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שם טוב SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA (TORONTO)

Celebrating 25 Years: 1985 - 2010

VOLUME XXVII No. 2

June 2011 Sivan 5771

REMEMBER ME?

A Project of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

At the beginning of April, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) in Washington, D.C. launched its online *Remember Me?* project.

After World War II, efforts had been made by the American Joint Distribution Committee, the Red Cross, the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA), the World Jewish Congress (WJC) and other organizations to reunite displaced children with their families.

At www.rememberme.ushmm.org, you can view about 1,000 photographs of children which were taken after the War by relief workers and collected by the WJC, and about 100 photos taken at Kloster Indersdorf, a children's centre established in Bavaria by UNRRA. It is hoped that the identity of these "children" can be determined. Since the launch of this site until the writing of this article, about 80 such children have been identified. If you visit *Updates*, you can read about the fate of these individuals, some of whom are still living, others who have perished over these intervening years.

At the site, you can also listen to a 1945 BBC broadcast during which names of people living Great Britain are announced, since they are being sought by young relatives whose names and sad circumstances are also announced.

Importantly, please view the photos on the website to see if you can recognize someone whose image was captured at that very fragile time in history. (You can search by photo or by name.)

If you are able to identify a person, please write RememberMe@ushmm.org or click on the "I remember this child!" button on the individual photo.



To learn even more about this, go to the National Public Radio website (www.npr.org) where there is a May 9, 2011 episode of *All Thing Considered* about the *Remember Me?* project. You can listen to the 5 min. 8 sec. story entitled *Separated By War, Reunited by the Web: Project Links*

Holocaust Survivors, or you can read about it online. Here's the link: <http://www.npr.org/blogs/pictureshow/2011/05/10/135550605/separated-by-war-reunited-by-the-web-photo-project-links-holocaust-survivors>.

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Message From the President

Dear JGS Toronto members and fellow genealogists:

The past 10 months have been a very exciting time for us. We celebrated our 25th anniversary with a wonderful presentation at the Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue by Bill Gladstone on the history of Jewish Toronto, followed by a social.

As has come to be expected, our program committee recruited an excellent slate of speakers; our workshops, led by Neil Richler, were very well attended. Elaine Cheskes put together a very professional display documenting our 25 years as a Society. This display was recently on exhibit at the North York Central Library and now is at the Barbara Frum Library until June 30th. I urge you to see it, if you haven't as yet.

Shelley Stillman and Arthur Ryman have done a stellar job with our website which is intended to keep you informed of Society activities as well as to assist you with your research.

This summer we are employing the services of an intern under the tutelage of our member Bette Shifman to index all of the issues of *Shem Tov* so that all of the content can be easily searched on the web. This is a gargantuan task and I applaud all of the people who have been involved, from the volunteers who scanned the back issues to the members of the committee who are putting their knowledge and skills together to see the project to its fruition. When this work is done, it will make our website stand out amongst the 126 or so JGSs around the world.

In the spring of 2010, we struck a book committee that was commissioned to collect and edit family stories from our membership. The committee members worked extremely hard to mentor members in the story writing process. Most contributors attended a workshop led by Lil Blume in September. Lil is a highly regarded speaker who lectures on the art of creative writing.

In some cases, putting pen to paper was difficult for contributors who otherwise were highly motivated to tell their account of growing up, being inspired by a family member, escaping from tyranny and so on. One particular book committee member, Evelyn Steinberg, assisted by interviewing contributors to help them weave their stories. As it stands, we have over 45 contributions, an amazing feat for a relatively small organization.

Our 25th anniversary book will be published late this summer and I urge you to complete the order form on the back page of this publication to take advantage of the special pre-release offer in September.

With all of that said, I wish everyone a safe and restful summer and best of luck in your family research.

Warm regards,
Harvey Glasner
President, JGS Toronto

vol. XXVII No. 2

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, back issues (with a one-year lag) 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 Editor, 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. Programme details, including topic, speaker and location, can be found on our website. Guests are always welcome (\$5).

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)

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, June 22nd

at 8 pm at Lipa Green Centre, 4600 Bathurst Street
Brick Walls and Breakthroughs

Speakers: Society Members

Annual General Meeting - 2010 Financial Statement will be
presented.

Wednesday, September 21nd

at 8 p.m., Location TBA

*How to Create a Family History Book – easily, inexpensively
and with flexibility, on your own computer, using
programmes you already have.*

Speaker: Merle Kastner of JGS Montreal

Hold these dates:

Sunday, October 23rd

Location: TBA at 10 a.m.

