



THE SUMMER READER

Etz Chaim

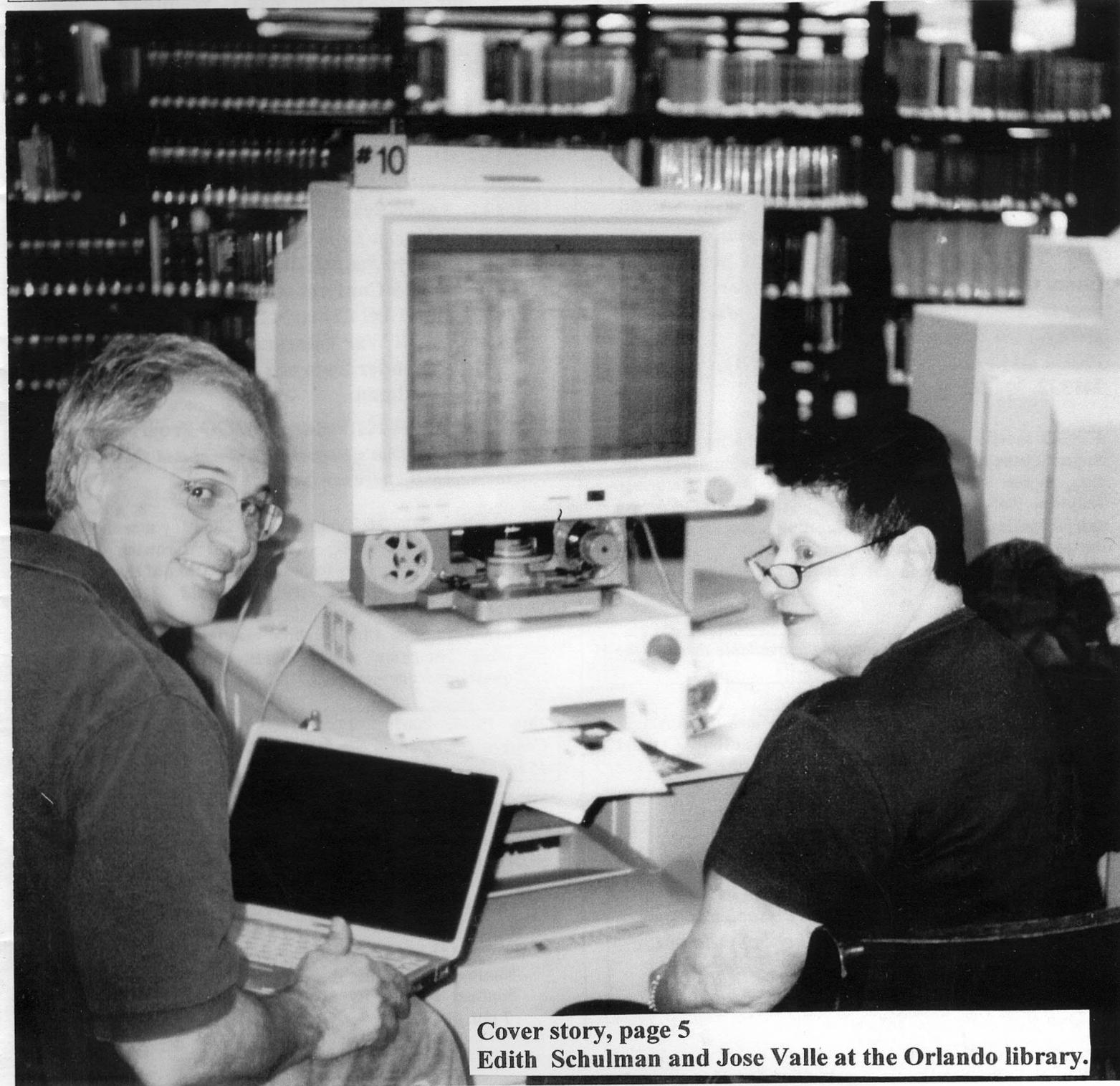
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THE QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF THE
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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Cover story, page 5
Edith Schulman and Jose Valle at the Orlando library.

ETZ CHAIM

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Etz Chaim is free to all members of JGSGO. Back copies (when available) \$5.00 each.

Membership Information:

Regular membership dues effective January 1, 2005. (January 1-December 31) Family \$30.00; Individual Membership \$25.00; Sponsor \$50.00; and Patron \$100.00 Out-of-town membership (more than 50 miles) is \$20.00 per year. *Note: For new members who join after June 1, dues are half price for the balance of the fiscal year.*

Please make checks payable to JGSGO, P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794.

JGSGO meetings are held monthly (excluding July and August), usually on the third Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Mini Sanctuary, Congregation of Reformed Judaism, 928 Malone Drive, Orlando, FL. If there is a special holiday or an event on a meeting night, we may meet the previous or following Monday. Read the "What's Happening" Calendar in the Heritage; check the JGSGO website.

JGSGO's meeting site has been made available through the courtesy extended by CRJ.

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As a member and under the umbrella of the IAJGS, the JGSGO is a 501(c)(3) United States tax-exempt, non-profit corporation.

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CALENDAR: Future JGSGO Programs +

(Check the What's Happening Column and Calendar in the weekly Heritage newspaper):

Monday: May 21: Program: The May meeting will be a panel discussing the topic of "Growing Up In America." Members from different areas of the United States will participate. 7:00 p.m. at CRJ

Monday: June 18: The June meeting will be a round table discussion with experts available to answer questions from members. 7:00 p.m. at CRJ

July 15-19, 2007: 27th IAJGS Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Salt Lake City, UT see page 15 in this issue,

August 15-18, 2007 "Crossroads of America" Annual Conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies with the Allen County Public Library. Fort Wayne, IN

NO JGSGO MEETINGS IN JULY AND AUGUST...

*** MARK YOUR CALENDAR:***

Monday: September 17: Greg Dawson of the Orlando Sentinel will discuss his recent trip to the Ukraine. 7 pm. at CRJ

JGSGO Offers Beginning Genealogy Course

The Beginning Genealogy Course, sponsored by our genealogy group and taught by our President, Edith Schulman, was very successful. Twelve people attended the four sessions held last January and February at CRJ.

Except for two of the students, all were just beginning their genealogy journey, and the questions most often asked were, "How do I start the search for my relatives?" and "What do I do next?"

The students were first asked to write down everything they knew about their family, filling in all the dates and names they could. The four classes discussed death records, because most of the participants knew where their grandparents died, even if they didn't know where they were born. They learned about other documents available—such as marriage licenses, tax records, deeds, school records, and so many others. From there, in the third session, the course explained the experience of the immigrants on their voyage to the United States, and how to find the ships on which their ancestors came to America. The final class discussed in detail the process of naturalization and what can be learned from different Federal Censuses.

