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שם טוב SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

Celebrating 25 Years: 1985 - 2010

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THE DAY I DISCOVERED AN UNSUNG HOLOCAUST HERO

by Bernie M. Farber

From *The Globe and Mail*, December 29, 2010

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I never expected to meet a Holocaust rescuer while traveling in China this summer. Yet on a sweltering summer day in Shanghai, I was introduced to just such an unsung hero.

The son of a Holocaust survivor, I spent my childhood listening to my father's stories about the family he lost, his daring escape from the train that was supposed to carry him to his death and his will to live life to the fullest on behalf of those who would never have that chance.

I learned many lessons from these stories, the most important being that we all have a responsibility to protect the vulnerable around us.

These lessons informed my life. I studied sociology at university, then became a social worker for the Children's Aid Society in Ottawa. I spent a number of years trying to protect at-risk children from the imminent dangers in their lives. Despite all my efforts, it always hurt to know that there were people around these incredibly vulnerable children who saw what was happening, but chose to do nothing.

Eventually, I moved on to a new phase in my career, becoming an advocate for Canada's Jewish community. I've spent nearly 30 years doing this work, and for most of it I have been heartened by the will of so many Canadians to fight hate in all its forms. I've had the opportunity to work with many Holocaust survivors who inspire me through their willingness to keep fighting for a better world despite the horrors they endured.

And yet, there have also been times when I have been disappointed by the lack of action against human-rights abuses or acts of hate. It made me wonder what makes one person do nothing in the face of horror, while another will take whatever heroic, dangerous steps necessary to stop it.

I still don't have the answer. Instead, I celebrate those who do take action to make this world a better place. I found someone new and eminently worthy to fete on my recent trip to China. My wife and I were there as part of a visit with our daughter, who was teaching English in the region. We knew we couldn't miss Shanghai, and made our way to this crowded, fascinating city in the height of summer.

It was our good fortune that the World Expo was taking place while we were there. So we stood in long lines, sweating in 40C heat, trying to get into the country pavilions. We began in the astounding China pavilion, and slowly made our way to the small but truly Canadian pavilion. But it was at the Israeli

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Please carefully note the venue for each
programme.**

**For all evening events, doors open at 7:30 pm
unless otherwise noted.**

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

**Be sure to visit www.jgstoronto.ca
for updated information.**

Wednesday, March 23rd at 8.00 pm

at North York Public Library Auditorium

Doors open at 7 pm

**Presently jointly with the Canadiana Department, North
York Central Library**

Free admission for all attendees

***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 Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue

“Helping You Get Started” session at 7:45 pm

Programme at 8 pm

A Trip to Poland: Planning, Travelling and Discovering

Presenters: Mel & Deana Fishman, JGS Toronto Members

Wednesday, May 25th

at Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street, at 8 p.m.

“Helping You Get Started” session at 7:45 pm

***Yad Vashem Records and What You Can Learn from the
Pages of Testimony***

Speaker: Steve Brock, Hamilton JGS

Wednesday, June 22nd

at Lipa Green Building at 8 p.m.

Annual General Meeting

2010 Financial Statement will be presented.

Brick Walls and Breakthroughs

Speakers: Society Members

In Memoriam

We regret to announce the passing on February 15, 2011 of Doreen Vogel, a JGS Toronto member since 2002.

We extend our sincere condolences to her family.

The Day I Discovered an Unsung Holocaust Hero - Cont'd from page 1

pavilion that I had my epiphany. As I walked through the space, I noticed a small display honouring a Chinese diplomat from the late 1930s. I was intrigued by the notion that Israel would give such a place of honour to a Chinese citizen.

It turned out to be a man who should be famous the world over for his heroism. Dr. Feng Shan Ho was one of the first diplomats to save Jews by issuing them visas to escape the Nazis and the Holocaust. Appointed the Chinese consul general in Vienna months after Germany's annexation of Austria, he was repelled by the Austrians' fanatic welcome of Hitler and the country's treatment of its Jews.

When Japan occupied China in 1937, the Chinese Nationalist government retreated to Chongqing, leaving Shanghai harbour with no passport control or any authority to check documents such as visas.

That's when Dr. Ho put his ingenious plan in place. It was the perfect ploy – he provided Jews who were not allowed to leave Austria without proof of emigration a visa to Shanghai, where no one would check their papers. From there they could find safe haven elsewhere in the world.

Despite intense pressure from his superiors to stop, he spent two years signing thousands of visas for Jews. He averaged 500 to 900 visas a month.

I was stunned. How could I have never heard of Dr. Feng Shan Ho? How could it be that people the world over hadn't shouted his name and his story of courage from the rooftops? Israel had recognized him with the title of Righteous Among the Nations, but his should be a household name, like that of Raoul Wallenberg and Oscar Schindler. Even at the time, Dr. Ho remained unknown to most of those whose lives he saved with visas. That felt so wrong.