Workshop

Wednesday, November 23rd

at 8 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14th

at 8 p.m.

NEW MEMBERS

JGS Toronto is very pleased to welcome
as new members:

Janet Berkman

Norman Clinch

Benjamin Faith

Lorraine Kerzner

Yad Vashem

www.yadvahem.org

by Judy Kasman

On May 25th at the Lipa Green Centre, Steve Brock of Hamilton gave a very informative presentation about Yad Vashem and its Pages of Testimony (PoT).

❧

Many people are familiar with Pages of Testimony: they have been submitted since 1955 by relatives and friends of those who perished during the Holocaust to give an identity to as many as possible of the 6,000,000 European Jews who did not survive that era. Up until November, 2004, when the Yad Vashem database went online, there had been about 2,500,000 PoTs in the Yad Vashem collection. However, since that time, about 1,300,000 additional pages have been submitted, bringing the current total to about 3,800,000.

In 2007, American genealogy expert Logan Kleinwaks created a new tool called ShoahConnect to assist you in connecting with those who submitted Pages of Testimony for relatives in common. www.ShoahConnect.org is a free website that has the endorsement of Yad Vashem.

❧

What is less commonly known is that Yad Vashem also accepts pages about **survivors** of the Holocaust. At www.yadvashem.org, choose the heading **Remembrance**, then choose **Survivor Form**. You will see a list of languages; once you select your language of choice, the Form will appear on your screen. It seems that you have to print the Form, complete it manually, and then submit it to Yad Vashem.

❧

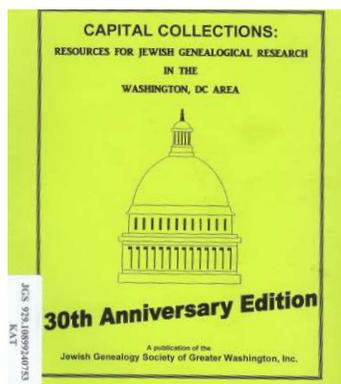
Even without being in Jerusalem to visit Yad Vashem, there is much to see at its website. By choosing the heading **Exhibitions**, you can select **Online Exhibitions**, where there are many choices. Also noteworthy for the armchair visitor is the heading, **Digital Collections**, with several interesting topics to choose from.

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

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



Katz, Marlene Bishow, ed. *Capital Collections: Resources for Jewish Genealogical Research in the Washington D.C. Area*. Washington, DC.: Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, c2010.

Planning to Attend the 31st IAJGS?

If you are planning to visit Washington, D.C. or attend the 31st IAJGS this August, you will find *Capital Collections* to be invaluable. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Washington has published a fifth edition of its directory. Resources, archives, phone numbers, and websites have been updated. New sites have been added along with a DC Metro map. The 116 page guide includes the following sections and resources: The Library of Congress, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the National Archives, and Synagogues in the Washington Area.

Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) Exhibit at the Barbara Frum District Branch Library Curated by Elaine Cheskes

I am pleased to announce that the exhibit entitled *Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto)* may currently be viewed at the Barbara Frum District Branch Library, 20 Covington Rd., Toronto (just northwest of Lawrence & Bathurst). The exhibit opened on June 1st and runs until June 30th. An historical perspective of our Society is created by featuring memorabilia of early documents, photos, workshops, conferences and anniversaries.

Read the blog at <http://torontopubliclibrary.typepad.com/barbara-frum/>



Elaine Cheskes, Curator of Exhibit

Inter-Generational Workshop for Beth Sholom Religious School

by Lucy Sadowski

On Sunday February 28, 2011, fellow JGS Toronto member Myrna Levy and I were the facilitators of an inter-generational workshop for children in grades 5, 6 and 7 held at the Beth Sholom religious school.

Children were asked to bring their parents and especially, where possible, their grandparents! Grandparents and parents were asked by principal Karen Goodis to bring photographs, documents such as passports, and mementos. About 65 participants attended.



We began with an introduction discussing the meaning and significance of genealogy and the reasons for which we do it. With the help of their parents and grandparents, the children then began filling in a basic family tree chart of three generations. After a break for juice and cookies, the children began to interview their grandparents and parents with the help of an interview guide/outline.

The interview questions began with the basic genealogical details and then attempted to flesh out the individual each child was interviewing with the aim of eliciting their life experiences and stories, both tragic and joyful. This gave the young students an opportunity to begin to know their ancestors and the historic periods they lived through. Most children had never really had a real conversation of this nature with their grandparents.

