

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston  
and  
American Jewish Historical Society**

present

**The Straus Family:  
How Social History Enhances Genealogy**

**Joan Adler**

Hebrew College, Newton Centre

Sunday, June 12, 2005

10:00 AM–1:30 PM: Access to JGSGB Resources in the Gann Library

1:30 PM–4:30 PM: Annual Meeting and Program in Berenson Hall

Lazarus Straus, his second wife, and their children left Bavaria in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and came to the United States, where the family would become prominent in American-Jewish history. Lazarus and his descendants prospered as owners of Macy's department store in New York City and distinguished themselves in public service and philanthropy. In 1893, his son, Oscar Solomon Straus, became the first president of the American Jewish Historical Society and later was the first Jew appointed to a cabinet position by an American president.

Joan Adler, drawing on her research as the director of the Straus Family Historical Society, discusses the importance of social history in putting our genealogical research in context. Learning more about social, political, historical, and even physical aspects of the family and where they lived can give us more clues for research and help bring to life an otherwise dry recitation of names and dates. This meeting is JGSGB's Annual Meeting and will include the election of officers and the Board of Directors.

Hebrew College is located at 160 Herrick Road. From Centre Street in Newton Centre, turn east onto Beacon Street and immediately bear right onto Union Street. Take the first right onto Herrick Road. Near the top of the hill, bear left into Hebrew College campus. The base of Herrick Road is at the Newton Centre stop on the Riverside Green Line.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

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The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston is a nonprofit organization of individuals interested in genealogical research. It conducts monthly educational programs.

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