

THE
CHRONICLE

A PUBLICATION OF CONGREGATION NEVEH SHALOM



Genealogy

Finding Your Roots

When a Jew Ruled Over Poland

Rabbi's Corner

By Rabbi David Kosak



Royal blood pumps through my veins. Yes, it's true, my ancestor was the king of Poland, the only Jewish king Poland ever had. Some explanation is needed.

Saul Wahl Katzenellenbogen was born in Padua, Italy, in 1545. He studied first in the yeshivot of Padua before pursuing more advanced studies in the Yeshivot of Poland; he eventually arrived in Brest-Litvosk as a mature scholar. Even in the 16th century, Brest-Litvosk was renowned as a city of Jewish learning, with the Jews making up a substantial part of the population. By 1566, it had become part of the Polish-Lithuanian commonwealth. There were times in the town's history when over 40% of the population was Jewish!

Saul's fortunes rose in the year 1586. This was when Stephen Batory, the King

of Poland, died. The Polish lords and princes could not immediately decide upon a successor, and one can only guess at the court intrigues and politics of this moment. What was clear was that it was unbearable to allow the throne to remain unoccupied. Thus it was that Prince Radziwill, head of the Polish dukes, offered the crown to my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather. That should be 12 greats. In any case, he ruled nobly and wisely, for there were no wars while he ruled and no financial crises; as a consequence, he was greatly revered.

For the sake of intellectual honesty, I should probably let you know that unlike Queen Elizabeth II, he ruled for considerably less time. One day to be exact. The following day, Saul recommended that King Sigmund of Sweden be crowned, which is what happened. It's also worth adding that Grandpa Saul was Prince Radziwill's travel companion and trusted advisor, so the prince felt confident that Papa Saul would abdicate the throne when the time came, which it did rather quickly. Nonetheless, there was a Jewish King of Poland for one day, and he's my 12th great-grandfather.

I know this story because my grandfather spent decades researching the family tree, painstakingly gathering old documents. In the days before email or inter-

net searches, he did this by handwriting letters to people around the globe, sometimes traveling to distant cities where he could visit libraries or in some other way track down a gap in the family narrative. All of this research was a remarkable gift that he gave to the family. At the conclusion of *The Kestin Story*, as the book is called, Papa Jake wrote that "In essence, *The Kestin Story* has been retrospective, a long look backwards to the Gaon, Rabbi Hyyim of Urle...Where did we come from? Who are we? What are *our* roots, *our* family ties?"

"And yet," my grandpa continued, "the real story lies ahead. It is prospective, still to be written. Where are we heading? Where are we going? Where will this story lead us?"

A human being needs to be like a tree to thrive. We need roots in the ground and branches stretching upward. Family histories can provide this. There was a time that genealogical pedigrees such as I have inherited were rare and a matter of happenstance, especially with Americans; a vast majority might know only two or three generations of their family's history.

Thankfully, that is no longer the case. Modern research techniques, the power of the internet, and genetic testing mean that the lids have been pried off otherwise sealed histories. For those with the interest and the time, more of their past can be recovered. As our technologies improve, we most likely will gain ever greater capacities to retrieve the past and mine it for meaning.

Yet the roots a human needs most are

Continued on next page

The Chain of Connections

By Rabbi Eve Posen

Rabbi's Corner

For the last two years I have been teaching a weekly Torah portion class via Zoom. It started as a way to build community during the early part of the Covid-19 pandemic and has continued in some interesting and eye-opening ways. The first group I studied with was so intrigued by the narrative that they asked to continue learning beyond the Five Books of Moses, so we have been. We've gone from the beginning of *Bereshit* through *Second Kings* so far.

The narrative has twists and turns, but what holds it together is the way in which the text connects to itself. What do I mean? On many levels the Torah is a genealogical study of the Israelite nation from the beginning with Abraham, and later through Moses, Joshua, Saul, David, Solomon, and more. While the lines of connection aren't all through familial ties, the notion that we all started in that same space is clear throughout our Bible.

Think of the language we use even today: "Eloheinu v'Elohey Avoteinu" (our God and the God of our Ancestors) after which we list Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, and Leah. When we sing psalms, so many of them start with "Mizmor l'David," in essence telling

us that King David, the one who we read about in our big book of genealogy, is the one who wrote these words. We are all connected.

When you read the Torah, especially in the beginning of the narrative, there are quite lengthy lists of descendants that bridge the gaps between Noah and Abraham, and so forth. These lists of names often include minor characters, ones that on the surface have little relevance and don't seem to have a huge role to play in the larger context of the journey of the people. If every word of the Torah can serve a purpose, then these lists of strange and inconsequential names that are included must have one too.

Perhaps it is because the Torah reminds us that we are a part of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as much as we are a part of our great-great-great-grandparents. In other words, just because we don't know their names, or their full stories, doesn't mean that these people who came before us are any less essential to

how we exist in the world today. Some we lift on a pedestal, while there are others we might prefer not to highlight, but all of them are remembered.

Why? Because our story didn't stop at the end of *Devarim*, or *Second Kings*, or at Ellis Island, or the establishment of the State of Israel. Our story continues to this day, and what we "write" with our lives today will be part of Judaism for all of time.



Rabbi Kosak *Continued from previous page*

not genealogies, but those formed in the fertile soil of solid parental attachment and love. These inspire a sense of confidence that allows a child to thrive and soar. Even so, while hiking, I have come across trees jutting out of the sides of perpendicular mountain walls,

fixed impossibly at ninety-degree angles before bending back up toward the sun, denying the "destiny" of gravity. The past, indeed, is only prologue.

In Catholic Poland, no Jew should ever have worn a crown. They had the

wrong religious roots and no right to reach for the sky. It should have been impossible.

Yet there was a time when a Jew ruled over Poland, and I have the blood to prove it.

Your People Will Be My People

By Cantor Eyal Bitton

Cantor's Corner

I had a Palestinian friend who was fairly close to me and my wife; she was even a member of our wedding party. Her family lives near Haifa and are Israeli citizens. It is terribly upsetting to have learned that she has proven to be a vile antisemite whose online expressions of hate towards Jews are rivaled only by Nazis.

