

Family Gatherings

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

P.O. Box 17251
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33318

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

Email: info@jgsbc.org
Website: www.jgsbc.org



President's Message

Michael Sofman

Well, summer is here and the JGSBC is taking a little break. Other than the IAJGS Convention in Philadelphia next month, there's nothing much going on genealogically. Now is a good time to look over what you've learned over the past year, organize it if you haven't already, and decide where you want to go from here. Perhaps you made some new family connections this year—reinforce those connections by staying in touch or even getting together. Or maybe you've accumulated enough information about your family that you can now start working on that written family history that you've been

putting off. Or, if that's a little too ambitious, just prepare a short piece for a future edition of this newsletter. We're always looking for original content from our members, and I'm sure every one of us has something about our research that we can write about that would entertain or enlighten the rest.

We've have a very successful year from a programming standpoint. Marty Shames has done a great job finding knowledgeable and entertaining speakers. We're already working on next season's speakers, but if any of you have thoughts on particular speakers to invite, or subjects that



Michael Sofman
President, JGSBC

you'd like to hear about, we're always open to suggestions.

To those of you going to the IAJGS Convention, may it be fruitful. To everyone else, have a pleasant summer, and we'll see you in September.

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Upcoming Meetings

No meeting in July or August— Have a great summer!

Wednesday September 30, 7:00 pm, Soref JCC
“Antique Judaica”
Dr. Murray Zedeck

Program Notes

by Marty Shames

We have finished our meeting season with a bang. Following the very successful Genealogy Fair at Nova Southeastern University, we followed up with a mini-workshop about 10 days later. We had 3 speakers, all of whom gave excellent, interesting presentations. First, we heard from Alison Schlyen, one of the librarians at the Main Branch of the Broward County Public Library. She discussed what was available there for genealogical research, and gave many excellent pointers on how to use their collection. She was followed by Michael Greenberg, one of our Board members, who spoke about his very adventurous trip to Eastern Europe to research his own family's roots. Michael was very entertaining and we all learned some of the do's and don'ts involved in a trip like that. Kim Garvey, the Genealogy Librarian at

NSU spoke to us last. She also discussed what was available and how to use the resources of the Alvin Sherman Library. She also gave a nice review of some of how to avoid some of the pitfalls that we often run into doing our genealogical research. It was a well-attended meeting and I think we all came away with some useful information.



Alison Schlyen, Michael Greenberg, and Kim Garvey

Our final event of the season was our Annual Awards Luncheon, this

year held at the Soref JCC. About 20 members enjoyed a delicious lunch as we honored Brenda Feuer



Brenda Feuer receiving the Estelle Nemoy Award from Michael Sofman

with the Annual Estelle Nemoy Award for all her work over the years on behalf of the JGSBC. (continued on next page)

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

Editor Michael Sofman
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.

Membership

Rosa Pinsky

Although we have no meetings in the summer, we are always looking to spread the word and bring more people into our group. Now is the time to talk to your friends and family about the JGSBC. Tell them about your research. Encourage them to attend our monthly meetings and help them get started on their own family search.

Finally, we wish to remind everyone that we have a new Mentoring program. If you would like a Mentor as-

signed to you, or wish to volunteer to serve as a Mentor for others, please contact Rosa Pinsky at (954)659-5490(evenings) or by email: pinskyr@ccf.org

Warmest wishes,
Rosa Pinsky
Membership Chair

Program Notes (cont'd)

by Marty Shames

We have no meetings in the summer, but we are already starting to plan our fall season. Our next meeting will be something a little different. We will have a presentation by Dr. Murray Zedeck, who is a retired family physician and has developed an expertise in Jewish religious objects, particularly those made of silver. Dr. Zedeck has lived in South Florida for 47 years and has been very involved in the community. He is a former Board member of Goodwill Industries of Broward, former Treasurer and Governing Board member of the Miami City Ballet, former Board member Broward Beautiful, advisory to Broward County commission, former Chairman, Broward County Housing Finance Authority, former allocations chair and VP

Broward Jewish Federation, and former board member, American Friends of Hebrew University. Professionally, he is former Chairman and Professor of Community Medicine at Southeast College of Osteopathic Medicine (now part of Nova University) and Trustee and lecturer at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Together with two Zedeck cousins, he researched and published the "Zedeck Family History" which chronicles his family's life in Poland back to 1750's.

