



# GENERATIONS

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

Volume 8

Issue 3

March 2002

## March Meeting

### Guest Speaker:

Joyce Loving

Thursday, Mar. 21, 2002

Time: 7:30 p.m.

**(Back to Regular Thursday Evening Meetings!)**

## April Meeting

Installation of Officers

Followed By

“Ask The Panel”

Thursday, Apr. 18, 2002

Time: 7:30 p.m.

### Meetings Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge

United Hebrew

Congregation

13788 Conway Road

### REMINDERS:

**The Discussion Group will NOT meet in March because the 4th Thursday falls on Passover. Call Sylvia Jaffe (314) 434-8392 for more information.**

**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

### March Meeting

Guest Speaker: Joyce Loving

Manager, Special Collections, St. Louis County Library

### “Jewish Genealogical Resources at St. Louis Co. Library”

For the past two years, the Special Collections Department has made an effort to acquire as many resources as possible to help those doing Jewish genealogical research. What began with the purchase of yizkor books has greatly expanded to include microfiche, CD-ROMS, periodicals, and other important new releases. In addition, there are now more than 20,000 volumes from the NGS Lending Library Collection, available to all genealogists in the St. Louis area. Come listen as Joyce Loving, Manager of Special Collections, describes the resources available, and get some new ideas to further your own research.

March is also our 7th birthday! We'll celebrate by holding elections for new officers and with special treats after Joyce's presentation. Don't miss the fun!



### April Meeting

Installation of Officers Followed By “Ask The Panel”

Featuring: Phyllis Faintich, Chris Flesor, Ilene Murray  
Eunice Solomon, Moderator

April's meeting will begin with the installation of our newly elected officers. Once that is done, we hope you will join us for a participatory panel session.

Is your research at a dead end? Can't find Aunt Sadie in the 1920 Census? Not sure how to find Grandpa's shtetl? Is medical history really important? Here's your chance to find answers to these questions and any others that have been bothering you about your genealogy research. Our panelists have faced many of the same problems that you are dealing with. They have among them many years of experience and familiarity with research techniques. Maybe one of them can help you over that brick wall.

Phyllis, Eunice, and Ilene have each been doing genealogy for 15-20 years. All have been to Salt Lake City to work in the Family History Library. Chris does genealogy and works at St. Louis County Library in the Special Collections Department. She knows the ins and outs of using reference material. Ilene has taught classes on family history, is a genealogical speaker, and has written genealogy articles. All of the panel members actively use the Internet and computers to assist themselves and others with their genealogy.

Start writing down your questions and plan to bring them with you to April's meeting! The panel needs them in order to help you. Don't worry about your questions sounding silly; no question is too simple. This should be an informative and entertaining evening!

# President's Message

## Jewish Genealogy Month

*Avotaynu*, the major publisher of Jewish genealogy books, has declared the month of Nisan 5762 (March 14–April 12) - the Passover season - as “Jewish Genealogy Month.” They are distributing a poster to all Jewish genealogical societies which will be displayed at our March meeting. Its theme is “From Generation to Generation,” reminding us that family history research brings back the long-forgotten names of distant ancestors. Quoting from *Avotaynu*, “Tracing your family roots is more than finding out who are your ancestors. You must read about Jewish and world history; in the process, you learn much about Jewish customs, Jewish culture, and the Jewish religion. Doing family history and learning the details of our grandparents' and great-grandparents' lives is one element of that good Jewish education.”

## February Meeting

At our February meeting, Chuck Jackson and Alan Barash, two transplanted southern Jewish members, discussed their experiences growing up in the south. Neither one experienced anti-Semitism, a point mentioned more than once to a somewhat amazed audience. Chuck and Alan also provided information for further Jewish southern research. Thanks guys, and by the way, I received two phone calls from non-members requesting details of your presentation.

## Society Newsletters

A major asset of our library is the newsletters published by other Jewish genealogical societies. These publications generally consist of local society news and articles of a non-local nature. A possible alternative source for these newsletters is the society's website. Not all societies have websites, and within these sites, not all post their newsletter. Why would a society not place their newsletter on the Web? The newsletter is an advantage or perk for joining an organization. JGS of St. Louis operates on a small budget, and like other societies, cannot afford to give away the store. Again, like other societies, we offer a compromise. Our website has an index of past issues, created by webmaster Joel Shedlofsky, and these issues are available at our library.

