SUMMERTIME IS THE BEST TIME TO BE RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY

Inside This Issue

Message from Editor 2  JGSPBCI News 7-11
President’s Message 4  Research Articles 12-18
S.O.S. Review 5  Success Stories 19-23
SIG News 6  Consultations 24
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Message from Editor

Tina Korn

Summer isn’t even here, yet, but I have begun my list of queries for library research. There are no longer any great aunts, grandparents or distant relatives alive for me to ask questions. So, shedding any new light on our family tree must come from my research.

My goal is to find a branch of our family that is yet undiscovered. Recording my findings is also on my list of “to do” things this summer.

Are you ready? Have you organized your goals? Before you begin searching Ancestry.com or any other site, have your documents, dates, names AND a list of what data you are missing.

Each fact, date, photo we add to our family research brings us closer to tracing our lineage. It also helps us gain a better understanding of where our relatives lived, married, raised their families, traveled and settled.

If this summer yields only a fraction of what I learned last summer, I will consider it a great success. Hope your summer brings success for you, too.
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Membership in the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County runs from September to September.

We hold meetings the second Wednesday of every month September through May. Our membership renewal letter is sent on or about August 1. Also enclosed this year is a form for updating our Membership Directory.

The places and surnames section is currently being revised. Information will now include family names, current town and country names. In order to insure your information is included in the next directory we would appreciate that you return your membership renewal and family information by September 1.

Mail your check and completed information form to: Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc. P.O. Box #7796, Delray Beach, FL 33482-7796.

Individual $ 25
Family $ 36
Individual LifeMember $200
Family LifeMembers $300
Patron $100
Donor $ 50

For further information, contact our membership chairperson, Marilyn Newman at membership@jgspalmbeachcounty.org

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The newsletter, issued quarterly, is a free publication distributed to paid members and Jewish genealogical societies throughout the world. Back issues are available at no charge on our website:
http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org

Request for Articles

Article contributions, preferably by email, are invited for inclusion in Scattered Seeds. Quarterly Deadlines are December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. Editor reserves the right to accept, revise, or reject all submissions. To increase computer compatibility, please send without formatting in one of the following: .doc (e.g. WORD), .rtf (rich text format), or .Pages (Mac.) Contact Editor: Tina Gudin Korn: editor@jgspalmbeachcounty.org or send typed articles to: JGSPBCI, Attention Editor P.O. Box 7796, Delray Beach, FL 33482-7796

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Member IAJGS, Florida State Genealogical Society

Volume 21, Number Three

Third Quarter 2014
Message from President
Cindy Potter Taylor

Three score and nine years ago, the Maine tundra welcomed “me,” Sore Tzaitel Ploshchok, second daughter of Aaron Yehuda and Gitel. This daughter grew up in a very traditional conservative Jewish household. Her parents were poster children for every cause from community altruism to Zionism. Her parents and namesakes imparted a work and volunteer ethic that gives credence to your newly elected president.

The year was 2004 when I first learned about JGSPBCI. I walked into the South County Convention Center to be greeted by the late and greatly missed, Helene Seaman.

“Can I help you,” she asked?
“Yes, I’m looking for the Jewish Genealogical Society meeting.” She gives me the once-over and says, “Are you sure you want the Jewish Genealogical Society?” “Yes, I’m quite sure.” “What’s your name?” “Cindy Potter Taylor” “Are you SURE you want the Jewish Genealogical Society?”

Thinking back, I really should have said something in Hebrew or Yiddish.

The rest is history. I was hooked and addicted from my first meeting of this wonderful organization. In the past 10 years, I think I’ve missed two meetings.

I always glean something from each session and put it to work for my personal research and to help others.

I’m looking forward to working with many people I already know and hopefully some “new blood” on the board of directors. I’m a BIG believer in compromise and TEAM PLAYING.

2014-2015 will bring a wide variety of programs, lectures and SIGs to aid in your research. I’d like to see members involve their spouses, children and grandchildren in their queries, investigations and brick walls. The old adage is true, several heads are better than one.

I am looking forward to seeing some south Floridians in Salt Lake City for the IAJGS Conference in July. Have a wonderful summer and I will see you at our next meeting, September 10th.

