



GENERATIONS

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

Volume 11 Issue 1

January 2005

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

January Meeting

Ask the Experts
Featuring a Panel of
Experienced Genealogists

Sunday, January 16
2:00 p.m.

**NOTE: We are on our
winter afternoon schedule.**

Meeting Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge
United Hebrew
Congregation
13788 Conway Road

**January
Discussion Group**
Thursday, January 27
1:00-3:00
United Hebrew
Room 15

February Meeting

*Researching the Skeletons in
Your Family's Closet*
Tom A. Pearson and Kathy
Smith, St. Louis Public Library

Sunday, February 20
2:00 p.m.

Meeting Held At:

Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol
1227 North and South Road

**February
Discussion Group**
Thursday, February 24
1:00-3:00
United Hebrew
Room 15

January Meeting

Ask the Panel

Featuring Peggy Nehmen, C. Edwin
Murray, and Ilene Kanfer Murray

Are you hitting those genealogical brick walls? Don't know where to research next or how to unlock genealogical mysteries and solve family puzzles? Well, start writing down your questions, as the January program will feature local genealogists who can help you. In a repeat of our popular, "Ask the Panel," you can bring your road blocks to our team of local "experts," who are familiar with research techniques, resources in libraries, and special places on the Internet. They may have already solved the problems you are encountering. Get ready for a helpful and informative afternoon!

If you wish, you can e-mail your questions and problems beforehand to Joel Shedlofsky at <jshedlofsky@att.net>. He will be able to inform the panelists ahead of time, so they will be better prepared to help you.

It's That Time of Year. . .



We're back to Sunday afternoon meetings and always the chance of snow and ice, in spite of the recent balmy weather.

In the event that inclement weather coincides with a general or board meeting, please call one of the following to determine if the meeting will be canceled:

Jerry Goldberg: 314-434-2566
Eunice Solomon: 314-576-5269
Ilene Wittels: 314-692-2444

February Meeting

*Researching the Skeletons in
Your Family's Closet*

Tom A. Pearson and Kathy Smith,
St. Louis Public Library

Slam the door shut! Rattle those cages! Oh, my gosh, you have skeletons in your family's closet! Tom Pearson and Kathy Smith of the St. Louis Public Library will give us a lively talk on researching our family skeletons. You know, those who were unwed mothers or orphans or paupers or were declared insane or maimed or disabled in war.

Or better yet, do you have someone who was a transported felon or just a plain ordinary criminal? How do you dig up and explain those skeletons? Are there individuals on your tree who committed a political crime? Did they have to register as aliens or were they blacklisted during the 1950s? Where do you go to find this kind of information?

These questions will be answered by Tom and Kathy, in what will be an interesting and informative afternoon on *Six Feet Under and No Wonder—Researching the Skeletons in Your Family's Closet*.

Tom Pearson has been with the St. Louis Public Library for over fifteen years. Currently he is part of St. Louis Public Library's Rare Books and Special Collections Department. Tom is co-editor with Kathy Smith of *Gateway Family Historian*, a quarterly newsletter published by St. Louis Public Library.

This meeting will take place at Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol in University City. Look for specific instructions on how to get there in next month's *Generations*. You won't want to miss this talk.

President's Message

Special Meeting in December

On Sunday, 19 December, we heard from twenty-two attendees and from additional e-mails and phone calls (from my December's President's Message) that there is a strong conviction to do all that we must to ensure the survivability of our society and to investigate a number of approaches to reach that goal. We learned from our members how much they value JGS.

I opened the meeting with the following introduction:

During our existence, much has been accomplished and much remains to be accomplished. Just look at our Web site and read the success stories. We need the help of our members to continue.

Already we have deviated from our normal procedure with co-presidents, co-secretaries, and early election of officers. Success has been fair. However, we must face the reality that unless we get members to fill existing positions of secretary, publicity chairperson, librarian, and soon to be vacant positions, our present structure must change to ensure the operation of JGS of St. Louis. If we fail to accomplish a structure change, then our survivability is in question.

