

# GENERATIONS

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### JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS

Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation

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**Final Issue** 

July 2005

# JGS of St. Louis Ends its Run. . . Will Become J-SIG of StLGS

The final meeting of JGS St. Louis was held on Thursday, 21 June at United Hebrew Congregation. Although well-attended, it was not enough to keep the organization from ending its tenure as an independent group. Without leadership and direction, JGS could not continue to exist.

The board voted unanimously to reinvent the society as a Special Interest Group affiliated with St. Louis Genealogical Society (J-SIG of StLGS). As a J-SIG, there will be no need for a full board, no need for a treasury, no need for monthly meetings, and no need for separate publications. St. Louis Genealogical Society, a growing, dynamic, educationally-oriented organization of 2000+ members, will provide the impetus for the new J-SIG to thrive.

#### **New Leaders/New Communications**

Phyllis Faintich has agreed to lead the J-SIG. Ilene Murray will assist her. Both have been in leadership positions in JGS St. Louis as well as in StLGS. The SIG will meet several times each year, and each meeting will focus on some aspect of Jewish genealogy. Meeting days and times will be announced in the StLGS newsletter, *News 'n Notes*, on fliers available at the St. Louis County Library, on the StLGS Web site, <www.stlgs.org>, and in the StLGS's free electronic newsletter. You do NOT need to be a member of StLGS to participate in the SIG group, but we hope you will consider membership, since you will benefit greatly by it. (See article on Page Two.)

#### **Indexing Projects**

The indexing projects begun by JGS will continue under the auspices of StLGS. Databases already in place on the JGS Web site will stay there and be supplemented as more information is gathered. StLGS welcomes all JGS members who are interested in volunteering to do so, both on Jewish projects and on secular ones.

#### Web site

The JGS Web site will remain an active one. Changes that need to be made will remain behind the scenes and the valuable information that is contained on the Web site will continue to serve researchers. In the future, the J-SIG leaders hope to use the Web site to resume publishing articles of Jewish interest and the ever-popular Jewish-oriented "Inquiries."

### J-SIG Sets Schedule for 2005 Will Begin with Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy

The newly-formed J-SIG will meet at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 South Lindbergh Boulevard, in the auditorium, at 7:00 p.m.

There will be two meetings in 2005:

- ► Wednesday, 24 August
- ► Tuesday, 29 November

The speakers for both meetings will be professional genealogists, Ed and Ilene Murray, who will get the group off to a solid start with their two-part presentation entitled "Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy: Reviewing the Basics."

Whether you have recently started your research or have been working on it for years, the Murrays will go step-by-step through how to do it the right way. Learn more about forms to use, available sources, citing sources, interviewing, and uniquely Jewish issues in genealogy. These two meetings will lay the groundwork for those which will come in the future.

The SIG leaders are working with Joyce Loving, manager of Special Collections at SLCL, to establish the dates for 2006. There will be four meetings, most likely on Wednesday evenings. Since the library schedule for next year will not be set until October, the exact dates will be announced at a later time.

Join us for a new beginning. See familiar faces and make some new friends. Volunteer to work on a project, come to the JGS Open House at the StLGS office on 21 July, learn how to be a better researcher; the J-SIG will be there to support you as you research your Jewish ancestors.

#### With Gratitude. . .

This is the last issue of *Generations*. Huge thanks go to columnists: Sylvia Jaffe, Chuck Jackson, Ed Murray, Marilen Pitler, and Eunice Solomon. Thanks also to all the members who graciously submitted articles. Special thanks to Dick Franzel who kept up with the inquiries; to Marilen Pitler for helping with exchange newsletters; to Cassie Buerki, Jerry Goldberg, Ed Murray, Peggy Nehmen, Joel Shedlofsky, and Ilene Wittels for proofreading each month; and to Ralph Huther, Shirley Schuldt, and Skip Rogers at StLGS for taking time to copy and fold five years' worth of issues! I greatly appreciated all the positive feedback from members and all the assistance.

Ilene Kanfer Murray, Editor

### **President's Message**

This is my last message to you as president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis. For some members, it's a disappointing time. I understand the circumstances if you are disappointed. For others, we are entering a new stage in the evolution of Jewish genealogical research.

