



MONTREAL FORUM

QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF THE
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF MONTREAL

A NAME IS BORN

Even when the quartet of Stanley Diamond, Alan Greenberg, Anne Joseph and Merle Kastner (names in alphabetical order) get together informally, it is inevitable that the focus of discussion will never be far from JGS-Montreal. This was so on 27 July. Almost before we knew it, a consensus blossomed into a determination to have our very own quarterly journal for our very own society. A freewheeling search for possible names was punctuated with much laughter and even the occasional promising suggestion. Among them *Montreal Mishpocha* and *Montreal Musings*, but neither met our criteria for something both distinctive and meaningful. The game had just begun.

Six days and 26 e-mail messages later, we were almost at decision point. We all liked the alliteration of two words both starting with M, and gradually four possibilities rose to the top of the pile. They were *Mishpocha* (family), *Milumad* (knowledge, knowing the facts), *Musings* (thinking things over and putting all the clues together), and *Mazel* (luck!). This became *Montreal 4M*.

Then came the breakthrough.

The very next day, Stan was telling one of his daughters, Paula, about our name search and how we seemed to be leaning towards *Montreal 4M*. Quick like a bunny, Paula piped up **MONTREAL FORUM**. We all thought about it, smiled a lot, and suddenly it was unanimous. **A Name is born.**

The championship Montreal Canadiens hockey team from 1926 to 1996 made *Forum* synonymous with *Montreal*.

Furthermore, and of particular significance for us, this journal is being inaugurated as a forum for our members and others to use for the exchange of information and ideas.

So, welcome to the *Montreal Forum*, and we look forward to receiving your comments and contributions.

Stanley Diamond Anne Joseph
Alan Greenberg Merle Kastner

Jewish Genealogical Society
of Montreal

Founded 1995

Member of the
International Association of
Jewish Genealogical Societies

Web Site <http://www.jgs-montreal.org>

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Ten years! Yet it seems that it was only yesterday that a number of Jewish genealogists in Montreal got together at Bialek High School to hear Rolf Lederer, Past President of the Toronto society, talk about his family history journey. We all listened in awe as Rolf unfurled his family story and talked about his research along the way. We could only dream of doing the same in our genealogical research. The JGS of Montreal was formed shortly afterward and now we are the ones called upon to show leadership and inspire others to follow in Rolf's and our path.

In our short history, our society has grown and prospered...particularly in the quality of our members and their remarkable research achievements. It is my hope that you will share the story of your journeys and successes in future editions of the Montreal Forum.

The Montreal Forum! What an apt title for our new journal (see page 1). Just as the name meant something special in the world of hockey, I am sure that our members – under the leadership of editor Anne Joseph – will be able to take pride in an exemplary journal that serves the interests and needs of all those tracing their roots to Montreal, Quebec and Canada.

In our short history, JGS-Montreal has made an indelible mark in the world of Jewish genealogy. The indexing of the Drouin microfilm collection (Jewish vital records of Quebec 1841-1942) has won us the coveted International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Award for Project of the Year and has advanced the research of genealogists around the world. Indices to The Canadian Naturalization records (1915-1932) created by some of our members are now available online on the Archives & Library of Canada genealogical website at [http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/06/0603\\_e.html](http://www.genealogy.gc.ca/06/0603_e.html). And, just a few months ago, our society received the IAJGS Stern Award to enable us to jump

start the JGS of Montreal's follow up project to index the 1933-1953 Canadian naturalization records.

But we are not resting on our laurels. The funds we have raised through the sale of copies of Drouin records have enabled us to support the indexing of the first ten years of the Hebrew Sick Benefit records at the Canadian Jewish Archives (see page 4). We are working closely with the Back River Memorial Gardens to bring indices of their cemetery to the JewishGen JOWBR (Jewish Online Worldwide Burial Registry). And other projects are in the works...we just need volunteers to step up and be counted.

In future columns I will talk about the volunteers in our organization who have made the concerted efforts and outstanding contributions to help make our society a strong force in the world of Jewish genealogy. I hope you will consider how you can add to the strength of our society and help your own research at the same time. It is this sharing that characterizes Jewish life and we believe our society exemplifies it to the highest degree.

