

ILLIANA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
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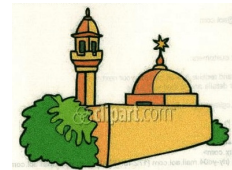
FALL 2009

Meetings are usually held the third Sunday of the month at Congregation Am Echad, 160 Westwood Drive, Park Forest, Illinois at 2:00 p.m. unless otherwise noted . Meetings are held in the Synagogue Library and are free to members, \$2.00 for non-members.

Sunday, September 13th at 2:00 p.m. Note that this is the second Sunday of the month.

“Melodee’s Through Israel”

Melodee Leimnitzer was a member of a choral group which visited and sang throughout Israel. She will share her experiences with us.



Sunday, October 18th at 2:00 p.m.

“How I do my genealogy work. This could possibly be your way also.”

Member, Barry Finkel, will cover what he does, the steps he follows, and some of the web sites he uses. This might be a great jump start on how to begin or continue your own genealogy research.

Sunday, November 15th at 2:00 p.m.

“History of the Jews of Northwest Indiana”

Speaker, Trent Pendley, has been a member of the Indiana Jewish Historical Society since 1975 and has been an active member of the Northwest Indiana Jewish community.



Sunday, December 20th at 1:30 p.m. Note time change.

Members are asked to read a book or two from our society library and tell us why we should or should not read that book.

You can choose a book at the September, October or November meeting, so you will have ample time to read the book before the December meeting. There are several interesting new books in our genealogy library. They are also available to be taken out any time that Marie is in the Am Echad office.

President's Message

Now that the summer is coming to an end and the New Year is fast approaching we have much work to do in the coming year.

One of our major goal this year is to try to increase our membership. Talk to friends and family about the benefits of learning about our ancestors. The joys of connecting to newfound family members is gratifying as is the gift of a family history to be passed forward to future generations. Let them know how being a member of IJGS with all of the resources we have available will aid in their search.

Due to family matters I regretfully missed our annual membership picnic in August. I understand we were able to serve our customary kosher delicacies brought all the way from the north side, and delectable side dishes brought and shared by our members. Thanks to Ruth and Henry Landauer for again organizing the picnic and to all the members who helped with the set up and clean up.

Welcome to our newest members Alex and Sylvia Weinberg.

If you haven't renewed your membership yet we will gladly accept your checks now.

L' Shana Tova.....A happy and Healthy New Year to all.

Sharon



MORE ABOUT FINDING RELATIVES WITH COMMON NAMES

In the last newsletter there was an article by Juliana Smith from Ancestry about finding family members with common names. The article reminded Trudy Barch of the success she had in locating someone's relative named Levy. Here is Trudy's wonderful tip:

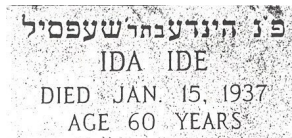
Twenty years ago, a friend of my mother's wanted to locate her first cousins that she lost track of years prior. I asked her to write down what she remembered – names, spouse's name, ages, and last known location. From that list I began my research – Levy from Des Moines, Iowa. I started with the current telephone book and wrote to those with first names given.

After several weeks and no luck, I tried the doctors listed. I received a response from Mrs. Levy, who was working in her husband's office while the secretary was on maternity leave. She said that everyone listed in the current telephone book was not originally from Des Moines and do not have family there. She, also, volunteers in a nursing home and there is an elderly lady whose maiden name is Levey (note spelling difference). She would ask her next time she spoke to this lady.

Several weeks later, I again heard from Mrs. Levy and discovered this lady was a cousin to my friend. She was the last of her generation and last of that family living in Des Moines. The two ladies continued their correspondence for several years until my friend's death. With a lot of mazel and perseverance even common names, misspellings, and big cities are possibilities.

KELLY STREET GENEALOGICAL PROJECT COMPLETE"

A collaborative effort by volunteers from three Indianapolis Jewish congregations has resulted in the “permanent” documentation of over 5,600 burials in eight historic Jewish cemeteries in Indianapolis.



The Kelly Street Historic Cemetery Project began in 2006 when Joyce Field, then Vice President of Data Acquisition at JewishGen, came to speak at a meeting of the Genealogy Club at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck (BEZ). Joyce was in charge of JewishGen’s Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) — an effort which began with the goal of documenting burials in the old Jewish cemeteries in Eastern Europe where the Jewish population was decimated or disbursed by the Holocaust. The project focused on photographing all legible matzevot (tombstones) in a cemetery, and then sending them to JewishGen for posting online. With the Eastern European cemeteries threatened with vandalism and extinction, JOWBR provided the opportunity to rescue those buried there from the dust bin of history. Since then, JOWBR has expanded to become a worldwide effort, documenting over one million burials in over 2,000 Jewish cemeteries around the world.

