



GENERATIONS

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JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS
Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation

Volume 7

Issue 6

June 2001

June Meeting Portrait of a Family From Napoleonic Times to the Present

Guest Speaker:
Burton Boxerman, Ph.D.

Thursday, June 21, 2001

July Meeting The Genealogical Collection at the Main Branch of the St. Louis Public Library

Guest Speaker:
Cynthia Millar

Thursday, July 19, 2001

Meetings Held At:
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Jablon Youth Lounge
United Hebrew
Congregation
13788 Conway Road

REMINDERS:

JGS Discussion Group
Thursday, June 28
1:00 p.m.

Recorder of Deeds Office,
St. Louis City Hall.

"Tracking Our Ancestors"
Fair sponsored by
the St. Louis
Genealogical Society
Saturday, June 16, 2001
8:45 a.m. till 4:00 p.m.
J.C. Penney Building
on the U.M.S.L. campus

Upcoming Meetings

June: Guest Speaker Burton Boxerman

Over the past few years, one of our most popular speakers has been Burton Boxerman, who is in fact, one of our own members. He has recently completed an extensive genealogical study of an early American Jewish family. Over the many years they have lived here, they have become prominent but extremely diversified. Their story is not only interesting but also typical of how early American Jews have assimilated into their environment.

By sharing with us some of his research methods and sources, Burton should provide a unique genealogical perspective. He is a retired high school history teacher and has written and spoken extensively on local Jewish history. Bring along family and friends and be prepared for an absorbing evening.

June Discussion Group Goes to City Hall

By Sylvia Jaffe

The JGS of St. Louis Discussion Group will sponsor a field trip to St. Louis City Hall at 1 p.m. (promptly) Thursday, June 28, 2001.

Members going directly to City Hall will meet at 1 p.m. in the hallway outside the Recorder of Deeds office, Room 126 in City Hall, at Market and Tucker Avenues. Members wishing to carpool or to drive a carpool should meet at noon in the front parking lot of United Hebrew Congregation, 13788 Conway Rd.

All participating must sign up prior to the field trip. Sylvia Jaffe, Discussion Group Leader, also needs to know participants' plans of transportation.

Coming in July: Guest Speaker Cynthia Millar

Cynthia Millar, one of the Genealogy Librarians at the Main Branch of the St. Louis Public Library, returns in July to update us on the library's holdings and to introduce new members to the downtown library. Cynthia will discuss the library's census holdings, which are the most extensive in the area, passenger lists and indexes, and European maps and gazetteers. She will also cover the library's website, the Obituary Index, and other indexes found online at the site to various local historical and biographical sources, including the *Modern View 25th Anniversary Deluxe Edition, 1925* and the *Jewish Almanac Community Register*.

Cynthia has been working for the St. Louis Public Library, for almost 25 years, 21 years in the History and Genealogy Department as Genealogy Librarian. She was a speaker at the 1999 Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) Annual Conference here in St. Louis, and she has served as a former board member of the St. Louis Genealogical Society as well as a member of the Genealogy Advisory Board for the Missouri State Archives. She brings her considerable expertise to a topic of interest to all of us, so this should be a meeting you will want to attend.

Please call Sylvia at (314) 434-8392 or send her an e-mail message at <Letvak@aol.com>.

The St. Louis City Hall is a great research site. Members can obtain marriage records, voting records, real estate records and more.

Marie Ceselski, assistant to Sharon Carpenter, Recorder of Deeds, will lead the tour and introduce members to the various sites beneficial to genealogists.

President's Page

May Meeting

Our theme for the May program differed from our usual genealogical methods and resource topics. For this meeting, the speakers had a "show and tell" of how to display the results of your research, such as a family tree or photographs. Carol Berger discussed various methods, materials and services, including printing and binding provided by her company, Hardbound, Inc. Shirley Weiss also displayed and spoke of the products and services offered by her company, Memories Unlimited, for producing an effective way to preserve photographs and documents and make them visually appealing at the same time. We thank Carol and Shirley for their time and effective presentations.

