

Etz Chaim

עץ חיים

The Quarterly Journal of the
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

Vol. 15, No. 3,

Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.

SPRING 2005



When Morris Blaher of Apopka found surviving relatives in Perm, Russia, he, his son Neal and Neal's wife Genie, planned a trip that would bring many cousins together. Truly, a genealogical voyage, Morris shares the excitement and pleasure of finding and renewing family ties. See pages 8 - 10

ETZ CHAIM

Published quarterly by the
Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando
P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL. 32794, USA

Editorial Office

2619 Sweetwater Country Club Dr.
Apopka, FL 32712, USA
Jay Schleichkorn, Editor Phone 407-464-9445,
FAX - 407 -464-9445 E-mail: PTJay@aol.com

*If you go to the old website , you will see the link to
the new site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/FLjgscf/>*

Etz Chaim is free to all members of JGSGO. Back
copies (when available) \$5.00 each.

Membership Information:

Regular membership dues effective January 1,
2005. (January 1-December 31) Family \$30.00;
Individual Membership \$25.00; Sponsor \$50.00;
and Patron \$100.00 Out-of-town membership
(more than 50 miles) is \$20.00 per year. *Note: For
new members who join after June 1, dues are half
price for the balance of the fiscal year.*

Please make checks payable to JGSGO, P.O. Box
941332, Maitland, FL 32794.

JGSGO meetings are held monthly (excluding July
and August), usually on the third Monday of the
month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Mini Sanctuary,
Congregation of Liberal Judaism (CLJ), 928
Malone Drive, Orlando, FL. The board may set an
occasional Sunday for a special meeting.

*JGSGO's meeting site has been made available
through the courtesy extended by CLJ.*

Reproduction: Articles with by-lines or
copyright require "permission to reprint" from the
author. Contact the editor. All others should give
credit to the source, Etz Chaim/JGSGO.

The JGSGO is a member of the
*International Association of Jewish Genealogical
Societies, the Federation of Genealogical Societies
and the Florid State Genealogical Societies.*

In this Issue.....

- Pg. 2 - Calendar
- Pg. 3 -The President's Message- Edith Schulman
- Pg. 3 - E-mail Directory of JGSGO Officers
- Pg. 4 - Report of the annual Meeting
- Pg. 4 - Jerry Kurland's Comments
- Pg. 5 - Meet the Volunteers - Photo
- Pg. 5 - Ukraine - Topographic Map
- Pg. 6 - Jennifer Ritter -speaker February 21
- Pg. 6 - Kurland's Comments - continued
- Pg. 7 - "Roots Recalled..." January 24 meeting
- Pg. 8-10 - "Trip to Russia After 70 Years of No
Communication" Morris Blaher
- Pg. 11 - JewishGen Information
- Pg. 11 - Jewish Gen-Erosity-
- Pg. 11 - One for the Family History
- Pg. 11 - IAJGS Conference, Las Vegas, July, 2005
- Pg. 12 - A Century of Differences
- Pg. 12 - Genealogy History Detective

**CALENDAR: Future JGSGO
Programs + others**

Monday: Feb. 21, 2005: JGSGO Meeting 7:30 at
CLJ, Orlando: Program: Speaker - Jennifer
Ritter, Executive Director of the Holocaust
Memorial Resource and Education Center,
Maitland, "The Center's Mission and Resources"

Monday, March 21, 2005: JGSGO Meeting 7:30 at
CLJ, Orlando, Program: To Be Announced

Sunday through Friday: July 10-15 - International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy (IAJGS) , Las
Vegas, NV. Check the web site: www.JGSSN.org

Wednesday- Saturday, Sept. 7-10, Conference of
the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the
Utah Genealogical Assn., Salt Lake City, UT
Check the web site: www.fgs.org

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES FOR 2005?

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members:

I hope you were at our Annual Meeting alias Wine and Cheese Party. It was fun and festive and a good time is remembered by all. My personal thanks to Doris Frank, Shirley Michael and Jay Schleichkorn who made all the arrangements.

A new year has begun for our genealogy group. I am so pleased with the plans that we are considering. When I "signed on" as your president, I spoke of the vision I had for us--keeping what is working for us now, and bringing in new ideas to try this year.

Many of you filled out the survey at the January meeting about what kind of workshop would help in your research. If you did not get a chance to fill it out, I will have more at the February meeting. There are wonderful resources within our own community and in nearby communities so that once you have made your needs known, your Board will arrange a workshop to meet those needs.

