



Family Gatherings

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

P.O. Box 17251, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33318

Phone: 954-243-6063

Fax 954-523-0766

Website: www.jgsbc.org

E-mail: info@jgsbc.org

Issue: 2007 Number 10

December 2007

**ANNUAL ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 9
12 NOON, MY FAVORITE CAFÉ, HOLLYWOOD**

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 7:00 PM
SOREF JCC**

Message from the President

As I write this final message as President I feel like a student who is graduating and getting ready for a new experience. At our December 19th meeting the Board will select a new President. I will continue as an active Board member and hopefully more active genealogical researcher. I am confident that our goal of providing interesting and informative speakers and programs and promoting and facilitating Jewish genealogical and family history research will continue and grow.

I hope that you are as pleased as I am with the following developments that took place in 2007:

- New redesigned web site at www.jgsbc.org thanks to Ara Morenberg. We will soon be having a members only section that will add to the benefits of being a member.
- New redesigned Family Gatherings Newsletter thanks to Michael Sofman. It was great to read the original articles by Ruth Kornbluth, Joyce Ben-Ezra and Elaine Kaplan in recent issues. I know that everyone has family stories and research breakthroughs that are of interest. Send in your stories!
- Outstanding speakers such as Daniel Mendelsohn (on his book "The Lost"), Ron Arons (on Jewish criminals) and Karen

Roekard (on her visit to her ancestral shtetl) thanks to Bob Koltnow.

- Jewish Genealogy 101, our 4-hour mini-semester on getting started or moving ahead in Jewish Genealogy was held on November 18th with the same enthusiasm and attention as our March workshop. Thanks to Ara Morenberg and to Bernie Kouchel for organizing the workshops. We hope to continue having 2 workshops a year to enable more people to learn how to research and find information about their families.

Looking ahead to 2008 I am pleased that we will be having Steve Morse, a very well known pioneer in genealogical research, as our speaker on February 17th at a joint meeting with the Genealogical Society of Broward County to be held at Nova Southeastern University.

As I graduate from my senior years as President I look forward to my freshman year as active member and researcher. I know that there are many great new adventures ahead.

Marty Shames, President (mshames@jgsbc.org)

The Jewish Genealogical society of Broward County usually meets on either the last Sunday or Wednesday of the month. Please check the Front Page of this publication for the exact time and location.

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. Guests are always welcome to participate in our programs.

Family Gatherings

A monthly publication of the JGSBC, free to all members, who also have free access to the society’s library, and are entitled to vote on all matters brought before the membership.

“Permission is granted for the quoting, in whole or in part, of any original article included in this issue of Family Gatherings by the newsletter/journal of any other IAJGS member society, providing acknowledgement of the source is given, unless the article is identified as one that is not to be reproduced.

Acknowledgement should include the title of the newsletter, the issuing society, and its volume number or date of publication. Additionally, as a courtesy, we request that an email be sent letting us know that a published article is being further used.”

We look forward to hearing your comments, suggestions, and genealogical success stories that may be of interest to our readers. Send any and all of the above to: info@jgsbc.org

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

Upcoming Meetings

*******This Weekend!!*******

Sunday, December 9, 12 noon, our Annual Anniversary Luncheon, My Favorite Café, Hollywood

In addition to the delicious food at My Favorite Café, a gourmet kosher bistro, we will be treated to a wonderful presentation by **Andrea Greenbaum**, editor of the recently published book *Jews of South Florida*. This should be a real treat, especially for you long-time Florida residents. See form at back of this issue. **It’s not too late to RSVP, and since this is open to non-members as well, please bring your friends!!**

Wednesday, December 19, 7 pm, Soref JCC

Regular monthly meeting and annual elections. Following our “Brick Walls and Breakthroughs” session, we will view a historical film about Eastern European Jewry. We will also be voting on our new Board of Directors. Please attend this meeting so you can have some input as to how this organization is run.

Wednesday, January 30, 7pm, Soref JCC

Our guest speaker will be **Henry Wellisch**, who will discuss **The Austro-Hungarian Empire-Conventional and Non-Conventional Resources**. Mr. Wellisch was born in Vienna, from which he escaped in 1940. Over 25 years ago, he began to investigate his family background, concentrating his research on the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and has traced his family back into the 18th Century. He has published numerous articles, lectured on various genealogical subjects, and was president of the JGS of Canada from 1993 to 1998.

