

U.S. Update

by Diane Goldman

To read an article or news release excerpted in *U.S. Update*, order the issue of the publication in which it appeared from the appropriate JGS. A list of Jewish Genealogical Societies can be found at <iajgs.org/members/members.html>. A list of Special Interest Groups can be found at <www.jewishgen.org>.

Conejo Valley & Ventura County (California)

Vol. 4, No. 6, March 2009

Venturing Into Our Past Digitized resources available online include 18th-century metrical records from the State Archives of Baden-Wuerttemberg (see Hauptstaatsarchiv records at <<http://tinyurl.com/aufy17>>). < The National Park Service for the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreational Area is collecting information on Jewish homesteading in that region and in the Conejo Valley. > A non-Jewish family's covert Jewish traditions indicate descent from Jews who converted under duress during the Inquisition. < Society members Carole Webber and Helene Rosen have submitted their data to JewishGen on two Ventura County, California, cemeteries: Ivy Lawn Cemetery, in Ventura, and Conejo Mountain Cemetery in Camarillo.

Vol. 4, No. 7, April 2009. Sonia and David Hoffman demonstrate research techniques applicable to Eastern Europe, describing their work on Ariogola, Lithuania. < To prepare for research at the Los Angeles Family History Center, take reading, writing, and recording tools plus copies of data sheets and coins for photocopies.

Long Island Vol. 20, No. 1, Winter 2008–2009

Lineage A new editor introduces online journal access. < Cheryl Sofer adds Facebook to her online search tools. > You may find old photos in surprising locations. Larry Rubin found a photograph of his great-great-grandfather's store in a history of CF Martin guitars. < In different places, conversion to or reinstatement of the modern Gregorian solar calendar occurred on different dates, from 1582 through 1926. < Allen E. Mallenbaum explains variations in the Hebrew lunar calendar. < The history of Jewish practices in Iran (Persia). < Hispanic Americans from San Luis Valley, Colorado, and from Northern New Mexico can use DNA to establish Jewish ancestry, i.e., descent from conversos of the Inquisition. The same DNA marker provides medical information, a risk of breast cancer.

Greater Miami March 2009

Branches Jewish genealogy society celebrates its 20th anniversary. < If your U.S. ancestor was old enough to work in 1933–39, he or she may have a Works Progress Administration file (contact the Personnel Records Center, Civilian Personnel Records, 111 Winnebago Street, St. Louis MO 63118). < The naming tradition of Ioannina, Greece, was to use namesakes as follows: for

one son and then another, the paternal and then the maternal grandfather; for daughters, the paternal and then the maternal grandmothers. < Visit a cemetery for information from a headstone or from individuals visiting nearby gravesites. < The Society continues collecting information on where to look at yearbooks <www.jgsli.org/Yearbook_Form.pdf>.

Michigan Vol. 24, No. 1, Spring 2009

Generations Includes resource information compiled by Gayle Saini. < Genealogical resources near Detroit: Burton Historical Collection, Detroit Public Library; Abrams Genealogy Collection, State Library of Michigan at Lansing; Family History Center, Church of Latter Day Saints library, Bloomfield Hills. < Read about *The Lost Synagogues of Detroit* at <<http://shtetlhood.com/>>. < The Walter Reuther Library at Wayne State University has a large organized labor collection and appears to have many Jewish records. < The Upper Midwest Jewish Archives includes information about Minnesota and North Dakota at <<http://special.lib.umn.edu/umja>>. < Indiana resources include the Indiana Historical Society at <www.indianahistory.org> and the Allen County Public Library in Ft. Wayne. < Use the Minnesota Historical Society's index for birth and death certificates at <www.mnhs.org/genealogy>. < For Ohio, look at <www.ohiohistory.org>. < South Dakota's State Archives have a Biographic Index online at <www.sdhhistory.org>. < The Missouri Archives online include selected probate and coroner's records at <www.sos.mo.gov/archives>. < For Kansas, see the wonderful, unofficial site <<http://skyways.lib.ks.us/genweb/>>. < The official sites for Kansas and Iowa archives are useful for historical, rather than genealogical, research. For an unofficial Iowa site, try <www.genealogytoday.com>. < Wisconsin records are found at <www.wisconsinhistory.org/libraryarchives/>. Nebraska's website is not very useful so long as the state library itself is under renovation <<http://nebraskahistory.org/lib-arch/index.htm>>.

Orlando Vol. 19, No. 3, Spring 2009

Etz Chaim The society has changed its meeting schedule to daylight hours—1:30 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. < The Orlando Public Library produces a guide to its Genealogy Department and a variety of online research aids. < Edith Schulman reminds us that 100 years ago, 75 percent of all Jews spoke Yiddish (called *Judisch*, *Loshen Ashkenaz*, or *Jargon*), which was first used along Germany's Rhine River.

Palm Beach Vol. 16, No. 1, First Quarter 2009

Scattered Seed Excerpts from Litvak SIG e-mails discuss key household items sometimes handed down in families: mortar and pestle for processing food and medicine, *perina* (feather-filled coverlet), cholent pot for a Sabbath meal slow cooked in the community's bakery oven. < Trained in Philadelphia as a master furrier, Galician-born David Green established retail and workshops in Seattle, Washington, and in Alaska (reprint from *Anchorage Daily News*, August 12, 2007). < Final article in a series on archaic occupations. < Includes a Wikipedia chart diagramming family relationships.

