

Family Gatherings



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

P.O. Box 17251

Phone: 954-873-4403

Email: info@jgsbc.org

Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33318

Fax: 954-577-9247

Website: www.jgsbc.org

Volume XXII, Number 1

January 2010

President's Message

Brenda C Feuer

At our December meeting I had the honor of being chosen to be your President for the coming year. It is exciting and a little scary.

I am sure all of you join me in thanking Michael Sofman for his great job as President. I will try to follow his terrific example. The entire Board of Directors has been an extremely supportive group and I am sure they will continue as such.

The Board has made a list of possible committees. We hope each of you will volunteer for at least one activity. Your reward will be to enjoy the organization more and it will make JGSBC your organization.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Sunday, January 17, 2010 1:00PM,
Alvin Sherman Library - Nova
Southeastern University
Seth Bramson "L'CHAIM! THE
HISTORY OF THE JEWISH
COMMUNITY OF GREATER MIAMI"**

The February monthly meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 24th at 7 PM at the Soref JCC. We will be holding a mini-workshop that will include the following presentations:

- * **Twelve steps to getting started by Bernie Kouchel**
- * **Organizing and Recording Information by Michael Sofman**
- * **A Quick Tour of Useful Web sites by Marty Shames**
- * **Ancestry.com by Alison Schlyen**
- * **A Research Case Study by Ruth Kornbluth**

There is no charge for members and a \$5 charge for non-members that can be applied to the membership fee upon joining. We will have the Internet access for the presentations that will be displayed on a screen. Attendees are encouraged to bring lap top computers for use during the program. Handouts of the presentations will be provided.

Program Notes
By Marty Shames



Sunday, December 20, 2009

As the saying goes “the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray.” Our scheduled guest speaker was stranded up north as his flight to Florida from Newark, NJ was cancelled due to the snowstorm. We received the news on Saturday, the day before the luncheon. Marty Shames had previously contacted Dr. Bernd Wollschlaeger to arrange a speaking date. After discussion with Michael Sofman and as suggested by Bob Koltnow, Marty called Dr. Wollschlaeger on Saturday afternoon and he graciously agreed to speak to us at the Sunday luncheon. Several of our members had heard Dr. Wollschlaeger present his unique post-Holocaust personal story and had strongly recommended that we arrange for him to speak at one of our meetings.

Members and guests heard Dr. Wollschlaeger’s fascinating personal story of growing up in Germany, with an authoritarian father who was a highly decorated World War II German tank commander and who was presented with the Iron Cross personally awarded by Adolf Hitler. When Dr. Wollschlaeger became aware of the Holocaust, and saw what happened at the 1972 Munich Olympic Games he was driven to learn more about his past and the Holocaust. He studied about Israel and Judaism, had a series of personal encounters with Jews and visited Israel. These experiences led to a spiritual journey leading to his conversion to Judaism and emigration to Israel. It also led to a severing of ties to his family. Dr. Wollschlaeger has written a book titled *A German Life, Against All Odds, Change is Possible* that tells his story in detail. Today Dr. Wollschlaeger has a family practice in North Miami Beach and is a Clinical Assistant Professor of Family Medicine at the University of Miami. He is actively involved in a variety of Jewish organizations and in sharing his story with many organizations.

While enjoying the pleasant atmosphere of a private room and good food at the Brimstone Grill members and guests were held spellbound by Dr. Wollschlaeger’s lecture about his family history and extraordinary personal story. For additional information about Dr. Wollschlaeger, see his website, www.agermanlife.com.

Program Notes

By Marty Shames



***I Chose Life, An Intimate Look at the Life of a Holocaust Survivor and His Search for Elusive Peace* is the story of Dr. Saul Nitzberg, a survivor of Auschwitz and his 33-year search for his brother. At our monthly meeting on December 16th held at the Soref JCC we listened and were enthralled by the story related by Mildred Nitzberg, Ph.D, Saul's widow and co-author of the book about his life.**

Dr. Bob Pittell, Board member and Secretary of the society, and his wife Elaine met the Nitzbergs 47 years ago when both couples were newcomers to Hollywood and have been close friends ever since. Bob introduced Millie with words that gave us a good sense of Saul Nitzberg as a man of distinction and honor and a loving family. Millie was married to Saul for fifty years. They have five children, all of whom have doctorates, and twelve grandchildren, several of whom are on their way to doctorates.