Scattered Seeds Staff

Editor: Tina Gudin Korn
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Mailing: Cindy Potter Taylor
Webmaster: Jerry Naditch
“SOS!” SHARE OUR SUCCESS WAS TRULY A SUCCESS

Our May 14, 2014 SOS program, held annually as the final meeting for the season, provided a wealth of genealogical research information. This year, our program featured:

Ken Cutler – "My Search for Erika Rubel."
Ken Cutler, Esq., Florida native, active personal injury trial attorney, and long-time genealogy researcher discussed solving a 70 year-old family mystery regarding the disappearance of a cousin who came to the US from Austria during World War II and then vanished. Erika Rubel escaped the Nazis and fled to the US to stay with her cousins. Shortly after her arrival she vanished, leaving only some letters written by her father, some photos and a mystery that has haunted members of the family since.

Mitch Heide – "Finding Ida Zuckerman, Lena Vallini & Max Heidenreicht"
Mitch created a genealogical bucket list of people and documents that previously could not be located. With new records being indexed and released all the time, it was important to revisit and persevere and to consider clues that perhaps could not be put in context at first glance. Family members had pretty good memories after all and clues took on more significance with a fresh perspective.

Cindy Potter Taylor – "Who is Bertha Goldman Schultz and what is she doing in my tree?"
Our new President Elect discussed the name she knew from her childhood, but it wasn’t until she was given a photo from a cousin that she really began the hunt to find her and her relationship to her Boston Goldman family. Cindy triumphed over her own omissions and hit a lucky streak.

Mark Jacobson – "The Name Game"
Mark, our immediate past president and professional genealogist, was able to discover New York City Birth Certificates for five siblings when their surnames were all spelled differently, by using the birth index at www.italiangen.org.

(SEE MORE SUCCESS STORIES – pages 18-22)

IN MEMORY OF ARNOLD DAVIDSON

Arnold passed away on April 1, 2014. He was a longtime member of JGSPBCI and served on the board since its inception. He was the ever present face of Reception at all our meetings and he was the creator and publisher of our Member Directory for 18 years.
We are excited by this year's schedule for the SIG's (Special Interest Groups.) This is a chance to meet your fellow "landsman" and to compare notes while learning about recent updates in the areas you are researching. All sessions start at 11:00 AM in the main auditorium.

The 2014-2015 SIG season begins on October 8, 2014 with the UKRAINE. This SIG covers all the geographic areas that were part of the UKRAINE as of April 1, 2014. If your family came from Eastern Galicia, you should attend this SIG meeting. With recent developments in the area, this is a SIG not to miss.

Help us to help you. We are looking for additional leaders and co-leaders for ALL groups. This year we will try having German, Austria, and French SIGS.

We look forward to seeing you at our standing-room only events.
SEE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY IN PRINT

Bette Greenfield, Librarian

Many JGSPBCI members have told me that they don’t go to the Library because they have gone as far as they can with their family research and are ready to turn over the information to another family member. We suggest that now is the time to put it all together into a family history book for the younger members of your family.

If you can’t produce a book by yourself, ask someone to help you. And, of course, donate a copy to our JGSPBCI Research Library.

Here are a few books in our library that might encourage you to start the process:

*Producing a Quality Family History*, Patricia Law Hatcher

*On Your Own: How To Design and Construct A Family History Book To Inform and Captivate Reader* Elayne and Stephen Decker

*Writing the Family Narrative* Lawrence P. Gouldrup

*Your Family History: A Handbook for Research and Writing* David Kvig and Marty Myron

*Publishing Your Family History on the Internet* Richard Wilson

*Zap, The Grandma Gap* Janet Hovorka

We also have a number of family histories written by JGSPBCI members. Two of great interest are:

*Many Branches, Many Roots* Alfred M. Silberfeld

*Stumacher Family History* Dr. Gary and Carolyn Stone

* * *

JGSPBCI LENDING LIBRARY RULES

Only members in good standing can use the Lending Library.

Only one (1) book can be borrowed at a time.

Books borrowed at general meetings must be returned on the date specified on the receipt.

A second book CANNOT be borrowed until the first one has been returned.

If a book is not returned, the member will be charged the replacement cost.

Our library has three categories of books:

Rare books are non-circulating and available for viewing only at our library.

Some books can be requested to be brought to the next meeting for checkout; please email your request to: library@jgspalmbeachcounty.org

Other books are non-circulating and cannot be borrowed from the Main Research Library, but may be requested to be brought to the next monthly meeting for viewing only; please e-mail any requests to: library@jgspalmbeachcounty.org
Anyone with Pennsylvania ancestry should rejoice. The years of trying to get copies of death certificates (only to find the copies are unreadable,) is finally over. In 2011 Pennsylvania transferred all state death certificates older than 50 years and birth certificates older than 105 years to the State Archive, putting the indexes online at: [http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686](http://www.portal.health.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/public_records/20686)

Now digital images of the actual certificates have begun to appear online on Ancestry.com. If you don't have a subscription, you can access it at any branch of the Palm Beach County Library. The first group to appear is death certificates 1906-1924. They are online now and can be searched here: [http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5164](http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=5164).