We are leaving our home for the past ten years, a facility that has offered us convenience for our meetings, a location for our library, a supportive office staff, publicity in their monthly bulletin, and a Jewish environment. JGS of St. Louis, like other volunteer organizations, faced challenges in just staying alive. Unless a group identifies its difficulties and finds a solution, that group will cease to exist. Our main problem was finding members to serve on the board. Secondary, I'm sad to say, was poor attendance at our meetings. As president, I tried my best to encourage a more active participation; unfortunately, I did not succeed.

Sometimes adversity offers or forces one to seek new opportunities. In my June President's Message, I wrote on a new opportunity and the justification for our society to become a Jewish SIG of the St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS).

Serving as your president for two terms opened the doors to new friendships and an awareness of our relationships to community organizations. The board supported me in my leadership efforts and I thank each and every person. Also, my appreciation to the non-board members in their volunteer efforts. JGS could not have accomplished all the special projects and events without your participation.

St. Louis County Library, Special Collections, is the recipient of our library. Monetary donations were provided to United Hebrew Congregation and the Brodsky Library. The remaining treasury will be in a special J-SIG fund managed by StLGS. The Web site will continue; however, the format may change due to our SIG status. Funeral home, cemetery, and marriage indexing will also continue. The status of the Discussion Group has not been determined. If you would like to see it continue, please contact Norman Kling and tell him of your desires.

I encourage you to join StLGS. Consider the change as growth in your research offering new opportunities and acquaintances. Phyllis Faintich, a former board member of JGS, is the J-SIG leader. Please welcome her and attend the J-SIG meetings. I'll see you there. And then, I won't have to say good-bye, but hello again.

Jerry Goldberg

JGS St. Louis President

### Why Should You Join St. Louis Genealogical Society?

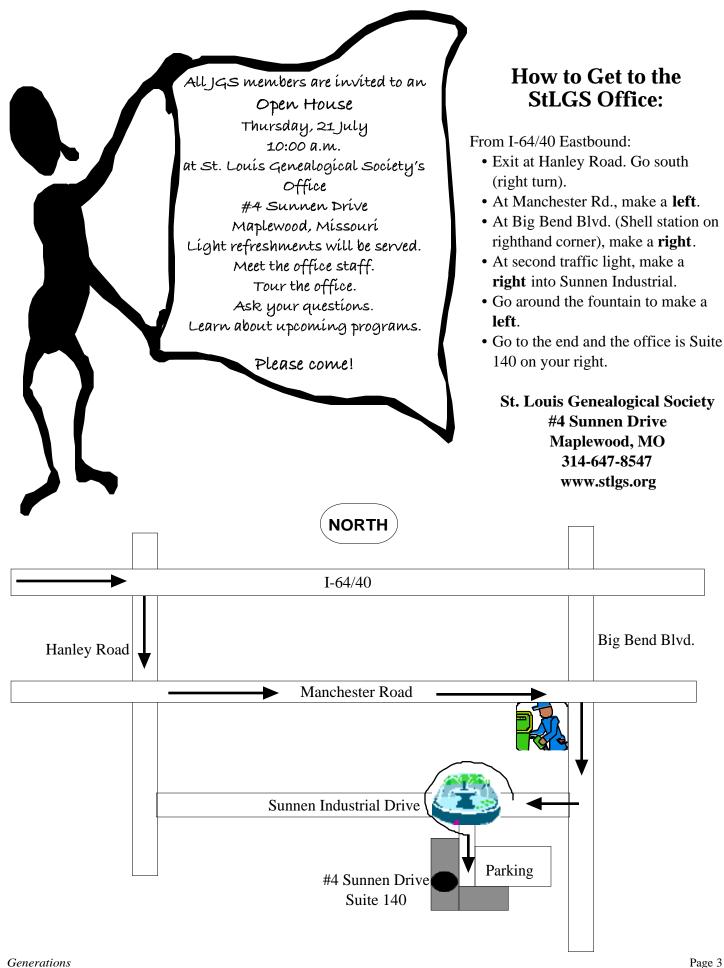
St. Louis Genealogical Society, located at #4 Sunnen Dr. in Maplewood, is one of the largest genealogical societies in the country. Membership in that group brings a monthly newsletter and a quarterly journal, as well as discounts on society publications, invitations (and discounted registration) to a speaker series and a yearly conference in June, a free beginning class for members, and discounts on other classes held at the office throughout the year. Why join? If you have family in St. Louis, the collection of birth, death, marriage, cemetery, and other records amassed by the Society's volunteers will certainly be of interest to you. At the Society office is a huge collection of Four Generation Charts submitted by members which may contain your relatives. There is also a room full of print material, with a focus on St. Louis and surrounding areas, for you to use. If you don't have family in St. Louis, you will still benefit from the many classes, workshops, and projects the Society offers. There is a bank of computers at the society office with samples of many of the popular genealogical software programs (PC only, although volunteers are available to work with Mac users) and Internet access. There are always volunteers who can help you use the computers if you need instruction.

