



Etz Chaim

עץ חיים

The Quarterly Journal of the
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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*Bar/ Bat Mitzvah Issue -
Our 13th Year*

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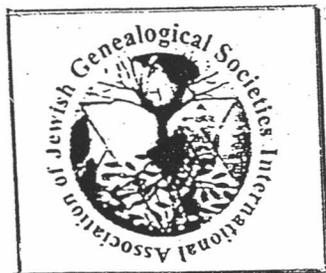
Membership Information:

Regular membership dues (January through December) are \$25.00. Out-of-town membership (more than 50 miles) is \$15.00 per year. Please make checks payable to JGSGO, P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794.

JGSGO meetings will be held January through June, recess for July and August, and resume in September through December. Meetings will be held usually on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., primarily in the Senior Lounge, JCC, 851 N. Maitland Ave, Maitland. If a different location or date is scheduled, adequate notice will be given to members.

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Federation of Genealogical Societies

P. O. Box 830220

Richardson, TX 75083-0220

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COVER: Courtesy Jerry Kurland, Surrealgraphics

CALENDAR:**Future JGSGO Programs and Others....**

Tuesday, January 13, 2004:

JGSGO Meetng, JCC Senior Lounge, 7:00 p.m.,
Program: **Video Presentation**, "Painless Organization for Genealogists," with Sharon DeBartolo Carmack

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

JGSGO Meeting, JCC Senior Lounge, 7:00 p.m.
Program: **To Be Announced**

Saturday, April 17: Central Florida Genealogical Society,
Spring Conference, Marriott Hotel, Lake Mary, three
lectures by George Schweitzer, PhD. (contact www.cfgs.org)

July 4-9, 2004

24th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (IAJGS)
Renaissance Hotel, Jerusalem, Israel (contact
<http://www.ORTRA.com>)

September 8-11, 2004

Annual Conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, San Antonio, TX

November 12-13, 2004

Annual Conference of the Florida State Genealogical Societies, Hilton Melbourne Rialto Place, Melbourne, FL

Chairman's Message



It's been said by many people that "13" is a lucky number and others run from it. For most of our members, thirteen may remind them of their Bar/Bat Mitzvah year. JGSGO is not as large as most families who come together for the religious aspect, food, music, dancing and seeing relatives. Our affair will only offer good food, a country club atmosphere, an interesting speaker, and good fellowship.

We are honored that Rabbi Steven Engel of the Congregation of Liberal Judaism accepted our invitation to be the guest speaker. We have to

admit to having an organization that is in need of more active members and most importantly, more new members. We made it through some difficult times and now are on the threshold of moving forward. Do you have friends who would be interested in developing their family history? Please let them know that we can offer special programs and expertise. We will plan various programs to promote computer knowledge and how to use the library systems. We will share knowledge and successes. We also make available four issues of our journal, *Etz Chaim*. In 2003, your Directors planned interesting sessions including "*Identifying the Age of Photographs by Clothing*," by Elaine Powell; Greg Kolojeski offered, "*How to Identify Your Ancestors' Shtet*;" Gladys Friedman Paulin educated us with "*Do Documents Lie? Records Created by and for Immigrant Ancestors*" and Edith Schulman instilled a nostalgic mood with "*If Walls Could Talk*." Our best attendance was for "Hands on Computer Research," with Gregg Gronlund and Carl Migden at the Orange County Public Library. The year was topped off with Herb Adler informing our members about the the JGSGO library housed in the Holocaust Center.

We are proud to have an active professional Web Site and will be working to make it more interactive. Thanks to our Nominating Committee for presenting a slate that offers leadership for this JGSGO's future. We are on the threshold of welcoming some new blood to carry the Society to the next level of our growth. The results are in the joy of seeing the faces of beginner's when they speak of finding "mishpocha" they never knew existed.

It has been my pleasure to serve as Chairman in this Bar/Bat Mitzvah Year. Many thanks for the support I received from our Directors. I look forward to my continued involvement in the JGSGO.

Jerry Hurland

IN THE BEGINNING... Thirteen years ago

The following paragraphs have been excerpted by your editor from a longer article previously published in Etz Chaim in 2000

It may have been Hurricane season in Florida in September 1990, but nothing deterred 23 people from getting together in the Adult/Teen Lounge of the Jewish Community Center, Maitland, on Monday the 10th to discuss organizing a genealogy Society. It was the brainstorm of Gene Starn that those with similar interests could help each other by meeting monthly to discuss a growing interest in genealogyspecifically, Jewish genealogy.

