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## Featured Lesson: A Tribute to Rabbi Elias Schwartz

(1917 – 2016)



At the eulogy of Rabbi Elias Schwartz z"l, the various speakers noted that Yeshiva of Toras Emes had the same principal of Jewish Studies from his arrival in the mid-1940's until his retirement in 1990: Rabbi Elias Schwartz. He was also the Rabbi of the Young Israel of Bensonhurst for many decades. At the conclusion of the service, the *kel molei* recital mentioned his father's name as Yehudah.

To learn more about the Rabbi's roots, we began by consulting the Ancestry.com U.S. Public Records Index. It contained his Bensonhurst address and date of birth, 18 Aug 1917. This same birthdate shows for a Lazer Schwartz on the 1927 Petition for Naturalization of his father Juda. It lists his wife, Feiza, and their 4 children. The birth place of Juda's three oldest children was recorded as Canada. Juda himself was born 15 Jan 1885, and he arrived in Noyes, MN from Winnipeg in 1921. Searching the Social Security Applications and Claims Index yields the same Juda with the

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### MIDRASHIC GENEALOGY

by Geilan Grant

### *The Fourth Son of Terach*

Avraham Avinu had a third brother named Tzova, born to Avraham's father Terach by a woman named Pelila when Avraham was 100 years old. Later, Tzova had a son named Aram, and he founded the city called Aram Tzova, otherwise known as Aleppo (Sefer HaYashar, Parshas Vayeira).

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### Original Sources – How the Schwartz Family Data Was Located

The following is a list of the websites consulted while building the Schwartz family tree. They are presented so that other researchers can follow similar practices when researching their own family history.

1. **Ancestry.com** – a wide range of vital records from all over the world.
2. **familysearch.org** – census, birth, marriage & death ("BMD") records.
3. **jri-poland.org** – BMD Jewish records from Poland.
4. **agadd.home.net.pl** – actual record images from Polish archives, often linked to JRI-Poland indexes.
5. **www.findagrave.com** – to locate the final resting place of Juda & Feiga Schwartz.
6. **www.mounthebroncemetery.com** – to find the plots of Juda & Feiga Schwartz and family members nearby (found Hillel & Tillie. Hillel lived 1878-12 Dec 1938, son of Israel & Rachael at address 96 Willet St, NYC).
7. **www.bac-lac.gc.ca** – to locate the original 1913 Halifax ship manifest for Juda & Ferge Schwartz.
8. **yadvashem.org** – an unsuccessful search of this database was made to find reference to the Schwartz family from Burstyn with parents' names similar to Jakob Marcus or Draze.
9. **italiangen.org** – to find the certificate numbers for Juda & Feige/Fanny Schwartz's death record.
10. **stevemorse.org** – unsuccessful search of arrival manifests for Schwartz from the town of Burstyn.

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same birthdate. This index also includes other information: Juda was the son of Jacob M Schwartz and Draz Scheiner. Armed with this new detail, a lookup on the JRI-Poland database shows a Juda Scheiner born in January 1885 to Jacob Markus (יעקב מרדכי) Szwarc and Drezy Scheiner (she is recorded as the daughter of Juda and Elka). Other records for Jacob and Drezy show their children as Juda (1885), Osias Joseph (1887), Aron Leib (1892), Abraham (1895) & Elka Freude (1902), all born in Bursztyn, Poland. Jakob was born in Demianów and Drezy was born in Martynów Nowy.

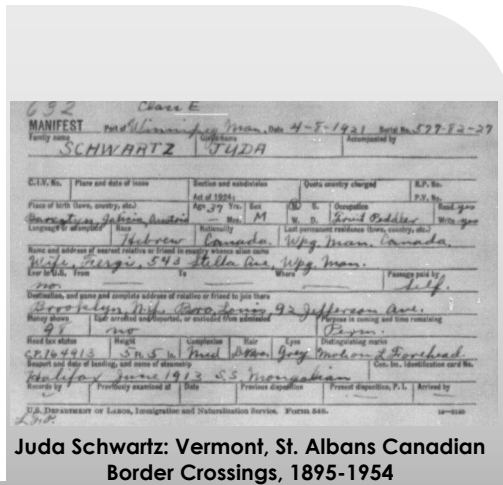
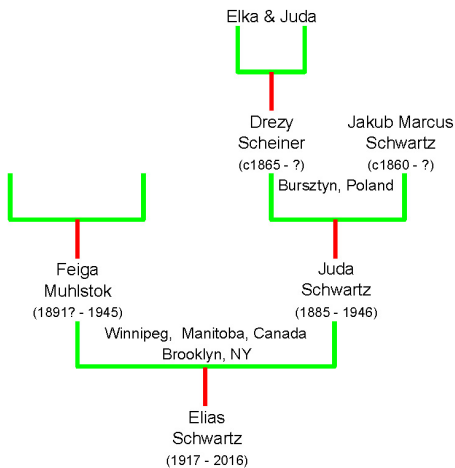
Getting back to Juda, when re-tracing his steps we find a Brooklyn death record from 31 May 1946 (cert# 11754). Cross-referencing that date of death with NY cemeteries shows a matching Mount Hebron interment on the same date for a Juda Schwartz. There is also a Fannie Schwartz nearby, with a date of death of Dec 27, 1945. This is presumably the final resting place of Juda's wife (Feiza or Feiga). It would also fit the naming of Rabbi Elias Schwartz's two children, who are named Yehuda and Fay.

