



GENERATIONS

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JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS
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Volume 11 Issue 3

March 2005

IMPORTANT DATES AT A GLANCE:

March Meeting

Our Tenth Anniversary!
Stephen P. Morse
*Searching Databases in
One-Step and Searching Ellis
Island's Database in One-Step*

Sunday, March 13
2:00 p.m.

Meeting Held At:

United Hebrew Congregation
13788 Conway Rd.

March

Discussion Group
Thursday, March 24
1:00–3:00
United Hebrew
Room 15

April Meeting

*The Third Wave of Jewish
Immigration to America*
Rabbi Daniel Plotkin

Thursday, April 14
7:00 p.m.

Meeting Held At:

B'nai El Congregation
11411 N. Forty Dr.
Look for a map in the next
issue of *Generations*.

April

Discussion Group
Thursday, April 28
1:00–3:00
United Hebrew
Room 15

March Meeting

*Searching Databases in One-step and
Searching Ellis Island's Database in One-step*

Stephen P. Morse

Refreshments in honor of our 10th anniversary
will be served between talks.

Admission is free for members of JGS St. Louis
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 at 314-692-2444 or Joel Shedlofsky at 314-275-7804



April Meeting

The Third Wave of Jewish Immigration to America

Rabbi Daniel Plotkin, Speaker

The 3rd wave of Jewish immigration to America started in the late 1860s and lasted until the twentieth century. Although other Jews had come here before, this wave was the largest and brought millions of Jews fleeing poverty, pogroms, and other social ills. Many of our ancestors came in this wave. Come hear Rabbi Daniel Plotkin discuss this event and how Jewish life in America was transformed.

Rabbi Daniel Plotkin joined B'nai El in July of 2004. Last year at the Jewish Institute, Rabbi Plotkin presented a six week course on the 350 year history of Jews in America. This program is a repeat of one of those class presentations.

The meeting will take place at B'nai El. A map will appear next month, for those who need directions. You certainly will not want to miss this talk.

DON'T HANG UP ON US! WE'RE NOT TELEMARKETERS!

Members of our board will be calling each of our local members beginning about 1 March. Our 13 March meeting with Steven Morse is free to members, but there is a \$5.00 charge for non-members. We are also celebrating our tenth birthday. So in order to plan for the right amount of tables and chairs and refreshments, we'd like to know if you plan on coming.

This is also an opportunity to ask about JGS activities you could help with. We still need leaders and volunteers.

President's Message

Meetings

Thank you, Tom Pearson and Kathy Smith of the St. Louis Public Library for speaking at the February meeting. Also, our appreciation to congregation Beth Hamedrosh Hagodol for allowing us to use their shul.

On Page Three in this issue is an article from our program chair, Joel Shedlofsky, discussing the low attendance at our general meetings. Some members have stated they want more local programs. Other members prefer topics that appeal to general research. We have attempted to meet your needs. If we're not successful, inform Joel. Being program chair is a difficult position. Joel is employed full time and acting as program chair in his free time. He deserves the appreciation of our membership.

Discussion Group

Norman Kling, our discussion group leader, conducts monthly afternoon meetings. This group has no fixed agenda and tries to provide answers to those difficult questions. They offer in-depth guidance to the attendees using an open discussion forum. Let's show more support for Norman in this endeavor and attend Discussion Group meetings.

March Special Event

Our March celebration meeting, informally called the Annual Big Event, is our tenth anniversary. I've received numerous e-mails from other Jewish genealogical societies congratulating us for obtaining Steven Morse as a speaker. The board has sent a flyer and will be calling local members encouraging their presence at this meeting. Membership attendance at this meeting and subsequent meetings will determine our focus in the coming months. A strong possibility is reducing the general meetings to every other month. I realize that I'm sounding like a broken record. Membership attendance is crucial to our society. As word spreads of our poor attendance, it becomes more difficult to obtain quality speakers.

The Future of JGS is in Your Hands!

A majority of the board members have served in their capacity for many years, and some have expressed a desire to "retire" at the end of June, prior to the next fiscal year. How much more can we ask of our leadership? I believe it's not fair that the same people contribute their time year after year for the benefit of others. Yes, it's time for you to step up to the plate. Please, we need you to serve on our board. We will work with you until you are comfortable in your office or in a roll as a committee chair. ***Without the support of more of our members, this organization will be unable to sustain itself!*** Call me at 314-434-2566 or e-mail to <jerryfrang@sbcglobal.net> (note the new e-mail address).

