



www.jgstoronto.ca

# שם טוב SHEM TOV

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF TORONTO

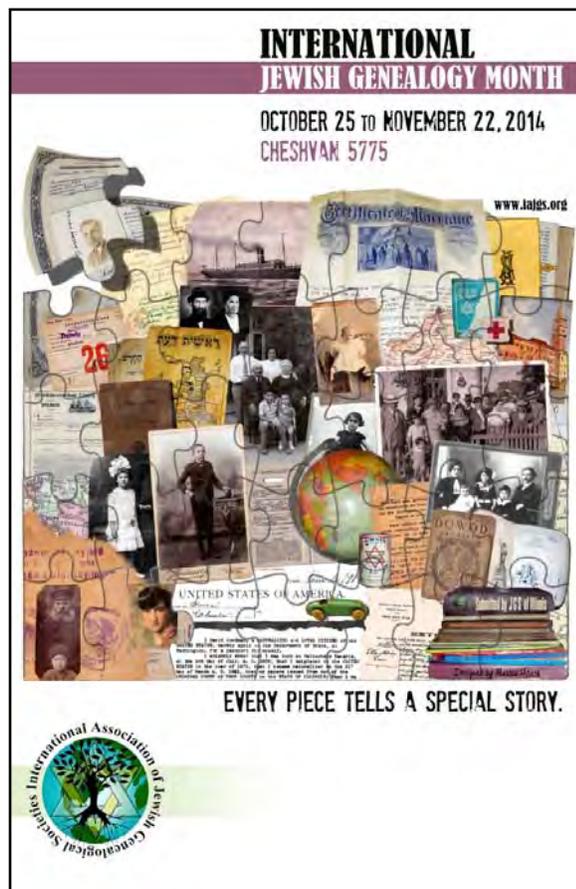
*Serving the Greater Toronto Area since 1985*

VOLUME XXX No. 3

September 2014

Elul 5774

## CHESHVAN IS INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH



The International Society of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) sponsors International Jewish Genealogy Month, held each year during the month of *Cheshvan*. It honours our Jewish ancestors through the pursuit of Jewish family history research. This year's winning poster (*above*) was submitted by Marcia Hirsch, a member of JGS Illinois.

### *In This Issue*

- 1 International Jewish Genealogy Month
- 2 Message From the President
- 3 Upcoming Events • Programs From the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society
- 4 It's Not Too Late To Attend This Year's IAJGS Conference! • Coming to Baycrest: An Exhibit About Toronto's Healthcare History
- 5 Writing The Book Of Life • Neuberger HEW 2014 Holocaust Education Week In Toronto
- 6 Women Of Valor – Polish Resisters To The Third Reich
- 7 *Finding Your Roots With Dr. Henry Louis Gates* • From The Editor
- 8 Citing Sources • JewishGen's Memorial Plaque Project
- 9 Branching Out - Borscht, Bagels And Burritos: The First Cheskes Family Reunion
- 10 JGS Toronto Website: Members Only Features • On Our Website... • JGS Toronto Family Finder • New Members
- 11 The Memory Project • Portland, Oregon's Sephardic Jewish Heritage • Acknowledgements & Celebrations • A Report From the Jewish Genealogists' Summer Camp
- 12 Another Successful IAJGS Conference: Salt Lake City 2014

*Please see page 4*

## Message From the President

Each year in June, for our last program of the season, we host an event known as “Brick Walls and Breakthroughs” where we invite three or four members to tell us about their recent research efforts and discoveries. Over the years this annual program has been very successful. Our members enjoy listening to and learning from their peers since even though we are researching in different countries and looking for different families, our work and successes have a lot in common. This past June, I was pleased to be one of the four speakers, along with Jordan Yarmus, who presented the genealogy computer game that he invented; Mitch Shnier, who spoke about research done respecting his uncle’s wartime records, and Ruth Chernia, who talked about unexpectedly meeting relatives while in Australia.

Based on the success of such events, the JGS Toronto Programming Committee would like to hold a similar evening in December each year. For this coming December, the theme will be “My Favourite or Famous or Notorious Ancestor and How I

Found Him/Her”. So this is an invitation to our members: please let us know if you would like to be a presenter at our December meeting. Each presenter will be allocated 15 minutes, and we are confident that we will find four members with great stories to tell.

This program will also be an opportunity to remind ourselves of how important stories are in formulating our family histories. The truth is that you can have stories without a lot of facts and figures, but if you have facts and figures without stories, your family history is incomplete. (See page 5 - Horowitz)

Please email me ([president@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:president@jgstoronto.ca)) or Gella Rothstein ([program@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:program@jgstoronto.ca)) with your offer to present.

Les Kelman  
President, JGS Toronto

### VOLUME XXX No. 3

*SHEM TOV* is published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto and distributed free to members. Archived issues can be found at [www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca).

Contributions are invited. Please submit material to [shemtov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto: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.

No part of this publication may be reproduced in any form without permission in writing from the editor. Views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent those of SHEM TOV or the Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto. ISSN 0843-6924. All rights reserved.

Advertisements related to genealogy are accepted. Rates are available upon request: [shemtov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca).

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto), now known as Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto, was founded in 1985 and serves the Greater Toronto Area. It is volunteer-run and is registered as a non-profit charitable organization. Membership is \$40 per calendar year, \$18 for students. Programmes are held monthly from September to June. Programme details, including topic, speaker and location, can be found in *Shem Tov* and on our website.

The goal of JGS Toronto is to provide a forum for the exchange of knowledge and information through programmes, workshop and guest speakers, thereby promoting an awareness of genealogy within the Jewish community. JGS Toronto is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies ([www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org)) and is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto.

New members are always welcome.

