

# Family Gatherings

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

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## President's Message

by Michael Sofman

Welcome back from your summer vacation. Hope you're all ready for a new season of peering into your family history. We've been busy planning a great year of programming, with a number of dynamic speakers lined up. We will be starting with Beau Sharbrough, a wonderful and entertaining speaker, who will be talking about "Jewish Records at Footnote.com", as outlined elsewhere in this newsletter. I saw him speak in Chicago, and he is truly a terrific speaker.

Personally, it's been fairly quiet, genealogically speaking. I have spent some time organizing some of the materials I had collected over the past year, and thinking about what some of my next steps might be. I have spent some time connecting with some of the younger members of my extended family. If you don't have one yet, consider getting yourself a Facebook account. For those of you unfamiliar with Facebook, it is an online social networking system, that is so easy to use, and is great for keeping in touch

with family, especially the younger generation. After all, these are the people that are eventually going to come into possession of all the research we're doing!

Lastly, I, along with Bob Koltnow, Marty Shames and Michael Greenberg from our group, attended the IAJGS Conference in Chicago. There were many excellent lectures, computer workshops, movies, and research opportunities to choose from. Marty's son Adam even ran a workshop that dealt with finding creative ways to make our organization stronger and better. He did a great job and hopefully we'll be able to implement some of the ideas that came out of it. Of course, the food in Chicago was great, and even the weather cooperated.

Among the sessions that I attended were two on family reunions. I have a dream of one day having a family reunion, where we can bring together many people who have never met each other, or may not even know of each other's existence. Our family did have reunions



**Michael Sofman**  
President, JGSBC

50-60 years ago, and I'd like to resurrect it. It may be a pipe dream, because we are fairly spread out and it would be difficult to pull off logistically, but difficult is not the same as impossible. I'll need some support from others in the family, and it may take a couple of years, but hopefully we can get it done.

Again, welcome back, and I look forward to seeing you at our meetings. And, have a wonderful holiday season.

*Shana Tovah*

Volume XX, Number 7  
September 2008

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**Next Meeting**  
**Wednesday Evening, September 24, 7:00 PM**  
**at The Alvin Sherman Library at NSU**  
**Beau Sharbrough**  
**of Footnote.com**

## Program Notes

by Marty Shames

We have been working to bring you another exciting year of programming. Our first event of the year, a joint program with Nova Southeastern University, will be given by **Beau Sharbrough**, who will be discussing “**Jewish Records at Footnote.com**”. Footnote.com is a company currently engaged in a long-term project to digitize the holdings of the National Archives. There are millions of documents already there, with many more added daily. Beau is an excellent, entertaining speaker and we’re sure you will enjoy his talk. It will be held at the Alvin Sherman Library of Nova Southeastern

University, 3100 Ray Ferrero Blvd, Davie, at 7 pm on Wednesday, September 24. Since this will be held in one of the computer labs at the Library, seating will be somewhat limited, so please go to our website, [www.jgsbc.org](http://www.jgsbc.org) and register for the event. If you have trouble registering online, please call 954-873-4403.

In October, we are planning a session on “Writing Your Family History.” Several of our members, Bob Koltnow, Marty Zafman, and Larry Bodner have written books on their family histories and will tell us how they did

it, and how we might accomplish the same thing.

Going forward, we are planning possible events with a number of well known speakers, including a return engagement of Stephen Morse, Ruth Behar, Jon Entine, and others.

We’re very excited and look forward to seeing you all at our meetings.

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

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## Membership

Rosa Pinsky

**Please welcome** the following new members, who all joined or rejoined in 2008:

- Laurence Bodner
- Stuart and Gail Cohen
- Stanley Felsen
- David and Dorothy Godorov
- Anat Goldstein
- Michael Greenberg
- Richard and Sydell Hirschfeld
- Naomi Kanner
- Anita Platt
- Joel Radin
- Harriet Sofman
- Myra Schoen
- Arlene and Martin Taylor

Richard Tucker  
 Aaron, Ellen, and Rebecca Turko  
 Neal Wiseman

Since the more people that come to our meetings, the more possible connections there are, please encourage your friends and family to attend our meetings. At this time of year, we offer a special bonus— join now, and receive the remainder of this year, plus all of next year, for just one year’s payment. See the membership application at the end of this newsletter. Looking forward to seeing some new faces!!

