

# Family Gatherings

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

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## President's Message

by Michael Sofman

There's no telling where genealogy might take you. Several months ago, I read the book, *Wish You Were Here*, by Robert Olen Butler. Mr. Butler, who has won a Pulitzer Prize, happens to be a postcard collector, and the book is a collection of completely fictional short stories based upon what was written on the postcards. Not being able to stop myself, I decided to test my genealogical skills on some of the names on these postcards. Well, I hit pay dirt on my first try, finding extensive information on the family of the addressee. Both sides of her family were prominent in San Francisco society around the turn of the 20th century, with her grandfather being one of the early pioneers of the California wine industry. Most of the info was on Ancestry.com, but I found numerous articles in several different newspaper databases.

As is often the case, I enjoyed myself immensely in just finding the information, but I then took the next step of contacting Mr. Butler (he teaches at FSU), and sending him copies of all the information I had found. He was very excited, as it brought one of his stories a little closer to life. Then, most exciting to me, I met him at the recent Miami International Book Fair, where he was speaking about his most recent book.

I see two lessons in this story. First, it is never a bad idea to hone your skills. By researching someone else's family, you may learn something that helps in your own family research. Secondly, you never know whom you might meet. We're always hoping to meet long-lost relatives, but meeting a Pulitzer Prize-winning author is pretty cool too!

Just a reminder about our two upcoming December events. First, on Sun-



**Michael Sofman**  
President, JGSBC

day, December 14, is our Annual Anniversary Luncheon, celebrating 20 years on the JGSBC. This will be at *My Favorite Café* in Hollywood, with our featured speaker, Dr. Henry Abramson. Following that, on Wednesday evening, December 17, we are delighted that Elise Friedman will be speaking to us about DNA genealogy. For further details about these events, see inside this issue.

Volume XX, Number 10  
December 2008

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## Upcoming Meetings

**Sunday, December 14, 12:00 pm, *My Favorite Café*, Hollywood**  
**Annual Anniversary Luncheon with Guest Speaker, Henry Abramson, PhD**

**Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 pm, Soref JCC**  
**Regular Monthly Meeting with Guest Speaker, Elise Friedman, and Board Elections**

## Program Notes

by Marty Shames

### JGSBC Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, November 18, 2008 held at NSU

At our most recent meeting, we were treated to an informative and entertaining talk by Joyce Baggerly, of the Family History Center. We all know that the Mormon Church has enormous holdings of all sorts of genealogical records, many of which are Jewish. She showed us how to access those records. One way is to order the microfilms from Salt Lake City, via the local Family History Centers. You can go on the FamilySearch website, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), determine which microfilms you need, then order it and view it at the local Center. One of the new, exciting things that we learned is that efforts are being made to digitize all their microfilms and have it all available on the Internet. It may take years, but it's on the

way. You can access what is already available by going to the home page of the website, find a drop down menu under "Search Records", then click on "Record Search Pilot". If you're really motivated, you can even volunteer to help them index all these records. There is also a link on the home page to help you get started looking specifically for Jewish records. See the site for further details.

We have other exciting events coming up, as you can see elsewhere in this issue. Our Annual Anniversary Luncheon is next weekend, with our speaker, Henry Abramson. It's not too late to RSVP, but we do need to know within the next few days. That is followed a few days later by Elise Friedman's talk on DNA genealogy, a subject which is fascinating, and much in the news of late. Hope to see you soon.

(continued on next page)



Joyce Baggerly

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

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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](mailto:membership@jgsbc.org) or JGSBC, P.O. Box 17251, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318.

## Membership

Rosa Pinsky

**We welcome** the following new member to the JGSBC:

**Ruth Silberman**

Please greet her at our next meeting!

As you know, the more people that come to our meetings, the more possible connections there are, so please encourage your friends and family to attend our meetings. At this time of year, we offer a special bonus—join now, and receive the

remainder of this year, plus all of next year, for just one year's payment. See the membership application at the end of this newsletter.

For those of you that are currently members, please send in your dues for 2009, if you haven't already done so. If we don't hear from you soon, we'll have to start bugging you!

Looking forward to seeing some new faces!!

**Program Notes (cont'd)**

We have several exciting programs coming up. Here is some additional information about the speakers and their talks.

