

# Etz Chaim

עץ חיים

The Quarterly Journal of the  
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO



Vol. 18, No. 4

Greater Orlando Area, Florida, USA

Summer 2008

# WANTED



Benny (Bugsy) Siegel



Meyer Lansky



Longy Zwillman



Louis Lepke  
Buchalter



Mickey Cohen



Waxey Gordon



Arthur Flegenheimer  
(Dutch Schultz)



Arnold Rothstein

In this issue, we have the third "book report" presented at the JGSGO meeting on January 21, 2008. The author, Robert Rockaway, spoke with his mother about the "nefarious deeds of a Detroit gangster" whose family they knew. His mother said, "That may be true, but he was always good to his mother." Her reaction and that phrase stuck in the mind of the author. His book, "But He Was Good to His Mother" tells a different kind of story about Jewish gangsters.

**ETZ CHAIM**

Published quarterly by the  
 Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando  
 P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL. 32794, USA  
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Please visit JGSGO's website at:  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~FLjgscf/>

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: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~FLjgscf/>

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

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

*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, June 16: JGSGO Meeting, 7 pm – to be announced.

**No JGSGO Meetings in July and August**

August 17-22,: The 29<sup>th</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Chicago, IL,

Sept. 3-6: Federation of Genealogical Societies –Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA

Sept. 15: JGSGO meeting, program to be announced.

Oct. 20: JGSGO meeting, program to be announced.

Nov.17: JGSGO meeting, program to be announced.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By: Larry Morrell ([emorrell@cfl.rr.com](mailto:emorrell@cfl.rr.com))

Six months ago, Riva Sorokurs, then chair of the nominating committee, asked me if I would accept nomination for the role of president of the JGSGO. Being a strong believer in volunteerism I accepted the honor. Now, having had almost six months in office, I look back with great satisfaction, but also with concern.

Satisfaction comes from the programs organized for our Monday evening meetings. On January 21, three of our members, Marcie Wallen, Irwin Feldman and Jay Schleichkorn presented three book reviews and provided a stimulating discussion.

On Monday, February 18, JGSGO had the great pleasure to sponsor the session with the well-known genealogy innovator, Stephen Morse. Members heard how the well-known one-step process revolutionized genealogical research. Morse's lecture was titled, "Blue, White, Gray, Gold....What Color Ellis Island Search Form Should I Use." We were fortunate that Morse's ravel schedule made it possible for him to accept our invitation

At the March 17 meeting with Barbara Hutton Robinson speaking about "What It Was Like to Be Educated in a One-room Schoolhouse," her childhood experiences in Nebraska could mirror some of our children whose parents immigrated to America in the early 1900s.

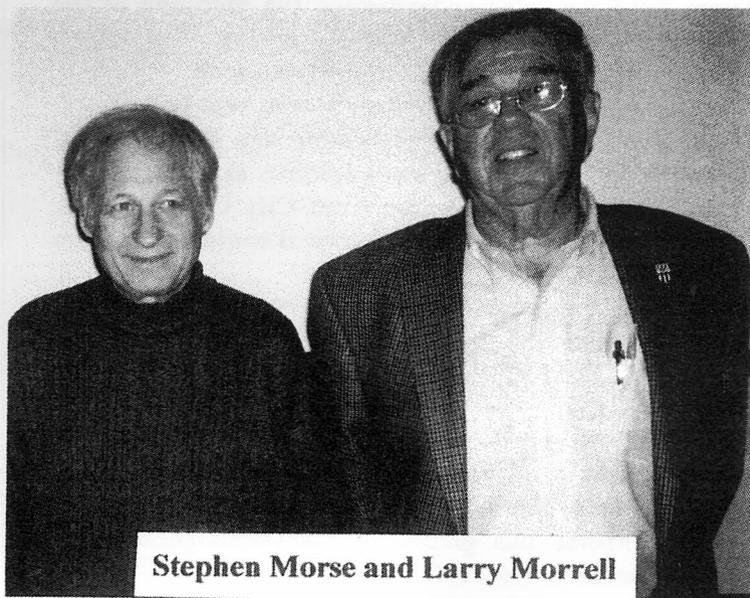
On April 21, JGSGO member, Gladys Friedman Paulin, CG, once again gave our members an interesting talk, *Beyond Ellis Island – Other Ports of Entry.* Whenever we have the pleasure of hearing Gladys, you know you are in for something special.

If you have any ideas for a program, please contact Edith Schulman, VP Programing at: [edith@schulmans.com](mailto:edith@schulmans.com).

Satisfaction was also obtained by the efforts of several of the board members. They covered planning of meetings, maintaining our library, representing the JGSGO, preparing our newsletter, and working on plans for the future. Special mention should go to both Jerry Kurland and Jay Schleichkorn for completing their submission to the IAJGS Poster Contest and Annual Publication Award. Participation in both events can only help spread the word about our JGS.

We are very satisfied with the cooperation received from CRJ. Using their facilities as "guests" has been great!

And to Irwin Feldman and Edith Schulman, we certainly appreciate their efforts in bringing interesting programs to our meetings.



Stephen Morse and Larry Morrell

Special thanks must also go to Marcie and Raeburn Wallen for their work on our library located in the Dworkin Learning Center at CRJ.

I mentioned a "concern" that has developed in the past several months. Our membership is lagging and without new members we have to think about our future. Only a small group of members have been willing to take on "leadership" roles. I, like many of the members, are involved in several community activities. You have heard the saying...."if you want something done, ask the busiest person." There's much to be done and I hope (and expect) we will have some volunteers stepping forward to demonstrate their support of JGSGO. Just think about all the opportunities that volunteering opens to you. Come join us!

In July and August, remember we will not have general meetings. However, check the list of JGSGO officers and if you have a genealogical question or problems, send an e-mail. We will resume our meetings two weeks after Labor day, on the third Monday, September 15.

Contact me if you have the secret to gaining new members!

Have a safe and happy summer!

## STEPHEN MORSE AT JGSGO

Monday, February 18, 2008, at 7:00 pm, the JGSGO presented a very special program featuring the internationally known genealogist, Stephen Morse. Irwin Feldman, who spearheaded the planning of the meeting, introduced Morse, noting his many contributions made to genealogical research.

"Our guest speaker, Stephen Morse, was born in Brooklyn, N.Y. From a very young age he knew that he wanted to be an electrical engineer. He received his electrical engineering degree from City College, N.Y. and earned his doctorate in electrical engineering from New York University.

While electrical engineering was his profession, since 2001 genealogy has become his passion. Being frustrated in tracing his wife's family roots, he developed the first of what has evolved into over 150 One-Step web sites that guides the genealogist, both amateur and professional, in searching a myriad of public records. For his ground breaking achievements Stephen Morse has gained international recognition and acclaim. In 2003 he received the IAJGS outstanding contribution award.

In 2006 he received the IAJGS lifetime achievements award. In 2007 he received the NGS award of merit and the Association of Professional Genealogists excellence award."

Unfortunately, with a poor weather forecast for the evening, the anticipated audience was far less than expected. However, those present in the All-Purpose Room of CRJ, heard a very interesting and detailed history of the one-step procedures.

Using a well-prepared Power Point Audio-Visual presentation, Morse titled his talk, "*Blue, White Gray, Gold...What Color Ellis Island Search Form should I Use?*"

He described the limitations of the Ellis Island Database that was placed on-line April 17, 2001. Over the years that followed, Morse designed one-step procedures that greatly improved searching the database. Each was tagged with a different color and improved the ability of researchers to find pertinent information about their various relatives arriving as immigrants in New York.