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

info@jgstoronto.ca  
www.jgstoronto.blogspot.com  
Twitter: @jgssoftoronto  
Telephone: 647-247-6414



### DIRECTORS OF JGS TORONTO

PRESIDENT	Leslie Kelman	<a href="mailto:president@jgstoronto.ca">president@jgstoronto.ca</a>
VICE PRESIDENT	Vacant	
SECRETARY	Marla Waltman	<a href="mailto:secretary@jgstoronto.ca">secretary@jgstoronto.ca</a>
TREASURER	Paul Teitelman	<a href="mailto:treasurer@jgstoronto.ca">treasurer@jgstoronto.ca</a>
CEMETERY PROJECT	Vacant	
GOODWILL	Stephen Creed	
LIBRARIAN	Elaine Cheskes	<a href="mailto:library@jgstoronto.ca">library@jgstoronto.ca</a>
MENTORING COORDINATOR	Valerie Fox	<a href="mailto:mentoring@jgstoronto.ca">mentoring@jgstoronto.ca</a>
MEMBERSHIP	Neil Richler	<a href="mailto:membership@jgstoronto.ca">membership@jgstoronto.ca</a>
PROGRAMMING	Vacant	
PUBLICITY	Vacant	
SHEM TOV EDITOR	Judy Kasman	<a href="mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca">shemtov@jgstoronto.ca</a>
WEBSITE COORDINATOR	Shelley Stillman	<a href="mailto:ssillman@jgstoronto.ca">ssillman@jgstoronto.ca</a>
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT	Harvey Glasner	<a href="mailto:hglasner@jgstoronto.ca">hglasner@jgstoronto.ca</a>
PAST PRESIDENTS	Shelley Stillman Garry Stein Bill Gladstone	Carolynne Veffler Gert Solnik Rogers Dr. Rolf Lederer
PRESIDENT EMERITUS	Henry Wellisch	
HON. LIFE PRESIDENT	Rayzel Robinson-Paull	
FAMILY FINDER COORDINATOR	Gert Rogers	<a href="mailto:grogers@jgstoronto.ca">grogers@jgstoronto.ca</a>
WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR	Arthur Ryman	<a href="mailto:comments@jgstoronto.ca">comments@jgstoronto.ca</a>
TECHNICAL SUPPORT	Kevin Hanit	
PROGRAM COORDINATOR	Gella Rothstein	
<b>FOR SHEM TOV</b>		
EDITOR	Judy Kasman	<a href="mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca">shemtov@jgstoronto.ca</a>
EDITOR EMERITUS	Henry Wellisch	<a href="mailto:comments@jgstoronto.ca">comments@jgstoronto.ca</a>
PROOFREADER	Carolynne Veffler	
LAYOUT/DESIGN	Sarah Gledhill	

### CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

Elaine Cheskes, Dick Eastman, Sarah Horowitz, Judy Kasman, Les Kelman, Shelley Stillman, Marla Waltman

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

At Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Avenue, at 8 p.m., unless otherwise stated

Doors open 30 minutes prior to events

Members: Free • Non-Members: \$5

---

### Wednesday, September 10th

#### *The Jews of Barbados: 1627 to the Present*

Speaker **Eric Bowman** and his wife, Penny, are citizens of Barbados. He has studied the history of Bajan Jews for many years; he frequently lectures to tourists who come to the island. JGS Toronto member **Dr. Simon Kreindler** will also be present to comment on 20th century Jewish immigration/emigration. Both men have an intimate knowledge of the families who played important roles in the culture and development of Barbados.

### Wednesday, October 22nd

#### *A Stone for Benjamin: My Genealogical Search for My Great Uncle*

A Toronto resident since 1966, genealogy sleuth and author **Fiona Gold Kroll** talks about her emotional journey researching and writing *A Stone for Benjamin*, a book about her research into the life of her great uncle who perished in Auschwitz.

### Wednesday, November 26th

#### *Jewish Immigration to Canada: The Ships that Brought Our Ancestors*

**Steven Brock**, Treasurer of the Hamilton JGS, will walk us through the growth of the Jewish community in Canada, the ports they departed from and arrived at, as well as the ocean liners that brought our ancestors from Europe.

### Wednesday, December 17th

#### *My Favourite or Famous or Notorious Ancestor and How I Found Him/Her*

Presentations by JGS Toronto Members

#### HOLD THESE DATES:

- Sunday, January 25th, 2015, 10:30 a.m.
  - Sunday, February 22nd, 10:30 a.m.
  - Wednesday, March 25th
  - Wednesday, April 29th
- 

## PROGRAMS FROM THE TORONTO BRANCH OF THE ONTARIO GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

### COURSES

#### *Basic Genealogy and Family History*

Wednesdays, October 8<sup>th</sup> to November 26<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 p.m.

This course will cover the basics, including terminology, types of sources, the use of on-line resources, libraries and archives, including LDS Family History Centres, and record-keeping – to help you “think like a genealogist”.

**Instructor: Jane E. MacNamara**

**Where: North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, Toronto**

#### *Maps and Mapping for 21st Century Genealogists*

Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> & Wednesdays, November 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>

from 6:15 to 8:15 p.m.

This course, designed for intermediate and advanced-level genealogists, explores sophisticated ways in which maps and mapping tools can contribute to family history research, analysis and writing.

**Instructor: James F.S. Thomson**

**Where: Toronto Reference Library, 789 Yonge Street, Toronto**

See <http://torontofamilyhistory.org/learn/>

### EVENTS OF INTEREST

**Both of the following are held at the Burgundy Room, North York Memorial Hall, 5120 Yonge Street, Toronto**

#### *Archives of Ontario: What's in it for me?*

Monday, October 27<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

The Archives of Ontario is a rich source for family history. This presentation by **Jane MacNamara** will help you understand how archival records are organized and “described” and demonstrate how you can get the most from the AO’s Archive Descriptive Database. There will be “insider” tips for both new and seasoned researchers—and many techniques will be applicable to any modern archives.

