



# שם טוב SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

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## THE GORLICKIS OF CHMIELNIK

By David Price

On Wednesday, June 25, Dr. Martin Dobkin & I spoke at the JGS Toronto's "breakthroughs" meeting about the family tree we had created in the past 6 months, over 700 names for the first time. All this was owing to one of the largest orders ever made with JRI-Poland PSA to the Pinczow Archives in Poland. I had the know-how and connections on how to obtain the records; Martin had the uncanny ability to put together a tree which is no easy feat unless you understand the culture of Jewish naming and are willing to painstakingly go over the birth, marriage and death years to correlate the records. I had spent 10 years corresponding with the following GORLITSKYs, not having a clue on how we were connected, until now:

- me (interviews with my Aunt Ruthie and late Aunt Minnie)
- Dr. Martin Dobkin of Toronto
- Dr. Julian Rosenman of North Carolina
- Howard Zakai of Staten Island, NY
- Shlomo Wygodny of Israel
- Rabbi Phil Kranz of Atlanta, Georgia
- Arthur Williams of Smithtown, NY
- Hanna Fox of Middlesex, England
- Isabelle Gorlicki of Israel
- Phyllis Wygodny of Chicago
- Rivka Schiller of Skokie, Illinois
- Faye Goldlist of Toronto

Here is my June 25th presentation:

Chmielnik was a *shtetl* in southwest Poland in the province of Kielce. It is located, as my father said, "a three hour pushcart trip from the town of Kielce", which translates to 18 miles.

For a *shtetl*, Chmielnik is noted for some interesting history. The grandson of Ghengis Khan, no less, conquered Poland in the 1200s starting with Chmielnik. The first Jewish settlement in Chmielnik was in 1630. As Chmielnik became a key trade route in the 1700s, the Jews took over industries such as cattle, tanneries, textiles, haberdashery, soap, candles, mining and, as my grandmother said, goose feathers. A synagogue was built then to

rival the one in Krakow. By 1849, there were 2,000 Jews in Chmielnik which represented 70% of the town's population. In 1876, there was a fire which destroyed the entire town including all the prior birth, marriage and death records. By the 1890s, everything was rebuilt. During WWI, many Jews fled to Canada, the U.S. and Palestine. In 1921, there were 5,900 Jews representing 80% of the town, and in 1939, there were 10,000 Jews in Chmielnik.

It is of note that Chmielnik had a stormy rabbinical history which included brothers who fought to the point of attempted murder for their late father's chair as rabbi of Chmielnik, and battles between Chassidic houses for control of the rabbinate.

*Cont'd on Page 3*

### *In This Issue*

- 1 *The Gorlickis of Chmielnik*
- 2 *Theresienstadt Database at Czech Site • New Member*
- 4 *Upcoming Events • Kinship Matrix*
- 5 *A Golden Discovery of Judaism in the North*
- 6 *Branching Out*
- 7 *Searching the International Tracing Service Archives • Volunteers Needed, and More*
- 8 *Site-Seeing - Toronto and/or Ontario Free Online Name Searches*
- 9 *Ask a Society Member • 1891 Canadian Census is Now Online*
- 10 *Report on 2008 IAJGS Conference*
- 11 *News from the IAJGS Conference in Chicago*
- 12 *Read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Like Never Before! • Support Your Society • JGS Toronto Launches New Website • Spotlight on Members and Friends*

## Theresienstadt Database at Czech Site

A database of victims of the Theresienstadt concentration camp is now available at <http://www.holocaust.cz/cz2/victims/victims>. It sometimes includes photos of the victims as well as copies of documents, including death records. According to Alex Calzareth, who posted a message to the Austria-Czech SIG site of JewishGen, the website indicates that the Theresienstadt death records are copies of the records held in multiple volumes in the Czech National Archives in Prague. Most records contain the individual's birth place, occupation, citizenship, last address, address in Theresienstadt and cause of death. There are also boxes for the names of the decedent's parents and the names of relatives living in Theresienstadt, along with their address and dates of birth. Information on the individual's last marriage, such as date and place and number of children from the marriage, may be included in a few cases.

Calzareth notes that much of the data about the individual is also available at the Shoah Victims Names database of Yad Vashem at [http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY\\_HON\\_Welcome](http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Welcome).

## We Welcome A New Member to Our Society

Mira Shnier

### ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by November 2008 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.

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) was founded in 1986 and currently has about 200 members. Membership costs \$36 per calendar year, \$18 for students. 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 goal of the Society is 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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	GARY MASON	DAVID PRICE
	CAROLYNNE VEFFER	HENRY WELLISCH
E-mail address:	<a href="mailto:info@jgstoronto.ca">info@jgstoronto.ca</a>	

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## *The Gorlickis of Chmielnik* - Cont'd from page 1

On Sept 5, 1939, 14 Jews were burned to death in Chmielnik by the Nazi invaders. In April of 1941, Nazis set up the Chmielnik ghetto in a small, crowded space for all 10,000 Jews. Prominent Jewish leaders were arrested. The Star of David had to be worn. Schools were not allowed to open. Lights were not allowed on at night and a curfew was imposed. Many died of hunger and disease. In December, police arrested and executed hundreds of Jews who tried to bring food into the ghetto. A month later, police incited a massacre of Jews. In October of 1942, a death march of 1,000 Jewish youth aged 16-40 was carried out to labour camps up to 40 miles away and certain death. 8,000 Jews were deported to the gas chambers in Treblinka by train and truck like cattle with no bathrooms, no food nor water. In November, a second deportation was to occur but some hid in the ghetto and escaped into the forest. Finally, in 1943, the last 1,300 Jews were murdered by the SS. There are no Jews in Chmielnik today.