Edith Schulman feels there is a need for such a course, and hopefully it can be offered every couple of years. It is also from groups like these students that JGSGO can hopefully increase its membership. Edith has given the above course twice before, once in Winter Park and once in Oviedo. The participants particularly enjoy the course, because even after the first session, they are able to start the search for their ancestors. The emphasis is teaching the students, Edith said. "How to begin their search, and what to do if you hit a dead end." Edith tries to add some stories of her own experience to let the participants know how exciting genealogy can be.

For Edith, her genealogy journey began in 1999 when she received a call from Israel one morning. It was from a distant cousin who had been working on one of Edith's ancestral lines. Since then Edith has investigated the ancestral line of each of her grandparents. Her goal is to put all of the information into a book for her children, grandchildren and other family members. "The writing of the book is finished," said Edith. "I am working on placing pictures and documents on the pages of the book. Also, Charles and I will soon be making another trip to Nashville to check on some dates, and to search for some allusive documents."

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you were unable to attend the April meeting, you missed a wonderful presentation given by Gladys Friedman Paulin on "The Immigrant Experience." This was just one of the outstanding programs planned this year by the dynamic duo of Stan Weinroth and his co-chair, Irwin Feldman.

On April 16, you also missed the exciting "sharing time." This is the period set aside at each meeting when everyone wants to help YOU solve your genealogical problems.

By the time you get this *Etz Chaim*, Marcie and Raeburn Wallen will be heading home to Findlay, Ohio for the summer. They graciously accepted the position of librarians and now, through their efforts, I am pleased to report the library is in perfect shape.

Want Ad

Available Part time job as librarian for the summer. Pay non-existence; Member appreciation great. Apply to: Edith, JGSGO president, at 407 699-6061.

What all of you need to do, is to come to the CRJ Learning Center and use our library. Visit our web site to find a complete listing of our library holdings.

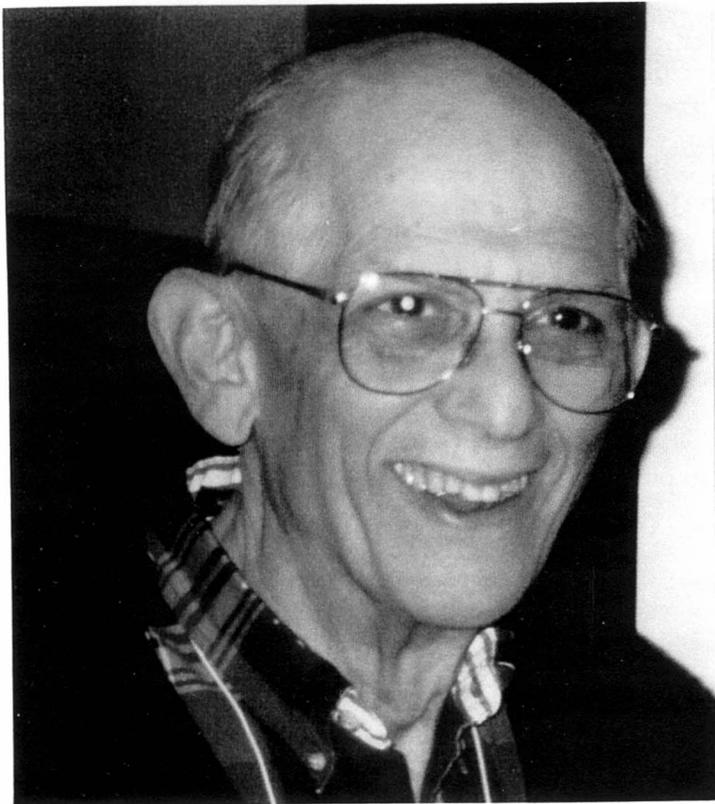
There is another person I'm looking for -- someone to chair the thrilling project that your Board is so excited about. We may call it "*Finding Your Grandmother's Grandmother*." It will be our opportunity to present genealogy to our community through the synagogues and at meetings of local organizations. But there is an important difference in this project. It WILL NOT be just a presentation. JGSGO wants to go even further. Any participant at one of the presentations will be given the option of going even farther in genealogy—by getting private help after the presentation. This will be our way of passing on our Jewish heritage.

We have had a number of members come forward who will help train the presenters and those later giving private help. But obviously our trainers need people to train. That's where you come in. Won't you please call me and tell me that you want to help answer the call in "*Finding Your Grandmother's Grandmother*." I can be reached at the above number or e-mail me at Edith@Schulmans.com.

My final word is a sincere thank you to Jay Schleichkorn for the wonderful job he does with our newsletter. Making it "the best" is a matter of pride with Jay, and we all reap the rewards!

Have a wonderful and fruitful summer.
From the Past Lane,

Edith

DONALD B. FRANK - 1926-2007

We lost a very good friend when Don Frank passed away on Thursday, March 15. Don, and his wife, Doris, have been members of JGSGO since they moved to Orlando from the Miami area in 1999. Don of New Rochelle, NY, attended Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy. Because of a lid problem with his eye-sight, Don was trained to install and operate radio equipment. He began his naval career at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station in Chicago. He also had training in Gulfport, MS; Louisiana State University; the University of Wisconsin and Texas, Hawaii and Guam. Although scheduled to be part of the invasion of Japan, Don said, "we were saved the disaster of the invasion of Japan that never happened because the atom bomb was dropped. That unfortunate incident probably saved my life as well as many thousands of other servicemen."

Upon his discharge in June 1946, Don returned to Williams College and graduated two years later. Majoring in economics, Don worked for a factor company and then met an owner of a textile company.

In November 1947, Don married Doris and moved to Cuba in 1957 to open an elastic braid factory. When Castro took over in 1959, the Franks moved to Miami where Don worked in life and health insurance. He earned his CLU and was involved in community activities such as Junior Achievement.

Both Don and Doris were involved with the local JGS and with the move to Central Florida, that interest in genealogy continued.

Don is survived by his wife of 50 years, Doris who is the JGSGO VP Membership. Their children include two sons, Tom (Mary Ann) of Indianapolis, Henry (Deborah) of Lake Mary, daughters Barbara of Quakers Town, PA and Brenda (Dean) Shapiro of FL. There are four grandchildren.

Don and Doris are members of the Congregation of Reform Judaism and Doris is noted for her involvement in Sisterhood.

There is no doubt that Don will be remembered for his sense of humor and broad smile. He always had a joke or story to tell and loved an audience.

Any contributions received in memory of Don Frank will be used by the JGS Greater Orlando to purchase new books for the genealogy library maintained at CRJ. Memorial contributions should be sent to JGSGO, PO Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794

Sephardic Resource Book Receives Award

Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel, by Mathilda Tagger and Yitzhak Kerem, has received Honorable Mention in the annual Reference Book Award of the Association of Jewish Libraries. This is the sixth book published by Avotaynu to have received an award from institutions that recognize Jewish books of excellence.