One of the charges she makes against Israelis is that they do not belong in the land of Israel. When she says “Israelis,” does she mean Israeli Druze? Israeli Bahai’i? Israeli Bedouin? Israeli Christians? Israeli Arabs? Of course not. She means Jews. Only Jews.

This is a very common belief among those who want to see Israel gone. There’s a tweet by a popular Palestinian activist named Sara Rey in which she shows five Israelis and where they originate: Romania, Spain, Morocco, United States, Britain. She contrasts that with Palestinians who she says originate from Haifa, Jerusalem, and Jaffa, for example. Filmmaker Michael Moore once tweeted a photo in which he claimed Jews from Brooklyn were now living in the home of indigenous Palestinians. To these people, we are not a people but a faith. And to these people, racial purity matters—certainly when it comes to Jews. And Jews don’t belong on that land, they say. We are Polish. We are Moroccan. We are American. That’s all.

Thousands of years ago, our people embraced the concept of an ethnically diverse people. The Bible recounts how Ruth, a Moabite, spoke to Naomi, an Israelite, and told her, “Your people will be my people.” In the 12th century BCE, Maimonides told a convert that he could indeed claim to be of the same people because our peoplehood can be forged



through genealogy as well as through belief: “While we are the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you derive from Him through whose word the world was created.” We are one people—regardless of genealogy.

Thousands of years ago, our people embraced the concept of an ethnically diverse people.

US Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib said this past September that there was no room in the progressive movement for Zionists. While it was encouraging to see other politicians criticize her, other

anti-Israel litmus tests for entry into the progressive movement are spreading. As I write this, nine law student groups at UC Berkeley have just banned any speakers who are Zionists. Renounce a Jewish state and you’re welcome. Otherwise, you’re out. That’s over 80% of Jews.

Their measure of peoplehood is limited and racist. Jews are not all one thing. Through thousands of years of being dispersed across the globe, the Jewish people grew ethnically and culturally diverse. We learned, through the model of Ruth, King David’s great-grandmother, that one could join our people. We learned that genealogy isn’t how we define peoplehood. Our definition of peoplehood is beautiful, inclusive, and leads to diversity. Let us embrace it and refuse to be defined by those who don’t understand us or those who hate us. *Am Israel Chai.*

What Our Roots Share About Neveh Shalom

President's Corner

By Liza Milliner, CNS President

Holidays truly bring forward the importance of individual reverence, reflection, re-connecting and honoring of our genealogy. It feels like just yesterday we were walking into shul for Rosh Hashanah Day 1. I was nervous that day because I wasn't sure how many people would attend and what the atmosphere would be like, but we all showed up with smiles on our faces and happy to be together. Our building was once again buzzing with energy and people! It was wonderful to see both the Main Sanctuary and Birnbach Hall full. Our young family and family services were full. When Alan Montrose blew the shofar, I was awakened and felt hopeful for the upcoming year! My hope is that each of you felt the same energy that I felt.

When I found out that this issue was going to focus on Jewish Genealogy/ Researching Our Roots, I thought about Neveh Shalom's roots. I went back to our website and re-read the "Our History" section.

"Neveh Shalom was formed by the merger of two existing Conservative congrega-

tions in 1961. One of those original synagogues (Ahavai Shalom) was founded in 1869 and the other (Neveh Zedek) in 1895. We are the second oldest Jewish congregation in the Pacific Northwest and the oldest Conservative congregation on the West Coast. This history and longevity establish for our members a sense of respect for our traditions at the same time as we encourage new concepts and innovations."

How wonderful to look back and see where we came from and how we have grown. Forty-four years ago, we had our first female president, Elaine Cogan and we also had our first female Cantor, Linda Shivers. Back then, this was a big deal, but now it's hard to even imagine it would ever be an issue. I wonder where we will be 44 years from now. What major changes will happen that will be game-changing for us today, but in the future people will look back and say, "Why was that such a big deal?"



What traditions do you have in your family that define the history of your family?

I want to thank those who completed our HHD survey. The survey is used by the Board of Directors, Staff, and Clergy for continuous improvement.

I encourage you to share your thoughts on the "future" and/or your family history with me. Please email me at president@nevehshalom.org.

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Upcoming B'nai Mitzvah



Isabella Leavitt | November 5

Isabella Leavitt is the daughter of Scot and Naomi Leavitt, sister to Abigail, and granddaughter to Louisa Leavitt, Elvier Yemaya, and Stuart and Dana Stark. Bella is a 7th grader at Whitford Middle School. Bella loves fostering cats and kittens for Cat Adoption Team, doing Trampoline, and spending summers at Camp Solomon Schechter. Bella is proud to be twinning with Betje de Vries, as part of a program through Yad Vashem. Betje died in the Holocaust as a child.



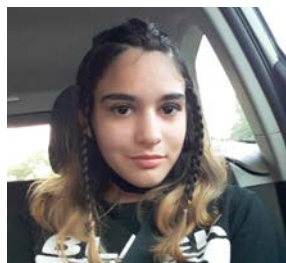
Shara Coltoff | November 12

Shara Coltoff, daughter of Debra and David Coltoff, is sister to Lila and grandchild to Sharon and Larry Perrin and Seth and Roslyn Coltoff z"l. She is a 7th grader at ACCESS Academy; she loves writing fiction, reading fantasy, and playing board games with her family. She delights in time with friends near and far when she isn't dancing.



Harrison Shane | November 19

Harrison Shane is the son of Edward Shane and Cheryl Shane, younger brother to Adina Shane, and grandson to John and Eileen Shane of Tulsa, and Emery and Janet Shiye of Tulsa. Harrison is an 8th grader at West Sylvan Middle School. Harrison loves playing tennis and attending summer camp in Colorado. He also enjoys reading, collecting cards, robotics, bowling, and family movie nights.



Dina Mallov | November 26

Dina Olivia Mallov is the daughter of David and Liz Mallov, older sister to Eli Mallov, and granddaughter of Joseph and Karen Mallov and Bill and Adele Carr. Dina is a 7th grader at Astor Elementary. She loves drawing, online games, gymnastics, hanging out with her friends, and her dog, Lucy.



