

DIARY OF OUR DNA

Rochelle Lash



DIARY OF OUR DNA
is a brief portrait
of several successful, spirited families
who embraced life with unshakeable
resolve and a lust to revel in all it offered.

This book reflects on the
intriguing relatives that we know
and discovers 1,000 newfound cousins
in Canada, the US and Israel.

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DIARY OF OUR DNA



TOP: Edward Lash • Steve Lash • Joseph and Gertrude Balacan • Gloria Lash

MIDDLE: Leah Lash Warner and Morris Lash • Mary McHale and I. J. Lash • Rochelle Lash •
Morris Lash and Rachel Caplan Lashinsky

BOTTOM: Kara Crudo Lash • Marty Lash • photo by STEVE LASH • Sara, Rose and I. J. Lash 1906c •
David Lash and Ethel Witkov Lash • Mark, Lucy, Roman, Lysa and Katie Hornstein

"1906c" denotes 1906 circa, or approximate date

DIARY OF OUR DNA

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DIARY OF OUR DNA

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ROOTS IN RUSSIA



1900s Market day in Grodno • Russian Empire

ROOTS IN RUSSIA

Exploring our roots has been fascinating, but frustrating. Our family doesn't have a lot of information about the old days, and Facebook launched in 2004, so that didn't help with the 1800s and 1900s. Still, there are ways. We have valuable input from cousins—both newfound cousins and cousins that I knew from childhood—as well as the Internet and a few highly dedicated genealogists.

Researching a family history is similar to detective work: It involves tracking down ancestors, interviewing the usual suspects and putting together clues for stories. And when I came up with a fulfilling bit of evidence, it was like unearthing a prize on a treasure hunt!

We have discovered that my paternal great-grandfather was Solomon Lashinsky of the village of Porozow in the border territory of Russia and Poland. He was the father of my grandfather Morris Lashinsky. (Solomon was Shlomo ben Azriel Leschinsky in Hebrew and Shlioma Azrielevich Leshchinskij in Russian. Both translate as Shlomo, descended from Azriel.)

We have only a glimpse into the life of Solomon in the Russian Empire of the late 1800s, but we have traced the movements of at least five of his sons. Our ancestors were among those who struggled mightily to leave the Old World, and it's no wonder—millions of Jews lived in hardship in the socioeconomic prisons of the czarist Russian Empire and autocratic Eastern Europe.

A wave of two million Jewish people fled many evils of the Russian Empire during the late 1800s and early 1900s: the poverty of the shtetls; the violent pogroms of anti-Jewish rioting, looting, evictions and massacres; the military draft; and the oppressive May Laws of 1882, which restricted Jewish education, religion, property ownership, relocation and political voice.

Helpless against rulers who believed in their own divine right, most peasants suffered an almost intolerable life (hence the 1917 Russian Revolution), but it was unimaginably worse for the Jews. They were segregated in the Russian Empire's vast Pale of Settlement, a land of about one million square kilometres stretching from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south. The Pale was created in 1791 by Catherine the Great and ruled by Russian czars who, by 1900, had amassed a colossal kingdom encompassing one-sixth of the world's surface and 46 nationalities.

Extravagance reigned. Russian courtiers of the 1850s-1910s wore couture fashion from Paris and diamond-encrusted bibelots by Peter Karl Fabergé, jeweller to the czars. The ornate Winter Palace in St. Petersburg shimmered with fancy dress balls and an art collection that eventually included Rembrandt and Leonardo da Vinci.

On a lighter note, *Fiddler on the Roof*, the smash-hit Broadway show (1964) and movie (1971), illuminates the hardships of life in the *shtetl*, but it softens the blow with the warm glow of togetherness. Everyone is so poor that the concept of *tzedakah* (charity) evolves as neighbour helps neighbour. The lead character, Tevye, sings about Jewish tradition—that is, following religious practices and having faith in God—which gives people strength and hope.

(During the late 1100s, Rabbi Moses Maimonides, the iconic legal scholar and physician of the Middle Ages, conceived of *tzedakah*, which has eight levels. The highest form of *tzedakah* is to give a gift, loan or partnership that will result in the recipient becoming self-sufficient. The second highest form is to give anonymously to unknown recipients. In early agrarian societies, it was not about money. Generous farmers would leave some crops unharvested so the poor could gather them. Judaism also teaches that philanthropists benefit as much as the needy, because the donor has done a good deed.)

Life wasn't always about oppression and poverty. In the book *The Golden Age Shtetl*, author Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern writes about the heyday, primarily between the 1790s and the 1840s. He describes "a vibrant Eastern European market town," not a ramshackle village, and "a fascinating social tapestry of Poles, Jews and Russians."

That was then. Gradually, Russian militarism, xenophobia, and political and financial rivalry destroyed the peace and prosperity, and the *shtetls* deteriorated. Only a few Jews were permitted to travel and expand their horizons "beyond the Pale" set up by Catherine the Great. Since the gates were closed for our ancestors to make a better life in the Russian Empire, those who could manage took the daunting step of crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Families scrimped and saved to buy expensive passports and bribe immigration agents to cross several European borders and make it to North America.

We know of several Lashinsky ancestors who emigrated. They did so as young men, travelling a few years apart, presumably so the family could save enough money for the next voyage. Morris sailed to the US in 1898 (under his brother David's name) and went immediately to Montreal by train to meet the Caplans (his future bride and her family). His brothers settled in New York State. Azriel Isaac Lashinsky travelled in 1901, and Jacob, who was younger, came over in 1913.

David Lashinsky sailed in 1904. I haven't found any family members

who know of him, perhaps because he died in 1930, and his wife, Lena, died in 1925. But David is in our Lash USA family tree, and we believe he is one of ours because Morris' name is on his ship's manifest.

Solomon had another son (and therefore Morris had another brother) named Avram (Abraham). He stayed in Russia and had four children, two of whom moved to Israel. The other two children of Abraham died when the German Holocaust swept through Porozow in about 1943. (See the chapter later in this book titled 1000 New Cousins, Ron Kathren's awesome report on nine generations of Lashinsky descendants, including those of Abraham Lashinsky.)

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The Lashinskys are not the only glitterati to hail from this neck of the woods. Moshe Avigdor Alshel-Amiel, born in Porozow in 1882, became the chief rabbi of Tel Aviv. One of the initial forces in Russian-Yiddish theatre, Ester-Ruchel Halperin Kaminska, was the daughter of a cantor in the same town. Mobster Meyer Lansky was born in Grodno, the region's capital, in 1902 (and died in Miami Beach in 1983). Olga Korbut, the 1972 Olympic gymnastics sensation, was born in Grodno in 1955.

POROZOW • THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE

Porozow (Porosova/Porozowa) was founded around AD 1400. The Leschinskys lived there for several generations, and we can trace a few ancestors back to Solomon's grandfather, who was born in approximately 1795 and was also named Shlomo (Solomon). (Please see the Lashinsky family tree.)

Porozow, with a population of approximately 1,200 in the late 1800s (almost half Jewish), was a mostly agricultural community, with a village focussed on crafts and small manufacturing. Some of the Jewish community worked the land, but most lived in town and made their living as shopkeepers, peddlers, merchants, tailors, carpenters and shoemakers. Porozow and all neighbouring communities held regular market days for food, housewares and livestock.

If a Jewish family did own farmland, it was passed down to only one son to avoid splitting the territory. Morris Lashinsky, on one of his immigration papers, said he had not been to a farm recently, so perhaps he was a craftsman—maybe a tailor, which he was after coming to Montreal. No matter. Status among the Jews in the *shtetl* was based on how learned someone was.

The compelling website porozow.net, created by US author and historian Scott D. Seligman, yields rich details about that community. A 1915 list of tradesmen in Porozow includes our ancestors Jankel-odysh Khackelevich Leshchinskij, operating on Subbotakja Street, and Shlioma Azreilevich Leshchinskij (my great-grandfather), with an enterprise on Bazarnajja Street. In 1938, Porozow was home to a rabbi named

Moishe Chaimovich Lyshchinsky, age 46, so we might have seriously religious roots, too!

Because warlords through the centuries won and lost territory regularly, the borders were constantly shifting. The territory the Lashinskys hailed from was Grodno Governorate (Hrodna in Polish and/or Belarussian). Grodno had been part of the Russian and Polish Empires, as well as the Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. The Grodno region is now part of independent Belarus, although Russia, in 2020, is trying to force a merger. (You can find more historic geographical details at jewishgen.org.)

Today, Porozow still is a sleepy town, but it is having a cyber moment. A YouTube video of the village, posted by two enterprising local girls, shows the forests of towering trees where dukes hunted wild boar, deer and bison in the 1500s. You can also see the old churches, built and rebuilt through the centuries, and one stone synagogue, abandoned long ago.

SOLOMON • SHANĚ RAZEL • RACHEL SHKLIOR

My great-grandfather Solomon was married twice—but not at the same time! His first wife was ShanĚ Razel, and their daughters were Henye, Esther, Razel and Bayle.

Solomon Lashinsky's second wife was Rachel Shklior (Sklar), and the couple had seven more children in Russia: my grandfather Morris, as well as Elke, Sarah, Azriel Isaac, Jacob, Avram (Abraham) and David. So, there were lots of siblings and half-siblings. Some stayed in Russia through the Revolution, and some immigrated to North America and Israel.

SIMON CAPLAN • ESTHER SHKLIOR

My grandmother's parents, Simon Caplan (Simon Sussman Caplan) and Esther Caplan, immigrated to Canada circa 1888, earlier than the Lashinsky brothers. The Caplans travelled with six children: Ida, Harris, Louis, Anna, Rachel (who was my grandmother) and Rebecca (nicknamed both Bella and Toba). After settling in Montreal, Simon and Esther had two more children: Isadore Jacob (Jack) and Abe (Bunny).

The Lashinskys and Caplans were related. Esther Shklior (Sklar) Sheine Caplan (the widow Sheine) was Simon Caplan's wife and Rachel's mother. Rachel Shklior (Sklar) Lashinsky was Solomon Lashinsky's wife and Morris' mother. (Morris married a woman with the same given name as his mom! Scary.) It's all in Lash Family Tree 1.

The Caplans might also have been from Porozow. One census shows them in Volkovysk, which was both a neighbouring town and also the county name. We're not sure which is the case, but people often used the county name to identify their residence.



1920s Solomon Lashinsky • Daughter Elke • Porozow, Russian Empire



1791–1917 Jews were restricted to the vast Pale of Settlement • Russian Empire



1900s An abandoned synagogue in Porozow, Russian Empire

THE ÉMIGRÉS

It was not much more than 100 years ago that the Caplans and the Lashinskys started their lives from scratch in Canada. It is hard to imagine just how tough it was. The journey began with a perilous sea crossing. The trip from Old World to New World was tortuous. Hundreds of thousands walked overland through part of the Russian Empire. They took trains or wagons east through Poland to German river ports such as Hamburg and Bremen. Finally, they sailed through the North Sea and across the Atlantic Ocean.

Most were a downtrodden straggle of poverty-stricken people, carrying their belongings, their elderly and their children on their backs. Often, Jewish communities along the way helped. The émigrés likely pined for home, and they were surely frightened. There were incessant interrogations—would they pass the next test, the terrifying sifting and sorting of undesirables with harsh questions about health, money, employment and other issues? If yes, they awaited ships in awful refugee camps. Finally, they endured the 14- to 17-day journey on the high seas, only to face the rigours of immigration portals, such as Ellis Island, afterward. (Ellis Island only processed steerage passengers; first- and second-class passengers were interviewed in relative comfort aboard the ship.)

Many writers have documented the horrible experience of overseas steerage class. Hundreds of passengers at a time were scrubbed and disinfected naked before boarding, then herded into converted cargo holds without sanitation or clean air. Many brought their own provisions, because the food was miserable: bad meat and fish cooked into inedible stews served from huge vats, and bread so soggy and mouldy that many threw it overboard in protest. The strong elbowed out the weak, so some did not eat at all. A manifest for the S.S. Sicilia, circa 1895, shows 10 spaces for first class and 650 for third class—a euphemism for steerage.

The world-renowned photographer Alfred Stieglitz captured the stark contrast between upper and lower classes in his iconic 1907 photograph *The Steerage*. (To read more on the sea passage and immigration portals, see *True Immigrant Tales* at vinceparillo.com. Vince Parillo is the author of the historical novel *Guardians of the Gate*.)

Still, the brave émigrés were unstoppable. The steamship lines competed for business and dispatched salesmen to sell tickets for about \$30. They went like hotcakes. And sometimes relatives in North America sent tickets back home.

Most Russian and Polish émigrés were accustomed to frigid winters and sweltering summers, so Canada was a little like home; but urban life was a new ball game for many. At least they were not alone. There were so many Jewish people immigrating that Yiddish was Montreal's third most prevalent language during the early 1900s.

Political activist Hirsch Hershman, a Romanian immigrant, opened the first Jewish bookstore in 1905 on Saint Lawrence Boulevard. It was a precursor to the Jewish Public Library. The daily Yiddish-language newspaper *Keneder Adler* (*Canadian Eagle*) launched in 1907, driven in large part by Hirsch Wolofsky. The journal was a great comfort to immigrants facing a confusing new life, and local news brought the community closer together. (For Montreal history, see jewishpubliclibrary.org, the works of authors Israel Medres and A. M. Klein, and the Museum of Jewish Montreal at imjm.ca.)

Jewish food brought memories of the old country, and it became one of Montreal's defining features. Two Russian immigrants, Hyman Seligman and Isadore Shlafman, are both credited with being the first to bake bagels, and they both operated in the Mile End area. The competition over who was truly first was serious stuff, and the controversy rages even today! The Shlafman family still owns the Fairmount Bagel bakery, founded in 1919.

The Romanians brought smoked meat (which they had adopted from Ottoman rulers and later refined). The delicacy debuted during the 1890s in Montreal at A. Sanft Kosher Meat, 560 Craig Street. The butcher advertised in the *Keneder Adler*: "Manufacturer of salami, smoked meat, corned beef, smoked beef and sausages. Same quality as New York." Hey, hold on, Mr. Sanft! Surely, Montreal's smoked meat is better.

Katz's Delicatessen opened in 1888 in New York's Lower East Side. The shop started out selling a delicacy called *goose pastramă*, but it later switched to beef brisket, aka pastrami, because it was less expensive. Today, if you're a Montrealer, there is absolutely no contest. We're on the global food map thanks to the succulent smoked meat sandwiches at Schwartz's (Montreal Hebrew Delicatessen), founded in 1928 on Saint Lawrence Boulevard, aka The Main, in the heart of the old Jewish neighbourhood. Quebec-born diva Céline Dion now is part-owner of Schwartz's.

Yiddish theatre launched in Montreal around 1905, providing the pop culture of the day. The comic operettas, romantic melodramas and satirical sketches were a laugh a minute. The performances grew out of Purim *spiels*, addressing serious issues like poverty and immigration with humour.

As Jewish Montreal grew, there also was help for the most disadvantaged. The Young Men's Hebrew Benevolent Society was founded in 1863. Renamed the Baron de Hirsch Institute in 1890, it evolved into the hub of Jewish social services, with classrooms for 500 students, a gym, an auditorium and orphan care. The Herzl Dispensary provided basic medical care starting around 1912. The Hebrew Free Loan Association launched in 1911. And as of 1916, many charitable organizations had united under the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.



1913c Edward Lashinsky



1906c Sara · Rose · I. J. Lashinsky



1910c Rachel Caplan Lashinsky



1920c Morris · Rachel Lashinsky



1900 Jacques Cartier Square · Montreal

The Montreal branch of the Workmen’s Circle was created in 1907, and Hirsch Hershman was a prime mover in the 1912 tailors' strike. Garment industry employees had worked in intolerable conditions for near-starvation wages for more than a century in Europe and North America, and they eventually rebelled.

Sweating (referring to sweatshops) was a term coined in Britain. William Lyon Mackenzie King, then a law student at the University of Toronto, further defined it in the late 1890s. He went on to become Canada’s longest-serving prime minister and a deeply socially concerned leader. In a research paper he wrote (paraphrased): “Sweating is a condition of labour in which a maximum amount of work in a given time is performed for a minimum wage, and in which the ordinary rules of health and comfort are disregarded. It is inseparably associated with contract work, and is intensified by sub-contracting in shops conducted in homes.”

By 1900, Mackenzie King had channelled his social conscience into the King Commission Report for the federal government. It was a harsh assessment of the textile industry and its government clothing contracts. Women doing piecework at home had it worse and earned even less than anyone. They also absorbed the costs of lighting, needles, thread, workspace, sewing machines and other expenses that the factory saved by farming out contract work. Even the new labour unions often refused to support female pieceworkers, blaming them for taking work away from men and thereby lowering the wages and allowing needle workers’ conditions to deteriorate.

Outside the Jewish community, Montreal was evolving apace. In 1872, the Blue Bonnets Raceway opened on the farm of Joseph Decary in Montreal West. This raceway was the forerunner of the Decarie Boulevard track built by the Jockey Club of Montreal in 1907. Our unofficial national sport, hockey, was taking off, too. In 1909, the Montreal Canadiens took to the ice, no doubt inspired by their predecessors, the pro-am Montreal Shamrocks, who won back-to-back Stanley Cups in 1899 and 1900. On the high-society front, the Ritz-Carlton Montreal opened in 1912, featuring clubby lounges where Canada’s financial, shipping and railway establishments could make deals over cognac and cigars as their debutante daughters danced in the hotel’s ornate ballroom.

Despite financial hardships and cultural challenges, Rachel Caplan and Morris Lashinsky were part of a burgeoning Jewish community in a rapidly changing city. They also were within range of a surreal new century that would reveal miracles by Marconi, Morse, Bell, Ford, Einstein, Hoover, Woolworth and the Wright Brothers.

Every facet of life was transforming: labour, technology, communications, commerce, transportation, religion, medicine, politics and social mores.

MORRIS LASHINSKY • RACHEL CAPLAN

Morris and Rachel emigrated from the Russian Empire at different times, so they probably were quite different from each other as a young married couple.

Morris, travelling on his own in 1898 at around 20 years old, sailed from Hamburg to New York City on the Hamburg America Line’s S.S. Pretoria (likely under his brother David’s name). He then continued north to Montreal on the Grand Trunk Railway to join his sponsor, Simon, who was his future father-in-law. So, Morris had a support system while setting up his new life, mainly that he was living with his fiancée and her family. Dating sites and apps such as match.com, J-Date and Tinder had not yet been invented, so Morris’ and Rachel’s parents might have prearranged the union—even before everyone came to Canada. Perhaps Morris wasn’t even the intended groom. Maybe his brother David got cold feet and decided that delaying his departure by a few years would be a better option. David eventually sailed to New York in 1904.

Morris had not seen his cousin Rachel since she left the Old World (when he was 10 and she was about six years old). When he arrived in Montreal, Rachel was 16. She had lived in Canada for about 10 years and had no doubt accrued some know-how, including speaking English. Morris likely spoke only Yiddish, Russian and maybe some English. Still, it all came together.

Morris and Rachel were married on November 5, 1899, little more than a year after his arrival. They were wed at the B’nai Jacob synagogue by the prominent Rabbi A. M. Ashinsky. The groom was 21 and the bride was 17.

In those days, the life of the Jewish community was centred around colourful and lively Saint Lawrence Boulevard, Montreal’s main street, which was also the heart of the city’s garment industry for decades. Both commerce and home life radiated from The Main, around Notre Dame and Craig Streets (now Saint Antoine Street), from Bleury and City Hall Streets (now Hôtel de Ville) to Avenue De Lorimier. About 90 percent of the Russian and Eastern European Jews who came to Montreal in the late 1800s settled in this area.

The 1901 Canada census lists Rachel and Morris and their firstborn son living at 143 Craig Street West in downtown Montreal. Her family, the Caplans, lived next door at 145.

Cooking, cleaning and caring for children took a lot more time and effort than it does today. Simply keeping warm in winter was a challenge. Rachel’s family probably helped her maintain her household. The year 1905 was difficult: Rachel’s mother, Esther, died at about age 54; her second child, Thomas, died at four years old; she gave birth to her fourth, Rose; and her father, Simon Caplan, remarried—this time a widow named Bessie Goldstein.

In the 2018 book *A History of Our Family* by Steven J. Potashner, Simon Caplan’s grandson Ben Caplan describes growing up on Clark Street in financially strapped circumstances. The scene likely was similar for Morris and Rachel.

Here are some of Ben’s memories of home life in the early 1900s:

“The glory of the flat was the huge kitchen with a stove that burned coal stored in an earthen cellar. There also was enough space for Ma to make her sour cucumbers, tomatoes and sauerkraut, as well as Passover wine. The children shared a room and sometimes slept on cots in the kitchen.

“There was no bath in any of the flats, and only one toilet per flat. When we were young, we bathed in a tin washtub in the kitchen. When we got older we would go to the public baths. I suppose (the women) would wash late at night when everybody else was asleep.

“Every fall, Ma would set up a small stove in the hall with pipes that ran under the ceiling and into the bedrooms, so that we would have heat in the winter. I would lie between the wall and the stove to be warm.”

Ben also spoke of hitching rides on streetcars, taking Hebrew lessons, and watching the endlessly fascinating street scenes: crowds of peddlers, blacksmiths working on horses, and hawkers crying out from market stalls.

There must have been so many obstacles for the young couple.

It seems Morris was laid-back, steady, hard-working, rather gentle and good-natured. He grew up in a rural village of about 1000 people, more than half of whom were Jewish, so he might have been taken aback initially by the frenetic pace of a big-city ghetto. Montreal’s population in 1899 was about 268,000, including about 7,000 Jewish people.

Rachel was already accustomed to downtown life, but there was a lot for everyone to absorb. The 1921 census shows that within 20 years, Montreal had grown exponentially—it was booming with 490,000 citizens, about 45,000 of them Jewish.

Financially, there were differences as well. Rachel’s father, Simon, was a Talmudic scholar who also owned a secondhand store and grocery at 21 Craig Street West, plus the home Morris and Rachel lived in next door. The Caplans’ daughter Rebecca ran the shop. Additionally, Simon owned his next house, at 1096 City Hall Street, as well as some apartment buildings. So, the Caplans, although not rich, were relatively comfortable. (These buildings might still exist, but the addresses have changed over the years: 21 Craig Street on the 1901 census is listed as 141 Craig on Lovell’s 1900 Street Guide, for example.)

In contrast, Morris started out humbly, working at the valued skill of

buttonhole maker. He might have done that back in Russia, or he might have learned from Rachel’s brother Harris (formally Thomas Harris Caplan), who had a special high-tech machine and was known to have taught many newcomers. Morris then became an independent tailor like so many others, and in time he also developed a micro-business selling dresses and suits and delivering them in a horse-drawn cart.

Sadly, that venture eventually fizzled due to too much competition, the rise of clothing factories, and the enactment of personal income tax in 1917. Possibly to fund a new business startup in 1919, Morris and Rachel each received a formal loan from her father. Montreal Superior Court records show a separation of property action in 1922, presumably to protect the family’s assets from potential business setbacks.

The 1911 census shows that Morris and Rachel had moved to 523 De Lorimier, a few blocks north of the Saint Lawrence River. There were five kids at that point: I. J., Sara, Abraham (Al), Rose and Edward. Thomas had died in 1905 at age four, and David had not been born yet.

After another move, the 1921 census lists the family as living a few blocks west at 777 Hôtel de Ville in the Saint-Louis ward. Perhaps the De Lorimier home was expropriated for the new Jacques Cartier Bridge in the 1920s, or perhaps the family wanted to stay close to the Caplans.

There were other changes, too. The next generation of Lashinskys stepped up with a terrific idea and entrepreneurial instincts. In 1931, during the Great Depression, Rachel and Morris’ grown children started a company that made apparel protectors and other clothing accessories.

The apparel business was one of the leading industries in Montreal, and between 1870 and 1930, it employed more workers than any other. A notable 75–80 percent of the city’s Jews worked in those fashion factories in some capacity—bent over sewing machines or wielding cutting shears, for example. For a slice of rag trade history, the Museum of Jewish Montreal offers compelling tours and a fascinating look at days past (see imjm.ca).

We see why Montrealers are known for style: It’s in our blood. Even today, nearly half of Canada’s clothing manufacturing jobs are in Quebec, and Montreal ranks third for clothing manufacturing in North America, after New York and Los Angeles (see mmode.ca or ccmm.ca).

Montreal virtually doubled in size between 1921 and 1931, to 818,000 residents. With downtown getting denser and their children’s business showing potential, Morris and Rachel left the old ‘hood and settled in N.D.G., a leafier, quieter area. By the 1930s, they were vacationing in New England resort spots, such as Old Orchard Beach, ME, and Bethlehem, NH. The 1931 census shows them in a red-brick duplex at 5419 Duquette

Avenue, near Girouard Avenue in N.D.G. Their unmarried children, I. J., Rose and Edward, shared the house and were listed as working at Transparent Garment Cover Company (as travelling salesman, book-keeper and designer, respectively). David was a teenager. They were all one block from Sara, who had married Joe Weigensberg in 1923 and lived on Brodeur Avenue. Both houses still are there, close to the Decarie Expressway, which bulldozed through the neighbourhoods of N.D.G and Snowdon in the early 1960s.

Clearly, the Lashes were a relatively close-knit family. My parents started their married life in 1938 atop a shop on Maplewood Avenue, now Édouard Montpetit Boulevard, near Université de Montréal in Outremont. In 1944, they built a duplex at 4987 Isabella Avenue, amid the undeveloped fields of Snowdon. Morris and Rachel came to live on the second floor. My brother Steve remembers playing gin rummy with Morris, and his grandfather let him win! I believe my grandfather was a pleasant, laid-back, quiet man. Rachel was another story. The Caplans were known to be tempestuous but also intelligent, resourceful, determined and hard-working.

Here's a mother-in-law story: My mother, Gloria, was ladylike and gentle—perhaps a little sheltered and timid. She was probably awed by her large new home, daunted by the housekeeping and busy with her young son, then about four years old. It must have been rough to have her strong-willed mother-in-law living in the same duplex. Gloria told me that Rachel would come downstairs and run her finger along the picture frames, inspecting for dust!

Rachel died in 1949, two weeks before I was born, and it was expected that I would be named after her, in the Jewish tradition of honouring deceased relatives. But my mother pulled a fast one: Gloria had a maternal aunt from Romania who had not come to Canada. And that aunt was Rochelle Bolchover, sister to Gloria's mother, Gertrude Bolchover Balacan.

Hey, Gloria. Thanks for the name. And sweet payback for the mother-in-law issue!

MORRIS LASH · RAE SHAPIRO

Rachel died of cancer a few months shy of her 50th wedding anniversary. As a widower, Morris moved to Florida. He stayed at a kosher guesthouse at Collins Avenue and 8th Street in the vintage ocean-front district that became sexy South Beach! He also patronized the Marseilles Hotel (also kosher), an Art Deco original at 17th and Collins. Morris was tall, nice-looking and dignified. Joanne Weigen reports that he was well liked by the ladies, so he wasn't on his own for long.

When Morris was in his 70s, he married again. His second wife was an American widow named Rae Shapiro (actually Rachel Shapiro from Brooklyn). Rae owned a rambling old red-brick house on William Street in Saratoga Springs, NY, a vintage spa and horse-racing tourist town

about four hours' drive south of Montreal. From approximately 1956 to 1961, Morris and Rae operated a guesthouse called the New Capital Hotel. He acted as a greeter, and she ran the house. It was like a last-century Airbnb.

Rae Lash died in 1961. Sadly, while Morris was sitting shiva for his second wife, his youngest child, David, passed away at the early age of 46.

After these losses, Morris returned from Saratoga to Montreal. He lived with Sara and Joe Weigensberg on Brodeur Avenue during the 1960s, and he eventually moved to a kosher old folks' home on Van Horne Avenue. More religious than his offspring, he visited the little synagogue next door almost daily, and he donated freely to the rabbis. He lived until his early 90s, longer than any of his children.

USA: AZRIEL ISAAC · CLARA OBER

A ship's manifest shows Morris' younger brother took the same route in 1901 that Morris did in 1898, but he was on the S.S. Patricia from Hamburg to New York City. Azriel Isaac continued via the Grand Trunk Railway to Montreal to meet his sponsor, Morris.

In 1906, Isaac (he used Isaac) opted to return to the US to ply his trade as a butcher. In 1910, he lived on East 21st Street in the East Village of Manhattan, near the Lower East Side. Later, the family moved to East 121st Street in East Harlem (Manhattan) before eventually settling at 344 East St. John Avenue in The Bronx/Long Island.

In 1907, Isaac married Clara Ober, who was from Austria. They had several children: Miriam, Rose, Martha, Ruth (Ray), Sarah and Meyer. The Canadian Lashes knew of Ray Lash Kittredge, an artist in New York who was an exotic creature compared to our family of manufacturers. We had one of her mid-century artworks hanging up at home. You can still find her paintings (mostly Art Deco-inspired ballerinas and female portraits) for sale on the Internet.

USA: JACOB · ANNA FELDMAN · SARAH COHEN KAUFMAN

Morris' youngest brother, Jacob (Yaakov-Yankiel), immigrated to North America in 1913, travelling aboard The Main out of Bremen, Germany. He arrived about 16 years after Morris. Jacob married Anna Feldman in Manhattan in 1916, and they lived in Monticello, NY, in the Catskill Mountains (sometimes called the Jewish Alps). Ironically, Anna Feldman's family was also from Porozow.

Born in the US, their children were Abe (nicknamed Tarbo), Ruth, Leon and Sol. Jacob was a butcher; perhaps he apprenticed with his brother Azriel Isaac. Jacob's three sons, Abe, Leon and Sol, worked in the shop as well. Here's a romantic tale: Much later in life, after Anna died, Jacob married

his half-niece, Sarah Cohen Kaufman, daughter of his half-sister Henye. They were both in their 80s. One story has it that he'd been sweet on her when they were young.

USA: DAVID LASHINSKY · LENA

David Lashinsky followed Morris' path, sailing in 1904 on the S.S. Pretoria and listing Morris as his sponsor in Montreal. But David stayed in the US and lived generally in the same areas of New York as his other brother Azriel Isaac, who had arrived in 1901. David started out as a fruit dealer, and by 1910 he was living with his wife, Lena, at 407 East 100th Street.

In 1915, David lived at 654 Crotona Parkway in The Bronx. At this same time, Azriel Isaac lived at 344 East St. John Avenue, just a few kilometres away. David remains a bit of a mystery, possibly because he died in 1930. Close to his brother only in geography, he is buried at the same cemetery as Azriel Isaac in Queens, but not in the same section. Apparently, David's children did not connect with their cousins. Perhaps this was because David died young-ish, or perhaps he was estranged from his New York brothers, Azriel Isaac and Jacob, so there was little contact among the families.

A contretemps between David and the family might have been brewing since Porozow. Morris took David's place on the S.S. Pretoria as the first son to sail to the New World. And it is very likely that first traveller was pre-arranged to come to Montreal to marry a distant cousin, Rachel, daughter of the relatively prosperous Simon Caplan. We cannot be certain if one of the boys was unhappy about the outcome.

USA: ABRAHAM LASHINSKY

Abraham is another puzzle. One of Morris' brothers, Abraham Lashinsky (1890c–1916), married in 1911 and stayed in Porozow along with his wife, Gittel Tova Wishniatsky (1890c–1944). We see this in Ron Kathren's report at this end of this book (chapter titled 1000 New Cousins).

However, a web search has yielded a ship's manifest for Avram (Abraham-Chaim) Lashinsky, aged 52 and from Porozow, sailing on the S.S. Lituania in 1921 from Danzig to New York. That would make him born in 1869, so it is someone of a previous generation to Morris and his brothers. All of the Lashinskys in the village of Porozow were related, regardless of the spelling of the name. The website findagrave.com also has this Abraham buried in 1948 in his 90s at Mount Zion Cemetery, Maspeth, Queens County, NY, but not in the same section as David or Azriel Isaac, who might have been his cousins.

So, who is this Abraham from Porozow? I suspect he is a descendant not of my great-grandfather, but of my great-grandfather's brother. That is, perhaps a son of Chaim Lashinsky, brother of Solomon. Not a mystery solved, but it's a clue. (Please see Lash Family Tree 1.)



1946 Monticello, NY · Anna · Jacob Lashinsky (Morris' brother)



1940s The Bronx, NY · Azriel Isaac Lashinsky (Morris' brother) · Top: Rose · Sara (Suri) · Bottom: Myrna · Joy

THE GREATEST GENERATION

The Greatest Generation is a term coined by NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw in 1998 to describe people who were born between approximately 1900 and the mid-1920s. They grew up during the Great Depression, and many fought in World War II or contributed to the war effort.

The Greatest Generation was a generation of fierce builders. The rapidly modernizing society of the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s spawned many game changers, including the A-bomb, Sputnik, OPEC, Israel, Kraft Dinner, TV, DDT and sliced Wonder Bread. There was the horror of World War II in Europe and the thrill and chill of crises and revolutions in places such as China, Suez and Cuba. The Cold War with Russia was a threat, and the executions of accused Communist spies Julius and Ethel Rosenberg brought it closer to home.

Mid-century influencers included Hitler, Elvis, Frank Sinatra, Marilyn Monroe, Elizabeth Taylor, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Chairman Mao, Winston Churchill, Mahatma Gandhi, Joseph McCarthy, Walter Cronkite, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson, Rachel Carson, Jimmy Hoffa, Jack Kerouac, Dr. Salk, Dr. Spock, J. D. Salinger, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz, Fred Astaire, Ed Sullivan and Walt Disney.