My bubby Tauba was born in Chmielnik with the surname GORLICKI in 1882. She was one of 10 brothers and sisters. She married Boruch Price of Kielce in 1906 when she was 20 years old, and they had 6 children, the last one being born in 1917. The yeshiva my zeida had been teaching at in Warsaw burned down, leaving him without work. At the urging of a nephew in Toronto, he decided to come alone to Canada in 1921 and earn enough money to send for the rest of the family. After a year, he sent for his oldest daughter, my Aunt Minnie, and a year after that, the second oldest daughter, Aunt Katie. The rest of the family, my bubba, my father Chaim, Uncle Hershel, Aunt Rosie and Aunt Ryfka (who later married my Uncle Art, founder of Gryfe's bagels) were supposed to come in 1923 but my bubba had trachoma, a common infection of the eye and was refused from getting on the boat. They had to live with a brother-in-law's family in a tiny home for a year. Finally, in 1924 they came to Canada to join the rest of the family.

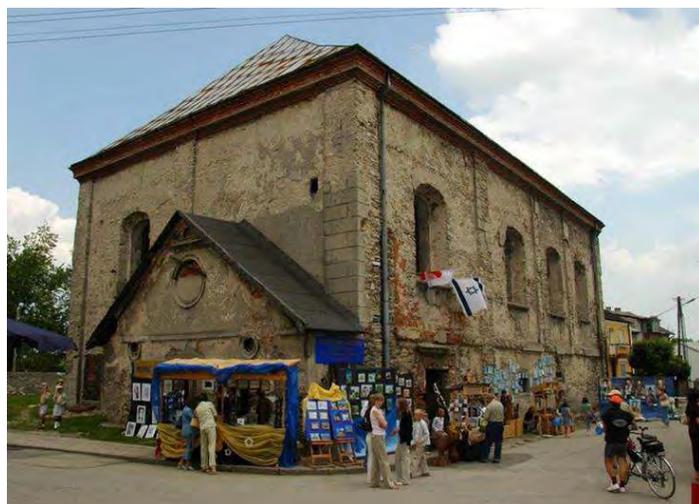
My zeida at first could only find work teaching Bar Mitzva to the likes of Lou Jacobi, the comedian/actor, John Weinzweig, the Canadian composer, and Charles Dubin, member of the Canadian Senate. He did not want to become a peddler so he joined Granatstein in the rag business, not to be confused with Spadina clothiers! He soon bought a warehouse on 89 Chestnut Street to start his own business. This building looked like a home straight out of a *shtetl*. It had been an Austrian synagogue at the turn of the century and later a kosher slaughter house. My zeida died in 1943, and my father took over the business. My bubba cut *shmatas* for my father, walking to work from her Sussex Avenue home until she was 85. She died at Baycrest in 1975 at age 93. If anyone asked, I said that my father was in maintenance supply of industrial wiping cloths. I was too embarrassed to say he sold *shmatas*.

After I joined the JGS Toronto in 1995, I had heard that Stan Diamond of Montreal was part of the project JRI-Poland, to index the 2,300 microfilms of Jewish records the Mormons made for Poland. I learned to read Russian and Polish and looked up my bubba's family records on two Chmielnik films. I was hooked and decided to volunteer and extract all the BMD

records, 3,000 in all, for the years 1876-1884 excluding 1879, which mysteriously was absent, and submit them to JRI-Poland. Unfortunately, all the records before 1876 for Chmielnik were destroyed in a fire, as I previously mentioned. earlier.

There were a lot of GORLITSKY records on the film, only some of which I recognized. Over the next ten years, I contacted 7 people from 5 countries through JewishGen.com all claiming to be GORLITSKYs of Chmielnik, but none of us knew the connection. Luckily, one of them was Dr. Martin Dobkin of Toronto. It turned out he was good at working out family trees. He had done a thorough job in creating a tree on his "Russian" side, DOBKIN. I had urged him to do his Polish side but he had had a car accident and needed time to recover. Then, a few years ago Stanley Diamond announced the PSA project for Chmielnik which made available records from 1885 to 1905 including the missing 1879 records. Martin said he would get back to me. Then Stanley Diamond said it was also possible to get the remaining records from 1906 to 1939. This was an offer Martin couldn't refuse. By coincidence, Dr. Julian Rosenman of North Carolina, a person for whom I translated Kielce records, surprised me with an email stating that he too was a GORLICKI of Chmielnik and would like to contribute to solving the mystery. Here is how we proceeded to build a tree:

- a) We made 4 orders totalling 200 BMD records from the Pinczow Archives using the form sent by Stanley Diamond. For each order the archives sent a cost of the order by email in U.S. dollars. I then wired money via a bank transfer to the Polish bank. Within two weeks I received all the BMD records folded neatly inside an envelope.
- b) I translated the records from the Cyrillic (Polish records are in Russian, 1867-1920), typed and emailed them to Martin and Julian.
- c) This amount of data was too much for me. I watched in amazement how Martin and Julian traded countless emails until at last a tree was pounded out, containing almost a thousand names.



**Modern day Chmielnik**

# 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 Ave.

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

Non-member fee: \$5.00 per meeting

(exception: spouses accompanying members)

## Wednesday, September 24, 2008

*Publishing Your Research: How to Stay Organized and Sane.*

Guest speaker: Bill Gladstone

## Wednesday, October 26, 2008 - 1 p.m.

*Intermediate Level Genealogy Course*

Guest speakers: Neil Richler and Gord Meslin

## Sunday, November 2, 2008 - 1:30-3:30 p.m.

### Location TBA

*It Happened Long Ago...Sharing Your Family Story.*

An intimate opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren to explore their family history.

