

Sunday 22 October 2017

JGSGB

**24TH ANNUAL LONDON
ONE-DAY CONFERENCE
CONFERENCE NEWSLETTER**

Introduction

The Conference will be held at the Jewish Museum so that attendees will have the opportunity to hear the speakers and catch up with old friends as well as to visit the museum's galleries. The Programme Committee believe that they have brought together speakers who will provide an exceptional range of information and knowledge and appeal to all members of the Society, wherever their specialist interests may lie.

The Conference starts with a contribution from Andrew Zalewski, who is the author of two books on his Jewish roots in Galicia, including [Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots](#). He will intertwine genealogical discoveries with a broader historical context to bring to life the Jewish community of Galicia during the era of Austrian rule. Galicia, annexed into the Habsburg Monarchy in 1772, was home to a large Jewish community: approximately 10% of the population was Jewish.

Habsburg rule impacted on the 'Jewish enlightenment'. Imperial edicts were both stifling and inspiring for the Jewish community in Galicia – the laws about Jewish marriages, surnames, schools and military service brought changes, but also controversies. From inside the community emerged a wave of the Galician Enlightenment (*Haskalah*). Local Jewish cultural rebels offered biting satires and wrote poetry. Galicia's diverse community included pious traditionalists and impatient reformers, labourers and professionals, dwellers of *shtetls* and cities. Among them, passionate arguments about language (German, Hebrew, Yiddish and Polish), customs, and loyalties easily erupted. But even in difficult times, there were brave voices that spoke loudly against prejudice.



Michael Tobias is a member of the Society and was inscribed on the Roll of Honour in 2012 for his 'unparalleled skills in IT services which have benefitted incalculably the work of JGSGB, JewishGen and researching the records of the Scottish Jewish Community'. He will tell us more about his research into Scottish Jewry.

After lunch we will hear from Paula Kitching, who is the project manager for 'We Were There Too – London Jews in the First World War', which aims to document and commemorate the contribution that Jews made during WWI. The project gives people and communities the opportunity to create a personal record for someone who was present during the war (<http://www.jewsfww.london/>).

Last year we asked for feedback from attendees at the Conference about talks that they would like us to arrange for the future. One of these was a request for information about Romania. We hope that we have gone some way to meeting this request with the talk from Miriam Silverman about tracing relatives in Romania, in her case with the help of DNA.

Finally, Nicola Avery, who is principal archivist at the London Metropolitan Archives, will tell us about the resources available in their collection. Many of you may (through George Rigal's work) have researched the London insurance records, but the archives also hold papers from chief rabbis and a number of synagogues.

Conference Registration

Places at the Conference may be booked by the traditional method, and a registration form is provided at the end of this newsletter. Alternatively, you can now book online through the JGSGB shopping website. Go to the Shop menu item and scroll through all of the publications to the JGSGB Conference Ticket product (<http://shop.jgs.gb.org.uk/product/jgs.gb-annual-london-conference-2017>). If you use this method, keep the purchase receipt and bring it to the Conference.

Please print this programme and bring it with you, as extra copies will not be available on the day.

If you have any queries about the Conference, please email secretary@jgs.gb.org.uk

Martin Hill
Secretary, JGSGB

PROGRAMME

- 10.00am REGISTRATION AND COFFEE
- 10.30am Welcome
- 10.35am Galician Portraits: the Story of Jews, Gentiles and Emperors
Andrew Zalewski
- 11.55am Researching a National Jewry – the Jews of Scotland
Michael Tobias
- 12.45pm Lunch supplied by Deliphone
- 1.35pm We Were There Too – London Jews in the First World War
Paula Kitching
- 2.25pm Putting my Family Back Together: my Journey to Discover my
Romanian Roots Using AncestryDNA
Miriam Silverman
- 3.15pm Tea
- 3.35pm Sources for Jewish Genealogy at London Metropolitan Archives
Nicola Avery
- 4.25pm Closing speech: Chairman, **Leigh Dworkin**
- 4.30pm Close
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SPEAKERS' PROFILES

