



## FAMILY LEGACIES

Linking the past with the present and the future  
Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada, Inc.  
Fall 2010 v.13 no. 3

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### Looking Back - 5 years ago

Having just returned from the 30th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish genealogy in Los Angeles, I am reminded that it was only five years ago that we the Jewish Genealogy Society of Southern Nevada undertook a similar task. With a small group of our members, plus wonderful volunteers from across the country, we first met in 2003, to see if we could do it.

The conference brought together 650 genealogists from around the world - to study, network and yes, even do some research. The only sour note for the week was that the weather wanted to show off to our visitors, and the heat topped 110 during the entire week! Attendees said it was hot, but it wasn't until *four* days after the conference ended that we broke a record for the highest temperature ever in Las Vegas - **117° F** (47° C) on July 19, 2005!

Why bring this up now? While in Los Angeles, with seven other JGSSN members, you realize what a rich environment these and similar conferences are. The inevitable question arises, why after attending about 25 conferences in the last 30 years, why still keep going? The simple answer is to see all the people you know in the genealogy world. The real answer is 'to be reminded of all the research tools you know how to use, but somehow forget to use everyday'.

**This same philosophy holds true for our monthly meetings. If you haven't been with us lately or have never been to our meetings, then come join us as we recall all the methods we used to use, and learn about new methods and databases that come public, almost daily.**

*Michael Brenner*

# MEMORIES (photos from the Las Vegas Conference, 2005)



Stephen Morse Lecture



Micheal Brenner at Opening Night



Mary and Barry Barkan at the Banquet



Resource Room



Hospitality Room



The "Happiest Mayor on Earth"  
(Oscar Goodman) with Carole Montello

## ELECTION OF OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

At our Annual Meeting, December 19, 2010, as mandated by our bylaws, we will hold elections. The officer positions that are up for election are

**President**

**Vice president (Membership)**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

In addition, four Director at Large positions are to be elected.

If you have an interest in working on the board to further the JGSSN mission please contact the Nominating committee:

Chair

[Carole Montello](#)

Committee Members

[Ella Perla](#)

[Jack Oliver](#)



**David Unger**

**Searching:**

**Unger from Galicia**

**Godman from Galicia and Mysience**

**Arnee Edgeworth**

**Searching:**

**Schwartz, Perlmutter**

## PREVIOUSLY AT JGSSN MEETINGS

**Everyone Has a Story . . . *Who Will Tell Yours?***

At our monthly meeting on Sunday, July 18, JGSSN member Joanne Gilbert, M. Ed, presented an interesting program that highlighted the important connection between Genealogy and Personal History. Emphasizing that both are necessary to understand and effectively preserve our heritage, Joanne pointed out that behind each carefully researched name and date, there is a reservoir of stories from which additional names might emerge.

By providing hand-outs and examples of how to create engaging literature from “just the facts,” she showed how to make genealogy come alive for others. Personal Histories not only put the muscle, heart and soul on the skeleton of genealogy, but also allow us to understand the reasons our family trees developed at they did. Whether using Genealogy to document your Personal History, or using Personal History to enrich your Genealogy, combining the two will result in a powerful experience now, and a precious legacy for our families.

As an experienced Educator, Writer, and Personal Historian, Joanne effectively involved the audience in the presentation, and as a result, several have expressed interest in having Joanne facilitate a series of Personal History Writing Workshops. If you are interested in participating, please contact coordinator, Faye Goldstein at: fayezee@cox.net

## IAJGS Annual Achievement Awards Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant

31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

### **IAJGS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**

*Hal Bookbinder* for his many contributions to the world of Jewish genealogy

### **OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO JEWISH GENEALOGY VIA THE INTERNET, PRINT OR ELECTRONIC PRODUCT**

*Judith Frazin*

*A Translation Guide to 19th Century Polish-Language Civil Registration Documents* 3rd ed..

### **OUTSTANDING PROGRAMMING OR PROJECT THAT ADVANCES THE OBJECTIVES OF JEWISH GENEALOGY**

*JGS of Greater Philadelphia*

*Philadelphia Area Jewish Genealogy Resource Guide*

### **RABBI MALCOLM STERN GRANT**

*Israel Genealogical Society*

Database transcription and scanning projects

# JGSSN PROGRAMMING

**Sahara West Library Meeting Room      1 PM**  
**9600 W. Sahara (between Fort Apache and Grand Canyon)**

## September 19

Recap of the IAJGS Conference in Los Angeles  
Every Picture or Document Tells a Story

Our September meeting will present short recaps of some of the new material that was announced at the International Conference on Jewish genealogy held this past July in Los Angeles. We will highlight 3 or 4 lectures that presented new information and research tools.

Every Picture or Heirloom Tells a Story

Bring those old Family Photos or your Grandmother's favorite goodie brought from the old country. Dazzle us with those family stories during this spectacular Show and Tell.

