∍GENERATIONS≪

Volume 6 Issue 12

December Meeting

A Double Bill of Entertainment And Fun!

> Ms. Carol Berger and Ms. Shirley Weiss

Date: Thursday, December 14, 2000 (Please note change of date!) Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Jablon Youth Lounge United Hebrew Congregation 13788 Conway Road

The December program and pre-Hanukkah party will now include two exciting speakers. First, as previously announced, will be Carol Berger, who owns Hardbound, Inc., a company she founded in 1996, which can produce books for individuals at a reasonable price in any quantity. She will show us several different bindings that are available, the Bind-A-Book kit which allows a person to bind his/her own hardbound book, and the 3-Hole Punch leather binding which allows pages to be added or removed.

Shirley Weiss, who has been the owner of Memories Unlimited, a scrapbook store in Town and Country, for the last three years, is our second guest. Using selected archival quality materials from the vast stock in her shop, she will explain how, by using scrapbooks, stickers, frames, etc., we can display precious photos of our ancestors, as well as more recent snapshots, to their best advantage. In addition, as she will explain, scrapbook making can be an enjoyable experience member of the family, every for regardless of age, level of skill or artistic ability.

We hope this will be an evening of real holiday fun, while at the same time we will surely learn more about how to share the results of all our hard work in genealogical research.



Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis

Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation

Research at Meetings

The JGS of St. Louis Genealogical Library is housed in the United Hebrew Library and is open for research one hour prior to each meeting.

In the event of inclement weather, listen to KMOX or call Jerry at (314) 434-2566.

> Board Meeting Note Time & Location

December 14, 2000 6:00 p.m. Conference Room 17 United Hebrew December 2000

January Meeting

When Should You Hire a Professional Genealogist?

Ms. Ann Carter Fleming Date: Sunday, January 21, 2001 Time: 2:00 p.m. (Please note day and time change for the winter months!) Place: Jablon Youth Lounge United Hebrew Congregation 13788 Conway Road

Ann Carter Fleming is a Certified Genealogist, author. instructor, researcher and volunteer. She serves as secretary of the National the Genealogical Society, is on the board of directors of the Friends of the Missouri Archives, has co-authored Research in Missouri, and is the immediate past president of the St. Louis Genealogical Society.

Ann is a member of our organization and has been one of our most popular speakers. Her talks are always very informative and helpful. Be sure to set aside this Sunday afternoon for the answer to this question that often puzzles amateur genealogists.

Happy Holíday Season to all JGS of St. Louís Members and Their Families!

President's Page

Yizkor Book Update

On November 15, the Special Collections staff at the St. Louis County Library Headquarters hosted its second Yizkor Book Event. On this occasion, the Special Collections personnel explained the purpose and organization of the Yizkor books. They devoted many hours to assisting researchers in their quest for tracing relatives and the towns where they resided.

On behalf of the JGS of St. Louis, I say thank you to the library, to Joyce Loving, Manager of the Special Collections, and her staff. They have shown an interest in serving Jewish people and other ethnic groups in their genealogy research. Their enthusiasm, friendliness and dedication are a rare combination in our society. Our St. Louis community is so lucky to have a wonderful and caring facility in our area.

From a genealogist's perspective, why use a Yizkor book? A person seeking genealogy information is taught to first interview older relatives. When we were young, the average person unfortunately was not interested in genealogy or their culture. However, the older generation had a story to tell. Many of us never asked.

In these Yizkor books, the storytellers did not wait for a relative to ask about the past. Perhaps it was a stranger that had the foresight to realize that these people wanted to talk about their memories. From these books, we learn about the life of people, the daily occurrences within a town, and the culture of the times. And when we are finished, we may shed a tear. We must not forget the events of the past as described by the storytellers. Record what you have learned to allow the next generation access to your knowledge and the memories of the past generations.

The JGS was asked to supply Yizkor book translators for the event. Norwin Weiner chaired this effort. His eagerness and friendly persuasion located 15 people to translate Hebrew, Yiddish and Polish. In fact, some translators brought other translators. A beneficial effect was to publicize these Yizkor books to the translators and introduce the translators to each other, to the library and to the JGS. We hope that they will join our organization and become active members.