The children were told not to worry about full sentences in their notes and even to stray from the script if they wanted to and let the interview take them wherever it went. They were assured that they almost certainly would not “finish” the interview. But they were encouraged to continue the conversation at a later date and perhaps to make an appointment with the grandparent specifically for this purpose. And of course it was suggested that they talk to other people in the family as well and certainly to talk to other grandparents, if possible.

During the wrap-up, children were asked about surprising things they might have learned about their parents or grandpar-

ents. The script asked about how the parents or grandparents met. But some of the kids wanted to know about other love interests before that!

They found out about activities and entertainment before television, computers and cell-phones. And they were surprised at the mores and dress codes of earlier times. Grandpa didn't wear jeans and a T-shirt to school or work; Grandma didn't wear trousers of any kind to school.

Many of the children were very interested in the activity and undoubtedly, the grandparents got the biggest kick out of it!



ADVERTISING RATES

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

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. from August 14th to 19th, hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW). The venue is the Grand Hyatt Washington.

Sara Bloomfield, the director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, will deliver the keynote address to on Sunday, August 14, the opening night. Her talk, entitled *Honoring the Victims: It Takes A Village*, will be followed by a Welcome Dessert Reception.

At the Conference hotel, there will be orientation sessions by staff of the [U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum](#), [National Archives](#), and [Library of Congress](#) to assist attendees in their visits to these institutions.

Be sure to check www.DC2011.org for Conference details; see the blog at <http://www.dc2011conference.blogspot.com>

We wish all of our members attending this Conference a wonderful, meaningful experience!

Conference in St. Louis for Czechs/Slovaks

The CzechoSlovak Genealogical Society International (CGSI) will hold its next Genealogical and Cultural Conference in St. Louis, Missouri from October 26 to 29, 2011 at the Sheraton Westport Chalet Hotel. The Conference will feature speakers on genealogical, cultural and historical topics, such as:

- *Bohemian Jews in St. Louis* by Donald Makovsky (Bohemians formed the B'nai Brith Congregation in 1849, merging with the Imanu El Congregation in 1852; it was known as the B'nai El Congregation, the first Synagogue west of the Mississippi, dedicated on September 7, 1855.)
 - *Early History of Christians and Jews in the Czech Lands and Slovakia* (from Cyril and Methodius until 1781) by Jan Dus
 - *Current History of Christians and Jews in the Czech Lands and Slovakia* (from 1781 until today) by Jan Dus
- For more Information, visit
<<http://www.cgsi.org/news/conferences-and-symposiums>><http://www.cgsi.org/news/conferences-and-symposiums>

New Holocaust Museum in Mexico City: Memoria y Tolerancia

In May, the *Claims Conference: The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany* released a statement about Mexico's first Holocaust museum which had just opened in Mexico City:

Mexico's president, Felipe Calderón, addressed a crowd of hundreds attending the opening of Memoria y Tolerancia (Memory and Tolerance), the country's first museum dedicated to the Holocaust, genocides, and tolerance. Just more than half of the museum is dedicated to the Holocaust, including an exhibition hall funded by the Claims Conference that details Hitler's rise to power...

Among the exhibits on the Shoah is a restored railcar, donated by the Polish government, used to transport Jews to concentration camps. Leaving the car, visitors are confronted with a wall-size image of Auschwitz. Survivor testimonies play on video screens throughout the exhibit, while the walls are lined with Mexican newspaper clippings documenting the country's awareness and involvement during World War II...

The "tolerance" section of the museum includes 20 halls highlighting diversity through art, cultural exhibits, and multi-media presentations.

In addition to establishing the museum, Memoria y Tolerancia also provides financial and emotional support to Holocaust victims. Since 2004, the Claims Conference has allocated funds to the organization for emergency assistance to survivors in Mexico who need help paying for medical care and other vital expenses...

To learn more about the Museum and its programs, visit www.memoriaytolerancia.org.

CHECK OUR WEBSITE OFTEN!

Our website is chock-full of useful information and links. Please note that only the most recent two announcements are on our home page; the rest are under Our Society / Announcements.

Monthly programs for Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation are easily accessible by clicking on its link under Resources / Toronto.

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

Parks Canada's Canadian Register of Historic Places

by Judy Kasman

The name Parks Canada evokes (what else?) national parks. However, this federal department stands for much more: this past February, Parks Canada launched its online resource, Register of Historic Places, www.historicplaces.ca, a repository of over 12,400 heritage buildings and sites across our nation. More sites will be added over the years.