Joyce was aware of the eight historic Jewish cemeteries on Kelly Street on the South side of Indianapolis, but was unable to help researchers who contacted her looking for information. The eight cemeteries belonged to congregations established between

1856 and 1927: Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Shara Tefilo, Ohev Zedeck, Knesses Israel, United Hebrew Congregation, Esras Achem, Congregation Etz Haim Sefarad, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck (*names listed are as written on the cemetery gates*).

It was at that meeting that the Kelly Street Historic Jewish Cemetery Project was born. Under project leader Gloria Green, an executive board member of the Sisterhood of Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, teams were gathered from Congregation Shaarey Tefilla, Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, and the Illianna Jewish Genealogy Society (IJGS). The goal was to photograph and create databases documenting the burials in these eight Jewish cemeteries — all located between Bluff Road and Meridian Street on Kelly Street. (Two newer cemeteries are located west of Bluff Road.) Some of the old stones had inscriptions so worn they were barely visible. It was important to document the information before it became lost forever. As of April 2009, pictures of 4548 matzevot and details on 5600 burials in the eight original Kelly Street cemeteries are now researchable on the JOWBR website (Etz Chaim will be uploaded by July). The photographs will also be available on www.ancestry.com, with uploading to be completed this summer.

Gale Halperin at Congregation Beth-El Zedeck, Marcia Goldstein and the Sisterhood of Indianapolis Hebrew Congregation, Max Nelson of Aaron Ruben Nelson Mortuary, Rabbi Arnold Bienstock at Congregation Shaarey

Tefilla, Etz Chaim President Alan Cohen, Trudy Barch at Illiana Jewish Genealogical Society — and her Chicago typist extraordinaire — Sheila Heusmann, Leon Mordoh, David Green, and Lynn and Dan Davis were all key in their encouragement and dedication to this project. Those buried in the old cemeteries on Kelly Street will not be forgotten. Their stone is a click away on the internet from anywhere in the world. (Editor's Note: Volunteers from CST were Shoshana and Nadav Harper, Scott Pfeiffer, Dan Davis and Rae Kridel.)
-Gloria Green

Louisiana Biography and Obituary Index Now Online

The Historic New Orleans Collection and the New Orleans Public Library announced that the entire Louisiana Biography and Obituary Index, a compilation of approximately 600,000 citations dating back to 1804, is now available as an online database.

The website includes 39 New Orleans newspapers covering 1804-1972--there are gaps for some newspapers. The Louisiana Biography and Obituary Index provides references to biographical information about (and sometimes images of) Louisianans taken from more than 250 titles that were part of NOPL's book and periodical and government document collections in the mid-1940's to the mid-1960's.

If you wish to order a photocopy of an obituary or a biographical reference located in the online Index, please send your request with a check or money order of \$2.00 per obituary/biographical reference --not per name..If the name is

referenced in more than one obituary/biographical reference, then the charge is \$2.00 for each document. Before ordering please review the instructions:

<http://www.nutrias.org/~nopl/obits/orderingobits.htm>

Send the order and payment to:
Louisiana Division New Orleans Public Library, 219 Loyola Ave., New Orleans, LA 70112

To access the Louisiana Biography and Obituary Index, and to view a list of the newspapers and other publications referenced, visit [http://](http://www.nutrias.org/~nopl/obits/obits.htm)

www.nutrias.org/~nopl/obits/obits.htm

This resource provides more convenient access to information about the residents of New Orleans over the last two centuries from the famous to the infamous to the anonymous.

The notice of the Louisiana Biography and Obituary Index being on-line was reported in the APG Digest August 19, 2009 by Claire Bettag.

Jan Meisels Allen
Director, IAJGS
Chairperson, Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

NARA NEWS

The (USA) National Archives started a new blog on online public access to records of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It is called NARAtions.

They plan to post questions and want the public to share their opinions, ideas and stories. They will also post news

items about descriptions or digitized archival materials available online

Mark in your favorites:

<http://blogs.archives.gov/online-public-access/>

Thanks to Dick Eastman and his Online Genealogy Newsletter for alerting on this new blog

Jan Meisels Allen
Director, IAJGS and
Chairperson, Public Records Access
Monitoring Committee

PRESERVATION TIP OF THE MONTH- -REMOVING DETERIORATED RUBBER BANDS

by Becky Schipper



Removing deteriorated rubber bands that are on your old documents or family papers, albums, and books can be a bit of a

challenge. Before you begin the task, you will need a microspatula and weights. Eliminating deteriorated rubber bands requires a very light touch. And it is a tremendous help if the documents or papers are in good condition.

To eliminate rubber bands that are soft and sticky, place the document on a clean, flat, substantial surface. Hold the document in place with a weight on each end. Gently lift the rubber band with one hand and, with the other hand, slide the microspatula between the paper and the rubber band slowly separating the two.