**Sunday, December 14, 12:00 noon, My Favorite Café, Hollywood**  
**Annual Anniversary Luncheon, celebrating our 20th year (see flyer at back and RSVP soon)**  
**“The *Shtetl* and South Florida: Same, but Different?”**

**Henry Abramson, PhD**, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services, Touro College South

Over the course of the last century, Jews witnessed more tumultuous change than any time since their exile from the land of Israel two thousand years ago. The demographic upheavals of immigration and then the Holocaust, the establishment of the State of Israel and the rise of the American Jewish community, rendered largely non-existent the traditional 19th century eastern European Jewish village -- or did it? To what degree is the *shtetl*, with its socio-political-religious complexity, reflected in the modern American society we enjoy in 21st century South Florida? This lecture will survey the major elements of the *shtetl* and compare and contrast it with our community, measuring both quantitative data (Jewish population densities, age pyramids) and qualitative elements (the number of per capita kosher Chinese restaurants). A PowerPoint presentation, featuring period photographs and art, will accompany the lecture.

Henry (Hillel) Abramson is Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services at Touro College South, a new branch of New York-based Touro College recently established in Miami Beach. A native of Northern Ontario, he received his PhD in Eastern European Jewish History from the University of Toronto, and has held visiting appointments and post-doctoral positions at Harvard, Oxford, Cornell and Hebrew University. He is the author of three books and was part of the team that produced the award-winning documentary *The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe*. His research has been recognized with fellowships and awards from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and he has won numerous teaching awards, including the Excellence in the Academy Award from the National Education Association. He also spoke at our 15th Anniversary Luncheon

**Wednesday, December 17, 7:00 pm, Soref JCC**  
**“Genetic Genealogy: Using DNA to Discover Your Ancient Origins and Supplement Traditional Genealogical Research”**

**Elise Friedman**

Elise Friedman has been researching her Jewish roots for nearly 10 years and enjoys teaching others how to research their own roots. She gives lectures and workshops at international Jewish genealogy conferences, local genealogy meetings and community events. Ms. Friedman is also very active in the emerging field of genetic genealogy, where she manages several family and specialized DNA studies through Family Tree DNA and recently co-authored a genetic genealogy case study that was published in the AVOTAYNU and FORUM genealogy magazines. Ms. Friedman also volunteers as JewishGen's DNA Projects Coordinator and is a member of the International Society of Genetic Genealogy (ISOGG). In addition to her genealogy activities, Ms. Friedman maintains a full-time career as an Information Technology professional in South Florida and holds a Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering from The Pennsylvania State University.

**Wednesday Evening, January 21, 7:00 pm, Soref JCC****“Jewish Philadelphia and Preview of the 2009 IAJGS Convention in Philadelphia”****Harry Boonin, Founding President, JGS Greater Philadelphia**

Harry D. Boonin was born in Philadelphia in 1936 and educated in the public schools of Philadelphia. He spent two years on active duty with the U.S. Navy in 1956 and 1957, most of the time on Guam in the Mariana Islands. He received his undergraduate degree from Penn State and his J.D. from Temple University in 1966, and worked as a lawyer for the U.S. Navy for 31 years, retiring in 1998 to devote his time to research and writing about the east European Jewish immigrants who settled in the Society Hill and Queen Village areas of Philadelphia between 1880 and the 1920s.

He has co-written a book about his own immigrant family, *The Davidows: The Experiences of an Immigrant Family* (1995), a book that was distributed to the family at Ellis Island. Harry's mother and father, both born in Russia, were lawyers and practiced law together in Philadelphia in the 1930s and 1940s. In 1999, he self-published *The Jewish Quarter of Philadelphia, A History and a Guide, 1880-1930*, a book about the area around 5<sup>th</sup> & South Streets where he leads walking tours.

Harry self-published a second book in February 2008 about an immigrant shul at 4<sup>th</sup> and Lombard Streets, Philadelphia, in the heart of the Jewish quarter. It is called: “The Life and Times of Congregation Keshet Israel.” The address is 412 Lombard Street. It is in this book that he explores the beginning years of Zionism in Philadelphia at Keshet Israel.

Harry is the founding president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia (founded in 1979), was its president and newsletter editor for four years in each position. He has spoken about Jewish genealogy before various groups in Jerusalem, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Washington, New York City, and other places.