## 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

August 2-7, 2009

in

**Philadelphia, PA**

**Mark you calendars!!**

### 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.**

## Library News

It's hard to believe that summer has come and gone and that we're ready to begin a new genealogical year! We hope that you'll be at our opening meeting at Nova Southeastern University so that we can relay some of the news to you.

Be sure to tell your friends who are planning to join our organization that we've ordered more of the book "Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy" by Gary Mokotoff and Warren Blatt. The book is a classic for beginners and intermediate level users and contains references to 70 other books as well as other valuable information. Each new member receives a copy with his membership.

We've also received the newly revised and greatly expanded edition of "A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire" by Alexander Beider. This extraordinary volume will probably be the last one written by him. We have

his previous ones on Russia and Poland which are very popular when they're brought to our meetings.

And, thanks to Hal Maggied's generous donation of several genealogy books that he no longer uses, we are really growing our collection! We must also thank the family of the late Rabbi Aaron "Bob" Ilson for donating a tremendously large and beautiful collection of books, slides, old haggadot and other Judaica for our library. Rabbi Ilson was the rabbi at Temple Sinai in Pittsburgh for many years and he and his wife were accomplished world travelers. They traveled to over 100

countries, and made sure they saw the Jewish highlights in all these countries. There are nearly 20,000 Kodachrome slides in the collection, along with some written information about the Jewish communities in these places. You must come and see it!

Speaking of seeing it, we have slightly changed our hours. We will continue to be open an hour before our meetings at Soref and I will be available on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month and by appointment by phone or email. Please indicate "Library Appointment" on the subject line so that I do not delete it as Spam.

See you soon.

Rhoda Horwitz (954) 741-8368  
rhocat@aol.com

Brenda Feuer



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

## What Happened to Cousin Feivel?

by Rosa Bondar Pinsky

In June of 2001, my husband, Roman, and I were planning a trip to Buenos Aires, Argentina—a place neither of us had ever visited. My employer, the Bascom Palmer Eye Institute of Miami, was sending me to the Pan American Congress in Ophthalmology to promote their Latin American courses. While I was getting ready for this exciting trip, I began to think about a long lost relative who had immigrated to Argentina in the early 1930s. I remembered that my father's mother, Chana Bondar, had known this relative, cousin Feivel Bobovik, in Poland before WWII. She maintained a correspondence with him after she immigrated to Cuba in the mid-1930s until the 1960s. I asked my father about this and he recalled that the street address of the letters from Feivel Bobovik was 1079 Calle Murillo. He did not know, however, what had become of the letters. My family immigrated from Cuba to the United States in the 1960s and much was left behind. A few precious photos are all that remained.



Feivel Bobovik



Zeydel Bobovik



Leizer and Malkah Bobovik

Among the photos that we had was one of a young Feivel, one of his brother Zeydel, and another of his parents Leizer and Malkah. Tragically, Zeydel and his parents had perished in the Shoah. Feivel was the only one left of his immediate family. But what had become of him? Did he have any children, and would I be able to find them? I was certainly going to try. The first thing I did was to place a message on the Jewish Gen Belarus SIG. Almost immediately I received a response from a woman in New York who forwarded my request to her contact in Buenos Aires. This contact, Joseph Serlin, was doing research for the Pruzhany area, where my family originated. Mr. Serlin is a Pruzhany descendent and volunteer who recovers and maintains its history and the names of its people. He directed me to Sergio Kapszuk who kindly did a phonebook search and found two Boboviks: Bernardo and Judith.

I wrote to both of these people to find out if they were related to Feivel. Judith Bobovik wrote back to me. She said that yes, she is the granddaughter of Feivel Bobovik! We were both very excited to discover long lost relatives. I found out that cousin Feivel, who became Pablo in Argentina, married Bertha Sirman and had two children: Esther and Bernardo. Bernardo, Judith's father, had sadly had passed away several years earlier, but her mother,

Maria, and sister Graciela were alive and well. Her aunt Esther was well, too, and married to a lovely man. We agreed to meet one afternoon in the hotel where my husband and I would be staying.

