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THE JGSPBCI 19TH ANNUAL LUNCHEON
GUEST SPEAKER
JOHN MARTINO
OF THE ITALIAN GENEALOGICAL

JOHN AND SANDY

OUR CO-CHAIRS, DONALD HIRSCHHORN AND PHYLLIS FRANK
STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Scattered Seeds is the publication of the JGSPBC, Inc., a not-for-profit educational organization. The newsletter is issued four times per year. It is a free publication distributed to all paid-up members and Jewish Genealogical Societies throughout the world in a courtesy exchange program. Back issues may be available at $3.50 (US) per issue.

REQUEST FOR ARTICLES

Contributions of articles of interest are encouraged for possible inclusion in Scattered Seeds. Material should be e-mailed to the editor who reserves the right to accept, reject or publish in revised form. Please use MS Word. The Editor can be contacted via e-mail at: editor@jgspalmbeachcounty.org. If e-mail is not available, articles should be sent to: Editor, P.O. Box 7796, Delray Beach, FL 33482-7796

OUR OBJECTIVES

• To establish a scholarly organization with the goal of preservation of Jewish family histories
• To assist and promote the research of Jewish family history.
• To encourage interested persons to pursue and preserve genealogical data.
• To provide opportunities for the sharing of Jewish genealogical information.
• To elevate the status and role of Jewish Genealogy in the Jewish community and in the academic community.
• To publish material in the field of genealogy.
• To engage in only those activities permitted by organizations exempt from Federal Income as described in section 501 (C)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

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WEBSITE  http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org

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Alfred B. Leeds (Of Blessed Memory), Dr. Marvin Hamburg, Dennis Rice,
Sandra Hirschhorn

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Mary Bordman, Mayor Lois Frankel, Miriam Weiner
This is a difficult editorial for me to write. By the time you receive this my term as president of our JGS will have been completed. That’s not a big problem as I have known for some time that my 2 1/2 years in office were coming to an end. However, what I did not expect and am just coming to terms with is that I will also be retiring as editor of Scattered Seeds and as a member of the JGSPBCI Board.

My husband Don and I are moving out of South Florida shortly which means that I won’t be able to communicate with all of you on a regular basis as I have done for so many years. However, our JGS will continue to function in the same terrific way it always has with a brand new Board easing your way into the world of genealogy.

BUT...we really need more volunteers to assist us. No organization can function without willing helpers. Please think about it. Can you spare an extra few hours a week? You’ll work beside really nice people and may get some extra help with your family tree at the same time!

My congratulations to Mark Jacobson, your new president, to Joel Sisitsky and Cindy Potter Taylor who will remain on as vice-presidents, to Irv Skorka, our hard-working treasurer, and Gary Stone, M.D., Secretary.

In the next issue of Scattered Seeds you will meet your new editor, Tina Korn. My sincere thanks to her for taking on this wonderful role. Enjoy, Tina!

Sandy

P.S.: We won’t be in Los Angeles for the IAJGS Conference but we will do our best to make it to Washington, D.C. for 2011! Please look for us there.
Progress in the Discovery of the Elusive 'Cohen' Gene  
(From our Member Jack Cohen, March 7, 2010)

A while back, I had my DNA analyzed, to see if my ancestors were of the original Moses-Aaron high priest line, with the so-called J-haplotype:  
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Y-chromosomal_Aaron

While the relevant J-marker was not present, as I may have anticipated from info I received from my dad many years ago, I did discover that my DNA has the paternal Haplogroup E1b1b, indicating that my ancestors may have been 'early farmers' living in the eastern part of Africa ~ 100,000 yrs ago, or possibly early African hunters / gatherers with a common ancestor living ~ 25,000 yrs ago.

(Imagine the letdown for an elderly Jewish friend: After he'd completed his genealogy 'show & tell' with evidence indicating that he was descended from the early biblical scholar Rashi, who lived ~ 1000 yrs ago, I arose and presented my DNA results ... suggesting that I could trace my roots back 100,000 yrs !)

So ... whence the name 'Cohen'?  

