



שם טוב
SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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THE WARSAW GHETTO

The report on this meeting was prepared by member Ruth Chernia

As part of the 23rd Holocaust Education Week in Toronto, the JGS of Canada (Toronto) presented Gunnar S. Paulsson, introduced by Peter Jassem as an outstanding educator, a son of survivors, with a PhD from the University of Augsburg and the International WM in London, and the 1998 recipient of the F prize in contemporary history.

It is difficult to conceive how over 28,000 actually survived, hidden in or escaped the Warsaw Ghetto but, after seeing *The Pianist*, we can look at the experiences of one man and imagine his story exemplified that of many, with some variations. Gunnar Paulsson's book *Secret City: The Hidden Jews of Warsaw, 1940–1945* is the first systematic, historical study on the subject.

Paulsson has a personal interest because his mother was from Warsaw and survived Auschwitz and Ravensbrück. She was evacuated to Sweden after the war where she met and married his father.

The Pianist presented a fairly accurate picture. Other people's experiences have been preserved in diaries and oral histories. Each account is unique, one person's views. When they are all put together you can draw certain conclusions. You can generalize on the basis of statistics. The "how" question still remains.

Approximately 400,000 people lived in the Warsaw Ghetto. A few people decided to try to escape and live on the outside. The majority of these were people who were highly assimilated, could buy forged papers or were married to non-Jews. Most converts did not consider themselves to be Jews any longer (there were about 2,000 of these). They were looked down on as traitors.

Some converts moved into the Ghetto as a gesture of solidarity to be with their families. Life was dangerous, hard and restricted. Food was narrowly rationed and illness was rampant. Conditions were very crowded with an average of three per room (actually, conditions on the outside were not much different). There were no open areas, no private cars. People moved shoulder to shoulder in the streets. The ration diet allowed for about 1200 calories per day. Some food was smuggled in and bought by those who could afford it. When money ran out, peo-

ple sold whatever they could, books, clothing, musical instruments. Cottage industries sprang up: people made toys, matches and candles, they gave Hebrew lessons.

Somehow many members of the middle class could keep body and soul together. Those who starved were often the poorest and those from outside of Warsaw who had been moved in by the Nazis. They had few resources and no contacts in the city. It was the children of the poor who became the smugglers. It was, as shown in *The Pianist*, a dangerous and brief life for those children who did it.

Before the deportations began, few thought of leaving for good. About 2,000 escaped during this period including some of the assimilated Jews and some of the child smugglers who had become orphaned. Others were like Wladyslaw Szpilman who had non-Jewish Polish friends on the outside.

Once the deportations began in July 1942, the number of guards doubled, the price of black market food shot up and evading the Umschlagplatz became difficult. One way, again exemplified by Szpilman, was to make oneself useful or productive. Others survived in the Jewish Council or by fictitious marriages. Many began to construct makeshift hideouts in cellars or in walls. Most people had no work. After September 12th, selections began even in the workshops. Exemptions were

(continued on page 3)

In This Issue

- 1 *The Warsaw Ghetto*
- 2 *Upcoming Events*
- 4 *JEWISHGEN*
- 6 *30 Genealogy Websites*
- 6 *New Members*
- 7 *The Central Archive Moves to its New Location*
- 8 *Shem Tov Cumulative Index by Subject Headings*
- 10 *"Nu? What's New?"*
- 12 *The Development of Jewish Names in Central Europe*

UPCOMING EVENTS

Programs organized by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue - 470 Glencairn Avenue (unless otherwise noted)

Doors open at 7:30, program begins at 8 p.m.

All members will receive further details either by email or by telephone.

Wednesday, January 28, 2004

*Topic: Geographical Resources for Genealogists
Speaker: Sandra Gornall of the Special Collections,
Genealogy & Maps Centre at the
Toronto Reference Library*

Sandra will speak about the role of maps and gazetteers in establishing jurisdictions, solving the riddle of mystery place names, researching land records, and gaining insights into the daily lives of our ancestors. She will include a description of the extensive resources at the Toronto Reference Library

Sunday, February 01, 2004

*Beginners Workshop—1 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
This event will take place at the Miles-Nadal
Jewish Community Centre at Bloor and Spadina.
Details to be announced later*

Wednesday, February 25, 2004

*Topic: Researching Canadian Immigration Records in the Canadiana Department of the North York Central Library
Speaker: John Jacobson, Librarian at the Canadiana Department*

Wednesday, March 31, 2004

*Topic: Jewish Emancipation in Poland, 1762—1918
Speaker: John Stanley*

For further information visit our website at www.jgstoronto.ca or watch the "What's New" column in the Canadian Jewish News.

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Contributions are invited. Submit material c/o The Editor, P.O. Box 446, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M2N 5T1.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada was founded in 1985 and currently has over 200 members. Membership costs \$36 per calendar year, \$18 for students. (Please note that the out of town reduction has been deleted). Meetings are held September to June, usually on the last Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 7:30) at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Avenue, Toronto (unless announced otherwise). Guests are always welcome. Details are usually printed in the *Canadian Jewish News* and on our website at: www.jgstoronto.ca.

The goals of the Society are to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information through meetings, outings, workshops and guest lecturers, and thereby to promote an awareness of genealogy within the Jewish community of Canada. The Society is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and is registered as a non-profit charitable organization.

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cancelled. On 21 September [1942] even the Jewish Ghetto police were deported to Treblinka, where they were killed. This left about 35,000 Jews still in the Ghetto officially and about 25,000 who had survived in hideouts. Thus there were about 60,000 Jews left in the ghetto, and another 11,000 or so in Polish districts of the city.

After the deportations had begun the attitude to escaping changed. It became conceived of as a possible means of survival. Once the Ghetto was sealed and even streetcars no longer passed through (the Ghetto included part of a major street) the irrationality of Ghetto policy made it possible for Jews to escape. So many Poles had also been killed that there was space on the outside for the Jews to work in Poland. Again, as depicted in *The Pianist*, these work crews were the main point of contact between Jews and the outside world. Food and weapons were exchanged. People joined work parties, bribed the foremen and guards, took off their armbands and fled to agreed hiding places where they could obtain false documents — depending on whether you “looked Jewish” or not. Increasingly, escapees could also rely on Jews on the outside of the Ghetto.