Mini-presentation: Irena Lewycka and Dawn Connolly: *Self-Publish your Family History or Memoirs at the Toronto Reference Library using Asquith Press Book Printing Service*

#### *Great Moments in Genealogy*

Monday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 to 9:30 pm

Presentations by about 10 OGS members on “great moments” in their genealogy research, including:

- Barry Spinner : *Determining my ancestor's homeland and vilage through perseverance – before the Internet*
- Marian Press : *Did my 3X Great-Aunt Really Run Away With Her Music Teacher?*
- Paul Jones : *Oy vey iz mir: One Anglo's adventure in Jewish research*
- Greg Marlatt : *Where is my Y-Chromosome Taking Me? – Fact to Fantasy*

See: [www.torontofamilyhistory.org](http://www.torontofamilyhistory.org)

---

## AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE IAJGS CONFERENCE

### IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award 2014: Alexander Beider

In recognition of his many significant contributions to the specialized science of the origins and forms of proper names and surnames of persons as applied to the field of Jewish genealogy, as well as, for the scholarly works that he has authored that have become over time, indispensable reference resources for genealogists and families who are researching their ancestors.

### IAJGS Program Award 2014: Montefiore Census Digitization

In recognition of the exemplary work of Mathilde Tagger, Billie Stein, and Rose Feldman as well as the numerous volunteers from the Israel Genealogical Society and the Israel Genealogy Research Association who created the database, transcribed and translated all five 19th century censuses which documents the Jewish population of Eretz Yisrael between 1839 and 1875. This project enables the availability of Sir Moses Montefiore's records to all genealogy researchers with roots in Ottoman Empire Palestine.

### IAJGS Outstanding Publication 2014:

#### Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island New York Lineage

For excellent design, editing and original content of a quarterly Jewish genealogy newsletter. Lineage stands out in effectively engaging the members of JGS Long Island to become more actively involved in their society as well as becoming better skilled in conducting their family research.

### IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet 2014:

#### Jewish Records Indexing – Poland

JRI-Poland is recognized for providing since 1995 searchable online indices of Jewish records from current and former territories of Poland and for its recent ground breaking multi-year agreement with the Polish State Archives (PSA) in a massive effort to digitize all vital records in more than 30 regional archives. This initiative will dramatically expand access to records for family historians tracing their Jewish roots to Poland and make them freely available online.



34TH IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY  
Co-hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and the Utah Jewish Genealogical Society SALT LAKE CITY 2014 JULY 27-AUGUST 1

## IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO ATTEND THIS YEAR'S IAJGS CONFERENCE!

Subscribe to IAJGS LIVE! and watch over 60 sessions as if you are in the room. At \$149 (US), LIVE! programming costs less than \$2.50 per session. You can view sessions as many times as you like and whenever you like until November 1st, 2014. For more information about LIVE! go to <http://live.iajgs2014.org>.

Additionally, Fleetwood Onsite recorded 139 sessions, over 85 of which included synchronized slides. Once purchased, you own the recording forever. To purchase recordings, go to [www.fleetwoodonsite.com/index.php?cPath=402\\_403#U-b2N2OLM-0](http://www.fleetwoodonsite.com/index.php?cPath=402_403#U-b2N2OLM-0).

## COMING TO BAYCREST: AN EXHIBIT ABOUT TORONTO'S HEALTHCARE HISTORY

A forthcoming exhibit will be mounted in the Morris & Sally Justein Heritage Museum at Baycrest, featuring stories and artifacts from the early years of Baycrest, profiles of pioneering Jewish healthcare professionals, and historic medical equipment.

The exhibition will recognize the important contributions of Baycrest and Jewish Torontonians to healthcare, educate the community about past challenges and triumphs, and inspire with visions of care in the future. The exhibition will coincide with Ontario Jewish Heritage Month, May 2015.

If you have stories, objects, documents or photographs relating to the history of medicine in Toronto, the early years of the Toronto Jewish Old Folks' Home or medical education, please contact Cassandra Zita, at 416-785-2500 ext. 5622 or [czita@baycrest.org](mailto:czita@baycrest.org).

---

## WRITING THE BOOK OF LIFE

by Sara Horowitz

---

**Y**es, it's that time. Beach, lake, mountain, or hammock in the backyard. Time to relax, recharge – and settle in with a stack of books.

But perhaps, instead of reading, we should think about writing – taking our moments of leisure to craft a record of who and where we've been, and how we experience our changing world.

For several months, my cousins and I have been sharing information about our attempts to trace our family's path from eastern Europe to North America. My paternal grandfather had eight children, four born in Europe, one (my father) conceived in Manhattan but born during a visit to Warsaw, and three born in New York. Intent on sinking roots in the new world, and typical of immigrants and their children, my father and his siblings quickly Americanized, transmuting Yiddish/European names into American ones. Embracing a New York version of Jewish life, they mastered the culture of the new land, with little interest in stories of the old. They spoke English to one another and, later, to their children, so that few of my cousins heard Yiddish at home.

And now, belatedly, the cousins are curious – about life in Europe, about the early years in North America. But neither my grandparents nor any of my father's siblings are still alive, so we can't ask them. Instead, we stitch together a past from remembered stories and archival research.

My cousins range in age from mid-40s to mid-70s. The stories we remember hearing from our parents are contradictory. According to one version, our ancestors were "princes" in Europe, with a lavish home and servants. In another version, they were paupers and debtors. Yet another version casts them as fleeing from the police. There were ocean voyages back and forth and various children left behind with relatives and retrieved before the family finally settled into their new lives. Our pooled recollections are a hodgepodge of romanticization and conjecture, with few means to tease out the facts from the vagaries of memory and fantasy.

Thankfully, we don't rely only upon these twice and thrice told tales. My cousins have been resourceful in tracking down ar-

chival sources that help us reconstruct our shared past. Thanks to the Internet and the digitization of documents, we have copies of ship manifests that anchor (no pun intended) at least parts of the family journey that occurred in the first quarter of the 20th century, even copies of census reports that my grandfather submitted during the family's early years in North America. We have other kinds of saved documents – report cards from our parents' childhood, naturalization papers for the siblings born in Europe. The past begins to take shape.