How do we obtain and coordinate other societies' newsletters? JGS of St. Louis exchanges newsletters with other societies. We send electronic files as well as printed copies to about 30 other groups. We receive newsletters back from many of them. Some societies only publish quarterlies, some no longer print newsletters, and some are currently without newsletter editors. If there is a society that you are interested in and you do not find their newsletter in our library, contact me and I'll see what I can do for you.

## March Meeting

I seldom discuss our next meeting, but our March meeting is special for two reasons. Joyce Loving, Manager of Special Collections at the St. Louis County Library, frequently appears as our program speaker. She is well known to our members, professionally and personally, and she always conveys an enormous amount of information. Joyce will be sharing information about the new Jewish resources she and her staff have been adding to the Special Collections Department. Another reason for attending is in honor of our seventh anniversary. For those who have not attended a recent meeting, please join us and mingle with your fellow genealogists.

*Jerry Goldberg,*

JGS of St. Louis President

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## Genealogy Events of Interest: March/April

### Genealogy Courses at the Community Colleges

Genealogy classes at all the community colleges. Check mailed booklet. If you need a booklet, call Flo. Valley at 314-595-4444, Forest Park at 314-644-9175, or Meramec at 314-984-7777. Or use the website: <[www.stlcc.cc.mo.us](http://www.stlcc.cc.mo.us)> Discounts at all schools for Seniors!

### St. L. Co. Library & St. L. Genealogical Society

Tuesday, April 9, 2002

7:00 p.m. at the Co. Library Headquarters Auditorium

“Historic Buildings of St. Louis”

Speaker: Lynn Josse, Researcher, Landmarks Assoc. of St. Louis

### National Genealogical Society

Conference in the States

May 15–18, 2002

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Registration booklets available at

St. L. Co. Library: Special Collections

OR go to the website:

<[www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)>

(Early registration deadline:

18 March 2002)

### And Coming Soon...

**St. Louis Genealogical Society's Annual Fair**, the largest genealogical fair in the Midwest, Saturday, June 22: at University of MO-St. Louis, J.C. Penney Building. Watch for more info. or call the StLGS office.

# Research Hints: Getting Ready for the 1930 Census

By C. Edwin Murray

Genealogists are all anxiously waiting for April 2002 when the 1930 Federal Census will be released to the public. At least three locations will have the complete set of records. The National Archives in Washington, D.C., the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana. (The St. Louis Genealogical Society will be offering trips to the Allen County Library from April 28 to May 4, 2002 and to the Family History Library from November 3 to November 10, 2002, for those who are interested.)

The St. Louis County Library is purchasing the rolls for Missouri, Illinois, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The St. Louis Public Library is purchasing the rolls for Missouri, Illinois, and Mississippi.

Since there is no Soundex for Missouri, you will need to obtain the addresses of the people that you want to research in a St. Louis City or County Directory. If your person lived in the city, you will then need to look at the map of enumeration districts in the city of St. Louis for the roll that you need to search. At this time, there is no map of the enumeration districts for St. Louis County. However, there is a list of the boundaries for the county districts. (See box on Page 6 for a website that will help convert addresses to EDs.)

The entire 1930 Federal Census set by state is as follows:

Alabama (54 rolls):	T626, Rolls 1-54
Alaska (3):	T626, Rolls 2626-2628
Arizona (9):	T626, Rolls 55-63
Arkansas (36):	T626, Rolls 64-99
California (129):	T626, Rolls 100-228
Colorado (24):	T626, Rolls 229-252
Connecticut (33):	T626, Rolls 253-285
Delaware (6):	T626, Rolls 286-291
Wash., D.C. (14):	T626, Rolls 292-305
Florida (30):	T626, Rolls 306-335
Georgia (59):	T626, Rolls 336-394
Hawaii (7):	T626, Rolls 2631-2637
Idaho (10):	T626, Rolls 395-404
Illinois (169):	T626, Rolls 405-573
Indiana (66):	T626, Rolls 574-639
Iowa (52):	T626, Rolls 640-691
Kansas (39):	T626, Rolls 692-730
Kentucky (51):	T626, Rolls 731-781
Louisiana (45):	T626, Rolls 782-826
Maine (16):	T626, Rolls 827-842
Maryland (40):	T626, Rolls 843-882
Massachusetts (89):	T626, Rolls 883-971
Michigan (106):	T626, Rolls 972-1077
Minnesota (59):	T626, Rolls 1078-1136
Mississippi (37):	T626, Rolls 1137-1173
Missouri (78):	T626, Rolls 1174-1251
Montana (13):	T626, Rolls 1252-1264

