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National Archives Newsletter

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CLAIMS CONFERENCE FUNDS GUIDE TO GERMAN RECORDS UNDERWAY

It has been a busy summer. It started with work on a project funded by the Material Claims Conference in New York, which is using the expertise and German-language knowledge of former United Restitution Organization caseworker **Charlotte Freedman**.

Charlotte is working with us to produce an interpretive guide to the URO records and restitution claims procedures. An important part of her work is the creation of a database-driven German-to-English glossary.

The results of this project, which are expected to benefit survivors and their heirs in many countries, will be posted on the CJC Web site.

OBITUARIES TRANSLATED WITH OTTAWA JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY FUNDING

With two-thirds of the project currently completed, over one thousand Yiddish obituaries from the Montreal Yiddish daily ***Keneder Odler*** (*The Canadian Jewish Eagle*) have already been translated and added to our growing information bank. Project worker **Eiran Harris** painstakingly extracts each detail from the notices, uncovering many poignant facts along the way. Often included along with the deceased's address and family members' names are their synagogue affiliation, burial society membership, and other personal information. Once this stage of the project is completed in mid-October, the project to date will make available translated obituaries from 1908 to the early 1930s.

YOUNG CANADA WORKS SUMMER STUDENT MULTI-TASKS TO ASSIST CJVMA PROJECT

Concordia political science student **David Smajovits** worked with us this summer to add content depicting Jews outside Montreal to the **Canadian Jewish Virtual Museum and Archives** (www.cjvma.org). In the process he learned about scanning techniques and became proficient in Filemaker data entry and retrieval. His second language assignment was to translate into French all the photo captions he had written, using as a preliminary aid the free online translation service called Babelfish.



Summer 2004. Top from left: Eiran Harris, Archives Assistant H el ene Vall e, Charlotte Freedman. Bottom from left: David Smajovits, Janice Rosen. [Photo by Leona Polger]

RUSSIAN-LANGUAGE JEWISH ARCHIVES PROJECT FUNDED BY JCF FORGES AHEAD

MEANWHILE, SINCE MAY the Jewish Community Foundation-funded Russian Jewish Archives project has been making the usually quiet rooms of the CJCNA into a lively locale. A regular stream of recently settled Russian Jews have been coming in to donate materials, tour the Archives, and often be interviewed on video by project archivist **Tatiana Jour**. Close to forty individuals have donated material to date, as have three organizations.

Plans are taking shape for a public program on October 27 at 7 p.m., when CJC National Archives Chair **Dr. Norma Joseph** and Concordia University art historian **Dr. Loren Lerner** will thank the donors and discuss the importance of the collection. The event will be held in the Atrium of the Samuel Bronfman House and will feature projected images and displays of the new collections, as well as Russian music. Refreshments are being provided courtesy of the evening's co-sponsor, the **Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies**: all are welcome to attend.



Summer 2004: Tatiana videotaping an interview [Photo by Igor Tsybine]

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING FORWARD...

The information generated by the various project workers provided considerable additional data-entry work for Archives technician **Hélène Vallée**, who has also continued to update a burials register for **Canadian Jewish service personnel** in the world wars and other major conflicts. This document will also soon be available on the CJC Web site.

Janice is currently working on the program for a **graduate student colloquium** to be held at Samuel Bronfman House on November 9, featuring presenters from French and English Universities. This project

initiated by the *Institut Québécois des Études sur la Culture Juive*, is being carried out in cooperation with CJCNA and the Concordia Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.

Janice and Hélène are working with members of the Association of Jewish Libraries, Montreal Chapter, to organize an October 19 workshop on **Disaster Planning and Preparedness**, featuring Concordia University Archives expert Nancy Marrelli.

The CJC Archives staff is also planning for the first **Student Orientation Archives workshop** of the year, as a Concordia University Canadian Jewish Studies class will be visiting on September 21.

Dasvidanya! And Shana Tova to all!