

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

presents

Jews & Revolution in Russia & the Soviet Union

Rochelle Ruthchild

Sunday, January 22, 2012, 1:30 pm

Adelson Community Hall, Temple Emanuel, Newton

For two centuries, the majority of the world's Jewish population was centered in the Russian Empire. Why were Jews among the leaders of the revolutionary movements of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? Leon Trotsky (Lev Bronstein), Lev Kamenev (Rozenfeld), and Grigorii Zinoviev (Gershon Apfelbaum) were prominent Bolsheviks, serving alongside Lenin in the early days of Soviet power. Yet by the end of the Soviet Union, Jews had abandoned revolutionary dreams and emigrated in large numbers. What factors explain these population shifts and changes?

Rochelle Goldberg Ruthchild is a Research Associate at the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University. She writes on women, gender, and Jewish history in Russia and the Soviet Union. Her book, *Equality and Revolution: Women's Rights in the Russian Empire, 1905-1917*, has won critical recognition from the American Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian History, for an outstanding monograph published on Russia, Eastern Europe or Eurasia in the field of history, and from the Association for Women in Slavic Studies, for the best book in Slavic/Eastern European/Eurasian women's studies.

Spotlight: Muriel Gillick on "Taking Family History Public: The Research Behind Her Published Family Story." Gillick's book, *Once They Had a Country*, is the account of her parents' experiences as Kindertransport children from Germany.

Gillick is a geriatrician, palliative care physician, and writer. She sees patients at Harvard Vanguard Medical Associates and is a Clinical Professor at Harvard Medical School. Her scholarly work focuses on ethical issues near the end of life. As an undergraduate history major at Swarthmore College, she developed what would prove to be a life-long interest in German history, World War II, and the refugee experience. Her forte is writing stories based on real people and putting the narrative into a broader context.

Temple Emanuel is at 385 Ward St, Newton Centre, MA.

For detailed directions and maps, visit our web page at <http://emanuel.jgsgb.org>.

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

Refreshments will be served.

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Upcoming programs:

Jan 30 through Mar 26, 7-9 pm, JGSGB Genealogy Course at Hebrew College

Details at www.jgsgb.org/genealogyclass.html; enroll at www.hebrewcollege.edu/events.

Feb 26 1:30 pm, Alan Shuchat, *Internal Jewish Migration to Agricultural Colonies in the Russian Empire*

Mar 25 1:30 pm, Help Day: Research & Translation Assistance

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*.

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