Sunday, February 17, Alvin Sherman Library of Nova Southeastern University, Davie

The JGSBC, in conjunction with the Genealogical Society of Broward County, is thrilled to be able to present **Stephen Morse**, one of the leading lights of Jewish Genealogy. Among other accomplishments, Steve has developed the “One-Step” webpages, an invaluable method of searching for information within a variety of databases. Don’t miss this one!!

JGSBC

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President	Martin Shames
Vice President	Jules Rosenthal
Secretary	Joyce Ben-Ezra
Treasurer	Brenda Feuer
Directors	David Corito
	Robert Koltnow, Esq.
	Michael Sofman
	Ara Morenberg

COMMITTEES

Finance	Brenda Feuer
Library	Rhoda Horwitz
	Brenda Feuer
Membership	Michael Sofman
Newsletter	Jules Rosenthal
	David Corito (temp)
	Robert Koltnow (temp)
	Michael Sofman (temp)
Program	Robert Koltnow
Publicity	David Corito
Speaker's Bureau	Robert Koltnow
Website	Bernard Kouchel
	Ara Morenberg

PAST PRESIDENTS

Bernard Kouchel, founder	1988-94
Gene Garlin	1994-95
Bernard Kouchel	1995-2001
Robert Koltnow, Esq.	2002-03

Call for Volunteers

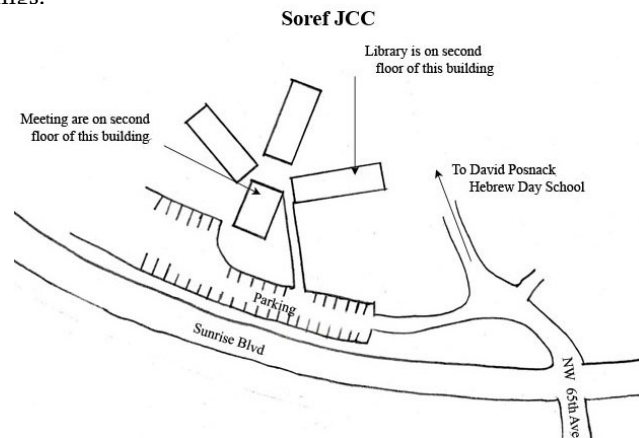
PLEASE JOIN OUR NEW CEMETERY COMMITTEE

We've formed a new committee and for lack of a better name we're currently calling it the Cemetery Committee. The sole purpose of this committee is to map local cemeteries, collect burial information, and to enter the data we've collected so we as an organization can make available to the public all Jewish burials in Broward County on our soon-to-be-seen new website.

If you're interested in joining, please give me a call at 954-438-5877. It's a chance to help make a big difference in our little world of Jewish genealogy.

Ara Morenberg
Chair, Cemetery Committee

The Soref JCC is located at the northwest corner of Sunrise Boulevard and NW 65th Ave. Upon entering the grounds, bear left at the first intersection (there may be a guard there), then continue on to the parking area. Take the walkway to the buildings, with our meetings being on the second floor of the building on the left and our library in the building on the right. The entrances are on the north sides of the buildings.



NEW WEBSITE

Please welcome **Ara Morenberg** as our new webmaster. She has been working diligently with Bernie Kouchel over the past several months to get our new website up and running. She will continue adding new enhancements and features over the next few months, including a members-only section. The new site is :

WWW.JGSBC.ORG

Membership

We currently stand at a membership of about 80 people. As we move through our meeting season, we encourage you all to bring friends and relatives to our meetings, helping to spread the word about Jewish Genealogy, and bringing us all that much closer together.

As always at this time of year, any new member that signs up will only have to pay for 2008, with the remainder of this year being free. New members will also receive a complimentary copy of the book, *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*, by Gary Mokotoff and Warren Blatt, an excellent introduction to the subject.

Our membership year starts January 1, so we ask all of our current members to renew before the end of the year. Please use the membership form located at the back of this newsletter to send in your renewal as soon as possible.