Here the story takes a couple of unusual turns:

**One scenario:**

The family surname in the Ukraine was 'Kagan', changed to 'Cohen' when my dad came to the US in 1914. The name 'Kagan' may be traced to ..

Kagan < Kahan < Kahn < Khan;

Genghis Khan and his direct male descendants are believed to have had numerous wives and concubines. Although there are believed to be alive today some 6 million descendants of Genghis Khan, my Y-chromosome data doesn’t support descent from Genghis.

I do, however, continue to search for a possible link to my great, great, great, ..... grandmama, Mrs. Khan.

**Yet another scenario** (related to the mass conversion to Judaism of the nomadic Khazars),  

730 CE: Acceptance of Judaism by Khazarian Kagan Bulan of Ashina dynasty  
http://s155239215.onlinehome.us/turkic/70_Dateline/KhazardatelineEn.htm

Lastly, and a more likely explanation for the origin of the family name, is that the name ‘Kagan’ was adopted in order to avoid service in the Russian military, priests being the only males exempt from such service.


More as genealogy work progresses.
MORE LUNCHEON PHOTOS
A Hearty Welcome to Our New Members

Avner, Robert
Brodie, Blanche
Chernetz, Evelyn
Cole, Daniel & Florence
Dee, Toni
Ehrenworth, Marlene
Ferder, Marlene
Friedman, Elise
Cummins, Serena
Goffman, Anita
Kamp, Bonnie & Marilyn
Komishar, Joan
Seeman, Marilyn Willner & Isadore
Segal, Glenn

EXPERTS ON CALL
GENEALOGY ASSISTANCE

Our “Experts-On-Call” Help Line is available to assist and mentor beginners and “not yet experts” with the expertise of our most knowledgeable and experienced genealogists on a one-on-one basis. Those member-experts who volunteered for the EOC Help Line are:

- Mitch Heide 561-926-4311
- Marilyn Newman 561-775-4920
- Dennis Rice 561-738-7477

It is suggested that you check your Membership Directory to determine the mentor nearest to you in case you need to meet. Their addresses are listed in your Directory. Take advantage of their knowledge and call or e-mail now!

THERE’S STILL TIME—SIGN UP NOW! The 30th Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, hosted by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles, is scheduled to be held from the 11th to the 16th of July 2010, at the brand new J.W. Marriott Hotel, part of the new L.A. LIVE entertainment district in downtown Los Angeles, located adjacent to the Staples Center, the Nokia Theater, and the Grammy Museum.

Daniel Mendelsohn author of "The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million," will be the keynote speaker at the opening session.
For further information visit the IAJGS Website, iajgs.org, and click on the Conference logo or go directly to the Conference website www.jgsla2010.com.
**Genealogy — Genealogy — Genealogy**

**DID YOU KNOW** that here in the U.S. between 1855 and 1922 women living here, but not citizens, automatically became citizens when their husbands did or when they married American citizens? More shockingly, in 1907 Congress passed a bill that said if an American woman married a foreign citizen she lost her citizenship and took on her husband’s nationality. She wasn’t eligible for U.S. citizenship unless her husband became a U.S. citizen! This continued until 1922 when American women could retain their American citizenship despite marrying a non-citizen. In that same year, women could become American citizens independently and retain that citizenship no matter who they married.

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The Shalom Foundation launched the JEWISH OPEN UNIVERSITY IN WARSAW. Classes in Jewish literature, culture, music and philosophy began in January 2010. At opening, the part-time two-semester program had enrolled some 30 students, with room for 60. It is backed by Warsaw University.

The joint Polish-American-Israeli foundation is dedicated to reviving Jewish traditions in Poland and preserving the lost culture of what was Europe’s former Jewish heartland. The Shalom Foundation was created in 1988 mainly by graduates of the I. L. Perec Jewish School (which no longer exists) in Łódz.