They can be searched by any combination of last name, given name, parents' names, birth date/place or certificate number. The Ancestry.com indexing has some problems, so if you find someone in the state index and can't find them on Ancestry try to search by the certificate number in the index. In June 2014 Ancestry.com will add death certificates 1925-1944. In November 2014 they will add death certificates 1945-1963. Birth certificates will be added to Ancestry.com in early 2015. In three years, all the images will be freely available on the Pennsylvania State Archive website.

Anyone who has ordered Pennsylvania death certificates from the Pennsylvania Department of Health knows that their copies are usually poor quality. They use old scratched microfilm for their certificates. The death certificates on Ancestry.com have been digitally scanned from the original paper copies. They are clear and full color. Now you can read those illegible parents' names.

A) Here is a sample, the top portion of the 1917 death certificate for my great-grand Aunt Ethyl Parris I received in 2003 from the Pennsylvania Department of Health:

B) Here is the same death certificate I found on Ancestry.com:
JGSPBCI NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

NEW ENTRY FROM JGSPBCI MEMBER’S BLOG
Marilyn Robinson
http://yourJewishGem.blogspot.com

Our member, Marilyn Robinson, posts frequently to her blog “Jewish Gem’s Genealogy: Mining for your Elusive Ancestors” http://yourJewishGem.blogspot.com If you are doing serious research in Eastern Europe, we highly recommend that you check her blog and her postings on Jewishgen Digest. This is her April entry:

1906-1913 Archives: Permission to Live in St. Petersburg (#1, #2)
1925 Marriage Licenses, Divorce
Pre-War Eastern Europe: Jewish Life - A Video
Russian Jews: Analytical Reference
Tashkent: Uzbekistan: Dombrabad Cemetery

1914/15 Przemysl School Report
"Those Women": Polish Jewish Prostitutes

1891-1892 Bielitz: KK State Upper School Report

1916 Ekaterinoslav Province, Mariupol District: A Synopsis
1926 Lviv: Official Journal of the Lviv School District
1911-1914 Kiev Rabbinate: Births (#2)
Anti-Semitism and Ukraine: A Documentary Film
Smila Cemetery: Cherkasy, Ukraine - Photos
Ukraine: Pre-War Jewish Life - Video
1906-1910 Kiev Rabbinate: Births (#1)
Kiev: Lukyanovsky/Lukyanivska Jewish Cemetery
Odessa Rabbis
Mariupol Ukraine: Old Cemetery
1901 Kherson Province Address Calendar
1905 Melitopol State Duma Elections
1914 Lviv Emergency Association (#3): Judiciary
JGSPBCI NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

34th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy- SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH
JULY 27 – August 1, 2014

LIVE! participants will be able to watch conference programs on a computer, Smartphone, or Tablet via Internet connection. LIVE! registrants will be able to watch sessions in real time or by playback for three months after the conference. If handouts are provided by a speaker, they will be available for download. LIVE! participants may ask questions of speakers via Twitter during the live presentation.

Registration for IAJGS 2014 LIVE! is available for the entire five days of the conference (about 50 presentations) or on a daily basis.

The LIVE! Full conference registration rate is: $149.00

The LIVE! Daily registration rate is: $49.00 per day.

If you register to attend the full conference in Salt Lake City, you may purchase LIVE! Full at the special rate of only $99.00.

You must be registered and payment must have been received no later than 7 am EDT one day before the day for which you are registering in order to view the sessions live. Late registrations and payment will permit you to view the sessions only after the conference during the three month playback-on-demand period.

LOG ON INSTRUCTIONS: You will be sent instructions for logging in shortly (approximately by 7am EDT) before the day’s streaming will start.

IAJGS 2014 LIVE! SCHEDULE will be made available before the conference begins. If you register for LIVE!, you will be notified when the schedule is available.

*      *      *      *      *      *      *

Last year, Mona Morris signed up and enjoyed the ability to see and hear the speeches, lectures, presentations, and ceremonies right in her own living room. The best part, according to Mona, was: “LIVE! allowed me to watch one session with interaction, and replay another. It was wonderful being able to replay a session not only because you aren't able to see it in real time, but because there was so much information you weren't able to absorb everything in one sitting.”
REVISED WORKBOOK READY for DISTRIBUTION

The 10th Edition of *Genealogy Resources – Searching Your Ancestry in Archives and Repositories* – is now available for sale. Compiled, updated and edited by JGSPBCI President Emerita Sylvia Furshman Nusinov, the 324 page Resource book continues to be an essential tool for anyone researching their ancestry.

