



THE SER-CHARLAP FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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FROM FIDDLER ON THE ROOF TO FIDDLEFEST

Fiddler On the Roof, adapted from the stories of Sholom Aleichem, portrayed the archetypical East European Jewish experience, and we all could identify with it. Especially so with such fine string players as Solie Fott (1312, Pl. 8a) and Yehezkiel Beinish (262, Pl. 3h) carrying on the fabled Charlap musical tradition. Instead of leaving his home in the mythical Anatevka, one family member escaped service in the Polish army right after World War I and arrived in the United States in 1920 or 1921. Samuel Ser (1420, Pl. 8cb) had fled his native Zareby Koscielnie (Zaromb) for Danzig, then a "free city." Without sufficient money, he was unable to bribe the officials into granting him a visa. His aunt, Genendel Ser Fott (1300, Pl. 8a) of Chattanooga, Tennessee came to his rescue by sending him \$200.00. The necessary papers were forged and Sam came across the Atlantic in steerage. Chattanooga held little attraction for him and he decided to settle on the Lower East Side of New York with its distinctive Yiddish character. He set up a tailor shop at 70 Forsythe Street. By 1927 he had saved enough money to send for his wife Brucha (Bertha) (1423) and daughter Sylvia (1441). The family expanded with the birth of Julius (1440) and Helen (1442). Both are now grandparents and live in Florida. But Helen's daughter, Susan Kaplan (1676), was drawn to the vibrant cultural life of New York - and that Jewish fiddle has reappeared in Susan's life.

For Susan Kaplan has produced an extraordinary film, *Fiddlefest*, which was a 1996 Academy Award nominee for best documentary feature. Filmed over a period of two years, *Fiddlefest* follows Roberta Guaspari-Tzavaras and her students from the schools and streets of East Harlem to Madison Square Garden, and ultimately to the stage of Carnegie Hall where they performed with Isaac Stern, Itzhak Perlman, Midori, Arnold Steinhardt and great violinists from the classical, jazz, and country musical worlds. In 1980, Roberta began the East Harlem Violin Program in three alternative elementary schools with a vision of inner-city youngsters developing self-esteem and discipline through rigorous instruction and uncompromising standards. When her position was suddenly eliminated by the Board of Education during the budget cuts of 1990, Ms. Guaspari-Tzavaras set out to raise her own funds to keep the program going. *Fiddlefest* follows her in her single-minded efforts on behalf of the East Harlem Violin Program. Students graduate from her program at a high level of achievement and have been enthusiastically welcomed into New York's top high school music programs. It is so popular with parents and children that admission to the program is determined by lottery.

Susan Kaplan, President of NewCity Productions, is proud of her work in producing *Fiddlefest*. Miramax Films will distribute the film in over 25 cities in the United States in 1996-97. The film has won the Gold Hugo Award at the Chicago Film Festival, the Encore People's Audience Award at the Denver International and the Cleveland International Film Festivals and has received accolades in several other festivals.

Susan has built a secure reputation as producer and director of documentaries, as well as videos for the publishing community. She has created a concept called BookTrailers, a fresh approach to book promotion, through multimedia video. Her work has been featured in *Billboard Magazine*, *American Bookseller Magazine*, and in many newspapers. Among her other documentary films are: *Kurt Masur: Maestro Between Two Worlds*, *John Cage: I Have Nothing to Say*

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FIDDLEFEST (cont.)

and *I'm Saying It, November's Children: Revolution in Prague*, and *High Fidelity: The Adventures of the Guaneri String Quartet*. Susan serves on the board of Jobs for Youth, is a member of Women in Film, the Independent Feature Project, AIVF, the International Documentary Association, and the National Storytelling Association. She organized NewCity's DocuClub, a group committed to establishing a network of film and video professionals, and that sponsors monthly meetings to promote, view, and discuss documentaries and other works in progress by participating members.

Variety has called Susan's film, "Engaging and inspirational." *Symphony Magazine* stated, "This should be required viewing for teachers and boards of education everywhere." Itzhak Perlman said, "She really instills a lot of enthusiasm, and the results are spectacular."

Fiddling on a roof in Zaromb is risky business. Sam Ser's granddaughter has taken advantage of the opportunities America has offered her. For Susan Kaplan, the fiddle is the key to a secure future in film production.

Susan can be reached at NewCity Productions which is located at 635 Madison Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Tel: (212)753-1326.

ON YICHUS

Jews who get a certain spiritual tonic from the reflection that they are somehow related to the creators of the Bible and to its ethical values [sometimes] forget that the relationship was passed on to them by the men who begot their fathers. Who were these men? Under what circumstances did they nurture the relationship for transmission? What tone and color had their lives? What purpose did they conceive themselves to be serving in their obstinate fidelity to the relationship? What hopes had they for themselves - and for their grandchildren?