When Roman and I arrived for our 8-day stay in Buenos Aires, we were quite taken with the city. Its beautiful, grand boulevards, European architecture, and world-famous opera house make it a perfect blend of New York and Paris. When it was time to rendezvous with my cousin Judith, I waited anxiously in the hotel lobby, holding the photographs of her grandfather, his brother, and their parents. Judith came through the lobby followed by her husband, Marcos, her aunt Esther, and Mr. Serlin. She and I both shrieked for joy and embraced. She gasped when she saw the photographs I held. She had the same photographs in her family album! How can it be that a stranger from another part of the world carries the same photographs you have—photographs from another place and time? Amazing.

We spent a wonderful afternoon discussing our families, the war years, the losses, the correspondence, and so much more. Sadly, they did not have any of my grandmother's letters to Feivel. They, too, were lost over the years. Judith and Marcos invited us to spend the next day with their family and have shabbat dinner with them. We parted company, looking forward to spending more time together.

On Friday, Marcos took us on a drive around the neighborhood where Feivel raised his family. We drove by the home where Feivel lived when he wrote to my grandmother, 1079 Calle Murillo. Feivel's family lived there for many years, long after the correspondence had ceased between the two relatives. We also visited some Jewish sites, and Marco took us to see the family shul during shabbat services.



Later that evening, during a beautiful shabbat dinner, we discussed what life is like for Jews living in Argentina. The country is experiencing a terrible economic situation, and things are difficult for the Jewish community, which is now diminishing due to emigration. Unfortunately, there is also a large amount of antisemitism. Earlier that day, we had seen the tight security at all the Jewish sites. They had even searched us when we visited their shul. We also shared lots of information about our mutual family connections. I showed Judith photos of our large family in New York. The Bobovik family is very small and they knew nothing about their sizable U.S. family in New York and other states. They were very surprised and happy to see Chana Bondar's 15 grandchildren and many great-grandchildren!

Discovering our family members was a wonderful experience for everyone involved. We all hope to stay in touch for many generations to come!

## SINGLE NAME RESEARCH

I have been struggling with researching my FENICHEL family. I decided to research all FENICHELs in the hopes of blending the several branches together. I discovered, through another researcher, that this type of research is called “single name” research. Since I am truly at a brick wall for my own branch, I am happy to continue collecting FENICHELs as it keeps me involved in this hobby to which I have become addicted.

I utilized Steven Morse’s website to access vital records in NYC and retrieved the names and dates of all FENICHELs who married between 1885 and 1910. I call this group “the early settlers!” I ordered all the marriage certificates and made some interesting observations. There were fourteen marriages amongst this group and 9 of them were somehow related to each other, not necessarily by blood. My guess is that these were whole families who all emigrated at about the same time and from the same area. All of the brides and grooms listed Austria as their place of birth. As the children became eligible to marry, the parents looked to each other to find mates for their children. There were two couples who were both FENICHELs and four brides and grooms whose parents were both FENICHELs.

My grandparents, Herman (Hirsch) and Pauline (Perla) Eisen, were also early settlers but they came over as a young couple from Tarnow without children so they would have no connection to these other families that I could ascertain from these marriage records.

I have started a FENICHEL DNA project. We have three members. Two of them have a common ancestor and the third did not. I was very disappointed in the results of that third member. I have been unable to attract more members although I have been in touch with many FENICHELs. I would love to get at least one or two more FENICHELs to join the DNA project. That would at least tell me if I am wasting my time thinking we are all somehow related

Hopefully, I will keep amassing more FENICHEL data and will be able to link more of us together.

Ruth FENICHEL KORNBLUTH



Herman Fenichel  
Engagement Portrait



Pauline Fenichel  
Engagement Portrait

**Nu? What's New? (excerpted)**  
**The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu**

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

**Volume 9, Number 20 | August 24, 2008**

### **JewishGen and Ancestry.com Form an Alliance**

It appears that genealogical for-profit companies are forming alliances with genealogical non-profit organizations. For example, Ancestry and Family Search (Mormon Church) have agreed to share databases. Now JewishGen can be added to the list.