November's Meeting

Our November speaker, Ruth Ann Hager, is a Reference Specialist in the St. Louis County Library Special Collections Department. Her subject, World War I Draft Registration Records (details of speech elsewhere in *Generations*), was captivating, entertaining and educational. She explained how to conduct your research in the most productive manner and to utilize alternate methods. Introduce yourself to Ruth Ann during your next visit to the library.

Volunteers

Successful research requires knowledge of your resources. You learn from others and then convey that knowledge to other researchers. For some individuals, it may be "On the Job Training." Since becoming president of this organization, I have become aware of the close working relationship among the members of JGS and the St. Louis County Headquarters library staff. The utilization of this genealogy facility is increasing and the library is requesting a favor. They need volunteers to assist in the Special Collections (Genealogy) area. Where else can you gain knowledge of the details of a library organization and its contents and work with a friendly group of people? Please, if you can spare a few hours a week or month, contact Joyce Loving, Manager of Special Collections, at (314) 994-3300 Ext. 241. You will be well rewarded with the satisfaction of helping our community.

Our New JGS Of St. Louis Website

Our new Web Page is on line at, <http://uahc.org/congs/mo/mo005/jgsstl>. We owe our appreciation to Joel Shedlofsky, the webmaster. Joel has been responsible for the design, software, and coordination with United Hebrew. Thanks to Patti Labell, Gene Schneider and Jerry Goldberg for assisting in the planning of this task, and, of course, Bob Gummers, the Executive Director of UH, and Alan Gorman, the UH Webmaster, for their cooperation. Our site will be devoted to general membership information for JGS of St. Louis and membership research inquiries. Please remember this site is new and its appearance may change from time to time. The following will be our initial efforts:

Purpose of JGS/History of JGS/Joining JGS/Officers Projects: Marriage and Cemetery Indexes Tribute Cards Meeting Announcements Member Research: Researched Surname/Town/Country

Researcher Surname with Contact Address: home/email). (For researchers without email, the JGS computer is available. The email address is <stljgs@cs.com>.

This list is not fixed in stone. Suggestions are always welcome. Please email your comments to Joel at <jtz007@mail.connect.more.net> or call Patti at (636) 441-0242.

Jerry Goldberg, JGS of St. Louis President

Research Hints: World War I Records By C. Edwin Murray

At the November meeting of the St. Louis JGS, Ruth Ann Hager presented information about Missouri's World War I draft registration cards. In her presentation, she mentioned that there were two groups of people that did not have to register but were of draft age. These were the men already in the military and those who enlisted before the date they were scheduled to register. How do you find more information about these people?

One way is to fill out Form 180 (Request Pertaining to Military Records) which can be obtained from the National Personnel Records Center, 9700 Page Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132, and send it to the address that is found on the back of the form. Using this form, you can ask for the service records of your ancestor. State on the form that you are requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act. Remember, though, that many of these records burnt up in a fire at the NPRC in the 1970s.

Another way to find an ancestor from St. Louis or St. Louis County who served in the military during WW I is to look at a set of books at the Missouri Historical Society, 225 South Skinker Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63105. The books are called World War I Biographical and Service Records for Persons who Enlisted in St. Louis City and County, and they are found on the south wall of the library. Shortly after the end of World War I, the Adjutant General's Office of the State of Missouri began a project to compile a biographical and service record of Missouri soldiers, sailors and Marines who served in World War I. There are even a few Army nurses listed. The desire was to preserve an accurate record of those who served. The information was collected by questionnaire and participation was voluntary, so the records are not complete (To encourage participation, a medal was presented by the state to every Missourian whose record was returned.)

The Missouri Historical Society was authorized to collect and arrange these records. In 1990, the records were photocopied on acidfree paper, arranged in alphabetical order, and bound in book form. There are 34 volumes of biographical and service records, five volumes of death records, and three volumes of Gold Star photos. Many of the records also included the participant's photograph.