Presenters: Myrna Levy & Betty Sherwood

Fee for materials

## Wednesday, November 5, 2008 - 7:30 p.m.

*Holocaust Education Week* program co-sponsored with Beth Lida Synagogue, to be held at Beth Lida (22 Gilgorm Road, Toronto 416-489-2550). Holocaust Testimonies and Eastern European History. *What can you learn from Yizor books?*

Guest speaker: Jerrold Landau

## Wednesday, November 26, 2008

*Vienna, Budapest and Prague: Three Great Jewish Communities.*

Guest speaker: Henry Wellisch

## Wednesday, December 17, 2008

*Program TBA.*

*Annual General Meeting and Elections.*

## Wednesday, January 28, 2009

*Program TBA*

## Wednesday, February 25, 2009

*Program TBA*

## Wednesday, March 25, 2009

*Genealogy Websites, Past and Present, and the Impact of Social Interaction Networks.*

Guest speaker: Henry Blumberg

## Wednesday, April 29, 2009

*Who Owns the Information in Your Family Tree?*

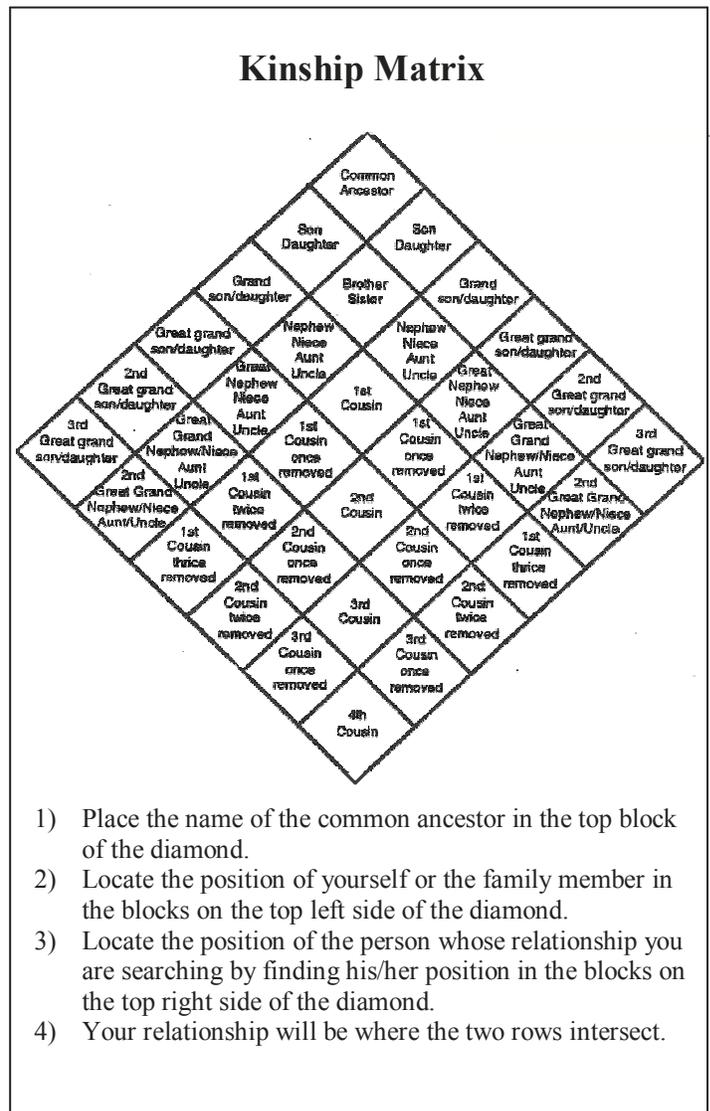
Guest speaker: Margaret Ann Wilkinson, Professor University of Western Ontario

## Wednesday, May 27, 2009

Tour - Details TBA

**Wednesday, June 24, 2009 - Breakthroughs and Year-End Meeting. Member Presentations (Great Foundations and Brick Walls)**

*For further details on all programmes, visit our website at [www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca)*



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This article, which appeared in *The Globe and Mail* on August 9, 2008, is reprinted with permission from its author.

## **A Golden Discovery of Judaism in the North A Century-old Jewish Cemetery, Uncovered 10 Years Ago, is one of Few Reminders of the Population's Contribution to the Gold Rush**

*By Gary Mason*

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**D**AWSON CITY, YUKON -- It was a clear, hot June afternoon 10 years ago when Rick Karp and two friends crunched their way through a tangled, dense web of bushes and trees. But this is where their research indicated it was supposed to be, somewhere near what was now a horribly overgrown patch of land on the south slope of the hill that overlooked this historic Klondike town.

"And then one of us literally tripped over the old wooden arc that was once erected at its entrance," Mr. Karp recalled recently in his office in Whitehorse. "It was lying on the ground. You could barely see it. It was like this amazing archaeological find."

What Mr. Karp and his friends had discovered were the remains of a long-forgotten, century-old Jewish cemetery, one that has a growing fascination among academics. Next week, a historian from Jerusalem's Hebrew University will arrive to take a first-hand look while carrying out research on the Jewish role in the gold rush.

"It's wonderful there is so much interest in this," said Mr. Karp, president of the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, and point man for the Jewish community in Yukon.

Mr. Karp had no idea the cemetery existed until alerted by a Jewish physician and amateur historian from Minnesota who had earlier vacationed in Dawson City. When Dr. Norman Kagan saw the overgrown condition of the area where the cemetery was supposed to be, he phoned Mr. Karp and suggested its cleanup and restoration would be a wonderful project to mark the 100th anniversary of the gold rush.

"How could we not?" Mr. Karp said.

With a grant, he and some others hired a university student to research the Jewish community in the Klondike at the time of the gold rush. The research indicated more precisely just where on the ridge overlooking the town the cemetery was said to exist.

On the day that Mr. Karp and his friends discovered the old entrance sign - the cemetery was called Bet Chaim, or House of Life - they also dug up the remains of an old picket fence that ringed the property. They found only one headstone, Abraham Packer's, but mounds that indicated that at least four others had been buried there.

"I will never forget that moment as long as I live," Mr. Karp said. "Arthur [Mitchell, a Jewish friend of Mr. Karp's] said it best: He said he felt he wasn't alone any more. We stood there in silence for a while and just thought about where we were and what we had stumbled upon."

