

Library Lines

You, Your Child and the Library

By Amalia Warshenbrot
Librarian, Speizman Jewish Library

Every year we celebrate Jewish Book Month. I feel that it should become Jewish Book Day or just Book Day. Parents should encourage reading through use of the library to support their children's growth and enjoyment of reading.

Some suggestions that can make reading a natural part of your child's life:

- Take your child to the library at an early age.
- Let your child choose his book. Young children may take wordless books and become storytellers. Older children should learn how to use the library.
- Read aloud to each other at a regular time, becoming a part of the day's routine.
- Discuss the story with your child.
- Make regular visits to the library.
- Give books as gifts.
- Treat reading as a joy.



Picture from "Books are Treasures"
By Howard Bogot
Illustrated by Cara Goldberg Marks

- Put books at places within a child's reach.
- Reread books you loved as a child.
- Read with expression.
- Take books along when going on trips.

Use the Jewish library to open the Jewish world to the young reader and instill in him respect and love of his Jewish heritage.

Some of these suggestions were published by the Book and Children's Center, Library of Congress, to help adults celebrate 1989 as the year of the Young Reader.

Library Funds

If you wish to honor someone on a special occasion, or extend a condolence, the following is the list of funds towards which you may contribute:

The Tulman Library Fund — to purchase books and magazines which are published in Israel.

The Speizman Library Fund — to purchase books and ma-

terials for the library.

The Cheryl Katz Memorial Book Fund — to purchase books for the library.

Checks should be made payable to The Foundation of the Charlotte Jewish Community.

For additional information call Amalia Warshenbrot, 366-5007.

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Roots and Branches

By Miriam Weiner

A Network of People Finders

Prior to my genealogical pursuits, I was a licensed private investigator in California, a background which taught me methods of obtaining information and the utilization of sources not widely used by most family historians.

There are a number of resources which include private agency location services, government agencies, institutions and directories which can be utilized in tracing your family members, although their existence is not primarily for the purpose of aiding genealogists.

The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), founded in 1892, has long been the most important Jewish migration agency, with offices throughout the world. Few Jewish families in the U.S. have not had relatives helped by HIAS upon arrival in America.

Case records for immigrant arrivals from 1956 to the present can be found in the HIAS New York office and a search form can be requested from HIAS Location Service, 333 Seventh Avenue, New York, NY 10001. There is a \$25 fee for this service. Pre-1956 HIAS files have been transferred to the YIVO Archives, 1048 Fifth Avenue, New York, New York 10028.

In New York, the Jewish Board of Family Children's Services, Inc. has a department known as the family Location and Legal Service Division which helps people find close relatives. It utilizes such sources as telephone directories, phone company records, universities, Jewish cemeteries, professional licensing associations, motor vehicle departments, the Social Security Administration, voter registration lists, unions, military records and other agencies.

Family Location Services developed in the early 20th century when hundreds of thousands of European Jews emigrated to various parts of the world. With the great migrations, individuals were often uprooted and families separated. In the post-Holocaust period, survivors needed help in locating family in the United States. Still later, Russian Jews coming to the United States sought help in finding relatives whose ancestors had come to these shores many

years before. For information about services, write to: Family Location Services, Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services, Inc., 235 Park Avenue South, New York, NY 10003.

The county courthouse has voting records including voter's name, address, occupation, birth date, social security number (sometimes), year and court of naturalization. When an individual moves, the voting record follows him to the Board of Elections servicing the new address and the trail of addresses can then be followed. Copies of the voter's application card are accessible by completing a form and paying a small fee. Consult the Board of Elections office servicing the last known address of your relative.

Tracing relatives through out-of-town telephone books is a frequent pastime for many of us when we are visiting a city away from home. Taking this one step further, it is possible to trace relatives in the USSR by looking up their name in the collection of Soviet telephone books found in large libraries such as the New York Public Library or the Library of Congress in Washington, DC which has directories for the following cities: Baku, Bukhara, Donetsk, Dushanbe, Irkutsk, Kharkov, Kiev, Kishinev, Leningrad, Moscow, Odessa, Riga, Simferopol, Tallin, Tashkent, Tbilisi, Uzhorod, Vilnius and Yerevan. Write to: Library of Congress, European Reading Room, Jefferson Building, 10 First Street SE, Washington, DC 20540.

Much like a telephone directory, city directories identify people by name and address. City directories have been published in hundreds of cities and towns since the 1800s. Some cities still publish these directories; however, New York stopped in the 1930s. Listings include name, address, occupation (usually), and sometimes the wife's name. The directories enable you to establish when a person arrived in the city and when he left or died. Generally, these directories can be found in the local library. The largest known collection of current and past directories in the United States can be found in the Library of Congress in Washing-

ton, D.C.

Most professions have formed national associations and societies which vary in their monitoring of membership. For instance, the American Medical Association maintains records of doctors and is responsive to inquiries. Write to: American Medical Association, Division of Library and Archival Services, 515 N. State Street, Chicago, IL 60610.

Tracing relatives through mortuary records should not be overlooked. A mortuary record usually contains the name and address of the next of kin along with other pertinent data of the deceased. For name/address of a Jewish mortuary in a particular locality, write to Jewish Funeral Directors of America, Inc., 250 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10107.

Depending upon the state, both driver's license records and vehicle records are available to the public and can be indexed in several ways. There is a small fee required along with the completion of a form. Contact the Department of Motor Vehicles in the appropriate state capital. You may need to supply the date of birth of the person you are seeking.

The "Network of People Finders" continues to expand and with the vast amount of data available through computer databases, the potential is unlimited.

Miriam Weiner is a columnist and lecturer specializing in Jewish genealogy and Holocaust research. For information on how to research your family history, send a stamped self-addressed envelope to Weiner at 136 Sandpiper Key, Secaucus, NJ 07094. Her column comes to us through the Charlotte Jewish Historical Society.



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