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שם טוב SHEM TOV

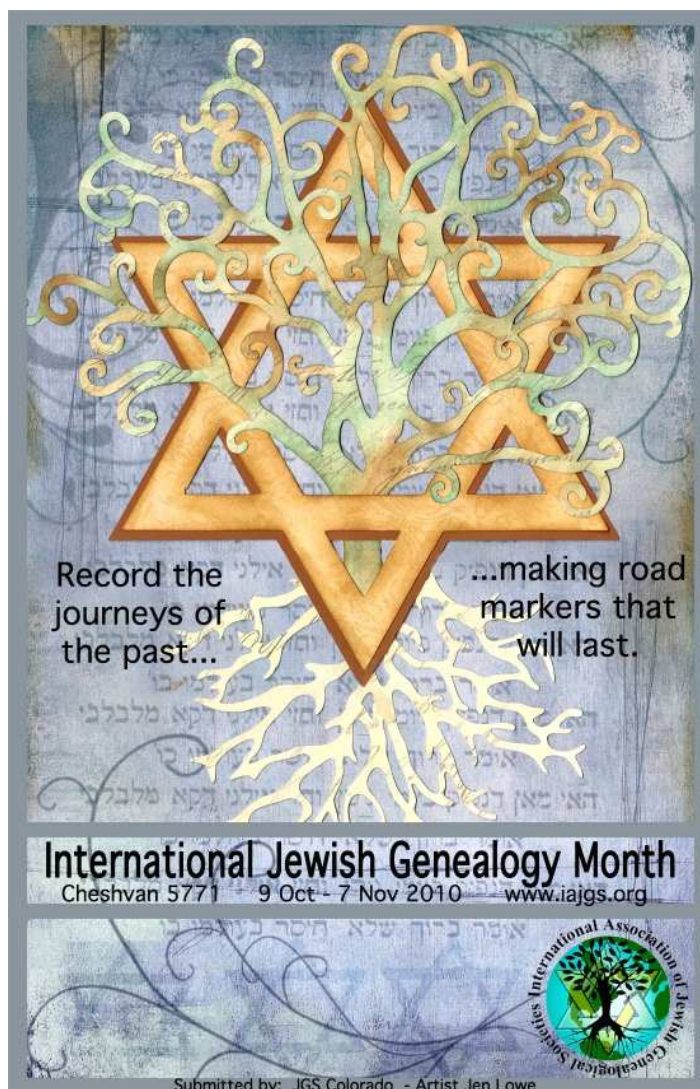
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

Celebrating 25 Years: 1985 - 2010

VOLUME XXVI No. 3

September 2010 Tishrei-Cheshvan 5771

AWARD-WINNING POSTER



The 2010 winning poster above was designed by Jen Lowe of JGS of Colorado whose interest in genealogy began at age 16. She is a retired civil servant who is obviously a talented mixed media artist. She joined JGS of Colorado in 2009 and serves as its Secretary.

Calling All Artists

If you are artistically inclined, or if you have a relative or friend who is, now's the time to start designing the 2011 winning poster for Jewish Genealogy Month!

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Message From the President

I sincerely hope that this New Year has started off well for all of you and your families!

Our Society had its formal beginnings in 1985 with a few people who had a passion for conducting family research. This was few years before the development of family tree software, the internet, commercialized search engines and popular personalities to promote finding out about one's roots and identity.

We would be remiss if we did not commemorate our 25th Anniversary in a meaningful way. One way in which we are doing so, as you likely know by now, is by publishing an anthology of family stories written by Society members. If you are still considering writing a personal story for our anthology, make a bold move and do it!

In addition, we are having a special anniversary programme on Wednesday, November 24th at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue featuring our own Bill Gladstone who will give a talk on Jewish Toronto (please see ad on P. 7); this presentation will be followed by festive refreshments. We hope you will join us for this event!

Many thanks go out to members who have volunteered to work on these Anniversary projects. We also appreciate

the ongoing efforts of the Programming Committee which has lined up an impressive schedule of speakers, films and workshops for this fall and winter.

I look forward to meeting you during the coming year.

Harvey Glasner
President, JGS of Canada (Toronto)

NEW MEMBERS

JGS Toronto is very pleased to welcome
as new members:

Brenda Dales	Joy Isaacs
Olga Sokolova	Osnat Yagudin Glasner

vol. XXVI No. 3

SHEM TOV is published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) and is distributed free to members. Current issues are available to non-members for \$4.00 per issue, and back issues are available free of charge on our website www.jgstoronto.ca.

Contributions are invited. Please submit material to shemtov@jgstoronto.ca or to Shem Tov Editors, P.O. Box 91006, 2901 Bayview Avenue, Toronto, ON M2K 2Y6. Publication is at the Editor's discretion.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) was founded in 1985. Membership is \$40 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.

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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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.

Non-member fee: \$5.00 per meeting

(exception: spouses accompanying members)

Please be sure to visit www.jgstoronto.ca for updated information.

Sunday, October 17th from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Workshop: *Helping You On Your Way With Your Genealogy Research*

Presenter: Neil Richler, Member of JGS Toronto Executive
Pre-registration required. Watch for emailed information!

Wednesday, October 27th

7:45 p.m. *Helping you Get Started* question & answer session
8 p.m. *The Power of Good*, a film by Matej Minac about Sir Nicholas Winton who rescued 669 Czech children from the Nazis. This film won an International Emmy award in 2002. It is narrated by CBC news correspondent Joe Schlesinger, who himself was one of "Nicky's Children", and it serves as an introduction to our November 3rd programme, described below.