The book identifies the wealth of resources on Sephardic and Oriental Jewish history and genealogy in Israel including important archival collections such as the Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People; Central Zionist Archives; Jewish National and University Library - Department of Manuscripts and Archives; Jewish National and University Library - Institute of Hebrew Microfilmed Manuscripts; Ben Zvi Institute Library; Yad Vashem Library; and countless other repositories maintained by research institutes and museums and managed by various immigrant and other ethnic associations in Israel.

The book is organized alphabetically by country. There are more than 40 countries represented. Additional information can be found at: <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/taggerkerem.htm>.

The website includes ordering information, a Table of Contents and a list of the more than 2,000 surnames that appear in the name lists of the book. The book is 412 pages, hard cover and costs \$45.00 plus shipping.

AN AFTERNOON AT THE LIBRARY WITH THE JGSGO

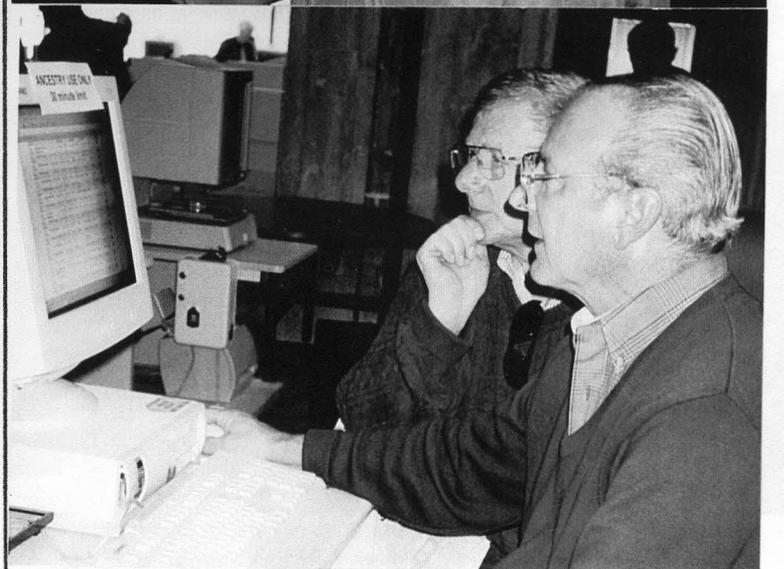
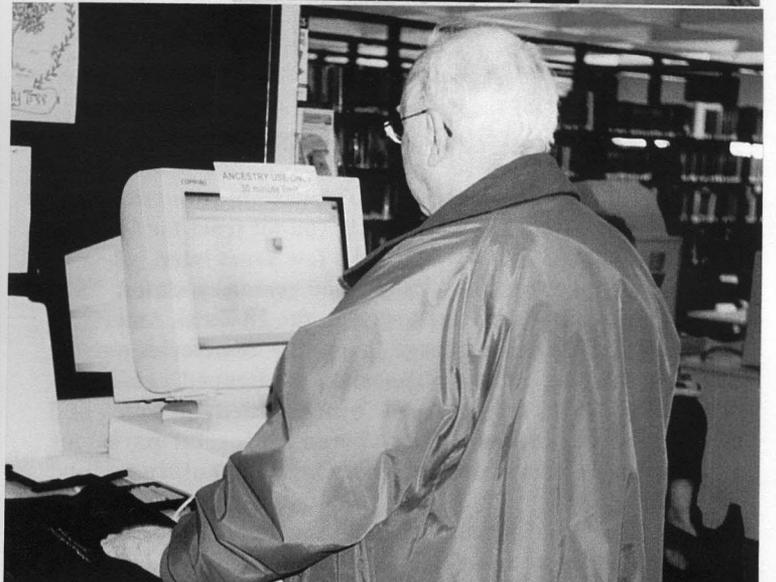
Sunday, February 18 may seem like a long time ago, but that was the day 14 members of the JGSGO spent the afternoon doing their genealogical research in the fine facilities offered at the Orange County Library's Genealogy Department, Orlando Public Library. We had an opportunity to use new copy machines, microfilm machines, review periodicals and search different Census index books. The library has a dedicated computer for the Ancestor/Library Edition located near the reference desk.

My personal success came with the assistance of Carl Migden. We searched the 1910 census and found my father's brother (my Uncle Sam) and his wife Bertha, had a daughter, Eleanor, born 1902, and a son, Arthur born in 1905. Sam died in December 1906. Further research will involve finding their birth certificate and possibly death certificates.

Those members who did not attend, missed an excellent opportunity to gain insight in the process of genealogical research. Hopefully, we can arrange for another such afternoon. Watch the calendar!



Irwin Feldman concentrating on the computer screen!



Top: Jose Valle and Erv Hertz

Middle: Morris Blaher

Bottom: Carl Migden and Jerry Kurland

Cemeteries Speak of History

By Edith Schulman and Jay Schleichkorn

If you really do genealogy, you probably have many opportunities to visit cemeteries. This is an article about enjoying a visit to a cemetery. Both Edith Schulman and her husband, Charles, recently visited Key West, Florida and toured the City Cemetery.

In mid-February, 2007, Jay Schleichkorn and his wife, Marianne, attended a week-long Elderhostel program in Key West. On a sunny day with his trusty camera, Jay took the time to visit the vast Cemetery. If you know the term "taphophilia" (one who likes visiting cemeteries) perhaps both Edith and Jay fall into that category. In Key West, it was an experience visiting an interesting and historic site.

Edith wrote, "My husband, Charles, and I have been to Key West several times. On a recent cruise, the ship docked at the island. Since we have seen most of the sites frequented by tourists, we decided to walk to the city cemetery located in the middle of the six-mile long famous island."

Jay, while in Key West, seeing an opportunity to take many photographs, spent several hours on a sunny day, walking the paths of the cemetery.

The Key West City Cemetery was established in 1847. There had been several burial grounds prior to this one, but all were destroyed by a devastating hurricane in 1846. In 1847, the city purchased a 100-lot tract for \$400.00. An additional 233 lots were added a few years later.

The brochure describing the cemetery states: "The Rural Cemetery Movement began in the 1840s as America's cities began establishing large, park-like cemeteries outside their boundaries. These expansive, landscaped cemeteries developed as a response to overcrowded private and churchyard cemeteries. [They] became peaceful parks for appreciating works of art and enjoying beautiful landscaped grounds."

The "tour brochure" indicates there is a separate Catholic Cemetery measuring 300 feet square as well as a small Jewish Cemetery in the southeast portion of the property. Except for two sections, it is rather sad to walk through the Key West City Cemetery.



In early times, families often marked off their family plots with a wrought-iron fence. Others had large monuments to denote family plots. Since Key West is a coral island and only has about 3 to 5 inches of soil, and in major storms

flooding could be a problem, most of the graves lie above ground, similar to what was done in New Orleans.