Thanks to Our Volunteers

Your board expends much time, effort, and occasionally personal funds for this organization and for you, our members. We appreciate all the help we can get. Thank you to Bernard Kessler and Fran Goldberg for volunteering to assist in the marriage indexing, to Susan Kinsella for assistance in the cemetery indexing, and of course, Gary Kodner, for his leadership in the design and procuring of our new banners and logo. If you are thinking of joining our indexing efforts, remember that you will be one of the first with access to these records. Contact Eunice Solomon for the marriage indexing and Phyllis Faintich for the cemetery indexing.

Your board will be holding discussions with the St. Louis Genealogical Society to pursue a cooperative effort in the cemetery indexing. They have gained much expertise in the acquiring and indexing of these records and we believe that a mutual benefit is possible.

New Members

I want to meet our new members. Please introduce yourself to me at our next meeting. Inform the audience of your problems and your family research. Become involved in our efforts. When you participate, you will be rewarded with greater knowledge about genealogical research.

Allen County Library Trip

Last month, members Cassie Buerki, Phyllis Faintich, Leslie Popelka, Eunice Solomon, and I journeyed to Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. This library is the largest genealogical library in the midwest, emphasizing official documents, such as census records, passenger lists, and military records held by the National Archives. See their web page at <<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/genealogy/whowear.html>> for a complete list of their holdings.

It was interesting that the physical placement of the microfilm is by subject, such as passenger lists, as opposed to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, where the microfilms are located numerically. I preferred the Allen County method. While searching for a particular microfilm, the researcher becomes aware of other related films. The working environment was wonderful, that is, cool, as in temperature. Occasionally one becomes a bit queasy while working a microfilm machine. Cassie Buerki provided apples for munching (outside of the library) to revive from that uneasy feeling. By the way, if you find a poor quality microfilm, try looking at it in another library; they may have a better copy.

Improving Attendance

At each month's JGS meeting, we average 35 attendees from our membership of about 200. I have a goal of increasing that number to 50 and I need your help. What can I do to meet that goal? Tell me your ideas and criticisms and send them to me at <jerfransl@cs.com> or hand me a note at our next meeting. The board discussed holding more meetings on Sundays, but the idea was voted down. We thought we would lose more in attendance than would be gained.

See you at our June meeting,

Jerry Goldberg,

JGS of St. Louis President

Volunteers Needed for Speakers Bureau

Are you enthusiastic about tracing your family tree? If the answer is **yes**, then you would be a great speaker on genealogy.

Speakers are needed by JGS of St. Louis to share the excitement and need for tracing the family tree. The society receives many invitations to speak at Houses of Worship and at community/organization meetings and functions.

Sylvia Jaffe, now chairing the Speakers Bureau, is in need of five speakers. Members volunteering to serve as speakers will receive training.

Please help JGS of St. Louis by signing up as a speaker. To be a speaker is a very rewarding experience. Call Sylvia at 314-434-8392 or e-mail her at <Letvak@aol.com>.

JGS Library News

By Sylvia Jaffe

Volunteers are on hand to help members in utilizing the research resources in the JGS of St. Louis Library housed in the United Hebrew Library.

Art and Sylvia Jaffe, (314) 434-8392, will staff the library from 10 a.m.-noon on Tuesday mornings. Norman Kling, (314) 432-4335, is there from 10 a.m.-noon on Wednesday mornings. Shirley Finger, (314) 994-0318, will assist members from 10 a.m.-noon on the fourth Thursday of each month when the Discussion Group meets. She will also be there on Thursday morning, June 28, 2001. The Discussion Group will be going on a field trip to St. Louis City Hall that afternoon.

Members needing help in the library are encouraged to call the volunteer prior to going to the library, as volunteers at times will not be available due to vacations and other commitments.



JGS of St. Louis Tape, Video and Book Library Now Open to Members

Call library chairs, Art and Sylvia Jaffe, to arrange to borrow one of the following:

Tapes:

JewishGen: Preserving Our History For Future Generations-Susan E. King, Jewish Gen Founder and President. Speech delivered at 19th annual conference on Jewish Genealogy.

