



MISHPOCHOLOGY

Volume 27, Number 1 March 2022

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www.jgsswf.org <https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

Zoom Program: Sunday, March 20, 2022

(12:45 p.m. Socializing) (1:00 p.m. Program)

Help! I Got My DNA Tested and I'm Confused
By Gil Bardige

For more information or to access the Zoom link:

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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

When we surveyed our membership in 2021 regarding the topics they wanted us to program, a significant number indicated that they wanted presentations and assistance on research methods and on specific geographic locations. Our January meeting responded to those requests. Unfortunately, Covid interrupted our plan to have an in-person meeting on January 16. Out of an abundance of caution, we changed the January 16 meeting to a virtual meeting. Five presenters shared their expertise on doing research in the following areas:

- General Research Methods by Leah Cook
- Poland by Douglas Cohen
- Lithuania by Barry Halpern
- Ukraine/Galicia by Mike Schwartz
- Bessarabia/Moldova by Yefim Kogan

Each presenter spoke about ten minutes followed by a short Q&A.

The February program featured Emily Garber. Emily Garber has been researching her Jewish family heritage since 2007 and holds a certificate from Boston University's Genealogical Research program. She is a family history researcher, writer and speaker and owns Extra Yad Genealogical Services. Emily blogs at <https://extrayad.blogspot.com/>, has written two books and several articles on genealogical research. She serves as chair of the Phoenix Jewish Genealogy Group and board member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and the Arizona Jewish Historical Society.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of SW FL has several of their past programs recorded (and its handouts) on their website.

- 1) Go to <http://www.jgsswf.org/>
- 2) Look for blue box on the lower left side of the screen.
- 3) Scroll down to the blue box that says "Click this box to access the JGSSWF video archives of past meetings."
- 4) Click on the blue box.

Two-Part Genealogy Series by Gil Bardige

Part 1 (**March 20, 2022**) is Help! I Got My DNA Results and I'm Confused. Part 2: (**May 15, 2022**) is Help! I Got My Autosomal DNA Results - What are the Next Steps? Both programs begin at 1:00 p.m. on Zoom. Socializing begins at 12:45 p.m. Part 2 was originally scheduled for April 17, but the date has been changed. For more information or to get the Zoom link, contact Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com or 941-302-1433.

Did you get your autosomal DNA results? Do you have thousands of matches that the testing companies tell you are close relatives, only to find that they don't share a surname or town in common? Confused? Frustrated? You are not alone. So, take a deep breath and join Gil in understanding your results of ethnicity and matches; how to prioritize them and reduce the thousands of matches to numbers you can research and maybe find keys to expanding your genealogy family tree. Part 1 in this series is for beginners and others who are just stuck on don't know what to do next, Maybe you need a restart? Gil will share the processes and techniques that he uses to prioritize matches to get organized and feel like you can accomplish something and know what to do next. In the end, you will be able to say, "Now I understand, I get it, I know what to do."

Genealogy Conferences

42nd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy takes place in Philadelphia August 21 thru August 25, 2022.

RootsTech 2022 takes place online March 3 thru March 5, 2022. Register for free at www.rootstech.org.

Learn about Family History on a Cruise

by Susan Schlossberg, JGS of SW FL member

Interested in learning about your family history while enjoying a European River cruise? AMA Waterways is offering a Jewish journey with an Ancestry.com genealogist along with a Jewish Heritage Experience on either the Rhine or the Danube Rivers. To constitute a group, we must have 10 staterooms to make this possible. As a travel agent with almost 40 years of experience, please reach out for this spring, 2023 opportunity.

Susan A. Schlossberg, CTA, DS (941.201.3552)