I don't propose terminating any of our projects, but only to guarantee and improve our future capability to carry out our mission. As your president, I have the responsibility to ensure the continued operation of JGS.

The ideal scenario is for JGS to continue operating with a full board, more volunteers, and a monthly discussion group. That is our immediate goal.

I started the discussion with ideas previously suggested by the members. These thoughts were not endorsed or in some cases not even discussed by the board. We then proceeded to discuss other proposals that I have summarized. Unfortunately, newsletter space prevents the listing of pros and cons for each proposal.

- Become Special Interest Group (SIG) of the St. Louis Genealogical Society, if acceptable with that organization
- Meetings: frequency, location, subject, broader interest, day (afternoon vs. evening)
- Do not affiliate with any religious organization to enhance publicity and meeting locations
- Get younger people involved
- Coordinate with the Holocaust Center and the Brodsky Library
- Aggressive membership drive in 2005
- Increased society publicity
- Board leadership training
- Members lose interest when they learn basic research techniques and proceed to research online
- Investigate how other JGS societies solved similar problems

I concluded the meeting requesting a vote of the most likely approach for the board to investigate. The members voted to concurrently:

- Investigate an Outreach Program for meeting at other temples, synagogues, and Brodsky Library
- Discuss with St. Louis Genealogical Society the possibility of forming a Jewish SIG

We emphasize that these are only investigative discussions in the event we can no longer function. In any case, we can do only so much without more members volunteering to help.

New Volunteers

Responding to my December's request for additional volunteers are Shirley Taxman Schwartz, David Goldstein, Kathy Lass, and Lucy Levy.

The board appreciates your dedication to our needs and looks forward to your future involvement.

As always, if you would like to volunteer or if you have further suggestions to improve JGS, you can reach me at <jerfransl@cs.com> or 314-434-2566.

Jerry Goldberg

JGS St. Louis President

Location, Location, Location!

JGS St. Louis will be on the move during 2005. Many members requested we begin holding our monthly programs at other locations. Honoring this request, Program Chair, Joel Shedlofsky, has made arrangements to hold our programs at three other congregations for the first half of 2005. We will be at:

United Hebrew in January

Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol in February
United Hebrew in March
B'nai El in April
B'ani Amoona in May

Watch our program announcements for dates, times, and places. 2005 will be an exciting year. We look forward to seeing you at all the locations at which we hold programs.

Why JewishGen.org is Vital to Jewish Genealogical Research

In the last few years, JewishGen has added over 2.9 million new records to its Web site that could be the vital link you need to make family connections. This brings the total number of records on the JewishGen Web site to just shy of ten million!

- The JewishGen Holocaust Database now has 900,000 records:
www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/
- The All Hungary Database now has 180,000 records: www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary/
- The All Romania Database has over 40,000 new records: www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania/
- The All Belarus Database has grown to 300,000 records: www.jewishgen.org/databases/Belarus/
- The Yizkor Book Necrology database has added 15,000 records and now has 165,000 names from 177 Yizkor Books:
www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor/
- The all UK Database has 50,000 records from England, Scotland, and Wales:
www.jewishgen.org/databases/UK/
- There are 357,313 entries in the JewishGen Family Finder: www.jewishgen.org/jgff
- The Family Tree of the Jewish People now has 3,000,000 records which could provide valuable connections to your own family research: www.jewishgen.org/gedcom.

If you haven't used JewishGen in a while, be sure to pay a return visit to the site. And, of course, they can always use your financial assistance.



History of the Red Star Line Now Online

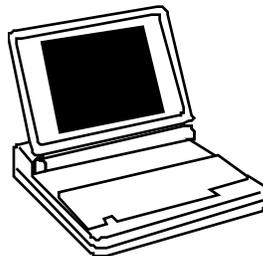
If your family left Europe through Antwerp, Belgium, and traveled on a ship from the Red Star Line, there is now a history of that steamship company at <www.redstarlinememorial.be>. It was developed by the Antwerp Tourism Office. This is not an index to passengers who left the port, but there are links on the site to other Internet locations that contain some of that information.

