



Family Gatherings

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

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

Phone: 954-243-6063 www.jgsbroward.org Fax: 954-921-4733

E-mail: info@jgsbroward.org

Issue 2007 No. 1



January 2007

**NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 24TH, 7:00 PM
SOREF J.C.C**

President's Message

At our December meeting the membership voted on the three open director positions. Elaine Kaplan, who has been a valued and active member of the Board for many years and has served as secretary and as program and anniversary lunch chairperson, decided not to run for another term. I have had the pleasure and good fortune to work closely with Elaine and to attend several international conferences with her and with Ed Kaplan. Elaine always brought great dedication, enthusiasm and a commitment to getting the job done to every undertaking. And she was always there when you needed someone to make things happen. So speaking for myself and on behalf of the Board I take this opportunity to convey our sincere thanks and appreciation to Elaine for all that she has given to the society. We hope to continue to see Elaine and Ed at our monthly meetings and to learn more about their genealogical research.

I am pleased that Mike Sofman and Brenda Feuer have been reelected to new 3 year terms as directors. Thank you for your efforts in helping the society to grow and to expand our program offerings. We are pleased to welcome Annabelle Stanislaw as our new director. She has been a regular at our monthly meetings and I look forward to her active participation in our Board meetings and in our activities.

Your board meets monthly from September through June. The Board consists of 9 elected members. In addition, Bernie Kouchel, our founder and long time president, regularly attends Board meetings. The strong interest and commitment of our

(continued on next page)

Program Bob Koltnow, Chair

PROGRAMS FOR 2007

We have exciting and varied programs coming up in 2007, in our efforts to bring outstanding speakers to our podium, as we have in the past.

On Wednesday evening, January 24, 2007, we will have Judy and Bruce Borich from the Middle River Press. They have founded a local custom publishing house with a specialty of family histories. They will explain how you could tell your unique family story, even if you are not a writer, or simply have a box of old photos and letters. They could help you in drafting, editing, researching, designing and overseeing the printing of your family's history. We all know that documenting and publishing in some format would be the greatest gift you could give your future generations.

February, 2007 to be announced.

On Sunday, March 18, 2007, we will have Dr. Marianne Sanua, who teaches at Florida Atlantic University in the Department of History and the Jewish Studies Program. She will enlighten us as to Sephardic history and genealogy, which should prove to be a fascinating presentation.

And on Sunday, April 15, 2007, we are fortunate to have again from California, Ron Arons. He has earned degrees from Princeton University and the University of Chicago, and has given presentations at many international IAJGS Conferences, as well as around the country. We remember his entertaining genealogical study of Meyer Lansky and "Bugsy" Siegel.

(continued on next page)

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County usually meets on either the last Sunday or Wednesday of the month. Please check the Front Page for the exact time and location. The first 20-30 minutes of our meetings are devoted to “Brick Walls and Breakthroughs, where members share their successes or ask for help with their difficult genealogical problems. Guests are always welcome to participate in our programs.

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

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

OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

President/Director	Martin Shames
Vice Pres/Director	Jules Rosenthal
Secretary/Director	Joyce Ben-Ezra
Treasurer/Director	Brenda Feuer
Director	David Corito
Director	Rhoda Horwitz
Director	Robert Koltnow, Esq.
Director	Michael Sofman
Director	Annabelle Stanislaw

COMMITTEES

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

Past Presidents

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

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

(“Program” from previous page)

On this occasion, Ron will expand his presentation to discuss “Jewish” criminals in general, who had a large presence in 20th century history of our country.

And , finally, and what could be our “coup”, on Wednesday evening, May 9, 2007, we will have Daniel Mendelsohn, nationally known author, journalist and critic. He will talk about his latest best selling book, “The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million”. The Lost begins with Daniel’s grandfather’s stories and desperate letters written to him from his brother, who disappeared with his family in the Holocaust. Daniel began a quest to find out what happened to these “Lost” family members, which included the usual genealogical searches we all make, together with visitations to many countries to research archives and to interview potential witnesses to the tragedies that hit his “Lost” family. Unraveling the mystery made for a book that every genealogist must read.

