



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: 954-523-0766

E-mail: info@jgsbroward.org

Issue 2007 No. 6

June 2007



NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 1:00 PM JACARANDA COUNTRY CLUB

President's Message

Although our society operates on a calendar year our meeting "season" runs from September through June. We will conclude the 2006-07 season with our Estelle Nemooy Annual Awards lunch to be held at the Jacaranda Country Club on Sunday, June 10th. I hope that you will join me and Joan to honor Elaine Kaplan for her many years of service to the society.

Thanks to Bob Koltnow's program leadership we enjoyed a season of outstanding programs and speakers, including Daniel Mendelsohn on his search for six of the six million, Ron Arons on Jewish criminals, Karen Roekard on a visit to ancestral homes in the Ukraine, Bruce and Judy Borich on writing your family history, Suzan Wynne on Galitzianer Jews, Helen Kuban on Holocaust memories and Prof. Abraham Lavender of FIU on patterns of Jewish DNA.

I will be attending the 27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Salt Lake City that runs from July 15-20. For anyone interested in Jewish genealogy the speakers, films and meetings and the opportunity to use the Family History Library will be another amazing experience. It's like the Super Bowl and World Series of Jewish genealogy, all in one place and during one week. *Please let me know if you are planning to attend the conference so that our group can arrange to get together during the week.* For future planning, note that the 2008 conference will be in Chicago and the 2009 conference will be in Philadelphia.

(continued on next page)

Program Bob Koltnow

ESTELLE NEMOY ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Broward County, Inc. will continue its tradition of holding an Annual Awards Luncheon on Sunday afternoon, June 10th, beginning at 1:00 P. M. This year we will meet for the first time at the Jacaranda Country Club, 9200 West Broward Boulevard, Plantation, Florida. The Country Club is easy to get to in that as you travel west on Broward Boulevard, it is about halfway between Pine Island Boulevard and Nob Hill Road, on your left. Follow the signs to the Club.

Please fill, sign and mail the flyer attached to this Newsletter, so we will know how many will attend and we could make the appropriate arrangements.

This year the recipient of the Award will be Elaine Kaplan, in honor of her many years of superlative service to the Society."



Our May speaker, Daniel Mendelsohn, discussing how his best-selling book, "The Lost- A Search for Six of Six Million" came to be.

Family Gatherings, June 2007

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

Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

(President’s message, from page 1)

I’d like to give you some assignments for the summer season:

- Prepare your lists of family surnames and ancestral homes to submit to Brenda Feuer (bfeuer@jgsbroward.org) who will be putting together our annual Membership Directory.
- Send me your ideas for programs, speakers and other activities for our 2007-08 season.
- Write your stories. Take all those names, dates and places, add your family stories and write some family history. Send a copy to me or to Michael Sofman (msofman@jgsbroward.org) for our Family Gatherings Newsletter.
- Think about helping out on the program or membership committee or being a Board member.
- Are you a member of another organization that could be interested in a program on Jewish genealogy? Let us know; we can arrange a speaker or a program.

Your most important assignment is to stay healthy, enjoy the summer and breakthrough a few brick walls. We look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Marty Shames,
President (mshames@jgsbroward.com)

Tips from Bernie

Historic Ellis Island Passenger Records Receive Expanded Online Access May 16, 2007 (Ellis Island, NY and Provo, UT)

The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, Inc., World Vital Records, Inc. and FamilySearch announced today at the National Genealogical Society Conference a partnership whereby the historic collection of Ellis Island passenger arrival records will now also be freely available to visitors of the www.worldvitalrecords.com and www.familylink.com websites.

Bernie Kouchel

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.

LIBRARY NEWS

Well, school is now closed for the summer, and so are we! There's just one difference. If you really want to check out some information from our over three hundred fifty volumes, encyclopedias, and society newsletters, just email (rhocat@aol.com) or call me at (954) 741-8368 with something descriptive about the JGSB Library, and I will get back to you and we'll set up a convenient time to meet. I live only a few miles away.

The upcoming IAJGS Conference in July in Salt Lake City, where many of our members will be attending, promises to feature many new and interesting books for our Library. If you have any suggestions or requests, let us know. We'll also be looking around for potential speakers. Your wish, is our command!

I'll be updating our Library collection on the Internet, so look for it. If you have any books to donate, please notify me. Remember, they're tax deductible. Bring them to our luncheon on Sunday, June 10th.

Have a wonderful and productive summer. See you in the Fall.

Brenda Feuer
Rhoda Horwitz

"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."

Pages of Testimony A new tool for working with them

Have you ever wanted to contact the submitter of a Page of Testimony?

Have you ever wanted to find relatives of a victim documented on a Page of Testimony?

If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, then there is a new tool that can help you. My free website www.ShoahConnect.org makes it possible to associate email addresses with Pages of Testimony, and automatically matches people associated with the same Pages, facilitating semi-private contact between them. "Semi-private" means that your email address is only revealed to matches who contact you through the site, and only if you choose to respond to them. None of this functionality is provided by Yad Vashem's website (www.yadvashem.org), where Pages of Testimony can be viewed.

Example uses of this new tool:

Searching Yad Vashem's website, you found a Page of Testimony about a relative of yours, submitted by his daughter. You would like to contact her, but have not found her current contact information -- perhaps, she no longer lives at the address on the Page, has since died, or has married and changed her name. You can associate your email address with this Page, and, if she or a close relative of hers does the same, you will receive a notification email and be able to write to her through ShoahConnect. If she chooses to respond, you will be in contact normally via email.

You found a Page of Testimony about a relative of yours, and you wonder whether any other relatives of yours have also been looking at that Page. If so, you would like to contact them. When you associate your email address with the Page, you can choose to be notified not only when the submitter associates himself with the Page, but also when other relatives, like yourself, do.

A relative of yours disappeared from a small town. Nobody submitted a Page of Testimony about him and nobody seems to know what happened to him. However, you notice that a Page was submitted about someone else, unrelated, from the same small town. You would like to ask the submitter whether he also knows about your relative from that town. There is an option on ShoahConnect for indicating your interest in the town, and you will be notified of a match, if the submitter also uses ShoahConnect and chooses to allow contact from unrelated "town researchers."
(continued on next page)