



Family Gatherings

The newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc

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Volume 22, Number 5

May 2010

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Sunday May 16 1PM Alvin Sherman Library of NSU
Rabbi Edward Davis
"Biblical Genealogy"

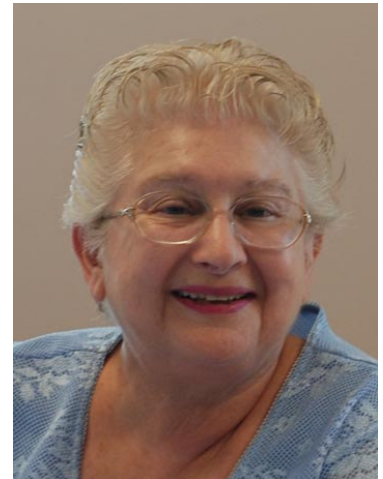
Sunday June 6 Noon Emerald Hills Country Club
Annual Awards Luncheon

President's Message Brenda Feuer

The month of April stands out. The Genealogy Fair that was held at Nova was a big success. Many thanks to Rhoda Horwitz and her committee for their part before and at the Fair. Rhoda set up the scheduling, selected and set up our booth, was the first one there and the last one to leave. Michael Sofman was an afternoon speaker at the Fair who spoke to a packed room. They had to bring in more chairs and someone even sat on an upturned garbage pail. We will have to enlist Michael in the Speakers Group. I spoke at two places this month, the Open Forum Group at Soref JCC and at the Holocaust Survivors meeting at Kings Point in Tamarac.

Our April meeting was very well attended and the speaker, Paul Enchelmayer was excellent. We all learned more about Google. Our next meeting is May 16th at Nova. Our speaker will be Rabbi Edward Davis and his topic is Biblical Genealogy.

On June 6th we are having our annual Estelle Nemo Awards Luncheon. We will be honoring Michael Sofman, who has worked very hard for our organization. He is a past President, and has been Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor, and is our Webmaster. Let us join him on June 6th to show our appreciation.



Program Notes

Marty Shames

Our April meeting was an excellent one, with Paul Enchel-mayer presenting “Google Good-ies for Genealogists”. This was a wonderful overview of how to use the many features of Google to our best advantage. Much of the talk was devoted to using more specific searches to narrow down your search resulting, making it more digestible. For example, if you do a general Google search on your last name, you could come up with millions of hits. Obviously, not very practical to wade through. You could narrow it down, however, by focusing on specific types of data, such as old newspaper articles, photographs, books, maps, even patents and scholarly papers. Another very useful feature is Google

Translate, which can translate many languages into English. It’s not a perfect translation, usually, but enough to give you an idea of what the gist is. It’s too much to go through here, but you can learn techniques online from Google itself, or use as a reference the book, “Google Your Family Tree” available at googleyourfamilytree.com or from Avotaynu. Paul also mentioned that it is sometimes useful to use other search engines, like Bing and Yahoo, since sometimes an item will show up in one but not the other.

Our next meeting, Sunday May 16, will feature Rabbi Edward Davis, of Young Israel in Hollywood. He is an excellent speaker

and will be talking about “Biblical Genealogy”. This will be at 1pm at the Alvin Sherman Library of NSU We’ll see you there!



Paul Enchel-mayer and Marty Shames

Membership

Ellen Sobo and Nancy Wyman

We warmly welcome our newest members: We are very pleased to announce that we have gained three new members since our last report. A warm welcome goes out to:

Robert Avner
Pat Hady
Harriet Saltzman

We invite you to attend our next meeting and also to brief us on your family tree “brick walls” during the part of our program reserved for sharing research problems and discoveries. You may be able to connect with someone who is knowledgeable in your area of research who can offer suggestions.

Members are also welcome to write the details of that “brick wall” dilemma or success story for publication in our Family Gatherings newsletter! Send it to newsletter@jgsbc.org.

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: pin-skyr@ccf.org

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

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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

Rhoda Horwitz

While entering book titles to update our Library holdings, I thought that I'd share some of them with you. All of these are on our bulging shelves in approximate numerical order. The library hours are Tuesday's from 10 to 12 if you can't come in that day feel free to call me at (954) 741-8368 to make an appointment. You can check the JSBC.ORG website which has a partial listing of our holdings. Thanks to the ongoing generosity of our kind members through donations our library has in fact, 550 books, Lucky us! And lucky us, our newsletter editor Alison works at the Downtown Branch of the Broward Public Library, so she's up-to-date on all the incoming Jewish-related materials and can tell us all about them!

