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FROM THE PRESIDENT

I’m pleased to announce that Marla Waltman has relinquished her position as Secretary to step into the role of Vice President and that Adena Glasner has agreed to become Secretary.

I’m also pleased to announce that Kevin Hanit has undertaken (pun intended) the position of Cemetery Project Coordinator.

So, for all of you who were looking for opportunities to help, these positions are taken.

But don’t miss your chance! We still have small, medium and large opportunities for volunteers to help our Society.

We guarantee to make a good match (shidduch) between your available time, interests and capabilities and our needs. The next deadline is May 20th.

Les Kelman
President, JGS Toronto

VOLUME XXX No. 5

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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) and is affiliated with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto.

New members are always welcome.

www.jgstoronto.ca

DIRECTORS OF JGS TORONTO

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At the Ramada Hotel, Jerusalem

Visit www.iajgs2015.org for details and registration
UPCOMING EVENTS
At Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Avenue - Please carefully note the dates and times!
Doors open 30 minutes prior to events

Wednesday, March 25th, 8 p.m.
DNA Testing for Genealogy: Not Just For Men
The presentation explains how the powerful DNA tests offered by 23andMe, Family Tree DNA and AncestryDNA can assist your genealogical research.

Speaker John D. Reid is an English-born Ottawa-based family historian and genealogy blogger at www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.ca. He has authored books on home children, the 1885 Northwest Rebellion and numerous articles including many as an environmental research scientist. He is a past president of the British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa, member of the UK Society of Genealogists and often speaks on family history topics.

Wednesday, April 29th, 8 p.m.
Non-Jewish Poles and Jews Who Love To Hate Them
Programme co-sponsored with the Polish Jewish Heritage Foundation.

Jewish heritage revival in Poland is a phenomenon that has attracted a great deal of attention and provoked many controversies. Described as the world’s largest Jewish cemetery and the realm of “virtual Jewishness,” Poland is a space where the non-Jewish interest in things Jewish has been looked upon with particular skepticism. American cultural anthropologist Erica Lehrer ventures into this territory, both fascinating and fraught with tension, giving a fresh glimpse into the backstage of the Jewish heritage industry.

Erica Lehrer is Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair in the departments of History and SociologyAnthropology at Concordia University, Montreal.

Sunday, May 31st, 10:30 a.m.
JOWBR & the Genealogical Value of Jewish Burial Records
Speaker Nolan Altman is Coordinator of JewishGen’s Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) and IAJGS Vice President

This presentation is a tribute to the late Allan Halberstadt z”l who devoted such much time to preserving Ontario’s Jewish cemetery records and sending them to JOWBR.

Wednesday, June 17th, 8 p.m.
Do YOU have a Story for Us!:
Our annual Brick Walls & Breakthroughs
Presentations by JGS Toronto members.

Time to start thinking about what YOU would like to talk about!

● helpful tips
● useful websites
● interesting anecdotes
● news of discoveries
● photographs
● travel information

KEEP SHEM TOV RELEVANT!
Submit a personal story (up to 1,500 words) for On A Personal Note. And send in:

Please email your submissions to shemtov@jgstoronto.ca.
The next deadline is May 20th.

Visit www.ogs.on.ca/conference

May 29th to 31st
at Georgian College, Barrie Campus

www.jgstoronto.ca

March 2015 Nisan 5775 3
Dear Ms. Goldstein,

My name is Krzysztof Bielawski, I work in the POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews in Warsaw. I am just writing a text about the Jewish community in Siennica. It was a small town and there are very few sources.

My text will be ready until the end of December but I am still looking for more information. I am very interested how and where Mr. Eli Goldstein was killed in 1945.

Lately I interviewed one Pole from Siennica. He said after the war a young Jewish couple came back to Siennica but they escaped when a Jewish policeman was killed by a grenade. Do you know something more about this case?

Do you know any other survivors from Siennica? I found some info about Rabbi Eliezer Roitblatt z”l, your family and Mr. Ben Shedletzky.

I suppose you have some photos of your family from Siennica. My text will be published on our website www.sztefl.org.pl. Please tell me if you can share copies of your photos with our Museum.

I would be very grateful for your help.

Chag Chanukah Sameach.