Using the various colors, Morse spoke about the changes that occurred since June 2001. These included greatly improved access to missing manifests, searching by ship lists, year of arrival, names of towns, gender, age and arrival dates.

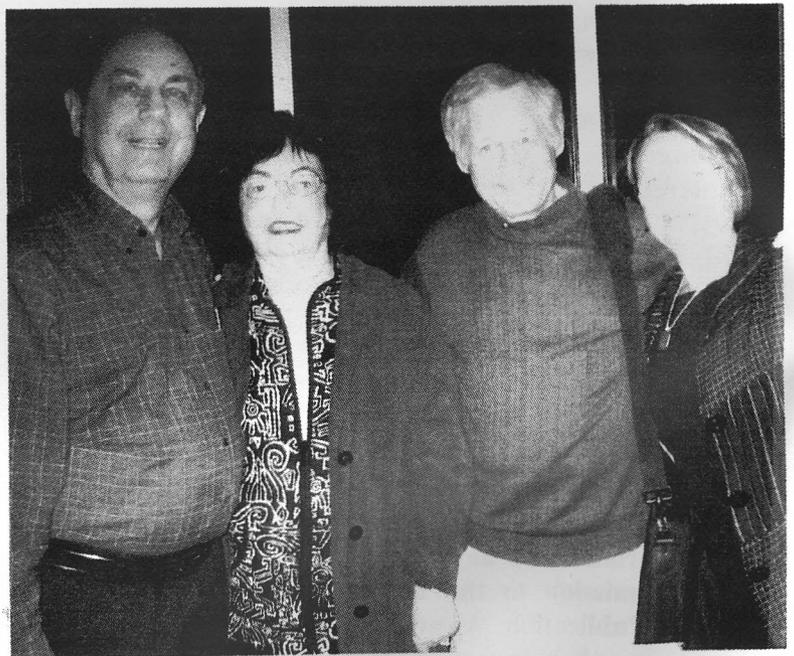
Morse also mentioned the major collaborators he worked with in making the databases easily available to all. These included Michael Tobias, Gary Sandler, Erik Steinmetz and Dr. Yves Goulnik. Thanks to this group, some 25 million records are available from all fields.

As he closed the evening lecture, Morse indicated "*The Blue + Gray = Gold.*" *For Jewish records, "use the Gold form in all cases, forget about the blue and gray form. You may also want to try the white form."*

Stephen Morse has held research positions at Bell Telephone Labs, IBM Watson Research Center, GE Corporate Research and Development, and the Compagnie Internationale pour l'Informatique in France. He has taught at CCNY, Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, UC Berkeley, SUNY Albany, Stanford University, and San Francisco State University.

He has been involved in development at Alsos Inc., Netscape Communications Corp., and at Intel Corp. It was at Intel Corp. in the late 1970's that he was responsible for the development of the Intel 8086 microprocessor, the heart of the personal computer, and the granddaddy of today's Pentium processor.

Steven Morse may be reached at:  
[www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org)

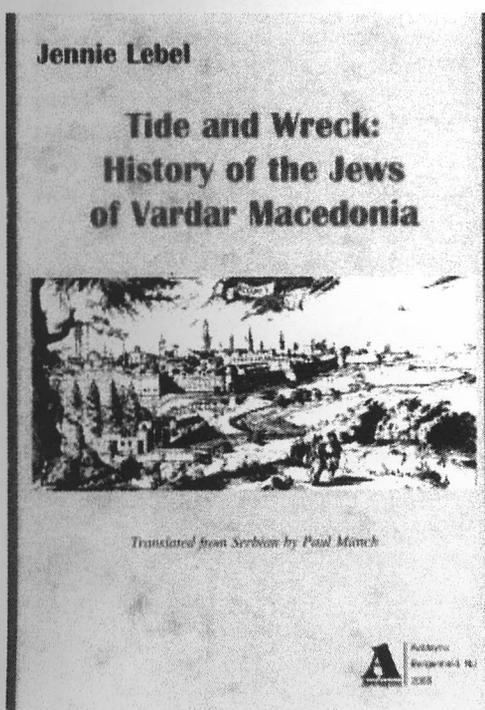


(l to r) Irwin and Rita Feldman, of Longwood, FL with Stephen and Anita Morse of San Francisco, at the February 18 JGSGO meeting.

*Always Remember This:  
You don't stop laughing  
because you grow old,  
You grow old because  
you stop laughing.*

## NEW BOOK ON MACEDONIAN JEWS

Avotaynu has just published an English-language version of the book *Tide & Wreck: The History of the Jews of Vardar Macedonia*. Authored by Jennie



Lebel, it is the result of more than 30 years of her research into the history of Vardar Macedonian Jews until the Final Solution in Treblinka. Until now

there has been only a Hebrew edition published in 1986 and a Serbian one in 1990. This English version is an expanded one—426 pages—that is much more comprehensive and enriched with material found in new documents written in many languages. The author states that *Tide and Wreck* is dedicated to the Jews of ex-Yugoslavia, especially to those who lived in Macedonia for centuries until their tragic end in the Holocaust. The wounds have never healed, but this book is helping to repay at least some of the debt to their memory.

Ordering information (\$39.95) as well as the complete Table of Contents can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/macedonia.htm>.

Avotaynu previously published Jennie Lebel's work on the *Jews of Belgrade* titled *Until the Final Solution: The Jews in Belgrade 1521-1942*. Information about that \$39.95 book is located at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/belgrade.htm>



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## Following the Paper Trail Now In Soft cover

One of the most successful books Avotaynu has published is *Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide*—and for good reason. The book gets to the heart of translating records for 13 languages: Czech, French, German, Hungarian, Italian, Latin, Lithuanian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. It accomplishes this task by using as illustrations the types of records encountered by genealogists, such as birth, marriage and death records; passports; and other documents. Each chapter is devoted to a different language. Included is a list of the most common words that appear in these documents and a chart that displays the alphabet of the language. I use the Russian alphabet chart constantly to help me decipher documents written in Cyrillic.

We ran out of stock of the hardcover edition and decided to reprint it in soft cover. Alas, the price has not been lowered, because costs have increased in the past 13 years since we published the original version. But it still is a bargain at \$29.00. Ordering information plus the complete Table of Contents can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/FPT.htm>.  
(Thanks to Gary Mokotoff, Avotaynu)

**CORRECTION:** In the Spring issue of *Etz Chaim*, Gladys Friedman Paulin's credentials should have been listed as: Gladys Friedman Paulin, CG, Editor-On Board, the Newsletter of the Board for Certification of Genealogists-BCG; Member, Association of Professional Genealogists (APG)

## Obituary:

Joseph Wittenstein, of Winter Park, FL., a former member of JGSGO, died March 21, 2008 at the age of 94. He was born in Orlando on January 17, 1914. At the graveside service at Congregation Ohev Shalom Cemetery, Joe was recognized as a "husband, brother, father, grandfather, friend, mentor, philanthropist, life-long Orlandoan, proud member of the Jewish Community, his life was rich and full."

As a memorial to Joe Wittenstein, the following is an updated report prepared by Jay Schleichkorn of Joe's Sunday, October 20, 1998 talk at the JGSGO. The article first appeared in Etz Chaim, Vol. 8 No. 3, Spring 1998.