Surprising to us in our technologically dominated world, the telephones still worked and lines were neither bugged nor cut so people inside the Ghetto could contact friends on the outside.

As for those in hiding, there was a preponderance of family groups, not necessarily complete families but groups of related people who went into hiding. Those who had built hiding places in the Ghetto were able to disappear and attempted to ride out the deportation period. They hoped to survive until the war was over. In theory this could have worked.

By January of 1943 the number who left began to grow rapidly. From an estimated 13,500 left after September 1942 about 2,500 escaped each month up to the uprising.

After the uprising those on the outside had a new problem. Szpilman was not really all alone. Many maintained social contacts. Most were blackmailed and were on the run. Each person who survived changed hiding places an average of seven times. People were passed from one stranger to another, shared hiding places with strangers, an average of four Jews hid in each place. The challenge was how to reach the 28,000 hidden Jews.

There was a Secret City. As Szpilman was helped by others, so were all those who survived. The many blackmailers are evidence that the Jews were not so inconspicuous as they thought. Some who helped had hidden motives, such as Christian charities that hoped to win converts. The Polish government in exile in London helped some as did Polish Jewish organizations in exile. There was aid from the communist and socialist organizations. These groups maintained contact with some of those in hiding and helped reach about half of them. There were also thousands of individual non-Jewish Poles and a few hundred German soldiers who helped. There were possibly 70,000 to 90,000 Poles who helped. In Paulsson's book he refers to those Righteous Among the Nations who helped Jews. The latter were not the passive recipients of aid as usually depicted but made heroic efforts to survive.

The Germans laid a trap. They intercepted documents sent

by the World Jewish Congress in an effort to rescue Polish Jews (these were mainly “promises”, offers of citizenship issued by certain Latin American countries), but which were destined for Jews who had already been killed. The Germans let it be known that these documents could be bought for a price, since they were interested in exchanging Jews for Germans interned as enemy aliens by the Allies. About 3,500 Warsaw Jews volunteered for this programme, but all 200 were eventually sent to Auschwitz and killed. Another 4,500 Jews died in the 1944 Warsaw (Polish) Uprising. About 6,500 were denounced by the blackmailers, and 2,500 were caught or returned to the ghetto or died of natural causes. By comparison, in the Netherlands about 9,000 Jews were denounced, though slightly fewer went into hiding.

The Germans actually underestimated the number of hidden Jews and did not put up a large reward for betrayal. Those in the Secret City were not a random group but self-selected, recruited systematically, with friends. Finally, the blackmailers were, for the most part, thieves, not murders. What rewards were offered were only rarely claimed. It was more profitable for the blackmailers to squeeze more money out of their victims rather than turn them in.

In the summer of 1944 uprising of about 200,000 Poles, a further 4,500 Jews died. About one-third of the uprising survivors were scattered around the Polish countryside. The lucky ones were on the right bank of the Vistula River where the Russians liberated them in September. A small number who remained on the left bank were destroyed by the relentless actions of the Gestapo. Even while retreating they used bulldozers and flamethrowers to destroy the people and the city.

Paulsson estimates that after liberation about 11,500 went with the general Polish population to transit camps and survived that way.

Looking at the statistics of those who survived, hiding in the Polish quarter proved to be the best strategy. The total statistics for Poland are skewed by Lodz where many people survived and few were killed in the camps. More died in Warsaw because the liquidation began early. Of those who went to Treblinka, none survived. In the end, only a little more than 2 percent of the Jews who had lived in the Warsaw Ghetto lived to see the end of the war. Many had thought they would survive in the Ghetto but the rapidity of actions and the conditions prevented this. Whereas, in the Secret City many survived with the help of others. The Nazis succeeded because the great majority never had a chance. But *The Pianist* was not alone; 11,000 survived as he did.

In this 60th anniversary year of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, Paulsson urges that we should remember not only those who fought in the uprising but also those who survived on the outside.

Answers to audience questions:

- There were a number of Jewish cigarette sellers who were on the outside. About 12 or 14 survived.
- Many of the concentration camps were in Poland simply as a matter of logistics: Auschwitz was actually in Silesia, which was considered part of Germany and one should not forget that non-Jewish Poles were the second largest victim

group.

- The pre-war population of Warsaw, before all the population movements was about 1.3 million, of whom 360,000 were Jewish. The maximum population of the Ghetto was 489,000 (up to the beginning of the deportations).
- It is difficult to say exactly how many survived in Poland. We may never know the exact figure because of the children who did not know they were Jewish, the converts and the Communists who never considered themselves Jewish. However, the first list compiled in June of 1945 estimated 54,000. As people returned from the Soviet Union and other places, the census of December 1945 counted 80,000.

For information on the book: *Secret City: The Hidden Jews of Warsaw, 1940-1945*, click on the following link:
http://members.aol.com/gspaulsson/Secret_City.htm

MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF SHEM TOV

We are interested in relevant material for Shem Tov. If you have something to report, don't hesitate to contact us at:
shemtov@jgstoronto.ca

The following titles have been added to our library collection, held at the North York Public Library.

