

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>. A list of Special Interest Groups can be found at <www.jewishgen.org>.

BOSTON (MASSACHUSETTS)

Vol. 24, No. 2, Issue 80, June 2015

Mass-Pocha

Society volunteers are researching Boston-area landsmanshaftn. See book by Daniel Soyer, *Jewish Immigrant Associations and American Identity in New York, 1880–1939*. ◇ Roughly 3,000 turn-of-the-20th-century landsmanshaftn provided Jewish immigrants with social contacts as well as burial provisions, family death benefits, and access to medical care in recognition of membership and six months residence in the United States. ◇ U.S. Information and Citizenship Services (USCIS) files include naturalization-related documents and correspondence. Zach Wilske, USCIS historian, suggests that requests for a specific file (a genealogy records request) also include request that staff conduct a name index search; they have research tools not available to the public. ◇ Almost 2,000 memorial books reflect pre-World War II life in Jewish communities and the war's devastation of those communities and individuals. Joyce Field coordinated the JewishGen project to translate into English at least part or all of each memorial book. Joel Alpert supervises printing-on-demand with purchase through Amazon.com. ◇ Shirley Sanders used district information from the Litvak Special Interest Group (SIG) to propose connections among Kranikowiz, Kahn, and other family names.

CLEVELAND (OHIO)

Vol. 24, No. 2, Summer 2015

The Kol

Includes a list of Society programs from Spring 2006 forward. ◇ Society member Ken Bravo continues as Vice President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). ◇ Saul Issroff recommends two websites for researching emigration from Great Britain to South Africa: University of Cape Town Kaplan Centre www.jewishroots.uct.ac.za and excerpts from *Jewish Life in the South African Country Communities*, www.jewishcountrylife.co.za. ◇ Ceramicist Karen Koblitz discovered brick makers among her ancestors from Bradacov and from Pohani, Bohemia. Family names included Gerson, Lowi, Ruzicka, Meller, Coblitz, and Cohen. ◇ Read about the 1920 pogrom in Tetiev (Tetiyev), Ukraine, at kehila-links.jewishgen.org/tetiev/deathlist.htm. ◇ Cuyahoga County researchers have the benefit of many web resources (includes a three-page list). ◇ The U.S. National Archives enlists volunteer transcribers to help with digitization. (See www.archives.gov/citizen-archivist.) ◇ U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services records include World War II-era

Alien Registration records for non-citizen residents older than 13, August 1, 1940, to March 31, 1944. ◇ Create customized U.S. maps at www.nationalatlas.gov. ◇ Books: Geraldine Powers Volper (n.d.) *Letters from Gelyan: From January 1910 Parshe Va'ereh until October 1925 Erev Succoth*, Chagrin Falls: Windjammer Adventure Publishing; Jeff Morris (n.d.) *Haymarket to the Heights: The Movement of Cleveland's Orthodox Synagogues from Their Initial Meeting Place to the Heights* <http://engagedscholarship.csuohio.edu/clevmembks/23>.

CONEJO VALLEY & VENTURA COUNTY (CALIFORNIA)

Vol. 10, No. 8, May 2015

Venturing Into Our Past

U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum subjects include the World War II-era experiences of Jews as well as Polish forced laborers and political prisoners, Jehovah's witnesses, gays and lesbians, Soviet prisoners of war, and "the handicapped" [sic]. Resources include underused oral histories and two publications of the eight planned volumes for the *Encyclopedia of Camps and Ghettos, 1933–1945*. Researchers can contribute resources through www.ushmm.org/online/world-memory-project or Pages of Testimony for www.yadvashem.org. ◇ Book review: Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern (2014) *The Golden Age Shtetl: A New History of Jewish Life in Eastern Europe*, Princeton University Press (focusing on Ukraine, particularly Kiev and Volhyn and Podolia guberniyas).

Vol. 10, No. 11, August 2015. Includes a summary of the 2015 IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy. ◇ Society president Jan Meisels Allen named IAJGS Volunteer of the Year. ◇ Review images of Copenhagen Jewish records from the Danish National Archives at <http://tinyurl.com/qxbl44v> or www.sa.dk/brug-arkivet/arkivalier online.

Vol. 10, No. 12, September 2015. Highlights of various family histories include fortuitous escapes from death squads, tenuous rabbinic connections. ◇ California stymied by its requirement to produce copies on a security paper that is out of production.

ILLIANA (ILLINOIS AND INDIANA)

Fall 2015

Newsletter

Society celebrates 31st anniversary since beginning as the South Suburban Branch of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Illinois. ◇ Tips for preventing the theft of a deceased relative's identity. ◇ A reprint from the *Tinley Morraine Newsletter* lists once-common names for causes of

death, such as gripe for influenza and brain fever for meningitis. < The Gregorian calendar corrected a flaw in the Julian calendar. < Consider estimating a U.S. relative's birth date by researching how common was their first name in their age group (calculated by the Social Security Administration).

