



### President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

It never ceases to amaze me how, when and where one will discover a clue to discover a distant cousin. Last week, a friend gave me some old books that she wanted me to donate to a bookstore. My husband saw the pile of books by my back door and asked me, "What is this book, written by your cousin, doing here?" Number one: I did not know that my cousin had ever written a book. Number two: When I told my friend this story she told me that book was written by her friend. Number three: My friend was able to add a name to my family tree plus she told me an interesting story about this cousin of mine. It pays to have your eyes wide open. There could be a clue to your roots by your own back door.

### The Main Event: NY 2006



The hottest ticket this summer will be New York City's 26th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, August 13-18, at the Marriott Marquis in Times Square. It is hosted this year by the Jewish Genealogical Society of New York, the first such society founded in 1977.

About 2,000 researchers and experts are anticipated at what may be the largest-ever annual event. Online user-friendly conference and hotel registration is now open at [www.jgsny2006.org](http://www.jgsny2006.org). The initial registration attracted hundreds of reservations for both, while the NY 2006 discussion list grows daily. Attendees and speakers represent some 18 countries and five continents.

Programming will cover every facet of Jewish genealogy, with topics for beginners through advanced researchers. By the December deadline, nearly 300 proposals had been submitted by 179 speakers.

Confirmed presentations are those on Landsmanshaftn societies in the new world, HIAS rescue operations in Marseille, hidden library treasures in Budapest, Polish notary documentation, Romaniote Greek Jewry, the Catskills Jewish legacy; several Polish-focus programs, HIAS and INS archives, the German Emigration Center in Bremerhaven and its new research facilities, new USHMM holdings, workshops on materials conservation and multi-media presentations, and panel

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

### MISHPOCHOLOGY

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

### Potluck Luncheon with Program

Sunday, May 21, 2006 (1:00 PM)

JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota

Potluck Luncheon with a program by Hilde Mandel:

"Jewish Girl Survives on Arian Papers"

Please bring a dish to serve eight people (dairy or parve)

RSVP Kim Sheintal 921-1433 or [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com)

discussions on Teaching Genealogy; Eastern and Central Europe Cemetery Restoration; and Genealogy and Genetics.

Jewish genealogy's household names will speak, such as Dr. Steve Morse (also teaching in the computer lab), genetic DNA pioneer Bennett Greenspan of Family Tree DNA, Miriam Weiner, Stanley Diamond and others. JewishGen, as always, will be represented throughout the event. Dr. Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, will be the keynote speaker at the Opening Night Reception.

A Russian track, organized by Valery Bazarov, is expected to attract a large number of Russian émigrés from Brooklyn and beyond.

Evening conference activities will include Zalman Mlotek, executive director of the Folksbiene Yiddish Theater, who will present a history of Yiddish theaters in America, perform music written for the European and American Yiddish theater, and speak about the composers.

Because technology is basic to contemporary genealogy, a special computer lab will provide hands-on training courses, including computer basics like Excel and PowerPoint, as well as creating web pages, how to mine various databases, country specific courses and a host of others.

Many SIGs will also be meeting and holding luncheons, offering face-to-face networking for these online communities.

In addition to the city's rich array of archives and libraries (see a detailed list on the website), van service will be available to some area cemeteries, and tours to Jewish Ellis Island, Jewish Lower East Side, Lower East Side Tenement Museum and the Eldridge Street Synagogue are being offered. The conference website has details and online registration for SIG luncheons, the Gala Banquet, cemetery trips, tours, computer classes and more. All luncheons and the banquet will be glatt kosher.

It's never too early to think about volunteering, a great way to meet, in-person, colleagues from around the world. Help is needed in many essential areas, including registration, hospitality and resource rooms. For frequently updated information, go to [www.jgsny2006.org](http://www.jgsny2006.org)

**Need recommendations for reliable/creative research/guide assistance** for Fall 2006 journey to Ukraine, Moldova, Rumania to find Jewish roots. Email Jane Plitt at [jplitt@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jplitt@tampabay.rr.com) or call 941-538-4673 with recommendations.

## THE EARLY JEWS OF ENGLAND (Part 2)

by Anita Woolf

### 1154-1189 (Henry II)

Continuing with a further synopsis of early English Jewry, we have now reached a period of comparative prosperity for Jews during Henry's reign. Henry's rule was strong and the land knew peace. The civil war, which prevailed during Stephen's reign, was at an end and the country was united.