- Maurice Samuel

The World of Sholom Aleichem

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Arthur F. Menton, Editor
P.O. Box 108
Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y. 11724
Tel. and Fax.: (516)754-1742
e-mail: nmenton@eagle.liunet.edu
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THE NEW MIDDLE EAST

Shmuel Harlap (9915,Pl.A-2aac) is a business executive living in Herzliya, Israel. He is the great-grandson of Rabbi Ephraim Zvi Charlap (3228), one of the founders of Rehovoth.

Shmuel believes strongly in the "Peace Process" that former Prime Ministers Rabin and Peres initiated. Peres had a vision of a New Middle East where Arab and Jew were bound together by common economic interests. Now, Shmuel Harlap has joined together with several leading exponents of these policies to sponsor the first joint Israeli-Palestinian monthly magazine. The message they send out is:

"The *New Middle East Magazine* is devoted to an idea and a purpose. We are convinced that as the 20th century comes to a close the Middle East will pull free of this century's bitter political conflicts and enter into a new era of dynamic economic investment, development, and interaction. And we are convinced that in order for this process to be realized it must not only be acknowledged, but also served as a social purpose. As a joint Israeli-Palestinian enterprise, our magazine uniquely symbolizes this vision and its promise. But it is not merely as a symbol of Israeli-Arab reconciliation that we wish to make our mark. Rather, we focus on the region as a whole in order to chart the new process of interactive development that is slowly gaining momentum. This process cannot be isolated from the broader social and political orbits it reflects and affects. Therefore, we strive to inform, interpret, and illuminate to help supply the reliable communication required for regional integration as well as international cooperation. We are served by writers and analysts intimately familiar with the countries and developments of our region. And we have chosen the English language as the best vehicle to bridge the expanses of the audience, regional and international, that we address. If we are new and unique, it is because the time is ripe. If we succeed, it will be because the Middle East will indeed have become new."

Shmuel is the son of Amichai (9905) who achieved success as an automobile importer. Shmuel's grandfather was Yisrael (3316) who was born in the Ukrainian city of Nezhin in 1884. His parents brought him to *Eretz Yisrael* when he was five. Ephraim Zvi Charlap was a Zionist and a religious man. Unlike his Charlap cousins in Jerusalem, he was unable to pass the religious ardor on to his children. But his offspring were ardent Zionists. Yisrael was imprisoned by the ruling Turks for his Jewish nationalism and his brother Yehoshua (9904) was a confidant and personal bodyguard to Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel. The Charlaps have been devoted to strengthening Israel.

PRESERVING JEWISH ART

Some years ago, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem established a Center for Jewish Art (CJA) for the preservation of the Jewish visual heritage. As the major research institute in the world in this field, CJA has undertaken to document all extant Jewish art including ritual objects, synagogues, Hebrew illuminated manuscripts, and ancient and modern Jewish art. All the documentation is conducted by Hebrew University Art History graduate students under the supervision of university professors. The CJA's top priority is to document Jewish art in danger areas which are undergoing rapid change or where the Jewish communities are in danger of disappearing. In some of these areas, emigration and the ravages of anti-semitism have virtually dissipated once rich Jewish communities. If documentation is not carried out immediately all traces of the artistic heritage of these communities will disappear. CJA has been researching old synagogues, now in disrepair or being used for some other purpose; collections and storerooms of national, regional, and Jewish museums; archives and libraries; private collections; and cemeteries. In 1992 these activities focused on Poland and some areas of the former Soviet Union.

The Jews in Poland, since their arrival there in the Middle Ages, created one of the most prolific, diverse, and creative of all Jewish communities in the Diaspora. Emigration and the catastrophe of World War II virtually annihilated that once vibrant community, but CJA researchers have been able to uncover many traces of the rich artistic heritage of Polish Jewry.

The CJA team researched many areas which were centers of the Ser-Charlap family. Documentation began at the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, a research center comprised of a museum, library, and archives. Housed in the reconstructed building of the former Central Jewish Library, the Jewish Historical Institute was founded following World War II and the museum was opened in 1948. Its excellent collection includes objects gathered by the Jewish Historical Commission, purchases, and gifts. Many items came from former ghettos, primarily in Warsaw and Lodz, concentration camps, and Nazi collections of Judaica. The museum's collection contains a large number of ritual objects, paintings, graphic works, sculpture, and historical pieces.

