



JGSLA DATES AND UPDATES

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of LOS ANGELES
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• May 2008 •

Upcoming Meetings

- May Wednesday, May 21, 2008, 7:30 p.m. (Desert reception at 7:00 pm)
Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World with Dr. Jeffrey Malka
Sephardic Temple Tifereth Israel <http://www.sephardictemple.org> 10500 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
Sephardic Genealogy Home Page <http://www.sephardicgen.com/sitemap.htm> – Created by Jeffrey Malka
- June Monday, June 30, 2008, 7:30 p.m.
The Jews of Sing Sing, Lecture & Book Signing with Ron Arons
Jewish Federation Board Room http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsla/Meeting%20Pages/Jewish_Federation.htm
6505 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA
- July Sunday, July 20, 2008, 1:00 p.m.
Regional Special Interest Group Get-Together
Valley Beth Shalom Synagogue <http://www.vbs.org>, 15739 Ventura Blvd., Encino, CA
- August no meeting, see you at the IAJGS conference, Sunday, August 17, 2008 – Friday, August 22, 2008
28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy <http://www.chicago2008.org>
Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/chidt-chicago-marriott-downtown-magnificent-mile>, 540 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL

Prior Meeting

Dates and Updates is seeking a contributing editor who will provide a summary of the most recent JGSLA meeting. If willing to consider this, please contact the editor @ hal@jgsla.org.

President's Message

I am pleased to inform the members that JGSLA has successfully bid to host the 30th Annual international conference on Jewish genealogy. The 2010 conference will be from July 11-16. The conference hotel will be the JW Marriott at LA Live, now under construction and visible from the Harbor freeway. LA Live is the new downtown cultural, entertainment and sports center of Los Angeles, being called Times Square West. The co-chairs of the conference are Pamela Weisberger, Lois Rosen and myself. We are gratified at the number of people who have already come forward to participate in this conference, and look forward to hearing from more of you. Watch for further announcements and information as we progress.

I welcome our newest member of the Board of Directors, Ann Harris. Ann has previously served on the Board. She is serving as New Member contact and liaison, and brings both her experience and fresh viewpoints to the Board.

Finally, JGSLA will once again have a table at the Israel Festival, celebrating Israel's 60th Anniversary, to be held in Woodley Park in the San Fernando Valley on May 18, 2008. We will be there from 10 am to about 5:30 pm, although the Festival will continue until 10 pm with entertainment. There are a few slots remaining for any members who would like to help out for about 2 hours or so in staffing the table and talking to visitors about genealogy and our Society. If you have some time that day, please let me know...I can guarantee you will enjoy yourself! In any case, if you are at the Festival, please stop by!

Sandy Malek, president@jgsla.org

Editor's Message

Hal Bookbinder, hal@jgsla.org

With this issue of Dates & Updates, the newsletter of the JGSLA, the publication will be distributed electronically instead of by post mail. This affords us the opportunity to provide live links that will take the reader directly to the indicated website.

Member Updates

Our heartiest congratulations and Mazel Tov to our newlywed member, Michael Kerstein and his bride Ielyn. Michael will be working all day at our table at the Israel Festival in Woodley Park on Sunday May 18. Come by and offer your congratulations in person!!

We recently learned of the birth last November of Evan Zachary Ganz to JGSLA member Brooke Schreier Ganz and her husband Scott Ganz. All the best on the birth and Evan's half-year birthday!

Yad Vashem Video

Sandy Malek, JGSLA President

Yad Vashem has a new 11-minute video on writing Pages of Testimony which is excellent. This can be viewed by going to <http://www.yadvashem.org>. In the first column under "Explore and Discover" scroll down to "Community Outreach..." and when that page opens go to the last column on the right under "New!" and click on the "Pages of Testimony Tutorial Video."

Salt Lake City Research Trip

For the sixteenth 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 10/23-10/30/2008. Click here for more information about the trip <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>.

Old Bailey Files Are Now Online

Bobby Furst

Transcripts of 210,000 trials from across four centuries are now available. The site is the largest single source of searchable information about everyday British lives and behavior ever published, said co-director Professor Tim Hitchcock. "Besides the desperate drama of crimes punished, the proceedings give us a new and remarkable access to the everyday. History is full of information about kings and queens and wars, but there isn't much that tells us about the everyday life of ordinary people." The web site contains the transcripts of every trial heard at the Old Bailey from 1674 to 1913, a total of more than 210,000 criminal trials. Sadly, it includes the biographical details of around 3,000 men and women executed at Tyburn. You can access this free and remarkable web site at www.oldbaileyonline.org.