I decided Canadians needed to know more about this man and his great deeds. I arranged to be connected with his daughter, Manli, who happened to be in Toronto recently filming interviews for a Chinese documentary on her father. We had a lovely dinner in October, and I told her of my plan to make her father a household name. A commemoration and exhibit to honour him in Toronto is already in the works – a partnership between the Jewish and Chinese communities of Canada.

In the Jewish tradition it is said, “When you have no choice, mobilize the spirit of courage.” Dr. Feng Shan Ho understood that living in a time of evil, he had no choice but to act. By honouring this man, I hope that his courage, which inspired me, will also inspire other Canadians to take their own steps, big or small, to make the world a better place.

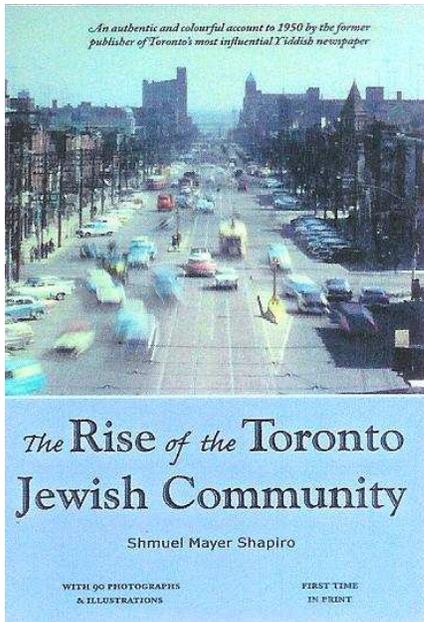
Bernie M. Farber is CEO of the Canadian Jewish Congress

Editor's note: If your family, or if someone you know, was saved by Dr. Feng Shan Ho, please send details to editor@shemtov.ca

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



Shapiro, Shmuel Mayer. *The Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community*. Toronto: Now & Then Books, 2010.

Reviewed and adapted by Bill Gladstone
Avotaynu Spring Vol. XXVI, no. 1, 2010

The Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community paints a colourful and authentic portrait of what is now Canada's largest Jewish community, from its earliest days to about 1950, highlighting its strong immigrant and Yiddish flavour.

It was written 60 years ago but has never been published before. The manuscript came to my attention in 2009 while I was doing research in a Toronto synagogue archives. Its pages offered a uniquely colourful view of the Yiddish-speaking world that once existed in Toronto in the first half of the last century. Astonishingly, the manuscript was misattributed to a wrong author, but it was clear that it was written by Shmuel Mayer Shapiro, editor-publisher of the *Daily Hebrew Journal*, the city's main Yiddish newspaper for nearly 50 years. Shapiro's only surviving daughter gave me permission to publish the manuscript under Shapiro's chosen title.

The Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community offers thumbnail sketches of many early synagogues, "anshet" (people of congregations), *landsmanshaft* (hometown) organizations and immigrant aid societies, along with a gallery of key personalities from the community's formative period. Shapiro, himself a prominent figure in his day, brings Toronto's vanished "Ward" neighbourhood back to life with vivid descriptions of the soup

kitchens, soda parlours, steamship agents, coffee houses and Christian missions that once graced its predominantly Jewish streets. (The "Ward" was Toronto's answer to New York's Lower East Side, except on a much smaller scale.)

The book offers fascinating historical sketches on the evolution of the local Yiddish press, Jewish labour unions, the Spadina Avenue garment industry and the garment workers' strike at the T. Eaton Company in 1912. The text is enhanced with 90 photographs and illustrations from the early days, as well as a glossary of Yiddish and Hebrew terms, an afterword by the late Ben Kayfetz, and a comprehensive name and subject index.

The Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community focuses primarily on the impoverished Yiddish masses who thronged into the inner city before 1950 - the peddler, tailor, junk-store proprietor, button-hole sewer, and cigar-store operator. [The book] is 168 pages and is comprehensive so that anyone seeking a particular family name may easily find all related references.

The Rise of the Toronto Jewish Community may be ordered from Now & Then Books:

www.nowandthenbookstoronto.com

Book-A-Librarian Service

Did you know that the library offers a free 30-60 minute personalized service where you can get your questions answered at a time convenient to you? The reference librarians will find genealogical resources and information in the library and beyond. They will not trace your ancestors for you but they will provide the necessary tools for the research. This service is offered during library hours, except on Sunday, at the following branches:

North York Central Library
(416)-395-5672
Toronto Reference Library
(416) 393-7131 or (416) 393-7209

A librarian may be booked:
via email: answerline@torontopubliclibrary.ca
or from the Website: <http://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/contact/ask-a-librarian/book-a-librarian.jsp>

From the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center, Jerusalem

The main purposes of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center, located at the National Library of Israel, Givat Ram Campus of the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, are to teach genealogy at the university level and also have genealogy recognized as a topic for academic pursuit at the university level.

