



# QUEST

THE  
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL  
SOCIETY  
OF  
CONNECTICUT

ESTABLISHED 1989

Volume 27, Number 2

Spring 2015

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- President's Message
- Research Breakthrough by Linda Winkelman
- Book Review by Janet Carlson

## QUEST SPRING ISSUE



PLEASE let us know if you prefer to receive JGSCT information through the mail. All JGSCT communication, including Quest and notifications of meetings will ONLY be sent electronically UNLESS you change your preference. Notify Gail: [publicity@jgsct.org](mailto:publicity@jgsct.org) or Deb:

[Deborah.holman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Deborah.holman@sbcglobal.net)

### HeritageQuest Online—New Look On March 4, 2015

As noted in the January 2015 issue of the ICONN Times (<http://www.cslib.org/>) the HeritageQuest Online interface changed to a new interface powered by Ancestry. Content enhancements include the complete U.S. Federal Census 1790-1940 with images and every-name indexes for all decades. There is also a new image viewer with grayscale or color images.

Thanks to Arthur and Marcia Meyers (former co-editors of Quest) for alerting us to this update

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## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

### NEXT MEETING!!

JUNE 7, 2015

Dr. Avinoam Patt

YIZKOR BOOKS and the  
SEARCH FOR JEWISH  
MEMORY

### ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

Next program in

September 2015

Stay Tuned!

All programs held at

Godfrey Memorial Library

134 Newfield Street,

Middletown, CT 06457

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doris Loeb Nabel

## STATE OF THE JGS REPORT March 2013—March 2015

Welcome to the Jewish Genealogical Society of Connecticut's Biennial Meeting. I am pleased to stand before you today to present the State of the JGS report.

I have been proud to serve as your President since March 20, 2011. With the dedication and support of our excellent Board, JGSCT has accomplished much during the past two years.

Three members, Janet Carlson, Deborah Holman, and Richard Sperber, joined the Board during the past two years, adding to their strengths and insights, and further enhancing its ability to fulfill JGSCT's mission to serve our members.

I would like to acknowledge and thank our Board Members for their efforts.

Vice-President Barney Miller persevered to represent JGSCT's interests in the larger Jewish community. His passion concerning Hartford's Jewish cemeteries moved him to advocate for their preservation. In addition, he photographed more than 7000 matsevot, and donated the images and details to the JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) database.

Treasurer Lew Goldfarb submitted the following statistics for this report: In 2013, JGSCT had 101 members, and \$1,270.28; in 2014, 96 members, and \$1,875.73; As of March 15, 65 members have paid dues, and our balance is \$2,815.64.

In order to obtain information about attaining tax-exempt status from the IRS for JGSCT, I networked with Jan Meisels Allen, then Vice-President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), and Paul Silverstone, IAJGS Treasurer.

IAJGS states, "As a 501(c)(3) organization, under the IRS code we can arrange a group exemption for those of our members who desire it. This entitles them to exemption from Federal income taxes and to accept donations."

Lew Goldfarb supplied financial information needed for some of the forms I had to complete. I obtained the required the Employer Identification Number, even though we have none.

After completing the IRS online forms and the other paperwork, JGSCT received non-profit status for the first time in September 2013. Covered by the IAJGS, the umbrella organization, JGSCT incurred no expense to obtain this status and the annual renewal.

Our tax-exempt non-profit status enables donors to honor, to donate in memory of someone, or to make a contribution. The additional financial resources will offer JGSCT the opportunity to enhance our library and to engage additional speakers.

Secretary Monica Talmor has served for approximately eight years. Her detailed Minutes are historical records of our society's accomplishments.

Publicity Chair Gail Kalison Reynolds regularly searches for additional outlets to ensure that each JGSCT publicity release reaches yet more publications and online media.

Each month, she and I update the JGSCT Facebook page that she created in 2011, and the Jewish Ledger's Facebook page. We hope all of you who use Facebook visit it regularly. Be sure to "Like" the page so our numbers will grow!

During the 2013 – 2014 program year, the JGSCT Board collaborated to seek speakers and organize programs. This year, the Program Committee, Janet Carlson, Richie Sperber, Gail Kalison Reynolds, Marcia Indianer Meyers, and I, brainstormed and planned via conference calls.