Before the Holocaust, Poland had some 3.5 million Jews. Following the Holocaust and the killing of some 6 million European Jews, there were only 280,000 Jews in Poland. Today, the estimate is from 3,500-15,000 in a mainly Catholic general population of 38 million. It is however almost impossible to say how many Poles have some Jewish ancestry. According to Jewish history, western European Jews first emigrated to Poland to escape 11th century pogroms. During the war, Jewish children were hidden with Polish families and some in these and other situations are also rediscovering their roots. **FROM TRACING THE TRIBE**

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The manifest for the SS Saint Louis passenger list can be found from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum as follows:  
[http://resources.ushmm.org/stlouis/passenger_list_alpha.php](http://resources.ushmm.org/stlouis/passenger_list_alpha.php)

For the 18th consecutive year, veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will be offering a research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from October 14-October 21, 2010. To date, more than 300 Jewish genealogists from the U.S., Canada, South America, Australia, Israel and Europe have taken advantage of this program.

Additional information can be found at [http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm](http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm).
THE JEWS OF HARBIN
With Thanks to "The Shekel" Vol. XXXVIII No. 5

Historically, the first contact between Jews and Chinese was made as early as in the Western Han Dynasty (206BCE - AD 25), when Jewish traders, attracted by ancient China’s thriving merchant economy, arrived from Persia via the Silk Road. Various historical relics indicate the existence of Jewish communities in several trade cities like Dunhuang, Luoyang and Quanzhou, where Jewish tombs and artifacts have been discovered in recent years.

The modern development of Harbin began at the close of the 19th century with the beginning of the Russian penetration of Manchuria by getting permission to build a railroad in 1898. A number of Russian Jewish families went to Harbin with the official consent of the czarist government eager to populate the area. Thus, they were granted better status than that of the Jews in Russia.

By 1903, a self-administered Jewish community of 500 Jews existed in Harbin. By 1908, there were 8,000 Jews in the city and a central synagogue was built in 1909. A Jewish secondary school was established and by 1910 it had 100 pupils. World War I and the Russian revolution greatly increased the Jewish community. By 1920s there were over 20,000 Jewish settlers living in the city. They established banks, libraries, schools, hospitals, synagogues, stores, breweries, publishing houses and charities, contributing greatly to the city’s development.

Along with other minority groups (such as Karaites) the Jews were granted plots of land on the outskirts of the town. Not being allowed to work directly on the railway, they were active as shopkeepers and contractors. A Jewish National Bank was established in Harbin in 1923.

About 20 Jewish newspapers sprang up between 1918 and 1930. All were in Russian except one in Yiddish Der Vayter Mizrekh. The Zionist movement, led by Abraham Kaufman, played a major part in the community life. When Zionism was outlawed in the Soviet Union, Harbin became an island of Russian-language Zionism.

When the Chinese Eastern Railway was handed over to the Chinese, an economic crisis broke out and many Jews left Harbin. The Japanese occupation of Manchuria (1931-45) with a puppet regime subjected the Jews to terror and extortion which became worse during World War II. During that time Jewish national life was kept alive by Zionist youth movements, particularly Betar and Maccabi. Until 1950, four synagogues existed in Harbin. During 1945-47, Harbin was under Soviet occupation and Jewish community leaders were arrested and sent to the Soviet interior. About 3,500 of the former “Chinese” Jews, most of them from Harbin, live in Israel today.

Harbin still preserves the largest cemetery of Jews in the Far East — Harbin Huangshan Jewish Cemetery. It holds 677 graves, mainly of Jews who once lived in Harbin. The last Jew in Harbin died in 1985, but local authorities have gone to great lengths to preserve the city’s Jewish heritage. The cemetery even has a website in English and Chinese with a searchable database of those buried there: http:www.hrbjewcemetry.com
Genealogy — Genealogy — Genealogy

Steven Lasky who provides his own wonderful website www.museumoffamilyhistory.com advised the following: Mt. Carmel Cemetery (Glendale, Queens, New York), has taken over supervision of the nearby cemetery Knollwood Park (in Ridgewood), and has finally put online the information about the Knollwood Park burials. There are currently over 17,000 burials listed but death dates after 2000 are not included. These dates are simply listed as 1/1/1900. It will be necessary to phone the cremitery for more information.

