

שֵׁם טוֹב  
**SHEM TOV**

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

VOLUME XXIII No. 3

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## AN UPDATE ON JEWISH RECORDS INDEXING-POLAND

By Ruth Chernia

**O**n May 30th, Stanley Diamond, Executive Director of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) spoke to an enthusiastic audience about the history of and latest developments at JRI-Poland.

### JRI-Poland: What's New?

A remarkable number of Jewish vital record registers of Poland have survived the ravages of time and the upheavals of history. Moreover, many of these registers — generally covering the years 1808 to 1865 and, in some cases, beyond — have been microfilmed, making the records accessible through the Family History Centers of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS/ Mormons). Miriam Weiner's Routes to Roots Foundation web site [www.rtrfoundation.org/archdta8.html](http://www.rtrfoundation.org/archdta8.html) presents an inventory of the surviving Jewish vital records of Poland and brings to light the millions of additional records not microfilmed by the LDS.

### Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland)

The goal of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (JRI-Poland) <http://www.jri-poland.org> is to create searchable online indices of Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland. Where such records are available, they can include towns that are now part of Lithuania, Ukraine and Belarus. Founded twelve years ago, the project was an outgrowth of Stanley's need for broad-based access to the Jewish vital records of the towns in the area of Ostrów Mazowiecka, 100 km northeast of Warsaw, for genetic research purposes. Steven Zedeck of Nashua, NH, and Michael Tobias of Glasgow, Scotland, had not only a deep interest in the records of this area, but also the technical skills to bring the project to life. Stanley became Executive Director in January 1997. JRI-Poland is managed by a board of volunteers.

Indices in JRI-Poland come from two major sources: 1) Indexing LDS microfilms, comprising about 2,000 films from more than 500 towns and villages, and 2) The JRI-Poland/ Polish State Archives Project. Although the LDS films contain approximately two million records, there are several million additional records in the Polish State Archives that were not filmed. Generally, these cover the 30 to 35 years prior to 1906, when many of our grandparents and great-grandparents lived in

Poland. Only indices to vital records more than 100 years old can be made available online; some records for 1905–6 are already in the database. Registers with records more than 100 years old are transferred each year from town civil records offices (Urząd Stanu Cywilnego) to branches of the Polish State Archives. In November 2006, the new Director General of the Polish State Archives arbitrarily terminated the nine-year-old cooperation agreement between the PSA and JRI-Poland. For more information go to [www.jri-poland.org/termination.html](http://www.jri-poland.org/termination.html). JRI-Poland is actively seeking to restore the cooperation.

All previously available indices are still searchable and available in the JRI-Poland database. Other than newly funded/ previously indexed data, records that become 100 years old are not being indexed or added to the database on a regular basis as they were before. Also, copies of records must be ordered directly from Archives, rather than through the JRI-Poland Order System.

To supplement information in vital records or substitute other sources for towns whose records are missing, JRI-Poland now includes a growing number of additional types of records.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Programs organized by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)

Unless otherwise noted, programs take place at the  
Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue - 470 Glencairn Avenue  
Doors open at 7:30, program begins at 8 p.m.

Non-member fee: \$5.00 per meeting (exception: spouses accompanying members)

### Wednesday October 24, 2007

Speaker: Sherilyn Bell

Topic: A Primer on DNA and its Role in Genealogical Research

### Wednesday, November 7, 2007

(in association with Holocaust Education Week)

Doors open 7 pm, speaker at 7:30

Speaker: Peter Lande, US Holocaust Memorial Museum

Topic: Holocaust Research - The Breakthrough and ?

Compared to a year ago, there has been tremendous progress in securing access to information on Holocaust victims and survivors. While implementation may be slow, it is no exaggeration that the decision to open the Swiss Red Cross' International Tracing Service (ITS) is a quantum leap forward. Moreover, there has been significant progress in the quantity, quality and accessibility of information from the existing "Big Three" - Yad Vashem, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and JewishGen. Despite this good news, genealogists will still need to investigate archives and consult written material in various languages if they are to conduct a thorough search.

### Wednesday November 28, 2007

Speaker: Cheryl Tallan

Topic: Jewish Women Throughout the Ages

### Wednesday, December 12, 2007

Speaker: Eric Stein

Topic: TBA

### Wednesday, January 30, 2008

Speaker: Ruth Goldbloom

Topic: TBA

### Wednesday, February 27, 2008

Speaker: Merle Kastner

Topic: TBA

### SUNDAY, March 30, 2008

Speaker: Alan Greenberg, Montreal Jewish Genealogical Society

Topic: The Naturalization Database Project

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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](http://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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**Wednesday, April 30, 2008**

Speaker: Hubert Huebscher

Topic: DNA and Classic Genealogy Join to Solve a Genealogical Puzzle

The application of DNA to genealogy has made great strides since its beginnings in 2000. The benefits of combining DNA and classical paper-trail methodologies are becoming evident. The presentation is about an advanced genealogy project currently underway that had its beginnings in a conventional Y-DNA surname project. One of the earliest applications of DNA to genealogy has been surname projects, in which DNA testing is used to determine if persons with the same or similar surnames share a recent paternal ancestor. Basic 12-marker Y-DNA tests often are sufficient to prove or disprove, with a high degree of certainty, the hypothesis of a common ancestor when surnames match.

**Wednesday, May 28, 2008**

Speaker: Jill Culiner

Topic: Finding Home: In the Footsteps of the Jewish fugeyers

**Wednesday, June 4, 2008**

Speaker: Ron Arons

Topic: TBA

**Wednesday, June 25, 2008**

Topic: Breakthroughs and Year -End Meeting

**ADVERTISING RATES**

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by November 2007 for the Winter 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 91006, 2901 Bayview Ave., Toronto, Ontario M2K 1H0.

