

Family Gatherings

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

P.O. Box 17251
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33318

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

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



President's Message

Michael Sofman

Along with about 900 other people, five people from the JGSBC attended the recent IAJGS Convention in Philadelphia- Bob Koltnow, Marty Shames, Michael Greenberg, Susan Steinfeld, and myself. It was a very good meeting, with many excellent speakers, local tours, and the wealth of Jewish genealogical resources available within and around Philadelphia itself. I took the opportunity to visit the New Jersey State Archives in Trenton, to do a little research about my family's roots in NJ.

The keynote speaker, Father Patrick DesBois, is a Catholic priest from France,

whose father was a POW during WWII. Because of his father's experiences during the war, Father DesBois has been working on a project to identify all the mass graves in Eastern Europe that are largely forgotten. He and his team have been traveling throughout some of the countries that never sent anyone to the concentration camps, mainly in Ukraine so far. His book, *The Holocaust by Bullets*, tells the stories of how the Germans and collaborating locals essentially went into all the small towns, rounded up the Jews, marched them to large pits, stripped them, shot them, then covered the pits with dirt. It is a very



Michael Sofman
President, JGSBC

disturbing and little known chapter of the Holocaust. A PBS special has been produced, which happened to premiere the night of his talk. I'm sure it will run from time to time, so try to catch it.

We have lots of great meeting scheduled for the year, so I look forward to seeing you.

Volume XXI, Number 7
September 2009

Inside this issue:

<i>Program Notes</i>	2
<i>Membership Report</i>	2
<i>Library News</i>	3
<i>"A Russian Family Reunion"</i>	4-6
<i>Tidbytes</i>	7
<i>Nu- What's New? (excerpted)</i>	8-13
<i>Events Calendar</i>	14

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, September 30, 7:00 pm, Soref JCC

"Antique Judaica"

Dr. Murray Zedeck

Sunday, October 25, 1:00 pm, Alvin Sherman Library of NSU

"Social Networking for Genealogists- Facebook, Twitter, and others"

Bernie Kouchel and Kim Garvey

Program Notes

by Marty Shames

Our next meeting, on Wednesday, September 30th, will be something a little different. We will have a presentation by Dr. Murray Zedeck, who is a retired family physician and has developed an expertise in Jewish religious objects, particularly those made of silver. Dr. Zedeck has lived in South Florida for 47 years and has been very involved in the community. He is a former Board member of Goodwill Industries of Broward, former Treasurer and Governing Board member of the Miami City Ballet, former Board member Broward Beautiful, advisory to Broward County commission, former Chairman, Broward County Housing Finance Authority, former allocations chair and VP Broward Jewish Federation, and former board member, American Friends of Hebrew University. Professionally, he is former

Chairman and Professor of Community Medicine at Southeast College of Osteopathic Medicine (now part of Nova University) and Trustee and lecturer at the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine.

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

Dr. Zedeck will present a program entitled "**Antique Judaica**" which he has presented to other organizations including the Hollywood Antique Club, and which consists of a PowerPoint slide show of much of his personal collection and other pertinent examples, of mostly century old ceremonial and traditional Jewish objects-Sabbath Candlesticks, etrog boxes, etc. Members are invited to

bring in items of Jewish interest, particularly those made of silver/other metals for Dr. Zedeck's review and comment/appraisal. Dr. Zedeck participated with the Judaica expert of "Antique Roadshow" at a Posnack JCC Judaica Expo. a few years ago.

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

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

Editor Michael Sofman
newsletter@jgsbc.org

© 2009 Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

Deadline for submissions: 5th of every month. Articles may be edited for content and clarity.

Permission is granted for the quoting, in whole or in part, of any original article included in this issue of *Family Gatherings* by the newsletter/journal of any other IAJGS member society, providing acknowledgement of the source is given, unless the article is identified as one that is not to be reproduced. Acknowledgement should include the title of the newsletter, the issuing society, and its volume number or date of publication. As a courtesy, we request that an e-mail be sent letting us know that a published article is being further used.

