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# DOROT דורות

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## My Grandmother's Photos

by Howard Rotblatt

In 2013, while visiting my mother in South Florida, I stumbled upon a bag of old photographs. I was able to recognize some of the people in the more recent photos, but most were photos of people who I had never seen before.

I asked my mom if she recognized any of these people, and if they were relatives of ours. Unfortunately, my mother could not identify anyone, and indicated that the photographs had belonged to her mother, who likely brought them with her to America from Lodz, Poland, in the late 1920s. Of the 30-40 photos in the bag, only two had writing on the reverse side. The writing was in Yiddish.

One photo was of a young couple in their late 20s or

early 30s, with their young son and young daughter; both under the age of five. The second photo was of two women and a teenage boy and girl.

Although my mother was fluent in Yiddish, and able to both read and write the language, her health was failing at that time and she had difficulty in reading what was written. I also tried, but was only able to decipher a few words; not enough to figure out what connection these people had to my grandparents. So I scanned both sides of the photos and returned to New York City with the images saved on my flash drive.

A few months later, a friend suggested that I access JewishGen, and place both sides of the photos on ViewMate. That is what I did. While no one who viewed the images was able to identify the individuals in the photos, some did provide translations of what was written on the reverse sides.

The photo with the couple and their young children read: "I am sending you my picture to remember me by. To my dear friends, the Pigulas. From me, Szlama

continued on page 4

**Please Join Us!**

**JGS, Inc. Annual Meeting**  
 Sunday, December 10, 2017 1:30 pm  
 And  
**JGS, Inc. 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reception**  
*Note: Reception follows program*  
 Center for Jewish History  
 15 West 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
 New York, NY

<b>In this issue</b>	
<p><b>My Grandmother's Photos</b> by Howard Rotblatt.....1</p> <p><b>We Invite You to Join Us!</b>..... 2</p> <p><b>President's Postings</b> by Jane Rosen Berenbeim.....3</p> <p><b>JGS Welcomes New Members</b>.....5</p> <p><b>The Untold Story of the Rescue of Syrian Jews</b> by Sarina Roffé.....6</p> <p><b>Remembering Harvey M. Krueger</b> by Miriam Weiner.....9</p> <p><b>Jewish Genealogy Portal with JewishGen.org</b> by E. Randol Schoenberg &amp; Avraham Groll.....10</p>	<p><b>IAJGS Awards Recognize Achievement</b>.....11</p> <p><b>Upcoming &amp; Current Events</b> .....13</p> <p><b>JGS Program Reports</b> by Steve Stein.....15</p> <p><b>Online News &amp; Notes from All Over</b> .....19</p> <p><b>In the Repositories</b>.....23</p> <p><b>New, Recent &amp; Noteworthy Publications</b>.....24</p> <p><b>Questioning the Experts: Interview with Nolan Altman</b>.....26</p> <p><b>JGS Friends</b>.....31</p>

# Remembering Harvey M. Krueger

## by Miriam Weiner

In the early 1990s, I was contacted by Harvey Krueger and we met shortly thereafter to discuss his interest in family history and desire to have me work with him in researching his roots in Poland and Lithuania as well as the roots of his wife, Connie (*née* Alexander), in Poland and Belarus. Ultimately, I made numerous trips to those countries for the Kruegers where I found family documents in multiple archives, took photographs and interviewed “senior citizens” of small towns.

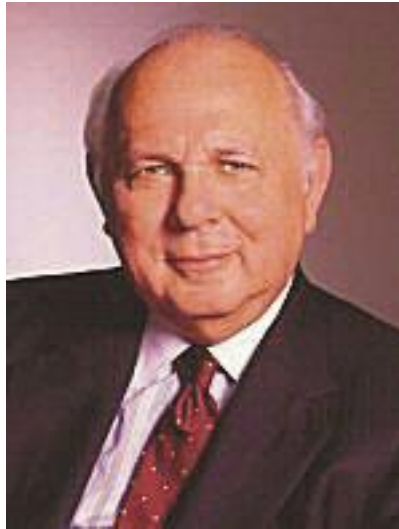
Harvey told me that his interest in “roots” began when his son Peter asked, “Where are we from?” He wrote:

I couldn’t answer him. Most of the people who might have known were gone, and I had never thought to ask them about our family’s origins and stories when they were able to tell me. Then in 1988, Peter died. I realized how important it was to answer his question, if not for Peter, then for my other children and grandchildren. Thus began a 25-year odyssey to find not only the names of our ancestors, but the stories of their lives. As the journey progressed and my family tree grew, I began to realize that my family’s history reflected the scope of Jewish history for the last 400 years, and that the story of the Krueger and Alexander families was too important to keep hidden in file cabinets. I needed to share it with all the members of my extended family....<sup>1</sup>

After my initial research for Harvey in Eastern Europe, his interest in his roots continued throughout the rest of his life; and he ultimately made multiple trips to visit his ancestral towns and took his grandchildren along with him. According to his daughter, Liz Krueger:

Harvey’s roots research impressed upon him ‘the importance of a safe homeland for Jews,’ which led him to support a wide variety of Jewish and Israeli causes, many of them educational institutions.<sup>2</sup>

Harvey was a member of our JGS society here in New York City for many years and attended meetings when he could. He supported our work in so many ways including the hosting of the 2006 IAJGS International Conference held in New York City. He also established the Lucille Gudis Fund, which underwrites public lectures, funded research projects, publications, conferences and much more. He sponsored the LIVE! Streaming feature of IAJGS conferences from its inception.



