
GENERATIONS

Volume 7 Issue 2

February 2001

February Meeting

Video Presentation: “There Once Was a Town”

Ms. Ann Greenstein

Date: Sunday, February 18, 2001

Time: 2:00 p.m.

**(Please note day and time
change for the winter months!)**

Place: Jablon Youth Lounge
United Hebrew
Congregation
13788 Conway Road

Nearly all members of our JGS have one thing in common: if we trace our ancestors back far enough, we are very likely to find roots in one of the shtetls of Eastern Europe.

“There Once Was a Town” is a very moving documentary film produced by PBS. It describes one typical town, Eishyshok, Poland (now Lithuania), using wonderful photos and home movies to paint a vivid picture of the rich, full life of its citizens prior to WWII.

Then, it follows a group of survivors as they and their families attempt a journey “home” in 1998. Here will be a unique opportunity to learn how our ancestors lived, loved, and flourished for centuries in a difficult environment.

The 90 minute video is based in part on a book by Professor Yaffa Eliach called *There Once Was a World- A Nine-Hundred-Year Chronicle of the Shtetl of Eishyshok*, her exhibit called “Tower of Life” at the U.S. Holocaust Museum in Washington, D. C. and photographs in the Yaffa Eliach Shtetl Collection.



Jewish
Genealogical
Society
of St. Louis

Affiliated with
United Hebrew
Congregation

Research at Meetings

The JGS of St. Louis Genealogical Library is housed in the United Hebrew Library and is open for research one hour prior to each meeting.

In the event of inclement weather, listen to KMOX or call Jerry at (314) 434-2566.

Board Meeting

Note Time & Location

February 18, 2000
1:00 p.m.
Conference Room 12
United Hebrew

March Meeting

Internationally Known Author and Genealogist

Ms. Miriam Weiner

Date: Sunday, March 25, 2001

Time: 1:30 p.m.

**(Please note day and time
change for this special event!)**

Place: Jablon Youth Lounge
United Hebrew
Congregation
13788 Conway Road

Miriam Weiner is a professional genealogist based in New Jersey. She is the author of two of the most acclaimed books on Jewish Genealogy: *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*. She is the president of the Miriam Weiner Routes to Roots Foundation, which offers archival research in eastern Europe and customized tours to areas in eastern Europe with an emphasis on visits to shtetls. Ms. Weiner also is the former executive director of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors in New York and a member of the Advisory Board of the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing and Information Center of the American Red Cross.

For this special event, there will be advance reservations required. The cost for members who prepay is \$12. At the door, admission will be \$15. The admission price includes a reception afterwards, featuring Kosher pastries and coffee.

Arrangements for Miriam Weiner to appear in St. Louis were made through the B'nai B'rith Lecture Bureau.

President's Page

Thanks to Ann Fleming

My thanks to Ann Fleming who spoke at the January meeting on the subject "When Should You Hire a Professional Genealogist?" In the quest for family information, we like to accomplish our own research. We enjoy the thrill of the chase, acquiring new friends and yes, conserving funds. For that, we must endure the frustration and wonder what are the returns for the time spent? And finally, we hit pay dirt and get that warm fuzzy feeling. Unfortunately, at times, and probably all too frequently, we hit that brick wall. Perhaps that's the time to consider hiring a professional genealogist. Ann described in detail the qualifications of and what to expect from a professional genealogist and the requestor's responsibilities for coordinating with any professional genealogist he/she hires. See Eunice Solomon's synopsis of the presentation elsewhere in this issue for more information.

Naming Ceremony

Genealogy appears in many forms. This past month I attended a religious ceremony for the naming of a set of twins. As customary, the rabbi mentioned the English and Hebrew names. When the ceremony concluded, the proud mother addressed the audience and provided details for the derivation of the English and Hebrew names for each child. Some of the English names were derived from more than one person. She explained the relationship of each baby to the remembered person and why that person was chosen for the honor. The mother saved the detailed documentation of her speech as a wonderful treasure of information for her children to keep so they will be aware of the family's roots and heritage. That's genealogy!