By the 1930s, the first Canadian-born generation of Lashes (the children of Morris and Rachel) had become a dynamic New World family. In 1949, they formally Anglicized their surname from Lashinsky to Lash. They were warmhearted, capable, industrious and resilient. Self-made, determined and strong-willed, they all successfully conquered obstacles and worked hard for a better life.

I think of all of them—my parents, aunts and uncles—fondly. The men were upwardly mobile and bold in their work lives, and Sara and Rose both had significant office jobs decades before the noted feminist Gloria Steinem made the scene. Freewheeling and fun-loving, I. J., Al, Edward, David and their sisters were genial hosts who definitely had living well in their DNA. They each had a clever sense of humour and a broad smile—Solomon's legacy again.

They enjoyed socializing, playing golf and taking vacations in Florida, the Catskills, New England and the Laurentians. They always scored the best tables at Ruby Foo's, the swanky Montreal restaurant that attracted celebrities and wise guys with its delicious pu-pu platters and spare ribs. My parents, Gloria and Edward, knew the staff so well that one of my babysitters was Frances, the Chinese-Canadian cigarette girl who wore slinky silk cheongsams. Our Ruby Foo's charge account number was 75, which impressed me even as a child.

I. J. LASH • MARY MCHALE • NELLIE BRUMBY

The 1935 census lists my uncle I. J. as “traveller,” which surely meant “travelling salesman,” for the family enterprise, Transparent Garment Cover Company.

I. J. also worked hard at leisure. He was congenial and relaxed, and his signature was his friendly gap-toothed smile. He drove a yellow Cadillac convertible during the 1950s and a sky-blue one in the 1960s. He golfed at the elite Jewish country club Elm Ridge outside of Montreal, later continuing his country-club lifestyle in Pompano Beach, FL.

Visiting Uncle I. J. and his girlfriend, Mary McHale, was paradise when I was young. I loved my weekends at their cottage in Sainte-Marguerite in the Laurentian Mountains. Mary was a divorcée and had been a show-room model in Montreal's fashion manufacturing industry. I remember perfume, pearls and face powder. They didn't have children, so they were easygoing—and they had a little black poodle that I adored.

For propriety's sake, I. J. and Mary had separate apartments in the classy Croydon building on Guy Street during the 1950s, but they lived together on weekends—quite risqué for the time. On Saturday nights they danced at the Alpine Inn in Sainte-Adèle in the Laurentian Mountain region. None of their friends were Jewish; it was a different world of devil-may-care men and women who smoked cigarettes and drank scotch.

Mary died in middle age, and eventually I. J. married Nellie Brumby, a divorced hairdresser from Vancouver, BC.

SARA LASH • JOE WEIGENBERG

Sara and Joe had the most traditional household of their generation of Lashes. Maureen Weigen, their granddaughter, recalls going to synagogue on Saturdays with Joe when she was a child. She remembers Joe as exceptionally kind, soft-spoken, and proficient in many languages.

I remember Passover Seders at Sara and Joe's house in Snowdon—a *fressers'* feast of Jewish cooking, including my first latkes. There was a crush of men in white shirts and black yarmulkes, women in spring-time frocks, and kids running around. We all enjoyed Sara's wonderful cooking: brisket, roast chicken and her unbeatable apple pie. Maureen's childhood favourite was a decidedly homespun dish—hamburgers cooked in chicken fat!



1940s Gloria Lash • Saint Urbain Street Stables



1950 Edward Lash • Miami Beach



1950s Rose • Leon Dubrow



1970s Chicago • Al • Rose Lash



1940s I. J. Lash and his Hudson

Sara loved fashionable clothes, played canasta every week, and wanted to go out on the town—but Joe, an emigrant from Russia/Poland who had arrived in the 1910s, was a more old-fashioned homebody.

Finances were a factor, too. Joe had started out as a railway employee, then served in the military during World War I. Postwar, he started a clothing business and travelled a lot to sell. Eventually, he had difficulty with his partner, so the family faced challenges. Clever and capable, Sara worked as a bookkeeper to help out. When creditors came calling in 1945, Sara and Joe fought before the Supreme Court of Canada—and won—so that she could retain her shares in their company. Sara showed the Lash fighting spirit and business sense.

ROSE LASH • LEON DUBROW

Rose and Leon made a colourful, romantic couple. He was a travelling carpet salesman from Chattanooga, TN, who swept through Montreal and married Rose. Stanley Weigen, who worked in the same business, probably introduced Leon to his aunt. She was about 40, petite, blonde and feminine in her high-heeled mules and delicate gold anklet. Leon was six years younger and no doubt easily attracted by Rose and her established family.

Leon briefly had been a private in the US Army, probably through his military high school. I'm guessing he must have broken every rule in boot camp. He was an irreverent rogue, a steady drinker, a chain-smoker, and an inveterate gambler who always had a television blaring in the living room or a transistor radio glued to his ear so he could bet on pro sports. He lost a lot more wagers than he won, and he burned through the couple's finances and Rose's jewelry many times.

Rose was a conservative bookkeeper, totally disapproving of her husband's habits. They always seemed to be at odds, but there was a deep togetherness. Rose called him "Lovey," and when she took ill, Leon cried like a baby. When Leon died, Rose was devastated, but she was not alone. For most of their marriage, and especially after Leon's death, Rose relied on her housekeeper, Gisèle, a Gaspé girl who had been with the couple since she was 15—nearly a half century.

Rose and Leon didn't have children, but they were naturals when they played with me. Rose invited me for tea on Saturday mornings when I was a little girl, and we used her fine Royal Doulton china. I also remember her prized African violets. And despite his lack of social skills with adults, Leon was generous, affectionate and always laughing with children—at least in this child's eyes.

AL LASH • ROSE PLEASE

Al (Abraham) Lash left Montreal at around age 18 for the great adventure of Chicago, IL, where he became a successful insurance adjuster. His wife, Rose Please, was born in Russia, immigrated to Detroit, MI, and wound up working at Al's insurance office in the Windy City of Chicago. They met over paperwork for fire claims and deductibles, married, and together became naturalized US citizens in 1941, when he was about 34 years old and she was 36.

They were a sociable and hospitable couple, and I remember Aunt Rose of Chicago as a strong, savvy woman who was active in Jewish charities. Al loved the racetrack, but he had stopped betting on the ponies by the time he married. Eventually, they wintered in Miami. When I suffered severe sunburn as a youngster on a family vacation, Rose took charge and plunked me into an ice bath. Joanne Weigen remembers that Al and Rose invited her and Stanley out to dinner at The Embers in Miami Beach—more proof that the family was warm, generous and liked to live well.

EDWARD LASH • GLORIA BALACAN

A modern guy, Edward built a duplex for his family in the 1940s in Snowdon. It had the works: a double lot with a huge lawn and extensive gardens, a two-car garage with an electric door opener, a large laundry room, a conservatory, a cedar closet, and rather beautiful antique furniture. We even had a wine cellar, although my parents did not drink wine.

Thinking back, my father was a good provider—very good. We had one of the first Zenith TVs with "rabbit ears," as well as a playground swing set and skating rink on our supersized lawn. We vacationed in Florida, New York City and New England. My mother wore designer clothes, and Eddie golfed at Hillsdale. Eddie worked as manager at the family factory. He had skills as a fabric cutter, and he calculated the prices of goods based on costs for labour, raw materials, production and distribution. During the 1960s, he even went to Japan to scout for home accessories that the company could import.

When I was a youngster, my father took me with him on his errands every Saturday morning, and it was a treat to go to his office or even to the barber. On Sundays, he dragged my toboggan up Mount Royal. Somehow, he magically procured tickets for me to see The Beatles on their first North American visit in 1964. Our young family skied in the Laurentian Mountains, and our summertime thrill was ordering hotdogs from the roller-skating carhops at Miss Montreal or Orange Julep on Decarie Boulevard.

Gloria married the dashing Edward in the 1930s. The honeymoon lasted through the 1940s and 1950s, with parties on Isabella Avenue, dinner-dances at Hillsdale, and horseback riding from the Saint Urbain Street



1950s I. J. Lash and pals



1930s Edward • Gloria Lash



1950s Mary McHale • I. J. Lash



1946 Monticello, NY • Ethel Dworetzky • Leon Lashinsky



1970s Sara Weigensberg

stables to the bridle paths on Mount Royal. Snowdon also was Gloria’s domain; she cruised around in her convertible and walked to Queen Mary Road daily, saying hello to everyone.

What I hear most often about my mother is that she was attractive, entertaining and ladylike, with good manners, elegant clothes and fine taste. Long before Jane Fonda’s workout mania, Gloria was a leader at the 6 a.m. YM-YWHA gym and swim classes. She wasn’t a famous cook, but she put a hot meal on the table every weeknight. My favourite was Friday night’s standing rib roast. Her chicken fricassee was outstanding, but we can’t find the recipe! On Saturday nights, Edward and Gloria had the first table at Ruby Foo’s, and on Sundays we all went out to Moishe’s for steak or Ruby Foo’s for spare ribs and lobster Cantonese.

Gloria’s passion was fashion. The Social Notes of the Canadian Jewish News recorded the couple’s 25th anniversary at Ruby Foo’s in 1963: “Mrs. Lash wore a black and white peau de soie gown with a beaded bodice.”

But life wasn’t all cha-cha and Chinese food. Gloria regaled her coffee klatch with tales of hubby and home life that recalled famous TV sitcom couples like Archie and Edith Bunker in All in The Family or Ralph and Alice Kramden in The Honeyymooners.

Still, they made it through. Edward and Gloria celebrated their 50th anniversary in 1988 with a gala dinner at the Montefiore Club, a private enclave for the elite of the Jewish community. Tommy Schnurmacher, social columnist of the Montreal Gazette, reported that Gloria wore gold lamé.

DAVID LASH • ETHEL WITKOV

Uncle Dave lived large, so it was heavenly visiting his house in Côte-Saint-Luc when I was a child. He laid out huge Sunday brunches of smoked salmon, smoked meat and bagels, and he was a pal of the city’s best food distributors, so everything was top-notch.

My family stayed at David and Ethel’s during a snowstorm blackout in the 1950s, and it was paradise for three days: no school, great eats and two playmates—cousin Bobby and their frisky standard poodle.

Bobby says: “My father had a heart of gold. He loaned money to people even when he knew he would never get paid back. And he was a *bon vivant*, very outgoing, with lots of friends from all walks of life—businessmen, mechanics, gangsters and cops. During the (Premier) Duplessis era in Quebec, my father had a *laissez-passez*—a pass that gave him immunity from traffic tickets and almost everything else.”

David and his family had a country house in Val-Morin and a large powerboat on Lac des Sables in Sainte-Agathe. When Bobby was young,

he and his mother lived in Florida for a few years, and David flew down periodically on Eastern Airlines.

Young Ethel was a glamorous, beautiful and independent single woman who moved to the US and started a bookstore, although immigration laws forced her back to Canada. She was a divorcée, and she met David while she was working as a desk clerk at the Laurentian Château in Val-Morin, a country hotel owned by her parents, Adele and Boris Witkov.

Several Jewish-owned resorts opened in the Laurentian Mountains from the 1920s to the 1950s, creating a Catskills of the North. This was in part because Jews were not welcome at many other properties, but also there was a need for kosher kitchens. At home, Ethel was sociable and a good cook, which was a plus for David, Bobby and their frequent guests.

THE COMPANY

The common thread for some of the first-generation Lash siblings was the family company, Transparent Garment Cover Company. It was founded in 1931, a daring move during the Great Depression, but it was a successful venture that supplied one of Montreal’s and Canada’s most important industries. The company began at 1482 Guy Street in Montreal, near Sainte-Catherine, and later moved to 9500 Saint Lawrence Boulevard near Chabanel, the district that evolved into Canada’s largest clothing manufacturing hub.

An innovative startup, Transparent Garment kept all doors open for future business. By 1941, it had registered as a potential manufacturer, exporter and importer of textiles, accessories, garments, and waterproof materials, such as rubberized silk, latex, cellophane and plastic products for showers, tableware and rainwear.

The firm eventually focussed on wardrobe accessories, flexible packaging, clothing protectors, suit bags and retail bags to supply Montreal’s men’s and women’s apparel trade.

In the early days, I. J., Edward and (later) David worked as salesmen and managers, and Rose was a bookkeeper. Al had moved to Chicago as a young man, and Sara worked elsewhere as an administrative assistant/secretary (she eventually worked with her husband Joe).

Always deeply involved in the community and generous with good causes, the company was named a Governor of the Jewish General Hospital in the 1940s, and the traditional generosity with nonprofits continues today.

The world of manufacturing has shifted dramatically since the 1970s. After many changes in operations and products, Transco Packaging Group, with Steve Lash as Chairman and CEO, will celebrate its 90th year in 2021.

TWO BABY BOOMS

The next generation of Lashes was born between the post–World War I boom of the 1920s and 1930s and the post–World War II boom of the 1940s.

Boomers span several decades, and life changed dramatically over the years. The 1960s, 1970s and 1980s brought Vietnam, Louise Brown, Watergate, AIDS, LGBT, LSD, Chernobyl, Wall Street, Roe vs. Wade, Prozac and the Pill. On the lighter side, there were Saturday Night Live, Barbie, Studio 54, Starbucks, Sesame Street, the Sony Walkman and the first cell phone, created by Motorola.

Movers and shakers included Pierre Trudeau, Yasser Arafat, Ayatollah Khomeini, Oprah, Steven Spielberg, John F. Kennedy, Helen Gurley Brown, Martin Luther King Jr., The Beatles, Twiggy, The Bee Gees, Madonna, Michael Jackson, Andy Warhol, Mick Jagger, Nelson Mandela, Princess Diana, Hugh Hefner and Bob Dylan.

The year 1969 was a milestone in many ways: Janis Joplin, Jimi Hendrix and The Who rocked Woodstock; Apollo 11’s Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon; the Stonewall Riots launched gay rights; and four US universities connected via an early version of the Internet.

ELMER WEIGEN • RAE HEPBURN • RENATE SENF

The Great Depression of the 1930s marked Elmer Weigen even though he was a child at the time. He lamented not having had sports equipment or tickets to events, and he took on part-time jobs at 14, delivering newspapers and working in his father’s factory.

Whether he enlisted for adventure or was conscripted, 18-year-old Elmer served in the Canadian Air Force during World War II. Based in Canada, he repaired military equipment. (Conscripts were not sent overseas.) After completing his military service, Elmer spent the rest of his career working as a salesman at Transparent Garment.

There also was time for leisure. Elmer was a cool, swinging guy who liked discotheques, pretty women and good jokes. He vacationed in London during the 1960s and brought home his fiancée, Rae Hepburn. She wasn’t Jewish, and they married even though his parents weren’t wild about the idea. Wedded bliss was short-lived.

Elmer’s true love was his second wife, German-born Renate Senf, a fine couturier who created fashions for Montreal’s best-dressed women. Elmer was hospitable and had lots of friends and parties, but he also liked relaxing at home, Sunday drives for brunch, and British humour, including Benny Hill on TV and Peter Sellers’ movies.

STANLEY WEIGEN • JOANNE GOLDBERG • FRANCES BIRSHSTEIN

Stanley was sensitive, thoughtful, a great storyteller, and keen on golf and travel. He was a clever and hard-working salesman who eventually became vice president of Peerless Carpet Corp. As part of his job, he ventured all the way to Australia and India. Married to Joanne (Goldberg) Weigen for nearly 40 years, he was devoted to their daughters, Maureen and Janet, and their grandchildren.

Stanley regretted not being able to finish university, but he was excited by history—particularly World War II. He volunteered for 20 years at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, leading classes in current affairs at the geriatric day unit. He also donated equipment, furniture, and a garden named the Stanley Weigen Walkway.

At age 20, Joanne moved to Montreal from Halifax, NS, to work at the Jewish General Hospital as a lab technician. Eventually, Joanne earned a psychology diploma and a Bachelor of Arts degree from York University. Joanne is kind-hearted, generous and gentle. She supports many causes, especially Israel, The War Amps of Canada and preventive medicine. She is an avid reader and music lover and was strong on swimming and tennis.

Years after his divorce from Joanne, Stanley was scooped up by a dynamic socialite from Virginia, Frances Birschstein. She was involved in many Jewish causes, and he reveled in the social whirl. It is possible that the fast pace took its toll. Stanley died suddenly on a trip to Paris with Frances.

LEAH LASH • LARRY WARNER

Al and Rose Lash of Chicago adopted Leah as a baby, and she grew up to be a beautiful young woman. She married a legal researcher named Larry Warner, and his father-in-law, Al, invited him to join the insurance game, creating Lash, Warner & Associates. I caught up with Larry by phone when he was in Florida:

“My father-in-law was great,” says Larry of Al Lash. “He was a big guy...charming, outgoing and good-looking, like all the Lash brothers. The brothers were all so lively. They all came down from Montreal to Chicago for our wedding and they were a force—all charming, gracious and classy.”

Leah was a stay-at-home mom. Tragically, she died of a cerebral occlusion

just shy of her 40th birthday. "Leah was intelligent, deep and thoughtful," recalls Larry. "And she had a wonderful sense of humour."

Leah and Larry had two children, Richard Warner and Laura Warner Markus. Richard passed away in 1989, when he was around 30 years old, due to complications from pneumonia. Laura lives in Colorado (see Generation X below).

STEPHEN LASH • SANDI GROSSMAN

Tall, stylish and handsome, teenage Steve could do everything well, whether it was repairing a ham radio or skiing like a pro, not to mention golfing, waterskiing and skeet-shooting. He loves everything motorized: fast cars, speedy boats and roaring motorcycles. He even piloted a Cessna.

His latest venture, photography, has taken him to Iceland, Italy, Israel, Wyoming, France, Ireland and the Rockies. Talented and technically accomplished, he has published several evocative coffee-table books, and his work has been exhibited in galleries. Steve is affiliated with the Society of Professional Journalists, Professional Photographers of America and the Royal Photographic Society.

Steve's friends, family and colleagues all agree he has a good and generous heart. He's a devoted family man who melts when he's with his children and grandchildren. When Steve's son, Marty, was worried about scoring a spot on the school softball team, Steve coached him, pitching and catching for hours in the park.

When I was a youngster, Steve let me tag along with his friends, skiing and playing street football. I was his pit boss (that means go-fer) at NASCAR drag races where he swept first place with our 1967 coral Plymouth Fury and our white 1963 Dodge. We even once sneaked off to Florida on a plane! When I was a teenager, he tried to teach me to drive, but his manual-transmission Ford 7-Litre was so powerful I couldn't get it into gear. Later, I backed my mother's car into Steve's brand-new 1968 Corvette Stingray. It was manufactured in one sleek piece of fibreglass, so even one scratch would have ruined the entire body. He must have been apoplectic, but he didn't lose his temper with me.

Most of all, Steve is a masterful salesman and businessman who modernized the flagging family company. He turned Transparent Garment Cover Company into Transco Plastic Industries and later Transco Packaging Group, a truly international enterprise that operates from Montreal to China, India and beyond.

For a guy in a suit, my bro has true grit. During nearly 60 years with the company, and particularly during his tenure as CEO, Steve has adapted to the massive post-1980s revolutions in global economies and industrial and office technology.

The changes affected everything: printing, marketing, environmentalism, manufacturing at home, operating in Asia and worldwide distribution. Steve's business skills serve the community, too. He was president of Montreal's Montefiore Club, streamlining operations and adding modern *savoir faire* to the prestigious meeting place for Jewish leaders.

Sandi Grossman Lash is energetic, efficient, effervescent, disciplined and fast-moving. She is an accomplished bridge player and golfer, a lively conversationalist, and she's known for her striking clothes and jewelry. Friends say she's loyal, and she was a wonderful, caring daughter to her parents.

Sandi has crafted homemaking into a high art, nurturing a stellar home life and dynamic social scene full of parties and celebrations that bustle with children and grandchildren. She's a terrific cook, managing large family evenings for the Jewish holidays as well as dinner parties for friends. Sandi has elaborately decorated the family's homes with sumptuous fabrics and a lavish collection of antiques and *objets d'art*. Sandi and Steve seem to be a storybook couple; they celebrated 50 years of marriage on January 4th, 2020.

ROBERT LASH • NEDDA UMANSKY

Bobby must have had an entertaining childhood. His parents were lively, the food at home was terrific, and the family always had prancing black standard poodles. Some of my lasting memories are from our teenage years, when Bobby and I were at Camp Panorama in the Laurentians during the 1960s. He won all the track competitions—powering ahead of everyone by a long stretch. On a slower note, when I was 16, Bobby taught me how to drive using his VW Beetle. I succeeded because you couldn't stall it!

Bobby and his mother wintered in Miami Beach during the early 1950s, from the time he was about four years old until seven. He went to school, learned how to swim, and lived in the International Hotel, an apartment-hotel on the Intracoastal around 41st and Collins. Boxer Rocky Marciano lived in the same building. Bobby remembers his first Coke float ("heaven," he says), served poolside at The Empress Hotel. His father, David, would fly south every few weeks.

Things got tougher. Bobby was only 14 when his father died. He had a difficult time, but he stayed the course, took care of his mom, and worked to build a career in law. Although the family helped, Bobby made it through his youth very much on his own. He attended boarding school in Ottawa, ON, followed by McGill University in Montreal. He went on to ace two law degrees: one in French at the University of Ottawa and one in English at York University in Toronto.

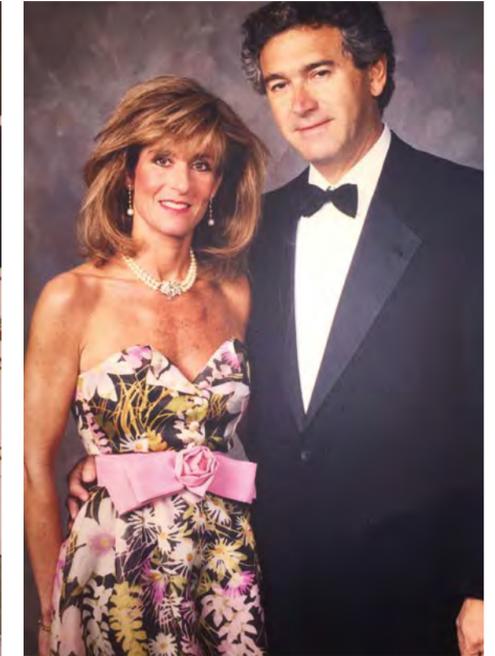
Put simply, Bobby is very, very smart. He also has a biting sense of



1970s Steve Lash



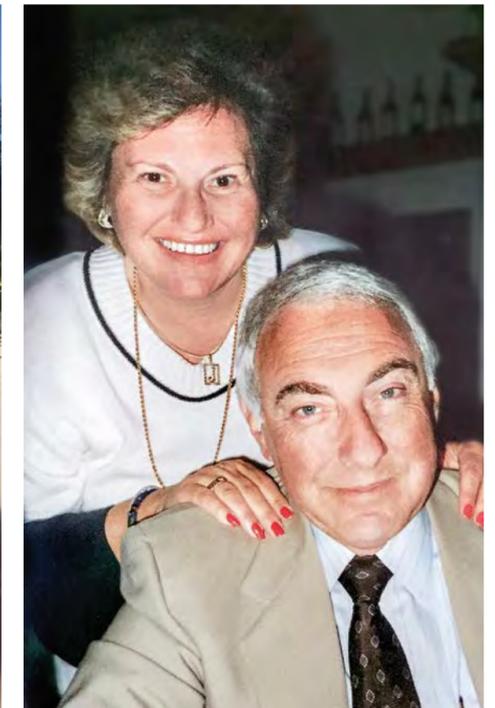
1990s Rochelle Lash



1980s Sandi • Steve Lash



2000s Miami • Rochelle • Jean-Pierre Ferron • Sandi • Steve



1980s Joanne • Stanley Weigensberg

humour and makes sharp observations about life and people. He met Nedda in Ottawa, and they settled in Toronto. For most of his career, he was the managing partner of a boutique law firm specializing in real estate development. After retiring, Bobby volunteered at Baycrest Hospital in Toronto.

Bobby and Nedda follow his parents' family traditions with gusto. They're a sociable couple, entertaining friends frequently. They have had female black standard poodles for almost 50 years. Bobby also has an impressive collection of miniature decorative wooden trains and toys.

Like his father, he's proud to have friends from all walks of life. Many join him and Nedda in their great passion—motorcycling. Bobby and Nedda take their deluxe Honda Gold Wing on long road trips through the countryside of North America. They've logged more than 217,000 miles (350,000 kilometres) over the years, visiting the gorgeous landscapes of Utah, Nevada, Wyoming and California.

Nedda is kind, intelligent, cultured and quick-witted. She taught elementary school for more than 40 years. A faithful and devoted wife and companion, she shares Bobby's love for motorcycles. Nedda is also a terrific cook. Bobby's favourites are stuffed veal brisket, lamb shanks and chocolate cake. Friends clamour for peanut butter cookies and banana cake. How devoted is Nedda? When she and Bobby vacationed in Florida, Nedda drove the car all the way! The formula has worked: They'll be celebrating 50 years of marriage in 2022.

ROCHELLE LASH • ST. CLAIR BALFOUR IV • JEAN-PIERRE FERRON

I evolved from an obedient, studious little girl in the 1950s to a rebellious teenager. In 1966, during high school, I go-go danced at Chez Pierre Le Grand Club, used a fake ID to see Little Stevie Wonder at the Esquire Show Bar, and partied at the very gay Hawaiian Lounge, which had a great drag queen revue. In 1969, I skinny-dipped at Woodstock, complete with cannabis, 50 years before the dreaded weed was legalized.

I made it through McGill University with a BA and Diploma in Education, then worked my way through an MA at the University of Missouri. I joined the newspaper biz in 1972, working at the Montreal Gazette as a copy editor, photo editor, news and entertainment editor, and sports reporter during the 1976 Olympic equestrian events. Since then, I have written for The New York Times and worked for other historic institutions: Bank of Montreal, Ritz-Carlton Montreal and the Canadian World Economic Forum.

In 1981, I married St. Clair Balfour IV, scion of an A-list Scottish-Canadian family of newspaper barons. I learned about luncheon plates and grape scissors, and I was welcomed at several almost-no-Jews-allowed private

clubs. We had Christmas cocktails with the Ken Thomsons and the Galen Westons, and I glimpsed how Toronto's one-percenters manage. Generally, I am partial to the other 99 percent, and we divorced after 18 years, with no kids.

Today, I like British literature, non-fiction, food, Netflix, contemporary design and the Sunday New York Times crossword. Music-wise, very little since the 1970s: Chopin, Motown, The Rolling Stones, Phil Spector (I know, I know—he's in prison). I like fashion, too (thanks, Mom). Although I was never a champion, I have an irrepressible love for sports. I was on the volleyball, basketball, track and gymnastics teams in high school, and later it was horseback riding, cycling, tennis, paddle boarding, hiking and skiing.

Colleagues think of me as conscientious and creative—I hope! Friends say I'm funny, irreverent and opinionated. I asked my long-time partner, Jean-Pierre Ferron, if I'm bossy; he said, "Whatever you say, dear."

It's a blessing that I come from a determined family. I weathered office politics, sexism, daily deadlines and the tortuous birth of modern technology. Now, about 30 years after personal computers went mainstream, I have survived erratic developments in hardware and software that spanned DOS, ASCII, IP, BBM, MAC, IBM, JPEG, PDF, GPS, FTP, IPTC, LAN, HTML, Y2K, WWW, WAN, iOS, MPBS, SMS, SIM, HTTP, RTF, USB, URL and Cyberduck. OMG!

Born in a small francophone Quebec town a one-hour drive from Montreal, Jean-Pierre Ferron said his first Jewish-inspired word at Snowdon Deli: *karnatzel*.

He is a hard-working, physically strong guy. J. P. loves his job in the public works department of the small city of Hampstead because he drives a truck and works outdoors, winter and summer, in temperatures ranging from -35° to +35° C. He is good-humoured, resilient and romantic.

J. P. grew up playing golf at a course his father managed, so he's a natural on the links, and he doesn't take the game too seriously. He religiously watches the game on TV, sharing the couch with our SPCA cats, Roxy, Summer and Bubba. I think I've seen a beer or two go down while the pros tee off at Pebble Beach.

J. P. also is a food aficionado who appreciates the cuisine on my travel-writing gigs, and he has evolved into a master barbeque chef, so I eat divinely at home. He is a pizza connoisseur, and on one jaunt to New York City we ate Neapolitan masterpieces for breakfast, lunch and supper.



1940s Elmer Weigen



1990s Toronto • Nedda • Bobby Lash



1970s Chicago • Leah • Larry Warner • Richard • Laura



1970 Sandi Grossman • Steve Lash • Montreal



1968 London England • Rochelle Lash

GENERATION X

Gen Xers were born approximately between 1965 and 1980, so at the time of this writing in 2020, they are between 40 and 55 years old. Amazing, but true. Gen Xers are grown-up, with children of their own.

Things are getting curiouser and curiouser, as Alice said when she found herself in Wonderland. And Gen X's era is just as odd. In 1996, Viagra changed sex (for their parents, at least). In 1994, genetically modified organisms changed food when the Flavr Savr tomato was engineered. A wide range of icons held sway: Paris Hilton, Bill Gates, Harry Potter, Barack Obama, the Kardashians, Dr. Dre, Lululemon, the Spice Girls, Dolly the sheep, American Idol, MTV, The Sopranos and Seinfeld.

Post-millennium, the fallout from 9/11 touched us all in myriad ways, and Iran, ISIS and Homeland Security became everyday concerns. Russia still is an aggressor. China looms.

MAUREEN WEIGEN

Maureen started out as a fashion buyer for major retailers, then married and worked at her most important job: raising her sons, Michael and David. Now divorced from Eric Liebovitz, she runs Decorating Vision, her own interior decorating business.

Strong on creativity, Maureen likes knitting, glassblowing, ceramics and cooking. Like her father, she is fond of history—her focus is ancient times. Her favourite travel destinations include Peru, London, Scotland, Finland and Western Canada. Her beloved lapdog, Maddy, is a Coton de Tulear, a cuddly princess whose breed is from Madagascar.

JANET WEIGEN • NORMAN SHINER

Janet and Norman met when they were students at Western University in London, ON. They married and settled in Toronto. They have four children, all girls: Jacqueline, Lesley, Audrey and Jennifer. They do everything together as a family—Shabbat dinners, travel and kids' sports.

Early on, Janet was a teacher, and then she became a stay-at-home mom. While her children were growing up, she somehow squeezed in an MBA at the University of Toronto. Now Janet runs a financial consulting business. She is outgoing, energetic, organized and dependable. She loves to cook, read and walk the family's Goldendoodle, Holly.

LYSA LASH • MARK HORNSTEIN

Loaded with style and stamina, Lysa is a jet-setting businesswoman and a see-and-be-seen socialite. She has a passion for fashion, and she's a creative party planner and fitness devotee. Super busy and

super organized, Lysa carools, travels and skis with her three children, Katie, Lucy and Roman, and her hubby, Mark.

Lysa has inherited her mother's social aspirations and her father's sharp business instincts. Intense, innovative and driven, she is the fourth generation of her mother's family (Samuel Grossman Furs) to go into the fur industry, but she has done it with a thoroughly modern twist.

She has entrepreneurial skills to the max. Lysa Lash Furs sells fabulous garments at high-fashion online shops, and the company also presents exclusive, invitation-only trunk shows in cities across North America and the world. Show locations include Miami, FL; Aspen, CO; New York City, NY; Chicago, IL; Toronto, ON; London, UK; and Gstaad, CH. She has been featured on *vogue.com* and *forbes.com*.

Keeping up with Lysa is surely one of Mark's greatest challenges, but he is up to the task. "Mark is an incredibly wonderful father," says Lysa. "He is happiest spending time with our three children." Mark is a hockey dad to Roman and loves family meals with his daughters.

In summer, Mark adores the family country house in Sainte-Agathe, and his favourite watersport is wakesurfing. He likes golf, too—also at Hillsdale. In winter, his favourite snowbird stops include Bal Harbour on Miami Beach and the Caribbean. Frequent flying aside, he loves to chill at home and watch NFL football. He still plays poker with his high-school friends, and sometimes the gang heads for glitzy Las Vegas, NV, to boost excitement.

Yes, there is work as well. Mark and his brother, Sam, manage the Hornstein family real estate business, which owns a wide swath of commercial and residential properties.