Gene wrote the following when we noted the 10th anniversary of JGSGO.

"It was in June 1990, just before Elaine and I were to leave Orlando and head north for the summer, when I decided to see if I could twist Jeff Gaeser's arm. He was the new owner of HERITAGE, Orlando's Jewish newspaper -- and let me run several articles to find out who was interested in Jewish genealogy. I made up a few ads, asking any interested persons to call and leave a message on my answering machine. Then I promptly forgot about it until we returned home in the fall.

As we arrived back in Orlando, just before Rosh Hashanah, the phone was ringing.

"Hello, this is Gary Mokotoff. I'm president of the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and I hear you're trying to start one in the Orlando area. Maybe I can help!"

I told him that I'd just gotten home and hadn't had a chance to see if there were any responses on my answering machine, but I'd get back to him.

In all there were at least a couple dozen messages. I talked over my idea with Marv Friedman, director of the JCC, and he gave me a meeting room in the old program building of the Center.

Twenty- three people showed up, including some who said they'd stay on to help organize our JGS. We had a lively discussion about Jewish genealogy. There were many who were interested, but were strictly beginners. We ended up with 16 who made up the nucleus of the JGS of Greater Orlando. That was the beginning."

Gene concluded his comments with "I wouldn't recommend that everyone go out and start a genealogical Society, but I would suggest that you each make it your business to get involved in our own Society, in any big or small way. You'll be surprised at the results it will bring you."

The rest is history!

Jay Schleichkorn

NECROLOGY: MEMBERS OF JGSGO 1990 TO 2005

Moe Aronson
December 28, 2002

Norman Cohen
November 10, 1999

Doug First
April 14, 2002

Marshall Frenkel
January 8, 2004

Pauline "Polly" Horwitz
February 28, 1996

James "Bud" Jaffee
January 19, 2003

Madeline Keane
March 6, 1997

A. Jack Kornbluh
November 11, 2003

Ernie Lefkowitz
May 29, 2002

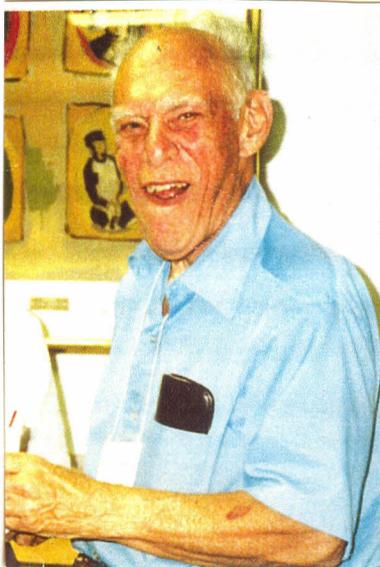
Arlene Parnes
May 8, 2003

Howard Seligson
July 31, 2002

Harold Sternberger
June 5, 2002

James Whelan
February 26, 2003

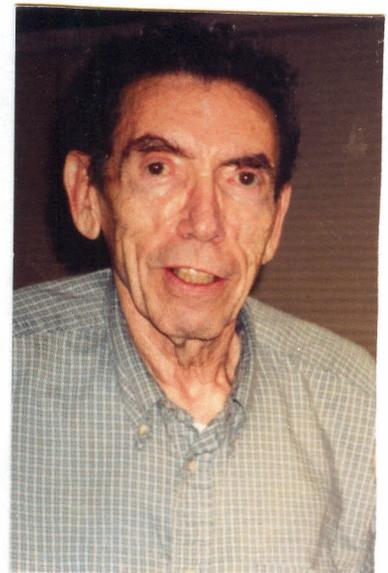
George Wolly
April 22, 2001



Moe Aronson



Norman Cohen



Douglas First

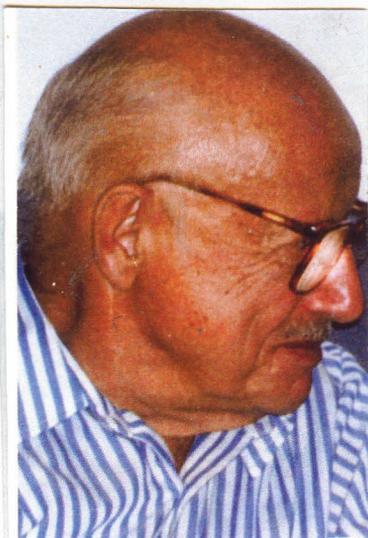
NECROLOGY: MEMBERS OF JGSGO 1990 TO 2005 (continued)