Yours,

Krzysztof Bielawski
Główny Specjalista ds. Portalu “Wirtualny Sztetl”
Chief Specialist, Virtual Shtetl

When I emailed Estela about this response, she was flabbergasted. She replied to Krzysztof as follows:

Dear Mr Bielawski

Last night I received news from Judy Kasman, telling me about your research about Siennica at the Polin museum. You mentioned a couple that came back to Siennica in 1945 and an incident with a grenade. Well, that couple was my parents! Eli Goldstein was my uncle and he went back to Siennica right after the war to reclaim the Goldstein - Burstyn home for which I still hold a letter of ownership. He was killed by the neighbors. The grenade was thrown at my parents, not at the police. My mother carried a piece of it in her leg until the end of her days. The Rabbi you mentioned (Eliezer Roitblat) was a constant presence in our house in Bogota.

My parents were the only survivors of both the Goldsztejn and Bursztyna families. They hid in the forest and in some houses, mostly in two belonging to the Bodzinskis and Krolls, for whom they made boots at night in order to pay for hiding. After the war they were in a DP camp in Tirchenreuth for 4 years and then they came to Colombia, South America.

My mother and Eli both wrote diaries during the war. These diaries are now at USHM, the Holocaust Museum in Washington. I have copies of everything, although Henryk Grynberg published an article in Odra 4 (621) about this. He is also coming out with a book with the whole story.

I would love to get in touch with you and exchange information about my family and the Siennica ghetto.

I am sending you a letter my mother wrote in 1945 that speaks from the emotional state she was probably in at that time.

I asked Krzystof if Estela’s information was useful to him. He replied:

Yes, Ms. Estela Goldstein helped me a lot! She provided me a lot of information, photos of the last rabbi of Siennica and much more. Writing a text about the Jewish community in Siennica was not easy. Siennica is a rural village, without many publications about its history. Information about the Jewish community in different sources was very short. I had to check many books and search in archives. The text is available on www.sztefl.org.pl/article/siennica/5,historia/ I hope we will make its English version soon.

Judy, thank you very much for getting me in touch with Ms. Estela!

Likewise, I asked Estela if Krzystof’s information was beneficial to her. Here is her response:

Hi Judy

Mr Bielawski provided me with a document that I never had seen before: It is a list of Siennica’s property owners before and after the war. To my surprise there was not one but 3 Goldstein houses (probably relatives) and “my” house ended up in the hands of the people that hid and exploit my parents and uncle (they made them work at night making boots) . Also these people killed my baby brother when he was just born.

You can not imagine how I feel when I saw his name in the list as owner...

I also read the paper that Mr. Bielawski wrote and translated with Google Translate. I knew almost everything in there but it was nice to read it and reinforce my feelings about Siennica.

I am planning on going (I hope soon) to Poland and meet Mr Bielawski. Thank you Judy for putting us together.

Also, I will be in Toronto in March. I’d love to meet you!! I will be staying at my son’s house in Vaughan.

Thanks again

Estela

International Missing Links continued on page 5
ISME BENNIE RELEASES BOOK ON GROWING UP JEWISH IN SOUTH AFRICA

Ismé Bennie, a member of JGS Toronto, was born in South Africa, where she graduated from the University of the Witwatersrand. In Canada, she became a well-known TV executive. Now retired, she has recently released her book, *White Schooldays: Coming-of-Age in Apartheid South Africa.* (Paperback available from Amazon.com)

Here is a description of the book:

As a young girl she was not aware of how advantaged she was, she was a child at play under the South African sun.

*White Schooldays* is a reflection on the relative normalcy of Bennie’s life in the 1940s and 1950s – a life filled with her pets, family, school and friends. As a Jew, Bennie was a minority within a minority, but she still enjoyed the benefits of life as a white South African. Her everyday experiences stand in stark contrast to the suffering of the black community, the violence and discrimination that went on around her.

*White Schooldays* is Bennie’s homage to a way of life that was special and beautiful for those who were privileged to lead it. In this collection of pieces, she paints a picture of daily life as she remembers it.

But these memories are underscored with the political reality of the times!

“Closing Some Gaps”, Isme’s article about her genealogical research, appeared in two parts in *Shem Tov*, December 2012, Vol. XXVIII, No. 4 and March 2013, Vol. XXIX, No. 1. They can be found at www.jgstoronto.ca. Choose Resources, then Newsletter, then Back Issues and search by date or by author’s surname.