MARTIN LASH • KARA CRUDO

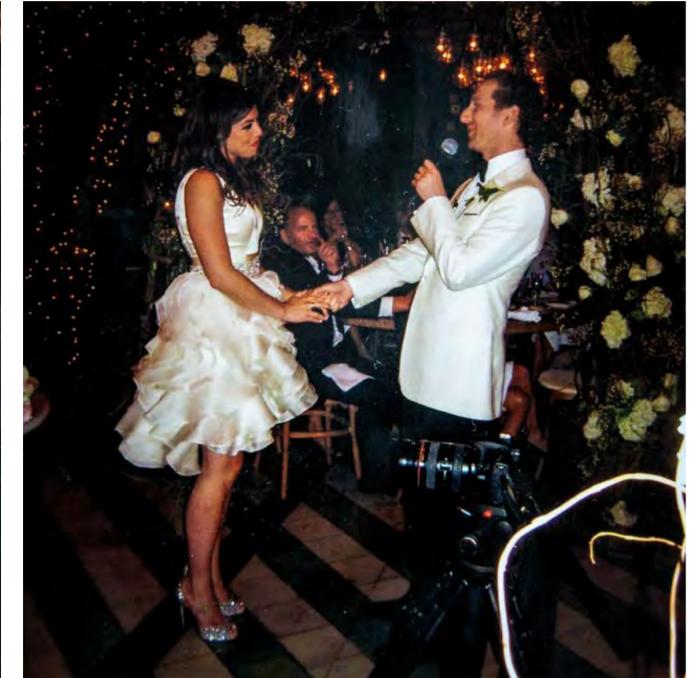
The Lash trait of sociability continues with *brío*. Marty is a caring young man, and he loves sharing golf, wakeboarding and snowboarding with his family and lots of friends.

His great-grandparents Morris and Rachel were present at the beginning of Transparent Garment Cover Company, so Marty is the fourth generation of Lashes to be associated with the enterprise (the forerunner of today's Transco Packaging Group). He is a super-accomplished salesman, pitching eco-conscious goods throughout North America and around the world. As part of his work, he has travelled extensively in China, Thailand, Vietnam and Hong Kong. I've heard about Marty's great work ethic and honesty.

Marty and Kara had a glamorous wedding at a celebrity hangout: Soho Beach House in Miami's South Beach. Kara exudes good cheer and constant energy. The middle of three sisters, she skied and played



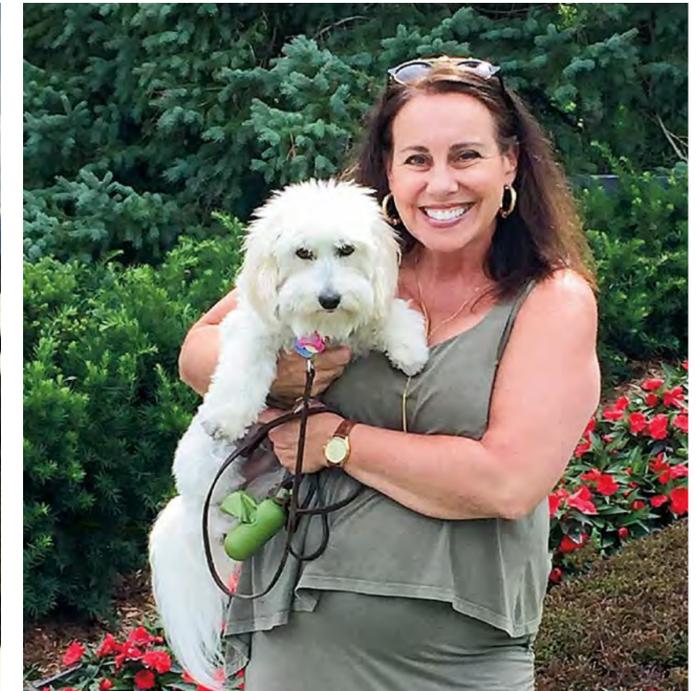
2019 Lysa Lash



2013 Soho House, Miami Beach • Kara Crudo • Marty Lash



2000s Colorado • Jim Markus • Laura Warner Markus



2000s Toronto • Maureen Weigen

GEN Z • GEN ALPHA

softball with her father when she was younger. An ardent and daring fashionista, Kara worked as a brand manager in the apparel industry, then conquered law school in French at Université de Montréal. She works for a major law firm, Campbell Cohen, practicing immigration law. I have seen Kara playing with her nieces and nephews, and she's a natural at motherhood. Juggling careers and home life, Kara and Marty now are raising their son, Harrison, and their newborn, Annie.

LAURA WARNER • JIM MARKUS

Laura Markus is the daughter of Larry Warner and Leah Lash of Chicago, and she's the granddaughter of Rose and Al Lash.

Laura, her husband, Jim Markus, and their son, Rorey, all are cyclists, hikers and skiers. They're perfectly poised for all that fresh air and fitness because they live in the splendid Rocky Mountain region of Colorado. Home is the historic, picturesque community of Evergreen, about 50 kilometres west of Denver, and weekends are spent at their mountain lodge in the posh ski resort town of Beaver Creek.

I haven't met Laura, but I can tell she is spirited, compassionate and dedicated to doing good. She volunteers as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA), assisting abused and neglected children. She covers several counties around Denver, so she's always on the go. Her husband, Jim Markus, is an attorney with his own firm specializing in business reorganization.

Laura grew up in Chicago and met Jim at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She studied fashion and business; he studied chemical engineering (and later law at the University of Michigan). They graduated in the 1980s, and she worked in the fashion business and at a gallery for wildlife art. They married in 1990, and in 1994, they decided on the outdoorsy, active lifestyle of The Rockies.

Rorey is studying biology at the University of Colorado at Boulder. His special gift is wildlife photography, and one of his dreams is to work with National Geographic. The right place—again. Colorado's magnificent mountain-and-lake landscape is teeming with fox, elk, deer, beavers, bighorn sheep, marmots and the occasional black bear, as well as eagles and 400 other bird species.

Born between 1995 and 2015, Generation Z ranges in age from four to 24 (in 2020) and is growing up in the radically advancing 2000s.

In Toronto, our Generation Z includes Jacqueline, Lesley, Audrey and Jennifer Shiner, as well as Michael and David Liebovitz. In Montreal, we have Katie, Lucy and Roman Hornstein, as well as Harrison Lash. In Colorado, we have Rorey Markus. Annie Lash, born in 2019, is our first Generation Alpha.

Generation Z grew up with smartphones and the Internet. The global commerce sites came first: Amazon (1994), eBay (1995) and PayPal (1998). A universe of information followed with Google (1998) and Wikipedia (2001). And then came the visceral desire to connect and to see and be seen on social media via LinkedIn (2002), Facebook (2004), YouTube (2005), Twitter (2006) and Instagram (2010).

Emoticons and selfies abound, Google has achieved quantum computing, and it seems like everyone is sharing, streaming and talking to Siri. Even the Pope tweets. But nothing is perfect. We're subject to sexting, hacking and cyber-bullying, as well as potholes along the information highway such as post-truth, alternative facts and fake news.

Gen Z also is experiencing mainstream movements such as the gig economy, #MeToo, the opioid crisis, peer-to-peer business, gluten-free food and Botox. Artificial Intelligence is changing labour and ultimately will be as momentous as the First Industrial Revolution. Driverless cars are around the corner, and marijuana is legal in Canada. The climate crisis is so real it is becoming part of the public consciousness.

Newish words in the Oxford English Dictionary include meh, meme, mindfulness, hashtag, hangry, homie and hygge. Gender is fluid, ranging widely from cis-gender (identifying with your birth-assigned gender) to non-binary (identifying outside masculine and feminine norms or as a combination of both).

Headliners include Donald Trump, Kim Jong-un, Greta Thunberg, Taylor Swift, and Beyoncé and Jay-Z.

Once again, every facet of life is transforming: Labour, technology, communications, transportation, religion, politics and social mores. And this time, we are facing a massive 21st-century medical crisis, not a miraculous 20th-century medical advance.



2019 Kara Crudo • Marty Lash • Annie • Harrison



2019 The Hornsteins • Katie • Lysa • Mark • Lucy • Roman



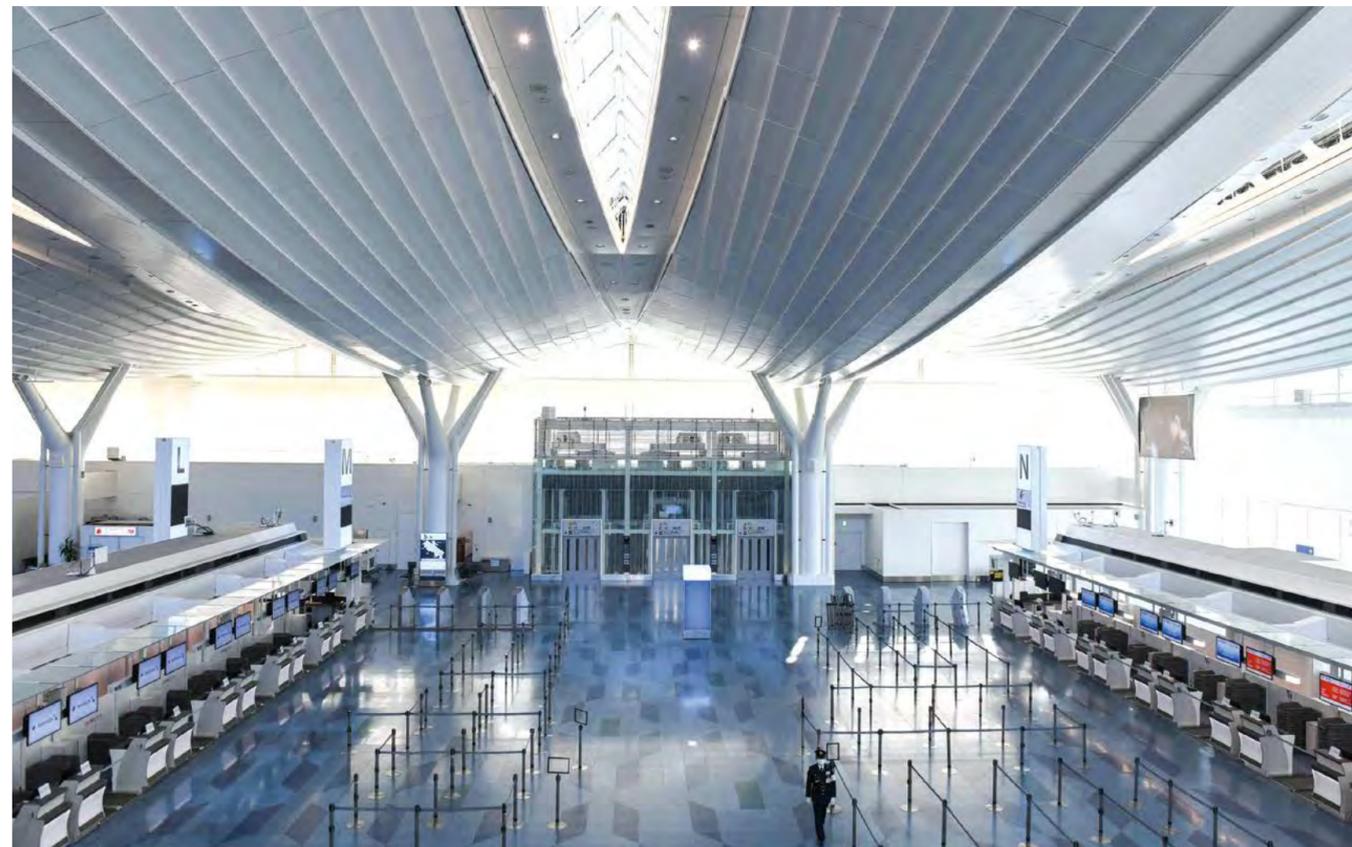
2000s The Shiners • Top: Jennifer • Lesley • Jacqueline • Norman
Bottom: Janet • Audrey • Toronto



2000s Michael • Maureen • David Liebovitz



2019 Colorado • Jim • Laura • Rorey Markus



2020 The world almost stood still during the global COVID-19 pandemic, which caused severe travel limits, economic crises and physical isolation.

Graphic designer Nathalie Ciccioppo expressed it this way: "Airports, where the world typically connects and explores new boundaries, are almost deserted."

2020 COVID-19 CATASTROPHE

Hallowe'en has been canceled. So were the Tokyo Olympics, Holy Week in Rome and the Cannes Film Festival. There's little hope for the Santa Claus Parade. Fifteen world leaders have fallen ill and US President Donald Trump was hospitalized, 30 days before an election.

I am writing this in October, 2020, so far a year so devastating people say the world will be scarred for a decade or more. The seemingly uncontrollable calamity is a highly contagious respiratory pandemic, COVID-19.

Even at home, it sounds dystopian: Montreal is in a red zone for contagion and the government has discouraged travel to other regions of Quebec. In an eerie but essential Big Brother move, Canadian citizens returning from foreign countries have to quarantine. If they leave their houses, they face huge fines.

COVID-19 started in China in December, 2019, and has swept the globe, devastating hot spots such as Italy, Spain, India, Brazil and the United States. Most of the world has been in lock down to try to limit the contagion and many countries have closed their borders to foreigners. In a historic first, the U.S.-Canada car border has been closed for seven months – so far -- to non-essential traffic.

In a surreal scenario, the media broadcasts hourly reports about casualties. More than one million people around the world have died so far. The US has counted more than 206,000 deaths in seven months, nearly four times the casualties during the 20-year Vietnam War (approximately 58,000). In Canada, the grim estimate is currently about 9,500, with nearly 6,000 of those in Quebec. (Canada lost 45,000 lives over five years during World War II.)

People were asked to stay isolated at home, wear masks for essential errands or outdoor exercise, and practice "physical distancing," keeping two metres apart to avoid spreading microbes. Hospitals were desperate for testing equipment, respirators and beds, and citizens hoarded food and essentials, with a run on toilet paper and sanitizer, not to mention hair dye for home grooming. Public places, such as arts venues, malls, schools, conference centres, gyms, parks and stadiums, have been mostly closed, as re-openings causes serious spikes of the virus.

Many nations acted too slowly to contain the pandemic, including the US and Canada. By January 21, 2020, the virus had spread from China to the US, Europe and other parts of Asia. Air travel fed the monster. According to ICAO, 4.3 billion passengers flew in 2018 (latest figures available), with the most from Asia, 34.8 percent; Europe, 26.3 percent; and North America, 22.4 percent.

An irrepressible desire for fun trumped common sense and fear of death. On February 19, 40,000 Italian soccer fans travelled from Bergamo to Milan and within weeks, doctors were so overwhelmed with patients, they were forced to let some senior citizens over 70 or 80 die. Sun-seekers flocked to beaches in Brazil and Florida with dire consequences. In April, religion ruled. In Belarus, thousands attended church for Orthodox Easter, and in Pakistan, hard-line clerics kept mosques open during Ramadan. Hasidic Jews congregated for Passover from Toronto to Tel Aviv.

In Spain, shopping centres were turned into morgues. India made it illegal for its 1.3 billion citizens to leave their dwellings, even to procure food. Cruise ships were quarantined in ports around the world. There was ominously little news from Africa.

South Korea reacted quickly to an early outbreak with massive testing and contact tracing, using data from smartphones to track people who might have been infected. Also tech savvy and compliant, Vietnam had no deaths until August 1.

The fallout from COVID-19 included a sharp downturn in world economies, with crippling closures and cutbacks across virtually all industries. Unemployment hit record highs, governments shelled out billions in bailouts and financiers talked about inflation, deflation, recession or even a 1930s-style depression. Air Canada drastically reduced its flight schedules by a staggering 95 per cent, with little signs of recovery. Major retailers such as J.C. Penney, J. Crew, Neiman Marcus and Reitman's declared bankruptcy and urban hotels were down to five-per-cent occupancy, many to never recover. In contrast, after a few months of isolation at home, people were desperate for fresh air and the freedom to move around, so the countryside was mobbed with hikers, paddlers and cyclists.

To avoid mingling, people turned zealously to online life: Amazon, Shopify and Uber Eats for basics, and FaceTime, Skype and Zoom for cocktail parties, sightseeing, school, fitness classes and worship. Andrea Bocelli live-streamed his Easter concert and Stephen Colbert broadcast from his bathtub.

The virus also spawned a vocabulary, including PPE (personal protection equipment), flattening the curve (controlling the number of cases), and on a lighter note, quaran-tini for happy hour and co-vidiots for rule-breakers. Their punishment? Corona shaming on social media, the modern version of being pilloried in a public square.

Although mankind has walked on the moon, created artificial intelligence and genetically modified plants and animals, there was no preparation for a pandemic, and still only a faint glimmer of a vaccine.

CAPLAN

CAPLAN

The Lash family has always identified as Lashes. But we're Caplans, too, descended from Rachel Caplan, Morris Lash's wife and my paternal grandmother.

Circa 1888, Rachel's parents, Simon Zussman Caplan and Esther Shklior Sheine Caplan, emigrated from Russia to Canada with six children: Harris, Anna, Ida, Rachel, Rebecca (nicknamed both Bella and Toba) and Louis. And then after settling in Montreal, Simon and Esther had two more children: Isadore Jacob (Jack) and Abe (Bunny).

I regret that I don't know much about the Caplans—especially my grandmother Rachel, who died of cancer at age 69 in 1949, two weeks before I was born. (If you are following hereditary medical trends, Rachel's mother died in her 50s, and Rachel's daughter, my Aunt Sara Lash Weigensberg, also died of breast and brain cancer at 75.)

Rachel appears to have been strong, resourceful and capable, bringing up a large family in difficult circumstances in Montreal during the early 1900s. The year 1905 was a particularly rough one. Rachel's mother, Esther, passed away; her second child, Thomas, died at four years old; and she gave birth to her fourth child, my Aunt Rose Lash Dubrow.

The Caplan family was industrious and quite successful from the beginning of their Canadian journey. Rachel's father, Simon, was a Talmudic scholar who also owned a store at 21 Craig Street West (later renumbered 141). He owned his own dwellings, which were adjacent to the store. The Caplans' youngest daughter, Rebecca, ran the shop. Later, Simon's family moved to 1096 Hôtel de Ville Street (City Hall), and he owned that home, too.

Many of the Caplans (including some of Rachel's nephews) also did well after the mid-1940s, particularly through the family millinery business started by Joe Caplan. The company eventually was named Nalpac. It initially produced linings for hats, then trimmings, such as feathers, veils and artificial flowers. Later, Nalpac manufactured lace and knitted fabrics for export, and it also supplied Montreal's huge apparel industry.

My parents, aunts and uncles were quite friendly with the Caplan clan. I remember several names from childhood: Abe (Bunny), Isadore (Issie) and Jack Caplan; Harriett Cohen Kolomeir and her brother, Morty Cohen; and Morty's wife, Farla Shatner Cohen, who was the sister of Hollywood actor William Shatner.

Sarah Adelman Spector and Esther Adelman Rubin were Rachel's nieces, and I remember those sisters going everywhere together.

Seymour Spector, Sarah's son, was a successful landlord with a slew of downtown apartments in Shaughnessy Village around Tupper Street. He was very close with his cousin Louise Rubin, and she worked for him in his substantial real estate venture. Tall and dapper, Seymour was flamboyantly gay and proudly out of the closet decades before the Stonewall Riots of 1969 and Ellen DeGeneres' announcement in 1997. Seymour died walking to synagogue during the High Holidays.

In the *Émigrés* section of this book, I quote Ben Caplan's memoir about growing up in Montreal during the early 1900s. I never met him, but he was an educated man and an astute observer. He was the son of Harris Caplan, so he was Rachel's nephew.

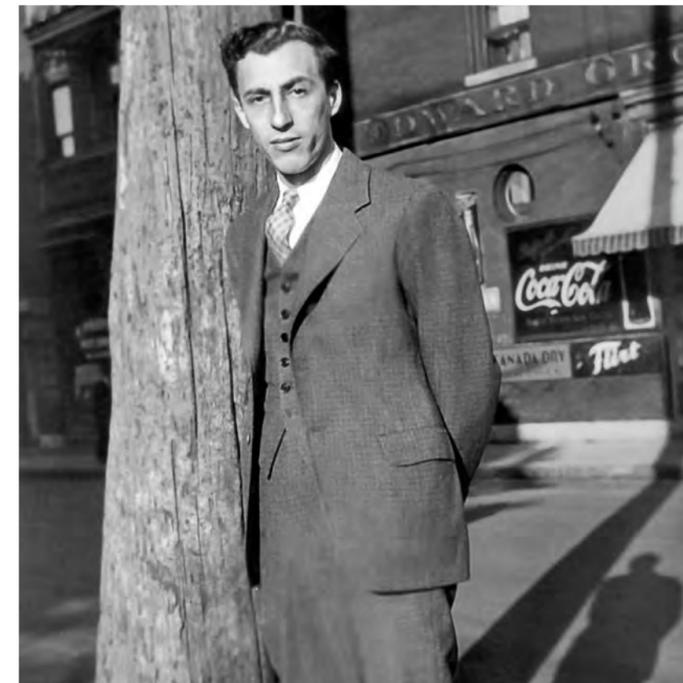
Ben placed first in Quebec's high school matriculation exams, and he gained entry to McGill University when there was a quota for Jewish students. His economics professor, Stephen Leacock (who also was a renowned humourist and author), suggested Ben continue at the University of Chicago. Ben did so and eventually worked in the government of US President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Rachel's brother Jack was an accountant who moved to New York City around 1916, when he was in his early 20s. He lived at 305 West 72nd Street on the Upper West Side, in a strongly Jewish area a few blocks from the Hudson River. A 1930 petition for US citizenship shows Jack living at 351 West 42nd Street near Times Square. In 1948, Rachel visited him at an even better address—19 West 44th Street, a prestigious street that was home to the Algonquin Hotel, the Harvard Club, the New York Yacht Club and the New York Bar Association.

For the full Caplan story, I refer you to the comprehensive book *A History of Our Family* by Steven J. Potashner.



1940s The Caplans · Abraham (Bunny) · Jack Caplan · Sarah Cohen · Joseph Caplan · Annie · Abe · Ben



1930s Isadore Samuel Caplan



1930s Rachel Caplan Lashinsky



1950s Abe (Bunny) Caplan · Al Lash · Jack Caplan



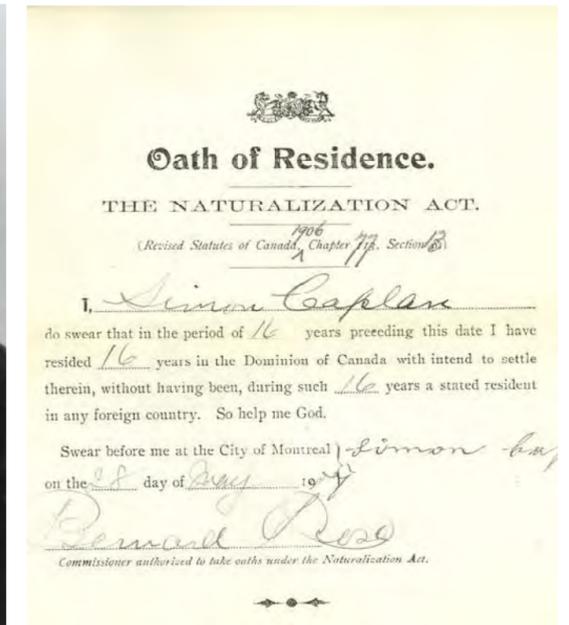
1988 Louise Rubin · Tommy Caplan



1960s Rose Lash Dubrow · Jack Caplan



(Thomas) Harris Caplan · Portrait



1900s Simon Caplan's naturalization



1966c Ruby Foo's Restaurant · Top: Michael and Ronney Caplan · Farla and Morty Cohen · Ethel and Thomas and Rose Caplan · Susan Potashner · Abe Caplan · Steve Potashner · Kitty Caplan · Sarah and Rebecca Rabiner · Bottom: Mark Caplan · Harriet and Morty Kolomeir · Ben and Ida Caplan · Sarah Cohen



1966 Susan Caplan and Steven Potashner wedding · Top: Louise · Kitty · Phyllis · Abe · Ethel · Ronney · Michael and Ida Caplan · Bottom: Jack and Rose Caplan · Bride Susan · Groom Steven · Sarah Cohen · Ben Caplan

ROOTS IN ROMANIA



1900s Joseph Balacan's family came from Moinești · Bacău County · Romania

ROOTS IN ROMANIA

We have roots in Romania as well as in Russia.

My mother, Gloria Lash, was a stylish and feminine woman, the offspring of two Romanian families. Her father was Joseph Balacan, from the small city of Moinești in Bacău County in northeastern Romania, at the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. Gloria's mother was Gertrude Bolchover, whose family originally was from the town of Buhuși and later moved to Bucharest, the capital of Romania.

Jews in Romania were almost continually victims of intense anti-Semitism and violent pogroms, even though they had a significant business presence at certain times. In the late 1800s, laws were enacted to exclude Jews from schools, property ownership, citizenship and virtually all civil rights. Britain, the United States and France intervened to solve "The Jewish Question," but anti-Semitism still raged, and Jewish emigration surged at the end of the 1800s.

Between 1880 and 1910, as many as 70,000 Jews left Romania. They sold their possessions, formed travel groups of between 30 and 300, and marched, took trains or hitched rides for hundreds or thousands of kilometres to the ports of Germany and France.

At least two authors have told the colourful story of the Romanian *fusgeyers* (a Yiddish word for wayfarers or, literally, foot-wanderers). Author Jill Culiner wrote *Finding Home: In the Footsteps of the Jewish Fusgeyers*, and Jacob Finkelstein penned *Memoir of a Fusgeyer* from Romania to America. These ragtag bands of amateur actors performed comic street theatre and satirical songs to pay their way across the countryside, supported by handouts from peasants.

"In Romania, everyone was proud of the *fusgeyers*...They were heroes," Culiner writes. "But by the time they reached Budapest, everyone looked down on them as poor refugees." Culiner further explains: "The assimilated Jews of Vienna and Budapest and Berlin were especially embarrassed by the Jews from the East. They were afraid they would once again awaken anti-Semitism."

Some of Romania's international figures include playwright Eugène Ionesco, actors Edward G. Robinson and John Houseman, New Yorker magazine artist Saul Steinberg, Olympic gold medal gymnast Nadia Comăneci, tennis champion Ilie Năstase, and author Elie Weisel, who gave the term "Holocaust" its current meaning. Notables from the Balacans' village of Moinești include Moshe David Shuv, co-founder in 1882 of the landmark Israeli commune Rosh Pina.

Around the 1900s, Romania was strong on production of oil from the Black Sea, but that eventually dried up. Today, education is a growing business. Students from many countries attend Romanian universities as a way of earning professional degrees with cut-rate tuition fees.

All good, but Romania's most famous export might be smoked meat, which was imported from Turkey during several hundred years of Ottoman rule. In Romania, the original pastramă was lamb or mutton, and the elaborate preparations included drying, brining, seasoning, smoking and steaming. *Pastirma* (Turkish) and *basturma* (Armenian) were variations on pressed and dried beef. In Egypt, *pastirma* also has been made with lamb, water buffalo, goat and even camel meat.

Smoked meat debuted in Montreal around the 1890s, and we're on the foodie map thanks to our famous delis: Ben's De Luxe Delicatessen (1908–2006), Dunn's Famous (1927), Schwartz's (1928) and Snowdon Deli (1946). Ben's attracted the likes of Bette Midler, Leonard Cohen, Ed Sullivan, Jack Benny and Liberace, as well as sports stars and business tycoons.

BALACAN

The Balacans (also Balakan/Bolocan) are a large family, descended from Anna (Ida/Chaya) Solomon and Eliezer Wolf Balacan. Eliezer Wolf (he used Wolf) came to Canada from Romania in 1893 to organize life for his family. Anna braved the voyage a year later when she was approximately 47 years old, travelling with their seven children, including 14-year-old Joseph, my maternal grandfather. They departed Hamburg in December 1894 and arrived about two weeks later in Boston, with a final destination of Montreal.

Perhaps the Balacans were somewhat comfortable financially, since many families sent children one by one, spacing them out to drum up the money for the next passage. I hope that Anna and her children were affluent enough to have been spared the horrible experience of steerage. But it is highly unlikely.

They travelled overseas on the S.S. Sicilia, whose ship manifest shows 10 passengers in first class and about 650 in third class—a euphemism for steerage, which was little more than a cattle car. What a miserable trip it must have been: horrible food, a lack of sanitation, embarrassing personal questions and indignities such as de-licing. If they surfaced for a breath of air, they would have braved the icy North Atlantic winds. Still, they made it. The amount of money that the family declared at immigration was "nothing," and they answered "no" to questions about polygamy and prison sentences.

By 1901, Wolf (an apron and men's clothing manufacturer), Anna and their children were living at 7 Saint Philip Street, west of Saint Urbain between Saint Catherine and Dorchester Boulevard. In 1976, those blocks became a huge office building, Complexe Desjardins.

The children of Eliezer Wolf Balacan and Anna all married in Montreal. One intriguing note is that three Balacan sisters married three men named Lonn—probably brothers or cousins. Joseph Balacan married Gertrude Bolchover, and Martha Balacan married Leon Pappelbaum (please see the Balacan Family Tree in this book).

Anna passed away in 1917 at age 70. Eliezer Wolf died in 1938 at about 90 years old. They are both buried at Baron de Hirsch cemetery on De la Savane Street in Montreal, surrounded by descendants, such as Lonns, Fainers and Balacans. More great-grandparents that I never knew of before this year.

Leon Pappelbaum has descendants in the Holy Land. Therefore, we have family there, too! I e-met Ilan and Yafit Lehr of Rishon LeZion through online genealogical research about Romania. Ilan's great-grandfather Moritz Căldăraru was the brother of Leon Pappelbaum, so that makes us very distant cousins.

Ilan is a 25-year veteran of the Israeli Air Force. His wife, Yafit, is a speech therapist, and their daughter, Gafen, recently had a bat mitzvah. Ilan and Yafit were pivotal in my search for Rochelle Bolchover (Gertrude Balacan's sister) in Israel. Miraculously, they led me to Rochelle's grandson, Moshe Dror, and Rochelle's great-granddaughter, Zohar Stein-Yaanan. (See more on Rochelle Bolchover, Moshe and Zohar on the following pages.)

THE BOLCHOVER BELLES

My grandmother Gertrude's parents were Abraham Bolchover and Clara Swartz Bolchover. Clara was born in 1864 in Romania and died in 1938 in Montreal. It appears that her husband stayed in Romania.

The couple had five daughters, all born in Buhuși, Romania, although the family later lived in Bucharest. Four of the girls came to North America: Sophie, Pauline, Gertrude and Minnie, as well as their mother, Clara. The eldest daughter, Rochelle Bolchover, stayed in Romania, married, had three children, lived through the horror of the Holocaust, and moved to Israel late in life. Rochelle's compelling story is on the following pages.

Sophie Bolchover was the first of the sisters to come to North America. She arrived in New York City in 1899 and spent two years there, presumably with family or friends. It was arranged (probably back in Romania) that she would wed Moses Simand, who also had emigrated from Romania but went to Montreal. He travelled south from Canada to meet Sophie. They married in 1901 in New York and immediately travelled to Montreal.

Once established with a home and husband, Sophie was instrumental

in bringing her sisters and mother to Canada. The Simand family lived at 337 Durocher Street (later changed to 5275 Durocher, near Fairmount,) with a Polish maid named Lina. Sophie seemed intrepid. In 1927 she travelled to Detroit to see Bolchover cousins from Bucharest who had sailed over in 1903.

According to the 1921 Ottawa census, Pauline Bolchover came over in 1903, and it looks like the other sisters travelled within a few years. The Montreal census of 1911 shows Minnie Bolchover came over in 1904 or 1908 and stayed with Sophie on Durocher until she married Charles Hoffer in 1912. The Hoffers moved to 1447 Saint Urbain Street, and by 1938 they were living at 615 Avenue Champagneur in Outremont. Minnie was later widowed. She eventually married Jack Rosenberg and lived on Bradford Place near Côte-Sainte-Catherine Road. Minnie never had children.

We still have two mysteries. One is that we are not sure about Gertrude's and Clara's arrivals. We have Gertrude's sisters immigrating to Canada in 1901, 1903 and 1904. I suspect that Gertrude came over between 1905 and 1908, when she was between 16 and 19 years old. (Gertrude married in 1909.) It is very possible that all the girls stayed with Sophie and Moses at one point or another. We do have the census data for 1901 and 1911, but not much in between, so we have little news on the sisters until they married.

We know Clara lived with Gertrude (then married to Joseph Balacan) as of the 1911 census until her death in 1938. Clara, another great-grandparent that I did not previously know of, is buried in the Spanish and Portuguese section on Mount Royal in Outremont with her daughters Sophie, Pauline and Minnie nearby. Gertrude joined the Balacans at Baron de Hirsch cemetery on De la Savane Street.

Our second mystery is Abraham Bolchover. Clara's husband stayed in Romania, and we have one unsubstantiated report that he died in 1910. It is possible that Clara came over on her own after she was widowed, choosing to be with her four daughters in Canada rather than stay in Romania, where her daughter Rochelle lived.

JOSEPH BALACAN • GERTRUDE BOLCHOVER

Gertrude Bolchover and Joseph Balacan married in 1909 at Beth Israel in Montreal. Gertrude was about 19 years old, and Joseph was about 28. She was petite. He was tall and slender. They moved to 165 Saint Aimé Street in Louiseville, between Montreal and Quebec City, because Joseph operated his own business, the Ascot Shirt Company, in Louiseville. The town would later become a manufacturing hub and a landmark in Quebec's tumultuous labour history.

Gertrude and Joseph's three eldest daughters, Marguerite (Mollie, 1910), Estelle (1912) and Jeannette (1914), were born in Louiseville. The 1911 census shows that the household included housekeeper Laura Grimen as well as Gertrude's mother, Clara. They were the only English-speaking family in the neighbourhood.