Dr. Zedeck will present a program entitled "**Antique Judaica**" which he has presented to other organizations including the Hollywood Antique Club, and

which consists of a PowerPoint slide show of much of his personal collection and other pertinent examples, of mostly century old ceremonial and traditional Jewish objects-Sabbath Candlesticks, etrog boxes, etc. Members are invited to bring in items of Jewish interest, particularly those made of silver/other metals for Dr. Zedeck's review and comment/appraisal. Dr. Zedeck participated with the Judaica expert of "Antique Roadshow" at a Posnack JCC Judaica Expo. a few years ago.

This promises to be a highly entertaining and informative session. And don't forget to bring Aunt Sadie's Kiddush cup!

Where to Find a Genealogist-for-Hire

Posted by Diane
Ancestry.com

When it starts accepting clients in June, Ancestry.com's ExpertConnect service (read our post about it) will be just one option for hiring people to do research tasks, such as photographing a gravestone or photocopying a record. Here are a few others:

- Genealogy Freelancers: This site lets you post your project details and get bids from professionals around the world.
- Genlighten: Here, you also can collect bids for research tasks. The focus here is on lookups, record retrieval and similar services.
- Random Acts of Genealogical Kindness: These volunteers have signed on to do simple research favors for free (except expenses such as mileage and photocopying fees). You're encouraged to return the favor by helping out someone else.
- Repositories sometimes keep lists of nearby professional researchers (contact the genealogy department). For example, if you want to hire someone to copy your ancestor's Civil War pension file, see the National Archives' list of local researchers by topic and location.
- For long or more-complicated research projects, you can find directories of professional genealogists on the Association for Professional Genealogists Web site, ProGenealogists, and the Board for Certification of Genealogists.



29th IAJGS International
Conference on Jewish Genealogy
Philadelphia
2-7 August 2009

Registration is still open!

Go to

www.philly2009.org

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.

Tidbytes

By Bernie Kouchel

Yizkor (memorial) books are a crucial source for research in East European Jewish history, Holocaust studies, and Jewish genealogy. Written in Yiddish or Hebrew or both, most titles include extensive documentation of Jewish life before WWII, followed by vivid, first-hand accounts of the Holocaust and its aftermath.

-Order reprints:
<http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org>
+10151
-Read online: (Heb./Yid.)
<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbookonline.cfm>

-English translations (partial)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html>

Bernard Kouchel

From the JewishGen Sig's

ROM-SIG Digest for Tuesday,
June 16, 2009.

1. Great Web Site for Town/
Village Maps

Subject: Great Web Site for
Town/Village Maps

<http://www.hiszi-map.hu/catalog/index.php> has detailed contemporary maps for Hungary, Slovakia, and Romania, including small

towns & villages throughout these countries. The maps show geographic markers (roads, bridges, streams, wooded areas) as well as inhabited areas and cemetery locations (although in most cases the religious denomination is not indicated, and I suspect dormant Jewish cemeteries may be omitted).

Bob Friedman
Brooklyn, NY



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

Library News

Although I'm not from the New York area, I realize that most of our members are and when I saw this large book "Historic Maps and Views of New York" by Vincent Virga on Costco's book table, I couldn't resist picking it up to look at it. It contains many colorful antique maps on heavy paper that are large enough for framing. At the end of the book are explanations of each of the maps. It is a thoroughly fascinating book! That statement was confirmed when I brought it to the Board Meeting and it passed from hand to hand, with people staying afterwards to view it again. I promise to bring it to our meetings or you can come to the Library to see it. It was only about \$15 if you want to purchase a copy as part of your genealogical research notebook.

Three of our former members, Hal Maggied, Maria Krane, and Bea Swart, have been kind enough to donate books and magazines, and copies of Avotaynu to our Library. If you are no longer using such reference materials, please follow their generous examples. They are tax deductible and wonderful additions to our Library. At a recent lecture at Nova, it was said that only 35% of genealogical materials is on the Internet, so there are many facts that are still only available through research in libraries.