Speaker’s Bureau

Bob Koltnow’s next presentation will be on Tuesday, January 23, at 7:30 pm before the Coral Springs Chapter of Hadassah. His topic will be “Where is it Written- You **Can** Trace Your Jewish Roots.”

If anyone knows of an organization that would like to have a presentation on Jewish genealogy, or if anyone is interested in making a presentation, please call Bob at 954-581-5252

(from page 1, President’s message)

Board is evidenced by almost 100% attendance by all members. At our December Board meeting we decided to almost double the budget for our programming activities and to increase the budget to further develop our website. We would like to hear from any members who are personally interested in or know of outside parties with web design or development skills.

We have monthly programs in place for January, April and May that will interest, educate and stimulate you. Programs for February and March will be announced shortly. Please check out the dates and speakers in Bob Koltnow’s program report and mark your calendars to attend.

Jules Rosenthal, director and vice president and long-time editor of the Family Gatherings newsletter, recently had major surgery. We send our deepest best wishes to Jules for a speedy and easy recuperation and an early return to active duty and to Dorothy, to Sherri and to all the Rosenthal family.

Marty Shames, President

LIBRARY NEWS

A very happy and healthy New Year to all JGSBC members! And, we'd like to suggest that one of your New Year's resolutions be a trip to our library. Remember, we're open every Tuesday morning from 10 to 12 AM and one hour before our regular meetings. That should give you a chance to explore our holdings and take notes for your genealogical research. And, if you have microfiche, we also have a reader that you can use.

Here are also some of the treasures that you'll find: We have a set of CD's published by the LDS which contains approximately 12 and a half million birth, christening, and marriage records for the following countries: Austria, Switzerland, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Baden, Bavaria, Oldenburg, Prussia, Italy, and Spain. We also have an Ancestry.com CD showing the 1920 Federal Census Index of Manhattan.

If you'd like to find out if others are researching your names or countries, look through the IAJGS Conference syllabuses that we have. They also contain abstracts of the speakers' lectures and valuable bibliographies and web sites.

And, one of our latest additions to our library is "Publishing Your Family History on the Internet". This book will help you to design your own Web site where you can publish your family history and have other people around the world discover it and possibly add additional material to it!

Future columns will highlight more books that might be helpful to you. Of course, we welcome any genealogical books that you might want to donate. Your donations will receive a tax-free donation slip that you can use on your next Income Tax return. We look forward to seeing you soon and helping you with your research.

Rhoda Horwitz
Brenda Feuer

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

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

Yizkor Book Project December 2006 report
from Joyce Field

In December 2006 we added three new books and nine new entries, and updated ten books. All translations are accessible at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html> and new materials have been flagged for easy identification.

Also, consult the Yizkor Book Database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/database.html> for the listing of known yizkor books and the Necrology Database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/yizkor/>, which indexes the names of persons in the necrology lists in the translated yizkor books at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html>.

"Jews of Czestochowa"

"The Jews of Czestochowa," an exhibition of photographs, documents, books, and memorabilia documenting pre-war Jewish life in Czestochowa, Poland, will be on display through Jan. 29 at the Alvin Sherman Library at Nova Southeastern University, 3100 Ray Ferrero Jr. Blvd, Davie.

The exhibit includes two videos about life before and during the Holocaust years with eyewitness recollections by former residents of the city.

The Sherman Library is open 9 a.m. - 8 p.m. weekdays and Saturdays, and 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Sundays. Free admission.

Membership

Please welcome our newest member, **Richard Coe**, of Hollywood. May your genealogical journey be fruitful!

Just a reminder that membership renewals are due for the year 2007. Most everyone has already renewed, but there are a few stragglers. Please get them in as soon as you can.