Please visit the website of (www.iiig.org) where, among other things, you'll find four papers that were presented by scholars at the 9th Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies (Ravenna, July 2010) and two final reports from research grant recipients, Profs. Ruth Kark and Joseph Glass and Maria Jose Surribas. In the latter work, according to Neville Lamdan, Institute Director, Ms. Surribas "has overwhelmingly demonstrated that the archives of provincial towns in pre-Expulsion 'Spain' contain vast resources for the illumination of the lives and lineages of Jews in the 13th, 14th and 15th centuries - in part of relevance to Sephardic families still living today. She has effectively opened up a rich new area of research for Jewish genealogy."

The Institute has just issued its annual "Call for Research Proposals", offering awards of up to \$10,000 for original research in the field of Jewish Genealogy, to be carried out in Academic Year 2011-12. The deadline for proposals is May 31, 2011; successful applicants will be announced on September 1, 2011. Those interested in applying should visit www.iiig.org, look under *Research* and then select *Research Grants* where information and applications can be found.

You Oughta Be in *Shem Tov!*

Here's how you can get about it:

- Contribute a genealogical article of interest
- Respond to a piece that you have read in *Shem Tov*
- Tell us about a useful website or other resource
- Ask a question that others readers might be able to answer

Please send your articles, comments, and/or ideas to
editor@shemtov.ca

The deadline for the next issue is May 24, 2011.

A Little Genealogy Humour Can't Hurt

For a blast from the past that Jewish genealogists can "relate" to, go to www.youtube.com, put Allan Sherman in the search bar & look for *Shake Hands With Your Uncle Max*. Once you've located a version, just sit back, listen & laugh!

It's in the Genes Study of Ecuadorian Villagers with Jewish Roots

Joseph Hall in the *Toronto Star* of February 17, 2011, wrote an article about a study conducted over a twenty-two year period of about 100 people residing in poor mountainside villages in the southern part of Ecuador who don't suffer from chronic diseases such as strokes, diabetes or Alzheimer's. These people are born with Laron syndrome -- they grow to about four feet in height and have a tendency towards obesity. Because of the overuse of alcohol, however, these residents do not reach very ripe old ages.

Of great interest is the fact that these villagers, many of whom are inter-related, are descended from Spanish conversos (i.e. those who converted from Judaism to Christianity to escape the Spanish Inquisition) and share a mutation in a gene that helps control a growth hormone. Hall notes that this "protective genetic secret" will be the focus of studies for the treatment of the diseases that face most of us as we age.

The results of this study were reported by the team of scientists involved in a February 2011 issue of the journal, *Science Translational Medicine*.

Toronto Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society's 15th Genealogy "Summer Camp" in Toronto from June 5-10, 2011

Genealogy "Summer Camp" is a unique program for adults offered by the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society that brings out-of-town family historians to Toronto for an intensive week of tutorials and hands-on research at the city's many archives and reference libraries. Local family historians are also welcome to participate as "day campers". Some tutorials will emphasize Toronto sources, but most repositories have holdings from a much broader area, so researchers with ancestors anywhere in Ontario will benefit. The OGS will take full advantage of Toronto's great public transit system and keep the group small to allow lots of help from local experts.

The fee of \$220 covers approximately 7 hours of lectures and tutorials, 25 hours of hands-on instruction and all worksheets and handouts.

For complete details, and to download an application package, please visit www.torontofamilyhistory.org/summercamp.html, call 416-733-2608 (voice mail) or e-mail info@torontofamilyhistory.org.

Applications should be postmarked by May 1, 2011.

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of JGS Toronto

by Judy Kasman

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) celebrated a special milestone on November 25, 2010: its 25th Anniversary.

Over 100 people – from Society founders to new members - came out to this special meeting. They were treated to a fine PowerPoint presentation by a Society Past President, writer Bill Gladstone, whose topic was *The Jews of Old Toronto (With A Few Little-Known Resources for Genealogy)*. This really took everyone down memory lane... and Spadina Avenue!

Members brought along memorabilia (photo albums, examples of their family trees) and members and guests signed a guest book which will be archived for our next anniversary celebration. Two Society members who are also members of Toronto's Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles brought their family trees which are illustrated in needlework.

