA., where my great-great grandfather's two brothers arrived in the mid 1840's. One, Marcus Lederer, died presumably in 1847 in the Cholera epidemic. The other, Joseph Lederer, also died at a young age in 1854, but not before he had married Henrietta Goldman on March 29, 1846 and had fathered four children (I have a copy of their marriage certificate from the Tulane University Library, where old Synagogue records are stored). Joseph and Henrietta (also called Yettchen) kept their relatives in Gladenbach well informed of their progress in the New World. Their daughter, Jeanette, once signs a letter with

"Much love". (these are the only English words in all the correspondence which is written in German, either in Hebrew or Roman script.

A letter from Albany in the 1880's written by Jacob Lederer, surprisingly gives a great deal of genealogical information, tracing the Lederers to Tobias and Fannie Lederer, my great-great-great grandparents. These details have been of immense help to me in my research.

During the past few years, I was able to trace descendants Harry and Sonia Galewsky in Beaumont, Texas, (great-grandson of Joseph and Henrietta Lederer). While in New York, I have located and met Jane Weinstein, great-granddaughter of Caroline and Salomon Fleischmann, and much to my delight I noticed that Jane still has full-length portraits of these ancestors in her home...

The joy of collecting, - where would genealogy be without it...?

### The Israel Connection

Simple, yet promising. A worldwide audience can be reached by using a worldwide newspaper...

*The Jerusalem Post* has the following advice:

"The best position for an advertisement (of a genealogical nature) would be in our Israel Connection section.

The Israel Connection is a section of classified advertisements which appears in both the International Edition published weekly, and in the local weekend newspaper. Thus, it will be easier to find information on the families you are seeking since the notice will appear worldwide.

The price for Israel Connection advertisements is US \$20.00 per 20 words. You can either have responses sent directly to your address, or to a box number provided by our New York office.

For your convenience, please send future correspondence, including payment in advance, to our New York office: 211 East 43rd Street, New York, NY 10017."

### Changing faces

Have we ever considered the detrimental change modern cosmetics have brought to genealogy?

Family resemblances could become something of yesteryear... Your grandfather's prominent nose, auntie Goldie's overbite, not to mention cousin Sheldon's less than fortunate ears can no longer be considered as revealing family traits at family gatherings... Only the innocent newborn may carry the unaltered features sometimes so eagerly sought...

## Branching out...

By Hilde Weiss

The ultimate aim of any student of genealogy is to "plant" a family tree - the graphic chart showing the relationships between ancestors and descendants. Seeing one's name on one of the branches of such a tree is a rewarding experience, as it suddenly makes one an integral part of that cherished unit one calls, "My family." Without denigrating the significance of so worthwhile an endeavor, I am sure one is aware of its limitations and therefore need not dwell on the fact that what the family tree cannot do is to tell the stories behind those neatly inscribed names. To complete the picture so to speak, it ought to be supplemented with the plethora of anecdotal material one likely came across in the course of one's research.

Conjuring up visions of a bygone era, these stories and anecdotes should not be lost to posterity, as they reveal so much about forbears and the times in which they lived. Lovingly preserved in a book, the opening pages of which proudly display the family tree you have tended with great care and devotion, they become the essence of your priceless heritage.

**Lifestories** is a company formed about two years ago to help individuals compile family histories and write their own memoirs. Members of any genealogical society will find our service of particular interest because it allows them to "branch out", i.e. to put to good use the wealth of genealogical material they have meticulously assembled over the years.

Before starting **Lifestories** a number of people told us of their repeated valiant attempts to write family histories on their own but failed for various reasons, the least of which was an inability to incorporate the myriad of collected genealogical data into their personal stories. We can help to accomplish that task by using a unique method to guide our authors through the various stages of their lives; we assist them to recall longforgotten events and experiences, by asking questions specifically designed to trigger memory sparks. After recording their comments on tape, we keyboard the spoken words onto computer disks to create a viable manuscript. Throughout, we make every effort to reflect our authors' personalities, both in style and approach. We then integrate their existing genealogical material. Professionally edited, it eventually emerges as a most readable chronicle. Following perusal and approval of the contents of their manuscripts, we

go through the usual publishing process of typesetting, printing and binding.

We have proudly developed an excellent ongoing relationship with a number of authors. Their books now are at various stages of production, while those of several others already have been distributed as limited editions to family members and friends.

Concerning the physical appearance of these books, a wide range of options is offered, wide enough to suit the tastes of even the most discriminating authors and variably sized pocketbooks. Needless to say, the same personal attention is given to editing and binding diaries and transcripts of interviews which may have been taped long ago and now lie forgotten in someone's bureau drawer.

With offices in Toronto and Montreal, we are able to work closely with authors in both these cities. However, thanks to modern means of communication, we are also equipped to handle assignments in other locations.

For additional information, **SHEM TOV** readers may contact the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, P.O. Box 446, Station "A", Willowdale, Ontario, M2N 5T1, Canada.

### Pole helps Jewish visitor

"In the past several years my father and I have been researching our family roots in Poland.

With the help of a young Polish man named Kris Malczewski we discovered the town my grandfather was born in and met people who once knew my grandfather's family.

It was a journey that opened up a history to us that had been lost from the time my grandfather left Poland in 1913. And if it hadn't been for the dedication of our guide and researcher, Kris, we would never have discovered it.

Since it was such a pleasure to meet a Polish citizen who was so anxious to help us rebuild a history that had been so brutally destroyed, I am writing this letter to share his name with others who might want to go on such a journey but don't know how to begin."