The JGSCT website, which I created, went live in March, 2009, and can be accessed via our original URL, <http://www.jgsct-jewish-genealogy.org>, or our short URL, [www.jgsct.org](http://www.jgsct.org). A work in progress, it will continue to feature new pages. If you have suggestions for resources and links that you think would be helpful, please contact me so that I can add them. (I am also the Webmaster.)

Co-editors Gail Kalison Reynolds and Deborah Samuel Holman have lovingly and creatively reformatted Quest. In their first publication, Volume 26, Number 1, First Quarter 2014, Gail and Deb wrote, [we]"extend our sincere thanks to editor emeritus Arthur Meyers and editor assistant emerita Marcia Indianer Meyers...[who] have produced wonderful Quest newsletters packed with meaningful news and articles for many years. We thank them for their years of service and are glad that they remain board members!"

Quest continues to feature an array of information that enlightens recipients quarterly. Our members, as well as genealogical societies around the world, receive either the print, or e-mailed PDF edition. If you are still receiving a print copy, we would be happy to change your delivery method to e-mail distribution.

**P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E** (Cont. from pg. 2)

Deb and Gail stated in their first edition, "...we said goodbye to longtime board member Georgia Haken. Georgia served as President and also as our librarian for many years. An accomplished genealogical researcher and speaker, Georgia assisted many new and experienced members with their research.

New librarian Janet Carlson joined the Board in November, 2013. A retired librarian, she familiarized herself with JGSCT's collection, reorganized it, and is in the process of inventorying it.

Recently, The Godfrey moved our collection of approximately 250 books, and relocated their Jewish resources in proximity to it.

Linda Winkleman, Membership Chair, contacted potential members and communicated with new members.

For the first time in my tenure, we had to postpone, or cancel two programs due to inclement weather.

JGSCT's programming March 2013 – March 2015 continued to fulfill our Mission Statement and Objectives by: "...helping disseminate and preserve Jewish genealogical knowledge and information, Promoting genealogical research, Providing instruction in the use of research methodology and adherence to standards of accuracy, and Fostering careful documentation and scholarly genealogical writing and publication."

During this period, JGSCT offered 10 meetings featuring guest speakers, 8 meetings featuring member speakers, 1 Translation program meeting, and 2 Assisted research sessions facilitated by board members. For details, go to <http://www.jgsct.org/past-programs.html>

Many JGSCT members attended the IAJGS Boston 2014 conference. Several spoke with visitors to the JGSCT table at the Share Fair. JGSCT librarian Georgia Haken brought materials for the resource room; several members spent time in the resource room assisting visitors.

Barney Miller presented, 'What Information And Documents Are Available in Connecticut and Where They Can Be Found.' Georgia Haken and Rabbi Ed Cohen presented, "Jewish Research in Connecticut: History, Cemeteries and Sources of the Jews of Connecticut."

Doris Loeb Nabel facilitated the meeting of the Mac Users/Apple Product Users Birds of A Feather (BOF) group she founded in 2007, and assisted at the Mac computer labs.

JGSCT succeeds in its mission by providing programs, assistance, and resources.

However, JGSCT fulfills its mission through members' participation.

In March 2014, we learned that the Public Health Committee of the Connecticut State Senate had a bill under consideration that would impact genealogists. As a member of IAJGS, JGSCT benefitted from this association and impacted the fate of the bill.

I alerted the JGSCT board to write to their senators and State Representatives, urging them to argue against the bill. Within twelve hours, we, and members of other CT genealogy groups inundated the Senate committee members with information why this bill would be a disservice.

We were delighted to learn that advocacy, in writing, and in testimonies, resulted in SB 4141 not getting out of committee.

JGSCT is now part of a coalition of Connecticut genealogy groups which will monitor and address bills proposed in the Senate.

Imagine my gratification when, on September 30, 2014, while reading the Hartford Courant, I saw the Editorial, "Why should only genealogists have to make appointments with town clerks?" One sentence presents the point, "Why are genealogists' visits considered interruptions? They ought to be part and parcel of the "regular business operations" of vital statistics offices."

If you haven't yet signed the Genealogists' Declaration of Rights, you can easily find it online and add your name via the secure site.

Currently, the board is seeking additional members-at-large to join in planning for the 2015 – 2016 activity year.

We are also seeking a Program Chair, who will collaborate with the other board members to continue to provide the level of programming JGSCT has offered since its founding in 1989.