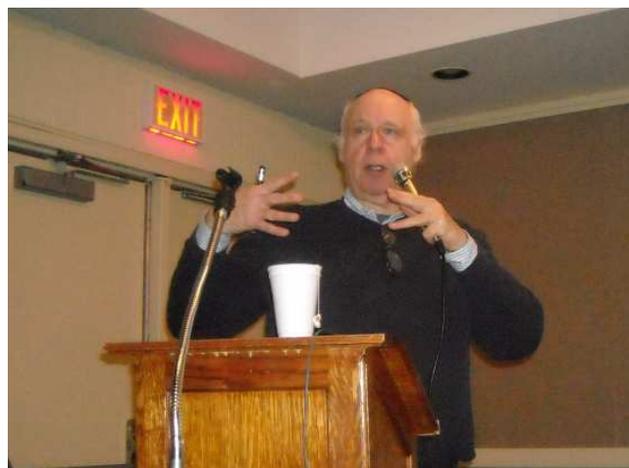
One of the original seven Society members, Selma Sacrob, came along with her daughter Debbie, the latter of whom joined our Society at the meeting.

On display were a poster listing all those who have served over the last 15 years on the JGS Executive and a display board highlighting some of our achievements over the years. Also, past issues of *Shem Tov* were available for viewing.

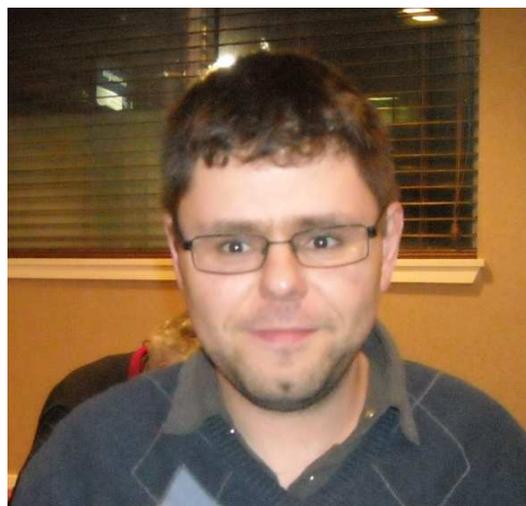
Refreshments, featuring a beautiful cake donated by Sobey's on Clark Avenue, were coordinated by Stephen Creed and Shelley Stillman. A number of past presidents were in attendance; they partook in cutting the cake.

A message of greeting from President Harvey Glasner (who was in Arizona welcoming his new granddaughter!) was read to those in attendance. A congratulatory message was also sent by Past President Gary Stein and was included in the guest book.

Please see the following for photos taken at the festivities.



Speaker Bill Gladstone



Kevin Hanit



Carolynne Veffter, Neil Richler, Michael Kelemen



Selma Sacrob, Shelley Stillman



Stan Silver, Karen Lasky, Lorne Miller, guest



Harriet De Koven, Myrna Levy, Shelley Stillman



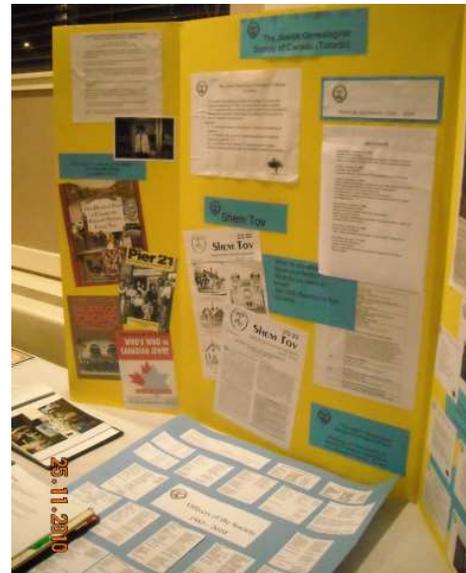
David Price, Frances Lipton



Past Presidents Shelley Stillman, Bill Gladstone, Gert Rogers, Carolynne Veffler, Henry Wellisch



Stephen Creed, Sonny & Ellen Monheit



Display Board

Holocaust Headlines Names in the News

February 7th, 2011 marked the passing of **Maria Altmann** at the age of 94. In 1982, Ms. Altmann had learned that she was the heir to five important Gustav Klimt paintings that had been seized by the Nazis in 1938. Klimt had been a friend of Altmann's family, the Bloch-Bauers, in Vienna. In 2004, Ms. Altmann's twenty-two years of effort paid off when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that she could sue the Austrian government, and finally, in 2006, she was awarded the very valuable paintings, one of which is a portrait of her aunt, Adele-Bloch-Bauer.