The Jewish population in Dawson City fluctuated from a high of about 200 at the height of the gold rush to about a dozen by 1931, the last year someone was buried at Bet Chaim. Lacking a rabbi or synagogue, worshippers gathered in homes, stores

and meeting halls for Passover and other celebrations, according to historical records.

Known in the beginning as simply the "Hebrew Congregation," members chose in 1910 to name their group in honour of Baron Hirsch auf Gereuth, the German-born philanthropist who had helped out fellow Jews throughout Europe.

The first person buried at Bet Chaim was Samuel Simon, a prospector who drowned in the Forty Mile River on Sept. 1, 1902. Others later buried there include Jacob Klein, a clothier who died of suicide on July 9, 1903; Samuel Ross, a merchant who died in his home on July 28, 1911, of an unspecified illness; Abraham Packer, a seller of guns, knives and hardware who suffered a heart attack on Feb. 26, 1918; and Jacob Rosenfeldt, who died Jan. 8, 1931, of unknown causes.

Today, Mr. Karp said, there is thought to be only one person of Jewish heritage living in Dawson. (There are about 20 in the Yukon capital of Whitehorse.)

After discovering Bet Chaim, Mr. Karp and friends returned a few weeks later with chainsaws and pruning shears to begin restoration efforts. They had a new entrance sign built and a new white picket fence. When they were finished, they had a rededication ceremony.

"We flew in a rabbi and we had people from all over come in for it," Mr. Karp recalled. "We had a Torah flown in for the ceremony. It had to have its own seat on the plane. We had RCMP in red serge walk on the plane to get it. It was quite something."

The 10-year anniversary of that consecration is on Aug. 22, and for Mr. Karp it has stirred up some old emotions. He is determined to firmly establish the Jewish Historical Society of the Yukon in the hopes of stimulating fresh research into the community's roots in the Far North.

"It's a fascinating part of our heritage," he said.

And one that should never again be so hard to find.

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## Branching Out

by Elaine Cheskes

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### LIBRARY REPORT 2007- 2008

After tabulating the results of the Library Survey that was conducted in June, 2007, I concluded that many of our members expressed an interest in learning about the resources of the JGS Library and of the North York Central Library, Canadiana Room. As a result, I arranged an afternoon and evening tour of both facilities on Wednesday May 7, 2008. The tours were an overwhelming success and our members acquired research skills that enabled them to access a wealth of material. JGS Toronto is most appreciative to the library staff at the NYCL for their participation in conducting the tours.

In addition, I compiled, in conjunction with the NYCL, an exhibit entitled: *Tracing Our Jewish Roots: Selections from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) Library Collection*. The exhibit was held at the NYCL, Canadiana Room, from April 30<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008. The purpose of the display was to familiarize researchers with the genealogical resources that were available in our collection and in the collection of the NYCL. As a result, there has been an increase in the interest and usage of both collections.

*Tracing Our Jewish Roots* has received favourable publicity in our local newspapers. Articles by Atara Beck and Fannie Sunshine in the *Jewish Tribune* and *The North York Mirror*, respectively, highlighted significant features of the exhibit and bestowed the highest accolades upon it. An announcement of the display also appeared in *The Canadian Jewish News* in Bill Gladstone's column, *Eye on Arts*, and in Rebecca Nadler's column, *What's New*.

To see the articles from the *Jewish Tribune* and *The North York Mirror*, please see News Clippings on our website, [www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca).

Over a period of time, the stack area that holds our collection at the NYCL became extremely overcrowded. When additional shelving space became available, it was offered to us and the staff arranged to have our entire collection shifted in order to gain easier access. In appreciation of their efforts, JGS Toronto has made a donation to the Canadiana Reference Room that will be used to purchase a Jewish genealogical reference book for their collection.

The JGS Toronto Library participated in the Jewish Mosaic Festival at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre in June. Our most significant genealogical reference books that represented a wide range of countries highlighting Jewish life around the world were on display at this event.

I am looking forward to this coming year as our new website is up and running and our members will have easy online access to view the permanent collection and new acquisitions of the JGS Toronto Library.

### NEW ACQUISITIONS to the JGS of Canada (Toronto) Collection at the North York Central Library (Gladys Allison, Canadiana Room 6<sup>th</sup> floor)

Most of the twenty-three books that we have acquired from September 2007-September 2008 were donated. Unfortunately, our budget for the current fiscal year for the purchase of new materials has been reduced. I would like to give thanks and acknowledge the generosity of our members who have kindly donated material from their private collections to our library. We are most appreciative of these gifts and value the importance of these significant research and reference materials.

Brown, Michael. *Jew or Juif? Jews, French Canadians, and Anglo-Canadians, 1759-1914*. Philadelphia: Jewish Publication Society, 1987.

Gaum, Lawrence I. *From Belarus to Cape Breton and Beyond: My Family, My Roots*. Toronto: Rainbow Recording and Pub., 1996.

Gladstone, Bill. *One Hundred Years in Canada: the Rubinoff- Naftolin Family*. Toronto: Now & Then Books, 2008.

Kruger, Herb. *A Place Called Krugerdorf*. Barrie: Printed by Barrie Press, 1994.

Levine, Louis D., ed. *Lives Remembered: A Shtetl Through a Photographer's Eye*. New York: Museum of Jewish Heritage-A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, 2002.

Markman, Sidney David. *Jewish Remnants in Spain: Wanderings in a Lost World*. Mesa, Ariz.: Scribe, 2003.

Plaut, Jonathan V. *Jews of Windsor, 1790-1990: A Historical Chronicle*. Toronto: Dundurn Press, 2007.

Rosenstein, Neil. *The Grandees of New Jersey: Naar, Baiz, Peixotto, Pretto & Seixas Families*. Elizabeth, N.J.: Computer Center for Jewish Genealogy, 2006.