ILLINOIS

Vol. 30, No. 2, Summer 2015

Morasha

Memorials for Joan H. Epstein and Judy Lapping. < Includes a list of Facebook pages focused on Jewish family history. < Judith Frazin expanded her Marijampole research via documents available through the Litvak SIG (Special Interest Group). Family names now include Bernstein and Burstzejn; patronymics include Ickowicz and Zelikowicz. < Find historical information on news, songs, food prices for any date at www.dmarie.com/timecap. < Wayne Burton learned about vaudeville by researching his cousin's act: (Jack) *Connell*, *Leona* (Finkelstein), and *Zippy* (a Boston Bull Terrier).

MIAMI (FLORIDA)

April 2015

Branches

Try Mind Maps to sort through fragmented and conflicting information at www.ronarons.com. < Ann Rabinowitz writes of natural disasters at <http://jewishgenblogspot.com/2010>, beginning with <http://jewishgen.blogspot.com/2010/09/cycle-of-life-natural-disasters-part-1.html>. Research Anton Makarenko to learn more about the Jewish orphans homeless and rootless after World War II. < Arye Barkai researches the Ringelheim family/families of Rzeszow and Tarnow, Poland. < Book review: David Larkin (2014) *The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the Twentieth Century* (Penguin Books).

NEW YORK (NEW YORK)

Vol. 36, No. 3, Spring 2015

ZichronNote

Ann Rabinowitz researches the Hyman family of Manchester, England, and of Buenos Aires, Argentina. She began searching vital records, burial records, Brazilian immigration cards, business and phone directories, the REUNIR program to reunite relatives in and outside of Argentina. Two sources for card research are: Arquivo Nacional (National Archives of) Rio de Janeiro (family search collection #1932363); Arquivo Publico de Estado (State Public Archives of) Sao Paulo (Family Search collection #2140223). See Family Search Historical Records https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Brazil,_São_Paulo_Immigration_Cards_. < The European Union creates a loophole from unrestricted access to digital public records. Personal data may be erased on request. < Discover the special collections of the Jewish Theological Seminary (JTS) archives that include U.S. Department of State documents, ketubot (mar-

riage contracts), and mohel (circumcision) record books. Use Family Systems Theory tools and diagrams to track behavioral traits and influences through various generations. < Volunteers help a French archive respond to research requests. See www.entraide-genealogique.net/index.php?id=l&lang=EN. < Find a list of selected resources at the American Jewish Historical Society, www.ajhs.org, Brooklyn Historical Society, www.brooklynhistory.org and New York Public Library www.nypl.org. < Books: *Hasia Diner (2015) Roads Taken: The Great Jewish Migrations to the New World and the Peddlers Who Forged the Way*, New Haven: Yale University Press; Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County (n.d.) with Sylvia Furshman Nusinov, ed., *Genealogy Resources—Searching Your Ancestry in Archives and Repositories*, 10th ed.; Glenn Kurtz (2014) *Three Minutes in Poland*, New York: Farrar Straus and Giroux; Nathan Dylan Goodwin (2013) *Hiding the Past*, (2014) *The Orange Lilies* and (2014) *The Lost Ancestor*; New York Genealogical & Biographical Society (2015) *New York Family History Research Guide & Gazetteer*.

SAN FRANCISCO (CALIFORNIA)

Vol. 35, No. 2, February 2015

ZichronNote

Information about the British conference Who Do You Think You Are? < A reprint from *Relatively Speaking* (May 2011) illustrates the need to keep an open mind about how family names are spelled (Alberta Genealogical Society, vol. 39, no. 2). John Althouse researches the Ukrainian and Canadian family names Obodiak (Obodyak, Obeyank, Obageck) and Althaus (Althans, Allhaus, Althous, Althausen and others). Inconsistency arises from using the Roman alphabet in English-speaking locations, transcription, or family choice. Jeff Lewy has more examples: Kehnweiler, Kohnweiler, Hihnwieler, Kuhnweiler, Hahnweiler, Rahnweiler, Bahnweiler, Kahnwellen, Kahnweiles, Kanellen, Kitsmiller. Jeff has non-surname examples: Leopold, Leo, Lee, Leop, Loepeld, Lio. < Daria Valkenburg researches the displaced persons center, Camp Ohio, of Burgdorf, Germany. She suggests reading material from www.dpcamps.org. Her personal connection is her father, Wasyl Makota. < Krzysztof Bielawski photographs Jewish tombstones in Polish cemeteries (so far 800 of the 1,200–1,400 total). See www.kirkuty.xip.pl. He has posted lists of names compiled from stones in Niepolomice and Szcztyno and has helped search for traces of tzadikim (holy men) in Parysow, Zelechow, and Mielec.

<http://www.avotaynu.com>

We're on the Web! Come visit us as a gateway to the wonderful Web world of Jewish genealogical research.