



# GENERATIONS

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

Volume 10 Issue 8

August 2004

## IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

### August Meeting

*It Takes A Dream—  
The Story of Hadassah*  
Miriam Lipsitz &  
Fran Alper, Speakers

**Thursday, August 19  
7:30 p.m.**

Meeting Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge  
United Hebrew  
Congregation  
13788 Conway Road

### August Discussion Group Thursday, Aug. 26

**1:00 p.m.**

United Hebrew, Room 15  
All members welcome!

### Aug./Sept. Board Meeting Thursday, Sept. 2

**7:00 p.m.**

United Hebrew, Room 15  
All members welcome!

### September Meeting

*Maps! Glorious Maps!*  
Cynthia Millar, Speaker

**Thursday, September 23  
7:30 p.m.**

Meeting Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge  
United Hebrew  
Congregation  
13788 Conway Road

## August Meeting

*It Takes A Dream—  
The Story of Hadassah*

Guest Speakers:

Miriam Lipsitz and Fran Alper

Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, was founded in 1912 by Henrietta Szold. Since its inception, Hadassah has remained unwavering in its devotion to Judaism, Zionism, and American ideals. As the largest volunteer organization and the largest women's organization in America, Hadassah is committed to strengthening the unity of the Jewish people. It reaches its U.S. goals through Jewish and Zionist education programs, Zionist youth programs, and health awareness programs, and it advocates for issues of importance to women and to the American Jewish community.

Many families can claim multi-generational memberships in Hadassah. Miriam Lipsitz, a past-president, and Fran Alper will discuss the history of Hadassah and how our relatives have supported and contributed to it. We will be informed about how we can access Hadassah's archives to find our ancestors' involvement in Hadassah.

Judy Berkowitz, who was to be our guest speaker, is unable to attend the meeting. Miriam and Fran have graciously agreed to fill in for her.

Come to the meeting on Thursday, 19 August at 7:30 p.m. to learn more about Hadassah.

## September Meeting

*Maps! Glorious Maps!*

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Millar

Have you wondered where your ancestors lived? What was their migration route? Maps can provide answers and lead you to a research path you've not yet considered. The St. Louis Public Library has U.S.G.S. topographical maps, Sanborn maps, European maps, western Russian maps and gazetteers, historical St. Louis maps, plat maps, and so forth. The collection is large and informative.

Join us on 23 September 2004 as Cynthia Millar discusses St. Louis Public Library's map and gazetteer collection. She will bring maps and overheads of maps and discuss how we can find places on maps and gazetteers.

Cynthia Millar has been with the St. Louis Public Library for over twenty-seven years. She is a graduate of William Woods College in Fulton, Mo. and received her M.L.S. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She has attended the Institute for Genealogical Research at the National Archives, Washington, D.C. She has given talks for the FGS Conference here in St. Louis, the St. Louis Genealogical Society, the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis, and others.

Attendance at and membership in the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis is open to all individuals interested in Jewish genealogy research.

## Correction Again!

Thanks to Sheldon and Charlotte Rudnick for pointing out the correct spelling of the author of *Scattered Seeds*: George I. **Sackheim**. They also wanted people to know that this two-volume set is in the JGS section of the United Hebrew library.

# Presidents' Message

## July Meeting/Discussion Group

Thanks to JGS member Joyce Loving, manager of Special Collections at St. Louis County Library Headquarters, for a very informative presentation at our July general meeting. She discussed naturalization papers, passenger lists, and the Special Collections' purchase of microfilms of Canadian arrivals. Patrons of the St. Louis County Library may check out some of the genealogy resources at Headquarters, and some of the branch libraries are getting expanded computer access for genealogical databases. A new service for patrons, beginning in September, will be the capability of viewing from home the *New York Times* Historical Newspapers collection. The library's Web site is <www.slcl.lib.mo.us>.

The Discussion Group meets the fourth Thursday of the month at 1:00 pm and is led by Sylvia and Art Jaffe. In July they met at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, Special Collections Department. We thank the Jaffes for stepping up to revitalize the Discussion Group.