1. Beit Rabbanan, Sources of Rabbinical Genealogy by Chaim Freedman
2. The Jews of Stropkov by Melody Amsel
3. The Family Orchard by Nomi Eve
4. Discovering Your Jewish Ancestors by Barbara Krasner-Khait
5. The Great Synagogue Marriage Records 1791-1830 of London, England
6. Jews Resident in Ontario according to 1851-1901 Censuses of Canada by Glen Eker
7. The Litvaks, A Short History of the Jews in Lithuania by Don Levin
8. Mexican Jewry by Ira Lerner
9. The American Census Handbook by Thomas Kemp
10. A Forest of Trees by Mildred Wyman
11. Jewish Travel Guide 2002 by Michal Zaidner
12. Portraits of Our Past, Jews of Germany Countryside by Emily Rose
13. From Shtetl to Milltown, Litvaks, Hungarians, Galizeaners in Western Pennsylvania, 1875-1925
14. The Genealogy Handbook by Reader's Digest
15. Abyss of Despair by Rabbi Nathan Hanover
16. The Block Stern Family 1742-1936 by Lionel Stern

JEWISHGEN

Ordering Records from Polish State Archives Expansion of JRI-Poland's New System Mark Halpern, Director, PSA Order Processing Center

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland is very pleased to announce that agreement has been reached with the Polish State Archives (PSA) to extend the new online order processing system - the "Shopping Basket System" - to thirteen additional Archives and their branches. Since late last year, the JRI-Poland Order Processing Center has worked with the State Archives in Bialystok and its Lomza branch testing a Shopping Basket system for ordering copies of vital records indexed by JRI-Poland/PSA Projects. This pilot project has been very successful and the system will now be expanded to the following Archives and their branches:

AGAD - Central Archive of Historical Records
Bialystok, Czestochowa, Gora Kalwaria, Grodzisk Mazowiecki, Kalisz, Krakow, Lodz, Lomza, Lowicz, Lublin, Mlawa, Poznan, Przemysl, Pultusk, Rzeszow, Siedlce, Suwalki, Warsaw, Zamosc

We expect that the remaining Archives and branches, not yet part of the Shopping Basket system will be added in early 2004. This includes Kielce and its Pinczow, Sandomierz and Starachowice branches, Piotrkow Trybunalski and its Tomaszow Mazowiecki branch, Plock and its Leczyz branch, Radom, and Torun and its Wloclawek branch.

The system allows researchers to create a "Shopping Basket" for copies of records to order by clicking on index entries in the results web page of a JRI-Poland database search. Orders can be saved and subsequently amended, modified, or deleted. When a researcher is ready to order, payment can be made by credit card (Visa or MasterCard) or US dollar check or money order. There is absolutely no danger that an order can be mistakenly placed while online. At this time, researchers must mail in their order and payment for the order to become official.

A Step-by-Step Tutorial of the system can be found at
<http://www.jewishgen.org/jri-pl/psa/psabasketinst.htm>.

Each record ordered will cost the researcher US \$10. However, there is a minimum charge per branch of US \$15. (Therefore, if you order one record from Lodz and one from Pultusk, the total charge will be \$30.) JRI-Poland will receive researcher payments and arrange for periodic bank transfers in Polish currency to each Polish Archive branch.

Here are a few of the major features of the Shopping Basket system:

* Records of interest are selected online, creating an order. You

simply point and click on the desired record index and it is added to your shopping basket. This only applies to records indexed as part of a PSA project. Records indexed from LDS microfilms will not be clickable and cannot be ordered using this system.

* Your shopping basket can include orders from more than one PSA Archive or branch. Separate orders are automatically created for each branch.

* Researchers print and snail mail orders and payment to the JRI-Poland PSA Order Processing Center in Merion Station, Pennsylvania, USA. A printable form for credit card payment can be accessed by clicking a link on the Order Form.

* The Order Processing Center electronically transmits the order(s) to the Archive(s). Within 30 days each Archive will send copies by registered or priority airmail directly to the researcher.

If you previously ordered records from the AGAD Archives through the JRI-Poland AGAD Order Center, you will now be using the Shopping Basket System. All AGAD orders sent to the AGAD Order Center and postmarked November 3, 2003 or before will be processed by the AGAD Order Center. Orders postmarked November 4, 2003 or later will be returned to the researcher for submission to the JRI-Poland PSA Order Processing Center using the Shopping Basket system.

The current "Request for Quotation" system will be eliminated as of November 4, 2003. Actually, we suggest that researchers cease use of the Request for Quotation system immediately. The objective of JRI-Poland and PSA is to have only one ordering system that works efficiently for researchers. However, some of the Archives and branches are not ready to join the shopping basket system on November 4, 2003. These Archives and branches will be added to the shopping basket system as soon as practical. Please be patient and hold your orders for these Archives and branches until you see the announcement in this forum pertaining to that branch.

Marriage Certificates in Palestine & Israel

Rose Feldman, Israel Genealogy Society - Tel-Aviv Branch

Marriage Records before May 1948 are to be found in the Rabanut offices in each locality. One has to know the exact date, at least the year. After 1948, all the details are computerized from 1956 at the Misrad le'inianeit datot [Ministry of Religion] Mahleket Rabanut, Nisui'n veGerushin [Department of Marriage and Divorce] 7 Kanfei Nesharim Street. Tel: 02- 531 1131

Google Search Engine Telephone Number Capability

Ann Rabinowitz

The "Google" search engine located at <http://www.google.com> has a capability that you may not realize. If you plug in a U.S. telephone number, it will pull up a person's name, their address and a map with a location for that address. A very handy tool, but as some of you may not wish this personal information available on-line, there is also a telephone icon which you can click on and ask for removal of the information from Google.

Website for articles and books on Ashkenazi DNA and Y chromosome

Anne Mizrahi Hart, M.A.

<http://booksreviewed.tripod.com/dna7/>

Other articles on DNA also at: <http://www.newswriting.net>
<http://dnanovels.tripod.com/novels.html/>

The Central Zionist Archives

Sharon Visser-CZA

New e-mail address of the Search Bureau for Information about Immigrants (The Central Zionist Archives). You can send your requests to Ruth and Tamara, who are now in charge of the Search Bureau at E-mail: familyresearch@jazo.org.il

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by February 2004 for the Spring issue. Please indicate how many insertions you would like. As the chart indicates our basic rate is discounted for advertisements placed in four consecutive issues (one year) instead of a single issue only. By placing an ad in SHEM TOV, you are reaching a growing number of readers in Toronto, across Canada and internationally, and helping to support a unique and vital journal.

	One Issue	Four Issues (one year)
Full Page	\$60	\$200
Half Page	\$30	\$100
Quarter Page	\$18	\$ 60
Eighth Page	\$10	\$ 32

Search ads are also available. Rates are \$5 for the first 25 words and 25¢ per word thereafter, your name and address are free. Please write advertisement clearly with family surnames you are researching in UPPER CASE letters. Make your cheque payable to Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) and mail to: JGS of Canada (Toronto), P.O. Box 446, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M2N 5T1.