SWITCHED AT BIRTH

There is a fascinating human interest story about a genealogist who took a DNA test and found her profile in no way described her parents’ ancestry. Intensive research was able to determine she was switched at birth.


RECENT JGS TORONTO PROGRAMMES

On December 17th, Sharoni Sibony, Manager of the Jewish Life Department at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, presented *Tradition and Transition: 100 Years of the First Narayever Congregation.* Sharoni walked us through the story of this vibrant downtown shul, starting from the family history of its first families and leading us to the present.

On January 25th, Gregg Loane, a very professional amateur genealogist, presented *Making History Accessible: Illustrating and Publishing Your Family Story.* This was a highly-detailed look into his work on publishing his own family tree, now in its Second Edition. He showed many examples of what he has produced, giving tips based on his personal experience, on technique, on what to do, and what not to do!

On February 22nd, Steven Brock, Treasurer of the Hamilton JGS, presented *Jewish Immigration to Canada: The Ships that Brought Our Ancestors.* In his interesting talk, Steven did a historical survey through the years of shipping in conjunction with the arrival of Jewish immigrants to Canada. This talk led to a lively discussion among members during the Q & A period.

From Nu? What’s New?
The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu
Volume 16, Number 10 | March 8, 2015
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WARSAW INHERITANCE

A law firm in Warsaw has written to JGS Toronto to request assistance in locating living relatives of Amalia Zucker-mann, originally from Poland. It is known that in 1968 she lived in Hamilton and that in 1973, she died as a widow. It appears that Amalia had a daughter Halina and another daughter, Sara, who was married to Herman Groeger. The inheritance of real estate in Poland arising from the estate of Amalia’s mother, Helena Liebeskind, and Amalia’s brother, Salo Liebeskind, is a case in Polish District Court.

If anyone has any information respecting the above individuals, please write to shemtov@jgstoronto.ca.
PIER 21 EXHIBIT AT MARKHAM MUSEUM

Pier 21 in Halifax was the entry point for many immigrants arriving in Canada between 1928 and 1971. Until June 7th, without going Down East, you have the opportunity to see Canada: Day 1, a travelling exhibit presented by the Canada Museum of Immigration at Pier 21. This exhibit is on display at the Markham Museum, 9350 Markham Road (Highway 48), just northwest of 16th Avenue.

This is a multimedia exhibit, divided into four sections: Arrival, Encounters, Finding Your Way and Reflections. On display are personal stories, photos and artefacts. See www.pier21.ca/discover-canada-day-1-at-markham-museum or www.markhammuseum.ca for more information.

AT THE ART GALLERY OF ONTARIO

Memory Unearthed: The Lodz Ghetto Photographs of Henryk Ross

Memory Unearthed features the photographs of Polish Jewish photographer Henryk Ross (1910-1991), one of the official Lodz ghetto photographers. From 1940 to 1944, Ross took work-permit identification card photos for the ghetto’s ever increasing Jewish population consolidated into Lodz ghetto by the Nazi regime. He also took “official” images, promoting the ghetto’s work efficiency, and at the same time he documented the grim daily life in the ghetto: suffering and despair, starvation and diseases, the exploitation of the workers, the deportation of thousands to death camps at Chelmno and Auschwitz.

Even with Ross’ official status as an employee of the Jewish Council (Judenrat) in the Department of Statistics, the subject matter of his photographic work was restricted and scrutinized, and he took many risks while capturing images of what he called the “total destruction of Polish Jewry.”

Hoping to preserve the historical record contained in his negatives, Ross buried them at the time of the ghetto’s liquidation in the fall of 1944. Upon liberation by the Red Army in January 1945, he excavated his box of negatives to discover that only half of the 6,000 negatives survived. He would spend the remainder of his life working with the images to tell his story of the Lodz ghetto. Some 200 of these indelible scenes are included in Memory Unearthed, comprising a visual and emotional meditation on a harrowing moment in history.

Organized by the Art Gallery of Ontario.

This exhibition is included with general admission and runs until June 14th.

Text from the AGO.

