

Family Gatherings

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

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President's Message

Michael Sofman

This will be my final message to you as President of the JGSBC, at least for the time being. After 4 years on the Board, and 2 as President, I will be stepping down at the end of the year. It has been a fun and rewarding time and I have met a lot of interesting and wonderful people. I especially want to thank my fellow Board members, who are really the ones that get everything done and make me look good. A lot has changed in the world of genealogy during this time, especially the growing use of the Internet to do genealogical research. We are fortunate that we have developed a relationship with the Alvin Sherman Library of Nova Southeastern University that has

and will continue to help us access the incredible amount of information being added to these online databases on a daily basis.

At our regular meeting on December 16th, we will be holding our Board election. We have a nine-person Board, with 3-year terms, so every year, 3 positions come open. For this year, the slate includes Brenda Feuer, who is renewing, along with 2 newcomers, Nancy Frendenber and Ellen Sobol. After the election, officers will be chosen by the new Board. Please come to the meeting to show your support for the new Board.

Although I will not be on the Board any-



Michael Sofman
President, JGSBC

more, I will continue to be active and help out where needed. I thank you all for your support over the past few years, and I hope that you've enjoyed the programs and services that we've been trying to provide. Take care and have a Happy Chanukah.

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Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 pm, Soref JCC

"I Chose Life"

Mildred Nitzberg (plus Board Election)

Sunday, December 20, 12 noon, Brimstone Woodfire Grill

Annual Anniversary Luncheon with Seth Bramson

"L'Chaim: The History of the Jewish Community of Greater Miami"

Program Notes

by Marty Shames

On November 22, we were treated to a wonderful presentation by Daniel Shoer-Roth, columnist for the Miami Herald and El Nuevo Herald. He discussed his trip to Poland to learn more about his grandfather's life in Poland before and during WWII. He talked about how some of his expectations for the trip came up against reality. For example, he had success finding his grandfather's birth certificate and saw the house he lived in. He was disappointed when he visited Auschwitz, however, feeling that the sanitized and commercialized treatment of it trivializes the memory of those who perished there. As many of us have learned by experience, he wishes that the last place he visited, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, had been the first. He saw that there is so much to learn and this short trip exposed only the

"tip of the iceberg." A special treat about his presentation was that he shared the podium with his mother, who shared some of her memories with us as well. Please see later in this newsletter reprints of some of the articles the Daniel has written about his Jewish Heritage and his trip.

As usual, we have some excellent meetings coming up. On Wednesday evening, December 16, Mildred Nitzberg, PhD will discuss her book, *I Chose Life*, which delves into the life of her husband, Saul Nitzberg, a longtime Hollywood cardiologist and Holocaust survivor. It is a fascinating story that reads like a novel. Then, on Sunday, December 20th, we will be having our 21st Annual Anniversary Luncheon with special guest, Seth Bramson, Miami City Historian and an excellent speaker.



Daniel Shoer-Roth with his mother, Karin Roth

See the flyers later in this issue for more details. Reservations are needed for the luncheon and should be in ASAP. Hope to see you there!

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

Editor Michael Sofman
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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

Membership

We warmly welcome our newest members:

Jack and Audrey Goldstein

Dear Members:

Our membership renewal drive is underway - please don't delay - send in your dues now - we have some very special topics and speakers planned for 2010.

Our membership is 70 strong, but we are always looking to increase membership. Please help spread the word by encouraging friends

and family to attend our monthly meetings and help them get started on their own rewarding family search.

Finally, we wish to remind 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)389-7392 (evenings) or by email: pinskyr@ccf.org

Best wishes,
Rosa Pinsky
Membership Chair

Miami Herald Articles by Daniel Shoer-Roth

Sunday, August 24, 2008

The Miami Herald

SECRET EXODUS, A NEW LIFE

BY DANIEL SHOER ROTH dshoer@elNuevoHerald.com

It was April 1961, Havana, Cuba. Lilian Brinberg, 15-year-old daughter of Eastern European Jewish immigrants, had just been told some stunning news. She and her younger sister, Silvia, would be leaving their parents, their friends and the only home they had ever known to fly to Miami, unaccompanied, and live with strangers in a foster home.

And so, the Brinberg sisters became part of a little-known chapter of Cuba's history: the Jewish kids of Pedro Pan -- the Catholic Church-sponsored effort to spirit unaccompanied Cuban children to the United States under the noses of the Castro government. Because it was run by the archdiocese in Florida and most children were cared for by Catholic social services, it has been assumed that the 14,048 who made the journey through Pedro Pan were Catholic.

In fact, 396 Jewish kids joined the exodus. For many -- the children of families decimated and divided by the Holocaust and that thought they had found paradise in pre-Castro Havana -- the journey culminated a double diaspora. In Miami, they would struggle with the language, with the separation from loved ones, and with their diminished status in a new land.

"When the reality hit home, I started crying," said Elio Penso, who fled at 17 with his sister, Lily. "I had never been without mommy and daddy for an entire weekend; I had never been on an airplane. Boarding that airplane, I lost my school, country, family, friends, toys, everything."

Ultimately, the young Jews would find their footing in South Florida, reuniting with parents, adapting to new surroundings, growing up, prospering, and building a bedrock institution of the Jewish and Cuban communities -- the Cuban Hebrew Congregation of Miami, also known as "The Circle."

A few of them would also start a Cuban-oldies band called The Bagels.

CHILDREN 'MISSING'

Early in 1961, the children at Havana's bar-mitzvah club began to notice their numbers dwindling at Hebrew study. The Sunday gathering at the Patronato House of the Hebrew Community Center was a popular ritual, after which their parents would let the kids go on their own to the Wakamba restaurant and catch a movie at the Roxy Theater. "No one knew why more kids were missing each time," Lilian Brinberg recalled. "Because everything was very hush-hush."

