



Etz Chaim

עץ חיים

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JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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UPCOMING EVENTS IN THE GENEALOGICAL CALENDAR

- TUES., SEPT. 10, 1996** **"An Overview of the Boston Seminar"** ... Come and hear what went on at the seminar - what happened with birds of a feather - the resource room - some of the speakers. Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the Jewish Community Center. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.
- SUN., OCT. 20, 1996** **"Genetics and Genealogy"**. The promised rescheduling of Dr. John McReynolds, associated with the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Women and Children, discussing the relationships between our heredity and the ways we can better live our lives. Regular meeting, 1:30 p.m. in the All-Purpose room of the Holocaust Center. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served. The JGS Library will be opened at 1:00 p.m. for member's use.
- TUES., NOV. 12, 1996** **(tentative program) "Dying to Tell You,"** with Marilyn J. Glenn, licensed funeral director, discussing the information available from funeral homes that can help in genealogical research. Regular meeting, 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the Jewish Community Center. Guests are welcome. Refreshments will be served.
- TUES., DEC. 10, 1996** **(tentative program) "Szlak arka Radnicka, Where Are You,"** with Bert Green, managing director, Map & Globe Store.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE ...

Jewish genealogy at your fingertips -- beginning on Page 3
from the President
News about and for the Society
Book reviews of interest to genealogists
German research is not fruitful (on your 50th wedding anniversary)
Finally meeting my Uncle Sam



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Federation of Genealogical Societies**

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Etz Chaim is free to all members of JGSGO. Back copies may be obtained for \$5.00 each. Regular membership dues (Sept. To Aug.) are \$20 per year for JCC members, \$25 for non-members. Out-of-town membership (more than 50 miles) is \$15 per year. Please make checks payable to JGSGO and mail to JGSGO, PO Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794.

JGSGO meetings are held monthly, year round, usually on the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Lounge of the JCC, 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland. Four Sunday meetings are held during the course of the year, usually in the Assembly Room of the Holocaust Memorial Research and Education Center, also on the Jewish campus at 851 N. Maitland Ave., Maitland, FL.

From the President

In this year of our country's presidential election, we are overwhelmed with the exposure to candidates. Often we tired of the TV soundbites and editorials and can't wait until Nov. 8. The major political parties should take a lesson from our genealogical society. A committee selected potential candidates. Nominations were presented. An election was held one evening in June and presto we have new officers.

As president of the JGSGO, I want to thank all the members for having confidence in me. I also appreciate being surrounded by a slate of officers, all motivated people, who make up our board of directors.

One must realize that our JGSGO didn't just happen overnight. Founded in 1990, it took tremendous efforts on the part of a handful of people to establish the society as a viable group in our community. To each of the past officers and committee personnel, we owe a debt of gratitude. With the sounds of the Olympic theme playing in the background on my home, I expect the new officers who grasped the baton will run with it and be gold medal winners. We have quite a legacy to follow and all we can do is serve the organization to our best ability.

Within a month of my selection as your president, I was off to Boston to attend the 15th Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy (July 14-19). The conference was planned, organized, sponsored and produced by the JGS of Greater Boston, one of the 72 Jewish genealogical societies throughout the world. The umbrella organization of these societies is the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, Inc, with over 4,000 members. Orlando was well represented with 10 of our members registered among the 682 attendees from 33 states and 11 countries. Our own Gene Starn presented a session on Computer Imaging of Photos and Documents: Making Our Ancestors Look Good. This program, developed with Sil Horwitz, was well received. In addition to speakers, there were opportunities to visit and do research in such sites as the American Jewish Historical Society; Boston Public Library, university libraries at Harvard and Brandeis; Hebrw College; the National Archives and more.

Hands on experience in a computer resource room allowed people to use new information available on disks. Interpreters were available to translate Russian and Polish documents. An exhibit room had displays of books and supplies you could use in your genealogical research. Networking was obvious. No matter who was there it was as if you were talking to a family member.

Guest speaker at the annual banquet, featuring an elaborate kosher buffet, was Stephen Birmingham, author of the best-selling books *Our Crowd*, *The Grandees*, and *The Rest of Us*. He described how he became interested in the New York City Jewish high society of the late 1800s and early 1900s and their cultural achievements, all of which became subjects for his writings.

In my evaluation of the entire proceedings I indicated it was an outstanding meeting.

Next year the Summer Seminar will be held in Paris, July 14-17. If you have any plans for European travel in '97, perhaps a stop at the conference could be included.

(Continued on Page 5)

JEWISH GENEALOGY at your fingertips

using *JewishGen* pages on the Internet

by Gene Starn

Many of our members (and JGSers everywhere) who are just beginning to use their computer, or those pondering the decision as to whether to delve into this mysterious world, have been hearing all sorts of stories about *JewishGen*, the Internet, WWW (or the Web) and e-mail.

There have been a number of attempts to explain what it all means, but the mystery still persists. So I am making yet another attempt to maybe teach those novices where to begin. If just one person benefits, than I'll consider it a success.