Here are just a few of the titles that we have. Hope that they are of interest to you:

"A History of the Jews" 1988 by Paul Johnson.

"The Black Jews of Harlem", 1970 by Howard M. Brotz

"A Double Thread: Growing Up English and Jewish in London", 2002 John Gross

"The Jews of Arab Lands: A History and Source Book", 1979 by Norman A. Stillman

"The Starting Point: Stories of Truth and Hope", 2007 by Daniel Shoer-Roth (Miami Herald reporter)

"Our Crowd: The Great Jewish Families of New York" 1967 by Stephan Birmingham

"How We Lived: A Documentary History of Immigrant Jews in America 1880-1930" 1979 by Irving Howe and Kenneth Libo.

I could go on and on, but you get the idea. We do have a wide variety, plus Jewish Encyclopedias, etc. Please keep in mind while visiting our library that computers and printers are unfortunately unavailable.

Tidbits

Bernie Kouchel

Digitizing family history treasures: -Tips and tricks for saving and multiplying family treasures through the modern magic of digital technology. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/2dcj4kq>

Family Tree Maker for Mac:- Ancestry.com announced a Mac version of Family Tree Maker. The new version of the world's No. 1 selling family history software is planned for release later this year. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/234gcxr>

GOOGLE Genealogy Style: 12 Google Search Tips for Genealogists—A good tutorial on how to use Google to dig deeper - using advanced search operators, Google's cache (where "dead" sites go) and even searching maps and document types - is avail-

able at...genealogy.about.com/od/search_tips/a/google_search.htm.

Please see link for this quiz from CFO Magazine: Test your knowledge of the U.S. Census.//www.cfo.com/article.cfm/14485284?f=search

Cuban Jews featured in Jewish Museum of Florida (Miami Beach) exhibit. The exhibit will run through Sept. 26. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/27dddwg> .For more information call the museum at 305-672-5044 or visit <http://www.jewishmuseum.com>.

From the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, May 2, 2010

By Scott Fishman, Forum Publishing Group

Finding out where you come from isn't always an easy task.

This is one of the main reasons why [Nova Southeastern University](#)'s Alvin Sherman Library in Davie has an annual Genealogy Fair. In its third year, the event recently provided a wealth of resources for research. More than 700 people came out for the event, about double from last year.

Visitors were given a free genealogy workbook and materials to begin a journey through their family's history. Experts on the subject helped them research numerous time periods and nationalities that make up their lineage. Computer labs were filled with people researching on databases such as the Ancestry Library.

Kim Garvey, outreach and instructional librarian for genealogy, has worked for more than two years at the library and provides free genealogical programming and research assistance for family historians. She has seen her share of touching moments, specifically when patrons find their ancestors in the census. These names can be harder to find due to surnames, misspellings or indexing mistakes.

"It is always rewarding to reconnect the researcher to their line in person," she said. "Each year, we have more people and community interest [in the fair]."

Increased interest can be attributed in part to the popular [NBC](#) series "Who Do You Think You Are?" Megan Smolenyak, author of the companion book for the show, was one of the event's featured guests.

Smolenyak, chief family historian for Ancestry.com, has an extensive background in the field, including as a cold case researcher for the [FBI](#) and the [U.S. Army](#).

"A series like 'Who Do You Think You Are?' serves as a catalyst and nudges folks to jump in," she said. "In England, where the show is in its eighth season, it did what 'Roots' did in America back in the 1970s. ...

What's changing is how many people come to genealogy-related events, and as you might suspect, that figure is soaring."

Michael Greenberg, who attended the NSU event, said he became interested in genealogy by watching the "Roots" miniseries.

"It's wonderful to see people from all over," he said. "There was a man who was looking for information on the passenger manifest [for] the ship his ancestors came in on."

Megan Smolenyak

Genealogist, Family History Expert

(Courtesy of The Huffington Post

Posted: March 28, 2010 11:57 AM)

Your Family Belongs in a Museum: Belgian Red Star Line Seeks Emigrant Sagas

Here's your chance to capture a piece of posterity for your family! The Belgian Red Star Line Museum -- which will essentially be a European counterpart to Ellis Island -- is looking for emigrant memorabilia and stories.