An Introduction to Holocaust Research by Gary Mokotoff. Delivered at the 18th annual seminar on Jewish Genealogy.

The Nuts and Bolts of Oral History Interviews by E. Kahn. Speech given at 18th annual seminar on Jewish Genealogy.

Polish Jewish Genealogical Research by Warren Blatt. Presented at the 19th annual conference of Jewish genealogy.

Videos:

The Jewish community of Turkey

Little Americas: The Flourishing and Destruction of the Jewish community in Mezritch, (Miedzyrzec-Podlaski) Poland. Script: Ephraim Sidon; Director: David Tour with Miche Friedman and Ephraim Sidon

American Synagogue: A Video Portrait of Touro Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island.

Books:

Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families of New York by Stephen Birmingham. Paperback.

The Rest of Us: The Rise of America's Eastern European Jews by Stephen Birmingham. Paperback.

The Grandees: America's Sephardic Elite by Stephen Birmingham. Paperback.

(Continued in the next column.)

Research Hints: Newspapers

By C. Edwin Murray

The first issue of *The Jewish Voice* contained foreign news from England, Italy, Palestine, Russia, Australia and Germany. There was an address delivered by Rabbi H. Berkowitz at the Synagogue on the eve of Chanukah, in Mobile, Alabama, on Dec. 10, 1887. Some of the titles of articles were "Radicalism & Judaism," "The Catacombs of Rome," "Rothschild's Amusing Revenge - How the Great Banker Brought the Bank of England to Terms," and "Why Jews Cannot be Knight Templars."

Most of the genealogical information came in the local column, the city news and the ads. Here are some examples from one of the three categories:

Local Column

• Mr. S. A. Gershon has returned from a visit to his Memphis friends.

• Mrs. Hammer is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Desberger on Valle Avenue.

• Mr. Wm. Reichenbach has been seriously ill, but is slowly recovering.

• Rev. Dr. S. Sale has affiliated himself with Elsn Ezra Lodge of I. O. B. B.

• Mr. & Mrs Jacob Hoffneirner & family have moved into the city from Petersburg, Ill. They will reside on St. Ange Avenue.

• Mr. George Bamberger & wife of Dolman street attended the wedding of their sister Miss Sarah Bamberger, at Memphis, Tenn.

• Mr. & Mrs. H. C. Hyman mourn the loss by death of their beloved daughter Rosy who died the 26th inst. at the age of thirteen years & six months. The burial took place last Wednesday from the family residence 1123 N. High Street. We condole.

• Mrs. Mary Alexander, wife of Mr. Isidor Alexander of Kampville, Ills., died in that place on the 28 ult., aged 52 years. The funeral took place from the synagogue of the United Hebrew Congregation last Friday afternoon & the remains were interred in the Mount Olive Cemetery.

• The wedding of Mr. Louis E. Washauer & Miss Sarah Bamberger took place at Memphis, Tenn., last Wednesday. The ceremony was performed at the beautiful temple at 7:30 in the evening. Mr. & Mrs. Washauer will make their home in this city, where a host of friends will welcome them. Mr. Washauer is with the well-known firm of Rice, Stix & Co. We congratulate the young and happy couple.

More from the *Jewish Voice* in the next issue.

Items may be borrowed for two weeks and must be returned within the specified time. A waiting list for the above items will be maintained. All other books are for reference use only in the JGS library. The society welcomes additional donations to the JGS library.

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.