From Warsaw the CJA delegation continued northeast towards Bialystok and many of the *shtetlach* which were home to Charlaps, Mankutas, Tamas, Sers, Kurs, Lews, Lewins, Pasternaks, Parczewskis, Smolarczyks, et al. In Tykocin they documented the Judaica collection at the Great Synagogue, which is now a branch of the Bialystok Regional Museum. Tykocin was a vibrant Jewish center prior to the war; sixty percent of its 5,000 residents were Jewish. The synagogue, built in 1642, was badly damaged during the savage hostilities, but was restored and converted to a museum in the late 1970s. Its main room has a vaulted ceiling with four central pillars forming the *Bima* and the walls are completely covered with painted inscriptions. The collection is comprised of Judaica from all over Poland. The neighboring *Beit Midrash* now houses a museum of Polish cultural objects and the collection's storerooms. In addition, the Tykocin Jewish cemetery, established in 1522 and one of the oldest in Poland, is still recognizable, as is the *mikveh* and Jewish marketplace.

The CJA team spent two days with Bialystok researcher Tomasz Wisniewski, who is an expert on Jewish sites in the region. He has an extensive collection of historical photographs of synagogues throughout eastern Europe. He led the group to Jewish sites in Bialystok including the *Beit Midrash* built in 1936 by the Citron family, which was the only synagogue in use in the ghetto. It has been reconstructed and is now an art gallery. The site of the Ghetto Cemetery was recorded. There some 3,400 Jews were buried during the war. The communists destroyed the cemetery and all that remains is a simple memorial marker. There were 59 synagogues in Bialystok before World War II.

In the Bialystok region, the synagogue at Orla was documented. An impressive building from the mid-17th century, it was badly damaged by the war. Inside the main hall, many of the painted decorations are still visible including peacocks and lions on the eastern wall; paintings of a lion, deer, eagle, and tiger (mentioned by Rabbi Yehuda Ben Teima in *Pirkei Avot*) on the western wall; and birds, garlands, and grapevines on the columns. The main entrance leads to the central hall which is vaulted with four supporting columns, and two side entrances lead to the women's section located in a gallery on the west, north, and south sides of the synagogue.

The cemetery of Zabłudow, dating back to 1565 was documented. Also the synagogue in Ciechanowiec. Before the Holocaust it was one of ten synagogues serving the town's 7,000 Jews. The building has been used as a furniture warehouse but there are plans to restore it as a cultural center with a Judaica section. The synagogue is located within the former Jewish Quarter, and was one of five synagogues situated one next to the other. At Krynski, only the foundation ruins of the Great Synagogue remains of the Jewish community. Across the street is a wooden building that was once a Jewish hospital. A brick building which was once a Hasidic *shtiebl* is a warehouse. A third synagogue has been rebuilt

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BIRTHS

Menachem Mendel Cunin (11021,Pl.4bc) was born on March 19, the first child for Levi (9806) and Sora Rifka Zaetz (781) Cunin. Menachem Mendel, bearer of the proud name of the great Lubavitch Rebbe, is the third grandchild of Rabbi Nissan (778) and Devora Cohen (775) Zaetz and third great-grandchild for Jack (570) and Ann Jeanette (567) Cohen. The baby's great-great-grandmother is the late Chaya Faiga Pasternak Stein (546,Pl.4), the daughter of Baruch Pasternak (504) and Kayla Kur (503).

Susanne Elise Mason (11220,Pl.5ab), born on July 17, is the first child for John (2522) and Cheryl Dubrov-Mason (653) of Atlanta, Georgia. Susanne is the sixth grandchild for Harry (647) and Ann (644) Dubrov of Chattanooga, Tennessee. Ann's father was Chaim Bertche Kur (Cohen) (641) and her mother was Faiga Leah Kiejsmacher (637). Chaim Bertche's parents were Enoch Velvel Kur (1542,Pl.11a) and Zelda Smolarczyk (1546). Zelda's mother was Dinah Rivka Kwiatek (2615,Pl.20). Faiga Leah's parents were Pinya Kiejsmacher (613) and Shayna Sir (618). Shayna Sir's grandmother was Chaya Kopyto (1286,Pl.8). So the new baby is descended from at least seven distinct branches of the Ser-Charlap family.

Marissa Brook Rifkin (11113,Pl.A-9eaa), born on March 21, is the first child of Noah (9055) and Marilyn (9060) and first grandchild of Abraham (9045) and Betty Sokol (9040) Rifkin. Betty's mother, Fanny (9028) was a Rozansky (Rosansky) whose grandparents were Noah Rozansky (9017) and Breine Charlap (9016) of Slonim.

Mickey Schindler (11022,Pl.17b) was born in New York City on May 6. He is the second child of Ronnie (2385) and Lauri (2383) and second grandchild for Lauri's parents, Howard (1836) and Ronni Mankuta (1831) Levinson. Mickey's great-grandparents were Kalman Mankuta (1787) and Yehudis Parczewski (1785) who left Ciechanowicz, Poland for America in the 1920s. Mickey has taken up residence with his family in the Park Slope section of Brooklyn.