Marshall Frenkel



Polly Horwitz



James "Bud" Jaffee



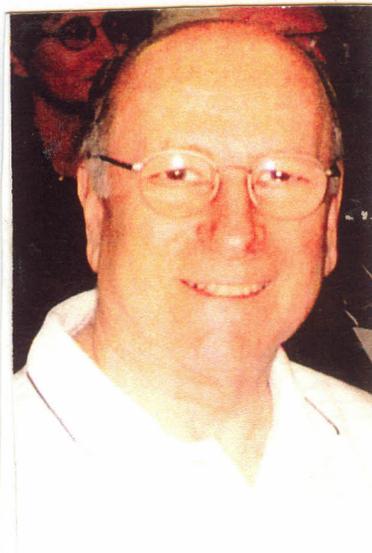
Madeline Keane



Ernie Lefkowitz



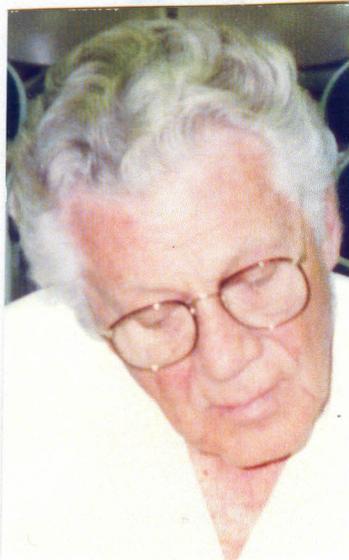
Arlene Parnes



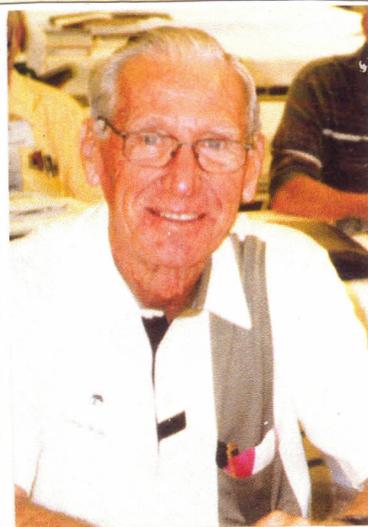
Howard Seligson



Harold Sternberger



James Whelan



George Wolly

HIGHLIGHTS OF JGSGOs THIRTEEN YEARS - 1990 - 2003

....September 10, 1990, The Organizational Meeting, spearheaded by Gene Starn, was held. 20 people were listed on the sign-in sheet. Several have passed on since then, some have moved from the area, and six are still active members;

....149 program meetings have been held since September 1990;

....five individuals have served as "chair or president" of the JGSGO: Gene Starn, Gladys Friedman Paulin, Jay Schleichkorn, Sim Seckbach, and Jerry Kurland;

....Eleven workshops have been organized;

....JGSGO has participated in seven community events (i.e. Shalom Orlando, JCC Chanukah Fest, Books Fairs, FSGS Annual Conference);

....Five field trips have been planned to such facilities as the Price Judaica Library (Gainesville; the LDS Family Center Lake Mary, and the Orange County Public Library);

....Etz Chaim, the quarterly newsletter/journal of the JGSGO has published 43 issues...the latest being Vol. 14 No. 2 Winter 2003;

....There have been three editors of Etz Chaim: Harry Katzman, March 1991-December 1992; Gene Starn, January 1993 - October 1997; and Jay Schleichkorn, November 1997 to present;

....The JGSGO library has had 7 individuals who served as librarian: 1) Janet Friedman, 2) Polly Horwitz, 3) Greg Kolojeski, 4) Gladys Friedman Paulin, 5) Carl Migden, 6) Herb Adler, and now Riva Sorokurs;

....Effective August 22, 2001, JGSGO holds a "Consumer's Certificate of Exemption" 501(C) (3) Organization (Tax exemption purchases);

....JGSGO has an active and up-to-date website: www://rootsweb.com/~fljgscf/;

....Our genealogical library housed in the Holocaust Center, now has 300 holdings, some of which are not available at other local repositories;

....JGSGO is a member of the International Association of Genealogical Societies, the Federation of Genealogical Societies; and the Florida State Genealogical Societies

MAJOR SPEAKERS OR PRESENTERS AT JGSGO MEETINGS 1990-2003

Adler, Herb
Anderson, Ellen
Aronson, Moe
Ayers, Lesa
Azriel, Josh

Benmergui, Moses
Brenner, Michael
Bush, Marcella G.