Nebraska (31):	T626, Rolls 1265-1295
Nevada (2):	T626, Rolls 1296-1297
New Hampshire (10):	T626, Rolls 1298-1307
New Jersey (84):	T626, Rolls 1308-1391
New Mexico (9):	T626, Rolls 1392-1400
New York (270):	T626, Rolls 1401-1670.
	(There is no roll 1602.)
North Carolina (60):	T626, Rolls 1671-1730
North Dakota (15):	T626, Rolls 1731-1745
Ohio (146):	T626, Rolls 1746-1891
Oklahoma (47):	T626, Rolls 1892-1938
Oregon (20):	T626, Rolls 1939-1958
Pennsylvania (209):	T626, Rolls 1959-2167
Rhode Island (16):	T626, Rolls 2168-2183
South Carolina (33):	T626, Rolls 2184-2216
South Dakota (16):	T626, Rolls 2217-2232
Tennessee (54):	T626, Rolls 2233-2286
Texas (127):	T626, Rolls 2287-2413
Utah (12):	T626, Rolls 2414-2425
Vermont (7):	T626, Rolls 2426-2432
Virginia (51):	T626, Rolls 2433-2483
Washington (42):	T626, Rolls 2484-2525
West Virginia (34):	T626, Rolls 2526-2559
Wisconsin (61):	T626, Rolls 2560-2620
Wyoming (5):	T626, Rolls 2621-2625

Soundex microfilm for 12 states (Other states are not soundexed):

Alabama	(M2049), 195 rolls
Arkansas	(M2050), 100 rolls
Florida	(M2051), 98 rolls
Georgia	(M2052), approx. 260 rolls
Kentucky	(M2053), 24 rolls
Louisiana	(M2054), 146 rolls
Mississippi	(M2055), 158 rolls
North Carolina	(M2056), 169 rolls
South Carolina	(M2057), 109 rolls
Tennessee	(M2058), 169 rolls
Virginia	(M2059), approx. 124 rolls
West Virginia	(M2060), 39 rolls

If you want more help on getting started with the 1930 census, you can go to the following web page from the National Archives:

[www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html#tutorial](http://www.nara.gov/genealogy/1930cen.html#tutorial).

*Our condolences to the family of member, Irwin Page, who passed away recently. Irwin assisted in indexing marriage records.*

*Condolences, too, to former Board member, Art Lewis, whose father, Henry L. Lewis, died February 10th.*



# What's In A Name?

## Symbolism/Acronyms/Abbreviations And The Like

By Chuck Jackson

The discussion continues of surnames and how symbolism, acronyms, synonyms, abbreviations, and the like developed into names. Please keep in mind that some surnames were adopted due to the sound, the secondary meaning, or for other purposes.