JGS Website

Our JGS Web site continues to be developed. Unfortunately, our progress for the inclusion of members' research is moving slowly. Please recognize that coordination and meetings are required among the people defining the format, converting the data to a web presentation, and the actual posting of the web data. The search or inquiry section will be oriented toward research coordination among our members. Additionally, we will list local Jewish research facilities and links to other Jewish Web sites.

Wolf Family Chronicle

At the January meeting, Ernest Wolf donated the book, *Wolf Family Chronicle*, to the JGS library. This volume tells the history of the Wolf family starting from 1694 in Schluchtern, Germany. Consisting of 275 pages, family trees, photographs and narratives, this book is a prize possession for the Wolf family. Thank you, Ernest, for remembering our library and your discussion pertaining to the history of the book.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers for computer data entry, specifically, marriage data and members' research inquiries. The more one participates in an organization, the more benefit to that person. It's an educational experience as you learn the history of our local residents. You pick the location; work from your home or at the JGS computer at UH Library. Brush up on your typing skills. Sign up now. As a bonus, we will lend you a laptop computer. Please, we need the computerized data.

Miriam Weiner Presentation

If you can't travel to Poland or Ukraine in the search for family information, or even if you can, have we got a deal for you! Join us on March 25th for a lecture by Miriam Weiner, internationally known author, genealogist and foreign travel guide. Her books on Jewish genealogy are recognized as among the best of the best. Additional details provided elsewhere in this issue. Be sure to place your reservations early so you do not miss this exciting event!

Jerry Goldberg, JGS of St. Louis President

Research Hints - Business Records

Rice-Stix Catalog, Part II

By C. Edwin Murray

Here is a continuation of the people listed in the Rice-Stix Catalog in 1911-12. There is a photograph for each person listed. (If you find an ancestor and would like a copy of their photo, contact me at <emurray@ninenet.com>).

General Salesmen - Texas and Oklahoma: William E. Simpson (Division Sales Manager), H. E. Clark (East TX), Ben O. Weatherly (North TX), W. L. M. Clark (East TX), W. P. Haden (Northeast TX), J. O. Matthews (Northwest TX), Walter C. Simpson (North TX), Maurice Levy (House Salesman), T. J. Tilley (Southeast TX), J. H. Rabe (North and East OK), Ed Ringer (Western OK), J. R. Roach (Southern OK).

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General Salesmen - Southeastern Division: John W. Armstrong (Central MS), A. M. Ross (South AL, & FL), Lee T. Meyer (KY), Hyman Kahn (Special Salesman), B. F. Tatum (N.E. MS), C. Fred Mayer (Division Manager), E. E. Evans (Division Manager), J.J. Jacobs (Division Manager), M. Heidingsfelder (Memphis Office), J. Sturm (Memphis Office), S. H.

Woodward (E. TN & N. AL), M. Sartorius (Forty years with the house Memphis office), B. O. Sullivan (West TN), Ed Thurman (N.W. MS), M. B. Prichard (West TN), Leon E. Meyer (GA & Central AL), Chas M. Meriwether (N. MS), J. E. Mason (S.W. MS & E. LA), Henry Block (KY).

General Salesmen - Arkansas and Louisiana: Eugene Sterne (N.E. AR & S.E. MO), Fay G. Chew (Southern AR), Geo. O. Beuskman (Central AR), Frank DeGarmo (Northern LA), John P. McKean (S. W. LA), Jos. M. Houston (Northern LA), Jesse D. Abbott (N. E. AR), B.A. Shelby (Division Manager), M.C. Jones (Northern AR), John H. Towler (Southeast AR.), A. D. Towler (S.W. AR.), Albert Arndt (N.E. AR), Oliver H. Schwarz (House).

