



GENERATIONS

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JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ST. LOUIS
Affiliated with United Hebrew Congregation

Volume 8 Issue 1

January 2002

January Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Webmaster
Joel Shedlofsky

Sunday, Jan. 20, 2002

Time: 2:30 p.m.

**(Winter Meeting Schedule
Sunday Meeting!)**

February Meeting

Guest Speakers:

Alan Barasch & Chuck Jackson

Sunday, Feb. 17, 2002

Time: 2:30 p.m.

**(Winter Meeting Schedule
Sunday Meeting!)**

Meetings Held At:

Jablon Youth Lounge
United Hebrew
Congregation
13788 Conway Road

REMINDERS:

The Discussion Group will meet January 31, the FIFTH Thursday, at 1 p.m., in the United Hebrew Library. Call Sylvia Jaffe (314) 434-8392 for more information.)

In case of inclement weather, call Jerry Goldberg at (314) 434-2566, Eunice Solomon at (314) 576-5269, or listen to KMOX.

**Don't miss our Website:
www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis**

Upcoming Meetings

January Meeting

Guest Speaker:

Joel Shedlofsky

**"The Basics of
Using a Scanner"**

If you are not sure how to get the most out of your scanner, you will surely want to come to the January meeting when our Webmaster, Joel Shedlofsky, will present a program on digital scanning. Discussion will be general in scope and provide basics applicable to all brands of scanners. Fundamentals of scanning will be presented along with scanning tips and hints.

The presentation will include how to set photo resolution, how to choose photo editing software for your computer, how to select hardware (scanners - both flatbed and film/slide, digital cameras, printers) that will work best for you, and how to store all those images once you have created them.

Whether you are completely new to digital photography or have some experience, you will learn techniques to enhance your family photos.

SSDI Updated With Middle Name/Initial Data

News from the RootsWeb.com Website:

"Ancestry.com and RootsWeb.com web sites are once again posting monthly updates to the Social Security Death Index after a brief interruption. The new SSDI update, current to September 2001, contains roughly 500,000 more entries than the version it replaces, bringing the grand total close to 66.7 million names."

"The new database . . . contains new fields: middle names and name suffixes. In fact, the new file contains middle name information on some 21 million people, almost one-third of the entire index. The vast majority of these entries are middle initials only. The benefit to genealogists is to see extra information about an ancestor that allows one to discriminate between two potential records. The updated data also contains name suffixes such as 'Jr.' and 'Sr.' which can be valuable in determining the identity of fathers or sons."

February Meeting

Guest Speakers:

Members Alan Barasch
& Chuck Jackson

"Jews of the South"

What is a "Southern Jew?" Is there really such a person? Do they exist? Well, sho 'nuff they do! They have been in existence since the late 1700s/early 1800s. The Jews in the South have become so assimilated into the mainstream, they have become Southerners who happen to be Jewish. And, many fought for the Confederacy in the Civil War. Yes, Jews who have lived in the deep South for one or more generations do have a Southern drawl because they are Southerners first.

Come listen to a couple of Jews with Southern heritage (Alan Barasch and Chuck Jackson) talk about the South, Jewish style. Who knows - a branch of your family could well be Southerners, as many of them later migrated north. Shalom, y'all! See you in February.

President's Message

December Meeting

Our December meeting featured John Wilder speaking on the subject "Exciting the Next Generation of Genealogists." Thank you, John, for providing an insight into your teaching methods and inspiring students in opening up the world of genealogy. As one of our members remarked during the presentation, John provided richness to family stories by connecting personal items to the factual data.

His presentation brought to mind something that I have regretted since growing up. Whenever I questioned my father about his background, he avoided the question. I never received an explanation or satisfactory clarification on family matters. Yes, it was a shame that I did not have the nerve to press him for information. Recall that my younger years represented a time when one did not question his/her elders. John has hopefully overcome this obstacle by including genealogy in the education process. School systems should emphasize family history in a child's education. Our heritage emphasizes learning. After all, what person can deny information that aids in the education of a child?