Our Librarian Herb Adler is working hard to get our part of the library at CLJ in good, usable shape. He is evaluating our shelf and storage space. The money has been allocated for him to purchase necessary files, as well as new books. Every book must have labels and card pockets attached if we are to institute a lending system. If he asked for a little of your time -- say, "yes."

You hold in your hand a Newsletter which is superior to almost any other I have read. When it comes, I want to curl up in a chair and read it - undisturbed! Much thought and time goes into each issue by the Editor Jay Schleichkorn, and for all of this we thank you Jay.

Jennifer Ritter, Director of the Holocaust Center, is to be our speaker on February 21st. You can read more about her elsewhere in *Etz Chaim*. Do plan on coming to this interesting meeting with a most charming speaker.



I told you before that I will never ask more of you than you can give, but each member of our Group can do something, help just a little, so that the burden does not fall on only a few of us. It has been gratifying that some members have already volunteered to do certain things. Join their ranks.



Say: "How can I help?" As my license plate relates--Come join me "in the past lane."

Edith Schulman

E-MAIL DIRECTORY OF JGSGO OFFICERS FOR 2005

President: Edith Schulman:

edith@schulmans.com>

First VP (Program): Lillian Weitzel:

Lillian.weitzel@hotmail.com>

2nd VP (Membership): Doris Frank:

dofrank@cfl.rr.com>

Recording Secretary: Riva Sorokurs

rsorokurs@cfl.rr.com

Treasurer: Shirley Michael

shirlevm@cfl.rr.com

Director: Immediate Past President: Jerry Kurland

Surrealgraphics@earthlink.net

Director: Editor, Etz Chaim: Jay Schleichkorn

PTJay@aol.com

Director: Webmaster, Jose Valle

jl.valle@earthlink.net

THE 'GALA' ANNUAL MEETING

It was called a "Gala Annual Meeting" and it turned out to be a great time for socializing and completing the business of the JGSGO. All that occurred Monday evening, December 20 in the Minisanctuary at CLJ. With 40 members and friends present, Jerry Kurland, president, opened the meeting. He indicated the JGSGO library has now been transferred to CLJ's Harold Dworkin Learning Center. Jerry's remarks may be found on page 4 and 6 of this issue.

Calling for reports from officers or chairpersons, the group heard from Shirley Michael, Treasurer who reported there was \$1,604.59 in the account.

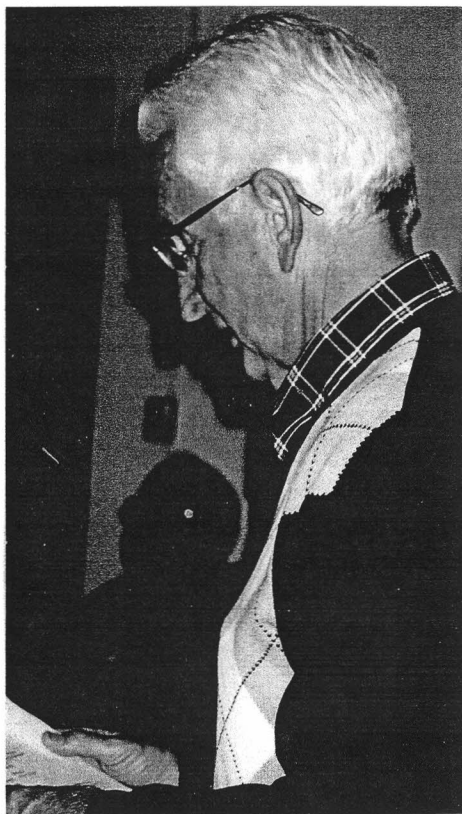
Membership chair, Doris Frank announced there are 72 paid up members in JGSGO.

Jose Valle, webmaster spoke about plans for revising the web site.

Jay Schleichkorn reported four issues of Etz Chaim were distributed. He announced the next issue will feature an article about an emotional trip to relatives in Ukraine prepared by Morris Blaher.

Doris Frank gave the Nominating Committee report and asked for nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the election of new officers for 2005 took place.

The installing officer was Mel Kohn who thanked the outgoing officers and welcomed the new volunteers.



Mel Kohn, Installing Officer

Edith Schulman, accepted the gavel from outgoing president and spoke about plans for a successful tenure as the sixth president of the JGSGO.