## Changes in Dues

We are pleased with the response of our members to the change in our dues collection. To simplify the jobs of the vice president and the treasurer, we set July as time for everyone to pay their dues. If you haven't renewed your membership yet, please send your check to Peggy Nehman, 431 N. Polo Dr., Unit A, Clayton, MO 63105 or bring it to our next open meeting. (\$24 for one person; \$36 for two people in one house) If you have a question about your dues, call Acting Treasurer, Ilene Wittels, at 314-692-2444.

## And JGS Still Needs . . .

We still need members to volunteer for the following positions: treasurer, librarian, Webmaster, and Indexing Committee chair (marriage, funeral home, and cemetery records). If you would like to volunteer, call Jerry Goldberg (314-434-2566) or Ilene Wittels (314-692-2444).

See you at our August meeting.

Jerry Goldberg and Ilene Wittels,

JGS of St. Louis Co-Presidents

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## Elizabeth Shown Mills Coming to St. Louis County Library

### Coincoin of Cane River: Breathing Life into Female Shadows from the Past

Coincoin, a woman born into slavery in 1742, is the central character from noted genealogist, Elizabeth Shown Mills's latest book, *Isle of Canes*, her first work of fiction. Using Coincoin's life and family history, Elizabeth Mills teaches us how to find records that don't seem to exist and how to use those records to discover a woman's heart, soul, thoughts, and personality.

Afterwards, Ms. Mills will sign copies of *Isle of Canes*, which will be available for sale by Left Bank Books.

Host: Special Collections,  
St. Louis Co. Library  
Date: Tuesday, August 31  
Place: Auditorium,  
St. Louis Co. Library Headquarters  
Time: 7:00 p.m.

Free and open to the public

## Warren Blatt Wins IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award

Warren Blatt, JewishGen vice president and editor in chief, was honored at the IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem by receiving the Award for Lifetime Achievements. Warren has been involved with Jewish genealogical research for over twenty-five years. He has done extensive work with Polish and Russian records, including many indexing projects. He is the author of the *JewishGen FAQ: Frequently Asked Questions about Jewish Genealogy*; dozens of JewishGen InfoFiles; *Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area* (JGSGB, 1996); and co-author (with Gary Mokotoff) of *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy* (Avotaynu, 1999). He was chair of the fifteenth International Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy, held in Boston in 1996. He is the editor of the *Kielce-Radom SIG Journal* and has written articles for *Avotaynu* and other Jewish genealogical publications. JGS-St. Louis members will recall he was the featured speaker at our seminar entitled *Challenging Genealogical Myths* in June 2003.

Susan King, managing director of JewishGen, said of Warren, "His continued interest and dedication to genealogy has been a great benefit to the world of Jewish genealogy." We congratulate Warren on his well-earned reward and thank him for making our research a bit easier.

# What's In A Name?

## Amuletic Names

By Chuck Jackson

cbjackson1@mindspring.com

Names. They are bestowed upon us by parents, family members, or guardians. Then, perhaps, later in life, we change them. Some are symbolic (kinnui) such as "lion" (Loeb, Layb, etc.), as found in many languages, to represent Judah. And then there are amuletic names.

Judy Baston of San Francisco, California, recently wrote a very interesting dissertation on amuletic names in answer to a question by an Internet reader. With Judy Baston's permission, I repeat her answer:

"Sonia Kovitz asks whether there are life-affirming names for women, just as 'Chaim' is for men. These are called 'amuletic' names, which function as an 'amulet' to protect the wearer. I had several experiences with amuletic names for women in my family.

Gnesse or Gnesia or Nesha can often be an amuletic name, given when a young person is sick, to fool the angel of death. It is a derivative of Genana, which, according to Rabbi Shmuel Gorr in his book, *Jewish Personal Names*, means 'old woman.' Thus, if a young woman was sick, she might be renamed Gnessa or have Nesia added to her name to fool the angel of death into believing she was an old woman and thus not the one he was seeking.