30 Genealogy Websites

Supplied by David Price, Librarian of the JGS of Canada (Toronto)

1. www.jewishgen.org (includes birth, marriage, death databases by country going back to the 1800's, other databases: cemetery lists, old business directories, holocaust lists, yizkor book translations, rabbinical genealogy, maps of the old country, shtetl groups, you can post searches for relatives past and present on the web, family finder, etc.).
2. www.ellisland.org (25 million New York immigration records!)
3. www.familyhistory.com/ (Mormon list of microfilms of millions of birth, marriage and death, civil, military etc. records! You can order them through me, @ \$5 per film. I go to Toronto Reference Library at Bloor & Yonge; it takes 3 weeks for the film to arrive).
4. www.tpl.toronto.on.ca The Gladys Allison Room, 6th floor of the North York Central Library is a genealogy repository and contains among many other things Canada's immigration and census records. On the 4th floor of the Toronto Reference Library, is the genealogy section. The 10th floor of the Robarts Library, U of T, has the 3rd largest yizkor book collection in the world, including a Lodz ghetto list of 200,000 names and many other lists; public access only if you come at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m.
5. www.archives.ca/ Library and Archives of Canada has 1861-1919 Canadian immigration records by year/boat/port (not indexed), 1919-1924 indexed and 1925-1935 on the web.
6. laudergen@jewish.org.pl (c/o Yale Reisner is an archivist at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw; also George Bolotenko, archivist for Russian records at Library and Archives of Canada)
7. www.cyndislist.com/ (link to best genealogy sites)
8. www.lib.utexas.edu/Libs/PCL/Map_Collection/map_sites/map_sites.html (rare map collections)
9. pdlande@starpower.net (c/o Peter Landé, Holocaust Databases)
10. <http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Render&infile=futuretense.ini&c=Page&cid=992945693891&pubid=968163964505> Search the Toronto Star (1892-1999). Also: Pages of the Past are available at any Toronto Public Library (Toronto births, marriages, obituaries, news, etc).
11. www.jgstoronto.ca/ (Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) of which I am the librarian, lists our private collection of genealogy references kept for in library use only at the Gladys Allison Room, 6th floor North York Central Library at Yonge/Empress. Roselawn Cemetery database access, notices of our monthly speaker, and a way to ask us for help researching your family tree or even better, join our society).
12. www.cities.com/paris/rue/4017/meirlchak/volume5.html (Jewish military casualties in the Polish army)
13. www.freetranslation.com/ (translates anything into English)
14. www.pier21.ns.ca (records on Canadian immigration)
15. www.jewishencyclopedia.com/index.jsp (Jewish encyclopedia on line)
16. www.spielbergfilmarchive.org.il/ (old films of Jewish life, Holocaust films)
17. www.yad.vashem.org.il (records of the 6 million to be put on line)
18. www.yivoinstitute.org (Jewish records)
19. www.infobel.be/infobel/infobelworld.html (phonebooks of the world)
20. www.netins.net/showcase/pafways/glow.htm (genealogy humor)
21. <http://remember.org/> (Holocaust. Cybrary)
22. www.chatsystems.com/~elise/jgchat/ (Jewish genealogy chat room)
23. <http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=000476&tid=001> Canadian Red Cross - Restoring Family Links Program of the 40 million people registered during WW2
24. www.jewishmuseum.org New York Jewish Museum
25. <http://webhome.idirect.com/~aleptav/> Albert & Tammy Latner Jewish Public Library of Toronto (genealogy references including some yizkor books)
26. www.ancestry.com (free one month every year, free at the library)
27. www.ogs.on.ca (Ontario Genealogical Society, collection at Gladys Allison Canadiana Room, 6th floor North York Central Library. Yonge & Empress)
28. www.rootsweb.com (free genealogy web site)
29. <http://blacksheep.rootsweb.com> (genealogy "hall of shame" eg. Bussy Siegel and descendants)
30. <http://www.canada411.ca/eng/person.html> Canadian White Pages (Telephone)



*We Welcome These New
Members to Our Society*

Howard Nemers

Betty Sherwood

The Central Archive Moves to its New Location A Boost for Genealogical Research in Israel

Jean Pierre Stroweis

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People (CAHJP) has just moved to its new home at Rehov Jabotinsky 46, Jerusalem. The new facility, in the residential and quiet neighborhood of Talbieh and across the street from the President's House, is a dramatic shift from their previous location in a narrow basement in a building on the Givat Ram campus of the Hebrew University. The move will allow the Central Archives to expand its activities and enhance its services. The facilities in the new building are a vast improvement - the reading room is larger with more space for general reference books and encyclopedias for immediate reference. CAHJP's mission is the preservation of an unbroken chain of historical documentation, reflecting the collective past of the Jewish people and aiding in research.

The Central Archives has rescued and preserved the archival remnants of hundreds of Jewish communities, organizations and public figures from all over the world. It constantly adds to its collection by locating documents worldwide and either microfilming them or by bringing the originals to Jerusalem.

In contrast to Jerusalem's other two main archives, Yad Vashem and the Central Zionist Archives, the historical and geographical scope is very broad: it spans centuries, with documents dating back to the 12th century, with material from Western, Eastern and Central Europe, the Islamic countries, North and South America, South Africa, and Eastern Asia. Unfortunately, due to the lack of funding, the catalog is not yet computerized. Searching through the card catalog may be tricky, as the cards are written in the same language as the archival item. A subset of the entire catalog relevant to the study of Polish Jewry was published years ago and an updated version with many new entries is underway. Hadassah Assouline, the CAHJP director hopes that, by 2004, the entire catalog will be on-line.

Although it is not their original primary purpose, the collections at the Central Archives are now used by a large number of individuals to trace their personal links to their Jewish past through genealogical research. Community records are often the only available source to trace genealogy for the period that preceded the establishment of metrical records.

