

The Schlissel e-Gazette

April 2002

Women Dominate Schli/ussel Cyberspace

Novelist Lillian Schlissel, and political/social affairs columnist Debbie Schlusel - are the leading Schli/ussels when it comes to "real estate" in cyberspace. Debbie is in a class by herself, with over 10,000 of 12,000 Schlusel "hits" related to her. But as noted, Schlussels in e-Gazette 2 - if and when...

Lillian is the author of 8 books that deal primarily with women pioneers, and Blacks, in the opening of the American West. Unfortunately, I could not find a biography or an email address for Lillian. I know that she used to be with the English Department at Brooklyn College, and later was the head of its American Studies Department (and maybe still is). A good portion of the more than 1000 "hits" for Lillian indicate that her writing has reached a very wide audience, and her works are a required part of the curricula at countless universities and colleges across the US. Indeed, if there is a young Schlissel out there looking for a topic for a Ph.D dissertation in humanities, the work and influence of Lillian Schlissel is fertile ground.

Progress in Immunology

If you think I can (honestly) claim to understand "RNase protection and primer assays to define the site of the RAG2 gene" you are mistaken. But working in a university setting I do know enough to say that Prof. Mark Schlissel of the Molecular and Cell Biology Department at the University of California/Berkeley, is at the cutting edge of his field. The conclusion drawn from noting the prestigious journals he has published in, the number of colleagues that cite him, the agencies that support his work, and by the number and qualification of the staff at UC/B who identify themselves as part of the Schlissel Lab. And if doing top flight research isn't sufficient, at least on one occasion Mark was recognized as "Outstanding Teacher". So for Schlissels with philanthropic inclinations, and medicine/cancer as an interest, consider your cousin.

First Meeting of Israeli Schlissel Club

The first ever meeting of the "Schlissels in Israel" took place during the intermediate days of Passover. Seven branches of the Schlissel family were present, most represented by 2 generations, some by 3, and at least one branch by 4 generations! But this is only the beginning. The time between decision to proceed and the event itself was very limited. The next major event is scheduled for the intermediate days of Succoth, and representatives from each branch are serving as the organizing committee. There are at least 50 Schlissels listed in Israel's telephone books, and through them we hope to arrive at the Schlissel women as well. U.S. Schlissels are kindly requested to provide names, phone numbers and emails of people who should be informed of our plans.



Schlissel Among Sept. 11 Victims

While the Schlissel e-Gazette is designed to be an enjoyable read, it was saddening to learn that a Schlissel was among the victims of the most devastating terrorist act in history. Jon Schlissel, 51, was a Supervisor in the New York State Department of Taxation and Finance, headquartered on the 71st floor of WTC #1. According to his brother Stuart, almost all of those who worked on his floor managed to escape, and as Jon was an energetic fellow the likelihood is that he lost his life while trying to help a (handicapped) fellow-worker escape as well. Jon, who lived in Jersey City, was a graduate of Binghamton University, and was an accomplished antique collector. In addition to Stuart, he is survived by his mother Ruth. May his memory be blessed.

Something Sweet

The most well-known Schlissel in Israel isn't actually a person, but the firm Limon-Schlissel, importers of chocolate and confectioneries. Limon the founder had a chocolate factory in Berlin, but in 1935 the Nazis informed him he had 12 hours to leave the country. With some well-placed bribes he was able to have the deadline extended to a week, but in a dream, his mother (who had passed away when he was a young boy) told him life was more valuable than assets, and urged him to flee. So he left his material goods behind, and immigrated to Palestine. Shortly there after Limon's daughter Yaffa met a fine young Schlissel named Abraham (who had recently immigrated from Raisha), they were married, he joined the family business, and the rest, as they, say is history. Abraham passed away some years ago, and the management of the firm is now in the hands of his son Rubin, who is co-Chair of the Israeli "Schlissel Club".