To remove residue left by dried rubber bands use the microspatula to gently scrape the residue from the paper. Be careful not to damage the paper in the scraping process. Removal of rubber band residue or tacky material from fragile documents or photographs should be done only by a conservator.

(Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library, No. 64, June 30, 2009)

SUBJECT: 1914-1932 CANADIAN NATURALIZATIONS NOW FULLY SEARCHABLE ONLINE

On behalf of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal, I am pleased to announce that for the first time, Canadian Naturalization records for the period from 1914 to 1932 are searchable by surname, given name and country-of-origin, and without any charges. The new database includes more than 200,000 people who were naturalized during this period. They came from about 80 countries, and we estimate that about 1/3 of them were Jewish.

This new index has taken many years to get to this stage, from the time when we first heard about the printed records - which are very difficult to search and only available in fragile books at a few libraries in Canada. Although a finding-aid was created by our society several years ago, this new search engine makes finding records ****much**** easier.

We are grateful to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Ottawa which funded original scanning of these records, and to the years of work by society members Ruth Diamond who did

the vast bulk of the data entry and Alan Greenberg who managed the project and handled the image processing and database creation. And we are particularly appreciative of the efforts of the Canadian Genealogy Centre (CGC) within Library and Archives Canada for creating such a great home for the naturalization database.

You can search the database at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html>.

For the CGC's entire collection of databases, just go to <http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/>.

Despite this achievement, the work is not over yet. The JGS of Montreal has scanned a similar collection of records for the years 1932-1952 which includes about 400,000 additional naturalizations. These records will need to be indexed, and we also will be double-entering the 1914-32 records to ensure that there are no errors and that all people are properly indexed. This project will be starting shortly and we will be looking for volunteers to help.

To order copies of the full naturalization (application) files for your ancestors, see the research guide on the JGS-Montreal web site - <http://jgs-montreal.org/#research> In general, naturalization records prior to 1914/16 are not available, but there is a major exception - records have been preserved for those naturalized in the Montreal Superior Court and they are also indexed on the CGC. The JGS-Montreal web site also has a research guide for these records.

If you have not checked out our web site recently, please do. It has recently been redone and there is a lot of helpful information for those researching Montreal and Canadian family - <http://jgs-montreal.org>.

Stanley Diamond
President, Jewish Genealogical Society
of Montreal

USING Pipl.com

by Roslyn Sherman Greenberg

Last year I wrote about using Google to look up relatives. Many times you can find interesting information just by using the Google search engine. I was able to find marriage announcements and obituaries, as well as other info using Google.

Now I have discovered that by using pipl.com/people, a lot of information can be found for people who do not show up on Google. If the name is an uncommon one, you can zero in on your relative, but if the name is very common, it helps if you know at least what state they live in, or who one of their close relatives is because pipl.com will bring up many people all over the country with the same name.

If you recognize your relative, many times you will find his/her birthday on pipl.com. [Pipl.com](http://pipl.com) digs up info from the deep recesses of the Internet. I was able to find a picture of my cousin and her husband holding up their artwork, in a publication of the Jewish Community Center they belong to.

[Pipl.com](http://pipl.com) is a good place to find living relatives.

ANCESTRY.COM EXPANDS JEWISH RECORD COLLECTION

Ancestry.com has added records of the American Jewish Historical Society to its growing collection of Jewish records. It also has acquired the Routes to Roots Foundation archival database.

Records of the American Jewish Historical society include:

- Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1878–1934. Applications for admission and discharge ledgers
- New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1860–1934. Applications for admission and discharge ledgers
- Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899–1922. Records of Jewish families and individuals who were assisted in moving from harm's way in various countries
- Selected Naturalization Records, New York City, 1816–1845. Declarations of intention for New York County. Contains name, age, birthplace, nationality, place of emigration, occupation and place of intended settlement
- Selected Insolvent Debtor's Cases, 1787–1861. Approximately 2,000 cases, some containing an inventory of assets
- Selected Mayor's Court Cases, New York, 1674–1860. 6,000 selected briefs that include summons, complaints, affidavits, and jury lists

The Routes to Roots' Eastern European Archival Database is the most comprehensive list of Jewish record holdings of Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. It can also be searched at

<http://rtrfoundation.org/search.php>.

To search through all the new Jewish

record collections and Ancestry.com's entire Jewish Family History experience, visit

<http://www.ancestry.com/JewishFamilyHistory>

TODAY'S GENEALOGY JOKE

Mark Twain said he spent a lot of money tracing his family tree; then twice as much trying to keep it a secret!

That reminds me of the family that wanted its history written, so they hired a professional biographer. However, they were worried about Uncle George, the black sheep of the family who had been executed in the electric chair for murder. 'No problem', said the biographer. 'I will say that Uncle George occupied a Chair of Applied Electronics at an important government institution. He was attached to his position by the strongest of ties, and his death came as a real shock.'

(Peter Hinton, *Issue 48 July 2009, The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain*)

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