**Stephen Morse Speaks in Hamilton**

From notes by Shelley Stillman

Stephen Morse, the author of "One-Step" technology for searching on-line databases, recently spoke in Hamilton to members of the Toronto and Hamilton JGS's. His first talk, on One-Step Portals for On-Line Genealogy, gave an overview of what his one -step web site has to offer, and introduced other resources that are available on the web. All of Stephen's pages are free to use; however, searching of databases from Ancestry.com requires a paid subscription to that organization. The details of his talk can be found at <http://www.stevemorse.org/onestep/onestep.htm> To go to Morse's one-step pages, see <http://www.stevemorse.org>

The possibilities of applying this technology to other databases, such as those held by Jewish Genealogy Societies, continues to be explored.

Morse also spoke on the Jewish calendar. He explained why the Jewish calendar is so complicated - being based on both a solar and lunar calendar - as the earth takes 12.5 months to go around the sun. His web site can convert dates, which is important when one wants to decipher tombstones. He noted that the day on the Hebrew calendar begins before/after/around sunset, and a birth date or death date is subject to the accuracy of the recorder. in this regard

Morse also has easy one-step pages for translations and dealing with characters in foreign alphabets. It takes a lot of time to explore his web site but it is highly recommended. The one-step page "Where's Grandpa: Finding Your Great Grandfather in One Step" is a tongue -in-cheek link.



Stephen Morse speaks in Hamilton

These range from Books of Residents (house by house censuses), census records, army draft lists, indices to burials in cemeteries and gravestone files, Polish passports, ghetto death records, birth, marriage and death announcements in newspapers in Poland and court and legal announcements in official newspapers (*Monitor Polski*). Instructions about how to get further details or background information about each particular group of listings are at the bottom of the JRI-Poland search results.

JRI-Poland has indexed more than three million records from more than 470 towns. However, there are more than 100 towns for which data has been indexed but, until the cost of the indexing is covered, the data cannot be added to the searchable database. Excel files with this not-yet-funded data are available to Qualified Contributors to these projects. Getting this data fully and online is a priority. Most of the work on the microfilmed records is done by volunteers organized into Shtetl CO-OPs; some of the difficult Cyrillic script entries (from the post-1867 Russian years' registers) are, in the main, transliterated by professionals whose work is funded by contributions from both individuals and groups of Jewish genealogists. Indexing of records in Poland is done by Warsaw-based professionals, funded by researchers around the world.

JRI-Poland has been recognized by the international medical and scientific community because of the potential benefit of the database for Ashkenazi families trying to trace their medical histories, particularly those at increased risk for hereditary conditions and diseases. As a result of statistical analyses indicating a high incidence of medical and genetic abnormalities in individuals of Polish Jewish descent, JRI-Poland is creating a finding aid for records in Polish Civil Records offices (*Urząd Stanu Cywilnego*) to assist individuals who may need answers to medical-related questions or require bone marrow or other transplants for lifesaving procedures. In this regard, JRI-Poland has received commendations from the Gift of Life Foundation and the National Marrow Donor Program. This data will also be useful to the efforts of the scientific community to prevent the spread of known genetic traits and life-threatening diseases.

#### **How to Use Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Database**

See the Research Guide link on the home page of JRI-Poland [www.jri-poland.com](http://www.jri-poland.com).

#### **Building the Database of Jewish Records Indexing-Poland**

*The Shtetl CO-OP initiative — indexing of records on microfilm*  
There are more than two million vital records in the LDS microfilms of Jewish registers. Although there have been remarkable efforts by volunteers and generous contributions to support the work of professionals, the major part of the work to create indices of all the microfilmed nineteenth century Jewish vital records of Poland lies ahead. Approximately 800 films have been indexed and another 685 are in progress. However, there are hundreds of films yet to be indexed and for which volunteers are needed.

The indexing of microfilmed records is carried out by JRI-Poland Shtetl CO-OPs, typically made up of volunteers with a

common interest in an ancestral town or area. There are more than 200 Shtetl CO-OPs that have shared or are sharing the cost of copying index pages and entering indices into Excel files. The Shtetl CO-OP initiative, under the leadership of Associate Director and Shtetl CO-OP and Transliteration Coordinator, Hadassah Lipsius, emphasizes the value of cooperative research and sharing. A list of current Shtetl CO-OPs with their leaders is available on the JRI-Poland web site.

Volunteers are needed for the indexing of records from microfilms of many other towns. Volunteers also create inventories of LDS microfilms in which the number of births, marriages and deaths by year in each film is recorded in table form. Inventories of each town's records are added to the JRI-Poland web site to guide researchers in locating their records. JRI-Poland and the JGS of Toronto offer a "Copy Service" for photocopying index pages for Shtetl CO-OPs. Quality copies, enlarged to 11" x 17", are made available at a very reasonable cost.

#### *The JRI-Poland/Polish State Archives Project — indexing records not on microfilm*

Initial indexing (up to currently available records) has generally been completed for virtually all branches of the Polish State Archives with the exception of those in the former Prussian and other Germanic areas. However, some data is now available from many of these western Polish towns. JRI-Poland has also indexed more than 2,000 volumes of vital records from 88 towns in the East Galician area (now part of Ukraine) in the Archiwum Główny Akt Dawnych (The Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw, AGAD). AGAD holds many of the records for the areas of the former Lwow, Stanislawow and Tarnopol voivodships (now Lviv, Ivano Frankivsk and Ternopil oblasts in Ukraine). The registers are mainly for the period from 1877–1905, when these areas were a part of the Austro-Hungarian province of Galicia. While the number of records in each volume varies widely, the overall total is estimated to exceed one million.

