



President's Column The IAJGS Salt Lake City Conference, July 2000

Ronald D. Doctor
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The annual conference of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is one of the outstanding events of Jewish genealogy. IAJGS outdid themselves in arranging the 20th International Conference on Jewish genealogy. The year 2000 conference was held in Salt Lake City in July. Since there is no JGS in Utah, all arrangements had to be made from a distance, but fortunately, with cooperation from Salt Lake City's Jewish community, the Conference "hosts" Avotaynu's Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack were able to assemble an outstanding conference.

This conference, like those before it, featured numerous innovations and a plethora of announcements of new developments in Jewish genealogy, besides the usual concurrent program sessions covering a very wide range of topics in Jewish genealogy. One of the special features of the meeting was the availability of the Mormon Family History Library. The Mormons went out of their way to make us feel welcome and they developed several new resources to help us do Jewish genealogy research.

Abstracts of all the papers presented at the conference, as well as full reprints of many of the papers, and the IAJGS Yearbook, are in the Conference Syllabus. A copy of the Syllabus is in JGSO's Library at Neveh Shalom.

Presentations dealt with Jewish genealogy in many different geographic areas.:

Austria-Hungary (3)	Belarus (3)	Czech Republic (1)
Denmark (1)	Egypt (1)	Germany (8)
Israel (2)	Latvia (1)	Lithuania (5)
Moldova (5)	Poland (5)	Russia (6)

The number in parentheses indicates the number of presentations dealing with each area.

Here are some of the major topics covered in the presentations.

Cemeteries (2)	Census (1)	Draft records (1)	Family History Library (1)
Genetics (1)	Hasidic Roots (1)	Holocaust (4)	Immigration & Naturalization (7)
Methodology (20)	Passport Records (2)	Rabbinics (1)	Sephardim (1)
Vital Records (2)			

In addition, there were several important announcements at the conference about new resources. I'll discuss some of these below.

LDS Resources

Nancy Goodstein, an LDS volunteer, worked for two years compiling an Index to ALL Family History Library resources (books, microfilm, etc.) that contain Jewish content. The LDS presented the Index to IAJGS. It is on a CD-Rom and in hard copy at the FHL. IAJGS is working with JewishGen to put the index on-line. It should be available early in 2001. The Family History Library released 50 new rolls of microfilmed vital records that are in the Vilnius, Lithuania, archives. A partial index to the films is at <http://www.avotaynu.com/LithuaniaList.htm>. A full index will be released in 2001.

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Genealogy Conference Coming to Portland

Local genealogists will have an opportunity to enjoy a national class genealogy experience, when the National Genealogical Society brings its **2001 NGS Conference in the States** to the Oregon Convention Center in Portland May 16-19, 2001 (co-hosted by the Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Inc.)

The program features a huge variety of subjects in multiple parallel sessions spread over the 4 days. The program is broken into areas of Methodology, Records, United States, U.S. Migration, International, Pacific Rim, Workshops, Potpourri and a variety of Computer sessions and Computer Labs. There are also catered lunch-time and evening sessions for an extra fee.

On Wednesday evening of May 16, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon is hosting an open dinner meeting, when Hal Bookbinder, Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will talk on "Jewish Genealogy: Linking the Past and the Future." Space will be limited, so watch for registration information.

Sessions of particular interest to JGSO members include talks by Gary Mokotoff on "Changing Face of Central & Eastern Europe" and "What is different about Jewish Genealogy". Eileen Polakoff will present a number of sessions, including "Advanced Case Studies in Jewish Genealogy" and Hal Bookbinder will talk on "The Khazars, Our Ancestors".

The deadline for reduced fee registration is March 19th, 2001. Contact the National Genealogical Society, 4527 17th St. North, Arlington, VA 22207-2399 or call 1-800-473-0060 for registration information. Detailed information is also available on line, at <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

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JGSO is part of the Mittleman Jewish Community Center.

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JGSO Welcomes new members:

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LIBRARY ANNOUNCEMENTS: An important service provided to JGSO members is the availability of our genealogy library. This contains a variety of reference books, copies of numerous newsletters received from Genealogical Societies around the world as well as CD-ROMs such as the FTJP (Family Tree of the Jewish People) and the IAJGS Cemetery Data Base. If there are items you would like added to the library, please contact librarian Lucille Kraiman at lkraiman@hotmail.com. Contact Lucille if you wish to use the Microfiche reader now available in our library archive area.