In the spring of 2012, the Red Star Line Museum of migration will open in Antwerp, Belgium. This new museum owes its name to the shipping company that -- between 1873 and 1939 -- brought more than two million

passengers from the port of Antwerp to America and Canada. It will be located in the original departure halls in the old harbor district, at the very quay where hundreds of thousands of emigrants bound for the U.S. and Canada took their final steps on European soil.

Are you one of their descendants? Take a look at your ancestors' passenger arrival records. Did they depart from Antwerp? If so, there's a very good chance you're a Red Star Line descendant. Just google the name of the ship and "Red Star Line" and see if you get a match. Hint: many ships with names ending with "land" (*Pennland, Zeeland, Westernland*, etc.) were part of the Red Star Line.

If you find any Red Star Line ancestors, the museum would love to hear from you. The main exhibition of the museum will tell the history of Red Star Line and of Antwerp as an emigrant departure port. They want to focus heavily on the story of the countless passengers who boarded the ships longing for their chance at the American Dream. The intent is for visitors to experience their journey, with all the trials, accomplishments, hope, fears, expectations and disappointments it brought. And to achieve that, they are searching for individual and family migration stories.

Would you like to celebrate the journey that shaped your family history? Pay homage to those family members who took their destiny into their hands? Have you done already a little research? Do you still have letters, luggage, diaries, photos or other testimony to their journey in your family possessions? Let them know! Perhaps your family history will be displayed to the world in the future museum!

e-mail: redstarline@stad.antwerpen.be

tel. +32 3 206 03 50 (9:00-16:00 CET)

website: www.redstarline.org

A message from Yad Vashem**DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO PERISHED IN THE HOLOCAUST?**

Yad Vashem has collected information on over 3.6 million Holocaust victims and wants your help to record and memorialize the remaining millions through their

SHOAH NAMES RECOVERY CAMPAIGN

Here is how you can help.

- 1. Draw up a list of relatives and friends who perished.**
- 2. Collect any photos you may have of the victims.**
- 3. Call your Yad Vashem community volunteer who will visit you at home to assist in filling out the necessary forms.**
Please contact the following volunteers

ROSA PINSKY 954 389 7392 pinskyr@ccf.org

or

EILEEN TULEPAN 854 340 6818 Eileen@panther-marketing.com

**You can now follow the
JGSBC on
Facebook**

Keep up with our events, post photos and comments, start or join discussions— it's a great way to keep in touch and informed

To find us, just create a Facebook account, then look for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

Nu? What's New? (excerpted)
The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu
Gary Mokotoff, Editor
Volume 11, Number 7 | April 18, 2010

Annual Conference Program Now Online



The annual IAJGS conference program schedule is now online at https://www.goeshow.com/jgsia/IAJGS/2010/Conference_Program.cfm. In addition to the lectures, there are computer labs, film showings, research group meetings, breakfasts with experts, luncheons and midnight snack sessions. Some start as early as 8 a.m. Some end at 11:30 p.m. At times there are as many as eight concurrent sessions. Program listings preceded by "\$" are fee-based events that can be purchased when registering. They are primarily programs where food is served (Breakfast with the Experts, SIG Luncheons and Midnight with the Mavens) plus computer labs.

The conference is being held at the Marriott LIVE Hotel in Los Angeles from July 11–16, 2010. Additional information can be found at <http://www.jgsia2010.com>. The site provides information about registration, hotels, programs, speakers, films and tours. To keep up to date about conference information, subscribe to the newsletter at <http://www.jgsia2010.com/about/sign-up-for-the-announcements-newsletter/>.

Index to Latvian Vital Records

Christine Usdin of France has an ongoing project of indexing 19th-century and early 20th-century Jewish vital records of Latvia. The work to date can be found at <http://www.premiumorange.com/rigavitalrecords/>. The source of the information is the online digitized images of records located at <http://www.lvva-raduraksti.lv/en.html>. A description of this site can be found in "Latvian Jewish Records Now Online" in the [July 10, 2009](#), issue of *Nu? What's New?* These rabbinic records are written in Russian and Hebrew. Usdin is extracting from the Russian portion, and Martha Lev-Zion of Israel is verifying the accuracy by reading the Hebrew portion.