On February 15th, 2011, President Obama honoured the fifteen recipients of the 2010 Medal of Freedom in a ceremony at the White House. "The Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor, is awarded to individuals who make an especially meritorious contribution to the security or national interests of the United States, world peace, cultural or other significant public or private endeavors," stated the White House Press Release. Among those honoured was **Gerda Weissmann Klein**, a Jewish survivor of Auschwitz who married U.S. Army Lieutenant Kurt Klein, who had liberated her camp. Ms. Weissman Klein has written several books about her experiences. "A naturalized citizen, she recently founded Citizenship Counts, an organization that teaches students to cherish the value of their American citizenship. Klein has spoken to audiences of all ages and faith around the world about the value of freedom and has dedicated her life to promoting tolerance and understanding among all people."



Also on February 15, 2011, Torontonians **Howard & Nancy Kleinberg** appeared to tell their story on the Live! With Regis & Kelly in New York City as part of *Regis and Kelly's World's Greatest Love Story*. The couple had met as teenagers at the time of the 1945 liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp when Nancy (Nechama Baum) saved Howard. Although they separated at that time, they met again in Toronto where they had each arrived in 1947, and have now been married over 60 years.

Four other couples are also relating their sagas on the show during that week, and viewers voted online for a winner. (Undetermined at the time of writing.) The prize is a trip to Bora Bora.



Sam Pacht is a local Holocaust survivor from Lanovtsy, Ukraine who in 2010 told his story to author Sam Paulsson. The interview resulted in a book entitled *Sam's Odessey – A True Story*, which can be found at <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/lanovtsy/lanovtsy.html>. On the heading of this homepage, click on *Sam's Story*. You can read the story online, or download the 26-page pdf.

More & More About Sir Nicky Winton

by Judy Kasman

Many of you have seen the documentary by Slovak director Matej Minac entitled *Nicholas Winton – The Power of Good*. This film, which won an Emmy in 2002, aired many years ago on the CBC. Also, it was shown last fall at a General Meeting of our Society; we also welcomed to our Society new correspondent Joe Schlesinger who himself was one of Nicky's children, i.e. one of 669 children evacuated in 1939 from Czechoslovakia and taken by train through Germany to England where they were taken by English families.

Minac recently released, *Nicky's Family*, a new documentary. The January 20, 2011 Associated Press article about this event states that the film gives "...details of the operation and about the rescued children. It also focuses on young people who decided to follow his example and help those in need around the globe." The filmmaker and his team were able to trace 261 of the rescued children in the making of the documentary.

This film premiered in Prague on January 21, with the 101 year-old Sir Nicky and twenty of his "children" in attendance. At the viewing, a nomination of Winton for the Nobel Peace Prize was presented to Jensen Eikaas, Norway's ambassador to Prague.



In September, 2010 an unveiling took place of a statue of Sir Nicky that was installed on platform 3 of London, England's Maidenhead railway station. The large sculpture, by London artist Lydia Karpinska, has Sir Nicky sitting on a bench reading a book containing images of the children he saved.

Nicholas Winton was knighted in March, 2003.

Progress in the 25th Anniversary Book on Track!

by Karen Lasky

We have a team of talented and creative writers in our midst!!! Almost 45 written submissions have been received from JGS Toronto members for our anthology project. The Project team has been meeting regularly to meet the time-lines required for a fall publication and the excitement is mounting. The team-members have read with fascination each and every one of the unique and compelling submissions. The varied topics include escaping from Europe; immigrating to Canada; memories of grandparents; reconnecting with scattered relatives and growing up Jewish in other provinces. Many of these versions are now in the editing process and the next steps will include requesting photography to complement each story and a brief bio of each author. The final edited version will then be resubmitted to each author for final approval prior to publication. The team is busily planning the book launch and a marketing campaign to ensure that the project is a total success and enjoyed by a wide and varied audience.

From Nu? What's New? The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

In Volume 12, Number 2 | January 16, 2011 Library and Archives Canada Is Going Digital

Library and Archives Canada is planning to be a “fully engaged digital organization” by the year 2017, in time to celebrate Confederation’s 150th anniversary. Some of the plans are to:

- phase out providing paper copies of documents requested by patrons and instead provide only digital copies by April 2011.
- double the volume of its online content over the next year, mounting millions of genealogy images on its website in partnership with Ancestry.ca. For example, in 2011, patrons will be able to access digitized images of original census documents from 1861 and 1871, which contain the name, age, country or province of birth, nationality, religion, and occupation of Canadians at the time.
- have online permanently frequently requested documents.

Additional information about plans can be found at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/whats-new/013-503-e.html>.



In Volume 12, Number 7 | February 20, 2011 Guide to Jewish Materials Stored in Latvian State Historical Archives

Shamir, the Jewish religious community of Latvia, reports that the first stage of the Guide to Jewish Materials Stored in Latvian State Historical Archives has been completed. The result is a 103-page document that can be downloaded at http://www.shamir.lv/en/item/125-Putevoditel_po_evreyskim_materialam_v_Latviyskom_Natsional_nom_Istoricheskom_arkhive.html. They state that there are still thousands of files yet to be inventoried.