Micah Richmond | December 10

Micah Richmond is the daughter of Jeffrey Richmond and Carol Ray, older sister to Noa Richmond, and granddaughter to Carol "BC" Richmond, Marc Richmond, Sherry Benthall, and Charlotte and Charles Ray. Micah is a 7th grader at Portland Jewish Academy. Micah is a great babysitter. She loves lacrosse and hanging out with her friends, family, and her dog, Josie.

Continued on next page

Roots, Grasses, Songs, and Stories

Mel's Corner

By Mel Berwin, Director of Congregational Learning



love with her, and asked her to leave Ben. She did. Ben moved down the street, and Joe and Millie took care of him through the end of his life. My Grandma Millie and Grandpa Joey (he called himself King Joey) were happily married for a few more decades, both living into their 90s.

This isn't a story you'll see told as a PJ Library book for children. And I wasn't particularly close with these grandparents; growing up in Minnesota, we didn't travel often to Los Angeles. But the story

itself feels like a kind of inheritance to me, so I value it.

One of the most sacred aspects of Judaism, to me, is the inheritance of so many stories, the collective stories we've inherited in the Talmud and other ancient sources, as well as the individual stories of our families and communities. In ALIYAH we want our kids to feel connected to these stories, and we continually assess our curriculum for the ways we can connect our students to more of their history, both ancient and recent.

This year in ALIYAH, we are celebrating

with a program called "Jewish And..." in which we invite our students and families to share more of their heritage and identity. We might be Jewish and Irish, Jewish and Indigenous, Jewish and queer, Jewish and disabled, Sephardi and Ashkenazi. We recognize that only certain stories have been prioritized and told in Jewish spaces, so we want to bring more of the true and sometimes complex stories of our families into the light.

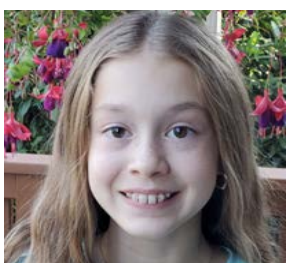
Our theme for this year in ALIYAH is a teaching by Rabbi Nachman, made into a song by Naomi Shemer.

*Da lecha / She-kol ro'eh ve-ro'eh /
Yesh lo nigun m'yuchad mi-shelo.
Da lecha / She-kol esev ve-esev /
Yesh lo shira m'yuchedet mi-shelo,
U-mi-shirat ha-asavim / Na'aseh
nigun shel ro'eh.*

Know that each and every shepherd has their own melody.
Know that each and every blade of grass has its own song,
And from the song of the grasses is born the shepherd's melody.

This year we look forward to hearing the stories and the songs of each and every blade of grass and each and every shepherd.

All three of my paternal grandparents grew up as friends in an orphanage in upstate New York. It's a story made for telling: Joe and Millie were dating as teens and Ben was their best friend. Ben told Millie that he had seen Joe with another girl, and asked Millie to run away with him. She did. They moved all the way to California and raised two kids, my uncle and my father. Meanwhile, Joe left the orphanage, got married, and divorced a couple of times. When the two kids were grown, Joe found Millie in California, told her he had always been in



Lila Bloom | December 31

Lila Bloom is the daughter of Aaron and Michelle Bloom, older sister to Benjamin Bloom, and granddaughter of Arthur and Rose Bloom and Pearl Behm. Lila is a 7th grader at Rosemont Ridge Middle School in West Linn. She loves to read and write, spend time with friends, and cuddle with her beagle, Luna.

Exploring Jewish Genealogy

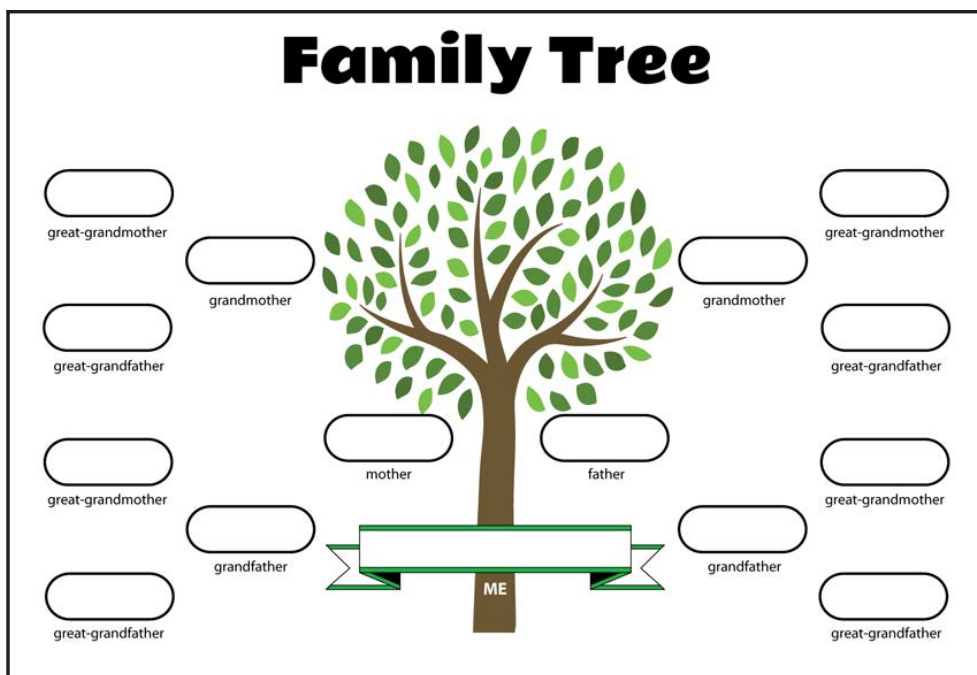
By Julie Welch, JGSO Board Member

About twenty years ago, a second cousin once-removed of my mother's (their grandparents were siblings) sent out an email requesting information on our branch of their family tree. My mother provided the requested names and dates for the cousin, but also told me stories about these people. These stories made those relatives come to life for me as they were still alive for her. That started my interest in genealogy.