JewishGen has agreed to allow Ancestry.com to place their historical databases within the Ancestry environment. In exchange there will be a great benefit to JewishGen users: JewishGen will be hosted on the Ancestry servers rather than their own. Anyone who uses JewishGen is aware of the horrendous response time and occasional down time from the slow antiquated servers. This will disappear by the end of the year when JewishGen will be hosted on the powerful Ancestry servers. A second consideration will be of great benefit to JewishGen itself: money. Ancestry will pay to license the data. It hopefully will be used for growing JewishGen. This will be possible only as long as volunteer contributions continue to increase and pay for sustaining JewishGen's day-to-day costs.

Excluded from the agreement are "personal data" such as the JewishGen Family Finder, Family Tree of the Jewish People, Viewmate, ShtetlLinks, Yizkor book and SIG sites. This means, for example, that Ancestry will not have access to e-mail addresses. Ancestry was not interested in these databases, and, it is unlikely that JewishGen would have released them.

There are guaranteed to be rumors that JewishGen was acquired by Ancestry, merged with Ancestry, etc. All are untrue. It is nothing more than a pure business arrangement to the benefit to both parties. Ancestry's motivation is to further penetrate the Jewish family history market. This not only includes new Jewish customers but non-Jewish customers with Jewish ancestry. JewishGen's motivation was money, reliability of hardware and additional technical knowhow.

The official Ancestry announcement can be found at <http://blogs.ancestry.com/circle/?p=2786>.

### **Is Ancestry.com Owned by the Mormon Church?**

One of the myths that constantly circulates within the Jewish genealogy community is that Ancestry.com is owned by the Mormon Church whose primary interest is to acquire genealogical data so they can posthumously baptize Jews. The other myth is that Ancestry.com is owned by individual Mormons whose primary interest is to acquire genealogical data so they can posthumously baptize Jews.

The reality is that Ancestry was founded about 25 years ago by a non-Mormon named John Sittner, who happened to live in the Salt Lake City area. Through Sittner's guidance, Ancestry developed a great reputation for publishing quality books for American genealogists, as the company does to this day.

(From this point on, what is said may not be totally accurate but is based on my observation of Ancestry throughout the years.) Sittner sold out to a group of investors who foresaw that the Internet would be a great way of exploiting interest in genealogy within the U.S. and ultimately worldwide. Such a concept was well beyond Sittner's ability. It is likely that the early investors and early management were Mormon because it was a group of Utahans that foresaw this dream. I cannot say for sure that they were Mormons, because I have many friends within the Ancestry.com realm, and I never had the urge to ask them, "Excuse me, are you a Mormon?"

As Ancestry.com grew, it came under scrutiny of other investors who wanted to participate, and today Ancestry is primarily owned by a number of investment firms. Its current management is a blend of religious and ethnic backgrounds. I suspect that much of middle management and the employees of Ancestry are Mormon, because the company is located primarily in Provo, Utah. My latest Ancestry friend, whom I met for the first time at the conference, is Michael Daniels, Director of Operations for Ancestry. He is half Jewish and half Japanese. I have not had the urge to ask him, "Excuse me, are you a Mormon?"

### **28th Conference on Jewish Genealogy a Great Success**

The 28th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy is now history. More than 800 registrants took advantage of the enormous program that ran from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sunday through Thursday. All told there were more than 200 events: lectures, computer workshops, films, SIG and Birds-of-a-Feather meetings, Breakfasts-with-the-Experts, sponsored luncheons with speakers, trips to local sites and other functions. While waiting at O'Hare Airport for my flight home, I struck up a conversation with a person who attended the annual conference for the first time. He told me he learned more attending the five-day event than all the knowledge he had accumulated in the past year. This is why I tell "Nu? What's New?" readers it is the premier event of the Jewish genealogical year.

The 2009 conference will be August 17–22 in Philadelphia.

At the banquet, which closed the conference, five awards were given in recognition of contributions to Jewish genealogy.

Howard Margol received the "Lifetime Achievement Award" for his efforts as a past president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Georgia, past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, and his years of working in the interests of Litvak (Lithuanian) Jewish genealogical research.

Steven Lasky received the "Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product Award" for his Internet site <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/> which has grown to have a wealth of information of value to Jewish family history research.

The "Outstanding Programming or Project That Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy Award" went to Petra Laidlaw of England for creating the "Jewish Community in Mid-19th Century Britain" database.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain won the "Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS Award" for their numerous guidebooks that focus on how to do genealogical research in various segments of the discipline.