General Salesmen - Missouri: William Carrells (Central MO), W. P. Armstrong (S.W. MO & N.W. AR), H. M. Noel (N.E. MO), J. E. Martin (Cent. & Eastern MO), S. R. Berryman (S. E. MO), M. M. Newman (Division Sales Mgr. S. W. MO & N. W. AR), O. T. Harris (Division Sales Mgr. North & Central MO), E. T. Bergmann (Division Sales Mgr. Southeast MO), Martin J. Shea (N.W. MO), J.C. Davis (Central MO), E.F. Aulderheide (Eastern MO), Chas. V. Cunningham (S.W. MO & N.W. AR), W. B. Gibbons (S. W. MO), Doug Manon (S. W. MO).

City Salesmen - St. Louis: Alfred G. Schaefering (Hosiery Dept.), Harry H. Thoele (White Goods Dept.), Gustav W. Kuehne (Dress Goods Dept.), Walter L. Vormehr (Furnishing Goods), Emil S. Block (Furnishing Goods), William J. Lowther (General Salesman), John Piel (General Salesman), Herman J. Goessing (General Salesman), J. William Frank (Hosiery Dept.), Louis B. Miller (Notion Dept.), Gus F. Hoppe (Shirt Dept.), Arthur C. Miller (Muslin Underwear Dept.), Oliver J. Gorla (Notion Dept.).

(More Rice-Stix employees to come.)



Officers And Board Members

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What's In A Name?

Occupations

By Chuck Jackson

The discussion of surnames and how a person's occupation, trade, or profession may have played an important role in developing certain surnames continues. Please keep in mind that some surnames were adopted due to the sound, the secondary meaning, or for other purposes, and the family may not have ever performed the occupation defined by the surname.

FEINGOLD	A dealer in gold.
FEINSILVER	A dealer in silver.
FEINSTEIN	Means "fine stone" and refers to a dealer in precious stones, gold, and silver. May also be a version of Weinstein, a dealer in wine.
FELLER	"Fell" means "hide" or "skin" in German and in Yiddish, and Feller refers to a person in the hide trade. Also appears as Fellerman, Fellner, Felman, Felltrager, Filler.
FENSTER	"Fenster:" means "a window" in German and Yiddish and refers to a producer of windows and doors.
FERBER	A dyer of cloth or a stainer of hides. Also appears as Farber.
FETTERER	A feather dealer.
FISCHBEIN	"Fischbein" is the German word for "whalebone."
FLEISCHHAKER	A butcher. "Fleischhaker" means "meat chopper" or "cleaver." Also appears as Fleischhauer (meat cutter), Fleischman (meat man).
FLEISCHER	"Fleischer" is the German word for "butcher" or "meat dealer." The butcher was the source of supply of kosher meat, a very important role in Judaism. In medieval Europe, the butcher was important as the unofficial Jewish self-defense group or army, since they were the only ones familiar with the handling of knives and axes.
FORMAN	The Yiddish word for "a carter" or "a teamster." Prior to the introduction of the railroad, the teamster was very important in commerce through Russia and Poland. Also appears as Furman.
FUDYM	From the Yiddish word for "thread" and the name was selected by those in the tailoring profession.
FUTORIAN	A furrier.
FUTTERMAN	"Furrier" in Yiddish. The German translation is "one who sold feed or fodder," but this was never the meaning of the Jewish name.
GALINSKY	A person who sold quality grain.
GARBER	"Tanner" in Yiddish. Also appears as Gerber, Garbowsky.
GARFUNKEL	From the old German Karfunkel or Karfunkelstein which means "diamond" and was used by diamond dealers. Also appears as Gorfinkel, Garfinkel, Finkelstein, Finkel.
GEFFEN	The Hebrew word for "vine" and was used by wine merchants. Also appears as Gaffen, Geffner.
GEIGER	"Violinist" in German.
GIBLICHMAN	One who grew or sold lilacs. "Giblich" means "lilac" in old Yiddish.
GIESSER	One who made pewter ware. Giesser is a shortened form of "Zinngiesser." Also appears as Gisser.

To be continued. Rabbi Kaganoff, again, many thanks.