“AS IT IS WRITTEN”:
JUDAIC TREASURES FROM THE THOMAS FISHER RARE BOOK LIBRARY

The Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, at the University of Toronto’s Robarts Library, 120 St. George Street, houses the Department of Rare Books and Special Collections including books, manuscripts and other materials and the University of Toronto Archives and Records Management Services (UTARMS), which holds the official records of the University.

As the Library’s website indicates:

The Fisher Library’s Judaica holdings span over 1,000 years. This exhibition will feature items that were produced every century from the 10th to the 21st, including biblical manuscripts, works of Jewish law and liturgy, incunabula, rare Constantinople imprints, and much more. Highlights are the manuscript of the Zohar, which belonged to the famous false Messiah Shabbetai Tsevi, and a copy of Maimonides law code Mishneh Torah with Sabbatean markings. Another highlight is a facsimile of the Alba Bible, one of the most elaborate illuminated biblical manuscripts ever produced. The exhibition will also feature contemporary works by Jewish and Israeli artists and bookmakers. A section devoted to Canadiana features one of the earliest Canadian imprints, dating from 1752 as well as the first English translation of the Hebrew prayerbook (1770), among whose sponsors were the Canadian merchant Aaron Hart and his wife.

This exhibition is curated by Barry Walfish and runs until May 1st. The Fisher Library is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For information, please call 416-946-3176.

JEWHISH TREASURES OF THE CARIBBEAN:
A Photography Exhibit by Wyatt Gallery
AT BETH TZEDEC MUSEUM

Beth Tzedec’s Reuben and Helene Dennis Museum is hosting Jewish Treasures of the Caribbean: A Photography Exhibit by Wyatt Gallery. These photographs reveal "... the little-known history of the Sephardic Jews of the Caribbean, dating back to the early 1600s, as seen through the remaining historic sites in Barbados, Curacao, Jamaica, Nevis, St. Croix, St. Thomas, St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and Suriname”.

This exhibit runs to April 30th. For information, please contact Museum Curator Dorion Liebgott at dliebgott@beth-tzedec.org or at 416-781-3514 x 232.
New Acquisitions to the JGS Toronto Library Collection at the Gladys Allison Canadiana Room, North York Central Library, 5120 Yonge Street, 6th floor, Toronto

JGS 929.20971 FRE
The Goldhamer Family: Of Hungary/Slovakia and Toronto.
Jack Freeman, 2014.

Why Create A Family History?

Family histories generally include a family tree (ancestral chart), and a description of many cultural traits of its members with an account of the historical events that they may have experienced. These records establish not only a connection and a bond with the past, but also bring to light the images of our ancestors. From the past, we gain insight into the present, and are able to develop a better understanding of our identity. For future generations, they will discover their roots through stories, memoirs, and photographs. I encourage all of our members to record their family histories, and donate a copy to the JGS Toronto Library collection. I am pleased that Jack Freeman, a JGS Toronto member, has provided for Shem Tov a summarized version of an interesting, meticulously-detailed, and well-documented family history of the Goldhamer family. In his account, he outlines the challenges he faced in his research and the resources he used to overcome these obstacles. Be sure to read Jack’s full account when you visit our Society’s library collection.

THE GOLDHAMER FAMILY

by Jack Freeman, JGS Toronto member

I didn’t know my aunt Irene, my father’s eldest sister, all that well. She had moved to Toronto and married before I was born. I only saw her and my uncle Saul Goldhamer a dozen or so times while I was growing up in New Brunswick. And by the time I was an adult living in Toronto with my own family, by coincidence less than 5 kilometres from where they lived, my uncle had already been dead ten years and my aunt was to live only another seven years. During that time she helped my younger son with a school project on our Freeman Family and that sparked my interest in genealogy.

But because my mother had instilled in me that you didn’t ask direct questions of a personal or family nature, I never got around to finding much about my uncle’s family, although it seemed a lot more interesting than my own. So years later when I had run out of avenues to pursue Freeman genealogy I thought I would explore the Goldhamer family.