Wednesday, November 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

Holocaust Education Week Programme

Joe Schlesinger, CBC News Correspondent - *Reflections of a Survivor*



SARAH AND CHAIM NEUBERGER
HOLOCAUST EDUCATION CENTRE
UJA FEDERATION OF GREATER TORONTO

Wednesday, November 24th at 8 p.m.

JGS of Canada (Toronto) 25th Anniversary Event

Speaker: Bill Gladstone, Author and Past President,
JGS Toronto. Please see p. 7

Wednesday, December 15th at 8 p.m.

TBA

General Meeting and Elections

Wednesday, January 26th, 2011 at 8 p.m.

Latvian Records and How to Use Them

Henry Blumberg, JGS Toronto member

Sunday, February 27th

Workshop - TBA

Wednesday, March 30th at 8 p.m.

at North York Public Library Auditorium

What We Can Learn from DNA Testing to Help our Genealogy Research:

SPEAKER: Bennett Greenspan

An entrepreneur and life-long genealogy enthusiast, Mr. Greenspan founded Family Tree DNA in 1999, turning a hobby into a full-time vocation.

Wednesday, April 27th at 8 p.m.

A Trip to Poland: Planning, Travelling and Discovering

Presenters: Mel & Deana Fishman, JGS Toronto Members

Sunday, May 8th

How to Use the Records from Yad Vashem

Steven Brock, Hamilton JGS

Wednesday, May 25th

Visit from Steve Morse and Ron Arons

Wednesday, June 22nd at 8 p.m.

Annual General Meeting

2010 Financial Statement will be presented.

Brick Walls and Breakthroughs

Speakers: Society Members

About Oskar Schindler

Dr. Robin O'Neil, a well-known war crimes researcher, has written a book about the Oskar Schindler, *Oskar Schindler: Stepping Stone to Life*. Dr. O'Neil, born in Ireland, and educated in England, conducted many interviews and delved into much documentation to write this tome which covers Schindler's life from his birth in 1908 to 1945.

As Dr. O'Neil has donated his book to JewishGen; you can read it online at

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/schindler/Schindler.html>

In addition, a new historical multimedia museum has been opened in the administration building of Oskar Schindler's Factory of Enameled Vessels at 4 Lipowa Street, in the industrial district of Krakow. This Museum forms a branch of The Historical Museum of the City of Krakow. A portion of the Schindler Museum is devoted to the story of this Schindler Factory from 1939 to 1945 and how Schindler saved about 300 Jews during those years; however, the majority of the Museum deals with the situation of Jews in Krakow at that period of time.

To read more about Schindler and this Museum, visit <http://www.krakow-info.com/schindler.htm>

BRANCHING OUT

by Elaine Cheskes

New Acquisitions to the JGS of Canada (Toronto) Library Collection at the North York Central Library, 6th floor Gladys Allison Canadiana Room

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) Library Website

The online catalogue of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) Library has been updated as of Sept. 2010.

Website address: www.jgstoronto.ca

Click: **Resources**

Click: **Library**

Books in the collection may be searched by *author*, *title*, or *subject* file or with the **Control F Key**.

New Acquisitions to the JGS of Canada (Toronto) Library Collection at the North York Central Library

Faiguenboim, Guilherme, Paulo Valadares, and Anna Rosa Campagnano. *Dicionário Sefaradi de Sobrenomes: Inclusive Cristãos-novos, Conversos, Marranos, Italianos, Berberes e sua História na Espanha, Portugal e Itália = Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames: Including Christianized Jews, Conversos, Marranos, Italians, Berbers, and their History in Spain, Portugal and Italy*. 2nd ed. Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2009.

Goldchain, Rafael. *I Am My Family: A Photographic Journey*. New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 2008.

IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (30th: 2010: Los Angeles) **Program Guide**. Los Angeles: Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, 2010.

The **Program Guide** provides descriptive summaries of a myriad of lectures, workshops, panel discussions, films and theatrical performances that were attended by an international group of Jewish genealogists in Los Angeles, July 11-16, 2010. In addition, a short biographical sketch of each of the speakers is included. What a wonderful way to learn about the Conference with an overview of the diverse and exciting innovative genealogical related sessions. Don't miss the next IAJGS Conference that will be held in Washington, D.C. in August, 2011!

Mokotoff, Gary. ***Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy: 2010 Version***. Bergenfield, NJ: Avotaynu, 2010.

Wellington County Historical Research Society. *Wellington County History*. Vol. 23, 2010. Fergus, ON: Wellington County Historical Society, 2010.

Wellington County is located in southwestern Ontario, and includes the major communities of Aberfoyle, Arthur, Clifford, Drayton, Elora, Erin, Fergus, part of Guelph, Harriston, Hillsburgh, Mount Forest, Palmerston and Rockwood. In this particular issue, Vol. 23, 2010, ***Recollections of Samuel Ciglen***,

edited by Ina Gilbert, ***Anti-Semitic Overtones to 1884 Peel Robbery*** by Stephen Thorning, and ***Peddlers in Wellington County: Good Luck This Morning***, compiled by Ian Easterbrook, are articles of Jewish genealogical interest.

Peddlers in Wellington County: Good Luck This Morning

Compiled by Ian Easterbrook

Abridged version by Elaine Cheskes

Printed with the permission of Ian Easterbrook

A significant European event in the 1890s, with an impact on Canada, was the widespread persecution of Russian Jewry. Many of the immigrants chose to go to the United States, but were refused entry. As a result, they disembarked in Canada.

"Many of the Jewish immigrants who came to the area tried to make a living as peddlers, a business that required enormous energy and dedication, but limited investment and experience. Even with a horse and wagon the work was backbreaking and the rewards were minimal. Hard-pressed farmers simply did not have the cash to pay for the goods the peddlers offered. Often bartering was the only form of payment possible."¹

By interviewing elderly members of the community and by checking the Canada Censuses of 1901 and 1911, it has been possible to recover some details of the lives led by the peddlers.

