



B'NAI GOMBIN

Newsletter of the Gombin Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society

The Gombin Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society (GJHGS) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization that seeks to educate the public about the history and genealogy of the Jews of Gombin. To achieve this goal, the GJHGS collects and publishes relevant materials, encourages historical and genealogical research, and undertakes activities aimed at preserving documents and relics of the culture and history of Jewish Gombin.

B'nai Gombin is the newsletter of the GJHGS. Everything published in *B'nai Gombin* is meant to provide information for Gombiners and their descendents. Articles, stories, poems, or other genres about Jewish genealogy, Poland, Gombin, or other subjects of interest to Gombiners submitted, may be published in *B'nai Gombin*. The views and opinions expressed in *B'nai Gombin* are not necessarily those of the Gombin Society. For further information, contact the Gombin Society by mail at 185 Skyline Drive, Highland Mills NY 10930 or by email. www.gombinsociety.org

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The officers and board members of the Gombin Society and their families wish you a good, healthy and sweet New Year, 5769

לשנה טובה רחמנא

L'Shanah Tovah Tikatevu

Photographs of Gombin from the collection of Max Guyer

Max Guyer (*Chaja*) was my “uncle,” but I don’t actually know exactly how we were related. From the time we all immigrated to the U.S., he and his family- including his first wife Zelda (Teifeld), then after her death, his second wife Genia (Zelda’s sister), and my “cousins” Aida and Norma- lived in the flat below us on Hazelwood and later on Leslie in Detroit. We were all Gombiners. (Cont. p 4)



Photo of the Teifeld sisters: Esther, Hania, Zelda, Genia, Sarah, taken in Gombin, April 27, 1930.

Max Guyer's Photo Album of Gombin





Now wiggeną
 pamięćką,
 opiaruję ci, moja,
 kochanie,
 Z. Lesmka
 Gdynia d. 7/9 1919r.

Kiełkowska
 Z. Szfeldówna
 w miejscu.



1910 nie / 12 / 15 / 16 / 17 / 18 / 19 / 20 / 21 / 22 / 23 / 24 / 25 / 26 / 27 / 28 / 29 / 30 / 31 / 32 / 33 / 34 / 35 / 36 / 37 / 38 / 39 / 40 / 41 / 42 / 43 / 44 / 45 / 46 / 47 / 48 / 49 / 50 / 51 / 52 / 53 / 54 / 55 / 56 / 57 / 58 / 59 / 60 / 61 / 62 / 63 / 64 / 65 / 66 / 67 / 68 / 69 / 70 / 71 / 72 / 73 / 74 / 75 / 76 / 77 / 78 / 79 / 80 / 81 / 82 / 83 / 84 / 85 / 86 / 87 / 88 / 89 / 90 / 91 / 92 / 93 / 94 / 95 / 96 / 97 / 98 / 99 / 100 / 101 / 102 / 103 / 104 / 105 / 106 / 107 / 108 / 109 / 110 / 111 / 112 / 113 / 114 / 115 / 116 / 117 / 118 / 119 / 120 / 121 / 122 / 123 / 124 / 125 / 126 / 127 / 128 / 129 / 130 / 131 / 132 / 133 / 134 / 135 / 136 / 137 / 138 / 139 / 140 / 141 / 142 / 143 / 144 / 145 / 146 / 147 / 148 / 149 / 150 / 151 / 152 / 153 / 154 / 155 / 156 / 157 / 158 / 159 / 160 / 161 / 162 / 163 / 164 / 165 / 166 / 167 / 168 / 169 / 170 / 171 / 172 / 173 / 174 / 175 / 176 / 177 / 178 / 179 / 180 / 181 / 182 / 183 / 184 / 185 / 186 / 187 / 188 / 189 / 190 / 191 / 192 / 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1/2



"Makabi"
 Gdynia
 w roku
 1929.