Reaching the Internet is done through your telephone hookup with one of many services available, plus a modem that makes your computer compatible with your telephone.

The Internet is that netherworld which, for Jewish genealogists at least, is principally made up of two separate functions: e-mail, JewishGen and other specialty groups, and the Web. In this article we'll talk about e-mail and *JewishGen*, leaving the Web for a later issue.

1) **e-mail.** This is a method of sending messages to anyone else on the Internet. Only you and your correspondent see this message; it is private. There is no additional charge to send an e-mail message, regardless of length, time of day or number of messages. You can send duplicate messages to any number of people by sending them a "carbon copy", called "cc". I use e-mail to send my weekly column to *HERITAGE, Florida Jewish News*, for instance. You can e-mail a fellow genealogist in Israel, even exchange copies of your family trees, or you can query any number of sources of information that are being made available via e-mail, such as the *Jewish Family Finder*, or many of the indexes available from *JewishGen*.

2) ***JewishGen*.** Started by an energetic, enterprising genealogist in Houston, Texas, some years ago, as a means for Jewish genealogists to exchange information via e-mail, Susan King has expanded *JewishGen* into virtually a one source means of getting Jewish genealogical information. But for now, I want to explain that original *JewishGen*, the "listserv" that automatically distributes information from one member to all the other members on the list.

Although you can read *JewishGen* on one of the online companies such as Prodigy, America on Line and Compuserve, I find the easiest way to participate is by "subscribing" and receiving all of the messages in a "packet" of from a half-dozen to two or three dozen messages at a time. They come into my e-mail mailbox two or three times each day. I read them at my leisure and can quickly skip those that

have little or no interest for me. And although *JewishGen* calls it a *Digest*, it isn't a digest at all. It includes ALL the messages, but instead of coming to you as e-mail messages one at a time, it comes in groups of as many as 30 or 40.

When you subscribe to *JewishGen* your name and e-mail address is automatically added to the list. You will receive all the mail (called *postings*) sent by its members. You may just follow the discussions or join in on them. Or you can originate a subject or an inquiry of your own for the other members to act on if they care to.

How to subscribe to *JewishGen*

To subscribe, send an e-mail message to:

LISTSERV@MAIL.EWORLD.COM

Do not list a subject, but in your message type only:

jewishgen your first name your last name

That's all. Don't sign it. Just send it.

You will soon receive an e-mail confirmation that all went well. Or you'll get an error message, the most common of which is misspelled words.

Almost immediately you will begin receiving the "digests" automatically in your e-mail.

Other commands:

For a temporary turnoff (like when you are on vacation): send to the above e-mail address, with the message: **jewishgen nomail**

To unsubscribe, send message **unsub jewishgen**

Again you will get an e-mail confirmation. Make sure of your spelling. If you have any questions contact:

support@jewishgen.org

To send your own posting:

Once you have subscribed you can send postings to:

jewishgen@mail.eworld.com

Provide a meaningful subject line. And sign your full name to the article, no nicknames or aliases. I always print my e-mail address on the line after my name. Some people also include a list of the names and places they are researching.

JewishGen InfoFile Index

In addition to the daily postings, *JewishGen* also offers information about a multitude of genealogical topics. Called InfoFiles they may be accessed directly via e-mail, or on

(Continued on next page)

JewishGen's WWW pages as we'll learn later. Simply send an e-mail to:

filename@jewishgen.org

substituting the underlined letters of the InfoFile you want for the *filename*. Leave the subject line and message body blank; they are ignored.

Response time may vary. As this InfoFile index is updated frequently, we recommend that you view it regularly on-line to keep up-to-date.

Here is the current list of all *JewishGen* files:

JewishGen Operational Files

[intro](#) - *JewishGen* subscription primer
[rules](#) - *JewishGen* Rules and Charter
[faq](#) - *JewishGen* FAQ ("Frequently Asked Questions")
[index](#) - List of InfoFile topics/files for retrieval
[projects](#) - *JewishGen* special interest groups and project
[digest](#) - How to retrieve *JewishGen* digests
[vacation](#) - vacation tips for managing *JewishGen* mail
[aol-how](#) - How to read *JewishGen* on America OnLine (AOL)
[generous](#) - *JewishGen*-erosity. Information on donations.
[file2](#) - How to send InfoFiles to *JewishGen*
[search](#) - How to search archives for past messages
[tidbyte2](#) - Commentary by Susan King, moderator