Jonathan Joseph (Yehuda Leib) Wietschner (11218,Pl.2a) was born on July 25, the third child of Chaim (529) and Elizabeth (4798) of Teaneck, New Jersey. Chaim, educated in law and business is with Goldman Sachs in NYC. His parents are Rabbi Isaac (477) and Miriam (524) of New York and his grandmother is Anna Sier Wietschner (472) of Brooklyn who now has thirteen great-grandchildren.

MARRIAGES

Katherine Charlap (3786,Pl.A-6a) was wed to **Allen R. Mezquida** (11219) on August 9. The bride is the daughter of Sandy Stewart (3783) of Southampton, Long Island and the late Morris I. Charlap (3780). Katherine is a psychotherapist in Manhattan and also the clinical supervisor in the domestic violence bureau of the Brooklyn District Attorney's office. She studied ancient languages at Barnard College and received an MSW degree from New York University. Her father, known as "Moose", was a composer who wrote the music for Broadway's "Peter Pan." Her mother is a well-known jazz and cabaret singer and her step-father, George Triffon, is a trumpet player. The bridegroom is a jazz saxophonist.

Michele Sachar (10677,Pl.A-4ha) was wed to **Bradford Alan Rothschild** (11107), son of Harriet and J. Justin Rothschild of Plainfield, New Jersey on June 30. Michele is the daughter of Dr. Howard (10667) and Eliana (10672) Sachar and granddaughter of Thelma (10659) and the late Abram L. Sachar (10653). The wedding was held at Mul Hayam, a beachside garden in Caesarea, Israel. Rabbi Israel Feigenblatt officiated. Michele is a management consultant at Price Waterhouse, the New York accounting firm. She graduated with high honors from Swarthmore College and received an M.B.A. degree from Harvard University. Bradford is the speechwriter and special assistant at the Israeli Mission to the United Nations. Howard is the Charles E. Smith Professor of History at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Eliana is a lawyer in Bethesda, Maryland. Abram Sachar was founding President of Brandeis University. His grandmother was Miriam (10647) bat Moshe Rafael Charlap (10837).

Lisa Beth Sier (523,Pl.2a) was married to **Gregory Michael Demel** (11120), son of Mr. and Mrs. Chaim Demel on May 26 at Temple Israel in Lawrence, Long Island. Lisa is the daughter of Sidney (502) and Marilyn (512) Sier of Edison, New Jersey. Lisa's grandfather is the late Tuvia (Tifke) Sier (470) and she is descended from Herschel Zvi Sier (468) and Hannah Kur (469). Siers and Kurs trace their lineage back to the Charlaps. Gregory was born in Puerto Rico. Both he and Lisa are attorneys, living in Manhattan. Lisa's father is an accountant and her mother is a travel consultant.

Efrem T. Wietschner (534,Pl.2a) was wed to **Cheryl Ann Klirfeld** (11217) on June 30. Efrem is the son of
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RESEARCH IN OSTROW MAZOWIECKA AND VICINITY

by Stanley M. Diamond and Michael Richman

The authors are noted researchers in Jewish genealogy and have been extremely helpful in the Ser-Charlap family investigation.

In late 1995 we spent two weeks on genealogical research in Poland. Stanley returned in January of this year to continue the work. The primary aim for Stanley was the gathering of information for the Beta-Thalassemia genetic trait research project. Ashkenazic Jews are rarely carriers of this trait, but Stanley is a carrier. Stanley had met with Prof. Jerzy Skowronek, the Director General of the Polish State Archives in Montreal early in September and he opened the door for some exciting research opportunities. Our stay in Poland started with a visit to these archives and a conference with officials from the Ministry of Interior responsible for the Urzad Stanu Cywilnego (Civil Records Office/USC) in Polish cities and towns.

One of the key items negotiated prior to our visit was an agreement with the Polish State Archives to provide us with photocopies of the 1862/1865 to 1889/1892 indices of the Ostrow Mazowiecka metrical registers in the Pultusk Regional Archives. It is important to emphasize that the copying of the indices was allowed only because of the unique nature of the Beta-Thalassemia project. In return, we agreed to transliterate the names from Russian to Polish, enter them into a computerized data base, and provide a copy to the archives. The complex and tedious job entailed reviewing the indices, noting entries of interest, and entering them on a spreadsheet. We extracted as many records as we could. There were never enough hours to do all we wanted. Other records in the Pultusk archives, which is housed in a former Protestant church, include pre-1890 Jewish birth, marriage, and death registers for not only Ostrow Maz. but also nine nearby towns including Brok, Nur, and Wyszkw. We also visited the Lomza office of the Bialystok District Archives where we examined their incomplete collection of Sniadowo and Zambrow registers.