#### **Special Contributors to the Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Database**

*The JRI-Poland/Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (New York) (JGSNY) Project to index genealogical collections at the Jewish Historical Institute, Warsaw (JHI), in association with the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project (RLF)*

Utilizing significant grant funds from the JGSNY, JRI-Poland indexed genealogical-related holdings at the JHI. Expanded indices to more than 23,000 Krakow banns and marriage records (from 1877 to 1939) were completed in April 2001. Additional JHI collections now in the JRI-Poland database include thousands of deaths in the Warsaw Ghetto, the Biata Podlaska 1939 Census and the Aliyah Passport file. Researchers seeking to access names from the list of passport holders who went from Poland to Mandate Palestine in the 1930s must search the entire JRI-Poland database without limiting their search by geographic area.

*Douglas E. Goldman Jewish Genealogy Center, Beth Hatefutsot, Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, Tel Aviv*

Goldman Center volunteers have created thousands of extracts of vital records of Bedzin, Bialystok, Golub Dobrzyn,

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Krakow, Sandomierz, Siedlce, Tarnów and Warsaw. Work is underway on several other towns. Shtetl CO-OP volunteers did the data entry to make these records available online. Researchers can order photocopies of indexed records from the above-mentioned towns, as well as other microfilms held by the Goldman Center and indexed in the JRI-Poland database.

#### *Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group*

Extracts of Jewish vital records for a number of towns have been published in the *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal*. Through an agreement that reflects the high level of cooperation between groups in the Jewish genealogical world, this data is being integrated into the JRI-Poland database. Search results will indicate the volume and number of the K-R SIG Journal, where the original extract(s) appear. The *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal* ceased publication in 2005.

#### *Warsaw, Bielsko-Biala and O!tweicim Cemeteries*

JRI-Poland has entered into agreements to incorporate the indices to the burials in the JRI-Poland database. There are now more than 50,000 burials from the Warsaw Cemetery in the database.

#### **A Guide to Starting and Leading a Shtetl CO-OP**

The “step-by-step” guide for Shtetl CO-OP leaders and volunteers by Robin Magid (Lublin Shtetl CO-OP leader) can be downloaded from the JRI-Poland web site. It includes the standard format (templates) for the creation of a computer file with the indexed records. The JRI-Poland Transliteration Coordinator and the quality control team review completed files. Approved files are uploaded to the JRI-Poland database by co-founder and Database Manager, Michael Tobias.

#### **JRI-Poland Web site [www.jri-poland.com](http://www.jri-poland.com)**

The web site contains a wealth of information such as Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), database contents, surname lists, film inventories and instructions on how to access the database, details about various initiatives, status of projects in Poland, etc. A downloadable Research Guide is available in English, French, Hebrew, Polish, Russian and Spanish on the web site. The web site is frequently updated and is the starting point for all JRI-Poland activities.

#### **Supporting JRI-Poland through the Shtetl CO-OP initiative**

1. Volunteer to lead a Shtetl CO-OP or volunteer to assist an established Shtetl CO-OP.
2. Work on your own to index towns/years/films of interest to you.
3. Photocopy and submit index pages for use by future Shtetl CO-OPs as they are formed.
4. Submit the notes and/or inventories you have made during your research of a particular film.
5. Make monetary contributions to enable JRI-Poland to hire professional translators to do the work for which qualified volunteers are not available.

To participate in any aspect of the Shtetl CO-OP initiative, please contact Transliteration and Data Entry Coordinator, Haddassah Lipsius at <[Shtetlcoop@jri-poland.org](mailto:Shtetlcoop@jri-poland.org)>.

#### **Supporting JRI-Poland’s Long-Range Initiatives**

As part of a long-range strategy to ensure the strength and continuity of the indexing project in the service of researchers with an interest in Jewish records of Poland, JRI-Poland is instituting a number of initiatives. Planned infrastructure, communications, management controls and data processing systems improvement will enhance JRI-Poland’s ability to administer the ever-growing database and improve coordination with both the large international volunteer network and the professionals in Poland. To support these long-range initiatives, contributions to the JRI-Poland General Fund are welcome. US dollar tax-deductible contributions should be sent to: JRI-Poland Treasurer, c/o Sheila Salo, 5607 Greenleaf Road, Cheverly, MD 20785 <[donations@jri-poland.org](mailto:donations@jri-poland.org)>. Canadians can make tax-deductible donations through JGS Toronto. The form for Canadian donations is also available on the web site at <http://www.jri-poland.org/canadianform.htm>

Other initiatives will be for special projects, particularly those relating to the important role JRI-Poland has played and will continue to play in providing a unique resource in the related fields of family history research and medical genetics. JRI-Poland is an independent nonprofit tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. Although JRI-Poland is hosted by JewishGen, Jewish Records Indexing-Poland operations and fundraising are separate from all other organizations.

#### **Joining the JRI-Poland Family of Volunteers**

As JRI-Poland continues to grow, additional volunteers are needed for a range of responsibilities from indexing to administration. To participate, contact Stanley Diamond at <[SMSSDiamond@aol.com](mailto:SMSSDiamond@aol.com)>.

#### **The Jewish Records Indexing-Poland ‘Discussion Group’**

Subscribers to the moderated JRI-Poland Discussion Group share information and participate in discussions relating to records. They also receive updates on the database contents and related matters. Researchers with an interest in researching their Polish roots are encouraged to subscribe. To subscribe to the JRI-Poland mailing list, go to the WebForm on the JewishGen site <http://lyris.jewishgen.org/ListManager>. Under special arrangement, the JRI-Poland web site, mailing list and database are hosted by JewishGen and this link can be used to manage subscriptions - to subscribe and unsubscribe, choose digest or single message mode.