Shire, Angela. *Great Synagogue Marriage Records, 1791-1850*. Crediton: Frank J. Gent, 2001.

In addition, we have acquired the *Kielce-Radom Special Interest Group Journal, 1997-2003*. It is extremely valuable for Jewish genealogical research from Kielce and Radom, two gubernias in the Kingdom of Poland as defined by the boundaries as they existed from 1867-1917.



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## Searching the International Tracing Service Archives

*By Judy Kasman*

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**T**he International Tracing Service (ITS) archives, located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, were formed by the Allies after WWII in order to assist people in finding missing family members and to help families reunite. Millions of documents that were captured after the liberation of concentration camps were placed in the archives; many more items were subsequently added.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) pressured The International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) and the 11-nation International Commission to open these archives to the public, but there had to be consensus from all eleven nations (Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

Ultimately, in May, 2007, the ICRC decided to permit advance distribution of the documents. Each member country has assigned a repository for its materials, with Yad Vashem being chosen for Israel and the USHMM selected for the United States. In August, 2007 the USHMM received the first batch of materials (about 18 million images), with the Central Name Index (CNI) arriving in November, 2007 (about 50 million index cards). The remaining material (slave labour and displaced persons camps records) will arrive at the USHMM in stages from 2008 and 2010.

After all of the necessary technical processes were completed, the ITS archives went online through the USHMM in February, 2008. You may submit requests for names searches by mail, fax, or online. To search online, go to [www.ushmm.org/its](http://www.ushmm.org/its). Click on **Museum's online form**. Questions may be directed to 1-866-912-4385. Survivors' requests are given priority.

In the **Central Names Index** of the ITS, there are two categories: **Inquiry Cards** and **Reference Cards**. Inquiry cards had been created when a person or group submitted a request for tracing a person. At that point, the ITS would have written down all of the facts given by the person making the inquiry. Therefore, the facts might not be accurate since the information was provided by the requester. Reference Cards were created by the ITS, the US Army and the International Refugee Organization when they received documents from various people or organizations.

On a personal note, I submitted online requests for 15 relatives who were victims of the Holocaust. Several months later, I received copies of Inquiry cards for two relatives, one of whom had survived the Holocaust, and in addition, I received one Reference Card for a relative who had perished. I received responses to my other requests, but unfortunately, they bore no data at this time.

It is an amazing breakthrough to be able to access these important records. I encourage you to submit requests, but please be patient in waiting for responses. Also, remember that your requests can be for names of people who survived the Holocaust, not only for those who met their untimely deaths.

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## Volunteers Needed, and More!

**J**GS Toronto is a community of like-minded individuals who have come together to collaborate and hopefully share their insights and expertise. There is a lot that is happening in your Society that is intended to give you, the members, improved skills and knowledge to assist you in your family research. Therefore, our success depends on you!

We need a photographer (with a digital camera!) to attend our monthly meetings to **photograph speakers and guests**. The photographer can also be of assistance in helping us accumulate, categorize and archive historical photos of interest for inclusion on our new website as well as in *Shem Tov*. Please email Harvey Glasner at [shemtov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca) if you are interested.

Elaine Slavens is still looking for volunteers to help out on the **Toronto Digital Photography Project** of the **Cemetery Committee**. Please email [cemetery@jgs.ca](mailto:cemetery@jgs.ca) if you can photograph headstones and/or transcribe data to Excel.

We are seeking someone to be responsible for our **membership database**, specifically to maintain our membership records and send out email messages to members. We also require someone to handle **membership recruitment and retention**. This person would work with the Executive to find ways to attract new members and to respond to members' needs. To volunteer for either of these positions, please contact Shelley Stillman: [president@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:president@jgstoronto.ca).

Perhaps you have a **great idea for a topic or speaker** for our monthly meetings. Please send your suggestions to Les Kelman: [program@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:program@jgstoronto.ca).

Do you have a wonderful *old photo* that you think should appear in *Shem Tov*? Please email a digital copy, along with a brief description, to [shemtov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca), or send forth a message to ask about having it scanned.

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## Information About Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935

*By Henry Wellisch*

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On Tuesday, the 16th of September, 2008, Ancestry.ca, in partnership with the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) announced the world-first online launch of the complete and fully indexed Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935.

This is a comprehensive collection of passenger lists for all Canadian ports during this key immigration period and includes more than 5.5 million names of those who travelled from around the world to settle in Canada.

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## SITE-SEEING

### Toronto and/or Ontario Free Online Name Searches

By Carolynne Veffer

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**A**s genealogists we can never have enough information available online.

So for those of you who have/had relatives in Canada, here are some FREE online databases with NAME SEARCHES, which you can access from anywhere, anytime.

There are other sources that require payment e.g. Ancestry.ca, InGeneas or online newspapers e.g. *The Toronto Star*, which are not included here. But check at your local library - you may be able to access fee-based sites from their computers.

This concentrates on Toronto and Ontario resources. But many of these websites have data for all of Canada. And as you browse around these sites, you will likely find other information that you may find useful in your research into your Canadian/Ontario /Toronto roots – not just the name searches.

#### GENERAL

Library and Archives Canada now provides a generic search of their content, including one specifically for “ancestors”.

<http://search-recherche.collectionscanada.ca/archives/search.jsp?Language=eng>

<http://search-recherche.collectionscanada.ca/ancestors/search.jsp?Language=eng&QueryTextValue=>

<http://search-recherche.collectionscanada.ca/ancestors/search.jsp?Language=eng&QueryTextValue=>

#### ONLINE TELEPHONE LISTINGS

Something as simple as an online telephone listing can provide valuable contact information for living relatives. You can use this for all of Canada or select an individual province. It also provides a facility to search by phone number or address.

<http://findaperson.canada411.ca/>

#### CENSUS

What more needs to be said? Census records. The latest available is 1911.