The office is open on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings. During that time, usually many experienced researchers are available for you to call upon for general assistance. And in case you didn't know or forgot, the nucleus of the Special Collections Department in the St. Louis County Library is the collection of the St. Louis Genealogical Society.

Membership for an individual is \$25 and for a household, \$35. Meetings are held at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd., on the second Tuesday of the month, from 7 to 9 p.m. During January, February, and March, meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. till noon. The annual genealogy fair is held in April and the Speaker Series is in the fall.

The StLGS Web site is located at <www.stlgs.org>. The Web site, which is in the process of being redesigned, is filled with information on the Society and its activities. Once the re-design is complete, dozens of databases will go online. Some of these will be for members only; others will be available to the general public.

If you have questions about StLGS, please feel free to call the office and ask for Ilene or Phyllis, or send an e-mail to <publications@stlgs.org>. See next page for a special open house invitation for JGS members.



### Meet the Members: Marilen and Jordan Pitler

By Sylvia Letvak Jaffe

Marilen Pitler, a Chicago, Illinois, native, first learned of genealogy research when she was fifteen years old. She explains, "A man came to our home soon after my paternal grandmother's death. He told my parents that he was from Springfield, Illinois, and he was working on the Kettering family tree in America. My paternal grandmother's name was in his as the granddaughter of Catherine research CATTRON, a member of the KETTERING family. His visit to our home perked my interest in genealogy, but it wasn't until I was married and had young children that I decided that I wanted to meet the man from Springfield and learn more about my family. We were then living in St. Louis so we took the children on a weekend excursion to Springfield, met this very distant cousin, and had a ball learning about the family and viewing files upon files that filled his basement. That was before the day of computers."

The Springfield trip was soon followed with a trip to Kansas City, Missouri. Marilen adds, "On the way we decided to stop in Higgensville, Missouri, where my grandmother was born. We went into an old drugstore, looked through the phone book, and found five listings of the family name. We selected a name which



turned out to be the right one, the patriarch of the family. He immediately invited us to his home. His sons were the other four listings. Another son from out of town was visiting this man at the time. He was also the family genealogist, and we have been corresponding since we met. The patriarch was the son of one of my grandmother's brothers. He remembered my father when my father was an infant. I learned that my grandmother had been estranged from her family when she, a gentile living in a small Missouri town, ran off and married a Jewish traveling salesman. I immediately was hooked on genealogy."

Marilen is the Pitler family genealogist. However, Jordan is also interested in genealogy.

The two joined JGS because of Marilen's passion for genealogy and her recognition of the need for each community to have a Jewish genealogical society. She loves hearing the stories shared by members at meetings and reading other stories in *Generations*. She emphasizes that society programs that help the most are programs that deal with research.

Marilen has reconnected with the members of one of the nephews of her paternal grandmother's family and has traced the family back to great-great-grandparents. A second cousin on her mother's side of the family contacted Marilen through JewishGen's family finder. She has also done research on Jordan's fraternal side of the family, connected with a Pitler cousin, and a huge branch on Jordan's fraternal grandmother's side. "We've traced the family back to Jordan's great-grandfather," she declares. Marilen also organized a family reunion in Boston to which one hundred members attended from throughout the United States and Europe.

She shares two of her exciting genealogical discoveries. "The first discovery was that my second cousin found me through JewishGen. The second discovery was learning that Jordan's father, grandmother, aunt, and uncle arrived in the United States a year earlier than we were told and on a different ship. I located the correct manifest after searching for the wrong one for many years."

The Pitlers were both born in Chicago, where they met on a blind date. They moved to St. Louis when they started their own food brokerage business. They sold the company seven years ago. Jordan now sells refurbished phone systems and Marilen consults with a relocation and career assistance firm. The Pitlers have three children and three grandchildren. Both Marilen and Jordan are active in the Jewish community and JGS of St. Louis. They were honored as Mitzvah Stars in May 2005 by J. Associates. They are on the board of the New Jewish Theatre. They read the plays and help determine each season's production schedule. They also serve on the Israeli committee at United Hebrew Congregation. Marilen writes a monthly article for Generations reporting activities of interest conducted by JGS groups throughout the world. She also has helped with marriage indexing by putting United Hebrew records into the JGS database.