Genealogy Files

[begin](#) - How to begin your research
[faq](#) - *JewishGen* FAQ (Frequently asked questions)
[addiv](#) - Administrative divisions of current East European countries
[ajgs](#) - Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (AJGS)
[ajhs](#) - American Jewish Historical Society - Genealogical Resources
[au-gen](#) - Australian genealogical resources
[avindex](#) - *Avotaynu* 10-year article index (1985-1994)
[balch](#) - Balch Institute, Philadelphia - holdings
[belarusv](#) - Jewish records from Belarus at LDS FHL - micro-film numbers
[biblio2](#) - Basic Jewish genealogy bibliography
[boston96](#) - Seminar info and resources in Boston
[ca-1915](#) - Russian immigrants to San Francisco, 1915-1919
[calndr](#) - The Jewish calendar
[ccrecord](#) - USHMM Nazi concentration camp records
[cem2](#) - Cemetery project - InfoFile
[chevra2](#) - Chevra Kadisha (Burial Society) Directory - Israel
[cite](#) - Citation guide for Internet sources
[codes](#) - State, province and country codes (2-letter abbreviations)
[copymyth](#) - Copyright myths explained
[dict](#) - Dictionary of Judaica - foreign words and expressions
[dlfable](#) - A genealogical fable, by Dan Leeson

[docupres](#) - Document preservation info
[dorot-ta](#) - Dorot Genealogy Center, Tel Aviv
[ellis](#) - The American Family Immigration History Center
[famnews](#) - Directory of family newsletters
[fiche](#) - Microfiche available from *Avotaynu*
[find](#) - Finding people
[findrec](#) - Finding records, an artform
[gbbs](#) - List of FIDOnet Bulletin Boards
[gedenk](#) - Essential *Gedenbuch* (translation)
[gedenkb](#) - *Gedenkbuch Berlins*_description
[geninet](#) - Genealogy resources on Internet (HTML version)
[germn](#) - Resources for German-Jewish genealogy
[gforms](#) - Genealogy forms
[ggalicia](#) - Geshet Galicia SIG (Bridge to Galicia)
[grodno2](#) - Grodno SIG
[health](#) - Your family health tree
[holocaus](#) - Holocaust FAQ by Simon Wiesenthal Center
[hungr](#) - Hungarian SIG
[jgsaddr](#) - Jewish Genealogical Societies - address list
[jgsnws](#) - Jewish Genealogical Societies - newsletter list
[jgff2](#) - Jewish Genealogical Family Finder (JGFF on-line search)
[jgpf](#) - Jewish Genealogical People Finder (JGPF)
[jos-info](#) - JOS: Calculator /soundex/dates/distance
[junkmail](#) - Effective complaints about junk e-mail
[kidzgen](#) - Teaching genealogy to kids
[landsmen](#) - *Landsmen* journal (Suwalk-Lomza gubernias SIG)
[latvia2](#) - Latvia SIG
[lauder](#) - Lauder Foundation, JIP, Warsaw
[lds-slc](#) - LDS (Mormon) Family History Library, Salt Lake City
[ldsentr](#) - LDS (Mormon) Family History Centers
[ldsagree](#) - Baptisms of Jewish Holocaust victims - LDS agreement
[litvksig](#) - Litvak SIG
[litvak2](#) - What is a Litvak?
[lithtrav](#) - Travel and research in Lithuania
[mentor](#) - *JewishGen* mentor program
[mildew](#) - Dealing with mildew growth on books
[montreal](#) - Vital records in Montreal (Quebec)
[mstern](#) - Malcolm Stern, Dean of American Jewish Genealogy
[namfaq0](#) - Names of the Jews (Preliminary FAQ)
[nycems](#) - New York City metro area cemeteries directory
[nyc-lib](#) - New York Public Library - Genealogy holdings
[nycv-lds](#) - New York City vital records on microfilm at LDS
[passndx](#) - How to interpret NY passenger arrival index cards
[pl-met7v](#) - Metrical Registers for 7 districts in Poland
[polandv](#) - Vital records in Poland
[poland3](#) - Tracing your roots in Poland, a travelogue
[postal](#) - U.S. International postal rates, effective 7/1995
[post-il](#) - Postal rates FROM Israel to US and Canada

(Continued on next page)

projects - *JewishGen* special interest groups and projects
profgen - Hiring a professional genealogist
quest - Oral history questions
reipp2 - Russian Era Indexing of Poland Project (REIPP)
reipp3 - REIPP e-mail database search info
reipp4 - REIPP data inventory
related - Relationship chart
romsig - Romania SIG
routes - Routes to America (four main routes)
ru-pale - Directory of the 25 Russian Pale provinces
rusmil - Military conscription in 19th century Russia
safrica - Researching South Africa
sefard5 - Sephardim - Conversos (with bibliography)
shtet2 - ShtetLinks - Memories of Our Towns
soundex - Soundex coding - National Archives and Daith-Mokotoff
spielbrg - Holocaust survivors videotaping project
ssa - About Social Security, Death Index and SSA numbers
surfnet - Surfing the Net for relatives
survivor - Registry of Jewish Holocaust survivors
trans - *JewishGen* volunteer translator service
ukgen - Beginning family history from a UK perspective
us-vit-1 - Where to write to U.S. vital records - States AL-NH
us-vit-2 - Where to write to U.S. vital records - States NJ-WY
wwidraft - WWI draft registration cards
yadva - Yad Vashem Hall of Names
yadva2 - Yad Vashem Hall of Names - Email search
yidtran - Yiddish to English transliteration, YIVO-style
yizkor2 - Yizkor book project SIG - InfoFile
yizlibs - Libraries/archives with Yizkor books
yizret - Retail establishments with Yizkor book collections
yiztran - Yizkor book translators list

How much does all this cost me?