Jerry Goldberg

JGS St. Louis President

Your Chance to be Up Close and Personal with Steven Morse

By Ilene Wittels

As you know, Steven Morse is coming to St. Louis to talk to us on Sunday, 13 March. Since he arrives Friday night and doesn't leave until Monday, there will be opportunities for our members to join in dinners planned on Friday night, Saturday night, or Sunday night. Each night will be hosted by different people. The JGS will pay for Dr. Morse's dinner, but anyone who attends will pay for him/herself. Please



call the hosts of the night you'd like to join in and they will give you the particulars and include you in the reservations. We will need to limit the number of people attending each dinner to seven people in addition to the hosts and Dr. Morse.

Joel and Linda Shedlofsky will be picking him up at the airport on Friday evening at 6:15 p.m. and taking him to the Sheraton Westport Chalet to check in. After that they will be hosts for dinner. Their phone number is 314-275-7804.

Peggy Nehmen and Gary Kodner will host Saturday dinner. The site is to be announced. Their phone number is 314-727-7612.

Phyllis and Jerry Faintich will host Sunday dinner. The site for this is also to be announced. Their phone number is 314-432-2614.

On Sunday Beverly Einstein and Joanne Schuver will be picking up Dr. Morse at the hotel, having lunch, and bringing him to United Hebrew for our meeting and tenth birthday celebration.

We hope some of you will take advantage of this opportunity to spend time with an outstanding genealogist.

Our Programs: What Happens Next?

By Joel Shedlofsky, Program Chair

Genealogy. History. We search for the landmarks in our ancestors' lives; their births, their marriages, and their deaths. We find the information and record it, then move on. But wasn't there more? Didn't our ancestors interact with history? Some felt compelled to leave their homeland and come to America. Some stayed in the port city where they arrived; others went inland. Others were born on the east coast and traveled to other sections of the country. In many cases they left records in places rarely search or accessed.

Where We Have Been

Over the past months the programs presented by our society have reflected much about the kinds of lives our ancestors lived. Miriam Lipsitz and Fran Alper from Hadassah presented us with a treasure trove of post-1930 information. This program included reflections on Jewish perspectives prior to, during, and after the creation of Israel. Cynthia Millar invited us to explore the extensive map collections at St. Louis Public Library. With these maps we can locate where our ancestors walked. Robin Hanson showed us how Jewish cemeteries differ and how current culture has affected these cemeteries. Robert Mullen exploded some myths about "glamorous" steamboats and revealed how dangerous they actually were. Yet for a long period of time, steamboats on the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers were the main form of transportation for people and goods. Tom Pearson and Kathy Smith recently provided us with information on seldom used records, especially for our unfortunate ancestors who lived "on the edge."

The Next Few Months

In the future, we will see Stephen P. Morse discussing his various one-step search forms. Another program will be on Jewish immigration and its impact. In May we will have a St. Louis University professor discuss Polish-Jewish relations during the 1930s. June's program is being worked on as I write this.

Then What?

Whether we have programs beyond June is up to you. Even though our membership is over 140 individuals, only a small number of people are attending the programs. With only 10–20% of our membership showing up each month, the message being received is to discontinue the programs. ***If we are to continue having programs, we need our members to show up!*** If you are not attending and wish to have programs, please tell me why you are not attending. Is it the day, the time, the location, or the programs? If it is the programs, what programs do you want? Please contact me with your thoughts at <jshedlofsky@sbcglobal.net> or call 314-275-7804. I'll let you know the results in the next *Generations*.

New Books Available on America's Jewish Communities

Several new books have been published about Judaism in America that may be of interest to JGS members. *Jewish Life in Small-Town America*, by Lee Shai Weissbach "offers the first comprehensive portrait of Jewish life in America." The book focuses on the mid-nineteenth century to the 1940s and looks at 490 communities across the U.S.

The Jews of Boston, edited by Jonathan D. Sarna and Ellen Smith, is now available in paperback. It traces the Jewish "community from its tentative beginnings in colonial Boston through its emergence in the twentieth century as one of the most influential and successful Jewish communities in America."

Also by Sarna is *American Judaism*, a winner of the 2004 Jewish Book of the Year Award given by the Jewish Book Council.

If you had family in colonial New York, you may enjoy *The Letters of Abigail Levy Franks, 1733–1748*. These are the earliest known letters by a Jewish woman in colonial times and they "tell of one Jewish family's assimilation in eighteenth-century America."

