



# GENERATIONS

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

Volume 11 Issue 6

June 2005

## IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

### June Meeting

*Future of JGS*  
Discussion

**Thursday, 16 June**  
**7:30 p.m.**

Meeting Held At:

United Hebrew Congregation  
13788 Conway Road  
Jablon Youth Lounge

### June Discussion Group

Tuesday, 21 June  
7:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.

AND Thursday, 23 June  
1:00 p.m.–3:00 p.m.

United Hebrew Congregation  
13788 Conway Road  
Room 14 (**ROOM CHANGE!**)

## Final Reminder

25th Annual  
IAJGS Conference  
Flamingo Hotel  
Las Vegas, Nevada  
10–15 July 2005

#1 conference for Jewish  
genealogists in the world  
Online registration available at  
<[www.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/Shelley/home.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs/jgs-southernnevada/Shelley/home.htm)>

- Attend workshops.
- Network with fellow researchers.
- Meet prominent speakers in Jewish genealogy
- Learn more about SIGs and Birds of a Feather groups.
- Visit the vendors.

## June Meeting

### *Future of JGS*

Jerry Goldberg, Moderator

There are no meetings of JGS St. Louis planned after this month. The board of directors met in May to discuss how to proceed and will share their decisions with the membership at the June meeting on Thursday, 16 June at 7:30 pm. Sadly, only five non-board members attended the extremely important May board meeting. Without members invested in the running of our organization, there is no future for JGS as it is currently structured. The lack of members at the board meeting spoke volumes to the board members and helped make the decisions that needed to be made much easier.

There is a group of dedicated workers and researchers who have supported JGS for many years. These people will continue to ensure that there is a place within the genealogical community in St. Louis for Jewish family research. Please read the President's Message on the next page for more details. A complete announcement will be made in the next issue of *Generations*. Until then, we hope those of you who are interested will attend the June meeting to be part of the new direction for JGS St. Louis.

## Polish Researchers: Explore JRI-Poland Online

One of the best resources online for Jewish research in Poland is at <[www.jri-poland.org](http://www.jri-poland.org)>. This group is responsible for indexing thousands of records from archives throughout Poland. Many of the records have been microfilmed and can be ordered through the Family History Library. Others can be ordered online through the Polish Archives. The JRI-Poland indices are mainly from three distinct areas that were once part of Poland—the Russian Pale of Settlement, Russian Poland (also referred to as Congress Poland or the Kingdom of Poland), and Austrian Galicia.

Sample formats of records from Russian Poland can be found at <[www.jri-poland.org/frazin.htm](http://www.jri-poland.org/frazin.htm)>. These examples are representative of the information you can expect from ordering a record. They are in Polish, but Russian Poland records during the period 1868–1917 were actually

written in Russian Cyrillic script.

Galician records were written in either German or Polish and their format can be found at <[www.jri-poland.org/galicia/GalicianVitalRecords\\_Titles\\_Nov2002.pdf](http://www.jri-poland.org/galicia/GalicianVitalRecords_Titles_Nov2002.pdf)>. This is a .pdf file of the headings used for Galician records and requires Adobe Acrobat Reader to view. Records before 1877 used various formats and usually contained less information. Starting in 1877, the forms used to record vital events were standardized.

Records for Bialystok and nearby towns formerly in Grodno Gubernia, as well as Kremenets, Ukraine, were written in Russian and sometimes Hebrew. Samples of the headings can be found at <[www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kremenets/Records\\_and\\_transcriptions/vitrecofkrem.htm](http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/Kremenets/Records_and_transcriptions/vitrecofkrem.htm)>. Some early nineteenth century Polish records are in French, due to Napoleon's march across Europe.

# President's Message

## A New Future for JGS St. Louis

The board of directors met on 19 May to discuss how to proceed and ensure that JGS of St. Louis remains a viable organization. Although the meeting was promoted in a previous issue of *Generations* and mentioned at our May general meeting, only five non-board members attended this extremely important discussion.