Fraudulent Sites Posing as Genealogy Websites

Writing in the Ancestry.com blog, Mike Ward warns of fraudulent web sites posing as legitimate genealogy sites. These sites take your credit card information and provide little in return.

Mike writes: We have recently become aware of three websites purporting to allow family history research: <http://www.SearchYourGenealogy.com>, <http://www.Ancestry-search.com> and <http://www.Australian-Ancestry.com>. The sites claim to have "the largest online genealogical search tool" and promote themselves as the foremost resources for genealogy, but from what we can tell, these sites are nothing more than a series of web pages with links to other services. These sites, in our opinion, are clearly fraudulent. On each site, potential customers are lured to purchase under what we feel to be false, misleading and deceitful promotional material, and get little or no value out of money spent at the websites. Blog and message board posts from the community confirm this opinion. Click here to read Mike's entire article:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2008/04/10/potentially-fraudulent-sites-posing-as-genealogy-websites>

Baltimore Jewish Cemetery Database

Sylvia Furchman Nusinov, President Emerita, JGSPBCI
The Jewish Museum of Maryland has announced the Baltimore Jewish Cemetery Database may be accessed via http://jewishmuseummd.org/html/cr_geneology_fhc.html. Burials of more than 23,000 persons are listed from about 1850 to the present. Included are three of Baltimore's major Jewish cemeteries and several smaller ones. The Museum website includes a listing of additional primary Maryland sources for genealogical research.

wiki.familysearch.org

Barbara Algaze, JGSLA Librarian

The LDS Family History Library is creating a new website. It will be set up much like the Internet Wikipedia website, with users invited to add their own links, suggestions, databases, etc. To start out, they are posting information about many different genealogical subjects, including links to other genealogical groups, databases, and indexes (including pages from Cyndi's List). There will also be information on what resources the FHL has available and the name and catalogue numbers of their books, magazines, microfilm, and microfiche. In addition, they will be including all the information currently contained in the hard copy Research Guides (which will not longer be available in hard copy). The website, https://wiki.familysearch.org/en/Main_Page, is still in "Beta Test Mode." I checked it out using the search words, "Jewish" and "Brooklyn" and was quite impressed with the information already on it.

Illinois & Cook County Research Online

With the IAJGS conference coming up in Chicago this summer, many of us are thinking about family research in that area. Here are a few resources to consider:

Illinois Birth Records

Not currently available on online

How to obtain copies of original birth records. <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/birthcopy.html>

Illinois Marriage Records

Not currently available on online

Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763–1900 <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/marriage.html>

Illinois Death Records

Illinois Death Records <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/idphdeathindex.html>

Illinois Death Index 1916-1950 <http://www.ilsos.gov/GenealogyMWeb/idphdeathsrch.html>

Illinois Death Index pre-1916 <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/death.html>

Counties Included in the Death Index <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/deathlst.html>

Cook County Coroner's Inquest Record Index, 1872–1911 <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/cookingt.html>

Joe Beine's Online Illinois Death Records Guide & Indexes <http://www.deathindexes.com/illinois/index.html>

Joe Beine's Online Cook Co. Death Records & Indexes <http://www.deathindexes.com/illinois/cook.html>

Other online Illinois/Cook County records or indexes

Illinois Naturalization Indexes & Finding Aids <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/illinoisnat.html>

Illinois military servicemen and women <http://freepages.military.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~xander/illinois-records.htm>

Records/Databases in the Illinois State Archives <http://www.sos.state.il.us/departments/archives/databases.html>

Genealogy in the Illinois State Archives <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/departments/archives/services.html>

Rootsweb search engine – Cook County http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ilcook/search_ff.htm

Research Guides

Mike Karsen's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland <http://www.jewishgen.org/Infofiles/Chicago>

Newberry Library's Guide to Chicago Church and Synagogue Records

<http://www.newberry.org/genealogy/churchcontents.html>

LDS Research Guide for Illinois (\$2.50) <http://www.familysearch.org>, then “Order/Download Products,” “Family History Research Products,” “Locality Research Papers,” “United States” and “Illinois Research Outline.”