Summing Up JGS Accomplishments for 2001

With the start of the New Year, it's time to reflect upon the past year's accomplishments. Our highlight was the engagement of Miriam Weiner to discuss "Exploring Your Jewish Roots." This event attracted 150 people from our society and the community. Our monthly programs continue to feature people from the local area speaking on research and what to do with all those notes and pictures. We try to balance the speakers with an instructional background with those who might have a commercial interest. Judging by the follow-up questions, our meetings are serving the interest of our membership. The web site has been restyled to be more informative and timely. Of particular importance is the new members' Surname Index. And, it doesn't hurt that we have an increased presence on the Internet. Over the year, our membership has remained about the same as before, about 190.

Our library has been reorganized and expanded including cataloging our books and newsletters, giving us an increased emphasis on other Jewish Genealogical Societies. We also now have a lending library. By the way, the library catalog is accessible from our web site. *Generations* has been upgraded with harder hitting informative articles and an improved appearance. The inquiry section, where we publish out-of-town requests, has yielded some responses from our members and the "Genealogy Events of Interest" keeps us abreast of classes and workshops.

Our Discussion Group sessions are informative and the associated field trips always a highlight. Our genealogy course, "Tracing Your Family Tree," was well attended and appreciated by the students. The cemetery indexing and marriage indexing, however, are not proceeding as we had planned due to lack of volunteers. It takes just about a minute to type in each entry. If you can spare one hour a week for a number of weeks, I will be grateful!

Jerry Goldberg,

JGS of St. Louis President

Don't Miss This Special St. L. County Library Event...

The Board of Trustees of the St. Louis County Library and the National Genealogical Society invite you to attend the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony which will formally install the NGS Lending Library Collection in its new home. All events will take place in the County Headquarters Auditorium, 1640 S. Lindbergh Blvd.

All of the speakers are nationally noted genealogists and are coming from all over the United States to be a part of this event.

Sunday, January 27:

1:30–2:30 p.m. George B. Handran, CG, Treasurer of NGS from MA; specializing in Irish research: Topic: **Using American Library Resources for Irish Genealogical Research**

3:00–4:00 p.m. Sheila Benedict, CGRS, Full-time genealogist from CA; specializes in migration patterns West and oral history. Topic: **The Importance of Compiled Sources** (such as census indexes, city directories, county/city histories, newspapers, family histories, etc.)

Monday, January 28:

3:00–3:15 p.m. Ribbon Cutting

3:30–3:45 p.m. Cyndi Howells

From Washington; owner and webmaster of Cyndi's List, one of the Internet's best genealogy sites. Topic: **Effectively Using SLCL and NGS Websites**

4:00–5:00 p.m. Tour of Special Collections Dept.

6:30–7:30 p.m. Lynda Suffridge

From Arkansas; chair of the NGS Consumer Protection Committee. Topic: **Early American Settlers: Their Overland Trails East of the Mississippi River**

7:45–8:45 p.m. Curt Witcher

President of NGS and Dept. Manager for the Historical Genealogy Dept. of the Allen Co. Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN. Topic: **The Power of Partnership: the NGS Book Loan Collection Comes to St. Louis**

Come for all or part of the workshop series and learn about resources and research techniques from some of the country's leading genealogists who are traveling to St. Louis just for this historic occasion.

Members Surname Register (Part Three)

We hope those of you with computers have already spent some time looking at our new and improved website. One of the parts of the site that is of potential value to every member of our organization (and researchers from afar who visit our site) is the Surname Register. As a service to those without computers, and to entice those of you who just haven't gotten around to submitting your surnames yet, we print the Surname List as it stands as of 15 Oct 2001.

We would really like all members to submit their surnames if they have not already done so. You can do it by accessing the website, clicking on the "Searching" tab and then on the "Submission Form." For those who do not have access to the Internet, call either Cassie Buerki (314) 275-7136 or Gene Schneider (636) 861-7117 with your data and they will see that it gets included.