Mark/Max Simonsky was born in Poland and immigrated to Canada. He married Hannah Josephine Asche in Hamilton in 1873. The scrapbook of Mabel Trask, Peel Township, written in the 1980s when she was in her 80s, noted: "Mr. Mark Simonski had a light rig and horse, and he carried quite a stock of men's clothing, yard goods, even watches."

Kenneth Craig wrote that "Simonski's liniment was the best blamed liniment ever put on a horse. Old Simonski brought a touch of the outside world, with his foreign mannerisms, and his queer smelling cigarettes that he made himself."²

In 1884, Max was attacked and robbed between Parker and Arthur. He was tied to a tree with a harness and a cloth, wrapped around a stick, was put into his mouth. Subsequently, the cloth was tied around his head and secured to a tree. He managed to escape, but the robbery did not deter him from peddling.

Barney Levinsky may have begun peddling in Wellington County as early as 1899. Several residents of Puslinch had vivid memories of him. "A Polish Jewish emigrant, he first came on foot... Later he bought his inventory in Toronto and shipped it to Puslinch, where he kept his horse; from there he travelled his route with horse and wagon. He ate his meals and spent the night with families he trusted."³

Ben Clark recalled that Barney would come to their home in

Badenoch. "He was a good salesman, as whatever the household needed, he would have it. If something was small, he would assure the housewife that "it stretch", and alternately, if too large, "it shrink." His mother purchased a pair of grey socks, but after the first wash they turned white. Levinsky said that they must have been on the cart for some time."⁴

Another resident, Mrs. Gladwyn Crow, recalls the travelling cart men of the 20s and 30s. "Old Barney used to call with his horse "King George" and the closed, paneled cart. He was Jewish, so he wouldn't eat pork and even if he was assured that the potatoes had been fried in butter, not lard, he wouldn't eat them. He sold cloth, pans, overalls, yarn, buttons, etc. – anything he thought would tempt the rural housewife."⁵ It was reported that in 1901 he worked for 12 months and earned \$600.

In April 1901, **Jacob Ciglen**, then of Toronto, took out a licence for a pack, travelling on foot; in October of that year he graduated to a one-horse wagon. In 1903, the *Drayton Advocate* referred to him as a dealer in scrap iron, and the Drayton Voters' List of 1909 as an iron dealer.

In 1907, the *Drayton Advocate* reported: "On Monday evening of last week, all the Jews in Drayton started for Berlin [now Kitchener] to take part in their New Year's celebration... The number in Drayton is only two short of being sufficient to institute a synagogue. There must be ten members over thirteen years of age."⁶ In 1912: "Mr. and Mrs. Ciglen and other Jews from our village went to Toronto to engage at sunset of that evening in the Jewish Passover... The festival has the two-fold character of a religious service, and family reunions."⁷

The Ciglens in Drayton and other Jewish families in small towns faced difficult challenges due to the fact that "there were too few of them to form a distinctive neighbourhood, and since they were almost entirely small-scale businessmen like storekeepers, peddlers or junk collectors, they had to deal daily with non-Jews. They lived among non-Jews, and their children were often the only non-Christians in the public school they attended. It might be said, therefore, that they lived on a cultural frontier between the Jewish and non-Jewish worlds; they were more directly exposed, on the one hand, to those influences which drew them away from their identity as Jews, and on the other, to the need to understand, assert, explain, and defend that identity on a daily basis."⁸

By the 1920s the peddler in rural Ontario was displaced by the crossroads country store, and by catalogues and mail order. But the residents of Wellington County have remembered with affection those who travelled the back roads of the townships. It is tempting to think that it was then and there that Canadians were attracted to the benefits of a multi-cultured society.

¹ Irving Abella, *A Coat of Many Colours: Two Centuries of Jewish life in Canada* (Toronto: Lester & Orpen Denny, 1990) p. 98

² Kenneth C. Cragg. *Father on the Farm* (Toronto: Longmans, Green & Co., 1947) p. 73-74.

³ *Puslinch Profiles 1850-2000* (Puslinch Historical Society, 2000), p.73

⁴ E-Mail from Marjorie Clark, 26 Oct. 2009

⁵ E-mail from Marilyn Crow; Ardyne Farm scrapbook, Lot 17, Rear Con. 2, Puslinch Twp.

⁶ In 1907, Rosh Hashana fell on 9 September; the *Drayton Advocate* report was 19 Sept. 1907.

⁷ *Drayton Advocate*, 4 April 1912.

⁸ Gerald Tulchinsky, *Taking Root: Origins of the Canadian Jewish Community*. (Toronto: Lester Publishing Co., 1992) p. 160



Peddler at the former Ferguson Store and Post Office at Killean (Lot 9, Front Concession 1, Puslinch Township).

Photo courtesy of Marilyn Crow

New: Abridged Facsimile Edition of *The Jew of Canada from 1926*

Now available from Bill Gladstone's Now and Then Books is the rare classic 1926 volume, *The Jew in Canada*, edited by Arthur D. Hart, which has long been out of print. Gladstone, a JGS Toronto Past President and author, states: "This is the most thorough volume ever assembled on the Jews of Montreal, Toronto, Winnipeg and many other Canadian cities. A treasure trove for genealogists and historians, *The Jew in Canada contains hundreds of biographical entries of prominent personalities and community leaders; also, descriptions of many synagogues, community organizations and endeavours across Canada, and more than 400 photographs and illustrations.*"

Please visit www.nowandthenbookstoronto.com website for more details about this 466-page soft cover volume. Cost: \$40.

Gladstone has announced that part of the proceeds from the sale of this book is being donated to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto).