But soon she would know. On March 27, her parents, Elias and Zelda, who ran a small tailor shop specializing in men's slacks, gathered the children in the living room and told them the news. The two sisters would have to leave their present lives behind. "I cried my eyes out," Lilian said. "I never wanted to come." On April 15, they boarded a Cubana de Aviación plane.

Pedro Pan -- a name coined by Miami Herald reporter Gene Miller and inspired by the fairy tale about a boy who could fly -- was well under way, having started the day after Christmas, 1960.

The secretive airlift was initiated amid fears that Cuba, under Fidel Castro, would strip parental rights away and send children to work and study under the regime's control. Those fears may have been more acute among Cuban Jews, a community estimated at 15,000 by the late 1950s. Although a significant number had come from the Middle East, many were Holocaust survivors who traveled alone to the island after seeing their families ripped apart by the Nazis. To the Jews of Cuba, especially those who had fled the Holocaust, the United States was the ultimate destination -- or at least that's what they hoped. But immigration restrictions kept them out, at least in the short term. Then they began to develop an attachment to the island. "More than a refuge, they found a paradise," said Ruth Behar, a University of Michigan anthropologist who has done research on the Jews of Cuba.

SIMILAR SCENARIO

To those dislocated by World War II, the upheaval of Castro's revolution seemed sickeningly familiar, said Valery Bazarov, a historian for the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society. "It was like *déjà vu*," he said. When word of the airlift filtered into the Jewish community, the New York-based Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society provided the means to make the crossing, helping the young Jews with necessary documents and basic needs -- and sometimes paying the bill for the transportation. Since its founding in 1881, the organization has provided essential services to world Jewry through its mission of rescue, reunion and resettlement.

It's a mystery why the exodus of these children during Operation Pedro Pan has produced so little recognition outside Jewish circles. Marcos Kerbel, president of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation and a Pedro Pan Cuban himself, attributes the silence to the low profile the Jewish community in Cuba had traditionally maintained for fear of reprisals. Documents from the archives of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society in New York, dusted off as a result of a recent *El Nuevo Herald* request, tell the story of the Pedro Pan Jews and establish that 396 made the journey.

What's clear is that the experience of the Pedro Pan Jews was a bit different from that of the Catholics who made up the bulk of the group. While Catholic children without friends or family in the United States were sent to provisional campgrounds, the Jewish children were placed directly with Jewish foster families in South Florida and elsewhere. The resettlement was supervised by Jewish Family and Children's Services, which met them at Miami International Airport. Each month, Jewish Services social workers visited the children individually to find out how they were feeling and what they needed. Living expenses were reimbursed by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

On arrival in South Florida, the Brinberg sisters lived with a foster family in Westchester. Lilian Brinberg graduated from Southwest Miami Senior High School. Their parents would follow them to Miami, arriving in September 1962. Adapting to life in the United States required an abrupt change of habits, especially for those who had prospered in Cuba. Alberto Bender, who was 12 at the time he made the move to Miami, noted: "In Cuba, I lived like a king. I had a bodyguard. I didn't lack anything. "Not so in his new land.

ROOTS REPLANTED

After a while, Miami did start to feel like home for the displaced Jewish children. They began to meet on Sunday afternoons at Ocean Drive and 14th Street in Miami Beach, in the salt-sea air under the palm trees, evoking happier times in Havana. It was a long way, literally and figuratively, from the bar-mitzvah club in Havana, which had met at the luxurious Patronato House.

One Sunday, while strolling at Washington Avenue and 15th Street, they discovered a small, dim place in an arcade. They called the empty storefront "The Cave." The children showed it to Cuban Jewish adults in the community, and they were soon renting it out. That's where the seed of the Cuban Hebrew Congregation was planted. On weekends, the kids would bring a record player to dance and sets of dominoes to play. With time, they formed The Bagels, a band that recaptured memories from Old Cuba -- with classics like *Guantanamera* and *Son de la Loma* -- and Israeli folk music.

"We always tried to organize activities to keep us united," said Raul Gorfinkel, who was then the unofficial driver, as he was the only one with a car.

In 1975, after renting a succession of spaces throughout Miami Beach, they built a small temple at 1700 Michigan Ave. A decade later, they inaugurated the main synagogue, and the banquet hall of the congregation, currently with a membership of 420 families. The original temple functions today as a chapel, decorated with multicolored stained glass depicting Old Jerusalem.

SENSE OF COMMUNITY

Three Pedro Pan kids have been president of the congregation's board of directors. Despite the sorrow of having to leave everything behind, they became successful, and re-created the sense of community they once enjoyed in Cuba. It wasn't easy at first. "We were Jewish and Cuban, and we didn't find a lot of acceptance," Gorfinkel said.

However, as Jews have for generations, they overcame adversity and displacement -- especially those whose parents would later follow them to South Florida -- in the land that became their new home. "We didn't have anything," Elio Penso said. "But we were happy the four of us were together."

Saturday, June 6, 2009

The Miami Herald

Death camp has been trivialized

BY DANIEL SHOER dshoer@ElNuevoHerald.com

KRAKOW, Poland -- Near this majestic medieval city are the ruins of Auschwitz, the world's largest cemetery, a witness to the degradation mankind is capable of. To me, some of whose ancestors probably were annihilated in its gas chambers, the mere name of that extermination camp had always caused shivers, confusion, resentment. I had to pull myself together emotionally to travel there. Perhaps because of my expectations -- and those of anyone else with sensitivity -- I anticipated that the experience would make me feel the tragedy in an unknown dimension. Surely, it would cut deeper than the Holocaust Memorial Miami Beach and any other remembrance museum I might ever had visited in the United States, Germany and Israel.