- FRIEDMAN, FRIED** These names have the idea of peace and are symbolic forms of Shelomo (Solomon) or Shalom. Again we must note that many countries disallowed the use of Hebrew names as family names and Friedman and Fried are good German words.
- FROIKIN** The name Ephraim became abbreviated to Froim which then evolved to Froike and Efroike. Froikin means "descendent of Ephraim." Also appears as Efroikin.
- FROMEL** An adoption of Avraham (Abraham) which becomes Avrum, which becomes Avromel, which becomes Vromel, which becomes Fromel. Also appears as From, Fromkin, Frommer, Fromer.
- GEDULD** From the old German vernacular which means peace. When Warsaw was occupied by the Prussians from 1794 to 1806, the Prussians imposed German sounding names on the Polish Jews and used "Geduld" as a translation of Solomon.
- GERSTEIN** Another form of Gershon. Also appears as Gerstner.
- GITTELSON** Son of Gittel.
- GLICK** A Yiddish derivation of a Middle Ages popular name, Gluckel, and was associated with the meaning of "luck." The German equivalent of Glick is Gluck. Also appears as Glickman, Glicksman, Glickstein, Glickberg, Glicksberg, Glickstern, Glickselig, Glickin, Gluckman, Glucksman, Gluckstein, Gluckberg, Glucksberg, Gluckstern, Gluckselig, Gluckin.
- GOLOMB** The Polish for Yonah (Jonah) - "dove." Also appears as Golub which is the Russian translation of the Czech or Ukrainian "Holub."
- GOMPERTZ** From the old German name Gundbert. Gumpert/Gompert was frequently added to the Hebrew names Ephraim and Mordecai as far back as the 14th century and first appeared as a family name in the 16th century. Also appears as Gomperz, Gompers, Kompert, Kumpert, Gumpertz, Gumprecht, Gumpel, Gimpel, Gimbel.
- GOODMAN** An English version of Gutman which is a translation from the Hebrew name "Tuviah." Goodman may also be derived from the name Gute or Gittel and, in this form, may also appear as Guter, Gutter, Gutterman, Gutfield, Gutfreund, Gutreich, Gutstein.
- HAAS** Joseph (Yosef) often had "Has" or "Hase" as a nickname. In Yiddish it is "Hoos." The name is not to be confused with the Dutch or German for the animal, the hare. "Has" or "Hase" is "hare" in German; "Haas" is "hare" in Dutch.
- HAFFKIN** Means "a descendent of Havah." Also appears as Havkin, Chavkin.
- HALEVY** The Hebrew for "the Levite." Also appears as Halevi.
- HARRIS** Jews with Herz, Hirsh, or Aaron (nickname in Yiddish is Haare or Horre) often adopted the name Harris in English speaking countries. In English, Harris means "son of Harry" or "son of Henry."
- HART, HARTMAN** Hart and Hartman were selected as derivatives of Naphtali whose nickname Herz/Harz/Hirsh means "deer" or "hart." Also appears as Hardt, Hartog, Hartwig, Hartwick, Hartig. Incidentally, Hart is an English name that refers to a stag, deer, or hart. Hartman is a German name which means "strong man." Neither is the Jewish interpretation.
- HEIFETZ** A family name dreived from Hefetz which means "desire" or "delight." Also appears as Keyfetz.
- HEYMAN** An acronym where the first four letters indicate the name Hayyim. Also appears as Heiman, Heimann.
- HELFGOTT** The German translation of Azriel which means "God's help."

To be continued. Rabbi Kaganoff, Arthur Kurzweil and Eli N. Evans, many, many thanks.

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## Ancestry.com Provides Free as Well as Subscription Services

You may know that Ancestry.com is one of the largest genealogy sites on the Internet. Although many parts of the site are for paying customers only, there are some areas that are free and worth a visit. (Actually, if you do a lot of genealogy on the Internet, it is well worth a subscription to the site.) Here are a few areas to take a look at: Social Security Death Index (SSDI): <[www.ancestry.com/ssdi](http://www.ancestry.com/ssdi)>; Ancestry World Tree: <[www.ancestry.com/awt](http://www.ancestry.com/awt)>; The Source: A Guidebook of American Genealogy: <[www.ancestry.com/source](http://www.ancestry.com/source)>.

## Officers and Board Members

### Officers

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Vice President - Finance: Morton Bearman  
Vice President - Program: Ann Greenstein  
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### 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:

[jgsstl@worldnet.att.net](mailto:jgsstl@worldnet.att.net)

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## New Members

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

**Leonard Hyman (returning)**

**Howard Rader**

**Paul Safran**

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).

*Generations*

## Online Index Features Laws Affecting Eastern European Jews

Those interested in Eastern European Jewish history know that Jews living in czarist Russia were subject to a series of edicts (ukase). As announced recently in "Nu, What's New?" the online newsletter published by Gary Mokotoff of *Avotaynu*, "Michael Steinore of California has placed on the Internet an English translation of some czarist decrees, condensed summaries of others, and a subject index to all Czarist decrees concerning Jews up to 1873." Based on an index created by a researcher named Levanda in the late 1890s, it is located at [<www.angelfire.com/ms2/belaroots/levanda.htm>](http://www.angelfire.com/ms2/belaroots/levanda.htm).

If you have ancestors from Eastern Europe, this is a site at which you will want to spend some time reading and studying. There is so much information presented there about the legal and political conditions under which Eastern European Jews lived and worked! If you have heard stories about property ownership, serving in the army, taxation, etc. in the "old country," you will want to bookmark this site and work through the alphabetical index at your leisure.