PORTNOY	A tailor in Russian. In Polish and Ukrainian, tailor is Kravitz. In German, it is Schneider. In Yiddish, it is Sherman. In Hebrew, it is Chait, Hait, Hayt.
POTASHNIK	A potash maker.
PRESSER	A tailor who also irons clothes. Also appears as Pressman.
RAUCHWERKER	A furrier.
REIFMAN	From "reifen" which is "barrel hoop" in German and refers to a wine dealer or a cooper. If from the Hebrew "rofeh," then refers to a physician. If from the Polish "raif" which is part of a key, then the trade could be that of a locksmith.
REITER	A person in charge of a lumber operation in Russia was known as a "rayter." Also appears as Ryter.
RIBALOW	A fish dealer in Polish.
RINGLE	A goldsmith whose specialty was making wedding rings. Also appears as Ringel, Goldring.
ROBACK	In Ukrainian, means laborer. Also appears as Rabak.
ROSTHOLDER	A keeper of horses or owner of a livery stable. Old German for horse is "Ross." From this we get Roos, a dealer in horses. Also appears as Rosshaelter.
RYMER	From the Polish for a saddler or harness maker. Also appears as Rymarz (the original Polish word).
SALPETER	A seller of fertilizer and is from the German saltpeter which was used in fertilizer.
SAPERSTEIN	A jeweler and is from the joining of two words: "sapir" (Hebrew for sapphire) and "stein" (German for stone).
SAPOZNIK	A shoemaker.
SCHAFFNER	A steward or manager of a business or an estate.
SCHARFSTEIN	Means sharpening stone and refers to knife grinder, butcher, a ritual slaughterer, and other occupations requiring sharpened knives.
SCHINDLER	A shingler.
SCHINKEL	The owner of a small inn or tavern. Also appears as Shenkel.
SCHLOSS	A person who makes locks and is from the Yiddish "shlos." Also appears as Schlossman with an expanded meaning of locksmith, a dealer in locks or hardware, as well as a maker of locks.
SCHMUKLER	A person who works with ornaments or with lace or braid for clothing. Also appears as Szmurkler.
SCHNITMAN	A dry goods merchant.
SCHRETER	A tailor (a cutter of cloth).
SCHRIFT	A printer, typesetter, or an operator of a foundry and is taken from the Polish "Schrift."
SCHULSINGER	A shul singer; a cantor.

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

Book Review

By Chris Flesor,

Special Collections Dept., St. Louis Co. Library

Jewish Genealogy Yearbook 2000

20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy,
July 9-14, 2000: Salt Lake City, Utah

Presented by the International Association of Jewish Genealogy
Societies

Charts and scanned images of original documents included.

Syllabi and conference publications sit on the shelf in Special Collections like forgotten scrapbooks or vacation photo albums.

If you've been fortunate to attend any of these major conferences, you already know that the syllabus serves as a guidebook for the agenda at the convention; but more than this, it is a virtual warehouse of information!

A recent addition to our collection is the Jewish Genealogy Yearbook 2000. This book was published as a companion for the 20th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, which took place July 9-14, 2000. I am envious of anyone who was able to attend this event. Here are just a few of the names and presentations that graced this conference. Alan Berliner, recipient of both Rockefeller Foundation and Guggenheim Foundation
(Continued on Page 5.)

Officers and Board Members

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Sylvia Jaffe Art Jaffe

Website:

<http://uahc.org/congs/mo/mo005/jgsstl>

E-Mail Address

uhjgsstl@cs.com

New Members

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

Beverly Einstein
Florence & Morris Kofsky
Marvin Kodner
Melvin Tash

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>.

Inquiries

Whenever space permits, *Generations* will publish a summary of out of town inquiries pertaining to Jewish genealogy. Publishing these requests is another resource for our members. Anyone having information pertinent to an inquiry should contact the requestor. The original e-mails are placed on a table at each meeting and then filed in our library. Dick Franzel sends a reply to each requestor specifying local resources, where to obtain assistance and whenever possible, the requested data.

I am seeking information about my father's family. His cousin Nathan **CRYTALIS** (sic) listed in the War Casualty Reports and Death Notices taken from the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* between December 1941 and December 1945.

CRYSTAL, (Pvt) Nathan [MIA] (photo) #1/12/44 p.3B, [not MIA-KIA] (photo) #2/29/44 p.3A

My grandfather, Meir **EGER**, came to the US about 1916 with his cousin, whose last name was Crystal. He stayed in NY. The Crystal family settled in the Jewish community of St. Louis.