But what's missing is the interior life of our parents and grandparents – what and how they felt about their lives on both continents, why they decided to emigrate, how it felt to leave the familiar and acculturate to the new. Documents can't tell us that – only our parents or grandparents could have. They were more interested in building their own lives, and did not see anything remarkable in their life journeys. And we rarely asked.

My grandfather was a natural storyteller, weaving fantastic tales of his flying horse, Itzm-Bitzm, that followed the family across the ocean and lived in a courtyard in New York. Grandpa also wrote poems in Hebrew; my father saved a few and passed them along to me.

No one in our family thought to leave behind lifewriting or to write down my grandfather's wonderful tales. If they had, our picture of them – and of where we come from – would be richer. The email exchanges among my cousins contains moments of discovery, but also a prod to current generations to chart our lives in writing, as we see, experience, and feel ourselves and our times. The world is changing – the Jewish world is changing. Let's leave a map so those who come later can find where they've come from, to better understand where they find themselves. ■

---

*This article appeared in The Canadian Jewish News (CJN) on July 10, 2014 and was reprinted with the kind permission of the author, York University professor Sara Horowitz, and by The CJN.*



### **NEUBERGER HEW 2014** **HOLOCAUST EDUCATION WEEK IN** **TORONTO:**

*November 2nd to 9th*

Go to <http://holocaustcentre.com/HEW> to see the numerous events taking place in the GTA

---

**Report on Program Held on August 10, 2014**  
***Women of Valor – Polish Resisters to the Third Reich***  
**Presentation by the book's author Joanne D. Gilbert**

*by Shelley Stillman, a JGS Toronto Past President*

---

**W**hile each scholar has a different definition for resistance, according to Joanne Gilbert, any type of defiance is resistance.

When interviewed for her book, *Women of Valor – Polish Resisters to the Third Reich*, each of the six women described herself as “normal”, “like anyone else”, “just doing what I had to do”.

In her PowerPoint presentation, Joanne reviewed the political situation at the end of WWI and prior to WWII; the changes in the economical situation in Europe; the changes in technology that would allow for the wide-spread dissemination of information; the use of the assembly line for efficient production; the changes in social norms, especially gender roles; the rise of Darwinism & eugenics, and the popularity of psychology.

Joanne described “just living” as a form of passive resistance whereas “economic resistance” included acts of defiance such as passing as a Gentile, changing identities, going into hiding, printing pamphlets, using graffiti to send coded messages, acting as a courier/smuggler, being a code breaker, translating, safe-keeping valuables, organizing recreational activities, clandestine schools and synagogues, hiding/transporting Jews, and carrying out acts of violence

Please note that the links that follow below were not part of Joanne Gilbert's presentation, but were inserted by me, culled from a wide range of sources, in order to help you in your research.

#### **GERMANY**

- **Rosenstrasse Demonstration 1943 (Berlin)** - German Gentile women who were married to Jewish men stood up to the Nazis to protest the imprisonment of their husbands and prevailed (2004 motion picture) [www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10008064](http://www.ushmm.org/wlc/en/article.php?ModuleId=10008064)
- **Sophie Scholl and the White Rose** – the German Gentile woman who wrote and distributed pamphlets on campus (2005 motion picture *Sophie Scholl – the Final Days*) [www.raoulwallenberg.net/holocaust/articles-20/sophie-scholl-white-rose/](http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/holocaust/articles-20/sophie-scholl-white-rose/)
- **Freya von Moltke – a German countess**  
[www.krzyzowa.org.pl/index.php/en/materialy/teksty-i-dokumenty/147-im-memoriam-freya-von-moltke](http://www.krzyzowa.org.pl/index.php/en/materialy/teksty-i-dokumenty/147-im-memoriam-freya-von-moltke)



JGS Toronto Les Kelman introduces speaker, Joanne Gilbert

#### **FRANCE**

- **Marie-Madeleine Fourcade** – a member of the French Resistance (book *Noah's Ark*)  
<http://spartacus-educational.com/FRfourcade.htm>
- **Agnes Humbert** - a member of the French Resistance (book *Resistance: A Frenchwoman's Journal of the War*)

#### **THE NETHERLANDS**

- **Diet Eman** - Dutch resistance (books *Things We Couldn't Say, The Reckoning and Making Choices*)  
<http://lechaimontheright.com/2013/07/10-wwii-heroes-diet-eman-110.html>

#### **POLAND**

- **Zofia Kossak-Szczucka** - one of the founders of Żegota, a codename for the underground Polish council to aid Jews  
[www.raoulwallenberg.net/saviors/others/keepers-flame](http://www.raoulwallenberg.net/saviors/others/keepers-flame)
- **Irena Sendlerowa** – a Polish nurse who was a member of Żegota (book and movie *Life in a Jar, The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler*)  
<http://www.irenasendler.org/>

- **Eta Wrobel** – a Jewish partisan who led a Polish 80-person Jewish resistance combat unit (*My Life My Way*)  
[http://www.jewishpartisans.org/t\\_switch.php?pageName=mini+bio+short+bio+1&parnum=31](http://www.jewishpartisans.org/t_switch.php?pageName=mini+bio+short+bio+1&parnum=31)
- **Lola Leser Lieber** – a Jewish forger (book *A World After This*)  
<http://lola-lieber.com/about.htm>
- **Miriam Brysk** – as a 6 year-old, lived as a boy with the Russian partisans as her father, a doctor, would not leave his wife and child behind (book *The Stones Weep*)  
<http://holocaust.umd.umich.edu/news/index.php?archives/3252-New-Interview-Miriam-Brysk.html>
- **Manya Feldman**  
<http://collections.ushmm.org/search/catalog/irn512297>

Joanne noted that these women's activism didn't end when WWII did; they remained active throughout their lives in their communities, as leaders in science, the arts, education, politics, and charities.