Zakład Fotograficzny
 Z. RUDNIK
 w GARDNIE, ul. Piłsudskiego
 4224



14. VII. 1934
 294/2
 Hanka, Genia,
 Abraham, Ester and
 Zelda and others
 in Gdynia

Max Guyer's Photo Album of Gombin

When we lived together in Detroit in the 1950s, I was too young to recognize that there was something different about a family that named its two daughters, Aida and Norma; what did we know about opera! In that post-war period, our discussion of Gombin was colored by the tragedy of the Holocaust and by the distressed young concentration camp survivors who were arriving in the U.S. from the European D.P. camps. The background to the story was Gombin as rural shtetl with its Jewish and Polish peasants- the "Tevya story."

But the collection of photos kept by Max Guyer tells a much more complex and nuanced story of Gombin in the inter-war period, the 1920s and 30s. These photos show us the wealthy and modern Teifeld family, with five beautiful daughters, of whom two perished in the Holocaust. Look at the quality of the posed photographs, taken at one of several professional photographers in Gombin- "Moderne" and "Z. Rudnick." This was not a peasant family.

In the Spring 2008 issue of B'nai Gombin, we translated much of the article from the Gombin Yizkor book about the drama club. There were also book clubs, political organizations, several daily Yiddish newspapers and sports teams. This set of photos shows the "Maccabees" of Gombin in their weight-lifting outfits. The young men sit in front of a newspaper called the "Folks Tseitung" (People's Newspaper). Did you ever think you would see a photo of wealthy Jews from Gombin

posing on their sailboat on one of the area's small lakes? What is your reaction to the young couples posing with a hunter in leather boots, toting a shot gun? What do you make of the furs, jewelry, posh hats? These photos reveal a sophisticated, modern, educated, worldly side of Gombin. More than Tevya's shtetl.

It was exciting for me to visit Aida (Guyer) Cutler, my childhood cousin and friend, and go through the boxes of Max and Zelda's photographs. Melvin Guyer and his son Matt Guyer were also there. There are hundreds of photos in this treasure trove. Many have notations on the back in either Yiddish or Polish. Some indicate the date and the photographer. Some, of course, are in very bad shape.

Many Gombiner families still have boxes of photographs from their parents and grandparents. It is our duty to find these and attempt to preserve and protect them from further wear and aging. Ideally we would have a group of Gombiners and friends translate the Yiddish and Polish so that we might know more about the lives of Gombiners in this period. The time is rapidly passing when we can hope to identify the people in the photos- but again, we must try. If any of the readers of this article are willing, we should undertake a project to save the photographic heritage of Gombin.

To discuss collections of Gombin photos and to plan to preserve and archive them, please contact Bernie Guyer at 410-366-2760 or bguyer@jhsph.edu

Annual Meeting of the Gombin Society
Sunday, October 5, 2008, 11am to 3 pm
Temple Beth-El Mekor Chayim
338 Walnut Avenue, Cranford, N.J. 07016
908-276-9231

Kosher brunch will be served.

Agenda to include:

- Election of officers
- Discussion of Gombin Society projects including the Synagogue memorial
- Update on the "Lilliput" film: Minna Packer
- Reports on recent trips to Gombin, including Sebastian's wedding
- Suspected vandalism at the Gombin Jewish Cemetery
- Old Photographs of Gombin
- Meet other Gombiners

Attendance at the meeting is \$10 per person to cover the cost of lunch and overhead. The cost of the meeting is reduced to \$5 for those who also pay their 2008-09 Society dues (\$60).

Please RSVP to Mindy Prosperi at 845-928-8211 or
mpropsperi@optimum.net

The Gombin Jewish Historical & Genealogical Society

Renew your membership: US member- \$60_____ ; International member- \$36_____ ;

Student member- \$10_____ ;

Special donations: _____.

Special donation for synagogue project____ ; **Lilliput film project**_____.

Name (print) _____

Mailing address _____

Email address: _____

Make check to: **Gombin Society**. Mail to **185 Skyline Drive, Highland Mills NY 10930**



GOMBIN JEWISH HISTORICAL &
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

PRESIDENT: To be elected; SECRETARY: Minna Packer; TREASURER: Mindy Proseri

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Phil Ball, Elliot Ballen, Dana Boll, Harold Boll, Arthur Gertzman, Bernard Guyer, Soren Packer, Joe Richards, Jonathan Rigbi.

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Mailing address: 185 Skyline Drive, Highland Mills NY 10930

Website URL: www.gombinsociety.org



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