A few of the edicts highlighted in "Nu, What's New?":

Public prayer and worship may only be held in the synagogues and houses of prayer. Jews holding divine worship in their houses without permission of the authorities will be punished by law.

Jews are declared to be aliens, whose social rights are regulated by special ordinances.

Landed estates, including land which has been apportioned to peasants for their permanent use, can not be sold to Jews.

A Jew is not eligible for the post of mayor.

Jews may not serve in the Navy.

If you do not subscribe to the online newsletter, buzz over to the *Avotaynu* site ([www.avotaynu.com](http://www.avotaynu.com)) and sign up. It's free, and it's filled with outstanding and timely information. And, if you don't subscribe to *Avotaynu*, what are you waiting for? It's **THE** journal for Jewish researchers. You can't really be without it and still research Jewish genealogy effectively.

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## From the Editor's Desk...

Jewish Genealogy Month is approaching once again, mid-March to mid-April, a time to re-focus energy on family history research. Don't miss the March meeting to hear more about the amazing growth of the Jewish research collection at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters. At that meeting, we will also have the election of new officers and the seventh birthday of JGS St. Louis! Then, in April, come join us for the installation of our new slate of officers. This will be followed by a question/answer time with a panel of genealogists who will be available to help you with some of your research questions. Be sure to read the article on our society's history on Page 7 so you know where we have come from. And why not volunteer to help on a project or start a project so you can be part of our future accomplishments?

Also in April, we will be working with the St. Louis County Library on a special Eastern European event to be held Wednesday, April 24. Watch for more details on that exciting day.

Ilene Murray, Editor

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e-mail: [<ilenemurray@mindspring.com>](mailto:ilenemurray@mindspring.com)

## Where Are St. Louis Post-1906 State Court Naturalization Records?

Recently we had an inquiry from Mike Posnick, a researcher in Minneapolis who wondered where the state court naturalizations were from St. Louis post-1906. As you probably know, the Immigration and Naturalization Service took over the naturalization process in September 1906. Prior to that date, anyone could be naturalized in any court. After that date, however, many courts continued to naturalize citizens. Mike had sought a record in the National Archives in Kansas City. After being told the record could not be found, he asked for local help but no one knew where state court naturalization records after 1906 for St. Louis were located.

As Mike pointed out, "the federal naturalization statute that took effect September 27, 1906, did not terminate the concurrent jurisdiction of the state courts to grant naturalizations. Many researchers erroneously believe that it did. In fact, the date on which the state courts stopped admitting aliens to citizenship varies from place to place and even within a single state. That is why I originally asked the question about the state courts in St. Louis City and County when the NARA Branch in Kansas City couldn't find federal court naturalization records for several of my relatives."

Mike then wrote to Marian Smith, author, speaker, genealogist, and one of the most knowledgeable individuals working at the National Archives. From her research, it appears that St. Louis is one of the rare places where there were no naturalizations granted by state courts after September 26, 1906. Her reply is included here to clarify this issue for others who may be searching for the same information.

"It does not look like there would be any record in a local naturalization court. I checked two sources. First, I looked at some old cards we have on the issuances of naturalization certificates to courts. They are arranged by state, then by county. The only records for St. Louis are the issuance of certificates to the US District Court and the US Circuit Court in that location. In other counties, cards show certificates issued to county courts - but not for St. Louis since 1906. Second, I looked in the INS Subject Index (NARA microfilm T458) under "Discontinued," where cards list naturalization courts that have discontinued their jurisdiction. Under "discontinued," they are arranged by state and county. Under St. Louis there is no evidence of any court discontinuing, only a reference to the Chief Naturalization Examiner covering that county from at least Dec 30, 1910.

So it does APPEAR that for St Louis and St Louis County, since 1906, only federal courts were active. Of course, step over the county line and the story could be different."

## Synopsis Of February Program

By Eunice Solomon

"What Is A Southern Jew?"

Chuck Jackson and Alan Barash

Alan and Chuck are members of JGS. Both were raised in the South. Neither felt any anti-Semitism anywhere in the South. Alan was born and raised in Alabama. Chuck was born in New York City and raised in Louisiana. While going to elementary school he was constantly picked on and teased, not because of his Jewishness, but because he was a "New York Yankee."