Harvey M. Krueger

Harvey was instrumental in having Anna & Stanislaw Kopec recognized by Yad Vashem as “Righteous Among the Nations” in 2002. The Kopec family hid two distant cousins of Harvey (second cousin and second cousin once-removed) in Sowina, Poland during World War II. Subsequently, The Jewish Foundation for the Righteous honored Harvey by presenting him with the Recognition of Goodness Award at an event held at the Pierre Hotel in New York City. Harvey flew several members of the Kopec family from Poland to attend this emotional event. This was the first time that Anna had been more

than a few miles from the village where she was born and it was her first trip on an airplane. When Anna spoke (via a translator), there was literally not a dry eye to be found among the attendees. I know because I was there.

In 2003, American troops in Iraq discovered a trove of Jewish documents, books and artifacts in Baghdad. The Jewish archive was found in the flooded basement of Saddam Hussein’s intelligence headquarters. The discovery of the Iraqi Jewish Archive had a profound effect on one of the Americans, Harold Rhode (a Pentagon Middle East expert) working with Team Alpha, on this mission. Harold is a long-time member of the JGS in Washington, D.C. and was instrumental in helping to secure funding for the preservation of the Iraqi material. When Harvey Krueger was made aware of the dire situation and condition of the material, he immediately stepped up to contribute substantially toward saving the Iraqi Jewish Archive.

In 1994, when I was in the midst of collecting archive inventory for my book, *Jewish Roots in Poland*, Harvey sat down with me to discuss “what’s next” and from that meeting, the Routes to Roots Foundation, Inc., was born with Harvey becoming a founding board member and substantial supporter. That relationship and friendship continued until his death. I treasure that friendship and the fact that Harvey became a mentor who guided me through my career, sometimes with a strong hand, but always with affection and good advice.

Harvey M. Krueger passed away on April 23, 1917, at the age of 88 and was buried at Riverside Cemetery in Saddle Brook, NJ.

*Miriam Weiner, the first Board-certified Jewish genealogist in the United States, is the author of Jewish Roots in Poland and Jewish Roots in Ukraine and Moldova. She is the founder of the Routes to Roots Foundation ([www.rtrfoundation.org](http://www.rtrfoundation.org)) featuring a town-by-town inventory of surviving Jewish and civil records in Eastern Europe. For more information, see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miriam\\_Weiner\\_\(genealogist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Miriam_Weiner_(genealogist)).*

**(Endnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> <http://kruegerfamily.com/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://jewishweek.timesofisrael.com/philanthropist-harvey-krueger-lover-of-israel/> ☆

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## **Jewish Genealogy Portal with JewishGen.org** **by E. Randol Schoenberg & Avraham Groll**

JewishGen.org and the Jewish Genealogy Portal, the largest Jewish Genealogy group on Facebook, have teamed up to enhance the ability of family researchers to connect with family and learn more about their Jewish family history and heritage.

Rebranded as the “Jewish Genealogy Portal with JewishGen.org,” this group now has more than 23,000 members, allowing for instant communication on a variety of topics, and enables engagement with a variety of current and potential audiences in new and helpful ways.

In addition, this group will serve as a companion platform to JewishGen’s Discussion Lists, which have more than 30,000 active participants and which will continue to allow for archiving and searching historical posts. Depending on the type of post, researchers can use either The Jewish Genealogy Portal, the JewishGen Discussion Lists or both.

This new affiliation allows JewishGen users to engage

with new technologies. JewishGen news, updates and announcements will now regularly appear on the Jewish Genealogy Portal (in addition to other areas across the JewishGen platform), and JewishGen resources will be integrated within the Jewish Genealogy Portal to create a more complete experience for researchers, enabling them to access information from a JewishGen knowledge base that has been cultivated over the past three decades.



E. Randol Schoenberg & Avraham Groll

The Jewish Genealogy Portal on Facebook is moderated by a team of dedicated volunteers who are committed to the free and open discussion of all topics related to Jewish Genealogy. Moderators include Hatte Blejer, Susan Eansor, Kevin Hanit, Anne Samachson, E. Randol Schoenberg, Philip Trauring and Elana Shapiro Wayne. Membership requests and posts are moderated quickly, and comments from group members do not require moderation, resulting in very active discussions at all times of the day and night. Users can often get answers within minutes of posting their query.