At that time the Jewish Genealogy Society of Oregon (JGSO) held monthly gathering with presentations on various topics related to genealogy in general, with Jewish genealogy in Portland and Oregon in particular. This society still exists and continues to provide free monthly virtual programs for its members. The JGSO members were friendly, welcoming, and willing to help me with the basics of genealogy. They answered what seemed like a million questions and taught me where to look for records on my ancestors. They also provided suggestions on what questions I should ask as well as how I should record their results.

The first step is to document your immediate family. This includes mother(s), father(s), and siblings. The four most basic pieces of information are First Name, Last Name, date of birth, and date of death. After that you can fill in other family events and their locations. Then add in other relatives. There are many free resources available to beginning genealogists. Family Tree Templates and Templates.net are some of the websites that contain free, downloadable traditional and non-traditional family trees that range from the most basic to the most elaborate.

Printed materials such as resource books can be found in the CNS Library and at



Example of template of a family tree from freefamilyreetemplates.com

public libraries. They include the JGSO Resource Library, which is housed in Neveh Shalom's Library. Librarian Leora Troper can assist you (more on page 19). Pictures and documentation of Oregon's rich Jewish heritage can be found at Oregon Jewish Museum and Center for Holocaust Education (OJMCHE). OJMCHE is the repository for family, business, and institutional history, documenting Jewish life in Oregon through photographs, oral history interviews, artifacts, music, and written records. The K'maia Club photo (next page) is from their archives. Holding a piece of history in your hands can be a powerful motivator.

Online resources are varied and ever changing. Ancestry, JewishGen, MyHeritage, FamilySearch, and Genealogybank are the most popular websites devoted to storing and providing access to historical records. JewishGen is very valuable for discovering where your ancestors may be from and learning more about those communities. Many records are

public records and available to everyone. Other records are part of private collections, so they require a subscription to access them. If you wish to save records, creating a free user account with password is required. Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, is the ultimate source for Holocaust education, documentation and research. Their website includes two notable collections: the Shoah Names database and Survivors Testimonies.

There are regional and ethnic societies throughout the US and the world that can assist you in your research. The JGSO, Oregon Genealogical Society, Genealogical Forum of Oregon, Jewish Genealogical Society of Willamette Valley Oregon (JGSWVO), FamilySearch Center and OJMCHE can assist with regional genealogy. The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) promotes Jewish genealogy in partnership with its member organizations worldwide.

DNA testing is an ever evolving and changing science. If you are interested in pursuing it, there are currently three tests that address different parts of ancestry - Autosomal, mtDNA, and Y-DNA. I recommend you research all of them before you decide on which DNA test is right for you.

I'd like to close with David P. Bloom's family immigration story. It happens to be about part of my family, but the story can easily belong to any of ten thousand immigrants of that time.

Facts from the ship's manifest show that a family left Bremen, Germany, by ship in the summer of 1905 and arrived 14 days later in Baltimore, Maryland. The family consisted of a mother and her three young daughters. They were headed to Chicago, where her husband waited. They got off the ship knowing no one, unable to speak English, with \$5.00 in the mother's possession.

Research tells me that they were met by immigration officials who spoke many languages. These officials started processing their paperwork. Each passenger had to pass a medical exam. Those who failed the exam would be detained until they were healthy enough to pass the exam. They may have also have been denied entry into the US and sent back to their point of departure. Representatives from a *landsmanshaft*, or Jewish Benevolent Society, were on hand to meet the ships as well. Landsmanshaften are mutual aid societies from the same European town or region providing benefits to its mem-



From OJMCHE Archive - High School Girls from the K'maia Club ready for a dance, 1950. Back row: Margaret Katzky (Hasson), Helene Gellere, Sue Bricker (Dorn), Leslie Leton, Marilyn Nudelman. Middle row: Carolyn Olds, Rae Sadis Goldberg, Nancy Sussman, Berta Olman (Delman), Charlotte Schwartz, Dory Schneiderman. Front row: Joan Simon, Lila Rosenfield (Goodman), Carol Leveton, Anita Simon, Susie Gilbert (Gevurtz).

bers. Five dollars in 1905 - the equivalent of \$120.00 today - was not enough to get them from Baltimore to Chicago. The father sent money to one of these societies. The societies would purchase tickets for the family to complete its travel, and provide instructions in their native tongues on how to procure food, lodging, and travel through the United States. They could also provide access to burial plots and insurance if needed.

I was very excited to find this record. All the information in it adds to my family lore, which is that the husband and his

teenage son [my grandfather] had arrived in the U.S. a few years earlier. When they earned enough money for passage, they sent for the rest of their family. The family brought few possessions. One item was their Shabbat candlesticks, which now sit in a place of honor in my home.

This story, from just one document, illustrates the importance of genealogy to me. It takes ancestors that were just names from the past and turns them into people that lived, loved, and died. As long as these people and their stories are remembered, they are never truly gone.

Department of Commerce and Labor Immigration Service Form No. 10										BALCON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED. THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.										List <u>21</u>	
LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE U. S. IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.																					
Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved March 3, 1903, to be delivered to the U. S. Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.																					
S. S. <u>Chemnitz</u> sailing from <u>Bremen</u> <u>July 15th</u> , 19 <u>05</u> Arriving at Port of <u>Baltimore</u> <u>July 27, 1905</u> <u>C-135</u> <u>3717</u>																					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
No. on List.	NAME IN FULL	Age.	Sex.	Married or Single.	Calling or Occupation.	Able to— Read. Write.	Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	* Race or People.	Last Residence. (Last permanent residence, County and City or Town.)	Final Destination. (State, City, or Town.)	Whether having a ticket to such final destination.	By whom was passage paid?	Whether in possession of \$20. and if less, how much?	Whether ever before in the United States, and if so, when and where?	Whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	Whether a Prize, as Am. sailor, artist, etc.	Condition of Health, Mental and Physical.	Deformed or Crippled, Maimed, length of time, and cause.			
1	David Bloom	44	M	Mar	none		Russia	Polish	Bremen	Chicago, Ill.	Yes	father	\$5.00	Yes	None	None	Good				
2	Rebecca Bloom	11	F	Unm			Russia	Polish	Bremen	Chicago, Ill.	Yes	father		Yes	None	None	Good				
3	Lea Bloom	7	F	Unm			Russia	Polish	Bremen	Chicago, Ill.	Yes	father		Yes	None	None	Good				
4	Lea Bloom	3	F	Unm			Russia	Polish	Bremen	Chicago, Ill.	Yes	father		Yes	None	None	Good				

Ship's manifest helping to share part of Julie Welch's family immigration story.