We spent three exhilarating days at the Ostrow Maz. Civil Records Office (USC). During that time we had full access to the ca 1890 to 1939 metrical registers. We noticed that the last marriage record is dated August 31, 1939. We all know what happened the next day. We created a summary of the Ostrow Maz. metrical registers and a breakdown of the total number of birth, death, and marriage records. The extent of the information now immediately available to us is staggering. It is still hard for us to believe.

Probably the most interesting discovery we made during our trip was the extent of the Tenant Registers for Polish towns. These are also known as "Books of Residents." We were advised that these were first kept during the 1860s by decree of the Tsarist Russian government in order to track population movements. They are maintained to this day. For Ostrow Maz. there are three sets of registers, two in Russian (covering approximately 1860-1914) and the Polish language series dating from about 1919. The tenant registers are like a census of the town. The 1930s registers record all individuals living at a particular address (and flat number) giving last name, first name, parents' names (usually including mother's maiden name), and profession. There is a column for religion as well as for birth date and place. Individual movements were recorded - i.e. where the person came from and when residence in Ostrow Maz. was established. If a person moved away, there is generally a note giving the date and destination. For example, we saw references to Warsaw, Bialystok, "Palestyna", and many other places. There is also a column for recording date and place of death. Noting that one of Stan's cousins died on August 8, 1934 in a bus accident near Brok, enabled us to find newspaper articles about the tragedy in the Warsaw Public Library.

The tenant registers give sad evidence of both the destruction of many buildings in the town and the "departure" of the Jewish population. For example, a page might show a Jewish family but nothing else. That is, no one replaced the Jewish family in the abode, which would be evidence that it was destroyed. The Germans dispatched a special unit to destroy the town when they evacuated in 1944; 60% of Ostrow Maz. was levelled. In other cases, the Jewish family appeared at the top of the page and a Christian family immediately afterward. Many Christians moved into previously Jewish homes from 1942 to 1945. One thing we cannot explain is why the Jewish entries tended to be in pencil and the Christian ones in ink! We believe there is a logical reason - we just don't know what it is.

The registers are physically huge, weigh between five and ten kilos each, and have as many as 900 pages. As the 20th century Polish language tenant registers are not indexed, finding a record of interest was a hit or miss affair. These registers were kept by street, The 19th century Russian language registers were kept by house number and are indexed. The USC manager also arranged to have three volumes of Russian language registers dragged up from the basement during Stanley's second visit. Because they are such a treasure, and because of the danger these registers could be damaged during forthcoming building renovations, we commissioned a detailed inventory. We are truly blessed. Not only have metrical records of one of our ancestral towns survived, but the Tenant Registers as well. Therefore, those of

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OSTROW MAZOWIECKA (cont. from p. 5)

us who have an interest in doing so, will likely be able to document most of the members of our extended Ostrow Mazowiecka family - finding out where they came from and, until 1939, where they moved to.

[Ed.] as a result of the work initiated by Stanley Diamond and Michael Richman, an active community of Ostrow Mazowiecka researchers has been established. Called the "Ostrow Mazowiecka Research Family," it met for the second time at the July 1996 Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy held in Boston. The exchange of information and sharing of responsibilities has dramatically aided individual research efforts. Many in the group have discovered blood ties. The Ser-Charlap family has benefitted through confirmation of previously generated information, especially about the Pasternak branch of the family. Ostrow Mazowiecka is the major town in an area of many Jewish communities which were home to our family. These include Brok, Zareby Koscielnie, Andrzejewo, and Wyszkwow. It is close to Ciechanowiec, Czyzewo, Sokolowa, and not much further to Wysokie Mazowiecka, Bialystok, and Tykocin. For further information contact the authors:

Stanley M. Diamond
5599 Edgemore Avenue
Montreal, Quebec H4W 1V4
Tel:(514)484-0100/Fax:(514)484-7306
e-mail:SMSDIAMOND@aol.com

Michael Richman
8106 Whittier Blvd.
Bethesda, MD 20817
Tel:(301)320-5509/Fax:(301)320-7991
e-mail:Mbresq@aol.com

MARRIAGES (cont. from p. 4)

Samuel (519) and Tova (525) and grandson of Anna Sier Wietschner (472). Beyond that his lineage is the same as Lisa Sier Demel, Anna Wietschner and Sidney Sier being sister and brother. Efreim, like his father, is a CPA. To complement his accounting background he is studying for a law degree. Cheryl is an audiologist. The new couple is living in Brooklyn.

ON GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

The urge to discover our roots is probably as old as civilization itself. It distresses us to think that our existence may eventually be all but forgotten, reduced to a yellowed picture stashed at the bottom of someone's closet. So we dig into the history of our ancestors in the hope that someday our descendants will do the same for us.