Brief description: 8½" x 11”, 2-sided page printing, clear front cover, textured navy blue card stock back cover, navy blue spiral coil binding, English language, 324 pages. Fee: $20.00. Media Postal mailing: $5.00

For further information, please contact Sylvia Furshman Nusinov at: sylvia2@jgspalmbeachcounty.org.

JEWISHGEN SUCCESSES
Phyllis Kramer, JGSPBCI - phylliskramer1@gmail.com
VP, Education & Special Projects, JewishGen, Inc.

The latest issue of JewishGen's SUCCESS STORIES webzine highlights stories from the "About Us" button on the JewishGen website, or by following this link: http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/Testimonials/.

Judy Simon connects with previously unknown cousins through the JewishGen Family Finder, and learns that she is related to the prominent sculptor, Simon Moselsio.

Marla Raucher Osborn was curious about her grandmother's aunt, Jete Horn. Her research takes surprising twists and turns – and eventually leads her to Israel.

Barbara Lichtman Tayar recently learned her Latvian great-grandmother's surname was Hummel – a name she hadn't heard before. Through the JewishGen Family Finder, Barbara connects with cousins from around the world.

This issue was prepared by JewishGen volunteers Nancy Siegel, Editor, and Anna Blanchard, Webmaster.

We think you will be moved by these stories, and we encourage you to submit your own success stories to us at: success@lyris.jewishgen.org

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Cora Hoberman
Cara Horowitz
Cantor Bill and Susi Wood
**FREE GETTY IMAGES**

Getty Images announced they are making 35 million photographs available on their site available at no charge. The site is: http://www.gettyimages.com/. In an effort to combat piracy, the photographs will have an embedded code in the photo frame which links back to the Getty website.

To review how to use the embed images go to: http://www.gettyimages.co.uk/Creative/Frontdoor/embed which will provide an embed code that you need to use on your blog, website, or other media. There are restrictions as to which organizations may use the photographs and some may require a user fee. To find the topic, person or occurrence, (such as holocaust, WWII, etc.) place the term in the search box.

* * *

**FAMILYSEARCH ADDS 6.6 MILLION RECORDS**

FamilySearch has added more than 6.6 million indexed records and images to collections from Austria, Brazil, Dominican Republic, England, Mexico, Nicaragua, Portugal, Spain, Switzerland and the US. Included in the Austria records are more than 1.1 million images of Seigniorial Records from 1537-1920. Search for free at http://tinyurl.com/ne3g398

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**BROOKLYN EAGLE NEWSPAPER EXPANDS ITS DIGITIZED DATABASE FROM 1841-1955**

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

For those who research Brooklyn, NY, the expansion of the digitized Brooklyn Eagle can be a goldmine!

For a while, the papers were only available online through 1902 through the Brooklyn Public Library. With the expanded digitization, the images are hosted free on Newspapers.com (owned by Ancestry.com.)

The search mechanism permits the researcher to limit the time frame and one can search by name or subject.
LOSING AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

Jan Meisels Allen  
Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records  
Access Monitoring Committee

Elsie Knutson Moren, born and raised in Minnesota, lost her U.S. citizenship because she married an immigrant from Sweden.

Some of us may have similar stories in our genealogy—of American–born women who lost their US citizenship when they married a foreigner.

In 1907 the US Congress passed the Expatriation Act which removed citizenship from women born in the US if they married a “foreigner”. This left the woman without citizenship and without a country.

The law was passed over anxiety of the growing number of immigrants to the US. With the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote, which was ratified in 1920, another law was passed in 1922 which allowed most women who married foreigners to be US citizens.

This did not cover US born women who married men ineligible for US citizenship, such as Chinese immigrants. That restriction was later repealed. A resolution introduced by Senators Franken (D-MN) and Johnson (R-WI) on March 27, 2014 before the Senate Judiciary Committee, apologizes for the 1907 Expatriation Act. http://beta.congress.gov/113/bills/sres402/BILLS-113sres402is.pdf. UPDATE: This bill passed the Senate on May 14, 2014.