We have a complete collection of Avotaynu volumes beginning with Volume 1, #1 January, 1985 that contained 7 articles and 20 pages including the covers, which was published only twice a year, to the four, multi-page volumes that are mentioned in "Nu, What's New?"'s newsletter. We have them all, plus extras! And we would consider loaning them out to our members. They contain general topics on

Number of articles by general topic:

Algeria 7	Cyprus 1	India 5	Scotland 27
Argentina 21	Czech Republic 28	Iraq 2	Sephardic 37
Australia 36	Denmark 2	Iran 5	Serbia 2
Austria 16	DNA 16	Ireland 2	Slovakia 1
Austro-Hungary 5	East Europe-Gen'l 14	Israel 121	South Africa 20
Belarus* 25	Egypt 9	Italy 13	South America 1
Belgium 23	England 122	Latvia* 26	Spain 11
Bermuda 1	Estonia* 5	LDS 28	Sudan 1
Book Reviews 264	Ethiopia 1	Libya 1	Sweden 5
Brazil 23	Europe-General 24	Lithuania* 61	Switzerland 24
Bulgaria 4	Finland 1	Methodology 64	Syria 3
Burma 1	France 97	Moldova* 5	Tunisia 3
Canada 91	Galicía 18	Morocco 16	Turkey 21
Caribbean 9	General 192	New Zealand 12	Ukraine 56
China 10	Germany 162	North Africa 2	United States 209
Computers 16	Gibraltar 1	Poland 103	USSR 91
Conferences 48	Greece 10	Portugal 20	Venezuela 1
Costa Rica 1	Holland 82	Rabbinic 57	Zimbabwe 1
Croatia 2	Holocaust 160	Romania 29	

*also see USSR and Russia

For more specific titles, go to Avotaynu and look at their Index. They will direct you to the volume that you're interested in.

Since I'm not always at the Library on Tuesday's during the Summer months, give me a call -(954)741-8368 or a specific message to rhocat@aol.com about meeting you there. We can arrange a convenient time.

Hope to hear from you,
Rhoda Horwitz

Annual Awards Luncheon- June 7, 2009



Bob and Carol Koltnow



Sandy Landers and Susan Steinfeld



Joyce BenEzra, event organizer



Ed Kaplan, Trudy Ronson, and Elaine Kaplan



Neil Wiseman talking to Michael Greenberg



Rhoda Horwitz, our Librarian



Miriam Sunness



Awardee Brenda Feuer with husband Marvin

Nu? What's New? (excerpted)
The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu
Gary Mokotoff, Editor
Volume 10, Number 9 | May 11, 2009

ITS Plans Program to Preserve Original Documents

It is not uncommon for archives who have digitized or microfilmed documents to throw away the originals as an economic measure. This has at least one disadvantage, namely, the historian is at the mercy of the quality of the copying of the original documents.

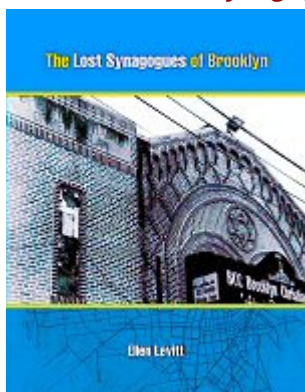
Apparently the International Tracing Service in Bad Arolsen, Germany, considers their collection of such historical importance that they have undertaken a program to conserve, this year alone, 400,000 of the 30 million original documents in their possession. Among the original documents to be preserved this year are individual files from the Buchenwald concentration camp such as prisoners' registration cards and personal property cards; lists from the concentration camps Neuengamme, Natzweiler and Mauthausen; and Gestapo cards from Koblenz and Frankfurt am Main.

In addition, facsimiles of their most historical documents are being used for visitor tours. These include the original Schindler's List, a transportation card listing Anne Frank, and a Gestapo card for Konrad Adenauer.

Udo Jost, chief archivist at ITS, stated that the documents have been at the facility's archives for at least 60 years. The quality of paper declined drastically near the end of WWII, so the documents are extremely acidic and thus decay faster. In 2001, the ITS conducted a damage analysis. A priority list was compiled and the documents have been conserved step-by-step ever since. The analysis revealed an urgent need for action in the case of 4.3 million documents from concentration camps, ghettos, and Gestapo prisons. The German federal government currently subsidizes this effort with 250,000 euros per annum.

Additional information can be found at http://www.its-arolsen.org/en/press/press_releases/index.html?expand=2493&cHash=d5a6c88102

New Book: *Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn*



Jewish life in Brownsville, East New York, Flatbush-East Flatbush, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and other nearby areas of Brooklyn through the 1950s was a lively, rich, and varied environment. During the next few decades it dissipated greatly. As Jews moved to other areas, they left behind their synagogues. Avotaynu's latest book, *The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn*, is a photographic essay of these ex-shuls; it tells what happened to them and how they appear today. Many became churches whose facades still have Jewish symbols.