Family Gatherings is published 10 times per year (hiatus in July and August) and is free to JGSBC members. For subscriptions and change of address, contact membership@jgsbc.org or JGSBC, P.O. Box 17251, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318.

Membership

Rosa Pinsky

As we move into our meeting season, we encourage you to do two things. First, please send your membership renewal for 2010 as soon as you can. You can use the application form at the back of this newsletter. Secondly, we ask you to come to our meetings and bring some friends with you. Now is the time to talk to your friends and family about the JGSBC. Tell them about your research. Encourage them to attend our monthly meetings and help them get started on their own family search. Our Programming committee, led by Marty Shames, works very hard

to bring interesting speakers to our meetings. Please show your support by coming to hear these speakers, many of whom travel long distances to speak to us.

Finally, we wish to remind everyone that we have a 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)659-5490(evenings) or by email: pinskyr@ccf.org

Warmest wishes,
Rosa Pinsky
Membership Chair

Library News

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

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

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

Number of articles by general topic:

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

*also see USSR and Russia

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

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

Hope to hear from you,
Rhoda Horwitz

A RUSSIAN FAMILY REUNION

By H. ROBERT KOLTNOW

The times were turbulent. On April 4, 1968, Dr. Martin Luther King was assassinated. The U.S. and the Soviet Union were engaged in a tense Cold War by virtue of the Cuban Missile crises in 1962, and the constant nuclear threat. The Russians viewed the Americans as enemies.

My father, Abe, had left his Russian home as an 18 year old in 1906, and made an adventurous voyage to America. Abe was the 9th child in a family of 13. Three of his brothers had already come to the U. S., and one more was to follow Abe. In 1968, all of Abe's siblings were gone, except for two sisters and a brother, still living in the Soviet Union. Abe had maintained a sporadic correspondence with one of his sisters, Reba, over the years, but in reality, had very little knowledge of his family, and could not even begin to create a genealogical tree, other than his own childhood memories. Abe was now 80, and wanted to have one last opportunity to reestablish connections with his long lost family, which was more important than politics or concern for personal safety. He encouraged me to try to arrange permission for him to visit this strange land, to which very few Americans had been admitted since World War II.

On April 6, 1968, two days after Dr. King's murder, I began making arrangement with the U. S. Government and the Soviet Union for visas. They arrived and on May 9th, we began our Odyssey.

After stops in London and Moscow, we arrived in Leningrad, where Abe's sister, Reba, 83, was living. We were greeted at the Airport by Reba, and her son, Pesach, both of whom unmistakably looked like Koltnows, and Pesach's wife, Sonya. After 62 years, Abe and his older sister were re-united. Abe's Russian was quite antiquated, and we were unable to converse with anyone. He spoke the Russian of the villages in the 1890's, and not the Russian of the cities in the 1960's. Abe and Reba could communicate, however, in Yiddish.

The next morning, Sonya came to our Hotel, and brought with her Abe's brother, Lazar, 74, who was then living in Riga, Latvia. We all went to Reba's flat in a large concrete jungle of 10 story apartment buildings, all looking alike. There were no single family residences in Leningrad. Lazar told Abe his story. He was active in the Russian Revolution in 1917, and in the 1920's had achieved high political posts under Stalin. During the infamous purges in 1936, Lazar and his wife were tried and sentenced to life in a Siberian gulag. Lazar's wife died after one year, and Lazar

served his time for 19 years until 1955, after Stalin's death, when he was released. Lazar was still a confirmed communist. Lazar and I had difficulty with each other because I questioned his devotion to a system that imprisoned him, and he showed a reluctance to speak directly to me.

We enjoyed an outstanding meal of gefilte fish, salad, sour cream, cottage cheese, beef, matzah, dessert, tea, and, of course, ample vodka. Communication became easier because Sonya introduced us to her sister, Chada, who spoke English, and she became our interpreter. We met Reba's two other sons, Fava and Sasha, together with their wives and children. Our family tree was now growing. Pesach told us of his war record, in which he served in the Red army in the tank corps for 9 years from 1936 to 1945. Sonya told us of her experiences living in Leningrad during the 900 days of the Nazi siege, in which there was no electric available, and water was obtained by cutting out chunks of ice from the rivers and lakes.