Stanley Diamond

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What a great time of year for  
an inaugural edition  
of our new journal

And also a great time to give you the news that  
**ALAN GREENBERG** married **SHELLY FERAN**  
on Sunday 21 August 2005

We wish them every happiness

## PROGRAMMING

Those people with the task of putting together an interesting mix of events for our society are headed by Merle Kastner. Initial announcements and reminders are taken care of by Merle in messages to our membership. Below is just a skeleton outline.

**MONTHLY LECTURE SERIES**

**Monday 19 September 2005 at 7.30pm**  
**Event:** Showing of DVD *Raising Atlantis, Restoring Jewish Heritage in Poland* by Yale J. Reisner  
**Place:** Sinai Room, YM-YWHA, 5400 Westbury Avenue.

**Thursday 17 November 2005 at 7.30pm**  
**Event:** Michael Goldstein, a Jerusalem based former Montrealer, will speak on how to locate and connect with Israeli families.

**Monday 12 December 2005 at 7.30pm**  
**Event:** The ever-popular *Research Circle*, where members share their research successes and frustrations.

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**SUNDAY MORNING  
FAMILY TREE WORKSHOP**

**Sunday 2 October 2005 at 10am to noon**  
 The next session in this ever-popular series will take place at the Jewish Public Library, Greenberg Conference Room (downstairs).

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**A FEW FAVOURITE WEBSITES**

*A favourite website is one with which you have had success. Here are just a couple of my often used sites, which have been very helpful as I pursue my research in Britain.*

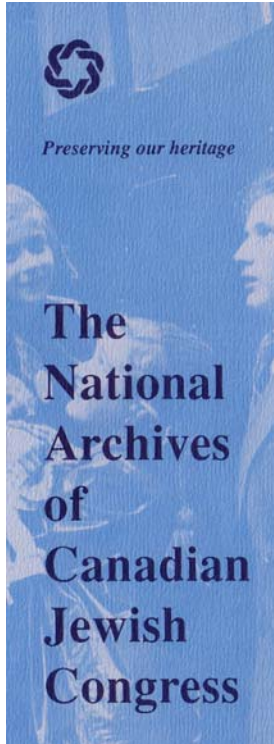
A relatively new, but singularly comprehensive, website for those researching Jewish ancestors in Britain is <http://british-jewry.org.uk>. Their mailing list is amazingly helpful.

Another helpful and ever-growing site is [www.ukbmd.org.uk](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk). Here you can find links to 303 websites that offer on-line transcriptions of UK births, marriages and deaths, as well as censuses.

There are so many more, and I am hoping that in our next issue of Montreal Forum we will be able to list favourites from many of our readers.

## NEWS FROM CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS

by Janice Rosen  
Archives Director



*There are many caches of treasures already in the public domain that could be developed in such a way as to become increasingly helpful to more users. Such tasks can be speeded up when groups with a common interest find ways to share the load. One such partnership of significance for genealogists and others is the Hebrew Sick Benefit project that was developed at CJC National Archives in Montreal, and funded by JGS of Montreal*

A new family history resource is now available on computer at Canadian Jewish Congress National Archives, thanks to a grant from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal. Earlier this year, CJCNA engaged Eiran Harris to translate and index the information contained in the earliest membership forms of the Hebrew Sick Benefit Association. The HSBA was founded in 1892 and was one of the most active Sick Benefit and burial societies in Jewish Montreal. Therefore information about their membership can help in family history research for a significant number of researchers with Montreal relatives, and this for a period of time not well covered by other sources.

Unfortunately, the Yiddish in the membership books is written in a terrible hand that is sometimes truly undecipherable. This is especially true in the case of the earliest books. An English signature of the member is often visible at the bottom of the page, which can provide a clue to the Yiddish. However, this too is hard to read, and when it is clear, it is sometimes obvious that the English version of the name differs significantly from the Yiddish spelling. Because of these factors, the membership books have, until now, been of little help to researchers. However, the persistence and expertise of Mr. Harris has allowed us to “crack the code” of most of these pages.

The following questions are asked (and usually answered) on the membership forms. Date: / Surname: / Name: / Address: / Age: / Place of birth: / Occupation: / Are you married?: / Are you married to a Jewish woman?: / Wife’s name: / Wife’s age: / How long are you in Canada?: / Are you healthy in body & mind?: / Are you free of chronic illness?: / Did any family member contract T.B.?: / Were you a member of this association?: / Were you ever proposed for membership in this association?: / What was the reason for the rejection?: / Do you belong to the Mosaic faith?: / Signature of candidate: / Ex-president: / Secretary:

As can be easily seen, the books provide a wealth of information. The first stage of this hopefully ongoing project covers the years 1892 to 1906. After 1906 there are ledgers missing, with the membership books resuming in 1915. (Water damage to the last pages indexed suggests that the reason for the missing books might have something to do with flooding in a storage area before the collection was donated to us.) If funding can be found (this is a broad hint), we hope to resume this project and index the rest of the books through the 1940’s. For more info: 514/931-7531 extn 2. [archives@cjc.ca](mailto:archives@cjc.ca).