The men stressed that a Southern Jew is a Southerner who happens to be Jewish. They said that Jews in the South often feel closer to other Southerners than to other Jews. Judaism is not neglected, but being Southern comes first.

Jews settled in the South in the late 1700s and early 1800s when itinerant peddlers first appeared. Many of them settled in small towns. Eventually their pushcarts pushed them into small businesses using their Jewish surnames. On Yom Kippur an entire town might shut down - except for Sears. All the merchants were Jewish and observant.

Southerners do not refer to The Civil War. They call it The War of Secession or The War Between the States. The Southern cause was the Jewish cause. Many Jews had slaves; some were slave traders. The Hebrew Confederate Cemetery in Richmond, VA is the only Jewish military cemetery in the world outside the state of Israel.

The Southern way is the Jewish way, from funny sayings to given names to food. It is common to add "bless her/his heart" at the end of a comment, i.e. "She's dumber than a door knob - bless her heart." Chuck has a cousin named Bubba Rosenthal. At the Jackson seder, it is normal to serve grits, pecan pie, and sweet potato pie. Several handouts were available at the meeting, including "Kosher Southern-Style Recipes."

If you are researching Southern ancestors, you are in luck. Many of their synagogues have excellent birth, death, and marriage records.

### Heads Up on the 1930 Census

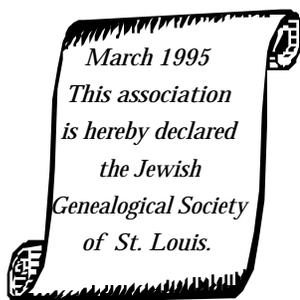
As was mentioned in the article on Page 3, most states are not Soundexed for the 1930 Census. In those cases, you will need to determine what Enumeration District a person lived in in order to find him/her. That entails finding the person's address and then consulting a map to see what Enumeration District that address falls into. There are some cities and the state of North Carolina that already have address conversions done. (Look for that list next month.) For the rest, here's a website, created by the same Stephen Morse whose Ellis Island site is so valuable, that will allow you to get a head start on matching addresses to ED's. Just follow the simple instructions. <[home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census](http://home.pacbell.net/spmorse/census)>

# History of JGS of St. Louis

## Part 1

March is an important month for JGS of St. Louis, for it was in March 1995 that Sylvia and Art Jaffe founded the society. The Jaffes had taken an adult evening course in genealogy and realized that tracing Jewish genealogy required more ethnic knowledge. They recognized that an ethnic group, a Jewish genealogical society, was needed in St. Louis. The Jaffes asked Ann Fleming, their genealogy teacher, if she would teach a short course in "How To Trace The Family Tree" for a group they were organizing. Ann was then president of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, a group of more than 2000 members. She agreed to teach a three session course. Trudy Levy, who Sylvia had learned had been tracing her family for ten years, was invited to relate the Jewish perspective to the class.

Twenty-five people signed up for the free course. However, only Eunice Solomon, Dick Franzel, Oscar Beldner, Bernice Marcus, Edna Lander, Trudy Levy, Bruce Rosen, Martin Borrok, Annete Mintz and Art and Sylvia Jaffe became charter members of the



Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis. The group first met on the third Thursday afternoon of the month. One member, the late Oscar Beldner, suggested that the group go to evening meetings to attract working people, and the group agreed.

The Jaffes contacted Gary Mokotoff, publisher of *Avotaynu*, the International Journal for Jewish Genealogists. He suggested that the newly formed group be known as the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis. United Hebrew Congregation, which had given the Jaffes permission to form the society and use the congregation's facilities, had just one request. . . that the group be known as the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis, Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation. Rabbi Howard Kaplansky was delighted to have the society associated with the congregation and is always available to JGS of St. Louis to offer prayers and welcome attendees at JGS events.

Mokotoff sent a list of all his St. Louis subscribers to the Jaffes. Sylvia wrote personal letters to the subscribers inviting them to join the newly founded society. Several people informed the Jaffes that in the 1980's there was a short lived society directed by Murray Darrish, an expert in Jewish genealogy. Murray attended the first JGS evening meeting in

June 1995 which featured Marcia Dennis of New York, N.Y., as the guest speaker. Marcia, a past president of the JGS of New York and a professional Jewish genealogical researcher, was told about the St. Louis group by Mokotoff. In September 1999, Darrish, who had joined the new JGS, told Sylvia that he thought that the society was "here to stay." He was well acquainted with how difficult it is to keep a society flourishing.