- Dan Rottenberg in Finding Our Fathers

100th WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Two times fifty equals 100. On July 14 Manuel (2700,Pl.20e) and Ruby (2703) Krantz and Sam and Pauline Fish celebrated their 50th wedding anniversaries with a luncheon at the Meadowbrook Country Club in the greater Kansas City area. That evening the sons of Manny and Ruby, Roger (2709) and Bryan (2708) Krantz hosted a barbecue and salmon dinner for out-of-town guests. About 175 guests from eleven states and Canada celebrated with the honored couples. Ruby Krantz and Pauline Fish are the daughters of the late Alex and Hannah Stolov. Manny is the son of the late Joseph Krantz (2697) and Sarah Merel Petrushka (2698) of Kansas City, Missouri. His paternal grandmother was Golda Smolarczyk (2620), daughter of Itche Smolarczyk (2614,Pl.20) and Dinah Rivka Kwiatek (2615). The two couples were married at Congregation Beth Shalom fifty years ago in the first double wedding held there.

PRESERVING ART (cont. from p. 3)

as a movie house. Krynski's large cemetery has been mapped and 3,000 graves have been identified. The same for the cemetery in Brainsk which was founded in 1820 and used until 1942. Prior to World War II, it contained 3,000 to 4,000 tombstones. While it is now a "protected government area", it is an example of many Jewish sites in Poland which are in danger of being restored improperly and unprofessionally.

A CJA team also visited Tbilisi in the Republic of Georgia. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, there has been civil war in the region and Jews have been fleeing in large numbers. Tbilisi was where Yaacov Charlap (7859,Pl.A-9b) held sway as Chief Ashkenazi Rabbi in the early part of the 20th century. R' Yaacov had built several schools and encouraged the development of Yiddish culture including a lively theatre troupe. Now the fate of Jewish cultural treasures in Tbilisi is tenuous. The message is clear, documentation must be carried out immediately for tomorrow there may be nothing left.

That is the work for the Center For Jewish Art, a unique organization preserving our cultural heritage. For further information contact them at P.O.Box 4262, Jerusalem 91042 Israel, Tel: 02-754605/Fax: 02-754672.

COME TO KITCHENER

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FROM THE MAILBOX

July 17, 1996

The article you published about my great-nephew Ryan Packer (1953,Pl.18c) was very nice. ["The Golden Skate," vol.7,no.2] He's a wonderful young man. However, you made a slight mistake. You referred to my niece Carol (1929), Ryan's mother, as being Velvel's daughter. She is his granddaughter. Carol's father was Sol (1880), my oldest and only brother - son of Velvel (1872) and Sarah Mankuta (1864) Simon. Sol was named for Yisrael Tama (1849,Pl.18), my great-grandfather, who I found out from studying the family tree, had three wives. There may be more relatives somewhere about whom I don't know!

Marcia Gikner (1893,Pl.18c)
Woodstock, New York

June 1996

This party for Ralph Marvin (10247,Pl.A-14dcaa) was a major Budovitch family event. I attended and it was the first time I met Ralph and his family. We were invited as a result of our correspondence which began with the investigation of the family tree. Enclosed is the invitation.

Revie Budovitch Walman
(9660,Pl.A-14dba)
Kitchener, Ontario

A BUDOVITCH EVENT

Dear Cousins and your families,

On Saturday, April 13th I will celebrate my 75th birthday and would be pleased to have you be my guest for an evening of fine food, some finer remembrances, and our finest friendship. We will begin at the Kilmer Mansion of Temple Concord at 9 Riverside Drive in Binghamton, New York. Please extend my invitation to all of your family members as I do not have many of their addresses. Your siblings, spouses, children, and grandchildren are all invited. I do hope you will be able to attend, not only to celebrate my birthday, but also to celebrate our family and friendships. Sunday brunch will be at the home of my daughter and her family in Binghamton. We want to send you away well fed! I look forward to seeing you at this joyous event.

Ralph Marvin
Ithaca, New York

Ralph is the grandson of Alter (10232,Pl.A-14dc) and Sarah (Shimke) (10230) Marvin and the great-grandson of Joseph Epstein (10110) and Freida Menucha Budowla (10109). Freida's parents were Shmuel Budowla (9555)

and Chaya Zlote Charlap (9556). Budowla is, of course, the original name of the Budovitch family. The Epsteins, Charlaps, and Budovitch branches are intertwined through several marriages. Their East European origin was in Minsk Guberniya in the area of Nezvish, Slonim, Lechowicze, Baranowicze, and Novogradok. The Charlaps had moved eastward to that region from Suwalk, Tykocin, and Grodno.