Surname	Town/Country	Researcher
Koplin	Ukraine	Gary Kodner: gakodner@swbell.net
Kopman		Cassie Buerki: cbuerki@aol.com
Kotovskyy/Kotosky	Lithuania	Gwen Prince: gmp@prodigy.net
Lazarus	Rochester, NY, U.S.A.	Len Hyman: lenh@prodgy.net
Leibe	Sekurani, Russia	Patti Labell: labellpatti@hotmail.com
Levy	Saltcoats, Scotland	Alan Barasch: abarasch@stlcyberjew.com
Levy	Utena, Lithuania	Alan Barasch: abarasch@stlcyberjew.com
Levy	Odessa, Ukraine	Gwen Prince: gmp@prodigy.net
Markowitz	Bucharest, Rumania	Phyllis Appel: pappel@pkwy.k12.mo.us
Miller	St. Louis, MO	Jim Winnerman: bawinnie@earthlink.net
Nehmen	Poltava, Ukraine	Gary Kodner: gakodner@swbell.net
Obransky	Poland	Herbert Bronska: nmbhbb@aol.com
Olim	Birmingham, AL	Alan Barasch: abarasch@stlcyberjew.com
Olschwagner	Varniai, Lithuania	Anna Olswanger: anna.olswanger@verizon.net
Olschwanger	Kretinga, Lithuania	Anna Olswanger: anna.olswanger@verizon.net
Olschwanger	St. Louis, MO	Anna Olswanger: anna.olswanger@verizon.net
Olswanger	Memphis, TN	Anna Olswanger: anna.olswanger@verizon.net
Ornstein	Romania	Alan Barasch: abarasch@stlcyberjew.com
Pitler	Zhitomer, Ukraine	Marilen Pitler: mpitler@prodigy.net
Plach	Lodz, Poland	Ilene Kanfer Murray: ilenemurray@mindspring.com
Plitt/Perlmutter	Poritsk (nr. Ludmir) Ukraine	Ilene Kanfer Murray: ilenemurray@mindspring.com
Price	Rugava, Lithuania	Hilton Price: hiprice@mindspring.com
Price	St. Louis, MO, Russia	Jim Winnerman: bawinnie@earthlink.net
Prinz	Kempton, Bavaria (Germany)	Alex Horwitz: cybernox13@prodigy.net
Putterman	Odessa, Ukraine	Gary Kodner: gakodner@swbell.net
Ribeck	Russia/Poland	Jennie Blecher: pritzadilla@hotmail.com
Rottenberg	Bucharest, Roumania	Patti Labell: labellpatti@hotmail.com
Rubin		Cassie Buerki: cbuerki@aol.com
Sachs	St. Louis, MO	Len Hyman: lenh@prodgy.net
Sarlson	Akron, OH/NYC, NY	Randy Stone: artgodnstl@aol.com
Schneider	Odessa, Ukraine	Eugene L. Schneider: geneschneider@worldnet.att.net
Schneider	England	Eugene L. Schneider: geneschneider@worldnet.att.net
Schneider	St. Louis, MO	Eugene L. Schneider: geneschneider@worldnet.att.net
Schumitzky	Gernigow, Ukraine	Bill & Linda Scroggin: lescrog@aol.com
Schuver	Proskurov, Russia	Joanne Schuver: j_schuver@yahoo.com
Segal	Kiev or Odessa	Jennie Blecher: pritzadilla@hotmail.com

We hope we have whetted your appetite for more names. Look for the list to continue next month. And in the meantime, be sure to submit your own names, so we can include you and your family!

What's In A Name?

Symbolism/Acronyms/Abbreviations And The Like

By Chuck Jackson

The discussion continues of surnames and how symbolism, acronyms, synonyms, abbreviations, and the like developed into names. Please keep in mind that some surnames were adopted due to the sound, the secondary meaning, or for other purposes.