#### **Jewish Records Indexing-Poland: A Shared Vision**

The JRI-Poland project is built on a shared vision and partnerships with individuals, archives and independent organizations around the world. Every individual with an interest in the Jewish records of Poland can play a part.

### **Coming Soon on Our Web Site:**

A Family Finder Spreadsheet for our Society.

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# Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) - Responses to the Library Survey

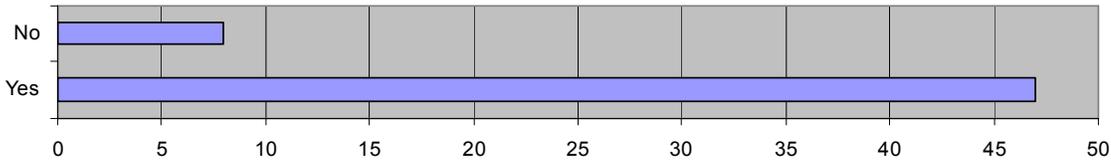
By Elaine Cheskes

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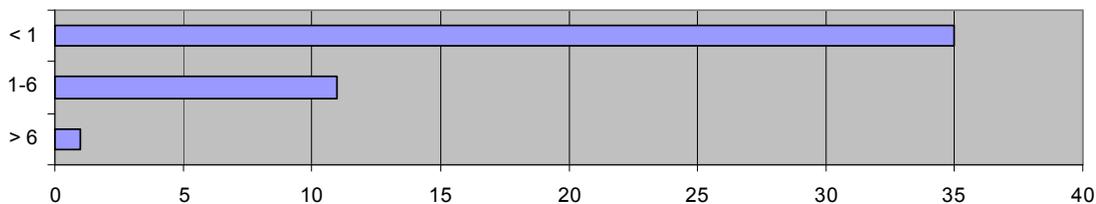
## Introduction

I would like to express my appreciation to those members who responded to the Library Survey. The information that I compiled will be most beneficial in determining the process that will increase the usage of our Library. Although the results are based on 57 surveys, some of the questions were unanswered.

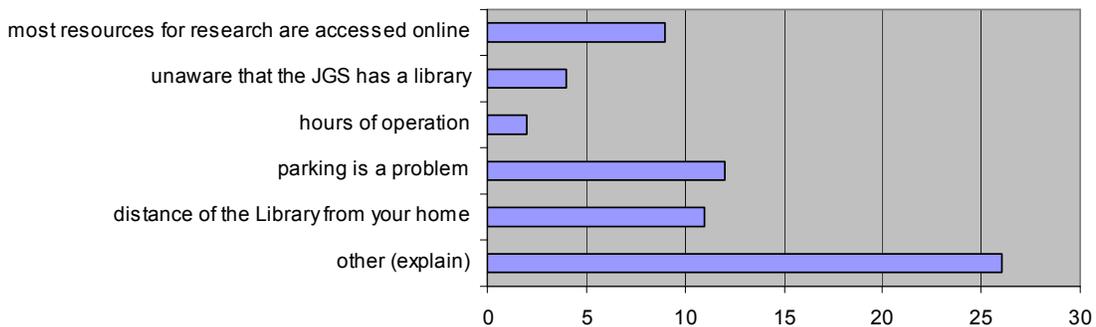
1. Are you aware that the JGS of Toronto has a library?



2. If your response to #1 is yes, how many times per year do you use the JGS Library?



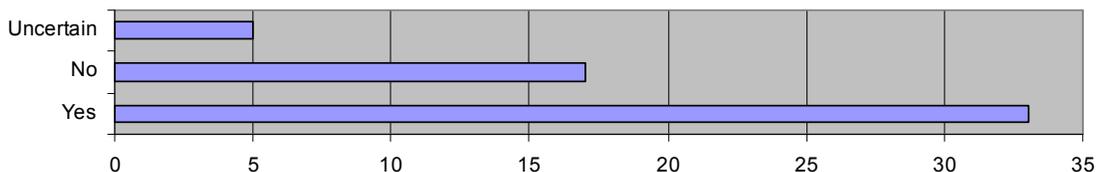
3. If you are not a frequent user (less than 6 times per year) of the JGS Library what reasons would account for this fact?



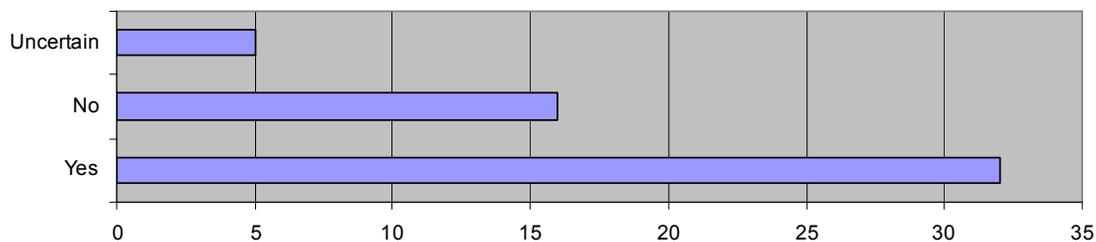
## Summary of explanations

The majority of members who did not frequent the Library replied that they had a shortage of time to do personal research, and due to the fact that our collection does not circulate many members were not prepared to spend extra hours at the Library in order to read the material. Some members were unaware of the specific holdings of the Library while others did not find the resources that would be useful in their genealogical research. In addition, the Internet is readily accessible and provides a very valuable and expedient source of information for the researcher.