A Lawyer We Can be Proud Of

The law firm of Meltzer, Lippe, Goldstein and Schlissel enjoy a significant slice of the Schlissel "Internet pie", and (at least) on one of the sites we find a brief bio of a lawyer we can be proud of. Stephen W. Schlissel did his undergraduate degree at the Wharton School, and his law degree, which he received cum laude - from Harvard. Stephen lectures and publishes nationally on legal ethics, arbitration and family law issues. He has been elected to the American Bar Foundation, and the Scribes, an organization of legal writers. (As opposed to illegal writers I presume!) Visiting various MLG & S sites indicates that it is active in community affairs. I hope no Schlissel businessman or family member ever needs Steve's services, but if they do, it seems quite certain they will receive very high quality guidance and counsel.

Energy Anyone?

It was relatively late in life that I became familiar with the word "infrastructure" - all those goods that are a means to societal functioning - transportation and road networks, water supply, energy, etc. I don't know how, where and why David Schlissel became interested, but for the last 3 decades he has worked as an attorney specializing in complex engineering, economic and management issues, primarily in the field of energy. David did his engineering studies at MIT and Stanford, and his law degree at the latter. On one site, David notes that he has appeared as an expert witness in more than 70 proceedings before regulatory boards and commissions, and various sites on the web support this claim (and also the use of the word "complex"). David is based in Cambridge, Ma.

Genealogist at Work

As noted, your compiler's interest in Schlissel family ties was essentially satisfied when he clarified the connections - some 35 years ago - leading back to Laibush, but were re-ignited about a month weeks ago by the email seeking information about Schlissels who fled to Siberia during WWII. So once again he began searching Schlissel ties and roots. And no matter where he searched on the web - Schlissel, Galicia, Jewish Genealogy - he found that Gayle Schlissel Riley had been there first. Gayle began searching for her roots in 1987, an effort that picked up steam when she found the name Tarnobrzeg (written in Yiddish) on her grandfather's change of name papers from 1935. She also found that he was listed under his mother's maiden name (Hersch Ber Eder), the son of Pincus Schlissel and Chawa Eder. Gayle believes that her roots can be traced the daughter of the martyr Yoska the Holy (see Dzikov), and it is possible that this is the case for all the (Jewish) Schlissels. Gayle is still interested in finding the scions of her family that immigrated to Palestine at the turn of the last century, and hopefully the development of the Schlissel Club in Israel will help.

Arts

Dance - I first "met" Marcy Schlissel (in cyberspace) where she was listed as a participant in a performance at UCLA, but a search of its e-directory did not return any hits. But I "found" Marcy again sometime later as being affiliated with a school with the enchanting name of "Joys of Motion". Marcy is a professional dancer, choreographer, and teacher. Her work has been seen in Spain, Cuba, and throughout the US. Marcy received a Maryland State Arts Mini-grant for a work she presented at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Music - your compilers re-interest in Schlissel "linkage" was a result of an email he received from a Galicia/Jewish genealogy discussion group. It turned out that one name on that list - "Boss Charlie" belonged to Dan Schlissel. Dan was born in Worcester, Ma to immigrant parents Sam (Simcha) and Helena Schlissel. In 1982 the family moved to, as Dan calls it, the cultural Mecca of Kearney, Nebraska. Dan studied at the University of Nebraska, and as a CornHusker was responsible for booking, promoting and producing on campus concerts. And so his career direction was set, and today Dan is the owner of -ism Recordings. The origin of the name was to be "in-spite of myself", but then realized "ism" was a good way of encompassing all forms of music and thought. For more about the kinds of music that Dan is closest to, visit his site at www.ismista.com

Religion

Strange enough, when it comes to religion Schlissel cyberspace is dominated by Rev. Steve Schlissel of Sheepshead Bay. It is not clear exactly what denomination he belongs to, but it does not appear to be related to Judaism.

There Are Two

About 2 years ago a contact from UNESCO's Kenya office sent me an email informing me that a photograph by Arnie Schlissel was on display in Nairobi. That's when I learned that there are two Arnie Schlissel's roaming the planet. My namesake is involved in video and photography. His website: www.arniepix.com. While compiling this e-Gazette I learned that Arnie's UNESCO photograph was a prize winning one.

