



Stop Thief!

The True Story of Abraham Greenthal, King of the Pickpockets, in 19th Century New York City

with Edward David Luft

February 24, 2019

Ohev Shalom: The National Synagogue
1600 Jonquil Street, NW Washington, DC

**11:00 AM - 12:15 PM MEMBERS-ONLY Brunch and Learn:
Online sources for German, Austro-Hungarian,
and other Central European Records**

**1:00 PM - Schmooze and Discussion Tables -
Central European Research sources**

1:30 PM - Program Meeting

Free Members-Only Brunch and Learn

In this members-only event, Edward David Luft will speak about the many and varied sources to be found online for genealogical research into historical Germany, the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and Central Europe.

Pre-registration is required for this event as a light dairy brunch will be provided. To register, email jgsgw@jgsgw.com. To join JGSGW before the event go to <http://www.JGSGW.org/membership>.

Afternoon Program

Edward David Luft will speak about his book, *Stop Thief! The True Story of Abraham Greenthal, King of the Pickpockets in 19th Century New York City, as Revealed from Contemporary Sources*. The author was inspired to write his book because he wanted to correct all of the erroneous information online on a popular website. Greenthal, 1822-1889, was probably the greatest pickpocket in history and the head of a gang of criminals with international connections. Crime was the family business, and Greenthal boasted near the end of his life that he had never done an honest day's work in his life.

Learn the full story, painstakingly pieced together from archives, authoritative books, contemporary newspaper publications, and actual visits to most of the locations abroad where Greenthal lived, including Brazil, Germany, and Poland.

Biography



Edward David Luft graduated from Syracuse University, and received his J. D. degree from Syracuse University College of Law. After two years in the Peace Corps in Botswana, he worked for *The New Yorker* Magazine. He retired from U.S. Government employment in Washington, DC. He is the author of *The*

Naturalized Jews of the Grand Duchy of Posen in 1834 and 1835, as well as the book about which he will speak. He is a frequent contributor to *Avotaynu* and other publications on a variety of subjects with a focus on genealogy research and resources in Germany and Central Europe, and his work is often cited in genealogy publications around the world.

JGSGW Guest Attendance Policy: Meetings and most events are free to JGSGW members. Non-members may attend for a fee of \$5. If they decide to join JGSGW at the meeting or event, the \$5 will be applied toward membership. Members who require personal assistance due to a health condition or disability may bring an assistant at no charge.