Knollwood Park burials are listed as Cemetery Section 5 within Mt. Carmel's website. Sections 1 and 2 are of the main "old" Carmel Cemetery; Section 3 is of the New Carmel Cemetery (down the road), and Section 4 is of the (former) Hungarian Union Field Cemetery. You can find the burial data for these five sections combined as one on the Mt. Carmel Cemetery site at www.mountcarmelcemetery.com.

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Seeking information about a family in the U.S.? Some suggestions: MyHeritage http://www.myheritage.com/research has living and death individual databases in the US. Daniel Horowitz

If the name is reasonably unique, it always is worthwhile to try to find the name on Switchboard.com using a whole state as the location. Also try whitepages.com, which covers the US and Canada. Joseph Fibel

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CASTLE GARDEN'S WEBSITE has been updated with more records and with a more comprehensive search capability. While previously you could only search by first or last name, searches can now be made with ship, port of origin, date, first name, last name, occupation, origin (country), province or town. Search results yield new fields of information, including village, province or region of origin, destination and port of embarkation. See: http://www.castlegarden.org/ David Rosen

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Is there a list of Polish Books of Residents from prior to WW2? The Polish State Archives website has something like this. Go to their website at: http://www.archiwa.gov.pl/lang-en/news.html (English language version of the site). Select "Databases" from the items on the right side of the screen. The last selection under Databases reads "The Registers of Population in Archival MaterialsELA.” These are various lists of residents in the possession of the archives. Once you select this, you must then click on the link that says "GO TO ELA SEARCH ENGINE" to get to the actual search screen. From there, you can type in the name of the town, and determine whether the archives holds any lists of residents for that town. The list may not be complete, but it is helpful. Another option is to search the database of the Routes to Roots Foundation, compiled by Miriam Weiner, which also lists censuses and other lists of population for Polish towns and cities. Ted Gostin
More Genealogy

The following link has many city directories listed on-line despite the fact that the link is for "Pittsburgh Directories." There are a surprisingly large number of directories for many states.
http://www.evendon.net/PGHLookups/DirM.htm

What I found among the large listings of various states and cities, directories for New York City, and you will note that 1909 and 1912 are marked Jewish. For non-New York City researchers, many other states and cities are listed:
New York City -1861Guide 1876-Streets 1885-Ladies Guide 1901_Streets; 1907_Ranhofer-Zyss
1909_Jewish 1910_Greenberger-Perry 1912_Jewish; 1914-Police Pension 1946-PB
Thank you to Joan Parker, Miami, FL

Documenting History

From Nu? What's New? Editor, Gary Mokotoff. Vol. 10 No. 6
Of all the articles I have written, the one I consider most important was published in AVOTAYNU in 1995 titled “The Mormon/Jewish Controversy: What Really Happened.” It is reproduced at http://www.avotaynu.com/mormon.htm. When the news media found out in 1994 that the Mormon Church had posthumously baptized hundreds of thousands of Jews murdered in the Holocaust, they stated that this was discovered by the Holocaust survivor community. This was historically inaccurate. The controversy started two years earlier when the Jewish genealogical community discovered the baptisms, and they went public with the information in 1994 when the Church said they were going to do nothing about it.

Now another important event—how the archives of the International Tracing Service was opened to the public—has been properly documented by Paul Shapiro, (our guest speaker at last year’s luncheon) the man who is given credit for making it happen. Shapiro has written a lengthy article in Reform Judaism where he describes the years of effort and obstacles thrown in the path. It can be read at http://reformjudaismmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=1531. It becomes clear from the article that one of the major obstacles was the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose sole role was to operate ITS, not make policy decisions.

Now word is trickling back from current users of ITS that they may be returning to the old days when obstacles were placed in the path of people trying to determine the fate of loved ones. The villain again seems to be the ICRC. Evelyne Haendel, who was recently appointed Director of Family Tracing Services for the Hidden Child Foundation, was told by ICRC that they will not process her inquiries unless she produced a document from the family she is trying to help authorizing Haendel; to act on their behalf. They also wanted their inquiry form signed by a family member, not Haendel. Israel Pickholz of Jerusalem posted a statement on JewishGen that he ran into a similar obstacle. He concluded, “I had thought those days were behind us. Has anyone else entered this time machine? Does anyone know what buttons to push to get them back on track?” There now are rumors that German privacy laws will be the norm for determining who can have access to what.