Welcome New Members

Esme and Eric Faerber, Julie Friedman,
April Hennessy Davis, Bert Sheffer

Wonderful World of Websites

- <https://www.youtube.com/c/holocaustmuseum/videos>
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum Videos
- <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/four-ways-dna-painter-can-help-with-your-family-history-research/>
Four Ways DNA Painter Can Help You with Your Research
- <https://familytreewebinars.com/webinar/an-introduction-to-dna-painter/>
An Introduction to DNA Painter
- <https://evernote.com/>
Evernote Organizing
- <https://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/start-research/faqs>
National Archives Frequently Asked Questions
- <https://www.archives.gov/files/publications/general-info-leaflets/1-about-archives.pdf>
National Archives Leaflet
- <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/1030/>
Public Member Trees on Ancestry.com
- <http://www.jewishlink.net/genealogy.html>
Jewish Genealogy Links Page
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X8UWGoZx_zQ
GEDMatch Shared Matches Tool: People Who Match Both Kits
- <https://www.zooniverse.org/projects/arolsen-archives/every-name-counts>
Arolsen Archives: Every Name Counts
- <https://www.dataminingdna.com/united-states-surname-ranking-tool/>
Data Mining Tool (surname ranking tool)
- <https://dna-explained.com/2021/07/23/whats-the-difference-between-pedigree-collapse-and-endogamy/>
The Difference between Pedigree Collapse and Endogamy
- https://whoareyoumadeof.com/blog/what-is-european-jewish/?fbclid=IwAR0fb-PNUu7m0h9JSclEOQOipt4IXwH_cka8D7GXnzbmx4GYKcKE58uoeUg
What is European Jewish?
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ofvf8JRDvf8>
DNA Labels on MyHeritage
- https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/historic-jewish-american-newspapers-online/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=historic-jewish-american-newspapers-online
Historical Jewish American Newspapers Online
- <https://edu.gcfglobal.org/en/word2010/using-a-template/1/>
Creating Documents with Templates on Word 2010
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YktZ3B-tyqs>
How to Create Fillable Forms in Microsoft Word
- <https://geneteka.genealodzy.pl/index.php?op=gt&lang=eng&bdm=B&w=25po>
Geneteka Genealogy
- <https://lostrussianfamily.wordpress.com/2021/11/20/genetek-a-expands-its-free-database-to-add-indexed-russian-vital-records/>
Find Lost Russian and Ukrainian Family
- <https://idnc.library.illinois.edu/?a=cl&cl=CL1&sp=CJP&e=-----en-20--1--img-txIN----->
Chicago Jewish Post Archive
- <https://www.americanjewisharchives.org/research/genealogy>
American Jewish Archives (genealogy research resources)
- <https://sites.americanjewisharchives.org/collections/genealogy.php>
American Jewish Archives (genealogy guide)
- <https://sites.americanjewisharchives.org/collections/genealogyResources.php>
American Jewish Archives (genealogy resources outside AJA)
- <https://www.americanjewisharchives.org/research/digital-collections>
American Jewish Archives (digital collections)
- <https://www.americanjewisharchives.org/wp-content/uploads/First-American-Jewish-Families.pdf>
American Jewish Archives (*First American Jewish Families*)
- <https://sites.americanjewisharchives.org/publications/fajf/search.php>
American Jewish Archives (*First American Jewish Families* searching for specific families)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSfWAR0KckM>
Your Genealogy Legacy
- <https://www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/jewish/jewish-genealogy-online-resources/>
Ten Essential Online Jewish Genealogy Resources
- <https://www.pbs.org/weta/finding-your-roots/watch/tv-schedule>
Finding Your Roots (2022 episodes)
- <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2021/06/a-bronx-tale-one-sperm-donor-19-siblings-and-six-decades-of-secrets/>
One Sperm Donor, 19 Siblings (with Jewish connection)
- https://www.familysearch.org/search/?cid=em-brc-11316&mkt_tok=NTc4LVRUWC04NzQAAAGB3eBcdvdiXjJ10Sb0MTDU5RyMlaRPuI5qDhCyNxbv8JZjppHSPRX_md09iZJmJ03OjXpWLccSvX8k38IcEVexTV_Bv6DT1JEY653mvrONFi7RA
Family Search (quick search for your last name)

Modern Bubba Meises? From Poetry to Intrigue to Karma

by Jeffrey Knisbacher

What a Tangled Web We Weave!—Sir Walter Scott

My mother Rea Lehman Knisbacher (b. 1920, d. 2009) was a prolific writer and an avid amateur photographer. Among the writings that we collected after her passing were many essays on history, politics and philosophy, and over fifty years of Letters to the Editor of the various editions of the Baltimore Sunpapers. Those letters largely dealt with serious topics: Civil Rights, anti-Semitism, and defense of Israel from constant attack.