Jewish Genealogy and the World Wide Web

An ever expanding wealth of genealogical resources are available on the World Wide Web. Elsewhere in this issue (page 7), JewishGen is highlighted. This column informs you of a variety of other sites to explore.

www.sudilkov.com

The once vibrant Jewish community of Sudilkov, Ukraine, was completely destroyed by the Germans during the Holocaust. It was known throughout the Jewish world as a center of the Hasidic movement, for its tallis (prayer shawl) manufacturing, and its Jewish book printing. Today there are no Jews in Sudilkov.

In order to remember this community, a web site was created to preserve the Jewish history of Sudilkov. The site can be viewed at: <http://www.sudilkov.com>

For more information, please write to:
Sudilkov Online Landsmanshaft
9809 Bristol Square Lane #301
Bethesda, MD 20814-5465
E-mail: g521@bellatlantic.net

Viewmate on JewishGen.

Do you have a document you want translated or a photo that needs interpreting? JewishGen has added a new feature to its web site that allows patrons to post graphics and ask for help in translation, analysis, or identification. You can also post photos (for identification of people, clothing, buildings, scenes, objects, artifacts, etc.) or letters, documents, book pages, maps, etc., for analysis or translation. A description of the process is at <http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate/purpose.html>. You can view items already posted at <http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate/to view.html>.

There is a time limitation of 7 days for each posting.

[Sephardic genealogy at Sephardim.com](http://www.sephardim.com)

All those interested in Sephardic genealogy should look at the web site <http://www.sephardim.com>, now entering its third year. Sephardim.com is a research tool for those interested in Sephardic genealogy. The site contains thousands of Sephardic names with points of reference for each name. I am sure many will be surprised at the names listed. Sephardim.com also contains Sephardic family crests, history, recipes, music and links.

Upcoming JGSO Events.

February 21: NEWSPAPER OBITUARIES IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH: A GOOD STARTING POINT presented by Nancy Munk Christie.

Nancy is an amateur genealogist who volunteers to look up Portland-area newspaper obituaries for researchers around the world. She will discuss:

- * Locally available records and how to get them
- * Getting obituaries from other areas without leaving home
- * Where obituaries can lead you -- next steps
- * Accuracy in obituaries
- * Success stories

March 21: How to attend a conference: preparation for the National Genealogical Society Meeting of The States, in Portland, May 16-19.

April 18: Travel to Romania, A Personal Experience. Fred Schwartz will discuss the preparation and findings of his recent trip to Romania.

Wednesday May 16. National Genealogical Society dinner meeting at the Oregon Convention Center. Speakers: Gary Mokotoff, Eileen Polakoff, Hal Bookbinder. Meet and hear these international Jewish genealogy leaders. A light dinner will be served. Seating will be limited and advance registration will be necessary.

JGSO meets monthly, from September to June, generally on the third Wednesday of each month. Meetings are held at the MJCC unless noted otherwise. For more information see our web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs> or E-mail, Ron Doctor, JGSO President, rondoctor@qwest.net or Abby Menashe, Amenashe@aol.com or by phone (503) 245-5196. Meetings are usually free of charge to members.

All members are welcome at JGSO Board Meetings which are generally held on the second Wednesday of every month from 7:00 to 8:30 PM at the MJCC. Contact any board member for details.

Genealogy Leads to Understanding

by Lucille R. Kraiman

I've been involved with my family genealogy for several years. It's put me in touch with many cousins in many countries. A few years ago, I took a trip to Hungary. I knew of two cousins there, Robert and Tibor, and wrote them I was coming.

From Robert, I learned that his mother (my second cousin) had been a concert pianist. He also told me about the current political situation and how it pertained to Hungarian Jews. From Tibor, I learned how the Holocaust had affected him directly. Also, he and his wife were acting as liaison getting Jews from Russia, through Hungary, to Israel.

Before I traveled to Israel, I phoned several relatives in the United States and discovered we had two cousins living in Israel, Judith and Gabriel. I wrote each of them, telling them who I was and when I'd be visiting.

Judith spoke little English, but her son Ronnie interpreted for us. Using a family chart I'd brought along, we figured out that we were second cousins once removed. He gave me information about the economic conditions in Israel, (which I later saw on my tour). Judith gave me the names of my grandfather's other siblings.

My cousin Gabriel told me stories of his grandfather's role (my maternal great uncle) in the Spanish Civil War, and as a pioneer in settling Israel.

