



Family Gatherings

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

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**NEXT MEETING: MONDAY, MAY 7, 7:00 PM
SOREF J.C.C**

President's Message

Genealogy is in the media. A recent article in the Philadelphia Inquirer reported that genealogy is especially hot among retirees, and that "the reasons are obvious"-

- No special training is needed; many older people are already computer-savvy. The large turnout and enthusiastic interest at our March 11 Genealogy Workshop (101 Route to Your Roots) was a strong indicator of this interest in our Broward community.
- It's inexpensive to pursue because a lot of information is available at no charge on line or in our library or local libraries.
- Research online is quicker, easier and more rewarding than it once was.
- You connect with your family and there's a nice camaraderie with other genealogists.

Other recently noted media items of genealogical interest included:

- Newsweek issue of March 12th, article on "Secrets, Lies and Love" in the Ideas section. The article mentions Daniel Mendelsohn and his book, "The Lost: A Search for Six Million". Mr. Mendelsohn, in person, will discuss his book at our Monday, May 7th meeting.
- Fortune magazine issue of February 19th, article on "Out of Africa" discusses a DNA service for blacks.
- Wall Street Journal article on "Heir-Search Firms Help to Keep It in the Family" reports on companies that track down lost beneficiaries on behalf of estates using genealogical research procedures.

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Program

Bob Koltnow

**DANIEL MENDELSON
MONDAY EVENING, MAY 7, 7:00 P.M.**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, again jointly with the Soref Jewish Community Center, are pleased to have Daniel Mendelsohn, an award winning author, journalist and critic, make a presentation at the Soref Jewish Community Center, 6501 West Sunrise Boulevard, Plantation, Florida.

In September, 2006, Mr. Mendelsohn's new book, "THE LOST: A Search for Six of Six Million", is the story of his search to learn about the fates of family members who perished in the Holocaust. It is an "epic that weaves together memoir, reportage and literary detective work to forge a narrative as gripping as it is profound: a colorful, richly populated mystery that delves deeply into the nature of time, memory and history". THE LOST was considered among the best books of 2006 by such publications as the New York Times, the Washington Post, NPR's "Fresh Air", as well as receiving many other awards.

Daniel Mendelsohn spent five years searching the globe for an answer to the question he had asked as a boy "What really happened to his great uncle Shmiel, his wife and his four daughters during the Holocaust? After his grandfather's death, Mr. Mendelsohn found a bundle of letters from a desperate Shmiel in 1939. In his search, he visited a dozen countries on four continents to track down the remaining Jews from Shmiel's town, Bolechow. He not only discovered the answers he sought about his family's fate, but he learned so much more about his family's rich history, religion and culture as well.

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Family Gatherings, May 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

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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.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

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Mr. Mendelsohn received his B. A. From the University of Virginia, and his M. A. and Ph. D. in Classics from Princeton University, where he was a Mellon Fellow in the Humanities. He began his career in journalism in New York and his articles, essays and reviews appeared frequently in numerous national publications. From 1994 to 2002, he was a Lecturer in the Department of Classics. He is currently a Professor of Humanities at Bard College

This will be a presentation that should not be missed. There will be a charge of \$6.00 to members of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Broward County and of the Soref Jewish Community Center and \$8.00 to non members. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT THIS EVENT IS NOT ON ONE OF OUR USUAL MEETING DAYS, BUT IS NEXT MONDAY NIGHT.

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."

Speaker’s Bureau

Bob Koltnow will be making a presentation to the Genealogy Society of Broward County on Sunday, May 6th, at 2:00 P. M. at the Alvin Sherman Library, on Ray Ferrero Drive, on the Nova University Campus. His topic will be “Genealogical Research at Your Local Courthouse”.

LIBRARY NEWS

You never know what you'll find! A half hour before the start of our last meeting where Ron Arons entertained us with genealogical stories of Jewish gangsters in prisons, I had to get something from our library and one of our members asked if he could see where our library was and what was in it. He was planning a European trip this summer and wanted to see if he could do a little pre-research, but he was not too optimistic.

Since our library listing on our web site hasn't been updated in a while, and I still have many more entries of gifts and purchases to enter, his eyes opened wide in surprise when I opened the door and showed him around. I pulled out a few books that I thought might be helpful to him and showed him a few others. Then I showed him our alphabetical printed listings by title and by author and by number. I explained that I had to go back and help with those attending our meeting, but that he could stay. I locked up and left.

Half an hour later, he returned, excitedly waving several pieces of paper and telling me all the great information that he found! I smiled and told him that we charged by the word. The smile on his face fell in disbelief. That's when I laughed and told him it was just a joke and that I was so happy that we were of assistance to him and that our hours were on Tuesdays from 10 to 12 and an hour before our meetings and at special requests. We may be closing down the library the end of May.

If you have any donations of books or bookcases, please let us know and we can arrange for a pickup.

We will be adding an autographed copy of our speaker David Mendelsohn's book "The Lost" after his appearance on Monday, May 7th. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to see and hear him talk about his fascinating story of trying to locate his ancestors. See you there.

Brenda Feuer
Rhoda Horwitz

(President's message continued, from page 1)

I would be pleased to send you a copy of any of the above mentioned articles. Send me an email at martshames@aol.com. If you see an article about genealogy I would appreciate it if you would send a copy to me at the JGSBC, P.O. Box 17251, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33318 or as an attachment via email.

To continue to provide programs such as the Genealogy Workshop and speakers such as Daniel Mendelsohn and Ron Arons we need some volunteer assistance by some of our members. This "work" provides flexible hours, interesting activities, opportunity to meet new people and a lot of satisfaction. Contact me or any of our Board members; I'm sure that by getting involved you will add a lot of enjoyment to your genealogical journey.

Marty Shames, President

TIPS FROM BERNIE

As was discussed at our recent seminar, *Family Tree Maker* is probably the most commonly used genealogy software for PCs. For those of you out there using Macs, *Reunion* is probably the most popular one. Leister Productions has recently released a major update: Reunion version 9. You can learn more at <http://www.leisterpro.com>.

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