Since our move to Bradenton, Florida last August this obsessive pack rat has been continuing to sort through dozens of stacks of papers that I accumulated over the years and process them in three groups: trash, genealogy material to be forwarded to the Jewish Museum of Maryland (to finalize an earlier donation of some thirty notebooks of alphabetized records and even more loose papers, filed as the Knisbacher-Lehman Family Archives), and personal works pertaining to our immediate family, to be passed down to our children and grandchildren. Among the current finds is a set of seven faded typed pages of poetry (dated 1939-1974), from early romantic “sonnets”, to punning verse on history and philosophy, to playful doggerel (she was a devoted fan of Ogden Nash), some of which references events in the lives of our parents’ close friends.

Two of these poems are addressed to their friends, Sam Pelovitz and his wife Mildred, née Pushkin, Pelovitz, neither of whom I believe I ever met. However as a teenager I was in Habonim (a Labor Zionist youth group) and at its Camp Moshava, with a girl named Cecille Pelovitz. And in earlier research, about how my mother met my father, I had read a story about two Joshuas, SCHKLOVEN and PELOVITZ, both members of Po’alei Zion, the Labor Zionist group that my maternal grandparents belonged to, who passed away the same week in 1938. Schkloven had been the father of my mother’s steady boyfriend at the time, Yudel Schkloven; and Pelovitz was celebrated as the author of the words to the “oath” that was set to music and sung at each meeting of the Po’alei Zion. Since this group was the forerunner and founder of Habonim, I conjectured that Joshua Pelovitz and Cecille must be from the same family and possibly that Cecille was Joshua’s granddaughter. Perhaps my mother’s poetry targets, Sam and Mildred, were Cecille’s parents. Here are my mother’s two poems to them:

For Sam Pell in Hospital

Knowing your abhorrence
For the Hallmark type of greeting.
We proffer you assurance
Ours holds not the sort of fleeting
 Regimented wishes such as these.
No! (Fortissimo) With fervency
Our desires are deeply laced.
In all good faith and earnest, we
Beseech you, Sam: For goodness' sake,
 Stop that goofing off already, please!

1974

On the occasion of the Pelovitzes’ 40th anniversary
To Mildred:
Little did you dream, when just for the hell of it,
You decided to doff Pushkin for Pelovitz,
T’would indeed be your dowry from Samuel Pel:
Years of cultured, articulate, finely-drawn Hell!
 P.S. Happy, happy anyhoo! Best wish with love to both of you!

After reading these two poems, I went on a search for Samuel Pelovitz, suspecting that he might be the son of Joshua Pelovitz, the man who wrote the “Shvuoh” (oath) of the Labor Zionist group that my maternal grandparents belonged to.

I very quickly found his tombstone on Find a Grave, which had six lines, line 3 in Hebrew:



1. HUSBAND-FATHER-GRANDFATHER
2. SAMUEL JOSEPH PELOVITZ
3. YESHAYA YOSEF SON OF YEHOSHUA HESHEL (my translation of the Hebrew)
4. SEPT. 22, 1908---FEB. 9, 1985
5. MARRIED JANUARY 14, 1934
6. HE GAVE THE WORDS

My mother's 40th anniversary poem to the Pelovitzes was dated 1974 and here, in an unusual notation for Jewish gravestones that I have come across, was a precise marriage date, for the year 1934, forty years from my mother's poem. And even stranger, a cryptic message at the very bottom: HE GAVE THE WORDS, which must relate to my mother's last lines "years of cultured articulate finely drawn hell." I will come back to this later, but note also here that the name in Hebrew on the tombstone is Yeshaya Yosef, which in normal translation would be Isaiah Joseph, not Samuel Joseph. (We Jews never make things easy!)

The next step in my search was to check if Yehoshua Heshel (Samuel's father according to this stone) was the Joshua Pelovitz who authored the Shvuoh, the oath that was set to music and sung as a kind of anthem at the beginning of each Labor Zionist meeting. And here the real tangle began.

There were no less than three Joshua Pelovitzes in Baltimore who might fit the bill, where two of them shared the same doublet name Harry Joshua Pelovitz aka Joshua Harry Pelovitz. The Heshel listed on Samuel's gravestone for his father could easily have become Harry in English. The listing of this Joshua's children below, make it obvious that this was Samuel Joseph's father.