All these books are available from the Yale University Press. You can get a catalog or order toll-free at 1-800-405-1619 or go to <www.yalebooks.com/jewish> for more information.

Discussion Group News

By Norman Kling,
Discussion Group Leader

The Discussion Group met Thursday, 24 February as planned. Five people were in attendance in addition to myself as moderator. We had a very spirited discussion covering a wide range of subjects. As is usual at the Discussion Group, everyone had at least one question about something they wanted help on, but, equally important, everyone contributed useful ideas for solving the problems others presented. Those in attendance were Sheldon and Charlotte Rudnick, Charles Goldman, Jack Edelman, and Eunice Solomon. A subject we discussed after questions were exhausted was the value of following the records of family members in city directories. We talked about how those records can reveal many things, such as how family members were living with or near each other and the chance for identifying members not previously known.

Our next meeting of the Discussion Group is scheduled for March 24, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in room 15 at United Hebrew. Everyone is welcome. Bring your questions and join in the discussions. See you there.

Meet the Members: Dick Franzel

By Sylvia Letvak Jaffe

Dick Franzel, a charter member of JGS of St. Louis, has played an important role in the society since its inception. He served three years as treasurer and has been a volunteer worker at many of the major events that the group has sponsored. Dick is now serving as research chair. He answers e-mails from people all over the world who are looking for information about St. Louis relatives. He declares, "Helping these people gives me a great deal of satisfaction and pleasure." He points out that JGS of St. Louis has helped hundreds of people find clues to their family research. Dick is also a member of the society's board.

He reveals that he has always been interested in history and puzzles, and genealogy seemed to be a perfect extension of these two interests. Dick, like so many other genealogists, never asked questions of his parents. He adds, "When I did ask my dad how we were related to this person, his answer was always 'they are cousins' and I never tried to get a more definite answer."

Dick's interest in his family motivated him to attend a genealogy program, arranged by Art and Sylvia Jaffe, at United Hebrew Congregation. Some of the people attending these introductory sessions became charter members of JGS of St. Louis. Dick was one of them. He shares, "My interest grew after the sessions were completed, so I decided to be part of the new organization."

An ethnic group, like JGS of St. Louis, he says, provides members with the advantage of meeting people with similar experiences and in some cases similar backgrounds. Dick also is especially appreciative of the service that the society performs for the community. He explains, "Genealogy is so important and until this society was formed there wasn't an organization that would help people search for their Jewish roots. By learning together as a group, many, many, people have been able to find family members in ways they never knew existed."

Dick has 1,465 people in his genealogical database. He has identified the sixteen great-grandparents for each of his five grandchildren. He relates, "For each grandchild, I have gone back to either great-great-great grandparents or great-great-great-great grandparents. I am still trying to find two grandparents that came to the United States before Ellis Island opened. I know where they came from but don't know exactly when or at which port they arrived. I have been able to provide a great deal of information to my grandchildren covering their family. As they grow older, they will all know their pedigree and their descendants as far back as I can search."

His most exciting discovery he admits took place at the introductory genealogy session in 1995. He recalls, "I stood up to tell the group who I was and who I was searching for. I said, 'My name is FRANZEL; our family is very small, and I am sure that I know most of the family.' At that point a lady stood up and said, 'My family is FRANZEL and I believe that there are many Franzels that you don't know.' After comparing notes and doing a lot of research, I learned just how large my family was and how much work I had to do."

Dick emphasizes that one of the biggest mistakes that new genealogists make is disregarding information that may not look relative such as names that are spelled differently than the one that is being researched. He admits that as a beginner he made that mistake. He recalls, "I was looking for a grandparent named Kovinsky. I came across the name Kowisky. I kept that name and later discovered that was my grandfather's name and he had changed it to Kovinsky. Had I not known this, I would have been looking for Kovinsky on naturalization records or passenger lists and never have found him."

He advises new members to come to meetings regularly, to take classes offered by the society, and most important to become involved as a volunteer. He states, "Working on a project as a volunteer will benefit a new member as much as it benefits the society."

Dick retired in 1992 after forty-four years in the retail business. His first career was with Stix, Baer and Fuller where he was merchandise manager for menswear, men's and women's shoes, and women's fashion accessories. He left Stix to become president of a fifty-two store men's clothing chain. In 1990 he began commuting to Chicago to form a men's buying organization. After two years of flying back and forth every Monday and Friday, he decided to retire.