Henry II, besides being King of England and Duke of Normandy, was also Lord of ANJOU, of POITOU, BRITTANY and GASCONY. (The King of France, at that period, was King of but a small area.) Henry II was the first cousin of the line known as ANGEVIN (from Anjou) and, during this time the Jews are actually referred to as "Jews of Angevin England." (In Henry's French domain lived large settlements of Jews. These people were in constant touch with their brethren across the English Channel. The Jews of Angevin England spoke French, apart from Hebrew and English, and so considerable friendly relations existed between them.)

Henry's ascent to the throne heralded full restoration of order in the country. Jews were able to move freely. There was no town of importance where Jews were not found – each community having its own synagogue and school.

During Henry's reign, in about 1166, Jews were being employed by the King as "Fern-gatherers." Otherwise Collectors of Taxes. Henry, having borrowed extensively from Jews, rather than reimburse them directly, permitted them to collect the debts HE owed them from the taxes THEY collected. This, records show, became the foundation for one of the reasons, which contributed to Jews becoming greatly unpopular.

During this period, Jews, as previously, provided finance for the building of fine monasteries and castles. Jews were also the first to build stone houses – previously houses consisted of wood and thatched roofs. The oldest stone house in England, still existing today, known as Jew's House was built in Lincoln. It is also known as Aaron of Lincoln's House. Aaron, born about 1125, was the leading banker of the day. Still standing today, built by the means of the money he provided, are the Abbey of St. Albans, outside London, and the Cathedrals of Lincoln and Peterborough. When Aaron died in 1186, he was deemed to be the wealthiest person, Jew or Gentile, in the country. The King snatched this opportunity to take the possession of Aaron's estate, claiming that the goods of a chattel belonged to the Master. All the gold and jewels were sent to France to assist in funding the war he was then waging. However all this treasure was lost at sea! The remainder of this great fortune necessitated a special branch of the Exchequer to be set up to deal with it. The debts owing to Aaron were now collected by Henry himself.....

Under Henry II, English Jewry enjoyed a long period of "quiet" activity. Jews living in London consisted of Jews from France, Morocco, Spain and Kiev, Russia. They lived on reasonably kindly terms with their Christian neighbors. But an anomaly arises with regard to taxation. In 1188, Jews were taxed about one quarter of their wealth, whereas the rest of the population gave only one tenth of theirs. Because of the wealth contributed to the Exchequer from the Jews, the King, unwillingly to relinquish such an abundance, quarreled with the Church, which strove for conversion. Not only would Henry lose a great deal of revenue, but also Gentiles were not able to engage in money-lending. The wise King soon overcame that obstacle.....

### 1189-1199 (Richard I. Richard the Lionheart)

Henry II died, heralding the end of freedom and prosperity for English Jews. From this moment on, as the King's chattels, they became sponges to suck up money and to be squeezed dry again. (Richard the First, as a prince, had actually fought against his own father.)

The beginning of his reign was marked by a dreadful massacre. This occurred at his Coronation when he was to be crowned at Westminster Abbey. Richard ordered that no Jews were to be present. However when a new king is crowned, it was customary for representatives of all the different communities in a county to be present to offer congratulations and to bring gifts to the new monarch. The Jews wanted to show their loyalty to the new King, knowing full well they would otherwise be accused of disloyalty. So the leaders assembled bearing costly gifts. They arrived at the Abbey only to find their admittance barred. They were thus forced to mingle with crowds gathered at the gates. There was much pushing and jostling by the crowd and two of the Jews were pushed through the gates. The men on duty, on seeing these two men, began to beat them and threw them out into the crowd. Needing no excuse, the crowd attacked them with staves, cudgels and stones. As this was happening, and by now all the Jews in the crowd were being attacked, they were fleeing for their lives and fled to their homes. Baying for blood, their homes were plundered by the mob and the wooden houses torched. Anyone trying to escape was murdered. Their wives and children perished in the flames.

Thus, with Jewish screams filling the air, Jewish blood flowing freely was the birth of Richard's reign.

The new king heard the tumult and sent out knights to quell the disturbance. Not through any concern for his Jewish subjects, but because Jews were his chattels and were vital for the Economy. The mob, however, incensed and inflamed, was incapable of being controlled and they continued to riot, murder and plunder for 26 hours. After the rioting, the new King, furious at the loss his Exchequer had suffered, ordered an inquiry. Too late, because the leaders had dispersed. However, several people were hanged, not because of their deeds, but due to their excitement they had stolen from a fellow Christian, and in setting fire had spread and the property neighbor of a Christian neighbor had been destroyed.