BOERNE	The Hebrew “baruch” (blessed) was sometimes changed to the German “Boerne.”
BOGOLUB	The Slavic translation of Gottlieb (beloved of God).
BORNSTEIN	A variation of Bernstein. More about Bernstein later.
BORUCHSCHOMER	The name of the opening prayer of the morning service. Either it was selected as a surname by invitation or the person opened the prayer book when he needed a name and chose the first word that appeared.
BRAND	Sometimes represents the acronym for <u>ben</u> <u>reb</u> <u>Nachman</u> <u>David</u> (son of Nachman David) but also may refer to a distiller, a “Brandler,” in German.
BRILL	Most are from the acronym <u>ben</u> <u>reb</u> <u>Yehudah</u> <u>Layb</u> , but some are from Bruel, Germany.
BRUCKENSTEIN	From the Hebrew “baruch” (blessed). Since Hebrew family names were not allowed, it was disguised. Also appears as Bruckstein and Brickenstein.
CHABAS	The acronym for <u>Hasan</u> <u>Baruch</u> <u>sofer</u> (son-in-law of Baruch the scribe).



I am interrupting at this point to share with you a story of a recent happening in my genealogical research. As we all know, as we research, anything may pop up at any time from the most unusual quarters. Cousin Harry Hammill and his wife Audrey were married for many years when Harry passed away. Audrey moved to a suburb of New Orleans and eventually met a man who wound up being her husband, Henry Threefoot. Many of us figured Henry was part Native American as “Threefoot” lends itself to that conclusion. While reading a book about Jews in the South, I came across an interesting note. The Dreyfus family of Meridian, Mississippi, changed its name to “Threefoot” which is the literal translation of the German, Dreyfus. I asked Audrey if her husband's name was originally Dreyfus and she replied, “Yes, and they are from Meridian.” There is a tall office building (tall by Meridian standards) in that city still called the Dreyfus Building! Incidentally, Dreyfus, Dreyfuss, Dreifuss, Dreifus, Trefus, Trevis, Trivash, Tribas, etc., are all derivatives from the Alsatian corruption of Treves, the French name for Trier, Rhineland, Germany. Moral of this story: do not draw conclusions as to the origin of a name. You may well be totally wrong! Now, back to the list. . .



CHAMUDES	From the Hebrew “hamudot” (beloved) and ascribed to Daniel as found in Daniel 9:23. Also appears as Chameides, Chamides, Chamedes.
CHARNESS, CHARNIS	An acronym for <u>hasan</u> <u>reb</u> <u>Natan</u> <u>sofer</u> (son-in-law of Nathan the scribe). Also may be derived from the Slavic “charna” (dark). See CHERNOFF below.
CHARRIK	An acronym for <u>hasan</u> <u>reb</u> <u>Yosef</u> <u>Kalman</u> (son-in-law of Yosef Kalman).
CHARRY	From the acronym for <u>hasan</u> <u>reb</u> <u>Yosef</u> (son-in-law of Yosef).
CHERNOFF	A descendent of Cherna which is a variation of Charna; Slavic for “dark.”
CHIEL	An abbreviated form of the name Yehiel.
DANTO	A form of the name David.

To be continued. Rabbi Kaganoff, Arthur Kurzweil and Eli N. Evans, many thanks.

From the Editor's Desk...

For the past few weeks, we have been visiting friends and relatives in the south (which is why you are getting this newsletter a bit later than usual.) In addition to a car full of holiday presents, clothes for all temperatures, maps, and books, I carried two of my huge family notebooks with me. What a great time I had with my parents, aunt and uncle, cousins, and my brother and his family in Florida, and cousins in Memphis going over the family group sheets, *Generations*

copies of documents and photos! And how much more information I was able to gather in the process!

I hope you had a wonderful holiday season as well, and that you, too, had the opportunity to spend time with loved ones reaffirming your family ties. Most of all, I hope 2002 will be full of happiness for all of us.

Ilene Murray, Editor
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Website:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgs-StLouis>

E-Mail Address: uhjgsstl@cs.com

New Member

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

Sadie Cohn

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 a member.

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>](mailto:cbuerki@aol.com).

Research Hints: Genealogy Newsletters Online

By C. Edwin Murray

These newsletters will keep you up to date with what is happening in genealogy.