Seeking Ancestors

By Toby Forim Blake

My curiosity was spurred by a school roots project one of my children had. We interviewed older relatives; my son wrote what we learned. When I finished my MA in Jewish history, I realized that genealogy dovetailed with my interest in Eastern Europe and the concept of *Zikaron*, the act or process of remembering past generations.

Initially I wanted to prove that my great-grandparents, Pinchas and Basia Schwartz Kaiserman, immigrated from Romania to the US twice. Indeed it was true. They came the first time in 1886, settling in Manhattan where Pincus was a custom tailor. Daughter Tillie was born there in 1887. After the Great Blizzard of 1888, Basia decided she wanted to go “home.” Pincus appeared in the 1890 NY Police Census, implying they made the journey back to Romania shortly after as my grandfather, Sam, was born in Bucharest in 1891. Romanian antisemitic legislation between 1888 and 1897 cre-



Pincus and Basia Schwartz Kaiserman

ated many restrictions for Jews, which made life difficult. The story was that a great-uncle of Pincus told him returning was not a smart decision, so he should leave for the US if he could afford to do so. Pincus returned in April, 1898. Basia, their children, and a sister arrived in October, 1898. My grandfather related that his father promised to bring family to the US as he could afford to do so. In 1899 he paid passage for his brother-in-law, two nephews and a niece, and in 1900 for his brother, Zaide.

I have been able to trace my father, Leo Isaac Forim’s family, back to the 1700s in Poland. I started with the Hebrew names for my dad, his father Saman, and his grandfather. I also knew that Grandfather Moshe Chayim married Rifkah Lerner. I found their marriage record on jri-poland.org, and discovered their parents’ names, Szymon Forym and Cypra Szporer. Now I knew whom my grandfather Sam was named for! Researching birth, marriage, and death records, and following naming patterns, I was able follow the chain back to Judka and Chaia, parents of Leyba, who died in 1817 at age 72. With my grandchildren there are now ten generations of the Forim descendants.

My mother-in-law’s family came from Galicia (Austro-Hungary) and Hungary. Like my Kaiserman ancestors, they came to the US prior to the period of great migration from Europe.

Louis Kapner was under 18 when he arrived in 1886 from Galicia, which we learned from his naturalization papers. He married Bette Hilma Biederman, circa 1890, probably in Manhattan. She had come with her family in 1888. They settled in Newark, NJ, where he was a tailor. We were surprised to find that Louis applied for a passport to return to Eastern Europe in April 1912. He made the trip



Sam and Dora Leicher Forim

and returned via Bremen, Germany, in September. We wonder why he went back. From city directories and newspaper articles, we learned that Louis was treasurer of his synagogue and also treasurer of the local International Order of Brit Abraham for 25 years.

We knew little of the Goldkopf family other than that Steve’s father, David, was born in Lodz, Poland, and that the family also settled in Newark, NJ. We learned Grandfather Samuel went from Lodz to London, where he worked as a tailor for several months prior to coming to NY. Grandmother Sarah Raiber Goldkopf followed her husband later with their infant son. Reaching out to an older cousin, we discovered that Samuel had four sisters who came to the US as well as a brother who remained behind.

There are always new discoveries to make as more records become available. It continues to be exciting as we meet unknown relatives and share stories and photographs. My thirty-year genealogy journey has given us personal history we would never have known.

Sala Kryszek, z'l:

The Person Who Inspired the Fund

By Jenn Director Knudsen

This – and all editions of The Chronicle – are brought to you by the Sala Kryszek Memorial Publication Fund. So, who was Sala (née Sarna) Kryszek, z'l, and why does this fund bear her name?

Strong, loving, astute, brave, a survivor. That's how sons Jerry, 65, and Al Kryszek, 68, describe their mom, a hard-working woman from a Polish village who survived the Holocaust, raised two boys in America, became the family matriarch, and had a way with words.

"She was very gutsy; she was not afraid of anybody," Al said. "She had a knack for knowing how far to push when necessary."

Jerry and Al said that neither their dad, Jakob (Jake) z'l, nor their mom shared much about their nightmarish wartime experiences, including Germany's occupation of Poland; Sala's life in the Łódź Ghetto; her wartime backbreaking,

though life-saving, work on a farm; Sala's harrowing journey to the American Zone after liberation by the Russians, and Jake's six years of slave labor under the Nazis.

But some stories trickled out.

"We kind of pieced these things together from people we talked to over the years," Al said. Jogged memories also came to light, often at large family gatherings where conversations morphed over the course of, say, Rosh Hashanah lunch, Thanksgiving dinner, or Pesach Seder, from chit-chat, to discussions, to animated exchanges.

Perhaps Sala's strength originated from a difficult childhood. The youngest daughter of Aaron and Esther Sarna, she grew up in an observant home with her three sisters and three brothers, surrounded by a populace unfriendly to Jews. At eight years of age, Sala's mother died.

In 1939, the Germans occupied Sala's small hometown of Warta. Roughly half of its inhabitants were Jews; only a handful are believed to have survived World War II. During the early years of the war, Sala's family remained together, suffering in the ghetto. Toward war's end, the family was deported to Auschwitz, where

Nazis separated the men from the women. Of the Sarna men, only one brother lived.

The four sisters survived by keeping their relationship secret. A local potato farmer looking for workers came to Auschwitz to select a laborer. The story goes that he recognized Sala's youth, energy, and strength, so he desired her but not her sisters.