Following the business of the association, Mel as the guest speaker described his experiences in genealogy. He emphasized the importance of family reunions which he attended

in Philadelphia and Toronto. "It was amazing to find so many relatives," he said. Thanks to his relatives, Mel obtained information about graveyards, burials and seven generations. Family research included names such as Shapiro, Frank, Schultz, Kohn and Levy.



Jerry Kurland passed the gavel to Edith Schulman.

Following the meeting, we all enjoyed wine and cheese, and coffee and cake setup by Doris Frank and Shirley Michael. Door prizes won by those present included three certificates for complete dinners for two at Sonny's BBQ, and decorative baskets prepared by June and Jerry Kurland.

FAREWELL SPEECH BY OUTGOING PRESIDENT JERRY KURLAND, 12-20-04

It was only two years ago at a General meeting, when I accepted the challenges as your President of the JGSGO that had serviced the genealogical community effectively in the prior 12 years.

Now as I stand here in the portals of Congregation Liberal Judaism, our new found home, we now have this great facility to be here to conduct our members meetings and this Gala event.

We also have established our own JGSGO library in the Dworkin Learning Center. We are all working together in making an operable library. We have had a computer donated to the library and purchased new library shelving. We look to a creative concept of expansion of our library facilities through our new librarian Herb Adler.

Continued on page 6

RENEW YOUR JGSGO MEMBERSHIP TODAY

MEET THE VOLUNTEERS OF THE JGSGO

Left to right:

Standing: Jay Schleichkorn, Editor, *Etz Chaim*; Lillian Weitzel, First VP, Chair Program Committee; Jose Valle, Webmaster; Herb Adler, Librarian; Jerry Kurland, Immediate Past President; Doris Frank, Second V.P., Membership;

Seated: Riva Sorokus, Recording Secretary; Edith Schulman, President; Shirley Michaels, Treasurer



UKRAINE- TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Carl Migden, a member of the JGSGO since 1997, recently came across an interesting web site that offers a topographic map of the Ukraine. The page offers grid projections of the Ukraine that can be highlighted for details. For those interested in that area go to:

<http://www.lib/berkeley.edu/EART/x-ussr/ukraine.html> Information is copyrighted by the Regents of the University of California. See the illustration below. Thanks Carl for the information.



Jennifer Ritter to speak at Jewish Genealogy Meeting – February 21

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Central Florida is pleased to announce that Jennifer Ritter, Executive Director of the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center (HMREC), Maitland, will speak at the Monday, February 21 meeting of the Group. The meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Social Hall, Congregation of Liberal Judaism, Malone Drive, Orlando.

One of the concerns of Jewish

genealogy researchers is how to trace ancestors believed to be lost in the Holocaust. They want to know if there is a way to find out what happened to relatives and how research must be accomplished. Ritter can certainly answer questions and more in her talk.

Ritter came to our Orlando community on April 29, 2002 with

the title of associate executive director of HMREC. She spent two years training under the director of the Center, Tess Wise, and was appointed executive director as of September 1, 2004.

Our speaker comes from Toronto, Canada. She and her husband, Matthew (a pilot for Chautauqua Airlines), moved here from Ottawa, Canada.

Ritter's undergraduate work includes Political Science and Judaic Studies. Prior to becoming an attorney in the areas of labor and employment law, Ritter was a program director for the Jewish Agency in Israel. Her responsibilities included overseeing programming and logistics for Canadian work/study/tour programs. She is fluent in Hebrew and French and is a graduate of the



Yad Vashem International School of Holocaust Studies in Jerusalem and the Massuah Institute for study of the Holocaust in Netanya, Israel.

This is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to better understand genealogical researching and the mission of the Holocaust Center.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in genealogy. Members of JGSGO, please bring a friend.

Farewell speech by outgoing President, Jerry Kurland, (continued from pg. 4)

We expect success in our Community Outreach Ongoing Program, a program that will encourage Future Jewish students in their Genealogical family research.

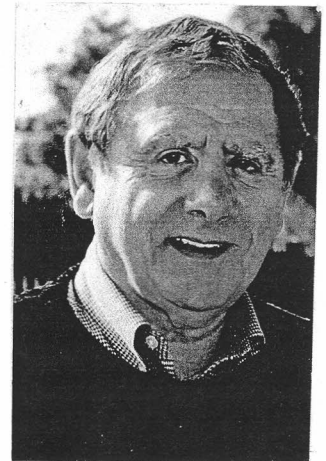
I am proud of our achievements but would offer the challenge to our membership to become more involved.