There were several questionnaires. Some gave more information than others. Information that can be obtained is name of person, name of service organization, date of enlistment, rank or grade, promotions, transfer dates and organizations, discharge date, if killed or wounded - date & battle, names of battles in which engaged, prior service, date and place of birth, residence, occupation, nationality, if married - name of wife, name of children, parents' names - sometimes including the maiden name of the mother, father's military service, father's first American ancestor and their first residence, mother's first American ancestor and their first residence, first Missouri ancestors and their place of residence, school or college attended, remarks - such as religious affiliations, fraternal orders, and names of ancestors who fought in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, War of 1812, Mexican War, or Revolutionary War. Sometimes people gave their service number. The pictures are usually of the person in uniform, sometimes at the battlefield.

In the death books, are published obituaries, newspaper articles, letters from parents, friends or employers, and in a few cases, pages from a diary.

Cancellation of December **Discussion Group**

Due to the holiday season, the discussion group will not meet in December. Instead, enjoy the extra time you will likely have with your family. Share stories and spend quality time together. Increase your knowledge of times past and explore new paths for research. Be rested and ready in January!

JGS of St. Louis's New Internet Address: Be sure you visit the site and then bookmark it! <http://uahc.org/congs/mo/mo005/jgsstl>

Officers And **Board Members**

Officers

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What's In A Name?

By Chuck Jackson

A person's occupation, trade, or profession developed, at times, into the person's surname. A careful analysis of a surname may give a clue as to the origin of the name. For example, the surname "Granger" lends itself to farming and an association of farmers known as the Grange. Another example is the surname "Smith," which refers to a person who was a blacksmith or a worker of metals.

Many Jewish communities had people only known by the work they did. Examples are Moshe the butcher, Itzik the milkman, Shlomo the printer, Layb the scribe, David Kleinsinger (little singer), Charles Schulman (school man), etc. As you can see from the examples, these evolved into surnames for the individuals and their families, especially when surnames became mandatory in the late 18th Century and the early 19th Century.

The following are surnames and their occupation, trade, or professional origin. Please keep in mind that some surnames were adopted due to the sound, the secondary meaning, or for other purposes, and the family may not have ever performed the occupation defined by the surname.

ABZUG	Means "copy-sheet" or "proof-sheet" and comes from the printing trade.
ACKERMAN	A plowman.
AHL	From the German "Ahle" (awl) and the name was adopted by a shoemaker.
ALEMBIK	Alembic is a glass or metal apparatus formerly used in distilling and the name was
	adopted by a distiller.
ANTMAN	A handyman.
ANZIEHER	"Shoe horn" or "boot pull" in German and the name was adopted by a shoemaker or a
	shoe merchant. The Polish version is Ancier.
ARFA	The Polish word for a tool used to separate the chaff from the grain. The name was
	adopted by a grain merchant.
ASPIS	The Yiddish form of the Talmudic word "ushpiz" which means a lodging or an inn.
	The name was adopted by the owner of an inn.
BALSAM	Ointment or perfume. Name adopted by an apothecary.
BASS	Hebrew for "singer."
BATNIK	Maker of tubs, troughs, pails, etc. From Russia.
BAUM	A shortened form of the German "Schlagbaum," the tollgate on a road or highway.
BEDWINEK	"A traveling merchant or peddler" in Polish.
BESSER	From Besserer, the title of a German officer of the court who levied fines. May also be
	attributed to a tax collector in a Jewish community.
BIBACK, BIBICK	From the Russian and Polish "bibika," a plant from which red dye is made. Adopted by
	one who is in the dyeing trade.
BINDER, BINDLER	Either a bookbinder (German - Buchbinder) or a cooper (German - Fassbinder).
BLACHER	A tinsmith or a dealer in tin ware.
BLASER, BLAZER	One who sounds the ram's horn; a "shofar-blozer."
BLECHMAN, BLECHER	A tinsmith.
BLEIER	One who smelts lead.
BODNER	Cooper or barrel maker and is a Yiddish form of the Polish "Bednarz."
BORER	From the Hebrew "one who chooses" and is a title of honor for those with
	distinguished community service who function as electorates in local head of the
	community selections.
BOROS	Hungarian for "one who ferments and sells wine."
BOTNICK	Manufacturer of ladies' shoes. From the Polish "botinka."
BOXERMAN	One who sold St. John's bread, a food that was popular on the 15th Day of Shevat.
	From the Yiddish "bokser" and known in German as "Bockshorn."