Based on a sample of the index, the extraction is quite comprehensive including for births: date, name, names of parents (often including patronymic) and place of residence. For boys, also included is the officiant at the circumcision (*mohe*). For marriages: date, names of bride and groom including patronymic, ages and places of residence, names of witnesses. For deaths: date, name of deceased including patronymic, age of deceased, cause of death, place of residence. For divorces: date, names of principals including patronymic and witnesses.

Towns included to date are Dvinsk, Glazmanka/Dankere/Gostini, Griva, Jekabpils (Jakobstadt), Kudilga (Goldingen), Liepaja (Libava/Libau), Ludza, Malta(Silmala), Rezekne, Riga, Subate, Ilukste and Griva, Valdemarpils (Samaskas/Sassmacken), Varaklani, Vilaka and Vishki.

Poland Plans Database of "Victims of Repression Under German Occupation"

The Foundation for Polish-German Reconciliation has initiated an Internet site that hopes to identify every Polish citizen that was a victim of German repression from the years 1939–1945. The site is located at <http://www.straty.pl/> and can be read in five languages: English, German, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian. It currently contains about 1.9 million names. The database is searchable at <http://www.straty.pl/index.php/pl/szukaj-w-bazie>.

The project was initiated in 2006 by the Institute of National Remembrance and the Polish Ministry of Culture and National Heritage.

There are remarkably few Jewish names in the database despite the fact there are a number of Holocaust databases that list Polish Jews. These could have been acquired by the project. There are less than 50 persons named Szapiro (and spelling variants) in the database, yet the Yad Vashem Pages of Testimony site has more than 1,000 persons named Szapiro of Polish origin. Only one Mokotow appears from the more than 100 persons named Mokotow who were victims of repression under the German occupation.

Approximately three million Polish Christians—out of a total population of 33 million—lost their lives during World War II, mostly due to the consequences of war. Approximately three million Polish Jews—out of a total population of 3.3 million—lost their lives, mostly due to genocide.

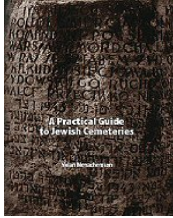
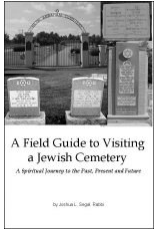
Swiss Refugees Database

A database of more than 25,000 persons who fled to neutral Switzerland during World War II is available at http://etat.geneve.ch/dt/archives/a_votre_service-liste_refugies-1700.html. The complete list is presented alphabetically. Information about each individual includes name, date of birth and nationality. The site is in French. Use Google translate to convert the descriptive information in your native language.

Books for Jewish Cemetery Research

Some years ago I was attending a gathering of my wife's family and was discussing genealogy with the aged patriarch of the family. "Uncle Abe," I said, "Isn't it wonderful that Roni Liebowitz is tracing the Auerbach family history?" He thought for a moment and replied, "Yes, but she is a bit *mishugah* (crazy)."

"Why do you think she is *mishugah*?" I queried. Uncle Abe answered "Because she takes pictures of tombstones."



We family historians know the importance of tombstones and why we take pictures of them. However, Jewish tombstones can be a challenge for the beginning genealogist or those who cannot read the Hebrew inscriptions on them. Avotaynu offers two books to assist people in this aspect of family history research; each with a different approach.

A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery is a basic book that focuses on how to read the inscriptions on Jewish tombstones. It provides a step by step description of the various Hebrew components of a tombstone giving a translation of the Hebrew words. It is a soft-cover book that, as its name implies, you can bring to a cemetery and use on site to do cemetery research.

A Practical Guide to Jewish Cemeteries goes beyond the contents of the Field Guide. In addition to a comprehensive discussion of how to read the inscriptions on Jewish tombstones, it goes into greater detail about the artwork that appears on tombstones identifying and describing more than 25 symbols.

There is a section describing famous Jewish cemeteries and locations of major concentration camps. Another chapter identifies the burial locations of 260 famous Jews. The final chapter focuses on how to preserve cemeteries and tombstones.

Each book satisfies a different need. The *Field Guide* is a lower cost (\$21.00) work that focuses on reading tombstones with secondary information. The *Practical Guide* is a more expensive (39.00), more comprehensive book on Jewish cemeteries and burial customs.

