

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

presents

The Jews of Poland and Russia: Myth and Reality

Antony Polonsky

Sunday, September 11, 2011, 1:30 pm
Gann Academy, Waltham

On the eve of the Second World War, Poland contained the largest Jewish community in Europe. Its Jewish population—close to three-and-a-half million—was second in size only to that of the United States. The third largest Jewish community in the world, with nearly three million Jews, was in the Soviet Union.

The majority of American Jews come from these lands, but what they know of their ancestors' lives—frequently based on myths, misunderstandings, and stereotypes—diminishes the Jewish civilization that emerged there and fails to grasp the extent of what was lost in the passage across the Atlantic. Prof. Polonsky will recreate this lost world in a way that transcends both sentimentalism and the belief that the East European Jewish experience consisted only of persecution and martyrdom.

Antony Polonsky is Albert Abramson Professor of Holocaust Studies, an appointment held jointly at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum and Brandeis University. He is the author of the newly published three-volume opus, *The Jews in Poland and Russia: A History*, a socio-political, economic, and religious history of the Jewish communities of eastern Europe from 1350 to the present. Also editor of *Polin: Studies in Polish Jewry*, Prof. Polonsky has written many scholarly books, taught at universities around the world, and received many awards and honors, including the Knight's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland.

Gann Academy is at 333 Forest Street, Waltham, MA.

For detailed directions and maps, visit our web page at <http://www.jgsbg.org/gann.html>.

Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members.

Refreshments will be served.



Upcoming programs at Temple Emanuel:

Oct 16 Tom Weiss, *Vienna's Jewish Community: History, Destruction & Genealogical Reconstruction*

Nov 13 11:30 am, Gesher Galicia meeting followed by lunch, followed at 2:00 pm by
Pamela Weisberger, *Chutes & Ladders: Innovative Approaches to Genealogy*

☞ **VOLUNTEERS WANTED** ☞ JGSGB is the proud co-sponsor of the 33rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, coming to Boston 4–9 August 2013. We are now seeking volunteers to help with putting on the conference. Read all about it and please get involved by filling out the volunteer form at www.jgsbg.org/conf2013.

The JGSGB is dedicated to helping people discover and research their Jewish family history. We offer monthly education programs and a comprehensive beginners' course, maintain an extensive collection of research materials, and publish the award-winning journal *Mass-Pocha*.

866-611-5698

info@jgsbg.org

www.jgsbg.org