In the 1880s Red Star Line steamships traveled between Europe and New York and Philadelphia weekly. The line served into the twentieth century and was a sister company to the White Star Line, which eventually merged with the Cunard Steamship Company. Many of the Red Star Line ships ended with the suffix "land." Some examples were the Belgenland, the Finland, the Friesland, the Gothland, the Kroonland, and the Samland.

Generations

St. Louis County Library Offers Free Computer Classes February 2005 Schedule

St. Louis County Library is offering free computer classes for patrons this winter at the computer lab in the Headquarters Building on Lindbergh Blvd. Unlike previous years, this winter's registration is being done monthly. If you would like to take one of the February classes, you must register beginning 18 January. Please call 314-994-9411, Ext. 209, or register online at <www.slcl.org>. These classes fill up quickly, so call without delay to insure your spot. (This schedule is for the Headquarters Building only; for classes at other libraries, please see the Web site.)



February

Weds., February 2	Hints for a Healthy Computer, 2-4 p.m.
Thurs., February 3	Dress up Your Documents with MS Word, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Mon., February 7	Keyboard Shortcuts and Mouse Tricks, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Tues., February 8	St. Louis on the Internet, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Sat., February 12	Library's Online Catalog, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Weds., February 16	Introduction to MS PowerPoint 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Thurs., February 17	Intro to MS Excel, Part 1, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
Tues., February 22	Advanced Yahoo! E-Mail, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
Weds., February 23	Adding Pizzazz to Your Presentations, 2-4 p.m.
Thurs., February 24	Intro to MS Excel, Part 2, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

These two classes are being offered by the Reference Dept. To register, call 314-994-3300 and ask for "Reference."

Thurs., February 10	E-Tour!, 2-3:30 p.m.
Fri., February 25	Finding Quick Facts on the Internet, 2-3:30 p.m.

Get Well Wishes

JGS co-founder and former president, Art Jaffe, is recovering from heart bypass surgery. We all wish him a speedy and complete recovery.



Meet the Members: Eunice Solomon

By Sylvia Letvak Jaffe

Eunice Solomon, a charter member of JGS of St. Louis, has been an active member of the society since its formation in 1995. She served as secretary for nine years. Eunice has been active in indexing death records and she heads the marriage indexing project.

Her active participation in the operation of JGS of St. Louis has not kept her from researching her ancestry. She points out, "I fully expected my cousin Sabina, older than I, to know how we were related in



the family. However, she didn't know. Curiosity to learn more about my family compelled me to enter the world of genealogy. I thought it would be an easy task to create a family history as the entire family settled in St. Louis. I was wrong, wrong, and wrong! I also thought that 3x5 file cards would be sufficient to list

everything. I followed my instinct to the city directory and several cemeteries for information. Then I got stuck. I didn't know which way to go."

However, a genealogy introduction program offered at United Hebrew Congregation arranged by JGS St. Louis founders, Art and Sylvia Jaffe, was an eye-opener for Eunice. She declares, "I learned the importance of knowing Hebrew and Yiddish names of ancestors. In any ethnic group there is an unspoken understanding that does not require an explanation. Networking with members of JGS provided support and how to find information. Speakers supplied information on topics I would not have suspected as being important to genealogy." Eunice's interest in genealogy led her to take research trips to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, and the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

She adds, "Information gathered over the years has outgrown my 3x5 cards. I now have a three ring binder for each surname I am researching plus records in two drawers in a filing cabinet and four drawers in a desk. I also have a computer. A genealogical software computer program, Family Tree Maker, is now the protector and safety deposit box for all my research. My goal was to research through my grandparents and their siblings. Most of the information is now complete. I have census reports, birth, death, marriage, military records for World War I and II, and many family stories."

Eunice admits that she avoided interviewing her older relatives when she first got involved in researching the family history. "I just didn't know what questions to ask them," she says. Her relatives had passed away by the time she learned how to interview them.

She often heard her cousin mention the name "Bessie Gertrude" as if Eunice knew whom she was talking about. Eunice was to learn that Bessie Gertrude was her great-grandmother who came to America in 1905, died in 1915, and is buried at Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol cemetery. Eunice was also surprised to learn that her maternal grandmother was the middle child of five, not the oldest of three as she had thought. The new information added additional names of a great-aunt, a great-uncle and many cousins to her family tree.