Additional information as well as how to order *A Field Guide to Visiting a Jewish Cemetery* can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/CemeteryField.htm>. It includes a sample chapter and the Table of Contents. Additional and ordering information about *A Practical Guide to Jewish Cemeteries* can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Cemeteries.htm>. It includes the Table of Contents, sample chapter and a review of the book that appeared in AVOTAYNU.

Compare the two and select the book that would best satisfy your needs.

(Editorial Note: Both of these books are in our library at the Soref JCC)

Access to NewFamilySearch May Be Near

Public access to NewFamilySearch, a major revision as to how to access data at the Mormon Church genealogy Internet site may be near. You can now register to eventually use the database at <https://new.familysearch.org/en/action/unsec/welcome>. Only registration is possible. Currently access is limited to members of the Church.

The new system will merge genealogical data with religious data. At various meetings with members of the Jewish community, the Church made assurances that the public would be able to tell whether religious ordinances, such as posthumous baptism, were performed on a person in the combined database.

For Mormons, the site provides explicit instructions on the procedure for submitting names for ordinances. One section states:

"Names of nonrelated persons should not be submitted, including names of celebrities or famous people, or those gathered from unapproved extraction projects, **such as *Jewish Holocaust victims***." The bold face and italics are theirs, not mine.

Beirut Jewish Cemetery Online

In 1948 there were 24,000 Jews living in Lebanon, mostly in Beirut.

Today there are only 30 elderly individuals living in fear and the only remaining vestiges of the Jewish community are the Magen Abraham synagogue and the Jewish cemetery of Beirut. Nagi Georges Zeidan, a Lebanese Christian, undertook the task of memorializing the Lebanese Jewish community by researching its history and creating a database of 3,184 tombstone inscriptions using both

the cemetery and civil registrations. The database is now on SephardicGen at <http://www.sephardicgen.com/databases/BeirutCemeterySrchFrm.html> and <http://www.sephardicgen.com/databases/BeirutCemeterySrchFrmFR.html> (French version)

iPad Mania

Two excellent articles about the recently announced iPad can be found at <http://eogn.com/wp/?p=9033> and <http://www.newsweek.com/id/235565/page/1>. The first, by Dick Eastman, discusses hands-on use of the device. The second, by the magazine *Newsweek*, describes the iPad as a revolution. The magazine thought the device was so significant, it made it the cover story for its issue.

Meanwhile, Israel has banned imports of the iPad, citing concerns the device's wireless signals could disrupt other equipment. Officials want to first certify that the iPad complies with local transmitter standards. The ban even prevents tourists from bringing one into the country. You can read about the controversy more extensively at http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20100415/ap_on_hi_te/ml_israel_ipad_ban.

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JewishGen Has Information on 5,600 Communities

Would you believe JewishGen has information on more than 5,600 Jewish communities throughout the world? Its goal is to have 7,000 communities identified by the end of this year.

The information provided about each town includes location (latitude/longitude), a map, alternate names, a list of nearby Jewish communities, and a list of other resources that have additional information about the town.

A complete list of communities can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/communities/trees>, but it is organized by province within country. It is easier to locate the site for a particular town by using the search feature at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Communities/Search.asp>. When the result is displayed, click on the JewishGen icon in the "Modern Town & Country" field to display the information about the town.

The search engine will accept any of the names for the town. For example, the major Polish city of Kraków, can be found by searching for Kraków (Polish), Krakau (German), Kroke (Yiddish), Cracow (English), Cracovie (French), Cracovia (Spanish/Italian), Krakov (Rusian, Czech, Slovakian), Krakiv (Ukrainian), Krakko (Hungarian), Krakova (Latvian), plus other known variants: Krako, Krakoy, Krakuv.

Random U.S. Directories and Lists

A posting to the JewishGen Discussion Group identifies a site where there are a number of digitized city directories, yearbooks, censuses and other reference books. It is located at <http://www.evendon.net/PGHLookups/HomePage.shtml>.

The directories section includes city directories for random years and cities. Cities include Baltimore, Chicago, Cincinnati, Cleveland, New York and Pittsburgh, but there are many others. Go to the site to view the complete list. Those directories I viewed are also indexed. Some of the directories are Jewish directories.

There is a sprinkling of high school and college yearbooks and alumni directories. The military records are mostly from before the 20th century. The small books collection includes an 1898 Jewish UK Business Directory.