1910 Gertrude Bolchover Balacan



1910s Gertrude • Joseph Balacan



1930s Joseph Balacan (Gloria Lash's father)



1940 Rochelle Bolchover's passport



1920s The Bolchovers • Gertrude • Sophie • Mother Clara • Rochelle • Minnie

I realized that my mother's parents, the Balacans, had a slightly different story than my father's family, the Lashes. While thousands of Jewish men and women toiled for paltry wages in the garment industry's horrible conditions, Joseph Balacan was an employer, not an employee.

It probably helped that his father, Eliezer Wolf Balacan, had arrived a year ahead of his family to get life ready. And the 1901 census shows that Wolf manufactured aprons, so perhaps Joseph apprenticed to learn the needle trade. Joseph had been in Canada for about 14 years before marrying, so he was already established, and he brought up his family in style.

Morris Lash, on the other hand, married at about 21, after only one year in Canada. He was new to the big city and worked solo as a tailor, a tough gig in 1900. In 1919, Morris took out a mortgage through his father-in-law Simon, but it was not enough to combat the low-paid sweatshops and the dreaded income tax of 1917. Luckily, by the 1930s, Morris' enterprising children had started a company.

Louiseville has a place in Quebec's history, but its connection to our family is tenuous.

In 1929, the Canadian Jewish Review reported that an American company, Associated Textiles, opened a million-dollar, state-of-the-art plant in Louiseville for the manufacture of silk. It was the start of the Depression, and the townsfolk were thrilled to have employment and improved civic services. The CEO of this US enterprise was Phillip Fainer, husband of Millie Lonn, the daughter of Joseph Balacan's sister Dora Lonn.

But Fainer moved on after a few years, and Associated Textiles' industrial honeymoon was short-lived. There were many protests over low wages during the next 20 years, and in 1952-1953 the situation blew up into one of Quebec's nastiest and most pivotal strikes.

Premier Maurice Duplessis intervened, favouring the company. He ruled during Quebec's Grande Noirceur (Great Darkness) of the 1930s to 1950s, a regressive time of corruption and anti-unionism. Michel Chartrand, the fiery Quebec labour leader and separatist, backed the union, but did not gain much. The quiet town of Louiseville turned violent as police clashed with strikers.

The discontent of Quebec workers—often French-Canadians working in English-owned industries—led to the rise of the philosophy of *maîtres chez nous* (masters in our own house), part of the 1960s Quiet Revolution of the progressive Jean Lesage government. The strike also fostered separatist sympathies and led to the election of the Parti Québécois during the 1970s.

According to the 1921 census, the Balacan family had decamped from Louiseville to 4231 Esplanade Avenue in Montreal, facing Fletcher's Field (now Jeanne Mance Park). Gloria (1915) and Annette (1917) were both born at Hôtel Dieu Hospital just down the street. It is the oldest hospital in Montreal, developed under the authority of King Louis XIV in 1645 by Jeanne Mance, the first nurse in New France.

Annalee Flanz Ross, my first cousin and Mollie Flanz's daughter, recalls that the Balacans' attached row house on Esplanade was furnished with the best of everything, which seemed to be Joseph's influence. He was successful in business, quite dapper, and he had several sisters who were well-married women of good taste. The Esplanade dining room was appointed beautifully with antique furniture, fancy china, gold-trimmed crystal and silver flatware, all for 12 dinner guests. The living room had a piano, fancy wood parquet floors and a fireplace surrounded by intricate tiling.

Joseph often stopped at a florist to buy a fresh *boutonnière* for his lapel. The family's vehicles matched this lifestyle: Joseph bought fancy cars from the swells who lived at the posh apartment building Haddon Hall on Sherbrooke Street near Atwater Avenue. And my mother told me that she and her sisters always had beautiful clothes because Joseph travelled regularly to New York City to buy fabric for shirt manufacturing—and he came home with gifts from Saks Fifth Avenue.

Romania had a lot of French influence during the 1800s, manifested in ornate architecture and a penchant for French fashions. Bucharest later became known as *Le Petit Paris*, and that's probably why four of the Balacan girls had French-inspired names. Gertrude spoke fluent French with her daily housekeeper, Madame Prévost, and the handyman, Monsieur Paquette.

Gertrude was known for at least three things: her five vivacious daughters, cooking and playing poker. I don't know in which order. She also must have had some other special feature—whether it was personality, intelligence, warmth, generosity or sex appeal, we don't know. But Joseph was almost wed to another woman before choosing Gertrude instead.

Her cooking was Jewish-style: roast chicken, potato pancakes, brisket, honey cakes and *mămăligă* (the Romanian version of cornmeal cakes or polenta). There were multiple variations of everything, so dinner was a feast, particularly on holidays.

Gertrude's poker days were sociable girlfriend get-togethers. She baked her famous apple strudel, and the game travelled weekly from house to house, including those of her sisters-in-law, Malvina Spencer Balacan and Martha Balacan Pappelbaum.

All five Balacan daughters were dynamic and active, and each had a distinctive sense of humour. Annette was beautiful and warm, Jeannette was smart and sporty, Estelle was upbeat and fun-loving, and Gloria was



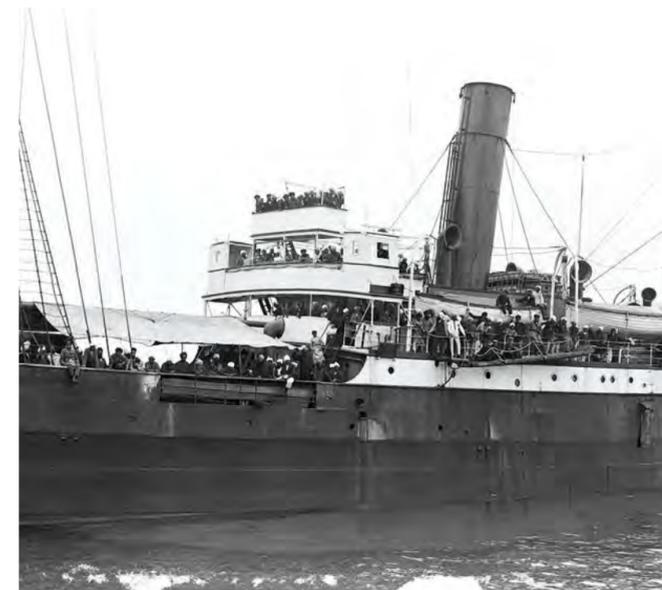
1938 Gloria Balacan Lash



1910s Martha Balacan Pappelbaum · Gertrude Balacan



1940c Annette Balacan White



1894 Anna Balacan and her seven children sailed the S.S. Sicilia



1981 Aunt Minnie · Sisters Gloria · Annette · Mollie · Jeannette

fashionable and feminine. Mollie, strong and capable, was accepted to the nursing school at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, but her father would not permit her to go. Eventually, she volunteered at the Jewish General Hospital and served on the board of the YM-YWHA.

Before the girls were married, the Balacans had a house in Val-Morin, so most of the sisters also were outdoorsy and athletic. They played golf and skied. Jeannette was very competitive and won trophies for golf, badminton, tennis and bridge. Gloria was an equestrienne. In the 1920s and 1930s, she rented horses on Saint Urbain Street and rode across Park Avenue to the bridle paths on Mount Royal. I still have her riding habit: jodhpurs, a tweed vest and boots.

Gertrude and Joseph insisted on practicality, too. All the sisters were trained as office workers—a 1930s census lists them as stenographers—and my mother was quite proud of her basic bookkeeping and typing.

Joseph died in 1943 at about age 63 after collapsing on the street. He left the Ascot Shirt Company to his five daughters, although it looks like some of their husbands reaped the benefits. My father, Edward (married to Gloria), was a manufacturer; Sam Berger (Jeannette) was a lawyer; and Dr. Joseph Flanz (Mollie) was a medical man, so we believe all three sold their Ascot shares, although Mollie worked there after her own husband died.

Gloria married Edward Lash in December 1938 at the Shaare Zion synagogue, an NDG institution, which was then temporarily in Victoria Hall in Westmount. The shul we know today on Côte-Saint-Luc Road held its first services in 1947.

Gloria's wedding year of 1938 was one of mixed emotions: Her father's father, Eliezer Wolf Balacan, died in June, and her mother's mother, Clara Bolchover, passed away in November.

But Gloria was starting her new life with her husband, living atop a shop at 2048 Maplewood Avenue, Apartment 3, near Université de Montréal. My bro, Stephen, was born in 1941, and within a few years Edward and Gloria had built an elaborate duplex on Isabella Avenue in Snowdon, an emerging neighbourhood that was mostly fields in the mid-1940s.

Then I came along.

ROCHELLE BOLCHOVER

Rochelle Bolchover, the eldest daughter of Clara and Abraham Bolchover and sister of my grandmother, Gertrude Bolchover Balacan, had an exceptionally difficult life. Rochelle's mother and sisters immigrated to Montreal, Canada, but she stayed in Romania, married Joseph Klinger and eventually divorced.

Rochelle and Joseph had three children: Dr. Pepi Klinger, a pediatrician in Romania; Carol Klinger, a son who died at age 11; and Reisy Klinger, who as a teenager during the 1930s worked with a fiercely Zionist pioneer group in Romania and who also eventually co-founded a pioneering *kibbutz* in Israel.

None of us born in Canada can even fathom the hardships of our ancestors from Europe. Miraculously, Rochelle survived the Holocaust in Romania. After the Germans invaded in 1940, Rochelle, then about 61 years old, and her daughter Pepi, then about 40, escaped from Bucharest with a few Jewish neighbours and hid in a rural village until the end of the war.

Romania's fascist military dictatorship was allied with Nazi Germany until 1944. Jews were subject to pogroms, mass killings, "trains of death," forced labour, financial penalties and discriminatory laws, although there were no concentration camps.

The Wiesel Commission reported that between 280,000 and 380,000 Jews were murdered on Romanian soil, constituting about half of the country's Jewish population. The commission also reported that approximately 290,000 Jews survived, and other sources peg the number of survivors at up to 360,000.

After the war, the impoverished and exhausted Jewish community started a mass exodus to Israel, and Romania was happy to see them go since they were considered an "inferior race." In addition, Romanians zealously expropriated Jewish land and property without payment and without intending to ever give it back. (This was the case throughout Europe.)

Permits to leave the country were free for a while, but years later, Romania insisted on compensation for permitting Jewish emigrants. This compensation was first provided in the form of industrial assistance from Israel, and it was later provided in cash.

Rochelle had secured a passport in 1940, and, drained from fighting for survival in a hostile environment, she moved to Israel in 1946 at approximately age 67. There she joined her daughter Reisy and her son-in-law at *Kibbutz Dalia*.

Having escaped the Nazis, the terrifying journey to Israel was Rochelle's second life-threatening test. The marine voyage was a highly risky venture meant for the young, the bold and the desperate. From about 1938 to 1952, a clandestine immigration effort called *Aliya Bet* was organized by a branch of *Haganah*, the underground paramilitary resistance. As many as 200 ships carried tens of thousands of European refugees.



2000s The Bergers · Olivia · Jordana · Jason · Emma



2000 The Bergers · Top: Steve Annunziato (Kelly) · Olivia · Jenny · Joe · Kelly
Seated: Heidi · Emma · Jason · Jordana · Maddie Annunziato



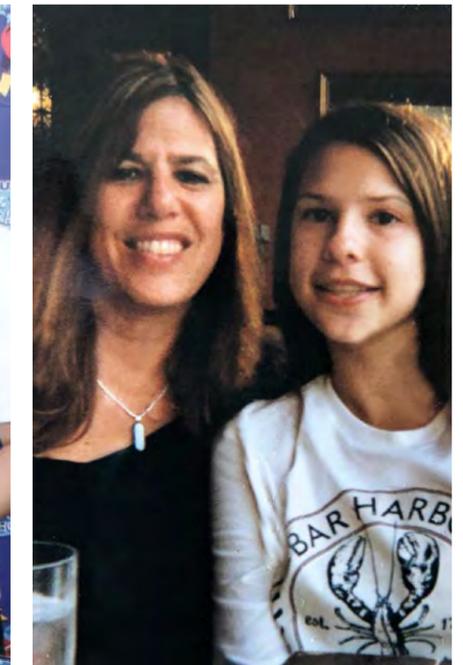
1950s Carol Bernstein · Rochelle



2019 Annalee Flanz Ross · Maine



2000s Marathoners · Greer Ross Bean · Jacqueline Ross



2019 Greer Ross Bean · Alexa Bean

There were a few triumphs and several tragedies. Many immigrants drowned after their vessels were attacked, and others died of illness aboard ships. Several of the old, decrepit ships sank, others were torpedoed by Soviet submarines, and most did not conquer the British Royal Navy blockades on the shores of Mandatory Palestine (the British-ruled territory, 1920–1948) that were set up to limit Jewish immigration.

Appallingly, thousands who had survived Nazi persecution made it to shore but were refused entry. Many were sent back to sea to travel for months, even years, because no country would accept them. Other brave souls who managed to land were sent to internment camps in Cyprus or Mauritius.

In one horrible 1940 incident of “friendly fire,” *Haganah* placed a bomb aboard the S.S. *Patria* in Haifa Harbor to disable the ship so it could not be rerouted to Mauritius. The bomb was miscalculated, the ship sank in 16 minutes, and 267 people died trapped in the hold. The remaining approximately 1,500 survivors were permitted to stay in Mandatory Palestine on humanitarian grounds.

In another unspeakable tragedy, in 1941, the engines of the S.S. *Struma* failed in the Black Sea, and the ship was towed to Istanbul where it sat in port for 10 weeks. The British pressured the Turks to deny the refugees permission to come ashore, and finally the ship was towed 10 miles out to sea and set adrift. A sitting duck, she was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine. All but one of the 800 terrified passengers died; they were either trapped in the hold, drowned at sea, or they perished of hypothermia while clinging to wreckage.

Rochelle Bolchover’s ship, the *Max Nordau*, made it through in 1946 in another twisted story. The *Max Nordau*, carrying 1,754 people, was captured by British destroyers on May 13, 1946. But it was ironically lucky timing because that was the day that the media blared the news of a hunger strike by Holocaust survivor passengers on other immigrant ships. Shamed into compassion, the British had to allow those ships to land in Israel.

So, Rochelle started her new life in the Promised Land. She had overcome the Germans, the Romanians and the British to do so.

The tortuous restrictions on Jewish entry to Mandatory Palestine administered by Britain had complex beginnings. The British government’s Balfour Declaration of 1917 announced support for a national home for the Jewish people, but it raised hopes falsely and was dangerously vague about boundaries, statehood and rights for native Arabs. None of these issues have ever been solved, and even the proposals drafted for peace in 2020 are controversial.

The British had two contradicting motives and were universally unpopular because they kept changing sides. They wanted to appear to

support Zionism because it was still wartime in 1917, and they needed the support of world Jewry to lobby the governments of the United States and Russia to ally against Germany.

Yet the British also backed the Arab Revolts of 1916–1918 and 1936–1939, pledging to support Arab independence or a unified Arab state. To appease the Arabs, the British fiercely limited Jewish immigration to Palestine. Eventually, the Brits reneged on their support of an Arab state, as they had done with the promise of an Israeli homeland. Through the League of Nations (1920), Britain and France eventually partitioned most of the Middle East.

A 1954 letter correspondence between Rochelle Bolchover in Israel and her Canadian sisters revealed one story. Rochelle appealed to Gertrude Balacan to help her gain entry to a new seniors’ residence in Israel. She was now 74 years old and had lived in *Kibbutz Dalia* for seven years.

But Rochelle’s application for more comfortable lodgings was rejected, so Rochelle is buried at *Kibbutz Dalia* along with her pioneering daughter Reisy. They fought and worked to build the nation of Israel, and now they are at rest.

Those vivid stories come from Rochelle Bolchover’s grandson Moshe Dror and her great-granddaughter Zohar Efraim Stein-Yaaran, our newfound cousins.

“My grandparents Reisy and Toto, who fought for Israel and founded *Kibbutz Dalia*, were inspirational role models whom I admire to this day,” Zohar said. “Rochelle Bolchover’s emigration took profound courage and unimaginable strength.”

Zohar has four children, aged six to 22, and she lives in Ra’anana, a suburb of Tel Aviv. She works in financial technology for CitiGroup, and she is keen on forest gardening and eco-farming. Zohar also volunteers for an anti-cyberbullying educational program.

The military plays a part in almost every Israeli’s life. Zohar served in Air Force operations for a combat squadron. She has an MSc in operational research and data analysis from Technion (Israel Institute of Technology). Her two eldest children both finished their university-level math and science degrees while in high school. Her son Eran Stein is a Navy officer developing electronic warfare systems. Zohar’s daughter, Sharon Stein, is an Israeli Army intelligence officer whose work is classified.

Moshe Dror, one of Reisy and Toto’s three children (and Zohar’s uncle), was born at *Kibbutz Dalia*. He raised his family there and still lives there with his wife, Lea. A mechanical engineer, Moshe worked in R&D



1905 Rochelle Bolchover · Daughter Pepi Klinger



1919 Rochelle Bolchover · Daughter Reisy Klinger



1912c Rochelle Bolchover · Son Carol Klinger



1950s Pepi and Teodor of Romania visit Reisy and Toto in Israel



1939 Reisy Klinger · Isaac Fogel Dror (Toto)



1966 Judith Dror

at Arad Industrial Group, based at *Kibbutz Dalia*. Arad is a world leader in the field of water measuring—a crucial job that focuses on irrigation in a land with so much desert.

Moshe loves books, music, walking, gardening, archaeology and travel, not to mention his five grandchildren. He has travelled extensively for his work, and he and Lea have covered the globe, visiting Europe, Africa, Asia, North America and Australia.

But home is *Kibbutz Dalia*, which now is a chapter in DIARY OF OUR DNA.

KIBBUTZ DALIA

Dalia was a pioneering *kibbutz* when it was founded in 1939 in northern Israel, at the foot of Mount Carmel in the Galilee. It is about 30 kilometres south of Haifa and about 90 kilometres northeast of Tel Aviv.

The *kibbutz* was established by German and Romanian immigrants—among them, our cousin Reisy Klingler. *Kibbutz Dalia's* mandate has broadened over the years, but it still is thriving: In 2020, it has a population of nearly 900, and it is supported by innovative industry and agriculture.

The intrepid young Reisy was part of an international Zionist movement called *HeHalutz* (later *Hashomer Hatzair*), an organization dedicated to assisting Jewish youth with aliyah (immigration, or literally “ascent” to Israel) and living in *kibbutzim*. *HeHalutz* set up agricultural villages in Romania and other countries to train passionate young Zionists how to live a communal lifestyle and farm, all in preparation for their future on a *kibbutz*.

The establishment of *kibbutzim* during the late 1930s was designed to expand Jewish lands as much as possible and ultimately have the territories recognized as a state.

Reisy was around 21 or 22 years old when she left Romania in 1936, having completed her agricultural commune training. It was surely the adventurous, dangerous voyage of a lifetime. Between 1937 and 1938, she met the dashing Isaac Fogel (Toto). They were two indescribably brave, hard-working young people dedicated to building a Jewish homeland. In 1939, Reisy and Toto helped found *Kibbutz Dalia*, and in 1940, they married.

Once at *Kibbutz Dalia*, the pioneers worked doggedly in primitive conditions. They farmed the land, and between 1939 and 1943, the *kibbutz* built small factories for soap, textiles and cheese, as well as a cowshed, a chicken coop, a beehive and a rabbit farm. So, they were self-sufficient during the shortages of World War II. Milk and honey were there for all.

Reisy and Toto also were members of *Palmach*, the elite military force of about 2,000 soldiers that was part of the *Haganah*, Israel's underground army. The *Palmach* fought during the 1948 Arab–Israeli War to create an Israeli state, and it also was an underground force against the British, who wanted to ban post-World War II immigration of European Jews to Mandatory Palestine.

Was the *Palmach* tough? Yes, sir. Basic training included marine ops, practice with spears, knives, axes and small arms, and hand-to-hand combat. Many advanced *Palmach* members also trained in sabotage, explosives, reconnaissance, sniping, radio communications, and live-fire drills with artillery support, machine guns and mortars. Reisy was so dedicated that when she fell and hurt her shoulder, she carried on without complaint. Years later, an X-ray showed that she had actually sustained a fracture that day.

Dalia had light-hearted moments as well. The *kibbutz* became famous throughout Israel for its folk dancing festivals. The 1968 festival featured 3,000 dancers and attracted 60,000 audience members to a natural outdoor amphitheatre. The performances came to symbolize the purity and energy of Israeli youth, the strength of the Zionist movement, and the success and joy of communal living off the land.

Today, *Hashomer Hatzair* continues as a scout-style youth program based in Israel, but it also has nearly 8,000 members in North America, South America, Europe and Australia.

Kibbutz Dalia in 2020 has both industrial and agricultural components. The community's two factories are the Zohar Dalia Cooperative Association (1940), Israel's largest and most advanced manufacturer of soap and cleaning products; and the Arad Industrial Group, which produces innovative water-measuring devices (especially for irrigation) that are used worldwide.

Today, *Kibbutz Dalia* also is home to *Zohar Badeshe* (“Land of Splendour” or “Land of Radiance”), a vacation spot with charming wooden cottages for short-term rentals. There are homespun kosher meals, bountiful gardens, playgrounds for kids, nature paths, a boutique winery, mini-golf and a wonderful summertime swimming pool.

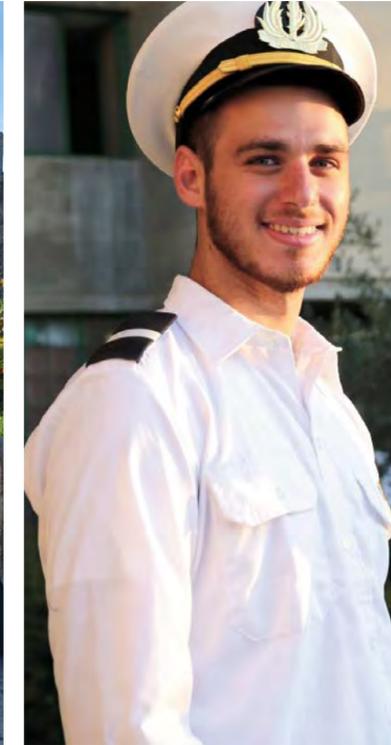
Zohar Badeshe at *Dalia* is prized for its serenity and privacy. The website zimmeril.com, which lists B&B-style accommodations in Israel, calls it “one of the most beautiful *kibbutzim* in Israel.”

Rochelle Bolchover and her descendants made it happen.

Besides being my namesake, Rochelle is my closest and only known connection to modern Judaism's two defining phenomena: The Holocaust and the founding of Israel.



The Yaarans · Zohar · Arie · Idan · Yonathan



2000s Eran Stein · Israeli Naval Officer



2000s Sharon Stein · Army Intel Officer



2016 The Lehrs · Yafit · Gefen · Ilan



2000s Lea · Moshe Dror · *Kibbutz Dalia*

TIMELINE



1892—1954 The immigration portal, Ellis Island NY, processed more than 12 million passengers from steerage, while first- and second-class travellers were interviewed aboard ship in more comfort. The centre operated out of different buildings over the years (above, a French Renaissance Revival incarnation, 1901)

and was closed for three years due to a fire (1897–1900). Morris Lashinsky sailed to New York in 1898, passed the onerous legal and medical interrogations at a temporary facility, then took the Grand Trunk Railway to Montreal. Three of his brothers followed overseas, but settled in the US.