1. Harry Joshua, or Joshua Harry, PELOVITZ,
Joshua H Pelovitz

1930 United States Federal Census

- Birth Circa 1876 - Lithuania
- Residence 1930 - Baltimore (Districts 1-250), Baltimore (Independent City), Maryland, USA
- Wife Ethel Pelovitz
- Children Helen Pelovitz, Samuel J Pelovitz, Gertrude Pelovitz, Silva Pelovitz

Die shvuoh | Library of Congress

<https://www.loc.gov/item/ihas.200155113>

Joshua H. Pelovitz, Baltimore, 1912. Subject Headings - Jews -- United States -- Music
Harry Joshua Pelovitz Pelovitz

This listing from the Library of Congress with a date of 1912, the year of the Titanic disaster, would work for Joshua H. since he was born around 1876, thus making him about 36 years old at the time of the drafting of the Oath.

(As an aside, there were several Yiddish songs composed about the Titanic. A performance of one of them can be watched on YouTube at this site:

Dos greste yam umglik mit der shif Titanik (The great ocean disaster with the ship Titanic) Yiddish - YouTube)

From My Heritage:

Harry Joshua, or Joshua Harry, PELOVITZ, son of Menachem Mendel, d. 1938

These further data from My Heritage give Joshua's father's name, Menachem Mendel and note a sibling named Samuel. Was this a real Samuel (Hebrew Shmuel) or another Yeshaya for whom Joshua's son Samuel J. may have been named?

From Find a Grave:

Ohel Yakov Beth Israel cemetery, provided the elaborate vertical tombstone for this Joshua, with nine lines in Hebrew and four lines at the bottom in English:

1. DEAR
2. FATHER
3. JOSHUA H. PELOVITZ
4. 1875-1938

The three most important lines of the Hebrew are these, again my translation:

An honorable man and brilliant scholar
A divinely inspired poet
Devoted to our people and our Land

This tombstone puts it all together, sort of. The Hebrew lacks the Heshel part, though the English at the bottom does have Joshua H. and the years 1875 to 1938. The Hebrew also has his father as Menachem Mendil (with a yod between the dalet and the lamed). More significant are the three Hebrew lines above. Clearly this was an allusion to his authorship of the Labor Zionist Oath. So I was right in my guess that my mother's Sam Pelovitz might be the son of the Joshua who authored the Oath, and he apparently inherited from his father the ability with language that my mother alluded to in the poem. But who are the other two Joshuas and was Cecille the daughter of this Sam J. Pelovitz?



פנ

איש נכבד משכיל מפואר
משורר בהסדר עליון
מסור לעמנו ולארצנו

יהושע פעלאוויץ

בר מנהם מענדיל

נפטר יב לחודש אדר א'
תרצ"ה

תנצב"ה

DEAR
FATHER
JOSHUA H. PELOVITZ
1875 — 1938

2. Harry Joshua, or Joshua Harry, PELOVITZ, son of Naftali, b.circa 1884, d. 1944, m. Ethel Rosen

Harry Joshua Pelovitz

Geni World Family Tree

- Birth Circa 1884 - Kupushku, Russia
- Death Dec 17 1944
- Father Naftali "Neftali" Neftali Pelovich (born Pelovitz)
- Mother Rocha Malka M Pelovitz (born Bergel)
- Wife Ethel Pelovitz (born Rosen)
- Children Ralph Pelovitz, Nathan Pell (born Pelovitz), Ruth (born Pelovitz)
- Siblings Abraham Elijah Pelovitz, Rachel Kreinda Kreina Skaist (born Pelovitz), Ida Caplan (born Pelovitz), Eliash Pelovich, Iankel Gesel Pelovich, Ester Pelovich

What is noteworthy about this Harry Joshua Pelovitz is that he was born in Kupushku (shown in other data for the composer of the Oath as Kupiskis, Lithuania) and is thus almost certainly part of the same family. He also had a wife named Ethel, but Ethel Rosen, not Ethel Seigel. But the Rosen name will show up again as we move to the third Joshua Pelovitz. Note that thus far there is no mention of the girl in our Habonim group, Cecille Pelovitz, but a contemporary member of that group knew that her father was Joshua and her mother, Dora. So Cecille was apparently not the daughter of either of these first two Joshuas.