Thinking quickly, likely goaded by desperation and knowing Nazis made a practice of separating families, Sala stood up to the farmer: "Either you take my friends with me, or I'm not going," she said, according to Al, who continued, "and she proceeded to have a



Sala (née Sarna) Kryszek, circa mid-1950s



Sala circa mid-1950s

Continued on page 17

Judaism at 33-1/3 RPM

By David Meltzer

By all counts I had a very Jewish childhood growing up in what I now call “the old country”: New York City, technically on the outskirts, but still within the city limits. It was a childhood that included annual vacations to the Borscht Belt hotels in the Catskills. I saw *Fiddler on the Roof* on Broadway in its original run. I remember Mom shopping at Waldbaum’s instead of the A&P because—in her words—the latter was “a goyische store” and didn’t sell Jewish appetizing such as herring in cream sauce, lox, or even kugel. Dining out was Chinese, Jewish delis, and Jewish dairy restaurants such as Rappaport’s and Ratner’s. I remember top-of-the-hour TV station identifications on Jewish holidays with messages like “Happy Passover from Channel 7 in New York.” I had a Bar Mitzvah with all the trappings, including red color-coordinated menus and yarmulkes, Mom’s custom-made gown, and Dad’s and my matching tuxedo jackets. These memories formed the basis for my cultural connection to Judaism as a child and are ingrained in me today at age 67.



David Meltzer with the album

One of my biggest Jewish childhood memories in particular turns sixty this year. It’s the anniversary of the release of what I, and many critics, still consider to be the funniest and most Jewish comedy album ever recorded, *Allan Sherman’s Mother Presents My Son the Folk Singer* from 1962.

Allan Sherman was a television writer who also had a gift for writing song parodies. He is best remembered today for his “Hello Muddah, Hello Faddah (Here I Am at Camp Granada)” from 1964. But before his songs became more secular in appeal, his first album targeted a Jewish demographic. Recorded live in a studio with real people and real laughter, its smart lyrics are enhanced by the party atmosphere. You can’t help but laugh out loud as well. And what clever lyrics indeed! “Battle Hymn of the Republic” with its “Glory, Glory Hallelujah” chorus became “The Ballad of Harry Lewis” with its chorus of “Glory, Glory Harry Lewis.” The Irish classic “Donegal (Shake Hands with Your Uncle Mike)” became “Shake Hands with Your Uncle Max.” “Frere Jacques” became “Sarah Jackman” (pronounced Jock-man) while “The Streets of Laredo” became “The Streets of Miami,” complete with a Yiddish accent. Harry Belafonte gets skewered twice: “Matilda” became “My Zelda” and the bale of cotton in his “Jump Down, Spin Around” became a dress of cotton. I was overjoyed hearing “Seltzer Boy” (a take on “Water Boy”) include the line “If you don’t bring the seltzer, I’m gonna tell Mister Meltzer on you!” as well as other songs mentioning the names of family members like Rita, my mother, and Yetta, my grandmother.

The album is also a time capsule of the early 1960s pop culture with references to Barry Goldwater, Jackie Kennedy, Sophia Loren, David Susskind, and Ni-



David Meltzer with his Bar Mitzvah photo

kita Khrushchev, to name a few. I loved it then; I still love it today. Years ago, I purchased one at a used record store; I still have it and listen to it at least once a year. It is also available to stream on YouTube or Apple Music. It’s kind of like my comfort food, the vinyl equivalent of enjoying a bowl of matzo ball soup. Give it a listen. *(Make sure you stream the version with the audience laughter. There are some re-recordings out there that don’t have it.)* Or invite me over and I will bring my record with me. It’s funny if you’re 65 or over and get the references, and still funny if you’re young and don’t. It’s funny if you know the song being parodied; it’s still funny if you don’t. A tip: after listening, look for the original versions of the songs. It will make you appreciate *MSTFS* and Sherman’s genius so much more.

In Judaism, we believe in our traditions, connecting our past with our present—and our future, so this is one of my traditions that keeps me connected. Maybe you can make it one of yours because without our traditions, our lives would be as shaky as...as...as a...well, most of you know how to finish that sentence.

Neveh Shalom Happenings

Please enjoy this sampling of what is being offered at Neveh Shalom. The best way to get the latest information is through our weekly eblasts. You can sign up at: news@nevehshalom.org. Please visit the website for links at: nevehshalom.org/calendar.

Sisterhood Interfaith/BIPOC Meetings Wed, Nov 2, (Dec Date TBA), 7:00pm

Women of different backgrounds come together to discuss questions of faith and confronting social justice issues. RSVP: smallfryeterp@icloud.com.

Women's Torah Study

Saturday, Nov 12, Dec 10, 12:30pm

Join Mel Berwin for an hour of uplifting study and conversation. In-person.

History, Theology & Poetry of Prayer-book Class w/ Rabbi Kosak

Starting Nov 13, 12:15pm

Explore the background in which our prayers arose as well as how their structure and imagery convey their central message.

Siddur Basics Class

Starting Wed, Nov 9, 6:30pm

More: nevehshalom.org/adult-education

Hebrew for Prayer

Starting Wed, Nov 9, 7:35pm

More: nevehshalom.org/adult-education

Brunch w/ Guest Speaker Aaron Grossman Sunday, Nov 13, 10:00am

Join the Men's Club for this special talk with Trailblazers' own Aaron Grossman.

Shroud Crowd

Sunday, Nov 13, Dec 4, 2:00-4:00pm

Help create traditional burial clothing to be used by the Chevra Kavod haMet. Contact: sandyaxel@msn.com.

Making Sense of the Israeli Election Monday, Nov 14, 12:00pm (Zoom)

An in-depth analysis of Israel's election with Lahav Harkov of *The Jerusalem Post*.

Wise Women Brunch

Thurs, Nov 17, Dec 15, 12:00pm

Socialize and empower one another in a casual environment.

Abrahamic Thanksgiving Gathering Saturday, Nov 19, 5:00pm

A special interfaith evening celebrating "gratitude" with Imam Abdulah Polovina, Rev. Greg Neel, and Rabbi Eve Posen. Reception, Havdallah, service, and dessert.

"The Sandwich Generation" Discussion Date and Time TBA

Discussion regarding the triumphs and challenges of raising children and caring for elderly family members simultaneously.

Men's Club Poker Tournament Sunday, Nov 20, 4:00pm

11th annual charity Texas Hold 'Em tournament with the profits going to youth education scholarships. Please contact: bruce@thesternfawmily.net.

Sisterhood Board Meetings

Tue, Nov 22, Thu, Dec 22, 7:00pm

For details, please contact Michelle limori-Goldenberg: smallfryeterp@icloud.com.