I knew that Uncle Saul had three brothers, that one of them was a reasonably well-known artist, and that the family had lived in Toronto and later in Mississauga, but I didn’t know that there also was a sister, that the mother and father were estranged, or really very much about Saul himself. He had been in the Canadian Army in World War II in some sort of a secretive capacity that involved electricity or the technology of ‘sound’, but no one talked about it and this added to the mystery of the family. I eventually met two of the brothers, Edward at Aunt Irene’s funeral, and Charles in the Toronto General Hospital when he and Irene were both patients about two years before Irene’s death and when Charles was fading. So my knowledge of the Goldhamers was sketchy at best.

I knew, or thought I knew, that Saul had been born in Europe, but I didn’t know where or have any facts. I knew, by 2010 when I decided to start my research, that the whole family was dead and that none of them had had children so I expected I would find a few items but I was not under any delusions that I would fit it all together in a couple of months. I did not expect to find as many facts as I eventually uncovered, and I certainly didn’t expect to find what seemed like more questions than answers. The Goldhamer family - father Albert, mother Margaret, Saul, and his sister Anna - was from Hungary, the area that is now northern Slovakia, and they immigrated to Philadelphia in 1902 and then in 1904 moved to Owen Sound, Ontario. By 1909 they were living in Toronto where Albert was in the needle trade and there were six children. The first question was: why was I not able to find passenger records of their arrival, and why were they only two years in Philadelphia, and why did they move to Owen Sound, of all places? Why was I finding it difficult to determine Margaret’s maiden name, and why did the name Adler show up as the middle name of some of the children? Data and facts started to accumulate, particularly about their life in Toronto and the lives of the children, but so did the questions. Why did Albert, who applied for US Naturalization at age 74, apply in Seattle, although, when granted, he immediately moved to Florida, alone?

Because I had learned next to nothing about the family in Slovakia/Hungary, I hired a professional researcher based in Budapest. He was surprisingly unsuccessful and found next to nothing, particularly about Albert; there did not appear to have been an Albert Goldhamer. I also hired a researcher in Ottawa because Charles Goldhamer and his wife had left their personal and business papers at Library and Archives Canada. I was not interested in Charles as an artist but hoped there would be something of genealogical interest; and there was a front page from the family bible listing names and birthdates of Albert, Margaret, their children and her parents (with only the names ‘grandmother’ and ‘grandfather’); there was not a surname on the page. This and other clues led to finding bits and pieces, a few answers and more questions. Eventually I determined that Albert traveled to Ellis Island alone under the name Maier Adler, but whether that was his actual name is still unknown. I found that Margaret, with Anna and Saul, also arrived at Ellis Island under the surname Adler, and was able to prove that Goldhamer was Margaret’s maiden name. The details and information about the Goldhamer children in their own lives proved to be impressive, but the story is still not complete.

continued on page 8
The majority of facts I found were as a result of searching on Ancestry.com, at Library and Archives Canada, the Canadian Citizenship and Immigration department, with successes at the Toronto Reference Library, Mount Pleasant Cemetery Group genealogical service in Toronto, University of Toronto Archives, the Grey-Bruce Museum in Owen Sound, US Social Security, US Immigration, US Military and Florida State records, and a few other corporate and personal websites. I have been notably unsuccessful at the main JewishGen site.

**WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? IS BACK ON THE LEARNING CHANNEL (TLC)**

Sunday evening, March 8th marked the return of an eight-episode set of this popular weekly series. This year’s one-hour shows, which air at 10 p.m., trace the family histories of: Julie Chen, Josh Groban, Angie Harmon, Sean Hayes, Tony Goldwyn, America Ferrera, Bill Paxton and Melissa Etheridge.

See [www.TLC.com/WDYTYA](http://www.TLC.com/WDYTYA) where you can also view shows from previous years.

**NEW BOOK BY MYRNA LEVY**

JGS Toronto member Myrna Levy will be speaking about Who Are You? Where Did You Come From? She will be using her new book, *Shattered Stones, Scattered Seeds: The Story of a Shtetl and a Family Who Lived There*, to illustrate how she assembled her family’s history relating to the town called Borszczow* by using the Yizkor book of the shtetl and her grandfather’s memoir, letters, and photos.

The presentation will be held at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 3080 Bayview Avenue (north of Sheppard Avenue) on Wednesday, May 6th at 7:30 p.m. This is a fine way to celebrate Ontario’s Jewish Heritage Month!

* Borszczow was in Galicia and was part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire pre-WWI. Today it is in Ukraine.