The book offers photographs, interviews and analyses on 91 of these former Jewish houses of worship. Some have been faithfully preserved while others are in disrepair. Described in the book are memories of Jews who belonged to these old congregations as well as the Christians who now fill the pews. This is supported by extensive research and stirring stories.

Author Ellen Levitt is a life-long Brooklynite who has delved into a subject dear to her. Some of the photographs featured in this book were part of her photography exhibit at the Brooklyn Historical Society, which ran from November

2006 through February 2007. She also lectured on this subject to the Society. The exhibit and lecture were the genesis for *The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn*.

Additional information as well as the Table of Contents and a sample page can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/LostSynagogues.htm>

British Newspapers 1800–1900 Online

The British Library has placed online digitized versions of 49 19th-century British newspapers at <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs> with an every-word index. It is a fee-for-service site, but it is possible to do searches free of charge. A 24-hour pass costs £6.99. Additional information can be found at <http://www.jisc.ac.uk/whatwedo/programmes/digitisation/bln.aspx>.

List of British Seamen Now Online

Was you ancestor a British seaman? Lists and an index to 270,000 merchant seafarers on British ships from 1860–1913 is now available at Findmypast.com. The site is a fee-for-service site, but it is possible to search at no charge.

Ancestry.com Has German Phone Books

Ancestry.com has added phone directories (1915–1981) for certain cities of Germany. They are Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Frankfurt am Main and Leipzig. Additional information is at <http://content.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=1564&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0>

Searching Ancestry.com By Given Name

Those readers who subscribe to Ancestry.com may not be aware that it is possible to search their databases by given name only. I recently put it to good use when I was looking for the Ellis Island record of a man whose came to the U.S. with the surname Weskobojnik. Searching Ancestry.com for many spelling variants of the surname yielded no results. (Using the Morse site to search the Ellis Island Database—EIDB—was fruitless too.) Fortunately, I was able to get the naturalization record for the person. It included the Certificate of Arrival which indicated his name was Srolik Weskobojnik. Certificate of Arrival documents were used by the U.S. government to confirm a person arrived in the U.S. legally. A government employee went to the ship's manifest to confirm his arrival and wrote down the name as it appeared on the manifest. Clearly this person was more skilled at reading the handwriting than the Ancestry.com person who extracted the record. Knowing the year of arrival and the person's name as it appeared on the Certificate of Arrival, I searched for any person named Srolik who arrived in 1911 and came up with only one hit; Srolik Westerback, the person I was searching for. I subsequently found he was listed in the EIDB as Srolik Webobojuik.

I prefer finding the person in the Ancestry.com database because the image of the ship's manifest is superior to the EIDB.

Another trick. If you find a person in the EIDB but cannot find him/her in the Ancestry.com database, undoubtedly the name was indexed improperly. Pick any other person on the page where the spelling of the name is obvious, and search for that person to retrieve the page.

JRI-Poland Now Has 3.5 Million Records Indexed

Jewish Records Indexing-Poland project—now in its 14th year—has indexed more than 3.5 million records from 500 towns. Located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JRI-PL/>, it is an index primarily of birth, marriage, and death records.

Volume 10, Number 11 | June 21, 2009

U.S. National Archives to Get Alien Registration Records

During World War II, all persons over the age of 14 residing in the United States who were aliens were forced to register. They include people who immigrated decades earlier never bothered to become naturalized citizens. These records have been in the possession of the Citizenship and Immigration Services and are now in the process of being turned over to the National Archives. These Alien Case Files (commonly referred to as A-Files) will be sent to the National Archives when 100 years have passed since the birth date of the subject of a file. At that time, they will be available to the public. The files include information such as photographs, personal correspondence, birth certificates, health records, interview transcripts, visas, applications and other information on all non-naturalized alien residents, both legal and illegal. Additional information can be found at <http://www.archives.gov/press/press-releases/2009/nr09-90.html>

Museum of the History of Polish Jews Creates Virtual Shtetl Site

In 1996, the Jewish Historical Institute Association in Warsaw undertook a project to build a Museum of the History of Polish Jews. It will open in 2011 on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto. The museum will be a multimedia narrative museum and cultural center that will present the history of Polish Jews and the rich civilization they created over the course of almost 1000 years.