To read more see the Los Angeles Times article at: http://tinyurl.com/l5hpt4t. Original url: http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-na-apology-20140420,0,5493306.story #axzz2zSDuuEUI

1939 LITHUANIA TELEPHONE DIRECTORY NOW SEARCHABLE

Logan Kleinwaks, April 2014  
kleinwaks@alumni.princeton.edu,

The 1939 Lithuania Telephone Directory, "Lietuvos telefono abonentu sarasas," is now full-text searchable and viewable at http://genealogyindexer.org thanks to the generous cooperation of Yad Vashem and Yoram Mayorek.

Since this directory is organized by locality, it is possible to jump to a place's entries using the linked index at http://genealogyindexer.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=4718 and manually search/browse.
ANCESTRY.COM PUBLISHES 900 MILLION INTERNATIONAL RECORDS


The records are from around the world and include 27 countries new to Ancestry.com. A special International page introduces the new collections.

Cowan recommends using the Card Catalog to locate particular countries and collections of interest.

FamilySearch is also making the records available to FindMyPast.com and MyHeritage.com. (See “FamilySearch Gives Further Details on Partnerships.”)

(Editor’s Note: See How to Search FINDMYPAST on page 15)
HOW TO SEARCH FINDMYPAST

Recently, findmypast.co.uk, made radical changes to the site's search software that has generated a lot of negative feedback from users. However, the site's managers believe that the new search software is better even though it is quite different from the previous versions. With some understanding of how the new software works, users supposedly can find all the records they used to find and more.

Read the rest of the story

* * *

WHERE IN THE WORLD DO JEWS LIVE?

http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/Judaism/jewpop.html#region

This site includes all countries in the world where Jews live.

Scroll down to “Europe,” and click on a country. A list of many towns in that country will appear. Clicking on a town will also show historical information about that town.

JUDAICA EUROPEANA

A growing network with currently 30 institutions: libraries, archives and museums in Europe, Israel and the US, Judaica Europeana is led by the European Association for Jewish Culture working closely with the Frankfurt University Library and the National Library of Israel.

It provides integrated access to digital collections which document Jewish life in Europe via Europeana, Europe’s digital platform for cultural heritage.

To date the project has made available online 3.7 million items. It can be searched in 30 languages and by geographic area. One can find books, photographs, manuscripts of the culture of Jews.

To view the website go to: http://www.judaica-europeana.eu/

They also have a free electronic newsletter: http://www.judaica-europeana.eu/Newsletter.html

FOR NON-ELLIS ISLAND IMMIGRATION RECORDS

go to: http://www.researchguides.net/immigration/index.htm

Volume 21, Number Three                             Third Quarter 2014
March 2014

US – The New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the oldest symphony orchestra in the United States, has put online their entire historic archive going back to 1842. Normally, this type of archive is not particularly interesting to genealogists. However, this archive has millions of pages of material on every aspect of the orchestra, including some 16,000 photographs of musicians who played for the orchestra over the years.

If you had an ancestor who was a professional musician, you might find a reference in this collection. Access is free. New York Philharmonic Orchestra Archives

US – The US GenNet Data Repository continues to grow with new record collections. Some of the latest additions include US military fatalities from the Korean and Vietnam Wars from West Virginia and US fatalities of the Korean War from Michigan. Access is free and there is no registration or signup required. Records are organized by state. US GenNet Data Repository

April 2014

Ancestry is an Excellent Genealogy Resource, but its Member Trees? Not So Much
In his article in The Jersey Journal, Daniel Klein describes his frustration with Ancestry.com's member-contributed family trees. He describes the problem caused by novice genealogists using information from a reasonably reputable source (The US Census) and applying it to the wrong person.

Then other people build their research on wrong information and it perpetuates over and over. You can read Daniel Klein's article at http://blog.nj.com/tracing_your_roots/2014/04/post_6.html

US – The New York Public Library (NYPL) has released an incredible collection of more than 20,000 maps with no known copyright restrictions. These maps can be downloaded in high resolution format for free. The collection is diverse.

Included are 1,100 maps of the mid-Atlantic United States from the 1500s to the 1800s; 700 topographical maps of the Austro-Hungarian empire from 1877 to 1914; 2,800 state, county and city maps mainly of New York and New Jersey and finally the really big one for genealogists: 10,300 property, zoning, topographical and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps of New York city from 1852 to 1922 as well as 1,000 additional maps of the five boroughs and neighborhoods dating from 1660 to 1922.