To the contrary, I experienced the most crushing disappointment of my recent trip to Poland and the Holy Land. The graveless graveyard had been turned into a Disney-like tourist attraction; it had been spruced up and trivialized with little maps, even souvenirs. Hordes of visitors snapped pictures of each other, smiling, inside the crematoria. Others munched on potato chips and swigged soda as they strolled through the gas chambers. Their chattering shattered the desired silence, and there was no one to ensure that the solemnity of the place be respected.

The redeeming aspect of the visit, however, is that millions of people can verify by touring Auschwitz that the Nazi Holocaust is not a harebrained invention. That's an anti-Semitic claim that is heard frequently now, just when the sands of time are running out for the survivors.

I understand that, because of my background, I may be more susceptible than most visitors. But who can feel contemplative in the place where more than a million people died if the person to your side shoves you away so he can enter first? Painful to admit, the Holocaust has been rendered banal and commercial in Poland, and Auschwitz is the saddest manifestation of that phenomenon.

That doesn't mean that there aren't other sites that faithfully retain the spirit of suffering, like Majdanek, another infamous concentration camp outside Lublin. There, I could easily identify with the prisoners as I visited barracks that contained literally thousands of shoes that walked toward death while the whole world looked away. Auschwitz disturbed me because it has been converted into something artificial (some tours even combine a visit to the camp with a tour of the salt mines). It particularly disturbed me because of the contents of the exhibit, which offers a general description of the place's history but omits personal stories of the victims. That is where the soul of the Holocaust lies, a remembrance that we need to immortalize.

The Auschwitz State Museum has retained the format originally created by the communist government, which left no room for religious diversity and strictly forbade any mention of the Holocaust. For example, there are individual halls for countries where victims originated -- like Hungary, 437,000 of whose citizens died there -- but no mention that they were also Jews.

Returning to this former capital of Poland, I visited Kazimierz, the once-vibrant Jewish quarter, which still preserves some of its old buildings. I stayed there several days. As I walked down its picturesque streets, people asked me for directions and spoke to me in Polish. Because I've always felt like a wandering Jew, I was suddenly invaded by a feeling of belonging. I realized that not in vain did I walk on the land of my ancestors.

Daniel Shoer Roth, the grandson of Holocaust survivors, is El Nuevo Herald's Metro columnist.

Sunday, July 19, 2009

The Miami Herald

PIECES OF MY GRANDFATHER'S PAST

BY DANIEL SHOER-ROTH dshoer@EINuevoHerald.com

NOWY SACZ, Poland -- My grandfather Elias and I were always very close. More than grandfather and grandson, we were friends. In Venezuela, where I grew up, we had created our own little world. We would go get haircuts together at our favorite barber shop, even though he was practically bald. We used to sit side by side to read three newspapers and comment about them. From time to time, he taught me words in Yiddish, his first language. And behind my mom's back, he rewarded me with Swiss chocolates. However, Opa (the German word we used for Grandpa) never wanted to talk to me about his life in Poland. I couldn't draw from him a single anecdote from his youth. Nor did he want to say a single word in Polish. Almost his entire family died in the Nazi death camps. That was all the information he was willing to share.

This spring, on the 10th anniversary of his death, I traveled to Poland to learn more about his story. I wanted to understand the things that forged his personality and character -- for instance, what made him so sensitive to other people's suffering and why he always left behind money, anonymously, for those who needed it. At the same time I went to face the ghosts of the Holocaust.

PIECES OF PUZZLE

Although the Nazis often managed to erase their macabre tracks in places like Belzec, the concentration camp where my relatives were exterminated, I managed to rescue during that trip some of the loose pieces of my grandfather's life puzzle. At the majestic, neo-Renaissance City Hall on Nowy Sacz's main square, I demonstrated to the Civil Registrar that Elias Roth was my grandfather by providing the exact date of his birth, the names of my great-grandparents, my passport, the passport of my mother Karin and our respective birth certificates. I also carried my grandparents' Venezuelan marriage certificate, dated 1941, and Opa's death certificate. In a brown book, wrinkled by time, that listed only the births of Jews, I found his name -- Elisze, in Yiddish -- recorded in cursive Gothic lettering. I also found the date of his bris, or circumcision, his address, the occupation of his father, Ytzjak, the names of my great-great-grandparents and the date of my great-grandparents' marriage.

The registrar gave me proof of his birth registration but forbade me to photograph the original listing. I ran to Reynek 9, where Opa had lived, on a corner of a public square. The building had been completely renovated. I went up and down the stairs, leaned out the windows, touched the walls and transported myself to the era of his childhood. Finally, I had arrived in a place so remote -- and so close -- that was part of my heritage.

THE ORIGINS

My grandfather arrived in Venezuela in 1942, fleeing Nazism. He was intent on forging a new future so we, his descendants, could grow in a free society where Jews were respected and granted the same rights as everyone else. That equality was unknown to him. From childhood, he had witnessed anti-Semitic attacks in Poland. His community suffered considerably under Russian occupation during World War I and later, as a consequence of the anti-Jewish policies instituted by the Polish government. Numerous families -- particularly religious ones, like his -- became destitute.

He was able to get out of Poland in the mid-1930s when he was around 25. Along with an older brother, he moved to Antwerp, Belgium, to join an uncle in the diamond business. The move saved their lives. In 1939, the Nazis invaded Poland. The Jews of Sandz, as Nowy Sacz is called in Yiddish, were shoved into a ghetto and deprived of their rights and properties. They were subjected to humiliating forced labor. In 1940, the first public execution was carried out. Between Aug. 25 and 28, 1942, more than 90 percent of the Jewish community of 17,000 in Sandz and neighboring towns was transported to Belzec. Among them were my grandfather's parents and siblings.

In a way, my grandfather's story resembles that of thousands of survivors of the Nazi barbarity who lost everything in Europe and never reunited with their loved ones. They found it difficult to adapt in the Americas, not only because of language and cultural differences but because of the deep wounds they carried with them from the old country.