Cyndi's list for Illinois and other mid-western states

Illinois <http://www.cyndislist.com/il.htm>

Indiana <http://www.cyndislist.com/in.htm>

Iowa <http://www.cyndislist.com/ia.htm>

Kentucky <http://www.cyndislist.com/ky.htm>

Michigan <http://www.cyndislist.com/mi.htm>

Minnesota <http://www.cyndislist.com/mn.htm>

Missouri <http://www.cyndislist.com/mo.htm>

Ohio <http://www.cyndislist.com/oh.htm>

Tennessee <http://www.cyndislist.com/tn.htm>

Wisconsin <http://www.cyndislist.com/in.htm>

IAJGS and area IAJGS members with websites

IAJGS <http://www.iajgs.org/> (conference co-host)

Columbus JHS – Jewish Genealogy Group <http://www.columbusjewishhistoricalsociety.org>

JGS of Cleveland <http://www.clevelandjgs.org>

JGS of Illinois <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi> (conference co-host)

JGS of Michigan <http://www.jgsmi.org>

Illiana JGS <http://ijgs.home.comcast.net/~ijgs> (conference co-host)

St. Louis Genealogy Society – Jewish SIG <http://www.stlgs.org>

28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy <http://www.chicago2008.org>

Chicago Research Opportunities http://www.chicago2008.org/chicago_research_opportunities.cfm

Chicago Sights http://www.chicago2008.org/chicago_sights.cfm

Getting the Most out of the Conference http://www.chicago2008.org/getting_the_most_out_of_the_conference.cfm

Illinois Vital Records to be online (maybe)

Mike Karsen, president of the JGS of Illinois reports that the Cook County birth records will be on line in June or July. Last September, the Cook County Clerk reported that this would be on line this past January. Others report that this will not be available until at least September. We can only hope that Mike has some good inside information.

Below is the announcement from last September:

As noted in the *Chicago Tribune* (September 7, 2007), "Old county records being put online," professional genealogists and people interested in researching their family tree will soon be able to access key records from home instead of ordering by mail or traipsing down to a musty office in the Loop, Cook County Clerk David Orr said Thursday. If all goes as planned, newly digitized versions of county records such as birth and death certificates and marriage licenses will be available beginning in January on one searchable Web site that will revolutionize how such research is done, Orr said.

The Web site is part of a massive yearlong effort to digitize the county's 24 million vital records, which date to 1871, when record-keeping began after the Chicago Fire wiped out previous stockpiles, clerk's office spokeswoman Kelley Quinn said. The records have stacked up for decades in the basement area of the county's administration building at Clark and Randolph Streets, where conditions have not been ideal. . . . The process is expected to be complete by the end of the year, Quinn said.

Documents available online will be birth certificates that are at least 75 years old, marriage certificates more than 50 years old, and death certificates more than 20 years old, Quinn said. . . . Users can pay a fee to download records and print them at home. Certified copies, which are required to obtain official documents such as a driver's license, will not be available online. No Social Security numbers will be available on the online documents, she said.

Life Story Writing Class

The Westside Education and Career Center and the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives

<http://www.wiesenthal.com/site/pp.asp?c=fwLYKnN8LzH&b=242509> offer a free "Life Story Writing Class." The class is offered on Wednesdays, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm at the Simon Wiesenthal Center Library and Archives, 1399 South Roxbury Drive, 3rd Floor. Parking is free at the Museum of Tolerance which is across the street from the Library. For more information, call (310) 772-7605 or email library@wiesenthal.net.

Frankfort, Germany Memorial Book Online

The Frankfurt Memorbuch is a 1073 page manuscript documenting the deaths of important members of the Jewish community of Frankfurt am Main, one of the most important communities of Germany Jewry, over a period of almost 300 years (1628-1907).

The notations are generally in the form of the yizkor prayer "May God remember the soul of ..." followed by biographical data, much of which is a description of the piety and good qualities of the deceased.

The digitized manuscript is presented in the DjVu format which provides high quality, magnifiable images compressed into small files for easy downloading. In order to view these images it is necessary to download and install (once) the free DjVu viewer program.

To access the Memorbuch in English, see:

http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/mss/heb1092/index_eng.html

To access it in Hebrew, see:

<http://jnul.huji.ac.il/dl/mss/heb1092/index.html>.

German Gedenkbuch, now online

Renee Stern Steinig, GerSIG discussion group

The 2nd edition of "*Gedenkbuch: Opfer der Verfolgung der Juden unter der nationalsozialistischen Gewaltherrschaft in Deutschland 1933 - 1945*" is now searchable online at <http://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html>.