With no perpetual care, much of the original style and beauty of the place has disappeared. Markers and graves from 1980 onward are still in fairly good shape, but those dated earlier are often knocked over and graves sunken. Large markers have paint peeling and have a look of neglect. The wrought-iron fences are rusted, and knocked every which way showing that there is no member of these families left in Key West to care for their family graves.

There are two exceptions to the poor conditions of some areas. One of the sections is a memorial area with graves, flagpole, and a monument to the USS Maine, and the other section devoted to those of the Jewish faith.

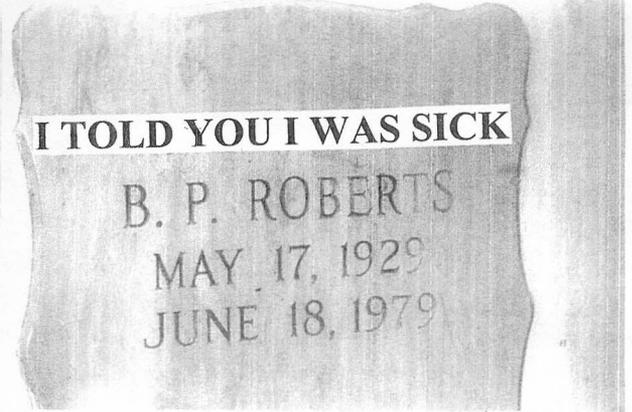


On February 15, 1898, the USS Maine blew up in Havana Harbor killing some 260 American sailors. This was the

incident that precipitated the Spanish-American War. Two dozen sailors who were killed in the explosion are buried in this well-cared for fenced off section. Each gravesite had a small American flag. At the base of the statue-monument it states, IN MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE DISASTER OF U.S. "MAINE" IN HAVANA HARBOR FEB. 15, 1898.



The Jewish section, B'nai Zion is well-cared for and is maintained by the synagogue of the same name. It is a fenced off area, and as different from the Key West City Cemetery as night is from day. The land and headstones are well-cared for. Small stones are found on many of the graves, indicating recent visitors. The earliest graves in the Jewish section were placed there in 1889, and belong to the Grossman Family.



Close to the Jewish section is a tomb about the size of a tool shed. On the outside of the structure there were several markings for people buried there. Two in particular caught our eye. One was for B. P. “Pearl” Roberts, said to be a hypochondriac. She was born in 1929 and died 50 years later in 1979. Her marker states, “*I Told You I Was Sick.*”

The grave marker just above Pearl Roberts, is for Gloria M. Russell who was born in 1926 and died in 2000. Her marker claims: “*I’m just resting my eyes.*”

Visiting the City Cemetery as a “tourist” may seem unusual, but genealogically, it was quite an experience. On another brochure describing a one-hour Cemetery Tour offered on Tuesdays and Thursday, by The Historic Florida Keys Foundation, It states, “*Beautiful statuary, historic gravestones, and famous epitaphs reflect the complex story of Bahamian mariners, Cuban cigar makers, and Spanish-American War veterans. Soldiers and civilians, millionaires and paupers, whites and blacks, Catholics, Protestants, and Jews rest side-by-side, echoing the diverse heritage of the Island City.*”

An elderly couple was sitting together when



the husband asked his wife: “Whatever happened to our sexual relations?” After a long thoughtful silence the wife replied, “You know, I don’t really know. I don’t even think we got a Rosh Hashanah card from them this year.”

How to preserve cherished photos and papers

Library of Congress shares its knowledge and expertise

By Michele Harris
THE ERICKSON TRIBUNE

Where can you find the contents of President Abraham Lincoln's pockets from the night of his assassination, original photographs of migrant farm workers during the Depression, Thomas Jefferson's original drawing of a macaroni machine, and all the episodes of *I Love Lucy*?

It's the largest library in the world and America's oldest cultural institution. All of those items and more can be found at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

There to serve the nation

One of America's best kept secrets is that the Library of Congress and its vast reserve of knowledge is there for all Americans, not just members of Congress. Home to more than 29 million books and other printed materials, 2.7 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4.8 million maps, and 58 million manuscripts, the mission of the Library of Congress is to make its resources available and useful to Congress and the

American people and to sustain and preserve a universal collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations.

As Annlinn Kruger Grossman, a conservator at the Library of Congress, says, "The library is there to serve the nation. Although it is called the Library of Congress and there is a congressional research service that serves congress directly, the collections are the nation's. We love people coming in and using the wonderful collections and visiting the wonderful buildings."

The Preservation Directorate

Keeping millions of historical items preserved for generations to come is a primary focus of the Library's Preservation Directorate. Here, conservators are the equivalent of front-line soldiers in the never-ending battle against mold, acid degradation, and pests—

three perennial archenemies of paper. With well over 200 years of experience in preserving the nation's treasures, no one knows more about keeping cherished mementos safe.

The first thing to consider when preserving any type of collection is where you store it. Grossman recommends high-quality boxes. "There are many vendors that sell paper boxes. The best thing is to keep things in good quality paper boxes, folders, and then albums with various polyester film or Mylar sleeves. Having your collections in contact with safe materials is a really good thing."

Photographs

"Silver gelatin photos (black and white), which are most of the photos people have are very stable," says Grossman. "Color photos are another issue. Those are exceedingly light sensitive—fading depending on what year and what product. It is a real problem and they should not be exposed to ultraviolet radiation, which means daylight and just about anything else."

Relative humidity is the single most important factor in preserving most photographic materials, especially black and white pictures. The best way to store

photos is in an interior closet with a consistent temperature of around 68° and a relative humidity of between 30% to 40%.

For color photographs, temperature is the main factor in preventing deterioration. Store those in a cool environment of about 40°. Though the basement is probably the coolest place in the house, never store any photographs (or other paper valuables) in a basement or attic due to the fluctuating temperature and humidity levels of those spaces.

Professional photographic storage facilities are one option, or, as Grossman recommends, "If you are preserving things that are important to you, save a lot of copies and refresh them periodically." Consider making both duplicate prints and a digital CD of special photos.

Paper

Preserving paper mementos such as wedding invitations, newspaper clippings, maps, or drawings is a complex task due to the wide variation in paper quality, ink quality, etc.

Store paper items flat rather than folded, in acid-free alkaline folders, polyester film folders, or alkaline mats.

Newspapers should be stored in a separate box from other paper or photographs because its high acid content could damage other items it touches. To safeguard the content of paper mementos, consider having good quality photocopies made.

Regardless of what it is you are trying to preserve, keep in mind that preservation shouldn't interfere with enjoying your collection. Says Grossman, "There are no perfect conditions that can be achieved by anyone. What's the purpose of saving these things if you're not going to use them? We make recommendations so that people can turn the pages safely. We make recommendations for lighting conditions and temperature conditions. We want to preserve through safe access."

