



# GENERATIONS

Published by the  
**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS**  
*Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation*

Volume 7 Issue 11

December 2001

## December Meeting

### Guest Speaker:

Former Teacher at  
Solomon Schechter School,  
John Wilder

**Sunday, Dec. 16, 2001**

**Time: 2:30 p.m.**

**(Winter Meeting Schedule  
Sunday Meeting!)**

## January Meeting

### Guest Speaker:

Webmaster  
Joel Shedlofsky

**Sunday, Jan. 20, 2002**

**Time: 2:30 p.m.**

**(Winter Meeting Schedule  
Sunday Meeting!)**

### Meetings Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge  
United Hebrew  
Congregation  
13788 Conway Road

### REMINDERS:

**NO Discussion Group  
meeting in December.  
The Discussion Group will  
meet the fourth Thursday  
in January at 1 p.m., in the  
United Hebrew Library.**

**In case of inclement  
weather, call Jerry  
Goldberg at 314-434-2566,  
Eunice Solomon at 314-576-  
5269, or listen to KMOX.**

### Don't miss our Website:

[www.jewishgen.org/jgs-  
StLouis](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis)

## Upcoming Meetings

### December Meeting

#### Guest Speaker:

John Wilder

**“Exciting the Next  
Generation of Genealogists”**

As interest in genealogy has grown over the past few years, many schools have incorporated family history projects into their curricula as a lively way of combining the teaching of many skills. John Wilder, until last year a fifth grade teacher at Solomon Schechter school, received community-wide recognition for a family history project done by his students. He has agreed to share with us some of his methods and experiences which we, hopefully, can adapt to our own families.

Mr. Wilder was raised in New England and received a degree in English from Brown University. He is currently working in the seafood industry, taking courses at a local university, and writing a history of German refugees and their efforts to defeat the “Nazi plague.”

We are honored that he is going to share his ideas and perspectives with us. (See John's story on the back page for a preview of what's to come!)

### January Meeting

#### Guest Speaker:

Joel Shedlofsky

**“The Basics of  
Using a Scanner”**

If you are not sure how to get the most out of your scanner, you will surely want to come to the January meeting when our Webmaster, Joel Shedlofsky, will present a program on digital scanning. Discussion will be general in scope and provide basics applicable to all brands of scanners. Fundamentals of scanning will be presented along with scanning tips and hints.

The presentation will include how to set photo resolution, how to choose photo editing software for your computer, how to select hardware (scanners - both flatbed and film/slide, digital cameras, printers) that will work best for you, and how to store all those images once you have created them.

Whether you are completely new to digital photography or have some experience, we know you will learn some new techniques to enhance your family photos.

## JGS Genealogy Classes Help Beginners

Thirty people enrolled in the four week beginning genealogy classes taught by Sylvia Jaffe in October and November. The classes were held from 12:30–2:30 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, and from 7–9:30 p.m. Thursday evenings at United Hebrew Congregation. The JGS library and JGS computer were utilized during the class sessions.

Gene Schneider, JGS's computer specialist, was invited by Sylvia to attend the final sessions. His computer expertise was greatly appreciated, as he was able to explain GEDCOM and how to download GEDCOM files. Gene attended the Wednesday afternoon and Thursday evening sessions.

The students received a certificate of achievement at the completion of the course.

# President's Message

## November Meeting

Our November speaker was Marie Ceselski from the Recorder of Deeds office, City of St. Louis. Marie graciously filled in for her boss, Sharon Quigley Carpenter, who was required, at the last minute, to be at another meeting. Marie provided insights into the operation and purpose of the Recorder of Deeds office. She explained the type of documents the office maintains and discussed future organizational plans. A handout described what the Recorder of Deeds Office can/cannot do for the researcher, the kinds of documents found in the office, the physical locations of these documents, and research fees. She brought many examples of documents and showed some high quality reproductions obtained by using digital scanning that are now available in her office for an additional nominal fee.

## Winter Schedule Begins

December represents the beginning of our winter schedule for meetings. During December, January, and February we will meet on the third Sunday of the month at 2:30 PM. Frequently I'm asked why we don't have more meetings during the daytime. Last year the board did consider this issue but decided against the proposal. Because so many of our members have daytime obligations, it was felt that the majority of the meetings should continue to be in the evenings.