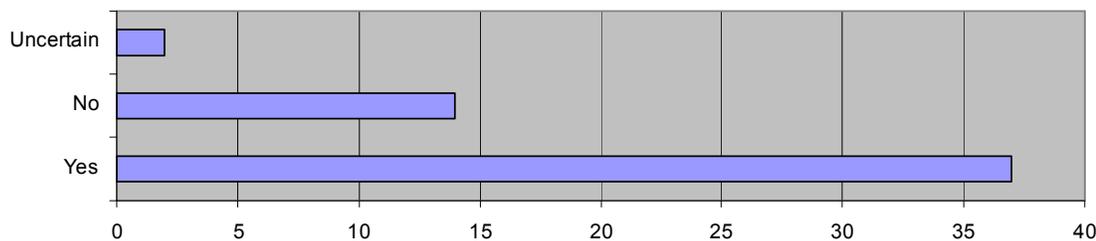
4. If our collection were profiled to a greater degree would it increase your usage of the Library?



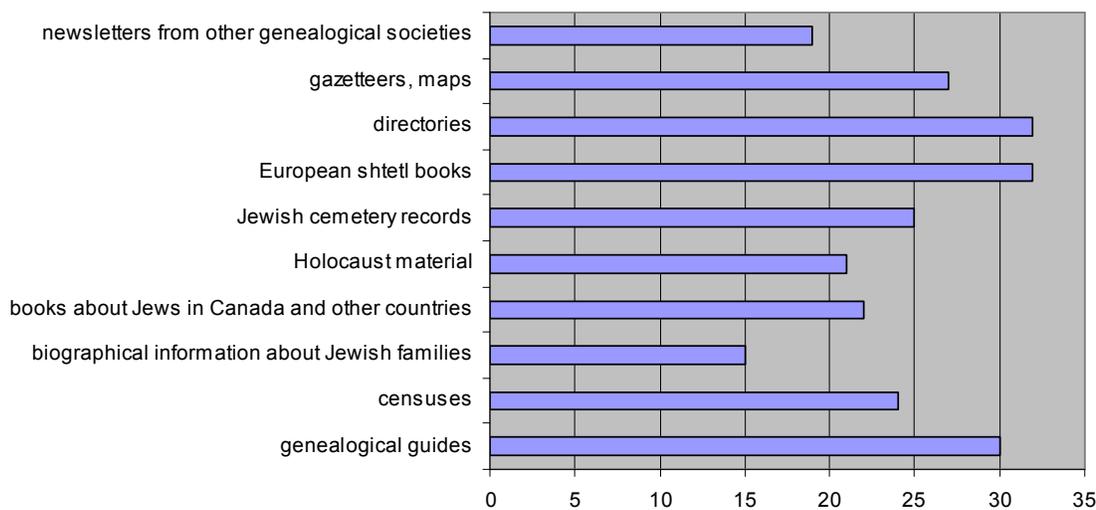
5. The JGS Library has a non-circulating collection. Books cannot be borrowed from the Library. Would you use the Library more frequently if you were able to borrow books?



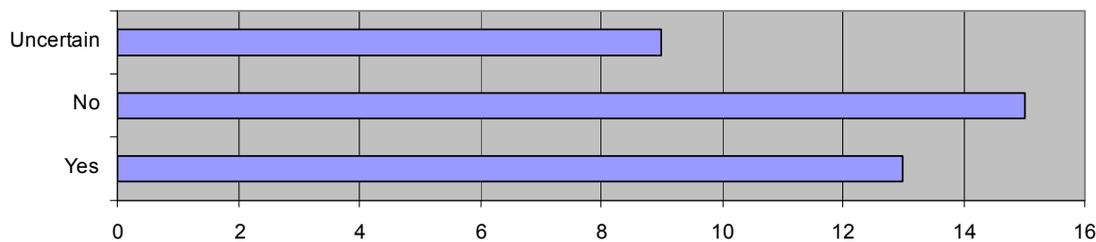
6. If the JGS Library were a “circulating” library would you borrow books through inter-library loan? (i.e. request books to be sent to a library located in your area)



7. What type of materials do/would you use at the JGS Library?

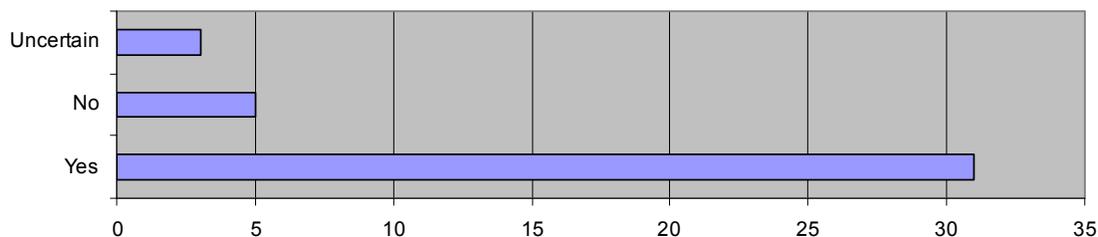


8. Our Library online catalog website is: [www.jgstoronto.ca/Library.html](http://www.jgstoronto.ca/Library.html). At present we are using a “scroll down” function (browsing the entire list) to access the catalog. Is our catalog user friendly?



*Cont'd on Page 8*

9. Would the use of a “search key” that permitted searching for a book by author, title, subject, and keyword provide easier access to our catalog than the “scroll down function”?



### Summary of Recommendations

To increase the awareness of our collection, specific genres will be featured in Shem Tov. It was also suggested that a tour of the JGS Library be conducted in order that members become familiar with our genealogical resources. In addition, members requested that the Library provide reference material that is not available online, and that members with an expertise on a single topic or genealogical area be assigned to those who may need assistance.

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## Jews in Canada’s Armed Forces, Part II

by Henry Wellisch

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In the following, I discuss several sources of interest to those doing research into Jewish participation in the armed forces, including books, web sites and archives.

### BOOKS

Our library has the following two volumes:

#### *Canadian Jews in World War II.*

Part I edited by David Rome. Montreal: Canadian Jewish Congress, 1947.

