
GENERATIONS

Volume 7 Issue 5

May 2001

May Meeting

Printing Your Book; Displaying Your Photos

(Rescheduled from December
due to inclement weather)

Ms. Carol Berger and Ms. Shirley Weiss

Date: Thursday, May 17, 2001

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Jablon Youth Lounge
United Hebrew Congregation
13788 Conway Road



Jewish
Genealogical
Society
of St. Louis
Affiliated with
United Hebrew
Congregation

June Meeting

Portrait of a Family From Napoleonic Times to the Present

Burton Boxerman, Ph.D.

Date: Thursday, June 21, 2001

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Jablon Youth Lounge
United Hebrew Congregation
13788 Conway Road

The May program will feature two interesting speakers, who are eager to finally meet with us since the cancellation of the December meeting because of the weather. First, as previously announced, will be Carol Berger, who owns Hardbound, Inc., a company she founded in 1996, which can produce books for individuals at a reasonable price in any quantity. She will show us several different bindings that are available, the Bind-A-Book kit which allows a person to bind his/her own hardbound book, and the 3-Hole Punch leather binding which allows pages to be added or removed.

Shirley Weiss, who has been the owner of Memories Unlimited, a scrapbook store in Town and Country, for the last three years, is our second guest. Using selected archival quality materials from the vast stock in her shop, she will explain how, by using scrapbooks, stickers, frames, etc., we can display precious photos of our ancestors, as well as more recent snapshots, to their best advantage. In addition, as she will explain, scrapbook making can be an enjoyable experience for every member of the family, regardless of age, level of skill or artistic ability.

We hope this will be an evening where we will surely learn more about how to share the results of all our hard work in genealogical research.

At this time, most members of the JGS of St. Louis are the products of families who have lived in the United States for two, three, perhaps even four generations. Jewish people, however, have been in this country almost from its inception. What has become of the descendants of these early families? How have they fared over the last 200 years? How has their history been alike or different from the general Christian population?

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 one of these early American Jewish families. 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.

REMINDER: The JGS Discussion Group will NOT meet in May. See Page 8 to learn about a special June field trip to St. Louis City Hall. As always, everyone is welcome.

President's Page

April Meeting

Our April meeting featured JGS member Ilene Murray speaking on the Hamburg Emigration Lists. As expected, we had a large attendance, and the membership was aptly rewarded with Ilene's discussion. Her wit, subject knowledge and the supporting dialogue associated with the visuals yielded a learning experience seldom matched. Ilene is a former schoolteacher, a great asset to our society and always generous with her knowledge.

Suggestions for New Columns

As space permits in each issue of *Generations*, we include out-of-town inquiries. Why not include similar types of articles for our members? Our web site will have an inquiry database for local connections from our members. However, we can do more. A purpose of JGS of St. Louis is to educate and provide research knowledge to our members. This newsletter is the appropriate place to publish an "I Need Help" column. The submission should be "How can I?" and not ask another person to actually do your research. Send your inquiries and/or responses to me at <jerfransl@cs.com> or provide a typed copy to me at the meetings. Responses will be published in *Generations*.

At each meeting, I request success stories from our members, limiting each speaker to a few minutes. I will continue to recognize these people. However, for the benefit of those unable to attend a meeting and to document detailed research methods, another new feature will be started in *Generations*. This will be your story explaining how your family information was obtained and methods you've used that may be helpful to other members. So, if you'd like to see your name in print, start writing and send me a copy.

Website Update

I apologize for our website not containing current information. We have had problems with the site, as many of you know, and are working on a solution. We expect to announce our new website soon, and we hope it will be operational in four to six weeks.

JewishGen Needs Your Support!

The following is an edited email message received from JewishGen: If you have not donated to JewishGen recently, NOW is the time. They need to be able to pay for increased technical support and the need for increased bandwidth. Less than 2500 financial supporters cannot continue to hold up 10 times their number in the user base.

JewishGen urges that those of you who have never donated whatever you can afford to keep JewishGen alive and viable, please, do it now! <<http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/Operations.html>>

If you have used JewishGen, you know how important a website it is. Please send a donation, if you can.

Jerry Goldberg,

JGS of St. Louis President

From the Editor's Desk...

As you begin to plan spring and summer trips, don't overlook the opportunities you might find to do some genealogical research. There are workshops and conferences to attend, and, of course, as you travel, there are courthouses and libraries, cemeteries and historical societies. No matter where your ancestors came from, they have left footprints here in America.

Even big city research can be done successfully; it just takes persistence and doing your homework, so that you learn about where records are kept before you go to a city repository.

