

# Family Gatherings

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

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## President's Message

by Michael Sofman

We've had quite a busy month since our last newsletter. First, we had a wonderful talk on Sephardic genealogy given by Professor Marianne Sanua, on April 13. On April 26, we participated in the 1st ever Genealogy Fair at Nova Southeastern University. Hundreds of people attended and visited the displays set up by various groups involved in genealogy and history, such as the Genealogical Society of Broward County, the DAR, the Sons of the American Revolution, Proquest/Heritage Quest, and FamilySearch. Marty Shames and I presented a workshop on "Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy" that was well-attended and well-received.

The following week, we set our table up again in the Alvin Sherman Library, during

the Israel60 celebration. This event ended up being attended by **35,000 people**, an absolutely astounding number of people, and far exceeding expectations. Our table was visited by many people over the course of the day, and we were able to help those people get started on their family searches.

As a follow-up to the genealogy fair, NSU will be offering a Summer Learning Series on Genealogy this summer. This will take place on 8 Sundays over the course of the summer, from 1-3 pm. These are free and open to the public. For more info, call 954-262-4613, or go to [www.nova.edu/library/genealogy](http://www.nova.edu/library/genealogy)

Lastly, the IAJGS convention is coming up in Chicago, in August. If you have never been to one, please consider it. They are



**Michael Sofman**  
President, JGSBC

fabulous meetings, with many great lectures, workshops, films, and vendors. For info, go to the IAJGS website at [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org) If you do plan to attend, please let us know, so we can make arrangements to get together while we are there.

And don't forget about our Annual Awards Luncheon on Sunday, June 8!

See you soon,

Michael Sofman

Volume XX, Number 5  
May 2008

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**\*\*DON'T MISS IT\*\***

**Jewish Genealogy 201: The World of JewishGen**

**Sunday, May 18, 1-3 PM**

**Alvin Sherman Library of Nova Southeastern University**

## Program Notes

by Marty Shames

Members and guests who attended the monthly meeting on Sunday, April 13th took an interesting journey from 10th century Spain through Colonial America tracing the history of Sephardic Jewry. Professor Marianne Sanua, Ph.D., of Florida Atlantic University described the events from the Golden Age in Spain (from 900 to 1100) through the 1492 expulsion through settlements in Brazil, the 1654 arrival of 23 Jews to New Amsterdam and through the Colonial Period. Her talk was titled, "The Role of Sephardic Jews in the Early Settlement of America" and she told of the many prominent Sephardic Jews who contributed to the Revolution. Professor Sanua commented on the coincidence of

the 1492 expulsion of Jews from Spain and the journey of Columbus to discover America. Although Columbus was not Jewish (contrary to some stories) his trip was financed by conversos and 6 members of his crew were conversos. The 1600's saw the decline of Spain and the rise of the religiously tolerant Holland. Many conversos moved to Holland and it has been referred to as the Jerusalem of the North. Jews were active in forming the Dutch West India Company and used their influence to allow the Jews from Brazil to stay in New Amsterdam over the objections of Governor Stuyvesant. She also talked about Jean Lafitte, the feared pirate, who was a Sephardic Jew.




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

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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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## Library News

As summer time approaches and we slow down our usual pace, we find ourselves with more time on our hands to devote to forgotten hobbies such as reading and genealogical searching. If you had a chance to attend the two wonderful events presented at Nova Southeastern such as the Genealogical Fair and Israel60, you're probably inspired to do a little of both reading and researching. And, our Jewish-Gen Workshop that's coming up at Nova Southeastern on May 18<sup>th</sup> will really get you fired up!

To add more fuel to the fire, for the first time ever, our Library will be loaning some of our books and magazines such as Avotaynu to our members over the summer for some enjoyable reading! Check the library reading list in our newsletter for some of the titles, and drop by on Tues-

day's from 10 to 12 to see our selection. We have more books than are listed, and I'll be trying to update the list over the summer. I'll probably close down the library at the end of May, unless you make a special request to me at my library web address or at rhocat@aol.com for another day or time. I live close enough to be flexible. We have many books of interest that can't be found on the internet, and of course we're always interested in finding out what titles you'd like to see added to our stacks. And, if you're not using some of your former research books, please donate them to us and take a tax donation.

We hope to see you in the library at Soref soon and have a great summer.