At dinner, Abe's younger sister, Fanya, 70, arrived from Gorki. She had just had a serious operation, but traveled 24 hours on a train by herself to visit with her brother. Later, Pasha, 75, who was the daughter of Abe's oldest brother, Zama, now deceased.

The next morning, Lazar came to the hotel and took Abe and I out for a tour of Leningrad. We all returned to Reba's flat for dinner, and we were surprised when about 25 members of the family came to greet us. Each one brought a different type of food and drinks, and I was amazed we could all fit into a flat that would be equivalent to a small one bedroom apartment in the U. S. With the assistance of Chada, each member of the family described all of Abe's Russian siblings, their names, histories, descendents, etc., and I took extensive notes, which I later handwrote on a family chart. Since there were no computers, no "Family Tree Maker", no data bases, no archives, and most important, there was no JewishGen. Our only method of researching family history was just hearing the family history directly from the descendents. With this, I was able to elaborate on our family charts, which had included only the five brothers who came to America.

The basic family story began in Chernigov Gubernia, in the Ukraine, when my grandfather, Isaac, started a lumber business in the 1860's. He had 13 children, of which 5 came to the U. S. and 8 remained in Russia. After the business collapsed in the 1890's, and the family home burned in the early 1900's, Isaac's remaining children disbursed to other parts of the country, with several moving to Leningrad with Isaac, where he died in 1917. It was interesting to note that one of Abe's brothers, Laba, did come to the U. S. around 1919 when he was advised that his only two sons

were killed in World War I. In 1922, his sons showed up alive, and Laba returned to Russia.

The icy relations between Lazar and me began to melt while we were having dinner. Lazar was sitting next to me and I asked him to pass the sugar. He pushed the container over to me and said “Castro sacre”. I pushed the container back toward him and said “No Castro sacre”. We then engaged in a pushing contest of the sacre back and forth, and the “cold war” between us broke down. I was now the “son of a Russian”, and we became friends.

The time for departure arrived, and the once split family now had a focal point to bridge with those in the U. S. The re-united “Koltnow” family continued close communication over the years until the early 1980’s, when I took another trip to the Soviet Union, this time with my son. We were fortunate at that time to re-unite with a new generation of the “Koltnows”.



Abe, Bob, Reza, Lazar, and Fanya



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

The meeting was a great success- stay tuned for information about next years meeting in

Los Angeles, July 11-16, 2010

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.

Tidbits

By Bernie Kouchel

Enhance your search skills. Google Genealogy Style. 12 Google Search Tips for Genealogists. Read more: http://genealogy.about.com/od/search_tips/a/google_search.htm

Need to convert a PDF file to Word format? Try this free online converter. <http://www.pdfword.com/>

To find out more about how to trace your roots and learn about the free database Broward County Library offers, visit: <http://www.broward.org/library/genealogy.htm>

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps

Created (1867-1961) to assist fire insurance companies as they assessed risk, these maps provide a detailed block-by-block, building-by-building snapshot of a city. Included on such maps are the precise locations of structures, including homes, synagogues and businesses. They provide a wealth of information not available elsewhere. Today the maps are usually found in archives and special collections of town halls and public and university libraries. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/mvfg5z>

The Ancestry Store has a new limited time offer...

Family Tree Maker 2010 (Presell), \$19.95 (Retail \$39.95)

See <http://store.ancestry.com/index.aspx?p=1026634&sssdmh=dm13.212790&o iid=39892&o lid=39892>

for eligibility.



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

Nu? What's New? (excerpted)

The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy From Avotaynu

Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Volume 10, Number 14 | July 19, 2009

New Book: *Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants*

Those *Nu? What New?* readers who are Beiderphiles know that the most important part of Alexander Beider's name dictionaries is not the dictionary portion of each book but the introductory portion which is a scholarly dissertation on the book's subject. It was the introductory portion of his first book, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire*, that established him as one of the world's leading authorities on the origin and evolution of Jewish surnames in Eastern Europe. The 300-page introductory portion of his *Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names (DAGN)* actually is his doctoral thesis that was accepted by the Department of History at the Sorbonne in Paris.