The museum now has developed a Virtual Shtetl site at http://www.sztetl.org.pl/?lang=en_GB. The site development is in its infancy but already there is information about a large number of Polish towns. Potentially each town will have subsections identifying the town's location through maps, general history of the locality, Jewish history, demography (general and Jewish population through the years), Jewish cemeteries, places of martyrology (sites that memorialize the Jews of the town), location of archival material, bibliographies and links to other sites with information about the town. Viewers are encouraged to contribute information about the Jewish presence in the town either as text, photographs, audio or video recordings.

Using the search engine requires a bit of training. In the area just below the word Search there is a place to key in any word or portion of a word. The result is any place at the site that contains the characters in the search argument. Below the data entry field is another field to search for information about a specific town. It requires the correct spelling in Polish. Searching for Bialystok produces no results but Białystok yielded successful results. Possibly to help viewer who are unfamiliar with the Polish spelling, as each character is typed, all towns at the site that start with the letters are immediately displayed. Therefore typing "Bia" is sufficient to determine they have a site for Białystok. This scheme does not work, of course, for towns whose initial letter starts with a letter that has a diacritic mark such as Łańcut.

Additional information about the Museum of the History of Polish Jews project can be found at <http://www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/index.php?lang=en>

British Library Places 19th-Century Newspapers Online

The British Library, in partnership with JISC (Joint Information Systems Committee) and Gale, part of Cengage Learning, has launched the public version of its 19th-century British Library Newspaper website. It is located at <http://newspapers.bl.uk/blcs>. There are some two million digitized pages with full-word indexing. Searches of the site are free and downloads of full-text articles are available by purchasing either a 24-hour or seven-day pass. Users can buy a 24-hour pass (up to 100 downloads) for £6.99 or a seven-day pass (up to 200 downloads) for £9.99. For additional information see <http://www.bl.uk/news/2009/pressrelease20090616.html>

Canadian Censuses 1851–1916 Now Online

Ancestry.ca, in partnership with Library and Archives Canada, has completed the first online launch of the Canadian censuses, 1851-1916. The censuses are fully indexed and include original document images. Included are more than 32 million names and 1.3 million images of original records. Additional information can be found at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?> Ancestry.ca is a fee-for-service site.

Israel Genealogical Society Places Mount of Olives Cemetery Data on Internet

The Israel Genealogical Society has placed at their web site an index to burials at the Mount of Olives cemetery in Jerusalem. The source is the book, "Helkat Mehokek," which was published in 1913. It is a bi-lingual (Hebrew-English) searchable database of 8,092 tombstones, mostly covering the period between 1740–1906, although the earliest inscription dates from 1646.

The database was originally made available at the 2004 International Conference on Jewish Genealogy on CD. The English version is located at <http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/1/153/4977.asp>. The Hebrew version is at <http://www.isragen.org.il/siteFiles/13/79/5778.asp>.

The actual search function is at the very bottom of each of the pages named above. These pages start with a lengthy description of the history of the index followed by guidelines for using it. Unfortunately, this lengthy description is displayed again on the search results page. Scroll down the page to find the results.

New York State Newspaper Site

A number of New York State newspapers have been digitized and indexed at <http://fultonhistory.com/Fulton.html>. Of greatest interest to Jewish genealogists will be the *Brooklyn Eagle*. There are even more recent editions of this newspaper than on that newspaper's own Internet site. I could find no place at the site that listed which newspapers and years have been indexed, but there are *Brooklyn Eagle* pages into the 1950s and *New York Times* pages into

the 1920s.

The Importance of Family Health History

An article in the Wall Street Journal provides a good description of how family health history can save lives. One professor of genetics is quoted as saying, "For most common diseases, it's more informative to work out your family history" than to get a genetic profile. There are a number of links to sites that will evaluate your propensity for cancer and/or heart disease based on providing family history information. The article can be found at http://online.wsj.com/article_email/SB124467618643403993-IMyQjAxMDI5NDE0NTYxNzU2Wj.html

HIAS Helps Darfur Child to Reunite with Parents

HIAS, the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, is a social service organization that for more than 100 years has helped Jewish immigrants settle more easily in the United States. On many occasions, when a Jewish immigrant was turned away by government authorities, HIAS would step in to champion the immigrant's cause if they felt the government official was unreasonably following the letter of the law.