### History of Orlando's Jewish Community

"I'm the oldest person of Jewish birth born in Orlando and living today," said Joe Wittenstein, the guest speaker at a recent JGSGO meeting.

As a pioneer resident of "The City Beautiful", Joe, born in 1914, described what Orlando was like as a rural/farm area and how a Jewish community developed. His interest was in historical research and was instrumental in establishing the Mosaic Exhibition now housed in the Ziff Museum in Miami Beach.

"Florida became a state in 1845," Joe said, "and Jews have always played a vital role." The first census was taken in 1790. He described the role of Moses Elias Levy and how he purchased 60,000 acres known as the Levy Grant from Spain. Other Jewish leaders included Philip Benjamin, Judah Benjamin, Frederick Warburg, and David Levy Yulee, Florida's first Senator.

In the Seminole Indian Wars, a West Point graduate, Col. Abraham Charles Myers controlled the south west coast of Florida. The city of Fort Myers is named for him.

In 1875, Orlando was chartered. Jacob Cohen was an Alderman, who later, with his brothers Charles and Michael started Cohen Brothers Department Store in Jacksonville.

By 1885, there were 16 Jewish sounding names in a population of 1,700 in the Orlando area," Joe said. "Many records were lost when the Orange County Court House burnt down in 1870."

Grandpa Wittenstein came to the United States in 1898. Others Jewish families were involved in retailing, orange groves and farming. Joe's father established a dairy in 1927. A Jewish Congregation (Ohev Shalom) was founded in 1917. Joe Wittenstein's grandfather was instrumental in locating the building at what is now Central and Terry Street.



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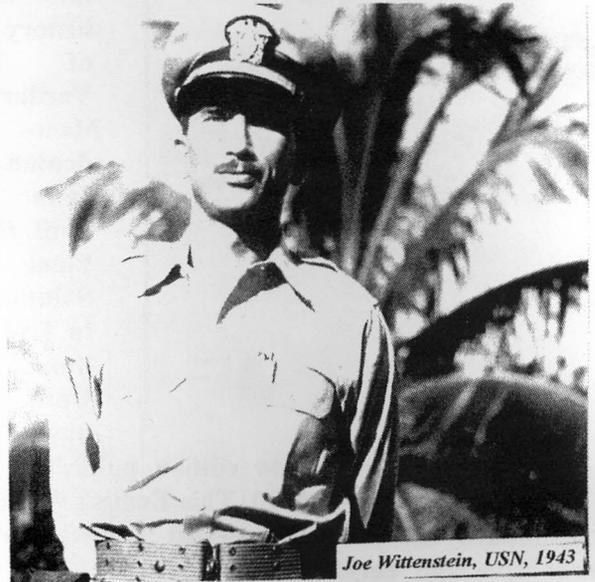
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For schooling, Joe spoke about the two room school house in which 42 children were taught. Joe recalled, "Orlando's early brick high school was near Church Street where the Sun Bank building now stands."

Other Jewish families in the area included Shader, Levine, Levy, Jacobson, Fineberg, Asher, Philips, Jacob, Bornstein, and Benedict. Joe indicated "Dr. Philips was not a medical doctor but sold eye glasses. People seemed to accept him as a doctor. He made his fortune in the fruit business." Dr. Philips was Joe Wittenstein's Godfather.

During WWI, Joe recalled five local Jewish men went into service. They were Meyer Shader, Isadore Shader, Eddie Asher, Edward Levy and Morris Levine.

By 1920, a days-outing to Daytona Beach involved a four-hour drive. "You had to figure on a flat tire or two every time," Joe Wittenstein graduated from the University of Florida in 1938 with a BS in Business Administration. When WWII started, Joe volunteered in 1942 for military service and was in the Navy. He was discharged as a Lieutenant in 1946.



Joe Wittenstein, USN, 1943

He opened his own accounting firm in 1946 which was merged into an international CPA firm in 1970. Joe spoke of the days in 1970 when he was the CPA for the Orlando Country Club - but he could not be a member .....since Jews were excluded.

Joe Wittenstein retired from public accounting in 1978. He was the recipient of many awards for community service such as the 1975 "Man of the Year" Award from the Anti-defamation League of B'nai B'rith; Walt Disney World Community Service Award 1980; and the Heritage Human Service Award, 1992. In 1997, he received the Jerome Bornstein Memorial Senior Leadership Award from the Jewish Federation of Federation Greater Orlando.

Joe is survived by his wife, Ruth Esther, his high school sweetheart. They were married for 70 years.

## USHMM Form Now Online

The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum is now accepting requests for searches of the ITS records. A form is available on the Internet at:

[http://itsrequest.ushmm.org/its/getting\\_started.php](http://itsrequest.ushmm.org/its/getting_started.php)

The site notes that priority will be given to Holocaust survivors and their immediate families.

### Registry of Survivors Research Request:

The process for making a request consists of four simple steps:

Part 1: Who are you?

Part 2: Who are you searching for?

Part 3: Review and Submission

Part 4: Confirmation

The average time required to complete the research request form from start to finish is 5-10 minutes. Please use the navigation buttons provided for your convenience at the bottoms of the pages.

Before proceeding to Part 1, please note that: Priority is given to Holocaust survivors and their immediate families. The Museum defines a survivor as a person who was displaced, persecuted and/or discriminated against by the racial, religious, ethnic, social and political policies of the Nazis and their allies. In addition to former inmates of concentration camps and ghettos this includes, among others, refugees and people in hiding.

The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum respects your right to privacy. Personal information collected in this form will not be sold or disseminated and will remain confidential and accessible only to authorized personnel.

Before you begin, assemble any relevant records. You'll need full names, dates and places, and to be as precise as possible. Providing exact birth dates, correct spellings and precise locations before, during and after the war, for example, will all maximize our chances of locating relevant records. You will need to provide town names as well as country names.

### Questions:

If you have questions about how to fill out this form, or to request a paper form be mailed to you, please send us an e-mail or call us at 866.912.4385 (toll-free) or 202.488.6130.

## NARA (USA) has added 4 new series to their archival databases

*From: Jan Meisels Allen, Director, IAJGS and Chairperson, Public Records Access Monitoring Committee<janmallen@worldnet.att.net> Date: Tue, 4 Mar 2008, X-Message- Number:2*

The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has added three new series to their Access to Archival Databases (AAD) series, which can be searched at no charge. They are located in the Center For Immigration Research part of NARA:

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/> and scroll down to *What's new*. The three new immigration series are: Germans to America (1850-1897), Russians to America (1834-1897) and Italians to America (1855-1900). There are over 5 million records combined in the three databases. Most arrival documents are for the Port of New York, but other cities such as Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, Philadelphia are included.

The records were culled from ship passenger lists in the records of the U.S. Customs Service (NARA Record Group 36).