A solution had to be found to motivate our membership and lessen leadership duties. Previously, the board determined that continuing with our present structure was no longer an option. The board appointed a search committee consisting of Morton Bearman, Phyllis Faintich, Jerry Goldberg, and Ilene Murray. Committee meetings were held with the board of Brodsky Library and the president of St. Louis Genealogical Society (StLGS). Discussions centered on which organization would be the most beneficial to meet our needs of Jewish genealogical research. The committee unanimously agreed and recommended to the board that we join StLGS as a Jewish Special Interest Group (J-SIG).

At the May board meeting, numerous questions were asked of the committee about our relationship with StLGS, our responsibilities as a SIG, our ability to continue as an ethnic society, and the disposition of our resources, such as the library and treasury. Sufficient justification was provided for ALL board members who were present to vote that we become a Jewish SIG within StLGS.

We will continue to use the name JGS St. Louis. As a J-SIG, we will coordinate with StLGS, maintain the funds that are currently in our treasury, and produce our programs. The indexing projects (funeral homes and cemetery data) will continue; we will work with StLGS to share the information gathered with the genealogical community.

Is this the end of JGS St. Louis as we know it? Yes. However, we HAVE a positive future for our membership and we will continue to provide a service to the community. We will continue as a Jewish genealogical organization, potentially becoming stronger with exposure to a 2000 member organization, a large volunteer staff, and ready access to up-to-date office equipment.

Our meeting topics will complement those topics provided by StLGS. During the past two years, many of the StLGS programs have been beneficial for Jewish research, such as *Immigration/Naturalization* and *Maps, Where to Find Them and How to Use Them*. As a SIG, we will focus on programs specific to our needs.

Continuance as an ethnic group requires the participation of our membership. To participate in the J-SIG you will NOT need to join StLGS. However, I urge you to become a member of that organization. Membership entitles you to receive the monthly newsletter *News 'N Notes* and the *Quarterly*, a journal filled with longer articles. You will find information related to Jewish research and notices of meetings included in these publications. As a StLGS member, you will also be entitled to discounts at society classes, conferences, and special events. Society publications and clothing are discounted for members as well. Up to date information on all StLGS events is provided on their Web site, <[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)>.

This is a win-win situation. StLGS has an office with high speed copiers, a computer lab, a strong cadre of volunteers, and years of experience in providing leadership for genealogical projects in St. Louis. They are happy to sponsor a Jewish SIG. This new group will join the Computer Interest Group (CIG), the Irish SIG, and a newly formed German SIG. A French SIG is a possibility in the near future. The J-SIG will not require a full board to provide leadership. One or two people will arrange programs, and StLGS will get the word out to the public. StLGS meetings, which are always open to members and non-members alike, are of great relevance to all genealogists; the J-SIG meetings will focus on specific subjects to help Jewish researchers.

Please join me at the Thursday, 16 June meeting at 7:30 p.m. to discuss our new structure. Your support and attendance are vital. This was a difficult decision for the board to make, but given the dwindling attendance, lack of volunteers, and vacant leadership positions, there were limited choices if JGS was to continue to exist. We know all the members will not be pleased, but I believe that you will come to see this as the right decision for this organization at this time.

Jerry Goldberg

JGS St. Louis President



Time is a sort of river of passing events, and strong is its current.  
No sooner is a thing brought to sight than it is swept by and  
another takes its place, and this too will be swept away.

Marcus Aurelius

## St. Louis Public Library's Online Obit. Index is Valuable Resource

By Norman Kling

If you have ever had to search for an obituary for someone when all you knew was the year they died, you will really appreciate the St. Louis Public Library's Obituary Index. This index lists obituaries obtained from death notices and burial permits listings, as well as obituary articles, found in the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Both date and page number are given for each entry.

Death notice entries generally include the date of death; names of spouses, children, and parents; place of the funeral; and place of interment. Burial permits generally include address, age, and cause of death. Also included are obituary articles, which generally include greater detail about an individual, including occupation, brief biography, relatives, etc. Another helpful feature is that during both World War I and World War II, casualty lists were included in the newspaper.