## Please Share Your Research...

Judging from members' comments, many people appreciate the articles written by our members about their research methods and findings. Do you have an interesting story to tell or have you engaged in an unusual type of research? Why not share your experience with others? There is always the chance that another person is looking for you.

Our newsletter is mailed to about 70 organizations, both national and international, including other Jewish genealogical societies, local institutions, such as the St. Louis County Library, and historical societies. A future issue of *Generations* will contain a complete list of our mailings. Incidentally, our JGS library maintains the newsletters from sister Jewish genealogical societies. If you haven't had a chance to look at some of these publications, stop into the library sometime and do so. You might find some wonderful articles waiting for you.

*Jerry Goldberg,*

JGS of St. Louis President

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## The St. Louis County Library Announces a January Treat! Mark Your Calendars!

To celebrate the grand opening of the National Genealogical Society Circulating Collection housed in the Special Collections Department, the St. Louis County Library presents free lectures by nationally known genealogical experts!

Sunday, January 27, 2002  
1:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.  
Lectures

Monday, January 28, 2002  
3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.  
Ribbon-cutting and lectures

Board members of the National Genealogical Society will be here for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to culminate the transfer of their book loan collection to St. Louis County Library. They have graciously agreed to provide informational lectures to the local genealogical community. You won't want to miss this event! Final details with names and topics will be announced shortly. For further information, check the St. Louis County Library website at [www.slcl.org/slcl/sc/sc-genpg.htm](http://www.slcl.org/slcl/sc/sc-genpg.htm).

## *Happy Chanukah!*



"I would rather be ashes than dust. I would rather my spark burn out in a brilliant blaze than it be stifled in dry rot. I would rather be a superb meteor, every atom of me in magnificent glow, than a sleepy and permanent planet. The proper function of man is to live, not just exist. I shall use my time."

--- Jack London

## Members Surname Register (Part Two)

We hope those of you with computers have already spent some time looking at our new and improved website. One of the parts of the site that is of potential value to every member of our organization (and researchers from afar who visit our site) is the Surname Register. As a service to those without computers, and to entice those of you who just haven't gotten around to submitting your surnames yet, we print the Surname List as it stands as of 15 Oct 2001.

We would really like all members to submit their surnames if they have not already done so. You can do it by accessing the website, clicking on the "Searching" tab and then on the "Submission Form." For those who do not have access to the Internet, call either Cassie Buerki (314) 275-7136 or Gene Schneider (636) 861-7117 with your data and they will see it gets included.

Surname	Town/Country	Researcher
Dienoff/Dinov	Ekatarinaslav, Russia	Randy Stone: artgodnstl@aol.com
Duchen	Chorkas, Russia	Phyllis Appel: pappel@pkwy.k12.mo.us
Eastman	Russia	Joanne Schuver: j_schuver@yahoo.com
Fadem	Pultusk, Poland	Gary Kodner: gakodner@swbell.net
Feldmann	Bucharest, Roumania	Patti Label: labellpatti@hotmail.com
Fiestal	Trenton, N.J.	Cassie Buerki: cbuerki@aol.com
Fisch	Jadlova, Poland	Norwin & Toby Weiner 1101 King Carey Drive St. Louis, MO 63146
Fischer (Fisher)	Sheptovka, Ukraine	Sally Tofle: stofle01@earthlink.net
Fischer (Fisher)	Philadelphia, USA	Sally Tofle: stofle01@earthlink.net
Fox		Jennie Blecher: pritzadilla@hotmail.com
Frankel	Poland	Joanne Schuver: j_schuver@yahoo.com
Glaser	Yampol, Ukraine	Bill & Linda Scroggin: lescrog@aol.com
Gottschalk	Shepetovka, Ukraine	Sally Tofle: stofle01@earthlink.net
Gottschalk	Belogrodka, Ukraine	Sally Tofle: stofle01@earthlink.net
Green		Phyllis Appel: pappel@pkwy.k12.mo.us
Hillel	Rumania	Phyllis Appel: pappel@pkwy.k12.mo.us
Horitz	Kovno (Kaunas), Lithuania	Alex Horwitz: cybernox13@prodigy.net
Horowitz	Rumania	Phyllis Appel: pappel@pkwy.k12.mo.us
Hyman	St. Louis, MO	Len Hyman: lenh@prodgy.net
Ichkovisky	Kiev, Ukraine	Jean & Nathan Friedman 14415 Quiet Meadow Ct. West Chesterfield, MO 63017
Ichkowsky	Russia	Joanne Schuver: j_schuver@yahoo.com
Ilutowicz	Lida, Belarus	Gwen Prince: gmp@prodigy.net
Jaffe	St. Louis, MO	Len Hyman: lenh@prodgy.net
Jankelowitz	Lubch, Belarus	Hilton Price: hiprice@mindspring.com
Kalish	Poland	Joanne Schuver: j_schuver@yahoo.com
Kanfer	Horochov & Teofipol, Ukraine	Ilene Kanfer Murray: ilenemurray@mindspring.com
Karas		Eugene L. Schneider: geneschneider@worldnet.att.net
Karfeld	Chelm (S. of Krakow), Poland	Joel Shedlofsky: jtz007@mail.connect.more.net
Katz	Zembrova, Poland	Gary Sokolik: gsokolik@nemonet.com
Kelsey	N.J., Pa.	Cassie Buerki: cbuerki@aol.com
Kodner	Bar, Ukraine	Gary Kodner: gakodner@swbell.net