Michael Sofman

Other News

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain has extended the opening hours of its Library and Resource Centre. The Library is located in the West End of London and is easily accessible. It is open two or three times a month at scheduled times (see the programme at www.jgs.gb.org.uk/program1.shtml for the scheduled opening times each month). In addition, we have decided to operate a "Special Appointments" system, on a trial basis, for visitors who are unable to attend a scheduled session. We believe that this will be especially useful to those visiting London from overseas who may not be able to attend a scheduled session. We normally require a minimum of four weeks notice to book a Special Appointment. We try to book a time and date that is convenient to the visitor, although it must be recognized that with a limited number of volunteer library staff this is not always possible. To request a special appointment please email librarybookings@jgs.gb.org.uk. Library admission is free for Members of JGS Great Britain and five pounds for non-members. A description of the Library is at www.jgs.gb.org.uk/library1.shtml and a partial library catalogue can be found at www.jgs.gb.org.uk/download/LibraryList.pdf

We look forward to seeing you at our Library and Resource Centre.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain

Useful Tidbits

Original documents of the KGB's departments in the Baltic countries from the Soviet occupation era are now available on the Internet at www.kgbdocuments.eu

Three periods are covered - 1940-1941, 1943-1953, and 1954-1991. The explanations are in English and the original documents are in Russian. Only two documents so far are from the 1940-1941 period and they appear to be plans to infiltrate the Catholic Church. I cannot read the Russian so I am unable to give details.

I was hoping the site would include lists of Jews who were exiled to Siberia in 1940, but that information is not included as yet. Hopefully, that will be included at a future date.

Howard Margol

(JewishGen Discussion Group Digest 11/23/07)

There's a fascinating show at the American Folk Art Museum at 45 West 53rd Street in New York City that may be of interest to Jewish genealogists and researchers:

"GILDED LIONS AND JEWELLED HORSES: THE SYNAGOGUE TO THE CAROUSEL" October 2, 2007 -March 23, 2008 This exhibit traces the journey of Jewish woodcarvers and other artisans from Eastern and Central Europe to America, demonstrating how the skill and artistry of carving wooden bimahs and arks evolved into the creation of lions, horses and other creatures for the carousels in places like Coney Island. The exhibition features approximately one hundred artworks and objects, including rare documentary photographs of Eastern European synagogues from Poland, Galicia and Ukraine, arks and carved gravestones, sacred carvings, paper-cuts, and carousel animals and represents the first major study of this important aspect of the Jewish contribution to American folk art.

For those of you who can't come to New York, the online exhibition is a treat: <http://gildedlions.org/> The museum's website with complete information on the exhibition, program, catalog and directions is at: <http://www.folkartmuseum.org/>

Pamela Weisberger
Santa Monica, CA

(JewishGen Discussion Group Digest 12/4/07)

Roots-Key, the Journal of JGS Los Angeles, is publishing their special issue, *Recreating Your Ancestral Shtetl* in December, 2007. This 68-page journal contains articles covering a range of topics that researchers encounter while trying to expand their family genealogy into town-wide research. Where do you find the records? How do you analyze the data? If no records exist, what can you do? When you have collected all that you can, what should you do with all that stuff?

The issue is organized around four themes:

1. How to document the families and Jewish community life of a town using many types of records. Towns in Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, and Ukraine are featured. Authors include Sonia and David Hoffman, Vitaly Charny, Victor Kumok writing from the Ukraine, Henry Neugass, and Mike Marvins.
2. A separate section of analyzing data describes integrating databases and given name analyses as well as community genealogies. Authors include Daniel Wagner and Israel Pickholtz, writing from Israel.
3. A third section concentrates on 20th century research, Holocaust memorials and memoirs, highlighting Yizkor books, translation projects, biographical memoirs, town associations, innovative ways to uncover the past and build a bridge to the future, with articles by Joyce Field, Werner Frank, Joel Petlin, Meyer Swirsky writing from Israel, and Martin Cahn writing from Poland.
4. Finding ways to preserve and share research and town histories are included in the last section on publication with articles by Susana Bloch, Chaim Freedman writing from Israel, Eilat Gordin Levitan, and Jeffrey Kohn.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this issue, we would like to add your name and address to the bulk mailing labels. The charge for this double issue is \$10.

Contact:
Nancy Holden
Roots-Key editor, JGSLA
nholden@interserv.com

(from Belarus SIG digest 11/10/07)

Nu? What's New? (excerpted)

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Volume 8, Number 23 | December 2 2007

USHMM To Have Public Access to ITS Records This Month

The U.S. Holocaust Museum (USHMM) plans to accept inquiries regarding the collection of Holocaust-related records of the International Tracing Service this month, perhaps as early as December 3. Consult local newspapers or other news media for the formal announcement. What USHMM currently has is part of the record collection of ITS plus the entire Central Names Index (CNI) of 50 million digitized index cards providing information about 17 million people. These cards place an individual in a specific place at a specific time. The balance of the record collection will be given to USHMM and other repositories, such as Yad Vashem, over the next two years.