At the suggestion of AVOTAYNU editor, Sallyann Sack-Pikus, and her genealogy associate, Harold Rhode, Dr. Beider has created a new book, *Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants* which is that portion of the larger *Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names: Their Origins, Structure, Pronunciation, and Migrations* which focuses on the needs of genealogists. Missing from the smaller work is the doctoral thesis and the portion of the Dictionary that cites sources for all the variant names. Included in the Handbook is the description of the origin and evolution of the name, a tree-like structure of all the name variants which shows how they were derived from the root name, and the all-important indexes which list all 15,000 names derived from the 735 root names. The index is in three sections: names as they appeared in the Latin alphabet, names in the Cyrillic alphabet and those in the Hebrew alphabet.

I used *DAGN* shortly after it was published to research my mother's Hebrew name: Tsiril. I was surprised to find out that it is a variant of Sarah. The Derivation Scheme for Sarah in *DAGN* showed the evolution of the name from Sarah, to Tsore to Tserl(e) to Tsirl(e). All told, Dr. Beider identifies nearly 100 variants of the popular feminine given name, Sarah.

Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants is 232 pages, softcover and costs only \$26.00 plus shipping. It can be ordered at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/handbook.htm>. As an illustration of the content of the book, the complete citation of the feminine name, Sarah, is shown, including a description of its origin and derived names. Also shown at the site is a complete list of the 15,000 names.

The Avotaynu web site also includes information and examples from Dr. Beider's other works: *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire: Revised Edition*, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Kingdom of Poland*, *A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from Galicia* and *A Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names*. This book will be available at the Philadelphia conference. Internet and phone orders will be processed after the conference.

New Book: *Sephardic Genealogy—Second Edition*

Jeffrey S. Malka, author of the award-winning *Sephardic Genealogy: Discovering Your Sephardic Ancestors and Their World*, has completely updated and improved the book in a newly published Second Edition. Nearly 100 pages longer, this new edition revises all the chapters to include new information and updates all Internet and mail addresses. It adds a new chapter on DNA as well as new chapters on the available resources for the Sephardic communities of Portugal, England, Rhodes, Hamburg-Altona, and Vienna. There is also a new chapter on how to research the Spanish archives with clues on deciphering old Spanish script.

The section on the Internet is fully updated and now includes more than 300 links to sites that have information valuable to Sephardic research. The book even reveals how to access past web sites that are no longer available on the web. With its comprehensive indexes—the surname index alone has 3,037 names—bibliography, and data-packed appendixes, this is the essential book on Sephardic genealogy and should be part of any Jewish genealogy bookshelf.

The first edition won the "Best Judaica Reference Book" given by the Association of Jewish Libraries in 2002.

The book is 472 pages with hard cover. Despite the increase in size, the price of the Second Edition is identical to the original edition: \$45.00 plus shipping. Order the book at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Sephardic.htm>. A complete Table of Contents is located at the site. This book will be available at the Philadelphia conference. Internet and phone orders will be processed after the conference.

Lionel Sharpe Receives Medal of the Order of Australia

Lionel Sharpe of Caulfield, Victoria, has been awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) by the Australian government for his service to the community, particularly through social welfare and Jewish organizations. For more than 45 years Sharpe has been involved in numerous organizations; he has worked with Jewish immigrants moving to Australia and helped set up programs for the disadvantaged. He has also lectured and co-ordinated courses in social issues at universities and was one of the 37 genealogists who went to the International Tracing Service at Bad Arolsen, Germany, in May 2008. It was the first group to visit ITS after its doors were open to the public in November 2007.