Proteksia



Compiler's brother Ted and wife Debora.
As picture was taken from the web it's fair game.

Comet In Sight

As part of its efforts to generate interest in, and support for its various programs, NASA gave citizens the opportunity to include their name on lists that are on the spacecraft StarDust now headed for the comet Wild 2, 242 million miles from earth. Fortunately for us Allison Paige Schlissel took advantage of this opportunity, so not only are Schlissels well represented in cyberspace, we now have a presence in outer space.

While in Outer Space

The movie Red Planet was produced by Charles JD Schlissel. As I understand the plot, realizing that he has made a mess here on earth, man decides to try and start over again on Mars. Unfortunately, things don't get off to a very good start there either.

Miri on TV

Just as the copy of this first ever Schlissel e-Gazette was being finalized, your compiler received a phone call from an in-law telling him that Miri Schlissel was appearing on TV's Channel One. From the Internet I knew that Miri is the principal of the an Ohr Torah School for Girls (with 650 pupils) in Jerusalem. I saw only the closing moments of the panel discussion - I believe it was about how to guide youngsters during these times of incredible stress - but I can say that Miri made an immediate impression as a woman with strong values and wisdom. The Schlissel's can be gratified that a woman of her calibre is now carrying the name.

Pot Pourri

1920 - Schlissel, Abraham and Joseph, aged 8 and 6 respectively, are listed as residents of the Hebrew National Orphans Home in Manahattan

1924 - Harry Schlissel is Republican candidate for Congress from New York's 12th district.

1996 - congratulations to Alan Michael Schlissel on passing his New York State Bar exam.

Apologies for not being more diligent and noting all the Schlissel names listed in various junior high school, high school and summer camp reunions, and of course, synagogue activities.

Dzikov - Home to the First (Traceable) Schlissel

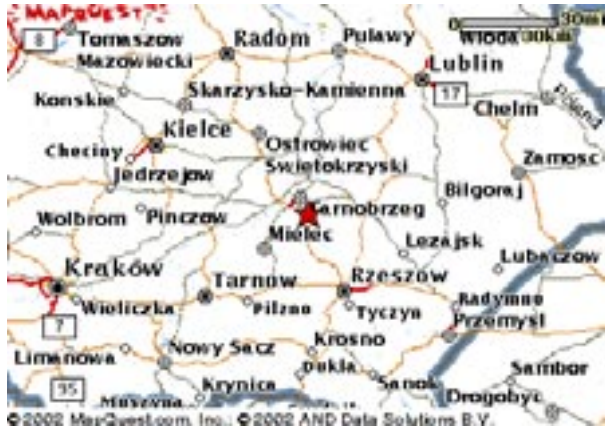
Background

I had never heard of the name Laibush when I wrote it on my family tree. Likewise Dzikov. Nor did I know how to transcribe a name with sounds not in the English language. (Many know the Yiddish work "zghlub" and can try to spell it themselves.) And the few times I tried did not find Dzikov on any map -current or historical - of Poland. This despite the fact that the name came up periodically when I asked elders about their roots, or from other Schlissels that I met. Only recently, as a result of one of the leads culled from Gayle's work, did I arrive at the Tarnobzreg-Dzikov Memorial Book. A Memorial Book because its Jewish population, including a score of Schlissel families, one of whom, Menachem Mendel, of blessed memory was the President of the community - were exterminated during the Holocaust.

I found a copy of the Tarnobzreg-Dzikov Memorial Book at the Ben-Gurion University library, and have begun summarizing its Hebrew parts in English. So something about what may be the center of origin of the (Jewish) Schlissel family.

Dvikov is located at 50.35 north/21.41 east, about 60 miles northeast of Crakow (and about 60 miles southwest of the famous Chelm). It sits on the east bank of the Vistula river. The area was rich in forests, wild game, (which is related to the origin of the name Dzikov) and fish. Its history is part of the history of Galicia as a whole, and its Jewish population probably dates back to about the 13th/14th century. The first reported record of a Jew in Dzikov is from 1556 and the honor goes to one Menashe Garfunkle.