The Riga Ghetto and Latvian Holocaust Museum has placed on the Internet a searchable list of 76,122 Latvian Jews murdered in the Holocaust. It is located at <http://rgm.lv/db/?do=cnd>.

There is other material at both sites. They are worth browsing if you have Latvian ancestry.



In Volume 12, Number 8 | February 27, 2011 Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands

Digital Monument to the Jewish Community in the Netherlands located at <http://www.joodsmonument.nl/?lang=en> is a memorial to more than 100,000 Dutch Jews murdered in the Shoah. Information about each individual includes name, date and place of birth, date and place of death and the address where they lived. In some cases, additional information is provided such as familial relationships. A search engine allows you to search on any of the data fields. There is provision to add additional information about the person.

A description of the website can be found at <http://www.joodsmonument.nl/page/274281>.

Volume 12, Number 9 | March 6, 2011 Yad Vashem Expands Shoah Victims' Names Database

...Other new sources being used are those where it is known that the vast majority of the people (generally more than 90%) were victims. Examples are deportation lists, ghetto lists and concentration camp inmates. These groups have created the problem that the database now has a small number of survivors. Yad Vashem is aware of this matter and has created a Survivor Form located at <http://tinyurl.com/4skjewv>. If you discover a survivor in the database, submit the Survivor Form, and, to expedite the process, include documentation that the person survived such as a picture passport, obituary, or Social Security Death Index entry. When received, Yad Vashem goes through a process of validating that the person survived and then marks the individual in the database as a survivor and removes the record from public view in the Shoah Victims' Names database. The record remains in the database.



Holocaust-Related Photographs

The Chronicles of the Vilna Ghetto at <http://www.vilnaghetto.com> has a large collection of photos from throughout Europe. Categories shown on their home page, in addition to Vilna (Vilnius), are Lithuania, Latvia, Holocaust, Poland, and Europe. In the Poland collection they have a considerable number of photos of the Lodz ghetto. Most pictures are Holocaust related.



Latvia SIG Newsletters Online

The JewishGen Latvian Special Interest Group has placed all back issues of its newsletter—through February 2010—online at http://www.jewishgen.org/Latvia/SIG_Newsletter.html. The newsletter has been published since 1996. There is a full-word search engine at the site. More recent issues are available to dues-paying members only.

Christine Usdin of France continues day-by-day to index the Jewish vital records of Latvia. She believes the index now exceeds 100,000 entries. A description of the project can be found in the April 18, 2010, issue of Nu? What's New at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V11N07.htm>.



Archives of Ireland Now Online

Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter reports that a number of Ireland's archive catalogs now have a central home at <http://www.iar.ie>. A list of contributing archives can be found at <http://www.iar.ie/Links.html>. The home page has a specific link for “Family History/Genealogy.” Searching for “Jews” or “Jewish” produced only one result: the papers of a woman named Sophie O'Brien.

SITE-SEEING

A Compendium of Useful Websites for Genealogists

www.npr.org

National Public Radio offers a feast for listeners. On its website you can find a vast array of subjects in various formats such as music, articles, and interviews.

In my recent site perusal, entering the keyword "genealogy", I found a February 4th, 2010 interview with David Vyorst, producer and director of a new (it was new a year ago!) documentary caked *The First Basket*, the story of American Jewish basketball players. Apparently "...basketball was the game among the children of European Jewish immigrants. Teams of rosters that were made up entirely Jewish players traveled up and down East Coast. And Jewish players, coaches and owners played a vital role in the start of today's NBA." This interview can found in print or in audio format, as can many interviews on NPR.

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www.forward.com

The Jewish Daily Forward (Forverts) is the old Yiddish New York newspaper from days gone by (founded in 1897), but it has certainly attempted to keep pace with societal changes. Today it carries on, but mostly in English with some Yiddish content. Its website is called *The Jewish Daily Forward: Online home of the weekly Forward newspaper*. On this site, under *Podcasts*, I found a December 13, 2010 entitled *The Twersky Family Tree*, where Jon Kalish interviews Yitz Twersky, an American IT person who has done extensive family research back to his Twersky family's roots in Chernobyl in the 1700s; he has about 25,000 names on his tree, including a long line of *Chasidim*.

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www.archivescanada.ca

This website has Virtual exhibits of interest to Jewish researchers, such as:

- *The History of the YMHA (Toronto)* from the Ontario Jewish Archives
- *A Week of Understanding* from British Columbia
- *Canadian Jewish Virtual Museum and Archives* form Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal
- *Stones Kingston, The Jewish History of Kingston, Ontario: Jewish Occupations, The Jewish District and Big Cities vs Small Cities*

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<http://www.ics.uci.edu/~dan/genealogy/Krakow>

Computer science Professor Dan Hirschberg of the University of California, Irvine, who is a hobby genealogist, has created a website which would be of interest for those researching Krakow. His site has many early Krakow records (pre-1810), and has over 700 family trees beginning before 1800. On the family tree section of the site, you can scroll down to find the surname you are seeking, & then view the tree. This site has recently been updated.