In most cases, genealogists will find the information contained on the Central Names Index to be adequate and the actual document from which it is derived to be more of historical interest. This is because most of the information on the source document about a specific individual was transcribed onto the index card. I have placed on the Internet sample index cards at <http://www.avotaynu.com/arolsen.htm>. They include sample cards of deportations, deaths, refugees, inquiries (T/D file), etc.

People will be requested to fill out a form that will be available at the USHMM website and other means. In theory, USHMM will be willing to make any reasonable search, and if there are results, they will provide the inquirer with copies of the original source documents. This may be a long-term goal, because it is guaranteed that USHMM will be swamped with requests in the short term.

The Museum will allow people to come to their facility in Washington, DC, and do searches of the Central Names Index by themselves. This may be necessary for those who want to browse the index to do searches that are unreasonable requests (for example, would occupy too much time of a member of the USHMM staff), generic searches (all persons named "Mokotow") or do not want to wait for a response from the Museum.

USHMM Now Has Online Inventory of ITS Collection

A list of the complete inventory of ITS is on the USHMM website at <http://resources.ushmm.org/itsinventory>. It is in German and English. This is merely a list of the more than 21,000 separate collections of historical documentation. It consists of the name of the record group and a brief description. A full-word search engine will locate record groups of interest. I personally do not see the value to family historians of knowing these record groups, because all the names from the documents were extracted and are in the Central Names Index with a reference to the original source. For example, a Page of Testimony submitted by the brother of Bronka Mokotow says she died in Mauthausen. This seemed unreasonable to me since she was in the Warsaw ghetto, and the Jews of the ghetto were deported to their deaths at Treblinka. Searching the ITS inventory online shows there are 420 record groups that reference Mauthausen. There is no need to search all these groups; the CNI would have included her name if she was on any list.

T/D Files at ITS: What Are They?

There has been much fuss about the T/D record collection at the International Tracing Service. (T/D stands for "Tracing/Documents.") This is the collection of all inquiries made to ITS since their inception about 60 years ago. It is felt these letters will be a boon to genealogists, because inquirers may have described their families by name and perhaps included birth dates and places. Every inquiry went into the Central Names Index, catalogued under the name of the person sought. The index card includes the name and address of the inquirer. Unfortunately, the only examples I have of T/D file records in the Mokotow history are requests for information about one person. I do not know, at this time, if a person inquired about an entire family and named all members

of the family, whether an index card was created for each family member, including children. Examples of T/D index cards are at the Avotaynu website <http://www.avotaynu.com/arolsen.htm>.

Findmypast.com Adds 10 Million British Burial Records

I reported in September about the excellent commercial genealogy site created by the British firm, Findmypast.com. Included in their collection is a British emigration index, 1890–1930, with plans to extend it to 1960. This firm has just announced the addition of an index to 10 million burials in England and Wales for the years 1538–2005. It provides the full name; date of burial; age at death (when given in the original source); name of the county; parish and place of burial.

It is a fee-for-service site. At no charge, the site displays the deceased's name, year of burial and county. They have various pricing arrangements including monthly and annual subscriptions as well as the ability to buy electronic scrip. All the prices seemed reasonable.

[FindMyPast.com](http://www.findmypast.com) has a number of other databases, such as 1841–1891 census data, military records, and vital records index books.

JOWBR Approaches One Million Records

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) now has 980,000 records of Jewish burials throughout the world. The latest additions include more than 148,000 Austrian records, 4,400 Canadian records (Beth Tzedec, Toronto), 1,328 records from India, 4,830 records from Romania, and the first batch of records and photographs from Chernivtsi (Czernowitz), Ukraine. The Ashkenazi Cemetery at Guanabacoa, Cuba, has been updated, and photographs of more than one-third of all the tombstones have been added. JOWBR is located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/>.

JewishGen recently upgraded their server that contains all the data files giving the site substantially improved performance.

Accessibility to Major Belgian Resource In Doubt

The records of the Belgian Office des Etrangers (Immigration office) for the period 1911–1945 are being transferred to the National Archives in the next few months. There has been no announcement as to the accessibility of these records after the transfer is made. These documents are one of the three major source of genealogy information about the Belgian Jewish community since all immigrants had (and still have) to be registered. It includes parents names, place and date of birth, moves within Belgium, etc.