**NEW MEMBERS**

JGS Toronto is very pleased to welcome as new members:

Annabel Cohen • Agnes Kochberg
Miriam Kochman • Arna Sloan

**FREE GENEALOGY WEBSITES HIT PARADE**

On February 19th, *Family History Daily* posted its list of the top fifty free genealogy websites. You will see that Ellis Island’s site sits at #13 and JewishGen’s ranks at #23.

To see the complete article and list, go to: [http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/50-free-genealogy-sites/](http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/50-free-genealogy-sites/)

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A TIME TO CELEBRATE!

At our December programme, we were treated to birthday cake to celebrate the 80th birthdays of two JGS Toronto Past Presidents, Rolf Lederer and Gert Rogers. We wish Rolf and Gert many more healthy, productive years and look forward to them continuing to contribute to the success of our Society.

Celebrants, JGS Past Presidents Gert Rogers (2nd from left) & Rolf Lederer (3rd from left), with Past Presidents (from left) Henry Wellisch, Bill Gladstone & Harvey Glasner and President Les Kelman

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8  March 2015  Shem Tov

www.jgstoronto.ca
There are numerous sources online for obtaining vital records. The focus of this article is effective utilization of a database for Quebec vital records. However, even if you do not have family from Quebec, techniques discussed here will help in searching similar online databases.

The Drouin Genealogical Institute was founded in 1899 by a Quebec lawyer named Joseph Drouin. Between 1899 and 1937, Drouin produced and sold over 1,500 family genealogies. Joseph’s son Gabriel eventually took over running the Institute and from 1938, a project was run to microfilm Quebec vital records. Since the registration of Quebec births, marriages and deaths was done by religious authorities until the 1990s, this meant that this microfilming included records from Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and other religious authorities. The goal of the Drouin Institute was to sell these records to paying customers; therefore this data was not available in libraries and archives.

After the death of Gabriel Drouin in 1980, the business suffered but was eventually restarted and led to an online catalog which is available at [www.genealogiequebec.com](http://www.genealogiequebec.com) (known as Quebec Records). There are other places to obtain indexed versions of the Drouin database of birth/marriage/death records up to 1942, including ancestry.com. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal has also indexed Jewish records which may be ordered from them at [www.jgs-montreal.org](http://www.jgs-montreal.org).

Access to the Quebec Records site costs either $100 per year or $13 per month. To keep your costs down for sites like these, spend some time before subscribing in order to determine what you are seeking. By creating lists of births/marriages/deaths ahead of time, you can possibly limit your subscription to a single month.

There are numerous databases available within this site but only a few are of value for Jewish research. There is a database of notary records which contains some Jewish families plus there is a scanned card index of marriages that also contains some Jewish marriages. The one with the most value for Jewish researchers is Marriages and Deaths 1926-1997.

When searching for marriages, the user is presented with the following options:

As an example, to find my grandparents’ marriage registration, I entered their last names:

![Marriage registration entry](image)

But nothing came back!

![Do a new search](image)

Most of the fields are indexed which presents helpful options when you have trouble finding entries or there are errors in transcription. In this case, I decided to enter other information that I knew, such as the date they were married. I also took out my grandfather’s last name:

![Marriage registration entry](image)

Now I had success. Notice the problem – my grandfather’s last name “Gomberg” was mis-transcribed in the database as “Gombery”.

By using combinations of what you know (or think you know), you might have success. The date field is very flexible. I could have entered only the year and month or month and day. Once you find a record, click anywhere in the results and it will bring up a scanned copy of the actual registration.

Notice there is an option to zoom in and out. To save the document to your computer, right click on it and choose Save. Create a folder for all the images that you will find. It is important to name them in such a way that you will be able to find the document afterwards. This one defaults to saving as “43-122779.jpg” but the format that I used is “husband last name, first name and wife first name”.

continued on page 10
name last name”, which in this case would be “Gomberg, Louis and Estelle Fox.jpg”. Pick something that makes sense to you, but remember that you want to be able to find all the data that you have spent time searching for!

You will also see that it says “nb. Images left: 44”. The monthly subscription allows for 75 downloads per day. 150 per day are allowed with the annual subscription.