Dick has been married to the former Lorraine Cuttler for fifty years. Native St. Louisans, Lorraine and Dick met at Washington University where both received their degrees. The Franzels have two daughters, one son, and five grandchildren. Dick served in the military for two years after graduation from Washington University.

Dick is researching the surnames FRANZEL, KAPLAN, and CUTTLER from Ukraine; KOVINSKY from Poland; GROSKAVITCH from Lithuania; URBACH from Hungary, and HOROWITZ from Romania.



Officers and Board Members

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Vice President: Peggy Nehmen
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Funeral Home Indexing	Jerry Goldberg
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Sylvia Jaffe Art 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



35th Annual Fair

The largest single-day genealogical fair in the Midwest!

Saturday, 30 April

Maryland Heights Centre

2344 McKelvey Road

Maryland Heights, Missouri

Featuring Lloyd Bockstruck,

supervisor of the Genealogy Library at the Dallas Public Library
and columnist for the *Dallas Morning News*

Also, local experts:

Father Faherty, Larry Franke, Ruth Ann Hager, Christy
Hughes, Cynthia Millar, Ed Murray, Ilene Murray,
Pat Stamm, Ted Steele, and Emory Webre

Topics: Migration in America, U.S. Military Events, St. Louis Irish,
Finding French Ancestors in the U.S., Southern Claims
Commission, Finding Church Records, Using St. Louis Public
Library's Web site, Beginning Genealogy, Working with Graphics
on Your Computer, Using the Internet for Genealogy, and
German Migration to the Midwest via New Orleans.

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For more information, go to www.stlgs.org or call 314-647-8547

Early registration deadline: 5 April 2005

Genealogy Events of Interest: March/April 2005

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

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

Beyond the Basics: Getting the Most From Census Records

Speaker: Ted Steele

Tuesday, 12 April 2005 7:00 p.m. at Co. Library Headquarters Auditorium

Becoming an Effective Library Researcher

Speaker: Larry Franke

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

Newsletter, JGS of Great Britain, April 2004

The article, *Useful Websites*, lists a Web site that could provide some interesting background information. Click on www.jafi.org.il/education/worldwide/synagogues/ for material about synagogues of the former Soviet Union.



Chai from Colorado, JGS of Colorado, Spring 2004

Timely Tip: Did anyone in your family serve in the Austrian military? Check out the Austrian State Archives at www.genealogienetz.de/reg/AUT/krainf-e.htm.

Timely Tip: *Les Deportés Morts Dans Les Camps* is a Web site database listing people who were deported from France during the Holocaust. According to Gary Mokotoff in *Nu? What's New?*, the database can be searched by birthplace for those born in France and by country and alphabetically for those born in other countries. Please note; the site is in French and can be found at www.morts.danslescamps.com/.

Timely Tip: Doing any research in Arizona? The Arizona Department of Health Services has created a database called Arizona Genealogy Birth and Death Certificates with 40,000 records available online at <http://genealogy.az.gov/>.

Timely Tip: Ancestry.com's fee-for-service index of passengers arriving at the Port of New York prior to Ellis Island (1850–1891) may be found at <http://content.ancestry.com/iexec?htx=List&dbid=7488>. (*Editor's Note: if you do not have a subscription to Ancestry's Immigration Databases, this will not work. You may, however, gain access at any library with an Ancestry Immigration Database subscription.*)



Mishpochology, JGS of Southwest Florida, Summer 2004

Brooklyn Daily Eagle Online: According to the article, the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle* was published between 1841 and 1955, then again 1960 and 1963 in Brooklyn, Kings County, New York. "During part of its life span it was a major national newspaper carrying international and national news as well as items of local interest and features about daily life in Brooklyn." These newspapers are on microfilm at the Brooklyn Public Library; the library is working on a project to put the entire archive online. This massive project is being done in stages, with the years 1841 through 1902 currently available at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/eagle/index.htm. The article concludes by saying, "If you had relatives who lived in Brooklyn during the time

period covered, this is a resource you should not ignore."

Surname Navigator Israel: Check out the Surname Navigator at www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/. The article states it, ". . . is a simple one input-form mega search engine for surnames that can simultaneously search various free databases, using only one input screen. There is a global version and separate versions for forty-five countries. Researchers can save many hours using mega search engines such as these. Some researchers have reported excellent results."