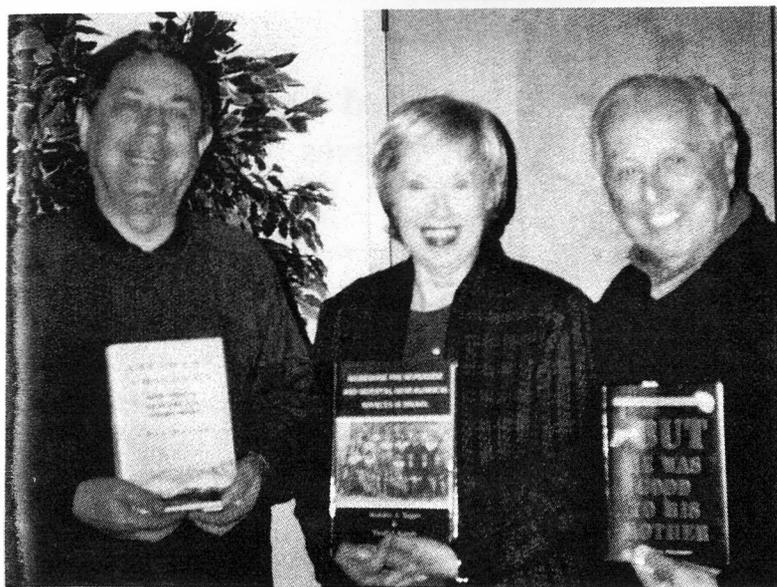
For the Russians to America the passengers identified their country of origin nationality as Armenia, Finland, Galicia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Russian Poles, or Ukraine: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=4434&cat=all&bc=sl>

For Germans to America, by far the largest number of records, about 90 percent identified their country of origin or nationality as Germany or a "German" state, city, or region. In about 10 percent of the records, passengers identified their country of origin or nationality as France, Luxemburg, Switzerland, United States, and some "unique" country of origins: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=4432&cat=all&bc=sl>

For Italians to America, about 99 percent identified their country of origin or nationality as Italy or one of the following Italian regions: Lombardy, Piedmont, Sardinia, Sicily, or Tuscany:

<http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=4433&cat=all&bc=sl>

Also recently added to the NARA files are the Central Foreign Policy Files, the 1975 digital and fully releasable permanent portion of this series to AAD. The series, popularly known as the "State Department Cables" or the "State Department Telegrams", consists of telegrams, and an index to airmails, memoranda, correspondence, reports, diplomatic notes, and related material: <http://aad.archives.gov/aad/series-description.jsp?s=4073&cat=all&bc=sl>



L to r:  
Irwin Feldman, Marcie Wallen, Jay Schleichkorn,  
JGSGO meeting of January 21, 2008.

Each reviewed and reported on a book of interest to anyone in genealogy.

Irwin Feldman's book was "*Abraham's Children – Race, Identity, and the DNA of the Chosen People*" by Jon Entine, published by Grand Central, 2007.

Marcie Wallen's book was "*Guidebook for Sephardic and Oriental Genealogical Sources in Israel*," by Mathilde Tagger and Yitzchak Kerem, published by Avotaynu, 2006.

Their reports appeared in the Spring issue of *Etz Chaim*, Vol.18, No. 3, 2008.

Jay Schleichkorn's report was on "*But He Was Good To His Mother- The Lives of Jewish Gangsters*," by Robert A. Rockaway, published by Gefen Publishing House, 2000.

#### BOOK REPORT:

### *But He Was Good to His Mother*

Presented by Jay Schleichkorn, at the JGSGO Meeting of January 21, 2008

There are few excuses for the behavior of Jewish gangsters in the 1920's and 1930's. The best known Jewish gangsters - Meyer Lansky, Bugsy Siegel, Longy Zwillman, Louis (Lepke) Buchalter, Moe Dalitz, Mickey Cohen - were involved in the numbers rackets, illegal drug dealing, prostitution, gambling, tax fraud, loan sharking, murder and mayhem. In the eyes of many people, they were not nice men.

The roots of Jewish gangsterism lay in the ethnic neighborhoods of the Lower East Side; Brownsville, Brooklyn; Maxwell Street in Chicago; and Boyle Heights in Los Angeles. Like other newly arrived groups in American history, a few Jews who considered themselves blocked from respectable professions used crime as a means to "make good" economically. The

market for vice flourished during Prohibition and Jews joined with others to exploit the artificial market created by the legal bans on alcohol, gambling, paid sex and narcotics.

Few of these men were religiously observant. They rarely attended services, although they did support congregations financially. They did not keep kosher or send their children to day schools.

According to author Rockaway, "despite their notoriety most of the gangsters managed to keep their mothers blissfully unaware of their underworld activities and treated them with gentleness, respect and affection." Rockaway indicated, "Meyer Lansky adored his mother. He remembered how she gladly sacrificed herself for her children. Lansky swore as a child that he would be very rich when he grew up and "I'd make sure that for the rest of her days my mother would have only the best."

Another gangster, Longy Zwillman, bought his mother a beautiful home in the Weequahic section of Newark and visited her often.

The author describes Lepke Buchalter as "a Doting husband and father." He didn't drink or gamble and "apart from his criminal activities, Lepke appears to have been content to lead a quiet home life in the company of his family, to whom, regardless of his other traits, he appears to have been genuinely devoted."

During the rise of American Nazism in the 1930's and when Israel was being founded between 1945 and 1948, however, Jewish mobsters proved staunch defenders of the Jewish people.

At crucial moments, many of the Jewish Gangsters protected other Jews, in America and around the world. The 1930's were a period of rampant anti-Semitism in America, particularly in the Midwest.

Father Charles Coughlin, the Radio Priest in Detroit, and William Pelley of Minneapolis, among others, openly called for Jews to be driven from positions of responsibility, if not from the country itself.

Organized Brown Shirts in New York and Silver Shirts in Minneapolis outraged and terrorized American Jewry. While the older and more respectable Jewish organizations pondered a response that would not alienate non-Jewish supporters, others - including a few rabbis - asked the gangsters to break up American Nazi rallies. Historian Robert Rockaway writing in the journal of the American Jewish Historical Society, notes that German-American Bund rallies in the New York City area posed a dilemma for mainstream Jewish leaders. They wanted the rallies stopped, but had no legal grounds on which to do so. New York State Judge Nathan Perlman personally contacted Meyer Lansky to ask him to disrupt the Bund rallies, with the proviso that Lansky's henchmen stop short of killing anyone. Enthusiastic for the assignment, if disappointed by the restraints, Lansky accepted all of

Perlman's terms except one: he would take no money for the work. Lansky later observed, "I was a Jew and felt for those Jews in Europe who were suffering. They were my brothers."

For months, Lansky's workmen effectively broke up one Nazi rally after another. As Rockaway notes, "Nazi arms, legs and ribs were broken and skulls were cracked, but no one died."

Lansky recalled breaking up a Brown Shirt rally in the Yorkville section of Manhattan: "The stage was decorated with a swastika and a picture of Hitler. The speakers started ranting. There were only fifteen of us, but we went into action.

We threw some of them out the windows. Most of the Nazis panicked. We chased them and beat them up. We wanted to show them that Jews would not always sit back and accept insults."

In Minneapolis, William Dudley Pelley organized a Silver Shirt Legion to "rescue" America from an imaginary Jewish-Communist conspiracy. In Pelley's own words, just as "Mussolini and his Black Shirts saved Italy and as Hitler and his Brown Shirts saved Germany," he would save America from Jewish communists.

Minneapolis gambling czar David Berman confronted Pelley's Silver Shirts on behalf of the Minneapolis Jewish community. Berman learned that Silver Shirts were mounting a rally at a nearby Elk's Lodge. When the Nazi leader called for all the "Jew bastards" in the city to be expelled, or worse, Berman and his associates burst in to the room and started cracking heads. After ten minutes, they had emptied the hall. His suit covered in blood, Berman took the microphone and announced, "This is a warning. Anybody who says anything against Jews gets the same treatment. Only next time it will be worse." After Berman broke up two more rallies, there were no more public Silver Shirt meetings in Minneapolis.