To be continued... Rabbi Kaganoff, again, many thanks.

New Members

Welcome! We wish to acknowledge and welcome the following new members to JGS of St. Louis:

Gary Kodner and Peggy Nehmen

We hope you will enjoy and benefit from your membership in our organization and that you will participate in our many informative activities. We are pleased to have you as members.

If you know of any prospective members, please submit their names to Cassie Buerki, Membership Chairperson. She can be reached at (314) 275-7136 or e-mail her at <cbuerki@aol.com>.

If anyone has a success story or knows someone who has and would like to share it with our members, please contact Cassie. We would love to hear from you.



If you know of someone who might be interested in joining the JGS, you can have a complimentary copy of *Generations* sent to them by forwarding their name and address to:

Ilene Murray

8724 Teasdale Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63124-1926

(314) 991-3593

or e-mail to: <ilenemurray@primary.net>

Better yet, bring them to one of our meetings where they can not only get a complimentary copy of the newsletter, but can experience first-hand the benefits of membership in the JGS.

Please forward any news of member activities, changes of address or comments to Ilene, as well.

Holiday Gift Ideas

Looking for that perfect gift for someone interested in genealogy (or maybe someone needs to buy you a gift?) Here are some ideas:

- ◊ A subscription to Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy. \$32
- Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy by Gary Mokotoff & Warren Blatt, \$11 or From Generation to Generation (Revised) by Arthur Kurzweil, \$19
- ◊ Russian-Jewish given Names: Their Origins and Variants by Boris Feldblyum, \$35
- ◊ Jewish Roots in Poland, \$50 or Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova by Miriam Weiner \$60
- ◊ The Shtetl Finder Gazeteer by Chester G. Cohen, \$25

All of these books can be found in the Avotaynu Fall/Winter catalog and, if you are a subscriber, everything is 10% off till December 21st! Go to <www.avotaynu.com> or mail to Avotaynu, P.O. Box 99, Bergenfield, NJ 07621

JGS Tribute Cards Enhance Library Fund

For the past three years, the JGS of St. Louis has sold tribute cards at each monthly meeting. For a minimum donation of \$5.00, you can show someone that you are thinking about them and, at the same time, support our library fund. Proceeds from the Tribute Fund are used to purchase genealogical books/supplies for the JGS Library housed in the United Hebrew Library.

Tribute cards are available at each JGS meeting or from Jean Heyman, the Tribute Fund chairperson. Jean can be reached at (314) 434-2345. Please remember our tribute cards when you need to let someone know you are thinking about them. It is a way to show you care that also helps our whole organization.

Synopsis of November Meeting By Eunice Solomon

World War I Draft Cards

Speaker, Ruth Ann Hager, told the group that WWI Draft Cards are civilian records, not military. There were three separate registrations: 5 June 1917 for men 21-31 years old, 5 June 1918 for those who became 21 during the previous year, and 12 September 1918 for men 18-45. Every male had to register, and information is considered a primary source on these cards, since it came directly from the man registering.

Each registration was held on the precise date. If a man was away from home, he had to register wherever he was located; then his card was sent to his home draft board.

There were a few exemptions from registration: men in the military, men older or younger than the draft age, and men who enlisted before the registration dates.

All three registrations asked for name, age, address, birth date, naturalization status, citizenship, name of employer and address, race, height, build, eye and hair color, physical disabilities, and signature.

You must know an individual's address to find his correct draft board. St. Louis City was divided into 28 draft boards; other locations had more or less, depending on population. Cards are usually filed alphabetically, but since systems varied, you may need to search the entire draft board to be successful.

Aliens had to register. Late registrations, native Americans, men in prison, the "insane" and those who were hospitalized are filed separately from the others.

Copies of the Draft Registration Cards can be found at the St. Louis County Library in Special Collections. There is also a finding aid called *Street Guide to World War I Draft Boards in St. Louis* that can be used in book form or on the Internet.

Announcing a Special Event...