The index is organized alphabetically within each year. Years covered in the index as of 4 April 2005 are 1880–1924, 1942–1945, and 1992–2004. The index is available at <[www.slpl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/obit.htm](http://www.slpl.lib.mo.us/libsrc/obit.htm)>.

Please note that this is *just an index*. Once you find the item of interest in the index, you will then have to go to the actual newspaper on microfilm to view the obituary.

If you are interested in some of the years not now covered, you should check the site periodically because additional years of indexes are added as they are completed. For example, the 1924 index was added recently. Eventually, the gaps in years covered will be filled in. Won't that be great!

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## Summer Genealogy Trip Planned?

Don't forget to bring:

- Sunscreen, sunglasses, and a hat for being outdoors
- Insect spray for working in cemeteries
- Camera and film or digital camera and memory sticks
- Video camera for interviewing relatives
- Extra batteries for the above camera(s)
- Maps and directions
- Pads of paper, pencils, and pens
- Copies of family group sheets, descendant charts, and timelines
- Research to-do list for each family

And don't forget to cite your sources for every bit of information you discover!

## Author Solicits Photos of Early Jewish Missouri Settlers

I am a freelance writer working on *Missouri: An Illustrated History* to be published by Hippocrene Books in 2006. I am looking for photos for the work and am interested in getting some of the early Jewish settlers in Missouri. Specifically, I am looking for black and white images of people engaged in daily life, either in St. Louis or elsewhere in Missouri, in order to give my readers an insight into what it was like to live in earlier times. I'm not looking for portraits or posed shots, such as class photos. If you have any members who would be interested in sharing their photos, I would very much like to speak with them. They may contact me at <[seanmcl@excite.com](mailto:seanmcl@excite.com)>.

Sean McLachlan, freelance writer, author and editor *Byzantium: An Illustrated History* (Hippocrene Books: December 2004)

*The Insider's Guide to Phoenix* (with Mary Paganelli; Globe Pequot Press: 2002, 2004)

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## JGS Great Britain Offers Publications for Sale

The JGSGB has a series of helpful guide books available on Jewish genealogy. Currently six titles are in print with a seventh coming this summer. The books can be purchased by mail (check in pounds sterling, **not dollars or euros**, or credit card) or via credit card on their Web site <[www.jsgsb.org.uk](http://www.jsgsb.org.uk)>. The mailing address is JGSGB Publications Dept., PO Box 180, St. Albans, Herts., AL2 3WH. You can e-mail questions to <[publications@jsgsb.org.uk](mailto:publications@jsgsb.org.uk)>.

The books for sale are as follows:

- *A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain*; £6.00 (about \$11)
- *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Germany and Austria*; £6.00 (about \$11)
- *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia*; £6.00 (about \$11)
- *A Guide to Organising (sic) Your Family History Records*; £6.95 (about \$13)
- *Genealogical Resources Within the Jewish Home and Family*; £7.95 (about \$15)
- *A Guide to Reading Hebrew Inscriptions and Documents*; £6.50 (about \$12)
- Coming in late summer: *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Lithuania*; no price listed as yet.

Remember that these books will be written from a British perspective, but the techniques and general advice should be just as true for American researchers as for our British counterparts. And for those of you with British roots, the books will undoubtedly prove quite useful.

# Meet the Members: Marge and Herb Bilinsky

By Sylvia Letvak Jaffe

Marge Bilinsky first became interested in genealogy when she found a three-page family tree her uncle had made before leaving Germany in 1936. The tree was of her mother's side of the family and went back to 1620 in France. She recalls, "I was always fascinated with this chart." She received a copy of her father's family tree while on a visit to their hometown of Meinezhagen, Germany, in 1979. The family tree was researched by a young German working on a history of the Jewish people in Meinezhagen and what happened to the people, specifically her father's family. The German was getting his master's degree and had given the tree to a friend of the father's family to fill out the missing information on the family. This tree led Marge to a long correspondence with the researcher. They met in 1982 when the town invited surviving Jews to come for a visit. Marge reports, "Nine people came including my sister and me."