The design and implementation of the web site is very crude. The 1946 Manhattan (New York) phone directory displays only three of the four columns in the book. The only way I found to view the fourth column was to save the image and display it with my image editing software. Searching for Mokotoffs produced no results despite the fact they appear in the directory. Searching for any name on the page where the Mokotoffs of Manhattan appear produced no results.

It is worth browsing the site even though it is difficult to navigate. It just might have something of value to add to your research.

News from Ancestry.com

Family Tree Maker (FTM) Planned for the Mac. Ancestry.com has announced plans to make available a Mac version of its Family Tree Maker genealogical software package later this year. Currently the most popular system in use by Mac users is Reunion. Information about FTM can be found at <http://www.familytreemaker.com>. Information about Reunion can be found at <http://www.leisterpro.com/>

iPhone App. Early this year, Ancestry.com expanded to another Apple platform with the launch of its Tree To Go application for the

iPhone. From an iPhone, users can upload photos, update sources and edit trees. The Tree To Go iPhone application is available for iPhone and iPod touch free of charge through the iPhone App Store or iTunes. Additional information can be found at <http://landing.ancestry.com/iphone/>.

Wiki Application. Ancestry.com has announced its new Ancestry.com Wiki. To seed this online encyclopedia, the company has included its two largest reference books: *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* and *Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources*. These books are considered exhaustive guides to American genealogy. I wrote the Jewish chapter for *The Source*. Probably because of its length, on Wiki this chapter is divided into a number of sections. It was written in 2003 and could use updating.

The beta version of the Ancestry.com Wiki is available to the public at <http://www.ancestry.com/wiki>.

Immigrant Databases on WorldVitalRecords.com

WorldVitalRecords.com has added three U.S. immigration databases to its collection. They are "Germans to America," "Russians to America" and "Italians to America." These databases were originally published in book form many years ago. The databases are available at <http://worldvitalrecords.com> by subscription.

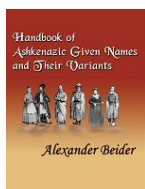
Each of the passenger records may include name, age, town of last residence, destination, and codes for passenger's sex, occupation, literacy, country of origin, transit and/or travel compartment, the name of the ship, the port of departure, date of arrival and the port of arrival. Most of the records are of passengers arriving at the Port of New York, although there are some records of passengers arriving at the following ports: Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, and Philadelphia.

Germans to America. This series consists of records of 4,048,907 passengers who arrived at the United States 1850 through 1897. About 90 percent identified their country of origin or nationality as Germany or a "German" state, city, or region. In about 10 percent of the records, passengers identified their country of origin or nationality as France, Luxemburg, Switzerland, United States and other places.

Russians to America. This series consists of records of 527,394 passengers arriving in the United States 1834 through 1897 who identified their country of origin or nationality as Armenia, Finland, Galicia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Russian Poland or Ukraine.

Italians to America. This series consists of records of 845,368 passengers who arrived at the United States 1855 through 1900. About 99 percent identified their country of origin or nationality as Italy or one of the following Italian regions: Lombardy, Piedmont, Sardinia, Sicily, or Tuscany. Some records are of passengers who identified their country of origin as England, France, Germany, Spain, or United States.

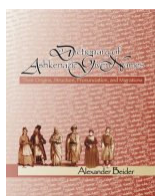
Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants



One of the fascinating aspects of Ashkenazic Jewish history is its given names. According to *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names* by Alexander Beider, all the thousands of these names derive from only 735 root names. I would never have thought that my mother's Jewish name, Tserl, is a variant of Sarah.

The *Dictionary* is a 728-page tome that is the definitive work on the subject. One reason for its large size is that the first 300 pages are a detailed description of the origin and evolution of Ashkenazic given names. It was Dr. Beider's doctoral thesis when he received his second doctorate from the Department of History at the Sorbonne. (His first doctorate was in applied mathematics from the Physio-Technical Institute of Moscow.)

Last year, AVOTAYNU editor Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus was struggling with the weight of the book and realized that only a portion of the book is necessary for genealogists to evaluate given names, so she suggested to Dr. Beider that a "handbook" be created as an alternative to his major work.



This is the origin of the book *Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants*. The *Handbook* consists of the

indexes to the identified 15,000 given names presented in three sections: names as they appeared in the Latin alphabet, Cyrillic alphabet and Hebrew alphabet. The body of the Handbook provides a description of each of the 735 root names plus a tree-like structure of all the name variants that shows exactly how they were derived from the root name.