A wonderful, exciting special program is coming in March. It's a bit too soon to divulge just who, but we will be hosting an internationally renowned genealogical speaker, author, and researcher.

It's not too early, though, to let you know to mark this date on your calendar: Sunday, March 25 1:30 p.m. at United Hebrew More information and details next month.

From the Editor's Desk...

Thanks to those of you who have offered your opinions on what you like and don't like about *Generations*' new look. Please bear with me over the next few issues as I continue to work with the content and to tweak the sizes and fonts to make the newsletter as appealing as I can.

Please share your stories with me. Continue to let me know what you like or don't like and what you would like to see in future issues. Please feel free to write an article or a series of articles for publication. Our newsletter is only meaningful to us if we all contribute to it; it represents our society and unites all of us members.

Deadline for submission of articles will continue to be the 20th of each month, and I will try to have the newsletter to you the first week of each month, as in the past.

I am looking forward to hearing from many of you and working with all of you.

Ilene Murray, Editor 8724 Teasdale Ave. St. Louis, MO 63124-1926 (314) 991-3593 e-mail: <ilenemurray@primary.net>

Another New Service from JewishGen

Do you a need translations of book titles, letters or gravestone photos? Do you have questions about old family photos, maps, or book pages? ViewMate is JewishGen's newest tool, designed to supplement the written query and help you to solve graphic problems.

It's really easy to use.

- Scan a photo containing your problem on your home PC system.
- Upload to the ViewMate site.
- Request feedback from your SIG or other mailing list.

The site has FAQs and full instructions.

ViewMate website: <http://www.jewishgen.org/viewmate>

Inquiries

Whenever space permits, *Generations* will publish documented inquiries pertaining to Jewish genealogy. Publishing these requests is another resource for our members. Anyone having information pertinent to an inquiry should contact the requester. The original requests are placed on a table at each meeting, and then filed in our library. At the November meeting, a member connected with one of these requests.

Requester: Henry Kisiel

	I Rue Windsor	
	Neuilly, FRANCE	
Phone:	33 1 53 65 74 26	
E-mail:	hkisiel@aol.com	

Researching: Family Name KISZELEWSKI, Paris France, and Kiszelewski Aron, and born in SIERPC Poland in 1895. They may have relatives in St. Louis, KSISZELEWSKI, KICHILEWSKI or KISSILEVSKI who worked in a Jewish bakery

The following information was sent to Shaare Emeth from Bob Miller at Hebrew Union College.

"I have been researching Julia Ettlinger, a young woman who studied with Rabbi Isaac M. Wise in one of the first classes at Hebrew Union College. Very little is known about this young woman. She was born in St. Louis in 1863 but the city did not record births at that early date. Her father, Michael Ettlinger, a clothing store merchant by trade, might have been a member of Shaare Emeth. I suspect the family lived in St. Louis for about fifteen years (1858-1875)." If anyone knows anything about this family, please contact Diana Kline at (314) 863-6963.

In 1910, Louis Label came to St. Louis as a tailor. His brother-in-law Aron or Harry Geller lived at 2917A Dayton. Harry and his wife, Bella Geller, were from Russia. Bella died Feb. 28, 1934; Harry died July 12, 1938. They are buried in Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery with the Label family. The Gellers had a son, Sol Geller, and daughters Mrs. Fannie Axelbaum and Clara Mandel. Looking for ANY information on Geller family. Thanks. Patti Labell this labellpatti@hotmail.com Researching: CREEK, SLOAN, HENRY and

SHEPPARD Also seeking: LABL, LABEL, LEIBEL, RODENBERG, ROTTENBERG, COHEN, HIRSCH

"I know why families were created, with all their imperfections. They humanize you. They are made to make you forget yourself occasionally, so that the beautiful balance of life is not destroyed." Anais Nin

Family Projects for Genealogy

(Continued from last month)

{This article is excerpted from *Ancestry Daily News*, 06 October 2000. You can subscribe online (no cost) by going to <www.ancestry.com>. The ideas are from a column by George G. Morgan called "Along Those Lines."}

Visit Sites Of Family Interest

Another way of commemorating family and celebrating family history is to visit places that have some meaning associated with your family. A visit with other relatives at their homes might make a nice trip, especially if it is an old family home where grandparents and/or other ancestors lived. If you want to learn more about your ancestors' place in history, a visit to a museum, the historical society, or an archive might be appropriate. A visit to the cemetery where relatives and ancestors are interred also makes a good trip and can be combined with cleaning, maintenance, reminiscences, and storytelling. If you have a Civil War ancestor, you might consider a trip to a battlefield at which he fought or to a memorial site.