Your incoming Officers and Directors need your support to continue to offer the membership interesting programs all designed to help you with your genealogical research.

The cooperation and support I received from the officers and special volunteers Doris and Don Frank, Edith Schulman, Shirley Michael, Herb Adler, Sim Seckbach, Jose Valle, and Jay Schleichkorn, has given me a leadership experience I will not forget.

As your President, I have taken on the understanding that, "*I may be granted the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.*"

I look forward to working with the new administration that will continue to inspire our members, so that we may grow and learn together as a Society.



Genealogically Speaking...

“Roots Recalled, Remembering Generations From Foreign Lands”

Orlando had one of its coldest evenings in 2005, on Monday, January 24, but there was only warmth and good feelings at the JGSGO meeting held at CLJ (Congregation of Liberal Judaism).

The program involved several members who were born or lived in foreign countries before coming to the USA. The panelists spoke of their family history, religious affiliations, good times and bad times, meeting adversity and adjusting to the States. Jay Schleichkorn served as moderator.

With questions asked by the audience, there was only time for four of the speakers to tell their experiences. The four included Doris Frank, Pierre Haskelson, Marianne Schleichkorn and Lucilla Weinroth. The fifth participant, Jerry Kurland, will be rescheduled in Part II of a program tentatively set for Monday, April 18th.

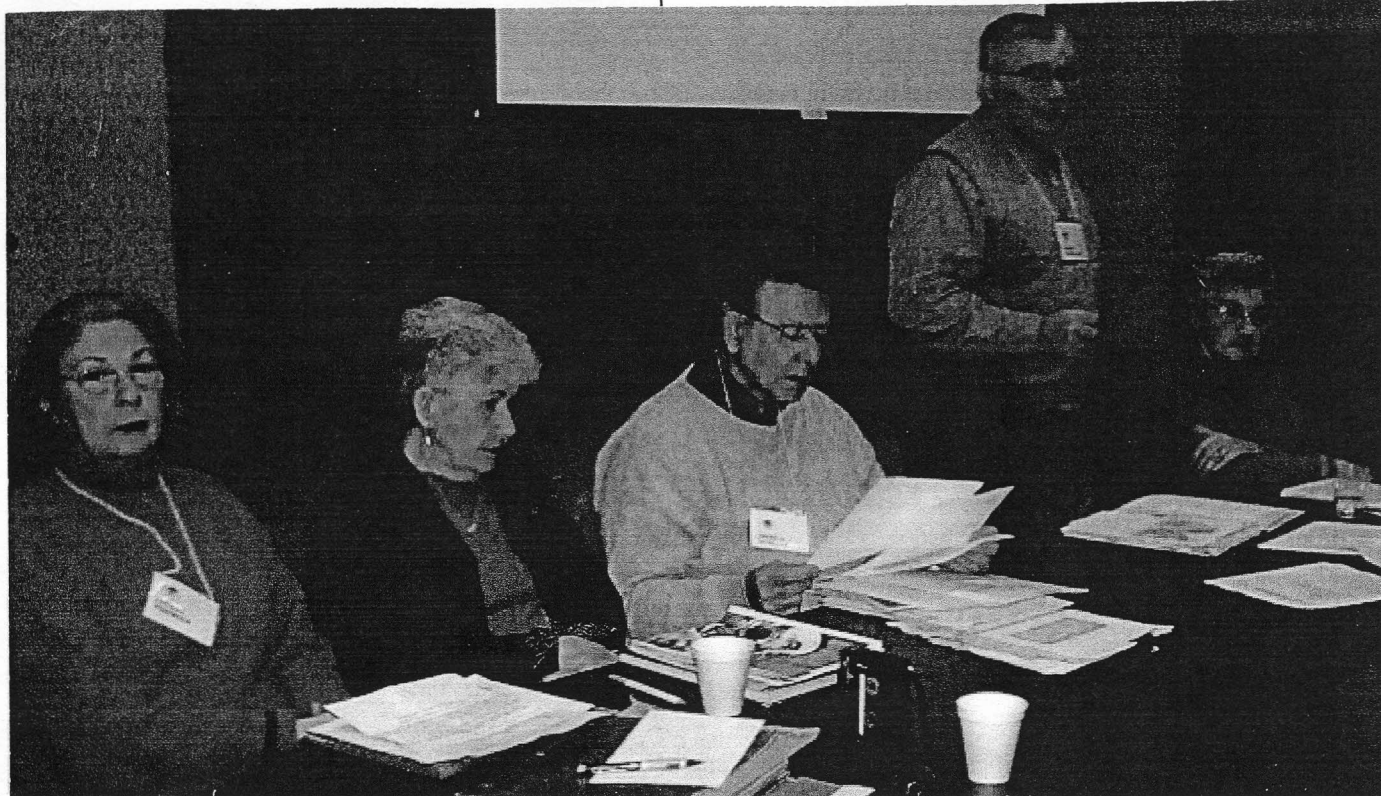
Doris Frank spoke of the “homelike feeling” she enjoyed in Havana, Cuba. There was diversified education and religious freedom. The American Synagogue was established in 1906. She also told the story of how her uncle encouraged her father to change his name from Shapiro to Zeffertt in the hope that he could attend a Free School while in London, UK.