The fact is that ITS is shooting themselves in the foot. With copies of the files now in the hands of institutions in Belgium, Israel, Poland and the United States, people will turn to these facilities for answers. Haendel has already turned to the U.S. Holocaust Museum for help finding family for Hidden Children to avoid the ITS red tape.

When I visited ITS in May 2008, some of the employees confided that they were a bit concerned about losing their jobs because the files were now available elsewhere and, therefore, the number of inquiries to ITS would decline. Placing obstacles in the path of inquirers will guarantee that ITS will be abandoned as a resource for Holocaust-related information.
THE Z FAMILY GROWS FROM 50 TO OVER 500 THROUGH THE INTERNET, FHC AND NETWORKING

An update from the Spring 2007 issue of Scattered Seeds

By Dennis Rice, Past President JGSPBCI

In my presidential remarks in the above mentioned issue of Scattered Seeds, I alluded to the fact that our JGS had taken on the Pages of Testimony program in South Florida under the Chair, Donald Hirschhorn. I was certainly aware of the importance of trying to list all the names of our loved ones who perished during that terrible time in history. However, I never knew personally of any family members of mine or my wife Ruth’s who had died in the Holocaust. However, I recalled a story of a cousin of Ruth’s who lives in Israel who had mentioned that two of his father’s brothers had immigrated to Israel in the 1920’s and found very difficult so they returned to Poland. We never knew what had happened to them. In September 2000, Rut and I had just returned from closing her mother and brother’s apartment in Cleveland, Ohio where we discovered some pictures which were taken in Poland. Ruth did not know the identity of anyone in the pictures, but I knew they had to be her relatives.

PICTURES OF SWETSCHKENSTIELS

CIRCA 1905 IN KRYNICE, POLAND

IN 1928 IN KRYNICE, POLAND

When we returned from Cleveland, I called Ruth’s cousin who lives in Delray Beach, ten minutes from our home, and arranged a dinner together. I had been prodding him for some time to determine the family Name in Austria/Hungary, now Poland. He told me it was a long name beginning with Z. It sure was! The family name was Zwetschkenstil. His family had shortened it to Stiel. The night before our dinner date, I went on the Yad Vashem website [www.yadvashem.org] and found a number of Zwetschkenstiel’s listed. I found 29 names. I printed out about five who I knew were directly related because the Pages of Testimony were given by Ruth’s cousin Schmuel in Israel in 1955. At dinner, I showed him the names. His mouth opened when he saw the first name, which was his Grandfather Majer who was killed at the age of 87. I showed him the above pictures but he too couldn’t recognize anyone.

Continued on Page 12.
I went home that night, stayed up until 1:30 a.m., and expanded the list to 12 relatives. With the 12, the family tree had grown to 70.

The next day I called our local cousin to say I had added the new names. And, he said he was reminded that Ruth’s grandmother along with one of her daughters had made a visit to the family in Poland in August, 1928.

Continued on Page 13
The following Shabbat, after finding the family members who had been killed by the Nazis, I recited the Kaddish in their memory. I remember them every time Kaddish is recited.

The family basically stayed at about 80 until September 2009, when I came home one evening to find a voice message on our answering machine from a Stiel family member, Ken of New York, who had googled the name Zwetschkenstiel and found my original article in *Scattered Seeds*. He then went to the JGS PBCI website: <http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org> and found my name listed as president and as one of the society’s experts with my phone number. He shared with me a copy of his family genealogy beginning with his great-grandfather Berl who was born in 1850. Since then we have found out he was a brother of Ruth’s great-grandfather Majer.