One other Australian Jewish genealogist has received the OAM honor. Sophie Caplan, founding president of the Australian Jewish Genealogical Society, received the award in 2000. A more detailed article about Sharpe's award can be found at <http://caulfield-glen-eira-leader.whereilive.com.au/news/story/decades-of-caring1/>

New Version of the Canadian Naturalization 1915–1932 Database

Library and Archives Canada (LAC) has announced a new version of the Canadian Naturalization 1915–1932 online database. It now includes an index to the names of 206,731 individuals who applied for and received status as naturalized Canadians from 1915 to 1932. The project was carried out by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Montreal volunteers, initially making available a finding aid to the 2000+ pages of naturalization index pages and now the full name index. The vast bulk of the data entry was carried out by society member Ruth Diamond, with Alan Greenberg managing the project and handling the image processing and database creation. Jewish Genealogical Society of Ottawa funded the original digitization of the images. The database is available at: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/naturalization-1915-1932/index-e.html>.

The Montreal Society is now leading a new project to create indices to the 1932–1951 Canadian Naturalizations. All 4,000 pages have been scanned and will be available shortly online as a first step to data entry. Due to the different nature of the published lists, a finding aid is not possible, and data entry of the approximately 400,000 names will be required to make the data readily searchable. This new project was partially funded by the IAJGS Malcolm Stern Grant.

New Functions at Stevemorse.org

Stephen P. Morse reports two new functions at his One-Step site, <http://stevemorse.org>.

Morse has had for some time an Assembly District/Election District (AD/ED) finder for the New York State censuses of 1905, 1915 and 1925 for all boroughs of New York City. Given a street address in New York City, the function determines the correct AD/ED. The researcher then uses this result to locate the census record available on microfilm at various repositories. FamilySearch, the genealogy arm of the Mormon Church, has now placed at its site images of the 1905 census for the borough of Brooklyn without a name index. Morse has update his AD/ED finder that links the results of the search directly to the census images located at FamilySearch.

The second function is an Ahnentafel calculator that converts an Ahnentafel number into prose that describes the relationship between the individual and the person whose pedigree is being defined. For example, on a pedigree chart, the person with an Ahnentafel number of 123 is the mother's mother's mother's father's mother's mother of the person whose pedigree is being defined. A description of this numbering system can be found at <http://genealogy.about.com/cs/research/p/ahnentafel.htm>.

JOWBR Now Has 1.2 Million Records

The JewishGen's Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR) has been updated for the annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy. Added are more than 94,000 new records and approximately 12,000 new photos from 16 countries. This brings JOWBR's holdings to more than 1.2 million records from more than 2,400 cemeteries (or cemetery sections) from 46 countries.

Some of the collections added in the recent update are:

- U.S. National Cemetery Records. More than 23,000 records from 150 national cemeteries located in 46 states and Puerto Rico. These records represent veterans whose markers have a Star of David on it.
 - Iasi, Romania. 17,500 additional burial records translated from the Hebrew burial register from 1888–1894 and women's records from 1915–1943.
 - Bathurst, Ontario. 9,000 additional records from 60 sections of this Canadian cemetery.
 - Krakow, Poland. 6,300 records from the Miodowa Street Cemetery in Krakow.
 - Vitsyebsk, Belarus. 5,600 cemetery records
- Bayside, NY. 5,600 additional records from the Bayside/Ozone cemetery complex
- Chernivtsi, Ukraine. 4,300 additional records and photos

The database is searchable at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/cemetery/>. A list of cemeteries included in the collection can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Cemetery/tree/CemList.htm>

Third Edition of Polish Translation Guide Published

Judith Frazin has expanded and enhanced her *A Translation Guide to 19th-Century Polish-Language Civil-Registration Documents (including Birth, Marriage and Death Records)* in a third edition. In addition to being a translation guide, it also helps the reader locate Polish ancestral towns on a modern map, determine if old vital records exist, learn how to acquire them and—through its unique step-by-step method—decipher and translate the records. The book is published by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois of which Frazin is a former president.

Avotaynu sells a book competitive with the Frazin worked titled *In Their Words: A Genealogists Translation Guide — Polish* by Polish-American genealogists, Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman. These authors have also published an equivalent guide for records written in Russian. I have never evaluated how the Frazin and Shea/Hoffman books compare, but the two are comparable in size and price. The Frazin book is 473 pages and costs \$41.00 including shipping. The Shea/Hoffman book is 388 pages and costs \$35.00 plus shipping.