Today HIAS is also involved in the plight of non-Jewish immigrants too. It is currently involved in the Darfur refugee problem and recently helped a Darfur couple reunite with their four-year-old daughter who was denied admission into the U.S. on a technicality even though the parents were given political asylum in the U.S. The full story is at http://www.nytimes.com/2009/06/16/nyregion/16asylum.html?_r=4&ref=nyregion

Volume 10, Number 12 | June 28, 2009

IJG Plans Genealogical Glossary in Hebrew

The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy, in collaboration with the Israel Genealogical Society and the Web-based Tappuz "Family Roots Forum," has embarked upon the preparation of a scientific glossary of genealogical terms in Hebrew. The Institute stated that it sees this project as part of its efforts to reach out to, and cooperate with, the wider genealogical community. It will provide Hebrew-speaking researchers and family historians with a much-needed tool.

Once compiled, the glossary will be submitted to the Academy of the Hebrew Language in Jerusalem for its official endorsement.

An Expert Working Group has been formed to complete the task. It is headed by Dr. Chanan Rapaport, the Deputy Chair of the Institute, and comprised of genealogists, philologists and Hebrew-language specialists. They include Arnon Hershkovitz, founder of the "Family Roots Forum"; Yocheved Klausner, former editor of *Sharsheret Hadorot*, the journal of the Israel Genealogical Society; Chana Meshler, a Hebrew philologist at the Academy of the Hebrew Language; Sasson Naor, an Arabic language consultant; Rabbi Meir Wunder, specialist in Biblical, Talmudic and Rabbinic languages; Joshua Yellin, Medieval and Modern Hebrew expert; and Prof. Israel Zak a professor emeritus of Hebrew University and amateur genealogist.

Valuable Databases to Be Available at Annual Conference



One of the benefits of attending the annual Jewish genealogy conference is the Resource Room which includes access—free of charge—to a number of web sites that require a subscription. Among the databases to be available are: Ancestry.com; British Newspapers from the British Library; FindMyPast.com/AncestorsonBoard.com; Footnote.com; Godfrey Library (without Newspaper Archive and World Vital Records); NewsBank.com; NewspaperArchive.com; ProQuest; United States Holocaust Memorial Museum; and World Vital Records.com. Also available in the room are books, maps, microfilms and other items of help in family research.

Additional information about the conference including the complete program, walking tours, bus tours and cemetery visits, can be found at the conference site: <http://philly2009.org/>.

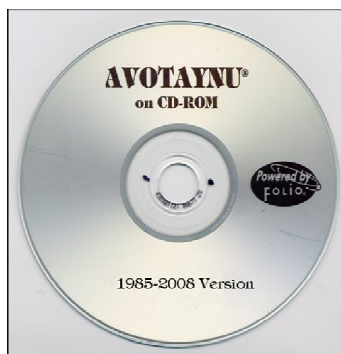
Ellis Island Videos on YouTube

There are a number of original films of the Ellis Island experience on YouTube.com. Search for “Ellis Island Immigration.” One of the more interesting ones, taken in May 1909, is at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8bPDdNRoxc>. There is also a 29-minute documentary at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u4wzVuXPzmk>.

New Web Site Information

Censuses of Scotland: ScotlandsPeople, located at <http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>, claims to be the only site to have complete Scottish census records from 1841–1901. It includes both an index as well as the actual images. This fee-for-service site also has birth, marriage and death records.

United Synagogue Marriage Authorisation Index has been updated by an additional two years and now identifies records from 17th February 1880 to the 31st December 1891. The index contains 8,236 records for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. It is located at http://www.theus.org.uk/support_services/find_your_family/marriage_records. It is updated whenever an additional year is indexed.



For the past 24 years, AVOTAYNU has developed a reputation for being a must-read publication for persons doing Jewish genealogical research and has even been extolled by the general genealogical community for its articles of interest to anyone, Jewish and non-Jewish, with Central or Eastern European ancestry. The 93 issues published between 1985 and 2008 include more than 5,700 pages—4 million words.

Avotaynu has published all back issues 1985–2008 on CD-ROM. It is available for Windows only, now including Vista. Using a searching tool, which includes full-word indexing, every word of every back issue of AVOTAYNU is accessible. If in all the articles there is only one mention of a town or a surname, the search engine will find it. By specifying key words or combinations of key words, the CD-ROM version will locate the article that meets the criteria of the keywords search.

The new version has the option of placing the entire database (about 500MB) onto the hard drive. This feature was not available in previous editions.

Special offers through July 15 only:

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JGSBC Program Calendar

www.jgsbc.org/helios/events

No meetings in July and August

Wednesday, September 30th, 7:00 pm Soref JCC
Antique Judaica
Dr. Murray Zedeck

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

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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.

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