The first edition of Gedenkbuch, published in 1986 by the Bundesarchiv (German National Archives), lists 128,000 German Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. Those two volumes includes victims whose place of birth or last place of residence was in what was later to be West Germany or in Berlin (East or West). The second edition, published in 2006 in book form (four volumes) and on CD, lists Jewish victims from all places that were within Germany's 1937 borders, including towns that later became part of East Germany, Poland and Russia.

The new website is in German but not difficult to use. In the search box (labeled "Suchen nach:" -- Search for), enter -- in any order -- any of the following information about a person: surname (Familiennamen), first name (Vorname), birth name (Geburtsname), place of birth (Geburtsort), place of residence (Wohnort), or place of deportation (Deportationsort)

For more information on the Gedenkbuch, see Bernie Kouchel's JewishGen InfoFile, "Essential Gedenkbuch" at <http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/de-gednk.txt>.

Facts From The Stacks

Barbara Algaze, JGSLA Librarian

For those of our members doing Sephardic Genealogy, please note that we have the following books on our shelves that might be of help in your research.

- *Biographisches Lexikon der Hamburger Sefarden* by Michael Studemund-Halevy
- *The Cross and the Pear Tree: A Sephardic Journey* by Victor Perera
- *Dicionário sefaradi de sobrenomes : inclusive cristãos novos, conversos, marranos, italianos, berberes e sua história na*
- *Espanha, Portugal e Itália = Dictionary of Sephardic surnames : Including Christianized Jews, Conversos Marranos, Italians, Berbers, and their History in Spain, Portugal and Italy* by Guilherme Faiguenboim and Paulo Valdares
- *Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World* by Jeff Malka
- *The Grandees: America's Sephardic Elite* by Stephen Birmingham
- *Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel* By Mathilde Tagger and Yitzhak Kerem. (Also in the traveling library)
- *Heirs to a Noble Past: Seattle's Sephardic Jews* by Dr. Allen H. Podet, ed. and Dr. Dan Chasen, ed.
- *Hispanic Culture and Character of the Sephardic Jews* by Mair Jose Bernardete
- *IZMIR Marriages 1883 - 1901 and 1918 – 1933* by Dov Cohen, ed. (Also in the traveling library)
- *The Jews of Spain: a History of the Sephardic Experience* by Jane S. Gerber
- *La Nacion: The Spanish and Portuguese Jews in the Caribbean*
- *LA LETTRE Sepharde 1992 – 2003 A Journal*
- *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World* by Jeffrey S. Malka
- *Sephardic Jews in the West Coast States*. 3 vols. by William M. Kramer, ed.
- *The Sephardic Jews of Bordeaux, Assimilation and Emancipation in Revolutionary and Napoleonic France* by Frances Malino

Also on the shelves we have:

American Jewish History Quarterly (approximately 55 items) They represent the dates of September 1978 through March 2002.

Facts From The Stacks (continued)

American Jewish Archives (approximately 55 items) They represent the dates of April 1975 through 2004.

Thanks to the generous donations of JGSLA members to the Library Acquisition Fund, our collection of journals of the *Western States Jewish Historical Quarterly* has recently been expanded to include all back issues and now numbers approximately 140 items. They represent the dates of October 1968 (Vol. 1, # 1) through 2008.

Also, I recently learned about an interesting book that you might find helpful. It is *History of Latvian Jews* by Iosifs Steimanis and it sits on the general library shelves at the LA Regional Family History Center <http://www.larfhc.org>. Its catalogue number is 947.43 F2sj. Last May I posted a listing of books of Jewish interest that are included in the FHC holdings, but I seem to have missed this one. Thank you to Mort Rappaport for alerting me to this book.

Canadian Archives

Bobby Furst

A new search tool searches genealogy and family history databases hosted by Canadian federal, provincial or territorial archives centres and libraries, as well as those of several commercial partners. “That's My Family,” or “Voici Ma Famille,” is free of charge and available in both French and English. It was launched and is maintained by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BANQ) with support from Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists (CPTA) of Canada.

“That's My Family” hosts no data of its own. It is a search engine, similar to Google that indexes data found on other sites. The difference is that “That's My Family” looks only at Canadian sites that contain genealogy information. As such, it can save you a lot of time; you do not have to search each site individually. “That's My Family,” or “Voici Ma Famille,” is available at <http://www.voicimafamille.info>.

A Different Way to Display a Family History

Barbara Algaze, JGSLA Librarian

We all struggle when deciding the best way to create a family history website. An unusual solution, developed by Elliott Malkin, can be found at <http://www.dziga.com/victor>.

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