Persons attending the Philadelphia conference will have the opportunity to compare the books as the Frazin book will make its debut there. The Shea/Hoffman book will be sold by Avotaynu in the exhibit area. Additional information about the Frazin book can be found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgsi/TheGuide.html>. Information about the Shea/Hoffman book can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/ITW-Polish.htm>. Information about the Russian version is at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/ITW-Russian.htm>.

Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City

For those who want an additional dose of genealogical research in addition to, or instead of, the annual conference, 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 22–October 29, 2009, for the 17th consecutive year. To date, more than 400 Jewish genealogists from the U.S., Canada, South America, Israel, Australia and Europe have taken advantage of this program.

The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of research at the Library under the guidance and assistance of professional genealogists who have made more than a three dozen trips to Salt Lake City. Additional information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>. Included is a picture of the Class of 2008.

Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants Price Correction

The price for *Handbook of Ashkenazic Given Names and Their Variants* was erroneously announced as \$26.00. The correct price is \$29.00. The lower price was honored for those persons who have already ordered the book. Information about the book can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Handbook.htm>

IJG Presents Session at World Union of Jewish Studies

The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy hosted a panel on Jewish genealogy at the 15th Congress of the World Union of Jewish Studies held August 2–6 in Jerusalem. For the Institute, this event was a major milestone. Only last year, the American Association of Jewish Studies declined to accept a panel on Jewish genealogy, apparently on the grounds that the subject was not scholarly enough. Against that, the session at the WUJS Congress has already resulted in an invitation to the Institute to present a similar panel at the next Congress of the European Association of Jewish Studies to be held in Ravenna, Italy, in 2010, and also in an invitation to IJG Director, Neville Lamdan, to lecture at the Russian Institute of Genealogical Research at the National Library of Russia in St. Petersburg.

The Institute's panel was moderated by Prof. Sergio DellaPergola, the Chair of the IJG Academic Committee, and presentations were made by Profs. Aaron Demsky, Ruth Kark and Daniel Wagner; Dr. Joseph Glass, an associate of Prof. Glass; and by Ambassador Lamdan.

The IJG Internet site is at <http://ijg.org>.

Ancestry.com Expands Jewish Record Collection

Ancestry.com has added records of the American Jewish Historical Society to its growing collection of Jewish records. It also has acquired the Routes to Roots Foundation archival database.

Records of the American Jewish Historical society include:

- Brooklyn Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1878–1934. Applications for admission and discharge ledgers
- New York Hebrew Orphan Asylum Records, 1860–1934. Applications for admission and discharge ledgers
- Industrial Removal Office Records, 1899–1922. Records of Jewish families and individuals who were assisted in moving from harm's way in various countries
- Selected Naturalization Records, New York City, 1816–1845. Declarations of intention for New York County. Contains name, age, birthplace, nationality, place of emigration, occupation and place of intended settlement
- Selected Insolvent Debtor's Cases, 1787–1861. Approximately 2,000 cases, some containing an inventory of assets
- Selected Mayor's Court Cases, New York, 1674–1860. 6,000 selected briefs that include summons, complaints, affidavits, and jury lists

The Routes to Roots' Eastern European Archival Database is the most comprehensive list of Jewish record holdings of Belarus, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. It can also be searched at <http://rtrfoundation.org/search.php>.

To search through all the new Jewish record collections and Ancestry.com's entire Jewish Family History experience, visit <http://www.ancestry.com/JewishFamilyHistory>.

New Location for IAJGS International Jewish Cemetery Project

The IAJGS International Jewish Cemetery Project site has moved from JewishGen to the IAJGS site at <http://iajgs.org/cemetery>. The project's goal is to provide information about every Jewish burial place and currently contains thousands of listings from all over the world. Some locations include additional information, such as a history of the Jewish presence in the town, name/addresses of synagogues, geographic information and other facts.