Please follow Jerry's advice and write an article for *Generations*. We look forward to hearing from you. *And watch for some major changes in next month's issue!*

Ilene Murray, Editor
8724 Teasdale Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63124-1926
(314) 991-3593

e-mail: <ilenemurray@mindspring.com>

(Please note: I have a new e-mail address.)

JGS Library News

Norman Kling has volunteered to be in the JGS library at United Hebrew from 10 a.m.–noon on Wednesday mornings. Shirley Finger will assist members from 10 a.m.–noon on the fourth Thursday of each month when the Discussion Group meets. Art and Sylvia Jaffe will return to their Tuesday morning schedule from 10 a.m.–noon.

The JGS library collection is shelved in the center of the library. The books are identified with a bright green circle on the binding. The books are for reference only and can only be used in the library.

A tape and video library has been established. Borrowing arrangements are to be made in advance by calling library chairs Art and Sylvia Jaffe, (314) 434-8392 or by emailing <Letvak@aol.com>. A list of the videos and tapes will appear in the June issue of *Generations*. A future issue of *Generations* will also list all books in the society library collection. The books are now being categorized.

Additional volunteers are being sought to assist in the library. Contact the Jaffes to volunteer.

Upcoming Conferences

The 31st annual "Tracking Our Ancestors" fair, sponsored by the St. Louis Genealogical Society, will be held on Saturday, June 16, 2001. This year's fair will be from 8:45 a.m. till 4:00 p.m. in the J.C. Penney Building on the U.M.S.L. campus and features sessions on beginning genealogy, using courthouse, marriage, divorce, circuit court, and census records, using a library effectively, using newspapers, and using the Internet for research. Participants will be able to register for four hour-long workshops. Advance registration for members is \$30; \$40 for non-members. At the door, members will pay \$40; \$50 for non-members. Prepaid box lunches are available for \$9.50. As always, one of the highlights of the day will be a large exhibitors' area. For more information, call (314) 647-8547 on Tues., Thurs. or Sat. from 9 a.m. till noon, or visit the website at: <www.rootsweb.com/~mostlogs/stindex.htm>



The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois will present The Midwest Jewish Genealogical Conference on Sunday, June 24, 2001 in Skokie, Illinois. Additional information is available online at: <<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/workshop.htm>>. The cost for non-JGS of Illinois members is \$50 for registration by May 15 and \$55 after that date.



And don't forget the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies will be held in Davenport, Iowa from Sept. 12 to Sept. 15, 2001. You can get a conference brochure by calling 888-FGS-1500 (toll free) or go to the FGS website: <www.fgs.org> to learn more.

American Red Cross To Host Special Holocaust Event

In commemoration of the 10th Anniversary of the Holocaust and War Victims Tracing Center, the American Red Cross St. Louis Area Chapter invites the public to attend a special evening at the Holocaust Museum on Tuesday, June 5 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Light dinner refreshments will be served.

Guest speaker is Deborah Levison of Connecticut, a second-generation Holocaust survivor, nationally acclaimed speaker and journalist. The gripping story of her family's quest to trace her grandfather who was lost during the Holocaust inspires others to remain hopeful that information can still be found to give closure. The event is free to the public but RSVP's are required, as seating is limited. For more information on Tracing Services, or to reserve a space for the event, call the American Red Cross at (314) 516-2721. If anyone has

(Continued at the bottom of the next column.)

Research Hints: Newspapers

By C. Edwin Murray

Newspapers are valuable sources of genealogical information. You want to look for vital record information (birth, marriage, death), obituaries, burial permit notices, family connections, wedding information, occupations, religious or fraternal news, legal information, general interest news that lists names, dates, events and places, etc. You also want to notice if at the bottom of an article it asks for other papers to print the same information. This usually indicates that other family members are found in the city or town where those papers are distributed.

If you cannot find information about your family in the local daily papers, such as the *St. Louis Globe Democrat*, *St. Louis Post Dispatch*, or the *St. Louis Star-Times*, you should look for the Jewish newspapers that were being printed for the time period when your family was located in St. Louis. If you do not read Hebrew or Yiddish, you need to look for the Jewish papers that were printed in English.

One of the best papers to search for the period 1888 through 1926 is the *Jewish Voice*, a weekly paper printed in St. Louis. This was a time period when many Jews were immigrating to this area. A few copies can be found at the Missouri Historical Society on Skinker, but the largest collection of the paper is on microfilm at the State Historical Society in Columbia, Missouri. The address of the Society is State Historical Society of Missouri, 1020 Lowry Street, Columbia, MO. The society's library is on the campus of the University of Missouri.