The Pitlers are researching the surnames PITLER and CHESKIS from Zhitomir, Ukraine; CHERNOFF from Chernigov, Ukraine; and WILEY from West Virginia.

### Officers and **Board Members**

#### **Officers**

President: Jerry Goldberg Vice President: Peggy Nehmen

Secretary: TBA

Treasurer: Morton Bearman

#### **Committees**

Joel Shedlofsky **Programs** Computer Gene Schneider **TBA** Librarian

Archivist Ed Rosen Carolyn Altman Tributes Cemetery Indexing Cassie Buerki &

Gene Schneider

Funeral Home Indexing Jerry Goldberg Marriage Indexing **Eunice Solomon** Generations Ilene Murray

Publicity **TBA** Dick Franzel Research Finance Morton Bearman

Webmaster Herb Bilinsky

#### **Members At Large**

**Eunice Solomon** Carolyn Altman

#### **Founders**

Art Jaffe Sylvia Jaffe

#### Web site:

www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis

#### **How To Contact Us:**

### **Society E-Mail Address:**

jgsstl@att.net

#### **President:**

jerryfrang@sbcglobal.net

#### **Generations Editor:**

ilenemurray@mindspring.com

Tuesday, 12 July 2005

### **Discussion Group News**

By Norman Kling, Discussion Group Leader

The group first met this month on Tuesday, 21 June at 6:30 p.m. The starting time was advanced one-half hour because an important board meeting of the Society was scheduled to begin at 7:00 p.m. As a result, the Discussion Group meeting lasted only thirty minutes. Present for the Discussion Group were Beverly Einstein and Joanne Schuver. During our short period we had an interesting discussion about problems when viewing the passenger manifests on the Ellis Island Web site.

The second meeting of the month was held on Thursday, 23 June at 1:00 p.m. Present for this meeting were George Barber, Charlotte Rudnick, Sheldon Rudnick, and Lee Scissors. A wide ranging discussion was held on a number of topics. Lee asked if there was any way to obtain death certificates other than ordering them from City Hall. She needs one to obtain public school records. The Rudnicks reported that some funeral directors will make a copy of a death certificate if one is in their file. Much discussion took place regarding name changes and age discrepancies among various sources of data. Some of the other topics discussed were getting Russian documents translated, steamship pictures, and the use of business directories.

### St. Louis Genealogical Society Upcoming Meetings

Tuesday, 9 August.

Overlooked Sources: Business, Organizational, & Institutional Records Ann Fleming

Tuesday, 13 September

Germans: How Immigration Made Implausible Marriages Possible

Dr. Linda Fisher

Monday, 3 October

A Tale of Two Family Reunions & the Technology That Helped Them **Bob Emnett** 

Tuesday, 15 November Writing Your Family History

Ann Fleming and Ted Steele All meetings at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters at 7:00 p.m.

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

# Genealogy Event of Interest: July 2005

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

Death Has Many Faces

Speaker: Patricia Walls Stamm

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

## **And Coming This Summer**

St. Louis Genealogical Society Presents its First Week-long Research Institute!

A full week of research at St. Louis repositories with lectures, local experts to help you, and individualized guidance for your specific research problems.

Sunday, 31 July–Friday, 5 August

More information and registration forms available at <www.stlgs.org> or call 314-647-8547

## What We Learn from Others: The Sharing of Ideas

By Marilen Pitler

Forum, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Fall 2004

Records Preservation and Access

According to the article, "The Illinois Adoption Registry assists certain individuals involved in an adoption in Illinois to locate other people involved in the adoption. Persons who were adopted or surrendered for adoption, their birth parents, birth siblings, adoptive parents and legal guardians may file their consent to exchange information with others involved in the adoption. If done in compliance with the law, information may be exchanged without the need for a court order." For additional information <www.idph.state.il.us/>, then click on A-Z Topics List on the left side of the screen, then Adoption.