Researching CRYSTAL, EGER (EAGER, EIGER)

Leslie Eager
110 Fearrington Post
Pittsboro NC 27312
(919) 929-9268; e-mail: Walden3@aol.com

I have a wonderful picture of the **KAUFMANN** Bros. Wholesale Butchers (three horse-drawn wagons with families on them). The picture could be from 1896–1916. The address on the wagons is 501 Debaliviere Ave. The phone is bell phone Forest 258.

Researching KAUFMANN

Bessie K. Grossman
332 North Forest Ave
Rockville Centre, NY 11570
(516) 764-9110; e-mail: beekg@aol.com

I am seeking information about Elias **MARGULIES**. According to the Soc. Sec. Death Index, he was born 3/31/1884 and died in St. Louis Dec. 1974. When my grandfather's brother left Galicia in 1909, he listed Elias Margulies in NYC as the person (cousin) he was coming to. The birth date of this man is in the same era as my grandfather's brother. In fact, there are a couple of years difference in their ages.

PS: If I can reciprocate in the Cleveland, Ohio, area let me know.

Adelle Gloger
23920 Fairmount Blvd.
Shaker Hts., Ohio 44122
(216) 292-2665; e-mail: agloger@aol.com

Book Review, Continued

Fellowships, presented a cinematic biography of his family history. Ron Steinman, network television producer/documentary filmmaker, chronicled his search for his grandfather's house in Lithuania through his documentary. Topics included beginning genealogy tips and an in-depth discussion of immigration and naturalization records. Warren Blatt, webmaster of JewishGen and author, provided wonderful tips on Polish research. Susan King, founder and president of JewishGen, covered exciting new technology, expanding JewishGen.

Detailed outlines of these presentations are included in the Jewish Genealogy Yearbook 2000. If you missed the conference, don't miss the book! Visit us in Special Collections!

It Helps To Know The History

By Dick Franzel

I knew that my wife's grandfather, Jacob Urbach, came from Hungary, that her grandmother came from Romania, and that they had met in St. Louis. Her grandfather's father was Moritz Urbach. In my research, I learned that Jacob was from Ohaba, which is in Transylvania near Alba Iulia, another town mentioned in the records that I had uncovered.

About a month ago, my wife's uncle, who was Jacob's son, told me about a man named Leonard that he had met in the forties. It seems that Leonard, whose grandmother was an Urbach, found Leo's name in the St. Louis telephone book while he was stationed near here during the war. Leonard and Leo and their wives became friends, and over the years, they had visited each other and stayed in touch. Leonard always told Leo that his grandmother had had a brother who left home in 1904 to go to St. Louis and he was sure that her brother was Leo's grandfather.

When I heard this, I became interested and got in touch with Leonard. Leonard told me that his grandmother was born in the village of Blaj, located in the Principality of Transylvania in Romania. How could this be? The Urbachs I knew were from Hungary but these Urbachs were from Romania. How could they be brother and sister? Even their death dates fit. She had died in 1944 and Leo's grandfather Moritz had died in 1943, so they were close in age. Also Blaj was very close to Ohaba and Alba Iulia. I went back to my wife's mother and her uncle and asked more questions. Are you sure your father was Hungarian? Of course, they were positive.

I e-mailed Leonard and said "I don't think they are related." Then Leonard gave me a lesson in Hungarian and Romanian history. The area of Transylvania that Moritz Urbach had left in 1904 was part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire. During World War I, Romania joined the Allied Powers and was promised Transylvania when victory was achieved. In 1919, as a part of the Treaty of Versailles, Transylvania was given to Romania. When the Urbachs left, it was Hungary, and today it is Romania. Now I am sure that Bertha and Moritz were brother and sister. Bertha is my wife's great, great aunt.