She adds, "I really have had a 'leg up' on my genealogical chart because of the research of others and for that I am very grateful. I was also always fascinated by the photos my parents took with them when we left Germany in 1938." Herb Bilinsky says he became interested in genealogy when his wife became interested because "I wanted to help her."

Herb says JGS of St. Louis "has provided me with leads to research sources. The personal experiences of others have also provided clues to where I might find information." He has traced his family back to both of his great-grandparents in Russia. Locating the manifest of his family and discovering correspondence between his grandfather and Justice Louis Brandeis were his most exciting discoveries.

Marge's findings motivated her to make a ten-minute genealogical video that followed her mother's line. She used photos of each person, information on where they had lived, and where each was buried. She further enhanced the video by adding movie footage and more details about her sister, her family, and their children. She shares, "I sent a copy to a member of each branch of our tree for them to add to."

In 2001 she decided to produce a more detailed video of how some of the family escaped the Holocaust while others did not. She relates, "I wanted to preserve the stories of my late parents' lives before the Holocaust." This short film was titled *The Locket*. She adds, "I applied for a grant to make it a more professional film of TV quality and thirty minutes in length. This film has had an interesting journey including use in three local film festivals, on KETC-TV, Channel 18, HEC-TV, and public access stations in other states. It was used in 2003 as the centerpiece of an exhibit on Jewish life in Meinezhagen, Germany.

The video was professionally dubbed in German for the exhibit. I have shown the film at schools, Havorah groups, and to JGS of St. Louis. I learned that the film was used in Hawaii to counter an anti-Semitic film shown on the public access station."

In 2004 JGS of St. Louis contributed to a video on



genealogy that Marge wrote and narrated entitled *The Album: Exploring your Puzzled Past*. The video is soon to be featured on HEC-TV and on public access stations in Hawaii. Marge has now received a grant to do a video called *The Bracelet: Hidden Treasures*. She declares, "I would say genealogy has led me on an interesting journey, one I never could have dreamed of."

Herb, the webmaster for JGS, was born in St. Louis. He retired after twenty-eight years as a manufacturing engineer at McDonnell-Douglas. He served in the Army artillery on active duty for six months and in the reserves. He is active in B'nai Amoona synagogue and has worked with SCORE (Service Corps of Retired Executives) counseling business start-ups and troubled small businesses.

Marge was born in Ludenschied, Germany, and in 1938, at four years of age, she came to the United States. The family lived in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Some of the family had settled in Stillwater, Oklahoma, in the 1890s, coming from Kansas when land was offered in Oklahoma Territory. Marge retired in 1995 after serving for thirty years as regional director for the American Jewish Congress in St. Louis. She was an interviewer for Stephen Spielberg's Survivors of the Shoah Living History Foundation and has been a docent and speaker for the St. Louis Holocaust Museum for nine years. She is also a tutor in the reading program in public schools under the auspices of OASIS.

Herb and Marge met while both were students at the University of Missouri. They have a son and a daughter.

Marge is researching the surnames FISCHBACH and JUNGHEIM. Herb is researching the surnames BILINSKY, GOLDSTEIN, and CHASEN.

## Officers and Board Members

### Officers

President: Jerry Goldberg  
Vice President: Peggy Nehmen  
Secretary: TBA  
Treasurer: Morton Bearman

### 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

Herb Bilinsky

### Members At Large

Eunice Solomon Carolyn Altman

### 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:

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### Generations Editor:

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

## Discussion Group News

By Norman Kling,  
Discussion Group Leader

On 24 May Paul Safran attended the Discussion Group meeting and presented an interesting but difficult genealogical research problem. He and his mother were on what may have been the last boat from Europe carrying refugees prior to World War II. His parents are now dead and those relatives he knows of left behind in Europe were victims of the Shoah, so he has very little information about his family upon which to base research in this country. His only known relative in this country is a cousin whom he says knows less about the family than he does. I suggested that the Family History Library in Salt Lake City might be one good place to look before considering travel to Europe or hiring someone else to do it for him.