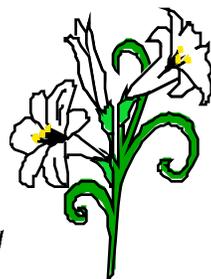
Eunice has advice for beginning genealogists. She declares, "Genealogy has a few don'ts. Don't hesitate to contact anyone. Don't be discouraged if relatives say, 'I don't know anything.' Don't be offended if a relative refuses to talk to you." A relative refused to talk to Eunice to protect her mother's age. However, Eunice located the information through public records.

Eunice, a widow, relates that her husband, Sheldon, had a Master's degree in voice, was a lyric tenor, and wanted to teach but wound up in the used car business. She was an occupational therapist prior to her marriage. Eunice and her late husband had three children. She has three grandchildren. Eunice, after her husband's death, worked in the educational department at the Missouri Historical Society. She is now retired and is teaching herself to play the piano, has mastered the ukulele, and collects songs from the 1920s and 1930s. She is an active member of the United Hebrew Congregation, volunteers in the gift shop, and is a member of the adult choir. For seventeen years she has been involved with the Trooping Puppeteers.

The surnames she is researching: ARONOFF, JOURMAN, SEIDMAN, ZELLINGER and SOLOMON. Shtetls of interest: Brrzh, Lithuania and Podwysoks, Austria.

With Sympathy

We extend our deepest condolences to member, Sadie Cohn, on the death of her husband, Harry E. Cohn, on 8 December 2004, and to member, Andy Schwartz, on the death of his mother, Ellen Freund Schwartz, on 19 December 2004.



Officers and Board Members

Officers

President: Jerry Goldberg
Vice President: Peggy Nehmen
Secretary: TBA
Acting Treasurer: Ilene Wittels

Committees

Programs	Joel Shedlofsky
Computer	Gene Schneider
Librarian	TBA
Archivist	Ed Rosen
Tributes	Carolyn Altman
Cemetery Indexing	Cassie Buerki & Gene Schneider
Funeral Home Indexing	Jerry Goldberg
Marriage Indexing	Eunice Solomon
<i>Generations</i>	Ilene Murray
Publicity	TBA
Research	Dick Franzel
Finance	Morton Bearman

Webmaster TBA

Members At Large

Eunice Solomon Carolyn Altman

Founders

Sylvia Jaffe Art Jaffe

Web site:

www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis

How To Contact Us:

Society E-Mail Address:

jgsstl@att.net

President:

jerfransl@cs.com

Generations Editor:

ilenemurray@mindspring.com

Some Messages from Other Locations

Got Ukrainian Family Recipes?

A new project is being developed by the Ukraine Special Interest Group at JewishGen and the only thing you need in order to participate is a tasteful memory!

Information about towns and their residents in the Old Country is so important, but the group wants something more to really be able to add to the flavor of our ancestors' daily lives. So they are asking for Grandma's Jewish-Ukrainian recipes. If you have a traditional recipe in your family, please submit it. Just be sure you follow the guidelines listed below:

"Bubby's Ukrainian Noshery" is open!

1. Identify which: Milchik or Fleishik
2. Gubernya
3. Town or Shtetl
4. Grandma's name
5. The Recipe itself, step by step
6. If used for a holiday, which one?
7. One or two lines of your memory about this special dish.

8. YOUR FULL NAME and LOCATION

9. Make sure the origin of the recipe is Jewish-Ukrainian.

Send all recipes to <freyab@aol.com>.



Freya Blitstein Maslov
Ukraine SIG Moderating Team

A New Project from JGS Houston

Our organization is undertaking a project to index all of the life cycle events (births, deaths, engagements, marriages, bar/bas mitzvahs, unveilings, birthdays, anniversaries) published in the Houston, Texas, *Jewish Herald-Voice* since its founding in 1908. The index of articles from 1908–1933 may be found on JewishGen. Additional years will be added as completed.