Brenda Feuer

Rhoda Horwitz

### 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

August 17th-22nd, 2008

Chicago Marriott Downtown  
Magnificent Mile  
Chicago, Illinois

Network with international experts, archivists, and researchers, and access Chicago's archives and historical institutes.

[www.chicago2008.org](http://www.chicago2008.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](http://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](http://www.jgsbc.org) and click on Membership in the navigation bar.**

## Jewish Genealogy 201: The World of JewishGen

Sunday, May 18, 1-3 pm, Alvin Sherman Library at NSU

Our next meeting will be a mini-workshop on the subject of JewishGen, the premier website for Jewish Genealogy. Started in the late 1980's as a dial-up bulletin board, it has evolved into a tremendous resource for Jewish genealogists, containing a vast array of databases unavailable anywhere else.

There is so much information available there, it can appear quite daunting to navigate. We plan to go through some of the more important aspects of JewishGen in real time, while connected to the internet. This workshop will take place in one of the com-

puter labs at the Library. Each seat will have a terminal, so you will be able to follow along as we go. There are two things that you can do ahead of time to enhance the experience. First, if you don't already have one, get an Alvin Sherman Library card. This will enable you to log in during the seminar. You can accomplish this by coming early and signing up at

the circulation desk. Secondly, to log into JewishGen, you need a user name and password. If possible, please do that ahead of time and remember to **write this information down and bring it with you** to the workshop.

Because this is taking place in a computer lab, space is limited, so please sign up as soon as possible. See the form in the back of this newsletter.

**Please note the change in location.** This was originally to have been at the Soref JCC but has been moved to the **Alvin Sherman Library at NSU.**



Check out  
our Events  
Calendar at  
[www.jgsbc.org/  
helios/events](http://www.jgsbc.org/helios/events)

## Nu? What's New?

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu (excerpted)

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Volume 9, Number 10 | April 27, 2008

### JOWBR Now Exceeds One Million Records

The JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) now exceeds one million records. The total number of cemeteries in JOWBR is now 1,929 and total number of burials is 1,006,675. These cemeteries are located throughout the world. The extraction of the information from tombstones was accomplished by volunteers.

JewishGen suggests that as family historians visit ancestral towns or towns in your current country of residence, they should consider recording data from the Jewish cemeteries and/or photographing all the tombstones in the cemetery or landsmanschaft plot and submit it for inclusion in JOWBR.

You can search the JOWBR database at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/>. A list of cemeteries in the 40 countries already included can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/tree/CemList.htm>. JewishGen also hosts the International Jewish Cemetery Project whose mission is to catalogue every Jewish burial site throughout the world. It is a project of the of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. It is located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Cemetery/>.

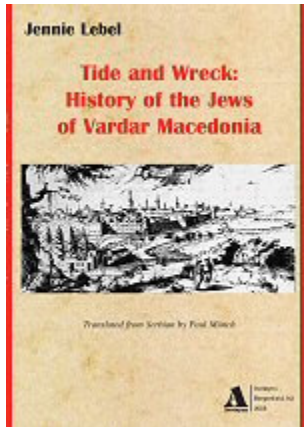
### FAMILYTreeDNA Forms Second Company: DNATraits

FamilyTreeDNA has formed a second company, DNATraits, whose purpose is to offer DNA tests associated with certain Ashkenazic genetic diseases. The diseases are:

- \* Abetalipoproteinemia Gaucher Disease
- \* Adrenal Hyperplasia, classical and non-classical Glycogen Storage Disease 1A
- \* Bloom Syndrome Glycogenosis VII Phosphokinase Deficiency, Late Onset
- \* Canavan Disease Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome
- \* Chorea-Acanthocytosis Idiopathic Torsion Dystonia
- \* Cystic Fibrosis Lipoamide dehydrogenase deficiency
- \* Factor XI Deficiency Maple Syrup Urine Disease
- \* Familial Dysautonomia Mucopolidosis, Type IV
- \* Familial Hypercholesterolemia Nemaline Myopathy
- \* Familial Hyperinsulinism Niemann-Pick Disease, Types 1 and 2
- \* Familial Mediterranean Fever Non-Syndromic Deafness
- \* Fanconi Anemia, Complementation Group C Tay-Sachs Disease
- \* Usher Syndrome, Types 1F and 3

The company stated that they comply with the Direct-To-Consumer (DTC) DNA testing policy statement published by the American College of Medical Genetics. Their website is located at <http://www.dnatraits.com/>