3. Joshua Pelovitz, b. 1905 in Lithuania

Joshua Pelovitz

U.S. City Directories

- Residence Between 1937 and 1942 - 7203 Harford Road Householder Ditto Or Same, Baltimore, Maryland, USA
- Spouse (implied) Dora Pelovitz
- Occupation Grocer

Joshua "Joe" Pelovitz, 1905 - 1970

Joshua "Joe" Pelovitz was born on month day 1905, at birth place , to Abraham Elijah "Avrohom Eliyahu" Pelovitz and Sarah Pelovitz (born (Pelovitz).

Abraham was born on May 18 1880, in Vabalninkas, Panevezys, Kaunas, Lithuania.

Sarah was born on July 5 1876, in Lithuania. Joshua had 3 siblings: Goldie Gorn (born Pelovitz) and 2 other siblings.

Joshua married Dora Pelovitz (born Margolious).

Dora was born on April 15 1901, in Lithuania.

They had 4 children: Raymond Pelovitz and 3 other children.

Even though the only named child of his four children listed above is Raymond, this Joshua "Joe" Pelovitz had to be Cecille's father since he was married to Dora and was alive in Baltimore in the 1950s and 1960s when our Habonim group was active. The identification is confirmed by this brief obituary for Cecille, which doesn't mention her parents but does list her two living siblings, one of whom was Raymond. My contemporary source for Cecille's parents' names also informed me that she had an older sister Goldie who died young, apparently before Cecille's passing:

Cecille Steinberg Obituary - Silver Spring, Maryland

www.tributes.com/obituary/show/Cecille-Joan-Steinberg-84390785

Beloved wife of Sam Steinberg; devoted mother of Noah and Joshua (Mixo) Steinberg; beloved sister of Raymond Pelovitz and Norman Pell. On Monday, October 20 (today) at 12 p.m. funeral services will be held at HINES RINALDI FUNERAL HOME, 11800 New Hampshire Ave., Silver Spring, MD. Interment will follow at Judean Memorial Gardens, Olney, MD

- Born: Feb 08, 1941
- Died: Oct. 18, 2008

[She was born the same year that I was!]

From Harvey Horowitz, one of our contemporaries who knew Cecille, this brief memory is a much better tribute than the obit above, to a fellow Habonimnik who died much too young:

*Hi Jeff,
I remember Cecille Pelovitz, but I didn't really know her. I never met her parents. I think I remember her from BHC, but I definitely remember her from Habonim Camp Moshava on Riva Road in Annapolis. She was probably a madrichah, happy and bubbly--lots of personality. At the closing Saturday night campfire before camp ended for the summer, she read a "last will and testament" that she composed. We older campers were all paired up "romantically". My "girlfriend" was Margie something-or-other. In her Last Will and Testament, Cecille bequeathed to me a copy of Marjorie Morningstar, and to Margie a "Horror Witch"!*

What is most interesting about this third Joshua "Joe" Pelovitz is that he is listed as the son of Abraham Elijah, given above in a Hebrew translation as Avrohom Eliyahu, who is listed as the first sibling of Harry Joshua number 2. above. In other words "Joe" is a nephew of that Joshua. But there is also another sibling listed there (for Joshua number 2.) as Eliash, which is very suspicious since Joshua number 1 has a sibling (see above) Abraham Eliash. This would seem to imply that Joshuas number one and two were brothers, but that can't be since they have different parents—unless one set of parents died and the other set adopted the Joshua that was left orphaned. All of that is speculation of course, and beyond the scope of this paper, especially since I am only connected to this family through my mother's poem and association with Cecille back in the day. Nevertheless the evidence definitely suggests that all these Pelovitzes are one family.

But this third Joshua ("Joe") actually adds to the entanglement of our family with the Pelovitzes. One of his three siblings (the others not named above) was Goldie Gorn. She was the longtime principal of Beth Israel Hebrew School, back then on Liberty Road in Randallstown, a NW Baltimore suburb. I had taught Hebrew School briefly for Mrs. Gorn when I was in college at Johns Hopkins (1958-1961). When my future wife Anita was still living in Montevideo, Uruguay, teaching Hebrew at the Dr. Herzl School in that city, her stepfather had finally gotten approval to immigrate to the U.S. Anita wrote to Anna Samuels, a relative of her stepfather, about her teaching experience in Uruguay. Anna Samuels was also a good friend of Dr. Kaplan, the head of the Jewish Board of Education. Upon Anita's arrival in Baltimore in the late spring of 1962, Anna Samuels had arranged an interview with Dr. Kaplan, who immediately offered Anita a job. Where? At Beth Israel since Dr. Kaplan and Goldie worked closely together. Note that from all the data above, just as this Joshua "Joe" number 3, Cecille's father, was a nephew of Joshua number 2; Cecille, the daughter of this Joshua/Joe, was a niece of Goldie Gorn's. Of course I never knew any of that back then.