How I Was Won Over by the 2010 Ontario Genealogy Society Conference

by Marla Waltman Daschko, JGS Toronto Member

What was a Jewish genealogist doing at the Ontario Genealogical Society Annual Conference? After registering for the Conference, I wondered if I would be asking myself that same question once the Conference began. The OGS' long-standing reputation as a society for those with British roots was top of mind. The question was quickly answered, however, as I saw how much the Conference offered. In particular, I was won over by the knowledgeable speakers who presented essential and innovative research techniques that I hadn't had the opportunity to explore previously. The weekend was a great success for the OGS and for this Jewish genealogist.

The Conference, entitled *Essential, Innovations & Delights*, had advertised some sessions that were directly relevant to a Jewish family historian. Initially, those were the sessions that caught my attention. This year they had invited Amy Feller, who was to speak on Eastern European research. Unfortunately, due to an illness in her family, she was unable to attend; British Columbia's Dave Obee stepped in as her able replacement. The focus on using European records, touring in Eastern Europe and an introduction to Eastern European family history, was the main reason that I decided to make the trek to the northern reaches of Toronto for a weekend of genealogy. While these sessions were, on the whole, excellent and useful as an overview for anyone researching family from Eastern Europe, what ended up being the highlight of the Conference for me was the Professional/Advanced Stream.

That stream, held on the first day of the Conference, contained a set of sessions, led by Thomas W. Jones, that was eye-opening and exciting. Mr. Jones presented three sessions that were worth the price of admission: *Inferential Genealogy: Deducing Ancestor's Identities Indirectly*, *Organizing Evidence to Overcome Record Shortage* and *The Jones Jinx: Tracing Common Surnames*. While the examples he used, understandably, were from non-Jewish sources and family names, the techniques were transferable and important. This was the *essential* in the conference title.

Jones' focus on evidence, corroboration of sources, correlation of findings, the Genealogical Proof Standard, and extracting all information from all documentation found, made me realize how sloppy my research can be, and how much more attention I need to give to establishing identities and proving relationships. It is so easy to jump to conclusions when linking information to individuals, and linking individuals to families, especially when dealing with common names. However, even those names that we think are relatively unique contain numerous possibilities for errors. Who could believe that there are so many Yachet Baltmans or Mendel Organeks in primary records, much less Benjamin Krafts or Louis Spectors? The more research I do, the more documentation I uncover for these and many other family names. Following the Conference, I revisited some of my research and uncovered, using Jones' tech-

niques, some false assumptions I had made about relationships and the way that I linked some information to particular individuals. Jones' sessions have made me reconsider my approach to genealogy and the level of evidence I need to verify my research. This was an important lesson and one I didn't think I needed, given my M.A. in History and work experience as an archivist. If I can make errors in my research, then we all can!

I was disappointed that there weren't more representatives from Jewish genealogy societies at the Conference, as I think it would have been useful for many others to learn from the myriad sessions available. The OGS event has value to all of us because of the general techniques taught that are not linked to Jewish research issues. This is not to say that there isn't a need for our own meetings or research seminars on specific Jewish topics, but there is value to a broader approach.

In addition, it would also benefit the OGS to have an expanded audience as they increase their range of topics and revamp their long-standing image. While many attendees had British roots, I was warmly welcomed as were others with geographically broader research interests. Along with the streams on Dutch and Italian research this year, next year's conference in Hamilton plans to have a Jewish stream, as well as a focus on Eastern European, Irish Palatine and German immigration patterns from Europe to Canada, as well as general genealogical topics including methodology, skills building, record analysis and problem-solving. I suggest that our involvement, as a Society and as individuals, would benefit both Societies and each of us as Jewish genealogists.

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by November 2010 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.

A Fateful Choice of Software

By Daniel Held

This article, which originally appeared in The Canadian Jewish News on July 29, 2010, is reprinted with the permission of the author.

For my Bar Mitzvah, I was given a gift certificate to Chapters Indigo. Walking through the aisles I agonized over what to buy. Should it be a Jewish text, connecting me to the rich tradition of my religion (and fitting for a bar mitzvah gift) or a set of Archie comics, which brought me hours of laughs during the preceding summer at camp? A “great” novel that my parents insisted was part of the canon of literature that any young man must master, or a CD of my favourite band? After hours of deliberation, I selected a piece of computer software that, unbeknownst to me, would shape my personal and professional identity – Family Tree Maker.

At first I thought it would be exciting to see my name and that of my parents, sister and cousins on a family tree. I imagined a few branches heading off in different directions with a couple of dozen names in the database. Within a few months, however, the software had become my and my parents’ obsession. Within a few years we had traveled to Germany to take rubbings of tombstones, searched through archives in Tel Aviv and New York, discovered lost branches of the family in Australia, Argentina and South Africa, input the details of over 2,100 family members into the program, and reincorporated a number of long-lost family traditions into our ritual practice.

Growing up, I didn’t know much of my family. In the mid 1930s my family fled Germany in search of safety from the Nazis. While fortunate to find refuge, they dispersed to the far corners of the globe. In the process, they lost one another and much of the family tradition. Born to immigrant parents living in Canada with my grandparents across the ocean in South Africa and England, this sense of familial disconnect was compounded for me, as I didn’t have grandparents to tell me stories and family lore. It was during weekly Sunday morning telephone calls, fraught with static and interruptions, and regular summer visits, that I connected with my grandparents and my past.

In hindsight, selecting Family Tree Maker was likely born not only of a desire to see my immediate family on the computer screen, it was a way for me to strengthen the roots of family and tradition. Through the process of researching and slowly uncovering my family’s story, I developed a deep sense of history and a connection to my family’s and my people’s history. This sense of historical and genealogical connection has informed my educational philosophy and engendered my passion for teaching Jewish history and tradition. To me, teaching is a form of retelling my people’s narrative which finds an echo in my students’ own histories.