There is more to explore with this Quebec Records site. At the top of the screen for marriage searches is a link to deaths. This is the same type of search but there are no images available at this time. The death index does contain names (remember for women to search for maiden names) and dates of birth, death and sometimes parents’ last names.

The tips described here are applicable to many other online searches. You will likely come across transcription errors; therefore creativity with the spelling of names is important in searches. With effective use of search fields, you will have greater success in finding records about your family.

AMERICAN JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE’S SEARCHABLE RECORDS

The American Joint Distribution Committee (JDC or “The Joint”), which began its operation in 1914, “was the first Jewish organization in the United States to dispense large-scale funding for international relief”. Among its work, it was responsible for “…rescuing and providing relief during and after the Holocaust.” Its important work continues to the present. You can view a timeline of its work at its website under History of JDC: http://archives.jdc.org/sharedlegacy/

At this site, you can also search The Joint’s digitized records; there are now post-Holocaust records from 1945-54. Searches can be done by text or photo collection, or by name.

There are also more recent records, such as Programs in Ethiopia in the 1970s-80s and Jews of Eastern Europe in the 1990s. In addition, there is the opportunity to submit your story as to how The Joint helped you or your family members. And if you recognize someone in a photograph, you can send in an email with the information!
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proximately 15 years ago, on the international JewishGen website, I found a request to help translate Yizkor books of Jewish communities that had been destroyed during the Shoah. These books (mostly written in Yiddish or Hebrew) memorialized the villages, towns and cities in Europe where Jewish communities had flourished for centuries until the onslaught of Bolshevism, civil war and finally the annihilation of almost all the inhabitants by the Nazis and their accomplices in WWII.

My family had the Yizkor book Dubossary (published in Israel in 1965 in Hebrew and Yiddish), gifted to us by one of the editors, D.L. Granovsky of Tel Aviv – a long-time friend and fellow activist of my father, Moishe Faerman. My father unfortunately did not live to see the book published although an article of his does appear in it. At the time, I did not consider myself sufficiently proficient in Yiddish to translate the book but I decided to translate and submit the index so that the JewishGen Yizkor Books Project would at least have a start with Dubossary. However, the vivid, personal accounts of the authors were so gripping that with the help of two Yiddish/English dictionaries, I went on to translate most of the book. Several others offered their help long-distance via email, the web, etc. Their names appear under the title of each story that they translated.

Dubossar (the Yiddish pronunciation of it), as reflected in the first-hand accounts, pulsates with the verve of this community of 10,000 Jewish souls. In the late 19th century, the traditional synagogue-based world of the Jews exploded into the many new modern ideas and “isms” – Bolshevism, Zionism, Bundists, followers of the Haskala (enlightenment) movement, Self-Defense organizations, theatre troupes, etc. However, after the honeymoon period of the Bolshevik regime, D.L. Granovsky writes: “A flood of blood and fire descended upon the tents of Israel.” This written by a man who, in the opening words, declares: “We are not writers but have done our best”.

To my great surprise, I was contacted this year by Joel Alpert, Coordinator of JewishGen’s Yizkor-Books-In-Print Project, to inform me that the digitized Yizkor books were now being published in hard cover and were available from Amazon.

A copy of Dubossary will be available in the JGS Toronto library collection at the North York Central Library. Books can be ordered from Amazon or via this link: www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip/YBIP_Dubossary.html

See the new website “Dubosari” (yes, many different spellings) created by Yefim Kogan: http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/dubosari/index.html

*Dubosary….where is it?

One obstacle for me in tracing ancestors was in trying to figure out what country my family came from as the borders were always changing. Yefim provided the following:

Dubossary - Kherson Gubernia (province) in Russia before 1917;
1918-1924: Ukraine in the USSR
1924-1940: Moldavian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic inside the Ukraine Soviet Socialist Republic
1940: Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic in the USSR
1941-44: occupied by German and Romanian armies
1944-1990: back to Moldavian Soviet Socialist Republic
1990: Dubossary became part of unrecognized Pridnestrovskaya Moldavskaya Republic, also named Transnistria Republic, a self-proclaimed territory.