At Temple Sinai, Joanne introduced Toronto resident Faye Schulman - photographer, author, public speaker - who is featured

in her book. Faye shared some of her life experiences.

Soon after the Nazis occupied her town of Lenin, Poland, they liquidated the Jewish ghetto. She lost almost all of her family. Faye was chosen to live as she was a photographer who could continue to work for the Nazis. She made secret copies of these photographs.

During one of the raids she was able to escape and she joined the Molotova partisan brigade. During another raid she was able to retrieve her camera. She lived in the woods for three years, “the sky was my roof and the rifle was my pillow.” As her brother-in-law had been a doctor, she was recruited as a nurse: “a nurse was what they needed; a nurse was what I became.”

Faye proudly showed off her medals that covered the left side of her navy blazer; they were presented to her from five different countries.

See her book, *A Partisan's Memoir – Woman of the Holocaust*, and the documentary film *Out of the Fire*, which describes Faye's return to Poland after 55 years.

- **The Memory Project** (see page 11)  
<http://www.thememoryproject.com/stories/3306:faye-schulman/>
- PBS documentary  
<http://www.pbs.org/daringtoneresist/faye.html>
- *Pictures of Resistance* – a photographic exhibit that has travelled the world  
[http://jewishpartisans.org/t\\_switch.php?pageName=educator+pictures+of+resistance&gloss=false](http://jewishpartisans.org/t_switch.php?pageName=educator+pictures+of+resistance&gloss=false)

---

A copy of Joanne Gilbert's book has been purchased for our reference library collection.



Faye Schulman with speaker Joanne Gilbert

*Editor's Note:* In *The Toronto Star*, August 9, 2014, writer Jennifer Hunter interviews Caroline Moorehead, author of a new book on courageous women. Hunter introduces the interview as follows:

In the Ardeche mountain plateau of south central France is a small village called Le-Chambon-sur-Lignon. This area, during the Second World War, was part of Vichy France, supposedly unoccupied by Nazi troops. The residents of Le-Chambon-sur-Lignon, particularly the Protestant ones, performed their own little miracles in response by rescuing 3,500 people, particularly Jews, war resisters, Communists, downed Allied air men and freemasons. British writer Caroline Moorehead's *Village of Secrets: Defying the Nazis in Vichy France*, follows her earlier historical investigation, *A Train in Winter*, about the brave French women who worked in the underground rescuing thousands of people during the war.

Moorehead states that she is working on a third book "...on resistance. It's about a family of Jewish anti-fascists in Italy in the 1920s and '30s." ■

---

## COMING TO TV:

### *Finding Your Roots With Dr. Henry Louis Gates*

Get ready to set your PVRs: the second season of this TV series commences on PBS on Tuesday evening, September 23rd at 8. Thirty celebrities will be featured during the course of these shows, including singer/songwriter Carole King. What sets this series apart from *Who Do You Think You Are?* is the use of DNA, in addition to traditional genealogical research, to establish lineage.

---

## FROM THE EDITOR

Send your articles to *Shem Tov* so that you can share your news about family discoveries and your genealogical tips with your fellow JGS Toronto members! Please send your submissions to [shemtov@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:shemtov@jgstoronto.ca).

The next deadline is November 17th.

*Judy Kasman*

Editor, *Shem Tov*



---

## CITING SOURCES

by Dick Eastman

---

One thing that genealogists need to do is to always cite their sources. I well remember my early days of family tree searches. I would record new information into three-ring notebooks. (This was long before the invention of the personal computer.) I would write down names, dates, places, and perhaps a bit more information that I was lucky enough to find.

Unfortunately, in those early days I did not write down where I obtained the information. Nobody told me that I needed to do this, and I wasn't smart enough to figure it out for myself. I simply assumed that everything I found was accurate. After all, it was printed in a book, wasn't it?

As time passed, I frequently found new information that contradicted what I found earlier. When I discovered these discrepancies, I needed to determine which piece of information was more accurate. The question that arose time and again was, "Where did I find that information?" Sadly, I often did not know.

The better solution would have been to always write down where I found the information along with the data itself. This is known as citing your sources. To quote author Elizabeth Shown Mills in her excellent book, *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian*: "Any statement of fact that is not common knowledge must carry its own individual statement of source. ... Source notes have two purposes: to record the specific location of each piece of data and to record details that affect the use or evaluation of that data."

I am older now and, hopefully, wiser. I have spent many, many hours weeding out incorrect data, and now hopefully I have documented all my sources of information. I wish that someone had told me years ago about the need for source citations; that one step would have saved me many, many hours of backtracking. I hope

that, by writing this article, I can influence some genealogy newcomers to have better habits than I did.

Of course, citing a source is not as simple as writing down the name of a book. You also should record the book's author, publication date, the page on which you found the data, and even the name of the library or other repository where you found that book. Serious genealogists will also record the library's call number.

Of course, not all genealogy information is found in books. You also find information in hand-written records in courthouses, as well as in family Bibles, on microfilm, on Web pages, in e-mail, and other places. Each source of information may have unique requirements for recording the source references.

My favorite reference for finding out how to record genealogy sources is the book I mentioned earlier: *Evidence! Citation & Analysis for the Family Historian* by Elizabeth Shown Mills (Genealogical Publishing Company, 1997, ISBN#: 0806315431, available from the publisher at [http://www.genealogical.com/item\\_detail.asp?ID=3846](http://www.genealogical.com/item_detail.asp?ID=3846) as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/7uX1Fb>.

Elizabeth Shown Mills also has released a shortened *Quick-Sheet: Citing Online Historical Sources* available from the publisher at <http://goo.gl/YD2BPI> as well as from Amazon at <http://goo.gl/oN7Ptr>. This, too, is a big help.