There is a WWII draft record for

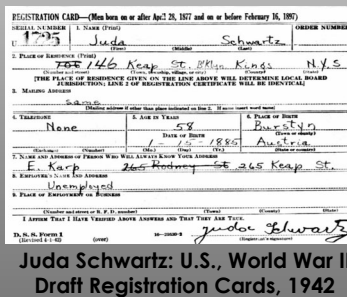
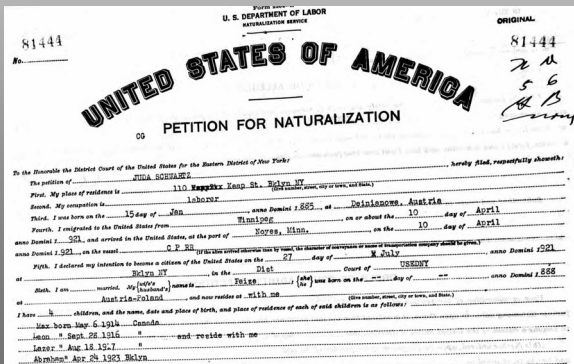
Juda confirming his date and city of birth, and his address as 146 Keap Street in Brooklyn, in June of 1942. The 1940 census lists Juda as Joe (55) along with his wife and four children: Fannie (55), Max (26), Leo (24), Eli (22) & Abe (16), at 106 Keap St. The 1936 application for a Social Security number mentioned above is:

Name:	Juda Schwartz
SSN:	
Gender:	Male
Race:	White
Birth Date:	15 Jan 1885
Birth Place:	Burstyn, Austria
Father:	Jacob M Schwartz
Mother:	Draze Scheiner

The 1930 census shows the family living at 77 Lee Avenue in Brooklyn. The 1927 naturalization record shows the family at 110 Keap Street. The 1921 arrival record for Juda shows his destination as his brother Louis at 92 Jefferson Avenue in Brooklyn. His wife is listed as still residing at 548 Stella Avenue in Winnipeg. There is also a reference to Juda's 1913 ship arrival in Halifax. Researching that port, we find Juda's arrival on 9 Jun 1913 aboard the Mongolian at Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada, travelling together with his wife Feige. Their port of departure was Liverpool, England and his destination was Winnipeg, to the farm of his brother Sam.



Juda Schwartz: Vermont, St. Albans Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954



Juda Schwartz: U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

Regarding Feige, her son's Social Security data sheds light on her ancestry. It lists her maiden name as Muhlstok. The databases in JewishGen contain an entry for Fani Muhlstok, born 1891 in Podhajce, Galicia, to Sara (father not listed). Further confirmation might be possible by obtaining Feiga's actual death certificate (#25313) in Brooklyn, NY.

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# Schwartz Family Vital Records

1930 United States Federal Census for Juda Schwartz, born 1885, residing at 1111 1/2 St. N. W. in Washington, D.C. The record shows he is a single male, a laborer, and has a birthplace of Bursztyn, Poland.

Juda Schwartz 1930 United States Federal Census

1940 United States Federal Census for Juda Schwartz, born 1885, residing at 1111 1/2 St. N. W. in Washington, D.C. The record shows he is a single male, a laborer, and has a birthplace of Bursztyn, Poland.

Juda Schwartz 1940 United States Federal Census

1913 Manifest of the Mongolian arriving in Halifax, N.S. for Juda Schwartz. The record shows he is a male, single, and a laborer, with a birthplace of Bursztyn, Poland.

Juda Schwartz: 1913 manifest of the Mongolian arriving in Halifax, N.S

Juda Schwartz: 1921 Certificate of Arrival in the USA

1921 Certificate of Arrival in the USA for Juda Schwartz. The certificate is dated 1921 and issued by the U.S. Department of Labor, Immigration Service. It certifies that Juda Schwartz arrived in the United States on 10/10/21.

Birth Record for Juda Schwartz from Bursztyn, PSA AGAD. The record shows he was born on 10/10/85 to his mother, Feige Schwartz & Sons. The record is written in Polish and includes details of his parents and his birthplace.