In the April 15, 2011 issue of *The Globe and Mail*, columnist Dave Leblanc (*The Archtourist*) writes: While Parks Canada has been designating historic sites since 1919, it was only after signing on at the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1976 that it began to inventory all of them (that was part of the requirement). In the past two decades, the organization has been 'on the cutting edge of how to look at places,' by discounting superficial things, such as whether a building 'is famous'...and instead asking: "What's the meaning for individuals in a community, how can we capture--like in Kensington Market -- the immigrant experience?"

In visiting this Parks Canada website, I entered "Jewish" & "Ontario" as my search parameters and four sites appeared. One was Kensington Market, as just indicated. Another was the St. George Hotel in Perth--originally a hotel, this building has been a private residence since 1898, except from 1953 to 1970, when it served as Perth's synagogue! Ottawa's Byward Market's Jewish connection: as per the website, it was the "seat of Jewish culture" in Ottawa, as it was for other immigrant groups. The fourth connection is very tenuous, in that the Children of Peace (derived from Quakers), who built Sharon Temple, practiced doctrine based in part on ancient Jewish ceremonies!

It is fun to search each province to look for the Jewish heritage element: sometimes a synagogue or cemetery is designated, other times, buildings of architectural significance or rarity that had been built or occupied by Jews prominent in their communities. Prince Edward Island has no listings while New Brunswick has many!

Claude Lanzmann's Film *Shoah* Shown in Iran

by Judy Kasman

In an American Press article dated March 7, 2011, Cecile Brisson reported that French filmmaker Claude Lanzmann's *Shoah*, the 1985 epic 9-hour film, was dubbed into Farsi and was, in March, "...broadcast on a satellite channel in Iran as part of a campaign to promote understanding between Jews and Muslims and to fight Holocaust denial."

The film was being shown via a Los Angeles-based satellite channel, Pars, by a Paris-based group called the Aladdin Project which is backed by UNESCO. There is little enforcement of the ban on satellite dishes in Iran.

Shoah has also been dubbed into Turkish and was presented at the Istanbul Film Festival in April.

World Memory Project United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and Ancestry.com Working Together

The World Memory Project, which was launched on May 3rd, is a collaboration between the USHMM and Ancestry.com to build the world's largest online resource for information about individual victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution.

Its goal is to allow the public to help make the records from the Museum searchable by name online for free -- so more families of survivors and victims can discover what happened to their loved ones during one of the darkest chapters in human history.

The [United States Holocaust Memorial Museum](http://www.ushmm.org) has gathered millions of historical documents containing details about survivors and victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution during World War II.

[Ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) has spent more than a decade creating advanced technological tools that have allowed billions of historical documents to become searchable online.

Anyone can contribute to this effort; even just one record and a few minutes at a time can make a world of difference to someone.

Go to <http://www.worldmemoryproject.org/> to download a free software program and then type details from a record image into a database that will then become searchable online.

Special Bar Mitzvah Held at Auschwitz for Oscar-Winning Producer

by Judy Kasman

Those who were on the most recent March of the Living trip bore witness to the Bar Mitzvah ceremony of Branko Lustig, age 78, in front of Barrack 24 at Auschwitz Concentration Camp, the very location where he had been incarcerated as a youngster..

Lustig was born in Croatia but was deported to Auschwitz with this mother when he was 10 years old. His father became a partisan. Because Lustig was tall for his age, he could pass as a 16 year-old and was assigned to labour in the mines. He was reunited with his mother at Bergen-Belsen; sadly, his father did not survive the War.

Lustig returned to Croatia after the War and worked as a film producer. He ultimately moved to the United States in 1988, where he produced numerous movies, winning Oscars for *Schindler's List* and *Gladiator*.

Prior to his Bar Mitzvah, Branko Lustig said he would "... conclude with these words: 'The message I want to share today is the message of tolerance. It is my bar mitzvah wish today, and 'never again' is my hope and my dream for always.'"

Ontario Jewish Archives Walking Tours

A Tour of the Pape Avenue Cemetery Sunday, August 28

\$20 per person; \$15 for seniors & students

Learn about the history of this Holy Blossom Temple cemetery and of notables buried there.

A Sense of Spadina Tour: Take a Walking Tour of Historic Jewish Toronto

Sundays, July 10, August 7 & September 25

\$15 per person; \$12 for seniors & students

Tours begin at 11 am.