News from the Archives of Ontario

Effective Tuesday, February 8, 2011, the Archives of Ontario (located on the campus of York University) commenced extending its hours of operation: on Tuesdays and Thursdays, the Archives are open until 8 p.m., and on Saturdays, the hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Services available during these hours will include registration, assistance from reference archivists, access to self-service microfilm, microfiche and finding aids, viewing of previously ordered materials, and access to the exhibit gallery. Requests for certifications, reproductions and copyright that are placed during extended hours will be sent for processing on the next business day.

Please note that this is a five-month trial period, following which there will be an evaluation of the hours.

It is a good time to avail yourselves of the services offered by the Archives of Ontario (especially during the evening/week-end hours) to show the need for these new longer hours of operation.

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On January 24, 2011, Dr. Ellen Scheinberg became Senior Manager of Outreach and Partnership Development at the Archives of Ontario. Dr. Scheinberg came to this posting following ten years as Director of the Ontario Jewish Archives.

Genealogical TV Shows

Many of you will already be following *Who Do You Think You Are?* which returned to NBC/City-TV on February 4, 2011 for 8 more hour-long weekly episodes. The Jewish connection this year will be the March 25th show featuring Gwyneth Paltrow who researches her father's ancestry. Apparently Ms. Paltrow's great grandfather, surname Paltrowicz, was a rabbi in Poland.

On the new Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN), there is a series called *Searching For...* which follows the work of professional genealogist Pam Slaton of New Jersey as she researches on behalf of her clients. Visit <http://www.oprah.com/own-searching-for/Searching-For--OWN-TV> for more information.

CHECK THE WEBSITE OFTEN!

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

Missing Links

Regarding Harry Glickman of Toronto

My mother's sister Anne, was married to Harry Glickman, most likely in the 1930s. They lived in Toronto. I have very no information about him, but there is a Harry Glickman buried at Dawes Rd. Cemetery who died in 1955 and it could be him. Anne, who died in 2001, is also buried there. They both would have been born in the first decade of the 1900s. All that I know is that Harry died very young, and they had no children. I have inherited my aunt's photos and according to my mother, there are some of Harry Glickman as a young man, and of his family.

If anyone is related to him, I would be pleased to hand over the photos.

Penny Rubinoff, JGS Toronto member



Regarding 1946-1950 Births at DP Camp 5 km from Bergen-Belsen

Paulette Volgyesi, Isaac Applebaum and our member, Karen Lasky, were all born at Glyn Hughes Hospital in Bergen Hohne, Germany, this hospital having been set up at a Displaced Persons' Camp established by British forces in 1946 for refugees of World War II. About 11,000 Jews resided at this camp which existed from 1946 and 1950; it is estimated that 2,000 babies were born at this hospital. Volgyesi, Applebaum and Lasky are trying to contact others "babies" who were born there to "put together a project that will fill in a gap in history for their grandchildren", according to the February 17, 2011 CJN article by Carolyn Blackman. If you were a "baby", or if you know someone born at this DP Camp hospital, please contact paulette.volgyesi@rogers.com



Regarding Eric William Fairbanks (Frankl) of Vienna & Toronto

Eric Wm. Fairbanks, was born Erich Frankl, son of Ludwig Frankl and Elsa Bernard in Vienna, Austria on August 25, 1920.

He moved to Toronto about 1950. In 2004, he lived in Toronto on William Carson Crescent. when he and the writer corresponded very briefly.

The writer then lost contact with him.

He has been unable to find an obituary in the *Toronto Star* archives. Do you have any information about Fairbanks or his family in Canada or can you suggest where the writer might look?



Regarding Feller/Sharpe of Toronto/Ottawa

We have had a request from an Ottawa woman who is seeking her half-brother who would now be about 71-years old. It is possible that the related Jewish family would be Feller of Ottawa.

The writer thinks that it is possible that her half-brother might have inherited retinitis pigmentosa.

Regarding Siegelman of Toronto

The writer is searching for information about Herman and Emma Siegelman who came to Toronto in approximately 1925 - 1927. She has searched in Ancestry and LDS library with no results and would like to get more guidance and suggestions.

Please send any leads or suggestions for these writers to editor@shemtov.ca

News From Yad Vashem

On January 26, 2011, the day preceding International Holocaust Remembrance Day, it was announced that Google and Yad Vashem joined forces to launch an online photograph collection which currently consists of over 133,000 items.

