



B'NAI GOMBIN

Quarterly Newsletter of
THE GOMBINER YOUNG MEN OF NEW JERSEY

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B'NAI GOMBIN is the quarterly newsletter of the Gombiner Young Men of New Jersey. Everything published in B'NAI GOMBIN is meant to provide information for Gombiners and descendants of Gombiners. Articles, stories, poems, or other genres about Jewish genealogy, Poland, Gombin, or other subjects of interest to Gombiners submitted, will be published in B'NAI GOMBIN. Submissions are subject to minor editing as necessary. Gombiners are also encouraged to submit information about births, marriages, deaths and other milestones to the Bulletin. Deadlines for articles and bulletin submissions will be given in the next issue of B'NAI GOMBIN.

Newsletter Plans

B'NAI GOMBIN, as stated in the box on the front page, is the quarterly newsletter of the Gombin Young Men of New Jersey. The purpose of the newsletter is to

- inform Gombiners and descendants of Gombiners about new projects
- involve as many people as possible in the Gombin projects of their interest
- publish stories, poems or articles of interest to Gombiners
- and provide a means of communication between Gombiners.

Gombiners of all ages are encouraged to submit any works of any genres of interest to other Gombiners. All submissions will be published if received before publication. If not, the submission will be published in the next issue.

Another plan for this newsletter is to serve as a bulletin of births, marriages, deaths and other such milestones. Everyone is encouraged to inform me of such events and they will be posted in the following issue. Please send submissions to Noam Lupu at 650 Teak Ct. Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

I hope everyone enjoys this newsletter and is able to join us in keeping the memory of Gombin alive.

August Meeting

Marking the first multigenerational Gombiners meeting is the August 11 meeting at Temple Beth Shalom in Livingston, New Jersey. From noon to 5 o'clock, Gombiners of all generations will come together to continue the renewed interest in Jewish history and culture. Craig and Rane Weinstein have coordinated supervised children's activities so the whole family can join us. The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Opening remarks by Raymond Boll,
Ben Kleinert and Harold Boll (lunch)
Commemoration of Philip Gerkin's
90th Birthday

1:00 pm - 2:15 pm

"Gombin and The Renewed Interest in
Jewish Roots:" talk by Dr. Leon
Zamosc, discussion

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm

Break

2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

"Looking Back: Honoring our ancestors:" Sam Rafel's 1937 film of Jewish Gombin, genealogical work by Gombiners (moderated by Noam Lupu)

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm

Break

4:15 pm - 5:00 pm

"Looking Forward: Preserving our heritage:" presentation and discussion of current issues of interest to Gombiners (moderated by Harold Boll)

Following the lunch meeting will be an informal evening garden party, weather permitting. There,

we will discuss memories of Gombin and share photographs and other documents. All documents and pictures will be copied on the spot as part of an attempt to collect as much information about Gombin as possible into one location. A pamphlet of information found by research done by Dr. Zamosc will be sold at the meeting. Copies of the amazing documentary film of Gombin taken by Sam Rafel in 1937, which will be shown at the meeting, will also be sold. For more copies or information about either the film or pamphlet, contact Dr. Leon Zamosc at University of California at San Diego, 9055 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093 or lzamosc@weber.ucsd.edu.

Current Project Proposals

Database #1—Gombiners and Descendants of Gombiners: This database has already been started, compiling the addresses of the households of all Gombiners and descendants of Gombiners. We hope that everyone in this database will also join the Gombiner Society, but that is not the purpose of the database. The purpose of this database is to keep a record of all Gombiner households, for genealogical research use. On page 4 you will see the names of the Gombiners already entered in the database. Please add your name if you are not on the list.

Database #2—Gombin Holocaust Survivors: Many organizations already have databases for compiling the names and stories of Holocaust

survivors. Nevertheless, we would like to keep the names and survival stories of each Gombiner who survived the Holocaust together in one database. This database will serve only documentary and research purposes. We hope that all the Gombin Holocaust survivors will at least give us their names and a paragraph about how they survived. You may write as much or as little as you wish, being as specific as you can be. If a Gombin Holocaust survivor is deceased, we strongly urge their children to write as much as they know and submit that information to the database.

Database #3—Residents of Gombin in 1939: Realizing it would be impossible to compile the names of all the residents of Gombin in 1939, we would like to try to make a database with the names of all the people living in Gombin in 1939 before the Nazi invasion of Poland. If possible, we would like everyone who lived in Gombin in 1939 to submit as many names as they can remember, grouping households together.

If you have any questions or wish to submit information, please contact Noam Lupu, whose address appears in the box on the front page of this issue.

Translation of the Gombin Yizkor Book: The Gombin Yizkor Book, published in the US after the Holocaust, is a storehouse of information for genealogical research. Many of us interested in researching Gombin could gain a lot from the information in the Gombin Yizkor Book. For those of us who cannot read Yiddish, the language in

which the Yizkor Book is written, an English translation would be very helpful. The first task for this project is to locate copies of the Yizkor Book. Next, with the help of anyone fluent in Yiddish and English who is willing to translate parts of the book, the book will be translated into English. A complete packet of the translation will then be sold to anyone interested. If anyone can help in translation or has a copy of the Yizkor Book, please contact Harold Boll at 36 Grayson Rd. Winchester, MA 01890 or boll@keps.com..

Chelmno Plaque: The site of the Chelmno concentration camp contains a wall of plaques in memory of those who perished in the camp. According to extensive research, Dr. Leon Zamosc found numerous documents stating that the Gombin ghetto was liquidated in 1942 and all the Gombin Jews taken to Chelmno, where they were killed. In memory of those Jews, we would like to buy a plaque to be placed on the wall at the site of the Chelmno camp, using funds from memberships and donations. For further information please contact Dr. Leon Zamosc at the address in the above article.

Restoration of Gombin Jewish Cemetery: The Gombin Jewish cemetery is today a field with a number of fallen tombstones, in a state of disrepair. We wish to set up a memorial in the cemetery to commemorate the Jews of Gombin. Fund-raising will be necessary, but we hope to get funds from Holocaust organization in the US, Israel and Poland. We do know that the land of the Jewish cemetery legally belongs to the Jewish community,

according to a 1990 document we obtained.

All of these project proposals will be discussed at the August 11 meeting. If approved, work will begin on each project. Anyone interested in helping with any of the projects is urged to contact the person in charge of it.



Gombin E-mail Exchange

In December of 1995, Dr. Leon Zamosc began an e-mail exchange that grew to include 9 people. The Gombin E-mail Exchange discusses the projects that will be proposed at the August meeting as well as other sources of Gombin research information like inclusion in the Shtetlinks World Wide Web home page to provide a forum for anyone to get information about Gombin.