Charlotte and Sheldon Rudnick came to the 26 May meeting. They reported on a number of successful items they have found as a result of their research, especially those resulting from their contacts with the National Archives and Records Administration. They plan to look further into the possibility of finding more useful information in passenger manifests. I recommended that they consider eventually writing a family history or some other kind of record of their research because, as we all know, if we don't, all of our research could be lost to those we leave behind. To this end, I suggested that the book, *Producing A Quality Family History* by Patricia Law Hatcher, is an excellent resource for learning how to create such documents. They were able to examine a copy of the book available at the meeting.

The June Discussion Group meetings are scheduled for Tuesday, 21 June, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Thursday, 23 June, 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Hope I see you there.

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## Thinking About a Trip to Salt Lake City?

Each year the St. Louis Genealogical Society sponsors a week-long research trip to the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. Led by StLGS and JGS members, Ed and Ilene Murray, this year's trip is scheduled for Sunday, 6 November through Sunday, 13 November. There will be a pre-trip meeting in September for all participants, a dinner together on Sunday evening, 6 November, and an orientation to Salt Lake City and the library for newcomers on Monday, 7 November. During the week, the leaders are available to help everyone in the group. The price of this trip has remained the same for the past three years and is quite reasonable. For more information, go to <[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)> or contact Ilene or Ed Murray.

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## Genealogy Event of Interest: July 2005

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

Tuesday, 12 July 2005

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

*Death Has Many Faces*

Speaker: Patricia Walls Stamm

For more information on this program, go to <[www.stlgs.org](http://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](http://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. 2, 2004

What are vertical files? According to the article, "Basically they are file cabinets (they may also be cabinets, footlockers, or almost anything capable of storing paper materials)." The treasures contained inside could be anything from "newspaper clippings, family tree charts, handwritten letters, typed memories, pamphlets of all kinds, etc." The article continues, "When you visit a library or society you may need to visit the reference desk to discover the physical location of the vertical files. Do not simply ask if there are genealogy papers in the vertical file. The files may contain good genealogical data in the form of town histories or minutes of community groups which might not sound like genealogical papers to a librarian. The best way to determine if the vertical files contain treasures for you is to ask to look through them."



*Illiana*, Jewish Genealogical Society, Summer 2004

"Search Under Mother's Name" points out there are additional ways to search the census indices. The author was searching the 1930 census and could not find a maternal grandfather. She then tried the same search using her grandmother's name and found information on her grandmother, grandfather, and their three children. The article concludes with, ". . . when you can't find the male name, try the female head of the household or even the child's name."

The Indiana Jewish Historical Society Collection index is now online, and can be found at [www.indianahistory.org/library/manuscripts/collection\\_guides/M0743.html](http://www.indianahistory.org/library/manuscripts/collection_guides/M0743.html). It contains 240 years of Indiana Jewish history.

"Further Information on the Wisconsin Name Index" indicates that it now contains over 100,000 "obituaries, biographical sketches, and newspaper articles. . . . The Name Index . . . allows researchers to look up ancestors in more than 1,500 books and periodicals . . ." The site is located at [www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni/](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/wni/).

"Making Clearer Photocopies" contains an interesting tip on reading old letters, grade school cards, etc. The article says, "If you will take them to a copy machine and put a piece of clear yellow plastic between the paper you are copying and the glass, it will improve the writing on the new copy."