We hope we have whetted your appetite for more names. Look for the list to continue next month. And in the meantime, be sure to submit your own names, so we can include you and your family!

# What's In A Name?

## Symbolism/Acronyms/Abbreviations And The Like

By Chuck Jackson

Discussion continues on names derived from symbolism. Please keep in mind that some surnames were adopted due to the sound, a secondary meaning, or for other purposes.

- BARBAKOFF** An acronym for ben reb Barukh kohen (son of Baruch, the priest) with the suffix “off” added.
- BARDACH** An acronym for ben reb David harif (son of David, the brilliant mind)
- BARON** Bar aron (son of Aaron) made into one word. May indicate a priestly descent.
- BARU** An acronym for ben reb Wolff (son of Wolff)
- BECKMAN** An acronym for bene kedoshim plus the suffix “mann” added. A small number of Jews adopted the non-Jewish meaning for baker, as it was their profession.
- BEHAR** An acronym for ben harov (son of the rabbi). The Sephardic Jews derived the name from the Arabic for “from the sea.”
- BETTELHEIM** A corruption of “Bethlen Jude” and is found in Hungary. “Bethlen Jude” refers to an incident where a Jew fought for his wife's honor and vanquished the abductor, Count Bethlen.
- BICKEL** An acronym for bene yisrael kedoshim leadonai (the children of Israel are holy unto God). The name may also mean someone who works with a pickaxe.
- BIEDERMAN** Biederman means “honest man.” Also appears as Beederman.
- BILDHAUER** Usually assumed by a person whose Hebrew name was Betzalel, the artisan who built the Tabernacle. The name in German does mean sculptor and may have been elected by someone in that trade.
- BIRNBAUM** Most people with this name have a connection with the Frankfurt ghetto house number 167 that had a sign of a pear tree (Birnbaum) over its front door. About 10% of the Jews with this name are from Birnbaum, Posen. Some Jews with the name Ber selected Birnbaum. Also appears as Berenbaum.
- BLAU** Most of the people with this name find that it is derived from an acronym for ben leadoni avi (son of my father and master) and was used by sons of rabbis. Others, though, find that it is a descriptive word that means blue, light-complexioned, and blonde and may have described the person's appearance. In many Hungarian communities, the people were divided into categories and were assigned names such as Weiss (white), Schwartz (black), Gross (big), or Klein (little) with Blau (blue) and Roth (red) added at times.
- BLAUSTEIN** From Blau with “stein” added as a suffix. Also, could be a dealer in antimony which is called blue stone (Blaustein).
- BLISTEIN** The Yiddish for bloodstone (hematite). Hematite is found throughout folklore as a stone that brings good fortune. Some believed it would stop bleeding; others thought it was an aid to longevity, and yet others, as soldiers, wore the stones in combat thinking it would bring them protection.
- BLUSTEIN** From the acronym for ben leadoni avi (son of my father and master) and was used by sons of rabbis. See Blau above. The name was extended with the suffix “stein.”

To be continued. Many thanks to Arthur Kurzweil and Rabbi Benzion Kaganoff.