Millie has been involved in collecting the oral histories of Holocaust survivors and spent many hours interviewing her husband about growing up in the small eastern Polish town of Pruzhany, of the 1939 invasion of Poland by Germany, the transfer to Russian control and then the June 1941 invasion by Germany when they invaded Russia. She read detailed descriptions of conditions for the Jews in the town, of the Nazi terror tactics and of Saul's time in Auschwitz and his promise to his father to survive to tell the story as told by her husband. We all felt the unmitigated evil and horror of Dr. Nitzberg's experience. The ongoing story of survival, coming to the U.S. and becoming a world class hematologist in Hollywood was inspiring. In 1972 Saul Nitzberg was reunited with his older brother, whom he last saw when the brother was drafted into the Russian Army in 1939. This was a story right out of a cold war novel.

The book *I Chose Life* has been presented at a number of organizations in the area and at the International Miami Book Fair. You can also read about it at www.ichoselifebook.com.

Nu? What's New? (excerpted)
The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy
Gary Mokotoff, Editor
Volume 11 No1. January 3, 2010

New Website on Jewish Galicia and Bukovina

There is a new website on the Jewish history in Galicia and Bukovina at <http://www.jewishgalicia.net>. It is sponsored by the Leonid Nevzlin Research Center for Russian and East European Jewry at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Worth Reading: "Why Isn't It Free?"

Dick Eastman writes a popular genealogy column similar to *Nu? What's New?* called *Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter*. In a recent edition, he discusses the complaint by many genealogists that they shouldn't have to pay for accessing records—"Why Isn't It Free?" You can find it at http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2009/12/why-isnt-it-free.html. In the column he justifies why record access is not always free. It is worth reading.

Jewish Genealogical Yearbook

A useful resource for locating information about organizations involved in Jewish genealogy is the *Jewish Genealogical Yearbook* published annually by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. The *Yearbook* is available for viewing and downloading at <http://iajgs.org/IAJGS%20JGS%20Yearbook.html>

Anglo-Jewish Sites

If your family has deep English roots, a site <http://www.Synagoguescribes.com>, has an index to more than 16,000 birth, circumcision, marriage and burial records, from London's synagogues, 1785-1865.

Another Anglo-Jewish database of more than 10,000 Jewish burials can be found at <http://www.Cemeteryscribes.com>

Hadassah Magazine Publishes Interesting Story About IJG

The online version of *Hadassah Magazine* has published an interesting report about the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy at http://www.hadassah.org/pageframe.asp?section=news&page=per_hadassah/current.asp&header=magazine&size=140. It describes how the Institute was founded, its accomplishments and future plans. The article is titled "Planting a Forest of Family Trees."

Upcoming Meeting



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.”

Sunday, January 17, 2010, 1:00 p.m.

Alvin Sherman Library of NSU

3100 Ray Ferrero, Jr. Blvd, Davie

Admission is free for all wishing to attend.

Seating is limited, so please register in advance at

<http://sherman.library.nova.edu/helios/events/>

Directions: From University Drive north or south, travel east on SW 30th Street. Turn right at Ray Ferrero Jr. Boulevard. Turn right into the Parking Garage. Cost for parking is \$1 per hour.



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

Benefits of JGSBC Membership

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

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

Tidbits

By Bernie Kouchel

A line borrowed from a website poem:
"When a grandparent dies, a library is lost."