If you or someone you know is in the early stages of their genealogy quest, I urge you to start recording your sources according to the guidelines of such excellent works as these. The more time passes, the happier you will be that you did so. ■

---

*This article appeared in Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter, on July 14, 2014 and was reprinted with the kind permission of the author, Dick Eastman.*

---

## JEWISHGEN'S MEMORIAL PLAQUE PROJECT

JewishGen has a Memorial Plaque Project (MPP) where there is a growing database of information from plaques and Yizkor lists from synagogue and other organizations.

Nolan Altman, Project Coordinator of the MPP, advises that this year, more than 30,000 records from the United States, Israel and Canada have been added, from 35 different synagogues and other institutions. He thanks the JGS of Greater Boston, The Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina, the JGS of Montreal, and a number of synagogues and individual donors for their work.

A description of the Project can be found at [www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial](http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial).

If you are a member of a synagogue or other organization with memorial plaques or Yizkor lists, you can assist JewishGen in expanding this database. For information on submitting data, go

to <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/Submit.htm>. For a complete listing of the institutions currently in the database, please see <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/tree/MemList.htm>. You will note that in Canada, three synagogues/societies from Quebec and one from British Columbia have submitted their data thus far.

If you have any questions, please contact Nolan Altman at [NAltman@JewishGen.org](mailto:NAltman@JewishGen.org).

---

## BRANCHING OUT

by Elaine Cheskes, JGS Toronto Librarian

---

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Toronto's library collection is located at the Gladys Allison Canadiana Room, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, 6th floor, Toronto.

### Borscht, Bagels and Burritos: The First Cheskes Family Reunion

The Cheskes family, whose roots stem from Brest-Litovsk, Poland, dispersed throughout *Russia, Canada, the United States and Mexico* in the early 1900s. This past July, for the first time in over one hundred years, Cheskes descendants were reunited. What were the circumstances that led to this reunion?

A young family member, Anthony, who lived in Los Angeles, was studying classical clarinet at the University of Arizona where he met a young musician, Katie, who was also studying clarinet. Coincidentally, Katie was from Toronto, and Anthony's mother, Leila, was born in Toronto and had relocated with her family to Los Angeles in the early 1960s. Anthony accompanied Katie and moved to Toronto where his roots had originated. *Bashert?* Subsequently their wedding took place in Toronto. What an opportunity for a family reunion!

On the evening of July 3rd, sixty members of the extended Cheskes family came together with great anticipation to experience their first and long overdue family reunion. A dinner was served to all the guests whose ages ranged from seven to seventy-seven. It was wonderful to observe the interaction between the generations. Many relatives had previously never met. Why did this situation occur? Perhaps geographic distances may account for a partial explanation. In addition, when the head of a family passes away, the strong bond that connects its members becomes weakened. Successive generations lose contact, and their cohesiveness is diluted. Their common heritage is obliterated.

As the Cheskeses cheerfully gathered together, they greeted each other with warmth and affection. An atmosphere of excitement, exuberance, and congeniality prevailed as the hum of incessant chatter and laughter filled the air. Everyone was most anxious to meet extended family and long-lost relatives.



Our darkest days: Cheskes Holocaust Victims

Name tags identified the members and also indicated to whom they were connected on the Cheskes family tree. A seating plan was developed with the sole purpose of establishing a relationship between the young adults. They were seated adjacent to cousins with whom they were unacquainted.

The family was interested in tracing its heritage and discovering the inter-relationship between the branches of the family. I created a digital presentation that graphically illustrated the history of the Cheskes family, including photos of those who were killed in the Holocaust, photos of those who survived the Holocaust, and photos of those who had fled many years prior to the Holocaust. I documented evidence to demonstrate the direct connection between the attendees and their ancestors. They were in a state of disbelief and extremely emotional to learn of the horrific fate of grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins who were slaughtered by the Nazis. Many tears were shed.

Everyone was fascinated to hear about the many harrowing but exciting adventures of their relatives. For example, Lazar, who was born in Brest-Litovsk, joined the Soviet Union Army and fought against the Germans. Although he was wounded and captured, he fortunately escaped, and after the War, returned to Brest-Litovsk. However, Brest was devoid of Jews, and his family was decimated. It was too painful for him to remain there so he moved to Minsk, Belarus Soviet Socialist Republic where he resided for the duration of his life. Attending the reunion was Fannie, Lazar's daughter.

The family also discovered that in 1923, two brothers, Mendel and Hymie, travelled from Odessa to Constantinople, and from Vera Cruz to Mexico City where they ultimately settled. They established a successful business in the distribution of rubber tires and the manufacturing of sugar. Attending the reunion was Dorita, Hymie's daughter.

A shocking, dark, deeply hidden secret was revealed to the astonishment of the family: Allan disclosed that his father Yossel, a Holocaust survivor, married his first wife in Brest-Litovsk. The Nazis subsequently murdered her. Yossel never divulged her existence. After his death, the secret was uncovered.

The evening passed too quickly, and as the relatives bid their farewells, they exchanged email addresses, extended dinner invitations, and arranged play dates for the young children. Digital photos of family groups were taken and distributed. What lasting mementos of an unforgettable and overwhelmingly successful Cheskes family reunion!

What are the most significant goals for a family reunion?

1. To become acquainted and reacquainted with extended family
2. To bring together family members from different geographic areas
3. To relate the history of family ancestors and establish a connection with the past
4. To inspire family members to research archival documents for genealogical data

5. To establish a connection and bond with past, present and future generations
6. To establish a sense of physical and spiritual family unity that will be preserved by the next generation
7. To reminisce and relate interesting stories of family members
8. To build an updated family tree
9. To form a committee that will organize future family reunions
10. To schmooze and enjoy each other's company ■



Our brightest future: Alexandra, William, Samantha

## JGS TORONTO WEBSITE: Members Only Features

by Shelley Stillman, JGS Toronto Website Coordinator

**W**e are currently updating some of the features of our website. As our president, Les Kelman, so aptly put it...it is like a kitchen renovation – going on longer than you had hoped.