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## Genealogy Events of Interest

### December/January

#### St. Louis City Library Presents: Military Records Symposium

Saturday, December 8, 2001

10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. at the Soldiers' Memorial Museum

“Designed to help genealogists discover what types of military records are available in the St. Louis area and how to access them, from Revolutionary War through 20th Century Wars.

Speakers from City & Co. libraries, Jeff. Barracks, Mo. Historical Society, National Personnel Records Center, & U.S. Army Military History Inst.

Free; preregistration requested. Call Kathy Smith at 314-539-0385 or Tom Pearson at 314-539-0381 for more information and/or to register.

#### Genealogy Seminar at SLCL

**Nationally Known Speakers**

Sunday, January 27, 2002

1:30 p.m.—4:30 p.m.

Lectures

Monday, January 28, 2002

3:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Ribbon-cutting and lectures  
(See story on Page Two.)

# Officers and Board Members

## Officers

President: Jerry Goldberg  
Vice President - Membership: Cassie Buerki  
Vice President - Finance: Morton Bearman  
Vice President - Program: Ann Greenstein  
Secretary - Recording: Eunice Solomon  
Secretary - Corresponding: Leslie Popelka  
Treasurer: Betty Schneider  
Historian: Phyllis Faintich

## Committees

Computer	Gene Schneider
Librarians	Art & Sylvia Jaffe
Tributes	Jean Heyman
Cemetery Indexing	TBA
Marriage Indexing	Eunice Solomon
<i>Generations</i>	Ilene Murray
Publicity	Betty Landow
Speakers Bureau	Bernice Marcus
Research	Patti Labell

**Webmaster** Joel Shedlofsky

## Members At Large

Chuck Jackson  
Sam Heyman  
Art Lewis  
Martin Enoch

## Founders

Sylvia Jaffe Art Jaffe

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### Website:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis>

**E-Mail Address:** [uhjgsstl@cs.com](mailto:uhjgsstl@cs.com)

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## New Member

Welcome! We wish to acknowledge and welcome the following new member to JGS of St. Louis:

**Morton Levy**

We hope you will enjoy and benefit from your membership in our organization and that you will participate in our many informative activities. We are pleased to have you as a member.

If you know of any prospective members, please submit their names to Cassie Buerki, Membership Chairperson. She can be reached at (314) 275-7136 or e-mail her at [<cbuerki@aol.com>](mailto:cbuerki@aol.com).

## JGS Library News

By Sylvia Jaffe

The JGS library housed in the United Hebrew Library has received a donation of books from Joyce Loving, Manager of Special Collections, at the St. Louis County Library.

The books are duplicates of books donated by Miriam Weiner, a professional genealogical researcher and author of several books. Ms. Weiner made the donation to the County Library after being the featured speaker at an event in the spring sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis.

The donated books consist of: *Cold Pogrom* by Max Berges; *Our Crowd* by Stephen Birmingham; *Within the Pale* by Michael Davitt; *Out of the Whirlwind* by Albert Friedlander; *Holocaust* by Gerald Green; *The Wall* by John Hersey; *The Best of Sholom Aleichem* by Irving Howe; *Treasury of Yiddish Stories* by Irving Howe; *A Centennial History of Congregation Temple Israel* by Samuel Rosenkranz; *Scattered Seeds, Vol. 1 & 2* by George I. Sackheim; *Kindertransport* by Diane Samuels; *The Last Train: Exodus to Tashkent* by Herman Taube; *Dawn* by Elie Wiesel, and *The Cigarette Sellers of Three Crosses Square* by Joseph Ziemian.

Some of the books will be placed in the reference sections of the JGS library. Others will be available in the society's lending library.

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## News Flash!

The Fall issue of *Avotaynu* has some exciting news about Miriam Weiner and her research in eastern European archives. In this issue, Ms. Weiner discusses her plans to make available on the Internet the most comprehensive inventory yet produced of which Jewish records exist in the archives of Belarus, Moldova, Poland, Lithuania and Ukraine. The website will be an outgrowth of the material originally published in her books *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages and Archival Inventories* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages and Archival Inventories*. Since publishing these books, much additional material has been discovered, so it was decided to update the inventories for these countries using the Internet and expand the database to include Belarus and Lithuania instead of publishing another book. Look for the announcement to come when the website is up and running.

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## Inquiries

Whenever space permits, *Generations* will publish out of town inquiries pertaining to Jewish genealogy. Anyone having information pertinent to an inquiry should contact the requestor. The original e-mails are filed in our library.