San Francisco Vol. 29, No. 1, February 2009

ZichronNote Bohemian ancestors may have their mother's surname rather than their father's. Jerome King Delson explains why, using his Bondi, Pam, and Zuckerman families as examples (reprint from *The National Jewish Post and Opinion*). The Familiant Law of 1726 limited civil marriage to a Jewish family's eldest son; the offspring of any other children would be illegitimate. < Robinn Magid spoke about 20th-century Polish records: Polish Aliyah Passports for Palestine (Jewish Historical Institute archives, Warsaw) plus selected business records and divorce registers <www.jri-poland.org>.

Tucson (Arizona) Jewish History Museum

Vol. 9, No. 2, March 2009

The Chronicle Appointments are available for the Tucson Jewish Oral History Project (520-670-9073). < Alfred Lipsey demonstrates storytelling by relating the life of his cousin—Isaac Mauerberger of Sejny, Russia-Poland, and of London. Lipsey's research disputes the details, though not the main storyline, of Lord Arnold Goodman's book *Tell Them I'm on the Way* (Chapman Publishers, 1993). Storytelling resources include *Every Family Has a Story* (Gary Mokotoff, ed., Avotaynu, 2008) and *My Future Is in America: Autobiographies of Eastern European Jewish Immigrants* (University of New York Press, no date).

Greater Washington Vol. 28, No. 2, Spring 2009

Mishpacha Includes summaries of society Board meetings held June 23, 2008, and July 20, 2008. < Memoriam and appreciation for long-serving member Morris Thompson. < Suzan Wynne explains that six-month Emergency Passports were used to replace lost or stolen U.S. documents and to permit emigration of a naturalized citizen's wife and minor children. The society's index to Jewish applicants for emergency passports 1915–24 is accessible through the JewishGen website. Bound volumes of applications, beginning with 1874, are part of Record Group 59 at the National Archives and Records Administration in College Park, Maryland (Textual Reference Branch, Archives II, 8601 Adelphi Road). Beginning in 1914, the files include photographs. Order copies of files on-site or by mail. < Book reviews: *Erzwungener Freitod*,

Spuren und Zeugnisse in den Freitod getriebener Juden der Jahre 1938–1945 in Berlin (Anna Fischer, *Forced Suicide: Traces and Evidence of Jews Driven to Suicide 1938–1945 in Berlin*, Text Verlag, 2007)—actually covering 1933–45. Includes 42 biographies and a chronological list (alphabetical by year) of 1,677 documented suicides. The author of *Doctors from Hell* (Vivien Spitz, Sentient Publications, 2005) was a court reporter at the Nuremberg war crimes trial. This book is based on Spitz's lectures countering Holocaust denial. < Otto and Kurt Waldmann survive from the pre-World War II Jewish community of Bad Windsheim, Germany. Otto's wife, Phyllis, reports their visit to the town for the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht and of the community's disruption. < Marlene Bishow updates readers on Mormon researchers who draw on Holocaust and other records to arrange posthumous baptisms.

Gesher Galicia Special Interest Group

Vol. 16, No. 2, February 2009

The Galitzianer Gesher Galicia achieves status as a non-profit corporation (includes list of corporate officers). < Issue includes a table showing vital records the Church of Latter Day Saints has filmed in Lviv at the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine plus a status report of orders from the Lviv archive. < Google has published out-of-print books at <<http://books.google.com>>. Pamela Weisberger suggests searching for your surname combined with a particular location, such as Segenreich Kolomea. < Brian Lenius has indexed records from the Lviv Archives for 52 Galician towns, combining cadastral or real estate maps, landowner records, and Tabula registers. The next issue will include an inventory for available cadastral maps—a list already published on the Gesher Galicia web site. < Logan Joseph Kleinwaks' web site includes 1936 directory for thousands of account owners of the *Pocztowej Kазie Oszczednosc* (PKO) bank. The directory includes owner's full name, account number, often street address or occupation. Use directory dr2 at <<http://genealogyindexer.org/directories>>. < Suzan Wynne contrasts the agriculture and the diet of ancestral Galicia. < Mark Halpern samples Latter Day Saints microfilm records for the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, located in L'viv. A relevant inventory is available online from JRI-Poland and Gesher Galicia.

Kulanu Vol. 15, No. 4, Winter 2008–2009

Newsletter Announces the opportunity for a new journal editor. < Three Sabbatean sects used the following Turkish cemeteries: Kapandji, near the entry and at lower slopes of Bulbuldressi Cemetery in Uskudar; Karakhi, at upper slopes of Bulbuldressi; Yakubi, in Macka Cemetery (Istanbul). Sabbateans converted to Islam in the 17th century, emulating Sabbatai Zevi, their supposed messiah. < Several African groups claim descent from King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba: the Falasha of Ethiopia, the Toubous of Western Africa, and the Tutsi of the Pan-Kush (Burundi, Rwanda, Eastern Congo, Uganda, Northern Tanzania).