My grandfather divided his time between Caracas and Ciudad Bolívar, the gateway to the Amazon, where he traded raw diamonds, a business he kept up until his retirement, long before he died at age 88. After learning that his sweetheart Sophia, whom he had met during the war, had also survived and was living in Curacao, he invited her to Venezuela and asked her to marry him.

Venezuela had opened its doors to the war survivors. A Jewish colony had already been established, but the Venezuelans' acceptance and tolerance of Jews went back a lot further, to Simón Bolívar's quest for independence. Opa did not take long to prosper. My mother and my aunt benefited from a solid education, both secular and Jewish, that decades later was transferred to us. Like all grandfathers, Elias was proud of me. He had had much trouble learning Spanish while I wrote it with ease, being a native Spanish speaker. When I began to publish my first articles, at the age of 17, I added his surname to mine -- hence Shoer-Roth. I knew that, to him, that was one of the fruits of having escaped the Holocaust.

PERMANENT HOME

In a Europe where Jews had been at the mercy of monarchies for centuries, Poland had given them a permanent home since the 11th century. Before World War II, the Jewish community totaled 3.3 million, the largest in the Old Continent. That is partly why Polish Jews constituted the majority of the victims of Nazism. Of the six million Jews who were exterminated, three million were Polish.

Sandz was built in the 13th century in a valley surrounded by the Carpathian mountains near the border with the present Republic of Slovakia. The first Jews settled there in the 15th century, but it wasn't until the early 17th century, when epidemics and invasions by enemies ruined the local economy, that they were officially allowed to establish a community. The history of Sandz illustrates the history of hundreds of shtetls, or Jewish hamlets, that existed in Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe. The Jews were merchants, lenders, farmers, manual laborers. Their taxes represented an important source of revenue for the local governments. They lived in a world separate from that of their neighbors. They spoke a different language and competed in business with the Gentiles.

My grandfather was born on April 13, 1911, to a Hassidic family. Like every other religious child at the time, he studied at the cheder, where he was taught only Hebrew studies. His father manufactured material for shoes. In his teenage years, Opa had to abandon his studies so he could work with his father. No family photos, no letters, no souvenirs of that period remain. The most youthful image of my grandfather I have -- a photograph dated 1944 -- shows him wearing black knee-high boots outside a hut somewhere in the Amazon jungle.

THE LEGACY

Jakub Müller does not want the story about the Jews from Nowy Sacz to be forgotten. At age 88, he is one of the shtetl's last witnesses. He visits it every year, resuming contact with his past so that he can preserve what, to him, is his most sacred treasure: the Jewish cemetery, restored with his own hands. Müller is energetic, charismatic and intense. He likes to recall anecdotes from his youth. As he tells them, his blue eyes moisten. He survived the Holocaust by hiding during the German occupation. In 1969, he emigrated with his wife and children to Sweden, fleeing a harsh anti-Semitic campaign by the Communist government. When he returns to Sandz during the spring, the descendants of other Jews from the area come to ask if he remembers them.

"I think I knew the Roths, " he said to me in Polish, through an interpreter.

Why didn't my grandfather ever want to talk to me about this place?

"Maybe because he didn't feel connected," he answered.

I accompanied him to the small Sandz Synagogue, where he is the only parishioner. The synagogue is in a room in the first floor of a residential building. It has wooden benches and a simple altar with the Torah scrolls. I'm curious to learn why, if he

lost his family here, Müller keeps coming back to Nowy Sacz.

"I am accustomed to this place," he says. "My heart is here."

To end the trip, I knocked at the door of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw, where 10 centuries of Jewish presence in Poland are documented. "Why are you here?" Anna Przybyszewska, director of the Genealogy Project of the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, asked me.

"I came to find out what my grandfather never told me about his past," I answered.

"And what did you find?"

"I found his birth listing, visited the house where he grew up and got an idea of what the Sandz shtetl was like by talking to one of its last witnesses."

Przybyszewska looked at me with skepticism.

"Is that all?" she asked.

Suddenly, I felt a sense of emptiness. I realized that I had only seen the tip of the iceberg. I could have examined the state archives of the Polish government. I needed to better recreate the atmosphere of Opa's childhood by collecting more testimonies.

"You came for a very short time," Przybyszewska said. "You need at least a year. It all depends on how important this is for you."

I felt frustrated. It is very important for me, I told her.

Not only because of my closeness to Elias but also for the commitment I have as a Jew -- and a journalist -- to the history of my people. Hundreds of relatives of my four grandparents died during the Holocaust. I have a moral obligation to work so their memory will not also perish.

In retrospect, the visit made me even more aware of my responsibility.

I know that my grandfather is still proud of me. Not only because I am his only male grandchild, because I know how to write in Spanish and was his inseparable friend but also because I'm trying to rescue his story. This is only the beginning.

Daniel Shoer-Roth is El Nuevo Herald's Metro columnist.

Library News

We have some interesting books that you should be aware of and come in to browse through. Remember, our hours are on Tuesdays, from 10 to 12, or an hour before each meeting at the Soref Center. Or, if you contact me or leave a message, I can meet you at Soref at a convenient time for both of us.

The books I'm referring to are "**Dating Old Photographs**", "**500 Brickwall Solutions**", and "**Ships of Our Ancestors**".

In "**Dating Old Photographs**", the soft back, 8 1/2 x 11 book shows many examples of old style family portraits and groupings and tells what features to look for to assign them to certain periods of time such as clothing, jewelry, furniture, and backdrops. It's quite interesting to see how values changed over the years as people wanted their families remembered.

The book entitled "**500 Brickwall Solutions**" is a compilation of reader's advice and suggestions on their methods of solving problems that hindered their genealogical progress. Some of them are very funny and some

are quite clever and some might help you out in your searches!