Pierre Haskelson’s father was Swiss but he grew up in France. His mother was naturalized French. Pierre was born in Paris. When WWII interrupted their life, the family went to Bordeaux. After Pierre’s father was demobilized from the French Army, the family went to Algiers.

Pierre’s father assisted the US military as a translator, sold wine and started a factory making jam. Life was not easy and they left for the US on a Liberty ship, the “Tom Ecking. Arriving in New York in 1949, Pierre, age 13, recalled “I was scared.” Again his father started a business with electroplating. It took Pierre about six months to learn English. Today Pierre and his wife, Rosalyn live in Clermont, FL.

Marianne Wendel (Schleichkorn) was born in Giessen, Germany, a town north of Frankfurt. Her father was a banker, her mother “a lady.” By 1936, anti-semitic situations dictated a move to the larger city, Frankfurt. There Marianne and her younger sister attended a Jewish school, The Philanthropin. As Hitler restricted Jews, Marianne’s parents sent the two girls to England on a Kindertransport. The girls arrived at their new residence, St. Mary’s School, on July 27, 1939, just four weeks before England went to war against Germany. They remained in England for seven years before going to NY “Life was not easy for us being separated from our parents,” Marianne recalled. Her father was able to leave Germany, went to Cuba and then to New York. Marianne’s mother arrived in NY in February ’47 and the family was reunited.

Lucilla Weinroth’s parents father came from Russia, went to Argentina and then Brazil. Her mother was from Romania. Lucilla had eleven brothers and sisters. Lucilla spoke of the “good life” they all had in Recife. Although Orthodox, Lucilla said they were not called Jews. “It was a shock to be called Jewish. We were known as Israelites or as a Yiddish boy or girl.” Today, Lucilla lives in Maitland with her husband of forty years, Stanley.



Left to right:

Lucilla Weinroth, Doris Frank, Jerry Kurland, Pierre Haskelson, & Marianne Schleichkorn

Trip to Russia After 70 Years of No Communication

By: Morris Blaher

Eighty-nine years ago, my father, age 18, left his family of ten brothers and sisters plus all the aunts and uncles in Russia. He was joined by three young friends on a visit for the USA. At the time, there was a war between Germany and England & France. At the same time, the unrest in Russia between the ruling Tsars and the peasants & intelligentsia was causing turmoil. These four young men decided to leave their problems and traveled across Siberia to Korea, then Japan. They worked the docks of Yokohama for passage to the USA. After landing in Seattle and working in lumber camps for fares to Chicago and New York, they went to work, establishing businesses.

My father maintained correspondence with his family until the early 1930's when Stalin was cracking down in Russia and it became too dangerous for the family he left behind to receive or send communication with loved ones in the US. As a result, our USA Blaher family learned next to nothing about his family who remained in Russia.

In 2001, I began searching for our paternal family. Using the internet, I located a businessman with the last name of Rubin in Perm, Russia, my father's birthplace. He had advertised his website business on the internet. Using his e-mail address, I asked him if there was a way I could find the relatives that I was seeking. He referred me to an Eduard Kiseldorf, the community leader. The community leader then found a person at the local community care-giving organization. This organization, that supports needy seniors, had a database of persons in this city of over a million residents. Ms. Tchoudinova of the organization searched her database and came up with three names. In checking with these three individuals, she found that two of them were connected to my quest. Now our only problem was the matter of language. Ms. Tchoudinova offered to act as translator. Through her, I soon learned of the large number of cousins still living in Perm. Coincidentally, a son of one of the cousins had been in Orlando for two weeks presenting a seminar at UCF just a few weeks before we confirmed the family relationship with his parents. Perm is located some 800 miles

southeast of Moscow in the flatlands at the foot of the Ural mountains leading to Siberia.