Your board appreciates members' suggestions for topics and speakers for future programs. Please take a moment to share suggestions for the 2015 – 2016 activity year.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (Cont. from pg. 3)

Thank you for supporting JGSCT. We look forward to your continued interest and participation, and urge you to speak with your friends, colleagues, neighbors and family about our JGS, and urge them to join.



## NOTES FROM NU? WHAT'S NEW?

E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu  
(<http://www.avotaynu.com/nu.htm>)  
Gary Mokotoff, Editor

### Global Family Reunion

If Geni is right, that indeed we are all cousins, how about a family reunion where we are all invited. Such is the dream of A. J. (Arnold) Jacobs a journalist, author, and lecturer. Titled "A Global Family Reunion", the main event will take place on June 6 in the New York Hall of Science, which is on 1964 World's Fairgrounds. There will also be dozens of simultaneous satellite parties all over the world, from Salt Lake City to Bulgaria, from Texas to New Zealand.

All seven billion members of the human family are invited. Those with a proven connection will get a bracelet and will be part of what is hoped will be the biggest family photo in history. Come meet your mishpocha. Additional information is at <http://globalfamilyreunion.com/>.

### Oral Testimonies of Holocaust Survivors Online

The British Library has placed online a collection of 289 audio interviews with Holocaust survivors. It is located at <http://sounds.bl.uk/Oral-history/Jewish-Holocaust-survivors>. Each testimony is heavily abstracted and the abstract often includes names of persons mentioned by the interviewee. Searching by town name may also yield results. The project is described at <http://sounds.bl.uk/oral-history>.

The Shoah Foundation, located at <http://vhaonline.usc.edu/about/about.aspx?> has 52,000 interviews. They have a somewhat similar extraction that can include names of spouses (inferring number of times married), parents, siblings, children, etc. Place names often are identified.

### Hungarian Jewish Encyclopedia Online

Marilyn Robinson in her [Jewish Gems Genealogy](#) blog notes that the Hungarian Jewish encyclopedia, *Magyar Zsidó Lexikon*, is online at <http://mek.oszk.hu/04000/04093/html>. It was published in 1929 and features articles about various aspects of Hungarian-Jewish history. Click on the image of the book to the right of the page to browse its pages.

The existence of the online version was mentioned in a [2006 edition](#) of *Nu? What's New?*. In revisiting the site, it has a number of useful features that may have not existed in 2006. At the bottom of the home page, the authors have abstracted various elements of the encyclopedia. For example, there is an index of towns showing their Jewish population. Another index is described as "Little known people." Another is names of local officials. At the very bottom of the home page is a link to a full-word search engine. If you are unfamiliar with the Hungarian language, use the Google translate function.

### Drone View of Bialystok Jewish Cemetery

Photographers Ania and Jakob Gornicki have used a drone to create videos of a number of sites in Poland, including the main cemetery in Bialystok. It can be viewed at <http://podroznicy.com/en/poland/jewish-cemetery-bialystok>. I had trouble viewing the video in Internet Explorer, possibly due to some improper setting on my computer. I was able to watch it using Firefox but had to frequently double-click the stop button (it looks like a "00") to advance the viewing. The video shows the cemetery is well maintained although a great number of tombstones have fallen over. To watch drone views of other sites in Poland, click the Next arrow.

Tomasz Wisniewski of Bialystok also has a brief video of the cemetery at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qe6tbPTYUOM>. His site <http://bagnowka.com/> has additional photographs of Polish Jewry.

### Posen Province Marriage Records, Online Index, 1800-1899

The Poznan Project: 19th century Marriage Records from the Historic Greater Poland (formerly Prussian Province of Posen): <http://poznan-project.psn.pl/index.php?lang=en> According to the website, "Our goal is to transcribe the 19th century marriage records from the historic Greater Poland (then Prussian Province of Poznan) into a searchable online database.

The Project is coordinated by Łukasz Bielecki and is supported by dozens of volunteers from many countries, who have been transcribing marriages from the entire region. The search engine was created by Maciej Glowiak." For a description of the project see: <http://poznan-project.psn.pl/page.php?page>

The above information was posted on the German Jewish SIG digest (February 14, 2015) by Ruth Nadelman Lynn who credited Irene Newhouse for alerting her to this useful website.

### EHRI Online Portal Connects Holocaust Archives Worldwide

The European Holocaust Research Infrastructure (EHRI) has established an online portal that provides access to information about more than 1,800 Holocaust-related archival institutions in 51 countries, and to descriptions of tens of thousands of archival materials. It is located at <https://portal.ehri-project.eu>. Searching for an ancestral town might identify where to find information about the events that occurred there during the Holocaust period.