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Strangely, though I never knew Cecille's parents, it turns out that I had a picture of them for decades without knowing who they were. It's a group picture of my maternal grandfather Sol Lehman (originally Limonchik) with his friends from years back, probably all of them Labor Zionists. Standing on the far left in the picture below is Josh Pelovitz and seated immediately below him is his wife Dora. My grandfather is the fourth man from the right and on his left is his very close friend Gedaliah Cohen, with his wife Chana Cohen seated next to Dora Pelovitz. It was Gedaliah's son Shlomo who only recently identified the Pelovitzes. We don't know where this picture was taken but can date it within a two year time frame. It could not be later than August 21, 1970, the day Josh Pelovitz passed away. The couple on the extreme right, Jack Skolnik and his second wife Anna Fedder seated below him, were probably married in 1968 or 1969 but definitely after June 4, 1967 when Jack's first wife Elsie (nee Geffen) passed away. (Elsie is thought to have been a niece of my grandfather's, but the details are unknown.) So the picture was probably taken between 1968 and 1970. As I mentioned above, my grandparents were friends with Joshua Pelovitz the writer of the Oath, back in the 1930s and possibly even the 1920s. So these were lifetime friendships and apparently included most if not all of the extended Pelovitz family.

The other people in this photo include the man in the bow tie to the left of Gedaliah Cohen, Sraiah Shoubin and his wife Chana Shoubin seated below him. They were the parents of philanthropist and internationally known Jewish rights and women's activist, the late Shoshana Cardin. She was married to Jerome Cardin, first cousin of the current US senior Senator from Maryland, Ben Cardin (D). The man seated in the center was Dr. Aron Domnitz, a Holocaust survivor who wrote a book of memoirs and poetry in Hebrew, a copy of which he graciously signed and presented to us. The man between Josh Pelovitz and Sraiah Shoubin was a Mr. Waxman. The man to the right of my grandfather, third from the right, is believed to be a Mr. Surosky, with Mrs. Waxman seated between him and my grandfather. The couple to the right of them were William and Leona Braiterman. William was famous in WWI for organizing the Baltimore contingent to the Jewish Legion that was set up under British command to fight the Ottoman Empire. Sadly, my grandmother Pearl Lehman is not in this picture because she passed away much too early in life, in 1964.



Thus far we haven't mentioned Goldie Gorn's children, who included a daughter Marcia and a son Norman. And we haven't mentioned that Goldie had married twice, once to a Rosen (that name again) and once to a Gorn. When Anita and I were married, in 1965, the "something borrowed" that Anita wore at the ceremony was Marcia Rosen's wedding gown! Marcia was, of course, already married, to the late Jack Markowitz. Jack was employed at the National Security Agency, where Anita and I spent most of our careers. Back in those days we often went out with them to dinners and dances and even met her brother Dr. Norman Rosen on a couple of those occasions. I doubt that my mother was aware of any of this either since back then we didn't know that Goldie was a Pelovitz. However Goldie was also close friends with my grandmother Pearl Lehman, so maybe my mother did know, but we will never know for sure one way or the other.

Here is a picture of Anita and me (standing) with Jack and Marcia Markowitz (seated left) and our mutual friends Diane and Ted Friedland (seated right) at a Japanese restaurant in January, 2000:



There is still one piece of unfinished business with this story. What was the reference on Samuel Joseph's tombstone HE GAVE THE WORDS, apparently reflected in my mother's poem about him "years of cultured articulate finely drawn hell"?