Interlibrary Loan Services (ILL):
If the book you want is not available in our JGS library or in the public library... Here's a way to obtain books for both the novice and more experienced family historian. Interlibrary Loan provides materials that are not available in Broward County Libraries' collection. Library cardholders can request to borrow a multitude of resources such as books, audiovisuals, newspaper and periodical articles, microfilm, and more from libraries located all over the United States. Requests for materials can be made at any one of Broward County Library's branches by filling out an interlibrary loan form available at a reference station. Read more: <http://www.browardlibrary.org/nws/ill.htm>

CousinCalc for the iPhone:

Not sure what to call that relative of yours? Is she really your "first cousin once removed?" CousinCalc makes it very easy to determine the proper term for a relationship. Simply tap familiar relationship terms (like mother, sister, or aunt) just as if you were describing it to another person. For example, to calculate the proper term for "my grandmother's sister's daughter," you simply tap Grandmother, Sister, and then Daughter and CousinCalc displays "First cousin once removed." It's that easy! - Very intuitive and easy to use; just keep tapping the next relative. The current relationship term is always displayed. - Calculates up to ten generations of separation.

Bernard I. Kouchel
koosh@bellsouth.net

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

Membership

Nancy Wyman and Ellen Sobo

We warmly welcome our newest members:

Alan and Sandi Goldenberg

Leo Staschover

Marshia and Arthur Wachslar

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

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

Editor Alison Schlyen
newsletter@jgsbc.org

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

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

Library News

Rhoda Horwitz

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.

JGSBC Program Calendar

www.jgsbc.org/helios/events

Sunday, January 17, 1 pm
Alvin Sherman Library of NSU
L'Chaim! The History of the Jewish Community
Of Greater Miami
Seth Bramson

Wednesday, February 24, 7 pm
Soref JCC
Mini-Workshop: Jewish Genealogy 101

Thursday, March 18, 7pm
Alvin Sherman Library of NSU
Ron Arons

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

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



Member Society

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

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

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

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

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Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318

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Email: info@jgsbc.org

www.jgsbc.org

JGSBC

Officers and Directors

President	Brenda Feuer
Vice President	Martin Shames
Treasurer	Robert Koltnow
Secretary	Robert Pittell
Directors	Jpyce Ben-Ezra
	Rhoda Horwitz
	Rosa Pinsky
	Ellen Sobo
	Nancy Wyman

Committee Chairs

Cemetery	Ara Morenberg
Library	Rhoda Horwitz
Membership	Ellen Sobo and Nancy Wyman
Newsletter	Alison Schlyen
Program	Martin Shames
Publicity	Rosa Pinsky
Speaker's Bureau	Robert Koltnow
Website	Michael Sofman

Past Presidents

Michael Sofman	2008-2009
Martin Shames	2004-2007
Robert Koltnow	2002-2003
Bernard Kouchel	1995-2001
Gene Garlin	1994-1995
Bernard Kouchel, Founder	1988-199

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-

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

Presents

Mini Workshop: Jewish Genealogy 101

**Wednesday, February 24, 2010
7:00PM -9:15 pm**

**Soref Jewish Community Center
6501 West Sunrise Boulevard
Plantation, Florida**

Join us as we delve into the basics of Jewish Genealogy. Among the topics to be discussed will be:

- **An Introduction into Jewish Genealogy**
- **Twelve Steps to Getting Started**
- **Organizing and Recording Family Information**
- **Creating a Family Tree**
- **A Quick Tour of Useful Websites**
- **Ancestry.com**
- **A Research Case Study**

This seminar is geared for the beginning genealogist but all levels are welcome to attend. Attendees will receive a workshop manual (one per family).

The program is free for JGSBC members; \$5.00 for non-members. To assure a reservation, please register no later than February 15th by either mailing the form below or by email: workshop@jgsbc.org

For more information contact: (954)-243-6063 or info@jgsbc.org

www.jgsbc.org

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Make checks payable to: *Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County*
Mail to: Workshop - Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County Inc. (JGSBC)
PO Box 17251, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318

Mini Workshop: Jewish Genealogy 101: Wednesday, February 24, 2010

Name(s): _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

- I am a JGSBC Member
 I am a non-member; enclosed is \$ _____ 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
<input type="checkbox"/> Each additional member (same address)	\$ 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 50	e-mail. If you prefer to have it mailed, please check here. <input type="checkbox"/>
<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