[http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02012201\\_e.html#a](http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/02012201_e.html#a)

**1871 - Federal Census** - Ontario Index

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/1871-ontario/001016-100.01-e.php>

**1901 - Federal Census**

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census/Province.jsp?province=ON>

**1911 - Federal Census**

<http://automatedgenealogy.com/census11/Test6.jsp?province=Ontario>

Stephen Morse also provides a one-step initial search, but to get the details you have to go to fee-based Ancestry.com.

<http://stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.html>

#### BIRTH, MARRIAGE and DEATH RECORDS

Unfortunately none of these is available online in a searchable database (except divorces - see following). Canada does

not have the equivalent of the US online Social Security Death Index.

#### DIVORCE RECORDS

**Canadian Divorce Records - 1841 - 1968**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/008/022008-100.01-e.php>

#### BURIAL/CEMETERY RECORDS

**JOWBR:** The Toronto JGS has almost completed a project to add basic cemetery information for all the Toronto Jewish cemeteries. We have added over 50,000 records. Usually the entries include name, date of death or burial, and plot location. However, in some cases there were no dates available. On JOWBR select Region: Canada/Ontario

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/>

**Benjamin's Funeral Home:** There are currently two Jewish Funeral Homes in Toronto: Benjamin's and Steeles Memorial. Benjamin's has an online search for burials since the mid-80s. It can be a real treasure trove of information if you get a hit: relatives' names, Hebrew name, etc.

<http://www.benjamins.ca/index.cfm?fa=home.AdvancedSearch>

**Ontario Genealogical Society:** The Ontario Genealogical Society has documented some Jewish cemeteries in Ontario towns - outside of Toronto, e.g. Beth Israel in Kingston, Beth David in Brantford, Beth Jacob in Waterloo etc.

<http://ogs.andornot.com/CemeteryIndex.aspx>

**Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid** which also covers some Jewish cemeteries in Ontario.

<http://www.islandnet.com/cgi-bin/ms2/jveinot/search>

(NOTE - you can put a reference to the other article on “Beyond JOWBR” here or link to it on the website)

#### IMMIGRATION RECORDS / PASSENGER LISTS

**1925-35 Immigration Database** (not just Ontario - all passenger lists - courtesy of the volunteers at the Ottawa and Montreal JGSs).

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/immigration-1925/index-e.html>

**Passenger Lists 1865-1922** – There is also a database for these earlier records, but unlike the 1925-35 records, you cannot do a name search. You can only search by date, ship, port etc.

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

**Rotenberg Ledger** (this one is thanks to the hard work of Toronto JGS volunteers). These are available on the Toronto JGS website. Not exactly passenger lists - it's an agency through which people bought ship and rail tickets for themselves or others.

<http://www.jgstoronto.ca/Rotenberg.html>

**Immigrants from the Russian Empire:** Contains documents created between 1898 and 1922 by the consular offices of the Russian Empire in Canada.

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/li-ra-ma/001046-100.01-e.php>

**Nanaimo** - This Society has a growing database of passenger lists. Currently it includes Quebec Ports from Sep 1907 to Oct 1910

<http://members.shaw.ca/nanaimo.fhs/>

## NATURALIZATION RECORDS

**Canadian Naturalization Records - 1915 to 1932**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/022/022-505.004-e.html>

## CITY DIRECTORIES

**Toronto City Directories:** This can help pinpoint when a person arrived in Toronto. There is a full set of directories in the Toronto Reference Library at Bloor & Yonge and in the Toronto Archives. But there are a number now available online at the Ontario Archives site. And two at the Ontario Jewish Archives site (1925 & 1931).

<http://www.archive.org/search.php?query=title%3A%28Toronto%20City%20Directory%29>

**Ontario Jewish Archives (1925 and 1931 Directories)**

<http://www.ontariojewisharchives.org/>

## NEWSPAPERS

**Canadian Jewish Review:** Issues of this English-language Jewish newspaper from 1921 to 1966 have been digitized and indexed. You can search for Names or anything else.

[http://multiculturalcanada.ca/mcc\\_cjr](http://multiculturalcanada.ca/mcc_cjr)

## MILITARY RECORDS

There are many sources for Military information.

**Canadian Virtual War Memorial**

<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=collections/virtualmem>

**Jewish War Veterans of Canada**

<http://www.yorku.ca/cjv/db/directory.php>

**Commonwealth War Graves Commission**

[http://www.cwgc.org/debt\\_of\\_honour.asp?menuid=14](http://www.cwgc.org/debt_of_honour.asp?menuid=14)

**Soldiers of the First World War**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/cef/001042-100.01-e.php>

**Soldiers of the South African War**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/south-african-war/001002-100.01-e.php>

**Canadian Merchant Navy War Dead Database**

[http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/atlantic/merchant\\_search](http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/general/sub.cfm?source=history/secondwar/atlantic/merchant_search)

**Canadian Post-War Military and Dependents Graves**

<http://admieapp.forces.gc.ca/pwg-tag/index.asp?lang=e>

## Court Martials of the First World War

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/courts-martial/001006-100.01-e.php>

## PATENTS

You never know. Your ancestor may have been an inventor (and came to Canada very, very early - there are a few Cohen patents).

**Patents - 1869 - 1894**

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/archivianet/patents/001038-100.01-e.php>

Happy searching!

## Ask a Society Member

This is a new area of *Shem Tov* devoted to members who have specific questions that may be answered from within our organization. If you have reached a roadblock or need some orientation in your research, post your question to the editors of *Shem Tov*. Direct your questions and answers to [shem-tov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:shem-tov@jgstoronto.ca)

*I am a member of the JGS of Toronto and I was wondering if someone in the society could answer my question. I have found a record on the "All Lithuanian Revision Data Base" that pertains to my relatives. It is listed with the Publication Type, Archive/Fond etc as Revision List LVIA/1262/1/99 and is in the Town, Uyezd, Guberniya of Luoke, Siauliai, Kaunas and the surname of the family is Melamed. What do I do to obtain a copy of the original document? Is there a contact or researcher or organization that can help me in this matter? I do not seem to see instructions on the A.L.D. on how to obtain copies. Could you see if anyone can give me the details on what I have to do to obtain an original copy?*

Thanks for your help.  
Howard Nemers

## 1891 Canadian Census is Now Online

Steve Morse has added 1891 to the years that can be searched using his One-Step utility for searching the Canadian census. Searches can be run by anyone, but more detailed information is available to ancestry.com members. The search fields available are more comprehensive than those available on ancestry.com's own search form.