To access the collection, go to www.yadvashem.org. Choose *Digital Collections*, then *The Photo Archives*. In that database search bar, enter a place, person or event and see the photos that come up that are related to your search request..



Two years ago, Yad Vashem launched a YouTube channel for videos of survivors' testimonies. Go to www.youtube.com/yadvashem to view these video clips.



Please refer to p. 9: *Nu?* Vol. 12, Number 9 for more Yad Vashem news.

ADVERTISING RATES

SHEM TOV is now accepting display advertising for publication. Advertisers are requested to supply camera-ready art and payment by May 2011 for the Summer 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.

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) at the North York Central Library

Curated by Elaine Cheskes

in association with the North York Central Library

In celebration of the Silver Anniversary of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto), highlights of significant moments in our history are on display. Early documents of the founding of our Society and memorabilia of workshops, programs, and conferences are included. We also recall the award granting ceremony by the IAJGS in 2000 to the JGS of Canada (Toronto) for our publication, *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy for Teenagers and Young Adults*. In addition, uniquely created family trees, early editions of *Shem Tov*, our projects; the Rotenberg Ledger, the New JGS (Toronto) Website, the Digital Photography of Cemeteries, The Family Finder, and the exhibit *Tracing Our Jewish Roots* are presented for viewing. Selections of significant genealogical research books from the JGS (Toronto) Library and the NYCL Library together with photos of our 25th Anniversary celebration are also on display.

The Exhibit may be viewed at the North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, Gladys Allison Canadiana Room, 6th floor.

It opened on March 1st and will be available for viewing until April 4th, 2011.

Next IAJGS Conference in Washington, D.C. A Capital Conference! August 14 to 19, 2011

The 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be taking place in Washington D.C., hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW). The venue is the Grand Hyatt Washington. Rabbi Shmuel Boteach, author and media personality, will be the featured Shabbat scholar.

Online registration is available. Early-bird discounts are available prior to May 1, 2011. Be sure to frequently check www.DC2011.org for new information and updates. The Conference blog is at <http://www.dc2011conference.blogspot.com>

From that main website, you can discover some of the places you can explore in the Washington, D.C. area:

- click on: *Jewish History in D.C. Washington: Scrapbook of an American Community*: <http://www.jhsgw.org/exhibitions/online/jewishwashington/> and
- Click on: *Jewish History in Baltimore*: <http://www.jewishmuseummd.org/exhibit/voices-lombard-street-century-change-east-baltimore>

These two sites are worth checking out, whether or not you are planning a visit to D.C. at this time!

News From Pier 21, Halifax

by Judy Kasman

In 2009, Prime Minister Stephen Harper announced that Pier 21 would become a national museum, after much lobbying from its supporters & staff. Legislation for this came into play last November, culminating in the official inauguration of the Canada Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 on February 2, 2011. This is the 5th Canadian national museum; the other four are all in the Ottawa area. The 6th museum to join this rank will be the Canadian Museum for Human Rights which is being built in Winnipeg, the impetus for which is/was the Asper Family.

Until now, Pier 21 existed on raised funds but now will get \$5 million per year from the federal government, so that its budget is now tripled. There are plans to increase the exhibition space, to improve the website, and to take exhibits across the nation.

If you go go www.pier21.ca, there are a few items of note:

- There is an *Online Story Collection* where you can choose to read personal immigration stories. I selected *Jewish War Orphans*, then *Displaced Persons & Refugees*, where I read an account by *Polish Displaced Person and Child of Holocaust Survivors, Rosalie Silberman Abella* (otherwise known as Supreme Court Justice Rosalie Silberman Abella).
- You can contribute an immigration story to the collection: click on *Share it with us*.
- You can identify people in photographs posted on the website: click on *Are you in this picture?*



Some of you might have recently read that Pier 21 boasts a new Daniel Libeskind memorial called *Wheel of Conscience* (dedicated on January 21, 2011) to honour the German-Jewish refugees who in 1939 tried to enter Canada while aboard the SS St. Louis the ship that was turned back by Prime Minister Mackenzie King. The large clear circular drum form (about 6 feet tall) houses interconnected four cogs labeled (from smallest and fastest to largest and slowest) *Hatred, Racism, Xenophobia and Antisemitism*. When the gears turn, a black-and-white photograph of the St. Louis is completed. The reverse of the monument has the names of all of the ship's passengers. Funding for the memorial, which won a design competition, came from the Canadian Jewish Congress which obtained a federal government grant. Libeskind was born in Poland to survivors of the Holocaust.

At the time of writing of this article, the Pier 21 website announced that the monument was in Toronto for gear-tweaking and was expected to return to Halifax at the beginning of March, 2011!