I hope you can help me with information regarding Rose GORMAN JACOBS (4 Sep 1883–25 Jun 1963). According to her funeral records, she was buried at United Hebrew Cemetery. She was married to Jack A. JACOBS. He is buried there too. Rose's sisters were Lena GORMAN HUBER and Nona GORMAN MUCE, also buried at United Hebrew. My half-sister is Rose's great granddaughter and I am trying to help her find more information about this family.

Leslye B. Winslow  
847-914-2392  
[leslye@kubywinslow.com](mailto:leslye@kubywinslow.com)



# The Modern View: 25th Anniversary Deluxe Edition Index

(Part Three)

*The Modern View: 25th Anniversary Deluxe Edition* (published in St. Louis in 1925) was edited by A. Rosenthal. *The Modern View* was a periodical published for St. Louis' Jewish-American community in the first part of the 20th century. A copy of this special edition is available in the Stacks at the St. Louis Public Library, Call Number: 071 (Oversize) and a copy is available at the Missouri Historical Society. There is much of genealogical interest in this special edition, including many individual biographies.

This index was compiled by Thomas A. Pearson. Many thanks to the St. Louis Public Library for posting this index on their website, and to Mr. Pearson and Gerald Brooks, Director of Marketing, for permission to print.

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(To be continued next month)

## Research Hints: East St. Louis

By C. Edwin Murray

Members of the Agudas Achim congregation in East St. Louis who served in World War II are as follows: Louis BABCHICK, Harold BASSIN, Edward BECK, Max BENSON, Sam BENSON, Nathan BLANKE, William BLANKE, Max BLINDER, Morris BROMBERG, Sammie BROWN, Harry CHASKELSON, Joseph COHEN, Stanley S. COHEN, Jack COPILEVITZ, Dr. Bernard CRUVANT, Joe CRYSTAL, Julius ELLMAN, Stella ELLMAN, Morris FELDACKER, George FINKEL, Stanton FISHER, C. David FLEISHMAN, Saul FOLBERG, Joe FRANKEL, Newton FRANKEL, Sam FRANKEL, Ray GERTZWEIG, Alvin GOLDENBERG, Dr. Max GOLDENBERG, Marvin GOLDENBERG, Robert GOLDENHERSH, Samuel GOLDENHERSH, Marvin GOLDFORD, Gerold GRODSKY, H. C. GROTSKY, Jackie GROTSKY, H. D. HARTSTEIN, Julian HARTSTEIN, Kenneth HARTSTEIN, Max HIRZ, Julius KATZ, Harold KEYSER, Louis KEYSER, Harry KORNBLUM, Herschel KORNBLUM, Bernard KRAMER, Milton KRAMER, David LEVINE, Abe MADDEN, Jerome MADDEN, Maurice MADDEN, Dave MOREIN, Melvin MOREIN, Newton MOREIN, Morris OBIN, Dr. Edward PLATTNER, Eugene PLATTNER, Morris POLAN, Herbert ROGUL, William ROSENBERG, Morris ROTHMAN, Maurice ROUTMAN, Charles RUBIN, Mahlon RUBIN, Philip RUBIN, Rabbi Harry SCHECHTMAN, Irma SCHWARTZ, Siebert SCHWARTZ, Albert SHAFER, Stanley SHAFER, Stanley SHERMAN, Arthur SILBERMAN, Harry SONZ, Richard SONZ, Dan SUSSMAN, Edith SUSSMAN, Morris SUSSMAN, Sam SUSSMAN, Morris STEINMAN, Jack TZINBERG, Morris WASSERMAN, Ben WEINER, Mac WEISS, Morris WEISS, Tibor WEISS, Earl WEISSMAN, Richard WEISSMAN, Albert WELTMAN, Louis WELTMAN, Marvin WELTMAN and Ben ZUKE.

Philip BABCHICK, Bruce COHN, Nathan CRYSTAL, Eli EAGLE, Alvin GOLDENBERG, Albert HIKEN, Joe KLEIN, Louis SOFFER and Marvin WELTMAN died in action.

Military records for the above individuals may be obtained from the National Military Personnel Records Center at 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132.