That's the big question. And it has a very simple answer: NOTHING, except what has come to be known as

JEWISHGEN-EROSITY

JewishGen is a non-profit organization, managed entirely by volunteers. Besides Susan King who is its president and secretary, it has Warren Blatt, Bernard Kouchel and Gary Mokotoff as its directors.

There is always room for people to volunteer their time and talents.

But there is also a need for financial support.

There has never been a charge, as such, for *JewishGen* of its myriad of services. Susan King started it all out of the goodness of her heart and her desire to improve the lot of Jewish genealogists all over the world.

As *JewishGen* expands to reach more and more of us with increasing information we so desperately desire, so do its expenses.

Those of us who have used *JewishGen* over the years usually send a donation of anywhere from \$25 to \$50 or more

each year, tax deductible. It's not mandatory, but it certainly is a small way to pay for the services *JewishGen* provides.

Now that you know how it's done, go to it. Hook up your modem to your telephone and computer. You might even want to use one of those 30-day free trial offers put out by one of the on-line services or sign up with some other Internet provider.

Then subscribe to *JewishGen*. Your genealogy will take on a completely new and improved face.

From the President . . .

(Continued from Page 2)

Next year the Summer Seminar will be held in Paris, July 14-17. If you have any plans for European travel in '97, perhaps a stop at the conference could be included.

As we look to the future, our JGSGO has several major activities planned. We will again participate in the JCC's annual Hanukkah Arts Festival set for Sun., Nov. 24. Sonia and Harold Sternberger will need your assistance for a few hours to spread the word about our organization.

On Sun., Feb. 2, our society will again sponsor the Genealogy Workshop. Sheila Reback, Workshop Coordinator, is developing the program. Volunteers will be needed to make the day a success. The workshop is a major undertaking of our society; please get involved.

Gladys Paulin, in addition to her new duties as librarian, will promote the major cemetery project.

With programming in the hands of the Sternbergers, we can all rest assured that our regular Tuesday evening or Sunday afternoon meetings will feature interesting speakers and subject.

You may not be aware of it, but thanks to Gene Starn's work as editor of *ETZ CHAIM*, news of our association's activities goes to dozens of others groups throughout the country and internationally. At the Boston seminar, people who knew I was from the Orlando area mentioned *ETZ CHAIM*.

Most important for the future is our need to expand the membership. Elaine Apter has taken over the job as Vice President - Membership, so if you know of any individuals, particularly relatives or friends, who are interested in genealogy, get them to a meeting, or at least tell Elaine about them. They, like many of us, will be bitten by that genealogical bug for which the only cure is being active participants in our activities ... and that's a lot less costly and convenient than a doctor's visit.

I look forward to greeting you at the next meeting.

Jay Schleichkorn

Elaine Apter fills one vacancy, creates another

Elaine Apter, a resident of Maitland since 1983 and a member of our JGS since 1992, has been appointed Vice-President (Membership) of our JGS it was announced by Jay Schleichkorn, president of the society.

Mrs. Apter, librarian at the Wymore Secondary School for the past seven years, also served as a librarian at Wheatley Elementary School for five years and Winter Park High School for two years.

Apter has undertaken genealogical research on her family, tracing their immigration from Europe. Her great-grandmother came to American through the port of Baltimore in 1843. "No one else came over after 1850," Apter noted.

She had been elected Recording Secretary at recent JGSGO elections, but agreed to step into the membership slot to spur further interest in the society. Now Schleichkorn is left with the dilemma of finding someone to take over the secretary vacancy. "Although Elaine could fill either position," Jay said, "she can be much more useful in providing the impetus to increase our membership roles. She has a lot of good ideas and desire."

Other officers and board members who were elected this summer, aside from Schleichkorn as president, include the Sternbergers, Sonia and Harold, as Vice President (Programming); Bobbi Rosen, Treasurer; Gladys Paulin, Librarian; Judy and Joe Weinberg, Greg Kolojeski and Sheila Reback, at-large board of directors.



ELAINE APTER

Robert Marlin has first genealogy 'how-to' book, 'My Sixteen', in print

Robert Marlin, member of our JGS, has announced the publication last month of his first book, "My Sixteen," by Land Yacht Press. The book tells how he began his search 18 years ago for his 16 grandparents.

Called a "self-help guide", the book details the basics for tracing family history back to your great-great grandparents. It contains essential information on obtaining and understanding primary records such as birth, marriage and death certificates. It describes how to use census records, the Soundex, street directories, immigration and naturalization records, computer genealogy and other valuable research sources. Marlin also provides a number of tips and shortcuts learned first-hand, and points out potential pitfalls in doing genealogical research.