Sisterhood Book Club

4th Monday of the month, 7:00pm

11/28 *The Invention of Wings*, by Sue Monk Kidd

12/26 *The Great Alone*, by Kristin Hannah
RSVP: dianeandjosh@hotmail.com.

"Why Eden is No Eden" w/ Cantor Bitton Wed, Nov 30, 12:00pm, on Zoom

Explore the Garden of Eden story in this riveting lecture.

Israel360: Foods from the Bible and Talmud: An Experiential lecture

Sunday, December 4, 12:30pm

A cooking demonstration with Rabbi Kosak and Lani Raider to gain a better understanding of ancient legacy dishes.

Young Adult Chanukah

Saturday, Dec 10, 7:00pm

Drinks and music will greet our congregants and community members for this event for ages 21-30s.

Pop Music in Shul w/ Cantor Bitton Monday, December 12, 7:00pm

Explore the phenomenon of prayers set to pop songs in this fun and thought-provoking musical lecture.

CNS Chanukah Celebration

Sunday, December 18, 5:00pm

Join the CNS community for our annual Chanukah gathering.

Latkes, Vodka and More

Sunday, December 25, 5:30pm

A celebration of Chanukah and the legacy of Sisterhood's past at this culminating event of their centennial year.

Toilet Paper and Feminine Hygiene Products Drive for Neighborhood House November 20 - December 25

Morning Minyan and Shabbat Services:

Please visit the website for more info: nevehshalom.org/current-services

Morning Minyan

Monday-Friday, 7:15am/Sundays, 9:00am

Kabbalat Shabbat Service Fridays, 6:15pm

Kol Shabbat

2nd Fridays, 7:15pm

Lay-led, voices-only service. All are welcome.

Saturday Morning Shabbat Service Saturdays, 9:30am

- Meditation Shabbat, 1st Saturdays
- Learner's Shabbat, 4th Saturdays

Downstairs Minyan Shabbat Service 2nd, 4th, 5th Saturdays, 9:30am

Young Families

For more information, please contact Rabbi Eve at: eposen@nevehshalom.org.

Kiddush Club (K-3rd Grade)

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am

Morah Sarah Rohr and Moreh Gershon Liberman alternate leading Kiddush Club.

Tot Shabbat (Ages 0-5)

1st and 3rd Saturdays, 10:30am

Join young families as we greet Shabbos Mouse and have Tot Shabbat fun.

4th Fridays Shabbat w/ Rabbi Eve 4th Fridays, 5:15pm

Rabbi Eve leads Shabbat for families (ages 0-10), with singing, a story, and blessings.

PJ Havdallah

Sat, Nov 19 (EJC), Dec 17 (CNS), 5:30pm

Dinner, stories, art, and a whole lot of fun.

Member News



Mazel tov to 10-year-old Amelia Chapman (and her proud parents **Mia Osherow and Dave Chapman**) who played Trunchbull in Northwest Children's Theater Camp's production of *Matilda the Musical*

performed in the at the new Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton.

Mazel tov to Brian Rohr who was invited to open the 2022-23 Portland Storytellers Guild's performance season with two other excellent tellers in the show entitled *Myth, Mirth, and Truth - Shaping the Improbable*, which took place at Artichoke Music's "Cafe Artichoke" on September 3.

Mazel tov to Dr. Dana Kostiner Simpson, daughter of **Priscilla and Tony Kostiner**, who has recently joined the staff of Randall Children's Hospital as a Clinical Geneticist in the Department of Randall Children's Genetics.

Mazel tov to proud grandparents Raúl and Lidia Krivoy on the birth of their grandson Casey Tsai Krivoy on September 21st in San Francisco, CA. Baby Casey and his parents, Brian Krivoy and Priscilla Tsai, and big brother Hayes are all doing well. The other grandparents are Jason Tsai and Janny Lu of Bloomfield Hills, MI.



Mazel tov to Paul Schlesinger and Janis Shleifer-Rosenfeld on the birth of their new grandbaby, Addison (Addy) Lee Amos, born September 9.



Yihi Zichram Baruch – Our condolences to CNS members who have recently lost loved ones.

Our condolences to **Jonathan (Jennifer) Yoken** on the passing of his father, Stephen Yoken (z"l), on August 19 in Tulsa, OK at the age of 79. Stephen is survived by his wife Sharli (Chamberlain) Yoken; his brother Richard (Debbie) Yoken; five children: **Jonathan (Jennifer) Yoken**, Craig Yoken, Jennifer Yoken, Justin Yoken, and Jackie (Matt) Ramage, as well as six adored grandchildren: **Hannah, Rachel, and Elie Yoken**, Brooks Ramage, and Sarah and Andrew Yoken. The funeral took place on Friday, August 26 in Cambridge, MA.

We are sad to let you know of the passing of Manfred Leo "Dick" Heimann (z"l) on Tuesday, September 27. He is loved and remembered by his dear wife Mary Heimann; daughters **Nicole Heimann (Robert) Sacks**, and Illisa Heimann (Eric) Polis, and grandchildren **Jacob Aaron Sacks**, Adina Polis, and Kylie Polis. The funeral was held in Las Vegas, NV, on October 2.

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Deborah Levy (z"l) on September 15 in Massachusetts. Deborah is loved and remembered by brothers **Jonathan (Nancy Stone) Levy, CNS members here in Portland**, and David (Keily) Levy, Washington, D.C., sister Judith (Kenneth Rodgers) Yaldatel of Cape Cod, MA, and a niece, nephews, and cousins.



We are sad to let you know of the passing of **Estelle Diamond** (z"l) on Tuesday, October 4th in Fort Meyers, Florida at the age of 93. She is loved and remembered by her niece, CNS member, **Nancy Diamond**.

We are saddened to inform you of the passing of Kenneth Hartoch (z"l) on Saturday, September 17 in Santa Barbara, California. He is preceded in death by his beloved wife, Helen. Ken is remembered and missed most dearly by his children, Janice Hartoch Taylor and **Rick (Catherine) Hartoch**, and grandsons **Samuel and Ludovic**. The funeral was held in Santa Barbara on Tuesday, September 20, 2022.