The book *Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants* is only \$29.00, 232 pages and softcover. It can be ordered at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Handbook.htm>. As an example, the entry for the feminine given name Yentl can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/YentlHandbook.pdf>.

You can order *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names* at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/dagn.htm>. It includes the expanded version of the entry for Yentl plus a complete list of the 15,000 given names in the dictionary.

Family Tree University

F&W Media, the producer of Family Tree Magazine, has created an online genealogy education program called Family Tree University. It is located at <http://www.familytreeuniversity.com>. The “university” provides fee-based course and webinars. Each course lasts four weeks, and students can log in any time of day or night during their course session to complete lessons and interact with instructors. To interest the largest possible audience, most of the current curriculum covers 12 general topics such as “Use Google Tools for My Ancestry Search,” “Trace My Family in Census Records” and “Search the Internet for My Family.”

Jewish Genealogical Trip to Salt Lake City



For the 18th consecutive year, veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will be offering a research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from October 14-October 21, 2010. To date, more than 300 Jewish genealogists from the U.S., Canada, Israel, Australia, England, Austria and Venezuela have taken advantage of this program. The group size is limited to 40 people.

The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of intensive research at the Library under the guidance and assistance of professional genealogists who have made more than three dozen trips to Salt Lake City. Each attendee has access to trip leaders every day—except Sunday when the Library is closed—from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Library for on-site assistance and personal consultations. There is also a planned program that includes a three-hour class on day of arrival introducing the participants to the facilities and resources of the Family History Library in addition to a mid-week informal group discussion of progress and problem solving. For those new to genealogy, a beginners’ workshop on the first morning of the trip will introduce them to the wonderful world of Hamburg immigration lists, U.S. passenger arrival lists, naturalization records and census records.

Social events include a Sunday brunch for camaraderie and discussion of successes (and failures); attendance at the Sunday morning broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; and informal group dinners each night.

Additional information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>.

From the JewishGen Digests

Yizkor Book Project, April 2010

During this last month we have added these 5 new projects:

Disna, Belarus (Disna; memorial book of the community)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/disna/disna.html>

Grojec, Poland (Grizer Scroll) <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Grojec/Grojec.html>

Grudki, Poland (Horodok; in memory of the Jewish community) <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Grudki/Grudki.html>

Neunkirchen, Austria (The Holy Community of Neunkirchen: A story of Jews in their native land)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Neunkirchen/Neunkirchen.html>

Serock, Poland (The book of Serock) <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/serock/serock.html>

This week the National Genealogical Society (NGS) held its annual meeting in Salt Lake City.

Announcements include:

FamilySearch announced it will release records containing 300 million names that can be researched on line. The records include information from birth, marriage and death records, census records, census lists, migration and naturalization records and family trees that were submitted to Family Search, and more.

The database is still on a temporary website and may be accessed at: <http://fsbeta.familysearch.org/>

Ancestry.com News:

Earlier this year Ancestry sold its book business to another publisher. However, two of their prized resource books, The Source and Red Book: American State, County and Town Sources will be scanned and placed on the Internet in a Wiki. This way the resources may be updated regularly. The Ancestry.com Wiki is a new section on Ancestry.com available to subscribers and non-subscribers alike. It may be located at: www.ancestry.com/wiki.

The ViewMate team continues to improve the look and usability of ViewMate. On 1 May 2010, ViewMate added these new enhancements:

- * Change to incorporate the new JewishGen colors and page layout
- * New, easier to understand navigation menu
- * Support for new image file types TIFF, PNG and GIF, in addition to JPEG
- * Bookmark and share images and pages using more than 200 Web 2.0 tools -- Twitter, Facebook, Delicious, Digg, Email and more
- * Filter and sort images on the Gallery page -- new ways to organize and view the posted images
- * Rotate a full-sized image while translating -- easier to read words in the margins
- * Display of time remaining for each image on the Gallery page
- * Updated FAQs for managing and editing your submissions

ViewMate (<http://www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate>) is the JewishGen service where participants submit letters, documents and photos for translation and to identify people, clothing, artifacts, etc.



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.