The One-Step form can be found at [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org) in the Canada/UK Census section or by going directly to <http://stevemorse.org/census/canada1911.html>.

Dick Plotz  
Manager of Mailing Lists  
JewishGen, Inc.

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## Report on 2008 IAJGS Conference

by Merle Kastner

JGS of Montreal, Programming

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Dear Canadian friends,  
The following is a brief report on the IAJGS Conference which took place in Chicago last month:

The conference attendees were greeted with a variety of lectures, special programs, offering something for everyone and in every area of research:

The IAJGS Management Seminar on Sunday afternoon provided an exchange of ideas on mutual problems facing the JGS' administrations.

On Sunday evening, the IAJGS Presidents' Reception was followed by the Opening Session of the conference and after this; we were greeted by a sumptuous reception.

The week commenced with BOFs (Birds of a Feather Meetings), Seminars of various types, Breakfast with the Experts, the superb annual Film Festival, Resource Room, Vendors' Room, Hospitality Table, etc. There were tours to the Chicago Cemeteries, the new and magnificent Spertus Jewish Museum, the old Jewish District of Chicago. Steve Morse delivered a number of lectures, Ron Arons, a new and clever one with Mike Karsen.

Several, small groups sprang up and found space to hold their spontaneous, meetings, usually in a corner of the lobby on the registration floor of the hotel.

On Monday morning, we began the day with the Canadian BOF. In the unfortunate absence of Stanley Diamond, Catherine Youngren expertly chaired a most productive meeting. Thank you to all those who attended this important meeting. To all, we hope to see you next year in Philadelphia. The minutes from the Canadian BOF will be sent at a later date.

Gary Mokotoff, one of a group of genealogists who traveled to Bad Arolsen to do research in the ITS Archives (International Tracing Service) this past May, delivered a most informative lecture on his experience and findings.

There were lectures on every facet of Jewish genealogical research, in every possible place here Jews have lived or still live - too many to list here. Lectures covered all types of existing databases for research.

The Computer workshops addressed all levels of users, from beginner to advanced, comprising software of various types and various programs as well.

The SIG luncheons allowed for exchanges on regional topics. Several of the luncheons featured speakers who had traveled from these countries.

For those who are contemplating writing their families' stories, Mike Karsen lectured on this subject and handed out CDs, as helpful guides.

Speakers talked on the subjects of DNA and Jewish genetic diseases.

Tuesday evening featured a 2-hour meeting on the subject of The Jewish Collection at Ancestry.com, during which Crista Cowan explained the new arrangement between Ancestry and JewishGen, from an Ancestry point of view.

The IAJGS Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday afternoon. Here, again were lively discussions on administrative issues as well as issues relating to local JGSs, as well. The following individuals were elected to the IAJGS Board of Directors for a term of two years:

1. Jan Meisels Allen of Agoura Hills, CA
2. Daniel Horowitz of Kfar Saba, Israel
3. Bill Israel of St. Petersburg, FL
4. Kahile Mehr of Bountiful, UT
5. Paul Silverstone of New York, NY
6. Jackye Sullins of Carlsbad, CA

On Wednesday evening, Warren Blatt, Michael Tobias and David G. Marwell dealt with the arrangement between Ancestry and JewishGen, answering a host of questions from those in attendance. After responding to their questions, the issue of the new and controversial JewishGen logo prompted another bevy of questions and discussions.

At the Closing Banquet, following the dinner, the much-awaited awardees names were announced:

1. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Howard Margol for his many years of pioneering work in Lithuanian Jewish Genealogy research.
2. The Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy Award was presented to Steven Lasky in recognition of his original contribution to the Jewish genealogical community by the creation of an online virtual museum "The Museum of Family History".
3. The Outstanding Project Award was presented to Petra Laidlaw for creating "The Jewish Community in Mid-19th Century Britain" database.
4. The Outstanding Publication Award was presented to The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain, for its collection of guidebooks comprising the "Jewish Ancestors?" series focusing on Jewish genealogical research in Europe, understanding Hebrew inscriptions and documents, and organizing family history records.
5. The 2008 IAJGS Stern Grant of \$2,500 was awarded to The Italian Genealogical Group (IGG - [www.Italiangen.org](http://www.Italiangen.org)) to facilitate the creating and computerization of a Brooklyn Brides Index for 1910-1930 from original records on 268 rolls of film from the Family History Library.

Achievement Award committee members were:

Stephen P. Morse - Chair of San Francisco; Rieke Nash of Sydney, Australia; Ilene Murray of St. Louis; Hal Bookbinder of Agoura Hills; and Michael Brenner of Las Vegas, NV.

The Stern Grant Committee members were:

Eileen Polakoff - Chair of New York, NY; Alan Greenberg of Montreal, QC; Hadassah Lipsius, New York, NY.

**Report on 2008 IAJGS Conference** - Cont'd from previous page

Our sincerest thanks to the principals, the Chicago group, the committees and the army of dedicated volunteers, all of whom worked tirelessly to make this conference the success it was.

Hope to see you all in Philadelphia in 2009.

**News from the IAJGS  
Conference in Chicago  
JewishGen and Ancestry.com Announce  
a Cooperative Partnership**

*Terms of the agreement:*

- JewishGen will make some of its databases available on the Ancestry website.
- Ancestry will provide hardware and network support for the JewishGen website.