One of my favourite classroom projects is to ask my students to construct their own family trees. Over the course of the project, students interview their parents, grandparents and other relatives. Not only do they ask for names and birth dates, but they ask to hear family stories. It is these narratives that are often the most compelling part of the exercise. I have heard

students repeat epic stories of immigration, struggle and success alongside accounts of practical jokes their grandparents would play on siblings and cousins.

History connects us to the past. To me, however, it is our personal stories that make history come alive, connecting us to our family, our people, our community and our religion and informing our values and ideals.

Thinking back to that day in Chapters Indigo, as I walked up and down the aisles debating between the Archie comic and the CD, I realize that the choice of Family Tree Maker is a story unto itself that I will, one day, share with my family.

You are invited to celebrate
the 25th Anniversary of JGS of Canada (Toronto)
on Wednesday, November, 24th at 8:00 pm
at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue
Doors open at 7:30 pm



The Jews of Old Toronto
Bill Gladstone presents a richly illustrated talk about
Toronto's Jewish community from
c. 1900 to the 1940s,
and highlights a few rare genealogical resources
such as books and
privately-kept records from this period.

Festive refreshments following

We encourage all of our
past and present members to attend.
Please bring photos & memorabilia to mark
this special occasion.

RSVP: info@jgstoronto.ca by Nov. 15, 2010

The 30th IAJGS Annual Conference: A Personal Perspective

by Evelyn Steinberg, JGS Toronto Member

The program guide for an IAJGS Conference presents a sumptuous smorgasbord of possibilities: expert speakers, computer workshops, a film festival, on-site translators, resources to purchase or access online, author lectures and signings, guided tours, and entertainment galore. As appealing as the offerings appear, deciding how to spend each day can be a challenge. Although it is tempting to try to sample as much as possible, doing so means you risk savouring very little.

I spent my first IAJGS Conference in Philadelphia in 2009 gorging on information. I attended sessions morning, noon, and night, for fear of missing something important. I collected handouts and names of contacts, purchased resources, viewed films, spent hours researching in the resource room, and barely saw the outdoors. Most of the information I brought home was carefully filed but rarely accessed.

This year I took a different approach to the Conference. There are several skilled researchers in my extended family who make information about my mother's ancestors readily available. In the past year, I have worked on tracing my father's family back in time. Starting with little information, few stories, and only a handful of people to talk with has made for slow progress. Each success along the way has raised new questions and identified more information gaps or conflicts.

I focused on learning what would be most useful for this particular quest. Presentations about what kinds of records are located in which Ukraine archives and how to access them gave me a renewed sense of direction and a greater understanding of the challenges of my task. Learning about DNA and how that data can be helpful for genealogists, as well as talking with the experts, convinced me that testing my brother's Y-DNA could yield some useful leads. Although it will be several months before that data will be available, I am optimistic that the results will help me move my search along.

As with many Jewish celebrations and holidays, food plays an important role at these conferences. A typical day might start with "Breakfast with the Experts" or end with munching with the "Midnight Mavens". In between, food is often the catalyst for making connections—a quick box lunch, standing in line to buy an afternoon latte, a "Ten Genners" dinner with other solo travelers in a local restaurant, or casual chats throughout the day.

I can't report any major breakthroughs or key insights, or that I found a long-lost relative at the Conference. However, the many individuals I met and interacted with thoroughly enriched my week, whether they had information to share or we had nothing in common; whether they had been researching for 26 years or were just getting started; whether they were intensely serious or merely dabblers. I was reminded that genealogists, and Jewish genealogists in particular, are part of a unique international community. When we meet, there is an instant connection that goes well beyond Jewish geography - give and take, a place of history, and a sense of belonging to something greater than we are.

A Perspective on the 2010 IAJGS L.A. Conference

by Henry Blumberg, JGS Toronto Member

In my opinion, the IAJGS Conference, held from July 11th to 16th, was a success, despite reservations expressed by Gary Mokotoff in *Nu? What's Nu? The E-Zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu*, Volume 11, Number 14, July 25, 2010.

This year's program, as in past years, embraced a fascinating array of events. There was, of course, first and foremost the well-attended Canadian BOF meeting, coordinated by Stanley Diamond and Merle Kastner. Then there were the vast number of SIG programs, lectures, workshops, films, entertainment, lunches, opening event, banquet, Breakfast with the Mavens, and much more. It is a daunting task to work through the program handbook and decide what to attend and, regrettably, what to leave out.

For me, the most enjoyable part of these IAJGS Conferences is meeting the attendees and renewing relationships. In addition, it was very worthwhile to meet leaders of other Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and Jewish Genealogy Societies (JGSs). Among the regular attendees were Howard Margol, the doyenne of Lithuanian genealogy; Rolf Lederer, a Canadian genealogy stalwart of many decades; Saul Isroff of the South Africa SIG; Warren Blatt of JewishGen, and Michael Goldstein, President of the IAJGS.

Then there are the new faces and expanding the range of genealogical friendships. My most significant genealogical breakthroughs have come from the chance meeting of fellow researchers at IAJGS Conferences who turn out to be extended family members and that for me has been the most exciting and interesting aspect of attending the IAJGS Conferences.

While I attended many lectures and other events, for me the highlight this year were the films especially, since the Conference host city was L.A.

As can be expected, there were a number of films dealing with Hollywood. To give but a few examples, there was *Hollywoodism: Jews, Movies and the American Dream*, which discussed how major Hollywood films were influenced by Eastern European Jewish culture, and *Imaginary Witness: Hollywood and the Holocaust*, which examines Hollywood's attitude towards one of the most horrific events in world history and explores how filmmakers and popular culture have portrayed the Holocaust over the past 60 years.