MINNESOTA MITZVOT

Lisa Forstein is a granddaughter of Ben and Ruth Kristol of Jacksonville, Florida. Ben and Ruth are justifiably proud of Lisa. Lisa had been awarded a grant by the Minneapolis Jewish Federation to study in Israel after her graduation from high school. A certain Mr. Berman had funded the program with an initial donation of \$1 million. Lisa has developed a deep feeling for Israel, the Jewish people, and her family. As a result she donates much time and energy in performing *mitzvot* for the Jewish community.

One example involves Impact Israel, a program created and sponsored by the National Council of Jewish Women. Lisa, along with others, go into 6th grade classes throughout the Minneapolis area and teach a three hour seminar on the History and Culture of Israel. She says, "For many, we are the only Jews they come in contact with. Our program is in great demand and we are planning to expand as we get new volunteers."

Lisa also has worked at the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) booth at the Minnesota State Fair. Amid the horse barns and mini-donuts at the fair, the JCRC offers information about Judaism and Israel. Not counting those merchants selling kosher or Jewish deli food, the JCRC booth is the local Jewish community's only presence at the fair, which runs through Labor Day. "It really is our way of reaching out to a population that oftentimes has never met a Jew," explains Barbara Rubin, JCRC program coordinator, who called the State Fair effort a "celebration of community." Lisa was 14 when she first worked the fair. Her mother, Merrie Forstein, had brought her along to help out. Lisa wrote visitors' names in Hebrew as a souvenir of the fair. Merrie said, "She's much more Hebrew literate than me. The experience made Lisa feel like an important part of the Jewish community. She would greet them with 'Shalom' and invite them into the booth." Merrie mentioned that gentiles visiting the booth were interested to hear about the joint program of the JCRC and the 4-H clubs, in which 4-H members compete in an essay contest and the winners get a JCRC-sponsored trip to Israel. In particular, Merrie and Lisa

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OBITUARIES

We received the following letter on July 1:

It is with great sadness that I write you about the death of our dear adored grandmother **Leah Olsberg** (4220,Pl.20f) who passed away here in Israel on *Shavuot*, May 24, in her 80th year. She had broken her hip in a fall on the previous day. Her heart could not take the strain. She died on the 19th *yahrtzeit* of her husband Isidore (4667), our Grandpa Izzy and we took her back to Manchester, England to be buried next to her beloved husband, as was her request. It was not an easy task, leaving Israel on Sunday after *Shabbat* and the *Shavuot* holiday. England also had a Bank Holiday and there was much red tape and bureaucracy to work through. After the Monday funeral, my mother, sister, and I returned to Israel where we sat *shiva* surrounded by dear family and friends. Grandma will be missed by many people but especially by her family; she was a true woman of valor and never fully recovered from Grandpa Izzy's sudden death 19 years ago. But she lived with her loving family who gave her every consideration of love, respect, and care . . . and she derived such pleasure and *nachat* from her three grandchildren: my sister Joanne (Yael) (4676) and her husband Uri Zonnenshain (7832), myself and my wife Sally (7751), and our brother Robert (Rafael) (4675), a captain in the Israel Defense Forces. And then the cuddly great-grandchildren: Bat-El (8654) and Zvi Dov (10100) Cohen and Sarel Zvi Zonnenshain (10099), all calling her "Mama". How she thrived on the time spent with us all! Our grief is still fresh and our pain still great, but we treasure our wonderful and precious memories spent with Grandma Leah.

- Warren Cohen (4674),
Netanya, Israel

Leah Olsberg was the daughter of the late Velvel (4218) and Rasha (4219) Greenfield (4218) and granddaughter of Pesach (2724) and Henia (4217) Smolarczyk. She is survived by her sister Anita Greenfield (2736) of Brooklyn, NY. in addition to those mentioned above.

We have also received word that **Pesche Karelstein** (9266,Pl.A-4) had died earlier this year in Israel. She is survived by a son and two daughters and her husband, Rabbi Zvi Karelstein (10959), *Rosh Yeshiva* in Ashdod, Israel. Pesche was one of six children of Rabbi Shmuel Werner (3830) and Yehudit Charlap (3735) of Bnai Brak. R' Shmuel was a noted religious judge. Her grandfather, Rabbi Yaacov Moshe Charlap (3730), was the revered colleague of Rabbi Avraham Isaac Kook. Yaacov Moshe, an ardent religious Zionist, had stated, "The diaspora differs from *Eretz Yisrael* as slavery differs from freedom."