In recent years, the Central Archives have sensed the urge to address the needs of genealogists. CAHJP is to become a repository of the inter-loan network of LDS Family History Centers, thus giving Israeli genealogists access to the vast collection of LDS microfilms.

The complete LDS catalog is on-line at:
www.familysearch.org

A CD-ROM holding the sub-set of the LDS catalog with items of Jewish interest has been produced by the LDS and can be found at the Israel Genealogical Society.

Finally, Israelis will be able to trace their genealogy like their Jewish peers living in the Western countries, without the need to travel abroad. We are confident that this major event

will boost Jewish genealogy in Israel. Hopefully, some of the more commonly used microfilms will be available here on a permanent basis. The Central Archives' board of directors consists of representatives of the Government of Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Historical Society of Israel, the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Tel-Aviv University and Bar-Ilan University. The Central Archives is a non-profit, tax exempt, public institution.

The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People
Rehov Jabotinsky 46, Jerusalem.

Postal address: CAHJP, P O B 1149, Jerusalem 91010, Israel

Telephone: (02) 563 57 16, Fax: (02) 566 76 86

Web: <http://sites.huji.ac.il/archives>

E-mail: archives@vms.huji.ac.il

Hours: Sunday to Thursday, 8:30 to 15:30.

Closed on Friday and Shabbat.

Bus: #13 from the Egged Central Station- South, in the direction of City Center and Talbieh.

From Sharsheret Hadorot, the Journal of the Israel Genealogical Society

New: Pinkas Kehillot Polin, "Central Poland"

by Abraham Wein

Pinkas Kehillot Polin, "Central Poland" (Lublin-Kielce counties), edited by Abraham Wein, presents 265 Jewish localities from large communities such as those of Lublin, Kielce, Radom, Czestochowa, Chelm, Sosnowiec, and others, to localities that had Jewish populations of over one hundred people. In administrative terms, these localities were in Polish counties within the country's 1938 borders. The entries relate the history of the Jewish collective from the time the "first Jew" appeared in the locality until the "last Jew" left, was exiled, or murdered. Each entry presents demographic data, describes the Jews' political status and the way it changed over the generations, and explains the Jews' economic (vocations), social and cultural life. A common thread that links the entries is the problem of Jewish-Gentile relations in the locality. The anti-semitic manifestations that Jews experienced in the locality end on a tragic note as the Holocaust period is described. The book's introduction reviews the specifics of Jewry in the entire area and describes its history in reference to Polish Jewry.

The book includes a general bibliography, indices of locations and names, maps, and illustrations to assist the reader. This volume is the sixth in the eight volume *Pinkas Kehillot Polin* series.

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Shem Tov Cumulative Index by Subject Headings Volumes X (1994) through XVIII (2002)

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ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES, BOOKSTORES

Finding Living Relatives through Yad Vashem Archives	XI, 1
Retail Establishments With Yizkor Book Holdings	XII, 3
Our Monthly Meeting at the [Israel] State Archives	XIII, 2
Finding My Ancestors at the National Archives of Canada	XVI, 2
Passenger Lists at the National Archives of Canada	XVI, 2
Yad Vashem	XVI, 2
Historical Archive in Vilnius	XVI, 2
Finding My Ancestors at the North York Public Library	XVI, 3
Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog	XVII, 1
Genealogical Institute Opens at Center for Jewish History in New York City	XVII, 1
Finding Your Roots at the YIVO, Institute for Jewish Research	XVII, 2
Important Polish Archive Information	XVII, 3
Mending Torn Memories: The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project at the Jewish Historical Institute of Poland,	XVII, 4
Where to Look for Records in Israel	XVIII, 1
New Arrivals for Genealogists in the Canadiana Department from The National Archives of Canada	XVIII, 2

AUSTRIA

Austrian Victims of the Holocaust; Registration by Name	XIV, 1
Another Austrian "Discovery"	XVI, 3

AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Australian Censuses to be in Public Domain	XVI, 2
New Zealand Family Research Service	XVIII, 1

BALTIC COUNTRIES

A Letter To The Family	XII, 4
A Return to the Shtetl	XIV, 3
Lithuanian Names Project: Recording and Remembering Lithuanian Shoah Victims	XV, 1

BOOK REVIEW

A History and Guide to Judaic Encyclopedias and Lexicons	X, 1
Sigilla Veri	XI, 3
How to Document Victims and Locate Survivors of the Holocaust	XI, 3
A History of the Jewish Experience in Arkansas, 1820-1990	XII, 3

If I forget Thee, The Destruction of the Shtetl Butrimantz	XV, 3
Jewish Roots in the Ukraine and Moldova	XV, 4
Family Who's Who	XV, 4
From Immigration to Integration: The Canadian Experience	XVII, 4
A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names	XVII, 4

CANADA

Shem Tov Index, Volumes IV through IX (1988-1993)	X, 2
Oddities in the 1901 Census of Montreal and Quebec City	X, 3
A Short History of the Jews of Newfoundland	X, 4
How Useful are Canadian Ship Manifests to Genealogical Research	XI, 2
Using Voters Lists to Locate Missing Relatives	XI, 3
10 th Anniversary (The JGS of Canada, Toronto)	XI, 4
Constructing a Family Tree Using Census Indexes and Raw Census Data	XI, 4
Canadian Naturalization Records as Source of Genealogical Information	XII, 1
The Jews of Toronto	XII, 2
Assessment Records: A Little Used Genealogical Source	XII, 2
Using City of Toronto Assessment Records to Help Solve a Genealogical Problem	XII, 3
The Records of the Baron De Hirsch Institute 1892-1914	XII, 4
How to Obtain Ontario Vital Statistics Records	XIII, 2
Genealogical Research Problems in the 1921, 1935 and 1945 Censuses of Newfoundland	XIV, 1
Jewish Vital Records Research in Quebec	XIV, 2
Genealogical Information in Canadian WW I Military Records	XIV, 3
Sources for Civil Records In Canada	XIV, 3
Jewish Archives in Canada	XV, 1
Ontario Certificates	XV, 4
The British Columbia Archives	XV, 4
The Jewish Genealogical Society [of Canada, Toronto]	XVII, 3
1915-1932 Canadian Naturalization Index	XVIII, 4