Central to EHRI's mission is the creation of an online inventory of Holocaust-related archival institutions and collections. It also provides Holocaust education through fellowship opportunities, summer schools, workshops and conferences.

### 1942 Transport lists from Lodz Ghetto to Chelmno

A posting to the JRI-Poland Discussion Group notes that 1942 transport lists of Jews deported from the Lodz ghetto to the Chelmno extermination camp has been placed online by the Polish State Archives at <http://szukajwarchiwach.pl/39/278/0/19/1229/str/1/1/15#tabSkany>. The list appears to include about 8,000 names. You can browse through the pages by using the roller on your mouse.

Yes!! We are on Facebook!  
Visit our page often for updated news  
and information.  
Search using: JG SCT



# Avotaynu Online

JEWISH GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY

AVOTAYNU is now online!!

The following announcement was posted on various genealogy websites:

Avotaynu Inc is pleased to announce the creation of "Avotaynu Online," an exciting new venture intended to stimulate collaboration among Jewish genealogists in all its forms. Leading participants in the various areas of genealogical research will provide in-depth articles on events and discoveries on a regular basis.

Avotaynu Online will be available free of charge from the venture's website at <http://avotaynuonline.com/>, which will be shared simultaneously on Facebook and Twitter. Reports will be delivered in different formats, including text, video, and podcasts. As a bonus to readers, all articles from 2007–2011 published in AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, are available at no charge at the Avotaynu Online website. Articles from all other years will continue to be available on a subscription basis by visiting <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Anthology.htm>.

Readers are encouraged to subscribe to the Avotaynu Online news feed by registering their email addresses at the top of our web page, and to also follow public commentary on its articles by "liking" the official Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/AvotaynuOnline> as well as our pages at Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Pinterest and other social media outlets. By virtue of its focus on the in-depth reporting of specific subjects, Avotaynu Online is intended to be entirely distinct from the existing print journal, AVOTAYNU, which for over three decades has covered the broad spectrum of Jewish family history research, and from the weekly "Nu? What's New?," which reports breaking stories in the world of genealogy.

Additional information was provided in Nu? What's New? - Vol. 16, No. 14 – March 29, 2015:

We deliberately seeded Avotaynu Online with five years of AVOTAYNU articles to give you an idea of what Avotaynu Online will look like five years from now when the site has accumulated its own original articles. Use the search engine on the home page to do full-word searches of the names of your ancestral town and/or surnames. To the left of the home page, we have indexed articles on the site by category. Choose from the nearly 50 categories those topics of interest to you.

Avotaynu Inc now offers your three methods of keeping abreast of what is new in Jewish genealogy. Our flagship AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy at <http://avotaynu.com/journal.htm>; *Nu? What's New?*, the e-zine of Jewish Genealogy at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu.htm>; and now, Avotaynu Online at <http://avotaynuonline.com>

## A Curated Link Site: Linkpendium

Linkpendium (<http://www.linkpendium.com/>) has more than 10 million links to surname and locality sites. The site was started by Karen Isaacson and Brian (Wolf) Leverich who are the founders of Rootsweb.

The **Locality Section** contains statewide resources for the listed states. The **Surname Section** contains links to websites and blogs about specific surnames as well as other resources such as mailing lists.



## FROM THE IAJGS LEADERSHIP DIGEST

Vol 136, Issue 1 (Jan Meisels Allen)

A new virtual museum has opened : The Virtual Museum of Judaica in Moldova. The exhibit is entitled “ On the Trails of History”. Items that can be viewed include: digitized photographs ( persons as well as the area), documents ( including lists of people deported during the Holocaust), Judaica items, tombstones and Jewish cemeteries, art objects, videos and more. When viewing an item, double click on it and the information about the document, photograph etc. will appear. There are three circles on the website that are portals to “About”, “Museum” and “Contacts”. Click on Museum to open the photographs, documents, videos etc. To see the virtual museum go to: <http://www.jewishmuseum.md/en/main/menu?alias=museum>



© Virtual Museum of Judaica in Moldova

Vol 127, Issue 5 (Jan Meisels Allen)

Both Portugal and Spain recently announced that they would allow Jews who can prove that their ancestors were expelled from those nations at the end of the 15th Century to apply for a right of return of sorts and to become citizens. The Jewish community of Oporto, Portugal, has already begun the process.