A trip to Australia put me back in touch with my cousin Eva whom I had met during her visit to the United States. I stayed with her in Sydney for a few days after my tour, reviewing family history. She'd survived the Holocaust and had known my maternal grandparents. She enlightened me about life in Australia.

Continued in next column

From previous column

Because of my interest in family similarities and differences, before and after I traveled, I studied the history of the countries I visited. I saw how politics had changed the boundaries in the Austro-Hungarian region several times. (Both of my parents came from here).

I became intrigued with looking at old maps: which led me to older maps that traced the path of the Jewish people from one country to another. Eventually I was able to visit my father's growing-up town in Czechoslovakia and my mother's in Romania.

In Dad's town I learned that the old railroad station had been demolished and rebuilt on the same site. Nothing had changed in my mother's village, not even the dirt road.

When I traveled to Hungary, I heard a gypsy band playing a song my mother used to sing: "Az a szep--That is Nice". My children heard me sing it and now my grandchildren hear me on a tape I made for them.

Studying my family heritage has given me a greater understanding of world cultures and people's feelings. Way back, I believe that we are all related: as from Adam and Eve. So we're all one big family!

I like to think this could lead to understanding and peace for the whole world - all because of genealogy!

YOU ARE INVITED....

The JGSO holds its monthly board meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (August-June) at 7:00 pm at the Mittleman Jewish Community Center. All JGSO members are invited to attend.

For more information, contact Ron Doctor at (503)-234-9528 or E-mail rondoctor@qwest.net

Adding Data Bases to the Internet

by Gary Mokotoff

from "Nu? What's New? News About Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu", Vol. 1, No. 21; Nov 19, 2000

We genealogists have been living the life of luxury due to the wealth of free genealogical databases on the Internet. Some are free because many of us have volunteered our time to extract and computerize the information. (The Jewish Records Indexing - Poland project now has extracted more than 900,000 records for 150 Polish towns.) Other databases are free because the cost to develop the databases and place them on the Internet is relatively low.

We are now seeing a number of valuable databases being made available for a fee because the cost to implement them is substantial or, frankly, because they are being made available by commercial enterprises that hope to make a profit from their sale. There is pressure to start charging for databases that were planned to be available free. Many organizations are finding it much harder and much more expensive to get databases online than originally planned. Project deadlines are being missed. Non-profit implementers are now asking for donations to support the cost of maintaining the databases.

Here is a recap of the status of some important databases.

Ellis Island Passenger Lists : <http://www.ellisland.org/history.html>. Plans called for extracting all passenger arrivals at the Port of New York (Ellis Island) from 1892-1924. The project was started as a LDS (Mormon) Family History Department project some years ago with thousands of volunteers extracting the information. The decision makers in Utah elected to turn over their efforts to the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation who will complete the project and plan to make it available in Spring 2001, at Ellis Island only, as "The American Family Immigration History Center." Plans call for placing it on the Internet thereafter, but no commitment has been made regarding a date. There will be a fee for using the database at Ellis Island; therefore, it can be assumed there will be a fee to use it on the Internet.

Hamburg Emigration Lists: <http://www.hamburg.de/LinkToYourRoots/english/welcome.htm> Launched in November 1999 on the Internet with emigration records extracted for the years 1890-1893, this venture had the ambitious plan to add a year a month. No additional years have been added since, but there have been more records added for the original time period. The initial offering was to make data available free, now they are asking for voluntary contributions to the project. There has been no commitment as to when additional years will be added.

1920 U.S. Census: Two commercial ventures are competing for patron dollars: Ancestry.com at <http://www.ancestry.com/search/io/main.htm> and Genealogydatabase.com at <http://www.genealogydatabase.com/>. Ancestry.com has already placed selected portions of the census online without an index -- a head-of-household index planned for the future. Genealogydatabase.com is still claiming they will have all censuses (1790-1920) online by the end of this year. To tweak Ancestry.com's nose, this group states on their Home Page that "other sites may offer parts of the census, but no one else has it all." They state there is over 3.5 terabytes (trillion bytes) of "highest-quality information." Cost for the Ancestry.com service is \$59.95 per year (\$39.95 if you are already an Ancestry.com subscriber which also costs \$59.95 per year). The other service has refused to preannounce their prices.