For the past 14 years he has been giving Jewish walking tours of the Society Hill area. If you have any old photographs of the area, Harry would love to see them. Please bring a copy with you or a scan on a disk.

Harry's walking tours of the area of Society Hill cover the following streets: Spruce Street on the north, Catharine Street on the south, and 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> streets on the east and west. In this area, there are still four synagogues from the immigrant era and he makes every effort to get into two or three of them on every tour. Harry leads all the tours personally.

Harry is currently writing a book on the Jewish boxers of immigrant Jewish Philadelphia. There were about three or four dozen professional fighters between 1896 and the 1930s. Harry would love to hear from any family that has information about a professional Jewish boxer from Philadelphia during this time period.

Florida Connection: Harry's uncle bought a drug store in Miami, FL in 1926 and Harry's father worked for him in the drug store until a hurricane sent them both scurrying back to Philly.

## 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

August 2-7, 2009

in

**Philadelphia, PA**

**Mark you calendars!!**

### 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](http://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](http://www.jgsbc.org) and click on Membership in the navigation bar.**

## Library News

The UPS man can't arrive fast enough with our latest library purchase! It's "The Encyclopedia of Jewish Life Before and During the Holocaust". This extraordinary 3-volume 1,824 page work published by Yad Vashem provides the history of the shtetls and cities of your ancestors in almost every continental country of Europe with the exception of Bulgaria, Finland, Portugal, Spain, and Switzerland. It describes the distinctive culture of these Jewish communities lost during the Holocaust. It chronicles the history of its Jewish people, as well as the habits and customs of the communities. There are more than 600 photographs and illustrations. If you go to the Avotaynu.com site where the books are listed and check on this book, you will see that the towns are listed in four groups: A-E, F-L, M-S, and T-Z. Click on the letter that matches the

name of your ancestor's home town and scroll down to see if you can find it, as I did. Then we'll add you to our excited, can't wait list!

There are many other features such as maps that are created especially for this encyclopedia, which draw upon numerous historical sources to pinpoint the locations of towns with significant Jewish populations in Europe and North Africa, many of which disappeared during the war. The Index of Communities features alternate spellings in a variety of languages and dialects to help you

find your locations.

And there is so much more, including a Chronology which summarizes the sequence of critical events and helps the readers understand the context in which they occurred.

Please drive safely, Mr. UPS Driver, but hurry!!! And to all of our members, enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.

Brenda Feuer  
Rhoda Horwitz

P. S. Leave your phone or email messages with a tag about our Library or the Lost and Found or I will delete it since I get so many junk mail messages. You know what I mean! (954)741-8368 or [rhocat@aol.com](mailto:rhocat@aol.com). Thanks!



**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 9, Number 25 | November 9, 2008**

### **Webinar a Great Success**

More than 1,300 people signed up to attend the Ancestry.com webinar that unveiled their new Jewish genealogy landing page at <http://www.ancestry.com/jewishfamilyhistory>. Mike Daniels of Ancestry and I walked the listeners through the pages of the web site teaching them about the resources available and how to navigate the site. Feedback from those who attended indicated the presentation was of value to them.

The webinar is now in the Ancestry archives. You can view it by going to <http://learn.ancestry.com/LearnMore/Webinars.aspx> and clicking the appropriate topic. Upon reaching the site, I recommend you first click "Test Your System" to confirm you have the additional software that will allow you to view the webinar.

### **Canadian Research Through Library and Archives of Canada**

Library and Archives of Canada has a web site called the Canadian Genealogy Centre that has an index to nearly three million records in a variety of categories. It is located at <http://collectionsCanada.ca/genealogy/index-e.html>. I could not find a simple list of the entire collection, but you can find it by clicking "Search for Ancestors (Databases)." On the following page click the drop-down menu on the line "Topics." For example, they have 830,231 immigrations records from 1925–1935.

If you have interest in Canadian research, the entire web site has information that may be of value. Under "Other Web Sites" it introduces you to AVITUS, a directory of Canadian genealogical resources. Using the keyword "Jewish" it provided links to the various Jewish genealogical societies in Canada as well as the site of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. All told, there are 22 topics covered under the category "Jewish". An example is the indexing of the Lethbridge Jewish cemetery by the Alberta Family History Society.