In soft-cover with 224 pages, "My Sixteen" may be purchased directly from the author at P.O. Box 948194, Maitland, FL 32794, for \$14.95 plus \$3.00 for shipping and handling.

Marlin had served as Recording Secretary of our JGS for the past two years and wrote a number of articles for *Etz Chaim*.

Recent additions to our library

Librarian Gladys Paulin reports the following new additions to our genealogical research library located in the Holocaust Memorial Resource & Education Center:

REUNIONS" Workbook

Syllabus from the Jewish Genealogical Seminar, Boston, July 1996

CD-ROM; phonedisc (2) residential listings August 1995

Map of University of Florida campus, Gainesville

Microfiche:

OBUDA census of 1850; Complete census and index;

Index to Memorial to the Jews Deported from France (1996 ed.)

Beider, Alexander, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland*

Blatt, Warren, *Resources for Jewish Genealogy in the Boston Area*

Eldlund, Thomas Kent, *The German Minority Census of 1939; an Introduction and Register*

**Bring a friend
to the next meeting**

BOOK REVIEWS of interest to Jewish genealogists

A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland by Alexander Beider (Teaneck, NJ: AVOTAYNU, 1996).

as reviewed by **GLADYS PAULIN**

This book and its predecessor *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire* (DJSRE) by the same author have advanced the study of Jewish surnames beyond previous known works. Dr. Beider has done an even more intensive study of surnames from the Kingdom of Poland than was done for DJSRE. In his previous work, he primarily used voter lists from 1906, 1907 and 1912 in the Russian Empire. For his new book, Dr. Beider has added names from vital records filmed by the Mormons and information and extracts submitted by members of the Jewish genealogical community who have done extensive research in Polish records.

Many people will be most interested in finding their name and its explanation in the dictionary portion of this book. However, this work is more than just a list of names. Dr. Beider's explanatory chapters on the history of Jewish names in Poland with detailed attention to differences from Galicia, the Kingdom and the Prussian portions are most informative. He especially clarifies why many Jews have 'German' names when there is no history of the family ever having lived in Germany or Austria. He also explains the effect of linguistics on names and their spelling—from Yiddish to Polish to German to Russian and sometimes back again—and how that affected spelling. The chapter on types of surnames is a discussion of the derivation and meaning of the names. My only criticism is that the Introduction is much too long and repeats information to be found in the body of the book. Therefore, unless you are a real glutton for the analysis and dissection of this and other works, I suggest you start reading on page xxi after leafing through the first 20 pages and looking at the tables displayed therein. (Those pages will be useful, though, for any serious student of names and their etymology.)

While I found the history of surnames fascinating, Dr. Beider devotes many pages to Jewish naming patterns prior to the nineteenth century when Jews in Central and Eastern Europe were required to adopt permanent hereditary surnames. Since these earlier naming patterns mostly disappeared except for some Rabbinical families and Sephardim who had migrated east, many genealogists may prefer to skip to the sections beginning after the partition of Poland.

Dr. Beider's detailed descriptions of the partitions of Poland may be very useful to genealogists trying to puzzle out

whether their family was Polish, Lithuanian, Byelorussian or Ukrainian—and in some cases Latvian. His maps are extremely clear and the listing of towns by district within each guberniya may clarify locations for many of our members.

This book is now in the JGSGO library and may be borrowed by any member whose dues are current. (Please be mindful of other members and return any borrowed books within 3-4 weeks.)

Der Jüdische Friedhof Wankheim, Documented by Frowald Gil Hüttenmeister Elka and Jan Maier

as reviewed by **HARRY KATZMAN**

Many books have been written in recent times, by many different authors, and all covered the same subject, namely a German-Jewish community, its people, its synagogue and its cemetery. Why these books have appeared recently is still a mystery to me, although most have been written by "young" German authors. Why do they want to bring up the past and why do they want to write about these Jewish communities within Germany, as they existed before the holocaust? Where does the sudden interest come from? Even old and dilapidated synagogues have been restored in certain communities, even though no Jewish people live within miles of those synagogues. Many theories exist about this phenomenon and we can only guess, what the real motive is.

It may be a sense of history, of eagerness by these "young" Germans to tell their peers and the rest of the world of a cultural heritage of the Jewish people living in Germany, or is it a certain guilt feeling?

In any case, these books are an invaluable source of information and genealogical data. I personally have gathered much genealogical data from these writings and am therefore very thankful to these authors, photographers and documenters, as they are a boon to German-Jewish genealogy.

I was able to acquire the above named book of this little town of Wankheim near Tübingen, in Württemberg. The cemetery was also used by the Jewish communities of Dusslingen, Tübingen and Reutlingen. Each tombstone is photographed, numbered and bears a translation into German of the text on the stone. There is also a Hebrew translation of the inscription. On the same page is an explanation of who this person was, name of parents and husband, name and birthday of children and a conversion of the Hebrew date to the Gregorian calendar. It also lists the graves of other relatives at this particular cemetery and also lists the sources of information. Furthermore, it describes the stone in detail.