The collection can be searched by keyword. Access is free. Free Historic Maps of New York City
The website also has a tool that allows you to ‘warp’ (overlay) historic maps onto modern maps. We have talked about this before (the Map Warper tool is about three years old). Below is the YouTube video that describes how the process works. If you want to download a high-resolution copy of a map for your files, you need to do it through the Map Warper tool. Access is free. Registration is required. NYPL Map Warper

To view the Tube video on how to use the NYPL Map Warper, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCbBpKZh0To

This 1890 map of the Mulberry Bend district in New York City (bounded by Canal Street, Worth Street and Broadway) can be zoomed to show detail on individual buildings. Source: From The Lionel Pincus & Princess Firyal Map Division, The New York Public Library.
New York Public Library Maps, continued

US – FamilySearch.org has added some 1.7 million more indexed records to its collection of muster rolls of the US Marine Corps. The original documents come from the National Archives and cover the period from 1798 to 1892. A typical muster roll shows the name of the officer or enlisted man, rank and unit, date of enlistment (or date of re-enlistment), name of the ship and any appropriate notes, such as promotions, etc.

In some cases, additional information may also be included, such as injuries or illnesses and date of death or discharge. For challenging situations, information may also include date of desertion, date of apprehension, date of court martial and the court martial sentence.

The collection can be searched by first and last name. Access is free. Historic US Marine Corps Muster Rolls

See more at: http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/NewGenealogyRecords/newest_genealogy_records_on_the_internet.html?awt_l=70bvF&awt_m=InTE.6yYGAk.Vy#sthash.HXXCMMSE.dpuf

Sitedrop Works with Dropbox for Genealogy Collaboration

Everyone seems to have a Dropbox account. Hoping to build on top of the consumer-friendly service’s popularity, a new startup called Sitedrop allows you quickly turn any Dropbox folder into a website where you can visually showcase your work and collaborate with others.

The collaboration capabilities strike me as an excellent method of working with siblings, cousins, and others in a group collaboration effort. The ability to publish your own private web site without advertisements or other...

www.sitedrop.com

* * * *

VIEWING GUIDE TO POLISH ARCHIVES DIGITAL IMAGES posted on JewishGen

“Viewing Original Documents Posted on the Polish State Archives Web Site,” has been added to the JRI-PL Additional Resources and Help Tips page at: http://jri-poland.org/jripltip.htm.

* * * *

FREE DOWNLOAD OF "GENEALOGY LINKS ON FACEBOOK:

Go to: http://socialmediagenealogy.com/genealogy-on-facebook-list/
Two brothers from Chotinetich, in western Russia, came to America and became successful businessmen on the Lower East Side of New York in 1909.

**Yiddish Shop Sign**
New York City early 1900s

Specialty knives
"Here are Miller's knives and circumcision tools, the best and finest in the world. Guaranteed never to rust." So declares the hand lettering of this Yiddish shop sign, which displays three examples of the establishment's ritual cutting instruments—knives for slaughtering poultry and cattle, and a knife for circumcision—as well as a circumcision clamp. Knife makers Joseph and David Miller immigrated to the United States, in 1905 and 1908 respectively, from their hometown of Chotinetich in western Russia. Joseph set up his first cutlery shop on Canal Street on New York's Lower East Side.

From the Smithsonian
http://historywired.si.edu/object.cfm?ID=131#

Joseph Miller and David Miller
Joseph Miller (1887-1972) and David Miller (about 1883-1943) were born in Chotinetich, a small village in western Russia, near Minsk, two brothers in a family of seven children of poor tenant farmers. David, born about 1883, was the eldest, and he was sent as a young boy to apprentice with his uncle, who owned a small knife-making factory. Joseph followed suit a few years later. At age 19, Joseph fled Russia to avoid military conscription. He stopped first in Liverpool, England, where another uncle, also a cutler, lived. But he decided that America was the "land of opportunity," and he made his way to the United States, arriving in 1905. In 1908, Joseph helped his brother David, who had served in the Russian Army, to join him in America.

Joseph opened his first shop on Canal Street on New York's Lower East Side in 1909, and the brothers became partners about 1916. The area was crowded with immigrants from eastern Europe, many of whom worked in the needle trade (either in sweatshops or in their own crowded tenement apartments) and who consequently had a tremendous need for adequate tools for cutting fur, felt, leather, and cloth. In addition, the Millers became well known for the manufacture of Jewish ritual knives. As did other members of this upwardly mobile immigrant generation, they later moved their factory to the Bronx.