To register, contact Ontario Jewish Archives at 416-635-2883

oja1@ujafed.org www.ontariojewisharchives.org

The Ontario Historical Society's 2010 Honours and Awards

The Ontario Historical Society (OHS) is a non-profit organization founded in 1888 whose mission is to "increas[e] an appreciation of Ontario's history and preserve its heritage for people of all ages and cultural backgrounds."

On June 4th at North York Memorial Hall, 5110 Yonge Street, Toronto, the 2010 Honour and Awards were presented. Among the recipients at this ceremony was the Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) which received the Scadding Award of Excellence for its Exhibit, *Ontario's Small Jewish Communities*. This award is given "...to a historical society or heritage group that has made an outstanding contribution to the field of history".

From the Editor

Many of you will have noted Shem Tov's *Missing Links* columns in which we post queries that have come to our Society. Sometimes, though, questions are answered before they even make it to *Shem Tov*, thanks to the dedicated efforts of one of our Past Presidents, Carolynne Veffer. Carolynne is the person on the other end of info@jgstoronto.com, so once a query arrives to that email address, Carolynne promptly writes back to the inquirer with all kinds of helpful suggestions.

It seems to me that she is a one-woman encyclopedia of many things genealogical and I am sure that those who inquire are thankful to receive such useful and personalized responses.

I would like to acknowledge this work done behind the scenes by Carolynne on behalf of JGS Toronto.

Judy Kasman

Editor, *Shem Tov*

New From the Israel Genealogical Society

Website's List of Blogs

The Israel Genealogical Society (IGS) has added a page to its website listing blogs dealing with Jewish genealogy. It was developed with the help of Philip Trauring, an IGS member and author of "blood and frogs".

<http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/657/7790.asp>

7th Annual One Day Seminar

The IGS will be holding its 7th Annual One Day Seminar (*Yom Iyun*) at Beit Hatefutzot (Museum of the Diaspora) in Tel Aviv on Tuesday, November 29, 2011 (3 Kislev 5772). This year's central theme is **Genealogy is Multifaceted!**

The ISG reports: "This year our seminar will be divided into two parts. The first part will include presentations on different aspects of genealogy, from demography to everyday living. The second part will take a lecture to show how technology could be applied to researching that topic. There will be workshops at different levels where we will learn how to use various technical aspects to advance our research methods."

This is a great opportunity for those visiting Israel this November!

For more information, please visit <http://www.isragen.org.il> and <http://twitter.com/isragen>

Jewish American Heritage Month May, 2011

This year, for the sixth time, May was declared Jewish American Heritage Month (JAMH) in the United States.

On May 17th, U.S. President Barack Obama held a reception at the White House to celebrate the contributions that Jews have made to American history.

The event featured a performance by the Maccabeats, a singing group comprised of Yeshiva University students (you can see their clips on youtube). Invited guests included Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Michael Oren; Jewish Congressmen/women and Judges, and Elie Wiesel. The White House also displayed an exhibit of relevant artifacts.

Even though the official month is over, it is still worthwhile to visit the sites www.jahm.us.org and www.jewishheritagemonth.gov to learn about Jews who have significantly contributed in the 350-year development of the United States, and also to read about places of American Jewish historical significance.

Specifically, at <http://www.jahm.us/stories.aspx>, you can read stories of a number of famous Jewish Americans. You can also submit subjects for consideration.

Also, at <http://www.jahm.us/statestories.aspx> (50 stories from 50 States) you can learn about unknown significant Jews from each State. Once again, the public can submit a suggestion for Jewish American.

Bennett Greenspan Addressed Our Society on March 23rd



JGS Toronto President Harvey Glasner with our distinguished presenter, Bennett Greenspan, at North York Central Library on March 23rd

Mr. Greenspan, of Texas, spoke about his work to move genealogy forward in this millennium with DNA science and testing that his company, Family Tree DNA, has developed to enable genealogists around the world to advance their research. His company has joined with a scientific advisory board and the University of Arizona Research Labs.

World Premiere of the Oratorio *A Melancholy Beauty* At Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. by Judy Kasman

On June 21, the world premiere of the oratorio, *A Melancholy Beauty* took place at Kennedy Center in Washington, as part of the Songs of Life Festival. The work features choirs, soloists, the National Philharmonic Orchestra and a narrator. The piece was written, as indicated in the press release, "...to commemorate the historic but little-known rescue of Bulgaria's 49,000 Jews from the Holocaust by ordinary citizens who rose up in civil disobedience and demanded of the King and Parliament that Bulgaria's Jews be spared from Nazi extermination. No Bulgarian Jews went to the Concentration Camps." This year marks the 65th anniversary of this rescue.