(Continued on next page)

Conclusion to the search . . .

Finally Meeting my Uncle Sam

by Jay Schleichkorn

In the two previous issues of *ETZ CHAIM* I described the research involved in finding information about Samuel Schleichkorn, an uncle (my father's older brother) who died at an early age and seemed to be forgotten by the family.

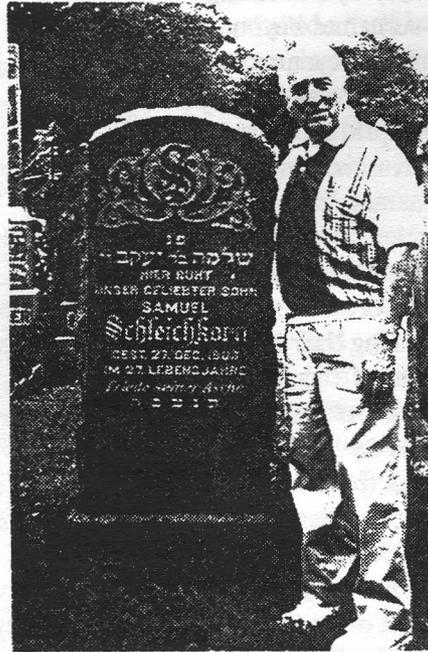
Through the records found at the Mormon Family History Center in Lake Mary, even with a misspelling of the name as Samuel Schleidekom, I located Sam's date of death and death certificate number. He died in New York City on December 27, 1906, in his 27th year. With an error listed on his death certificate as to the actual place of burial, my search led me to Beth El Cemetery, Queens, New York. With the location of the grave, I felt the search would not be complete until I visited the site.

For a change in scenery from Florida during July 1996, my wife and I decided to drive to New York to see other members of our family. While there we also planned to visit Erich and Lilly Awerbuch of Middle Village. My previous genealogical research led me to Lilly whose mother was Dora Schleichkorn. When I supplied Lilly with the information about Sam's burial place, she visited the cemetery and took a photograph. While I had the photo I still felt it was

necessary to stand by the tombstone.

On Monday, July 22, the Awerbuchs drove us to the cemetery. It was a cloudy day with occasional rain. As we entered the arched portals with the name New Union Fields Cemetery Temple Beth El, I was immediately impressed with how well the grounds were kept. We went directly to lot G#805 and my search was completed. The granite headstone stood about four feet high and was in excellent condition. I was able to pay my respects to Uncle Sam. As I did, I realized it probably has been 80 to 90 years since any member of the family visited the grave. It was a strange feeling but one of great satisfaction knowing that thorough an interest in genealogy, using many different tools, I was able to locate an actual family member. I also was encouraged and accepted a challenge to search for another long-lost relative, an aunt whom I believe died prior to 1912.

After taking more photos, we placed some stones on the monument and left. As we departed during a slight drizzle, I wondered when in the future another Schleichkorn would visit with Uncle Sam.



Jay Schleichkorn at the gravesite of his Uncle Sam

BOOK REVIEWS of interest

(continued from previous page)

There are some pages, where a genealogical history of the deceased person is given, even the occupation of the children of the deceased.

Of all the books I have ever seen, covering this particular subject, this book is by far the most detailed and most newsworthy book I have ever seen. It has 238 pages of data. It lists 140 graves into minute details. It lists over 100 deaths, where the graves have disappeared. It lists birth dates of all people buried at the cemetery with a chronological register of

the death dates. It contains statistical tables of the ages of the people buried there, as well as statistics of their occupation. The book depicts a large stone, where all the names of the people who died in the holocaust from the town of Tübingen are shown, bearing the following large inscription "Dies sind die Opfer der Gemeinde Tübingen welche von den Nazi gemordet wurden".

I highly recommend, that anyone having ancestors from the above named towns, purchase this book.

German Research Is Not So Fruitful

... on your 50th wedding anniversary

by Harry Katzman

Even though our European trip this year was mainly to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary, I couldn't help doing a little genealogical research. Spending the first three days in Amsterdam, I was able to call a distant cousin of my wife and get some data from her. We visited the large synagogue in Amsterdam and I tried to get some data at their office of the congregation as it existed before 1939, but their records were in a dismal condition. I knew some of my relatives were members before being deported in 1941, but I was unable to find any trace of them.

While in Germany, I visited various German cemeteries. This time I came prepared, carrying rags, a wire brush and water, so I could scrape away over 50 years of moss and discoloration from some of the tombstones of my ancestors. I was fortunate to find some good data, especially from the cemetery of Wenkheim, Geroda, Roedelsee and Weikersheim. My visit to Berlin also bore some positive results. I spent the day at the Jewish library in downtown Berlin where they have many books and research material available, but the librarians were not too helpful. I came away with a feeling of a wasted day. But when I visited the New Synagogue in East Berlin, also known as the Oranienburger Synagogue, my genealogical fortunes took a leap forward. I met a young lady who is in charge of the archives. She told me about the data they have collected there of almost every Jewish person who lived in Berlin at one time. I handed her a list of about 40 relatives who lived in Berlin before the Holocaust. Although I have not heard from her yet, she promised to personally look into the archives and send me all the data she can find. Facilities to do your own research there do not exist at the present time.