Cooper Katherine
Crawford, Elaine

Dollarhide, Bill
Dornfest, Shirley
Dubov Rabbi

Elbaz, Rabbi Moshe
Enchelmayer, Paul
Engel, Steven Rabbi
Evans, John

Fiedotin, Diana
Frank, Doris
Frank, Don
Frenkel, Marshall
Frey, Carl
Futterman, Tammy

Glasser, Bob
Glenn, Marilyn
Green, Bert
Gronlund, Gregg
Gutman, Joseph, Dr.

Hemovics, Rachel
Hooks, Laura
Howitz, Polly
Horwitz, Sil
Howard, James

Katzman, Harry
Kirkwood, Larry Judge
Kolojeski, Greg

Kornspan, Bob

Lerner, Dwayne

Margol, Howard
Marks, Scott
Marlin, Robert
McReynolds, John
Mead, Corey
Meltz, Hy
Michael, Shirley
Migden, Carl
Miller, Claire
Mokotoff, Gary
Morse, Harvey

Osisek, Ann
Ossin, Archie

Patin Carl
Patrick, Ervin
Paulin, Gladys Friedman
Powell, Elaine
Prevost, Toni

Reback, Sheila
Ritt, Eva

Schleichkorn, Jay
Schulman, Edith
Seckbach, Sim
Seligson, Howard
Shapiro, Rabbi Merrill
Sieger, Barry
Singerman, Bob
Slaydon, Susan
Soloff, Marge Spears
Starn, Gene
Steesy, Walt
Steeve, Paul
Stone, Richard
Sue, Lynn
Suriff, Marv

Wasilwski, Jacek
Webb, Liliane
Weiss, Mitch
Whitehill, Arthur "Bud"
Wittenstein, Joseph

"If Walls Could Talk"

At the October 14 JGSGO meeting, Edith Schulman gave a nostalgic talk about her receiving a 27 pound box of items from her childhood home. It was just what Edith needed for her genealogy projects. A month before her presentation at the JGSGO, Edith wrote an article about the package which was published in the Heritage Florida Jewish News, September 19, 2003. The article is reprinted below with permission.



Edith Schulman (photo October 14, 2003)

What can the walls tell us?

The box is in front of me. What will I find that has been hidden so long? With shaking hands, I cut the tape and opened the lids.

But wait! We must go back to this past June when my husband and I took our grandsons, ages 10 and 12, back to Nashville, Tenn. where we grew up. They were old enough we felt, to begin to understand their heritage.

We included a trip to the Jewish cemetery where Jordan and Bradley's great-great-grandparents are buried as well as great-great-grandparents also. I gave each a Family Tree, and the boys found the graves, checked dates for me and laced a pebble on each grave.

But also on our list of things to do was to show them the schools we went to, our houses and the places we played. I had not been in the house where I grew up in more than 40 years. The young woman who now owns it was most gracious as only Southerners can be, and invited me to come in and look around. Few changes had been made and the memories popped out from every corner, some good and some not so happy.

The owner mentioned to me that she and her husband were going to add onto the house this summer. We exchanged addresses and phone numbers and that was that....

Until August 19 when she e-mailed me that she had received a call from her contractor. It seemed when he knocked down one of the walls, he found a hidden dresser in the wall with five drawers crammed with photos, scrapbooks, letters and much more with my family's name, Lefkovits, on the papers.

The owner sent it to me two days later, and now it is in front of me. One thing you ought to know is that I am a genealogy nut, having a hard time tracing my family history, I didn't have old letters, journals, diaries, or even a family Bible listing birth, wedding and death dates to help me start my genealogy research.

Was this box going to fill the gaps?

I am carefully going through every scrap of paper in the box. So far some of the items I've found include pictures of my mother I had never before seen, newspaper write-ups of dances that I attended, corsages given to me by dates when I was a teenager, which I must have carefully pressed in these scrapbooks, letters from relatives long dead and so much more. I will be studying these items for a long, long time. Three garbage bags full.

But, what if we hadn't gone by the house where I grew up? What if I hadn't made friends with the owner and told her I was doing the genealogy of my family? And finally, what if she had not been such a caring person who took the trouble first to call me and then send it all to me?

I can only believe that having this box in my hands, which is full of family stuff that hasn't seen the light of day in almost 60 years, was bershnet - it was meant to be.

Special thanks to the following for the donated items used as "special gifts" at the annual meeting:

Estee Lauder Inc., Melville, NY: "The Lauder family would be delighted to donate two fragrance gift sets, valued at approximately \$50.00 each...."