Pages of Testimony: This database, which identifies more than 3 million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, was computerized when a grant was given to Yad Vashem in Jerusalem, the owner of the collection. Each Page of Testimony gives the individual's name, year of birth, names of mother and father, name of spouse (often including maiden name of women), circumstances of death, name/address of the submitter, and other information. When you order a copy of the document, you now receive a computerized version. It is easier to read than the handwriting on the original document. Though never a public commitment, there has been talk about having the database on the Internet at the end of this year, which now seems unlikely. There are instructions on how to order Pages of Testimony by e-mail, fax or in writing at <http://www.yadvashem.org.il/remembrance/hallofnames/index.html>

Online U.S. Searchable Vital Record Indexes: A professional genealogist, Joe Beine of Denver, Colorado, has developed an Internet site that includes many links to searchable U.S. vital record indexes. It is located at <http://home.att.net/~wee-monster/deathrecords.html>

Gary Mokotoff is the publisher of "Avotaynu The International Review of Jewish Genealogy." He will be a speaker at a JGSO dinner meeting on May 16, 2001, at the Oregon Convention Center (part of the National Genealogical Society "Conference in the States", in Portland. Sign up for "Nu, What's new", an internet newsletter at <http://www.incor.com/avotaynu.htm>

From Generation to Generation: How to Trace your Jewish Genealogy and Family History.

by Arthur Kurzweil.

Harper Collins Publishers, 1994 revised edition, hardback and paper, 388 pp.

Book Review by Myra Himmelfarb

Yes, this book is familiar in groups like ours. So, if you're lucky enough to own it, go enjoy it now instead of reading this review for the uninitiated. Refresh your memory of how to get family information from the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or from the Central Archives in Jerusalem. Look up that code number of the detailed Mauthausen Death Books or the address of the International Tracing Service in Germany. Review the use of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, the LDS Family History Library or the American Jewish Archives. Or just enjoy Kurzweil's photos and tales of finding his relatives in eastern Europe and of the shtetls, now much altered, and weed-covered cemeteries and new friends.

Kurzweil says, "I have been careful in this book to make sure that I send you in productive directions," which he does, along a chatty, but well-written path. He's readable, whether he's writing his own family's story, or telling how to use Yizkor books, or the Hebrew Subscription Lists. Still, you won't want to read this through at one go. It's somewhat repetitious and best used as a reference book: chapters that relate to your current research will explode with useful ideas. There's a good index, and a better (very detailed) table of contents. With all the information he provides, Kurzweil says his most valuable finds are relatives' stories; his basic suggestion is: join a genealogical society and compare notes on using resources.

Another suggestion might be: overlook the inevitable datedness of a book such as this (1994 list of professional Jewish genealogists; virtual absence of all reference to computer-aided research). This book is, however, packed with information- on interviewing, on documents and their changes over the years, on writing foreign agencies, on Hebrew-engraved gravestones, on planning travel to eastern Europe, and more. For family research from the start, I can't imagine not having it available, and yet....

From Generation to Generation is readily available only in the public libraries (use Inter-library loan if necessary to get the 1994 edition). Unfortunately, the JGSO copies, on our shelves in the Neveh Shalom library, do not circulate, and that library has only limited hours. A problem with wanting to own this book, is that it is out of print, and my search turned up only one hardback copy of the 1980 edition, at Powell's. Look for used copies of the revised 1994 edition; the book is worth the search.

Can you help?

Dorothy Dellar Kohanski (dkohanski@net-star.net) of Laguna Woods, CA, asks "Was there a National Council of Jewish Women in Oregon in 1903? According to the obit of my great aunt (Sarah Savan), she was a member, and I think she was in Portland by then. If there was, can you put me in touch with whoever might (hopefully) have records from those days. Probably other women in the family also were members."

Contact Ms. Kohanski by E-mail.

Do you use JewishGen?

For the Jewish Genealogist using the WorldWideWeb, one site rises above all others in value and importance: WWW.Jewishgen.org. Home to the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF), Shtetl Seeker, Family Tree of the Jewish People and a large number of regional special interest groups (SIGs) and much much more.

What follows is part of a year-end report from Susan King, President of JewishGen, Inc.

The numbers are in... and by the looks of it... the year 2000 has been another banner year for JewishGen:

- Over 42,000 submitters in the JGFF and over 3.3 million searches performed in 2000
- Over 1457 submitters to the Family Tree of the Jewish People representing nearly 2,000,000 names
- Over 32,000 messages posted to JewishGen and the SIG and Research Group mailing lists in the year 2000
- Over 36 million hits this past year to the JewishGen site with an additional 5 million searches executed on nearly 5 million records, all powered by JewishGen's servers
- 255 Yizkor Book translations online (up from 155 this time last year) for a total of 100 new translations
- 422 ShtetLinks pages (up from 319 last year) with nearly 1193 localities spoken for

Truly, an impressive set of statistics! One has only to look at the accomplishments of this organization over the last year to realize what can really happen when diverse people from all corners of this earth-- numbering in the thousands-- come together with a common mission and purpose, participating and sharing in what we believe is one of the largest grass roots efforts ever undertaken to preserve our history for future generations.

