

## JGS 25th Anniversary Brunch

On November 3, 2002, one hundred and thirty-five people sat down to a lovely brunch at the Sutton Place Synagogue to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Jewish Genealogical Society. The room was beautifully decorated and the atmosphere festive as we joined together to observe this special occasion.

Alex Friedlander, president of JGS, welcomed us and introduced those past presidents who were with us on that day—Neil Rosenstein, Steven Siegel, and Estelle Guzik. Alex then presented Estelle Guzik with a plaque, thanking her for her dedication and hard work on behalf of JGS in such activities as the Brooklyn Naturalization project and the revision of the soon-to-be published **Genealogical Resources in New York**.



Debra Braverman, Miriam Weiner, Joseph Fibel and Hadassah Lipsius

After a benediction by Dr. Rosenstein, we began our lovely brunch, which included a full array of breads, smoked fish and salads, and omelets, crepes and

waffles, all made to order. As we ended this feast, our guest speaker, Miriam Weiner, started a presentation entitled “Looking Back...Looking Forward,” which traced the development of Jewish genealogy in the 25 years that JGS has existed.

Miriam spoke about the changes that have occurred because of computers, the introduction of the Internet, the collapse of the Soviet Union, and the huge interest in genealogy. She noted that the collapse of the Soviet Union allowed her and many others to begin traveling to Ukraine and other former Iron Curtain countries to do genealogical research. Following her introductory remarks, Miriam took the audience on a tour of the “old country” with

a slide presentation that also presented an overview of the development of Jewish genealogy.

Some special thanks go to the people who made this event possible. Overall planning and organization were handled by Lucille Gudis, Hadassah Lipsius, and Linda Cantor.



JGS President Alex Friedlander and Estelle Guzik

The attractive 25th Anniversary Journal

was created by Maralyn Steeg. We couldn't have organized the party without the help of our volunteers—Jordan Auslander, Adam Bronstein, Jane Foss, Gloria Freund, Larry Freund, Linda Greenman, Mike Levine, and Paul Silverstone. We also thank the many people who bought ads in the journal, thereby contributing to the Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern Education Fund. ☆

Linda Cantor

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