Finally a \$2,500 grant was given to the Italian Genealogy Group located in New York to support their ongoing work in indexing the vital and naturalization records of the New York City area.

### **Closure: An Incident at the Annual Conference**

Fred Blum, president of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia, was sitting at the booth of JGSGP providing information about next year's annual conference when he struck up a conversation with a woman. He related the following story to me:

"We examined each other's name tag to ascertain the surnames and towns we are both researching. One of our towns was very close to one near Brody, Ukraine. I informed her that in June 2006 I was in Brody. She replied that she was in Brody in July 2006. I then inquired what other towns she visited. She replied Lopatyn. I told her that I was there as well. Lopatyn is a very small village. She told me her parents survived the Holocaust by hiding in the forest around Lopatyn after they fled Brody. She also told me that her brother died as a child, and she did not know the circumstances and wanted to know. I told her that my family also hid in the same forest. I placed a call to one of my survivor cousins who is 91 years old. He knew her family and indicated that our other survivor cousins lived with this woman's parents. I then placed a call to the other cousins and learned the facts of her brother's death. I felt compelled to tell her that for her parents to survive in their hiding place, they were forced to make the horrible decision to smother their son with a pillow, because his crying would have given away their location. As difficult it was for me to tell her, there was the solace that she now has closure."

### **USCIS Fee-for-Service Now in Operation**

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (CIS), formerly called the INS, has launched its fee-for-service program which provides duplicate copies of records in their possession.

Records available under the new program are:

Naturalization certificate files (C-files) from September 27, 1906 to April 1, 1956 (from all federal, state, municipal courts and more)

Microfilmed alien registration forms from August 1, 1940 to March 31, 1944  
Visa files from July 1, 1924, to March 31, 1944  
Registry files from March 2, 1929, to March 31, 1944  
Alien files numbered below 8 million and dated prior to May 1, 1951

The fees for requesting the documents:

Per index request \$20.00  
Per record/file request from a microfilm \$20.00  
Per record/file request from paper file \$35.00.

An overview of the program can be found at <http://www.uscis.gov/genealogy>. Click the links in the upper right corner of the page for a more detailed description of the program and also to get the forms to be filled out when making an inquiry.

This program addresses a complaint of the genealogical community regarding very slow turnaround time for requests of immigration and naturalization documents. Its pricing conforms to the Office of Management and Budget requirement that all government offices charge fees that will recover the full cost of services provided.

### **GRO Abandons Effort to Digitize UK Family Records**

The British General Records Office (GRO) announced that it is delaying indefinitely a project to digitize 250 million records of births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales from 1837 to the present day. The project would have resulted in a new public website "that would allow people to trace their ancestors at the touch of a button next February," according to an article in the *Guardian*. The article stated that three years after the government awarded the £16 million contract to German computer giant Siemens, the deal has been terminated with only half the work done. The complete *Guardian* article can be found at <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2008/aug/16/genealogy.records>.

### **What Do You Think of the New JewishGen Logo?**



I do not understand the underlying psychological reason, but whenever there is an acquisition, there is an urge by the acquiring group to change the name of the acquired, or, at least, make some symbolic change. In its evolution, the company Ancestry was changed to Ancestry.com, then MyFamily.com and now The Generations Network.



The Museum of Jewish History, the parent organization of JewishGen, has changed JewishGen's logo and wants your opinion of it. You can vote at <http://jewishgen.blogspot.com/>. The old and new logos are presented here.

### **Jewish Genealogy Trip to Salt Lake City**

If you went to the annual conference but need another dose of genealogy, or if you did not attend the conference but would like to focus on your family history research for a week, it is still possible to attend the annual Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from October 23-October 30, 2008. To date there are 31 people in the group. It is limited to 40 people.

The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of research at the Library under the guid-

ance and assistance of professional genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff who have made more than three dozen trips to Salt Lake City. Additional information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>. It includes a picture of the Class of 2007.