The Library's website offers a wealth of advice on how to preserve photos, newspaper clippings, antique books, and other items.

For specific questions not addressed on the website, they even offer a link where you can "Ask a Librarian."

Another source of information on preservation is The Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation in Washington, D.C. Their website is <http://aic.stanford.edu>.

Relative humidity is the single most important factor in preserving most photographic materials, especially black and white pictures.



AP Photo/Library of Congress

This photograph from the Library of Congress provided by Abrams Books shows George Armstrong Custer, his wife Elizabeth Bacon Custer, and his brother Thomas W. Custer, standing, in a photograph taken between 1861 and 1876. The image is one of nearly 500 photographs, lithographs, paintings, drawings, and cartoons from the Library of Congress's collection published in a new volume, *The American Civil War - 365 Days*.

This article originally appeared in the February issue of The Erickson Tribune. Reprinted with permission.

For further information about The Erickson Tribune of Baltimore, MD, check the Website: www.ericksontribune.com

Jewish Genealogy-Reclaiming our Heritage and Preserving our Past

**Dr. Norman L. Weinberg, Executive Coordinator
Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project**

Jewish genealogists worldwide are actively engaged in recovering their past, filling in family trees with records of the living and the departed, including records of survivors and the millions murdered in the Holocaust. Who cannot be touched, shed tears or offer up a prayer when we come across another name or a whole family group wiped out during those terrible years? Genealogists can be proud of their accomplishments. By reconstructing our past from these records, many thousands of genealogists have brought us closer to our roots, a legacy we in turn can pass on to our children. But what of our physical heritage? What of our ancestral cemeteries left behind after the Shoah, with few if any resident Jews to tend to these holy places? Why should we care?

Before World War II, an estimated 1200-1400 Jewish cemeteries existed in Poland. Today, they are in a devastated state, caused mainly by the German forces as they entered Poland. After the War, under the Soviets, Jewish cemeteries fared little better, becoming farms, parks, roadways, building sites and garbage dumps.

In May 2001, a group of Jewish descendants formed the Ozarow Cemetery Restoration Project (OCRP) headed by Norman Weinberg, out of the realization that their ancestral cemetery was in devastated condition, with only about 60 monuments left out of hundreds, walls destroyed and the grounds overgrown with the debris of 60 years of neglect and abuse. We began the tasks of assembling a group of experts, raising the necessary funds and restoring, as much as possible, this all but forgotten cemetery. Key to success of the project was the team of Project Coordinators, both Jews and Poles. Early on, we made very important contacts with the mayor and priest of Ozarow. They were enthusiastic and provided much support throughout. The OCRP raised the money needed from generous Ozarowers in many countries and we began the project in June 2001 with the cemetery cleanup. Much to our surprise, we discovered many more monuments hidden under the debris of 60 years, toppled over and buried, not by human hand but by nature. Among the monuments was one in perfect condition, that of Moishe Aaron Safir, the grandfather of Moishe Gold, our Canadian Project Coordinator. Moishe Gold is named after this grandfather, bringing us to understand that those buried there are parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and cousins. Our obligation was clear. Further surprises as the work progressed: near the remnants of the old wall workers discovered two very old monuments dated 1700 and 1715 and the mayor told us of many more monuments that had been taken away by the Germans near the close of the War to a farm on the banks of the Vistula to be used as fortifications against the Soviets. These were returned to the Ozarow cemetery and what were only 60 monuments in the beginning became close to 200!

We completed the restoration work on time, just 5 months after the project started. Over 500 townspeople greeted our tour bus on Oct. 15th as we arrived for the dedication ceremony, including town dignitaries and citizens, embassy officials and news media. The mayor and priest greeted us and the President of Poland and the Israeli ambassador sent letters of congratulations. Prayers were said by the priest and by Rabbi

Becker at the site of the mass grave, where townspeople had placed candles and bouquets of flowers.

Since that time all the monuments have been photographed and have been translated and with the assistance of efforts of JRI-Poland we hope to determine most if not all of the names of those buried there. This and other genealogical information was presented to the JewishGen Worldwide Burial Registry project (JOWBR).

Based on the success of the Ozarow model, the Poland Jewish Cemeteries Restoration Project (PJCRP) was born (www.pjcrp.org). Its objectives are restoring and preserving the still devastated Jewish cemeteries of Poland; documenting and publishing genealogical information on the internet; and, educating youth, both Jews and Poles in the Holocaust. The PJCRP has the support of the US and Polish Governments, the US Commission for the Preservation of America's Heritage Abroad, the Rabbinic Commission on Cemeteries, the AJC, the National Polish American-Jewish American Council, the Jewish Historical Institute (Warsaw), the Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland (Warsaw), as well as many more organizations. At this time, the PJCRP has been involved in restoring 15 cemeteries with another 30 cemeteries in various stages.

Why restore the Jewish cemeteries of Poland? We do this because our ancestors are buried there and we do this in memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust, three million Polish Jews among them who had no halachic burial. We remember them in our prayers, in Holocaust museums, memorials, books, the arts and educational programs. This is as it should be. But for the Holocaust, they and unborn their descendants would have been caring for their cemeteries. Now the obligation falls to us. By saving and restoring the cemeteries and memorialize the thousands of mass graves, we can do for them what they cannot...the greatest of mitzvot.

We learned that acts of tikun olam (repairing the world) do tend to perpetuate. But most importantly, we the "children" have not forgotten. We have returned to restore our sacred ancestral cemeteries, so the dead can rest in peace and by fostering respect and reconciliation, to help bring a measure of shalom into the world.

Jewish genealogists are uniquely positioned to help. As members of local and international associations, in SIG's, landsmanschaften and other organizations, Jewish genealogists can take the additional very meaningful step in reconnecting and reclaiming their heritage by restoring and preserving their ancestral cemeteries. For Jews this is both the greatest of mitzvot and an obligation.

You can help. Sign the Petition to the German Government at <http://www.petitiononline.com/1200des/petition.html> asking the German Government to take responsibility and pay their fair share of the \$200 million needed to restore the Jewish cemeteries they destroyed in Poland and protect and memorialize the thousands of mass graves they created.

**From: MISHPOCHOLOGY, March 2007
Vol. 12 # 1, . published by the Jewish
Genealogy Society of Southwest Florida.**

JGSGO LIBRARY IN GOOD HANDS

For the past several years our compact library in the Dworkin Learning Center of CRJ, has been in the good hands of several volunteers such as Janet Friedman, Polly Horwitz, Greg Kolojeski, Gladys Friedman Paulin, Carl Migden, and Herb Adler. .

Just recently, Edith Schulman appointed two new volunteers, Raeburn and Marcie Wallen as JGSGO Librarians. The Wallens spend time in Winter Park and Findlay, Ohio. Dr. Raeburn Wallen is the Emeritus Professor of World Religion at the University of Findlay.