Juda Schwartz JRI Bursztyn PSA AGAD Birth Record, Akt 16 (under his mother's surname, Szeiner)

Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1921 for Feige Schwartz & Sons. The record shows multiple entries for the family, including dates and locations of crossings.

Feige Schwartz & Sons: Border Crossings from Canada to U.S., 1921

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## The Early Years of Our Patriarch Avraham

Avraham Avinu (אַבְרָהָם אַבְיִנו) was born as Avram (אַבְרָם) in the year 1948 from creation (Genesis 11:26), to his parents, Terach (תְּרַח) and Amaslai' (אַמְלַאי'). The Torah Anthology<sup>ii</sup> cites several possibilities for the city of his birth. It was either in Ur Casdim, Charan or Cuthah (a town in Bavel). Regardless of the city, by the time Avram was two years old his family was living in Ur Casdim<sup>iii</sup>. The following year, at the age of three<sup>iv</sup>, Avram already began to recognize that there was a Creator. It is recorded<sup>v</sup> that after his birth, the ruling class sought to kill Avram. A miracle occurred and he was hidden underground<sup>vi</sup> for 13 years. During this time, when Avram was ten years old, his brother Charan had his second daughter, Sarai (שָׂרַי), also known as Yiskah<sup>vii</sup> (יִסְכָּה). When Avram emerged, he was imprisoned by Nimrod for ten years. Nimrod then attempted to burn Avram to death in a great furnace, but he was miraculously saved.

When Avram was 48 years old<sup>viii</sup> the Tower of Bavel was built. Avram was present in Bavel at the time of the building of the tower<sup>ix</sup>.

Noach passed on his traditions directly to Avram<sup>x</sup>. Avram left his family to study in the academy of Noach and Shem<sup>xi</sup> for 39 years<sup>xii</sup>. There is a story about Nimrod's dream when Avram was about 50, where Nimrod's advisors told him to kill Avram. He hid in the academy of Noach and Shem<sup>xiii</sup>. Shem and Ever lived in Canaan, not Bavel<sup>xiv</sup>.

When did Avram and Sarai marry? The Torah does not record the date. Sefer HaYashar says Avram was fifty. Seder HaDoros also quotes the Sefer HaYashar, year 1998, but then he references year 1973, where he proves that Avram married Sarai when he was 25. For this date, he quotes Zayis Raanan on Yalkut Shimoni, written by the Magen Avraham.

Noach passed away in 2006 when Avram was 58<sup>xv</sup>. This can be remembered easily, since the numerical value of Noach (נח) is 58<sup>xvi</sup>.

<sup>i</sup> Tractate Bava Basra 91a

<sup>ii</sup> Genesis I p440 (Noah 18)

<sup>iii</sup> Genesis 11:28

<sup>iv</sup> Tractate Nedarim 32a

<sup>v</sup> Pirkei d'Rabbi Eliezer ch. 26

<sup>vi</sup> Sefer HaYashar & Midrash Avraham Avinu

<sup>vii</sup> Tractate Megillah 14a

<sup>viii</sup> Genesis I p412-413 (Noah 9)

<sup>ix</sup> Torah Anthology, p 417 to Genesis 11:3-4, quoting Yalkut on Psalms

<sup>x</sup> Torah Anthology, Genesis I, 11:10-11 (p423), quoting Nachmanides

<sup>xi</sup> Torah Anthology, Genesis I, 11:31 (Noah 18), p440

<sup>xii</sup> Torah Anthology, Genesis I, 11:31 (Noah 18), p432

<sup>xiii</sup> Torah Anthology, Genesis I, 11:31 (Noah 18), p437-438

<sup>xiv</sup> Torah Anthology, Genesis I, p441

<sup>xv</sup> Genesis 9:29

<sup>xvi</sup> Genesis I p401 (Noah 5)

## Standards

### GEDCOM Standards in Dates

**GEDCOM 5.5.1 offers standards for Hebrew dates.**

**As per GEDCOM standards, abbreviations to be used for the Hebrew months are:**

TSH	ADR	TMZ
CSH	ADS	AAV
KSL	NSN	ELL
TVT	IYR	
SHV	SVN	

**As per GEDCOM standards, Hebrew month names should be entered as:**

Tishri	Nisan
Cheshvan	Iyar
Kislev	Sivan
Tevet	Tammuz
Shevat	Av
Adar	Elul
Adar Sheni	



### MIDRASHIC GENEALOGY: *Cont. from first page*

Interestingly, Aleppo is also known as Chalav, which literally means "milk," and it is said that the reason for this name is because Avraham used to serve milk to passersby in that very city.

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