Invite a Friend

If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the JGS, you can have a complimentary copy of *Generations* sent to them by forwarding their name and address to:

Ilene Murray, 8724 Teasdale Ave., St. Louis, MO 63124-1926, (314) 991-3593, or e-mail to: <ilenemurray@primary.net>

Better yet, bring them to one of our meetings where they can not only get a complimentary copy of the newsletter, but can experience first-hand the benefits of membership in the JGS.

Please forward any news of member activities, changes of address or comments to Ilene, as well.

ISFHWE Announces Annual Excellence In Writing Contest

ISFHWE (International Society of Family History Writers and Editors) is expecting hundreds of entries in its annual "Excellence in Writing" contest. The organization has sponsored a competition for published and unpublished writers of genealogical and local history topics for the past 13 years. The contest now draws entries from writers and editors around the world and the competition is keen. This year the contest committee offers writers and editors five categories: Columns; Feature Articles; Family History Newsletters; Want-to-be Writers; and Genealogy Research Story.

It is the last category that is expected to bring the largest number of entries. The winning article of this category will be considered for publication in ANCESTRY magazine <<http://www.ancestry.com/>> and, if accepted, will receive \$500 upon publication. Entries in the "Genealogy Research Story" category must be referenced (footnotes or endnotes) and focus on an original and unpublished story of genealogical research using one of these topics: Encounters with a Family Skeleton; The Search for (name of the difficult-to-trace ancestor); or Sorting Out Entangled Roots or Branches of (name of the family).

Judged by professionals in the field of journalism and genealogy, the first-place winners in each category receive small cash prizes. This year's contest coordinator is Korene L. Clopine-Seaman, of Glendale, Arizona. **All entries must be received by 21 February 2001.**

Details about the "Excellence-in-Writing" competition, entry rules, and forms can be found at the society's Web site: <<http://www.rootsweb.com/~cgc/>> or by contacting Clopine-Seaman, P.O. Box 3438, Glendale, AZ. 85311-3438. E-mail: <claupein@speedchoice.com>.

What will the judges be looking for in a winner? Take a peek at the Judges' Evaluation Sheet: at <http://www.rootsweb.com/~cgc/judges_sheet2001.html>.

Some Websites Worth Exploring

While you are out surfing, stop by these websites to learn more about some interesting topics:

"Women and Naturalization Between 1802-1940" is an article by Marian Smith of the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service). Marian is an expert on Federal records and a much respected speaker at genealogical conferences, so you can be sure of the accuracy of her information at <nara.gov/publications/prologue/natural1.html>.

If, like so many other families, you had an immigrant ancestor who changed his/her name in America, you will be interested in the following site: <www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/aboutins/history/articles/NameEssay.html>.

Finally, if you had an ancestor who fought in World War One, you may be interested in another INS site that deals with the naturalizations of members of the U.S. Armed Forces during that time. Go to:

<www.ins.usdoj.gov/graphics/aboutins/history/NatzRec/wwinatz.htm>.

Synopsis of January Meeting

By Eunice Solomon

Hiring a Professional Genealogist: Speaker: Ann Fleming

Determine if you really need a professional by reviewing your notes and documents and analyzing your data. Talking to other genealogists could help sort things out. It is much more rewarding to do genealogical work yourself than to hire someone.

If you need additional information, check libraries in St. Louis, major cities where your ancestors lived, and the Allen County Library in Ft. Wayne, IN. Use the Family History Library in Salt Lake City or one of the Family History centers in St. Louis, and don't forget the National Archives.

Before you actually contact a professional, prepare yourself. Determine the scope of your project; do you need a document or in-depth research? Develop exact questions to ask. Summarize your data. Provide available documentation with citations for your researcher. Be specific about what your expectations are.

To find a professional genealogist, obtain a list of researchers from a research facility. State and local societies usually have such a list, as do most archives. Network among people

you know. Credentials are not checked by any group, so word of mouth is important in the field of genealogical research. Be sure you select someone whose expertise is in the area where you need work done.

There are two websites that could be of help: The Association of Professional Genealogists (APG) at <www.apgen.org> and the Board for Certification of Genealogists at <www.bcgcertification.org>.