Videos of Polish Jewish Cemeteries on YouTube

There are a number of videos of Jewish cemeteries on [YouTube](http://www.youtube.com), perhaps as many as 246. To locate a particular video, search using the Polish words for "Jewish cemetery"—*cmentarz zydowski*—and the name of a particular town.

Search for Descendants of Red Star Line Passengers

Between 1873 and 1935 the Red Star Line shipping company transported almost three million people from Antwerp to the United States and Canada. The City of Antwerp has created a Red Star Memorial site at http://www.redstarlinememorial.be/smartsite.dws?id=MHE_LANDING&ch=MHE with plans to open a museum in Antwerp.

The project is looking for individual stories about the immigration experience of using the shipping line including photographs. If you are/know a person or descendant of a person who took a ship from Antwerp to settle in North Amer-

ica, contact redstarline@stad.antwerpen.be. The names of the Red Star steamships are Arabic, Belgenland, Berlin, Cambroman, Devonian., Finland, Friesland, Gothland, Kensington, Kroonland, Lapland, Manitou, Marquette, Menominee, Merion, Mississippi, Nederland, Noordland, Pennland, Poland, Rhymland, Samland, Southwark, Switzerland, Vaderland, Waesland, Westernland, Winifredian, Zeeland.

Google Maps Now Includes More Ukrainian Towns

It was reported on the JewishGen Ukraine Discussion Group that Google now has most, if not all, of the towns of Ukraine at <http://maps.google.com>. It is best to use the current spelling of the town and add "Ukraine" as a keyword of the search. Searching for the major Ukrainian city of Kamenets Podolskiy (Russian spelling transliterated) produced no results. Adding the keyword "Ukraine" only added a Sponsored Link (advertisement) for trips to the city. Then searching the web using Google for Kamenets Podolskiy identified the current spelling transliterated from Ukrainian as Kamianets-Podilskyi. It was unnecessary to then search Google Maps with the correct Ukrainian spelling. Merely clicking the link to "Maps" produced a map of the area of Ukraine that includes the city.

Free Indexes to Births of England and Wales on Ancestry.com

Ancestry.com is providing free of charge indexes to births in England and Wales from 1837–2005. The resulting digitized images are pages from books of indices that are recorded in alphabetical order in three-month increments. Each name on the page has been indexed by Ancestry.com. Information provided is name of child, mother's maiden name, district where born, and volume and page number of actual record. Exact date of birth is not given. Information is in two different databases:

- 1837–1915 <http://search.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=8912&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0>
- 1916–2005 <http://search.ancestry.com/iexec/?htx=List&dbid=8782&offerid=0%3a7858%3a0>

JewishGen Wants More KahaLinks Pages

One popular component of JewishGen is their ShtetLinks site where individual family historians have created web pages for their ancestral shtetl (town) in Central and Eastern Europe. The equivalent for towns in the Sephardic area of influence is called KahaLinks; "kahal" being the Hebrew word for "Jewish community." Persons wishing to create a KahaLink site on JewishGen should contact Jeffrey Malka at JeffMalka@SephardicGen.com

Online Language Translators

One aspect of Jewish genealogy is dealing with languages that are not your native tongue. Whether it is visiting a web site or sending/receiving e-mail in another language, an online language translator can be a useful tool. For many years I have used AltaVista's Babel, now <http://babelfish.yahoo.com/>, with limited success. It does not handle more esoteric languages such as Polish. For Polish, I used poltran.com which gives poor translations.

Google's translator at <http://translate.google.com> seems to do an excellent job of translating 42 languages. Recently I sent e-mail in Polish using Google's translator to the Civil Registration Office of the Mokotow ancestral town of Warka, Poland, asking whether there were Books of Residence from the 19th century. Their answer, in Polish, was: *Urząd Miejski w Warce informuje, że nie zachowały się żadne księgi mieszkańców z tego okresu. Wszystkie uległy zniszczeniu podczas działań wojennych.*

Using Google translator, the response translated into English was:

Town Office in Warka indicates that there are not any accounts of the inhabitants of that period. All have been destroyed during the war.