The brothers' reputation grew because of the fine quality and extraordinary durability of their products. Each item they made bore the trademark "J. & D. Miller N.Y. Guaranteed," and they built their business on their practice of standing behind their products when the items needed sharpening, repair or replacement. They later became known for their innovations in specialty blades used by the military during World War I, for surgical instruments, and for knives used to cut a variety of materials, from heavy wool to linoleum. David Miller was known for being particularly meticulous, especially in procedures that required extraordinary skill, such as manufacturing curved blades.

David Miller retired in 1943, but Joseph Miller carried on the business into the late 1960s. When he died, at age 85, he had worked nearly to the very end. The Miller brothers saw themselves as examples of the fulfillment of the American dream—poor immigrants with little formal schooling who were given the opportunity and freedom to use their special talents to achieve success.

[This family history is based on the recollections of Irene Miller Galdston, daughter of Joseph Miller, which were recorded on February 15, 1980. The firm's business records were donated to the Smithsonian in 1992.]
THE MANDELS FROM STRYJ
Fran Levine Smith (daughter of Janet Mandel)

My work began on our family tree when my son came home from college saying “I know we’re from Brooklyn, but where else are we from?”

Interviewing my mother about her Mandel “family from Vienna” gave me a start. I recorded all the names she could remember and the family connections. She also had some old photos and memories of life on the lower east side, but no knowledge of any European connections. Her information gave me her parents’ names and their considerable brood since her father had two wives and fifteen children. All had immigrated to New York around the turn of the 19th century except his eldest son.

About ten years ago, I joined Ancestry.com and entered all the information I had gathered on both sides of my family as well as both sides of my husband’s family. Through Ancestry I was pretty successful at finding census forms, immigration records, and naturalization records, etc. But, I did not know about any way to trace the family before they all immigrated. My family tree grew sideways when I worked on the families of those related by marriage and also grew as the younger generation increased.

About five years ago, I received an email from an older cousin, Mel, who lives in California. He was contacted by a previously unknown cousin living in Israel. Since I was the family genealogist, he asked if I wanted to contact him? Oh my G-d, was I excited. I sent Sefi Shaked an email, and Sefi, even more excited than I, called me on the phone to introduce himself. He has been doing genealogy work for years, and came across my Mandel family tree on Ancestry.com.

He believed it to be the family of his great–grandfather’s brother. Sefi was 48 years old, living in Haifa with his American-born wife, Ruth, and three children. He told me he was the son of Nachum Mandel, son of Jozef Mandel who was a cousin to my mother. Jozef’s father, Leib Mandel, was my grandfather’s brother and one of several siblings who did not immigrate to the United States.

At the turn of the century they lived in Lemberg (Lviv,) Austrian Galicia and chose not to leave. Many perished in the Holocaust. Of these, we had no knowledge. My mother could only recall one family’s name, Lifshutz.
Sefi changed his name from the European Mandel to the Israeli “Shaked.” The U.S. Mandels number at least one hundred people. We started up an internet conversation and my older cousin and his wife made their first trip to Israel at the ages of 89 and 88 to meet Nachum and Leah Mandel, Sefi’s parents, and their two children and six grandchildren. Two years later, in celebration of our 50th anniversary, my husband, Bob, and I spent the month of October, 2012 in Israel. The highlight was meeting the new found cousins.

Nachum and Leah Mandel, a Polish immigrant, live in Jerusalem. He was sent to Israel in 1938 by his parents whom he never saw again. Nachum served in the British Army in WWII and in the Irgun. He earned a Ph.D. in Chemistry and he served as the Chief of the Israeli Patent Office. They invited us to their three story walk-up apartment for tea and a wonderful meal. Nachum was 93 but getting around Jerusalem very well on public transportation or taxi.

Their daughter, Irit, invited us for Shabbat dinner with her family in Ra’nana outside of Tel Aviv and Sefi and Ruth Shaked gave us an after dinner tour of Haifa at night. Our surprise when meeting Sefi is that he is a towering 6’ 7” and very personable. Sefi is an electrical engineer with the Israeli power company. After meeting everyone in person, we now try to keep in touch over the Internet. I gave Nachum a photo album of my family and he was delighted to see all these lovely American cousins.

Sefi gifted me with documentation for the European Mandel family that he had researched. Our family trees go back to the 1740’s in the town of Stryj, Galicia. The Mandel men were cemetery stone cutters. They were recently mentioned in a lecture on “The Jewish Contribution to Contemporary Art” in Ukraine as the forerunners to modern day sculpture because their stones were carved with beautiful ornate decoration.

We learned that Nachum’s father, Jozef Mandel, was a prominent lawyer in Rawa Ruska, Galicia. His story is told at Yad Vashem. He was incarcerated in the notorious Montelupich Prison in Krakow where he died from typhus in December 1941.