To access the database go to <www.JewishGen.org> and click on "Databases" under "Research," then click on "America" and the "*Houston Jewish Herald-Voice* Database." Instructions for using it and obtaining copies of the articles are given. It should be noted that in the index posted to date, news from cities all over the state was sent in and published. In the ensuing years this has not been done as frequently.

Don Teter
Greater Houston Jewish Genealogical Society

Genealogy Events of Interest: January/February 2005

St. Louis Genealogical Society invites you to its third annual Open House

Sunday, 30 January; 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

#4 Sunnen Drive, Maplewood, Missouri (South of Manchester Rd. between Big Bend and Hanley)

Ample parking; Light refreshments; Tour the office; Learn about classes; Meet the volunteer staff.

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

Saturday, 12 February 2005 10:00 a.m. at Co. Library Headquarters Auditorium

Maps: Where to Find Them and How to Use Them

Speaker: Pamela Boyer Porter, CGRS, CGL

For more information on this program, go to <www.stlgs.org> or call 314-647-8547

What We Learn from Others: The Sharing of Ideas

By Marilen Pitler

Family Legacies, JGS of Southern Nevada, Inc., Vol. 7, No. 1, 2004

The article, "Spring Cleaning," provides a great plan for completing many of our genealogical "to dos." One perhaps seldom thought of point is "Did you forget . . . to make arrangements for off-site storage of your backed up files?" Now is the time to contact a friend or relative and ask them to hold a copy for you. A copy at your place of work would be a good idea too. No, backup copies of your files stored next to your computer or in your desk drawer do not count as stored off site.

The article, "Research Tips," includes additional reminders, especially, "If you have posted queries on message boards or listed your family information on JewishGen, etc., remember to update your e-mail address if you change your ISP. It is a good idea to keep a list of where you have left or requested information. Many people forget to update their e-mail addresses and may miss making valuable research contacts.

This issue of *Family Legacies* is on our library shelves. Please read the entire article for additional "spring cleaning and research tips."



Mishpacha, the JGS of Greater Washington, Spring 2004

"Probate Records as a Source of Genealogical Information," mentions that some Texas probate records are now available online. The article states, "if your relatives died in Texas, probate records may be found at the following Web site: <<http://three-legged-willie.org/texas.htm>>. A W.P.A. project of the 1940s generated indexes for probate records housed in at least thirty Texas counties. This project brings eleven of those counties together into a single alphabetical listing. Over 26,000 probate cases are represented in this data."

". . . probate is now a general term used to include all matters of which probate courts have jurisdiction. That includes the administration of estates of persons who die without a will (intestate) as well as the administration of estates of persons who die with a will (testate). . . ." The article goes on to say, "Probate records are a gold mine for genealogists. Typical wills start out by declaring that the testator (the person making the will) is married or unmarried, stating the name of the spouse, whether or not the person has been divorced and if so, the name of the former spouse and the date and place of divorce, the names of his or her children and often their ages, and the names and relationships of other beneficiaries." For more

information on how to access probate records and the value to be found in them, please read the article in our library at United Hebrew.

In searching courthouse probate records, it is important to ask open-ended questions, avoid questions requiring a "yes" or "no" answer. Actually, this is an important point with any research or interview.

"Argentine Research: Searching for Argentinean Relatives," mentions the Argentinean immigration database (1882-1929) that is now online at <www.cemla.com/paginas/c_busqueda.htm>. The article states the database "is provided by CEMLA, Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinamericanos. Enter a surname or partial surname in the box under the word 'Apellido.' There is a JewishGen Infofile about genealogical research in Argentina that describes the process for contacting CEMLA and getting original records from them. It is located at <www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/argentina.html#B1>."



JGSLI Lineage, JGS of Long Island, Winter 2003

For those of you who have not fully navigated the JewishGen Web site or have never visited it, please read the article "Getting the Most out of JewishGen." This issue of *Lineage* is located on our library's shelves; JewishGen is located on the Web at <www.jewishgen.org/>.