Jewish gangsters also helped establish Israel after the war. One famous example is a meeting between Bugsy Siegel and Reuven Dafne, a Haganah emissary, in 1945. Dafne was seeking funds and guns to help liberate Palestine from British rule. A friend arranged for the two men to meet. "You mean to tell me Jews are fighting?" Siegel asked. "You mean fighting as in killing?" Dafne answered in the affirmative. Siegel replied, "I'm with you." For weeks, Dafne received suitcases filled with \$5 and \$10 bills — \$50,000 in all — from Siegel.

Anecdotes throughout the book emphasize that no one should paint gangsters as heroes. They committed acts of great evil. Historian Rockaway presents several different versions of the affect of prohibition and illegal activities and the role played by Jewish gangsters. Some have observed that, despite their disreputable behavior, they could be good to their people, too.

## IS THERE A BLACK SHEEP....MAYBE A JEWISH GANGSTER ON YOUR FAMILY TREE? CHECK THE NAMES BELOW:

Altman, Hymie	Lansky, Meyer
Alpert, Alex "Red"	Lebovitz, Joseph
Amberg, Louis	Leebove, Art
Annenberg, Albert	Levine, Abe
Axler, Abe	Levine, Hymie
Berman, Dave	Klein, Sidney
Berman, Otto	Kleinman, Morris
Bloom, Harry	Kurtz, Michael
Brotki, Samuel	Kushner, Irvin
Blumenfeld, Isadore	Lowenthal, Frank
Buchalter, Louis "Lepke"	Marcus, Joe
Casper, Samuel	Milberg, Irving
Cohen, Mickey	Millman, Harry
Colbeck, Dinty	Morton, Samuel
Davis, Sam "Gorilla"	Orgen, Jacob
Diamond, Jack "Legs"	Paul, Herman
Eastman, Maxie	Reinfeld, Joseph
Fein, Benjamin	Reles, Abe
Feinstein, Puggy	Selbin, Ziggy
Flegenheimer, Arthur	Shapiro, Jake
(AKA "Dutch Schultz")	Siegel, Benjamin
Fleisher, Harry	Solomon, Charles
Gaetz, Bendick	Stacher, Joseph
Gleckman, Louis	Strauss, Harry
Goldstein, Marty	Stromberg, Harry
Gordon, Waxey	Sutker, Joseph
Greenbaum, Gus	Tannenbaum, Albert
Greenthal, Abe	Toblinsky, Joseph
Guzick, Jack	Weinberg, Abe
Hinkes, Max	Weiss, Mindy
Hoff, Max	Weisberg, Willie
Horowitz, Harry	Wolensky, Moe
Levine, Abraham	Workman, Charley
Levine, Hymie	Zelig, Jack
Levine, Solomon	Zweibach, Max
Jacobson, Sam	Zwillman, Anber
Kaplan, Nathan	
Katz, Sam,	
Kessler, Hershel	
Klein, Julius	

*From the Index of "But He Was Good to His Mother" by Robert A. Rockaway*

## Obituary:

Audrey M. Pearlman, age 83, a former member of the JGSGO died on Wednesday, April 2, after a lengthy illness.

Audrey joined the JGSGO in late 1990 just after the Society was formed. She served as Hospitality Chair from 1992 through 1994. In June 1994 she was elected as a Director-at-large for a two year term.

Born in Savannah, GA, Audrey graduated from the University of Georgia. It was there that she met David at a fraternity party. They were married in 1946. They lived in North Carolina for 11 years before settling in Orlando in 1957. David and Audrey opened the Kane Furniture Store. David was president and Audrey served as VP.

Members of Temple Israel, Audrey and David always found time to serve the community. In 1987, Audrey was honored by the Jewish Community Center of Greater Orlando as the Woman of the Year. The same year the Pearlman Pantry at Jewish Family Services was dedicated in tribute to the couple's commitment and generosity.



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## THE SHOAH MEMORIAL IN PARIS.... A MUST SEE!

The next time you are in Paris you must see the Memorial of the Shoah" advises Carl Migden, a JGSGO member. Carl and his wife Karyn, recently joined a group, the Tampa Bay Snow Skiers, for a two week trip to France, Belgium and Switzerland..

Carl and Karyn visited the Holocaust Memorial on March 5., Located at 17 Rue Geoffroy L'Asnier, in Paris, the Memorial was opened in January 2005 and quickly has become one of the most moving and well attended museums in all of France. During their visit, the Migdens saw a special exhibit, "The Last Souvenirs" (Objet des Camps) of Pithiviers and Beaune-La-Rolande,"

Carl and Karyn were impressed with the Memorial's design. There is a large urn-like statue in the courtyard with the names of the camps where the Shoah took place. An exterior wall (Le Mur des Noms) displays the names of those who perished at the hands of the Nazis. On another wall area, there are 76,000 names of Jewish men, women and children who were murdered and who died without a grave. A crypt holds the ashes of many people, all collected from various camps.



In the courtyard there is an impressive and huge Star of David highlighted by a skylight. Other exhibits cover the Nuremburg Trials, letters, posters, 2,550 photographs of victims, and a bookstore.

On March 6, Carl and Karyn visited family members in Brussels, returned to Paris and on March 8 it was on to Switzerland via the TVG (Super Fast Train) to Geneva. Then it was a bus ride to Crans-Montana, about 1 1/2 hours east of Lausanne, as well as Zermatt (The Matterhorn) for some special skiing.

Take Carl and Karyn's advice, "if you have a trip planned that includes Paris, be sure to include a visit to the Shoah memorial."

## Genealogy Groups Move Toward More Open Access of Records

By: Gary Mokotoff\*

Since 9/11 there has been a paranoia in the United States that everything and anything is of potential value to terrorists, from nail clippers to the Social Security numbers of dead people. Legislators are having a field day creating laws to restrict the activity of the population in the name of security. (My experience with security systems is that they are designed to inconvenience the honest and let the dishonest through anyway.)

This has had an increasingly negative effect on family history research as laws are passed to restrict record access, especially vital records. Some years ago, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society formed a Records Preservation and Access Committee (RP&A) to address this problem. It has since been joined by the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Board on Certification of Genealogists, and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies.

In the past, RP&A has been primarily a reactive group. When there is word of pending legislation to restrict access to records of interest to genealogists and other historians, the authors of the bills are contacted to discuss the situation. In many cases, RP&A has managed to have bills killed or at least modified to be more genealogy friendly.