"Tinfoil Tombstone Impression" has another interesting tip. The author was recently at a cemetery and could not read the date of death on the tombstone. He said, "The inscription was too

worn and rough to do a rubbing. Not wanting to apply anything that might have chemical agents, such as shaving cream, I tried to think of a 'dry method' and the thought of taking tin foil came to me. I took a sheet and gently pressed the foil into the inscription with a dry, soft sponge, then gently lifted the foil from the stone, and I had an impression of the inscription that I could then take and hold in front of a mirror to read." He concludes, ". . . now tin foil and a sponge are two items I carry whenever I go 'cemetery hopping,' along with a whisk broom, probe, and flashlight."



*Sharsheret Hadorot*, the Israel Genealogical Society, August 2004

There are so many wonderful articles in this issue of *Sharsheret Hadorot*, but I am only touching on one. Please look at this issue located on our library's shelves; of particular note is the article on organizing a large family reunion.

In "Organizing a Family Reunion," the author noted the following points regarding the necessity of such reunions:

- To present the history of the family as it was, a story that should be a source of pride.
- To meet additional family members—relatives who have stories to tell or who possess family treasures such as photographs and documents.
- To strengthen the connections with family members met in the course of research.

The author talked of important questions to ask while planning: "What would be the exact content of the reunion and how to organize it in an interesting fashion? What would be its location, cost, schedule? How to inform family members and how to introduce myself? How to galvanize enthusiasm and get family members to attend?"



*Roots-Key*, Newsletter of the JGS of Los Angeles, Winter 2004

## *Online Resources for Dutch Genealogy*

- *Archivenet*, Dutch and Flemish archives: [www.archiefnet.nl/index.asp?taal=en](http://www.archiefnet.nl/index.asp?taal=en)
- *Genlias*, information taken from the Civil Register, covering a period since 1811: [www.genlias.nl/pls/gls03/home?cid=szvnHvu54hNw07bOvw40pPeMQ&cmd=pageEnglish](http://www.genlias.nl/pls/gls03/home?cid=szvnHvu54hNw07bOvw40pPeMQ&cmd=pageEnglish)
- *Institute for War Documentation*: [www.riod.nl/engels](http://www.riod.nl/engels)
- *Jewish Virtual Library*: [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/vjw/netherlands.html](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsourc/vjw/netherlands.html)
- *Center for Research on Dutch Jewry*: <http://dutchjewry.huji.ac.il>

## Interesting Collection Online: *Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States*

In 1926, to mark the 150th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence, the citizens of Poland created 111 volumes of original artwork and garnered greetings and signatures from “national, provincial, and local government officials, representatives of religious, social, business, academic, and military institutions, and approximately five-and-a-half million school children.” These books were delivered to President Calvin Coolidge, and, at Coolidge’s request, were transferred to the Library of Congress, where they remained undisturbed and forgotten for the better part of the past seventy years. According to the Library of Congress, in 1996 the collection was “rediscovered serendipitously during the visit of Polish First Lady Jolanta Kwasniewska and other dignitaries from the Embassy of Poland. The collection generated such intense interest that the Library, in cooperation with the Embassy of Poland, organized a special program on 2 May 1997 to showcase this symbol of the enduring friendship between Poland and the United States.”

Susana Leistner Bloch, Coordinator of JewishGen’s ShtetLinks Project, describes the collection as “an important, largely unexplored primary source for genealogical, historical, and sociological research, for it includes the signatures of nearly one-sixth of the population of Poland as it existed in 1926.”

Recently the Library of Congress digitized some of the presentation volumes and all of the secondary school signatures and placed the images online at <[www.loc.gov/rr/european/egwinv/egwdir.html](http://www.loc.gov/rr/european/egwinv/egwdir.html)>. Ron Bachman created an easy-to-use index so that the signatures are searchable. Researchers can also search by keyword in English or Polish (without accents). Susana Bloch says the books “represent entries from hundreds of elementary and secondary schools throughout Poland, including shtetlach in former Galicia that were part of Poland in the inter-war years. Every town, every village, every shtetl that had an elementary school is represented. Every pupil in every class signed his/her name.”

Only the secondary school volumes are available on line. There are no plans to digitalize the primary school volumes but they have been catalogued and indexed and copies for shtetl entries can be ordered.