NICOLA AVERY

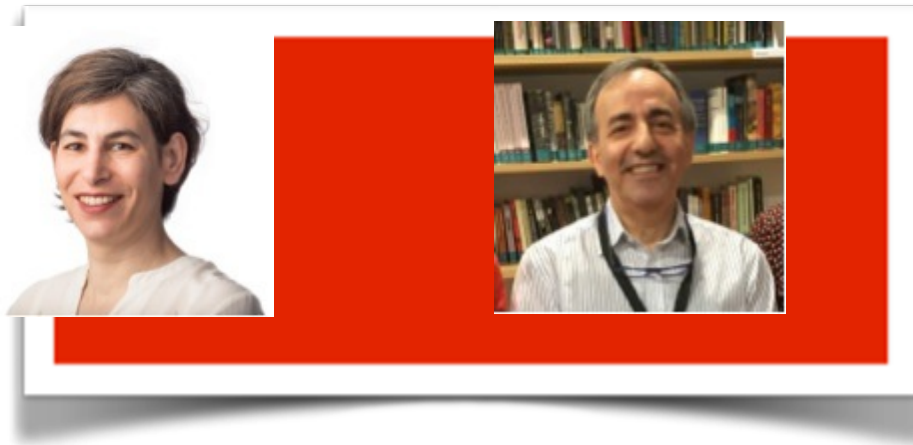
Nicola Avery is a principal archivist at London Metropolitan Archives (LMA), with special responsibility for archive systems, including LMA's electronic catalogue. She is team leader for the Collections Team, which is responsible for negotiating and receiving new deposits of archival material into LMA and for cataloguing new and legacy collections. Within the new acquisitions programme she is responsible specifically for LMA's Anglo-Jewish archives. Nicola was editor of the *London Journal* from 2004 until 2014 and Membership Secretary of Archives for London from 2005 until 2011.

PAULA KITCHING

Paula is a historian specialising in war, genocides and cultural history. She is a writer, lecturer, project manager and history guide. She has written for educational publications, books, museums, and website publication. As a freelancer Paula has worked for the Department of Education and Skills, the Royal British Legion, the Historical Association, Rayburn Tours, and the London Jewish Cultural Centre for over fifteen years. She is currently the historian and project manager for 'We Were There Too – London Jews in the First World War'.

MIRIAM SILVERMAN

Miriam is the UK Senior Content Manager at Ancestry, responsible for licensing historical collections which will be of interest to those researching their family tree.



MICHAEL TOBIAS

Michael Tobias has a BSc Honours degree in mathematics and physics and is a qualified actuary. He has a Masters' degree in Genealogical, Palaeographic and Heraldic Studies. He is a co-founder and Board Member of Jewish Records Indexing – Poland and Vice President, Programming of JewishGen, Inc. He was database matching consultant to the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims. He has contributed to various conferences,

journals, radio and TV programmes. He was awarded the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Lifetime Achievement Award in Washington in 2011.

ANDREW ZALEWSKI

Andrew is a physician and former professor of medicine at Jefferson University, Philadelphia. Andrew serves on the Board of Directors of Gesher Galicia, Inc., a non-profit organization, with a global membership, dedicated to the research of Jewish genealogy in Galicia. He is also Executive Editor of the *Galitzianer*, the organization's quarterly research journal. Andrew is interested in the history of Austrian Galicia (1772–1918) and its Jewish community. Several generations of his Jewish and Christian ancestors traced their roots to this former province of the Austrian and Austro-Hungarian Empire. He published two historical books about Galicia: *Galician Trails: the Forgotten Story of One Family* and *Galician Portraits: In Search of Jewish Roots*, which are available through Amazon. Unique archival records, population surveys, old newspapers, and cadastral maps have all provided important insights in Andrew's research in regard to governmental policies and social fabric of Galician society at the time. Andrew has been a frequent guest speaker at Jewish genealogical societies, various cultural institutions, and academic institutions. He and his wife Margaret live near Philadelphia and have two children and four grandchildren. His hobbies include travel and unearthing old records concerning Galicia.



Conference Registration Form

This registration form and payment should be sent by post to: Conference, JGSGB, PO Box 689, EDGWARE HA8 4JX or go to <http://shop.jgsqb.org.uk/catalog/downloads> to book online.

I wish to register for the 24th Annual London One-Day Conference to be held on Sunday 22nd October 2017, 10.00am – 4.30pm.

The Jewish Museum, Raymond Burton House, 129–131 Albert St, London NW1 7NB (wheelchair accessible)

Please write in BLOCK CAPITALS

Name:

Address:.....

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Telephone: Mobile:

Email:

Registration fee per person: £35.00 (£30 if registered before 16 Sept)

Non-members £40.00 (includes lunch and refreshments)

Name(s) of attendee(s):

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Number of tickets:

Cheque enclosed for £..... (Cheques to be made payable to JGSGB)

We also accept credit and debit cards. Please circle the card type: Visa/Mastercard/Eurocard.

Name on card (please print):.....

Card number:

Expiry date: 3-digit security code:

All catering is kosher but not supervised. We regret we cannot provide vegan food.

Please tick here if you require vegetarian food

Please tick here if you require gluten-free food