I found the probable answer in a direct Google search on my cell phone for Samuel Pelovitz. Surprisingly it did not turn up in the initial pages of the same search on my desktop. I had to go to the Black Vault web page and enter Sam in its own Google search bar. What you get is a 76 page document freely available to anyone: Here is the first page:

| FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                   |                                                                     |                                             |
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| Form No. 1<br>THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                   | FILE NO. <b>65-1642</b>                                             |                                             |
| REPORT MADE AT<br><b>Baltimore, Maryland</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | DATE WHEN MADE<br><b>12/14/48</b> | PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE<br><b>12/3,4,6,7,8,9,<br/>10,13/48</b>        | REPORT MADE BY<br><b>FRANK G. JOHNSTONE</b> |
| TITLE<br><b>JAY DAVID WHITTAKER CHAMBERS, was</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                   | CHARACTER OF CASE<br><b>INTERNAL SECURITY - R<br/>ESPIONAGE - R</b> |                                             |
| SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:<br><br><p><i>CP # 246,845</i><br/><i>Classified by SP8 BTJ/1/12/02</i><br/><i>Declassify on: OADR 7/12/02</i></p> <p>Investigation at Baltimore develops SAMUEL JOSEPH PELOVITZ as logical suspect for FELIX, named by CHAMBERS as a photographer in his apparatus. In unsigned statement dated December 9, 1948, PELOVITZ denies knowing CHAMBERS or FELIX, photographing any documents for CHAMBERS, performing any of the activities alleged to FELIX, or having any activity in any Communist apparatus. PELOVITZ served 12/9/48 with Grand Jury subpoena calling for forthwith appearance SDNY. CHAMBERS identifies PELOVITZ as Felix to New York agents, but subsequently changes to non-identification.</p> <p>Investigation to identify and locate FELIX continuing. ELEANOR NELSON SOYRING, named by CHAMBERS as having a Communist apparatus of her own in 1937-38, refuses to be interviewed by Bureau Agents 12/10/48, but served with subpoena for appearance 12/13/48, FGJ, SDNY. Background information on DAVID VERNON ZIMMERMAN, alias DAVID CARPENTER, also named by CHAMBERS as a photographer in his apparatus set out. Additional details obtained in interviewed with HISS and CHAMBERS 12/3,4/48 reported herein. Baltimore indices negative on unknown photographer KEITH and alleged associates. Initial investigation at Aberdeen, Maryland regarding FRANKLIN VICTOR RENO and PHILIP RENO, named by CHAMBERS as being in apparatus of SOYRING, also reported herein. Descriptions of CHAMBERS, HISS and PELOVITZ set out. Baltimore efforts to date negative in locating specimens from HISS' typewriter.</p> <p><i>12/14/48</i></p> |                                   |                                                                     |                                             |

Sam had been tangled up in the "trial of the century" Alger Hiss spy case by being misidentified as "Felix":

From algerhiss.com

FBI Memo Describing Chambers' Misidentification of "Felix" (December 1948)

Who was "Felix"? The F.B.I. wanted to know. The next day, agents showed Chambers a picture of a man they thought could be "Felix." His name was Samuel Pelovitz. (The F.B.I. had seen Pelovitz's name used as a reference by a man, David Carpenter [aka Zimmerman, where Carpenter is the English translation of the German Zimmerman--Jeff], who Chambers said was one of his Communist Party associates.) Chambers identified Pelovitz as his former photographer, telling an F.B.I. agent that "there seemed to be no doubt that PELOVITZ and FELIX are identical."

On December 10, Pelovitz appeared before the grand jury and told them that he had never seen Chambers before that very morning. Chambers was then brought into the grand jury room, and asked to reconsider his identification. Chambers at this point said that there was