Wishing all of our members and friends a very Happy Passover!
LIMMUD TORONTO 2015

On March 8th, Limmud, a day of Jewish Learning for all ages, took place at the Alliance Francaise in Toronto. JGS Toronto was very pleased to present An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy as one of the 60 sessions that were held on that day. Les Kelman talked about researching his great-grandparents and their immigration to and from Australia. Marla Waltman described her 2013 genealogy-based trip to Ukraine. Judy Kasman outlined many resources available to those researching Jewish roots. Rumor has it that your JGS Toronto emissary’s presentations were well-received!

Hold Sunday, March 6th, 2016, the date of the next Limmud Toronto.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED AND ALWAYS APPRECIATED
by Valerie Miller Fox, Mentoring Coordinator
mentoring@jgstoronto.ca

I am about to brag! Now that have your attention, I want to brag that I made the right decision to apply to be JGS Toronto’s Mentoring Coordinator. I am fortunate to spend ½ hours each month with the other Board members at JGS Toronto’s Board meetings, chaired by our insightful President, Les Kelman, deciding on matters relevant to our Society. I am happy to have joined this hard-working, dedicated group of individuals.

I liken our Society to a family. Genealogy is our hobby. More than other people, we can relate to the meaning of grandparents, parents, children and grandchildren. Lives lived. That’s our interest. It sounds like a cliché, but it’s not. Don’t we listen intently when our parents or grandparents relate their life stories? We applaud their strengths and we become inspired by the hardships they had to overcome. At our monthly programmes, we also listen intently when our fellow members relate their families’ stories. These events can only take place because individuals suggest a programme or a speaker, or they volunteer to sit on a committee. You might say to yourself, “I am not the committee type. I cannot think of a topic. I do not know any speakers.” That’s okay. If you suggest even one idea, we want to hear from you. Speak to a Board member in person, email (see p.2 for email addresses), or drop off your suggestion at the Welcome Desk. If your idea is converted into a programme, you will be acknowledged.

Imagine this scenario. You do not know the date of the next meeting, nor the topic, nor the presenter. Imagine a programme without with a speaker, a microphone or audio-visual equipment. Our dedicated volunteers make it happen. When you come to a meeting, you are greeted by a volunteer or volunteers. The chairs are out, the microphone is in place, the speaker is ready to present. In reality, you and I are relying on the same volunteers to attend every meeting, so that we can enjoy these benefits. We need you to help us keep up the good work! “Me?” you say. Yes, you.

Do you look forward to our Society’s quarterly newsletter, Shem Tov? Our editor is a volunteer. Have you been to the Society’s library Collection at the Canadiana Room at the North York Central Library on the 6th Floor? A volunteer selects our books for purchase and catalogues them. Behind the scenes, another volunteer, a professional accountant, prepares the budget. We are proud of the work of our volunteers for our Cemetery and Memorial Plaques projects.

JGS Toronto is celebrating its 30th anniversary! We have evolved. We now receive Shem Tov by email, and another volunteer keeps track of membership, reminds us to renew our membership, and emails us about upcoming programmes thanks to the computer. We can pay our dues online and immediately print out a receipt. We use social media to reach out to people in the Greater Toronto Area and to the broader community. Volunteers maintain our Society’s website make sure the information is current, interesting and relevant. Other volunteers tweet and blog about our Society and ensure that we can be found on Facebook. Our volunteers help our Society stay current. Thirty years ago, this technology was unheard of!

To reiterate, our Society is like a family. Every family renews itself. Help JGS Toronto keep reinventing itself through your ideas, through your time and effort, and through your knowledge. Freshness is the key, especially in the internet age where everything is rapidly changing. Our Society needs your contribution, for if it benefits our genealogical society, it benefits all of us. Your strengths and talents are important and appreciated and they will contribute to the vitality of our Society.

YOUR GENES MAY AFFECT WHETHER YOU LOVE OR HATE CILANTRO

A report in Flavour Journal at http://www.flavourjournal.com/content/1/1/22 tells of a study among 14,604 participants of European ancestry to determine whether they liked cilantro... In short, your genes can cause this difference in taste.

A report, written in laymen’s terms, may be found in the 23andme Blog at http://blog.23andme.com/23andme-research/cilantro-love-hate-genetic-trait.

This is excerpted from an article that appeared in Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter, December 26, 2014 and is reprinted with the permission of Dick Eastman.