The records include those from the time period when many Jews fled to Belgium during the rise of Nazism in Germany. People, many of them Jews, fled Germany, later Austria, as well as Poland with the hope of emigrating to the United States, Canada, etc., but many did not have enough money, or affidavits never came, or visas were not granted. The U.S. and Canada immigration restrictions made it more and more difficult. Many people were trapped in Belgium and had no alternative other than to register.

The records do not include people who were merely in transit through Belgium on their way to another country, for example, those going through the port of Antwerp, and in Belgium for only a few days.

Australia's Electoral Rolls Online

Australia's electoral rolls between 1901 and 1936 are now available online at <http://www.ancestry.com.au>. Each entry includes name, address and occupation. Nearly 42 million names appear on the rolls. You must be a paid subscriber of ancestry.com.au or Ancestry.com's "Word Deluxe Membership" to access the database.

Jewish Genealogy 101: 4 Hour Route to Your Roots - November 18, 2007



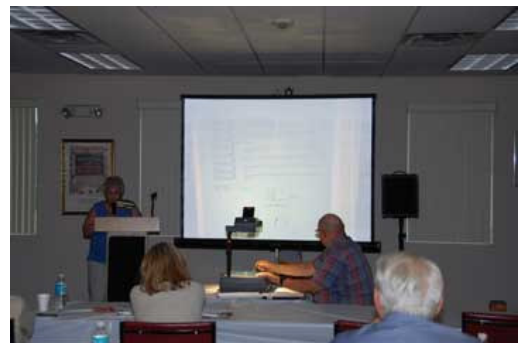
Bernie Kouchel leads off with the "Twelve Steps to Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy"



Jules Rosenthal gives advice on how to interview relatives



Michael Sofman suggests ways to record and organize all our information



Brenda Feuer, with help from her husband, Marvin, discusses researching the Family History Library



Our eager genealogists!



Elaine Kaplan tells us all about searching JRI-Poland



Bob Koltnow helps us find genealogical information in court and other legal records



Marty Shames discusses resources for Holocaust research



**Jewish Genealogical Society
Of Broward County, Inc**
-Florida USA-

P.O. Box 17251
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318
Phone: 954-243-6063 Fax: 954-523-0766
Visit us at: www.jgsbc.org

Membership Application

Date:	<input type="checkbox"/> New Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Gift
Name(s):			
Street Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	Fax:	E-mail:	

Out-of-State Address	Dates:		
Street Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
Phone:	Fax:		

Membership Category (please check one)	Dues	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$ 25	To help save postage, we
<input type="checkbox"/> Each additional member (same address)	\$ 5	distribute our newsletter via
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 50	e-mail. If you prefer to have
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100	it mailed, please check here. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (full-time, under age 25)	\$ 15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (individual)	\$ 250	Foreign addresses, please add \$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (additional member, same address)	\$ 50	for postage.

I am also enclosing an additional contribution of \$ _____ to help further the development of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

Please make check payable to **JGSBC**
and mail with application to:

JGSBC Membership
P.O. Box 17251
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318

JGSBC is a 501(c)(3) organization and your donation is tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

How would you rate your genealogy skills? None Beginner Intermediate Advanced Professional

I am interested in the following activities:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Programming	<input type="checkbox"/> Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer/Database
<input type="checkbox"/> Website	<input type="checkbox"/> Finance	<input type="checkbox"/> Library
<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity	<input type="checkbox"/> Speaker's Bureau	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality

Do you read any foreign languages? Yes _____ No



**Jewish Genealogical Society
Of Broward County, Inc**
-Florida USA-

Cordially Invites You to Our

Annual Anniversary Luncheon

Sunday, December 9, 2007, 12 noon at

My Favorite Café

Park Sheridan West Plaza

3369 Sheridan St.

Hollywood



With our special guest speaker, **Andrea Greenbaum, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of English, and Editor of *Jews of South Florida*. She will provide a fascinating photographic exploration of the diverse Jewish community of South Florida, from its beginnings in the 1800's, to the present.



The meal will be buffet-style, with an appetizer of Mozzarella Pomodoro; Caesar Salad; 3 main courses-Tilapia with Almond Mango Sauce, Pasta Alfredo, and Broccoli Quiche; roasted vegetables; along with desert, soft drinks, and coffee.

COST: \$25 PER PERSON

For further information, please go to our website, www.jgsbc.org

Please detach here

Please make checks payable to the **JGSBC**, and mail by November 26 to:

Brenda Feuer
5950 Del Lago Circle, #105
Sunrise, FL 33313

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$_____ for _____ reservations