Photo courtesy of Liberty Ellis Foundation

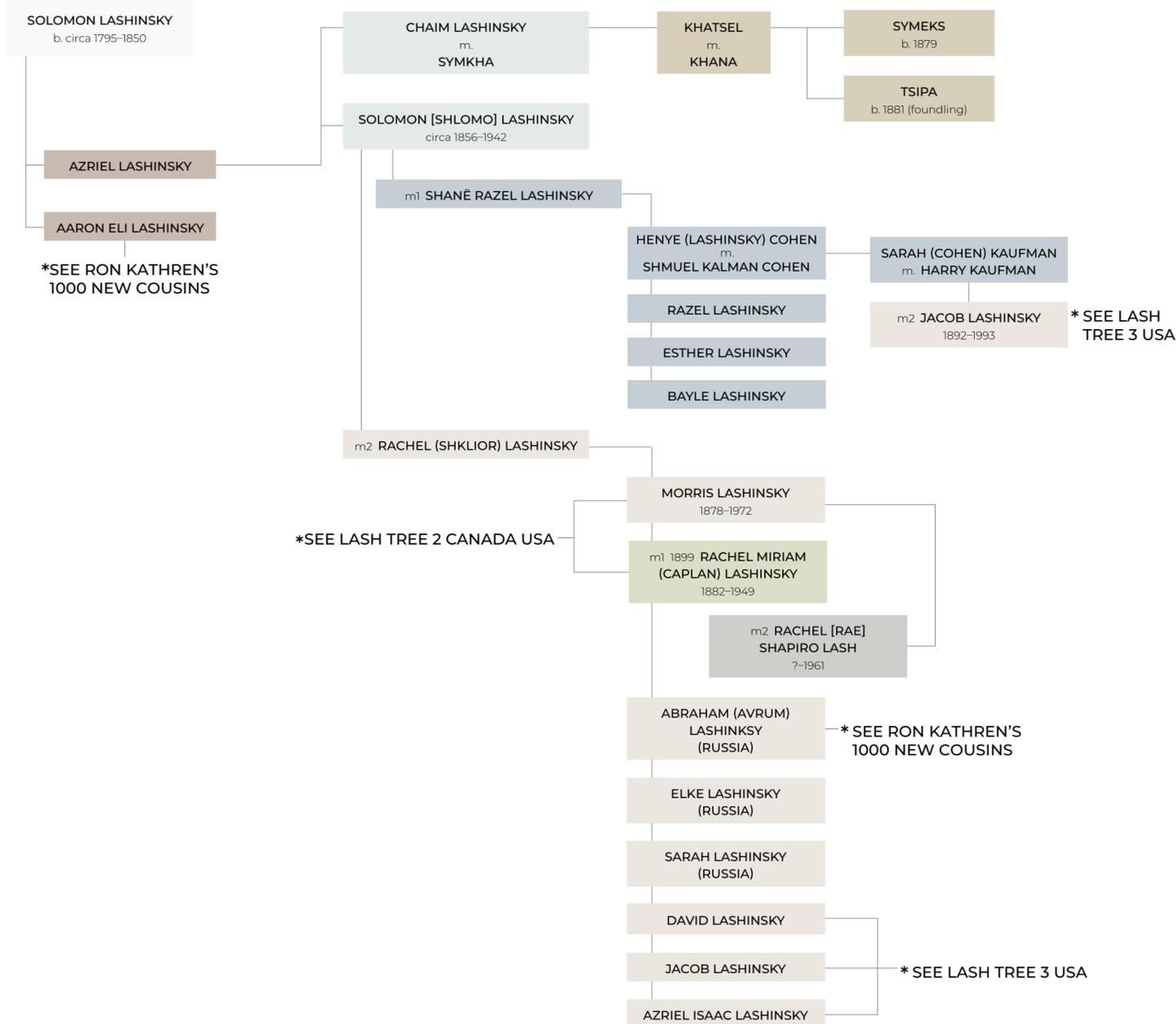
PASSAGES



LASH · CAPLAN

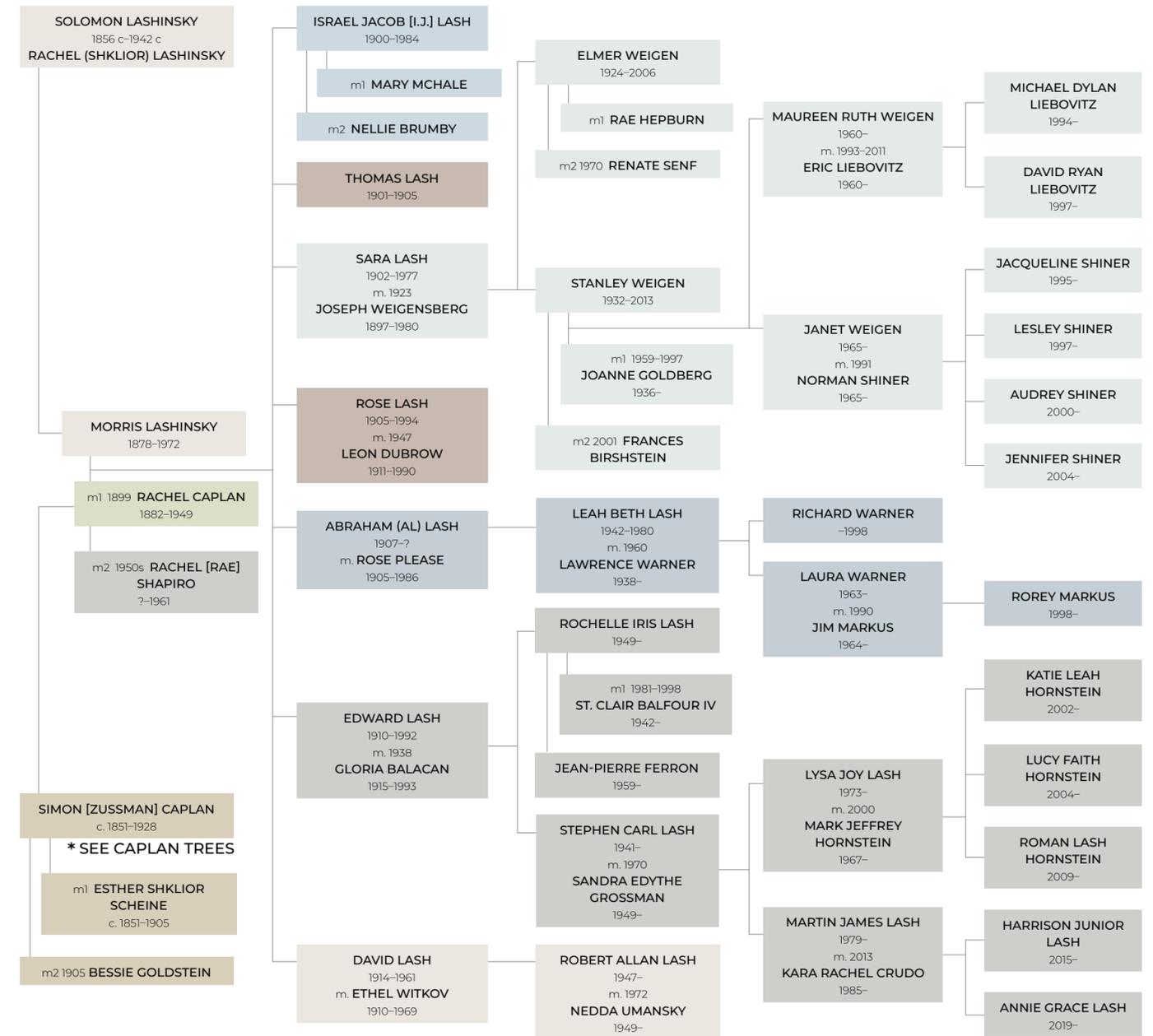
THE LASH FAMILY 1

POROZOW · RUSSIAN EMPIRE · LATE 1800S



THE LASH FAMILY 2

MONTREAL · TORONTO · CHICAGO

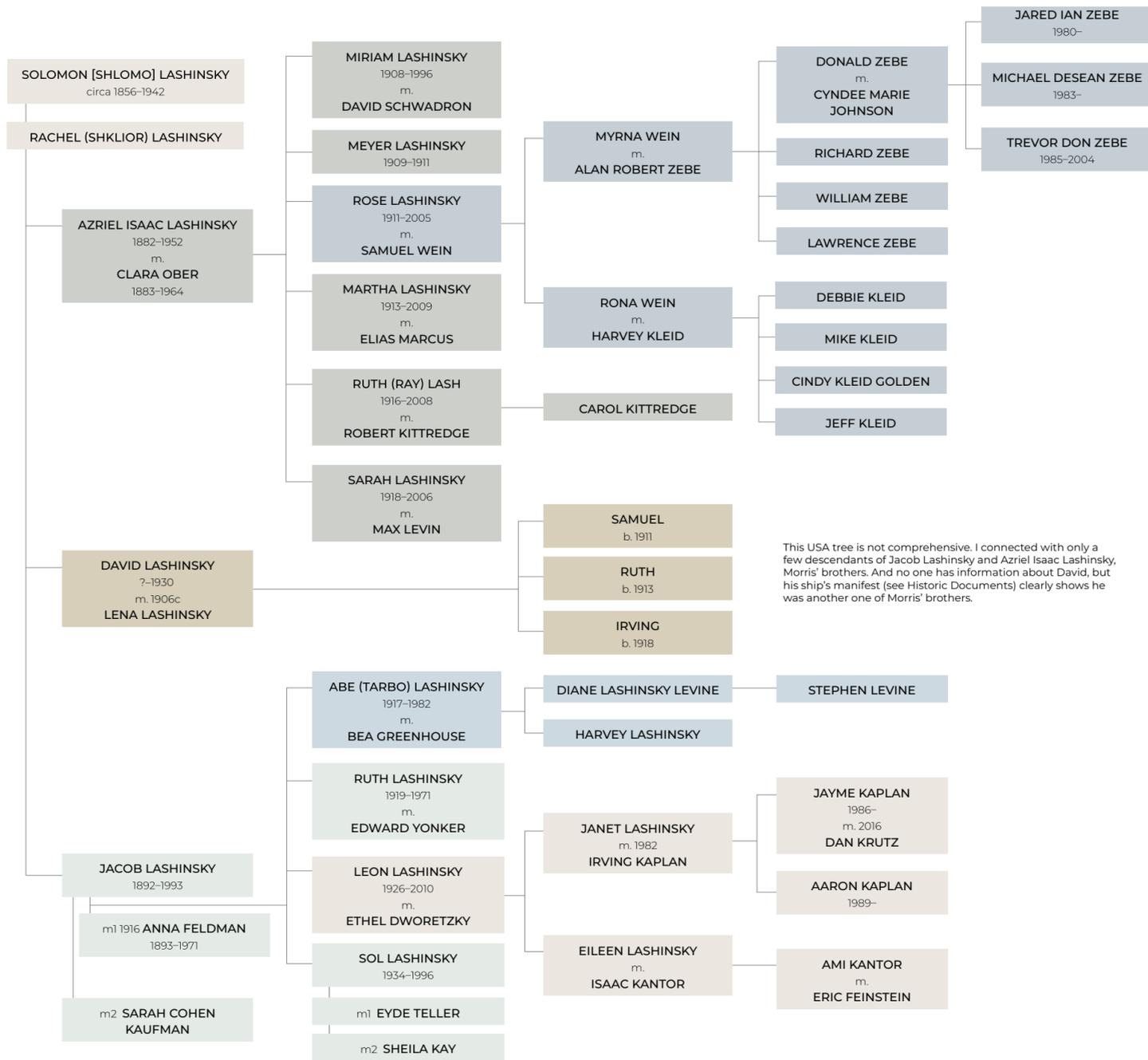


WITH INFORMATION COURTESY OF JANET LASHINSKY KAPLAN · ETHEL LASHINSKY · ERIC FEINSTEIN · RON KATHREN · SCOTT D. SELIGMAN

ADAPTED FROM RESEARCH BY STEVEN J. POTASHNER · LASH AND WEIGEN FAMILIES

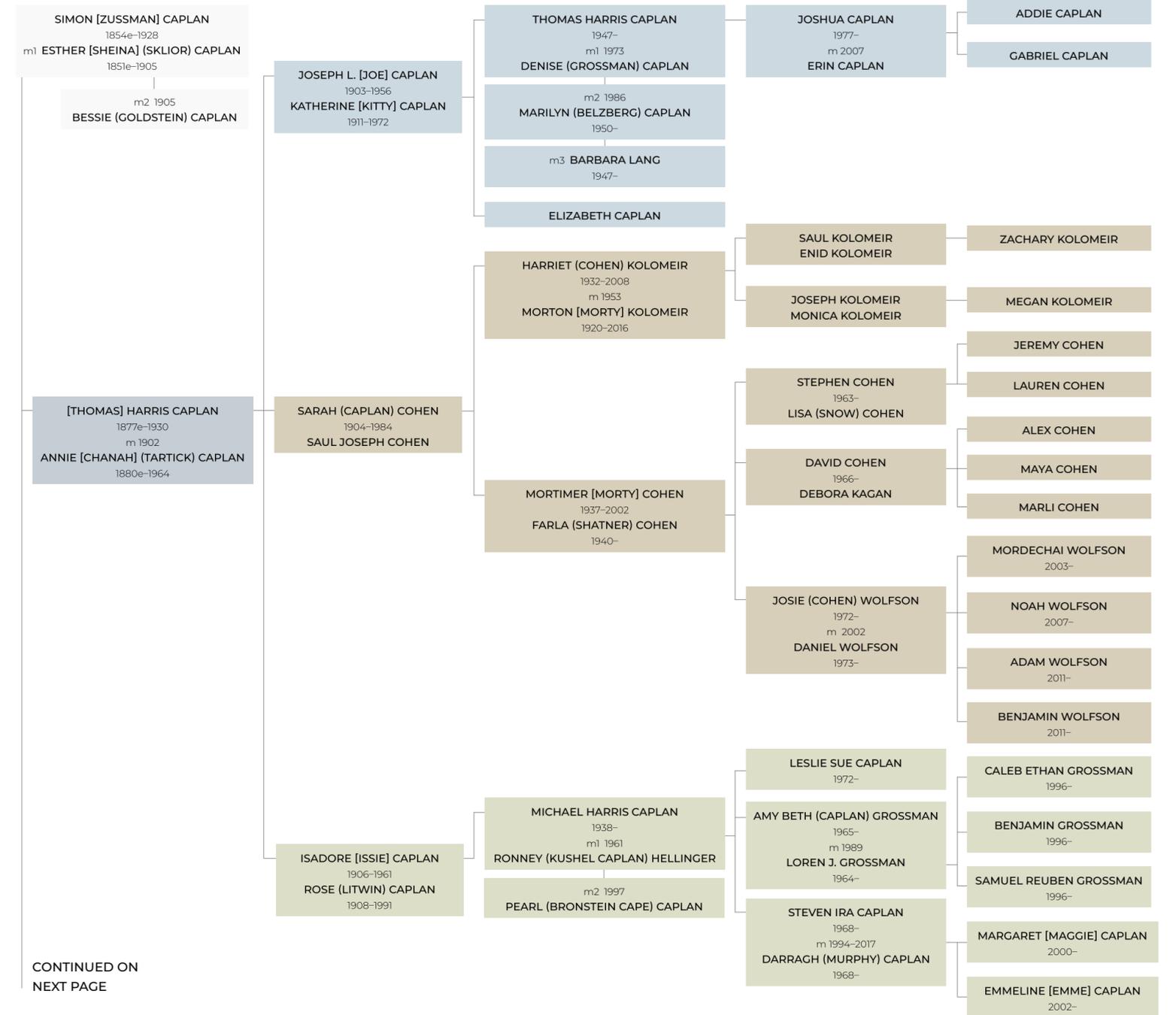
THE LASH FAMILY 3

USA



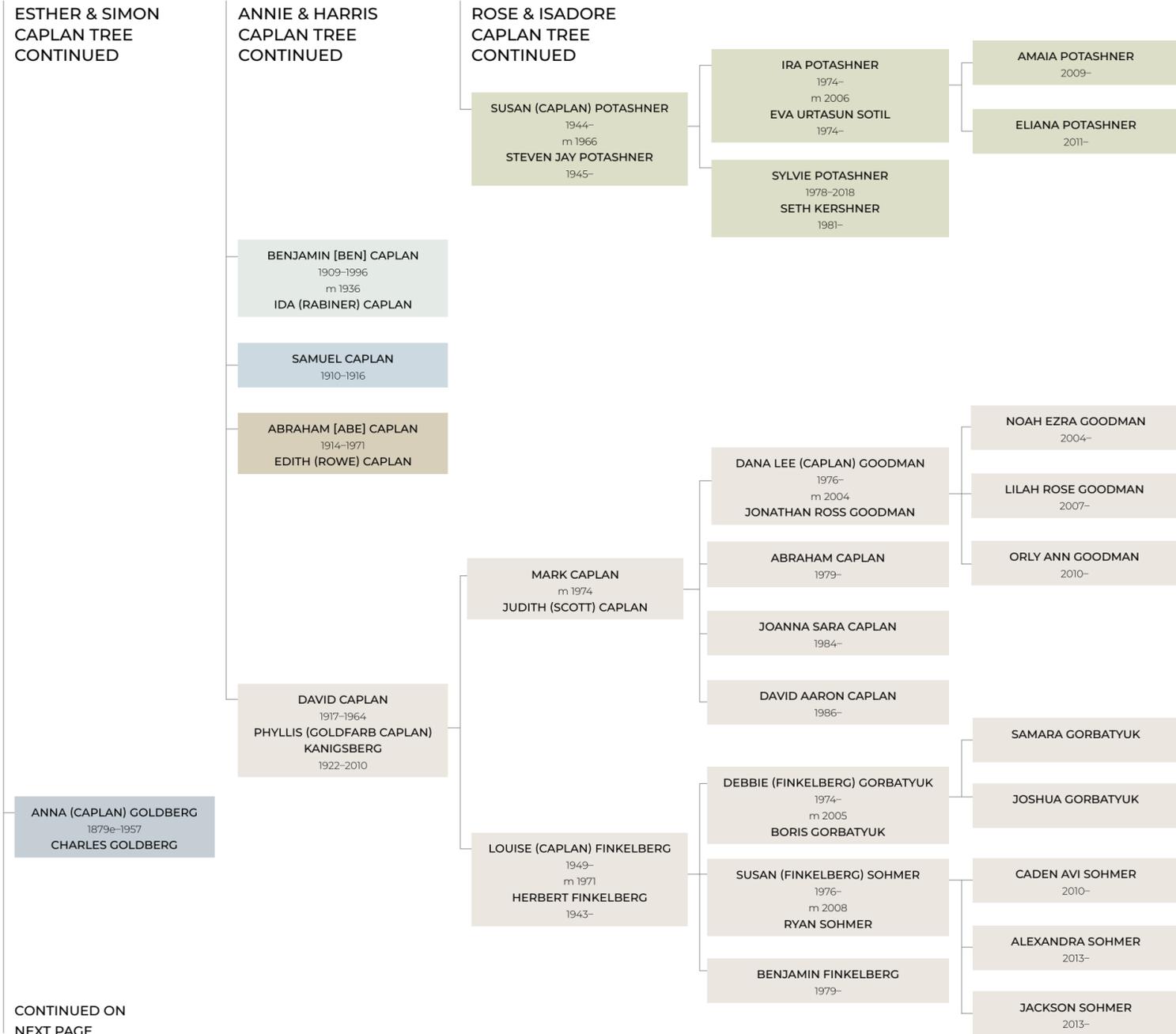
This USA tree is not comprehensive. I connected with only a few descendants of Jacob Lashinsky and Azriel Isaac Lashinsky, Morris' brothers. And no one has information about David, but his ship's manifest (see Historic Documents) clearly shows he was another one of Morris' brothers.

THE CAPLAN FAMILY 1



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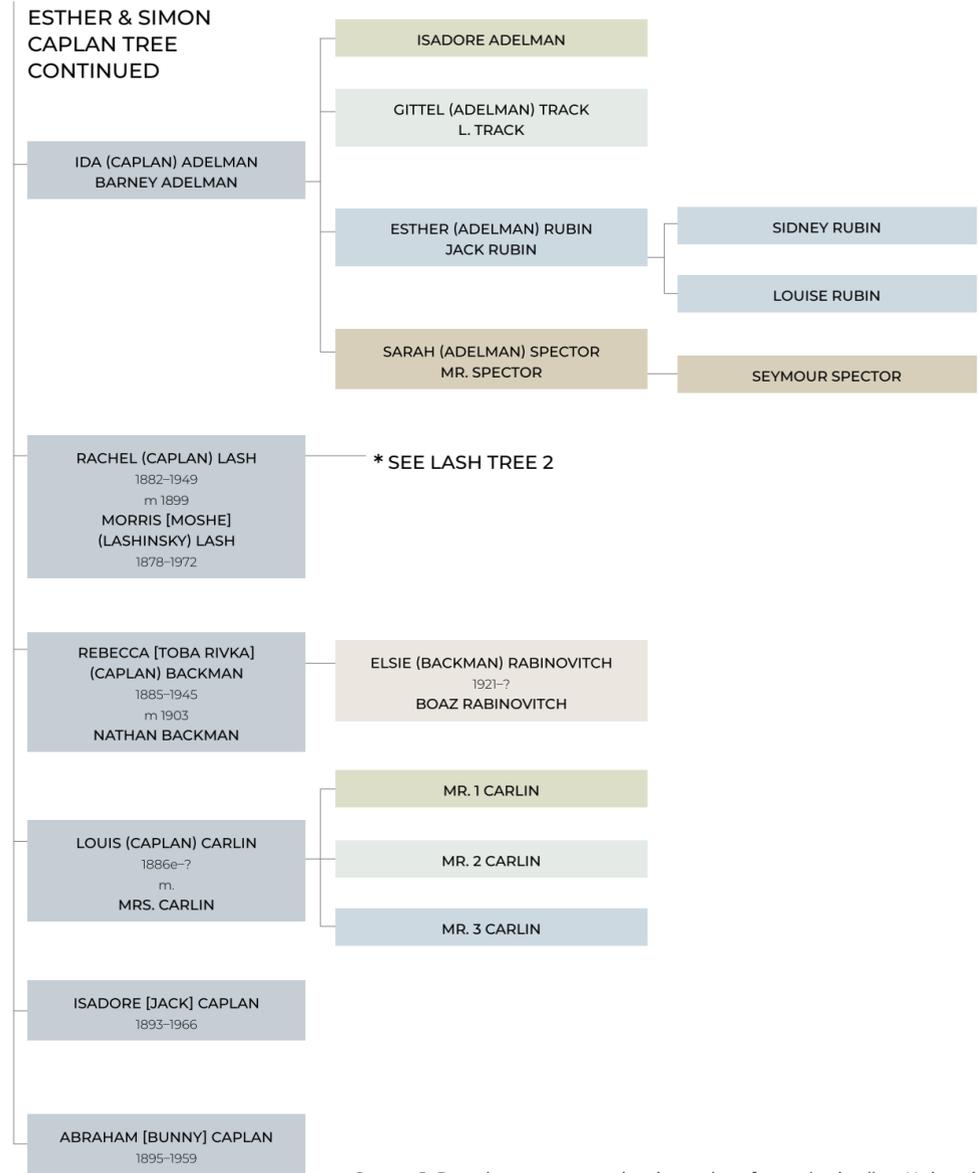
THE CAPLAN FAMILY 2



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INFORMATION COURTESY OF STEVEN J. POTASHNER

THE CAPLAN FAMILY 3



Steven J. Potashner, a neuroscientist and professor (retired) at University of Connecticut Health Center, produced A History of Our Family in 2018, a comprehensive book of profiles, photos and family trees chronicling a remarkable 450 clans. The intricate Caplan family trees, which Steven contributed to DIARY OF OUR DNA, cover six generations dating from the late 1800s when Simon Sussman Caplan and Esther Shklior Sheine Caplan emigrated from Russia to Canada. They had eight children, including my grandmother Rachel Caplan Lashinsky. Steven is married to Susan Caplan, a relative of my grandmother.

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1950 Edward · Gloria · Morris · I. J. · Rose · 4987-4989 Isabella duplex

Social Notes—Montreal

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lash (nee Gloria Balacan), 4987 Isabella Avenue, were dinner hosts to forty-two guests, at Ruby Foo's, to celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. They have a son, Stephen Lash; and a daughter, Rochelle, aged fourteen years. Mrs. Lash is the daughter of Mrs. Gertrude Balacan, 4332 Esplanade Avenue, and the late I. M. Balacan. She is the sister of Mrs. H. Bernstein (Estelle), 4989 Isabella Avenue; Mrs. Mollie Flanz, 4101 Kent Avenue; Mrs. Gerald White (Annette), 5581 King Edward Avenue; and Mrs. Samuel E. Berger (Jeannette), 3047 Brighton Avenue. Mr. Lash is the son of Morris Lash, of Miami, Florida, and the late Mrs. Rachel Lash. He is the brother of Israel J. Lash, 1000 Marlboro Drive; Abraham Laesh, of Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Leon Du Brow (Rose), 4850 Cote St. Luc Road; and Mrs. Joseph Weigensberg (Sara) 5367 Brodeur Avenue. He was the brother of the late David Lash. Mrs. Lash wore a white, and black peau de soie gown; made with a beaded bodice. Rochelle wore a white boucle dress. A white anniversary cake beautified the table.

Edward · Gloria Celebrate 25th Anniversary

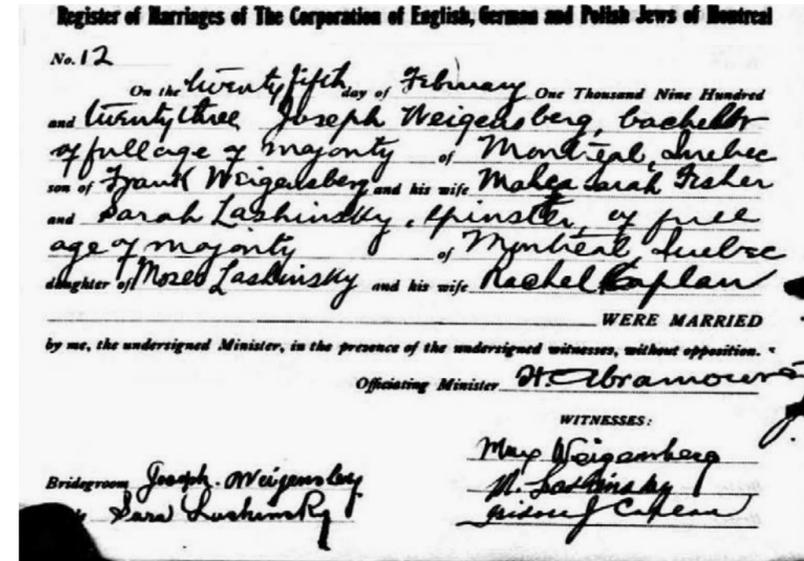


1924 Sara Weigensberg · Elmer

GRODNO GUBERNIA 1912 VOTERS LIST

SURNAME	VOTER	FATHER	RESIDENCE	DISTRICT	ID #
LESHCHINSKI	Shimel	Abram	Porozovo	Volkovysk	VOLb0325
LESHCHINSKI	Abram	Shliomo	Porozovo	Volkovysk	VOLb0326
LESHCHINSKI	Shlioma	Azriel	Porozovo	Volkovysk	VOLb0327
LESHCHINSKI	Khaim	Azriel	Porozovo	Volkovysk	VOLb0329

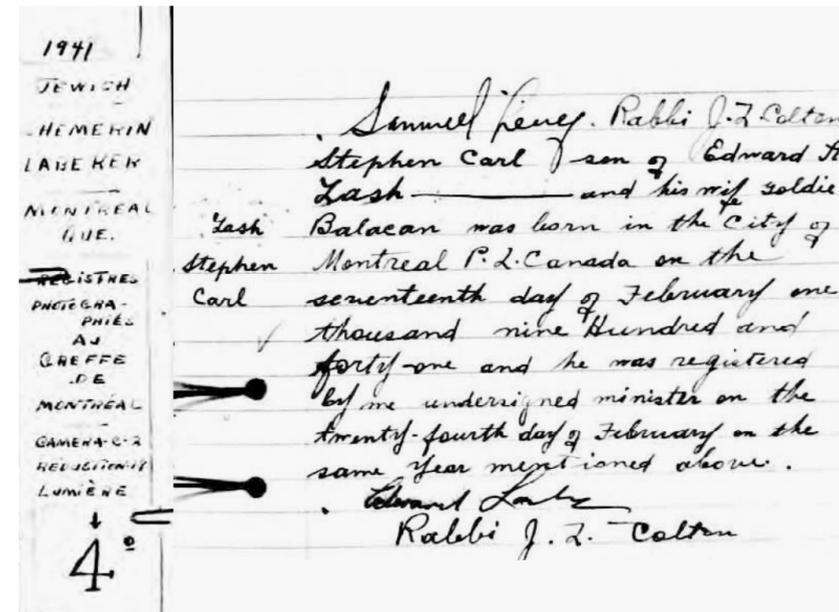
1912 Porozow Voters: Shimel (Morris Lashinsky's nephew); Abram (Shimel's father and Morris' brother); Shlomo/Solomon (son of Azriel and father of Morris); Khaim/Chaim (Solomon's brother, son of Azriel and Morris' uncle).



1923 Sara · Joe Weigensberg Marriage Certificate



1923 Sara Lashinsky marries Joe Weigensberg



1941 Feb 17 Stephen Carl Lash makes the scene



1950s Ruby's Foo's, a legend

Wife Sarah Co. K.S.

EXAMINATION RECORD

Name in full Caplan, Simon

Occupation Retired & Rabbi Age 68 Sex m Marital status m

Read yiddish Write English Nationality Canada Race Jew

Last residence 1096 City Hall Ave Nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came Abraham

Place of birth Worcester Mass ad. at home

To whom going Harry Shulman Ticket No. 718 Passage paid by self Money shown 7.00

Ever in U. S. Y. From various trips 1914 where 717

Date last departure 1917 Port last departure Grodna, Russia Birthplace Grodna, Russia

Landed at 1887 Quebec on 1887 per S. S. ? If in prison, almshouse, etc.

Height 5-6 Weight 180 Complexion ?

Hair Bro Eyes Gr Identification ?

marks ?

Class ? sheet ? line ? Inn. or position ?

Date manifested 138368

Head tax B.T Do. No. 38367

If visitor ? If transit, via ?

S. S. by ticket No. ? per S. S. ? issued at ? date ?

Previously examined at ? date ? Previous disposition ? Remarks by Amund

7/11/22



1922 Rachel's father Simon Caplan visits US - Note senility joke

1854c-1928 Great-Great Grandfather Simon Caplan at Baron de Hirsch

DATE OF REGISTRATION August 19 1940 ELECTORAL DISTRICT No. 80 Front Royal POLLING DIVISION No. 111 CARD No. 17

1. Surname Lashinsky Given Names Morris

2. Permanent Postal Address (if away from usual residence when filling in card give name of usual residence): Duquette 5419 Montreal Quebec

3. Age last birthday 61 Date of birth 1879 May 18

4. Conjugal conditions: Single ? Married yes Widowed ? Divorced ?

5. Of what dependents (if any) are you the sole support:-
 (a) Father ? (b) Mother ? (c) Wife yes (d) Number of children under 15 years ? (e) Number of other dependents ? (f) Do you contribute partial support to any one ?

6. Country of birth of (a) Yourself Russia Place Grodna
 (b) Your father Russia Place Grodna
 (c) Your mother Russia Place Grodna

7. Nationality or country of allegiance - British subject (a) by birth? ?
 (b) by naturalization? yes (c) Foreign citizen? ? (d) If naturalized, in what year? 1904 (e) In what place? Montreal (f) If not British subject, to what country do you owe allegiance? ?
 (g) If an immigrant, in what year did you enter Canada? ?

8. Racial origin Hebrew Russian

13. Class of occupation: (a) Are you an employer of labour other than domestic? no
 If so, state business ? (b) Are you working on your own account but not employing labour? ? If so, state business ?
 (c) Are you an employee? (1) working at usual occupation yes (2) working at other than usual occupation ? (3) unemployed ? (d) Not working because pensioner, dependent, retired, independent means ?

14. Occupation or Craft:-
 (a) Present occupation? manager Years of experience (a) 30-6
 (b) What is your regular occupation? ? (b) 30
 (c) What other work can you do well? ? (c) ?
 (d) If an employee, who is your present employer? Name Transparent Garment Co. Address 1432 Guy Street Nature of business where employed (state precisely) manager
 (e) If experienced in a skilled industrial occupation or profession, describe specifically the type or type of work in which you are specially equipped by training or experience ?

15. Unemployment: (a) How many weeks did you work in the past 12 months? 52
 (b) If out of work now, state number of weeks since last employed in any occupation other than work performed in return for direct relief ? (c) Are you totally incapacitated for em. reasons? no

1940 Morris' national registry - a manager of Transparent Garment on Guy Street

POROZOW PEOPLE

Name	Born	Married	Died	Father + Mother	Spouse	Code	Last Update
Avrom Alter CAPLAN	1887		1955	LEVI (Arieh Leib) CAPLAN + Faigel (Fanny) LESCHINSKY	Ettie HARRIS	3525	01 Jul 2006
Phillip (Faiwel Shragai) CAPLAN	1895	1923	1991	LEVI (Arieh Leib) CAPLAN + Faigel (Fanny) LESCHINSKY	Zelda GOLD	3525	01 Jul 2006
Simon (Shameh) FORMAN	1894	1916	1975	Jacob (Yankel) FORMAN + Gitil Lechsbushy (?)	Fannie LEVY	5099	12 Aug 2014
Samuel (Zaidel) FORMAN	1877	1905	1963	Jacob (Yankel) FORMAN + Gitil Lechsbushy (?)	Jessie SIEGEL	5099	12 Aug 2014
Faigel (Fanny) LESHINSKY			1905		LEVI (Arieh Leib) CAPLAN	3525	01 Jul 2006

Caplans and Lashinskys: Faigel (Fanny) Lashinsky and Arieh Lieb (Levi) Caplan had five children. Phillip lived and married in Australia and Avrom moved to Liverpool, UK. Fanny was a daughter of Aaron Eli Lashinsky and first cousin to Morris' father, Solomon. Jacob Forman and Gitil Lashinsky

(Fanny's sister) had several children born in Porozow. Simon moved to California and Samuel to Toronto, where there is a huge contingent of the family. Please see Ron Kathren's research, 1,000 New Cousins. After Jacob died, Gitil immigrated to London, ON

Porozow פּוֹרוֹזוֹבּ

Porozovo

A tribute to its former Jewish community

Home | History | Holocaust | Research | Images | Maps | Links

In This Site

History

- An Interview with Rabbi Dov Kam
- From the 1887 Słownik Geograficzny
- The Great Fire of Porozow
- From the 1929 Księga Adresowa Polski
- Porozow Jewish Community Officers, 1838
- Owners of Registered Enterprises, 1915
- Porozow in Pinkas HaKehillot Polin
- Victims of the Porozow Ghetto
- Porozow Synagogue

Luminaries

- Rabbi Moshe Avigdor Armiel (1883-1946)
- Ester-Ruchel Kaminska (1870-1925)
- Michel and Malka Chmielnitzki (7-7)

Holocaust

- Wolkowskyer Yizkor Book

About Porozow and its Jewish Community

Porozow, also known by the spellings Porozovo, Porosovo, Porasow and Porzwy, among others, is a small town located at 52° 56' north latitude, 24° 22' east longitude in modern-day Belarus. It is located 17 miles SSW of Wolkowysk (Volkovysk), a city in West Belarus. Porozow's location can be seen on a modern-day map by clicking [here](#).

The town of Wolkowysk was first mentioned in a manuscript written in 1005. By the 14th century the region became part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, which by the 16th century merged with Poland. The various partitions of Poland in the late 18th century resulted in control of Belarus, including the Grodno area where both Wolkowysk and Porozow are located, shifting to the Russian Empire. It was overrun during Napoleon's invasion in 1812 and again saw battle in World War I.

After the war, Belarus briefly became an independent republic,

The website porozow.net was created by author-historian Scott D. Seligman



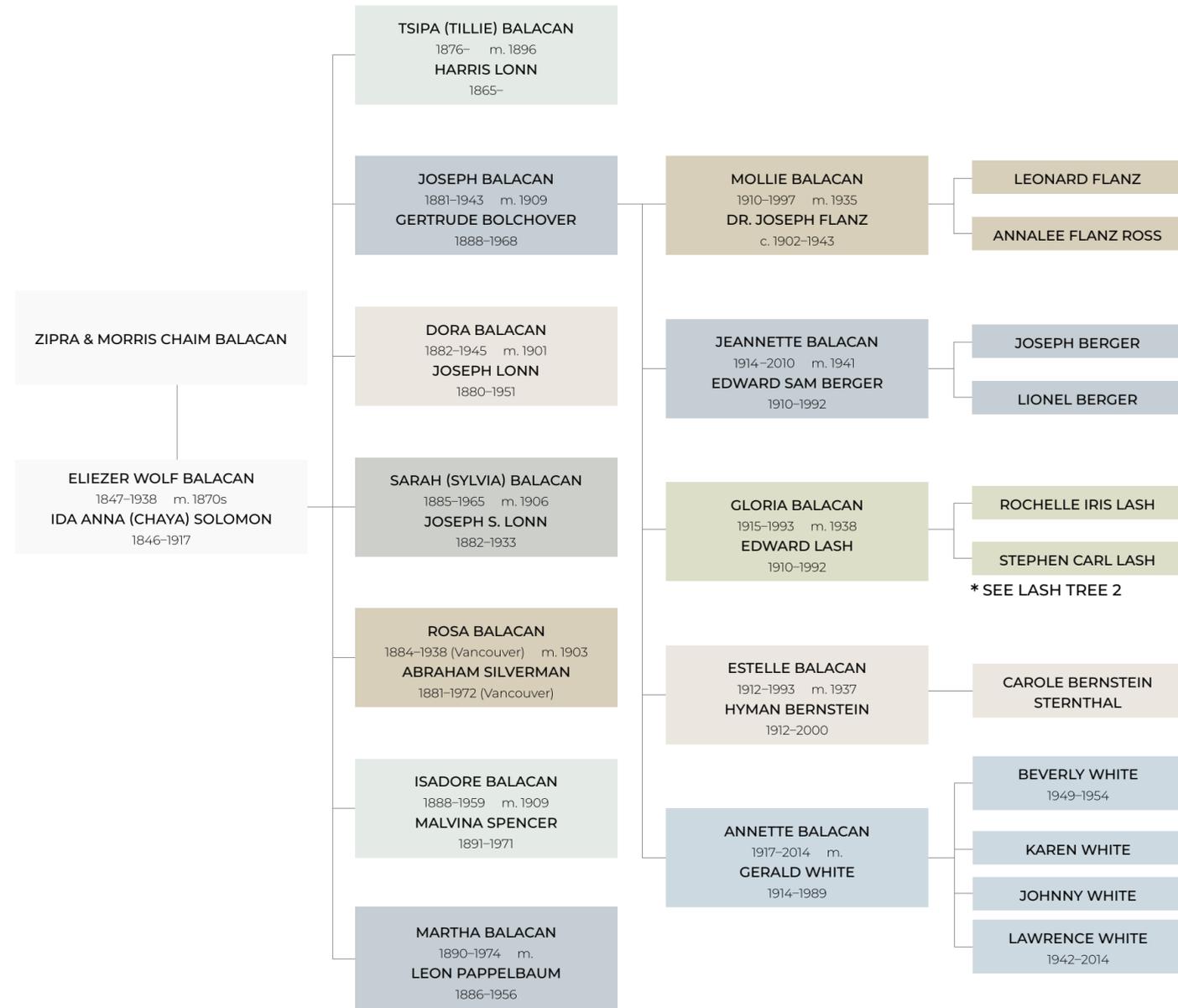
1940s Edward Lash



BALACAN • BOLCHOVER

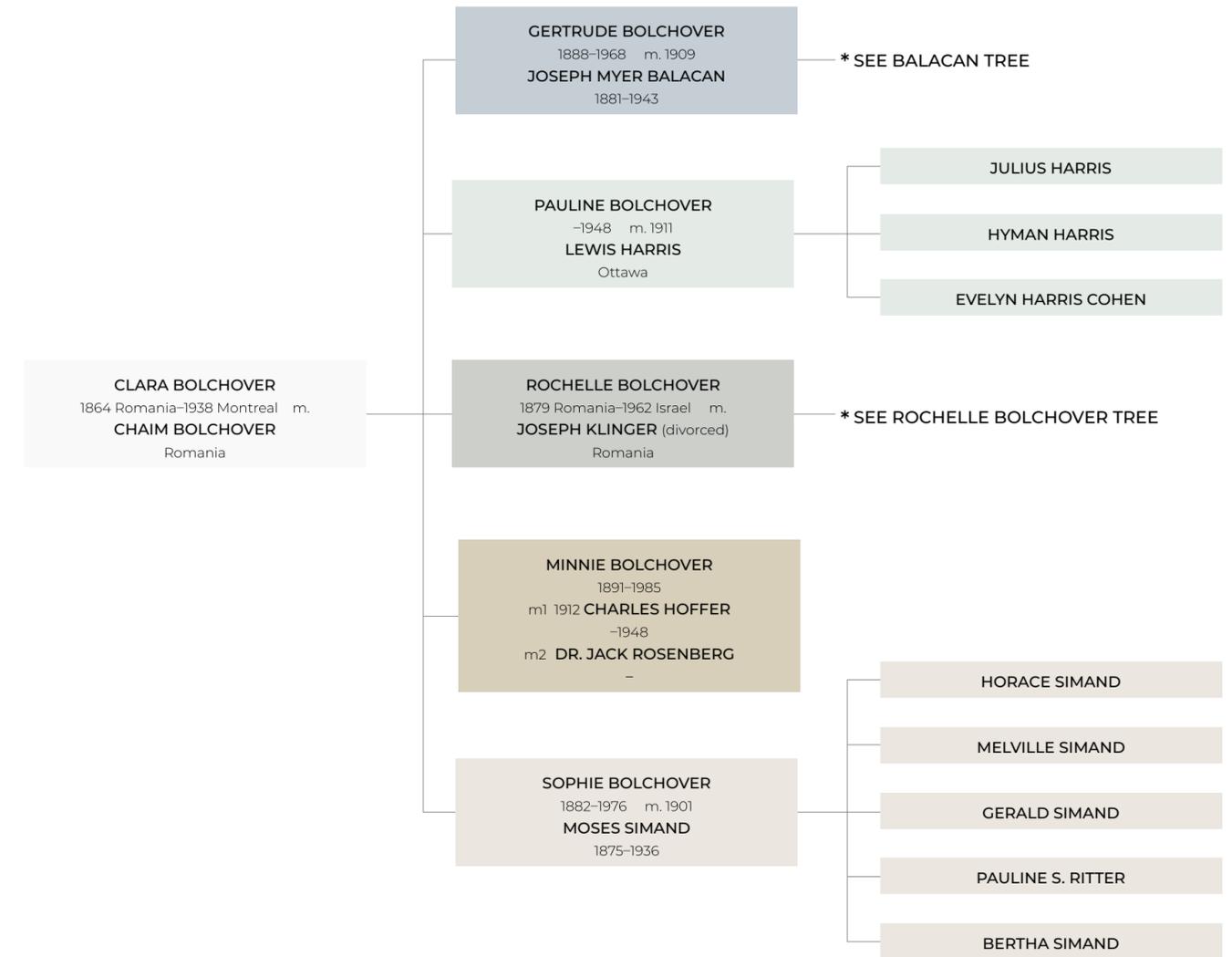
THE BALACAN FAMILY

ROMANIA · CANADA



THE BOLCHOVER FAMILY

ROMANIA · CANADA

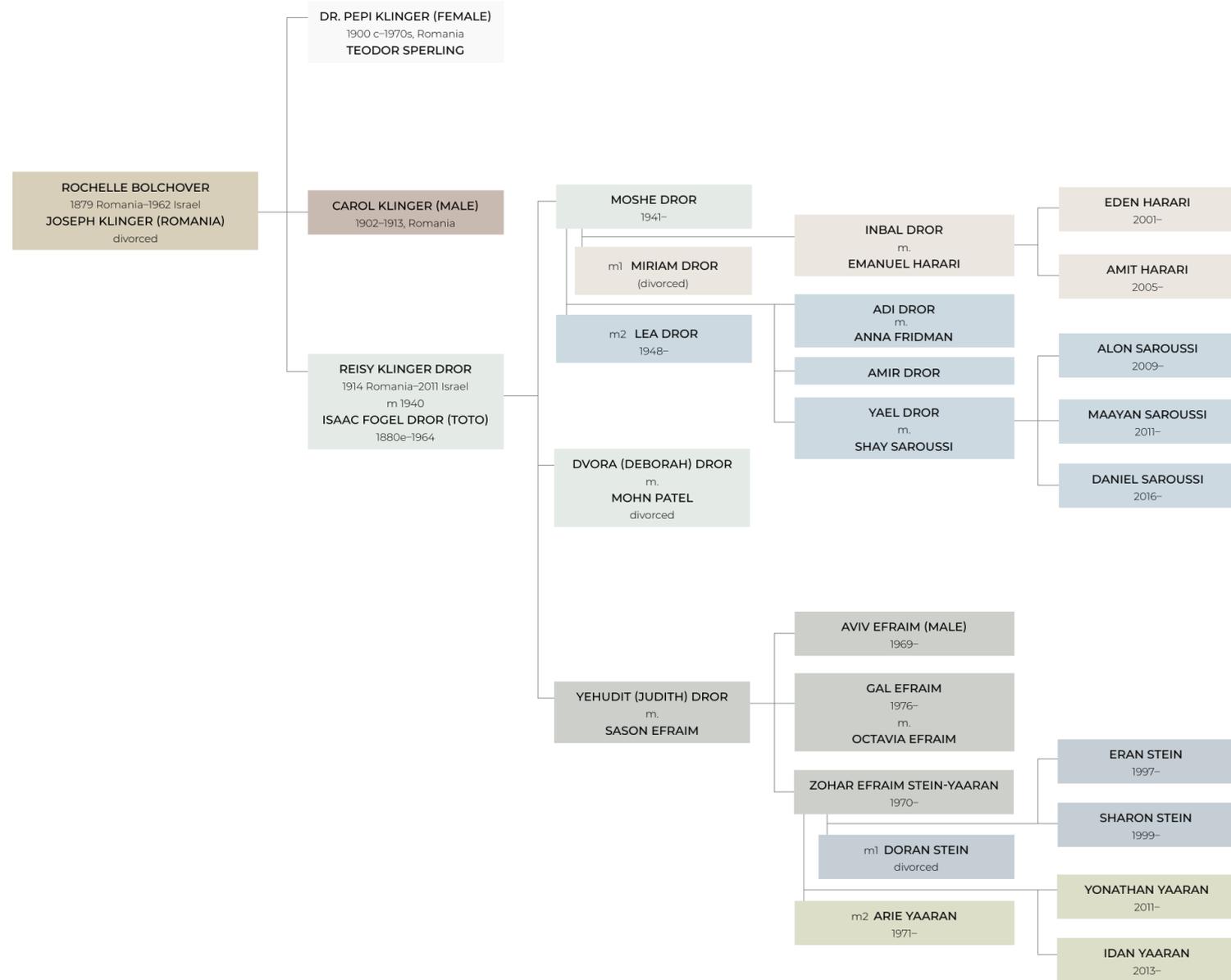


ADAPTED FROM RESEARCH BY JEFFREY (DUFFY) FAINER ON ANCESTRY.COM; JASON BERGER ON GENI.COM; AND LAWRENCE WHITE.