Branches, JGS of Greater Miami, June 2004

The article, *You Can Search Online for Veterans' Burial Sites*, states the Department of Veterans Affairs has put burial records for 3.2 million veterans online, going back to the Civil War. It goes on to say, "If you are tracing an ancestor, the government has a search engine. You must know the last name. If you have more information, there is an advanced search available." Check out the site at http://gravelocator.cem.va.gov/j2ee/servlet/NGL_v1.



Avotaynu, The International Review of Jewish Genealogy, Spring 2004

Avotaynu is an incredible journal, filled with wonderful stories and fabulous history. The "tidbits" are far too great to include in this small article, but a few of the Web sites are perfect for inclusion. Please visit our library and peruse issues of *Avotaynu*, located on our shelves.

The article, *New Internet Resources for Research in the United Kingdom*, lists the following Web links:

- *1837 online.com* lists "the entire copy of indexes of Birth, Marriages and Deaths for England and Wales from 1837 to the present day." It is located at www.1837online.com/Trace2web/.
- *Moving Here—200 Years of Migration to England* contains an archive of over 150,000 items. Find it at www.movinghere.org.uk/.
- Editions of the *London Gazette*, the *Belfast Gazette*, and the *Edinburgh Gazette* are located at www.gazettesonline.co.uk/.



Forum, Journal of Jewish Genealogy, Federation of Genealogical Societies, Summer 2003

The section, *Web Spinnings*, mentions an important point: **Check your math!** According to the article, a person was able "to trace her forty generation line of descent from an American Pilgrimage ancestor. This roughly equals out to between nine and ten years for each generation. This average time between generations seems a little on the low side." The article also says to make sure all historical claims make sense.

Cousins Explained

By Ilene Kanfer Murray

Are you confused about how you relate to all those people on your family tree? Have you wondered about who is a first cousin or a second cousin once removed? If so, perhaps this will help.

Cousins

Cousins are basically two people who share a common ancestor. Your **first cousins** are the people in your family who have at least one of the same grandparents as you. In other words, they are the children of your aunts and uncles. Your **second cousins** are the people in your family who share the same great-grandparent with you. Your **third cousins** share at least one great-great-grandparent, **fourth cousins** share a great-great-great-grandparent, etc.