Part II edited by David Rome, with the technical assistance of David Kirshblatt and Mortimer Levitt. Montreal, Canadian Jewish Congress, 1948.

Part I, *Decorations*, lists 195 Jewish members of the Canadian armed forces who received decorations for their service during World War II. These decorations range all the way from The Distinguished Service Order to Mention in Dispatches. Also listed are recipients of foreign awards such as The Croix de Guerre (France) and The Legion of Merit (USA).

One can find a number of well-known personalities such as: Major Benjamin Dunkelman, Queen’s Own Rifles, D.S.O., and Squadron Leader Gerald Bronfman, RCAF, Legion of Merit (USA).

The person with the highest decoration is Flight-Lieutenant Sydney Simon Shulemson, RCAF, D.S.O., D.F.C., who downed a number of enemy planes. The book provides a lot of details such as place and date of birth, names of parents,

etc., and there are many pictures. This volume and its companion are an excellent source for research into Jewish participation in the Canadian Armed Services during World War II.

The Prime Minister of Canada provided the following introduction to part I of the book:

*“It affords me much pleasure both personally and as Prime Minister, to add a few words of tribute to the record of the service of Canadian Jews in the armed forces in the recent war.*

*“For the Jewish people the recent war had an especial significance. The way of life of all free peoples was threatened by Nazi and Fascist aggression. In addition, the Jewish people had the even sterner realization that for them it was not only a way of life, but life itself was at stake. They fought not only for freedom but for survival. The contribution of the Jews of Canada bears eloquent testimony to the manner in which they met the double threat the war presented. The Canadian people share with their fellow citizens of the Jewish race a sense of pride in the sacrifice and courage which these pages record.*

*“WILLIAM LYON MACKENZIE KING*

*Prime Minister  
March 20, 1947”*

Part II, *Casualties*, lists a total of 839 Jewish/Canadian casualties:

Killed, died or presumed dead	420
Wounded	334
Prisoners of War	85

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## *Jews in Canada's Armed Forces, Part II* Cont'd from page 8

This is a wonderful resource with some military detail, such as service number, name of the unit where the person served, and information on what happened to him or her. The personal information includes place and date of birth, names of parents and last address before enlisting. Often included are details on education, associations, etc. There are also hundreds of pictures.

Glancing through the book, one can find some well-known personalities:

Captain Barnett J. Danson, wounded in France in 1944

*Distinguished liberal politician, Minister of Defence 1976-1979*

Captain Leo Jack Heaps, Military Cross, captured in Holland

*Writer, Son of A. A. Heaps, one of the founders of the C.C.F., forerunner of the N.D.P.*

The Canadian Minister of Defence penned the following introduction to the book:

*"As Minister of National Defence I join in the tribute to the Jews who served in the armed forces of Canada during the last war.*

This volume records the work of Canadian Jews in the forces. It will remind all who want to know the truth of their willingness to take their fair part in a great cause.

"The task for which they worked, fought, offered their lives and died was particularly their own. To the normal call of country was added the call of race. Extermination of the Jews was an expressed aim of the war against freedom.

"By victory we have given freedom a chance to breathe and grow in lands less fortunate than our own. Our best tribute lies in our living and working for the eternal cause for which they fought and died - the true peace borne of freedom.

"BROOKE CLAXTON  
Minister of National Defence  
November 15, 1948"

See also the following volume:

*Breaking New Ground: The Struggle for a Jewish Chaplaincy in Canada*

By Rabbi S. Gershon Levi.

Published by the Canadian Jewish Congress as part of the Canadian Jewish Archives new series. Montreal, 1994.

## WEB SITES

Libraries and Archives Canada:

<http://www.collectionscanada.ca/index-e.html>

have on their web site a searchable database of certain digitized documents of soldiers from World War I. More documents are in the archives. You can write to them for more details. Information on soldiers serving in World War II and later is closed, except to the veterans themselves. Relatives can write for information to this address:

ATIP and Personnel Records Division  
Library and Archives Canada  
395 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N4  
Fax: 613-947-8456

There are some restrictions. The person whose information is required has to have been deceased for 20 years.

Canadian Jewish Casualties in the Canadian Armed Forces (WWI, WWII, Korean War):

<http://www.cjccc.ca/archives/casualties.php>

Canadian and Allied Soldiers at the Raid on Dieppe

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/ww2/sugar7.html>

Jewish War Veterans of Canada

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/ww2/sugar7.html>

The web site has a directory of members. A searchable database is in preparation.

Jewish Canadian Military Museum

<http://jcmm.ca/links.html>

Veterans Affairs Canada

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=links#6>

## ARCHIVES

The archives of the Canadian Jewish Congress in Montreal have the equivalent of over two large boxes full of various types of nominal lists of Jewish service personnel in the War Efforts. None of the lists give the definitive and complete picture of any part of the story. It is very piecemeal.

Contact: Janice Rosen, Archives Director

Canadian Jewish Congress Charities Committee National Archives

1590 ave Docteur Penfield

Montreal, QC H3G1C5

Tel. 514-931-7531 ext. 2

E-mail: [janicer@cjccc.ca](mailto:janicer@cjccc.ca)



From CJC photo archives - recruitment centre

# JEWISHGEN PLUS

News from JewishGen and Jewish Genealogy Newsletters,  
Compiled and Annotated by Henry Wellisch

## Genealogy and Medical History

Using your family tree to trace your family's medical history can be a very sensitive topic. Dr. Edwin M Knights has published a paper called "How to Cope With Cancer," on the New England Historic Genealogical Society's web site at <http://www.newenglandancestors.org/education/articles/DNA>, which discusses some of the issues involved. There is also a software program by Geneweaver, <http://www.geneweaveronline.com>, that will help you keep track of your medical history.