## **What's New in Jewish Records Indexing-Poland (2005)**

**Presentation at the 25th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy,  
Las Vegas, NV 12 July 2005**

**by Stanley M. Diamond**

**Excerpted from an article to appear in the Winter 2005 edition of Roots-Key,  
the Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Los Angeles**

*Stanley Diamond is the Founder and President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal.  
He is also the Executive Director of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland.*

Members of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal have been close by my side during the birth and ten years of growth of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland. So I take great pleasure in sharing some of the announcements about JRI-Poland activities from my presentation in Las Vegas. Our editor has informed me that we are short on space in this inaugural edition of The Montreal Forum. So, if you would like a copy of the full text of my presentation, please get in touch.

The JRI-Poland luncheon on the opening day of the conference featured an entertaining look at the organization's first ten years in a musically enhanced PowerPoint presentation.

The "What's New in Jewish Records Indexing – Poland" presentation briefly touched on the accomplishments of the organization and then discussed the many new developments.

### **Accomplishments**

- Indexed almost 3 million records - the largest Internet database of Jewish vital records.
- Of the 1836 films in the LDS collection, volunteers have now completed work on 805 films and another 706 are either partially indexed or in progress. Volunteers are needed to indexing the remaining towns.
- Records not filmed by the LDS have been indexed from 35 branches of the Polish State Archives.
- The JRI-Poland Research Guide now available online in English, French, Hebrew, Spanish, Russian and Polish.

### **New JRI-Poland database search system**

A new search system for the database features dramatically increased flexibility in setting search parameters and improving the potential for success. It is now possible to search by surname, given name, and town or a combination of these parameters.

### **JRI-Poland Order Processing Service**

The JRI-Poland Order Processing Service continues to be a great success story for both JRI-Poland and the Polish State Archives. Nearly 1400 separate orders were processed in 2004. Since the launch of the system, more than 1100 individual researchers from 23 countries have ordered records from over 300 different towns located in 34 branches of the Polish State Archives.

### **Correcting the Errata**

JRI-Poland is addressing the major challenge to ensure that the data for each town is as complete and accurate as possible. Errors in the original indices (created by town registrars) include Akts (records) overlooked in the creation of the year-end index, duplicate Akt numbers, illegible names, or pages received from the Polish State Archives with the Akt numbers cut off. Facing the daunting task of reviewing many hundreds of files in the database, JRI-Poland developed a complex Excel macro to verify data in each file and provide the guide for correcting the errors.

### **Non Shtetl-Specific records and Holocaust related research**

Documenting our relatives who perished in the Holocaust and locating those from our families or towns who survived are central to Jewish genealogical research. But, birth, marriage and death records are not enough—particularly when we are limited to having only 100 year-old vital records online. In the quest to learn the fate of those who didn't survive or find those who did, JRI-Poland not only looks to known resources, but is also seeking to find new materials to index that can be put online. The Warsaw Ghetto death records are one of these resources and have been available for several years. The *Monitor Polski* is another. In the years following WWII, motions to the courts for official recognition of a person's death were filed and published as court announcements in this government gazette. Motions were usually made by surviving relatives. Because of the Holocaust, in the case of Polish citizens with Jewish roots, the number of motions was massive and often dealt with entire families.

### **New uses for JRI-Poland data**

While JRI-Poland was founded as a genealogical research tool, the database is being actively used in many other ways, from Holocaust-related research to medical and genetic issues and even inheritance cases. In June, Daniel Burns submitted his thesis "Verifying Testimony of Auschwitz Death Camp Survivor Chil Zborowski; a Case Study in Research." Burns is a Catholic real estate developer from Birmingham, Michigan who took time off from his business to pursue a master's degree in European studies at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland and chose the saga of Chil Zborowski for his thesis. One of the very first research tools he used was the JRI-Poland database. With a few clicks, Daniel was able to quickly take major steps in the reconstruction and documentation of Chil's family.