The Conference's keynote speaker was Daniel Mendelsohn, author of *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million*, about the world-wide search for information about the fates of six relatives who perished in the Holocaust. His quest to know the unknowable was truly fascinating.

The presentation by Saul Isroff entitled: *The Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902: Jews from Many Lands*, was fascinating. Over 300 Jews served among the Boers. Thirteen Jews died on the Boer side. There were also American volunteers that included Harry Spanier from Columbus, Ohio (the first Jew to be killed).

Continued on page 9

MISSING LINKS

Here are three inquiries received by *Shem Tov*.

If you have any responses to these inquiries, please send an email to shemtov@jgstoronto.ca.

Children's Hospital in Germany Post -WW II

E.B., a Florida resident, was born in a DP camp in Germany following WWII and was stricken by tuberculosis at age 2. He was sent by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee to a children's hospital in Kempten im Allgau, Bavaria, Germany for those with tuberculosis. The hospital was run by the I.R.O. (International Refugee Organization) of the United Nations. He alleges that he was tortured while in this hospital, and finally he father took him out after one year.

E.B. would like to find this hospital's records, or speak to others who have information about the hospital or who have knowledge of a book written about it.

From Russia, With Love

We recently received a request from Michael Goltsman who lives in Russia. His grandfather, Jacob Goltsman, son of Abraham, was born in the Lipsko, Ishetsky district, Radom province, in 1900. Jacob left Poland for Saratov, Russia in 1914 while two older brothers came to Toronto at that time. Michael believes that the two brothers operated a weaving mill in Toronto. His grandfather and the brothers had corresponded until the time of the Cold War.

Michael is seeking information about these brothers, i.e. his great uncles, and their families. It appears that his grandfather remained in Russia.

Does anyone know about two Goltsman brothers who came to Toronto pre-World War I from Radom who had a brother Jacob who did not immigrate to Canada? A photo of Jacob as a young man is shown below.

Note: Perhaps these brothers were known as Holtsman or Holtzman since the Russian "G" is the Polish "H", as is seen in names Galpern and Halpern.



Seeking Manek Salzman of Tyczyn, Poland

George Salton is a Holocaust survivor who was born in the small town of Tyczyn, Poland in 1927. His name was Lucjan Salzman(n). His family was forced into the Rzeszow Ghetto, and his parents, Anna and Herman Salzmänn, were deported to, and gassed at the Belzec Extermination Camp. George and his older brother Manek remained in the Ghetto and worked as forced labor in a factory camp in Rzeszow. After George was imprisoned at the camp, Manek escaped from the Ghetto. After 3 years in 10 concentration camps and 2 years in German Displaced Person Camps, George eventually emigrated to New York.

Recently during an Internet search of newly digitized post war records, his daughter, Anna Salton Eisen, came across a list of Tyczyn Jewish Survivors. Manek Salzmänn was on the list; at the US Memorial Holocaust Museum a second document was found stating that Manek Salzmänn of Tyczyn Poland, son of Herman, was alive in Poland as of December 17, 1946.

George is 83 years old and has new hope that his older brother or any family he might have had may still be found.

A Perspective on the 2010 IAJGS L.A. - Cont'd from page 6

This presentation was of particular interest to me, coming from South Africa, and furthermore having learnt much in Canada about the Canadian participation in the Boer War.

A JewishGen SIG Coordinators' meeting was also held at the Conference. It was chaired by Vivian Kahn, the JewishGen VP for SIG Affairs. To the best of my knowledge, it was the first meeting where all the SIG Coordinators were invited to meet with JewishGen to discuss common concerns. This meeting was key as the SIGs are very important participants of the IAJGS Conferences and as they have also made available tremendous amount of data for JewishGen. The agenda included JewishGen project approval procedures, project management and accounting procedures. It was apparent from the discussion at the meeting that there were a number of issues to be resolved in the relationship between the SIGs and JewishGen.

Hope to see you at the Conference in Washington, DC next year!

CHECK THE WEBSITE OFTEN!

Remember to visit www.jgstoronto.ca frequently for news and updates.

JewishGen and MyHeritage.com Collaborate To Build the Family Tree of the Jewish People

Printed with permission of Daniel Horowitz

Tel Aviv, Israel; London, UK and Los Angeles, US
– July 10, 2010

Under this collaboration, family trees built with a special version of MyHeritage.com available at <http://www.myheritage.com/jewishgen>, with the consent of the tree creators, will be transferred periodically to the Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) for digital safekeeping. Privacy controls, using the MyHeritage.com tools, can be set according to the wishes of the tree creator. Data of existing MyHeritage.com users will not be transferred.

JewishGen is a non-profit organization created to help researchers interested in Jewish genealogy around the world connect to each other, research their families and ancestral geographic locations, participate in research projects and store Jewish family trees safely. The mission of JewishGen is to obtain records and information that will be valuable to those with Jewish ancestry and place them on the JewishGen website, at no cost, in an easy to understand and searchable format.

The Family Tree of the Jewish People is a project of JewishGen to bring together family historians around the world who research Jewish family branches. The project offers a central resource for Jewish family trees and helps re-connect Jewish families.

MyHeritage.com is a genealogical social networking site with more than 50 million members and 590 million profiles worldwide. It currently holds some 15 million family trees. It operates in 36 languages including English and Hebrew, making it ideal for Jewish families around the world to connect, as it offers easy and fun tools to enable sharing of information, photos, documents and videos among far-flung relatives, with complete and secure privacy controls that can be set by tree creators...

