



# JGSLA DATES AND UPDATES

JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY of LOS ANGELES  
P.O. Box 55443, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413  
JGSLA.ORG - (818) 771-5554

• October 2008 •

## Upcoming Meetings

- October Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – 12:30 PM to 5:30 PM  
Assisted Research and Document Translation Day  
Translators: 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM – sign-up for an appointment at the door  
Class: 1:00 PM – 2:15 PM – Intro. to the Family History Center, Barbara Algaze, JGSLA Librarian  
Class: 2:30 PM – 4:00 PM – Introduction to Internet Genealogy, Arnie Schwartz, JGSLA Director  
Los Angeles Regional Family History Center, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., West Los Angeles, CA 90025
- November Sunday, November 2<sup>nd</sup> – 2:00 PM  
“The Pages In Between: Unearthing the Hidden Legacy of Two Families, One Home”, Erin Einhorn  
Bernard Milken Jewish Community Campus, 22622 Vanowen Street, West Hills, CA 91307
- Monday, November 10<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM  
The Bad Arolsen – ITS Archives Research Experience: Film and Panel Discussion  
Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 North Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049
- December Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> – 1:30PM  
JGSLA Hannukah Party and  
“The Influence of Yiddish Theater on American Music & Culture” by Hale Porter:  
Bernard Milken Jewish Community Center, West Hills
- January 2009 Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> – 7:30 PM  
Program TBA  
Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 North Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049

## Non-JGSLA events which you may find of value

- October Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM  
“Memories of Eden: A Journey through Jewish Baghdad” a book by Violette Shamash. Presented by co-editors Mira Shamash and Tony Rocca. Includes viewing of photographs and illustrations of old Baghdad, presentation, Q&A and book signing. Light refreshment. Parking? On the street! RSVP: (323) 761-8644. Sponsored by Kahal Joseph & Jewish Community Library of Los Angeles. Kahal Joseph, 10505 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90025  
<http://www.memoriesofeden.com/>
- Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
Archives Live! The 3rd Annual Los Angeles Archives Bazaar: 65 historical collections and archives. Browse rare collections, consult with experts, learn about family genealogy, preserving your own history, and numerous other topics. FREE Admission.  
USC - Davidson Conference Center, 3415 S. Figueroa St. (at Jefferson Blvd), Los Angeles, CA 90089.
- Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> 2:00 PM  
Symposium: The Sephardic Experience in the Balkans: Between Past and Present  
314 Royce Hall, UCLA Parking is available for \$9 at UCLA lot #2 at Westholme & Hilgard  
See <http://www.cjs.ucla.edu/> for a full list of upcoming Jewish events at UCLA

## President's Message

Sandy Malek

Approximately 35 of our members attended the IAJGS conference in Chicago. Those of us who are already involved in planning the 2010 conference in Los Angeles found ourselves seeing the conference through new eyes. I would like to encourage anyone with opinions and observations about the conference, or recent past conferences, to put your thoughts in writing and send them to me. Your ideas can be firsthand or secondhand. What did you like? What didn't you like? Hearsay is acceptable! If you have any thoughts on what you would like to see at our conference, please share them with us. If you didn't attend the conference, and have a particular reason why you did not choose to go to Chicago, we would appreciate hearing your thoughts and feelings on this as well. Please address any comments to me at [president@jgsla.org](mailto:president@jgsla.org). Of course, any of you who would like to avail yourselves of this opportunity to get involved with what is already promising to be a very exciting conference, please let me know by email or other writing...we will get in touch with you.

After a very brief shakedown period, with only a couple of minor glitches, JGSLA has switched over to email delivery of Dates & Updates. This move is virtually inevitable, as the price of printing is becoming relatively expensive, and postage prices are increasing. I hope you are enjoying the advantages of email publication. If you prefer to read the paper version, you can print out your own. If you prefer to store the edition electronically, you have that opportunity. You may have noticed that we now have the option to providing a somewhat lengthier version, without having to meet the printing parameters. As always, if you have any item you would like to have sent to the membership, please contact our editor, Hal Bookbinder at [Hal@jgsla.org](mailto:Hal@jgsla.org). Letters to the Editor are welcome...so let's hear your comments!

Our program flyers will still be sent by mail. Roots-Key will continue to be published in hard copy. If we do not have your email address, please share it with us. This information is kept confidential, and is not disseminated either to our membership, or to any outside party. If you don't have a computer, you may still set up an email account at the public library. Librarians will show you how to do this.

As we approach the end of the year, we will once again be looking for people who might like to join the Board, and take on one or more projects for the Society. For example, we could use some more people to help with Hospitality and the traveling library at our meetings (these are not necessarily Board positions.) What better way to meet your genealogical cohorts than standing behind the coffee and cookies! We also need people who would be interested in helping maintain the website (an updated version is under construction and will be rolled out soon) and who would be interested in helping out in the areas of publicity and outreach to the community. Please don't be shy! If you have some skills in these areas, or if you would just like to participate, please let me or any Board member know.