With my son, Neal, and his wife, Genie, we began our trip with three days touring Moscow. We visited the Kremlin and Red Square, took pictures and toured the city. Then, we went on to Perm which is two time zones away. We arrived at the airport in Perm around 5:30 AM. Not expecting anyone to greet us that early, to our surprise, we were warmly greeted by my cousin, Veniamin, his wife and son. His son did the driving. He had taken time off from his work in Izhevsk, some 100 miles from Perm. One of the Russian traditions is to give a bouquet of flowers to visitors. Veniamin's wife Lida did just that and presented me with a bouquet of roses. With tears of joy, we hugged each other.



After this initial greeting, we continued the rest of the time in Perm greeted by four more first cousins, 83-year old retired doctor Sara Grinberg and her family, Yakov Blaher and his family, Eugena Toulbovich from Israel and her Perm based son and his family, and also retired OB/GYN doctor, Dora Goldschmidt .



Luba Velez, Sasha Toulbovich, Marina Kostin, Morris, and Sara Grinberg (Retired MD)



Top row: Sasha Toulbovich, Morris Blaher, Yan Blecher
Seated: Yakov Blecher, Eugenia, Dimitri and Nathaniel

Since Neal had 3 years in high school learning the Russian language, it made it easier to understand one another. We were fortunate that Yakov's grandson, Yan, and Eugena's granddaughter, Sasha, were educated in the English language. So was Eugena's 6-year old grandson. (Eugena had made it perfectly clear to Sasha that she was to stick with me during our stay to make sure I could participate in the conversations.)

We were also entertained by Veniamin and Eugena's niece, Nadia, and her family (Eugena and Veniamin are brother & sister). Sara Grinberg's niece, Vera Komarov and her son, made a special trip in from Moscow. Vera's 13-year old son, Evgenii, was very shy until I cajoled him into speaking English which he did quite well. The families went all out in inviting us to their dinners. (The dinners included the traditional vodka and wine.)

While in Perm, we visited their ballet and drama theaters, art exhibitions, technical institute, and arms museum. We took a boat tour on their Kama river used for transportation of goods to Moscow and other ports on the Volga river. Then, we traveled some 60 to 70 miles into the countryside to visit the Kungur Caves which are similar to our Carlsbad Caverns in Virginia. While in the outlying areas, we visited a monastery under reconstruction in its country retreat. During this travel, remnants of the collective farm era of the Communists were still apparent. It was watermelon season as there were many roadside stands set up like Florida's citrus

or New Jersey's tomato roadside stands. Bus transportation is available in all the areas, although residents think nothing of walking to their destination (probably because they are so poor). This part of Siberian Russia reminded us of the Appalachian mountains.

It was a great experience. We ate in their quaint restaurants, tasted their native cuisine, enjoyed their prime watermelon time and walked in their grand parks. Their way of serving fish was the entire fish, including the head and tail. However, chicken was prepared with delicate seasonings and melt in mouth taste. Although we were warned about eating fresh vegetables and fruit, the vegetables were of the freshest variety, including lettuce, green and red peppers, cucumbers, parsley, etc.

My dream had always been to someday find and meet my paternal family. Three years after confirming their identity, we finally connected with our Blaher family. So, seventy years after the family had lost contact, there was an emotional reunion at the Perm airport.

Although we met with a lot of cousins, it only touched part of the large number of connected families. We concentrated with those living in Perm. We also learned of cousins living in Kirov, Samara, Sarapul, Tjumen, Moscow and Israel.

We even visited the family of one of the young men who traveled with my father over Siberia to the USA. They confirmed connection with each of the four families involved. I have sent photos taken with them to their cousin in Pennsylvania who never knew her Russian paternal family.

We visited the original homestead of my father, his parents and uncles and aunts.



They all had lived in a 2-story house big enough to hold great grandfather's nine (9) children and their families (including my father). It was only one block away from the hotel that we resided while in Perm.