### **Another Academic Institution Providing Accreditation in Genealogy**

In the continuing effort by the genealogical community to give recognition of family history as an academic discipline, it should be noted that Boston University is now giving a Certificate in Genealogical Research. The certificate is issued after completing classes in 14 one-day sessions. All told, there are 98 hours of classes. It appears to be geared toward persons who want to become professional genealogists. The university states that the program is for those "who wish to develop the knowledge and skills essential to conducting quality genealogical assignments." Additional information can be found at <http://professional.bu.edu/cpe/Genealogy.asp>

### **Various Sites of Potential Value to Genealogical Research**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois has developed an online death index that has records from a number of Jewish cemeteries in the Chicago area. It currently contains more than 50,000 records including entries from Westlawn, Jewish Graceland and portions of Oak Woods cemeteries. A number of other smaller cemeteries are included. The index can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/projects/deathsearch8.html>

Access to the online Canadian 1881 Census is now available through the Stephen P. Morse site at <http://www.stevemorse.org>.

Some 19th-century civil records from Jewish communities in Bavarian Swabia are available at <http://jgbs.org>. At present there is an index to 16,143 individual records; of those, 4,937 allow direct access to the original document (Binswangen, Fellheim, Ichenhausen). The site also serves as a working platform for the volunteers who are transcribing the records. There is an overview of the project at <http://jgbs.org/ob/Summary.php>

The Washington State Digital Archives at <http://www.digitalarchives.wa.gov/default.aspx> has recently put state census records and vital records online. This is a work in progress; therefore, not all records are indexed yet. The site claims to have 61 million searchable records online. This may be misleading. The only Mokotoffs found were in the site's version of the Social Security Death Index. If you had relatives that lived in Washington State, it may be a valuable site.

## **A message from Don Hirschhorn, South Florida Coordinator of the Yad Vashem Names Recovery Campaign**

I'm pleased to advise you that Yad Vashem's Names' Recovery Campaign in South Florida will be featured on Television on the "Slosberg Report" produced by Irv Slosberg and filmed at Yad Vashem in Israel.

It will be shown on a Sunday Oct 12 at 10:30 AM :

Palm Beach County WPTV-NBC

S. Palm Beach WPLG- ABC

Broward WPLG-ABC

Miami-Dade WPLG-ABC

## **FSGS 2008 Genealogy Conference**

This year's Florida State Genealogical Society's Annual Conference will be held at the Sheraton Orlando-North in Maitland on November 14-15. Although not specifically a Jewish genealogical conference, it looks like there will be many great presentations and activities. Please see the flyer at the back of this issue.

## An email I recently received:

### Carrier Harry S. Truman - you won't believe this but you **HAVE** to see...

Captain Herman Shelanski, commanding officer of the lead strike force carrier Harry S Truman is the first carrier captain to have a minyan on Friday nights and is seen here lighting Chanukah candles on board in December, as his adjutant sings Maoz Tzur from an ArtScroll siddur. Below this photo is some even more



fascinating info about this carrier.

### Historic Torah Dedicated on US Navy Ship

Source: US Navy - Photos: US Navy

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) - A Torah scroll rescued from Lithuania has a new home aboard the United States Navy aircraft carrier Harry S. Truman.



**NORFOLK, Va. (June 24, 2007) - USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) Commanding Officer, Capt. Herman Shelanski, left, and Michigan Senator Carl Levin (D), Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, in prayer, at the commencement of the Torah dedication ceremony in the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier's hangar bay. The holy Jewish Torah in the background, one of the few scrolls from Lithuania to survive the Holocaust, was presented to Truman by the United Jewish Federation of Tidewater, and will be on loan to Truman and displayed for 41 years, or the duration of the ship's life.**

**The smaller Torah in the foreground, known as the Truman Torah, was presented to President Harry S. Truman by Israel's first President, Chaim Weizmann, in gratitude for America's diplomatic recognition of the**

*state of Israel in 1948. U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Kristopher Wilson. (RELEASED)*

The carrier is one of the few U.S. Navy vessels to have its own Torah. Few ships are large enough to need one, said Sam Werbel, an organizer of a dedication ceremony attended by a crowd of 500, including some Holocaust survivors.

"This is not a ceremony alone," said Mark E. Talisman, founder and president of the Project Judaica Foundation. "It's about humanity or a lack thereof. It's about all of us understanding the dignity of human life."

Several Jewish service members celebrated the event, taking photos with the heavy 26-inch high scroll bearing the words of the Hebrew Bible.