Happy hunting to all! I look forward to seeing each of you at our upcoming fall meetings!

## Request for Assistance

Sandy Malek

We have received an inquiry from an Israeli researcher as to whether anyone is aware of an organization named Nowy Dwor Society of Los Angeles, which held meetings in the 1950's. If you are acquainted with this organization, please email [jmille1937@embarqmail.com](mailto:jmille1937@embarqmail.com). This researcher believes his grandparents attended meetings of this organization in the 1950's.

## Stammbaum free on the Internet

Nancy Biederman

John Paul Lowens, GerSIG list moderator, writes that although it has now ceased publication, all of the previously published issues of *Stammbaum - The Journal of German Jewish Genealogy* are currently available on the Internet free of charge. Digital images of all Stammbaum articles can be read online, or downloaded and read or printed from your computer. The URL for the master Stammbaum index is <http://www.lbi.org/Stammbaum.html>.

## Member Updates

Our condolences to Lois Rosen whose mother-in-law, Gloria Uhlmann Rosen, passed away in July. She is survived by four sons and ten grandchildren.

Our condolences also to Laura Stotler whose father passed away in June. Herman Herzbrun, age 85, had been a Los Angeles County Deputy District Attorney, Superior Court Commissioner, and Senior Attorney and Prosecutor with the City of Torrance.

Congratulations to David Hoffman on his election as president of Litvak SIG. This independent SIG has ongoing projects translating a wide variety of vital records, 14 district research groups, an Online Journal and over 650,000 records in its All Lithuania Database.

We welcome the following new JGSLA members: Sipora Meschino, Paul Traynor, Jack & Shirley Berens and Philip & Rhoda Liss.

## US Government Genealogy Site

Sandy Malek

Check out this easy-to-use page, providing types and locations of genealogical information by state. This is brought to us by the US government: [http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History\\_Family/State\\_Genealogy.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/Citizen/Topics/History_Family/State_Genealogy.shtml)

## The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe

Nancy Biederman

Thanks to generous donations to JGSLA's Library Fund, the society recently purchased the two volume set of The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe, Gershon D. Hundert, Editor in Chief [ISBN: 9780300119039 March 2008], for its library collection. To preview the contents of the encyclopedia as a synoptic outline, see <http://www.yivo.org/publications/index.php?tid=109&aid=541>. There are also a good number of sample entries in downloadable pdf format available from YIVO: See <http://www.yivo.org/publications/index.php?tid=109&aid=534>

## Facts From The Stacks

### → New California Resources at the LARFHC

Barbara Algaze, JGSLA Librarian

A number of new California Resources have recently arrived at the LARFHC and you might find them helpful in your research. They are:

- Los Angeles City, California Deaths 1893 – 1899 by Margaret J. Schultz 979.494 V2S V2
- Los Angeles County, California Deaths 1873 – 1899 by Margaret J. Schultz 979.43 22s
- Los Angeles County California Naturalization Series, Superior Court, Los Angeles County, California Naturalization Index
  - Vol. 1 A - F 1852 - 1915 979.493 P4s V1
  - Vol. 2 G - M 1852 - 1915 979.493 P4s V2
  - Vol. 3 N - Z 1852 - 1915 979.493 P4s V3

As reported in the last issue of Dates and Updates,

"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 from October 1968 (Vol. 1, # 1) through 2008."

Amongst these issues are a number of special items which have been shelved separately from the collection. They are:

- California: Earthquakes and Jews 979.494 F25 wc
- Walla Walla: Judaism in a Rural Setting 979.748 F25r
- Pioneer Jews of Los Angeles in the Nineteenth Century 979.494 F25wp
- Jewish Women of the American West 973 F2ws
- Pioneer Jews of British Columbia 971.1 F25w
- Sephardic Jews in the West Coast States, 296.979 F2 kw, Volumes 1, 2 and 3

## British Genealogy Online

Barbara Algaze, JGSLA Librarian

A page chock full of links to wonderful websites of interest to Jewish Genealogists- in the US and across the pond. Check it out at:

<http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/linkspage.htm>.

## If you are not receiving JGSLA email

Bobby Furst

Our JGSLA e-mail messages, sent with a jgsla-mail.org address, are being sent from a server at Concentric.com. Those of you with e-mail addresses at junos.com, netzero.net and csun.edu are not receiving our mail because your server is rejecting mail from either concentric.com or jgsla-mail.org. If you want to continue to receive e-mail from JGSLA you will have to tell your ISP to allow mail from jgsla-mail.org at DNS concentric.com

## ProQuest and Google Partnership

Bobby Furst

ProQuest has formed a partnership with Google that has the potential to bring millions of pages of newspaper content to the open web. The program allows web access to archives of both large and small newspapers. Without this initiative, these newspapers might never be digitized.