Both countries say they are doing this to redress a historic wrong. At one time there were tens of thousands of Jews in Portugal—today less than 1,000. Applicants will have to be vetted by the government and Portuguese Jewish organizations. Applicants will have to demonstrate knowledge about Portugal. As Portugal is a member country of the European Union, those who achieve Portuguese dual citizenship also may “benefit “ from being an European Union citizen.

Vol 123, Issue 3 (Jan Meisels Allen)

2016 will be the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Jewish ghetto in Venice. The ghetto is crumbling and to restore it to its rich Jewish culture the Venetian Heritage Council pledged \$12 million to restore it into a Jewish cultural center. Dianne Von Furstenberg, the fashion designer, founded the Council, an international philanthropy. Restoration will include restoring the five synagogues within the ghetto.

The Venice ghetto was the first ghetto in the world—the first case of organized religious segregation. In 1516 the *Serenissima Repubblica* confined its Jews in a ghetto—where Jews were locked up at midnight, guarded by Christian guards who had to be paid upon entering the ghetto. The intent of the restoration is to tell the stories of survival and accomplishment despite being ghettoized. Today there are few Jews left in Venice—about 500 in the ghetto. In order to prevent Jews from “roaming “ about at night, the new 1516 laws forced all Jews to live together on a site of a foundry ( in Venetian Italian “geto”) establishing the Ghetto Nuovo ( new ghetto) . Jews were limited as to professions they could practice. These included doctors, ragsellers, merchants and moneylenders.

The history of Jews in Venice goes back as early as the 10<sup>th</sup> century when Jews were forbidden from boarding ships, forced to settle outside the city and pay special taxes. However, in the 14<sup>th</sup> century Jews were welcomed as money lenders but that was short-lived as by the 15<sup>th</sup> century money-lending Jews were banned. By 1492 many Spanish and Portuguese Jews expelled by the Inquisition settled in Venice. German Jews also escaping persecution found their way to Venice and the ghetto Vechhio ( old ghetto).

To read an article on the history of the Venice ghetto and the impending restoration see: <http://tinyurl.com/q99xnbo>

## MEMBER SEARCH

JGSCT member Michael Palmer is searching for the following names:

On my father's side: the surnames are Shalmuk or Schalamuk from Indura, Belarus (note: our family, and Jews in general, called Indura by the Yiddish Amdur) and Wolf from Krynki, Poland.

On my mother's side the surnames are Kaplan and Glotzer; both from Pinsk, Belarus.

Michael also notes that when his father's father, Morris Palmer, came to Middletown he saw the I.E. Palmer business and apparently liked the name and so he changed Shalmuk to Palmer....

WE ENCOURAGE OUR MEMBERS TO SHARE THEIR SEARCHES IN QUEST

WHO KNOWS...YOU MAY BE RELATED TO ANOTHER MEMBER!

ANOTHER JGSCT MEMBER MAY HAVE INFORMATION YOU SEEK!

## NOTES

If you're searching for Austro-Hungarian Army records, check out "A Guide for Locating Austro-Hungarian Military Records" by Carl Kotlarchik  
<http://ahmilitary.blogspot.com/>

Originally posted by Ann Rabinowitz on the British-Jewry Digest

### SHARE YOUR STORY

Nearly everyone reading our newsletter has already begun the search for family history. Many of us encountered obstacles soon after, but we persevered.

Share your story of how you began your journey. The length of the write-up could be short, medium or long - but please share it!

Send your story to: [quest@jgsct.org](mailto:quest@jgsct.org)

Sending announcements and newsletters by mail uses funds that could be put to better use.

Help your JGSCT by requesting that all correspondence be done electronically.

To make changes, contact:  
[quest@jgsct.org](mailto:quest@jgsct.org)

## PROGRAM IDEAS FOR JGSCT

Do you have requests or suggestions for future JGSCT programs ?

We are always looking for quality programs for our members and guests.

Email: [quest@jgsct.org](mailto:quest@jgsct.org)

## MORE ON FACEBOOK GROUPS

GAIL KALISON REYNOLDS

QUEST CO-EDITOR

Facebook groups dedicated to Jewish Genealogy continue to proliferate.