### **Giving Back the names**

The JRI-Poland database will ultimately have records for a sizeable number of Holocaust victims and points to records that accurately document the birth and marriage of many who died at the hands of the Nazis and are named in Pages of Testimony. Former Montrealer Judie Ostroff Goldstein of Florida has submitted 241 Pages of Testimony in all. Using the indices to the 20th century records of Ostrow Mazowiecka initially indexed for my genetic research project, Judie has discovered and submitted Pages of Testimony for more than 82 victims not previously mentioned anywhere else.

### **New record discoveries**

Each year researchers with roots in Poland are the beneficiaries of newly discovered registers, those that were either misfiled, mis-labeled or in undocumented collections. In other cases, civil records offices uncover books they didn't know they had and pass them along to the PSA. Archivists in Poland are now bringing new discoveries to the attention of JRI-Poland whenever they come across something they know will be of interest.

### **Army Draft Evaders publicized**

In 2005, it was learned that in the 1930s lists of army draft evaders were published in provincial newspapers. The information is akin to a birth record; each listing has the surname, first name, mother's and father's first names, exact date of birth and place of birth. Indexing for the Bialystok province is now underway and other provinces will follow.

### **Role of JRI-Poland in Medical/Genetic related matters**

JRI-Poland has been recognized by the medical and scientific community because of the potential benefit of the database for Ashkenazi families trying to trace their medical and genetic histories—for whatever reason. Over the past several years, members of the JRI-Poland volunteer family have been actively involved in helping to reconstruct family records for medical and genetic purposes. This illustrates why the database might be described as a giant insurance policy—one that you hope you will never have to use but is there if the need exists

One of the problems we have experienced in trying to help families faced with a medical/genetic issue is their lack of experience in doing genealogical research and documenting the results. They have so much else on their minds that trying to become a genealogist, as we understand the term, is not easy. So, the question was asked at the conference, “When there is a genetic/medical case associated with your town, would you coordinate the project to help reconstruct the family? Would you help anyone even if it's not from your town or area?”

### **Other sources of genealogical information**

For several years, JRI has been indexing Books of Residents and Census Registers from all over Poland. As a result of the researcher response to these new sources, and their generosity in making the indexing possible, there is now an addition to the JRI-Poland/PSA agreement that formalizes this expansion and opens the doors to indexing any type of Jewish record with genealogical content.

### **JRI-Poland Discussion Group**

Attendees at the Las Vegas IAJGS Conference 2005 were urged to subscribe to the JRI-Poland Discussion Group to stay up-to-date on all the activities related to indexing underway both by Shtetl CO-OPs and from the Archives in Poland. It is the place to post questions and learn from fellow researchers' experiences and suggestions, and an important part of staying connected to the JRI-Poland family.

### **The JRI-Poland family**    The presentation concluded with the following remarks:

“I have been asked what it is that causes so many people to become involved with JRI-Poland? What is it that drives our volunteers? What makes us such a dedicated, spirited and, I must add, unselfish group— with perhaps the greatest esprit de corps in all of Jewish genealogy? I believe it's our collective passion for the mission of JRI-Poland... and the joy that we know we bring others as we ourselves benefit from our combined efforts. The successes that unfold each day give us great satisfaction.

“We hope each one of you will want to share in that success in the most meaningful way...and that is by becoming part of the JRI-Poland family. There's room for everyone.”

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## Montreal - In Days Gone By

*Editorial Comment –  
and An Appeal to Our Readers*

*Montreal became the hub of Jewish life in those early years of settlement in the 1760's, when it finally became possible for Jews to make their home along the St. Lawrence River valley.*

*For this segment of our journal, we invite our readers to submit family anecdotes of life in Montreal – In Days Gone By. These could be stories handed down in your family, or personal memories which give you pleasure as you remember connections between your family and life in this city. A story such as that of -----*



**Place Jacques Cartier, Montreal**

### Phoebe David (1736/37 - 1785)

Overnight on 11-12 April 1768 there was a fire which destroyed the homes of 75 to 80 families in Montreal, including that of Lazarus and Phoebe David and their four children ranging in age from 5 years to 6 months. Fires occurred frequently in those days, and because firefighting was difficult, they tended to become conflagrations of spectacular size and devastation.

Welsh born Lazarus David and English born Phoebe Samuel married in Rhode Island in 1761. They had a daughter in May 1762 in New York and soon afterwards the family moved to Montreal. When their son arrived on 8 December 1764, he became the first Jewish child to be born in Montreal. They named him David David.