ADAPTED FROM RESEARCH BY JEFFREY (DUFFY) FAINER ON ANCESTRY.COM · LAWRENCE WHITE · JASON BERGER ON GENI.COM

THE FAMILY OF ROCHELLE BOLCHOVER

ROMANIA · ISRAEL



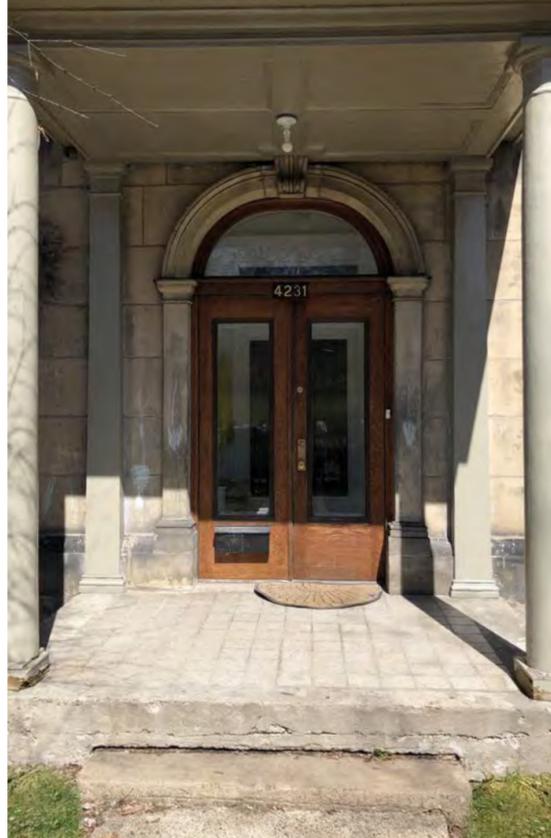
2016 *Kibbutz Dalia* · Israel · The Saroussi Family: Alon · Shay · Maa'yan · Yael · Baby Daniel · Eden Harari · Groom Adi Dror · Bride Anna Fridman · Amir Dror · Inbal Dror Harari and daughter Amit Harari · Lea and Moshe Dror (Moshe is Rochelle Bolchover's grandson)

INFORMATION COURTESY OF ZOHAR STEIN-YAAREN · MOSHE DROR

1909 24
 JEWISH CHRONICLE
 MONTREAL
 REGISTERED PHOTOGRAPHERS
 CHEFFE
 MONTREAL
 CAMERA CLUB
 REGISTRATION
 LUMIERE

In the family first day of the
 wedding hundred and nine
 Mr. Joseph M. Balacan
 son of Mr. Wolf Balacan and his wife
 Annie Solomon and Miss Gertrude
 Balchower being of age
 of Montreal daughter of Mr. W. W.
 Balchower and his wife
 as witness by me the undersigned
 Minister in presence of the under-
 signed witnesses.
 officiating Minister:
 Rabbi L. M. ...

Joseph M. Balacan
 Gertrude Balchower
 A. Sch...



1909 Gertrude Bolchover marries Joseph Balacan

The Balacans lived at 4231 Esplanade Avenue facing Fletcher's Field (now Parc Jeanne Mance)

24688 Page 1

THE DOMINION ELECTIONS ACT, 1938 FINALLY REVISED URBAN LIST OF ELECTORS

Electoral District of Cartier, City of Montreal, Urban Polling Division
 No 66.

Comprising the area bounded as follows:— By line from the south-east corner of Esplanade avenue and Marie Anne street, thence east on Marie Anne street, to the south-west corner of the intersection of Marie Anne street and St. Urbain street, and continuing south along St. Urbain street, to the north-west corner of the intersection of St. Urbain street and Rachel street, thence west on Rachel street to the north-east corner of the intersection of Rachel street and Esplanade avenue, thence north on Esplanade avenue to the south-east corner of the intersection of Esplanade avenue and Marie Anne street.

ESPLANADE AVENUE		ESPLANADE AVENUE—Cont.	
4229 Guttman, Miss Freda —	43	4257 Schaffran, Louis, whole. grocer	126
4229 Guttman, Leo, office work	44	4257 Schaffran, Mrs. Claire, housewife	127
4229 Frolek, Mrs. Freda —	45	4257 Schaffran, Harry, merchant	128
4229 Rudenko, Abraham, investigator	46	4257 Schaffran, Norman, merchant	129
4231 Balacan, Joseph, manufacturer	47	4257 Schaffran, Miss Rachel, steno	130
4231 Balacan, Mrs. Gertie, housewife	48	4257 Schaffran, Miss Freda —	131
4231 Balacan, Miss Molly, stenographer	49	4259 Karl, Carl, merchant	132
4231 Balacan, Miss Annette, stenographer	50	4259 Karl, Mrs. Elza, housewife	133
4231 Balacan, Miss Jean, stenographer	51	4263 Apt. 1, Bear, Mrs. Esther —	134
4231 Balacan, Miss Eva, stenographer	52	4263 Apt. 1, Bear, Carl, mfr.	135
4231 Balacan, Miss Lottie, stenographer	53	4263 Apt. 1, Bear, Leo, mfr.	136
4233 Kravitz, Julius, painter	54	4263 Apt. 2, Raichelson, Joseph —	137
4233 Kravitz, Mrs. Esther, housewife	55	4263 Apt. 2, Raichelson, Mrs. Ida —	138
4233 Kravitz, Henry, newsstand	56	4263 Apt. 3, Rosenzweig, Harold, mfr.	139
4233 Kravitz, Miss Edith, finisher	57	4263 Apt. 3, Rosenzweig, Mrs. Hope, hairdresser	140
4233 Kravitz, Miss Sarah —	58	4263 Apt. 3, Murray, Mrs. Diana, nurse	141

1938 Joseph, Gertrude and the sisters at 4231 Esplanade

1938
 JEWISH CHRONICLE
 MONTREAL
 REGISTERED PHOTOGRAPHERS
 CHEFFE
 MONTREAL

Burial

Leiser Wolf Balacan age 92 son of late Moses
 Chaim Balacan and of late Zippora maiden name
 ... died at 1938. Buried at Montreal on the
 twenty-fifth of June nineteen hundred and thirty eight
 and was buried on the cemetery of this city on the following day
 Rabbi S. Herrschan



1847-1938 Eliezer Wolf Balacan (Joseph's father) buried at Baron de Hirsch MTL

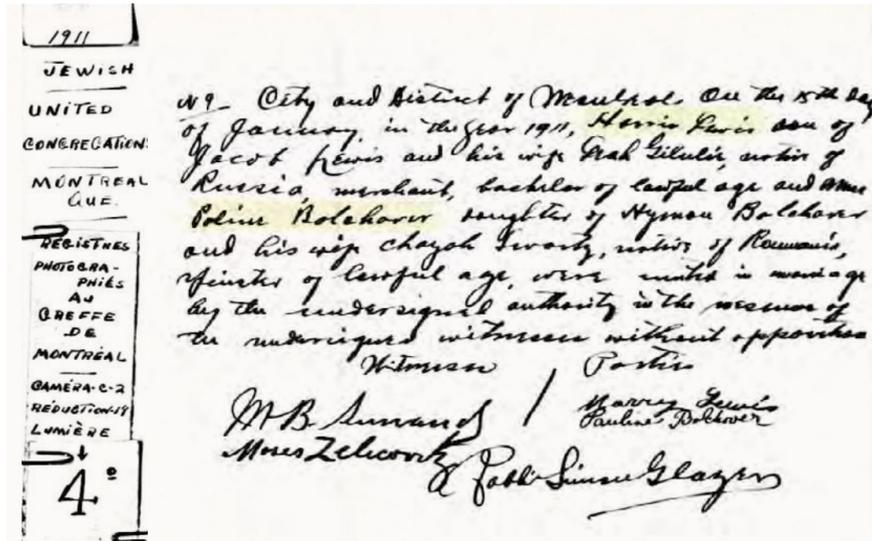
1940 Joseph Balacan



Clara: 1864 Romania - 1938 Montreal. Spanish & Portuguese, Mount Royal



My great-grandparents, Balacans, at Baron de Hirsch



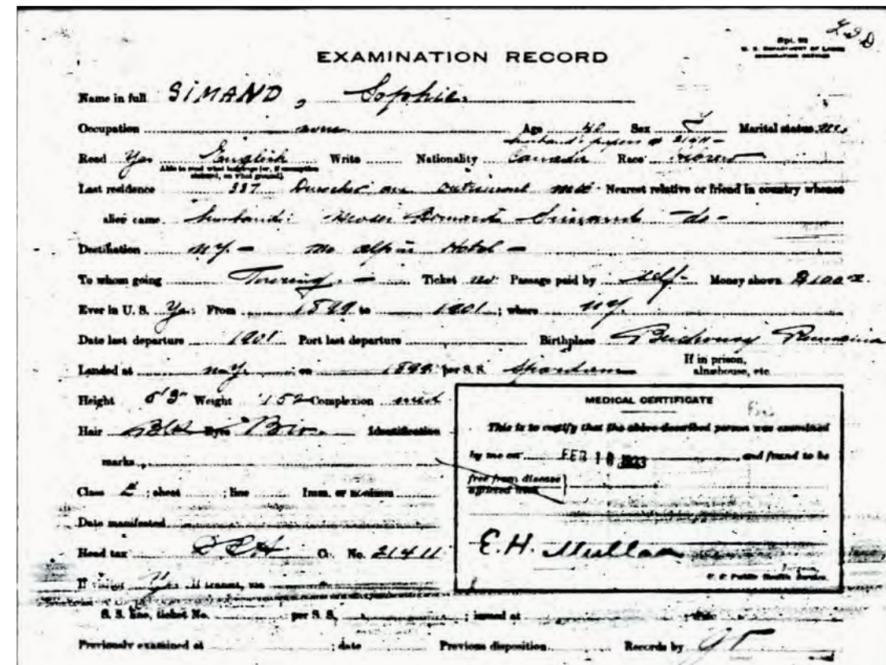
1911 Pauline Bolchover marries Harris Lewis



1940s Gloria · Val-Morin, Laurentians



1940 Miraculously, Rochelle Bolchover procures a passport and escapes to Israel in 1946 at age 67



1923 Sophie Simand, who had started out in NYC, returns to see family



1940 Mollie · Leonard Flanz



1917c Jeannette Balacan · Gloria Balacan

Sept. 1912, 15, 39)

HOFFER, Charles and Miss Minnie Balcover, both of Montreal, were married last Sun. in Modern Hall, Montreal. The bride was given away by Mr. and Mrs. Simons and the groom by his parents. Benjamin Hoffer was master of ceremonies. Out-of-town guests were:- Mr. and Mrs. H. Lewis, Mr. and Mrs. H. Finklestein, Miss Gertrude Slover and F. Slover, of Ottawa (21 Feb. 1913, 16, 11)

HOFFMAN, Jack, of Amherst, N.S., and Miss Ray Schalek, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. Schalek, 427 St. Denis St., Montreal, are engaged (19 Feb. 1909, 12, 10)

HOLDENGRABER, Simon, of Bathurst, N.B., and Miss Annie Weinstein, daughter of L.

1000 NEW COUSINS



Ron Kathren, a scientist specializing in the effects of radiation, also is a gifted genealogist who documented nine generations of the Lashinsky family of Porozow. He has generously contributed his research to DIARY OF OUR DNA. Both the Lash Family Tree I and Ron's research date back to Solomon Lashinsky 1795c-1850c, Generation 1. Solomon had two sons, Azriel and Aaron Eli Lashinsky, Generation 2. Ron Kathren's work follows the lineage of Aaron Eli. Lash Family Tree 1 traces Azriel and his son, Solomon II, Generation 3. Solomon II's son was Morris Lash, my grandfather, Generation 4.

1000 NEW COUSINS

- GENERATION 1** SOLOMON I (SHLOMO) LECHINSKY • 1795c-c1850c
- GENERATION 2** SOLOMON'S SONS AZRIEL • AARON ELI
- GENERATION 3** SOLOMON II (MORRIS'S FATHER) • SOLOMON'S BROTHER CHAIM
- GENERATION 4** SIBLINGS • COUSINS OF MORRIS LASHINSKY

FAMILY OF AZRIEL LECHINSKY

MORRIS LASHINSKY'S GRANDFATHER
POROZOW • RUSSIAN EMPIRE

INFORMATION COURTESY OF JANET LASHINSKY KAPLAN • ERIC FEINSTEIN • RON KATHREN

- 1 Solomon Lechinsky • 1795c-1850c Porozow m unknown spouse
- 2 Aaron Eli Lashinsky • SEE PAGE 3 OF '1000 NEW COUSINS'
- 2 Azriel Lechinsky • 1820c-1880c Porozow (grandfather of Morris Lash)
m unknown spouse
- 3 Chaim Lechinsky • 1850c-1912c Porozow
m Symka
- 4 Khatsel Lechinsky
 - 5 Symeks Lechinsky • 1879- ?
 - 5 Tsipa (foundling) • 1881c- ?
- 3 [Solomon Lechinsky II](#) • 1850c-1930S or 1940S Porozow (father of Morris Lash) • SEE LASH TREE 1
m1 Shane Razel • 4 daughters
- 4 Henye Lashinsky Cohen
- 4 Razel Lashinsky
- 4 Esther Lashinsky
- 4 Bayle Lashinsky
- 4 [Morris Lash](#) • 1878 Porozow - 1972 Montreal • SEE LASH TREE 2
m2 Rachel Sklior
m1 1899 Rachel Caplan • 1882 Porozow/Volkovysk-1949 Mtl
m2 1950s Rachel (Rae) Shapiro • ?-1961 Saratoga Springs, NY
- 4 (Azriel) Isaac Lashinsky • 1882 Porozow -1952 Queens NY • SEE LASH TREE 3 USA
m Clara Ober • 1883 Austria - 1964 Queens NY
- 4 Jacob (Yaakov) Lashinsky • 1892 Porozow - 1993 Monticello NY
m1 1916 Anna Feldman • 1893 Porozow-1971 Monticello
m2 1970s • Sarah Cohen Kaufman • (daughter of Henye Lashinsky Cohen)
- 4 David Lashinsky • 1876c Porozow -1930 Queens, NY
m 1906 c Lena
- 5 Irving Lashinsky
- 5 Samuel Lashinsky
- 5 Ruth (Ruddy) Lashinsky
- 4 Sarah Lashinsky • Porozow
- 4 Elke Lashinsky • Porozow
- 4 Abraham Lashinsky • 1890c-1916 Porozow • SEE NEXT PAGE

FAMILY OF ABRAHAM LECHINSKY

POROZOW • ISRAEL
ABRAHAM • GENERATION 4
GRANDSON OF AZRIEL
SON OF SOLOMON LASHINSKY II • RACHEL SKLIOR
BROTHER OF MORRIS LASH

INFORMATION COURTESY OF RON KATHREN

- 4 Abraham Lechinsky • 1890c -1916 Porozow
m 1911c Gittel Tova Wishniatsky • 1890-1944 Porozow
- 5 Shmuel Lechinsky • 1912 Porozow - 1983 Afula, Israel
m 1933 Pesia Hadash • 1912 Bialystok- 1991 Tel Aviv
- 6 Abraham Lechinsky Laish • 1940 Afula, Israel
m 08 Apr 1965 Tel Aviv • Nehama Tomashov • 1943 Afula-
- 7 Yifat Lechinsky Laish • 1966 - Beersheva
m 1988 Gil Weider • Tel Aviv
- 8 Leor Weider • 1994 -
8 Ron Weider • 1996 -
8 Shir Weider • 2000-
- 7 Elad Lechinsky Laish • 26 Apr 1968 Afula -
7 Inbal Lechinsky Laish • 22 Mar 1977 Tel Aviv -
- 6 Levia Lechinsky • 1935 - 2005 Israel
m Eliezer Sperber • 1929- 2005 Israel
- 7 Tova Sperber • 1957 - Israel
m Yigael Grinshtein
- 8 Ori Grinshtein • 1988 - Israel
- 7 Bosmat Sperber • 1968 - Israel
- 6 Esther Lechinsky • 1952- Israel
m Yehuda Robinson • 1950 Romania - Israel
- 7 Gil Robinson • 1980 -
7 Ron Robinson • 1980 -
7 Matan Robinson • 1987 -
- 5 Sonia Sarah Lechinsky • 1913 Porozow - 09 Aug 2005 Haifa
m David Zaslovsky
- 6 Avital Zaslovsky • 02 Mar 1942 Safad Israel -
m Victor Schwartzburg • 1934 Moscow -
- 7 Shai Schwartzburg • 1984-
- 6 Shemer Zaslovsky
m Sarah
- 7 Ayelet Zaslovsky
7 Boaz Zaslovsky
7 Netta Zaslovsky
- 5 Rachel Lechinsky • 1915 Porozow – 1943c Holocaust
5 Michlya Lechinsky • 1910 Porozow – 1943c Holocaust

FAMILY OF AARON ELI LECHINSKY

SON OF SOLOMON I
BROTHER OF AZRIEL LASHINSKY
GREAT-UNCLE OF MORRIS LASH
GENERATIONS 1 -9

INFORMATION COURTESY OF RON KATHREN

- 1 Solomon Lechinsky • 1795c- 1850 Porozow Russian Empire
m unknown spouse
- 2 Azriel Lechinsky • 1820c-1880c Porozow (grandfather of Morris Lash)
- 2 Aaron Eli Lashinsky
3 Fannie Lechinsky • 30 Sep 1847 Russia – 02 Jan 1925 London Ont.
m 1875 Moses Leff • 18 Nov 1847 Russia - 1925 London Ont.
- 4 William Leff • 10 Mar 1876 Russia – 28 Jul 1968 London Ont.
m 1900 Jennie Lieberman • 1876 Russia - 1971 London Ont.
- 5 Hyman Samuel Leff • 1900-1943 London Ont.
m Freda Vinick • 1903 Wentworth Ont. - 1958 London Ont.
- 6 Milton Martin Leff • 1929 London Ont. -
m Zara [Leff]
- 7 David Leff • 1945c - 2002 Toronto
7 Catherine Leff • 1947 -
7 Linda Leff • 1949 -
m Sidney Karlinsky • Winnipeg
- 8 Jennifer Karlinsky • 1982 -
8 Mathew Karlinsky • 1984 -
- 7 Pattie Leff • 1950 -
- 6 Ida Leff • 1940 -
m Wayne Fisher
- 5 Arthur I. Leff • 1902 London Ont. - 1966 Detroit
m Evelyn R. (Leff)
- 5 Rose Leff • Oct 1904 London-1991
m Joseph Gregg • 1908 Columbus, Ohio-1977
- 6 Paul Gregg • 1939 -
m Diana [Gregg]
- 7 Kate Gregg • 1982
- 6 Mora Gregg • 1943 Silver Spring, Maryland
m Richard Orlandini • 1945 Joliet, Illinois –
- 7 Rosa Orlandini • 1975 Toronto -
- 5 Sarah Leff • 1908 London
5 Rebecca Leff • 1906 London Ont. - 1999
- 5 Mary Leah Leff • 1911-1987 London Ont. m Ralph Diamond • U.S.
6 Michael Diamond • ? - 1972 railway accident London-Toronto
6 Mark Diamond • 1945 -
- 5 Viola Leff • 1911
5 Jack Leff • 1917-1972 London Ont.
m unknown spouse
- 6 Butch Leff • 1953 - ? Australia
- 4 Ada Leff • 1881 Porozow - 1945 London Ont.
m 1902 Louis Lechinsky • 1876 Porozow- 1951 London Ont.
- 5 Harry Lechinsky • 1915 London Ont. - ?
m Beatrice Malvina Appelberg • 1918 Toronto - 1997 London Ont.
- 6 Arlene Lechinsky • 1948 London Ont.-
- 5 Mary Lechinsky • 1908 – 1975 London Ont.
m 1932 Leon Magill • 1905c London Ont. - 1985
- 6 Marvin Magill • 1938 –

m Marianne [Magill] • 1939 London Ont. - ?

5 Israel Lechinsky • 1912 London Ont.- 1939 London, Ont.

5 Solomon Lechinsky • 1903 London Ont. - 1991 Hamilton, Ont.
m Ruth Rose Garshowitz • 03 Apr 1910 - 19 Apr 1998 Hamilton

6 Milton Joseph Lewis
m Terri Lorraine Handelman

7 Steven Neil Lewis
m Rhona Lowinger

8 Cady Shae Lewis

8 Sawyer Alexander Lewis

7 Jay Kenneth Lewis
m Randi Kideckel

8 Amanda Ryann Lewis

6 Dorrine Gilda Lewis
m Stanley Harold Stolar

7 Linda Stolar
m Reuven Mark Bisk

8 Yonatan Yitzhak Bisk

8 Avital Bisk
m Bruce Kessler

7 Andrea Gail Stolar
m David Freed Vener

8 Dylan Michael Vener

8 Max Feivel Vener

8 Daniel Solomon Vener

5 Rosie Lechinsky • 22 Nov 1905 - 19 May 1928 London, Ont.

5 Leah R. Lechinsky • 15 Mar 1918 London Ont. - 23 Oct 1999 Hamilton
m 21 Jul 1940 • S Sturman • 08 No 1911 Tor-25 May 1994 Hamilton

6 Larry Sturman b Toronto

6 Riza Sturman
m Archie Lieberman

7 Mark Jeffry Lieberman

7 Danna Sari Lieberman

5 Ethel Lechinsky • 1910 London, Ont. - ?
m Albert Spector

6 Bryna Spector
m unknown spouse bef. 1978 Toronto

4 Samuel Leff • 10 Oct 1874 Russia – London Ont.
m Sarah Siskind • 12 Sep 1881 Volkovisk Grodno - London

5 Harry E. Leff • 08 Jul 1904 London, Ont. - Dec 1974 Bay City, Michigan
m Alice [Leff]

6 Stanley Sherwood Leff • 1930 Kitchener Ont.

5 Arthur Abraham Leff • Aug 1902 London Ont. - 11 Apr 1966 Detroit
m 1920s Frieda Lumberg • 24 De 1908- 06 Au 1988 MI

6 Leonard Leff
m unknown spouse

7 Fred David Leff

6 Sherwin Leff
m unknown spouse

7 Mary Leff

6 Bobby Leff

5 Abraham Leff • 14 Jan 1901 London Ont. - ?

5 Ethel T. Leff • 25 Oct 1899 London Ont. - ?

4 Isaac Leff • 10 Sep 1884 Porozow – London Ont.

4 Israel Leff • 18 Jul 1884 – 1918 Porozow
m Ethel Siskind • 1891c Grodno, Russian Empire -?

5 Harry N. Leff • 31 May 1912 London Ont. - 01 Dec 1974 Bay City, Mich.
m Alice (Leff) • 16 Nov 1908- 17 Apr 1977 Midland, Mich.

5 Rose Leff • 1921c - ?

4 Esther Leff • 10 Aug 1890 Porozow- ? Saint-Louis, Missouri

m Unk Wolapiansky

4 Ethel Leff • 05 Aug 1895 Porozow Russia - 25 Jan 1977 Los Angeles
m 1915 Hyman Packer • 1894 Kiev- 03 Aug 1930 London Ont.

5 Muriel Packer • 16 Apr 1918 Windsor Ont. - 06 Nov 2004 Los Angeles
m 05 My 1942 • Harry Stern • 16 Jul 1918 Poland-03 Jul 1952 Windsor

6 Rosalyn Merle Stern • 07 Sep 1944 Windsor Ont. -
m Aug 1974 • Gerald Krause

7 Mitchell H. Krause • Aug 1974- 28 Feb 1976 Los Angeles

6 Sandra Roan Stern • 05 Jul 1948 Windsor Ont. -
m 05 Aug 1966 • Lane Joel

7 Todd M. Joel • 28 Jun 1974-
m Jodie I. Rothman • 1974-

7 Kevin S. Joel • 19 Sep 1976 -
m Shari [Joel]

8 Hannah Rae Joel

6 Harriet Elaine Stern • 01 Oct 1952 Windsor Ont. -
m 17 Jun 1973v• Ronald Moishe Davis • 1950c -

7 Morgan Davis

7 Leslie Davis
m Jeff Hayes
m 1960c Unk Friedman • Los Angeles

5 Jack Isadore Packer • 28 Sep 1921 London Ont. -10 Sep 2000 Sherman Oaks CA
m Marilyn Rainvasser • 1923 Hamilton Ont.- 19 May 2001 Los Angel

6 Harvey Packer • 19 Jul 1959 Los Angeles -

6 Debbie Packer • 02 Sep 1961 Los Angeles -
m unknown spouse

7 (Baby) Packer • 28 Dec 1996 -

4 Rose Leff • 1872 Porozow - 1903 Saint Louis, Missouri
m Samuel Wolson • 15 May 1868 Zel'va, Grodno - ?

5 Mollie Wolson • 1893 - 1976

3 Gitil Lechinsky • 1852 Porozow - 23 Jan 1911 London, Ont.
m 1872c Porozow • Jacob (Yankel) Forman • 1850c Russia- 1909

4 Hershel Forman • 05 May 1874 Porozow - 30 Nov 1934 London Ont.
m Grodno 15 Jan 1897 • Fanny (Bashe) Leff • 02 May 1881 •
Mashishin Grodno- 15 Jul 1945 London, Ont.