Mishpochology, JGS of Southwest Florida, December 2004

**Myfamily.com** (**My Family People Finder**) is an aid in locating specific surnames. It does require narrowing searches by state and/or city and fees are attached to request more information about a specific name when found. It appears to be a good starting point, though. The site also provides links to other search engines, such as phone directories and genealogy "detective" down to Find tools. Scroll People Investigation Search Pages for this section. Check the entire site out <www.freeality.com/myfamily.htm>.

According to the *Mishpochology* article, "Find people search engine" will help you find the person you are looking for. Find friends, family, schoolmates, and reunite with people from your past. MyFamily is the largest search site for finding people."



Shem Tov, JGS of Canada (Toronto), December 2004

Genealogy and Family History Internet Web Directory—Update mentions a directory containing links "to thousands of sites of genealogical interest. ." located at <www.academic-genealogy.com>. "The Directory's creator, Tom Tinney, Sr., reports:. . "The American Jewish Archives reference to their large and growing genealogy collection has been added." It can be found at <www.academic-genealogy.com/archives.htm#Religion>.

Genealogy on eBay discusses the wealth of genealogical material to be found at <www.ebay.com>. According to genealogist and writer, Dick Eastman, "Indeed, old records and genealogy books are available by the hundreds on eBay. You can search for almost anything." He cautions, though, "As when searching through garage sales and flea markets, be prepared to sift through a lot of junk in order to find the gems of interest."

Auschwitz Database Accessible in English <www.auschwitz.org.pl/html/eng/start/index.php> The main site is located at <www.auschwitz.org.pl>.



*Illiana*, JGS of Flossmoor, Illinois, Winter 2004–2005

Ancestry Quick Tips:

Yellow Plastic Helps Make Copies More Legible

The article states, "If you are making a copy and the original seems too light to read, simply place a sheet of yellow Mylar down on the glass, then put your original over that and continue the copying process. (Mylar can be purchased in most office-supply stores.) No other color but yellow will do the trick. This has proven invaluable through the years in copying receipts and other information that was almost too hard to read."

Searches With Only a Name to Go On

The author states that when he only has a name to go on, he first runs the name through the Social Security Death Index. He then goes through this list of names eliminating all possibilities until he gets a place of death. He also contacts libraries, county historical/genealogy societies, newspapers, and/or funeral homes to determine where the obituary is located and obtain details about the funeral. He also says that when a relative has an unusual first name, it is possible to run the SSDI search with the first name alone. He states, "You can usually go online to a site like <www.internment.net> and find where your relative was buried too."



I recently received these words from a cousin and partner in genealogy. How well they describe the "plight" of the genealogist:

It is very difficult to figure out who has what where! Just when you think you know who is where, where tells you that who isn't there. Then you're "no where"... again.

With tenacious spirits, we shall KEEP UP THE HUNT!

### **Inquiries**

I am seeking information about the parents of Sarah MALORIUS. Sarah was born 12 April 1893; died 13 December 1962. We believe Sam, Eli, Louis, and Gertrude were all siblings and are buried at Chesed Shel Emeth.

Eric Stocker P.O. Box 811, Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0811 614-861-1342 stockere@hotmail.com

I am seeking information about death records for Philip and Catherine (Kate) GOLDSTEIN. Philip b. abt 1843, d. after 1920. Catherine (Kate) b. abt 1842, d. abt 1901.

Gary Loeb 26 Violet Lane, West Grove, PA 19390 (H) 610-869-4399 (B) 610-765-5504 garyadels@comcast.net

I am seeking information about David LEVISON and Hyam H. COHEN—early founders of the United Hebrew Temple, St. Louis. Richard Lyman 9 Puffin Court, Novato, CA 94949 415-884-2125 rlyman3529@aol.com

I am seeking information about Milan WOLF. When and how did he leave Germany? He was born 02 May 1898 in Bensheim, Hessen, Germany. Died in St. Louis (?) in Jan. 1985. He was married to Esther. Can you tell me more about this lost family member?

Hans Wolf M. Bauerstraat 5 Woerden 3443 HK, Netherlands hwolf@erasmuscollege.nl

I am seeking information about how and from where Benjamin and Mary HORWITZ came to St. Louis around 1900–1905.