If you'd like to come to our meetings, but are unable to because of **TRANSPORTATION ISSUES, please let us know, because there are **RIDES AVAILABLE!****

Please contact Rosa Pinsky at rpinsky@jgsbc.org, or call our Information Line at 954-873-4403

JGSBC Program Calendar

www.jgsbc.org/helios/events

Sunday May 16 1PM Alvin Sherman Library Rabbi Edward Davis
Biblical Genealogy

Sunday June 6 Noon Emerald Hills Country Club JGSBC Annual Anniversary Luncheon

Speaker's Bureau

If you would like to have someone to speak to your group, please contact our Speakers Bureau at speaker@jgsbc.org.

We are always open to invite speakers visiting South Florida to give a lecture or presentation at our JGS. Please contact us in advance at the following email address: president@jgsbc.org so we can coordinate the date and location.

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.

JGSBC

Officers and Directors

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

Committee Chairs

Cemetery	Susan Steinfeld
Finance	Robert Koltnow
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	1988-1994

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.

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

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.

*Nova Southeastern University and The Broward County Jewish Genealogical
Society Inc.,
jointly present*
Biblical Genealogy



Rabbi Edward Davis
Sunday May 16, 2010 1:00PM
Alvin Sherman Library of NSU

Rabbi Edward Davis received smicha from Yeshiva University (YU) in New York City, where he studied under Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik z"l. Rabbi Davis graduated with a BA in Mathematics and an MS in Jewish History from YU, and studied Operations Research in the Masters program at New York University. He also pursued post graduate education at the Netzach Israel Rabbinical Seminary in Jerusalem, Israel. Currently serving as the morah d'atrah of the Young Israel of Hollywood/Fort Lauderdale, Florida since 1981, Rabbi Davis previously served as the Rabbi of Keneseth Beth Israel in Richmond, Virginia. A lecturer par excellence, Rabbi Davis first taught Bible and Talmud in Lincoln Square Synagogue's adult education program, the Joseph Shapiro Academy, in New York City. At the Virginia Commonwealth University and the University of Virginia, he taught subjects including Biblical Hebrew, Advanced Biblical Literature, Rabbinic Judaism, History & Theology of Modern Jewish Denominations, Holocaust: Theological Responses, and American Jewish History. He continues to give lecture series throughout South Florida and beyond. A leader in the area of kashrut, Rabbi Davis worked with the Orthodox Union and founded the ORB (Orthodox Rabbinical Board) of Broward and Palm Beach counties. The ORB is one of the largest local vaads in the country, with over 100 places under its hashgacha. Rabbi Davis, together with his beloved wife, Meira, have proudly raised nine children, three of whom now reside in Israel. Grandparents to a constantly growing number of grandchildren, Rabbi Davis and Meira are extremely grateful to Hashem for their wonderful and close family

***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.

Contact Information: 954-262-4575

Email: kgarvey@gmail.com

Web: nova.edu/library



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

Cordially invites you to our

Annual Awards Luncheon

Sunday, June 6, 2010

12:00 noon

The Club at Emerald Hills

4100 North Hills Drive,
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Cost: \$25 Per Person

For an all-inclusive, buffet-style meal

For further information, please go to our website, www.jgsbc.org

Travel directions to The Club at Emerald Hills - Hollywood

From I-95 - Exit at Stirling Road. Go west to N. 46th Ave. Turn left at 46 Ave and go to first light (North Hills Drive). Turn left and continue on North Hills Drive until the first traffic circle. The entrance to The Club is at the circle. There is valet and self parking.

From all points west - Take Stirling Rd east to N. 46 Ave. Follow the Avenue numbers on the south side (right side) of Stirling Rd. The Avenue numbers on the north side of Stirling are different.

At N. 46 Ave. turn right and go to the first light (North Hills Drive). Turn left and continue on North Hills Drive until the first traffic circle. The entrance to The Club is at the circle.

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Annual Awards Luncheon, June 6, 2010

Please make checks payable to the JGSBC, and mail by June 1st or sooner to:

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

Name(s): _____ Tel: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____

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: 954-873-4403 Fax: 954-577-9247
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
<input type="checkbox"/> Each additional member (same address)	\$ 5	distribute our newsletter via
<input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor	\$ 50	e-mail. If you prefer to have
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$ 100	it mailed, please check here. <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Student (full-time, under age 25)	\$ 15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (individual)	\$ 250	Foreign addresses, please add \$5
<input type="checkbox"/> Life (additional member, same address)	\$ 50	for postage.

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