Here are some highlights of what's in store for 2001...

Data collection and indexing:

- 1) Through our ongoing partnerships with Yad Vashem and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum there are over 55 million records awaiting us all.
- 2) Through JewishGen's OWBR Project, effort is well under way to index and record millions of burials in Jewish cemeteries throughout the world.
- 3) JewishGen is busily engaged in establishing and solidifying contacts and partnerships with other organizations, institutions, museums and with our counterparts currently living in the Eastern European Jewish communities.
- 4) JewishGen has developed a plan for our database infrastructure (All Country, All Topic, All Holocaust) which is going to take an effort far beyond the capabilities of our current database team's volunteer time. This means the pressing need for both full time professional technical staff and volunteers with technical skills.
- 5) JewishGen will be continuing to pursue avenues and costs for implementing a document management and retrieval system to link to our award winning web site.

Education:

- 1) JewishGen has been recognized throughout the world for the educational value of so many of our projects, including the Yizkor Book Translation Project, ShtetLinks, ShtetlSchleppers, to name a few. These projects are being expanded as we speak and we look forward to everyone's participation.
- 2) We are developing a host of Youth Projects to educate the younger generation and bring them into our grass roots efforts. You'll be hearing a lot more on this throughout the new year.
- 3) JewishGen has software to offer real time Chat Rooms where we can hold ongoing lectures and classroom instruction on a host of topics of interest to us all.

If you do not use JewishGen, you owe it to yourself to go to www.Jewishgen.org to learn, explore, connect and contribute.

Yizkor Books On Line

The Yizkor Book project, affiliated with JewishGen seeks to locate, translate and make available these memorial books of European Jewish Communities. As of December 2000, there are 255 entries and there were updates to 122 books during the year. They are available at <http://www.JewishGen.org/yizkor/translations.html>. Another feature is the Necrology Index at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor/>.

New Entries for December 2000

- Galician Jewish Celebrities (check under Regions)
- Borislav, Ukraine
- Gorodek Jagiellonski, Ukraine
- Kobylnik, Belarus
- Wysockie-Mazowieckie, Poland
- Zareby Koscielne, Poland

Updates for December 2000

- Gorodets, Belarus
- Oswiecim, Poland
- Pochayev, Ukraine
- Pushelat, Lithuania
- Rokiskis, Lithuania
- Rozniatow, Ukraine
- Stawiski, Poland
- Tarnobrzeg, Poland

You may wish to support one of the following yizkor book fund raising projects with a tax-deductible contribution <http://www.JewishGen.org/JewishGenerosity/YizkorTrans.html>

Bolekhov, Ukraine	Brzeziny, Poland
Buchach, Ukraine	Chelm, Poland
Czyzew, Poland	Dokshitsy, Belarus
Drogichin, Belarus	Gargzdai, Lithuania
Goniadz, Poland	Gorodenka, Ukraine
Gorodok, Ukraine	Grodno, Belarus
Ivano-Frankivsk, Ukraine	Kremenets, Ukraine
Krynki, Poland	Lancut, Poland
Maramures Region, Moravia	
Przemysl, Poland	Pulawy, Poland
Rozhnyatov, Ukraine	Rzeszow, Poland
Slutsk, Belarus	Sochaczew, Poland
Stawiski, Poland	Telekhany, Belarus
Wolbrom, Poland	Yedintsy, Moldova
Zgierz, Poland	

Yizkor books in Portland:

The Yizkor book collection housed in the Feldstein Library at Congregation Neveh Shalom consists of more than 120 Yizkor books, making it the most significant collection in the Pacific Northwest. You can find a link to a complete inventory of this collection on the JGSO web site <http://www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/> (click on Research Tools)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shalshelet is published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Oregon, which is affiliated with the Mittleman Jewish Community Center, Portland, Oregon.