The following individuals were officers and members of the Board of Trustees for the Agudas Achim Congregation for 1952-1953. (I have pictures of these individuals if you are interested in obtaining a picture of a relative.) Rabbi Benjamin COHEN, J. BECK (honorary president), J. SCHWARTZ (honorary president), Abe SHAFTAL (president), Louis ROCHMAN (vice-president), Charles SANDLER (vice-president), Sam FITTER

## From the Editor's Desk...

Have you bought all your genealogy friends/relatives their Chanukah presents yet? Or do you still have some money left over for some gifts for yourself? Here are some last-minute ideas:

A subscription to *Avotaynu*, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, (\$32)

A subscription to Ancestry.com, for free access to thousands of indexes and databases on the Internet (\$59)

Gift certificates to Barnes & Noble, Borders, Amazon.com, or Heritage Quest for genealogy books

Archival quality supplies for photo albums or memory books (available at most office supply stores)

Coupons good for tutoring on the computer, taping and transcribing oral histories, or sorting and organizing photos into albums (priceless!)

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Ilene Murray, Editor

8724 Teasdale Ave., St. Louis, MO 63124-1926

(314) 991-3593

e-mail: <ilenemurray@mindspring.com>

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### With Sympathy...

*Our heartfelt condolences go out to member, Lois Fitter, on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Sylvia Levin, who recently passed away.*

### get well wishes...

*To Vice-President, Membership, Cassie Buerki, as she recovers from back surgery done in late October.*

### congratulations...

*To member, Megan Taxman, on her engagement to Stephen Frank Weinstock. The wedding date is set for January 29, 2002. We wish them good luck and happiness!*

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(secretary), Paul PRYWITCH (treasurer), M. TENENBAUM, Oscar SPELKEY, J. GOLDENHERSH, Hyman BENSON, L. FOLBERG, M. GOLDENHERSH, M. HARTSTEIN, B. JANKLOW, M. ROSENBERG, G. SCHNEIDERMAN, N. SIEGEL, J. SPRITZ, Jack TZINBERG, Joe TZINBERG, S. TUVIL, M. COPILEVITZ, Frank ALTMAN, M. MUSSMAN, A. ROGUL, I. GRODSKY, R. OFSTEIN, and J. J. ALTMAN.

For all the individuals that have been listed in the three articles for East St. Louis, you should look for birth & death records (from 1878) and marriage & probate records (from 1772) at the St. Clair Co. Court House, 10 Public Square, Belleville, IL 62220-1698. Another good source of information, including East St. Louis city directories, is the Belleville Public Library, 121 East Washington, Belleville, IL.

Thanks to Helen Silberman Janklow of Belleville who supplied much of this information.

# A Bit of My Background

By John Wilder

All of us were born into the stream of history. I was born during World War II and grew up in seacoast New England in an old house my great grandfather had purchased just after the American Civil War. My brother and I slept in a room our grandfather and his brother had slept in when they were children. Under a floor board in that room, I found an old, empty bottle of rum. This event began my interest in family history. As a teenager I used that same space to hide a revealing photo of an attractive 1950s actress. My mother still lives in that house, and her children and their spouses, and her children's children return there several times a year to renew their family history.

As a young man, I had resisted my mother's efforts to bring me into her study of our family's history, as my natural need for independence required distancing myself from family ties. After my marriage and after my own child was born, much of my need for independence dissolved. Then, one day, at the funeral of my aunt, I was given a handful of dried flower petals, as these were passed to the oldest of each line of descent, and I was one. These petals, gathered from weddings, funerals, etc., came from an old urn which

had been passed down to the oldest female of each succeeding generation, beginning in the middle 1800s or before. This odd event renewed my interest in family history.

Young people want to understand the rum bottles and the dried flower petals, medals and love letters, pocket knives and teapots, and other "concrete" evidence of their family's histories. They love looking at old report cards and hearing "wild" and touching and odd and romantic and heroic and "dumb" stories of their parents and grandparents' young lives. Just as grandparents want their children and grandchildren to appreciate "where they came from," to give respect to their elders' lives before their elders pass away, children and teens want their parents and grandparents to appreciate "where they're going to" and "what they are up against" and to get a sense of who they are becoming by looking into the mirrors, into the stories, of their parents' and grandparents' lives.

My students at Solomon Schechter Day School each collected such artifacts and stories and composed them into presentations in a Family History project that lasted about six weeks. I'm looking forward to sharing with you my experiences as their teacher.

**n**

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