### **South African Research**

The South African Jewish Rootsbank has a number of databases about the Jewish presence in that country. These include vital records as well as military, community, congregational, cemetery, immigration and naturalization records. They claim that 95% of all South African Jewish burial records are online. Immigration records cover the years 1895–1925. The site is located at [http://chrysalis.its.uct.ac.za/CGI/CGI\\_ROOTWEB.exe?entry\\_point=Home](http://chrysalis.its.uct.ac.za/CGI/CGI_ROOTWEB.exe?entry_point=Home).

Rootsbank is part of the Centre for Jewish Migration & Genealogy Studies which is under the auspices of the Isaac and Jessie Kaplan Centre at the University of Cape Town. The objective of the Centre is to map the entire history of Jewish migration to South Africa and to integrate genealogical data in multi-disciplinary research initiatives and create a comprehensive database of records and information relating to Jewish immigration and settlement in South Africa.

### **New FamilySearch Site**

I have avoided making readers aware of the new FamilySearch—the Mormon Church genealogy site—because most of the databases are duplicated at other free sites (Examples: Ellis Island records and Social Security Death Index) and are Christian records or pre-1880 U.S. records.

But there now are a few databases that might be of value to Jewish researchers (Example: Philadelphia Marriage Index 1885–1951). Another possible index of value might be Rio de Janeiro civil registrations, 1886–2006. The site is located at <http://pilot.familysearch.org>. If you get too many hits because the results include the Ellis Island database and Social Security Index, you might find it easier to search just a particular record group. You can accomplish this by clicking on the map on the home page. This will provide a list of all the record groups for that geographic area. Clicking on a particular record group name will bring you to a page where you can search that group only.

Incidentally, it was the Mormon Church that indexed the Ellis Island Database located at [Ellisland.org](http://Ellisland.org) using thousands of volunteers. They donated it to the Statue of Liberty - Ellis Island Foundation who placed it on the Internet.

### **Ancestry.com Adds French Vital Records Index**

[Ancestry.com](http://Ancestry.com) has added Parisian vital records indexes and images to their site. Specifically they are:

- Paris, France & Vicinity Births, 1700–1899 (in French)
- Paris, France & Vicinity Marriages, 1710–1907 (in French)
- Paris, France & Vicinity Deaths, 1707–1907 (in French)
- Paris, France & Vicinity Marriage Banns, 1860–1902 (in French)

All told, there are some 13 million entries.

### **Scottish Resources**

An official government web site, <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, provides many records about the people of Scotland. This includes births, 1855–2006; marriages 1855–1932; deaths 1855–2006; and censuses from 1841 to 1901. At its home page, you can do a surname search and the results will show how many hits there are for each record group. Unusual for a government site, there is a fee to see even the index portion of the actual results. You can purchase 30 credits for £6 (about \$10). The charge is one credit for each page viewed of the index and five credits to retrieve the actual record, if available. I did a broad search of the surname Levy in the birth records. The results were available on 24 pages. Each page would have cost one credit to view.

### **Holocaust Site: Jewishtraces.org**

A web site, <http://www.jewishtraces.org>, has an index to various records of people caught up in the Holocaust. Their latest addition is a list of Jewish refugees who were allowed to enter Switzerland, primarily between 1942 and 1945. The project is run by a French non-profit organization, Doro[t]association d'histoire (sic), whose goal is to provide information for families and researchers on the fate of Jewish refugees in Europe. The site now has 47,500 entries.

## **Volume 9, Number 26 | November 23, 2008**

### **Dates Established for 2011 Conference**

The International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in 2011 will be held in Washington, DC, from August 14–19 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel. The hotel is well located for rapid access to the National Archives, Library of Congress, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and other area sights. The hotel room rate will be \$199, rather low cost for a major U.S. metropolitan area hotel.

Other dates for the annual conferences, the premier event of the Jewish genealogy year, are:

2009 August 2–7 Philadelphia

2010 July 11–16 Los Angeles

### **Yad Vashem Library Catalog Now Online**

The Yad Vashem Library Catalog is now online at <http://www6.yadvashem.org/library/listResult.do>. The institution states that this is the world's most comprehensive collection of published material about the Holocaust, containing more than 115,000 titles in 54 languages. Their photo archives of some 130,000 pictures, some contributed by family members of persons murdered in the Holocaust, can be linked to from this site. A greater description of the photo archives was given in the June 15, 2008, issue of "Nu? What's New?" It is located at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V09N15.htm>.