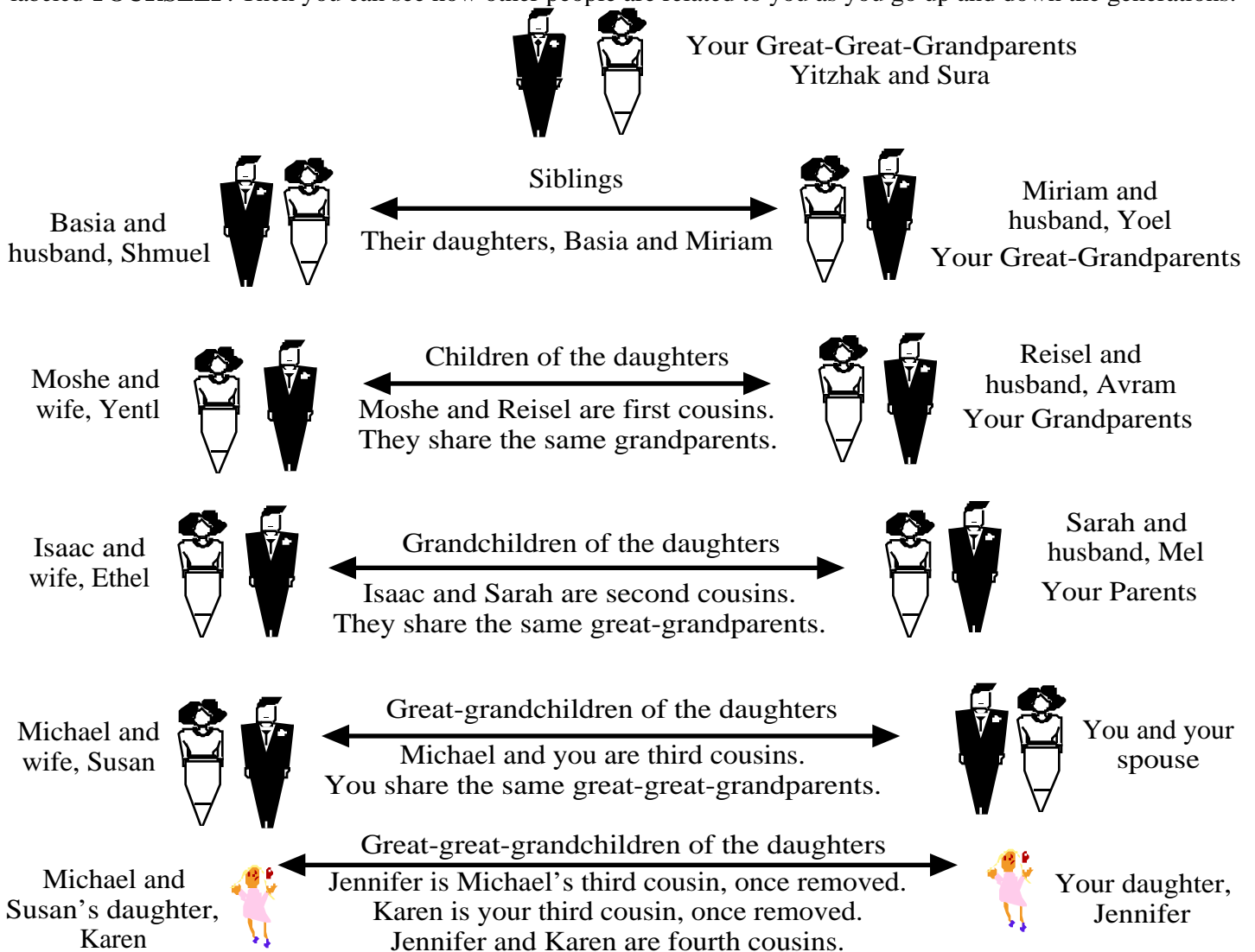
Removed

When the word “removed” is used to describe a relationship, it indicates that the two people are from different generations. “Once removed” indicates a difference of one generation, “twice removed” indicates a difference of two generations, etc.

For example, the child of your first cousin is your first cousin once removed. Your cousin’s child would be your first cousin, except that he or she is one generation removed from that relationship. The grandchild of your first cousin is your first cousin twice removed (two generations removed from being a first cousin).

Many people confuse the term “first cousin once removed” with “second cousin.” **The two are not the same.** Your second cousin shares the same great-grandparents. Your first cousin once removed is the child of your first cousin.

There are many charts that attempt to explain these relationships visually. One of the best on the Internet has been created by Big Al Creations at <<http://users.chariot.net.au/~samhain/relation.html>>. Look first for the box labeled **YOURSELF**. Then you can see how other people are related to you as you go up and down the generations.



Inquiries

Seeking information about my family, specifically Sam and Millie ROSEN and Manual and Ida COOPER, all of St. Louis, and buried in various Jewish cemeteries in University City.

Joseph Furtak
2540 S. Ingram Mill Road #309
Springfield, MO 65804
H. 417-883-2101/B. 417-732-1224
josephfurtak@sbcglobal.net

I am seeking information about ancestors, their family name, COLONNA, that belonged to the United Hebrew Congregation in St. Louis many, many years ago.

Denise Peri
Post Box. 2194
Afula, ISRAEL
04-6404569
deniseperi@iol.co.il

I recently discovered in Ellis Island records that one of my families had been living in St. Louis. The details are Woolf (aka Wally) SEGENFELD (also SEIGENFELD) and his wife, Florrie, and daughter Hilda arrived twice from London, once in 1911 and again in 1913, and gave St. Louis as their address. Woolf was born 1877 in Warsaw and Florrie was born in 1881 in Poznan. Her maiden

name was TEMPLINSKY. They married in London in 1903 and Hilda was born September 1904 in London. They left a large family back in London. I have been looking for this family for a long time and finding the lead about St. Louis might solve my brick wall!

Rieke Nash
Sydney, Australia
President, Australian JGS
genealogy@rpnash.com

Seeking information about Samuel LIEBERMAN and Ida GORDON. Samuel was born in Russia in June 1860 (immigrated in 1880) and Ida was born in Posen in July 1861 (immigrated in 1877). They married (probably in New York). They were in Louisiana from about 1890 to 1893, in Illinois from about 1893 to 1897 and then came to St. Louis. They are buried in Heshad Scholith [*sic*] Cemetery (Samuel in 1913 and Ida in 1940). I am looking for their place of birth in Europe.

Richard Perkins
600 N. Nevada St.
Kennewick, WA 99336
509-736-3342
raclperkins@charter.net



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