We visited synagogues in Frankfurt a/Main and Mannheim, as well as the Jewish museum in Frankfurt. The museum contains a lot of Jewish artifacts of the Jewish population as it existed in the middle ages and I found it most interesting. I was amazed at the number of Israelis and

Hebrew-speaking people at the synagogue. My grandson Michael and I were even invited to a bris which was held at the Frankfurt Synagogue on a Sunday morning. The parents of the child were obviously Israelis. I befriended a few Hebrew-speaking people and I asked why there were so many Israelis

in Frankfurt. The answer I got from them was that their parents came from Frankfurt and vicinity originally and emigrated to Israel during the Nazi era. Some of these former Jewish citizens of Frankfurt came back and reclaimed their properties, and they are the children, many of them born in Israel. Hebrew is their native language although many of them spoke a fluent German. Many other Israelis found excellent



The new synagogue, Berlin

business opportunities in Germany before German unification and just remained there.

My genealogical trip to Mannheim was not too great, but I was able to communicate with an archivist who promised to help me. The main archive in Mannheim is in a large building called the Collini Center. I went there mainly to do research on the KALTER family, which is a branch of my maternal grandmother's family, who lived in Mannheim for centuries. I have much material from microfilms obtained via the Mormons, and I have data on this family back to 1870 or so. But I have no date from about 1870 to the present. I know

(Continued on Page 10)

German Research Is Not So Fruitful ... on your 50th wedding anniversary (continued from page 7)

some of the Kalters (and an offspring family named ALZHEIMER) came to the USA, but thus far I have been unable to trace them. When I spoke with the archivist at Collini Center in Mannheim I learned a new word: "DATENSCHUTZ." That is the name of a law which states that no one can look into archives regarding dates and data of possible living persons. The only people who can do the above are trained people who are city employees, and they may do so for a fee. I have been corresponding with the above archivist to research the KALTER and ALTHEIMER families since I am back home, and hopefully we will have some positive results.

There was one other major disappointment in Mannheim. After lunch, I went to see the new and rebuilt synagogue. While it is quite beautiful from the outside, I was not allowed to see the inside. Two Israelis acting as "guards" blocked the entrance. When I insisted on entering, I was told that *Sprechstunden* are from 9 a.m. to noon, and to come back tomorrow. When I told them I came 3000 miles away just to see the synagogue where my relatives and I as a little boy used to pray, they would only tell me in an impolite way to "get

lost." What to do next? There was a housing development behind the synagogue and I went there to find someone to listen to my plea. I met an elderly Jewish gentleman who only spoke Yiddish. I guess he felt sorry for me and decided to help me and between my German and his Yiddish he was able to understand me. He summoned a lady who had a key to the side door of the synagogue and took me to the third floor where there was an office. An Israeli lady in the office was very curt and told me that she did not have time to show me anything. I kept insisting that I wanted to see the *Sterbeburch*, the book of deaths, which I was told about by my friend who also used to live in Mannheim. He had seen this so called *Sterbebuch* and told me about valuable data contained therein. After much deliberation she finally brought the book out but would not let me take a look at it myself. Receiving this sort of treatment from a fellow Jew made me very angry and I left Mannheim in disgust.

I must admit that we had a great time in Europe seeing many interesting sights. But as always, I make it my business to see and visit as many Jewish institutions as possible, such as the ghetto in Venice, the synagogue in Stradbourg, France, and the cemeteries mentioned above where many of my ancestors are buried.

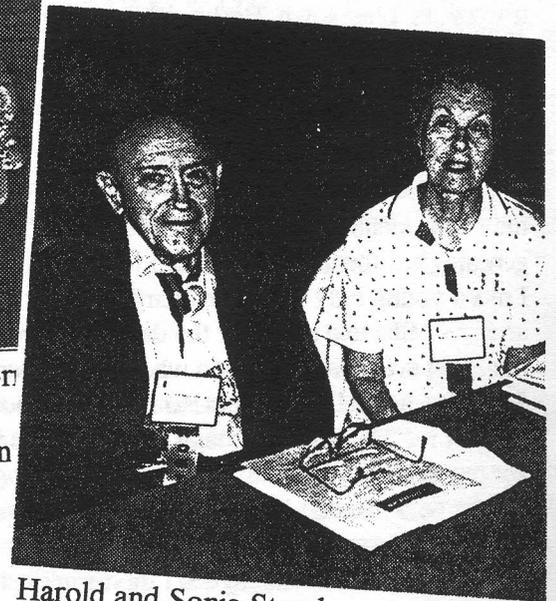
Some scenes from the Boston Seminar ...