This was a time of terror for English Jewry. Orders from the King for the protection of his Jewish chattels were sent to the Sheriffs of the different counties, but to no avail. The fever spread through the country, affecting all. Rumors of Jewish wealth and treasures spread. Many were eager to share in the plunder, whilst the nobles were equally eager to be rid of their considerable debts to their Jewish bankers. Anti-Jewish rioting spread. Pillaging and murder being the order of the day. It was indeed a time of terror for the English Jews. However, worse was to come.

to be continued in the next issue from 1190

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### Become a JGS of SW FL Member

mail \$20 (or \$25 per family) payable to JGS of SW FL to:

Kim Sheintal  
4462 Violet Ave.  
Sarasota, Florida 34233

## Newest Jewish Genealogical Society

by Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President

On behalf of the IAJGS, I am very pleased to announce that we have a new member: the JGS of Tulsa, Oklahoma. The JGS of Tulsa was founded in September 2005 and has already made real progress. To name a few of the activities that have already taken place: They will be publishing a newsletter called "The Muse"; had a speaker discuss genealogy basics; purchased several books and journal subscriptions; and received funds from an anonymous donor to establish the Jewish Genealogy Study and Research Center within the Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art Library. The President is Phil Goldfarb. At this time the group has about 25 members. I am sure you will all join in welcoming this new member of our IAJGS family and in sending them very best wishes for a successful future.

## Wonderful World of Websites

### Judaica Libraries and Archives on the Web

<http://www.bibliomaven.com/judaica.html>

### Genealogy Search Engine

<http://www.myheritage.com/FP/Company/myHeritageResearch.php?s=1&u=g0&lang=EN>

"A genealogist since age 13, CEO Gilad Japhet, now 36, was working full-time in hi-tech while still a Technion student. When he married at 30, he decided to take six months off for family research, visit archives and interview family members. 'I was aware of available genealogy software, but what I wanted was missing,' he recalls, adding that what was out there was not innovative or was too commercial. As Gilad pursued his roots, he visited relatives around the world, armed with a portable scanner and other equipment. He rescued some 2,000 photographs found in albums, shoeboxes, shelves, attics and garages. Most weren't labeled; their owners weren't sure of the pictured individuals' names or relationships. He talked to many elderly people, conducted video interviews, and he began to see the face of humanity and relationships. Gilad's dream was to 'let people upload pictures to a central site, teach the software who the people were and, then, ask it to find the same people in other photos.' In 2003, he took his passion and started MyHeritage.com."

from Schelly Talalay Dardashti newspaper article

(<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3223966,00.html>)

### Jewish Genealogy Month

Avotaynu sponsored Jewish Genealogy Month from March 30-April 28, 2006, which corresponds to the Hebrew month of Nisan 5766--the Passover season. In association with this event, Avotaynu created a poster. This year's theme is "I will dwell in the House of the Lord forever," which was motivated by the Mormon/Jewish controversy of the posthumous baptism of Jews. It is the Mormon belief that anyone who does not accept baptism into the Mormon Church can't live in the presence of God after death. Avotaynu co-owners Sallyann Sack and Gary Mokotoff were reminded that Psalm 23, which is recited at every Jewish funeral, includes a statement that expresses the Jewish belief that we all dwell in the House of the Lord forever. The poster depicts a Jewish marriage ceremony with ancestors viewing the ceremony on one side and future descendants on the other. The 2006 poster, as well as its predecessors, are displayed at <http://www.avotaynu.com/poster.htm>.

### Montreal Directories Online

City directories of Montreal from 1842-1940 are now online at <http://bibnum2.bnquebec.ca/bna/lovel/index.html>. The website is in French but the directories were published in English. From the early 1920s the directories include sections in French.

The directories include alphabetical directories of individuals and businesses, a street directory, and some classified advertisements. Some of these directories include a summary of conditions of the times, not only of the city, but also of Canada in general, and give information regarding who is holding various public offices - civic, federal and provincial.

## Two Avotaynu Books Win Awards

Two books recently published by Avotaynu have received awards.

The Association of Jewish Libraries has given A Dictionary of German Jewish Surnames honorable mention in its annual "Reference Book of the Year" award. This is the fourth time in 15 years that Avotaynu books have been recognized in this category. In notifying Avotaynu of the award, Elliot H. Gertel of AJL stated, "You should be very proud of this [award] and your high quality and meticulously researched publications which have set the standard for the field of Jewish genealogy and lead to such awards."