When you do contact a researcher, provide an outline of your project. Request fees, availability, and procedures and make an agreement in writing. Be prepared to wait. The researcher needs time for analyzing your data, doing the research, and writing a full report. You will pay for all research time. There is usually an hourly fee, which can range from \$5 to \$100 per hour. Sometimes a researcher will ask for a retainer, and there may be additional fees, such as parking, copying, and mileage. Usually researchers in foreign countries charge more than U.S. researchers.

Book Review:

Old Bohemian and Moravian Jewish Cemeteries

R 943.71 E330

Photographs by Petr Ehl

Text by Arno Parik & Jiri Fiedler

Translated by Greta Sylvia Matouskova

Reviewed by Chris Flesor

Special Collections Department

St. Louis County Library

We genealogists, admittedly, have a ghoulish streak. We get excited about cemeteries, or at least cemetery records. This book is a wonderful example of why we do.

The book is largely photographic, in black and white, depicting tombstones, and cemeteries throughout the Jewish communities in Bohemia and Moravia. The beginning text explains that these cemeteries are the only remaining relics of these communities that were doomed, as far back as the crusades, up to and including the Holocaust. Additionally, they are wonderful examples of Jewish art through the ages, reflecting local folk art of the time, and yet strictly adhering to Jewish laws of burial. "The occupation of the deceased was most often symbolized by relief of a tool characteristic for a certain occupation...scissors on the graves of tailors, lancets in the case of doctors, mortars for chemists and violins for musicians, and books for scholars..."

This book is so informative about the beautiful traditions of Hebrew burials in various regions throughout the ages; and it also gives us an overview of Jewish history in Bohemia and Moravia. Let's not ignore the genealogical value! Although individual names are not included, there is an index at the end of the book, listing hundreds of communities in this part of Europe and the Jewish cemeteries found there, including geographical description.

Please come to the Special Collections Department of the St. Louis County Library and discover the treasures of this book and many others we have to enhance your research. We will be telling you about more of our resources in coming issues.

From the Editor's Desk...

Hopefully, you are enjoying the stories, book reviews, etc. that have been appearing in our newsletter. Please think about writing an article and sharing some part of your research. If you have a special interest or area you would like to read more about, let me know and we'll try to get some information for you.

Just thought you'd all like to know that I received a phone call from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Cleveland asking for permission to reprint Marilen Pitler's interesting story from last issue on DNA testing. I asked them to call Marilen, and with her permission for reprinting, lots more people will be aware of this new way to find relatives.

Our newsletter goes all over the world. Please feel free to be an active part of it!

Ilene Murray, Editor
8724 Teasdale Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63124-1926
(314) 991-3593
e-mail: <ilenemurray@primary.net>

New Members

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

Dr. Irwin Schultz
David Eidelman
Dan Mandelker

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 members.

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>.

If anyone has a success story or knows someone who has and would like to share it with our members, please contact Cassie. We would love to hear from you.

REMINDER: The Discussion Group meets the 4th Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. in the United Hebrew Library.

JGS Tribute Cards Enhance Library Fund

For the past three years, the JGS of St. Louis has sold tribute cards at each monthly meeting. For a minimum donation of \$5.00, you can show someone that you are thinking about them and, at the same time, support our library fund. Proceeds from the Tribute Fund are used to purchase genealogical books/supplies for the JGS Library housed in the United Hebrew Library.

Tribute cards are available at each JGS meeting or from Jean Heyman, the Tribute Fund chairperson. Jean can be reached at (314) 434-2345. Please remember our tribute cards when you need to let someone know you are thinking about them. It is a way to show you care that also helps our whole organization.

Three Genealogical Societies With Much To Offer

By Ilene Murray

Once you get serious about genealogy as a hobby, you begin to look for sources of support and information. That's where membership in organizations becomes important.

The two largest national organizations are the **National Genealogical Society** and the **Federation of Genealogical Societies**. Each publishes a newsletter and a quarterly journal and has an annual conference devoted to genealogical research.