### **Hungarian Name-Change Book on Google Books**

A book that lists about 15,000 19th-century name changes of Hungarians, many Jewish, has been digitized by Google Books. *Századunk névváltoztatásai 1800–1893* (Surname changes of our century) was published in Budapest in 1895. To access the book, [click here](#). The name-change list starts on page 23.

The book offers the following information: Surname taken, previous surname, occupation, town name (not clear if this is the birthplace or abode), the name of children who also took the same surname, number of the decree which authorized

the name change. The last two digits indicate the year in which the change was authorized.

A company, RadixIndex.com, has indexed the book, but it is available on a subscription basis only. Minimum cost is \$15.00. Radix has a number of other Hungarian databases. Descriptions can be found at <http://www.radixindex.com/databases/databases.shtml>.

### **Canadian Immigration Records**

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has a number of searchable databases online associated with immigration to Canada. They can be seen at <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/exploration/index-e.html?PHPSESSID=0ihji9drq2n8eah9i0asttim84>. Recently they added a pre-1865 record group. In the group, there are no persons named Cohen and only one person named Levy. Another collection of immigrants for the 11-year period 1925–1935 has 637 persons named Cohen. It demonstrates how recent was Jewish migration to Canada.

### **Book Identifies Belgian Deportees**

A book titled *Mecheln-Auschwitz 1942-1944* that identifies each of the 18,500 persons, mostly Jews, who were deported in 28 convoys from Malines (Mecheln in Dutch) to Auschwitz from 1942–1944 will be published shortly. Plans call for a portrait of each of the deportees. The cost of the book is €155. Information can be found at <http://aspeditions.be/mecheln-auschwitz/>.

In 2007, Malines Center in Belgium created a wall of photographs of 1200 people who were deported on Convoy 20 that left that city to Auschwitz. The presentation ran for more than 100 meters (328 feet) on a wall, five photographs high. Avotaynu created a web site of photos of the exhibit at <http://www.avotaynu.com/malines/>.

### **Reminder: Human Interest Articles for Winter Issue of AVOTAYNU**

The Winter issue of AVOTAYNU is our human interest issue. Many years ago, Sallyann Sack and I wanted to recognize that there is more to genealogy than ancestor hunting. There is the human side of genealogy. The emotional reactions of a genealogist to discoveries in his/her family's history can be both happy and upsetting. There is the pride a researcher feels in successfully breaking down a brick wall. The discovery of long-lost family or linking to the family tree of another genealogist can be exhilarating. Our solution was to reserve a portion of the Winter issue each year to articles about the human side of genealogy. Articles should be submitted to AVOTAYNU editor Sallyann Amdur Sack at [sallyann-sack@avotaynu.com](mailto:sallyann-sack@avotaynu.com). The deadline is December 1, 2008.

### **Give JewishGen a Chanukah Present**

There isn't a week that goes by without announcements on the JewishGen Discussion Groups that more and more data is being added to their databases. There are now more than 400 ShtetLinks sites—sites created by volunteers that provide information about specific ancestral towns. JOWBR, the JewishGen Worldwide Burial Registry, now has more than one million records.

I am reminded that it costs money to support this ever-growing environment. JewishGen is an organization of volunteers that also needs voluntary contributions to sustain itself. If you use JewishGen, but rarely, consider a \$18 donation to support this worthwhile organization. If you subscribe to Discussion Groups, consider a \$10 "subscription fee" to each one you to which you subscribe. If you go to JewishGen at least once a month, consider a \$10 "consulting fee" per month. JewishGen gives you the option to designate that the donation be used for any of the specific Special Interest Groups.

Give JewishGen a Chanukah gift. Contribute now at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen-erosity/>

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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

### BRING YOUR MEMORIES BACK TO LIFE!

Just Black & White is a photo lab that specializes in photographic restorations for genealogists, museums and photographic enhancements for genealogists. Read more: <http://people.maine.com/photos/>

ScanCafe provides first class photo restoration services for old photos, slides and digital photos. Almost any image can be restored. Read more: <http://www.scancafe.com>  
[I have no business interests with these companies.]