In an earlier Quest, I mentioned the Botosani-Gen (Botosani County Romania Jewish Genealogy) group yielded some previously unknown information about my mother's grandfather.

Recently I was alerted by group members of Jewish Families from Belarus of someone searching for the same surname (Alpert) from the same town (Kurenets.) A private messaging session with the matching person revealed that we are indeed related!

The groups continue to proliferate. I suggest joining the following:

- Tracing the Tribe (Jewish Genealogy on Facebook)
- Jewish Genealogy Surname Project, related to Tracing The Tribe. A spreadsheet of surnames and places is maintained by Melissa Mendelsohn; email her at [ttd.surname.project@gmail.com](mailto:ttd.surname.project@gmail.com) for additional information.
- Jewish Families from Belarus Circa 1330 to 1945
- Jewish Genealogy Portal
- Belarus Family Roots
- Jews from Bukovina
- International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOG)
- Avotaynu Online

Not every post will be of interest. The groups are mostly closed, meaning that the group administrator must approve your membership, which minimizes trolls (troublemakers.)

### Ancestry.com Launches "Ancestry Academy"



Ancestry.com has placed on the Internet a number of hour-long videos to educate interested people in various aspects of family history research. Called Ancestry Academy," it is located at <https://academy.ancestry.com/academy/courses/>.

There are currently 16 offerings divided into four categories: Ancestry Products (6), Records (4), Methodology and Skills (4) and Localities and Ethnic Research (2). Even those that promote Ancestry products may be useful, such as "Digging for Ancestors with Find A Grave" and "You Found What in the 1940 Census?".

Those that promote Ancestry products are free of charge. For the others, membership in Ancestry Academy is required which costs \$11.99/month or \$99.99/year

THE GENEALOGY DO-OVER  
DEB SAMUEL HOLMAN  
QUEST CO-EDITOR

In the last issue of QUEST, I wrote about my Genealogy Resolutions. I've kept one of them (hey- 50% isn't so bad...) I completed the Genealogy Do-Over! (<http://www.geneabloggers.com/announcing-genealogy-dooover/>) The "Do-Over", the brainchild of renowned genealogist Thomas MacEntee, is a 13 week "program" with tasks designed to help participants develop a "firm foundation in genealogy and family history research skill building." For those of us who began our "genealogical journey" years ago, this is a great opportunity to review our past work and ensure we are using "best practices." I hoped to improve my skills in the areas of citing sources, keeping better records of my searches, cleaning up my digital files and verifying that my research is accurate.

It would take this entire issue to describe all I have learned. Here are some of the high points:

I organized and inventoried much of my collection. Both physical and digital. There's more to go, but now I have a system.

I learned the value of using a Research Log. Most importantly, I am actually using one!

I started a new tree in my genealogy software (I use RootsMagic) and am inputting data ONLY after it is properly sourced and cited.

I set parameters for my work using my newly created "Golden Rules of Genealogy" (One of my most important rules: Touch it ONCE! Put it where it should go – NOW")

I created a "Research Toolbox" so I can easily return to sites I found useful.

I learned the correct way to cite my sources and purchased the Evidentia software to assist me in writing proofs. Luckily for me, our JGSCT speaker for March 2015 was Ron Arons who spoke about using the GPS (Genealogical Proof Standard.) The timing was certainly advantageous as I was able to put his words to use during the Do-Over process. I also purchased his book, *Mind Maps for Genealogy* to help me untangle a rather difficult case.

I found new friends, widened my network and learned about new sites I might not have become aware of otherwise.

I renewed my "mojo". Participating in the Do-Over helped me to regain my enthusiasm for genealogy.

Admittedly, I spend more time on some weeks than on others. That's what made the Do-Over process so great. Thomas provided the structure and you could manipulate it however you wished to meet your specific need.

Due to the overwhelming response and the fact that many people wanted to "get on board" after the program started, Thomas restarted the Do-Over with Cycle 2. As I write this, Cycle 2 is on Week 5 and will end on July 2. Cycle 3 will run immediately following, probably around July 7.

For more information, visit the Do-Over Face Book page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/genealogydooover/>) or Thomas MacEntee's blog, Geneabloggers (<http://www.geneabloggers.com/>).

RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH  
LINDA WINKLEMAN  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

New records are always being made available! Periodically check your sources.