Publix Super Markets, Lakeland, FL: a Gift Certificate for \$25 worth of items from any Publix market.

Ray Schleichkorn Rehab Services, Apopka, FL: Two autographed novels; "The Commanders" by Bob Woodward and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" by Mary Higgins Clark.

Sonny's Real Bar-B-Q, Maitland, FL: Three (3) Certificates for "Dinner for Two" at any of ten Sonny's restaurants in Central Florida

Xlibris Corporation (Publishers) book, "Another Time Another Place: a neighborhood remembered" Gerald Chatanow and Berbard Schwartz.

Press Release:**NEW PUBLICATION-****A GUIDE TO ORGANISING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RECORDS**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Great Britain recently announced the publication of a new book: *A GUIDE TO ORGANISING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY RECORDS* by Rosemary Wenzel. The author is Chairman of the Education Committee for the JGSGB and a Member of Council. The 116 page book will be available in December 2003.



According to the press release, "the book is written in the simplest way, to help family Historians who have just start their family history and those who have gathered a lot of information about their family and need help with putting it in order." Whether you have a computer or not this book provides examples, advice

and suggestions on how to keep your records in order by the most up-to-date methods plus ideas to enlarge the social history of your family. The section on preservation is intended to help keep your documents and photographs in the best possible condition.

When thinking about a suitable filing system, it is important to introduce one which is simple, yet efficient, so that future generations will be able to pick up where you left off.

Keeping records in order is extremely important and the chapter headed 'Document Links' illustrates the relationships between sets of documents. It is only a guide and is intended for the reader to decide which documents to include.

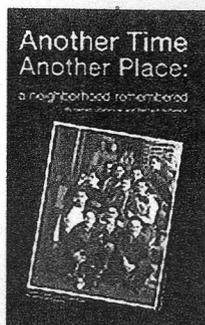
Price of the book (with conversion to the US dollar) is approximately \$8.50 (based on currency conversion of November 1) plus postage, total about \$10.

Other books available from the Society include: *A Beginner's Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Great Britain*, 80 pages, price US\$10; *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Germany and Austria*, 76 pages, price US\$10, written by Thea Skyte and Randol Schoenberg; *A Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Latvia and Estonia*, 76 pages, price US\$10, written by Arlene Beare; and *Genealogical Resources within the Jewish Home and Family*, 112 pages, written by Rosemary Wenzel.

Check the JGSGB web site for details: www.jgs.gb.org.uk.

*You may be only one person in the world,
but you may also be the world to one
person.*

Another Time Another Place a neighborhood remembered



by Gerald
Chatanow|Bernard
D. Schwartz
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discount off retail

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○ Hardback \$33.29
○ eBook \$8.00

Description

The Brownsville/East New York neighborhood of the 1930's, 40's and 50's is now but an almost faded memory, a "time warp" as it were. Today it is a neighborhood that has been eviscerated and exists only as a geographic locale.

Through the collective memories of the famous and the not-so-famous, Jerry Chatanow and Bernie Schwartz have elicited and chronicled a treasure trove of anecdotes and remembrances that bring back to life a once vibrant and exhilarating neighborhood.

The authors vividly transport the reader back to a bygone era of street games, egg creams, mello rolls and knishes, patriotism at the home front, plush movie palaces, the Dodgers, the Knicks, boxing venues, old time radio and the neighborhood settlement houses with its open doors waiting to welcome the teeming masses.

Anyone from small town or big city who was ever enriched by the nurturing warmth, the loyalties and camaraderie of a "neighborhood" will enjoy this major contribution to the oral history of America.

This is a story told within the context of this country's transformation from "The Great Depression" to World War Two to "Baby Boomer" prosperity. The authors were both observers of and participants in what in retrospect proved to be a triumphant generation.

Editor's Note: Xlibris, responded to our request for a complimentary copy of the book which we used as one of the "door prizes" at our Annual Meeting and Luncheon. Check their web site: www.xlibris.com for details on how xlibris can give you everything you need to publish and sell your book. That includes finalizing your manuscript creating an attractive book with their Publishing Service, promoting your published book, and printing copies on-demand for your readers."

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DUE - FOR YEAR 2004



Shirley Michael, JGSGO Treasurer

Enclosed in this issue of Etz Chaim is an insert of a one page dues renewal form with an addressed envelope to our Post Office Box. Please complete the form and mail it no later than February 28. All the forms and checks will be given to our Treasurer, Shirley Michael, who will expeditiously make the appropriate deposits to the JGSGO account.