The 824-page book, written by Lars Menk of Berlin, Germany, identifies more than 13,000 German-Jewish surnames from pre-World War I Germany. From Baden-Württemberg in the south to Schleswig-Holstein in the north. From Westfalen in the west to East Prussia in the east. In addition to providing the etymology and variants of each name, it identifies when and where in Germany the name appeared. Sample pages from the book, its table of contents, and ordering information found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/menk.htm>.

The Jewish Book Council has announced that Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy was a runner-up in their annual National Jewish Book Awards competition in the Reference Book category. The definitive guide to Jewish genealogical research, The Guide is written by more than 60 authors, all experts in their own field. Its more than 100 chapters cover all-important aspects of the rich body of information available to do Jewish genealogical research. Each chapter in "Researching by Country of Ancestry" typically has (1) history of the Jewish presence in the country, (2) what records are available, (3) how to access records, (4) address of repositories and other institutions, (4) bibliography, and (5) Internet addresses. The review in an American Library Association publication stated "...a beginning and advanced guide for anyone seriously researching Jewish family heritage." Sample pages from the book, its table of contents, and ordering information found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/guide.htm>.

## U.S. National Archives Starts Pilot Project to Digitize Films

The U.S. National Archives and Google have announced a joint effort to make holdings of the National Archives available online free of charge. This non-exclusive agreement will enable people to access a diverse collection of historic movies, documentaries and other films from the National Archives via Google Video at <http://video.google.com/nara.html>. The initial offerings include:

- The earliest film preserved in the National Archives--a Spanish dance from 1894 at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=6020302018400450975&q=Carmencita++Spanish+Dance>
- A representative selection of U.S. government newsreels, documenting World War II, 1941-45 at [http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=owner%3Anara+type%3Aworld\\_war\\_II&so=0](http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=owner%3Anara+type%3Aworld_war_II&so=0)
- A sampling of documentaries produced by NASA on the history of the spaceflight program at <http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=owner%3Anara+type%3Anasa&so=0>
- Motion picture films, primarily from the 1930s, that document the history and establishment of a nationwide system of national and state parks at <http://video.google.com/videosearch?q=owner%3Anara+type%3Aparke&so=0>

# SOJOURN

THE JEWISH AMERICAN SAGA  
APRIL 2006

## MY OTHER JEWISH GENEALOGY

For me, until recently, genealogy was strictly a family affair; a kind of time-travel aided (or frustrated) by passenger lists and census records to find traces of my paternal grandfather, or great-grandparents on my mother's side of the family. Blood relatives.

When Harry Gross, the founder of a brand new newspaper/magazine – **SOJOURN – The Jewish American Saga** – chose me to help edit the publication, I discovered that I had a whole other family, my Jewish American family. And though not related by blood, I found myself feeling very close to them and very proud of them; for this extended family of mine was vitally important in the birth and growth of the American nation. In fact, without them, this country would be a very different place than it is.

And I'm not speaking of the Jewish American history that we all grew up with and knew about: the records of Jewish Americans who made major contributions in the last 150 years in the fields of medicine, law, business and entertainment and who fought for this country's beliefs in two World Wars.

I'm speaking about a Jewish American history that hardly any of us know anything about. I'm speaking about Dr. Samuel Nunes: a Sephardic Jewish physician who arrived, together with 48 other Jews, in the Colony of Georgia in 1734 as it was being formed and who put an end to an epidemic that was killing off its citizens. I'm referring to Adolphus Sterne: a Texas Jewish man who in 1843 was responsible for influencing Sam Houston to come to Texas from Tennessee and lead the war of independence against Mexico; and who then recruited troops to fight at the Alamo and San Jacinto and outfitted them. I'm speaking about Abraham Levi and William Krause: settlers who came to the territory of Iowa in its earliest years and who opened the first businesses in Des Moines and Dubuque, helped establish schools in that territory and even contributed to the building of their neighbor's churches.

**SOJOURN – The Jewish American Saga** will bring this new family to you and your family in a highly entertaining manner. I very much hope you'll visit **SOJOURN's** website at **www.SojournSaga.com** and then call me at 917.414.5984 for a complimentary copy of our inaugural issue.

**Robert Kaplan,**  
*Editor*