The last book "**Ships of Our Ancestors**" is on order from Avotaynu. It contains illustrations of close to 900 ships along with the picture of the ship, and the year that it was launched. All of these ships have now been junked for salvage or been lost at sea. Only these pictures remain. These pictures would be a wonderful addition to any genealogical presentation or book that you're putting together. Together with "They Came in Ships", you can have a real record, along with your ship manifest, of your ancestors' journey to the United States. It's going to be a wonderful acquisition to our Library!

We hope that you'll have a chance to visit soon. And, if you have some spare time (and no longer used research books or bookcases or you can translate Yiddish or Hebrew), we could use your help in our Library to rearrange books. Just give me a call at 954-741-8368.

Thanks, in advance
Brenda Feuer
Rhoda Horwitz

Speakers Bureau

We have had many requests from outside groups recently. Bob Koltnow will be speaking to the following groups in the coming months:

Sunday, December 6, 10:30 A.M. - Lauderdale Culture Club, Lauderdale West, Sunrise

Brenda Feuer will be speaking as well:

Sunday, December 12, 10:30 A.M.- Open Forum at the Soref JCC

**If you'd like to come to our meetings, but are unable to because of
TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, please let us know, because there are
RIDES AVAILABLE!**

**Please contact Rosa Pinsky, our Membership Chair, at
rpinsky@jgsbc.org,
or call our Information Line at 954-873-4403**



Start making
your plans now
for the next IAJGS
conference, in
Los Angeles, July
11-16, 2010.

www.jgsla2010.com

IT'S FREE!

Do you subscribe to
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scribers with recent-breaking news of
interest to Jewish genealogists.
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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.



back
navi-

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

Tidbits

By Bernie Kouchel

Free Genealogy Software:

RootsMagic Essentials (<http://www.rootsmagic.com>, click on "Free Download") and Legacy Family Tree 7.0 (<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com>). These are both Windows programs. I can't decide between these two. They are both great programs but are quite different from each other. Both have free editions available and both are quite powerful. I am amazed that these companies produce such good software free of charge. You might want to upgrade someday to the paid versions but many people never will. These free versions are that good and both are much better than any other free Windows genealogy program I know of.

The only free Macintosh genealogy program I would consider is Personal Ancestry Writer II (often

called PAW2U). It is a good genealogy program that does all the basics and it is available free of charge. However, it does not contain all the advanced features of the free Windows genealogy programs, such as RootsMagic Essentials and Legacy Family Tree 7.0. Personal Ancestry Writer II is available at <http://www.lanopalera.net/Genealogy/AboutPAWriter.html>. [Source: Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter]

Family Tree Maker announces program update for v2010. Read more in the [Ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) blog at <http://tinyurl.com/vcn4qdt>

Don't miss this short, exceptional Holocaust related YouTube video entitled *Jai/Chai*, presented by the San Francisco Jewish Film Festival. Spanish with English subtitles. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=naIP2eUADTQ>

WANTED: Bookcases!!

If you have any empty or unwanted bookcases, we could use them in our library. Please contact our librarian, Rhoda Horwitz at rhorwitz@jgsbc.org or (954)741-8368. Thank you.



Check out
our Events
Calendar at
www.jgsbc.org/helios/events

Nu? What's New? (excerpted)

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Volume 10, Number 24 | November 16, 2009

Research in Argentina

It is said that every Jew has a relative in Israel. I sometimes wonder if this is also true of Argentina. Alberto Guido Chester of Buenos Aires recently posted to JewishGen a discourse on the major online Jewish genealogical resources in Argentina. He noted that the Argentine Jewish Community is large, perhaps a half a million in the 1960s and now 300,000. Here are some of the resources.

AMIA. The Argentinean Jewish community association is called Asociación Mutual Israelita Argentina (AMIA). Its Internet site is <http://www.amia.org.ar>. The site includes burials at four cemeteries in the city of Buenos Aires. The majority of Jews in Argentina lived and now live in this city, according to Chester. The database is not complete. Some names may not appear, especially older burials. AMIA does have the names of those not appearing.

CEMLA. Centro de Estudios Migratorios Latinamericanos (CEMLA) is devoted to information about immigrants. Its Internet site is <http://www.cemla.com/home.php>. Included is a database of surnames of persons extracted from passenger arrival records and the number of persons who arrived with that surname. The count for "Levy" is 875. To perform a search, from the home page click on the image that says "Búsqueda del Arribo Inmigrantes" (Search immigrant arrivals). On the following page, key in a surname where it says "Apellido" (name) and then click "Consulta Apellido." If you provide only the initial letters of the name, the results include all names that start with the search parameter. For example, searching for "Mokot" produced results that showed (name followed by the number of records in parentheses): Mokotof (1), Mokotor (1), Mokotor de Cohan (1), Mokotow (1) and Mokotowicz (3). Clearly the first three are misspellings of "Mokotoff."

CEMLA will provide a transcript of the actual record—not a copy of the document—for a fee. The information provided includes family name, first name, country of birth, marital status, age at arrival, profession, religion, port of shipment, ship's name, date of arrival (sometimes also members of family travelling together). Some of the information may be missing from the record. Town or province of origin exists only from 1923 and is sometimes missing.

Additional ordering information can be found at a link located in the box below the area where search information is given. The box has the heading "Explicativo." At the very bottom of that box is a link identified (in English) as "Non-residents of Argentina, please click here." The cost is €17.

Online telephone directory. Located at <http://www.teexplorer.com.ar>. This is the current phone book for all of Argentina. Alberto Chester claims that Argentines move very little in comparison to Americans, so "it is probable a family will be living at the same address found in an old letter and [they kept] the same phone number as 30 years ago." The country code for Argentina is 54, Buenos Aires city area code is 11 and then the local number. If the phone number is more than ten years old, Chester states it may be necessary to add a 4 to the beginning of the local number.