Usually the conferences draw large crowds, and the best and brightest of the genealogical world are invited to speak. There are book, map, and archival storage vendors selling a wide variety of products, often at special conference rates. Nothing is more thought-provoking or helpful to a genealogist, whether an amateur or a seasoned veteran, than sharing ideas with 1000-3000 others who are equally passionate about their hobby.

The National Genealogical Society

The National Genealogical Society is located at 4527 Seventeenth Street North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399. Their website is located at <www.ngsgenealogy.org>

Their most recent quarterly journal is called *Reassembling Female Lives*, and is devoted to finding women in family history. It is filled with articles, book reviews, and a small section of genealogical advertisements. Even though the material covered is not specifically about Jewish women, the research processes that are described are universal.

The 2001 NGS Conference will be held in Portland, Oregon from May 16 - 19. A conference schedule is available on the website.

To become a member it is \$40 for an individual or \$50 for a family (two people, one address). Senior membership is available to those over 65 who have been a member at least one full year. Your membership

entitles you to six issues of the NGS news magazine and four issues of the quarterly.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies

The Federation of Genealogical Societies is located at PO Box 830220, Richardson, TX 75083-0220. Their website is located at <www.fgs.org>. This group is made up of more than 500 genealogical societies throughout the United States and Canada. Although part of their emphasis is on improving and running genealogical societies, they are also concerned with providing information to all genealogists. The FGS publishes a quarterly journal called "Forum" and holds an annual conference. These conferences are outstanding! They are open to all individuals who belong to participating societies, of which our JGS is one.

If you were lucky enough to attend the conference that was in St. Louis in 1999 (co-sponsored by the St. Louis Genealogical Society), you know how wonderful and exciting an FGS conference can be.

This year's conference will be in Davenport, (Quad Cities) Iowa from September 12 -15, and it's not too early to make up your mind to attend. The conference will feature more than 150 lectures and over 60 presenters.

St. Louis Genealogical Society

Finally, there is our own **St. Louis Genealogical Society**, located at #4 Sunnen Ct. in Maplewood. Membership in that group brings a monthly newsletter and a quarterly journal, as well as discounts on society publications, invitations to a speaker series and a yearly conference in June. Why join? If you have family in St. Louis, the collection of birth, death, marriage, cemetery, and other records amassed by the Society's volunteers will certainly be of

interest to you. At the Society office is a huge collection of Four Generation Charts submitted by members, a room full of print material with a focus on St. Louis and surrounding areas, and a bank of computers with samples of many of the genealogical software programs (PC only).

The office is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. During that time, usually a number of experienced researchers are available for you to call upon for general assistance. And in case you didn't know or forgot, the nucleus of the Special Collections Department in the St. Louis County Library is the collection of the St. Louis Genealogical Society.

Membership for an individual is \$20 and for a household, \$22. Meetings are held at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd. on the second Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. During January, February, and March, meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. till noon. The annual genealogy fair is held the third Saturday in June. The StLGS website is located at: <www.rootsweb.com/~mostlogs/STIINDEX.htm>.

Consider Joining

Some Jewish genealogists bypass large non-Jewish groups, thinking that because the focus is not on their specific ethnicity, they will not get enough out of membership. Unfortunately, if you do that, you are denying yourself the stimulation, the excitement, and the broad base of knowledge that an umbrella organization can give you. Check out the websites, ask for a sample newsletter or journal, or come to a conference or meeting. You may change your mind about joining after you see how much is in it for you!

Membership Form

Please use this form (or duplicate it) to join the JGS of St. Louis.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____

Zip Code: _____ - _____

Phone No.: (____) _____

Fax No.: _____

E-mail address: _____

Individual membership is \$20 per year. Two people in one household is \$35 per year.

Make check payable to JGS of St. Louis and mail to:

JGS of St. Louis
1001 Pocono Trail
Ballwin, MO 63021-7624



Why not
send your
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for
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Day?
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that be a
wonderful
way to show
you care?
See inside for
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