Making It Fun

All of the projects that have been mentioned are intended to involve all members of the family. It is especially important to involve children so that they gain knowledge about their family and an appreciation for the pride and family values you already have. These projects are actually events and can become family traditions as well. Genealogists and family historians often work alone, but here is an opportunity to share some fascinating information and stories you've gathered with other members of the family in a fun and exciting way.

Researching Alberta, Canada?

The website for the JGS of S. Alberta has changed its URL (Internet address) to:

<www.jewishgen.org/jgssa>.

Genealogy and Children By Cassie Buerki

On November 5, 2000, JGS member, Christine Flesor, of the St. Louis County Library was asked by Mrs. Shera Kafka of B'Nai El Congregation to present a short genealogy program to the children of the Sunday School. Chris, in turn, asked if I would assist her. Unfortunately, Chris was called out of town due to a family illness, but I offered to follow through with her program.

Before meeting with the children, grades 2 through 5, I was introduced to several of their parents. I was amazed at the extent of the data they had in their possession. Elderly relatives donated some of the facts, but a number of these young parents are diligently working on their family genealogies and have acquired a great deal of information.

The children were cooperative and, in several cases, actively participated in the discussion. Even those who did not participate were excited to see where on the map of the world their ancestors came from and to fill in a simple family tree designed for children. They were also amazed to learn that Jewish people today live all over the world and look so different from one another.

The importance of learning about those who preceded us cannot be stressed enough. In order to know who we are, we must discover who our ancestors were. The documenting of facts and stories is necessary to preserve their memories. We must encourage younger individuals to be involved with the genealogy of their families, for, in doing so, we will stir the imaginations of their children. Nothing is more rewarding or invaluable.

It was a pleasure meeting with and discussing the basics of genealogy with Mrs. Kafka and the children and parents of B'Nai El Congregation. Hopefully, Chris Flesor and I will be able to reach out to other children and their parents in the future.

Genealogy Books for Children

If you are interested in beginning to work with your own children (grandchildren, nephews, nieces, whatever) on genealogy, the following are great tools:

My Family Tree Workbook: Genealogy for Beginners by Rosemary A. Chorzempa, Dover Publications, NY, 1982. \$2.95 at Borders.

Kids and Grandparents, An Activity Book by Ann Love and Jane Drake, Kids Can Press, Toronto, c. 1999. \$10.95 at Borders.

Do People Grow on Family Trees? Genealogy for Kids and Other Beginners by Ira Wolfman. Online in the book shopping area at Ancestry.com, on sale for \$7.40.

JGS Library News

Member Lisa Weinshenker Winnick of West Bloomfield, Michigan, has donated the book *There Once Was A World* by Yaffa Eliach to the JGS of St. Louis Library housed in the United Hebrew Library. Lisa is the great-niece of Art and Sylvia Jaffe, chairmen of the society library.

The almost 800 page book features information on the Broida family, which is the family of member Ann Greenspan Greenstein. Ann is vice president/Progams for JGS of St. Louis.

Membership Form

Please use this form (or duplicate it) to join the JGS of St. Louis.

Name:	
Address:	
City:	State:
Zip Code:	Phone No.: ()
Fax No.:	
E-mail address:	
Individual membership is \$20 per year. Two	people in one household is \$35 per year.
Make check payable to JGS of St. Louis and JGS of St. Louis 1001 Pocono Trail	mail to:

Å.

What better way to

celebrate the holidays than

to give someone a

gift of a

Tribute Card at Chanukah.

See inside for details.

1001 Pocono Trail Ballwin, MO 63021-7624 JGS of St. Louis 8724 Teasdale Ave. St. Louis, MO 63124 First Class First Class Jewish Genealogical Society of St. Louis Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation