

Family Gatherings

Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

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President's Message

Michael Sofman

As we wind down our meeting season, it is time to think about your genealogical goals for the summer. At our most recent meeting, we were challenged by Mike Karsen to put down on paper at least part of our family history. As we learned, it's not that difficult to do—you just have to sit down and do it. Perhaps it's a bit intimidating to write your entire family history, so just do a small portion at a time. Before you know it, you will have the entire family history done!

Maybe you've been collecting information for years, but it's just a jumble of papers, photos, memorabilia

and other items sitting in a box. Summertime is the perfect time to get yourself organized. It's difficult to move ahead with your research if you're really not sure what you already have. So, go through all your stuff, organize it into binders, folders, computer software, whatever works best for you, then develop a plan of action as to what you'd like to do next.

My last suggestion would be to attend the IAJGS Conference, this year in Philadelphia. There will be a plethora of great lectures, computer workshops, movies, and other resources, all designed to help us all in our research. We



Michael Sofman
President, JGSBC

have had many from our group attend in the past, and, almost universally, people have had great experiences. We usually try to get together for lunch or dinner at some point, so let us know if you'll be attending. For more info, go to www.philly2009.org

Hope to see you there!

Volume XXI, Number 4

April 2009

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday April 22, 7:00 pm, Alvin Sherman Library of NSU

"The Jews of Cuba: On the Island, In Miami, and in Israel"

Ruth Behar, Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Author, Filmmaker

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 am- 4:00 pm

Second Annual Genealogy Fair

Alvin Sherman Library of Nova Southeastern University

Program Notes

by Marty Shames

At our March 25 meeting, Mike Karsen challenged us all to write our family history, or at least part of it. Too many of us collect information for years, but never get around to publishing the information to share with other family members. Mike showed us how to go about it, emphasizing that it doesn't necessarily need to be a major literary work a thousand pages long! Start small and go on from there. The main point is to just do it. He has a program in place that gently "reminds" you every few months about the commitment you made. Please see his "message" on page 10.

Our last few meetings of the year are shaping up to be

most excellent. On Wednesday, April 22 at Nova, we will be treated to a talk by Ruth Behar, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan, renowned author, and film-maker. She grew up within the Cuban-Jewish community, first in Cuba, then in Miami, and will talk about this small, but fascinating community in her talk, "The Jews of Cuba: On the Island, in Miami, and in Israel." Several of us saw her speak at the Miami International Book Fair in November, and she is a very engaging speaker. This promises to be a fascinating talk, even for those of us with no ties to Cuba.

(continued next page)



Mike Karsen

Family Gatherings is the monthly publication of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County.

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newsletter@jgsbc.org

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Deadline for submissions: 5th of every month. Articles may be edited for content and clarity.

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Family Gatherings is published 10 times per year (hiatus in July and August) and is free to JGSBC members. For subscriptions and change of address, contact membership@jgsbc.org or JGSBC, P.O. Box 17251, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318.

Membership

Rosa Pinsky

Our membership renewal drive is underway - please don't delay - send in your dues now - you will be delighted with the depth of topics and variety of speakers planned for 2009!

Please help spread the word - mention the JGSBC to friends and family. Encourage them to attend our monthly meetings and help them get started on their own family search.

Finally, we wish to re-

mind everyone that we have a new Mentoring program. If you would like a Mentor assigned to you, or wish to volunteer to serve as a Mentor for others, please contact Rosa Pinsky at (954)659-5490(evenings) or by email: pinskyr@ccf.org

Warmest wishes,
Rosa Pinsky
Membership Chair

Program Notes (cont'd)

by Marty Shames

On Saturday, May 2, Nova Southeastern University will be hosting its 2nd Annual Genealogy Fair. Last year's Fair was a tremendous success, with hundreds of people attending. We had a table set up in the lobby of the Alvin Sherman Library had many people stop by. We also gave a lecture on "Getting Started In Jewish Genealogy", which was well-received. Kim Garvey, the Genealogy Librarian at the Library has been working very hard and has put together an even better Fair this year. The Fair runs from 9am-4 pm, and will feature a series of lectures by nationally known speakers, such as John Colletta, who wrote *They Came in Ships*", Rick Kittles, a well-known expert on African-American genealogy. There will also be exhibits by various groups including the JGSBC, the Genealogical Society of Broward County, the Family History Library, the DNA Shoah Project, the DAR, the Sons of the American Revolu-

tion, the International Society of Genetic Genealogists, ProQuest, and Middle River Press, who has spoken to our group before. Our group, will be in one of the computer labs, where we will have several proctors walking around the room, helping people with their online genealogical research. There are some databases available at the Library that we do not have access to at home. At 2:30 in the afternoon, there will be break-out sessions, with lectures and workshops, given by most of these exhibitors, including us. Michael Sofman will present a lecture on Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy including a real-time demonstration of some components of JewishGen. The Fair is free, but registration is requested. For further information, please go to the website, www.nova.edu/library/genealogyfair.

Following up the Genealogy Fair, our regular meeting

for May will be on Sunday the 17th from 1-3 pm, and will also be at the Alvin Sherman Library. At this meeting, we will have presentations by Kim Garvey, Genealogy Librarian at the Alvin Sherman Library, and Alison Schlyen, Reference Librarian at the Main Branch of the Broward County Public Library. They will both talk about the resources for Jewish genealogical research at their respective institutions. We will also have a talk by Michael Greenberg, one of our Board members, who will discuss his experience doing genealogical research in Eastern Europe.

Our final meeting of the year will be our Annual Awards Luncheon on Sunday, June 7. More details on this to follow, but please mark your calendars now!

Volunteers Needed

On Saturday, May 2, the Alvin Sherman Library at NSU will be hosting its 2nd Annual Genealogy Fair. It was a big success last year, and looks to be even better this year, with several nationally renowned speakers. The JGSBC will be participating, as we did last year, but in a slightly different way. We will be stationed in one of the computer labs for the duration of the fair, from 9am-4pm, where we will be helping people with their online research. We would like to have at least 2 people helping out at all times. If you have decent online search skills, and are willing to help out for a 1-2 hour shift, please contact Brenda Feuer at [bcfeuer@comcast.net](mailto:bcf Feuer@comcast.net) and let her put your name into one of available slots. For more details on the day's events please go to the following website:

www.nova.edu/library/genealogyfair

Even if you can't help out, you should attend the Fair anyway. It will be well worth your time.



29th IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Philadelphia
2-7 August 2009

Registration is now open!

Go to

www.philly2009.org

IT'S FREE!

Do you subscribe to AVOTAYNU's Internet magazine, *Nu? What's New?* Published biweekly, it provides subscribers with recent-breaking news of interest to Jewish genealogists. Subscribing is easy. Just go to www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm on the Internet.

Benefits of JGSBC Membership

- Interesting and informative monthly meetings
- Monthly newsletter with informative articles and news of Jewish genealogical events
- Access to JGSBC's extensive collection of research books & materials
- Opportunity to network with others interested in Jewish genealogy
- Guidance from local experts to help you with your research
- Information exchange with others who are researching families from the same towns as your ancestors.



And this is just the beginning. There are many more. To join JGSBC, use the form at the back of this newsletter, or visit our website at www.jgsbc.org and click on Membership in the navigation bar.

Library News

Our latest acquisition to the library of the three volume set of life before and after the Holocaust has been a great source of information to our co-librarian Brenda.. She has been able to look up most of the small shtetl that she wasn't able to find anything about in some of the larger books. And, along with our sixteen volume set of a Jewish encyclopedia, was able to supplement many of their city information with more local and homey notations. You might have similar successes when you join us on Tuesday's or before our meetings when I bring in some of our most popular volumes. Speaking of popular volumes, our

former president Bob Koltnow recently purchased "Google Your Family Tree", and highly recommends it to go into our library. It is not only relevant to genealogy, but to other types of searches on Google as well. The author uses the first 28 pages to demonstrate how to select and apply keywords and then uses the next 300 pages about the many other capabilities of Google. There are also many other tips and tricks

for you to use. It is a basic reference book for anyone who uses the Internet for information. I don't know if it will be here in time for our next meeting, but I hope so. You can read a complete description of it at Avotaynu's website. While you're there, please browse the titles and write to us and tell us what looks interesting to you that you think belongs in our library. We'd like to know what titles belong there. We hope to see to at the library and at the meetings. See you there!

Brenda Feuer
Rhoda Horwitz



Check out
our Events
Calendar at
[www.jgsbc.org/
helios/events](http://www.jgsbc.org/helios/events)

Nu? What's New? (excerpted)

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Volume 10, Number 5 | March 18, 2009

Economic Downturn May Benefit 2010 U.S. Census

The economic downturn may benefit the 2010 U.S. census. For years there have been rumors that the 2010 census of the U.S. would not be a complete enumeration but just a sampling to cut costs. The primary function of the census is to determine the makeup of the House of Representatives and to provide statistical data about trends in the country. These goals could be accomplished by using proper sampling techniques. With the economic downturn, the new information is that there will be a complete census, because it will create an estimated 600,000 temporary jobs for persons who must track down those who did not respond to the mailing to all households. The total operation and analysis of the 2010 Census will cost more than \$14 billion by the time of its completion in 2012, making it the most expensive head count in American history. Additional information can be found at <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,345928,00.html>.

Chicago Jewish Newspaper Online

Digitized images of the Chicago Jewish newspaper, *The Sentinel*, are now online at <http://hannah.spertus.edu:8881/R> covering the years 1911–1949. The search engine includes an any-word index. When an image is displayed, the words searched are highlighted for easy location of the information sought. I was able to get the maiden name of a woman who married into the family from a 1930 engagement announcement. The search engine is very quick, but retrieving the actual page from the edition of the newspaper take a while apparently because the edition is searched again to find the data.

Ancestry Adds 1940-Era City Directories

Ancestry.com has added to its collection more than 2,000 U.S. city directories for 1940 and surrounding years. Forerunners of phone books, city directories typically list head of household with address and occupation. New York, Los Angeles and Philadelphia are not included. It is possible there were no city directories for those cities at that time. The collection does include such cities as Baltimore, Boston, Cleveland, Hartford, Miami, Milwaukee, Pittsburgh, San Diego and San Francisco. Although Los Angeles is not included there are directories for a number adjacent suburbs. The directories can be accessed at <http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=1540>.

In the next few weeks, Ancestry.com will be adding to their U.S. Public Records Index database more than 525 million names, addresses, ages, and possible family relationships of people who lived in the United States between roughly 1950 and 1990.

Life Magazine Photos on Google

One of the great photo news magazines was *Life*. It existed from 1936–1972, then intermittently until 1978 when it was a monthly until its demise in 2000. Google has obtained the rights to publish the magazine's photos which are available at <http://images.google.com/hosted/life>. Searching the site for "Warsaw ghetto" produced 34 pictures. Dachau has 99 images, but Auschwitz only one.

The photos are not limited to the time period the magazine was published. The one illustration for Czestochowa, Poland, is a reproduction from a book of the siege of the town in 1605. All told, there are approximately 2 million photos. Search the collection using the names of ancestral towns or events important to your family history.

IJG Starts Fund-Raising Drive

[A letter from Sallyann Amdur Sack]

Dear Fellow Genealogists,

While many of you know me as the Editor of AVOTAYNU, I'm addressing this letter to you as the Chair of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem.

It has been a long-time dream of mine, and of several other veteran Jewish genealogists, to have Jewish genealogy accepted as a full-fledged academic pursuit and as a recognized branch of Jewish Studies within the many programs that have developed in recent decades in universities throughout the world.

Three years ago, with the help of two far-sighted and generous Jewish philanthropists, we opened the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center, affiliated with the Jewish National and Hebrew University Library in Jerusalem. Since then, the Institute has really gotten off the ground as can be seen from the extraordinarily distinguished group of personalities who have joined its new Advisory Board, announced in Nu? What's New on January 26, 2009.

Those who read AVOTAYNU will remember the impressive report by IJG Director, Ambassador Neville Lاندان, summarizing the Institute's first two years (Vol. XXIV, No. 1, pp. 4–7). Following a remarkable inaugural symposium in Jerusalem in September 2006 that put the Institute on the academic map, ten on-going projects have been launched, some in pure research and some designed to provide tools and technology for non-professional genealogists. Take, for example, the ground-breaking Beider-Morse Phonetic Matching System and Gary Mokotoff's important proposal for standards in genealogical recording, which were reported in the Fall 2008 issue of AVOTAYNU. The Institute has recently upgraded its website . In an unprecedented move, the prestigious World Union of Jewish Studies has invited the Institute to present a panel on Jewish genealogy at its forthcoming conference in summer 2009. We've done a lot in a short time.

Unfortunately, the recent financial tsunami has struck the Institute as well. There is, however, some good news. A benefactor has challenged us to demonstrate that the Jewish genealogical community worldwide supports the Institute's work: he has offered to make a donation to match whatever sum we can raise from within our ranks.

So here is your opportunity to support a recognized place for Jewish genealogy within the Jewish world. Please donate whatever amount you can—it is extremely important. No amount—\$18, \$36, multiples of \$18—is too small. I would be fibbing if I were to say that the cash amount doesn't matter (it always does, doesn't it?), but an equal challenge is in the NUMBERS of you who step forward. This means that EVERYONE's contribution, no matter how modest, will count—doubly so.

To make your tax-deductible contribution by credit card or PayPal go to <http://ijg.org> and click the donate link. If you prefer, mail it to the Friends of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy, 155 N. Washington Ave., Bergenfield, NJ 07621. Make the check payable to "Friends of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy." Donations are tax deductible for U.S. taxpayers.

Vital Record Registers of Algeria for 1832–1904 Are Online

The Sephardic SIG Digest of JewishGen reports that the vital record registers of Algeria from 1832 to 1904 are now online at <http://anom.archivesnationales.culture.gouv.fr/caomec2/recherche.php?territoire=ALGERIE>. When an item of interest is found, it is possible to retrieve the actual document. Information provided in the index is name, town, year, type of record (birth, marriage, death divorce, stillborn). In the case of a marriage, both names are given. The site is in French.

Trips to Lithuania and Salt Lake City

For the 16th year, Howard Margol and Peggy Freedman are organizing their group trip to Lithuania, June 30 to July 10, 2009. For the 17th consecutive year, Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff are organizing their group trip to Salt Lake City from October 22–29, 2009.

Lithuanian Trip

If you are interested in tracing your roots in Lithuania, Latvia, Eastern Poland close to Lithuania, or Belarus, now is the time to sign up. This year the group will be limited to 25 persons. The trip includes visits to various archives, synagogues, ghettos, Holocaust sites, meetings with Jewish leaders, sight-seeing, guide/interpreters, and two days to visit and spend time in your shtetlach of interest. Margol and Freedman are very familiar with the archives, are on a first-name basis with the archivists, and know all the main places of Jewish interest. While this is a group trip, every effort is made to tailor the trip to your personal interests. Group members

leave from their individual towns and come together in Vilnius on July 1, 2009.

For details and a full itinerary, contact litvaktrip@gmail.com or homargol@aol.com

Salt Lake City Trip

For the 17th consecutive year, veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will be offering a research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from October 22-October 29, 2009. To date, more than 400 Jewish genealogists from the U.S., Canada, South America, Israel, Australia and Europe have taken advantage of this program. The group size is limited to 40 people.

The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of research at the Library under the guidance and assistance of professional genealogists who have made more than a three dozen trips to Salt Lake City. Each attendee has access to trip leaders every day except Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Library for on-site assistance and personal consultations. There is also a planned program that includes a three-hour class on day of arrival introducing the participants to the facilities and resources of the Family History Library in addition to a mid-week informal group discussion of progress and problem-solving. For those new to genealogy, a beginners' workshop on the first morning of the trip will introduce them to the wonderful world of Hamburg immigration lists, U.S. passenger arrival lists, naturalization records and census records.

Social events include a mid-week Sunday brunch for camaraderie and discussion of successes (and failures); attendance at the Sunday morning broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; informal group dinners; and group planning parties.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>. It includes a picture of the Class of 2008.

Volume 10, Number 6 | March 29, 2009

Searching JewishGen's 43,000 Pages

Warren Blatt, Managing Director of JewishGen, states that there are 43,000 static web pages at the JewishGen website. The question comes to mind whether there pages valuable to my research that I have overlooked in this vast collection of Jewish genealogical material.

JewishGen has solved this problem with its own internal search engine. Click "JewishGen" on the menu bar at the top of the JewishGen home page and select from the pull-down menu "Search website." Alternately, go directly to the search page at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/Search.htm>.

When I searched for the Mokotow family's ancestral town of Warka, Poland, there were 80 hits. Included were a JewishGen family web site set up by a man whose family also came from Warka. Also at the site is a Warka business directory for the years 1925-1927 that included two Mokotows. There are also some historical facts about the town and sources of information. These were all known to me but might not be known to a person just starting out down the family history path.

The search engine has a lot of flexibility. It includes a wildcard search by using an asterisk(*), the standard character in most search engines to represent any number of letters, and a question mark(?), which represents a single letter. There are many variants of the surname Mokotow: Mokotoff, Mokotow, Mokotowski and Mokotowicz. By searching for "mokot*", the JewishGen search engine, found 429 references to Mokotoff (probably mostly to me or the Daitch-Mokotoff Soundex System), 23 for Mokotow, 6 for Mokotowski/Mokotowska, 3 for Mokotowicz and mokot (2), mokotiw (1), mokoton (2), mokotov (2), mokotovicz (2), mokotovskiy (1), mokotower (1), mokotowie (1), mokotiŵ (1), mokotów (2). Some of these sites provided information previously unknown to me about the Mokotow clan.

The second character of Mokotow often is misstated as "a," "i" or "u," so a more complex wildcard search of "m?kot*" produced: mokotoff (429), makot (2), makotow (3), mikotaja (1), mikotajewicz (1), mikotajewski (1), mikotshinski (2), mokot (2), mokotiw (1), mokoton (2), mokotov (2), Mokotovicz (2), mokotovskiy (1), mokotow (23), mokotower (1), mokotowicz (3), mokotowie (1), mokotowska (2), mokotowski (4), mokotiŵ (1), mokotów (2), ma-

kotów (1). Most are almost certainly records of the Mokotow family—all Mokotows in the world are descended from my great-great-great-grandfather.

Use this powerful JewishGen feature to uncover records of your families.

Preliminary Conference Program Now Online



A preliminary program for the 29th Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is now online at <http://www.philly2009.org/program.cfm>. The conference is being held in Philadelphia from August 2–7, 2009.

A few of the new features reported by Mark Halpern, Program Co-chair are:

- Beginners' Track of programs on Sunday
- Repository Fair: local archives, libraries and other institutions will answer your questions
- Attendance by the Director General of the National Archives of Romania as well as Archive officials from Ukraine and Vienna
- Opening Session on Sunday with Father Patrick Desbois as the keynote speaker. There will be the opportunity to purchase an autographed copy of "The Holocaust by Bullets"
- Lectures on state-of-the-art genealogy tools including Google and Facebook
- Programs and a workshop on Jewish cooking

ViewMate Returns to JewishGen

One of the valuable features of JewishGen is ViewMate. It is the tool that permits uploading images such as photos, letters, tombstone images or documents in any language and get volunteers to translate or comment on the images. The function has not been available for a number of months due to technical difficulties, but the problem has now been resolved. Information about the service including instructions on how to upload images can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate>.

Tracing Your Roots Interview Program

There is an excellent Washington-based television interview program called *Tracing Your Roots* that is hosted by Arlene Sachs and Avotaynu co-owner Sallyann Amdur Sack. The duo has hosted the show for the past nine years. DNA and its impact on family history research has been the topic of a number of recent programs.

Among them are:

- Greg Lennon, a PhD geneticist who worked on the NIH genome project explained the value of DNA testing for medical projections.
- Matthew E. Kaplan of the Human Origins Genotyping Laboratory at the University of Arizona, spoke about different ways DNA is used. Included were National Geographic and IBM's Genographic Project, genealogical testing by Family Tree DNA, the DNA Shoah Project, and conservation genetics.
- Sydney Mandelbaum, project co-founder; Matthew E. Kaplan, research coordinator; and Janette Friedman, board member talked about the DNA Shoah Project. They are building a database of genetic material from Holocaust survivors and their immediate descendants in hopes of reuniting families disrupted by the Holocaust.
- "Using DNA to Find Family" was the topic of another show with Arline Sachs and Richard DiBuono.

All are accessible at <http://tracingroots.nova.org/>. The site lists other topics.

Contributions to IJG

If you have not made a donation to the efforts of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy as suggested by Avotaynu co-owner Sallyann Amdur Sack in the last issue of *Nu? What's New?* the time to do it is now. IJG has received a matching grant proposal from a person interested in Jewish genealogy and Sallyann indicated the number of people who contribute is as important as the amount of money collected. So, even as a token gesture, contribute \$10 or \$18 to the Institute. Contributions are being collected through PayPal at <http://www.avotaynu.com/Donate.htm>. If you already have a PayPal account, donating can be accomplished in just a few clicks. Otherwise, PayPal does accept credit cards. If you do not like to use the Internet for money transactions, send a check to Friends of International Institute for Jewish Genealogy; 155 N Washington Ave.; Bergenfield, NJ 07621.

Los Angeles Address Directories

The last issue of *Nu? What's New?* stated that Ancestry.com has a large number of city directories from the late 1930s and early 1940s, but not for certain major cities. A reader has noted that selected Los Angeles city directories and address directories from 1915–1987 are accessible at <http://rescarta.lapl.org:8080/ResCarta-Web/jsp/RcWebBrowse.jsp>. The search engine will indicate which of the directories has the surname requested.

Massive Collection of WWI Documents Discovered

A British historian has discovered a collection of an estimated 20 million records of World War I casualties in the basement of the International Red Cross in Geneva, Switzerland. The records deal with the capture, death, or burial of servicemen from over 30 nations drawn into the conflict; personal effects, home addresses and grave sites. All were passed to the International Red Cross by the combatants. Volunteers logged in the information by hand before sending it on to the soldiers' home countries. The Red Cross hopes to have the archive online by 2014, 100 years after the start of World War I. Additional information can be found at http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/hi/uk_news/7940540.stm

It's Not Genealogy, But...

Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter reports that it is now possible to send e-mail after you die. Why? It could be the Internet-era way of passing on important information to others in the case of your untimely death. Rather than prepare a document for your heirs that identifies all your assets, user names and passwords to critical information, and a final "goodbye" message, you can accumulate all this data in an e-mail and submit it to <http://deathswitch.com>. Death Switch determines when to send out the message by transmitting e-mail to you on a regular basis. If you fail to respond to a certain number of messages in a row, they assume you have died, and the e-mails you prepared are sent out.

Other potential uses are (1) getting the last word in a argument with a friend, (2) suggesting funeral instructions, (3) revealing a secret you have kept throughout the years.

It appears that in this Age of the Internet, someone's dying words may be "Read my e-mail."

Message from Mike Karsen

I spoke to your group about the importance and urgency of "Writing Your Family History" and I would like to inform you of a program I now offer. In my "Legacy Pledge" program I share my PowerPoint slides from 3 of my lectures and copies of all of my personal Family Histories with anyone who would Pledge to write a family history within 12 months. As part of this program, I send gentle e-mail reminder every 3 months. To learn more about this program, go to my website, www.Mikekarsen.com, and click on the **Legacy Pledge** icon in the left column.

If you've already written a family history as a result of my message, I would love to hear what you've done. Please e-mail me at mike@MikeKarsen.com.

MENTORING

We have started a Mentoring Program to assist members with their brick walls or specific questions on a one-on-one basis. If you would like to be assigned a Mentor, please contact Rosa Pinsky at pinskyr@ccf.org or by phone (evenings) 954-389-7392. Please mention your area of interest and/or expertise so we can appropriately match you up.

We are also looking for people to serve as mentors, so if you're willing and able to help, please let us know as well.

Tidbits by Bernie Kouchel

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS

Decades later you can still travel into the past and discover the paper trail of your ancestors. Follow this suggested path, a solid research strategy for beginning genealogists. Focus on the steps in the order indicated. Each step can help you to obtain information that will lead you to the next step, and ultimately across The Pond. Find those records here...

Step 1) VITAL RECORDS (birth/marriage/death)

Generally the states have all older vital records. However, counties will usually have marriage records. Start with 'Office of County Clerk'. <http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w.htm> and <http://www.vitalrec.com/>

leads to...

Step 2) U.S. CENSUS

Census records are among one of the best and most often utilized tools for genealogy research. <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/census/index.html> (1790-1930).

leads to...

Step 3) NATURALIZATION (citizenship)

After September 26, 1906, that record will be in the National Archives INS records. <http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/naturalization/index.html> Pre-1906 records are in any "court of record" (municipal, county, state, or Federal). Make sure that you check with all courts in all locations where your ancestor lived during his or her lifetime. See directory of federal courts <http://www.uscourts.gov/courtlinks/>. Try Google search for other court locations or see courthouse directories at your library.

leads to...

Step 4) IMMIGRATION RECORDS

Ship's passenger lists for various ports (1820-1959) will be found at the National Archives. See Immigrant Records

<http://www.archives.gov/genealogy/immigration/index.html>.

Ellis Island has an online searchable database of 22 million arrivals to New York between 1892-1924. <http://www.ellisland.org/>

leads to ancestral homeland across The Pond.

Finding records is one of the most interesting aspects of genealogy. Success in your research!

© Bernard Israelite Kouchel/Jan'03/Rev.Mar'09/

JGSBC Program Calendar

www.jgsbc.org/helios/events

Wednesday, April 22, 7:00 pm, NSU
"The Jews of Cuba- On the Island, In Miami and In Israel"

Ruth Behar, Cultural Anthropologist, Author, and Filmmaker
(limited seating, so please reserve a seat. See flyer)

Saturday, May 2, 9:00 am- 4:00pm NSU
2nd Annual Genealogy Fair
See flyer at end

Sunday, May 17, 1:00 pm- 3:00 pm NSU
Jewish Genealogy Workshop
Kim Garvey, Allison Schlyen, Michael Greenberg
(please reserve your spot)

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County usually meets on either the last Sunday or Wednesday of the month. Please check the **JGSBC Program Calendar** above or our **Community Events Calendar** located at www.jgsbc.org/helios/events for the exact times and locations.

The first 20-30 minutes of our meetings are devoted to **Brick Walls and Breakthroughs**, where members share their successes or ask for help with their difficult genealogical problems. Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome to participate in our programs.



Member Society

The JGS of Broward County is an integral part of a global network of 75+ societies, all members of IAJGS, with 10,000+ individual members who are actively researching their Jewish roots.

Do you have a brick wall you've finally succeeded in breaking down? We'd love to hear about it.

Contact the *Family Gatherings* editor at newsletter@jgsbc.org. We look forward to reading your story in a future newsletter.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

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JGSBC

Officers and Directors

President	Michael Sofman
Vice President	Martin Shames
Treasurer	Brenda Feuer
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Directors	Robert Koltnow
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Martin Shames	2004-2007
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Bernard Kouchel	1995-2001
Gene Garlin	1994-1995
Bernard Kouchel, Founder	1988-1994

Check out our website at www.jgsbc.org for the latest information about our society or to contact any officer, director, or chairperson via direct e-mail link.

WE NEED YOUR BOOKS!

Any Jewish genealogy, biographies, novels, or history books getting dusty on your shelves?

Put them to good use by donating them to the JGSBC Library.

No books? Make a donation to the JGSBC Library Fund. Contact Rhoda Horwitz at library@jgsbc.org.