MINNESOTA MITZVOT (cont. from p. 7)

recalled meeting a German girl who implored them to tell "what it's like to be Jewish." It turned out she came from a Jewish family - her grandmother "always talked about being Jewish" - but she had no knowledge of Judaism. Lisa and her mother gave this girl some guidance on how to go about searching for her roots and learning about Judaism. They were touched by the experience and point out that the JCRC booth at the State Fair offers the potential for touching Jews and non-Jews.

Mother and daughter are just following the path laid out by their parents. Ben and Ruth have always been strong supporters of Jewish life both in Israel and America. They have strong emotional ties to their ancestry in Poland. Ben comes from the branch of the Kristol family that is intertwined with the Kur and Parczewski families. His family came from Kosow, about twelve miles southwest of Ciechanowiec.

REAL AND ASSUMED NAMES

The following are the real and assumed names of some famous Jews.

Anouk Aimee, French actress - Françoise Dreyfus
Theda Bara, actress - Theodosia Goodman
Jack Benny, comedian - Jacob Benjamin Kubelsky
Mel Brooks, comedian - Melvin Kaminsky
Lenny Bruce, comedian - Leonard Schneider
Dyan Cannon, film actress - Diane Friesen
Al Capp, cartoonist - Alfred Gerald Caplin
Jeff Chandler, actor - Ira Grossel
Lee J. Cobb, actor - Leo Jacob
Tony Curtis, actor - Bernie Schwartz
Howard da Silva, actor - Howard Silverblatt
Bob Dylan, rock icon - Robert Zimmerman
John Garfield, actor - Julius Garfinkel
Paulette Goddard, actress - Pauline Levee (Levy)
Lee Grant, actress - Lyova Rosenthal
Harry Houdini, magician - Ehrich Weiss
Al Jolson, vaudeville star - Asa Yoelson
Danny Kaye, comedian - Daniel Kaminsky
Jerry Lewis, comedian - Joseph Levitch
Tony Randall, actor - Leonard Rosenberg
Harold Robbins, author - Harold Rubin
Edward G. Robinson, actor - Emmanuel Goldberg
Beverly Sills, opera star - Belle Silverman
Jill St. John, actress - Jill Oppenheim
Irving Stone, author - Irving Tennenbaum
Mike Todd, producer - Avrom Girsch Goldbogen
Erich von Stroheim, actor - Erich Bondy
Gene Wilder, actor - Jerome Silberman
Shelley Winters, actress - Shirley Schrift

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Brandeis University

"In its richness of historic context and pungency of human interest, Arthur Menton's fascinating odyssey of the Charlap family infinitely transcends the filiopiensm characteristic of this genre. Written in a truly felicitous style, his family chronicle is hardly less than a palimpsest of East European Jewry in its last poignant efflorescence and dispersion."

- Howard M. Sachar
Prof. of History
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of
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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1996
KITCHENER, ONTARIO

(only 45 minutes west from the Toronto Airport and less than 3 hours from Detroit)

Bring your family to the Beth Jacob Synagogue
161 Stirling Avenue South, Kitchener
12:00 Noon for Lunch

(couvert: Sunday Brunch \$12.00 per adult, \$9.00 for children)

All guests present on Saturday October 12th are invited to a "getting to know you" cocktail party Saturday evening.

Hear the latest news about the family research. Our "tree" is approaching 12,000 people. Our own family historian, Arthur F. Menton, will sign copies of his new book **THE BOOK OF DESTINY: TOLEDOT CHARLAP**. This is your story, the story of your parents, grandparents, and those who preceded them. Bring your children and let them discover the glory of their heritage. Make this a weekend to remember by bringing along your old photographs and memorabilia. You will have a chance to discuss them before the assemblage.

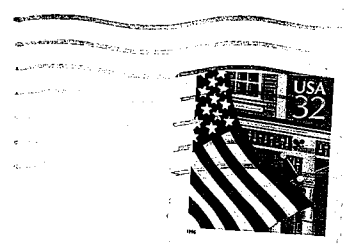
For further details, to RSVP and/or hotel reservations, please respond by September 20th 1996 to any of the committee members below:

- Esther Budd (519) 745-8866
- Lynda Budd (519) 885-4246
- Revie Walman (519) 742-4523
- Arthur F. Menton (516) 754-1742

This is your party if you descend from Budovitch, Budowla, Cear, Charlap, Charlip, Charlop, Danowitz, Donchin, Don Yahya, Ibn Yahya, Kiejmacher, Kopyto, Kuhr, Kur, Kuropatwa, Kwiatek, Lapin, Levine, Lew, Lewin, Mankuta, Pakciarz, Parczewski, Pasternak, Podkowa, Rosansky, Sahr, Ser, Sharlip, Sier, Sir, Smolarczyk, or Tama. Closely related families are Blattman, Burstein, Glovnia, Kafka, Kristol, Ritholtz, Spalencic, Sukiennik, Wrobel, and many others.

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