5 Annie Foreman • 23 Dec 1902 Russia - 09 May 1972 Petrolia Ont.
m 27 Fe 1923 • Hymie Shabsove • 20 Apr 1893 Petrolia- 05 Jul 1944

6 George S. Shabsove • 15 May 1924 London – 04 Oct 1972 Petrolia Ont.
m 23 Sep 1951 • Joan Papernik Toronto

7 Nancy Shabsove • 01 Apr 1953 Petrolia -
m Sam ?

7 Hyla Shabsove • 01 Apr 1955 Petrolia -
m unknown spouse

8 Adrienne Shabsove • 16 Sep 1984 -

8 Philip Shabsove • 1986 -

8 Johanna Shabsove • Jul 1990 -

7 Jill Shabsove • Petrolia Ont. -
m Ruven Aahron • Israel

8 Geoffrey Aahron • Feb 1990 -

7 Steven Herbert Shabsove • 10 Jan 1960- 09 Aug 1993 Toronto

6 Harold B. Shabsove • 29 Sep 1936 London Ont. -
m Marsha [Shabsove] • Sharon, Pennsylvania

7 Stuart Mark Shabsove • 08 Jul 1963 Toronto -
m 24 Jun 1989 Maxine [Shabsove]

8 Russell Arthur Shabsove • 23 Jul 1992 -

8 Evan Michael Shabsove • 31 Dec 1994 -

7 Eric Howard Shabsove • 15 Jul 1965 -
m 16 Sep 1995 Angela [Shabsove] Toronto

8 Emily Shabsove • 1998 -

8 Sydney Shabsove

7 Joan Shimmerman • 05 May 1940 Toronto -
7 Marla Sherri Ross • 19 Oct 1963 Toronto -
 m Robert Sobel • 19 Feb 1963 Detroit -
 8 Chaya Chana Sobel • 30 Mar 1992 Zichron, Yaakov, Israel
 8 Brachah Leah Sobel • Apr 1994 Zichron Yaakov, Israel
 8 Yaakov Aaron Sobel • 08 Dec 1996 Detroit
 8 Elisheva Esther Sobel • 28 Ap 1999 Det
7 Shawna Jill Ross • 30 May 1966 Toronto -
7 Tara Michelle Ross • 30 Mar 1970 Toronto -
 m unknown spouse
 8 Yaakov Nissim Ross • 31 Jan 2002 Vancouver-
 m 14 Sep 1986 Thornhill Ont • Dale Greenfield • 03 Jul 1949 Phil PA
6 Shirley Anne Brynah Ross • 18 May 1938 Toronto -
 m 06 Jun 1961 Tor • Harvey Morton Haber • 12 Sep 1935 Toronto
7 Stuart Michael Haber • 29 Dec 1965 Toronto -
 m Michelle Zauberma
 8 Dovid Yaakov Haber • 06 Mar 2002 Toronto -
7 Kevin Joel Haber • 14 Jun 1967 Toronto -
7 Sari Michelle Haber • 29 Apr 1970 Toronto -
 m 10 Dec 2000 Toronto • Russell Gottschalk • South Africa
 8 Shalom Yaakov Gottschalk • 22 May 2002 Toronto -
7 Sean David Haber • 19 Dec 1972 Toronto -
6 Alan Stephen Ross • 17 Aug 1942 Toronto -
 m 01 Jul 1979 Sask • Janet Elaine Erikson • 03 Oct 1956 Regina
 7 Benjamin Emil Ross • 21 Sep 1981 Saskatoon Sask. -
5 Jacob Forman • Nov 1908 Toronto - 26 Jan 1913 Toronto
5 Albert Forman • 05 Oct 1910 Toronto - 12 Oct 1966 Toronto
 m 16 Jun 1942 Tor • Ida Cooperberg • 06 Jun 1913 Kielce Pol- 28 Jun 1993 Tor
6 Deborah Sharon Forman • 07 Jul 1943 Toronto
 m 13 Dec 1964 • Toronto Jack Ritter • 13 Apr 1936 Arad, Romania -?
7 Stacey Marla Ritter • 24 Feb 1966 NYC NY -
 m 30 Jul 1990 • Lawrence Ivan Clements • 12 Sep 1961 Toronto -
 8 Mollie Jo-Anne Clements • 20 Apr 1992 Toronto -
 8 Jaimie Ilana Clements • 21 Aug 1993 Toronto -
7 Avrum Ritter • 04 Feb 1970 Toronto -
 m 25 Nov 2001 • Michelle (Ritter)
7 Michael Brian Ritter • 03 Dec 1974 Toronto -
6 Paul David Forman • 27 Sep 1946 Toronto -
 m 03 Jun 1969 Toronto • Anne Gail Fasten • 20 Jan 1950 Tor -
7 Avrom Saul Forman • 04 Jul 1972 Toronto -
 m Ayelet Kayla Fuld • 19 Jul 1972 -
 8 Ahuva Frieda Forman • 08 May 1997 NYC NY -
7 Aryeh Yehuda Yakov Forman • 06 Jan 1975 Toronto -
7 Adina Malka Forman • 06 Dec 1978 Toronto -
6 Mark Stephen Forman • 14 Mar 1949 in Toronto -
 m 06 Dec 1970 Tor • Honey Marlene Steinberg • 14 Aug 1950 Tor -
7 Shari Robin Forman • 25 Jan 1973 Toronto -
 m Rbt Cotton • v8 Feb 1967 Ft Erie
 8 Charles Isaac J. Cotton • 15 Jun 1996 Toronto-
7 Allan Shawn Hartley Forman • 13 Jul 1974 Toronto -
 m 16 Jul 2002 Toronto • Alison [Forman]
5 Gertrude Forman • 21 Sep 1912 Toronto-08 Oct 2007 Toronto
 m 04 Jn '39 Tor • Harry Bassken • 12 No '09 London UK-Au '99
6 Theodore Ira Bassken • 06 Mar 1946 Toronto -
 m 20 Aug 1967 Toronto • Susan Alicia Fish • 16 Apr 1946 Toronto -

7 Laura Corinth Bassken • 04 Feb 1969 Toronto -
7 Jessica Amanda Bassken • 30 Nov 1976 Toronto -
5 Belle Forman • 13 Feb 1914 Toronto - 14 Feb 2001 Toronto -
 m 07 Dec 1940 Tor • Norman Sernick • 15 Jun 1910 Pinsk - 12 Sept 2001 Toronto
6 Hart Erik Sernick • 11 Aug 1943 Toronto -
 m 18 Aug 1968 Tor • Ricki Paula Blinick • 10 Feb 1944 Toronto -
7 Ilana Sari Sernick • 20 Jun 1975 Toronto -
 m 19 May 2002 Toronto • Bryan Santone -
7 Grant Michael Sernick • 23 Aug 1976 Toronto -
7 Rebecca Ann Sernick • 08 Nov 1978 Toronto -
6 Diana Ruth Sernick • 16 Mar 1950 Toronto -
6 David Edward Sernick • 09 Jun 1952 Toronto -
 m 23 Sep 1990 • Cynthia Marci Fromstein • 15 Jun 1954 Toronto -
7 Ariel Anne Semick • 27 Jan 1992 Toronto -
7 Cole Justin Sheppard Semick • 24 Jun 1996 Elko, Nevada -
5 Sydney Alexander Forman • 11 May 1917 Toronto - 03 Oct 1985 Ottawa Ont.
 m 13 De 1941 Tor • Sally Finsten • 21 Jun 1919 Tor- 23 Nov 1997
6 Donald Barrie Forman • 07 Mar 1944 Toronto -
 m 21 Dec 1969 Tor • Wendy Belle Berens • 24 Mar 1946 Tor -
7 Michael Allan Forman • 29 Jun 1971 Toronto -
 m Fara Melissa Rubinoff • 15 Mar 1971 Toronto -
7 Brian Elliot Forman • 29 Jun 1971 Toronto -
7 David Jory Forman • 03 Jun 1975 Toronto -
6 Judith Carol Forman • 14 Mar 1946 Toronto -
 m 27 Jul 1969 Ott • Rbt Gardner • 06 Ja 1944 London UK
7 Katharine Jane Gardner • 08 Aug 1971 Ottawa -
7 James Alexander Gardner • 05 Dec 1974 Ottawa -
7 Matthew William George Gardner • 28 Aug 1977 Ottawa -
6 Nancy Joan Forman • 23 Jun 1948 Toronto -
 m 04 Nov 1973 Ottawa • Tom Balles
7 Cali Eugenia Balles • 07 Aug 1974 Toronto -
4 Israel Forman • 20 Mar 1887 Porozow - 15 Feb 1961 Los Angeles
 m 1905 Poland • Ida Chalap Fineman • 15 Jun 1888 Brzostowica Russ - 25 Mr 1955 L.A.
5 Belle Rose Forman • 22 Nov 1906 Bialystok Grodno - 25 Dec 1971 Los Angeles
 m 25 Jul 1925 Detroit • Max Mendelsohn • 25 Apr 1904 Mtl - 17 Nov 1994 L.A.
6 Leonard Arthur Mendelsohn • 09 Dec 1927 Detroit -?
 m 08 Jun 1952 L.A. • Helen Jean Bromberg • 01 Jul 1926 NY-
7 Robert Alan Mendelsohn • 21 May 1956 Panorama City CA -
 m 02 Se 1984 Queens NY • Lois Teurk • 07 Mar 1961 Long Island NY -
 8 Stephanie Belle Mendelsohn • 12 Sep 1991 New York -
 8 Matthew Aaron Mendelsohn • 27 Apr 1995 New York -
7 Michael Randy Mendelsohn • 02 Jul 1953 Los Angeles -
 m 26 Ja 1991 CA • Stacy Kathleen Davis • 25 Fe 1964 Pasadena -
 8 Noah Blue Mendelsohn • 28 Jun 1996 Shawnee Mission, Kansas -
 8 Eli Jonah Mendelsohn • 23 Jan 2001 Anaheim CA -
6 Edward Jack Mendelsohn • 29 Jul 1929 Detroit - 31 Dec 1988 Los Angeles
 m 01 Jan 1948 L.A. • Carolyn Bronson • 1931c L.A. - ?
7 Dore Lee Mendelsohn • 12 Jan 1952 Los Angeles -
 m 1 18 Jul 1970 L.A. • Charles E. Klempman • 1950, -
 m2 08 Mar 1974 L.A. • John W. Huff • 1941 -
 m 3 Kenneth Willhoite
7 Vickie Ann Mendelsohn • 22 Oct 1953 Los Angeles -
 m Joe Frailey
 8 Sharney • 1988c -
 m 18 Jan 1975 L.A. • Gary S. Lafferty • 1953
5 Sally Forman • 24 May 1908 Poland -13 Apr 1967 Los Angeles

m 30 Jan 1927 Detroit • Ben Kathren • 15 Apr 1907 Ciplicik, Lithuania • 20 Apr 1984 LA

6 Raymond Bernard Kathren • 16 Dec 1927 Detroit - 18 May 2008 South Gate CA
 m1 21 Jan 1967 Las V • Emily Coughlin • 02 De 1906 Ft Worth TX • 27 Jul 1976 L.A.
 m2 29 Mar 1993 CA • Betty Title • 31 Oct 1908 Poland- 16 Sep 1993 CA

6 Lois Ann Kathren • 23 Feb 1931 Windsor Ont. - 26 Jan 2016 Warsaw, Indiana
 m 6 Nov 1949 LA. • Sam Okun • 28 Apr 1926 Chicago - 05 Feb 08 Warsaw IN

7 Gary Steven Okun • 07 Sep 1951 Los Angeles -
 m 09 May 1985 L.A. • Eva Ricopuerto • 20 Nov 1950 Philippines -

7 Wendy Lynn Okun • 08 Jul 1954 L.A. –
 m 07 Dec 1985 Fort Wayne IN • Ronald Christy • Jul 1949 -

8 Angela Christy • 31 Jan 1987 Indiana -
8 Matthew Christy • 15 Mar 1990 Indiana -

6 Ronald Laurence Kathren • 06 Jun 1937 Windsor Ont. - (AUTHOR OF THIS GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH)
 m 24 Dec 1964 Oakland CA • Susan Ruth Krafft • 10 Dec 1941 Kirkland WA

7 Sally Beth Kathren • 18 Jan 1968- Richland WA-
7 Daniel Forman Kathren • 08 Dec 1969 - Richland WA-
 m 22 Jun 1997 Atlanta • Ellen Marie Schaeffer • 01 Apr 1967 Atlanta GA -

8 Katrina Brynn Kathren • 24 Oct 2003 Kennewick WA -
8 Mia Bedonna Kathren • 07 Apr 2005 Richland WA -

7 Elana Kay Kathren • 08 Dec 1969 Richland WA-10 Feb 1973 Portland OR

5 Bertha Forman • 05 Nov 1909 Grodno Poland/Russia - 05 Jun 1974 Los Angeles
 m 1931 • Edward Irving Fisher • 26 Se 1909 London UK - 24 Se 1973 LA.

6 Harold Lawrence Fisher • 08 Sep 1933 Detroit - 10 Dec 1974 L.A.
 m 1958 Nevada • Harriet Chandler • 25 Jun 1937 N.Y. - 01 Oct 1978 LA.

7 Stephen M. Fisher • 13 Dec 1959 Oxnard CA- 03 Apr 2000 Louisiana
 m 1982c Joan Nonnemacher

8 Amanda Sue Fisher • 04 Dec 1982 San Bernardino CA –
 m unknown spouse

9 Ms Fisher • 09 Sep 1999 -
9 Mary Fisher • 2000-

8 Riana Marie Fisher • 22 Nov 1985 San Bernardino CA
 m 1979 Mary (Fisher)

8 Amy Fisher • 1979 –
 m 1990s James Holloway

9 Mary Ann Holloway • Nov 1999 -
9 Ashley Nicole Holloway b: 22 Nov 2000

7 Selma E. Fisher • 18 Apr 1961 Los Angeles -
 m Brett A. Nann • 1960 - ?

8 Karen Elizabeth Nann • 08 Aug 1984 Los Angeles -
8 Michael Alan Nann • 05 Sep 1986 Orange County CA -

7 David Lawrence Fisher • 11 Dec 1963 Los Angeles-
 m 1998 Houston • Laura Richie

8 Anthony Fisher • 11 Aug 1984 (?) Los Angeles -
8 Scott Lawrence Fisher • 09 Sep 1999 Houston-
8 Grace Lee Fisher • 22 Nov 2000 -
8 Colin William Croteau • 02 Sep 1994 -
 m 31 Mar 1972 L.A. • Joan Lloyd • 1934 -

6 Joyce Adele Fisher b: 10 Nov 1936 in Detroit, Michigan
 m 25 Dec 1961 LA. • Joseph Behar • 19 Sep 1936 Brooklyn NY -

7 David M. Behar • 18 Jun 1963 LA. -
 m Tracy Hill

8 Briana Nicole Hill-Behar • 24 Jun 2003 Berkeley CA -
8 Eric Nicholls Hill-Behar • 03 Apr 2006 Berkeley CA -

7 Jeffrey Michael Behar • 19 Jan 1984 Santa Clara County CA

4 Victor Forman • 15 Apr 1890 Porozow Russian Empire - 16 Jul 1953 Los Angeles
 m Rose Lehman • 25 Mar 1896 Europe - 06 Apr 1980 Reseda CA

m 10 May 1920 NYC • Mary Bernstein • 1893c Russia - ?

5 Irving Forman • 13 Aug 1922 NY - 12 Jul 2000 Tamara/Broward County FL
 m Anita Joan Ester • 21 Nov 1932 Bergen NJ - St Petersburg FL

6 Sherri Forman
 m Unk Martin

6 Julie Forman
6 Ruth Ann Forman

5 Gloria Forman • 13 Aug 1924 NY

4 Rose Forman • 07 Jul 1890 Porozow- 02 Feb 1973 Detroit
 m 22 Aug 1910 London Ont • Simon Ritter • 27 Aug 1896 -06 Ja 1989 Ludington MI

5 Leah Ritter • - 1980s Detroit
5 Jack Ritter • 1910s-
5 Gertrude Ritter

4 Simon (Shameh) Forman • 01 May 1893 Porozow - 22 Mar 1976 Petaluma CA
 m 03 Sp 1916 Tor • Fannie Levi • 07 Oc 1893 Dziewienishzki Russ –31 Ja 1982 Petaluma

5 Leonard Jack Forman • 27 May 1918 Toronto - 04 Nov 1998 Petaluma CA
 m 23 Mar 1941 • Ethel Segerman • 23 Apr 1923 Bronx NY- ?

6 Janice Lee Forman • 07 Sep 1946 Petaluma CA -
 m Donald Harris Singerman • 10 Dec 1941 - 13 Aug 2005 Los Angeles

7 Joshua Samuel Singerman • 10 Dec 1974 -
7 Shira Kinneret Singerman 14 • Aug 1978 -
 m Michael Kaiser • 1975 -
8 Ruby Ann Kaiser • 13 Oct 1996 -

7 Noah Benjamin Singerman • 06 Feb 1980 Petaluma CA -
7 Zachary Amir Singerman • 16 Feb 1984 Petaluma CA -
 m 06 Apr 1990 CA • Edward Jack Everidge • 1943c -

6 Marilyn Ellen Forman • 13 Jul 1950 Petaluma CA-
 m Robert Keith Jr.

6 Harold Allen Forman • 08 Jul 1952 Petaluma CA-
 m 27 May 1990 Jenner CA • Mary Ann Granieri • 04 Mar 1954 San Francisco-

6 Sherri Ann Forman • 09 Nov 1961 Petaluma CA
 m unknown spouse

7 Marissa Nicole Forman • 29 Aug 1989 -

5 Love Eifie Forman • 01 Aug 1921 Turlock CA - 20 Jan 1922 Turlock CA

5 Milton Laurence Forman • 07 Jun 1923 Turlock CA - ?
 m 18 Mar 1949 Washoe County NV • Billie June Guiney • 1926 -?

6 Marjorie Kay Forman • 21 Oct 1952 Petaluma CA -
6 Rebecca Elizabeth Forman • 01 Nov 1950 Petaluma CA-
 m Donald Ray Lewis Sr.

7 Donald Ray Lewis Jr. • 21 Oct 1971 Napa CA-
7 Joanna Lewis • 18 May 1974 Butte County CA -
7 Catherine M. Lewis • 24 Nov 1975 Glenn County CA -

6 Donald Louis Forman • 17 Oct 1956 Petaluma CA -
 m1 1976 • Gina A. Lucas • 08 Apr 1961 Solano County CA -
 m2 31 Dec 1988 • Wendy C. Smith • 1959c -

7 Rachel Forman -

6 Victoria Joanne Forman • 24 Jan 1959 Petaluma CA -
 m David A. Logue • 17 Jun 1956 Plumas County CA -

7 Catherine Logue • 1977c -
7 Deanna Marle Logue • 22 Oct 1977 Tehama County CA -
7 Valerie Joanne Logue • 28 Feb 1980 Tehama County CA -
7 David Allen Logue • 07 Apr 1984 Petaluma CA –

3 Joseph Lechinsky • Jul 1854 Poland - 06 Jun 1920 London Ont.
 m Sarah Breinah (Lechinsky) • May 1855 Poland - 06 Jun 1926 London Ont.

4 Louis Lechinsky • Oct 1876 Porozow - 08 May 1951 London Ont.
 m 09 Ja 1902 London, Ont • Ada Leff • 23 My 1881 Porozow - 10 De 1945 London

5 Harry Lechinsky • 20 Sep 1915 London Ont. - ?

m Beatrice M Appelberg • 10 Jul 1918 Toronto - 04 Au 1997 London, Ont.
6 Arlene Lechinsky • 09 Oct 1948 London Ont. -
5 Mary Lechinsky • 14 May 1908 - 08 Aug 1975
 m 12 Jun 1932 Ont. • Leon Magill • 1905c London Ont. - 1985c
6 Marvin Magill • 1938c -
 m Marianne [Magill] • 1939c London Ont. -
5 Israel Lechinsky • 18 Mar 1912 London Ont. - 20 Apr 1939 London Ont.
5 Solomon Lechinsky • 15 Mar 1903 London Ont. - 04 May 1991 Hamilton Ont.
 m Ruth Rose Garshowitz • 03 Apr 1910 Hamilton - 19 Apr 1998 Hamilton
6 Milton Joseph Lewis
 m Terri Lorraine Handelman
7 Steven Neil
 m Rhona Lowinger
8 Cady Shae Lewis
8 Sawyer Alexander Lewis
7 Jay Kenneth Lewis
 m Randi Kideckel
8 Amanda Ryann Lewis
6 Dorrine Gilda Lewis
 m Stanley Harold Stolar
7 Linda Stolar
 m Reuven Mark Bisk
8 Yonatan Yitzhak Bisk
8 Avital Bisk
 m Bruce Kessler
7 Andrea Gail Stolar
 m David Freed Vener
8 Dylan Michael Vener
8 Max Feivel Vener
8 Daniel Solomon Vener
5 Rosie Lechinsky • 22 Nov 1905 London Ont - 19 May 1928 London Ont.
5 Leah R. Lechinsky • 15 Mar 1918 London Ont. - 23 Oct 1999 Hamilton Ont.
 m 21 Jul 1940 • Sam Sturman • 08 Nov 1911 Tor- 25 May 1994 Hamilton
6 Larry Sturman • Toronto -
6 Riza Sturman
 m Archie Lieberman
7 Mark Jeffry Lieberman
7 Beth Amy Lieberman
7 Danna Sari Lieberman
5 Ethel Lechinsky • 1910 London Ont.
 m Albert Spector
6 Bryna Spector
 m unknown • Toronto
4 Samuel Lechinsky • 20 Jun 1886 Wilkowisk, (Volkovysk) Russia - 23 Nov 1971 Detroit
 m Jan 1908 Lond Ont. • Eva (Chava) Leszcynski • 12 Aug 1888 Zabelin Russia
 - 21 Apr 1972 Detroit
5 Bessie F. Lechinsky • 21 Nov 1908 London Ont, - 17 Oct 2005 Bloomfield Hills MI
 m 1928 Detroit • Charles Belsky • 14 Dec 1907 Detroit - 13 May 1982 MI
6 Fay Belsky • 26 Mar 1935 Detroit -
 m 21 Aug 1955 Detroit • Allen Gene Herman • 03 Jan 1932 Detroit
7 Linda Joyce Herman • 04 Nov 1961 Detroit -
 m 21 Oct 1986 Detroit • Brett Bishop • 12 Jul 1959 Kansas City MI -
8 Bryan Allen Bishop • 04 Jan 1990 Austin TX -
8 Andrew Robert Bishop • 30 Apr 1992 -
8 Carissa Alexandra Bishop • 20 Feb 1996 -
 m Scott Ritchey
7 Janet Herman • 04 Nov 1961 -

m Aug 1993 • John Rowland Andersen • 09 Mar 1960 Massachusetts
6 Judith Alice Belsky • 26 Jul 1941 Detroit -
 m Jeff Farrin
 m Norman Edelstein
 m Larry Steffan
7 Janet Steffan
 m John Anderson
5 Archie M. Lechinsky • 26 Sep 1916 London Ont - Apr 2001 MI
 m Shirley (Lechinsky) • 28 Dec 1920 - 09 Dec 1989 Michigan
6 Lawrence Leslie • 1935c
 m unknown spouse
7 Michael Leslie • 25 Apr 1963 Michigan -
 m Diane Walberg
8 Aaron Leslie • 1990c
4 Morris I. Lechinsky • 09 Feb 1897 Porozow - 15 Aug 1968 Los Angeles
 m Ida Kamelhorn • 16 Dec 1904 Illinois - 18 Sep 1977 Woodland Hills CA
5 Shirley Lester • 10 Jun 1919 Michigan - 08 Jan 1993 Los Angeles
 m Allan Rotman
6 Robert Rotman • Michigan -
6 Martin Rotman • Michigan -
5 Harry Lester • 30 Dec 1922 Detroit - 20 Nov 1990 Los Angeles
 m Dorothy Stein • 1925c-
5 Sarah Bernice Lester • 1925 -
 m Unk Weiss
5 Archie Lester • 02 Aug 1925 Michigan
 m Mary Lou (Lester)
4 Unk Lechinsky
3 Faigel Lechinsky • 1855 Porozow - 10 Oct 1906 Porozow
 m ArieH Lieb Caplan • 1850c Svishlosh Russia - 1931 in Porozow
4 David Caplan
4 Henya Liba Caplan - Holocaust 1941 - 1942
 m Moshe Feinberg
4 Peshe Leah Caplan
4 Avrom (Alter) Caplan • - Nov 1955 Liverpool UK
4 Phillip (Shraga Faivel) Caplan • Oct 1895 Porozow - 20 May 1991 Sydney AUS
 m unknown spouse
5 Leslie Caplan
3 Mordecai Leszcynski • 1865c Zabelin Russia - 1910s Zabelin Russia
 m Ester Chaia Bryn • 10 Oct 1864 Plonsk Poland - ?
4 Eva (Chava) Leszcynski • 12 Aug 1888 Zabelin - 21 Apr 1972 Detroit
 m Jan 1908 Lond Ont. • Sam Lechinsky • 20 Jun 1886 Wilkowisk Russ- 23 No 1971 Detroit
5 Bessie F. Lechinsky • 21 Nov 1908 London Ont.- 17 Oct 2005 Bloomfield Hills MI
 m 1928 Det • Charles Belsky • 14 De 1907 Det - 13 May 1982 Southfield MI
6 Fay Belsky • 26 Mar 1935 Detroit -
 m 21 Aug 1955 Detroit • Allen Gene Herman • 03 Jan 1932 Detroit - ?
7 Linda Joyce Herman • 04 Nov 1961 Detroit -
 m 21 Oct 1986 Detroit MI • Brett Bishop • 12 Jul 1959 Kansas City MI
8 Bryan Allen Bishop • 04 Jan 1990 Austin TX -
8 Andrew Robert Bishop • 30 Apr 1992 -
8 Carissa Alexandra Bishop • 20 Feb 1996 -
 m Scott Ritchey
7 Janet Herman 04 Nov 1961 -
 m Aug 1993 • John Rowland Andersen • 09 Mar 1960 Massachusetts -
6 Judith Alice Belsky • 26 Jul 1941 Detroit MI -
 m Jeff Farrin
 m Norman Edelstein
 m Larry Steffan

7 Janet Steffan
 m John Anderson

4 Archie M. Lechinsky • 26 Sep 1916 London Ont. - Apr 2001 Michigan
 m Shirley (Lechinsky) • 28 Dec 1920 - Dec 1989 MI

6 Lawrence Leslie • 1935c -
 m unknown spouse

7 Michael Leslie • 25 Apr 1963 Michigan -
 m Diane Walberg

8 Aaron Leslie • 1990c -

4 Abraham Lechinski • 1893 Leeta Grodno Russia - Detroit
 m1 Dora (Lechinsky) - 1920
 m2 1920s Illinois • Ida • 16 Dec 1904 • 18 Sept 1977 Woodland Hills CA

4 Julius Lasser • 20 Sep 1895 - 08 Aug 1964 Milwaukee WI
 m 1925 • Fannie Rossin • 15 Jun 1901 Minsk - 28 Jul 1961 Milw.

5 Alan Eugene Lasser • 20 Mar 1936 Milwaukee -
 m 11 Dec 1960 Milw • Nancy Jean Hirsch • 06 J1 1938 Evanston II -

6 Susan Francine Lasser • 19 Apr 1962 Rantoul III -

6 Michael Jeffrey Lasser • 14 Sep 1967 Milwaukee WI -

6 James Lawrence Lasser • 09 Dec 1974 Evanston III -

5 Anita Lasser • 1926 Milwaukee WI • 1937 Milwaukee -

4 Rachel Leah Leszcynski • 06 Jun 1884 Porozow • 26 Feb 1965 Michigan
 m Moses P Ellenson • 06 Jun 1881 Porozow- 17 Nov 1959 Michigan

5 Louis Ellenson • 01 Aug 1906 • Zabelin Russia - Southfield MI
 m Edith Wise • 01 Apr 1910 - 25 Jan 1989 Southfield MI

6 Gary Stuart Ellenson • 24 Apr 1942 Southfield MI -

6 Sandra Ellenson

5 Harry B. Ellenson • 01 Nov 1910
 m Sarah [Ellenson] • 29 Dec 1910 - 13 Mar 1983 Southfield MI

5 Vivian Ellenson • Detroit -
 m Ben Jackson

6 Katherine Jackson

5 Albert E. Ellenson • 23 Dec 1904 - 24 Nov 1987 Southfield MI
 m Ida J. [Ellenson] • 16 Oct 1911

6 Ervin Ellenson • 07 Sep 1932 Michigan - Apr 1981 Southfield MI

5 Joseph (Archie) Ellenson

4 Ms. Leszcynski • - 1943c Warsaw Poland (Holocaust)
 m Unk Melamed • 1943c Warsaw, Poland (Holocaust)

3 Ida Lechinsky • 1870 Porozow -
 m Myer Zimberg • 1867 Naroff, Grodno, Russia - 1930s

4 Hyman Zimberg • 23 Aug 1906 Porozow - 15 Nov 1964 Greenacres FL
 m 1920 • Ida • 1907 - 02 Jul 2002 Boca Raton, FL

5 Raymond Louis Zimberg • 01 Jul 1925 Detroit, MI -
 m Arlene D. Weidman • Nov 1930 Detroit, MI -

6 Larry Wayne Zimberg • 25 Jan 1958 Los Angeles -
 m1 Bonnie Cahn • 1960 -
 m2 Lillian [Zimberg] • 1961 -

6 Janet Barbara Zimberg • 30 Jul 1954 Los Angeles -
 m Robert J. Coxhill

6 Donald Zimberg • 02 Apr 1929 -
 m Shirley Grace M[Zimberg] • ? - 1995c Michigan -

6 Avrohom Josef Zimberg
 m Ruth [Zimberg]

5 Donald Stanley Zimberg • 02 Apr 1929 Detroit MI -
 m Detroit Shirley G Mishcovsky • 20 Feb 1931 -

6 Robert Elliott Zimberg • 1960 Detroit -

6 Leonard Jeffry Zimberg • 1964 Michigan -

6 Marvin Harold Zimberg • 1951 -
 m Helaine Jaye [Zimberg] • 1957 -

6 Steven Michael Zimberg • 1955 -

5 Avrohom Yosef Zimberg • 1930 -
 m Ruth (Zimberg) -

4 Sam Zimberg • 15 Dec 1903 Bialystock Poland/Russia - 13 Mar 1963 Manhattan Beach CA
 m Rose (Zimberg)

5 Harold B. Zimberg • Sep 1925 Detroit MI -
 m June B. Jacobs • 1928c - ?

6 Cheryl Zimberg • 1952 Richland WA -
 m 21 Mar 1970 L.A • Joe H. Margolis • 1947 -

6 Michael F. Zimberg • 1954 -
 m Letitia [Zimberg] • 1974c -

6 Jeri S. Zimberg • 20 May 1960 Los Angeles -

6 Lori A. Zimberg • 18 Dec 1956 Los Angeles -

4 Annie Zimberg • Jan 1905 Porozow
 m Al Lutz

5 Sheldon Lutz

5 Gail Lutz

4 Freda Zimberg • 07 Jan 1900 Porozow • May 1987
 m 1925 • Jacob Milner • 1895 Russia -

5 William Milner • Aug 1926 Detroit -
 m Roseanne Morgan

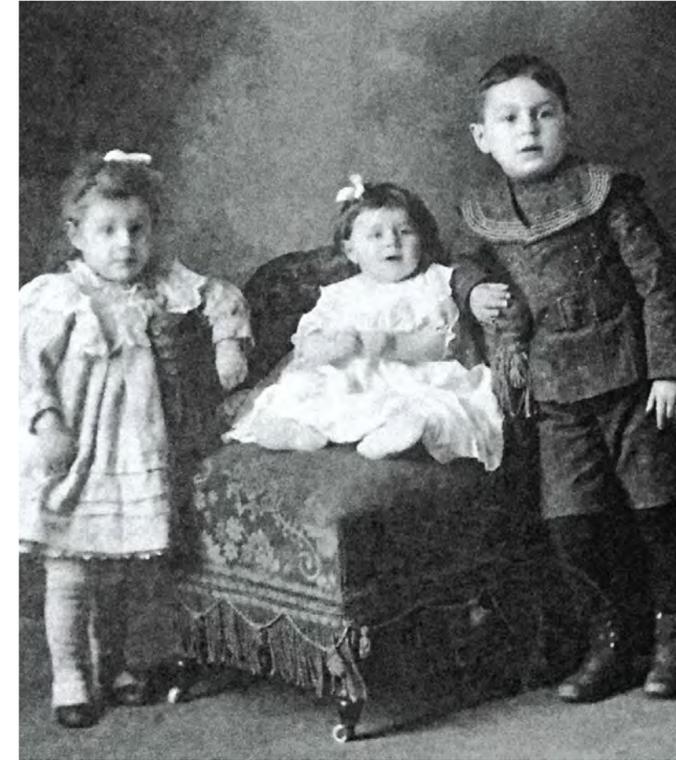
5 Harold Milner • Jun 1929 Detroit -

COURTESY OF
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IMAGES

LASH

1900–1969



1906c Little Lashinskys • Sara • Rose • I. J.