What the Wallens found in our facility was a mess. Due to a duct fire in the Learning Center, the Hebrew School material was "topsy turvey." The Wallens first job was to re-organize the shelves, tables cabinets, and files and complete a partial inventory. Working with Edith Schulman and guided by Herb Adler, thanks to the Wallens, the library is now in great shape.

At a recent meeting of the JGSGO Board, Raeburn and Marcie reported there are 102 books cataloged and indexed on the top three shelves, The are 101 books not yet cataloged or indexed on the bottom three shelves. Newsletters are kept in five hard plastic file folder Another five folders holding more JGS newsletters need some work. The filing cabinets are full of labeled file folders

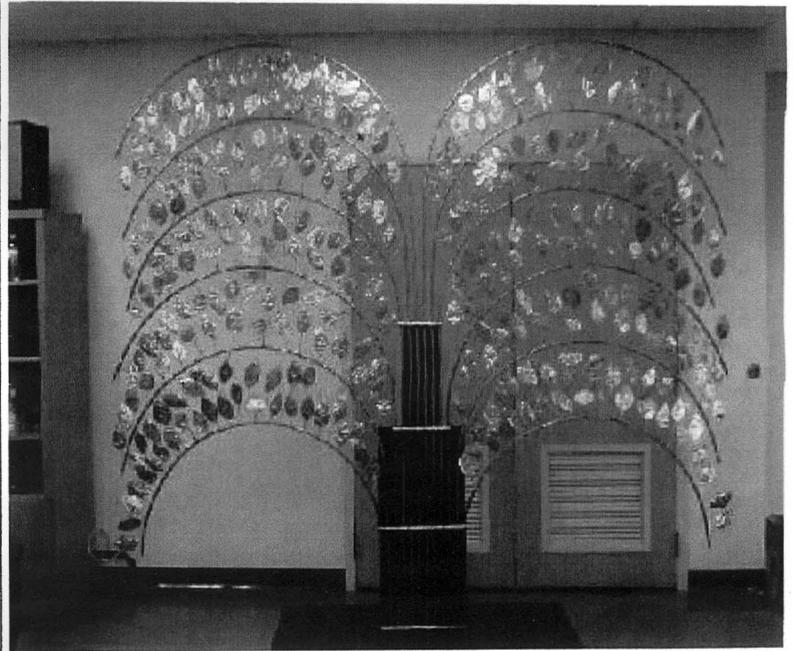
The Wallens extended their appreciation to Herb Adler who brought a box of important material. Marcie Wallen said, "Herb also used the Library of Congress Categorizing and Numbering System and has a complete book inventory on a computer disc as well as a hard copy in a notebook."

Also noted, was their appreciation to Art Whitehill for donating a box of materials from a Hebrew class he took at UCF taught by Moishe Pelli.

HASKELSON – ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

Pierre Haskelson,, a member of the JGSGO since 2004 was named the 2007 Artist-in-Residence for this year's Jewish Arts Week Community Art Project. Pierre is only the second person chosen for this recognition.

In addition to showing his work at the Jewish Community Center, Haskelson worked with students from synagogue religious schools, the Hebrew Day School, and community seniors to inspire, instruct and assist in the creation of Judaic art. Nationally acclaimed as a metal worker, Haskelson is a self-taught artist who had his beginnings working with his father in the manufacture of metal furniture. Also a member of CRJ, Haskelson has donated several pieces of his special sculptures to the congregation.



This photo shows one of four magnificent trees that Haskelson created for this year's project..

In an artist's statement on the web site, Artists Registration.com, Haskelson wrote, "I was born in Paris, grew up in French Algeria and have lived in Mexico, upstate N.Y, Long Island, Montreal and now Orlando. My wrought steel and bronze sculptures reflect my past. I display nature using clean soaring lines reminiscent of Canadian wheat fields and the sand of the Sahara. My whimsical pieces reflect the folkloric music of Mexico and the swirling snows of Montreal. Hope you enjoy my works as much as I enjoy doing them."

Pierre and his wife, Rosalyn, live in Clermont, FL.

Directed Surname Research by James Gross*

As part of my genealogy research, I have found it to be advantageous to spend some time directing my attention to a few specific surnames in my family tree.

Over the course of time, my research has led me to joint collaboration with a few distant family members. This has enabled me to build on my existing data. I have been assembling immigration on relatives from 3 verified shtetls. These verified surnames and shtetls include: Bloch from Vabalninkas or Vobalnik, Lith. Geringer or Geringer from Zalescikia, Ukraine (formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian empire), Sidel or Seidel from Postavy or Pastavy, Lith, and Sidel or Seidel from Panevezys or Ponevezys, Lith. I am using the wide net of this directed research to enable me to identify potentially related distant relatives.

Zalescikia, Ukraine was formerly part of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. As part of my shtetl research, I had copies made of several maps. For those interested in getting maps, I used maps at the National Archives, Cartographic department (NWCS), College Park, MD. They have a number of high quality WWII US Army maps. Per their website, "The largest series of maps covering foreign areas consists of topographic maps of various scales published by the Army Map Service beginning in 1942. I used a few map series including M641, M651, and N501."

During the course of my research, I mainly relied on information garnered from naturalization papers and ship manifests, as seen in various National Archives microfilm rolls. In the past, it was usually necessary to perform on-site research at the various National Archives locations. I used the regional archives in NY, Philadelphia, Pa. as well as Washington, DC. Depending on your location, you may find it best to use the resources available to you locally.

Fortunately, thanks to technology, Ancestry.com has indexed and digitalized a number of the needed microfilm rolls. Ancestry.com is available via paid subscription. Their library version may be available via your local library (call for availability).

To date, I have created several binders of material. With regard to the Seidel material, I have 1 "floating" tree plus a binder of relevant ship manifests. I refer to them as "floating" as I believe they are related, but I can't yet prove it to my satisfaction. My Bloch material is less plentiful as I've had to mainly rely on record indexes found in Jewishgen.org and South Africa's online national

archives indexes as the majority of this known family emigrated to South Africa from their shtetl of Vabalninkas, Lith. With regard to my Geringer, I have several "floating" trees of Geringer material.

For those of you who are also engaged in a bit of surname and shtetl specific research, I would be remiss if I didn't question the logic of this time expenditure. There is a point where the researcher must ask himself or herself regarding the limits of surname specific research. Though it can assist in discovering new branches of family members, it can also serve to subtract time away from researching gaps in ones main tree. In conclusion, as long as you can justify the time and effort, it can be both helpful and rewarding to concentrate some of your finite research time on one or more of your family's known surnames and shtetl's.