The *Polish Declarations of Admiration and Friendship for the United States* are a bittersweet piece of history that now lie just a few minutes from your fingertips. If you had Polish ancestors, you will surely want to look at these haunting pages from the past.

## New Features Added to the Stephen Morse Web site <[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)>

The following new features have been added to the Stephen Morse Web site:

1. **Ellis Island Additional Details** (in the Ellis Island section of the Web site). This feature allows you to see all the transcribed details of a particular passenger or a set of passengers on one screen. The results page generated by the White, Blue, and Gray form show only the name, age, year, and town. The Additional Details function adds port, ship, marital status, ethnicity, and full date of arrival. Furthermore, the new tool will find any traveling companions of the passengers in the list and will show the details for these companions as well. This is useful to the researcher who wants to see all the details in one place. It is most useful to those who want to copy the data to a spreadsheet. With a single copy and a single paste command, you can transfer the complete set of details.
2. **1930 Enumeration District (ED) Definitions for Small Towns** (in the Census section). The Morse site already has an ED finder that converts street addresses to EDs in large cities. Now it interfaces with the National Archives Web site to find the EDs for smaller towns. After selecting a state, key in a town name or portion of the name, and it will display the county and ED for the town(s).
3. **Queens 1915 AD/EDs** (in the New York Census section). Previously Morse’s New York City Census AD/ED Finder had the tables for 1915 Manhattan, 1915 and 1925 Brooklyn, and 1925 Bronx that allowed conversion of a street address to the necessary AD/ED. A table for 1915 Queens has been added.
4. **Codes on 1930 Census Records** (in the Census section). The 1930 census has codes that represent language, birthplace, and Indian tribe. The Morse site provides a utility to decipher these codes.

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## Genealogy Classes Available at StLGS

The fall class schedule for the St. Louis Genealogical Society has just been released. Classes are \$5 per hour for members; \$8 for non-members and are taught at the society office in Maplewood. The Beginning Genealogy class is free to members. Many of the fall classes are computer-related; there is a small computer lab at the office. For a complete schedule of the fall classes, log on to <[www.stlgs.org](http://www.stlgs.org)> or call the office at 314-647-8547 and ask for a flyer. StLGS members will receive their copies in *News ‘N Notes*.

## Inquiries

I was wondering if I could get someone to take digital photographs of the SCHOENBRUN and HORWITZ gravestones in United Hebrew cemetery, section 15. I would be glad to do lookups in the National Archives or Library of Congress in exchange.

Benjamin C. Schoenbrun  
610 N. Buchanan Street  
Arlington, VA 22203  
703-525-9787  
schoenbrun\_benjamin@bah.com

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I am seeking information about my great-grandfather, Herman BLEICH, who was born in 1898 and died in 1980. He was buried in B'Nai Amoona. I am looking for anything that might lead to information about his place of birth and his parents.

Matthew Bleich  
1500 Mazzard Ave.  
West Richland, WA 99353  
H: 509-967-8093 B: 509-373-2562  
mattbleich@yahoo.com

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I am seeking information about Nathan WALDSTEIN, founder of the Waldstein

Lumber Co. in St. Louis. I am trying to find the name of his parents. Nathan was buried in Bellefontaine Cemetery in 1900. He had a son, Franz. A Henry Waldstein, buried in a Jewish cemetery in St. Louis in 1880, may be the brother of Nathan. Thank you for any help you can offer.

Jacqueline Waldstein Schwab  
4 Greenhouse Circle  
Rye Brook, NY 10573  
914 939 6522  
jwschwab@optonline.net

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I am seeking information about a piece of software, specifically, FAMILY CENSUS RESEARCH, version 3. I own version 2 and the author, Tom Waldie, died before I wanted to update to version 3, which added the 1930 census. Do you know anyone that has this?

Don Versluys  
406 Ella Court  
Friendswood, TX 77546  
281-482-1576  
shopper@wt.net

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



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