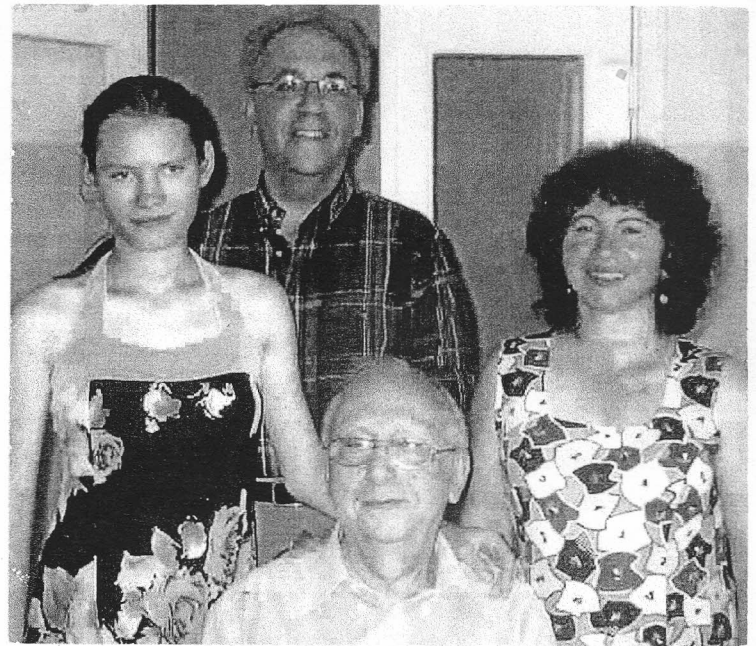


The restored synagogue in Perm occupies the second floor. Note the candelabras on the roof and to the right of the entrance. The first floor is leased to a bank.

The hotel was only two blocks from the original synagogue destroyed during Stalin's era. Stalin had destroyed the great Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow. That church was rebuilt about 10 years ago. The synagogue had been rebuilt, renovated and still exists today. And they still had the original Torah and shofar that were over 100 years old. These were held in secret over the years. The shofar was given to Neal since it was not in any condition to be used in services. We attended Sabbath services and were warmly greeted by the rabbi and synagogue members. This is where my father was Bar Mitzvahed.

The synagogue occupies the second floor. The first floor is leased to a bank. On the walk back from Saturday's services, we pointed out the watermelons in a stand along the way. One of my cousins took it as a request. She bought a watermelon and fresh cherries for us to take back

to the hotel. What were we to do with a watermelon? We took it in the kind way it was offered.



Maya, Neal Blaher, Nadia Berlin, and seated Morris.

I had previously discussed through my correspondence with Veniamin of visiting the family final resting places which are located in three cemeteries. This was a trying experience because of the condition of the two older cemeteries. They are not only overgrown with vegetation but the gravestones have been vandalized. This was another sad chapter in the condition of most of Russia. There is much new rising out of Russia, but not enough to quickly meet the immense growth needed. This is probably due to the lack of finances.

This trip was made possible by the change in the political climate of Russia which saw the end of the cold war and the freedom introduced into Russia some twelve years ago. The warm welcome we received is unparalleled from anything we had anticipated. Each household had the same feelings towards us. Would we return? On a minute's notice.

I only regret that my father never had the opportunity to do what I had accomplished with my son's help. If the opportunity had been available when my father was alive, I would have done the same for him.

JEWISHGEN'S AVAILABLE INFORMATION

In the last few years, JewishGen has reached another milestone by adding over 2.9 million new records to the JewishGen website that could be that vital link you need to make family connections. This brings the total number of records on the JewishGen website almost the 10 million mark.

The JewishGen Holocaust Database now has 900,000 records:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/>

All Hungary Database now has 180,000 records:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary/>

The All Romania Database has over 40,000 new records:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania/>

All Belarus Database has grown by 20,000 new records to a total of 300,000 records:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Belarus/>

The Yizkor Book Necrology database has added 15,000 records and now has 165,000 names from 177 Yizkor Books:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor/>

And the all UK Database has 50,000 records from England, Scotland and Wales:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/UK/>

There are 357,313 entries in the JewishGen Family Finder: <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff>

and the Family Tree of the Jewish People now has 3,000,000 records which could provide connections to your research interests:

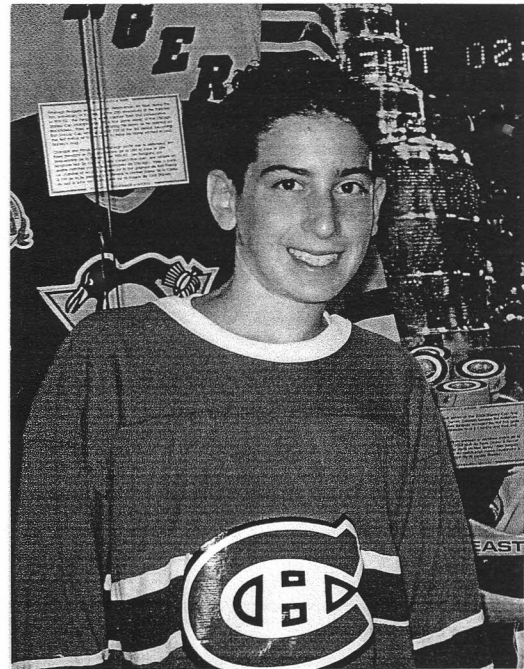
<http://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom>

You will need a JGID and password to visit any of the sites above, and we look forward to welcoming you to JewishGen! From: Susan King, Managing Director, JewishGen, Inc., 11/23/04

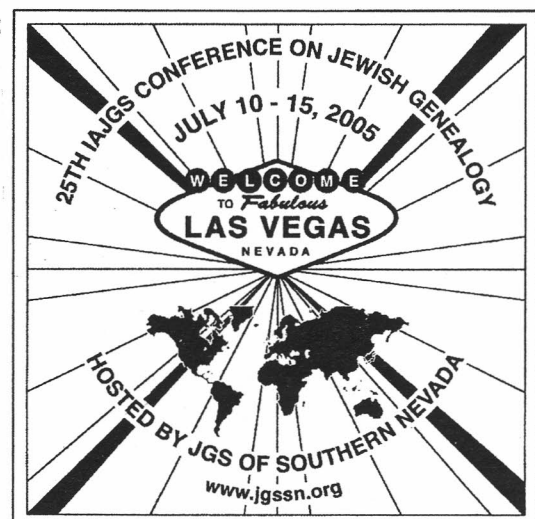
JEWISH GEN-EROSITY

Do you value the resources offered by JewishGen? JewishGen's services are currently available free of charge as a public service to the worldwide Jewish community. Help us keep it that way! While volunteer resources are essential, please remember that we also need your financial support to maintain JewishGen as the primary on-line resource for Jewish genealogy. Please consider making a generous contribution to a specific JewishGen project or activity. You can donate on-line at: <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/>

ONE FOR THE FAMILY HISTORY.....



Edith Schulman and her husband, Charles, have something very special to record in their family history. Pictured above is Jordan Schilit of Tampa, their grandson, one of three runners from the U.S. who has been asked to participate in the quadrennial Maccabean Games in Israel in July. Jordan is only 14 years old and will be one of the youngest athletes in the games. He runs a 5K (3 miles) in 17.52.



A Century Of Differences!

Genealogists are fully aware of the great influx of immigrants into the U.S. came at the turn of the century and in the early 1900s. Look at what our forefathers (and mothers) had to look forward too. Maybe this will boggle your mind, I know it did mine! The year is 1904, one hundred + years ago. What a difference a century makes! Here are some of the US statistics for 1904:

The average life expectancy in the US was 47 years;

Only 14% of the homes in the US had a bathtub;

Only 8% of the homes had a telephone. A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost \$11.00;

There were only 8,000 cars in the US, and only 144 miles of paved roads;

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph;

Alabama, Mississippi, Iowa, and Tennessee were each more heavily populated than California. With a mere 1.4 million residents, California was only the 21st most populous state in the Union;

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower;

The average wage in the US was 22 cents an hour;

The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year;

A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year, a dentist \$2,500 per year. A veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year. A mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the US took place at home;

90% of all US physicians had no college education. Instead, they attended medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press and by the government as substandard;

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a

month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo; Canada passed a law prohibiting poor people from entering the country for any reason;

The five leading causes of death in the United States were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease and
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet;

The population of Las Vegas, NV, was 30; Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented;

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day;

Two of 10 US adults couldn't read or write; Only 6% of all Americans had graduated high school;

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health." (Shocking!)

Eighteen percent of households in the US had at least one full-time servant or domestic;

There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire US;

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years ... it staggers the mind!

Your Genealogy Research Could Land You On History Detectives!

Is your family history connected to a significant moment in America's history? If your genealogy research has turned up clues that your ancestors played a key role in a history-making event, History Detectives wants to help you piece the puzzle together. You and the ghosts of ancestors past could appear on PBS's hit series this summer! Submit your story to:

<http://pbsmail.org/ct/R11i2nS1gXLO/>.