## Researching Russian Roots Site of Interest to Jewish Genealogists

As Belarus and Ukraine researchers you might be interested in this site. Beginners will find introductory articles concerning how to start your Russian family history research. There are links to message boards, an extensive list of links to archives in Russia and their mailing/e-mail addresses, details and links for research in Ukraine and Belarus, some individual family trees, and a vast compilation of other web links in the U.S. Some sites are in Russian (Cyrillic), but most of these offer English versions as well. This is called a very fact-filled site with interesting history, phone directories, surname/first name dictionaries, and lots of other "goodies."

The site is at: <http://www.mtu-net.ru/rrr/index.htm>

## LDS Church Announces 3 Online Resources for Jewish Genealogical Researchers

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints announced at the recent IAJGS conference that it has made available three new online resources to aid with Jewish genealogical research. A new web page at [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) includes a Jewish genealogy database, a new research guide called "Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors" and information on thousands of Jews from the British Isles called the Knowles Collection, which builds on the work of the late Isobel Mordy. The latter links individuals into family groups, with more names added continuously. You can read more in an article by Carrie A. Moore in the Deseret Morning News at:

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,695192905,00.html>

## LDS Centres Offer Access to More Databases

FamilySearch has announced the addition of more popular online genealogy services available for free through worldwide family history centres. These include Footnote ([www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com)), Godfrey Memorial Library ([www.godfrey.org](http://www.godfrey.org)), Heritage Quest/ProQuest ([www.heritagequestonline.com](http://www.heritagequestonline.com)), Kindred Konnections ([www.kindredkonnections.com](http://www.kindredkonnections.com)), and World Vital Records ([www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com))

In a related note, [Footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) has announced a new partnership with Allen County Public Library (ACPL), the largest public genealogy library in the United States, to digitize millions of historical records and make them available on-line for the first time. The ACPL collections feature unique American and international records including family histories, city directories, military records and historical newspapers.

## Looking for Explanations of Causes of Death?

Several thousand archaic medical terms can be found on Rudy's List of Archaic Medical Terms at <http://www.antiquusmorbus.com>.

## Yad Vashem Newsletter

To subscribe to this newsletter go to [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) and click on "subscribe."

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available to members on-line.  
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your request with a valid e-mail address.

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## IAJGS Board Report on the Salt Lake City Conference

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Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President, sends the following report:

“As always, those attending the annual international conference had to make difficult choices among a great many activities: from inspiring and knowledgeable speakers, SIG and BOF luncheons/meetings, watching films, socializing, to doing research at the Family History Library. Here are a few highlights:

“There was a great photo exhibit called Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939, put together by Mike Marvins from numerous pictures Marvin’s grandfather, Zalman Kaplan, took as the photographer in Szczuczyn from 1895-1939.

“Paul Shapiro, of USHMM, gave an extremely moving opening ceremony speech about his years of work that have led to the opening of the ITS archives at Bad Arolsen.

“Dan Rottenberg, author of the first guidebook on Jewish genealogy research, *Finding Our Fathers*, spoke at the banquet and wowed us all by announcing that he was relinquishing his copyright to the part of his book with the alphabetical list of family names with information on each entry. I’m sure it will be up and available on the web before too long.

“The banquet festivities also included the awarding of the 2007 IAJGS Lifetime Achievement to Mathilde Tagger of Israel for her many years of Sephardic research, and the 2007 IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product to Lars Menk for his remarkable book, *Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*.

“At the IAJGS annual meeting, Alexander Avraham, on behalf of Yad Vashem, presented a certificate to Donald Hirschhorn of the JGS of Palm Beach County, in recognition of his activism, dedication and outstanding volunteerism as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project. [According to JGS Palm Beach, Hirschhorn has been instrumental in recruiting over 25 Jewish Genealogical Societies who have registered with Yad Vashem and has been in contact with close to 100 additional Jewish Genealogical Societies to enlist their support of the project. In addition, he has established partnering relationships with Jewish community and survivor organizations throughout the U.S., including NaAmat, B’nai B’rith, Hadassah ORT, and Brandeis. He has also developed a volunteer corps in South Florida to assist survivors interested in submitting Pages of Testimony. He has personally coordinated the submission of close to 1,000 Pages of Testimony, but many additional pages have been submitted as a result of his efforts, either through the American Society for Yad Vashem, to Israel directly, or via the Internet.]

“The IAJGS member organizations approved the granting of the 2007 Stern Award of \$2,000 to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum to be used for its upcoming project to index materials it receives from the International Tracing Service (ITS).

“The Board announced that in the future the name will be changed from “Stern Award” to “Malcom Stern Grant” to clarify that it is for a proposed project. Jan Meisels Allen gave an excellent report on the activities of the Public Records Access

Monitoring Committee. A bylaws amendment was passed adding the following language to IAJGS Objectives: ‘To promote public access to genealogically relevant records.’ The following officers were re-elected: Anne Feder Lee, President; Michael Brenner, Vice President; Joel Spector, Secretary; and Mike Posnick, Treasurer. Consensus was reached on creating a new IAJGS committee for Strategic Planning. Member organizations were encouraged to submit posters for our Jewish Genealogy Month competition (see [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org) for more).

“The IAJGS Management Seminar on Fundraising and Grant-writing for Non-profits, with presentations by Ron Arons and Shelly Weiner, was excellent, and included much practical information. All IAJGS member organizations received a CD with their power-point presentations.

“At our preview of the Chicago 2008 conference, we announced that some of the special items will include lunch kiosks, free wi-fi in attendees’ guest rooms, free use of the hotel health club and the possibility of cooking classes given by the hotel chef....The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, the location of the conference, is in a wonderful location, has a spacious lobby, and a fantastic pastry chef. The room rate is: single and double \$199 (excluding tax) and an addition person is \$30 (excluding taxes).