One of the changes we've made in response to your comments is to bring together all of the website pages that are available only to members.

The "Members Only" area of the JGS Toronto website is protected by a personal password and can only be seen once you, as a member, log into the website. Once you log in, additional drop down menu items become available.

Features available here include:

- The current issues of our newsletter, *Shem Tov*
- Access to the JGS of Toronto's private messaging service. What is private messaging? [www.jgstoronto.ca/index.php/members-only/1026-what-is-private-messaging](http://www.jgstoronto.ca/index.php/members-only/1026-what-is-private-messaging)
- Copies of speakers' presentations and hand-outs.
- The JGS of Toronto Family Finder. What is the Family Finder? (see next column) [www.jgstoronto.ca/index.php/members-only/1025-what-is-the-family-finder](http://www.jgstoronto.ca/index.php/members-only/1025-what-is-the-family-finder)
- Minutes of Annual General Meetings

If you haven't already done so, please go to our website today ([www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca)) and create an account. Once your membership has been verified, you will have access to these features.

If you have created an account and are having trouble logging in, please contact [webmaster@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:webmaster@jgstoronto.ca) or call us at 647-247-6414.

### NEW MEMBERS

JGS Toronto is very pleased to welcome  
as new members:

**Susan Eansor    Elliot Fromstein**

## ON OUR WEBSITE...

- Did you miss hearing Bill Gladstone's presentation on March 28, 2012 on *Landsmanshaften and Jewish Mutual Benefit Societies of Toronto*? At JGS Toronto, you can read an abridged version of the talk that he gave - complete with photographs.
- On October 23, 2011, Marion Press of the Ontario Genealogical Society gave two presentations to JGS Toronto: *Blogs and Genealogy: Reading Them and Creating Them* and *Wikis: Developing Genealogical Information Tools*. At JGS Toronto, you can see .pdf files from her talk.

Just visit our website, [www.jgstoronto.ca](http://www.jgstoronto.ca), and log in. Choose Members Only, select Speakers' Presentations and enjoy.

## JGS TORONTO FAMILY FINDER

by Gert Rogers,  
Family Finder Coordinator, JGS Toronto

**O**ur Genealogy Society has a Family Finder feature on our website which is designed for our members only. This is an area where the names of many of our members' families and locales are listed. The Family Finder gives members the opportunity to get in touch with other members who might be researching common families.

In order to add your name to the list you must be a paid-up member. Your submission should be created on an Excel sheet showing the following:

- Your name
- Surname(s) and given name(s) of person or people you are researching, and their city/town and country.

This information is to be sent to [gr Rogers@jgstoronto.ca](mailto:gr Rogers@jgstoronto.ca).

## THE MEMORY PROJECT

**T**he Memory Project: *Stories of Service and Sacrifice* is an online archive to capture the experiences and memories of men and women who served on behalf of Canada during the Second World War and the Korean War. At [www.thememoryproject.com](http://www.thememoryproject.com) you can view images and hear testimonies. When you search “Jewish” under Veteran Stories, you will see 105 entries (at present), one of whom is Faye Schulman (see p. 6). It is interesting to listen to the audio clips of these heroic individuals and see their photographs and documents.

The Memory Project Archive, an initiative of The Historica-Dominion Institute, has the support of the Government of Canada through the Celebrations and Commemorations Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Its Speakers Bureau is funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs Community Engagement Partnership and Canadian Heritage Canadian Studies Program.

The Historica-Dominion Institute [www.historicacanada.ca](http://www.historicacanada.ca) is the largest independent organization devoted to enhancing awareness of Canadian history and citizenship.

Another one of The Historica-Dominion Institute’s projects is *Toronto in Time: A Mobile Experience*. It is a free mobile app for iOS and Android that tells the history of Toronto through “then and now” photos, slideshows and stories for over 150 sites. Visit [www.historicacanada.ca/content/programs/toronto-time](http://www.historicacanada.ca/content/programs/toronto-time).

## PORTLAND, OREGON’S SEPHARDIC JEWISH HERITAGE

by Judy Kasman

**I**t is through Martin Rosenberg’s article, *Portland’s Jews Celebrate Century of Sephardic Heritage: From Izmir to the Pacific Northwest* in the August 8, 2014 issue of *The Forward*, that I became aware of the rich heritage in that western city.

“These Jews from Turkey, Rhodes and Greece bought homes and opened shops in southwest Portland, on the fringes of a growing urban center trading in timber and fish.” To celebrate this community’s one hundred years in the community, there are many events planned, one main one being an exhibit at the Oregon Jewish Museum and Center of Holocaust Education in Portland entitled “Vida Sefaradi: A Century of Sephardic Life In Portland”, mounted in conjunction with Congregation Ahavath Achim, an old Sephardic synagogue in the city.

The article states: “The Jews of Greece and Turkey, where Tevet [Rosenberg’s mother-in-law] had her roots, did not know salmon. But the fish has earned a place at the table of Portland Sephardim on the most august of Jewish holidays, and as a Shabbat appetizer. Some Sephardim were among the first fishmongers to open shop in the venerable Pike Place Market...”

To read the article in its entirety, go to <http://forward.com/articles/203635/portland-s-jews-celebrate-century-of-sephardic-h/?p=all>

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CELEBRATIONS

**J**GS Toronto acknowledges receipt of the following donations:

- From Gert Rogers to honour Rolf Lederer on his 80th birthday
- From Ruth & David Cymerman and Henry Weisberg to honour Rolf Lederer on his 80th birthday

The JGS Toronto Board, on behalf of the Society, wishes to honour Gert Rogers and Rolf Lederer, two Society Past Presidents, each on the occasion of their 80th birthdays.

Donations and tributes are welcome at any time during the year; they are tax receiptable and will be acknowledged in *Shem Tov*.