1920s Morris • Rachel Lashinsky • Montreal



1913c Edward Lashinsky • Father of Steve and Rochelle



1910s Rachel Caplan Lashinsky



1910s Joseph Weigensberg • Railway employee



1930s Edward • Gloria Lash



1940s Edward Lash



1938 Gloria Lash • Shaare Zion • Victoria Hall



1938 Gloria Balacan • Edward Lash • Shaare Zion • Victoria Hall



1947 Rose Lash • Leon Dubrow



1940s Leatrice Grossman in Samuel Grossman Fur



1920s Edward Lash



1920s Edward Lash



1939 Elmer Weigen • World War II



1959 Stanley Weigen • Joanne Goldberg



1940s Morris Lash



1950s Gloria · Edward · Chalet Cochand · Sainte-Marguerite



1940s Gloria Lash · Steve Lash



1941 Edward · Steve · Maplewood Avenue · Outremont



1941 Gloria · Steve · first home · Maplewood Avenue



1930s Edward · Gloria Lash · Mount Royal · Montreal



1950s Chalet Cochand · Sainte-Marguerite



1940s I. J. · Gloria · Baby Steve



1930s Gloria Lash



1930s Gloria Lash



1930s Gloria · Saint Urbain Street Stables



1930s Gloria · Edward Lash



1930s Gloria Lash



1940s Gloria Lash · Steve



1940s Edward · Gloria



1940s I. J. Lash



1930s Gloria · Edward Lash



1950s Edward Lash · Lombardy Hotel · Miami Beach



1940s I. J. Lash · Mary McHale



1940s Gloria Lash



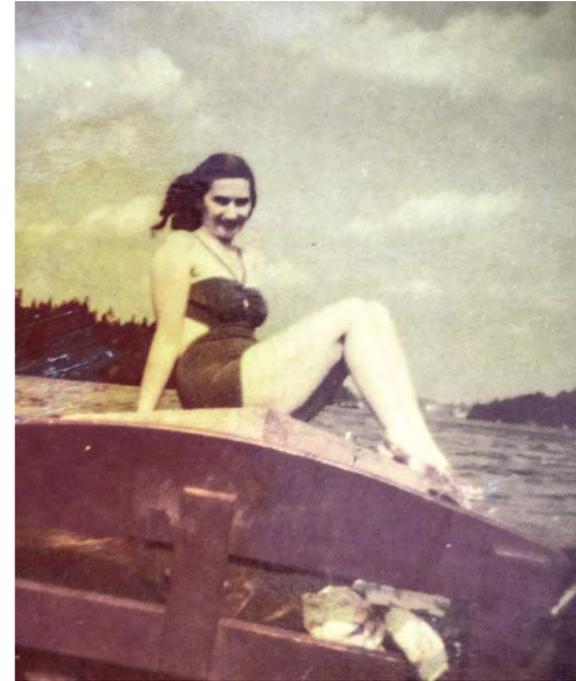
1940s Steve Lash • Isabella Avenue



1940s Steve



1940s Edward Lash • Steve Lash



1940s Gloria Lash • Laurentians



1940s Steve the Cowboy



1940s Steve • Gloria Lash



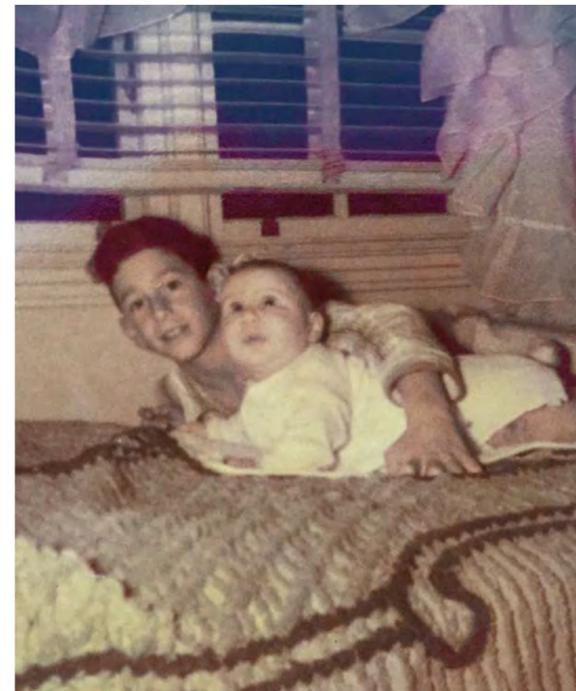
1940s Steve



1940s Steve



1940s Steve



1949 Steve Lash • Sister Rochelle



1940s Steve



1940s Steve Lash • Leonard Flanz



1950s Edward · Gloria · Rochelle



1950s Gloria · Edward



1950s Rochelle · Steve



1950s Rochelle



1950s Gloria



1950s Gloria



1950s Rochelle



1950s Rochelle



1950s Rochelle



1950s Steve



1950s Gloria • Isabella Avenue



1940s Gloria



1950s Gloria • Laurentians



1950s Dance class • Rochelle • Heidi Cochand • Claudia Jarman • Brenda Wilson • Sally Sockett



1950s Mary McHale (I. J.'s partner) • Sainte-Marguerite



1950s Edward • Chalet Cochand Skis



1960s Edward • Isabella



1950s Edward • Chalet Cochand



1964 I. J. Lash • Maureen Weigen



1950s Mary McHale and Peter the poodle



1950s Mary McHale wore pearls and perfume



1950s I. J. Lash and pals



1947 David · Ethel Lash · Dubrow wedding



1960s Rose Lash · Grandchildren Laura · Richard Warner



1950s Morris · Leon · Rose Dubrow · Stanley · Joanne Weigen



1950s Morris · Gloria · Edward · Unknown · Unknown · Rae Shapiro Lash · I. J. Lash



1950s Leah Lash Warner (Al Lash's daughter)



1950s Rose · Leon Dubrow



1960s Sara Weigensberg



1960s Gloria with our dog Peter • Isabella Avenue



1950s Rochelle



1950s Gloria and Rochelle • Camp Champlain



1950s Cowgirls • Rochelle • Mary McHale



1950s Rochelle wanted to be just like big brother Steve



1950s Rochelle and friend



1950s Rochelle • Mary's poodle Peter



1950s Rochelle • Grandfather Morris



1950s Rochelle



1962 Prom night • Iona Avenue School • Snowdon



1960s Saturday night glamour girl Gloria Lash



1960s Rose • Leon Dubrow Lash



1960 Leah Lash Warner • Grandfather Morris Lash



1960s Gloria



1960s Edward



1960s Gloria



1960s I. J. Lash



1960s Morris at kosher Hotel Marseilles • Miami Beach



1960 Top: Rose • Al Lash • Bottom: Morris • Nellie • I. J.



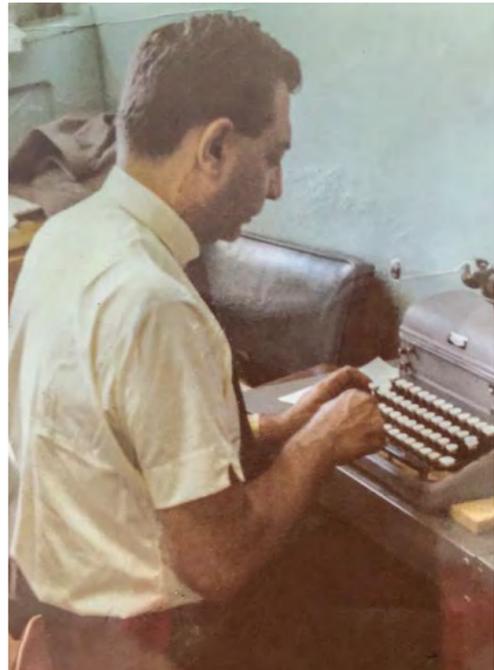
1960s Gloria aboard Bobby Lash's speedboat • Lac des Sables • Sainte-Agathe



1960s Gloria was a leader at YM-YWHA swim-gym classes



1960s Rochelle scubas · Camp Walden, NY



1960s Elmer Weigen



1969 Janet Weigen · Maureen Weigen



1960s Peter our poodle on Isabella Avenue



1960s Leon Dubrow



1960s Rochelle · Cousin Bobby Lash · Isabella Avenue



1960s Gloria



1960s Steve loves cars



1960s Edward · Gloria · Ruby Foo's Restaurant, everyone's favourite



1960s Edward



1960s Gloria



1963 Gloria · 25th anniversary



1960s Morris



1960s Gloria · Mont Gabriel



1960s Rochelle · Susan Small · Marilyn Cohen · modelling Transparent Garment's mod raincoats



1960s Rochelle · Gloria's 350-HP Dodge



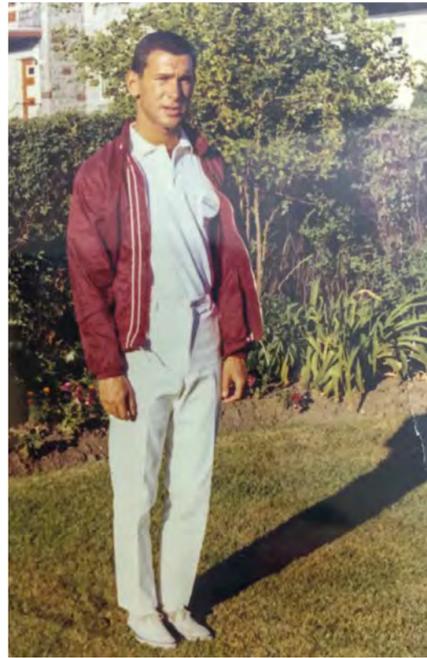
1960s Rochelle is ready to party



1966 Rochelle graduates Northmount High



1968 Marilyn Cohen · Unknown · Rochelle · Costa Del Sol · Spain



1960s Steve



1960s Steve is a champion, winter and summer



1960s Steve - CEO in the making



1968 Rochelle • Trafalgar Square • London, England



1969 Rochelle • McGill Campus • Summer Of Woodstock



1960s Steve



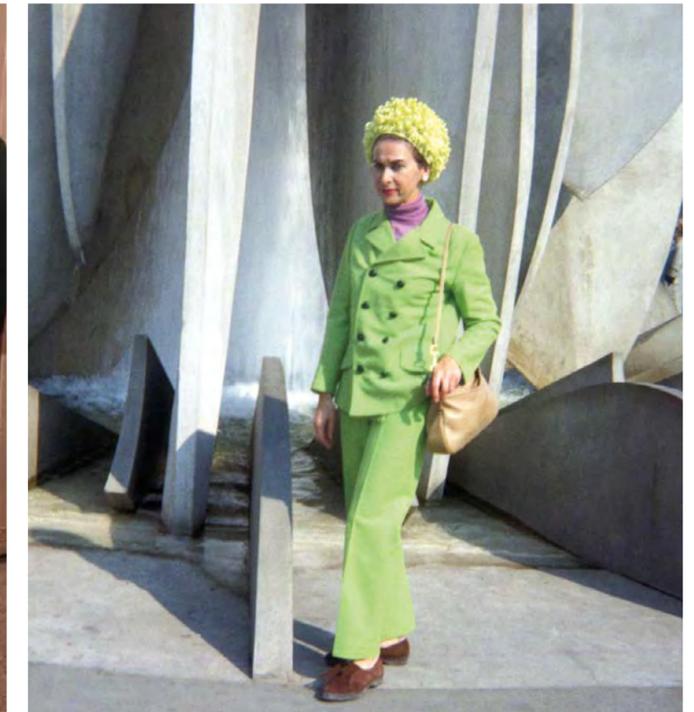
1960s Steve • Howard Shulkin



1960s Steve



1969 S&S engagement party • Château Champlain Hotel
Top: Rochelle • Edward Lash • Steve-Sandi • Gaby Grossman • Michael Grossman
Seated: Gloria Lash • Leatrice Grossman



1967 Gloria Lash • Expo '67 Montreal

1970–2020



1970 S & S Marry · Leatrice · Sandi · Gaby Grossman



1970 Edward · Steve · Gloria Lash



1970 Jan. 4 · Bonaventure Hotel · 50 years in 2020



1970s Lysa



1980s Marty Lash



1970s Lysa · Baron the Brittany Spaniel



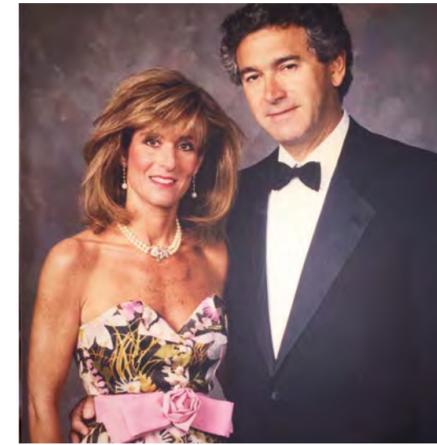
1970s Steve · Lysa



1980s Marty



1980s Rochelle · Steve · Sandi



1980s Sandi · Steve



1980s Steve's classic 1956 Thunderbird awarded First Prize at Stowe Antique Car Show



1970s Steve skis · Stowe VT



1970s Steve's Porsche 911T



1980s Steve · Lac des Sables · Sainte-Agathe



1990s Steve · Samson



1980s Sandi · Sainte-Agathe



1990s Samson the Brittany Spaniel



1977 Rochelle · Santa Monica CA



1980s Rochelle wears Moschino



1980s Rochelle



1980s Rochelle · Machu Picchu · Peru



1970s Rochelle · Santa Monica CA



1980s Rochelle · Val d'Isère · France



1972 Rochelle · first job for The New York Times



1981 St. Clair Balfour IV · Rochelle · Temple Emanuel



1981 Clair · Rochelle · Matron of Honour Sandi · Gloria Lash · Steve · Edward · Helen Staunton Balfour · St. Clair Balfour · Best Man Colin · Flower Girls: Arabella Bowen · Lysa Lash



1981 Dinner Party for 100 · 51 Hampstead Road



1988 Gloria · Edward · 50th · Montefiore Club



1990s Rochelle · The Gazette's Tommy Schnurmacher



1988 50th · Montefiore Club · Lysa · Tommy · Susan and David Stein · Alycia and Marvin Kwitko · Sandi · Marty · Steve



2000s Daughter and Father · Sandi · Gaby Grossman



1990s Steve · Sandi · The Weigens' Party



1990s Sandi · Rochelle



1980s Sandi · Marty · Lysa



1970s Lysa



1980s Lysa · Marty



1992 Lysa · Steve · Sandi · Bar Mitzvah Man Marty



1981 Nellie Brumby Lash · I. J. Lash



1990s Steve · Sandi · Nedda · Bobby Lash



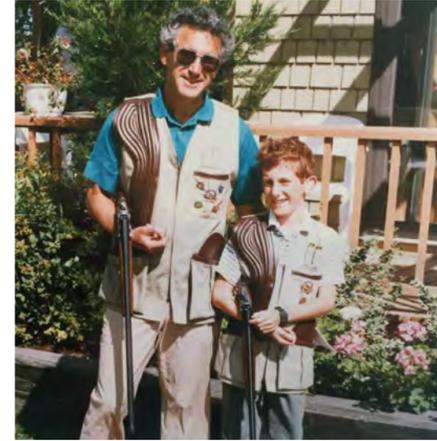
1990s Marty · Windsurfing



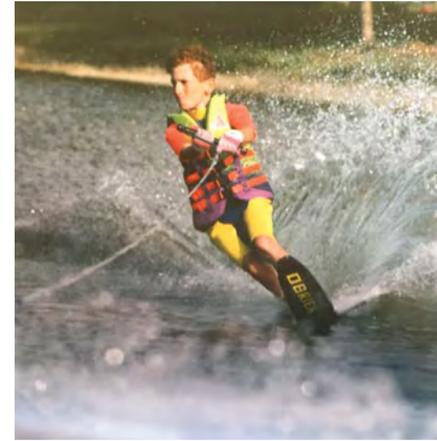
1990s Lysa · Wow!



1990s Marty · Wakeboarding



1980s Steve · Marty · Skeet Shooting Club de la Roue du Roy · Hemmingford QC



1990s Marty · The Water-Ski Ace



1990s Marty · The Slugger



1980s Steve · Marty · Lysa · Sandi



1990s Lysa · St. George's School of Montreal



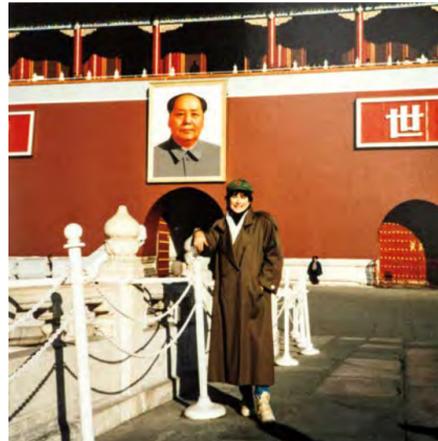
1990s Marty · Easy Rider



1990s Rochelle • Fort Worth, TX



1980s Rochelle • Ayer's Rock • Australian Outback



1990s Rochelle • Tiananmen Square • Beijing • China



1981 Rochelle • The Honeymoon • Santorini • Greece



1990s Rochelle • The social scene • Ritz-Carlton Hotel



1990s Rochelle • Le Circuit Mont Tremblant



1990 Rochelle • Aspen CO



1990s Rochelle • That touch of mink



2010 Rochelle • Jean-Pierre Ferron • The Matterhorn



2006 Rochelle • Portillo • Chile



1999 Rochelle • Jean-Pierre • Ritz-Carlton Montreal



2000s Rochelle • Beverly Hills Hotel • Beverly Hills CA



2004 Jean-Pierre • Rochelle • Tea at The Savoy • London



1999 Gazette Social Columnist Rochelle • Jean-Pierre



1990s Rochelle • Tory Jess • Western reining • Sorel QC



1990s Rochelle • Jean-Pierre • New York City



2004 Rochelle • Jean-Pierre • London



2000 Ritz-Carlton Hotel Steve · Lysa · Mark · Sandi



2000 Hanka · Sam · Gaby · Marty · Sandi · Seated: Mark · Lysa · Steve



2000s Sandi · Rochelle



1965 Executive travel · Steve piloted a Cessna at 24



1995c Bobby · Nedda · Honda Gold Wing 1500 SE



2001 The Weigens · Janet · Stanley · Maureen



1980s Elmer Weigen · Steve · Renate · Sandi · Miami



2009 Roman Hornstein · Super Mom Lysa



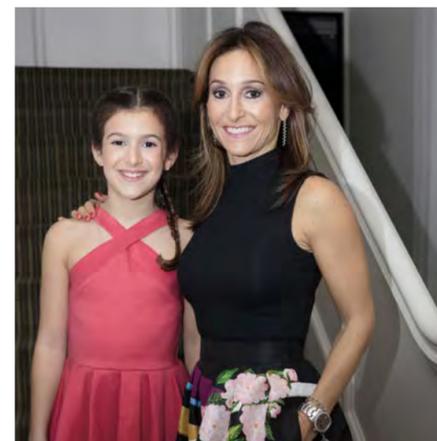
2000s Lucy · Katie · Roman · Photo by STEVE LASH



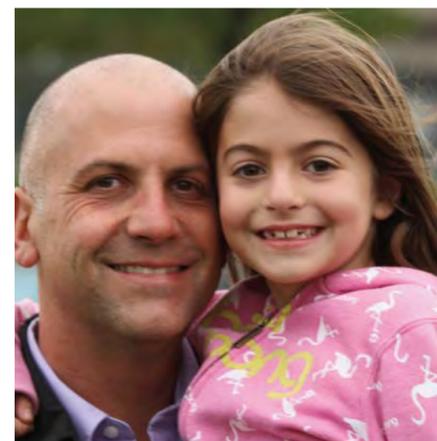
2000s Lucy · Katie



2013 Roman · Lucy · Katie · Lysa · Mark · Miami



2000s Lucy Hornstein · Mom Lysa



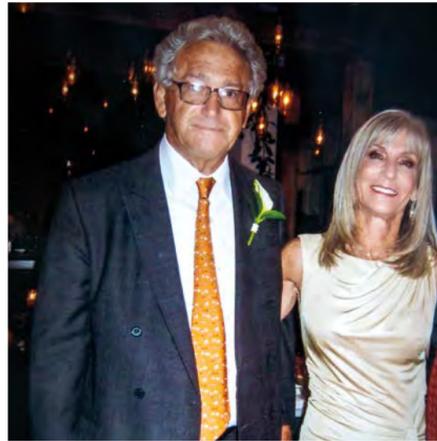
2000s Mark · Katie



2000s Katie Hornstein · Photo by STEVE LASH



2013 Kara · Marty · Miami · Photo by STEVE LASH



2013 Father and Mother of the Groom · Steve · Sandi



2013 First Dance · Soho House · Miami Beach



2013 Steve · Sandi · Marty · Kara · Susan and Lazar Crudo



2013 The Honeymoon Begins!



2013 Rochelle · J. P. · Marty and Kara's Wedding



2013 Lysa · Kara · Flower Girls Lucy · Katie



2019 Kara · Marty · Baby Annie · Harry



2000s Harry Lash · Mercedes Owners' Club



2019 Harry · Baby Annie



2000s Marty · Kara · Birthday Boy Harry



2000s Harry Dresses Up



2019 The Crudo-Lash Team · Baby Annie · Harry



2000s Marty · Steve · Lysa



2019 Rochelle · Jaffa · photo MATI TIHOV



2017 Rochelle · Sandi · The Instead Of · Miami



2016 Rochelle



2019 Jean-Pierre Ferron · 60th Birthday · Milos



2000s Jean-Pierre · Rochelle · Paris · France



2000s Jean-Pierre · Toronto



2019 Rochelle · Tel Aviv · Israel



2000s Rochelle · Egypt



2016 Rochelle · Cortina · Italy



2018 Rochelle · Tremblant



2019 Rochelle



2015 Rochelle · Naples FL



2000s Jean-Pierre · Ogunquit ME



2015 Jean-Pierre · Saint Lucia



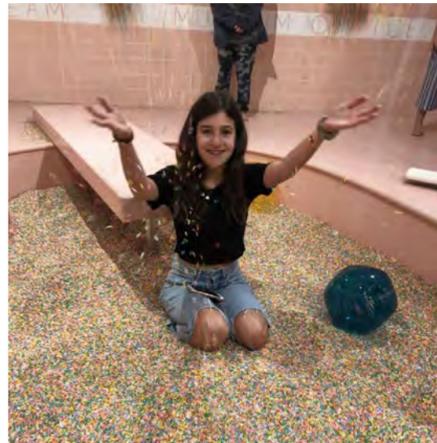
2004 Rochelle · JP · The Queen's Carriage



2000s Jean-Pierre · sister Carole Ferron



1990s · Jean-Pierre · Tremblant



2000s Lucy Hornstein



2000s Lysa Lash Hornstein



2000s Gala Girls - Katie - Lysa



2000s Katie Hornstein



2000s Hornstein Trio - Katie - Roman - Lucy



2000s Roman - Archie



2000s Mark Hornstein - Amazing!



2000s Lysa - Amazing in fur!



2000s The Hornsteins - Laguna Beach CA



2000s Lucy Hornstein



2000s Roman - Hampstead Baseball Team Wins!



2000s Roman - He Shoots! - He Scores!



2000s Patara Elephant Farm - Chiang Mai - Thailand



2000s The Hornsteins - Sabbath in Thailand



2000s Katie - Mark - Roman - Lucy - Lysa



2000s Roman - Third-Generation Water Sports Champ



2000s Steve · Professional Photographers of America



2000s Steve · Captain · The Instead Of · Miami



2000s Steve · 31 ft. Shadow sport boat



1990s Steve · Ferrari Club of America



1990s Le Circuit Mont-Tremblant · 1992 Ferrari 488 TS



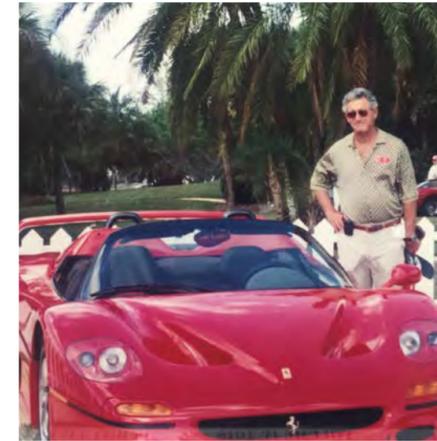
1990s Steve · 1989 Ferrari 328 TS



2000s Steve · Marty · Hillsdale Golf & Country Club



2019 Bobby Lash and Neighbour



2000s Steve



2000s Sandi · Steve · Canyon Ranch · Tucson AZ



2020 Sandi · Steve · Married 50 Years · 1970-2020



2019 Harry · Roman · Steve · Annie · Lucy · Sandi · Katie



2000s Lysa Lash · CEO Lysa Lash Furs



2000 Kara Crudo Lash · Celebration!



2000s Party On · Marty · Kara · Steve · Sandi

THIS IS US

THANKS

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

I am genuinely grateful to the following individuals and resources.

The Internet provided many significant dates and documents via ancestry.com, myheritage.com, newspapers.com, jewishgen.org, findagrave.com, jgs-montreal.org and other websites. Even with all that, a personal touch went deeper.

Montrealer Alan Greenberg is associated with McGill University, a genealogist *par excellence*, and a computer scientist on a team which brought the Internet to Canada in the 1980s. Alan specializes in Jewish family history and helped to interpret our passenger lists, census reports and immigration papers. His discovery of Janet Lashinsky in the Catskills introduced us to family members in the US. Bill Gladstone, a genealogist in Toronto, found a rare reference to Rochelle Bolchover at the Alex Dworkin Canadian Jewish Archives. From there, archives director Janice Rosen sourced the documents, thereby discovering the woman I was named after and launching our connection to relatives in Israel. I booked flights to TLV immediately!

Award-winning writer Scott D. Seligman also is a historian, a retired corporate and government executive in the US, and an alumnus of both Harvard and Princeton. As a genealogist, he created the website porozow.net, which is about the Lashinskys' home village in the Russian Empire of the 1800s.

Family members helped immeasurably. It was downright thrilling to e-meet and exchange information with newfound distant cousins in the US. Simply put, I couldn't have done this without you.

ON MY FATHER'S SIDE

In Montreal and Toronto, I was in touch with cousins Bobby Lash, Joanne Weigen and Maureen Weigen. I tracked down Larry Warner in Chicago (son-in-law of Al and Rose Lash; husband of the late Leah Lash) and Laura Markus in Colorado (Leah and Larry's daughter).

My profound gratitude goes to Steven J. Potashner and Susan Caplan Potashner, both originally from Montreal and now of West Hartford, CT. Steven was the inspiration for DIARY OF OUR DNA. He is a neuroscientist who completed a doctorate in biochemistry at McGill University and postdoctoral studies at the University of Cambridge in the UK. He recently retired from his professorship at the University of Connecticut Health Center. Susan holds a Master of Library Science from McGill. How are we related? Susan's grandfather Harris Caplan was the brother of my grandmother Rachel Caplan Lashinsky.

In 2018, Steven compiled an extraordinary book, A History of Our Family, which covers approximately 450 families and includes about 20 highly detailed family trees, extensive biographical texts and scores of photos. Susan provided editing, proofreading and additional writing. The branches profiled include Litwin, Caplan, Potashner, Beer, Heimowitz,

Rother, Rosenfeld, Segall, Urtasan/Sotil, Wise and Wiseman. I wrote a chapter on the Lashes, and that evolved into DIARY OF OUR DNA. For the print or electronic version of A History of Our Family, contact sjpotashner@sbcglocal.net.

The amazing information about my great-grandfather Solomon and his two families in the Russian Empire of the late 1800s comes from Janet Lashinsky Kaplan of South Fallsburg, NY. Janet is the granddaughter of Jacob (Morris' brother), and her mother, Ethel Dworetzky Lashinsky, penned valuable notes about the ancestors of her husband, Leon.

Janet, who shares my birthday (June 17), is one of five children. She grew up in Monticello, NY, two blocks from Jacob's butcher shop, and she married Irving Kaplan from nearby South Fallsburg. She is a retired home economics teacher, and Irving has a custom cabinetry business. They have two grown children.

Eric Feinstein, Janet's nephew by marriage, works in telecommunications, but he's also a serious genealogist. He clarified that Porozow was the Lashinskys' home village, and he discovered more of Solomon's relatives. Eric lives in Clifton, NJ, with his wife, Ami Kantor Feinstein, and their children.

This book is proof that genealogy is all about connecting and sharing. Eric Feinstein e-introduced me to Ron Kathren of Richland, WA, who is a brilliant researcher and author as well as a professor emeritus at Washington State University. Ron is an expert on the effects of radiation on the environment and on nuclear workers.

Ron is a descendant of Gittel Lechinsky, a first cousin of my great-grandfather Solomon in Porozow. Therefore, Ron is another cousin. After her husband, Jacob Forman, died in Porozow, Gittel immigrated in 1909 to London, ON, joining her siblings, Fannie Lechinsky Leff and Joseph Lechinsky.

Ron has traced a staggering 500 descendants of Aaron Eli Lashinsky through nine generations, from Porozow to Los Angeles, New York, Detroit, Tucson, Chicago, San Francisco and Austin in the US; London, Hamilton, Toronto, Windsor, Ottawa and Saskatoon in Canada; as well as Israel and Australia. (See Ron's Descendant Report, 1000 New Cousins, at the end of this book.)

It's been exciting to connect via email with Donald Zebe of Pocatello, ID. He's the great-grandson of (Azriel) Isaac Lashinsky, who was one of Morris' brothers. Donald's extensive ancestry.com research covers a monumental number of families.



2004 Thailand · Jeffrey (Duffy) Fainer is one of 357 parachutists, here setting a Guinness World Record in formation skydiving



2019 San Diego, CA · Duffy Fainer is a commercial pilot and professional announcer

Here is a tidbit about diversity: Donald's mom, Myrna Arlyne Wein, was Jewish, but his dad, Alan Robert Zebe, was a Catholic who eventually converted to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS/Mormon). Donald moved from the family home on Long Island, NY, to Pocatello on a football scholarship. He married his school sweetheart, Cyndee Marie Johnson, and he became a real estate developer. The Zebes—Donald, Cyndee Marie, their children and grandchildren—are still members of the LDS.

I thought Pocatello was an out-of-the-way town, but it's on Forbes' list of Best Small Places for Business and Careers. And it has a tiny place in the 1954 movie *A Star Is Born*. Esther Blodgett (played by Judy Garland) sings about being "born in a trunk in the Princess Theatre in Pocatello, Idaho."

ON MY MOTHER'S SIDE

For the Balacans and Bolchovers, I adapted and updated the excellent genealogical research done by cousins Jeffrey (Duffy) Fainer, Jason Berger and the late Lawrence White. Karen White and Susan Ofshitzer Stivaletti contributed vintage photos, and Annalee Flanz Ross provided vivid memories of our grandparents Joseph and Gertrude Balacan.

Duffy contacted me in 2016 to help trace my great-grandmother Clara Bolchover, so I visited the Spanish and Portuguese cemetery high atop Mount Royal. Duffy originally is from Montreal and now lives in San Diego, CA. His remarkable ancestry.com tree goes back to Romania and includes branches named Lonn, Simand, Fainer, Schwartz, Cohen and Balacan. Our connection? My maternal grandfather, Joseph Balacan, and Duffy's paternal great-grandmother, Dora Balacan Lonn, were brother and sister. Duffy is a man of many talents. Articulate and entertaining, he has travelled worldwide as an event emcee, DJ and game show developer. He was the announcer and producer for sailing and windsurfing at the 1984 and 1996 Olympics.

Duffy also possesses truly awesome aeronautical engineering expertise, courage in spades and Zen-like concentration. He's a professional pilot and parachutist/skydiver, and he has set three Guinness World Records in formation skydiving with teams of up to 400 in amazing, intricate manoeuvres. In 2006, Al Jazeera reported from Thailand that the Royal Thai Air Force carried the daredevils to 7,315 metres (24,000 feet). They jumped, linked hands for four seconds, and then "rained to the ground, their fists in the air and their legs kicking in triumph."

Jason Berger created a tree on geni.com with details about the dynamic Balacan gals. Jason is a graduate of Syracuse University College of Law and McGill University. He was a real estate attorney in New York City, and he now practices law in Memphis, TN. Jason's paternal grandmother, Jeannette Balacan Berger, and my mother, Gloria Balacan Lash, were sisters.

Susan Ofshitzer Stivaletti has contributed a few treasures from her precious Balacan-Bolchover photo albums. Susan and her parents, Sylvia and Abe Pappelbaum, lived kitty-corner from our house on Isabella Avenue in Montreal. Sylvia and Gloria were cousins and close

friends. Susan and her husband, Nick Stivaletti, share an insurance business, and they still live in the house that is so full of memories.

Is the online world a wonder? You bet. One night, I was casually web surfing in a last-ditch effort to find Rochelle Bolchover, my grandmother's sister who did not come to Canada. On a website about Romanian genealogy, I connected with Ilan and Yafit Lehr in Israel. Ilan is related to the Pappelbaums, so the Lehrs are family, too. They're also keen genealogists and active on geni.com. In a nano-second, Ilan did the impossible—he found the late Rochelle Bolchover as well as her great-granddaughter, Zohar Stein-Yaanen, and Moshe Dror, Rochelle's grandson. See this book's *Roots in Romania* chapter for more on Rochelle Bolchover, Ilan, Yafit and Zohar. This year (2020), I will be visiting my newfound cousins at *Kibbutz Dalia*, where Rochelle lived after World War II.

THE DREAM TEAM

DIARY OF OUR DNA wouldn't exist without Nathalie Ciccocioppo, a superb graphic artist and production manager whom I met through my niece, Lysa Lash.

Nathalie has an unerring eye for photography, colour and typography, and we share a penchant for modern minimalism. She is also tech-savvy and aced the challenges of online publishing. Most important is that she is focussed, patient and dedicated.

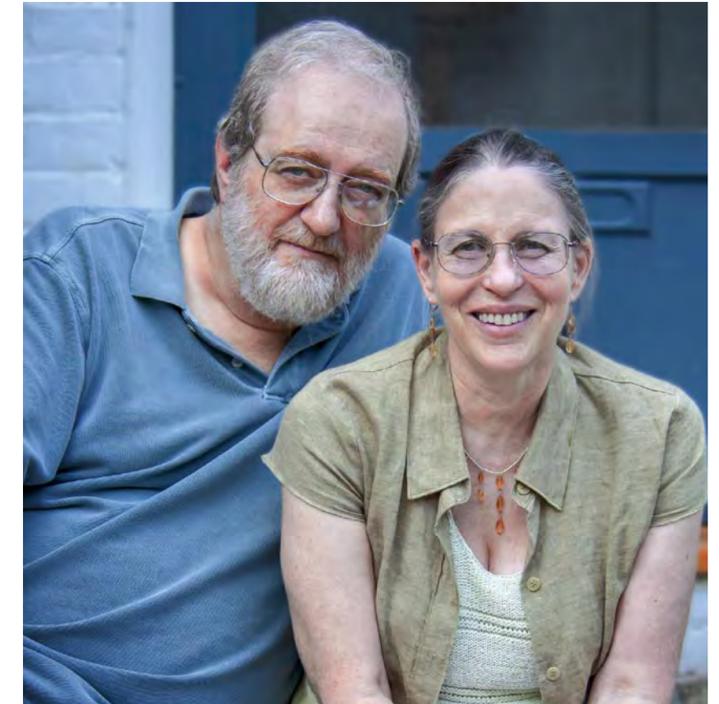
I am indebted, too, to Laura Major, an excellent book editor, for her exacting proofreading, sensitive editing and insightful input.

And thanks to Amanda Bartlett, an editor and graphist who deftly crafted the Family Trees, complete with intricate details and dates.

And yes, I helped, too!



2019 Clifton, N.J. · The Feinsteins · Rachel · Ami (Kantor) · Eric · And sons: Chaim Eliezer · Pinchas (bar mitzvah) · Shlomo · Asher Anshel



2017 West Hartford, CT · Steven J. Potashner · Susan Caplan Potashner



2019 Pocatello, ID · Donald Zebe · Cyndee Marie Johnson



2017 Little Falls, NY · Eileen Lashinsky Kantor · Michael Lashinsky · Diane Lashinsky Levine · Janet Lashinsky Kaplan · Jayme Kaplan Krutz · Sammy Lashinsky Lines · Gail Lashinsky O'Neill

Rochelle Lash



Rochelle Lash

DIARY OF OUR DNA

is a fusion of text, images and genealogy that reflects Rochelle Lash's career in every phase of publishing: writing, editing, photography, research, design and production.

Rochelle's fascination with Montreal history was inspired by her work for three landmark companies:

The Montreal Gazette • 1778

Bank of Montreal • 1817

Ritz-Carlton Montreal • 1912

Feshinsky - Caplan

On this the fifth day of November, one thousand, eight hundred and ninety nine in this city of Montreal, P. Q., Mr. Moshe Feshinsky and Rachel Mary Caplan both of this city, were united by me the undersigned, in lawful marriage —
and Mr. Feshinsky is of lawful age, marrying first time occupation is Butcherholemaker son of Solomon Feshinsky and Rachel