The Congregation gratefully acknowledges the following contributions:

ADULT EDUCATION FUND

in memory of

Esmond Braun from Eden Braun

ALIYAH DONATION

in honor of

Deb Freedberg from Gary & Sylvia Pearlman
Rachel & Jason Nelson from Jennifer Director Knudsen & David Knudsen
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Augusta "Guggie" Raskin from Elisa Weger
Rebecca Schaeffer from Benson & Danna Schaeffer

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Ezra Solomon Menashe from Rick, Abby, David & Daniel Menashe
Joya Hanan Menashe from Rick, Abby, David & Daniel Menashe
Rebecca Abouaf Menashe from Rick, Abby, David & Daniel Menashe
Rebecca Menashe from Sandy & Wendi Menashe
Solomon Ezra Menashe from Darlene Menashe
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Beulah Schaeffer from Julie Schaeffer, Susan Schaeffer Parter & Paul Parter & Family

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Sala Kryszek, z"l Article *Continued from Page 11*

staring contest with the farm boss. She was very, very gutsy. It could have been over right then."

The boss relented, taking Sala and her three "friends" to farm his land.

Fast forward to the mid-1960s. Sala and Jake are proud U.S. citizens building a new life, working hard, and raising their two sons in the Duniway area of Southwest Portland. Jerry and Al said family time was cherished. Jewish identity, tradition, and education were very important in their warm and loving home.

Sala and Jake enrolled Al and Jerry in Hebrew school, and in the early 70s the family traveled to Israel for the first time. Later, Sala and Jake played a role with other survivors in establishing the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C.

Al said his mom commanded a lot of



Sala's naturalization photo

respect – in the family, the family business, and from anyone she encountered – "and people liked her because of it." In fact, Al recalled that after Sala's death (from stomach cancer) on April 8, 1986, the extended family became less connected once its center was gone.

Rabbi Stampfer z"l approached the

Kryszezs a year after Sala's death, believing that purchasing an Apple Macintosh II – then dazzling new technology – would benefit the religious school, educational programs, and could bring about the in-house publication of this newsletter.

"Rabbi Stampfer was very good and persuasive about making his case, and rightfully so," said Jerry, adding it was and is a fitting tribute, given how much Sala valued Jewish education and community.

In 1987 the family created the Sala Kryszek Memorial Publication Fund. Since it is not an endowed fund, it always benefits from donors' generosity.

Jerry reflected on the entirety of his mom's life. "She had a lot of strength, loving strength," he said. "If I had to be in her shoes, I don't know how I would have done it."

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Resources to Support Your Geneology Journey

By Leora Troper, Librarian

The Feldstein Library also houses the Jewish Genealogy Society's extensive collection of books and materials, as well as having resources of our own.

The JGS collection includes titles such as:

- *A Genealogist's Guide to Discovering Your Female Ancestors* (often a lot more challenging than with male ancestors)
- *Jewish Roots in Poland: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories*
- *Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova: Pages from the Past and Archival Inventories*
- *Forensic Genealogy*
- *Managing a Genealogical Project*
- *The Jewish Immigrant in England 1870 – 1914*
- *Where Once We Walked: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*

There are also multiple Jewish name dictionaries for both Sephardim and Ashkenazim, a comprehensive list of Yizkor books housed at Portland State, and a host of other sources.

The Feldstein's own collection includes histories of many different Jewish communities around the world and some books more specifically on genealogical information.



Titles include:

- *Sourcebook for Jewish Genealogies and Family Histories*
- *Jews in Remote Corners of the World*
- *Jewish Communities in Exotic Places* (An unfortunate title, but it has some useful and interesting information.)
- *A Historical Atlas of the Jewish People*
- *The Great Jewish Cities of Central and Eastern Europe*
- *Avotaynu: Guide to Jewish Genealogy*

I have also created a listing of useful digital sources, (outside of ancestry.com), which I am always updating.

An advertisement for Mother's Bistro & Bar. The background is a yellow cross-stitch pattern. On the left, the words "VIVA LA MATZO BALL" are stitched in large, bold letters. Below this, the words "MOTHER'S FOOD FOREVER" are stitched in a smaller font. In the center, there is a logo for "MOTHER'S BISTRO & BAR" with the text "Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner" above it. To the right of the logo, the website "mothersbistro.com" and the phone number "503.464.1122" are listed, along with the address "121 SW 3rd Ave Portland, OR". On the right side of the advertisement is a photograph of an elderly woman with short, curly grey hair, wearing glasses and a plaid shirt, smiling.





Please recycle *The Chronicle* when finished

CNS Ukraine Welcome Circle

By Sara Safdie

A dedicated group of CNS members has been working since the end of July to lay the groundwork for welcoming a Ukrainian family to Portland. The Circle is called, fittingly, ShalomPortland. We are working in coordination with, and under the auspices of HIAS, the refugee agency. HIAS first set up such Circles last year in response to Afghans who desperately needed to leave once the Taliban took control of their country.

I am the Circle coordinator and Rebecca Smetana is the co-chair. Rebecca has important language skills—Russian—and many connections to the Portland Ukrainian community. We are joined by CNS members Corinne Spiegel, Shelley Selph, Ellen Dunn-Malhotra, Ripudaman Malhotra, Arleen Zucker, and Cantor Linda Shivers. Everyone took on sections of the very long HIAS application and researched city, state, and federal resources

that would be available to the family. We even had to complete background checks to make sure everyone was “kosher”! Once our application was approved, Rebecca and I completed a questionnaire, the responses to which were shown to our prospective family. I also want to note that Rabbi David Kosak provided important support and guidance, for which I am grateful.

The Jewish Federation raised funds to help support the arriving family in terms of rent, utility bills, transportation costs, etc. The morning after Yom Kippur, I received an email from HIAS notifying us that their databank had found us a matching family. In November,



ber, we'll be welcoming a father, mother, father's mother, and two children, ages three and four. The mother is also expecting a third child, who will be born here. Please keep an eye out for further announcements in the weekly CNS News emails for information about the family's arrival as well as ways you can help them. This is truly a mitzvah for all of us.