### New Book: *Tide & Wreck: The History of the Jews of Vardar Macedonia*



Avotaynu has just published an English-language version of the book *Tide & Wreck: The History of the Jews of Vardar Macedonia*. Authored by Jennie Lebel, it is the result of more than 30 years of her research into the history of Vardar Macedonian Jews until the Final Solution in Treblinka. Until now there has been only a Hebrew edition published in 1986 and a Serbian one in 1990. This English version is an expanded one—426 pages—that is much more comprehensive and enriched with material found in new documents written in many languages. The author states that *Tide and Wreck* is dedicated to the Jews of ex-Yugoslavia, especially to those who lived in Macedonia for centuries until their tragic end in the Holocaust. The wounds have never healed, but this book is helping to repay at least some of the debt to their memory.

Ordering information as well as the complete Table of Contents can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/macedonia.htm>. Avotaynu previously published Jennie Lebel's work on the Jews of Belgrade titled *Until the Final Solution: The Jews in Belgrade 1521–1942*. Information about that book is located at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/belgrade.htm>. It includes the Table of Contents.

### New Canadian Genealogy Search Engine

Three major archives in Canada have created a consolidated search engine that permits their online databases to be searched in one step. The groups are Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec (BanQ), Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and the Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists (CPTA) of Canada. The site, called “That’s My Family” (“Voici ma famille” in French) is located at <http://www.voicimafamille.info>. The site is similar to many of the functions at the Stephen P. Morse One-Step site in that it does not have a search engine but instead uses the search engines at the three facilities and filters the results back to the user as a single search. The search can take a while because it actually is searching a number of sites consecutively to find information.

You can do surname searches as well as topical searches. Searching for “Jewish” produced 1,169 results. Some of the sites use fuzzy logic to provide results. Searching for “Mokotoff” produced results in British Columbia for a family named Makortoff. Searching for Tartacki yielded results for people named Tack.

For additional information and analysis see Dick Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter located at [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2008/04/thats-my-family.html#more](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2008/04/thats-my-family.html#more).

### APG To Hold Roundtable on Record Access

In the March 30, 2008, (Volume 9, Number 7) edition of *Nu? What's New?* I reported that organized genealogy in the U.S. is becoming proactive in fighting attempts to limit access to records important to family history. The latest evidence is that the Association of Professional Genealogists plans to hold a roundtable discussion on records preservation and access at the annual conference on the National Genealogical Society to be held next month in Kansas City, Missouri. David Rencher will moderate the discussion. He is chair of the Records Preservation and Access Committee created some years ago by the National Genealogical Society and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. For more information about this committee see <http://www.fgs.org/rpac/index.php>.

**Bounced E-mail to Jewish Genealogists**

A posting to the Romania SIG Discussion Group seeking an updated e-mail address reminded me that one of the great sources for e-mail addresses of Jewish genealogists is the JewishGen Family Finder. This is a database of ancestral towns and surnames being researched by more than 50,000 genealogists throughout the world. The search engine is located at <http://www.jewishgen.org/JGFF/jgffweb.asp>. Invariably people are researching their own surname; therefore, search for all those who are looking for a given surname changing the search parameter from "Sounds Like" to "Exactly." JGFF will not give you the e-mail address but will forward a message to the person. This approach was adopted by JewishGen a number of years ago, because spammers were mining e-mail addresses of participants. The technique will not work for married women who are not researching their husband's or ex-husband's family.

## NSU Genealogy Fair, April 26, 2008



David Corito, foreground, with Rhoda Horwitz behind laptop, helping an attendee

Michael Sofman, assisting an attendee, as Harriet McDougall, Executive Director of the Alvin Sherman Library, and Michael Greenberg look on



## JGSBC Program Calendar

[www.jgsbc.org/helios/events](http://www.jgsbc.org/helios/events)

**Sunday, May 18, 2008, 1:00 pm, Alvin Sherman Library at  
Nova Southeastern University**

### Jewish Genealogy 201– The World of JewishGen

Learn the Ins and Outs of JewishGen, one of the most useful websites for Jewish genealogy. See form at back of newsletter

**Sunday, June 8, 2008, 12:00 pm**

### Annual Awards Luncheon

JP Bistro, 5650 Stirling Road, Hollywood

Please join us as we present the **2008 Estelle Nemoy Memorial Award** to one of our members for his or her efforts on behalf of the JGSBC. See form at back of newsletter