**James Gross previously worked*



for the National Archives in College Park, MD as a micrographic and database specialist in the Microfilm Master library. He is presently pursuing a Masters of Library Science degree. He is a member of the JGS of Greater Philadelphia and is the Database Coordinator for the JGSGP Jewish Exponent obituary project. He can be reached at:

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(www.geocities.com/Heartland/6721)*

JGSGO MEETING- March 19

The meeting held in the mini-sanctuary of CRJ was devoted to brief comments by Jay Schleichkorn about his experiences with cemeteries. Jay recalled his early childhood visits with his mother to his grandparent's graves at Mt. Hebron Cemetery, Queens, NY. He also referred to visits at Arlington, Vicksburg, Natchez, Verdun France, St. Louis, and Aruba. He spoke of being a "taphophilia"....one who likes cemeteries. (see pages 6, 7, in this issue). "No matter which cemetery I visited," he said, "it was always a place for peace and quiet and time for recollection."

Jay referred to several sites on the Internet for all kinds of cemetery information. (see page 14) Check out: "The Sepulcher" Looking at Death in a Different Light."(<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~starjo/sepulchr.htm>). A video, "A Cemetery Special" was also shown. It highlighted several historic cemeteries throughout the U.S.

GLADYS FRIEDMAN PAULIN, CGRS, GUEST SPEAKER AT JGSGO MEETING APRIL 16

Members of the JGSGO were treated to a special presentation at the April meeting, when Gladys Friedman Paulin, spoke about "*The Immigration Experience*." Using a well-prepared Power Point



presentation, Gladys took those present through the hard times of immigrant travel between 1620 and 1920.

Gladys covered four time periods in her presentation: Colonial to 1775, then 1776-1819, 1820-1891 and 1891-1924.

From the time the immigrants left their home in some far off shtetl, to boarding a trans-Atlantic vessel and arriving in a US port (such as New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Baltimore), they met all kinds of adversity. There were poor

accommodations on board ships, overcrowding, minimal living space, poor ventilation, inadequate sanitation, and all kinds of problems with food. The outbreak of contagious diseases was common. Death often was associated with immigrant travel.

Immigrants endured problems on reaching the U.S. as well as upon arrival. They often encountered scams that left them penniless and frustrated with the immigration system. Gladys dealt specifically with the SS April and its 1818 serious problems that brought attention to the plight of the immigrants. In 1820 regulations were adopted that reduced the overcrowding on trans-Atlantic ships. In 1855 Reception Centers were established which aided the immigrants in reaching their destinations. Ellis Island came to be in 1892. Gladys said, "Our immigrant relatives should be considered our first heroes."

Economics seemed to be the most prevalent reason for leaving their home countries,

To assist the JGSGO members to better understand the Immigrant Experience Gladys distributed a two-sheet handout with an outline of her talk, selected web sites and an annotated bibliography.

**CHANGE THE WAY YOU LOOK AT THINGS,
AND THE THINGS YOU LOOK AT WILL
CHANGE!**

TOURO SYNAGOGUE – NEWPORT, R.I. a bit of history.....

Between 1654 and 1658, fifteen Spanish Portuguese Jewish families arrived in Newport in what is now Rhode Island. Historians are not agreed as to the point of origin of these early Jewish settlers. Some are of the opinion that they came from Recife or perhaps Aruba and New Amsterdam. The view most widely held, however, is that they came from Curacao, in the West Indies. This is most plausible as trade was frequent between the West Indies and, no doubt, the sailors from Newport-based merchant vessels extolled the natural beauty of the city and the advantages of life in a free society. These Jews, some of whom were Marranos, wanted to start a new life in a land where they could live as free men and women and practice the religion of their fathers without hindrance or fear. They believed this to be possible in the Colony of Rhode Island and the Providence Plantations because of the assurance of freedom of religion and liberty of conscience promised by Governor Roger Williams to all who came within its borders. They constituted the congregation Kahal Kadosh Yeshuat Israel, the oldest Jewish Congregation in the United.

Much has been written about Touro's history and now thanks to Doug and Maureen Marshal, new JGSGO members, you can read about the historic



events that resulted in separation of State from religion and the role of George Washington and Roger Williams in promoting religious freedom. The Marshals have shared a four-page article "*To Bigotry No Sanction, To Persecution No Assistance*" which was a lecture delivered at the Mechina Yeshiva in South Miami Beach on August 17, 2004 by Saul M. Montes-Bradley, II, and published in the Spring 2006 *Flintlock and Powderhorn*, national publication of the General Society Sons of the Revolution.

If you want a copy of this interesting article, just send an e-mail/request to PTJay@aol.com.

TAPHOPHILIA:**WHO IS A TAPHOPHILE ?**

Taphophilic (taf'ō-fil'ē-ā)

ORIGIN:

from the Greek words *taphos*, meaning "tomb" or "sepulcher" and *philia*, meaning "attraction or affinity to something, in particular the love or obsession with something"

DEFINITION:

1. An excessive interest in graves and cemeteries.
2. A love or fondness for funerals.
3. A love of funerals, graves, and cemeteries.
4. In psychiatry, a morbid attraction to graves and cemeteries

If you have a strong interest in cemeteries and see visiting such places as interesting, historical, and educational, then you may be thought of and considered a Taphophile.

INTERESTING WEB SITES ON CEMETERY INFORMATION

www.taphophilia.com

Epitaph Magazine

www.theCemeteryClub.com/magazine.html

Epitaph editor:

minda@thecemeteryclub.com

[Http://www.pushinDaises.com](http://www.pushinDaises.com)

www.findagrave.com

www.saveourcemeteries.org

www.savinggraves.com

Cemetery photography:

www.marbleorchard.com

The International Association of Cemetery Preservation, Inc.

IACPcontact@aol.com

Hungarian Jewish Cemeteries

[Http://geocities.com/winter_Peter_html](http://geocities.com/winter_Peter_html)

London (UK) Cemeteries

www.londoncemeteries.co.uk

Historic graveyards:

www.historicgraveyards.com

The Association for Gravestone Studies

www.gravestonestudies.org

Shoah victims database:

<http://www.yadvashem.org>

Database Online:

Mount Carmel Cemetery – NY:

<http://www.mountcarmelcemetery.com>

Database Online:

Mount Hebron Cemetery

www.mounthebroncemetery.com

VA National Cemeteries (124 cemeteries in 39 states)

www.cem.VA.Gov/cems_NMC.asap

(also check State Veterans Cemeteries)

One of two national cemeteries administered by the Army. The cemetery at the Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, DC, also falls under the ...