The ProQuest/Google partnership does not impact ProQuest's other digital newspaper offerings such as its acclaimed ProQuest Historical Newspapers. The content delivered via Google's platform will be supported with a variety of advertising and e-commerce models that are standard in an open web context.

ProQuest will contribute content to the partnership, and will introduce newspaper publishers nationwide to the program. ProQuest will also supply from its microfilm vault newspaper content that can be delivered effectively in the less formal framework of the open web. The company currently holds more than 10,000 newspaper titles, most of which are pristine master film copies. This high level of microfilm quality allows for the creation of better scanned images, which will ultimately deliver more accurate OCR results for users.

## Access to Jewishdata.com

Marion Werle

Note that you can also access jewishdata.com for free if you are a member of JGS, Inc. (New York). You access it through the JGS website. I found headstone photos for a lot of relatives in Montreal (Baron de Hirsch cemetery).

## Practicing Safe Computing - Phishing

Hal Bookbinder

Phishing is any activity that seeks to trick you into revealing personal information, over the Internet, on the phone, by mail, or in person.

Most of us have received one or more of the following

- A scary email (“There has been unusual activity on your PayPal account. Please click here immediately to verify activity or your account may be closed.”),
- One that promises instant riches (“You have been selected as a winner in the Spanish National Lottery. To claim your 7 million Euro winnings, please click here.”), or
- One that simply asks for your help (“We are doing a periodic verification of accounts at your branch of Bank of America. Please click here and answer a few simple questions to help us complete this audit.”).

Invariably, these are attempts to phish for your personal information which can then be used to steal your money or even your identity.

When you do click on the link, you will typically be taken to an official-looking page which will ask you to log in to your account with your ID and password. When you comply you will receive a message like,

- “We are sorry but the system is currently down for maintenance. Please try again later.”, or
- “Thank you, we have checked your account and everything is correct.”, or simply
- “Thank you for your assistance.”

Occasionally, you will now be asked for even more personal information (“It appears that your account has been compromised. You must immediately provide the information below or your account will be closed!”)

Be assured, however, that whatever information you provide is now in the hands of criminals in Russia, Nigeria, China or somewhere else far away.

You have been phished!

To avoid being phished online

- Never respond to emails that request personal financial information.
- Visit websites by typing the URL (Universal Resource Locator – the name of the web site) into the address bar and not by clicking on the email link.
- Set your browser security settings or email settings to monitor for phishing.
- Keep a regular check on your accounts.
- Never click on a link offered in an email or pop-up unless you are sure of the destination. (Be aware that the actual URL you may be taken to may be quite different from the one displayed on the screen)

If you forget and fall for the bait, do not ignore this and hope nothing bad will happen. Rather

- Immediately contact your financial institution.
- Contact the three major credit bureaus. Request a fraud alert be placed on your credit report.
  - Equifax, (800) 525-6285
  - Experian, (999) 397-3742
  - TransUnion, (800) 680-7289

File a complaint with the FTC at [www.ftc.gov](http://www.ftc.gov) or (877) 382-4357.

Banks will never ask you to verify your online banking username and password...and the likelihood of your winning the Spanish National Lottery is pretty much nil.

BTW: Did you know that by law the three credit reporting agencies listed above each are required to provide you with one free credit report each year, if you request it. While there are slight variations, most of the information is the same. So, I request a report from a different agency every four months, staying aware of my credit at no cost.

## Mount Zion Cemetery

Nancy Biederman

Mount Zion Cemetery, established in 1916 by the Jewish Free Burial Society, is located at 1030 S. Downey Road, adjacent to the Home of Peace Cemetery in East Los Angeles. It was not connected to a synagogue and unfortunately fell into disrepair over the years. Mt. Zion Cemetery is now operated by the Jewish Federation Council (<http://www.jewishla.org>). The Federation makes an annual appeal to its member organizations for contributions to help maintain and repair the cemetery which has no endowment fund. If you have relatives or family friends buried at Mt. Zion, or would like to help maintain one of our oldest landmarks, please consider a contribution at this time. As has been done in the past several years thanks to donations from members, JGSLA will match up to the first \$100 received for Mt. Zion Cemetery. Make a notation that the donation is for Mt. Zion, and mail your contribution to: JGSLA, PO Box 55443, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413

## On-line access to Americans of Jewish Descent

Bobby Furst

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives has placed the latest edition of Malcolm Stern's *Americans of Jewish Descent* online.

Researchers now have access to the complete text of Rabbi Stern's monumental volume that was published in 1991 as the updated and revised 3rd edition entitled: *First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies, 1654-1988*.