Next, I looked on the JewishGen website: www.jewishgen.org/familyfinder, put in the name Zwetschkenstiel and found another person looking for the same family. Joel of California sent me his family tree. Isaac, born around 1846 was another brother of Majer. The tree and my network was starting to grow. Ken of New York also introduced me to Sheldon of Los Angeles and Ron or Oregon whose great-grandparents were born circa 1850.

At that time I also got a hit on Ancestry.com that there was a record for a Taube Zwetschkenstiel who was born in 1789 and died in Nowy Wisnicz in 1869. She was married to a Wolf Zwetschkenstiel. They were the matriarch and patriarch of the family.

**Poland: Jewish Records Indexing-Poland Vital Records Database (Deaths)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Taube Zwetschkenstiel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sex</td>
<td>Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birth</td>
<td>abt 1789</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age at Death</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death</td>
<td>8 May 1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Place</td>
<td>Wisznicz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Date</td>
<td>1869</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The generations were beginning to fall into place but we were missing the second generation.
THE Z FAMILY GROWS  Continued from the previous page.

I was looking at LDS (Mormon) church records for Nowy Wisniczhem, births, deaths and marriages, seeking the children of Wolf and Taube Zwetschkenstiel. At the same time another cousin, Alan from Baltimore was, investigating the Jewish records for the same area at the LDS. He hit the jackpot. We were able to find the parents for each of the children born circa 1850. The first child born was Hershel, born in 1814 to Wolf and Taube. Isaac was born in 1822, Itel in 1830. Marriages were also found, for example, Isaac to Golde in 1860.

There is a lot of conversation about social networking like “Facebook,” etc. but thanks to websites like JewishGen’s Family Finder and Shtetl Finder and Google, I was able to set up my own Zwetschkenstiel Family Network.

My Zwetschkenstiel e-mail networking group

The Internet is amazing. Without it, the Zwetschkenstiel family tree would contain under 100 people. It is still growing and hopefully in another couple of years I can report 750-1000 names.

(Ed. Note) Dennis Rice also included copies of many original documents which were impossible to include here due to either poor quality or space limitations but I am sure Dennis will be happy to show them to anyone interested.)
CAN YOU HELP?

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

I am a researcher at the University of Antwerp and a temporary staff member of the Jewish Museum of Deportation and Resistance in Mechelen, in Belgium. The present museum is situated in the building which was previously known as the Kazerne Dossin. It was here that, in 1942, the Nazis established SS-Sammellager Mecheln. This place was the departure point for a deportation without return. In the years between 1942 and 1944, 24,916 Jews and 351 Gypsies were transported to the camps in the east. The museum has a nice collection of photographs, personalia, and information about the deportees, but the exhibition space is rather small. For that reason, a new museum is being built

In this museum the very particular Belgian war situation will be highlighted. I am responsible for the audiovisual material, more specifically, for the film material. Next to films about occupied Belgium, the everyday life during the occupation, actions of the occupying forces, actions of paramilitary organisations with Nazi sympathies, I am looking for amateur 'home movies', made by Jews who lived in Belgium during the 1930s and 1940s.

The main audience of the museum will be children and teenagers (12 - 18 years old), and we want to show them that Jewish people in Belgium had lives like they have themselves: they went to school, had parties, celebrated birthdays, learned how to walk and talk, had fun with their brothers, sisters, parents and friends. That is the kind of material I am looking for: films that depict the everyday and religious life of Jewish families who lived in Belgium between 1933 and 1945. In the Netherlands, a lot of this kind of material has been restored and preserved, so I am almost certain that there must be similar material for Belgium. Antwerp and Brussels had very large Jewish communities. Do you have such material, or do you know people who might have this kind of films? Please contact me. Of course the staff of the Jewish Museum of Deportation and Resistance will handle the film material and the owners with the greatest care possible.

Thank you very much in advance,
Yours sincerely,

Liesbeth Vantorre
University of Antwerp. Belgium
Liesbeth Vantorre <liesbeth.vantorre@gmail.com>
YOUR YAD VASHEM COMMITTEE
By Don Hirschhorn

In late June it will be four years since your JGSPBCI Board created a Yad Vashem Committee and began the first JGS “Page of Testimony Drive.” Your JGS recruited volunteers, rented a meeting room for instructions, financed printing of forms and through our Publicity Chairperson, Jackie Fineblit, publicized our work. In gratitude, Yad Vashem honored JGSPBCI with an award, the only JGS to receive such an award. Over time our campaign reached beyond JGSPBCI and today twenty-seven other JGSs are participating.