CARRIBEAN

Jamaican Jewish Genealogy	XV, 4
---------------------------	-------

CEMETERIES, FUNERAL HOMES

The Endingen-Lengnau Jewish Cemetery	XIII, 2
The Largest Computerized Jewish Burial Register in the World	XIII, 3
The Jewish Cemeteries of Vienna	XVII, 2
Benjamin's Funeral Home Records	XVIII, 4

COMPUTERS, INTERNET RESOURCES, SOFTWARE

Computer Commentary	XI, 1
Jewish Genealogy on the Internet	XIV, 1
Software Programs for the Jewish Genealogist	XIV, 1
Phone Directories on the World Wide Web	XIV, 1
The Family Tree of the Jewish People	XIV, 2
How to Self-Publish Your Family Tree Through the Magic of the Computer	XV, 4
New Permutation Program for the Hamburg Emigration List	XVIII, 1
New Eastern European Archival Database	XVIII, 2
Center for Jewish History Genealogy Institute Inaugurates New Web site	XVIII, 2
Yad Vashem Holocaust Databases	XVIII, 2
Ukrainian Archives Now Have an English - Language Web Site	XVIII, 4
NY Public Library 's Yizkor Books to Go on Line	XVIII, 4
The New, Expanded, Wonderful Roots Web	XVI, 1
Useful Web Sites for Study of the Holocaust	XVI, 3
Genealogy Software	XVI, 3
The Internet Beyond JewishGen	XVII, 1
New York Ship Arrival Dates – Morton Allen Online	XVII, 2
Berliner Adressbuecher 1799-1943 on the Net	XVII, 4
New Files Added to Holocaust Database	XVIII, 4

CONFERENCES

Hollywood "Chai", The 18 th Seminar at LA, July 1998	XIV, 3
Jewish Genealogists Take a Bite Out of the Big Apple	XV, 3
Toronto and Canada stand at the Top of the Mountain; A Report on the 20 th International Conference	XVI, 3
The 21 st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy	XVII, 3
Tips on Attending a Jewish Genealogical Conference	XVIII, 1
Toronto 2002, A Smashing Success	XVIII, 3

CZECH REPUBLIC AND SLOVAKIA

The Ghetto Theresienstadt (Terezin)	X, 2
Summary of Article From Nase Rodina	XIII, 2
Ancestors in Bohemia	XV, 1
Two Weeks in Hungary and Slovakia	XVII, 3

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH BY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Recent Developments in East European Research	X, 4
A 1917 Overview of Jewish Genealogy	XI, 2
A Zionist's Dream	XIII, 4
Growing My Family Tree	XIII, 4
A Childhood Fantasy	XIII, 4
The Katz - Greenspan Mystery	XIII, 4
The Benefits of Genealogy	XII, 3
I Wonder If We Are Related	XII, 4
An Odd Introduction To Genealogy	XIII, 1
Every Journal is Important To Somebody	XIII, 1
Bringing the Past to Life And to Print	XIII, 1
Now Is The Right Time	XIII, 1
Two Coincidences Lead to a Discovery of Family Connections	XIV, 1

A Genealogical Journey	XIV, 4
Solomon's of Cookstown, Australia and the Internet	XV, 1
Combining Genealogical and Family Trait Genetic Research	XV, 3
A Story of Amazing Mazel	XVI, 1
A Family Reunion in Toronto	XVI, 3
Gathering Garbarski's	XVI, 4
A Small World	XVI, 4
Some Surprising Genealogical Breakthroughs	XVII, 2
My Trip to my Father's Shtetl: A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity	XVIII, 1
The Horwitz and Strachman Families in Toronto [1]	XVIII, 4
Johann Strauss: "The Waltz King's Jewish Connections	XVIII, 4

GERMANY

Family Research at the Leo Baeck Institute	XIII, 3
A Letter from the Leo Baeck Institute in New York	XIV, 2
Civil Records vs. Vital Records in Germany	XVII, 4

GREAT BRITAIN

A concise History of Jews in Glasgow Scotland	X, 1
Genealogical Information in the Jewish Chronicle	XI, 1
The Jews of Merthyr, Wales and Woodstock, Ontario	XII, 1
The Jewish Population in the 1851 Religious Census of Great Britain	XIII, 1
Genealogical Information in the Censuses of Great Britain	XIII, 3
The Genealogy and Family Tree of Benjamin Disraeli, Earl of Beaconsfield	XIII, 4
Family Records Centre, London: Certificates of Births, Marriages, Deaths and Adoptions	XIV, 1
Southampton University's Jewish Archives	XIV, 2
United Kingdom Resource for Wills	XVII, 4

HOLOCAUST

Published Memoirs from the Shtetl to the Holocaust	X, 2
Yad Vashem Publications Help Document Family History	XI, 2
Auschwitz Tattoo	XII, 3
My Search for an SS St. Louis Passenger	XIV, 4
Documenting Victims of the Holocaust	XIV, 4
German/Austrian Holocaust Victim Databases Currently Available on the Web	XV, 4
Personal Recollections and Deportation Lists	XVI, 4
Old and new Sources of Information on Holocaust Victims and Survivors	XVII, 4
Some Lists of Names of Survivors and Victims Available in Toronto and on the Internet	XVII, 4

HUNGARY

A Rusty Flowerpot in a Budapest Cemetery	XI, 4
Two Weeks in Hungary and Slovakia	XVII, 3

ISRAEL

Search Bureau for Missing Relatives	XVIII, 2
-------------------------------------	----------

JEWISH NAMES

- Major Update to the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index XVII, 2
Medieval Jewish Naming Patterns XVII, 3

METHODOLOGY

- Using Printed Forms to Organise Your Records X, 3
Print-on-Demand Publisher: Publishing Your Genealogy Book XV, 4