Please note on the form you have an opportunity to be a Patron, Sponsor, Individual or Family member. You are invited to make a "voluntary" contribution to help further JGSGO's activities. Please do not delay....mail your renewal and keep Shirley busy and happy "all the way to the bank."

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

On Tuesday, October 14, in accordance with the JGSGO By-laws, the Nominating Committee presented its report for the coming elections. The committee consisted of Doris Frank, Chair; Edith Schulman and Mildred Rosenbaum. The proposed slate includes five members who would be elected at the annual meeting. Those elected members, at their first meeting, will decide who serves as Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary-Librarian, Membership and Program Chair. The slate includes: Jerry Kurland, Shirley Michaels, Doris Frank, Edith Schulman and Riva Sorokus. In addition the editor of the newsletter (Jay Schleichkorn) and the Webmaster (Jack Kornbluh) are automatically considered as directors. Elections and meeting and luncheon. Editor's note: *with the death of Jack Kornbluh on November 11, another member will have to be named as Webmaster.*

JGSGO MEETING, November 16, 2003

On Sunday afternoon, November 16, a regular meeting of the JGSGO was held at the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center, Maitland. The JGSGO has been allocated an area for several book shelves to hold its special genealogical materials.



The current JGSGO librarian, Herb Adler, had an opportunity to introduce or re-introduce our members to the available resources. He spoke of a sampling of resource material including, "Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy" by Gary Mokotoff and Warren Blatt; "They Became Americans" by Loretto Dennis Szucs; "They Came in Ships" by John Coletta; "The Source" edited by Szucs and the "Morton

Allen Directory of European Passenger Steamship Arrivals." Several spontaneous discussions were generated during the course of the presentation. Fifteen JGSGO members were present.

Following Adler's talk, the enthusiastic group was able to become familiar with the rest of the holdings. Additionally, the recently acquired computer (replacing the older outdated one) has been updated with an Excel Database of JGSGO's materials. A microfiche reader is also available for the microfiche items.

Several people stayed for a special showing of the film, "The Man Who Captured Eichmann" with Robert Duvall, that tells the story of Peter Z. Malkin, Masaad Agent and the team who captured Eichmann in Argentina. An additional treat available to members present at the Center was the display or original art of Malkin which was displayed at the HMREC.

The meeting was one of the occasional Sunday sessions held by JGSGO. Several favorable and some critical comments were received about the meeting. The JGSGO directors will address these issue in future meetings.

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

The JGSGO Annual Meeting and luncheon was held Sunday, December 14 at the Sweetwater Country Club, Apopka. Due to the publishing schedule of Etz Chaim, this issue (Winter 2003) could not offer full coverage of the meeting. Watch for details in the next issue of Etz Chaim, Spring 2004, and check the JGSGO website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~fljgscf/>

Memories of the House on 607 Henderson Avenue or Visitation Rites

By: Beryle Solomon Buchman

As my thoughts dart through time and space, I remember the anticipated pleasure of visiting Grandpa, Bubby, Esther, and Sigy in their home on 607 Henderson Avenue, Tampa, Florida. My adventures spending the night must have started when I was a baby. I continued to be a frequent visitor until I was nine years old when they moved to St. Petersburg, Florida.

When my father drove up to the large, frame house, I could see the open porch with a wooden swing hanging from the porch ceiling by metal chains.

I can see myself as a small child walking through the house. As I entered the foyer, there was a large wooden coat rack on the right. The bottom, or seat, opened up for storage. A small mirror was placed near the top.

The living room, or parlor, was on the right. I remember some of the furniture in this room. There was a large radio in a wooden cabinet. On the left, inside wall was an old, black upright piano that my mother played. The most interesting piece was the *Victrola* gramophone

that played the old, thick Caruso 78 rpm records. This machine used large needles that wore out. It was not electric. It had to be wound often with a crank, or the record would play at a distorted slower pace and eventually stop playing. I could hear the *Victrola* wind down, as the tenor voice gradually became a wobbly baritone. Grandpa sat in an upholstered chair in his pants, shirtless, with his *BVD* top showing, reading books or newspapers, including the *Jewish-Daily Forward*. Esther remembered that Bubby also read the *Forward* and discussed the articles with her neighbors. Bubby and Grandpa always spoke to me in English. Yiddish was spoken when they did not want me to know what they were saying. I never learned to speak Yiddish; however, I understand a little bit.