In genealogy it's important to remember to keep an open mind to all facts and possibilities. We always have to remember how important history is in understanding what was taking place when our ancestors were living. It is vital to understand their history! Not only did I find an entire new branch to our family, but I also learned a great deal about life in this area from someone who lived there. Leonard was born in Blaj and I asked him to tell me what life was like there. He sent me the following e-mail.

Dear Dick,

You ask me to write about Blaj. I don't mind doing that. The only thing is that I am writing with the eyes of a 7 year old, although I must admit that the last time I was there, it was for one day in 1971.

(Continued on the back page.)

Looking for the Carnovsky Family?

Member Toby Carliner Sanchez sent an article about the Carnovsky family. She says "Members who once took piano lessons from the beloved Deborah Carnovsky, sister of the famous actor, Morris Carnovsky, might be interested in the enclosed article about the origins of the Karnovsky family in Lithuania and a connection to Louis Armstrong."

"Miss Carnovsky began teaching in the 1930s and eventually taught the grandchildren of her earlier students. I took lessons from her twice a week at 8 a.m. at her apartment on Westminster (I lived on Kingsbury) near Hamilton School. She has been one of my ideal women ever since, not only for her teaching ability, but because of her unfailing elegance; she always looked like Merle Oberon. Members may remember performing in or attending her annual music recitals held at the Wednesday Club in the 1940s."

Anyone who would like a copy of the article, please let Editor Ilene Murray know.

From the Editor's Desk...

We hope you like our new look! We are indebted to member, Gary Kodner, for the beautiful new logo and suggestions for how to improve the look of the masthead and front page. As we begin to replace our old publications, you'll see the new logo more and more. Thanks, too, to Leslie Popelka for getting our lovely new banners made. This way, we can announce ourselves to everyone whenever we have a special event or participate in someone else's.

Generations is now being printed on 11x17 paper that can be folded automatically. Not only are we saving on the amount of paper we are using, but we have negotiated an excellent printing contract which is saving us money. Please let us know how you like the changes. We want to produce the most visually attractive and intellectually stimulating publication possible so that all of us enjoy and benefit from it.

Ilene Murray, Editor
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Internet Site for European Maps

Here's a great website for Eastern European maps, including Austria-Hungary, Germany, Poland, and most of the former Soviet Union:

<<http://feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html>>.

Steerage Conditions

Part 3

This is Part III of the article on steerage conditions that began in the April issue. This report was posted on the Internet at <www.balchinstitute.org> the website for The Balch Institute for Ethnic Studies, 18 South 7th St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.



Dining Continued)

"When traffic is so light that some compartment is entirely unused, its berths are removed and stacked in one end and replaced by rough tables and benches. This is the most ample provision of dining accommodations ever made in the old type steerage, and occurs only when the space is not needed for other more profitable use."

"There are two systems of serving the food. In one instance the passengers, each carrying the crude eating utensils given him to use throughout the journey, pass in single file before the three or four stewards who are serving and each receives his rations. Then he finds a place wherever he can to eat them, and later washes his dishes and finds a hiding place for them where they may be safe until the next meal. Naturally there is a rush to secure a place in line and afterwards a scramble for the single warm-water faucet, which has to serve the needs of hundreds. Between the two, tables and seats are forgotten or they are deliberately deserted for the fresh air of the open deck."

"Under the new system of serving, women and children are given the preference at such tables as there are, the most essential eating utensils are placed by the

"The food may be generally described as fair in quality and sufficient in quantity, and yet it is neither..."

stewards and then washed by them. When the bell announces a meal, the stewards form in a line extending to the galley and large tin pans, each containing the food for one table, are passed along until every table is supplied. This constitutes the table service. The men passengers are even less favored. They are divided into groups of six. Each group receives two large tin pans and tin plates, cups, and cutlery enough for the six; also one ticket for the group. Each man takes his turn in going with the ticket and the two large pans for the food for the group, and in washing and caring for the dishes afterwards. They eat where they can, most frequently on the open deck. Stormy weather leaves no choice but the sleeping compartment."