During this general period the establishment of cities was an activity pursued by the nobility both as a sign of status, and in expectation of an income stream, and in May 1593 the Polish king Zygmunt III issued a charter to Count Stanislaw Tarnowski to establish one, and hence Tarnobrzeg came into being. Jews played a central role in its economic and commercial development. Over time the boundaries of Dzikow and Tarnobrzeg merged, and the former was incorporated into the latter. (Which explains why not knowing how to spell it was only one reason I couldn't find it.)



The Blood Libel

When I arrived in Israel, Abraham Schlissel of blessed memory of Bnei Brak, gave me a copy of a typed sheet - obviously quite old - which described an incredible event. At the bottom it noted that it was committed to paper by Noah Feldman, son of Toba Schlissel Feldman. None of the Noah Feldman's I contacted were the right one. Ironically, in preparing for the Schlissels in Israel event I learned that Noah Feldman's son lives right here in Beer Sheva! The Tarnobzeg-Dzikow book reports on this same event in some detail. There are two main versions. What they have in common:

- In the year 1727 the shochet (ritual slaughterer) Yoska Skolnik, and a number of other Jews, were accused of killing a gentile in order to use his blood for Passover matzoh.
- Countess Tarnowski tries, convicts, orders that the Jews be burned alive.
- Countess Tarnowski is blinded, possibly by the ashes of the victims. How and when she is blinded is the primary difference between the versions.
- The gentile who was supposedly killed returns to Dzikow and the Countess orders that the Jews be compensated in perpetuity. (Heating wood for the poor Jews and the Bet Midrash during winter, and "guilt money" in the spring.)
- The Tarnowski compensation continued up until the Holocaust. (In 1929, Count Zedeslov Tarnowski considered putting it to an end, but when a tremendous fire almost totally destroyed his castle he took it as a sign from above, and abandoned the idea.)

Is the tale of the Blood Libel True? According to the Tarnobzeg-Dzikow memorial book, every household knew about it (even though there were slight variations), and there was a pile of stones in the old cemetery that were purported to contain the remains of the martyrs. So my inclination is to accept it as a historical reality.

How does this story relate to the Schlissels? In 1911 Rabbi David Schlissel published a book "The House of David" in which he describes the genealogy of the Schlissels back to the daughter (Chana) of the martyr Yoska. Her sons were Laibush and Zecil Schlissel. I have not yet obtained the book. At this time I only have copies of some of the pages, and the Hebrew is a bit difficult. But if and when there is another Schlissel e-gazette I hope to be able to report more.

The Horowitz Dynasty

I must confess that growing up (secularly) in Brooklyn, the dynasties I was most familiar with were the New York Yankees and the Boston Celtics.. (The Lombardi Green Bay Packers did not dominate long enough to be considered a dynasty.)

In Dzikov, however, there was a Rabbinical dynasty - 5 generations of the Horowitz (or Hurwitz) Family that for over 100 years set the spiritual tone, and gave Dzikov a status in the Jewish world that belied its tiny size and population. While there is general agreement on how the Horowitz dynasty began in Dzikov, there are two versions as to who was the Head of the Jewish Community at the time. In one version it is Shimon Reich, in the other it is Alexander Zecil Schlissel. But the versions are in agreement that in order to bring the founder of the dynasty, Rabbi Eliezer Horowitz, to Dzikov, it was necessary to persuade the incumbent, Rabbi Eliyahu Spiegel, who was old and fragile, to retire. And the method they used would today be referred to as a "golden parachute".

To be Continued...

Your compiler has not yet completed reading the Tarnobrzeg-Dzikov Memorial Book, and as noted "House of David" is also on the agenda in the search for the ties that bind.

World Gathering of Schlissels in Poland?

The idea of organizing a World Gathering of Schlissels to visit Dzikov (probably during autumn 2003) has been raised. Organizing such an event is no small task, and whether to proceed or not will, in good measure, be a function of the interest expressed by Schlissels in Israel, and the US/Canada.

Your compiler, Arnie Schlissel, during a recent visit to Niger (West Africa). Trying to make the world a little better for some (but without illusions or delusions).