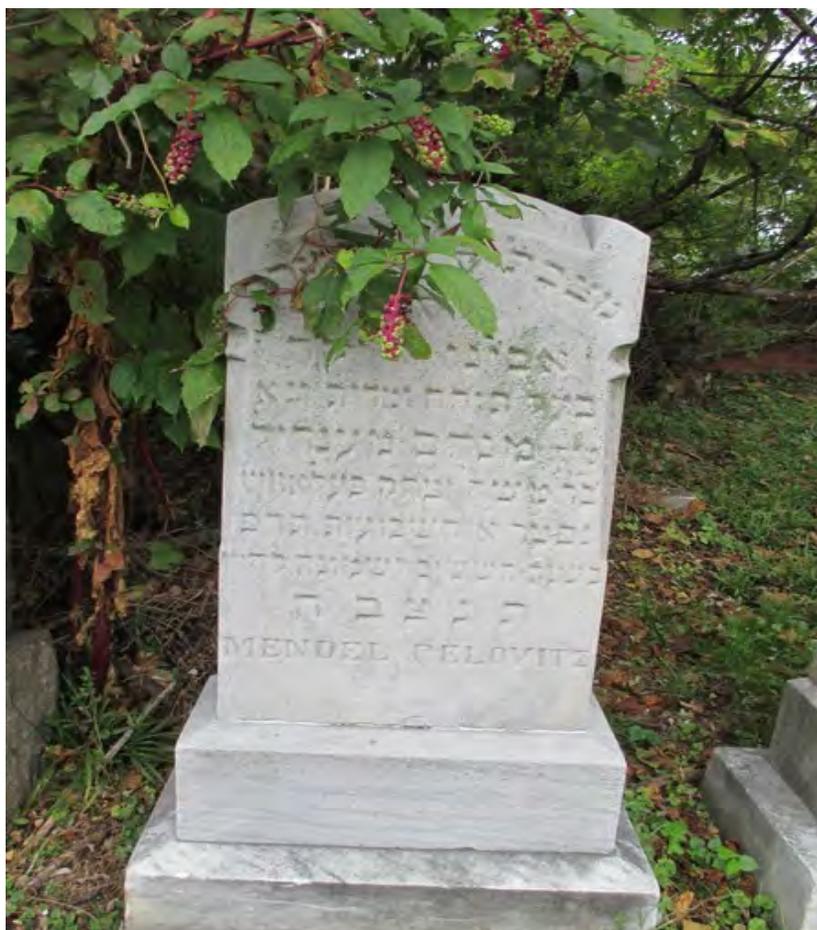
only an “outside possibility” that Pelovitz was not Felix, and then left the room with one of the prosecutors and returned to say that Pelovitz was “not stocky enough” to have been Felix.

Chambers was later shown photographs of Felix Inslerman and identified him as the “Felix” he had worked with. He testified to this effect at both Hiss case trials – but because of the secrecy of the grand jury proceedings, the defense was never aware of his misidentification of Samuel Pelovitz.

Inslerman’s own testimony wasn’t heard until 1954, when he appeared before Senator Joseph McCarthy’s Committee on Government Operations and was questioned by committee counsel Roy M. Cohn. Several significant aspects of his story, not told in public until six years after Hiss’s conviction, contradicted Chambers’ sworn trial testimony. I will not go any further with this except to say that the six years from 1948 to 1954 when the misidentification of Sam finally came out must really have been hell for the Pelovitzes and likely haunted them for the rest of their lives. If you read the three page statement that Sam had given HUAC back in 1948 (in the document cited above), it was, indeed, highly articulate and very carefully drawn. Those were likely “the words” that he gave HUAC that are referenced on his tombstone. However the full story of his life, in the FBI document cited above, also mentions his employment as a printer in his father’s print shop. So “he gave the words” could be a double reference.

As a final note on this tangled story, there is the karma. I should mention that quantum mechanics has a concept of entanglement relating mostly to pairs (or larger groups) of subatomic particles where a change in one or more of the attributes of one causes an instantaneous corresponding change in the other, even when they are separated by a large distance. Einstein felt that this result meant that something was wrong with the basic theory of quantum mechanics and called the observed phenomenon “spooky action at a distance.” Nevertheless this area of physics was of great interest and remains a major subject of research, especially for its possible use in communication, computation and other areas.

When I was going through the Find a Grave results for Pelovitz, I also came across the grave of Sam Pelovitz’s grandfather Menachem Mendil. The Hebrew text tell us that he died in the year 1920 at the age of 68. Hence he was born around 1852, over 150 years ago in space-time. Menachem Mendil’s father’s name was Moshe Yitzkhaq. My name is Yitzkhaq Moshe, after my paternal grandfather. Go figure!



Here I am at my grandfather's grave in the Adass Jisroel (small Weissensee Cemetery, Berlin, Germany), on October 30, 2015. Yitzkhaq Moshe can be seen in the fourth line from the bottom of the Hebrew text and is also spelled out in an enlarged vertical acrostic on the right side of each line of the Hebrew poetic eulogy.



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