The following 18 microfilm rolls can be found at the State Historical Society of Mo. in the newspaper room:

Jan. 6, 1888–Nov. 13, 1891	Jan. 6, 1911–Dec.27, 1912
Nov. 13, 1891–Sep. 27, 1895	Jan. 3, 1913–Dec. 25, 1914
Oct. 4, 1895–Aug 13, 1898	Jan. 1, 1915–Dec. 29, 1916
Aug. 13, 1898–May 24, 1901	Jan. 5, 1917–Dec. 27, 1918
Jul. 26, 1901–Dec 25, 1902	Jan. 3, 1919–Dec. 31, 1920
Jan 1, 1903–Dec. 30, 1904	Jan. 7, 1921–Dec. 29, 1922
Jan. 6, 1905–Dec. 28, 1906	Jan. 5, 1923–Dec. 25, 1924
Jan. 4, 1907–Dec. 25, 1908	Jan. 1, 1925–Dec. 25, 1925
Jan. 1, 1909–Dec. 30, 1910	Jan. 1, 1926–Dec. 24, 1926

In the first issue of this paper (Vol. 1, January 6, 1888, No. 1), it stated that the *Jewish Voice* was a new Jewish weekly sent to thousands of Jewish families in city and county "...every Friday morning and will form pleasant reading for the sabbath eve." The cost of the paper was \$2 per year and N. Spite was the editor.

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

questions, they can call Kathy Lass, JGS member and Director of the International Services of the American Red Cross, directly at (314) 516-2737.

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.

MASS	A bookseller
MAUTNER	A collector of duty or tolls
MECKLER	Broker or middleman; also appears as Makler
MEHLER	A charcoal burner; also appears as Meiler
MEHLMAN	A flour merchant
MELBER	A flour dealer
MELZNER	One who deals in malt; a brewer or a malter. Also may appear as Meltz, Meltzer.
MESSINGER	A worker or dealer in brass
MILLER	A miller
MILLMAN	A miller
MILSTEIN	A miller
MORENU	A Hebrew word for "our master" and is a title of honor for a rabbi
MUCHNIK	A flour merchant
NAGER	From the Hebrew word for "carpenter;" also appears as Neiger, Nuger.
NAPARSTEK	The Polish word for a thimble and was adopted by a tailor. The German equivalent is Fingerhut.
NASATIR	From the Hebrew business book designation "natati" (I gave). The other page was marked "kibalti" (I received) and the name Kibaltic was derived from this.
NERENBERG	A seller of notions such as toys, buttons, needles, etc.
NETZKY	A baker
PACKER	A wholesaler; also may come from the German "Packtraeger" - a peddler.
PAPERINICK	One who is involved in the manufacturing or selling of paper; also appears as Papirnyi, Papiermeister.
PASTERNAK	"Parsnip" in Russian; a dealer in vegetables or one who served food.
PATINKIN	A maker of shoes
PAUKER	A drummer
PECHENIK	A baker
PERGAMENT	The name assumed by a scribe. The word means parchment and comes from the ancient city in Asia Minor known as Pergamon where parchment originated.
PLOTKIN	A dealer in fish; also appears as Plotke, Plotka.
PLOTNICK	A carpenter
POLIER	A foreman on a construction crew of bricklayers, masons, or carpenters
POLSTER	An upholsterer

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

Volunteers Needed at the Brodsky Library

Recently, one of our new members asked if the *Jewish Light* is indexed. The answer to that question is yes, sort of.

According to Barbara Raznick, Library Director at the Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library at the JCCA, volunteers, including our own Art & Sylvia Jaffe, have worked on the index up until recently. They have completed from 1947–1975 and the information is in a database on the library computer.

The project is now at a standstill, as the volunteers are no longer working on the database. Barbara would welcome someone(s) to resume entering data from 1975 forward.

Since the *Jewish Light* carries notices of birth, death, marriage, and social events, there is much of genealogical value in the back issues. A complete index would be of great benefit to all genealogists using those newspapers.

The library is also ready to begin work on its archives and they need volunteers for that project. If you have been there, you know there are some wonderful treasures hidden on shelves and in boxes.

If you can volunteer some time in the library, please contact Barbara at (314) 432-0020 or by e-mail: <braznick@jfedstl.org>. To work on the index, you will need a basic understanding of how to use a computer. Barbara and her staff will train volunteers on how to enter information into the database.

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Website:

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

E-Mail Address uhjgsstl@cs.com

New 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>.

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.

If you need more information, call Jerry Goldberg at (314) 434-2566.