To the left of the foyer was a large bedroom. This was used as a guest room. The foyer opened out to both the parlor on the right and the large dining room on the left. The dining room was furnished with traditional mahogany furniture. On the left, inside wall was the china cabinet; on the right wall was the buffet. There were two windows at the end of the room with a small picture of the Mona Lisa between the windows. It seems as if it were yesterday that I saw the clumps of homemade fresh noodles drying on an

immaculate white tablecloth covering the dining room table. I was cautioned, "Not to touch!" My Bubby sold these egg noodles to the local A&P grocery store.

Behind the dining room was the kitchen. As I entered the kitchen, I could see the high open shelves on the left, where the dishes, pots and pans, and other cooking utensils were stored. A large, white metal cabinet used to store pantry items was on the opposite side. In the corner was a gas water heater. Ants in Florida are always a problem. The sugar had to be stored in the icebox. This was not an electric appliance. The ice was stored in the top compartment. The drip pan underneath the icebox had to be emptied as the ice melted. On the left wall near the window was a large, round kitchen table covered with a slick, shiny oilcloth. I remember my grandfather eating poached fish and potatoes on that table.

Going from the foyer, past the parlor and dining room was another bedroom. To the left of this bedroom was the bathroom. The toilet tank was far above my head and had a pull chain. There was no shower. Everyone took a bath in an enormous tub sitting on grotesque, clawed feet. This house had modern conveniences. The family did not have to heat the bath water in a kettle.

To the right of this bedroom was a screened sleeping porch, where Esther and Sigy slept. The porch was always cool; sometimes it was too cold. A canvas awning could be rolled up or down over the screen to protect the porch from rain and cold. There were three beds, a sewing machine, and other pieces of furniture on the sleeping porch.

My grandparents added a small two-room frame apartment to the back of the house during the Depression to generate a little income. This apartment faced the backyard. There was one special pineapple mango tree in the backyard that Esther remembered with nostalgia.

Esther and Sigy spent their childhood in this home until 1936 when the family moved to St. Petersburg. The house was always neat and clean. Esther referred to my Bubby as "*Mrs. Immaculate*." Bubby taught her children to put everything in its place and keep the house clean. This lesson was perpetuated by several generations. Jimmy summed it up best when he commented years later, "I want everything to be in its place so that I can find it in the dark." My mother and Esther both told me that they changed the linens and cleaned the house every Saturday.

My comment about no air conditioning in the house elicited this remark from Esther, "What do you mean, no air conditioning? All we had to do was open the double windows in the front of the parlor, and we had cross ventilation. We never noticed the heat in the Florida summers."

Laundry was a time consuming weekly task. I remember seeing my Bubby boil her linens in the backyard in a galvanized washtub over a wooden fire. The clothes were stirred with a wooden stick that looked like a short broom handle. She used a scrub board in another large tub for the other laundry. The clothes were rinsed twice. A few drops of midnight blue liquid from a cobalt blue bottle swirled as it was added to the final rinse water. This *Blueing* made the



white linens bright white. After the laundry was rinsed, it was wrung out by hand and hung up on the clothesline to dry in the sun. All sheets and outer clothing were ironed. The weekly washing and the ironing could take as much as two days to finish. Between washings, the tubs were hung on the outside of the house below the windows.

After Grandpa, Bubby, Jimmy, Esther, and Sigy moved to St. Petersburg, we visited them often. Grandpa was fond of his grandchildren. Whenever Grandpa visited us in Tampa, he always brought us a couple of rolls of *Life Savers*. At the time, I wondered why he brought us the candy. *Life Savers* were a nickel each or three for a dime. Years later, I realized that he did not want to come empty handed when he visited us, and *Life Savers* were all that he could afford.

The house on Henderson Avenue is only a vivid, lingering memory. It was demolished when Interstate 4 was built. It is true that you can never go back to the scenes of your childhood.

Esther was my memory editor. She remembered that she bathed and fed me when I was about a year old. I could remember exactly where every piece of furniture was in the dining room, but the kitchen memories were not as crisp. I could remember where the table, door, and windows were in the kitchen and knew about the icebox, stove, and gas water heater. The white metal storage cabinet impressed me the most because of the sliding doors. What I did not know was exactly where they were in the room. Esther's acknowledgement that we remembered many of the same things each time we discussed the house, helped confirm that my memories were accurate. She often commented that she had a very happy childhood there.

On Saturday December 21, 2002, my son Kenneth and I visited Esther in her apartment at Grand Court in Tampa, Florida. I showed her a copy of *Memories of the House* on 607 Henderson Avenue and asked if she wanted to read it. She requested that I read it to her. Esther listened, misty eyed, to every trivial detail about the house and laughed or giggled often. When I finished, she commented enthusiastically, "That is exactly the way it happened. We are the only ones who remember."