Kris Malczewski can be reached in Poland at this Tel no.: 011-18-2-610-3445.

His address is: ul. Styraska 29/1, 04-188 Warszawa, Poland.

Terri Randall, Northport, NY.

(Reprint of a letter to the Toronto Jewish News, Mar 30, 1989)

## In Search of...

SHEM TOV, the first Canadian Jewish Genealogical Newsletter, introduces what has developed into one of the most popular services for genealogists anywhere: search columns in which readers may advertise their personal field of research in terms of names and localities of families they are seeking, thus discovering others in pursuit of similar or identical families.

Although the enthusiastic proliferation of Jewish genealogical news bulletins all over North America may result in duplications, we feel very strongly, that in spite of this, much ground can still be broken in Canada. We may also consider that a newsletters such as this will inevitably become a permanent source of reference, a collectors' item in any Genealogical Library.

A search ad in which you can list surnames, towns, geographic areas and other personal information may contain up to 25 words at a cost of \$ 5.00, each additional word will be charged at \$ 0.25; abbreviations will be counted as words. Your own name, address and Tel. No. are free, of course.

(As a courtesy to others we strongly suggest to reply to any written inquiry, even if not able to assist.)

Please submit your entry printed or typed, showing all SURNAMES underlined in CAPITAL LETTERS

Cheques are payable to: Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto. P.O.Box 446, Station'A', Willowdale, M2N 5T1, Canada.

*The deadline for the fall issue of SHEM TOV is July 31, 1989*

W-1/sp89

WAINSTEIM, Zvi  
48 Greyhound Drive,  
Willowdale, Ont., M2H 1K3  
(416) 494-6176

...Seeking information on descendants of Zvi Weinstein, married to Malka (maiden name: Reichman), brother of Duvid Alie, Golda & Mincho Heinech, father of Sara Miriam, Shimon Nisen, Yankov Shier, Esther & Feige (twins) and Majer Nuchem. They lived in Poland, in Slupcy (Slupca), Province of Poznan until the second World War.

E-1/sp89

ERENBERG, Sheryl  
111 Davisville Ave., #. 1415  
Toronto, Ont. M4S 1G6  
(416) 482-3730

...Seeking information on Erenberg (from Opatow, Poland), also spelled Aronberg (from London, England) and Lappitt (from Leeds, England; New York, USA; Johannesburg, South Africa).

R-1sp/89

ROGERS, Gert  
237 Melita Avenue,  
Toronto, Ontario, M6G 2A1  
(416) 588-2318

...Seeking information on families Goldman, Woda, Voda, Wasser, Glasberg, from the cities and areas of Miedzyzyc Podl. Lublin, Losice Radzyn (in Poland), and Minsk and Smolensk (in USSR).

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Evenchick, Ewencyk,  
Evans, Evin...

In July 1982 I received a letter from Daniel Ewencyk of Paris, France. He wrote to me because he had learned that my maiden name was Evenchick. He had recently lost his father and had decided to seek his family roots. I sent him information about my immediate family, and in return he sent me ten charts of family trees. One was my own family, which he had drawn up using the information I had sent him. One was for his own family,

plus eight more for other families. The names were: Evenchik, Evenchick, Ewencyk, Evans, Evin. All these families traced their origin to Minsk; Koidanev (now Djerjinsk), Ivenitz, and Bobruisk.

Mr. Ewencyk also sent me an 1835 map of Lithuania on which these places can be found. What he did not have, however, was the name of a person who could link these ten families together as relatives.

Any information to:

Mrs. Shirley Lacombe  
56 Shields Ave., Toronto,  
Ont., M5N 2K4, Canada

\*\*\*\*\*

Distant...?

"I can trace my ancestry back to a protoplasmal primordial atomic globule. Consequently, my family pride is something in-conceivable. I can't help it. I was born sneering."

(Sir William Schwenck Gilbert,  
1836-1911)

**SHEM TOV**, the quarterly Newsletter published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, is free to members; single and back issues are \$4.00. Membership fees are \$25.00 per calendar year. The Society was founded in 1985 and currently has over 40 members. Meetings are held September to June, usually on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto; notices of meetings are also announced in the *Canadian Jewish News* (Miriam Herman Column). Guests are always welcome.

The goals of the Society are to promote an awareness among Jewish community members of the possibilities of tracing their ancestors, to foster an ongoing interest in our heritage, to encourage the sharing of research techniques and to disseminate information on genealogical research to family historians and professional genealogists alike. **SHEM TOV** is dedicated to publish articles of personal research experiences, inform its members of new and tried pertinent research sources and act as part of a growing international network for experienced family historians and beginning genealogists.

The officers of the Society are:

President:	DR. ROLF LEDERER	922-5134
Vice-President	JULES SAMSON	633-4857
Secretary:	SELMA SACROB	223-0192
Treasurer:	ANNETTE OTIS-FROMMER	782-4646
Project Consultant:	ABE GOLDBERG	224-0161
Editor:	PETER CULLMAN	964-2196
Hon. Life President:	RAYZEL ROBINSON	

Contributors to this issue were: Dr. Rolf Lederer, Hilde Weiss, Peter Cullman.

If you wish to submit an article to for the fall issue of **SHEM TOV**, please send typewritten material to the editor, PETER CULLMAN, 99 Yorkville Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M5R 3K5, Canada, Tel. (416) 964-2196

*Deadline: July 31, 1989*

For subscriptions, membership or changes of address please contact the secretary, SELMA SACROB, P.O.Box 446, Station 'A', Willowdale/Ont. M2N 5T1, Canada

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C A N A D A