*Machinist's Mate 3rd Class Jesse Kopelman, USS Harry S. Truman's (CVN 75) Jewish Lay Leader, holds a holy Jewish Torah, one of the few scrolls from Lithuania to survive the Holocaust, which was presented to Truman.*

About 5 percent or less of Lithuania's Jewish population survived the Holocaust. No religious artifacts, other than this Torah, are thought to remain of that country's Jewish population, organizers said.

"I'm very proud of our servicemen who are serving, and I'm very proud that they saw fit to have a Torah on board the ship," said Julius Marcus of Portsmouth, who attended with his wife, Jeanne.

On May 14, 1948, President Truman was the first world leader to grant diplomatic recognition to the newly reborn State of Israel. Israel's first president, Chaim Weizmann, thanked Truman with a Torah scroll that now belongs to the Harry S. Truman Presidential Library.

That Torah was on loan to the carrier and displayed next to the Torah that was dedicated.

## Message from Mike Karsen

I spoke to your group about the importance and urgency of "Writing Your Family History" and I would like to inform you of a program I now offer. In my "Legacy Pledge" program I share my PowerPoint slides from 3 of my lectures and copies of all of my personal Family Histories with anyone who would Pledge to write a family history within 12 months. As part of this program, I send gentle e-mail reminder every 3 months. To learn more about this program, go to my website, [www.Mikekarsen.com](http://www.Mikekarsen.com), and click on the **Legacy Pledge** icon in the left column.

If you've already written a family history as a result of my message, I would love to hear what you've done. Please e-mail me at [mike@MikeKarsen.com](mailto:mike@MikeKarsen.com).

## Tips from Bernie

### New York Times Article Archive, 1851-Present

The complete backfile of The New York Times can now be searched from NY-Times.com, over 13 million articles in all.

Read more:

<http://www.nytimes.com/ref/membercenter/nytarchive.html>

Bernie Kouchel

## From the JewishGen Digests

Date: Fri, 5 Sep 2008 JewishGen Discussion Group Digest  
Subject: Vitebsk "Pictures Of The Vitebsk That Was"  
From: Esther (Heschman) Rechtschafner-remarc@ein-zurim.co.il

My new article Subject: "Pictures Of The Vitebsk That Was" is now on the web. I am interested in receiving your comments. Go to :  
[http://www.jewishgen.org/belarus/newsletter/MyVitebsk\\_2nd.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/belarus/newsletter/MyVitebsk_2nd.htm)

ESTHER Heschman Rechtschafner

GALICIA Digest for Saturday, September 06, 2008.

Subject: GG Cadastral Map & Landowner Records Project 2008 - Update  
From: Pamela Weisberger <[pweisberger@hotmail.com](mailto:pweisberger@hotmail.com)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Sep 2008

Below is an update on "Gesher Galicia's Cadastral Map and Landowner Records Project" for fall 2008. We now have the following town projects in place to begin inventories and/or acquisition of cadastral maps and landowner records:

Boryslaw	Korolowka	Przemyslany
Bukaczowce	Knyaginishi/Knihynicze	Rohatyn
Chervonohrad	Krystanopol	Sambor
Cheremkhiv	Laszki Gorne/Dolishnev	Skala
Czerniow	Mikolayiv (Brody District)	Sniatyn
Drohobycz	Nadworna	Swirzh/Svirzh
Glinyany	Nienadowa	Zaleszczyki
Grzymalow/Hrymaliv	Podniestrzany	Zhuravno (Zurawno)
Kalush/Kalusz		

Most, but not all, of these town projects have already qualified for Gesher Galicia matching funds, but the more that is contributed, the more records and maps can be obtained. Donations of any amount are appreciated. If you see your shtetl here and wish to contribute, or if your town is missing and you want to learn more about this project and how to fund your town, complete details are at:

<http://www.jewishgen.org/galicia/CadastralMapProject.html>

There you will find a detailed project synopsis, examples of the genealogical value of these documents and maps, an inventory list of towns already cataloged in the fall of 2007, and information on how to donate. Please--before contacting me--go to the Gesher Galicia website so you can familiarize yourself with this project. Most of your questions will be answered there.

The last date for the establishment of new projects or receipt of contributions is September 18th. You can donate by check or via PayPal. See the website for details.