New Records at JewishData.com

Jewishdata.com contains a mélange of records of interest to Jewish family history research. It is a fee-for-service site. Recent additions include:

- More than 20,000 images from Washington Cemetery in Brooklyn. This brings the total for this location to 74,000
- More than 5,000 images from the Baron Hirsch cemetery in Staten Island, New York
- Several thousand new images from the Baron De Hirsch cemetery in Montreal, Canada
- More than 25,000 images from Chicago's Rosehill, Rosemont Park, and Waldheim cemeteries.
- A small but historic batch of images from several Ukraine cities including Berdychiv, Medzhibozh and Nizhyn. To view these records enter "Ukraine" in the location field.

Planned acquisitions include:

- An additional 60,000 images from Chicago's Waldheim cemetery
- Thousands more images from Staten Island
- Images of the entire old Back River cemetery in Montreal
- Several old books on Jewish communities in New York, Boston, and Baltimore.

News from Footnote.com

Holocaust data. Due to the great interest demonstrated to date, [Footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) has extended free access to its Holocaust collection until the end of the year. After that date it will become part of their subscription service. For information about the collection read *Nu? What's New?* Volume 10, No. 20 at <http://www.avotaynu.com/nu/V10N20.htm>.

Census data. Numerous organizations are making U.S. census images available online, and Footnote.com has decided to join the party—with an enhancement. Their version will be interactive. Footnote will allow any paid subscriber to add photos, documents, stories or other facts about a person to the census record. There will be a mechanism to link families together that appear in the census. An “I’m Related” button provides a method for people to show relations and actually use the census records to make connections with others that may be related to the same person.

Footnote.com has already completed census collections for 1930 and 1860 with plans to do other censuses. Additional information can be found at <http://www.footnote.com/census/>.

Jewish Conference in Jamaica

A suggestion to the planners of the annual conference. It would be nice to hold the conference on a warm Caribbean island. On January 12–14, 2010, an international conference will be held in Kingston, Jamaica, that will explore the history, culture, and identity of Caribbean Jewry. Titled “The Jewish Diaspora of the Caribbean” it includes a Sephardic genealogy workshop. The host is the United Congregation of Israelites in Jamaica. Additional information can be found at <http://www.ucija.org/conferenceaa.htm>.

News from the SIGs

SIGs are Special Interest Groups primarily focusing on geographic areas of ancestry. You can subscribe to their Discussion Groups at <http://lyris.jewishgen.org/ListManager>. A log in is required. You can link to the SIG home pages from <http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/sigs.htm>. There are also more than 80 Jewish Genealogical Societies throughout the world. A list of societies can be found at <http://www.iajgs.org/members/members.html>.

Hungarian SIG. Approximately 15,000 birth, marriage and death records have been added to the All-Hungary Database. Records have been added from Ajak; Anarcs; Apagy; Balkany; Beregszasz, including records from Mező-Vári and Mező-Kászony; Bonyhad, both Neolog and Orthodox communities; Miskolc; Orasvar; Rajka; and Stropkov. With the addition of these records, all Miskolc birth records (1835–1895) have been transcribed. The Beregszasz records are the first records available from Sub-Carpathian Ukraine. The database is located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary/>

Latvia SIG. The English translation of the book, *Churbn Lettland: The Destruction of the Jews of Latvia* by Max Kaufmann, is now available online at <http://www.jewsoflatvia.com/index.html>. Susan Kan Rotsztajn, in her introduction on the website, calls the book a well-documented and erudite testimonial of the horrors that took place in Latvia during the Holocaust. Each of the fifteen parts of the book can be downloaded as PDF files and/or the entire book can be downloaded as a single file.

Litvak (Lithuania) SIG. In the last issue of *Nu? What's Nu?*, I noted the importance of volunteering time and money to developing databases located on JewishGen. Here is an example. LitvakSIG has 12 District Research Groups (DRG) matching administrative districts (*uyezds*) of the Russian Empire period (1795–1917). They focus primarily on translating revision lists (censuses), family lists, tax lists and voter lists for the entire district, including all shtetls in the district. The premise on which DRGs are organized is that families often lived in one shtetl but were officially registered in another one or had extended family within a close geographic area. Collecting and researching on the district level is generally more fruitful than narrowly focusing only on the shtetl a family was “from.”

Qualified contributors for a given DRG are rewarded with Excel files of all records translated for that district and new translations generated from available funds. The qualification level varies by district but is generally \$100 per district and \$200 for the Telsiai and Vilnius districts. Smaller donations can be made over time to build up to the qualification level. Data is provided to the qualified contributors at least one year before it is made publicly available on the All-Lithuania Database (“ALD”). This week 30,000 lines of new data have become available to the public because of the work of these Districts, their coordinators and the generosity of their contributors. It is now searchable via the ALD. The new data comes from shtetls in the districts of Kaunas, Oshmiany, Siauliai, Trakai, Telsiai, Vilnius, Ukmerge and Zarasai.

You can make a monetary contribution at <http://www.litvaksig.org>.

Ukraine SIG. An article at the Internet site of the Federation of Jewish Communities of the CIS states that the Jewish Community of Zhitomir has begun a project to restore and preserve approximately 1,500 Jewish cemeteries scattered throughout Ukraine. The article can be read at <http://www.fjc.ru/news/newsArticle.asp?AID=1018345>.

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Documenting History

Of all the articles I have written, the one I consider most important was published in AVOTAYNU in 1995 titled “The Mormon/Jewish Controversy: What Really Happened.” It is reproduced at <http://www.avotaynu.com/mormon.htm>. When the news media found out in 1994 that the Mormon Church had posthumously baptized hundreds of thousands of Jews murdered in the Holocaust, they stated that this was discovered by the Holocaust survivor community. This was historically inaccurate. The controversy started two years earlier when the Jewish genealogical community discovered the baptisms, and they went public with the information in 1994 when the Church said they were going to do nothing about it.