It is through the JewishGen Family Finder section that I have been linking up with my Chernoff side of the family! The article states, "The JewishGen Family Finder is one of the ways that you can locate people who are researching precisely the surnames and towns that you are interested in." Please read the article or click on the JewishGen site; it is an invaluable research tool for Jewish genealogists.



Generations, JGS of Michigan, Winter 2004

This edition of Michigan's *Generations* is also on our library's shelves. Please check it out and read the article on "New Year, Old Scam," about fraudulent sellers on the Internet of items of interest to genealogists. The article tells of one person's arrest; of special import is the statement, "purchases made online with VISA, MasterCard or American Express are fully insured against fraud by the credit card companies. If you get 'ripped off' by a shady merchant when using a credit card, the credit card companies will immediately refund all of your money and then will pursue resolution with the merchant. PayPal transactions are also fully insured in the same manner. However, if you pay by check you have no such protection."



Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis
Presents



Stephen P. Morse

Award Winning Builder of Search Engines for Genealogical Databases

Speaking On:
“Searching Databases in One-step”
And
“Searching Ellis Island’s Database in One-step”



Sunday, 13 March 2005

2:00 p.m

United Hebrew Congregation

13788 Conway Rd, St. Louis, MO 63141

Refreshments in honor of our 10th anniversary will be served between talks.
Admission is free for members of the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis,
affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation, and is \$5 for non-members at the door.

Don't miss this opportunity to hear one of the Internet's premier database experts!

For more information

visit our Web site at <www.jewishgen.org/jgs-stlouis> or
call Ilene Wittels 314-692-2444 or Joel Shedlofsky 314-275-7804

Inquiries

Naomi ROSEN and Minnie SPELKY were relatives that are buried in St. Louis. I would like to locate their graves and learn more about them.

Ben Rosen
30615 Groesbeck Hwy.
Roseville, MI 48066
586-779-1310
benrosen75@aol.com

I am seeking information about the FALIKOF family. My grandfather, Moses Falikof, arrived in USA on 14 Feb 1914 and declared in his documents that he was going to live with his brother at the following address: 2112 (or 21/2) Carr St., St. Louis, MO.

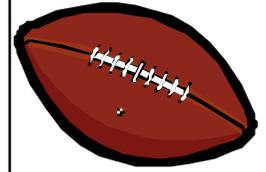
I am interested to know if the Falikof family is still around. Even if they moved out, is there any information, signs, or graves left in St. Louis? Maybe it is possible to get information on how the family developed and where my grandfather is. (It is most likely he is dead by now, but who knows for sure.) Thank you very much for your help!

Aleksandr A Volkov
2107 Van Ness Ave., #211
San Francisco, CA 94109
415-987-7000
volkoff@usa.net

I am seeking information about Marc E. GROSSBERG'S grandfather. I have a copy of Marc's grandfather's Certificate of Naturalization in Volume 13, number 1504. He was age 44, height 5'6", and his family is as follows: Rosa, wife, 42 years, resides w/husband; children: Leon, 17, Helen, 13, Fannie, 11, David, 9, Sylvette, 4, Julia, 4; all reside with parents. Mr. Grossberg signed his name as Morris Grossberg but the typed name is Morris Grosberg, residing at 2722 Franklin Avenue, St. Louis, Missouri. His first papers were in the September term of the District Court of Eastern Judicial District of Missouri for the Eastern Division held at St Louis on the 14th day of December 1912. The final papers were on the 3rd day of March 1925. It looks like it was signed Jas O'Connor but cannot tell for sure.

Marc believes his grandfather was born approximately 1860-68. Marc asked that I try to locate some background information on his grandfather.

Sharon R. Douglas
Assistant to Marc Grossberg, Thompson & Knight LLP
333 Clay Street, Suite 3300,
Houston, Texas 77002
713-653-8603 or Fax: 832-397-8147
sharon.douglas@tklaw.com



Throw a
touchdown
pass and buy
some
Tribute Cards.

Your
generosity
helps us
expand
our library.

Contact
Carolyn
Altman
at (314)
432-2757
for more
information.

JGS of St. Louis
8724 Teasdale Ave.
St. Louis, MO 63124



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