1. *Ancestry*, five days a week:

[<http://www.Ancestry.com>](http://www.Ancestry.com)

This newsletter, sponsored by one of the largest and best-known genealogy sites, keeps you up to date as to what is being added to Ancestry, the Eastman newsletter, maps, daily how-to-do-genealogy articles, and links to websites. To subscribe, look on the main page of the website for the link to subscribe to the daily newsletter.

2. *Rootsweb Review*, once a week.

[<rootsweb-review-subscribe@rootsweb.com>](mailto:rootsweb-review-subscribe@rootsweb.com)

To subscribe to *Rootsweb Review*, send a plain text e-mail with only the word SUBSCRIBE in the message to the above address. This newsletter is sent out weekly on Wednesdays, but its focus is news about RootsWeb, articles, new websites, and new mailing lists.

3. The WorldGenWeb Project, once a month

[<http://worldgenweb.org>](http://worldgenweb.org)

This is one of several volunteer genealogy projects hosted by RootsWeb. It publishes a monthly newsletter. To subscribe to WorldGenWeb Review, send a plain text e-mail message to: [<worldgenweb-review-l-request@rootsweb.com>](mailto:worldgenweb-review-l-request@rootsweb.com) with only the word SUBSCRIBE in the body of your message.

4. *Missing Links*, once a week

[<missinglinks-request@petuniapress.com>](mailto:missinglinks-request@petuniapress.com)

In the body of the message, type the word SUBSCRIBE. In the subject heading, type "subscribe to missinglinks." The newsletter is sent out weekly and covers a wide range of topics, including events, success stories, interesting articles, and Web links.

5. *Nu, What's Nu*, once every two weeks

[<www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm>](http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm)

To subscribe, find the area on the webpage where you can type in your e-mail address and your name. This newsletter gives you news about Jewish genealogy from *Avotaynu*.

6. Depending on the genealogy software program you are using, your genealogy software company may or may not have a newsletter that they will send out by e-mail. Check their website to determine if they have a newsletter. These software program newsletters can give you lots of helpful hints on how to use your program to its fullest extent. Some of the newsletters are daily and some are weekly.



Here are two sites to help you edit and publish a family newsletter. They also provide links to other web pages on family newsletters.

1. [<http://greatfamilynewsletters.homestead.com>](http://greatfamilynewsletters.homestead.com)

This site provides some of the tools needed to edit and publish a family newsletter. It also helps you with photos in a newsletter.

2. [<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~bruce/FamNewsNews.htm>](http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~bruce/FamNewsNews.htm)

Through questions, answers, and an article, you learn the importance of and how to publish a family newsletter. You can also be notified when the next issue of *Family Newsletter News* is online.

The Modern View: 25th Anniversary Deluxe Edition Index

(Part Four)

The Modern View: 25th Anniversary Deluxe Edition (published in St. Louis in 1925) was edited by A. Rosenthal. *The Modern View* was a periodical published for St. Louis' Jewish-American community in the first part of the 20th century. A copy of this special edition is available in the Stacks at the St. Louis Public Library, Call Number: 071 (Oversize) and a copy is available at the Missouri Historical Society. There is much of genealogical interest in this special edition, including many individual biographies.

This index was compiled by Thomas A. Pearson. Many thanks to the St. Louis Public Library for posting this index on their website, and to Mr. Pearson and Gerald Brooks, Director of Marketing, for permission to print.