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 Jacob (b.1860) and Clara **KICKEL** (b. 1861) who migrated to US from Latvia, Russia in 1892 with their two children, Julius (b.1889) and Annie. Jacob was a tailor and had a shop on Easton Ave in St. Louis. Eventually there were other children, Dorothy, Samuel, and Rose Bertha. Jacob's second wife, Sadie, also emigrated from Russia in 1907. They had a daughter Minnie. Julius married Ursula Geneva **MONKS**. He died in the flu epidemic in 1919.
Hunter L. Kickle
1075 Woodland Drive
Mt Zion, IL 62549
(217) 864-3659

I am seeking information about Daniel **BLOCK**, a founder of B'nai-El in St. Louis. I would like his obituary. He died Sept 3, 1853 in St. Louis.
Dan Berwin Brockman
P.O. Box 913
Barrington, IL 60011
(847) 382 6015
danbbrockman@sprintmail.com

I am trying to establish the married names of the following sisters possibly married in UH. One of the sisters, Effie E. **MARKS**, married in your synagogue. I do not need information on her.
Rachel Marks DOB: 1866 Married circa 1885-1890
Elisabeth Marks DOB: 1868 Married circa 1886-1895
Dohra Marks DOB: 1874 Married circa 1893-1900
Anna Marks DOB: 1876 Married circa 1895-1902
They were all born in Illinois or possibly in Saint Louis and their parents were Simon and Amalia **MARKS**, both born in Germany. Please note, "Marks" is the correct spelling.
Vera Shpolyansky
vshp@heirsearch.com

I am seeking information about Mose J. **HARRIS** and family. I just discovered they lived in St. Louis City 189?-? Death dates? etc. Any family still alive? Researching Mose J. **HARRIS**; wife Sarah **STANFIELD**; son Authar (sic); dtrs. Corinne, Rush.
Paula Zieselman
201 East 79th Street
New York, NY 10021
(212) 772-3602
paulaz@ix.netcom.com

(Continued next time we have space.)

Photo Highlights of the March Workshop Featuring Miriam Weiner

Photos by C. Edwin Murray



The Introduction

JGS president, Jerry Goldberg, greeted guest speaker Miriam Weiner in front of the crowd assembled in the auditorium at United Hebrew, Sunday afternoon, March 25, 2001. Following Jerry's greetings, Rabbi Elizabeth Hersh gave an invocation and *Jewish Light* editor, Robert A. Cohn, introduced Miriam.



The Cake

Before the seminar began, Miriam Weiner posed with Bob Cohn, editor of the *Jewish Light*, and two sheet cakes decorated with facsimiles of the covers of Miriam's two popular genealogy books, *Jewish Roots in Poland* and *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova*. Leslie Popelka was the creative genius behind the book-covers-on-the-cakes idea; Dierberg's bakery carried it out.

The Book Signing

New member, Lois Fitter, Norwin Weiner, Linda Scroggin and another guest joined Miriam at the book-signing table after her talk.



The Crowd

Jerry Goldberg and Miriam Weiner stood in front of the auditorium as Miriam got ready to present a short slide show. Gerry Popelka was the man behind the slide projector. Everyone enjoyed seeing some of the places Miriam had referred to in her talk.

Steerage Conditions

Part 2

This is Part II of the article on steerage conditions that began last 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.



“Generally the passenger must retire almost fully dressed to keep warm. Through the entire voyage, from seven to seventeen days, the berths receive no attention from the stewards. The berth, 6 feet long and 2 feet wide and with 2 1/2 feet of space above it, is all the space to which the steerage passenger can assert a definite right. To this 30 cubic feet of space he must, in a large measure, confine himself. No space is designated for hand baggage. As practically every traveler has some bag or bundle, this must be kept in the berth. It may not even remain on the floor beneath. There are no hooks on which to hang clothing. Everyone, almost, has some better clothes saved for disembarkation, and some wraps for warmth that are not worn all the time, and these must either be hung about the framework of the berth or stuck away somewhere in it. At least two large transportation lines furnish the steerage passengers eating utensils and require each one to retain these throughout the voyage. As no repository for them is provided, a corner of each berth must serve that purpose. Towels and other toilet necessities, which each passenger must furnish for himself, claim more space in the already crowded berths. The floors of these large compartments are generally of wood, but floors consisting of large sheets of iron were also found. Sweeping is the only form of cleaning done. Sometimes the process is repeated several times a day. This is particularly true when the litter is the leavings of food sold to the passengers by the steward for his own profit. No sick cans are furnished, and not even large receptacles for waste. The vomitings of the seasick are often permitted to remain a long time before being removed. The floors, when iron, are continually damp, and when of wood they reek with foul odor because they are not washed.”