Fires and floods in this harbourfront community were ever-present horrors throughout those days which, added to all the other difficulties of pioneer living, was very frightening. But for Phoebe worse was to come.

Lazarus died in 22 October 1776, leaving Phoebe to raise her 5 children ranging in age from 14 down to 6. There being no Jewish cemetery in Montreal, Lazarus had fortunately had the foresight to buy land for

this purpose, and he became the first to be buried there.

Phoebe herself carried on her husband's business, which had been successful in his lifetime. But sadly people sometimes took advantage of a widow, and Phoebe sensed this happened to her. Life was not easy. At a time of particular stress, she felt the need to petition Governor Frederick Haldimand for help. Even though Phoebe's eldest son David was only 11 when his father died, he did his best to help his mother, and as time went by, he became singularly successful.

Phoebe died nine years after her husband. She had done very well in the task of raising her children, all of whom made their own significant contributions to the fostering of the Montreal Jewish community.

And oh yes, the family connection. Phoebe David was an ancestor of my husband, Bill Joseph. Bill was a great great great grandson (3<sup>rd</sup> great-grandson) of Phoebe. To explain the family name change, Phoebe's granddaughter, Sophia David, married Bill's great grandfather, Abraham Joseph.

Anne Joseph



**Report on 25<sup>th</sup> Annual  
IAJGS CONFERENCE  
Las Vegas  
July 10-15, 2005  
by Merle Kastner**

The word “conference” – what does it mean? The Merriam Webster Dictionary gives four options for this definition, of which the following best describes its meaning in the applicable sense: con-fer-ence – “a meeting of two or more persons for discussing matters of common concern.” However, one aspect is not mentioned in this definition – fun! The IAJGS Conferences are invariably just that and a lot more.

I arrived at the Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas at 1.00pm on Sunday, July 10 and went directly to the IAJGS Management Sub-Seminar, which Alan Greenberg and I had arranged to attend together. A number of issues concerning individual Jewish Genealogical Societies were discussed during this 4 hour period (broken up into separate segments) featuring various speakers, and at the end of which, there were question periods. This was an informative group of sessions, of interest to all Jewish Genealogical Societies.

Next came the extensive lineup of speakers, events, receptions, resources that could be tapped by those attending the conference – among the many were: first and foremost, our president Stanley Diamond’s lecture on the most recent developments of JRI-Poland, and a lecture by our very recent speaker, Bennett Greenspan on the subject of Family Tree DNA were not to be missed. To list several other lectures and events – Breakfast with the Experts, several lectures by Steve Morse (the genius behind the One-Step databases), the Lomza-Suwalki and other area B.O.F. (Birds of a Feather) Meetings, Castle Garden, The Barge

Office by Nancy L. Arbeiter, New York City Voter Registration Records by Jordan Auslander, “Bugsy Siegel & Meyer Lansky” by Ron Arons – an irresistible subject for visitors to Las Vegas (the room was so full that extra chairs were placed outside in the hallway). More lectures by John Philip Colletta, Mark Halpern (JRI-Poland board member and president of JGSGP – Philadelphia), Hadassah Lipsius (JRI-Poland board member) Gladys Paulin, Alexander Avraham (Yad Vashem), Michael Goldstein (who will be lecturing to the JGS of Montreal on Thursday, November 17, 2005), Warren Blatt (who graced us with a lecture in 2004), Hal Bookbinder (the perennial lecturer on “Breaking Through Brick Walls” his speciality) “The Changing Borders of Europe”, and Harold Margol (former IAJGS President and expert on Lithuanian research, having made 9 trips to Lithuania), David Sloan, on Argentinean Jews, Bruce Kahn, who gave a presentation at a meeting of the JGS of Montreal in 1999, lectured on “Digital Imagining & Genealogy”, featuring numerous updates and valuable tips, plus Ted Gostin’s “Russian Business Directories” lecture. A noteworthy event was “Harnessing the Power of JewishGen”, where the latest developments and future plans of JewishGen were unveiled, followed by the JewishGen reception.

Being unable to attend the conference, my cousin and good friend, Dr. Bruce Reisch, who has twice lectured at JGSM meetings within the past 5 years, entrusted me with delivering his presentation on the history of, and the latest research resources in Bukovina at the ROM-SIG meeting on Wednesday. This was followed by the ROM-SIG luncheon, where congenial schmoozing and networking ensued.