-R-	Page Numbers	
Roth, Clarence I.....	216	Steinberg, Mark C..... 84
Rothschild, Sidney I.....	111	Steiner, Charles F..... 25
Rubinstein, T. L.....	140	Stern, Levy..... 11
Russack, Samuel J.....	8	Stern, May..... 39
-S-		Stix, Baer, & Fuller Dry Goods Co..... 128
Sale, Llewellyn.....	53	Stix, Charles A..... 5, 105
Sale, M. N.....	88	Stix, Ernest W..... 82
Sale, Riette.....	88	Stix, Hannah..... 10
Sale, Samuel.....	5, 9, 60	Stix, Sadie Fraley..... 105
Sale, Tillie F.....	11	Stix, William..... 9
Scharff, Nicholas.....	106	Stolz, Marjorie..... 101
Schiele, Sara.....	7	Straus, Louis..... 80
Schiele, Tillie.....	10, 91	Strauss, Julius C..... 228
Schlesinger, Ignatz.....	214	Strauss, L. R. 11, 24
Schreiber, Sara M.....	120	Suss, Alexander..... 5, 11
Schuyler, Matilda.....	45	Swope, Joel..... 120
Schwab, Isaac.....	5, 9	Synagogues (1930)- List 42
Schwartz, Edward K.....	120	-T-
Schwartzkopf, Louis.....	11	Temple B'Nai Amoona..... 25
Schwartzman, Abraham.....	138	Temple B'Nai El..... 5, 6, 13, 14, 21, 24
Schwartzman Jewelry Company.....	138	Temple B'Nai Zion..... 25
Shaare Zedek Social & Educational Center.....	227	Temple Chesed Shel Emeth..... 28
Shank, Abraham.....	119	Temple Israel..... 5, 9, 13, 15, 19, 95
Sheerith Israel Cemetery.....	28	Temple Shaare Emeth..... 9, 11, 13, 15, 21
Shoenberg, Moses.....	34, 99	Thal, Robert 115
Shoenberg, Rosa.....	76	Thurman, Samuel..... 8, 22
Shoenberg, Sydney M.....	00	Touro, Judah..... 24
Sievers, Samuel I.....	55, 116	Tuholske, Herman..... 34, 206
Silber, Mendel.....	22, 23	-U-
Silberberg, Albert.....	128	United Hebrew Congregation..... 8, 13, 22
Silverberg, Mollie.....	92	United Hebrew Relief Association..... 5
Silverstone, Mark.....	115	United Jewish Charities..... 5
Singer, Bernard.....	7, 9, 24	-W-
Sisterhood of Personal Service.....	33	Waldheim, Aaron..... 10, 67, 208
Sisterhood of Shaare Emeth.....	21	Weil, Maurice..... 110
Slonim, M. J.....	53	Weiner, Stella..... 146
Smith, Joseph.....	136	Weisels, Henry Richard..... 86
Smith's Furniture Stores.....	36	Wertheimer, Jacob J..... 5
Society Record (periodical).....	90	Werthen, Emil..... 53
Solomon, Hannah.....	143	Werthen, Morris..... 52
Sommers, David.....	10, 33, 50, 59, 69	Westwood Country Club..... 59
Sonneschein, Solomon H.....	5, 11, 19, 60	Witt, Louis..... 9, 53
Spitz, Moritz.....	5, 8	Wolf, Sarah..... 146
St. George Episcopal Church.....	22	Wolfenstein, Samuel..... 5, 8, 24, 96
St. John's Church.....	23	Wolff-Wilson Drug Company..... 139
St. Louis (Mo.)- Statistics (1925).....	123	Wolfner, Henry Lincoln..... 110
Stampfer, Sigmund.....	25, 53	

(Continued on Page 8)

JGS Election Time Approaches: Another Way You Can Volunteer!

By Chuck Jackson

Every two years, the opportunity to assist in the Society's growth and activities becomes available to all members. Yes, it is called "Voting for New Officers." We are looking for people to fill eight (8) different positions which are outlined below. If you are interested or want to know more about a position or two, please contact Chuck Jackson at (314) 849-9110 or <cbjackson1@mindspring.com>. A list of candidates will be submitted to the Society in February (voting is in March). So, don't wait until the last minute. The Society needs you!