POLAND

- Judaica Poloniae XV, 2
Jewish Records Indexing – Poland XV, 2
About the Polish Genealogical Society of America XV, 2
Polish Business Directories XV, 3
Jewish Records Indexing-Poland: 1929, Business Directory Project XVI, 1
Travel to Poland and Ukraine XVII, 1
Lodz Records Initiative XVII, 4

ROMANIA AND MOLDOVA

- A Tale of Two Letters (and Several Cities), Part 1 X, 2
A Tale of Two Letters (and Several Cities), Part 2 X, 3
The Mania in Romania X, 4
Routes to Roots in Moldova (Formerly Bessarabia) XI, 3

RUSSIA, BELARUS AND UKRAINE

- Some Helpful “Hints” Visiting Ancestral Towns in Ukraine X, 4
How My Cousin Found Long-Lost Descendants of My Grandmother’s Brother in Birobijan XII, 1
Jewish Records from Belarus at the Family History Library XII, 1
Jewish Vital Records from Belarus on Microfilm XII, 2
My Trip to Ukraine and Russia XVI, 1
Travel to Poland and Ukraine XVII, 1

UNITED STATES

- Mormons Baptize Holocaust Victims X, 3
A Bridge to America: The Landsmanshaften XI, 1
Mormons, Jews Sign Agreement on Baptised Holocaust Victims XI, 2
What’s New at YIVO XI, 3
Genealogical Information in American Naturalization Records XII, 4
Genealogical Information in American Naturalization Records: An Update XIII, 3

“Nu? What’s New?”

News about Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu

More Canada-to-U.S. Border Crossings Filmed

Another group of records involving immigrants crossing the border from Canada into the U.S. has been microfilmed by the U.S. National Archives. Called "Manifests of Alien Arrivals at Buffalo, Lewiston, Niagara Falls, and Rochester, New York, 1902-1954," it documents more than one million alien arrivals during that period. They primarily consist of aliens returning from a visit abroad, although there are a large number of aliens apparently entering the U.S. for the first time.

The contents of each index card is as extensive as a ship's manifest. Information includes the person's name, age, sex, marital status, place of birth, physical description, occupation, citizenship (nationality), race, ability to read and write and in what language, place of last permanent residence, port and date of arrival, destination, purpose for entering U.S., intention of becoming a U.S. citizen or of returning to country of previous residence, head tax status, and previous citizenship. It also includes the name and address of the alien's nearest relative or friend in the country from which he or she came.

Copies are available at National Archives locations in Washington, D.C.: Pittsfield, Massachusetts; and New York City. Additional information can be found at: http://www.archives.gov/research_room/genealogy/immigrant_arrivals/northern_ny_state_arrivals.html The site includes sample cards from the collection.

National Yiddish Book Center to Reprint Yizkor Books

The National Yiddish Book Center located in Amherst, Massachusetts, has signed an agreement with the New York Public Library that permits them to reprint and sell all yizkor books in the library's collection--some 650 books. The books will be scanned using high resolution equipment, and the images will be used to produce the reprints. Samples were on display at the 23rd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. The quality of the text was quite good; the picture reproduction was only fair. Future plans call for duplicating additional yizkor books where permission can be granted. (A description of what are yizkor books can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/holocaust/yizkor.htm>)

The National Yiddish Book Center site is: <http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org>. At present, there is no information about the project at the site.

“Nu? What’s New?”

News about Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu

Auschwitz Archives Prisoner List Online

The Auschwitz Archives has placed information about 69,000 prisoners who died at the infamous concentration camp online at http://www.auschwitz.org.pl/szukaj/index.php?language=PL&tryb=bz_szukaj.

Only a Polish version currently exists. The information can be searched by surname (nazwisko), given name (imie), place of birth (miejsce urodzenia) and place of residence (miejsce zamieszkania). Information displayed is name, date and place of birth, date of death, and last residence. If your request produces more than 40 hits, a warning message is generated and nothing is displayed.

The home page is: <http://www.auschwitz.org.pl/>. The site has some interesting sections. The "Latest News" portion has a number of feature articles about the history of Auschwitz as well as current plans.

Another Stephen Morse Portal

Stephen Morse has done it again. He has created a superior portal to yet another Internet site that is useful for genealogy. The Morse site now includes the ability to obtain a road map or aerial view of any place in the world. It can be linked to from his home page <http://www.stevemorse.org>.

Key in a given latitude/longitude in degrees, minutes and seconds and the Morse portal will provide a road map, courtesy of MapQuest.com, or an aerial view, courtesy of Globexplorer.com. For the U.S. and Canada, it is unnecessary to know the latitude/longitude, because Morse permits identification of a location by street address.

The quality of the aerial views is quite poor for locations in Eastern Europe. Cities as large as Warsaw show little detail, but locations in Western Europe and North American show incredible detail. To get the exact latitude/longitude of any place in the world except the United States, I use:

<http://www.calle.com/world>. For locations within the U.S., I use <http://geonames.usgs.gov>.

When defining a location at the Morse site, be sure to correctly specify whether the latitude is north or south of the equator and the longitude is east or west of Greenwich. I keyed in the latitude/longitude of my ancestral town of Warka, Poland, and asked for an aerial view. I got nothing! I then keyed in the latitude/longitude of the town where I now live in New Jersey and realized I had requested for Warka a global position west of Greenwich rather than east of Greenwich. When I corrected this, I got an aerial view of Warka. The first request was processed correctly. Sample maps I retrieved using the Morse site can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/aerialmaps.htm>.

Yad Vashem to Digitize Their Microfilm Collection

As almost an aside, Alex Avraham of Yad Vashem noted that the institution has purchased equipment that will permit them to digitize their microfilm collection. Their first project will be to convert the copy they have of the records of the International Tracing Service with plans to eventually make the records available to the public.

Israeli Telephone Book Portal at Stephen Morse Site

Some time ago, Stephen Morse, author of the best portal to the Ellis Island Database, added English-to-Hebrew and Hebrew-to-English character translators to his site. He has now added a logical extension to this capability with a lookup portal to the Bezeq Israeli telephone book, which is available only in Hebrew.

The Morse portal can be found at his Home Page: <http://www.stevemorse.org>.