I had always believed my great-grandmother's name was Haya Nesha; it said so on her papers and her tombstone. Imagine my surprise when I found vital records that referred to her as Fruma Feiga. She must have been ill as a young woman and been transformed with a double amuletic name—Haya (Chaya) for 'life' and Nesha to fool the angel of death into believing she was an old woman.

My father's sister was known by her amuletic name, Altke (old woman) even though on her son's birth record she was listed as Chasia. [For a man, that would be Alter (old).]

Names such as Leyb or Aryeh or Zeev that denote strong animals such as a lion or a wolf can also be given as amuletic names. Of course, many Chayas and Chaims and Zeevs and Leybs were given those names at birth, and named after an ancestor.

But the presence of an amuletic name can help explain a discrepancy between two vital records, or between written record and oral tradition."

Thank you, Judy, for a very interesting description of amuletic names. The superstitions of our ancestors throw another monkey wrench into our genealogical research. Are amuletic names the same as the Christian baptismal names? No. The Christian baptismal name is similar to a Jew being given a Hebrew name in addition to the name on the birth certificate. In fact, some say the Christian baptismal naming convention was adapted from the Jewish tradition of giving Hebrew names to the newborn in addition to the birth record name.

All of the above leads to a very interesting and, sometimes, confusing analysis. The name on the tombstone versus the name in the census versus the name on the birth certificate: they may all be different yet they all refer to the same person. So, do not discard information because the name is not the same as you thought it should be!

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### Discussion Group for August

The JGS of St. Louis Discussion Group will meet at 1 p.m. Thursday, 26 August in Room 15 at United Hebrew Congregation.

Members are encouraged to bring family history projects such as newsletters, ancestral photo albums, organized genealogical record books, and other creative means of sharing family history to the session. Photographs, organizing records, and presenting family histories in many forms will be the topic of discussion.

For further information call Sylvia Jaffe, at 314-434-8392 or e-mail <Letvak@aol.com>.

### Dave Fox, Head of Belarus SIG, Wins Award

Dave Fox, leader of the Belarus SIG (Special Interest Group) at JewishGen, has won an "Outstanding Project Award" at the IAJGS Conference in Jerusalem. The official news announcement states his award was given "in recognition of the numerous projects undertaken within the Belarus SIG that have generated seventeen databases containing 250,000 individual entries. Under David's leadership and guidance, his cadre of volunteers has worked successfully with archives, translators, and organizations to create a significant repository of Belarus records, documents, and other information. The 'All Belarus Database' is an outstanding growing and readily accessible resource used by thousands of individuals researching their Jewish roots."

The Belarus SIG is one of the largest on the Internet with membership of over 1700 members and growing. With the support of its members, they have acquired and are indexing the records of our ancestors. If you have Belarus ancestors, you can join the SIG by going to <www.jewishgen.org> and signing up.

## Meet the Members: Joan Hoffman

By Sylvia Letvak Jaffe

Joan Hoffman was unaware that her maternal great-grandmother had emigrated from Europe to America. She explains, "I learned about her immigration and settlement in Los Angeles, California, while preparing for a trip to the city. I then was able to search for and locate her grave. It was my most exciting genealogical discovery."

However, Joan admits that she has not had enormous success in her genealogy research. "That's because I have not as yet spent the time to put forth enormous effort," she declares. Joan did find her grandparents, parents, and their siblings in the 1920 census. She describes the find as a big thrill for her to look at the copies of handwritten records and realize that the people who filled in those blanks were face to face with her grandparents, who undoubtedly could barely understand English at that time. "This probably accounts for the fact that my dad's brother Jacob is listed as a baby daughter," she quips.

Joan is a staunch fan of the society. She finds that belonging to a specific Jewish genealogy group addresses issues that general groups wouldn't such as symbols on tombstones, naming traditions, language idiosyncrasies, and geographic and historical background. The society, she adds, has helped her through classes and discussion groups that allowed her to get started, and the field trips showed her resources that are available and ways to access them. She learned of JGS of St. Louis through the *Jewish Light*. Joan especially enjoys listening to the interesting speakers and hearing the members share their success stories at the monthly meetings.