Yoram Herzlich 13 Mark Shagal St. Haifa 32970, Israel (H)+972-482-54494 (B) +972-483-16808 yoram\_h@netvision.net.il

I am seeking information about Brinah SNOWBERGER, died 5 July 1871, and her daughter, Ella Snowberger, died 29 April 1868. They both are buried in Mt. Sinai Cemetery in St. Louis. Karyl Aronoff 6447 Glendora Avenue, Dallas, TX 75230 klra70@hotmail.com

I am seeking information about where in St. Louis my grandparents are buried. My grandfather died in 1938 and my grandmother died in 1964. They were Samuel MANDEL and Jenny PFEIFFER Mandel.

Beth Gladstein Brodkey 13712 Hickory Cir., Omaha. NE 68144 402-334-1700 beth12537@aol.com

I am seeking some specific information about my great-grandfather, Meyer Eliahu FENDELMAN. He lived in St. Louis from around 1912 until he died in the mid 1950s. I am told he was a chazzen at the old DeBaliviere (apparently also known as the DeGiverville) Shul. I think he also was a chazzen for Tpheris Israel in the 1940s. I suspect that he was a Chasid. He came from a village known as Demidivka, Russia, near the Black Sea. I know he always wore a kapota (a coat down to his ankles).

James N. Fendelman 101 South Hanley, Suite 1200 St. Louis, MO 63105 (H) 314-205-1804 (B) 314-725-9790 jfendelman@fptlaw.com

I am seeking information about Michael and Mary PEARLMAN, with four children, living in St. Louis, Mo., on Biddle St., in 1900. Children were Sarah, b.1893 in Ohio; Sam and Louis, born Russia; and Frank, b. 1891 in Ohio. Parents and two kids immigrated 1885–6. Michael died in 1912 in St. Louis—no record of Mary. Sam was my grandfather. Want to know where they originated in Russia and what temple they were members of. They were in the cigar making business.

Charlene Ranft 112 Millbridge Ct., St . Peters, MO 63376 636-939-4406 JoePCharR@msn.com

Looking for a plaque that was originally in the Orthodox Older Folks home on E. Grand that was inscribed with names. My uncle's name, Hanford C. KESSLER, was added 17 August 1946. He died in WWII.

Chuck Kessler 1971 Chesterfield Ridge Circle Chesterfield, MO 63017 (H) 636-532-2571 (B) 314-429-5544 kesslermo@charter.net

### **Inquiries**

I am seeking information about my great-great-grandmother, Blanche LOEB, who is supposed to have been born in St. Louis in August of 1873. I have not been able to find her parents' names anywhere. I haven't been able to find the family on the 1880 census. Blanche may have had a sister named Cora, and there's a family rumor that her father was a riverboat gambler. Her parents may have died early, as she lived in Memphis with a family named MORRIS when she was a young woman. She eventually moved to Birmingham, where she met and married Louis GELDERS. Any help or ideas about where to look would be much appreciated!

Rebecca Hartman 30 Elliot Terrace #3, Brattleboro, VT 05301 802-257-5416 rebeccach@gmail.com

I am seeking information about my grandparents and great-grandparents. My grandparents' names are Lyle Bernard WASSERKRUG and Stella Wasserkrug. Ann (Annie) Elise Wasserkrug 409 E Thornton Ave #K-105, Hemet, CA 92543 951-652-6065 annelisemartin@msn.com

I am seeking information about Nathan ROSENBERG (born 1866 Poland, died 1946) who is buried in the United Hebrew Cemetery, Section MT.

Is there anyone in your organization who could help me find out what is written on his tombstone? I am trying to find the names of his parents and what town he was from in Poland. He is the brother of my husband's great-grandfather, Isaac Rosenberg, who lived in New York City.

**Sherry Bader** 

10452 SW Forest Ridge Place, Beaverton, OR 97007 503-579-5561

sherryb@easystreet.com

I am seeking information about WASSERKRUG. I noticed that a Mr. Greenberg also requested information. The person he was interested in was my wife's great-great-great aunt.

Ron Kaminker 1901 Avenue of the Stars #1020 Los Angeles, CA 90067 (H) 310-836-3535/(B) 310-272-1390 Ron@condoradvisors.com

I am seeking information about Albert TRAUBE, owner of Traube Funeral Home, 1819 Russell Blvd., St. Louis, from 1911 to 1938. Can find no obit. or burial listings. Also in the family were Pauline and Myrtle Traube.

Keith Buchholz 1819 Russell Blvd., St.Louis, MO 63104 314-276-4802 keith9963@aol.com

**JGS of St. Louis** 8724 Teasdale Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63124



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#### First Class