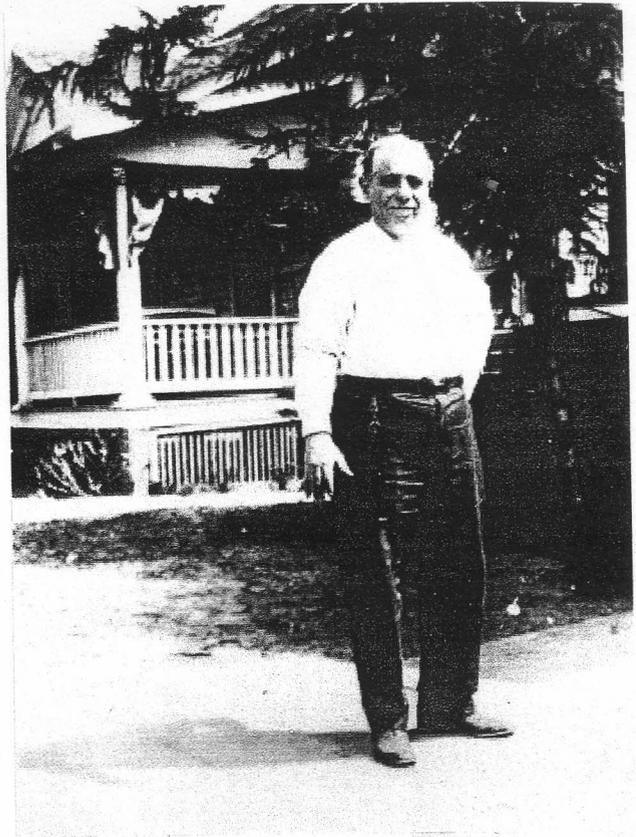


Aunt Esther

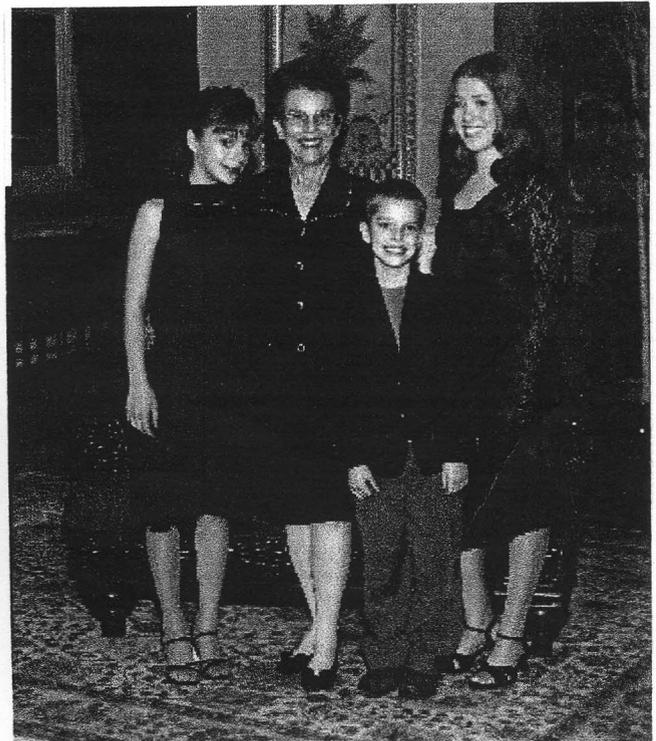
(18 July 1918 - 2 January 2003)

On January 2, 2003, we lost Esther to cancer. I feel as if I have lost a mother twice. Now my favorite memory is watching her eyes as I read about our childhood memories.

Beryle S. Buchman of Plant City, FL first joined the JGSGO in 1995. She may be reached at: bbuchman@tampabay.rr.com



Grandpa Samuel Moed (17 November 1878 - 17 October 1939) in front of the house on Henderson Avenue, Tampa FL



Beryle has two sons Miles and Kenneth. In this photo Miles' daughter, Stephanie, is on Beryle's right. The photo was taken at her Bat Mitzvah the first week in January 2003. Stephanie will be 14 in December; Katherine (Kenneth's daughter) will be 15 at the end of October; and Paul is 9.

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JGSGO NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January 13, 2004

7:00 p.m. -Senior Lounge

JCC, Maitland

Program: *Video presentation*

***"Painless Organization for
Genealogists" featuring***

Sharon DeBartolo Carmack