JGS of St. Louis has proved it's "here to stay!" The society has been recognized as a vibrant and much welcomed group in the Jewish community.

Joyce Loving, manager of Special Collections, of the St. Louis County Library, has worked with the society to build

**JGS of St. Louis  
has proved it's  
"here to stay!"**

up the Jewish resource section for all researching Jewish ancestry. Yizkor Book Day with Hebrew and Yiddish translators has been held the past two years at the library. Another Jewish resource event is planned for April 24, 2002. JGS presented the library with a certificate and contribution in 2001. JGS of St. Louis will be making another gift to the Special Collections to increase the Jewish resources on April 24th. Barbara Raznick, director of the Saul Brodsky Jewish Community Library, has also recognized the society and has had Sylvia speak on genealogy at the library.

The Jewish Genealogical Society Library at United Hebrew was established at the inception of the society. It has grown from a few books to a great collection. The library now features a lending library of non-reference books, videos and tapes. The library also contains a computer for the use of the membership. Gene Schneider keeps the computer up to date and is in charge of its operation. The society has its own web page on the Internet. It was first instituted by Alan Barasch. Joel Shedlofsky heads the revised site. A tribute fund was established four years ago. Proceeds are used to buy books for the JGS library. The late Leah Birenbaum was the first tribute chairman. Jean Heyman succeeded Leah. *(Look for the conclusion to this story next month. Many thanks to Sylvia Jaffe for supplying the information for this article.)*

*March is Jewish Genealogy Month!  
Nisan 5762 (March 14-April 12)*

*Don't forget those who came before you . . .  
And leave as much of your family history as you can  
for those who will follow.*

## Inquiries

I am seeking information about Rebecca (Riva Rikva) KABAKOFF, 1849-1916, married to Moses Saul FRIEDMAN, 1848-1930, both buried in St. Louis, MO. Children were Harry, Avrum, Ida (Chaya) Motla married Mendel FREEDMAN, and Jenny (Kuna) Shayan married Mr. GOLDBERG. I think that Morris Saul FRIEDMAN and Pinkhus FRIEDMAN were brothers. They all came from Dokshitz, Belarus. This information I found in the Dokshitz Revision List of 1874. I think that the best place to start would be in the cemeteries. Thanking you for any help you can give me. I can supply more information if necessary.

Researching FRIEDMAN, FREEDMAN, GOLDBERG

Rita Friedman  
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Maayan Zvi, ISRAEL  
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I am researching Abraham GRABER and wife, Julia KAPLAN (B'Nai Amoonah); Max LEVITT and wife, Rifka SHALMANN (Beth Hamedrosh Hagadol).

Melba Levitt Gold  
Winnetka, IL  
levittmg@aol.com

Needing Shul and other information in St. Louis, other than naturalization and census, on the following: Louis COHEN, b. September 01, 1881, butcher, b. somewhere outside of Kiev, Ukraine, d. September 20, 1951, buried in the Jewish Cemetery on Olive Street Rd., m. July 08, 1905, St. Louis, MO. Bessie FISHMAN, b. September 01, 1884, Batelio, Russia, d. March 10, 1979, St. Louis, MO, dau. of Paul David FISHMAN and Eva BIEREBAUM, both buried at Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery, Olive St. and Hanley Rd., University City, MO. Louis KENTER, tailor, b. November 28, 1882, Prasnysz, Russia, d. February 15, 1955, St. Louis Co., MO, m. location and date unknown. Anna DAVIS, dau. of Abraham DAVIS and Lena KARRIT, b. November 21, 1888, Suwalki, Russia, d. October 05, 1962, St. Louis Co., MO, bur. Chesed Shel Emeth. Siblings: Jacob DAVIS, b. Oct 1886, Poland; Hyman DAVIS, b. Jun 1889, MO; Dora DAVIS, b. Jul 1890, MO; Daisy DAVIS, b. Jun 1894, MO; Benjamin DAVIS, b. May 1898; Edward DAVIS, b. Mar 1900.

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March brings  
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and Jewish  
Genealogy  
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Contact  
Jean Heyman  
at (314)  
434-2345  
for more  
information.



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St. Louis, MO 63124



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