"The food may be generally described as fair in quality and sufficient in quantity, and yet it is neither; fairly good materials are usually spoiled by being wretchedly prepared. Bread, potatoes, and meat, when not old leavings from the first and second galleys, form a fair substantial diet. Coffee is invariably bad and tea doesn't count as food with most immigrants. Vegetables, fruits, and pickles form an insignificant part of the diet

and are generally of a very inferior quality. The preparation, the manner of serving the food, and disregard of the proportions of the several food elements required by the human body make the food unsatisfying, and therefore insufficient. This defect and the monotony are relieved by purchases at the canteen by those whose capital will permit. Milk is supplied for small children."

(To be concluded next month.)

Synopsis of May Meeting

By Eunice Solomon

The May program of Carol Berger and Shirley Weiss provided a perfect double feature. Carol owns Hardbound, Inc., a company that prints books for individuals and Shirley owns Memories Unlimited which specializes in scrapbooks and archival quality supplies. Shirley demonstrated different ways to display photographs and articles. She stressed the importance of identifying all pictures with names of individuals, time and place. In her store, she has many types of paper, templates and scrapbooks. She said that a big seller is the "D" ring looseleaf book because the pages can lie flat. She showed how various effects can be obtained by the use of different shaped pens and recommended a product called Undo to remove pictures from those old black paper albums (which are full of acid and should not be used for storage of family photos).

Carol displayed several books her company has printed. Her company offers the would-be author all services, including text set-up, cover design, printing and binding. Books can be hardbound or paperback and editing services are offered, if needed. Pictures can be scanned into the books and her husband, who works with her, can do photo restoration. For manuscripts that are not too long, there is a Bind-a-Book kit available, making it possible to put your own book together.

Carol Berger's Hardbound Inc. is located at 737A. N. Hwy 67, Florissant, MO 63031; tel. (314) 839-2530. Shirley Weiss's Memories Unlimited is at 13877 Manchester Rd., 63011; tel. (636) 227-9292; e-mail <memunltd@earthlink.net>.

Research Question Needs Answer

The purpose of this column is to address problems that are common to our membership. (If you know the answer, please notify the editor or the president.)

Does anyone know where the records of Oxenhandler Funeral Home are located? Berger and Rindskopf were unable to help.

Jerry Goldberg

Know the History... Continued

I went there to visit some old relatives and the grave of my father who died in 1928.

Blaj is a small village almost in the center of the Principality of Transylvania, between two rivers, Muresul Mare and Muresul Mica. The town is small and if it is renowned for any reason it is that within the country itself it has a very large university. Otherwise, I don't think it has much to offer. Most of the houses are one floor bungalow-type houses with large back yards.

Most of these large back yards are used, in the summer time, to cultivate fruits and vegetables. The people use cans, jars, or bottles for most of these things to have for the winter. The construction of the homes is primitive. They have no plumbing or toilet facilities. But they have a well for water and an out house in the back yard. Since most of the homes have no electricity, they use kerosene lamps or candles for light.

As for refrigeration, some homes have ice boxes and they have to buy ice to keep things cool. The 13 years I lived in Romania we never had a refrigerator or an ice box. We lived without it because there was nothing to refrigerate. As odd as this may sound, this is the truth. We never had leftovers, but we didn't starve. We had enough food from one meal to

another. This was a way of life. Most of the streets were paved with cobble stones or just plain dirt. There were very few sidewalks. Some of the streets had electric lights, but very few. There was no light pollution. (I happen to be an amateur astronomer.) The free education system ends after 7 years of elementary school. That was my total education; after that if you want to continue your education, you have to pay. My mother could not afford to pay.

Just to clarify, I have to give you a background of some of the things that happened in my life. I was born in New York City. After five years, my parents, who were new immigrants, for some painful reasons decided to return to Blaj, where they originally came from. I had no choice but to go with them. After my father died, my mother, a brother and I moved to a larger city in Transylvania called Deva. There I spent my adolescent years and from there, at age 18, I returned to the United States. This was in 1939. I was an American citizen by the fact that I was born here.

This is a condensed version of some of the things I remember...

Leonard



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