She and her husband, Joseph David Hoffman, recently celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary. They are parents of a married daughter and a son. Joan and Joe attended the IAJGS conference two years ago in Toronto, Canada. She describes the conference as an absolutely amazing experience; the learning as enjoyment and fantastic; and the networking and Jewish geography incomparable.

Joan graduated from Washington University in 1960 with a degree in English literature. Upon graduation, she worked for the Cincinnati, Ohio, *American Israelite*, a weekly Jewish newspaper. She stayed with the publication for a year and then moved back to St. Louis where she was employed as a copy editor for a medical journal and edited a house organ for a large manufacturing company.

Joan was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, and her home was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Her maiden name is Horowitz or some form of Gurevitch. Joan is most interested in researching her mother's family

## Modern Military Records Finally Become Available

By Ilene Kanfer Murray

Recently there have been several interesting announcements in the genealogical community regarding modern military records. The first of these came in April when the National Archives posted a database on its site that includes information on approximately nine million men who served in the Army during World War II. Called the "Electronic Army Serial Number Merged File, ca. 1938-1946," the information is from Record Group 64 and contains data taken from enlistment cards.

Go to

[http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series\\_description.jsp?series\\_id=3360&coll\\_id=null](http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series_description.jsp?series_id=3360&coll_id=null). Once you are there, click the "Select" button and on the next page, click the "Select" button again to begin your search. Type in the surname you are seeking and a first name, if you want to limit your search. You will get a list of individuals who are in the database. Then you check off the box of any person on the list and click "Show Selected Records" to display the details about that person. The information you will receive consists of the person's Army serial number, name, date and place of enlistment, state of residence, state of birth, birth year, race, citizenship, educational status, civilian occupation, and marital status. Each category has a code number, but each is fully explained.

You can print directly from the site, but I would recommend that you copy and paste the results into your word processor, where you can clean out the clutter. From the Web site, the information on three people covered eight pages. After I copied and pasted it into my word processing program, each person's information fit comfortably on a page.

(Continued on Page 7)



surnames, Glazer and Katz, probably from Vilna; also Horowitz (Gwevich, Gorevitch) and Penn, perhaps from Kishinev. She also enjoys searching for more on the Hoffman (Oifman) family from Mogilev (Mikolayev) Padolski. Joan loves keeping in touch with relatives around the world on the Internet and has become acquainted with some very interesting people through JewishGen.

Her husband's family history was written and published by Doris Hoffman Kohn. The book is in the JGS of St. Louis library at United Hebrew Congregation, the Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., and the LDS Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## Officers and Board Members

### Officers

President: Ilene Wittels & Jerry Goldberg  
Vice President: Peggy Nehmen  
Secretary: Charlotte & Sheldon Rudnick  
Acting Treasurer: Ilene Wittels

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Librarian	TBA
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Tributes	Carolyn Altman
Cemetery Indexing	Cassie Buerki & Gene Schneider
Funeral Home Indexing	Jerry Goldberg
Marriage Indexing	Eunice Solomon
<i>Generations</i>	Ilene Murray
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### Webmaster

TBA

### Members At Large

Leslie Popelka Betty Schneider

### Founders

Sylvia Jaffe Art Jaffe

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### Web site:

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

### How To Contact Us:

### Society E-Mail Address:

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

### Presidents:

[igwittel@artsci.wustl.edu](mailto:igwittel@artsci.wustl.edu)

or

[jerfransl@cs.com](mailto:jerfransl@cs.com)

### Generations Editor:

[ilenemurray@mindspring.com](mailto:ilenemurray@mindspring.com)

## Pages of Testimony Sought From Shumsk, Ukraine

*This note was recently sent from an Israeli woman named Rachel Karni to Sylvia Jaffe. Rachel is trying to contact as many people as she can with roots in Shumsk, which is in Volynhia (Volyn, Volin), an area in present-day Ukraine. Even if your family does not go back to that area, you may want to think about memorializing Holocaust victims with Pages of Testimony at Yad Vashem.*

“While I have been living in Israel since 1955 (having immigrated from the States) my mother was born in the town of Shumsk (Shimsk, Szumsk, today Shumskoye) in Volyn, Ukraine. I know that many people from Shumsk went to St. Louis. Perhaps some of their descendents are in your group.