Using Poltran.com, the response was:

City office inform in (to) Warce, that they have behaved no books of inhabitants from it during warfare compliant disruption

One way to check the quality of an online translator is to give it a sentence in your native language, translate it to a second language and then take the result and translate it back to your native tongue.

Using the sentence "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country," the following results were achieved using Russian translators.

Babelfish. Now time for all good people to arrive at the aid of their country.
Google. Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country
translation2.paralink.com. Now - time for all good men to come to the aid to their country

This was the result using Google for various languages:

Czech Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country
French It is now time for all good men to come to the aid of their country
German Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the country
Hebrew Now is the time for all good men to get relief of their country
Hungarian Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of the country
Latvian Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country
Lithuanian It is time for all good men to come to the aid of their country
Polish Now is the time for all good men to come to the rescue of their country
Romanian Now is the time for all good men to help their country
Russian Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country
Slovak Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country

Based on a certain amount of testing, it seems to be poorest with Hebrew

When writing in another language, keep the sentences simple It increases the likelihood it will be translated accurately

Steve Lasky, who runs the on-line museum, the Museum of Family History, is continually adding new things to the site. To help you keep up with his additions, you can sign up for his new blog at <http://museumoffamilyhistory.blogspot.com/>.

This post on LitvakSIG by Peter Hills, London UK employs a brilliant search strategy, the input of multiple first names.

Paul Hattori posted a recent message about "another success story" for family of Max Jaffe but still wondered about exact place of birth.

If you put the combination of the first names he mentioned (ie Max b 1870 Sarah b? Simon b 1899 and Marie b 1900) into the 1911 UK census you get a family named YAFFEY. The probability of getting the exact combination of first names due to chance alone is very small ie high probability family changed name in UK.

HOUSEHOLD YAFFEY MARIA F 1899 12 Salford Lancashire
HOUSEHOLD YAFFEY MAX M 1872 39 Salford Lancashire
HOUSEHOLD YAFFEY MIRIAM F 1905 6 Salford Lancashire
HOUSEHOLD YAFFEY RACHEL F 1909 2 Salford Lancashire
HOUSEHOLD YAFFEY SARAH F 1873 38 Salford Lancashire
HOUSEHOLD YAFFEY SIMON M 1898 13 Salford Lancashire

Then go to UK National Archives web site you get

Nationality and Naturalisation: Yaffa, Max, from Russia. Resident in Blackburn. Certificate 3,846 issued 24 April 1919. The background Home Office papers (available) should give exact place of birth!!

Bernie Kouchel

JGSBC Program Calendar

www.jgsbc.org/helios/events

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

Sunday, October 25, 1:00 pm
Alvin Sherman Library of NSU
"Social Networking for Genealogists– Facebook,
Twitter, and others"
Bernie Kouchel and Kim Garvey

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County usually meets on either the last Sunday or Wednesday of the month. Please check the **JGSBC Program Calendar** above or our **Community Events Calendar** located at www.jgsbc.org/helios/events for the exact times and locations.

The first 20-30 minutes of our meetings are devoted to **Brick Walls and Breakthroughs**, where members share their successes or ask for help with their difficult genealogical problems. Anyone interested in genealogy is welcome to participate in our programs.



Member Society

The JGS of Broward County is an integral part of a global network of 75+ societies, all members of IAJGS, with 10,000+ individual members who are actively researching their Jewish roots.

Do you have a brick wall you've finally succeeded in breaking down? We'd love to hear about it.

Contact the *Family Gatherings* editor at newsletter@jgsbc.org. We look forward to reading your story in a future newsletter.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc.

P.O. Box 17251

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33318

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

Email: info@jgsbc.org

www.jgsbc.org

JGSBC

Officers and Directors

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

Committee Chairs

Cemetery	Ara Morenberg
Finance	Brenda Feuer
Library	Rhoda Horwitz
Membership	Rosa Pinsky
Newsletter	Michael Sofman
Program	Martin Shames
Publicity	Michael Greenberg
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 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.



**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:	

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