www.arlingtoncemetery.org/

IAJGS Cemetery Project

<http://www.jewishgen.org/cemetery>

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MORE TO SEE AT ELLIS ISLAND

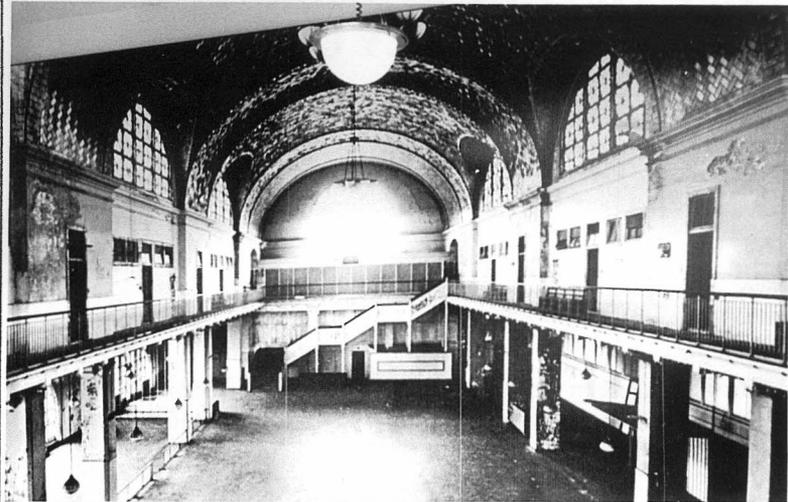
In early April, a newly renovated building known as the Ferry Building has been opened to the public by the Save Ellis Island organization. There are some 30 buildings that the public could not visit at one end of the Island but slowly, with fund raising, the organization is making more changes.

The Ferry Building is significant in the history of Ellis Island as it was the area from which the immigrants began the process to become Americans after passing through a maze of legal and health inspections.

The Art Deco-style Ferry Building was constructed in 1934 as a WPA project at a cost of \$133,000. Exterior restoration work started in 2000 and renovations on the interior started in 2006. Money for the restoration came from the federal government, the State of New Jersey and private donations.

A new exhibit has also opened in the Ferry Building. *"Future in the Balance, Immigrants, Public Health and Ellis Island Hospitals."* The exhibit explains the history of the hospital, told from the perspectives of the immigrant patients, doctors, nurses, military personnel, and support staff who worked there from 1901 to 1954.

Since the Immigration Museum opened in 1990, Ellis Island has become a major tourist destination in New York Harbor, drawing 1.7 million visitors in 2006.



The Old Main Hall, Ellis Island



27th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

July 15-20, 2007
Salt Lake City, Utah
Hilton Salt Lake City Center

Watch for more information coming soon
to the IAJGS website at
<http://www.iajgs.org>.

OPEN DAYS AND HOURS FOR AREA LDS FAMILY CENTERS*

Clermont Florida, Phone: 352-242-6363
14600 Greenvalley Blvd
Clermont, Florida,
Hours: T 10am-12pm, 6:30pm-8:30pm; W 6:30pm-8:30pm;
Sat 9am- 1pm, Closed: Holidays

Orlando Florida, Phone: 407-895-4832
45 E Par Avenue
Orlando, Florida,
Hours: T 9:00am-1:30pm, 6:00pm-9:00pm; Th 9:00am-
1:30pm; F-Sat 9:00am-1:30pm; Closed Sun, Monday
and Wednesday

Orlando Florida Hunters Creek, Phone: 407-826-8970
701 Wetherbee Rd
Orlando, Orange, Florida
Hours: T-Th 9:30am-8:30pm, Closed: Mon, Fridays
& Sat

Orlando Florida South, 407-876-8135
3001 Apopka-Vineland Rd
Orlando, Orange, Florida
Hours: M,T,Th,Sat 9:30am-1:30pm;T,W 6pm-9pm;

Lake Mary, Florida, 407-333-0137
2255 Lake Emma Road
Lake Mary, Seminole, Florida
Hours: Mon closed, T 9am-1pm; W 10am-9pm;Th 10am-
2pm, 6pm-9pm;Sat 10am-2pm;

Leesburg Florida, Phone: 352-787-3990
1875 South Mount Vernon Road
Leesburg, Lake, Florida
Hours: T 10am-4pm; W 10am-8pm; Th 10am-2pm

**Based on a search on the Internet, April 23, 2007
Suggestion: Call before you go just in case open hours
have changed.*

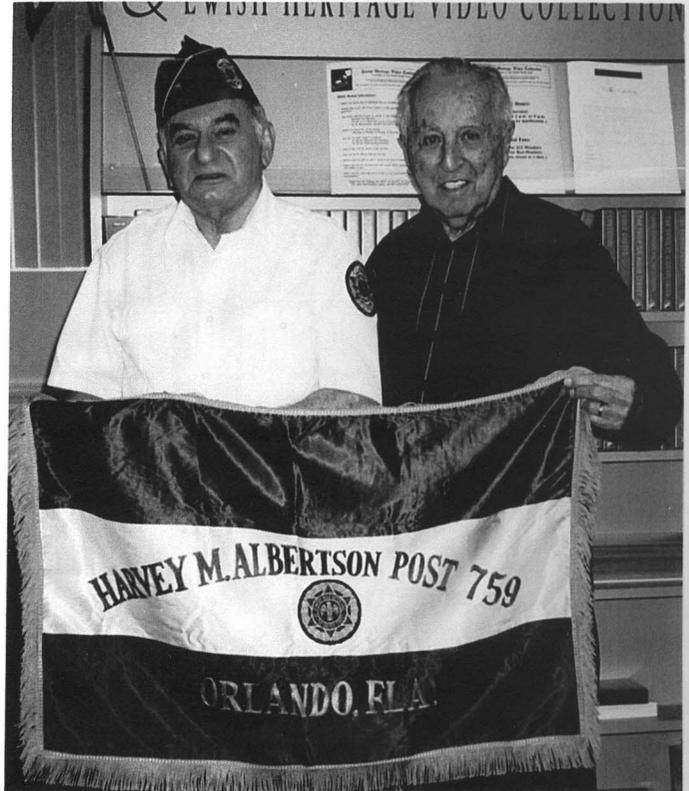
FROM OUR PRESIDENT EDITH SCHULMAN

*Reminder.... We still have
meetings on Monday May 21
and Monday June 18. No
meetings are scheduled for
July and August. After the
summer we will meet on
Monday September 17.
Please mark your calendar!*



JEWISH WAR VETERANS

At a meeting of the local Jewish War Veterans, Harvey M. Albertson Post 759, held Sunday, February 4 at the JCC, guest speaker was Jay Schleichkorn, Past President of the JGSGO.



Acting Commander, Larry Wartell and Jay Schleichkorn

With the invitation to talk about genealogy, it appeared the veterans were eager to understand what is involved in researching their family tree and genealogy. The small audience first shared bagels and coffee before Schleichkorn spoke.

The JWV is the oldest active veterans' organization in the United States. Among its activities is supporting Jewish troops and their families during peace and war. The National organization also fights anti-Semitism, bigotry and prejudice. It also supports Israel's independence and security.

For further information about the Albertson Post, contact Larry Wartell, Acting Commander at 407-719-3055.