Pamela Weisberger  
Gesher Galicia Research Coordinator  
[pweisberger@hotmail.com](mailto:pweisberger@hotmail.com)  
<http://www.geshergalicia.org>

## JGSBC Program Calendar

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

**Wednesday, September 24, 7:00 pm**

Alvin Sherman Library of NSU

**"Jewish Records at Footnote.com"**

Beau Sharbrough, VP for Content, Footnote.com

**Sunday, October 26, 1:00 pm, Soref JCC**

**"Writing Your Family History"**

Bob Koltnow, Marty Zafman, and Larry Bodner

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.

**P.O. Box 17251**

**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
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Newsletter	Michael Sofman
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).

# FSGS 2008 Genealogy Conference

14-15 November 2008  
 Sheraton Orlando - North

600 North Lake Destiny Drive, Maitland, FL 32751

Mention FSGS for a special room rate (\$88.00 + taxes).

Rooms being held until OCTOBER 23<sup>rd</sup>. For reservations call (866) 837-5175.

Featured Guest Speaker

## Ms. Jana Sloan Broglin, CG<sup>SM</sup>, Swanton, Ohio

Ms. Broglin is an Ohio native and a well-known genealogical writer, professional genealogist, and national lecturer. She is the Vice-President of Membership for the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) and a past Ohio Genealogical Society (OGS) Trustee. She is also an associate for the Board of Certification of Genealogist as a Certified Genealogist. Her publications include articles for the Ohio Genealogical Society, the *Indiana Genealogist*, the *FGS FORUM*, *Family Tree Magazine*, *Ancestry Magazine*, *NGS NewsMagazine*, and two FGS Society Strategy Papers. She also has over 60 books published on Kentucky and Ohio and was named a Kentucky Colonel for her writings. Her presentations will include:

- ◆ Hookers, Crooks and Kooks: *Aunt Merle Didn't Run a Boarding House*
- ◆ See Ya in the Funnies
- ◆ When Johnny Comes Marching Home - *A Borton Family Case Study*
- ◆ Organizing 101 - *True Confessions of a "Pile It"*

## Scheduled Speakers and Events

<b>Ann Bergelt</b>	<b>Pamela J. Cooper</b>	<b>Amy Larner Giroux, CG<sup>SM</sup>, CGL<sup>SM</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Paleography - <i>Deciphering Old Handwriting</i></li> <li>◆ Your Research Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ How accurate are your senses? <i>Getting past the errors in census records</i></li> <li>◆ Under used, unheard of and not so new resources or where you have NOT looked?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Listen to the Land - <i>Understanding Your Ancestor's Property Deeds</i></li> <li>◆ Cemetery Research - <i>A City Of Stones</i></li> </ul>
<b>George G. Morgan</b>	<b>Donna M. Moughty</b>	<b>Mary P. Parker</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Bring 'Em Back to Life: <i>Developing an Ancestor Profile</i></li> <li>◆ "Push" and "Pull": <i>The Reasons for Migration</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Immigration into New York: <i>Castle Garden and Ellis Island</i></li> <li>◆ Getting the Most Out of FamilySearch.org</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <i>The Florida Pioneer Descendants Certification Program: The Research Application, Review, and Approval Processes Explained</i></li> </ul>
<b>Drew Smith</b>	<b>C. Ann Staley, CG<sup>SM</sup></b>	<b>And More ...</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Online Surname Search Strategies</li> <li>◆ The Family History in Your Cells: <i>Using DNA for Genealogical Research</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ City Directories - A Line-by-line Account of Our Ancestors</li> <li>◆ The Twilight Zone...Strange Web Sites for Family History Research</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Vendors and Society Exhibits</li> <li>◆ Gala Awards Banquet</li> <li>◆ APG-FL Ancestor Roadshow</li> <li>◆ Door Prizes and Drawings</li> </ul>

CG and CGL are Registered Service Marks of the Board for Certification of Genealogists

Contact Information:  
 Ann Mohr Osisek, President  
[amo.gen@worldnet.att.net](mailto:amo.gen@worldnet.att.net)

Or visit:  
[www.flsgs.org](http://www.flsgs.org)

## Sponsored By:

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## Local Host:

Central Florida Genealogical Society



**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
<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