There are, unfortunately, many people among the almost 3,000 who were killed in Shumsk in the massacre in August 1942 for whom no Page of Testimony has been submitted to Yad Vashem. We have a complete list of names which was prepared after the War by survivors and those who had gone to America or Palestine before the War and published in the Yizkor Book. We are trying to find descendents who would be willing to fill in the forms, so that each person will have a record in Yad Vashem. I can easily send the forms and instructions for filling in and submitting them to anyone who may have had family in Shumsk.”

Rachel Karni: <[rakarni@netvision.net.il](mailto:rakarni@netvision.net.il)>.

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## Conquer Your Computer

St. Louis Genealogical Society Special Event

Saturday, 18 September 2004

Orlando Gardens

Dorset and McKelvey Roads

8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.

Registration includes all-day seminar plus lunch

StLGS members \$35 until 26 August; non-members \$45

After 26 August, all registrations \$50



### Hour-long sessions on:

Computer Basics for Genealogists

Genealogy Software Programs

Popular Genealogical Web sites

Digital Photography and Scanning

### Half-hour Q/A Sessions on:

Microsoft Word and Excel How-To's.

Technology and the Library

Posting Your GEDCOM Files Online

Managing Your Digital Photos

And much more!

For more information, or to register: <[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)> or 314-647-8547.

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## Genealogy Events of Interest: August/September 2004

### St. L. Genealogical Society & St. L. County Library Present:

Tuesday, 17 August 2004 7:00 p.m. at Co. Library Headquarters Auditorium

*Using Land Records*

Speaker: Ruth Ann (Abels) Hager, CGRS, CGL



### St. L. Genealogical Society & St. L. County Library Present:

Tuesday, 14 September 2004 7:00 p.m. at Co. Library Headquarters Auditorium

*Using City Directories*

Speaker: Larry Franke

For more information on these programs, go to <[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)> or call 314-647-8547.

# What We Learn from Others: The Sharing of Ideas

By Marilen Pitler

*Lineage*, JGS of Long Island, Summer 2003

In the article, "Children's Fashions: Solutions for Finding Dates of Photos," more helpful hints are provided in identifying the year in which photos were taken. The article may be read in its entirety in our library; it is a continuation of one previously written describing men and women's dress styles throughout the 1800s and early 1900s. This article describes children's fashions from 1840 to 1930.

According to the article, young boys and girls dressed alike until the age of four. "They wore off-the-shoulder dresses in all types of weather. Clothing for older children was designed with long or short, narrow sleeves. Necklines were round or boat-shaped. Low necklines on their blouses were layered over white muslin. There were frills of lace at the waistlines. Crinolines and petticoats were worn to add fullness to their skirts and frilly trousers were also popular."

Boys' attire included kilts, sailor suits, and dark suits, tunics, long jackets with high collars, and belts. Young boys wore tunics with white drawers instead of trousers. The fashions of the 1840s carried over to the 1850s. For girls, petticoats with wire hoops became popular, creating extremely wide skirts. "Girls' skirts were short and they wore pantalettes, which were long drawers with ruffles at the bottoms."

In the 1860s, girls' dresses had bustles. They also wore brightly striped stockings. Boys started wearing knickerbockers (knickers), loose pants gathered at the knees. The 1870s brought sailor tops to both boys' and girls' wear. Some of the girls' wear required corsets. The 1880s brought a more comfortable style to children's clothing. "Girls dresses were designed with long waists and straight bodices with simple details." Pinafores were popular, as well as clothing made of plaid fabric. Boys continued wearing short pants and kilts. "Little Lord Fauntleroy" suits were popular with boys over the age of six, also "Buster Brown" suits, bloomer style with wide knee-length pants and double-breasted hip-length belted jackets.