Sleeping

“The open deck available to the steerage is very limited, and regular separable dining rooms are not included in the construction. The sleeping compartments must therefore be the constant abode of a majority of passengers. During days of continued storm, when the unprotected open deck cannot be used at all, the berths and the passageways between them are the only space where the steerage passenger can pass away the time.”

“When to this very limited space and much filth and stench is added inadequate means of ventilation, the result is almost unendurable. Its harmful effects on health and morals scarcely need be indicated. Two 12-inch ventilator shafts are required for every 50 persons in every room; but the conditions here are abnormal and

these provisions do not suffice. The air was found to be invariably bad, even in the higher inclosed decks where hatchways afford further means of ventilation. In many instances, persons, after recovering from seasickness, continue to lie in their berths in a sort of stupor, due to breathing air whose oxygen has been mostly replaced by foul gases. Those passengers who make a practice of staying much on the open deck feel the contrast between the air out of doors and that in the compartments, and consequently find it impossible to remain below long at a time. In two steamers the open deck was always filled long before daylight by those who could no longer endure the foul air between decks.”

Washing

“Wash rooms and lavatories, separate for men and for women, are required by law, which also states they shall be kept in a ‘clean and serviceable condition throughout the voyage.’ The indifferent obedience to this provision is responsible for further uncomfortable and unhygienic conditions.”

(To be continued next issue)

Synopsis of April Program

The Hamburg Emigration Lists are a valuable resource for genealogists. They offer a way to find an ancestor's town of origin and an alternative way to find which ship an immigrant took out of Europe and the port to which it was going. In cases where you might not know a date of arrival, finding an immigrant in the Hamburg Lists can help you determine when he/she arrived in the U.S.

The Lists include all emigrants leaving Hamburg from 1850 to 1934, except during WWI. The indexes to the Lists are divided into Direct (those who left Hamburg and sailed directly to their destinations) and Indirect (those who stopped at one or more ports before arriving at their final destination). Once you find a person in the index, you note the date, ship name, and page number. Then, you go to the actual manifests to find your person. The lists have been microfilmed and are available through the Family History Library.

If your person did not come directly, add 10 to 14 days and begin to look for him/her arriving into the U.S. from whatever port was their intermediate stop. You may also want to look for information on their steamship(s).

Some useful Internet sites are

the Port of Hamburg:

<www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm>

Emigration/immigration

<<http://www.viser.net/~debrapay/ships.htm>>

Photos of ships: <www.kinshipsprints.com>

Speakers Bureau

Sylvia Jaffe is temporarily taking over the Speakers Bureau chairmanship. Bernice Marcus has taken a leave of absence.

Members are needed to speak before Houses of Worship, organizations, nursing homes and community events. The society is often asked to provide speakers for meetings and events.

A training workshop will be held by Sylvia for members volunteering to serve as speakers. Call Sylvia at (314) 434-8392 or email to <Letvak@aol.com>.

The Speakers Bureau was formed six years ago. It has been beneficial in helping the St. Louis Jewish community learn about the society as well as the importance of tracing family roots.

Discussion Group

May: The Discussion Group will not meet in May due to the long Memorial Day weekend.

June: A field trip to the St. Louis City Hall will replace the June Discussion Group session. Members will meet at the Recorder of Deeds office at **1 p.m. Thursday, June 28, 2001**. Members will provide their own transportation or arrange on their own to car pool with other members. Marie Ceselski of the Recorder of Deeds office will guide the group and introduce them to the various genealogical resources at City Hall. The field trip is open only to members of the society. Sign up for the field trip by calling Sylvia Jaffe, Discussion Group Leader at (314) 434-8392.



It's May!
Time for flowers,
picnics and
remembrance of
those who have
served in the
military.
Don't forget our
Tribute Cards!
What better way
to help the JGS
strengthen its
library?
Contact
Jean Heyman at
(314) 434-2345
for more
information.



Ellis Island Records Finally Opened to the Public

On April 17th, The American Family Immigration History Center opened on Ellis Island, to great fanfare. Genealogists all over will soon be logging in to search the newly created database of passenger arrival records of 17 million people who immigrated through the port of New York from 1892-1924. Although very congested still, you should eventually be able to get onto the website at <www.ellislandrecords.org>. Early users have reported various degrees of success. There is no Soundex and spelling variations of names remain a problem. Good luck as you work with the database. Hopefully, you will find some relatives!

JGS of St. Louis
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