## GETTING STARTED IN JEWISH GENEALOGY



The 2014 edition of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy* by Gary Mokotoff is now in print. It is available at [www.avotaynu.com/books/GettingStarted.htm](http://www.avotaynu.com/books/GettingStarted.htm). The cost is \$14.50 US.

## A REPORT FROM THE JEWISH GENEALOGISTS’ SUMMER CAMP

**I**n the August 25, 2014 issue of *The Forward*, there is a comprehensive article entitled *A Report From the Jewish Genealogists’ Summer Camp* by author David Laskin who was the keynote speaker at this year’s IAJGS Conference. This was Laskin’s first IAJGS conference attendance, having only done genealogical research for the past three years. You can read his most comprehensive article at <http://forward.com/articles/204417/a-report-from-the-jewish-genealogists-summer-ca/?p=all#ixzz3BV5JTISM>

---

## Another Successful IAJGS Conference: Salt Lake City 2014

by Marla Waltman

---

Every summer, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) holds what is acknowledged by participants as an essential part of their genealogy year. While I have only been to three so far (Toronto 2002, Boston 2013, and Salt Lake City 2014), I now realize that attendance at an IAJGS conference is a genealogical gift I benefit from year-round: it is entertaining, inspirational, exhausting, educational and jam-packed with lots of genealogical goodies. I encourage anyone with an interest in Jewish genealogy to attend at least one IAJGS Conference in their lifetime just to appreciate how terrific they really are.

Every IAJGS conference offers a wide array of presentations, workshops, resources, speakers and events for participants. Always available is the chance to meet and dine with others interested in the same country or region, and if you're really lucky, the same town or family that you are researching. Each conference draws veteran genealogists, but will also attract other participants who vary depending upon the location and content. Distance plays a factor, of course, affecting the cost and difficulty of travel. Last year's conference in Boston drew huge number (over 1,300, I believe) because its location on the eastern seaboard made it accessible to large numbers of genealogists in the eastern US and Canada. This year, the location in Salt Lake City saw attendance reduced to 637, but attracted many more than usual from California and other western States. A specific draw seemed to be easy access to resources at the world-renowned Mormon Family History Centre, just down the road from the conference hotel. In total, registrants represented 18 countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, and Uruguay.

I was happy to meet many of the twenty-one Canadians at the conference who made their way to Salt Lake City from B.C., Calgary, Winnipeg, Ontario and Quebec. I was disappointed, however, that there weren't more Canucks in attendance. I expect that the relatively low numbers were based on the high cost of travel to the event which is not within easy driving distance of any major Canadian city. In addition, the paucity of Canadian JGSs, which provide a natural conduit for Jewish genealogists to the IAJGS conference, reduces Canadians' awareness of the event. In fact, the lack of a national Canadian genealogy organization means that most Canadian genealogists are probably not affiliated with any society at all. Americans have RootsTech and many state or regional genealogy conferences, as do the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand. I think that as an organization, JGS Toronto needs to work harder to make our members more aware of how much we all can benefit from conferences.

In addition to the Canadian participants, there were a large number of genealogists with ancestral roots in Canada who were anxious to learn about the types of resources available here. I participated in the Canada BOF (Birds of a Feather) ShareFair table, along with Merle Kastner and Hymie London from the Montreal JGS, and JGS Toronto member Valerie Fox (Mentoring Chair). There was a

constant stream of traffic from non-Canadian researchers who approached us to help find their way to and through Canadian resources. As well as helping researchers on site, their interest made me realize how JGS Toronto could help these researchers from a distance, by offering them memberships and/or services (e.g. cemetery visits/photographs of old homes/naturalization records orders, etc.) for donations.

In fact, a Canada BOF meeting of people with an interest in Canadian Jewish genealogy drew a good number of participants who were keen on improving access to information about their ancestors in Canada. The Montreal JGS organized the meeting but I was given an opportunity to talk about the kind of work that our Society is doing. More information will be available in time, but I can tell you that a few of us are working together to create a Canada SIG on JewishGen. The plan is to encourage the creation of KehilaLinks for Canadian Jewish settlements (such as the marvelous Sherbrooke site [http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/sherbrooke/index\\_sherbrooke.html](http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/sherbrooke/index_sherbrooke.html)) to promote the use of existing resources and support the work of genealogists, institutions and Jewish genealogical societies, such as our own, to create more Canadian databases.

The meat of the conference is always the sessions presented all day, every day. This year, in recognition of the start of the First World War, the conference focused on the conflict and its impact on our families, as well as on technology, migrations, ethics and Jews of the western United States. There were, of course, many other sessions that touched on research tools, methodological approaches and resources available from all of the areas of the world where Jews once lived. This year there was a greater focus on Sephardim in an attempt to balance the obvious Ashkenazi bias of much of the work of previous generations of Jewish genealogists.

Another common thread, and one that seems to be a new trend in genealogical circles, was the celebration of our families' black sheep! Sessions on "Sensitive Subjects: How Much to Reveal, How Much to Conceal" and "Ethical Dilemmas in Genealogy" butted up against sessions by a number of genealogists who outlined their research and genealogical methods used to learn about ancestors who served time in prison for bigamy, theft or murder. This trend is also reflected in the current season of *Who Do You Think You Are?* (U.S.) which has focused on a number of public figures whose ancestors were convicted of crimes. It appears that ancestral events that we might have hidden in our family trees in the past, out of embarrassment or privacy, now seem to be publicized or even worn as a badge of honour. Fascinating changes in our society and in genealogy practices.

In July 2015 the conference will be in Jerusalem and the plans (<http://www.iajgs2015.org/>) look fantastic already. If you think that it could be too difficult a trip, or unaffordable, you will still be able to participate in the conference, as you could in Boston and Salt Lake City, though a reasonably priced live Internet (LIVE!) link (see p. 4) to many conference sessions in real time. So, perhaps we may all be able to say, Next year in Jerusalem! ■