Michael Sofman

NU? WHAT'S NEW?
THE E-ZINE OF JEWISH GENEALOGY
Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Many Wikipedias for Genealogy

Jean-Pierre Stoweis, past president of the Israel Genealogy Society, notes that there are now three Wikipedias for genealogy; one each for English, French and Hebrew. They are located at:

English: 4,757 articles at <http://genealogy.wikia.com>

French: 44,688 articles at <http://www.geneawiki.com>

Hebrew: <http://genewiki.golan-law.co.il>

Wikipedias are encyclopedias where any person can contribute or edit an article. The most popular wikipedia, <http://www.wikipedia.com>, contains more than 3 million articles. The potential downside of these encyclopedias is that they may contain erroneous or fraudulent information. My personal use of wikipedia.com has found it to be highly accurate. A downside example is that recently I searched Google for sites that include the name "Mokotoff" and discovered that the Dutch version of wikipedia.com had an article named "Mokotoff." The Dutch language is sufficiently close to English, and I was able to determine that the article stated that Mokotoff was the name of a Jewish Mafia-like family that dealt in drug trafficking. I had the article removed from the site.

Shoah Victims' Names Database Grows and Grows

Since the Shoah Victims' Names Database went online in November 2004, Yad Vashem has added more than 500,000 additional records and has plans to add 1 million more in 2007. Yad Vashem is using a variety of sources such as yizkor books, which account for half of the names added since 2004. Archives director, Yaakov Lozowick, states that the most significant part of the story is that during the past 4-5 months, Yad Vashem has begun to systematically enter data from its archival collections (as opposed to Pages of Testimony or list projects done by others). Each personal record contains information about the individual and also about the document in which it is found, the file, and the collection. The file itself is scanned and connected to the typed data. The first group of entries done from the Yad Vashem collection is the reports of the Soviet Extraordinary Commission; the first 150,000 or so of these records should go online soon. You can link to the Shoah Victims' Names Database from the Yad Vashem Home Page at <http://www.yadvashem.org>. Click on the picture of the little girl.

U.S. Senator Calls for Rapid Release of ITS Records

Politicians are now calling for the rapid release to the public of the records of the International Tracing Service. U.S. Senator Joseph Biden of Maryland, who will chair the important Senate Foreign Relations Committee starting in 2007, is said to be pressing the governments who must approve the release to act quickly. He notes that the Holocaust population is elderly, and it is important that they gain access to these records as quickly as possible.

ITS Documentary Available on Internet

If you did not see the twelve-minute documentary on plans to give public access to the records of the International Tracing Service, it can be viewed on the Internet at http://www.cbsnews.com/sections/i_video/main500251.shtml?channel=60Sunday. Click the link that says "Nazi Archive Made Public." The program was part of a regular broadcast of the popular U.S. news program "60 Minutes" and featured three Holocaust survivors viewing for the first time documents of their imprisonment during the Holocaust period.

NU? WHAT'S NEW? (CONT'D)**Center for Jewish History Integrated Index Now Online**

The Center for Jewish History in New York now has an integrated online index to the holdings of the institutions located at the Center. This includes the American Jewish Historical Society, American Sephardi Federation, Leo Baeck Institute, Yeshiva University Museum and YIVO Institute for Jewish Research. Considering the diversity of these groups and their extensive holdings, the index provides an excellent source for determining what material is available on a given subject. The index can be accessed directly from <http://catalog.cjh.org>. The search engine appears to very flexible. It allows wild card searches and most languages including Yiddish and Hebrew. It can search over the entire contents of the catalog entry including author, title, subject and description. Certain collections at the Center are stand alone and have their own index which is not integrated into the combined index. For example, the combined index does not include YIVO's photographic collection, which can be found at <http://yivo1000towns.cjh.org>. This collection includes many photographs of the shtetls of Eastern Europe.

News from the SIGs

SIGs are Special Interest Groups primarily focusing on geographic area of ancestry. You can subscribe to their Discussion Groups at <http://lyris.jewishgen.org/ListManager>. A log in is required. You can link the SIG home pages from <http://www.jewishgen.org>.