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](http://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



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

**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](mailto: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**

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

**Email: [info@jgsbc.org](mailto:info@jgsbc.org)**

**[www.jgsbc.org](http://www.jgsbc.org)**

## JGSBC

### Officers and Directors

President	Michael Sofman
Vice President	Martin Shames
Treasurer	Brenda Feuer
Secretary	Joyce Ben-Ezra
Directors	Robert Koltnow
	Rhoda Horwitz
	Ara Morenberg
	Rosa Pinsky
	Robert Pittell

### Committee Chairs

Cemetery	Ara Morenberg
Finance	Brenda Feuer
Library	Rhoda Horwitz
Membership	Rosa Pinsky
Newsletter	Ara Morenberg
Program	Martin Shames
Publicity	Ara Morenberg
Speaker's Bureau	Robert Koltnow
Website	Ara Morenberg

### Past Presidents

Martin Shames	2004-2007
Robert Koltnow	2002-2003
Bernard Kouchel	1995-2001
Gene Garlin	1994-1995
Bernard Kouchel, Founder	1988-1994

Check out our website at [www.jgsbc.org](http://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](mailto:library@jgsbc.org).



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

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

**Presents**

# **Jewish Genealogy 201: The World of JewishGen**

**Sunday, May 18, 2008, 1:00-3:00 pm**

**Alvin Sherman Library of Nova Southeastern University  
3100 Ray Ferrero Blvd  
Fort Lauderdale**

**Join us as we delve** into the finer points of JewishGen, one of the most important online sources of Jewish genealogical and historical information. Among the topics to be discussed will be the various databases, InfoFiles, the JewishGen Family Finder, the Family Tree of the Jewish People, Yizkor Books, Discussion groups, the JewishGen Worldwide Burial Registry, and the many Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Meant as a follow-up to our fall workshop, **Jewish Genealogy 101: A 4-Hour Route to Your Roots**, this seminar is geared for genealogists of all levels of expertise

Attendees will receive a workshop manual (one per family).

There are also two things you can do to make the seminar more rewarding for yourself. This meeting will be in one of the computer labs at NSU, which have computers at each seat. You can access the computer with a library card, so if you don't already have one, come early and obtain one at the Circulation Desk. Also, it would be beneficial to have an account at JewishGen, so you can access the site during the workshop. If you're not currently a JewishGen member, please go to [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org) to sign up, and remember to bring your user name and password with you to the workshop.

This is a free seminar, but seating is limited. To assure a reservation, please register as soon as possible by either mailing the form below, phoning 954-873-4403, or e-mailing to: [info@jgsbc.org](mailto:info@jgsbc.org).

For more information contact: [mshames@jgsbc.org](mailto:mshames@jgsbc.org) or go to our website:

[www.jgsbc.org](http://www.jgsbc.org)

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Workshop: Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County Inc. (JGSBC)  
PO Box 17251, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318

## **Jewish Genealogy 201: The World of JewishGen May 18, 2008**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

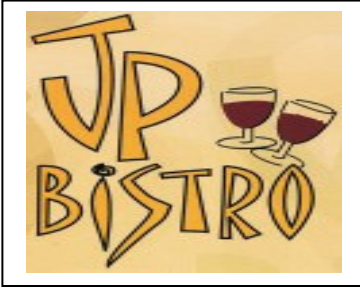


**Jewish Genealogical Society  
Of Broward County, Inc**  
-Florida USA-

Cordially Invites You to Our

# Annual Awards Luncheon

Sunday, June 8, 2007, 12 noon at



*JP Bistro*  
5650 Stirling Rd  
Hollywood, FL



Please join us as we wrap up our meeting season and present the **Estelle Nemoy Memorial Award** to an individual that has made a significant contribution to the JGSBC. The meal will be kosher with a variety of breads, pastries, salads served family-style at the tables, then a choice of several different pasta and fish entrees, followed by dessert and coffee.

**COST: \$25 PER PERSON**, all inclusive

For further information, please go to our website,

[www.jgsbc.org](http://www.jgsbc.org)

Please detach here

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Please make checks payable to the **JGSBC**, and mail by May 26 to:

JGSBC

P.O. Box 17251

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318-7251

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ 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:	

<b>Out-of-State Address</b>	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