As had been done in Salt Lake City in 2000, I arranged a breakfast for all Canadian conference attendees to be held in the Paradise Buffet Restaurant of the conference hotel at 7.00am on Thursday morning. The 26 of those who attended the Canadians’ Breakfast were – from Montreal – Stanley Diamond, Alan Greenberg,

myself, Jerry Zell, Marvin & Lois Tafler, Claire Lightstone, Lenora Naimark, Joan Naimark, Michael Goldstein (who now lives in Jerusalem); plus a lesser number from Toronto, Hamilton, Calgary, Edmonton and Vancouver.

At this time, Stanley announced that the Malcolm H. Stern Award was won by the JGS of Montreal. This announcement was received with great approval and applause. Numerous enthusiastic volunteers (from various cities) stepped forward to help work on this important project, of value to all those with Canadian roots – the digitizing and indexing of all Canadian naturalizations for the years 1932-1951.

Later that day, I attended Irwin Gordon's "Social Security Itemized Employment Earning Statements", which offered me strategic advice on obtaining US records for my US ancestors. Then to Roni Leibowitz's Belchatow Birds of a Feather gathering, and much later that afternoon my friend Robert Friedman, Director of the Genealogy Division of the Centre for Jewish

History, New York, lectured on the resources contained in that institute.

Of course the evening's Banquet was fully attended, the various Awards were announced, then came the keynote speaker, and the social interaction, always an exciting part of any conference, proved to be its usual rewarding self.

Next year the 26<sup>th</sup> annual IAJGS Conference will be held in New York City. I urge you to attend, whether or not you have done so in the past. You'll learn, be stimulated, meet people and have a most wonderful time!

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**The 26<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the  
International Association of  
Jewish Genealogical Societies  
will take place from Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup>  
to Friday the 18<sup>th</sup> August 2006  
in New York City.**

**It will be held at the Marriott Marquis Hotel  
in the heart of the tourist district.**



**Beautiful Downtown Montreal – situated between the St. Lawrence River and Mount Royal – Home Base  
for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal**

## IN CLOSING

*One of the objectives listed for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal in those early days of planning a decade ago reads “provide a networking forum and personal inter-action for genealogists researching their Jewish roots”. With this inaugural issue of our journal, we have just etched another notch – added another branch – watered another group of roots - (or however else you want to say it) – in the solid and growing tree that we call our society.*

**IAJGS OUTSTANDING PROJECT AWARD** for 2003 to JGS-Montreal in recognition of the unique and valuable database of 75,000 Jewish vital records in Quebec culled from the Drouin Genealogical Institute microfilms

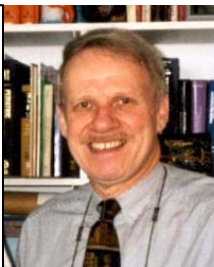
**This Montreal Forum is for you, our readers. We are relying on you to submit articles, tips, quips, cartoons, quickie anecdotes, questions, whatever. Articles and short anecdotes can be those memorable, perhaps even startling, stories you stumble upon on your search for family history. Tell us all about those enchanting discoveries which make you smile or sometimes even wince.**

**The 2005 STERN AWARD** to JGS-Montreal for their project to digitize & index the records from 1932 to 1951 of an estimated total of 400,000 CANADIAN NATURALIZATIONS

*In our first decade, we have chalked up some mightily interesting projects, some of which are noted in boxes on this page. As time goes by, we shall be giving you updates on these activities. And we have gained recognition in terms of requests for articles, lectures, and yes ----- awards.*

*Each one of us is capable of doing our own little bit to keep this momentum going.*

**IAJGS LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD** for 2002 was presented to Stanley Diamond, president of JGS-Mtl. This honour was bestowed upon him for his achievements in the role of genetics in genealogy, JRI-Poland, and also as founder and president of JGS-Montreal.



**The world famous JRI-POLAND Project** was the brainchild of our president, Stanley Diamond, a decade ago. Nurtured (some might even say bludgeoned) into shape by him over the years, it now stands high on the list of most valuable resources for Jewish genealogists.

*And now let me repeat the final sentence in the article on page 1.*

*So, welcome to the Montreal Forum, and we look forward to receiving your comments and contributions.*

*The deadline for submission of material for the December 2005 issue is Monday 14 November.*

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