“We are excited to join forces with JewishGen,” said Gilad Japhet, founder and CEO of MyHeritage.com, himself an avid genealogist and a member of JewishGen since August 2000. “We see it as a privilege to cooperate with JewishGen and help it preserve family trees of people who wish to discover, and be discovered by, fellow researchers and relatives,” Japhet added. “Our Smart Matching technology will provide genealogists the added benefit of discovering additional relatives through the large databases on MyHeritage.com. This will fulfill the mutual objective of MyHeritage.com and JewishGen to reunite families whose ties have been lost through time and fate.”

For JewishGen: Warren Blatt, Managing Director
wblatt@jewishgen.org

For MyHeritage.com: Daniel Horowitz, Genealogy and Translation Manager
Daniel@MyHeritage.com

Tour of the Ontario Archives

*by Myrna Neuringer Levy,
JGS Toronto Board Member*

“Impressive.”

“I can’t wait to return to do my research here.”

These are among the comments made by members of the JGS Toronto who participated in a guided tour of the Ontario Archives on May 26, 2010.

The Ontario Archives moved from its crowded, out-dated facilities on Grosvenor Street in downtown Toronto a little more than a year ago. Today, the Archives’ collection of Ontario government records, private sector records, maps, photographs and architectural drawings are housed on several floors in a state-of-the-art building at 134 Ian Macdonald Blvd. on the campus of York University.

After welcoming us, Linda Murphy-Boyer, Supervisor of Customer Service, gave us an introduction to the Archives and its varied collections. We were then divided into three smaller groups so that we could rotate touring the reading room, the curatorial and preservation facilities, and spend time viewing the special exhibit area and its current exhibit.

In the reading room, we were given a quick overview of how to use the indexes and then request relevant documents to read or view on the microfiche readers. Our enthusiastic guide constantly reassured us that the staff at the Archives are only too willing to guide researchers through the process of choosing, requesting and using the material. It is in this area that genealogists can look at birth, marriage, death and divorce records. As well, maps and documents pertaining to land title and land use can be accessed here.

The second part of the tour was to view areas not normally seen by the public. On the floor where the Archives are stored, curatorial, preservation and restoration work is also done. We passed the massive vaults, each one maintained at different temperature, light and humidity levels depending upon the material stored within. Thus, paper is stored under conditions that differ from those used to store photographs or film.

The first stop for all material sent from Queen’s Park and other Ministries is the room where the boxes of material are opened, given a catalogue number and entered into the appropriate database.

In the conservation area, we were shown the drying kiln where material suffering from water damage is placed to dry out. The Archives also has a collection of outdated electronic equipment so that data can be retrieved.

The final part of the tour was to see the area where revolving exhibits from the Archives will be mounted. The current exhibit displayed architectural drawings, photographs and models from the office of the renowned firm of Moriyma and Teshima.

In the future, the Archives plans to host public seminars and lectures based upon its collections. For further information, go to www.archives.gov.on.ca or phone 416-327-1600, or toll free in Ontario 1-800-668-9933.

Excerpt from *The Troupe*

Reprinted with permission of the author, Craig Silverman

Writer Craig Silverman, after coming across his late grandfather's photo album, was inspired to find the story behind the pictures. What he discovered was that in June, 1945, his grandfather, Halifax violinist Julius Silverman, sailed to Europe with twelve other entertainers (11 being female) to stage performances for Canadian Army troops. In the four months that they were abroad, the Halifax Herald Concert Party travelled 6,316 miles and gave over 100 shows in England, Belgium, Holland, and Germany.

In his recent article, *The Troupe*, Craig Silverman movingly describes the scene when the group of Halifax entertainers arrives at Bergen-Belsen:

The buildings and barracks had burned down, but the crematorium and gallows were still standing. The camp consisted of the dead and the instruments of death.

What remains of my grandfather's trip to Europe is a tattered green album filled with photos of him on stage, aboard ships and standing beside European roads. His photos from Bergen-Belsen show mass graves, the crematorium and the children they encountered along the road. He was the only Jew in the group; I wonder how he kept the camera steady.

After the camp, the group stopped at a building that was home to more orphans of the Holocaust. "I don't think we have ever seen children so starved for affection. Just go near to one and their arms are tight around you, and it is with difficulty you tear yourself away from them," Mrs. Mills recalled.

The children rolled up their sleeves to show their tattoos. They described being forced to give blood to help German soldiers. Fighting back tears, the performers handed out all of the chocolate they had in their possession.

Their visit ended at a hospital for adult survivors of the camp. Those that were healthy enough enjoyed a special performance by the group. Not surprisingly, my grandfather was featured. He played every Jewish song he could think of. "Everybody was teary and it was very emotional," Jeffries tells me.

Craig Silverman is a Montreal-based journalist and author. He is the managing editor of PBS MediaShift, a columnist for *Columbia Journalism Review*, and the digital journalism director of OpenFile, a new collaborative local news website for Toronto. He is the author of *Regret the Error* and the co-author of *Mafiaboy*.

Spotlight On Our Member

Elaine Cheskes



For the past four years, Elaine Cheskes has been on the JGS Toronto Executive, holding the position of Librarian.

Elaine is a graduate of the University of Toronto where she received a Bachelor of Arts Degree and subsequently a Diploma in Library and Information Technology. Upon graduation, she worked at the University of Toronto, Bora Laskin Law Library and was on staff for twenty-two years at the University of Toronto, Victoria College, Pratt Library as a cataloguer in Technical Services. Since her retirement, she has pursued her many interests such as genealogy, current affairs, opera, and literary societies. She enjoys travelling with her husband Albert, and loves to spend time with their nine grandchildren.