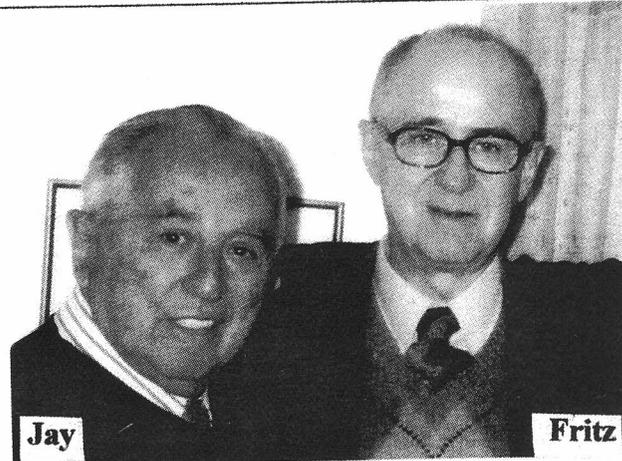
Now the genealogical community is becoming more proactive in an attempt to educate legislators on the subject. Recently, a group of professional genealogists within the Association of Professional Genealogists has formed the Keeping Genealogical Records Open Workgroup (KGROW) and prepared a position paper on the subject. The paper states, "Well intentioned laws restricting vital records will not prevent terrorist attacks or identity theft...Laws restricting public records punish law-abiding groups with legitimate needs. They include genealogists, historians, the news media, the information service industry, medical researchers, funeral directors, academic researchers, and others. Closed records prevent them from doing their work properly. The heart of democracy is found in its open records." The KGROW committee recommends in their paper that "lawmakers respond to the ID theft problem, not try to prevent a nonexistent problem." Furthermore, they encourage "private companies and government improve their protection of personal data." The Case for Open Public Records position paper is a PDF file available on the APG website at:

<http://apgen.org/publications/pres/APG-KGROW.pdf>

\* Editor's Note: From: Nu? What's New, by Gary Mokotoff, Vol. 9 # 7, March 2008

## AN UNUSUAL GENEALOGICAL MOMENT....

Note: In late 2007, I (Jay Schleichkorn) received the following genealogical information from a longtime friend, Fritz Blum, who lives in the Bronx



"In view of your interest in genealogy, I want to share this unusual story with you.

One recent evening I just sat there, staring into space, reminiscing. I wondered, perhaps intuitively, what had ever become of my two second cousins, sisters named Louise and Alice Stieglitz, whom I had not seen or heard of for over 66 years and since 1941. At that time they were 21 and 18 years old.

The following day, I received a letter from someone unknown to me, Roy Jacobson from Cincinnati, Ohio. He wrote that he was looking for a distant cousin named Fritz Blum, born in Frankfurt in 1926 and immigrated in 1941. If I am that person, he asked that I contact him. In a footnote he added that his mother was Alice, nee Stieglitz.

Of course I phoned him forthwith. He told me that Alice died of cancer in 1973 when he was only 15 years old, which was very sad and that Louise, now 87, is in a nursing home in Maine, suffering from dementia, also sad. He had gotten my name from the Internet from information originally obtained from ship's manifests.

My father had a cousin, an architect, who incidentally designed the lumber mill at Grafenaschau mentioned and pictured in my family memoir. In the 1920's and 1930's he worked intensively on a family tree. By the time he emigrated to Holland with his wife and two daughters, he had traced our ancestors back to the year 1700. He and his family ultimately perished in the Holocaust, and the family tree was presumed lost. However, it turns out that, anticipating his fate when the Nazis invaded Holland in May 1940, he sent the family tree to his sister in White Plains, NY. When she died nearly two decades ago, her son gave the family tree to his and now also my second cousin twice removed, Roy Jacobson, who apparently is doing a tremendous job expanding it. It now contains 1,200 names."

## **“BEYOND ELLIS ISLAND: OTHER PORTS OF ENTRY”**

At the meeting of the JGSGO on Monday, April 21, the guest speaker was member Gladys Friedman Paulin, CG, noted genealogist. In a well-prepared Power Point presentation, Gladys alerted the audience to look beyond the popular Ellis Island information and be aware of the many ports of entry were used by immigrants.

Her topic “Beyond Ellis Island: Other Ports of Entry” highlighted ports of Boston, Baltimore, St. John (Detroit/Quebec) Portland, Galveston, Philadelphia, New Bedford, New Orleans, Bangor, Gloucester, Providence Key West, San Francisco, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.



“There were over 300 ports of Entry, including airports and seaports,” Gladys indicated, “In most cities the experience of the immigrants was much more pleasant than going through Ellis Island. There the inspectors were always looking for passengers who may have had a contagious disease. Quarantine was always a possibility as well as being returned to the port of embarkation.”

The major seaports along the coasts often had advantages of being deep water ports, having access to the ocean, protected from weather, and convenient to inland transportation.

In 1891 the Federal government took jurisdiction of immigration.

Immigration changed drastically between 1918 and 1924 when visas were required.

To promote immigration, the new railroads gave space to the Federal government for use as inspection sites.

Baltimore as an entry port was founded in 1706.

Boston was a leading passenger port until about 1750.

Major immigrant waves to colonial America included the English, Irish, Scotch and Germans. German and Irish immigration was heavy between 1830 and 1850. Central and Eastern Europe immigrants was at its height between 1880 and 1920.

With the Louisiana Purchase, New Orleans became the Gateway to the West for immigrants.

Galveston saw Jacob Schiff, a Jewish philanthropist from New York establishing agricultural societies to encourage immigrants to populate the rural a

The West Coast encountered a great influx of Chinese immigrants in 1852. The Chinese workers were vital to the building of the western railroads. However, 30 years later, the Chinese Exclusion Act was approved on May 4, 1882 and signed by President Chester A. Arthur. As an exclusion act it limited Chinese immigration. It was the first significant law restricting immigration to the United States.

The “Ellis Island of the West was known as Angel Island (1910-1940)”

Founded in 1881, in New York City by a group of Jewish immigrants who found sanctuary in the United States after fleeing persecution in Europe, HIAS (Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society) offered food, shelter and other aid to countless new arrivals. Concerned with “white slavery” involving single female immigrants between the ages of 16 to 25, HIAS kept immigrant records and offered vital assistance to the new immigrants

There was a new wave of immigration out of Europe between 1915-1918 when families traveled on through Haban, China and by ship on to Vancouver, Canada.

Thanks to Gladys a handout sheet was available indicating selected web sites. Since many ports have made records available on the Internet it is possible to trace arrival of passengers. Through the National Archives microfilms, complete lists of ports of entry, records and details can play an important role in genealogical research. Films may be obtained through the LDS Family Center in Lake Mary. For specific information check out the National Archives web site: <http://www.archives.govt/genealogy>.

After her presentation, Gladys responded to questions from the members. Once again, through this presentation, Gladys Friedman Paulin demonstrated her knowledge about genealogy. The program was well done and appreciated by those present.

**Note from the National Archives Web Site: Genealogists/Family Historians: The National Archives offers insight into the lives of people, their families and our history. Because the records at the National Archives come from every branch of the Federal government, almost all Americans can find themselves, their ancestors, or their community in the archives. Knowing how a person interacted with the government is key to a successful search.**

## A Genealogical Tale

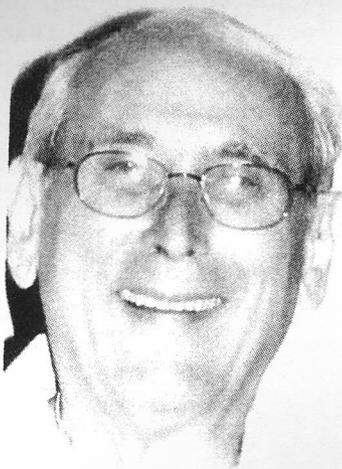
### Unsolicited Research is Appreciated

By Bill Israel, Immediate Past President, JGS of Tampa Bay  
Director, IAJGS

In January it caught my eye that one of the St. Petersburg (Florida) Times monthly magazine section "Life and Times - Living Well after 50" (widely read by those in my age group) featured "Family History" on the cover as that month's theme. Robert Jenkins, the editor of this magazine section, wrote in his lead article that he could trace his family's history back only one generation, and he did not know how his Russian immigrant grandfather's name became Jenkins in this country. I later realized that this editor, Robert Jenkins - someone I had never met and did not know - was the son of someone I had known, the late Jack Jenkins who was the volunteer business administrator of my synagogue about 20 or more years ago. This connection motivated me to do a little online research to see what I could find about the Jenkins family history, starting with Robert's father, Jack Jenkins.