### BE CAREFUL OUT THERE

When sharing your family tree online with genealogy data websites such as FamilySearch or ancestry.com, etc. - be aware that you are allowed to upload your data to the publisher's website - on the condition that you effectively donate your data to the publisher's data archive, and sign up to a complex, legally-binding agreement.

### RECOMMENDATIONS FROM FAMILY TREE MAGAZINE

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/magazine/>

"Best Websites For Jewish Researchers"

#### Avotaynu

Use the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index to do a Soundex search of information about 699,084 surnames, mostly Jewish, in 42 databases totaling more than 7.3 million records. <http://www.avotaynu.com>

#### JewishGen

Here, search the Family Finder database of 400,000 surnames and towns, ShtetLinks for more than 200 communities, and the 4 million entries in the Family Tree of the Jewish People. <http://www.jewishgen.org>

#### Tracing the Tribe

Stay up-to-date on Jewish roots resources and search tips with this newsy blog. <http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com>

### NEW GENEALOGY SOFTWARE

The #1 Rated genealogy software in the UK is now available at 1500 Target stores November 12, 2008:- Family Historian 3, the highest rated family tree software in the U.K. is now available in the United States and Canada. This top rated software is initially being distributed in the nearly 1,500 Target stores nation-wide. Read more: <http://blog.dearmyrtle.com/2008/11/1-uk-genealogy-software-in-1500-target.html>

### SUCCESS STORY

Jeff Garlin, son of JGSBC Past-President Gene Garlin is a successful American comic actor best known for his role as Jeff Greene, Larry David's manager on the HBO show Curb Your Enthusiasm.

## JGSBC Program Calendar

[www.jgsbc.org/helios/events](http://www.jgsbc.org/helios/events)

**Sunday, December 14 12:00 pm, My Favorite Cafe**  
**Annual Anniversary Luncheon**  
**"The Shtetl and South Florida: Same, but Different?"**  
**Henry Abramson, PhD**

**Wednesday, December 17– 7:00 pm Soref JCC**  
**General Meeting and Board Election.**  
**"Genetic Genealogy: Using DNA to Discover Your**  
**Ancient Origins and Supplement Traditional Genea-**  
**logical Research"**  
**Elise Friedman**

**Wednesday, January 21, 7:00 pm Soref JCC**  
**"Jewish Philadelphia and 2009 IAJGS Convention**  
**Preview"**  
**Harry Boonin**

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](http://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](mailto: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
Secretary	Joyce Ben-Ezra
Directors	Robert Koltnow
	Rhoda Horwitz
	Ara Morenberg
	Rosa Pinsky
	Robert Pittell

### Committee Chairs

Cemetery	Ara Morenberg
Finance	Brenda Feuer
Library	Rhoda Horwitz
Membership	Rosa Pinsky
Newsletter	Michael Sofman
Program	Martin Shames
Publicity	Ara Morenberg
Speaker's Bureau	Robert Koltnow
Website	Ara Morenberg

### Past Presidents

Martin Shames	2004-2007
Robert Koltnow	2002-2003
Bernard Kouchel	1995-2001
Gene Garlin	1994-1995
Bernard Kouchel, Founder	1988-1994

Check out our website at [www.jgsbc.org](http://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](mailto:library@jgsbc.org).



**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:	

<b>Out-of-State Address</b>	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 distribute our newsletter via e-mail. If you prefer to have it mailed, please check here. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Each additional member (same address)	\$ 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 50	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (full-time, under age 25)	\$ 15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (individual)	\$ 250	Foreign addresses, please add \$5 for postage.
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (additional member, same address)	\$ 50	

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 Celebrate Our **20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
at our

## **Annual Anniversary Luncheon**

**Sunday, December 14, 2008, 12 noon at**

### *My Favorite Café*

*a Kosher Gourmet Bistro  
Park Sheridan West Plaza  
3369 Sheridan St.  
Hollywood*



where we will be joined by our special guest, **Henry Abramson, PhD**, Dean of Academic Affairs and Student Services at Touro College South, and a noted expert in Eastern European Jewish history. His talk is entitled **“The *Shtetl* and South Florida: Same, but Different?”**

**COST: \$25 PER PERSON**  
for an all-inclusive, buffet-style meal

For further information, please go to our website, [www.jgsbc.org](http://www.jgsbc.org)

Please detach here

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Please make checks payable to the **JGSBC**, and mail by December 7 to:

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

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