*Benefits of the agreement:*

- JewishGen will be able to provide more robust and functional resources to genealogists throughout the world.
- Specific and immediate improvements will be seen in the speed of the website, along with greater accessibility when searching databases.
- More people will be exposed to Jewish genealogy and have access to a greater range of resources to assist in researching family history.
- JewishGen's comprehensive records and information, contributed by volunteers from around the world, will continue to remain freely available on JewishGen.org.

*Details of the agreement:*

- JewishGen remains an independent non-profit organization, affiliated with the Museum of Jewish Heritage – A Living Memorial to the Holocaust.
- There will be no change to the JewishGen management team, structure or affiliation with the museum.
- This new agreement, combined with the generosity of its donors throughout the world, will allow it to continue offering all of JewishGen's extensive resources for no charge.
- Privacy of personal information for JewishGen users remains of key importance.
  - **Information about JewishGen registrants will not be shared.**
- Personal information stored on JewishGen, such as data entered into the **JGFF** and **Family Tree of the Jewish People**, will not be shared.
- JewishGen will continue to independently administer the JewishGen website, mailing lists and affiliates.



Russian Jewish immigrants, Quebec City, c. 1911, about to leave for Winnipeg. The train journey from Quebec City took four days. A seat in a colonist car cost \$12 in 1990, \$1 by 1906. Each settler's baggage allowance on the Canadian Pacific Railway was 150 lbs.

**Best Wishes for a Happy  
& Healthy New Year!  
Shana Tova!**

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## Read Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Like Never Before!

by Judy Kasman

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**H**artley Nathan, Toronto lawyer and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930) aficionado and expert, presented a paper on June 27<sup>th</sup>, 1997 entitled *Sherlock Holmes – The Biblical Connection*, which article was published in *Canada Holmes*, Michaelmas 1998.

Nathan's premise is that many of Conan Doyle's writings have biblical references (including references to the Old Testament). Nathan writes, "Conan Doyle was educated at the Catholic Schools of Hodder and Stoneyhurst and finished his high school with a final year at a Jesuit School in Feldkirch, Austria. Clearly the Bible was drilled into him and one would be astonished if there were no Biblical references or parallels in his writings."

Thus, many stories and books have characters with names of our biblical ancestors: Abraham, Jacob, Sarah and Rachel. In the instance of the Joseph (which name is used in four stories), there are Biblical allusions aside from the name.

Nathan proposes: "In *A Study in Scarlet*, the Mormon Joseph Stangerson, a man with the Biblical number of four wives, is a murderous and murdered follower of the saintly Joseph Smith, and no ingenuity is needed to draw the obvious parallels between the latter and the Biblical patriarchs.

In *The Five Orange Pips*, Joseph Openshaw Father of John Openshaw, is a man who shares with the Biblical Joseph the fate of being disliked by his own brother.

In *The Naval Treaty*, Joseph Harrison, brother to Percy Phelps' fiancée Annie, turns out to be another Joseph who conceals his true identity from his sibling.

In *His Last Bow*, another cameo appearance is made in the guise of the Austro-Hungarian Emperor, Franz Joseph which conjures up the image of Brother Joseph as vizier or virtual ruler of Egypt, which in turn may be paralleled in Sherlock's brother Mycroft, the virtual government of Britain."

Another Biblical situation is that where, in *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, Charles Stapleton pretends that his wife, Beryl, is his sister, just as Abraham and Isaac had presented their wives, Sarah and Rebekah, as their sisters.

For those of you who will soon be sitting down to read the works of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, here is a chance for you read like a detective: see what Biblical references you can find!

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## Support Your Society

Our Society's revenues are based on our modest membership dues. Your donations would be greatly appreciated so that we can provide high-calibre programming. Please consider sponsoring a lecture, for example, to honour or memorialize a loved-one. Tax receipts are given for all donations. Please contact Shelley Stillman: [president@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:president@jgstoronto.ca)

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## JGS Toronto Launches New Website

by Harvey Glasner

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**B**y the time you are reading this issue of *Shem Tov* (or really, really soon!), our new website will be available for viewing. Our website has been updated and revamped in order to provide you, our members, with a window on the activities of our Society and to keep you informed about upcoming events and projects. In addition, we have built a comprehensive inventory of online resources for you to navigate and explore.

Members will have the capacity to communicate with one another through our internal email feature (*privacy rules respected*). This should make it possible for members (*if they choose*) to help fellow members advance their family research by sharing their knowledge and skills.

Back issues of *Shem Tov* are on the site and are easily accessed. Through the *Shem Tov Plus* tab, follow-up information will be published from time to time on key articles and research.

A great deal of development work went into revamping your website. We feel that the JGS Toronto website will certainly rank as one of the best in the JGS community.

Kudos and thanks to Shelley Stillman, our intrepid President, as well as to Arthur Ryman, our new website administrator, David Trost (who pushed for the creation of a new website), Neil Richler, Judy Kasman, Harvey Glasner and our web design and development team, Rena and Brian Cugelman.

[www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca)

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## Spotlight on Members and Friends

by Harvey Glasner

*In this column, we profile some members and friends of our Society, who, in addition to researching their own family trees, have undertaken projects of interest to our Society and/or to the general community.*

### Thanks to Terri Rothman

We want to thank our previous webmaster, Terri Rothman, for the countless hours she spent working on the JGS Toronto website. When Terri joined our Society in 1999, she listed "website developer" as her experience. The Executive of the time approached her to help out as they began planning the 2002 IAJGS Conference in Toronto. Terri created the Conference website and used the designs from it to develop our Society's website that served us up to the present.

It was through Terri's efforts that the website was updated to provide members with timely information about upcoming programs and events, new ways to pay their membership dues online, and Conference information

We want to express our sincere appreciation to Terri and she steps down as webmaster. We hope that she will maintain her interest and involvement in our Society.

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