It did not take long to find Jack (Jacob) Jenkins in both the 1930 and 1920 census as the son of Morris Jenkins, and from there, I was easily able to find the ship's manifest of the 1910 arrival of Mojsche Chenkin, his wife Chave, and his infant son Faulkel. Mojsche Chenkin on that manifest became Morris Jenkins, and his son became Jacob (Jack), the father of the St. Pete Times writer, Robert Jenkins. The anglicification of Chenkin to Jenkins was not a very long leap.

I sent this information, including copies of the census and manifest documents, to Robert Jenkins along with a note explaining who I was, my connection with his late father, and my association with the JGS of Tampa Bay. The reply I received from him was almost tearful in appreciation:



*"I can't thank you enough for your generous gift. I actually shuddered when I read, in the documents you so graciously sent, my father's original name. I had never heard it or seen it. Thank you, many times over, for going to the trouble of doing my work for me. I will write of your help, and the local genealogical group, in the February issue of LifeTimes."*

Robert followed through in the February issue of "Life and Times..." with the following in his lead-in article:

*"A new, old name*

*My column last month noted that I could trace my family back only one generation, and that my family name had been changed from a Russian one when my father's parents anglicized it upon arriving in America in November 1910.*

*St. Petersburg resident Bill Israel read the column, realized he had known my late father, and did my genealogical research for me. And so in an e-mail from him, complete with a photocopy of the ship's manifest, I learned the Russian names of my grandparents and of my father:*

*The infant Faulkel Chenkin arrived on the SS Koln from Bremen, Germany.*

*I got chills when I read that; I don't think my father knew his given name.*

*So, my thanks to Bill Israel, who is a director of a worldwide nonprofit coalition of Jewish genealogical sites. He says that with the fall of the Soviet Union, research is much easier. Anyone interested can contact the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay; the Web site is [www.rootsweb.com/~fljgstb](http://www.rootsweb.com/~fljgstb), or call (727) 343-1652 or (813) 966-3124."*

That mention in the newspaper resulted in about a half dozen telephone calls expressing an interest in Jewish Genealogy, and an opportunity for me to invite the callers to attend our next JGS meeting - coming up next Sunday. Another postscript is that Robert Jenkins will be the featured speaker at my Temple's sisterhood annual luncheon coming up in a few weeks, and my wife, Sally, and I will attend and meet him there.

And that is the end of this tale and possibly the beginning of a new friendship with Bob

Permission to reprint this article given by the author Bill Israel of St. Petersburg. The original article appeared under ECHO on the IAJGS website, March 2008

## “The One-Room Schoolhouse”

The JGSGO meeting of March 17 held at CRJ featured Barbara Hutton Robertson who described

her early education in a one-room schoolhouse in Chapel, Nebraska. The program was arranged by Edith Schulman, JGSGO's VP Programming. Barbara first spoke about the acquisition of the Louisiana Territory which was purchased from France in 1803. Barbara's family originally came from Sweden and lived in Minnesota before moving to Nebraska. “With the coming of the Union Pacific the western territories were

opened” she said. “Land grants offered 162 acres folks who were willing to farm the land and work at it for five years.” Barbara's father firmly believed in education. He often quoted Thomas Jefferson with “No democratic society is safe without education.” He also told his children, “You can always take care of yourself if you have an education.”

In the early years, religious groups often ran the educational facilities. Barbara attended a one room school house, known as District 63, in Chapel, North Carolina from first through seventh grade. One teacher, usually trained in a Teacher's Institute taught several subjects to a mixed age group. The “out house” was typical of the one-room school.

Barbara recalled that everyday the students did the “Pledge of Allegiance” and read some passages from the Bible. Students were attentive and well-behaved. If discipline was necessary, the teacher had a wooden paddle in her drawer.

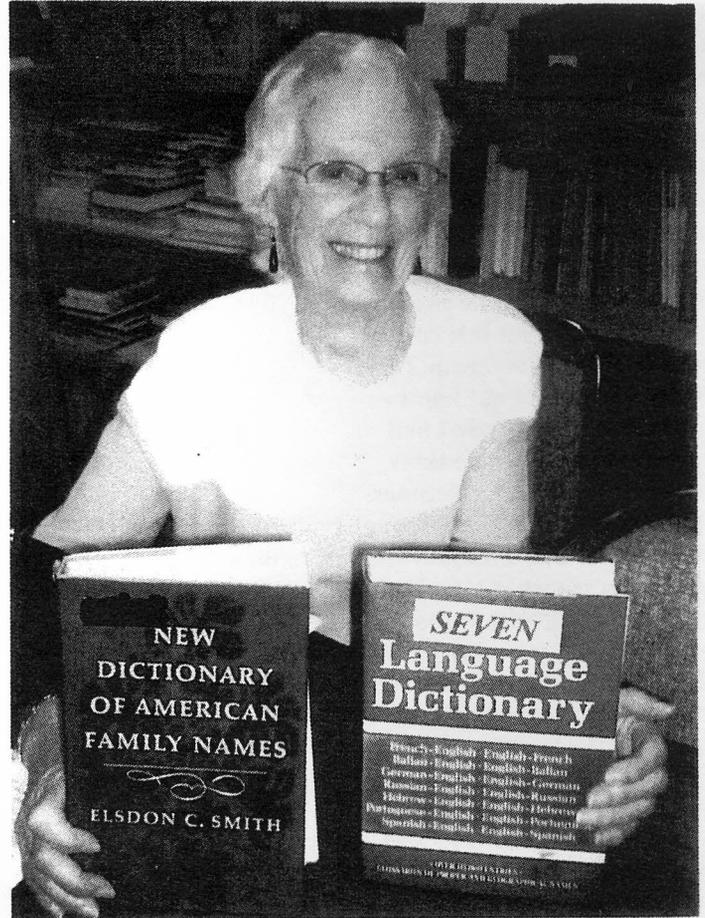
Barbara usually was driven to school but walked home after school, a distance of some 1 ½ miles. Children brought their lunch as school was in session from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. It was interesting to note that Barbara's teacher was her mother's younger sister.

For high school, she attended a larger school in town. Twenty-four students were in her class. Barbara is proud to have received one of the scholarships given by the Union Pacific RR to help with her education. She earned a BS in education from the University of Nebraska and also has a Masters in textiles. Barbara Robinson taught at Howard Junior High for many years. Afterwards, she taught at Webster Adult School first part-time, then full-time for 23 years. When she retired, she continued to teach sewing two days a week--

one day at the Sewing Circle and one day for the city of Orlando at the Beardall Senior center. She is married to Bill Robinson. Presently, Barbara is President of the Opera Guild.

## LIBRARY DONATIONS

Millie Rosenbaum, the JGSGO Treasurer recently donated two volumes to our library located in the Dworkin Learning Center at CRJ. The books are not the latest printing, but still are very useful for genealogical research. Thanks Millie.