Now another important event—how the archives of the International Tracing Service was opened to the public—has been properly documented by Paul Shapiro, the man who is given credit for making it happen. Shapiro has written a lengthy article in *Reform Judaism* where he describes the years of effort and obstacles thrown in the path. It can be read at <http://reformjudaismmag.org/Articles/index.cfm?id=1531>. It becomes clear from the article that one of the major obstacles was the International Committee of the Red Cross, whose sole role was to operate ITS, not make policy decisions.

Now word is trickling back from current users of ITS that they may be returning to the old days when obstacles were placed in the path of people trying to determine the fate of loved ones. The villain again seems to be the ICRC. Evelyn Haendel, who was recently appointed Director of Family Tracing Services for the Hidden Child Foundation, was told by ICRC that they will not process her inquiries unless she produced a document from the family she is trying to help authorizing Haendel; to act on their behalf. They also wanted their inquiry form signed by a family member, not Haendel. Israel Pickholz of Jerusalem posted a statement on JewishGen that he ran into a similar obstacle. He concluded, “I had thought those days were behind us. Has anyone else entered this time machine? Does anyone know what buttons to push to get them back on track?” There now are rumors that German privacy laws will be the norm for determining who can have access to what.

The fact is that ITS is shooting themselves in the foot. With copies of the files now in the hands of institutions in Belgium, Israel, Poland and the United States, people will turn to these facilities for answers. Haendel has already turned to the U.S. Holocaust Museum for help finding family for Hidden Children to avoid the ITS red tape.

When I visited ITS in May 2008, some of the employees confided that they were a bit concerned about losing their jobs because the files were now available elsewhere and, therefore, the number of inquiries to ITS would decline. Placing obstacles in the path of inquirers will guarantee that ITS will be abandoned as a resource for Holocaust-related information.

Historic Jewish Press Internet Site

Articles from the *Palestine Post*, predecessor to the world-famous Jerusalem Post, have been available on the Internet for a number of years. Now other Jewish publications have been digitized and indexed and are available at a “Historic Jewish Press” site. To date there are 11 publications including the *Palestine Post* 1932–1950, *Bulletin of the Alliance Israélite Universelle* (1860–1913) and *Ha-Magid* 1856–1903. A complete list, as well as links, to each publication can be found at <http://jpress.huji.ac.il/cross-section/allpub-en.asp>.

Dropbox

Dick Eastman, who publishes [Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter](#), made his readers aware of an amazing piece of software called Dropbox that solves two very important considerations in proper computer data management: backup and access to data on multiple computers. Eastman commented in his column, “It is hard for me to think of using any computer without this program.” He is right.

If you have both a laptop and a desktop computer, it is almost certain you have transferred data between the two. Dropbox will do it automatically. How many have been burned by a computer crash without backup, or even if you do judiciously backup every day, as I do, you still lose all activity from the overnight backup until the time of day that the

computer crashed. Dropbox solves the problem by keeping your two (or more) computers in sync so that if one fails, that file you just updated and saved only 60 seconds ago is now mirrored in your other computer.

Do you keep your genealogical data on your home computer but find it useful to have it on the laptop when you go to a research facility or a genealogical conference? After having previously set up Dropbox properly, turn on your laptop and Dropbox will automatically update it to the contents of your home computer. Update the files on the laptop with what was accomplished at the research site, and when you get home, Dropbox will have already updated your files on the home computer.

Here is how it works. When you install Dropbox, it creates a new directory called "My Dropbox." The installer foolishly places in some remote spot. Instead, when installing, place the directory in your root directory (normally C:). Once installed, copy any files you want to share with other computers into the My Dropbox directory. Set up subfolders if you want to store these files by type. Do the same with a second computer, and Dropbox will initially synchronize the two My Dropbox directories.

Dropbox gives you, at no charge, 2GB of space on their servers. For only \$99 per year, you can have 50GB of space. I do not have 50GB of data files on my computers. All the back issues of AVOTAYNU, all the back issues of FGS FORUM, all the files for the 58 books Avotaynu has published to date, plus all my other word processing documents, only take about 20GB of space. I now can have all this data backed up external to my computers and accessible on any of my computers. I don't have the courage to do it, but properly I should put all my data files under the My Dropbox directory. This would keep my home and office computers in sync.

I tried to fool Dropbox but couldn't. I renamed a file on my office computer. When I got home, my home computer also had the file renamed. I moved a file to a different directory. It also did it on my other computer. I have not rigorously tried all possible ways of fooling the system, but it appears the system is well thought out.

Oh yes, to add icing to the cake, Dropbox saves your changed files on its server for 30 days. This means if you get into a situation where you want to undo the saving of a file, you can retrieve an earlier edition from the Dropbox server.

You can download Dropbox at <http://dropbox.com>.

Survey on American Jewish Language Use

How do American Jews speak English? Who uses Hebrew and Yiddish words and New York regional features? When using Hebrew words, who prefers Israeli pronunciations and who prefers the Ashkenazic ones? Which Yiddish-origin features do some non-Jews use?

Two researchers from Hebrew Union College–Jewish Institute of Religion, linguist Sarah Bunin Benor and sociologist Steven M. Cohen, have released the results of a large-scale survey of Jews and non-Jews in the United States that addresses these questions. The online survey began in the summer of 2008 with an e-mail invitation to about 600 people, and within 6 weeks, over 40,000 people had participated.