Back in 2009, Linda and her husband Jack attended the IAJGS conference in Philadelphia. They ventured to the Har Nebo Cemetery to find and read the grave marker for Jacob WINKLEMAN. They knew his death certificate said Suwalki, which was the place of origin in Poland of the WINKIELMANs.

They found two other WINKLEMANs (Rachel and Sophia) buried next to Jacob. All three of them died between 1902 and 1907. Because the grave markers were not made of a durable material, only a few letters were visible on each of them. Nothing worked to obtain usable information from the gravestones.

This past week (mid-April 2015,) Linda was revisiting the census, death certificates, and Jewishgen's Polish records for Suwalki. Low and behold, she spotted where Jacob fit on the tree. He was born in the 1830s to a sibling of Jack's g-grandfather, Gershon WINKIELMAN, even though there were two Jacobs born in the 1830s.

Linda could confirm it was him, because his marriage to Sophia was also listed and was within two years of the data listed on the 1900 Philly census.

Death certificates for Philly just were put online. She also was able to match Frank WINKLEMAN as Jacob's brother, because his death certificate listed his parents.

The death certificate for Rachel WINKLEMAN gave very little information. After checking and rechecking each census, Linda found Rachel was the wife of Frank WINKLEMAN. She was listed in the 1900 census as Ray.

Linda also researches the UDITSKY tree. She was finally able to connect the Philly UDITSKY-UDELL-UDIS family to her tree. They were cousins to her paternal g-grandmother, Sima Liba UDITSKY BRYNES who was born in Moshny, Ukarine in the 1840s.

The death certificates contained other surnames and also mentioned that many of them were also buried in Har Nebo. If only we had know this in the summer of 2009!



35<sup>th</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

In cooperation with  
 MyHeritage

Jerusalem, 6-10 July, 2015

Registration is now open at [www.iajgs2015.org](http://www.iajgs2015.org) for the IAJGS 35<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Jewish Genealogy taking place at the Jerusalem Ramada 6-10 July 2015

**B O O K   R E V I E W**  
**J A N E T   C A R L S O N**  
**L I B R A R I A N**

*Witness: Voices from the Holocaust.* Edited by Joshua M. Greene and Shiva Kumar. The Free Press. 2001.

Based on the 90 minute film of the same name, the editors chose twenty-seven of the over 100 interviews of Holocaust witness testimonies from the Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies to show what the Holocaust did to its victims and families.

For over 30 years, the Fortunoff Video Archive at Yale University has been recording testimony from Holocaust victims from all over the world. There are over 12,000 hours of interviews from more than 4500 people stored there.

This book includes testimonies from concentration camp inmates, resistance fighters, and some who were in hiding. Among the Non-Jewish witnesses are a former Hitler Youth member, an American POW, and a Jesuit priest.

The chapters form a single-stream narrative of the Holocaust in Europe through ghettos, deportations, camps, liberation, and aftermath.

This very moving volume was donated to our library by Godfrey reference librarian Sharon Dahlmeyer-Giovannitti. For information about the Fortunoff Video Archive, the website address is [www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/index.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/testimonies/index.html)

**Tips for finding naturalization papers were provided by Phyllis Kramer in the Jan. 10, 2015 Jewishgen digest.**

Phyllis notes that "in NY you could apply for naturalization in Local, State AND Federal Courts." She suggests the following:

Start with [italiangen.org](http://italiangen.org), which has indexes to over two million NYC naturalization records that are available at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA in Manhattan), including Eastern and Southern Districts (Federal), and County Courts in Bronx, Queens, Suffolk, Nassau and Richmond."

Once you find an index to a County Court. you might have to send away to the court for the actual application if it's not on Ancestry or Fold3. But here's a new twist: you can browse some of the years on Family Search to view the actual document for Manhattan, Queens and Brooklyn. Bronx is not yet available.

Phyllis strongly suggests trying FamilySearch, especially if you have the year and index#, "...but here's a few access tips: go to [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), click records, click on the USA map, then (on the left) scroll down to NY. Then click to view the titles of all 78 databases that familysearch has for NY, then select one of the 9 naturalization databases and query it. Again, if get the index year and number, you can fairly easily browse the image-only digitized applications."

## JG S C T P R O G R A M S



Ron Arons talks about “What’s in a Name? Trouble!” at JG S C T March 2015 program



Board Member Lew Goldfarb makes a point during discussion



Members listen to Godfrey Library Executive Director Beth Mariotti present on advanced internet searches

WWW.JGSCT.ORG



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