## 28<sup>th</sup> IAJGS

International Conference on  
JEWISH GENEALOGY  
AUGUST 17-22, 2008

Co-sponsored by the IAJGS  
The JGS of Illinois and the Illiana JGS

Chicago Marriott Downtown  
Magnificent Mile

# IAJGS POSTER CONTEST

From 1999 through 2006, Avotaynu, Inc. promoted Jewish Genealogy Month. IAJGS took over the promotion of this special month in 2007. It is our hope that our member organizations will take advantage of Jewish Genealogy Month to encourage Jewish genealogy and publicize their organization and activities. In 2008, the month for celebrating Jewish Genealogy will be 1 Cheshvan 5769 through 29 Cheshvan 5769, 30 October 2008 - 27 November 2008

When the IAJGS announced the competition for a poster or flyer celebrating Jewish Genealogy Month, JGSGO Past President Jerry Kurland reacted positively. As a creative artist and architect, Jerry received the blessings of the JGSGO board of directors to enter the contest.

On March 20, Jerry sent his concept of the poster to Marilyn Brenner, IAJGS Chairperson of the Poster Contest. The winning poster/flyer will be unveiled at the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in August. Here's a small copy of Jerry's poster. We wish him and JGSGO success in this endeavor.

GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH BRIDGES THE GAP TO OUR ANCESTRY AND FAMILY HERITAGE

**IAJGS Bridge-Builders**  
Providing the resources in Jewish Genealogical Research & Leadership of Individual Member Societies

DNA G2350 DNA G2350 DNA G2350

Let My People Go

**JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH**  
1 Cheshvan 5769 through 29 Cheshvan 5769  
30 October 2008 - 27 November 2008  
Discover who we really are.

The IAJGS Homepage is the Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. It promotes Jewish Genealogical Research throughout the world and coordinates the efforts of the individual member societies.

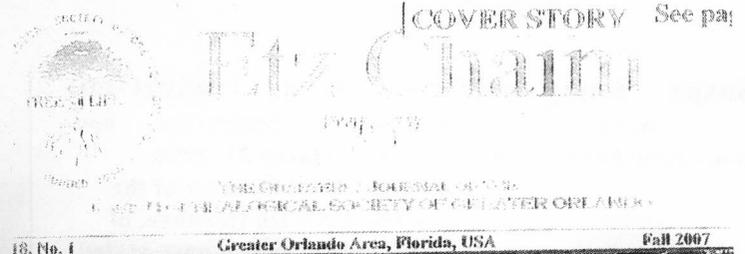


Photo by Benita Brown, "long-time friend of Edith and Charles Sulman." Photo taken June 26, 2007, during a visit to the Temple Cemetery, Nashville. More on the cemetery and visit, see page 6.

## IAJGS ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

There's an advertising saying about the Florida Lottery..."you have to be in it, to win it!" When the IAJGS announced a "Call for Nominations for the 2008 Achievement Awards" there were four categories:

- 1) Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2) Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product;
- 3) Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy; and
- 4) Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS.

With the blessing of the JGSGO Board of Directors, Jay Schleichkorn prepared the necessary material for submission in the category of Outstanding Publication. Five members are on the IAJGS Awards Committee. Stephen Morse is chair this year. Each of the committee members were sent copies of the four issues of Etz Chaim, prepared for Vol 17, 2007, numbers 2, 3, and 4 and Vol. 18 No. 1.

The 2008 winner will be announced at the IAJGS conference and meeting in Chicago, August 17-22. We will have to wait for the announcement but at least "we are in it!"

## Susan King Retires from JewishGen

Susan King, founder of JewishGen, has announced her retirement effective March 31, 2008.



David Marwell, Director of the Museum of Jewish Heritage, of which JewishGen is a part, stated "Perhaps more than any other person, Susan through JewishGen, has changed the way research on Jewish family history is conducted...She has left a profound mark on a pioneering institution."

JewishGen started in 1989 as what was then called a Bulletin Board which today is a small component of the JewishGen environment: the JewishGen Discussion Group. At that time, it required a long distance telephone call to Houston, Texas, where King lived, to connect to her computer to post a message. At the same time, you could read the postings of others and respond to them if appropriate. It then was called the Jewish Genealogy Conference.

In 1995, Apple Computer recognized the value of bulletin boards to the Internet community and invited bulletin board owners to join the Apple World network. After affiliating with Apple World, there was a dramatic increase in the number of researchers utilizing the Jewish Genealogy Conference services. King realized the need for a more extensive presence of Jewish genealogy on the Internet to help newcomers obtain information in a personalized, efficient manner and at the same time avoiding endless repetition for other, more experienced genealogists. Thus, Jewish Gen was born.

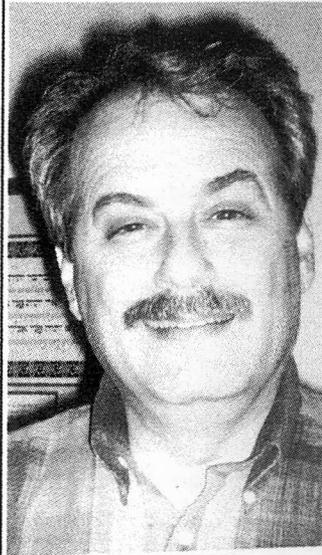
As the Jewish genealogical community recognized the value of what King was creating, hundreds flocked to JewishGen to volunteer to make it grow. Today it has more than 100 databases containing more than 10 million records.

In 2005, the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies gave King their Lifetime Achievement Award "recognizing her twenty years of pioneering vision and leadership in making resources freely available to the worldwide Jewish genealogical community. Through her tireless devotion many thousands of people who might never have explored their Jewish roots have successfully done so, benefiting from the continually expanding array of online resources offered by JewishGen. She has changed the face of Jewish genealogy with a clear and focused goal of preserving our history for future generations."

*(Excerpted from Nu? What's New? Vol. 9 # 8, April 1, 2008, from The E-Zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu, Gary Mokotoff, editor.)*

## PRESERVING DIGITAL PHOTOS

At the May 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JGSGO, the guest speaker was Mark Schulman, senior analyst with



*Convergys* \* for 22 years. With a well-prepared Power Point presentation, Mark offered many solutions to preserving photos for future generations. He indicated "today we are the best documented generation ever." With the use of different types of disks, he raised questions as to what the future will hold for viewing the present stored information. He spoke of the advantages and disadvantages of Digital photos.

"They can last forever; you can make unlimited perfect copies, they'll never fade, smear, tear, unlike traditional printed photographs. "However," Mark said, "digital photos are intangible – just collections of bits and bytes in electronic memory...and so many people don't think about the need to preserve them, just as necessary for traditional photos, and don't know how to make sure the photos survive." The tips he spoke about include making many copies of disks, be sure the photos are identifiable, your computer's hard disk should never contain the only copy of a photo, be sure photos can be easily found, and note two major concerns; what will physically survive and what will people be able to use?

As to present equipment, Mark strongly suggested you use CDs "Do not use rewriteable CDs (CD-RW) as they do not last as long," he said. "You are not interested in reusing your CDs – you are interested in them lasting a long time."

Mark had a four-page handout that covered Preserving Your Photos, and Making Sure Your Photos Survive and are Identifiable. If you want a copy of the handout, send your e-mail request to: PTJay@aol.com.

Mark summarized his talk by saying, "Your family history might end with your digital camera, but it doesn't have to. With a little attention to preserving your digital memories, your great grandchildren will have such photos of you and those around you."

Mark has also authored books on computers which have been translated in several languages.

*Mark is the son of our JGSGO's past president Edith Schulman and her husband Charles.*

\*Note: *Convergys* is uniquely and exclusively focused on helping clients make smarter decisions about enhancing their relationships with customers and employees to improve business performance. The company employs nearly 75,000 employees who serve clients in over 70 countries, speaking more than 35 languages, from 79 sites across the globe.