## September 27 – 30

**Annual Salt Lake City Research Trip**

Space still available. For information contact [Michael Brenner](#) President

## October 17

*Beau Sharbrough*

City Directories  
Online Research

## November 21

*Hal Bookbinder*

Part 1 : Locating Lost Classmates

Pursuing genealogy includes searching for living relatives as well as deceased ancestors. Recently, in preparation for a high school reunion, Hal used the techniques honed in finding missing relatives to find eleven of twelve high school classmates who had gone missing over the years. This talk will describe the techniques used to successfully find these "lost" classmates who had scattered across the country, changed names and had no contact with other classmates for years, or even for decades

## Part 2: Why Did Our Ancestors Leave a Nice Place Like the Pale?

In 1880 fully 80 percent of our ancestors lived in Poland and Pale of Jewish Settlement in western Russia. We all know of the pogroms (organized violence) and mass exodus of our ancestors to points west over the next generation. This talk will provide background on the 120 years of the Pale from its formation at the turn of the 19th century to its dissolution during the First World War. It will provide some context to our ancestors' lives in the Pale, and of course, their decision to leave everything they had known to make new lives in the West.

Hal has been researching eight lines for over 27 years, identifying 4,000 relatives and tracing two of these lines into the mid 1700s. A former president of JGSLA and IAJGS, he created and continues to edit the annual Jewish Genealogical Yearbook. Hal has spoken at numerous conferences, synagogues and society meetings on topics from computing to geography to brick walls.

## December 19

Annual paid up membership luncheon

# YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

## September 25, 2010

### Family History Center 8th Annual Free Open House

The Las Vegas Nevada Sandstone Stake of the LDS Church invites you to attend our Eighth Annual Family History Center Open House. The open house will feature seminars on topics such as census records, FamilySearch.org, new.FamilySearch.org, British and International research, military records, photo restoration, writing family histories, and FamilySearch Indexing. 9:00 am- 3:00 pm

[SCHEDULE](#)

[REGISTRATION](#)

[LOCATION](#)

## March 26, 2011

Clark County Nevada Genealogical Society Spring Family History Seminar  
Stan Fulton Building (UNLV) 801 E. Flamingo Road

Kerry Bartels (NARA) - Records available through NARA

Lee Nishimoto - Researching Women

Mary Barkan- Sources for Documenting U.S. Military Service

For more information, see:

<http://www.lvrj.com/communitylink/ccngs/> or <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nvccngs/>

# LOOK OUT FOR THE MACHINE

*By Jack Oliver*

When I was young, I used to have to visit my grandmother Raizel Kline TARGOWNIK most every week. She lived in a tenement on the lower east side of New York, on the corner of Rivington and Sheriff Streets. The building was about 100 years old at the time and I hated it and the neighborhood. To this boy from the Bronx it was filthy and smelled bad.



Before we went to my grandmother's fourth floor apartment, we usually stopped at my aunt Bertha RUTCOFSKY (my father's sister) and her husband Phillip's apartment on the second floor. They had eight children and lived in a three room apartment. Like most people in the neighborhood, they appeared very poor.

The RUTCOFSKY's first child, Pearl, was killed by a truck when she was about six years old. I had heard about this at a fairly young age. Whenever I visited, my aunt would be found sitting at the window overlooking the street where Pearl died. She would constantly yell at her youngest child "Shimmy, look out for the machine (car)." To be honest, I always thought there was something wrong with her.

A few years ago, while talking to a cousin, I found out the whole story. Pearl was decapitated in the accident and Bertha, sitting at the window, saw it all. That finally made me understand why she acted the way she did.

Recently, I discovered that in 1935 there was a settlement of \$3,500 from the US Trucking Company. I figured that equates to about \$100,000 today. Thinking about this, I couldn't understand why they continue to live in such poverty. Because of this question, I asked one of her surviving children about the money. He told me his parents didn't accept it as they considered it "blood money". I can't help but think how much better off they and their children would have been with the money. And I can't help but think that the family would have paid anything to have Pearl back with them.

# CONTACT US

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*Family Legacies* is printed four times each year - Spring, Summer, Fall and Winter. Articles, manuscripts or notable news stories may be submitted to: Shelly Weiner, Editor / JGSSN, Inc. / PO Box 370522 / Las Vegas, NV 89134 or by email to <mailto:shellyjag619@gmail.com>

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Queries are printed on a space available basis at a cost of \$2.50 for 50 words and 25 ¢ each additional word, excluding name and address. Fees for approved ads per issue - Business Card \$15, 1/4 page \$25, 1/2 page \$50, Full page \$100.

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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\$18 Individual       \$25 Family

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JGSSN, Inc. membership runs from January through December

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