“There will be special focus on Jews in the Midwest, Jews in Latin America, and immigration to the US via Canada as well as many many other sessions. The hotel is offering a special bonus of a free week for a conference attendee - details of how the winner will be selected will be announced as soon as they are finalized. Those who want to get a head start on research possibilities in Chicago are urged to go to Mike Karsen’s excellent web site: [www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago](http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago). A google search for “Jewish Chicago” will also lead to many interesting items. Mark your calendars now: August 17-22, 2008.

“No words can express our thanks to all the wonderful volunteers under the able direction of conference co-chairs Michael Brenner and Hal Bookbinder. A sincere thanks to: The Generations Network for sponsoring the [Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) Resource Room; to the Family History Library for providing extended hours for attendees, speakers, and special maps for the resource room; and to Genzyme for a substantial educational grant and for sending Gary Frohlich to share important information on Ashkenazi genetic diseases, particularly Guacher Disease. Thanks also for support from Harvey Krueger, Alan Rinsler, Rochelle Kaplan, E. Randol and Pamela Schoenberg, Marty Mazner, Bob Spinner, the Center for Jewish History, the Czech Torah project, Jossey-Bass publishers, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center, Congregation Kol Ami of Salt Lake City, JGSs, SIGs, individuals and many vendors.”

### NEXT YEAR - IN CHICAGO

Come to the 28th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile Hotel, August 17-22, 2008.

## The Recent IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City, a Personal Report

by Henry Wellisch

As usual these conferences are of high quality and there were over 100 presentations on many subjects. Here are just a few personal observations regarding areas of interest to me. These areas are Austria, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia. As far as I am concerned the highlights of the conference were the presentations by Mr. Julius Muller, a professional genealogist from Prague, and by Dr. Ingo Zechner, the head of the Holocaust Victims Information and Support Center from Vienna.

I am really not qualified to comment in detail on Mr. Muller's two presentations, since my knowledge of Czech records and censuses is rather limited. In his first presentation Mr. Muller explained in great detail the nuts and bolts of Jewish record-keeping in Bohemia and Moravia, going back hundreds of years. His second presentation dealt with the various censuses in these two areas. It is certainly clear that there are not many people around who have amassed the amount of information on these subjects that Mr. Muller has brought to our attention.

Dr. Ingo Zechner brought us up to date on the "recently discovered" portion of the Kultusgemeinde (Vienna Jewish Community) records. As he explained it, these records were not really "lost," they were stored in an apartment building owned by the Kultusgemeinde. Recently the Kultusgemeinde decided to sell the building, and the apartment, where hundreds of boxes full of documents were stacked to the ceiling, had to be vacated. At that time officials of the Kultusgemeinde and Dr. Zechner had a closer look at the stored material and then began to realize the treasure that was there. Unable to cope with the restoration, cleaning and indexing of these materials, the Kultusgemeinde and the Holocaust Museum in Washington signed a contract of cooperation to deal with this matter. The end result is that these records as well as those from Vienna currently in Jerusalem at the Central Archive for the History of the Jewish people are being digitized, and should be available to the public in the not too distant future.

Mr. John Kovacs, past president of the JGS of Michigan, gave a presentation on Genealogical Research in Hungary, where he showed that there are extensive resources quite easily available, especially in Budapest, but also at other places in Hungary.

I spent quite a lot of time at the immense Family History Library, where millions of microfilms are available on practically every area of the planet. My main focus was on the Vienna Jewish records, where several hundred new microfilms have been added over the last few years.

**Shannah Tovah to All**

## Spotlight on Members and Friends

*Are you interested in volunteering on a genealogy project? Would you like to get some ideas for a project of your own? In this column we will profile some members and friends of our Society, who, in addition to researching their own family trees, are undertaking projects of interest to the general community.*

In this issue we spotlight the **Ontario Jewish Archives**, which were established in 1973 for the purpose of acquiring, preserving and making available documentary sources related to the Ontario Jewish community. The OJA is currently the repository of over 5,500 feet (1,650 metres) of original records documenting the history of Ontario's Jewish communities that date from the 1830s to the present, as well as photographs, newsletters, oral histories and other material that records the live of Jews in Ontario.

This material is certainly of interest to genealogists. The web site at [www.ontariojewisharchives.org/](http://www.ontariojewisharchives.org/) notes in particular its collection of certain family histories, Jewish city directories for Toronto and London, Jewish newspapers from Ontario, a small number of records documenting marriages, naturalization, and circumcisions, some cemetery records, synagogue and Jewish fraternal society records, some immigration case files created by JIAS and the CJC, and some ledgers from Jewish shipping agents that brought families over from Europe before the Second World War (including, of course, the **Rotenberg ledger**, which was indexed by members of our Society). Note that the **1931 Jewish City Directory** can now be searched on-line, and there are plans to put the 1925 directory on-line very soon.

One of OJA's most recent projects is entitled "**Toronto's First Synagogues**," a virtual exhibit showing the historical and cultural importance of these institutions. The exhibit can be accessed from the Archives' web site.

The Archives are also of interest to genealogists as a place to volunteer your time and skills. According to Ellen Scheinberg, Director of OJA, volunteers could help to identify individuals in photographs, solicit donations that they think would be important to the OJA, help with scanning projects, photographing cemeteries, translating Yiddish and digitizing data.

The Archives are located at 4600 Bathurst St., Toronto, telephone 416-635-2883 ext. 187, fax 416-635-1408. Please contact them if you would like to make an appointment to do research there, or if you would like to volunteer.

If you have a volunteer experience you'd like to share, please contact [shemtov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca).

**We Welcome This New Member  
to Our Society**

Solette Golberg