Our campaign continues by reaching out to Rabbis, asking them to take a leadership role. Rabbis have all received material from the Palm Beach County Board of Rabbis, so please contact your Rabbi now and urge that he/she encourage members to fill out Pages of Testimony. Several of you have done this but we still need more of you to reach out to your own Rabbi. Our volunteers will then work with them.

Dennis Rice, has been appointed as JGSPBCI coordinator for the Yad Vashem Names’ Recovery Campaign. (drtigers@aol.com). He will be replacing me as Sandy and I are moving.

Dennis will be in contact with the new South Florida Coordinator, Eileen Tulepan. Eileen is well qualified as she has been working with me for about two years.

New Gen Blogs: Would you believe 29? Genealogy blogs are growing exponentially, and Schelly Talalay Dardashti’s colleague Thomas MacEntee (Tracing the Tribe, May 24, 2010) keeps finding them all over the world. During the week ending May 22, he's discovered 29 genealogy and family-history related blogs. There are now 1,101 geneablogs at Geneabloggers.com.

FEE-FOR-SERVICE GENEALOGY PROGRAM

I just discovered that the USCIS (United State Citizenship and Immigration Services) runs what they call a fee-for-service genealogy program at http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy

Basically, you can pay them $20 for an "index search" in which they'll let you know what documents they have, and then you can order each document for anywhere from $20 to $35. They seem to have about a three-month backlog, which I suspect will grow as the service becomes more popular.
Bits and Pieces

Wanted: TV Genealogists—Thanks to Tracing the Tribe 5/19/10 Schelly Talalay Dardashti

Looking for a media break? The Travel Channel is getting in on roots action with a new series, and they are looking for professional genealogists.

Here’s the casting call:

Calling all Professional Genealogists

Travel Channel is casting an exciting new series about the journey and process of locating missing heirs. We are looking for professional genealogists only. Must have a proven track record of successful investigations resulting in the location of missing heirs – preferably internationally as well as domestically. Must be charismatic and comfortable on camera and MUST HAVE photos and video of yourself.

Contact Timothy Hedden, HeirMailCasting@gmail.com.

Dropbox; Dick Eastman, who publishes Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter, made his readers aware of an amazing piece of software called Dropbox that solves two very important considerations in proper computer data management: backup and access to data on multiple computers. Eastman commented in his column, “It is hard for me to think of using any computer without this program.” He is right.

If you have both a laptop and a desktop computer, it is almost certain you have transferred data between the two. Dropbox will do it automatically. How many have been burned by a computer crash without backup, or even if you do judiciously backup every day, as I do, you still lose all activity from the overnight backup until the time of day that the computer crashed. Dropbox solves the problem by keeping your two (or more) computers in sync so that if one fails, that file you just updated and saved only 60 seconds ago is now mirrored in your other computer.

Do you keep your genealogical data on your home computer but find it useful to have it on the laptop when you go to a research facility or a genealogical conference? After having previously set up Dropbox properly, turn on your laptop and Dropbox will automatically update it to the contents of your home computer. Update the files on the laptop with what was accomplished at the research site, and when you get home, Dropbox will have already updated your files on the home computer.

Dropbox gives you, at no charge, 2GB of space on their servers. For only $99 per year, you can have 50GB of space. You can download Dropbox at http://dropbox.com.
FamilyTreeDNA.com's new Family Finder test has been officially launched.

The new test connects family members across all ancestral lines, not only paternal or maternal. It represents a major advancement over earlier genetic genealogy tests. Everyone, regardless of gender, can now look for connections including grandparents, aunts and uncles, half siblings, and first, second, third and fourth cousins.