Benor and Cohen found that American Jews use many Yiddish words and constructions within their English speech (such as *heimish*, *bashert*, "staying by them," and "she has what to say") and that many non-Jews use selected Yiddishisms (especially *klutz*, *shpiel*, and "money shmoney"). Most Yiddish words are more common in the older generations, but some (including *bentsh*, *leyn*, and *shul*) are increasing among younger Jews who attend synagogue frequently. American Jews, especially those who have spent time in Israel or are highly engaged in religious life, also pepper their English with Hebrew and Aramaic words (including *yofi*, *balagan*, *davka*, and *kal vachomer*). Jews with different social networks have different understandings of the meanings of certain words (such as whether *schmooze* means 'chat' or 'kiss up'). Outside of New York, Jews are more likely than non-Jews to use certain New York regional pronunciations, such as pronouncing "orange" as "AH-range." And Jews are somewhat more likely than non-Jews to report that they have been told that they interrupt too much.

A summary of the survey results can be found at <http://huc.edu/survey/09/docs/Survey%20popular%20paper%20final.pdf>. A more detailed description of the project can be found at <http://huc.edu/survey/09/>.

JGSBC Program Calendar

www.jgsbc.org/helios/events

Wednesday, December 16, 7:00 pm Soref JCC
"I Chose Life"

Mildred Nitzberg (plus Board election)

Sunday, December 20, 12 noon
Brimstone Grill, Pembroke Gardens Mall
L'Chaim! The History of the Jewish Community
Of Greater Miami
Seth Bramson

Sunday, January 17, 1pm
Alvin Sherman Library of NSU
Biblical Genealogy
Rabbi Edward Davis

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.

P.O. Box 17251

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318

Phone: 954-873-4403 Fax: 954-577-9247

Email: info@jgsbc.org

www.jgsbc.org

JGSBC

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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?

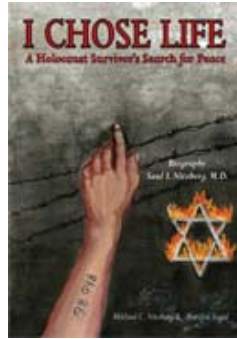
Put them to good use by donating them to the JGSBC Library.

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



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

“I Chose Life”



Mildred Nitzberg

Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 7:00 p.m.

Soref JCC

6501 Sunrise Blvd.

Plantation

Please join us as Mildred talks about the life of her husband, Saul Nitzberg, Holocaust survivor and long-time Hollywood cardiologist. Here's a little about the book, in her own words:

Shortly after my husband had passed away my dear friend and co-author, Dr. Marilyn Segal, approached me. She and her children wanted to gift me and my children with a book, the story of my husband's life. She wanted me to write the book with her, and I agreed.

Trained to collect the oral histories of survivors of the Holocaust, I had spent many hours interviewing my husband about his experiences before, during, and after World War II. I had also collected numerous photos, letters, documents, anything I felt my children would treasure. Dr. Segal and I agreed that no one could tell his story better than he, so we extrapolated his spoken words from the interviews, interlaced them with narrative, and used his words and all the resources I had to help us to tell about his remarkable life.

I Chose Life draws a picture of the struggle of my husband, Saul I. Nitzberg, M.D., as his privileged and peaceful life in a small town in eastern Poland was shattered by the inferno of World War II. From 1939 to 1945 he experienced life under Russian occupation, the Pruzhany ghetto, and Auschwitz. Following liberation from the concentration camp he worked prodigiously to rebuild his personal and professional life. Yet he was left with a lingering sense of a life not quite fulfilled, a gnawing ache that led him on a daunting journey to the Soviet Union in search of an elusive peace. He sought to find his brother, the sole remaining member of his family. Still unresolved, he returned to Auschwitz to face his nightmare years, to recite the Kaddish at that vast gravesite where his beloved parents were buried.

Mildred Nitzberg



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

Cordially Invites You to Our

Annual Anniversary Luncheon

Sunday, December 20, 2009, 12 noon

Brimstone Woodfire Grill

Pembroke Gardens Mall
Southeast corner of Pines Blvd and I-75
Pembroke Pines

With our special guest

Seth Bramson



"L'CHAIM! THE HISTORY OF THE JEWISH COMMUNITY OF GREATER MIAMI"

Seth Bramson is Miami's foremost and premiere historian. He is the most-published Greater Miami history book author in the country, with twelve of his 17 books dealing directly with the villages, towns, cities and people of Miami-Dade County.

He is the Company Historian of the Florida East Coast Railway—one of only two people in the country who bears that title with an American railroad—and his book, "Speedway to Sunshine" is the official history of that famous line. His collection of FEC Railway and Florida transportation memorabilia is the largest in the world: it is larger than the State Museum's collection and larger than the Flagler Museum's collection.

A graduate of Cornell University's famed School of Hotel Administration, he holds Masters degrees from St. Thomas University and Florida International University, both here in Miami.

He is Adjunct Professor of History and Historian in Residence at Barry University and Adjunct Professor of History at FIU, where he teaches all of the University's South Florida and Florida history courses. In addition he is Historian in Residence at FIU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

The founder of the Miami Memorabilia Collectors Club, his collection of Miami memorabilia and Floridiana is the largest in private hands in the country. He is now working on his 18th book, which will be titled "Hallandale Beach, Florida: For More Than 90 Years Broward County's City of Choice," and he is the author of more than seventy articles on South Florida local and Florida transportation history including three in juried or refereed publications. He has appeared as a featured guest or commentator on Florida history programs on A and E, Discovery Channel, Florida Public Broadcasting, Fox FX The Collectibles Show, History Channel, Learning Channel and Turner South Network as well as all five local Miami television stations.

Nationally recognized as Florida's leading transportation historian and South Florida's pre-eminent local historian he has been quoted frequently in newspapers throughout Florida as well as in "The New York Times" and "U. S. A. Today."

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 December 10 to:

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

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

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



**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 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