The 1890s brought girls the "corseted 'hourglass' look." Pinafores now served as aprons and were worn over a girl's dress. Boys continued wearing "Little Lord Fauntleroy" suits, as well as loosely belted short jackets and knickers.

Dress styles changed radically in the 1900s. "... girls were dressed in white and colored dresses decorated with trims of embroidery and lace. Girls wore short, straight-lined skirts with black or white stockings." Young boys wore rompers and sailor suits and older boys wore shorts. The 1910s continued the relaxed look in dress. "Girls were dressed in white dresses, sailor outfits, and dresses with pinafores and

smocks. They wore short skirts with bloomers to match their dresses. Boys' dress was much the same as in the 1900s. After World War I both girls and boys wore hand knitted pullovers, cardigans, scarves and caps."

The 1920s included sailor type dresses for the girls and knee-length skirts and shorts. Boys still wore their sailor suits and knicker suits. The 1930s saw boys and girls dressing in rompers, sunsuits, and snowsuits. "Girls wore Middy Blouses, which were loosely fitting tops with sailor collars. They dressed in pinafores, pants or shorts, pleated skirts, wool jerseys, and short dresses." Boys "dressed in shorts and long pants made of corduroy. They wore double-breasted tailored coats with matching hats." Vests were also popular. While knickers and sailor suits were popular on the European continent, they were not popular in England or America.



*Mishpacha*, quarterly publication of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington, Summer 2003

## Warsaw Ghetto Death Card Database Now Available

The article states that Poland, in conjunction with the Jewish Historical Institute and Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (N.Y.), has completed the Warsaw Ghetto Death Card indexing project, which is now in the JRI-Poland database. The article states that the collection "provides a remarkable view into the lives and deaths of almost 10,000 individuals, mostly Jews." The article goes on to state that "two individuals usually filled out the cards: (1) a doctor who recorded the last and first name, date of death, and sex of the deceased. On the reverse side, he wrote the cause of death (in Polish or Latin), signed his name and put an official stamp; or (2) a clerk who—depending on available information—filled out the balance of the card—including first names of parents, birthdates usually the year only, denomination, address, marital status, and occupation." The Warsaw Ghetto Death Card database can be found at [www.jri-poland.org](http://www.jri-poland.org).



Posting on *JewishGen Digest*, 22 December 2003

The following site, Hebrew National Orphan Home Alumni (HNOH) at [www.hnoh.com/](http://www.hnoh.com/), includes information on over 100 Jewish orphanages from twenty-three states and forty-nine cities. It includes historical and archival material and, if known, census lists of children's names.

## I Have Good News and No News!

By Norman Kling

On 13 October 2000, I wrote a letter to the Social Security Administration requesting help in obtaining a copy of the Social Security application for my father, Samuel Kling, who died in 1954. Search of the Social Security Death Master File, originally compiled by the Social Security Administration and available on the two different Web sites I checked, failed to turn up my father's name. Enclosed with my letter was a copy of his Social Security card and a copy of his death certificate. I thought I would receive a quick response. However, I did not get a response at all!

As sometimes happens in on-going genealogical research, other life events directed my attention elsewhere for a while. Finally, on 1 October 2003 I again took up the hunt and wrote another letter to the Social Security Administration complete with copies of the original letter and all of its enclosures. Again, no response.

Finally, having lost patience with the direct approach, on 18 February 2004 I sent a letter to my congressman, Representative W. Todd Akin, requesting his assistance in obtaining a copy of my father's application for a Social Security number. As time passed, I received several responses from Representative Akin's office telling me they were still working on my request. Finally, I received a letter from my representative himself with a copy of a letter from an associate commissioner of the Social Security Administration addressed to the congressman which assured him they were working on the problem. Finally, on 18 June I received a phone call from a member of the congressman's staff telling me that the copy of my father's application for a number had arrived, and a few days later, I received it in the mail.

The GOOD NEWS was, of course, the arrival of my father's application for a Social Security number. The NO NEWS was that by the time it arrived, I had already learned what in the year 2000 would have been the new facts it contained.