The company's database numbers more than 290,000 individual records – the largest DNA database in genetic genealogy. This makes FamilyTreeDNA the prime source for anyone researching recent and distant family ties.

Importantly, for Tracing the Tribe readers, that database also includes the largest Jewish DNA database. This means that if you're looking for genetic matches sharing your genetic heritage, you should test against the largest Jewish DNA database. The same holds true for everyone interested in genetic genealogy. One should test against the largest database available for the best probability of finding matches.

According to the official press release:
The test utilizes Affymetrix' recently launched Axiom™ genotyping technology and the GeneTitan® System to confidently match a wide range of family relationships within five generations.
Said FamilyTreeDNA founder/CEO Bennett Greenspan, in Houston, Texas:

"This is the most exciting genetic genealogy breakthrough since 2000, when FamilyTreeDNA launched its Y-DNA test to uncover relatives in the direct paternal line."

"The comprehensive, genome-wide coverage of Axiom Arrays enables us to offer consumers the most advanced genealogical test available at a price that is attractive to our customers. In addition, the automated GeneTitan System allows us to process hundreds of samples at a time with minimal hands-on time for maximum efficiency."
Said Affymetrix president/CEO Kevin King, in Santa Clara, California:
FamilyTreeDNA.com: New Family Finder test officially launched

“The Family Finder test represents a huge step forward for the direct-to-consumer genetic genealogy market and the application of microarray technology. Now anyone can utilize the power of the Axiom Genotyping Solution and the GeneTitan System to find and connect with a broader range of family members than ever before.”

How does it work?
The test analyzes the DNA of two individuals using Axiom Array Plates containing nearly 570,000 genetic markers, including many that are relevant to genealogy. Family Tree DNA then analyzes the resulting data with internally developed algorithms to determine the closeness of the relationship. The complete Axiom Genotyping Solution includes array plates, complete reagent kits, and an automated workflow that enables scientists to process more than 760 samples per week.

FamilyTreeDNA.com offers counseling services, tutorials and other helpful tools to assist in the genealogy and matching process. Importantly, it provides names and email addresses of matched individuals whenever possible for easy communication.

Schelly Talalay Dardashti

BEWARE:

Social networking through family trees is becoming ever more popular. One such site is Genie.com. There seems to be a flaw in Genie.com that might exist in other online family tree systems. A person living in Washington State wanted to place his Genie family tree on Ancestry.com, so he had Genie create a GEDCOM file which he uploaded to Ancestry. Unbeknownst to him, he also placed my family tree on Genie. Genie has a function which allows merging family trees. In fact it is an important function in Genie. If you have incomplete information about a distant part of your family and another Genie member is closely related to that branch, you can merge your trees. The man’s wife’s grandaunt, whose maiden name is Massarsky, married into my wife’s family. Someone in the Massarsky family—not the Washington State person—asked me about a year ago to merge our trees. Subsequently this Washington State person then asked the third party to merge their trees. All three trees were now linked.

When the Washington person requested a GEDCOM file, Geni downloaded the man’s forest (Geni term) which now included all members of my database including all of the Mokotoff, Tartasky, Wlodawer and Cemnick (my four grandparents) families. He then placed the total database on Ancestry.com.

Thank you again to Nu? What’s New? The FREE E-zine. We recommend you sign up and read it.
Catskill Institute

Many of us either grew up going to the Catskill Mountains in New York State or have family that lived there. The Catskill Institute website has been updated and currently covers Sullivan and Ulster Counties. Thousands of items from the Catskills Institute Archives have been scanned in at high resolution, and accompanying metadata provides useful background information. You can search for all sort of materials by hotel or bungalow colony name, by type of object (e.g. menu, postcard, stationery), or by thumbnail. A new feature is the postcard artistry of Alfred Landis. The bulletin board has an automatic posting mechanism for your queries. Enjoy this new archive/website that preserves the glorious legacy of the Jewish Catskills.
http://catskills.brown.edu/

Phil Brown, president of the Catskill Institute advises that much of this is due to Brown University and its support through the Scholarly Technology Group and the Center for Digital Scholarship.

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Agoura Hills, CA