This is an important story for future generations of our family. Cousin Nachum reminded me very much of my mother. She always used the word “beautiful” in describing her grandchildren. Nachum, the sole survivor of his family, told me that when he gives a talk at a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, he always tells the children to “look for the beauty in life.” After Sefi found us, our Mandel family history became a story worth telling and I created a family history book to preserve all of it.
I want to share a story. It was kind of like doing genealogy research with a twist. Thinking out of the box.

My law partner, Andrew Rader, is on the Board at our local temple, Kol Tikvah in Parkland FL. As part of his duties, he is pleased to have the honor of presenting the Board’s gifts to newly Bar and Bat Mitzvot.

One such child, Jocelyn Krooks, decided she wanted to share her Bat Mitzvah with a Holocaust victim and chose Nava Friedstein. Andrew came back from his weekend duties and shared this name with me; it was all the information he had. I did some research and found one such victim’s name listed at Yad Vashem, www.yadvashem.org. According to Yad Vashem, Nava Friedstein was born in Nieswiez, Poland in 1935 to Shaul and Bela Friedstein. She died a child. Nava was murdered/perished in 1941 in Nieswiez, Poland at the age of six. This information is based on a Page of Testimony submitted by her aunt.

With the name of the town in hand, my next research stop was Jewishgen.org. There I found the Nesvizh (Nieswiez) Study Group which has joined with other JewishGen SIGs in presenting a compendium of the available Yizkor books. http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/nesvizh/nesvizh.html. They have translated the Index to the Nesvizh Yizkor Book into English. In that index I found several references to the Friedstein family, including Nava’s name. I emailed Michael J. Meshenberg, the Project Coordinator, and he wrote back telling me that the New York Public Library has digitized and placed online all the Yizkor Books in its collection, over 600 — one of the largest in the world. The Nesvizh book is here: http://yizkor.nypl.org/index.php?id=1013. The pages are printable. A problem I encountered though was that not all of the pages have been digitized yet.

One of the stories listed in the translated index to the Nesvizh Yizkor Book was called “The Teacher Shaul Friedstein” by A. Guterman. Incredibly, on http://www.worldcat.org I tracked the book down at the FAU Library here in Boca Raton. A call to the Special Collections room allowed me to make an appointment and I went down and captured image photos of all the index pages with the Friedstein name on my camera phone. My intent is to help Jocelyn get a more rounded picture of Nava and her family. I am giving her the copies I made of the Hebrew pages in the book in the hopes that she will accept translating them as a Mitzvah project or enlist the aid of other members of the Temple to do so and then provide the translations to the Nesvizh Study Group.
Further research lead me to the book *Soldiers from the Ghetto: The first uprising against the Nazis* by Shalom Cholawski (1980). I ordered a copy of this book on Amazon.com. Shalom describes his early years in Nesvizh and mentions the Friedsteins, including Nava, who were obviously his friends.

I found the webpage [http://www.nesvizh.org/Nesvizh](http://www.nesvizh.org/Nesvizh) wherein Dr. Sheldon Brown, a teacher at North Shore Community College, a school in Lynn, Massachusetts, made his own genealogical journey to this city and then to Israel where he met Shalom and his wife, Ida Cholawski, in 2001. Originally, I was hoping to put Jocelyn and her family in touch with Shalom but unfortunately he died in 2011.

On Monday night, Andrew and I went to Jocelyn’s home and gave all of this information to them. I explained to them all of my research and what I was trying to do by trying to make Nava Friedstein more real for this girl who has chosen to memorialize her so amazingly. In an email this morning, Jocelyn’s father wrote:

“A heartfelt thank you to both of you for spending time with us last night, and adding even more meaning to Jocelyn’s Bat Mitzvah. It was a confluence of many things that brought you to our home last night, and I am grateful for each and every one of them.

From Jocelyn choosing to go in this direction with her Bat Mitzvah, to Andrew being present on that Sunday, and then sharing the experience with you, Ken, and then Ken doing the research and going out to buy the book — all coming to a head at our little gathering last night in our home. What special people you are and we feel blessed to have our family and your paths cross.”
15 MINUTE CONSULTATIONS

This fall we plan to continue our successful program CONSULT WITH AN EXPERT. After each membership meeting, we will hold fifteen minute sessions (ONE ON ONE) with an expert in your area of research. You must make an appointment, and sign up before the meeting at the registration desk. To assist your mentor, bring documents and research information with you. Our first Fall meeting will be on September 10th.