<http://www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/FAJF/intro.html>



## Bialystoker Center Yahrzeit Card Index Online

Mark Halpern BIALYGen Coordinator

The Yahrzeit Card database contains 3,984 index entries from cards maintained by The Bialystoker Center in New York City from about 1880 through about 1994. Many Jews -- Bialystokers and non-Bialystokers alike -- memorialized their departed relatives and friends with Yahrzeit plaques in the Center's sanctuary and community rooms. The Yahrzeit Card was a record of the person's death and also served as an administrative reference enabling the Center's office to send notifications of upcoming Yahrzeits to relatives and friends of the departed.

This database is now online and can be accessed via links at <http://www.shtetlinks.jewishgen.org/BialyGen/Yahrzeit.htm>.

This webpage explains the database and the project, shows some samples of the cards, and gives some background of The Bialystoker Center. The entire database can also be downloaded as an Excel file. The fields captured in this database are:

- Surname of Deceased
- Given Names of Deceased
- Date of Death (Secular)
- Hebrew Given Name
- Hebrew Name of Father
- Other Surnames from Card (relatives notified of Yahrzeit date)
- US States/Countries (of relatives)

To obtain JPEG images of Yahrzeit cards for your family, please email me at [bialystoker@comcast.net](mailto:bialystoker@comcast.net) with the full names of the memorialized people and their dates of death. Please place "Yahrzeit" in the subject of the message.

I would like to thank The Bialystoker Center for their help and permission and the following individuals who helped create this database over the last three years: Tilford Bartman, Steve Denker, Stephanie Carson Feldman, Lynn Franklin, Bobby Furst, J. Michael Gilbreath, Henry Kaplan, Barbara Meyers, Gary Mokotoff, Greg Stone, Kathryn Wallach, and Sid Zabłudoff.

### Computer Hint – Macintosh users

Pamela Weisberger

On a Mac I use Preview to open Adobe documents (PDFs). This makes it easy for me to cut and paste text, etc. which I can't do as easily in Adobe Reader. However, while Mac users can read PDFs using previews they won't be able to link to websites. Preview does not offer that capability. So, if you want to use the links, you need to use Adobe Reader.

## The history of U.S. Citizenship Papers

Arnie Schwartz

- Prior to 1906 each state issued their own citizenship papers.
- From 1906 to 1925 the Department of Labor issued a Certificate of Naturalization.
- Beginning in 1922, women were allowed to obtain their own Certificate of Naturalization.
- Children born to either parent, who is a naturalized citizen, are able to obtain a Derivative Citizenship after they turn 21 years of age.
- The Certificate of Citizenship was used from 1926 to 1995. Beginning in 1929, photos were required.
- All certificates issued from 1941 to date have the following warning under the seal: "It is a violation of the U.S. Code (and punishable as such) to copy, print, photograph or otherwise illegally use this certificate."
- Beginning in 1996 all Certificates of Citizenship were printed using standard 8 1/2 x 11" color laser printers.

(From Arnie's *Beginning Genealogy Workbook*)

### A Missouri-born grandmother becomes an Alien

Hal Bookbinder

Arnie's summary of our changing naturalization laws brought my grandmother to mind. Sara Sacharow was born in 1895 in St. Louis, Missouri. After several moves, her family settled in Newark, New Jersey. In 1917, she and Edward Horwitz decided to marry.

Edward came to the US as a small child and was raised in the Newark Jewish Orphanage. He thought he had been born in Newark. To obtain the marriage license he needed to show his birth certificate. When city hall records office did not have it, he realized something was amiss. He then learned that he was born in Soroki, Besarabia (now Moldova) and that he was an alien. Based on showing his school records they were given a marriage license.

When they married, my grandmother lost her US citizenship because before 1922, citizenship resided with the husband. In the 1930s she and Edward were naturalized. Her naturalization papers show that she was born in St. Louis and became a US citizen in Newark.

### Editor's Note – Where was *Dates & Updates*?

Hal Bookbinder

This past summer was particularly hectic for me with the opening of the new Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center (I direct computing for the UCLA Health System). As a result, *Dates & Updates* was on hiatus and did not publish in August or September.

<p>Sandy Malek <i>President</i> <a href="mailto:president@jgsla.org">president@jgsla.org</a></p>	<p>Hal Bookbinder <i>Editor</i> <a href="mailto:hal@jgsla.org">hal@jgsla.org</a></p>	<p>Please share with fellow JGSLA members the tools, techniques, news and websites that you have found to be especially useful by submitting an article for <i>Dates and Updates</i>. Also, help us acknowledge your major family events by letting us know of them. Send to <a href="mailto:hal@jgsla.org">hal@jgsla.org</a>.</p>
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