Recently I came across the following in the FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) on Steve Morse's Web site <[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)>. It seems to explain why I had so much trouble obtaining my father's application. "My father died in 1950 and the Social Security Administration was notified punctually, but I can't find his record. Are the earlier records missing?" Answer: "Many deaths in the 1950s are not in the SSDI because they were recorded in an old format. However, you can obtain these records by calling the Social Security Administration directly on their toll-free number at 1-800-772-1213."

I sure wish I had known about this back in 2000!

*(Editor's Note: The Social Security Death Index is widely available on the Internet for free. It will Generations*

## To Read About the IAJGS Conference. . .

If, like most of us, you could not go to Jerusalem in July, you can still read about the very successful twenty-fourth annual IAJGS Conference in an article that was published in the *Jerusalem Post*.

Go to <<http://tinyurl.com/56fy5>> to read Schelly Talalay Dardashti's article called, "Connecting the Clans," which will give you some of the details about the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference. And then start planning on a trip to Las Vegas for next year's conference 10-15 July 2005 at the Flamingo Hotel.

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## Military Records, Continued

Although many of us know our World War II relatives, you still may glean some useful information from this database. By randomly searching on family surnames, I found several of my cousins in the records, even though I had no idea they had enlisted.

The second event came in early July when the National Archives announced that it would, at last, take over the preservation of the military personnel files that have long been held at the National Military Personnel Records Center here in St. Louis. Over the next decade, the National Archives will receive the military personnel files of about fifty-six million veterans who served the country since 1885. These personnel files, which contain medical information, performance reports, and disciplinary actions, as well as birth, marriage, and death records, adoption records and visas will be open to researchers sixty-two years after an individual's discharge from the military. That means that nearly one million records of sailors and Marines from World War I will be available to researchers as soon as they are catalogued. Remember that many modern records were destroyed in a fire at the Military Personnel Records Center in the 1970s, but those records that remain will finally get the protection they deserve and will be open for researchers in the near future.

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*usually give you the person's date of death, date of birth, where they applied for their Social Security card, where their last payment was received, and their Social Security number. You can send for a copy of the original application by filling in a form and sending \$27.00 to the Social Security Administration. The originals contain mother's maiden name, place of birth, signature, and other useful information, so they may be worth the expense if you need that information. You will usually get a response in far less than four years!*

## Inquiries

I have information on the POCRAS and DICKER families of St. Louis and Quincy, Illinois. If you are interested, please contact me.

Robert D. Smith  
247 Worthing Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63119  
314-962-7697  
robtdsmith@worldnet.att.net

Seeking information about cousins of mine who moved to Saint Louis around 1910. Minnie, the widow of Aaron FUCHS, moved to Saint Louis from Ohio with her children: Rose, Philip, Leona, and Sidney. She married Paul FEINSTEIN, and had a son, Leonard, by him. I would love to contact any surviving family members who live in Saint Louis.

Norman Fuchs  
4525 East La Mirada Way  
Phoenix, AZ 85044  
480 598 3018  
nhf@physics.purdue.edu

I am seeking information about the BLEIWEISS family.

Sandra Elstein  
244 Main St.  
Southport, CT 06890  
milport@aol.com

I am seeking information about Leona WILDSTEIN, my great aunt, Markus (Marcus) Wildstein, and Betty (Bella or Bertha) Wildstein. Also interested in GOLDS and LERNERS.

Ronald Lerner  
834 Ivy Wall  
Houston, TX 77079  
rlerner@houston.rr.com

I am seeking information about Anna GOODMAN, mother of Milton Goodman born 1900 in St. Louis City. Father possibly William.

Sandie Yeaman  
4026 N. 117  
Omaha, NE 68164  
402-554-9883  
sandielee@cox.net

I am seeking information about the descendants of Jennie SCHUBACH and Joseph MAYER. Son—Allan Mayer? Daughter—Hester Mayer WOLF? Jennie's second husband, Max JACOBSON?

Hugh Broder  
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