A Melancholy Beauty was written by Bulgarian composer, Georgi Andreev, with a libretto by Scott Cairns and contributing author, Aryeh Finkelstein.

"Songs of Life is an international music festival that musically tells the story of little-known events of heroism. This year, during the second year of the festival, *A Melancholy Beauty* will be performed in three major US cities to commemorate the heroic acts of compassion that were displayed at a time of extreme prejudice and intolerance. Washington DC will be the first city, followed later in June by Boston and New York

More information about the concert and the sponsor, Songs of Life, is available at www.songsoflife.org."

Cemetery Project Update

Over the last year, community volunteer Robert Lumber-ski has submitted to Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Records (JOWBR) over 5,000 burial photographs from Dawes Road Cemetery, and I have submitted 6,000 records.

As of the beginning of June, Dawes Road Cemetery is 70% completed, Roselawn Cemetery is 95% completed, Lambton Cemetery is 50% completed and Bathurst Lawn and Mount Sinai Cemeteries are 100% completed (except for new burials, of course).

Allen Halberstadt
Chair, Cemetery Committee

From Library and Archives Canada

On May 26th, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) announced the launch of an updated version of its finding aid to locate electoral districts in its federal voters' lists collection from 1935 to 1980. LAC states in its release: "This updated version now provides for each of the 892 microfilm reels of the collection, the electoral year, the province, the exact name of the electoral district and the page numbers for each microfilm. This tool will facilitate the frequent consultation and use of the federal voters' lists collection by genealogists and family historians."

Please visit www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/genealogy/022-911.006-e.html

Editor's Note: Please note that this is not an online searchable database.



On June 1st, Library and Archives Canada transferred 1,400 original consular files of Lithuanian Canadians to the Lithuanian State Archives. This was done at the request of the Government of Lithuania. Before the transfer was made, the records were digitized so that Canadians can continue to have access to these records.

The files, covering the years 1924 to 1960, were originally donated to LAC by Jonas Zmuidzinas, who was the Consul General of Lithuania to Canada from the 1960s to the 1980s.

Missing Links

For Members Researching Russian Shtetls

Those members doing Russian research who are interested in forming a mutual assistance team are asked to contact JGS Toronto member Carol Shamoon c/o shemtov@jgstoronto.ca

Israel Day at Mel Lastman Square

JGS Toronto was pleased to have a presence at Na'Amat Canada's Israel Day on June 5th, which fortunately for all, turned out to be a glorious, sunny day. Volunteers from our Society manned a table where passersby could ask genealogical questions of them. This also gave our representatives the opportunity to promote our Society and perhaps generate interest in future members.

Thanks go to the following Society members who gave of their time at Israel Day: Toba Ajzenstat, Sid Disenhouse, Harvey Glasner, Alan Halberstadt, Judy Kasman, Les Kelman, Rhoda Sion & Henry Wellisch.



Our Members in the Community



Congratulations to our founding member, Henry Wellisch, on taking his vast knowledge out to the community. Earlier this year, Henry gave a presentation on genealogy at Temple Sinai on Shabbat prior to services. In addition he delivered two further presentations, one at Amica on Steeles Avenue West in Thornhill in February of this year and another at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre in April.

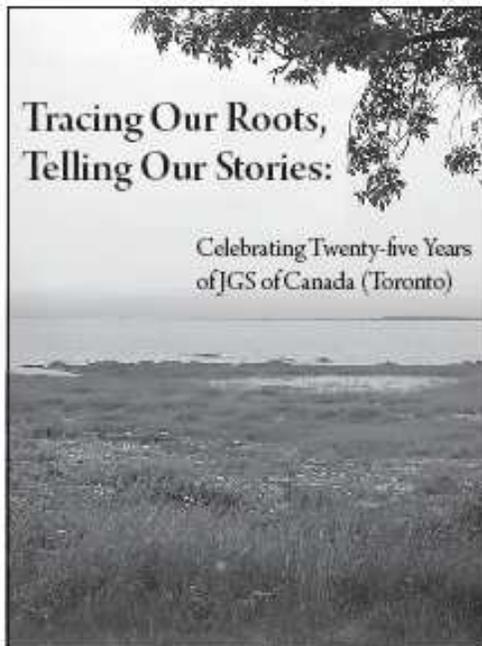


Karen Lasky spoke to over 80 members of B'nai Brith's Thornhill Lodge in March about her visit to Poland and the surprising discoveries she made about pre-War II Poland about the Holocaust Era.



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