Paid advertisements or inquiries should be submitted to the Society in care of the MJCC at:
6651 S.W. Capitol Highway
Portland, OR 97219

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Visit the JGSO Web Site:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~orjgs/>

You will find here our calendar of events, a family finder for society members, links to past presentations, links to research tools, PDF back issues of *Shalshelet* and a new feature: Trip Reports. Read of travels by our members to Spain, Romania and Belarus. Contact web master Christine Olsen: Christine-Olsen@home.com.

THINGS FOR SALE BY JGSO

Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy

Handbook 2nd Edition by JGSO-- \$5.00

Family Tree of the Jewish People CD- ROM -- by IAJGS \$35.00.

Do People Grow on Family Trees? --by Ira Wolfman, \$10.00.

For more information, contact Ron Doctor at (503)234-9528 or e-mail at (rondoctor@qwest.net).

The JGSO Library is housed in the
Feldstein Library
at Congregation Neveh Shalom
Winter 2000 hours:
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday
9 am - 2:00 pm
Wednesday* 5:00 pm-8:30 pm
Sunday* 8:30 am to noon

*when religious school in session

President's Column
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The LDS also released an English language copy of the remaining 1897 All-Empire Russian Census for Vilna Guberniya. And, the FHL announced that they have located the complete archives of 19th and 20th century records for the Jewish community of Harbin, China. The archives are in Russian. They are being microfilmed.

The FHL also has sets of Genealogical Word Lists and Letter Writing Guides in several languages including Polish, German and Russian. We'll get copies of these made for the JGSO Library.

JewishGen, JRI-Poland, and IAJGS

The size and variety of databases on **JewishGen** continue to grow explosively. Altogether, JewishGen now is home to 64 name and place databases, 205 InfoFiles, and 35 Special Interest Groups (SIGs). The JewishGen version of Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP) now has more than 2 million names. ShtetlLinks has more than 400 shtetls on-line. The Yizkor Book project has mounted 229 partial translations of Yizkor Books on-line. More than 1000 volunteers and 2,151 people who have made financial contributions support all of this activity.

ViewMate is a new free service on JewishGen. You can post photos of people, images of tombstones, objects, letters, or foreign language documents, and then ask others to look at them to help you with identification or translation. This is an incredibly useful service. Take a look at it at <http://www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate/purpose.html>.

JRI-Poland now contains 900,000 records from 150 towns in the greater Kingdom of Poland. JRI-Poland also is indexing burials in Warsaw's Jewish cemetery as well as records from towns in the Ukraine. The first results already are on-line.

At the conference, IAJGS and JewishGen announced that JewishGen would take over management of the IAJGS **Jewish Cemeteries Database**. A new edition of the database will be released when changes in database structure and administration are completed. The new project is called, "**Online Worldwide Burial Registry**". It will link data to tombstone photographs and other JewishGen databases that may contain information about that family name. See an example, the Bristol Cemeteries Database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/bristol.htm>

Other Developments:

Yad Vashem confirmed that they have created a consolidated database of more than 4 million names of Holocaust victims and survivors. The database is computerized and will be online some time in 2001. Currently, you can search the database only at Yad Vashem.

DNA Testing by Drs. Hammer & Ostrer took place at the Conference. Hammer & Ostrer believe they will be able to trace migration patterns of eastern European Jews through DNA analyses. So far, they have identified a specific part of the Y-chromosome that indicates Cohen heritage, and they have determined that the **Khazar's** were *not* the ancestors of most east European Jews. Separately, Alexander Beider, by studying naming patterns common among central and eastern European Jews, also has concluded that there is no Khazar connection.

Miriam Weiner gave a series of talks about obtaining vital records from Poland, Belarus, and Ukraine Archives. Her suggestions are in the Syllabus.

The INS announced that they are overhauling their system for servicing genealogical requests. They are recreating user-searchable indexes, digitizing the records, and restructuring the way they manage records. The new indexes will be on-line. Once you identify that a record exists, then you would request the record from the INS. The new system will require payment of a fee for record retrieval and for searches that you request of the INS. The new system is supposed to be available sometime in 2001.

There are many other developments discussed in the Syllabus. I urge you to take a look at it. And, if you have any questions, just send me an e-mail message, rondocor@qwest.net.

The tradition of outstanding IAJGS Conferences will continue in Summer 2001, with the next Conference in London, England. Go online to JewishGen to get the details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February 21, 2001: NEWSPAPER OBITUARIES IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH: presented by Nancy Munk Christie. At the MJCC.

May 16-19, 2001: 2001 CONFERENCE IN THE STATES presented by The National Genealogical Society, at the Oregon Convention Center. See Page 2.

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