President

- Preside at all meetings
- Appoint all heads of all committees
- Sign, with Recording Secretary, all contracts and documents
- Sign, with Treasurer, all disbursement checks
- Function as ex-officio of all committees (except Nominating)

First Vice President - Membership

- In absence of President, assume presidential duties
- Assume duties of President if office becomes vacant
- Function as Director of Membership Services with following responsibilities:
 - Meeting attendance records
 - Member/visitor name tags
 - Membership packets
 - Delinquent members
 - Program to increase membership
 - Letters to welcome new members
 - Maintain copy of membership list
 - Present monthly/annual membership reports

Second Vice President - Monetary Means

- Assume presidential duties if preceding two officers are not present or a position is vacant
- Submit fund-raising project plans for authorization
- Work with officers and membership to conduct approved projects
- Present monthly/annual monetary reports
- Obtain grants and benefactors

Third Vice President - Programs

- Assume presidential duties if preceding three officers are not present or a position is vacant
- Function as Director of Program Committee with following responsibilities:
 - Develop program/obtain speakers for monthly meetings
 - Establish physical arrangements and equipment
 - Present monthly/annual program reports

Recording Secretary

- Function as the Society's Recording Secretary and custodian of all records (except those records specifically assigned to others)
- Keep a record of all of the Society's proceedings

Recording Secretary (Cont'd)

- Keep a current copy of the Society's By-Laws and have it available at all meetings
- Notify Officers, Committees, and Delegates of their appointments
- Supply credentials to Delegates of the Society
- Furnish Officers and Committees with copies of all papers and books necessary to perform their respective functions
- Maintain a copy of all Committee reports
- Maintain an inventory of all the Society's legal documents, records and equipment
- Sign, with the President, all authorized contracts and documents
- Present monthly/annual reports

Corresponding Secretary

- Notify Officers, Committees, Delegates and the general membership of any special meetings
- Assist in the Society's mailings as necessary
- Conduct Society's correspondence
- Maintain a file of the Society's correspondence
- Present monthly/annual reports

Treasurer

- Function as custodian of all the Society's funds
- Sign, with the President, all disbursement checks
- Make all financial records available for audit
- As a Member of the Budget and Finance Committee, have the following responsibilities:
 - Notify members of delinquent dues
 - Maintain a current membership list
 - Present a financial statement at all board/general meetings
 - Present annual report
 - Notify appropriate Officers/Chairpersons of new members
 - Must be bonded

Archivist/Historian

- Collect and preserve the following:
 - All items of historical interest to the Society
 - Genealogy/biography/pedigree charts of the membership
- Maintain a surname index
- Present an annual summary report

Modern View Index (Conclusion)

Wolfner, Leopold	25
Wolfort, Leonora.....	7
Wolfort, Sigmond.....	129
World War, 1914-1918- Casualties - Jewish....	216
-Y-	
Yawitz, Frank.....	92
Young Men's Hebrew Association.....	48
-Z-	
Zangwill, Israel.....	49
Zionism- St. Louis (Mo.).....	147
Zola, Emil.....	64
Zucker, Rose	107
Zukoski, W. A.....	135

This concludes the index of *The Modern View: 25th Anniversary Deluxe Edition*. Be sure to take a look at it, especially if you find a name that looks promising.

Synopsis of December Meeting

By Eunice Solomon

Teaching Genealogy to Children: John Wilder

John Wilder believes children should be taught genealogy to enable them to learn how it connects the past to the future. Until last year he was a teacher at Solomon Schecter where he created a course in genealogy for his fifth graders. The course was based on the premise a family artifact is the glue that connects one generation to another.

December Meeting (Cont'd)

This course could be called "Show and Tell-Advanced." Each child brought a family memento to class and related the story behind it: who owned it, where it came from, how it was obtained. Parents were involved in this family history project.

Interviewing skills were taught. The child interviewed the parent; then the roles were reversed. Together they interviewed other family members. These interviews were taped by the children, as they were the leaders of the entire project. The best parts were copied onto paper for permanent keeping.

It is necessary to get into the child's world by asking questions revolving around a child's point of view, such as do you have a pet or name your favorite food.

The importance of family artifacts cannot be minimized. The artifact is always connected to a time of historic significance. Adult genealogists can use the same techniques in writing their family histories by including family photos, recipes and artifacts.

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