In the past two years, Elaine curated exhibits on behalf of our Society: *Tracing Our Jewish Roots: Selections from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) Library Collection* was displayed at the North York Central Library; at the Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum of Beth Tzedec Congregation, and at the Barbara Frum District Library.

Elaine is constantly on the look-out for books that would enhance our members' research and is judicious in her selections. Most of you have read Elaine's *Branching Out* columns which regularly appear in *Shem Tov* in which Elaine writes articles and posts her reviews of new additions to our Library collection.

This past summer Elaine completed a major project at the North York Central Library where JGS Toronto's books, journals and publications are housed. The journals in our collection were in a state of disarray. Elaine undertook the reorganization of this collection and printed computerized labels for approximately 30 file boxes that hold the journals. It took her several weeks to go through the entire collection and properly label all of the boxes. In addition to this, Elaine has been cataloguing new books that will be added to our collection. She is also in steady contact with Library staff to ensure that everything is in order.

We encourage members and friends to benefit from Elaine's efforts and visit our growing Library collection in the Gladys Allison Canadiana Room located on the 6th Floor of North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, Toronto.

Elaine's dedication and hard work on behalf of our members and genealogy in general are to be applauded.

Next Year In D.C.

The next International Conference of Jewish Genealogical Societies will take place in Washington D.C. from August 14 to 19, 2011, hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW).

Be sure to check www.DC2011.org for details.

New From the Israel Genealogical Society

The Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) is proud to announce the launching of the online Beta website of the 19th Century Montefiore Censuses of the Jewish Population of Eretz Israel, Alexandria, Beirut and Sidon (Saida). The details recorded include personal and family particulars, occupations and countries of origin. The censuses are unusually comprehensive as it is estimated that fewer than 1% of the Jewish inhabitants of Eretz Israel refused to participate because of religious scruples. Some others may not be included for personal or political reasons.

The manuscripts belong to the Montefiore Endowment and are held in its library in London, where they can be seen by appointment. They are written in Hebrew, in a variety of scripts. Many of the pages are difficult to read and, lacking any index, the tracing of individuals is time-consuming.

Beginning in 2008, the Israel Genealogical Society, under the auspices of the Montefiore Endowment, has been working on transcribing the censuses into a modern Hebrew font, transliterate the names, and translate the data into English. This immense labour is being undertaken by teams of dedicated volunteers; and the censuses are now in the process of being published online for the first time, together with a search engine in Hebrew and in English to facilitate the finding of individual names and families. Extended families are linked together, and there is a link to the digitized manuscript page.

In all, there are 5 censuses of Eretz Israel (including Beirut and Sidon), and one of Alexandria. At present, the census of 1839, 1840 (Alexandria) and 1855 are online at <http://www.montefioreendowment.org.uk/census/>. The census of 1849 will follow in the next few months.

Printed with permission of Rose Feldman, IGS webmistress



Here are two Israeli databases that, thanks to the municipal archives of Tel-Aviv-Jaffa and Petah Tikvah, have been made available to the IGS. They have now been transliterated into English:

1915 Census of Tel-Aviv

<http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/6574.asp>

The country of birth is not mentioned in this census, but as a large proportion spoke Yiddish, it is likely that many of the people had Galizianer roots.

British Mandate Census 1922 - Petah Tikva & Tel-Aviv-Jaffa

This database is about 1/5 of the Jewish population in Israel at that time. This is thought to be all that remains of the original census.

<http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/4979.asp>



The Israel Genealogical Society was awarded the 2010 Stern Grant at the 30th IAJGS conference in Los Angeles. The first project under this grant will be used in the preparation of a database of name changes publicized in the Yalkut Hapirsumim of the Israeli Government starting in 1949. The information ob-

At The Center For Jewish History (CJH) and YIVO In New York City

by Judy Kasman

Genealogists-in-Training

Each summer since 2003, 24 teen-aged participants have enrolled in the Samberg Family History Program at the Center for Jewish History in Manhattan. This is a 4-week program where the teens, all on full scholarship, have the opportunity to delve into their family histories. Being at the CJH, which is the home to an enormous collection of resources including books, sound recordings and YIVO, the students are in an ideal place to do genealogical research. In addition to working on their own family histories, they learn about American Jewish history, with field trips to such sites as the Lower East Side and Ellis Island. After the program ends, the students continue on their individual research and make presentations to their fellow participants in October.



See or Hear Lectures Given at the CJH; New Online Edition of the YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe

You don't have to go to New York to avail yourself of the resources at the Center of Jewish History. At www.cjh.org, you can visit the CJH Program Archives Vault where you can access audio and video streams of recent lectures or presentations (in English or Yiddish) that have been held at the Center.

Here are a few lectures that I recently accessed:

July 22, 2010: *Written in Stone: Jewish Culinary Resistance to Mortality*

Among other things, there is discussion in this lecture of the use of food-related images on headstones in the Warsaw Jewish Cemetery.

May 28, 2010: *Di Hoyptshot Fun Yidishland?*

This lecture, spoken in Yiddish about the central city of Yiddish, was given by Prof. Kalman Weiser of York University.

May 24, 2010: *Coming to America? Max Weinreich and the Making of YIVO in New York, 1939*

This video presentation marks the auspicious launch of the Online Edition of *The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*. The video features Prof. Gershon Hundert of McGill University who is the Editor-in-Chief of the YIVO online encyclopedia www.yivoencyclopedia.org. For those researchers with an interest in Eastern European Jewry, this site is an invaluable compendium of resource material of all kinds.

tained will be added to a database on the IGS website that is open to the public. This will be a most useful tool for those whose research of Israeli relatives is hampered by a change in surname.

For more about the Israel Genealogical Society, visit www.isragen.org.il

To keep up to date on archives, databases and genealogy in general, go to <http://twitter.com/isragen>