JRI-Poland. The Jewish Records Indexing-Poland database now includes data indexed from all the LDS Microfilms for Lublin, Radzyn Podlaski, Zamosc and Gowarczew. Also additional data has been added for Warszawa and Sandomierz. More than 35,000 new indices are now available. German SIG. The Landesverband der Israelitischen Kultusgemeinden in Bayern (Association of Jewish Communities in Bavaria) has a web site at <http://ikg-bayern.de>. It includes names and addresses of the Jewish communities (Gemeinden), detailed and illustrated descriptions of the cemeteries (Friedhöfe), the latest issue of their publication "Jüdisches Leben in Bayern" (Jewish life in Bavaria) and other material. Hungarian SIG. The LDS (Mormon) Family History Library has added birth, marriage and death records for the Jewish population of a number of towns in the Slovak Republic. They include the towns of Brezova pod Bradlom, Casta, Chropov, Dunajska Streda, Nove Zamky, Prievidza, Sahy and Stara Lubovna.

Mormon/Jewish Controversy: The Problem That Won't Go Away Simon Wiesenthal "Baptized"

One of the most prominent Jews of the 20th century, Simon Wiesenthal, was discovered to be in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints International Genealogical Index (IGI), the database of deceased people for whom Mormon rituals have been or are about to be performed. When made aware of it, the Church removed the name and stated that Wiesenthal was never baptized. A person cannot appear in the IGI unless some Mormon ordinance has been performed or the person is "Cleared" for baptism. It is likely that only the discovery of Wiesenthal's name prevented the posthumous baptism from occurring. The Mormon Church claims the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution gives them the right to involve other people's families in their religion, apparently including the Wiesenthal family.

RECENT MEETING

ANNUAL LUNCHEON, DEC. 10, 2006, FEATURING SUZAN WYNNE, FOUNDER OF THE GALICIA SIG.



Suzan Wynne discussing her new book, "The Galitzianers: The Jews of Galicia"



New JGSBC Board member Annabelle Stanislaw



Our honored guests from our sister society, the JGS of Greater Miami



Bernie Kouchel and Elaine Kaplan blowing out our 18th anniversary candles

REGULAR MEETING, DEC. 20TH



Bob Koltnow discussing his 1968 visit to the Soviet Union and re-uniting his father with his siblings after 62 years.



Marty Zafman on tracing his family back to the mid- 1700's

Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County Inc.

Presents

Jewish Genealogy 101: Four Hour Route to Your Roots

Sunday, March 11, 2007, 12:30 to 5 p.m.

At Soref Jewish Community Center, 6501 West Sunrise Blvd.,
(between University Dr. and the Florida Turnpike), Plantation FL

Learn to discover your family heritage with this complete introduction to Jewish genealogy. Topics include researching and recording a family tree; interviewing relatives; identifying ancestral towns; Holocaust research; using censuses, city directories, ship's manifests; naturalizations, other U.S. sources; vital records, probate, and other court related documents; European records; computer and Internet resources. Recommended both for beginners and for family historians who want to brush up or expand their skills.

Attendees will receive a workshop manual (one per family). Light refreshments will be served.

Seating is limited. To assure a reservation, please register as soon as possible. To register, please mail the form below with your check (payable to JGSBC).

For more information contact: bkouchel@jgsbroward.org or info@jgsbroward.org

View our web site at www.jgsbroward.org

----- cut -----

Workshop: Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County Inc. (JGSBC)
PO Box 17251, Plantation FL 33324

\$20 (\$15 for an additional family member)
Enclosed is \$_____ as payment for ____ persons.

Jewish Genealogy 101: Four Hour Route to Your Roots – March 11, 2007

Name(s): _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____

E-mail address: _____

/ / I am presently a JGS member. Society name _____
/ / I wish membership info.



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

Membership Application

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Out-of-state address

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Membership Category (please check one):

- Individual \$ 25
- each additional member, same address \$ 5
- Sponsor \$ 50
- Patron \$ 100
- Student (full time under age 25) \$ 15
- Life Individual \$ 250
- Spouse \$ 50

To help save on postage, we distribute our newsletter via email. If you prefer to have it mailed, please check here.

(foreign addresses add \$5 for postage)

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

Please make your check payable to the JGSBC and mail 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 (circle one)

None Beginner Intermediate Advanced Professional

Please list the surnames and corresponding towns you are researching, special interests or skills you have, and any foreign languages you read (attach separate sheet as necessary)