Howard Margol, president of Atlanta JGS, enjoys a lighter moment with Gladys Paulin, former president of our JGS



Gene and Elaine Starn, Jay Schleichkor, Lorraine Grayson, president of JGS of Southwest Florida, relaxing at the closing banquet



Harold and Sonia Sternberger at one of the sessions

and next year

... in PARIS!!

Minor Miracles! They happen all the time in genealogy

by Sheila Reback

The envelope was bent and worn, revealing that this envelope had been transferred by many hands, handled often by unfamiliar people. The S.A.S.E. (self-addressed stamped envelope) bore a return address from Toronto, Ontario, Canada. I vaguely recognized the address.

Let me see. It must be almost a year ago that I sent this inquiry....

Excitedly, but carefully, I opened the envelope. Out tumbled my genealogy computer print-out well marked with updates and corrections, and a hand written note with further information. *This was a response to a letter I HAD SENT ALMOST ONE YEAR AGO!*

This scenario has been repeated often during my six years as a genealogist.

Once I received a letter 13 months after sending the inquiry...I found a second cousin, which led to finding an entire family!

Another time I received a reply a year and a half after sending the inquiry letter. This cousin had misplaced the letter, but found it when doing her tax returns!

I write letter after letter, always enclosing that ultimate tool, the S.A.S.E., for my genealogy research. Over and over, I am amazed to find that, eventually, most relatives do reply. It just takes time.

Seems that people just won't throw away an envelope with a stamp on it, and eventually they just might send you an answer.

Miracle! Miracle!

Argentina is newest JGS member

Sociedad Argentina de Genealogia Judia came into existence at a meeting in Buenos Aires on July 16, 1996. It is the newest member of the growing list of Jewish Genealogical Societies being formed world-wide.

The nine-member organization committee set their goals to:

- Trace the genealogical and historical roots of the Jewish Community of Argentina,
- Coordinate the exchange of information with other societies of similar goals.
- Preserve and allow access to all the available documentation related to these goals,
- Research the existing correlation between historical and genealogical facts,
- Encourage the interest of younger generation in researching their individual roots.

The e-mail addresses of the committee are:

Paul Armony	paul@ccarizr.satlink.net
Marcelo Benveniste	marben@einstein.com.ar
Silvia Borosowski	adaszko@danad.fsoc.uba.ar
Jacobo Herbst	herbst@impsatl.com.ar
Hector Mondrik	topt@lvd.com.ar
Horacio Hirsch	horacio@hirsch.satlink.net
Ruben Weiser	weiser@ba.net
Martin Hadis	7068706@mcimail.com
Alberto G. Chester	mafac@satlink.com

Free information about Poland

The following items are available at no charge:

- The Map of Jewish Heritage in Poland.
- The booklet, *They Lived Among Us - Jewish Heritage in Poland*
- Poland Unlimited — Air Tours to Poland

Write to:

Joram Kagan, Director Special Projects,
Polish Airlines-LOT
500 Fifth Avenue, Suite 408
New York, NY 10110
FAX: (212) 302-0191

New seminar committee forming; to meet Sept 12 for ideas, planning

The committee is now being formed for next year's Polly Horwitz Memorial Seminar on Jewish Genealogy and will meet on Tues., Sept. 12 at 1 p.m. in the mini-sanctuary of the Congregation of Liberal Judaism on Malone Drive.

The seminar, sixth for our JGS, will be held Sun., Feb. 2 but Sheila Reback, chairman, is looking for your ideas and views about the beginner's notebook which needs revising. Call Sheila at 332-7758 with your input.

Items of interest you'll find in the latest issues of

JGS Quarterlies

Copies may be found in our genealogy library
in the Holocaust Center

The Quarterly journals of all JGSes from around the world are kept on file in our library in the Holocaust Center, as well as the Special Interest Group (SIG) publications and AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy..

All of these journals have information of interest to all genealogists depending, of course, upon their own interests, but the articles listed below were deemed to be of special interest to our readers.

Mass-pocha - Boston - Spring 1996

Finding "Old Country" Information Without Vital Records

Morasha - Chicago - Spring 1996

Jewish Surnames

Shemot - London - April 1996

Historical Data Base of Scottish Jewry
Spanish & Portugese Sources
Jewish Surnames

Geracoes - Brazil - May 1996

The Jews from Pitigliano, Italy

The Cleveland Kol - Spring/Summer 1996

FAST Genealogy Service--Letter & fees
Western Reserve Holdings
Complete Back Index of Cleveland Kol

Generations - Michigan - Spring 1996

Social Security Numbers
How to Utilize Social Security Data

Shem Tov - Toronto - June 1996

Assessment Records: A Little Used Genealogical Source
The Jews of Morvedre, Spain

The Kosher Koala - Sydney - June 1996

Is the IGI Really Reliable
Part II of A Genealogical Trip to Galicia

Chai - Colorado - Summer 1996

Causes of Jewish Migration within the Pale

Dorot - New York City - Spring 1996

Unlocking the Files of the FBI



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