Prior to this utility, it was necessary to key in the Hebrew name to search the Bezeq directory. This required Hebrew keyboard capability in your operating system environment. The Morse utility eliminates this requirement.

Step 1 at the Morse site is to key in the surname in the Roman alphabet. Morse then presents a number of possible spellings in Hebrew for the surname. You copy and paste any option to another area on the screen, and that Hebrew spelling is used to search the Bezeq phone book. I used the name "Mokotov" and it worked perfectly. Morse not only presents the listing from the online directory but also translates the characters into the Roman alphabet. This transliteration is crude--a character for character transliteration--but readable. Moshe appears as Mshh. Yitzhak is Yetzkhh.

Theoretically no knowledge of Hebrew is needed but it can be valuable in saving time. Morse offered four spellings for Mokotov. I knew the first was the one used in Israel. I also knew that the Israeli spelling of my surname was not Mokotoff but Mokotov.



***JGS-Toronto-Presentation:
THE DEVELOPMENT OF JEWISH NAMES
IN CENTRAL EUROPE***

*This report was compiled by Carolynne Veffer,
Vice-President JGS of Canada (Toronto)*

On September 24, Henry Wellisch, a past president of our Society, a presenter at many IAJGS conferences, and someone who is always ready to help, kindly replaced Sarah Taieb-Carlsen who had to cancel at the last moment due to illness. But despite the lack of preparation time, Henry gave a very informative and entertaining presentation on Jewish names. Major sources included an article by Dr. Wenzel Zacek and sources in the Robarts Library (University of Toronto) of Austrian and Hungarian Census material. Here's a brief summary:

Henry started with a geography lesson, explaining the various areas of Central Europe (primarily related to the Austrian Empire) and the respective Jewish populations in the latter part of the 18th Century.

This led to his explanation of the Reforms of the 1780's by Emperor Joseph II of Austria who introduced far reaching reforms which included the removal of many restrictions from the Jews of the Austrian Empire. Among the various reforms, the regulations dealing with Jewish first and family names played an important part.

At the time, the Jewish tradition was to be known by your name, son or daughter of your father's name i.e. Jacob ben Isaac. Henry showed us 1725 and 1736 census results showing the Jews registered with these traditional names.

But the Emperor felt that by giving Jews proper German names they could be better integrated into the society. It would also end the confusing situation with some Jews being known under several names (e.g. sometimes Jews would take on "last names" related to where they were living and then change it when they moved).

The regulation of Jewish names was published on July 23, 1787 and applied to all Austrian crown lands, to Hungary and to Transylvania. In 1804 it was extended to the crown land of Galicia. It obliged male Jews to take on permanent family names, unmarried females the name of their fathers, married females the name of their husbands. The first names had to be taken from a prescribed list of German first names. It had 110 male names but only 35 female names. (Henry presented the list of allowable names). But the Jews protested that this was not enough choice and the names were gradually expanded. Here's the list of allowable female names – you'll see why they thought they needed more.

ABIGAIL, AGATHA, AGNES, AMALIA, ANNA, ASPASIA, ATHALIA, BARBARA, CAZILIA, DEMUTH, DOROTHEA, ELIZABETH, ESTER, EVA, JOANNA, IPHIGENIA, JUDITH, JULIA, LIBUSCHA, LUZIA, MAGDALENA, MARIA, MARTHA, NIKOLAIA, PAULA, RACHEL, REBECKA, REGINA, ROSA, ROSALIA, ROSEL, SARA, SEMIRAMITH, SUSANNA, SYBILLA.

Henry then showed us an assortment of lists that showed old names and new names from various parts of the empire. He explained that while you were prohibited from taking place

names as last names, if it preceded the regulation you were allowed to keep it – which explained someone named "Hamburger". He also explained that brothers didn't necessarily choose the same last names. He referred to the "belief" that Jews were given unpleasant or "rude" last names and pointed out that most of the last names were regular names you would see today in telephone books. As Henry explained, most last names fell into various categories: professions, places, and what he referred to as "fantasy names", e.g. colours (Weiss, Rotman, (berg) etc.), precious stones and metals (Gold, Silver(man, berg, stein etc.), trees and plants, physical characteristics (Gross, Klein) etc.

Henry concluded by explaining that this was the first of such "name" edicts which then spread to other parts of Europe. It was a very interesting presentation followed by questions from the attendees.

"Genealogical Resources in New York"

(This book is in our collection at the North York Public Library)

The Jewish Genealogical Society - New York announces the publication of "Genealogical Resources in New York," the most comprehensive guide to genealogical and biographical resources in New York City and Albany, edited by Estelle M. Guzik. This 418-page hardcover volume provides details on the genealogical resources in more than 80 facilities - clearly and in a uniform format. Included for each repository is a comprehensive listing of its holdings, address, phone number, e-mail address, hours, finding aids, access, and copying facilities. Thirty-two government agencies and 50 libraries and archives are covered. "Genealogical Resources in New York" will help genealogist sort through the maze of these repositories, institutions, and government agencies to quickly find the information needed. The extensive description of holdings will save time for both the genealogist and the research staff by identifying the information contained in each repository. The listing of available finding aids and the forms for ordering records will also produce faster results.

Facilities of interest to all genealogists include: National Archives NYC Municipal Archives County Clerks, Courts, and Board of Elections New York City and State Vital Records Ellis Island -- American Family Immigration History Center Ellis Island -- National Park Service Archives and Library.

Among the entries of special interest to Jewish genealogists are: Center for Jewish History, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, American Jewish Historical Society, Leo Baeck Institute, American Sephardi Federation, Museum of Jewish Heritage, New York Public Library -- Dorot Jewish Division HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society).

The complete Table of Contents and additional details may be seen at <http://www.jgsny.org/newbook.htm>.

Estelle M. Guzik, editor of "Genealogical Resources in New York," is a long time member of the Jewish Genealogical Society - New York, and has served several terms as President and Vice-President. Estelle was editor of the Society's "Genealogical Resources in the New York Metropolitan Area" (1989) and is a frequent contributor to "Dorot," the Society's newsletter and other genealogical publications.
