

THE SUMMER READER



Etz Chaim

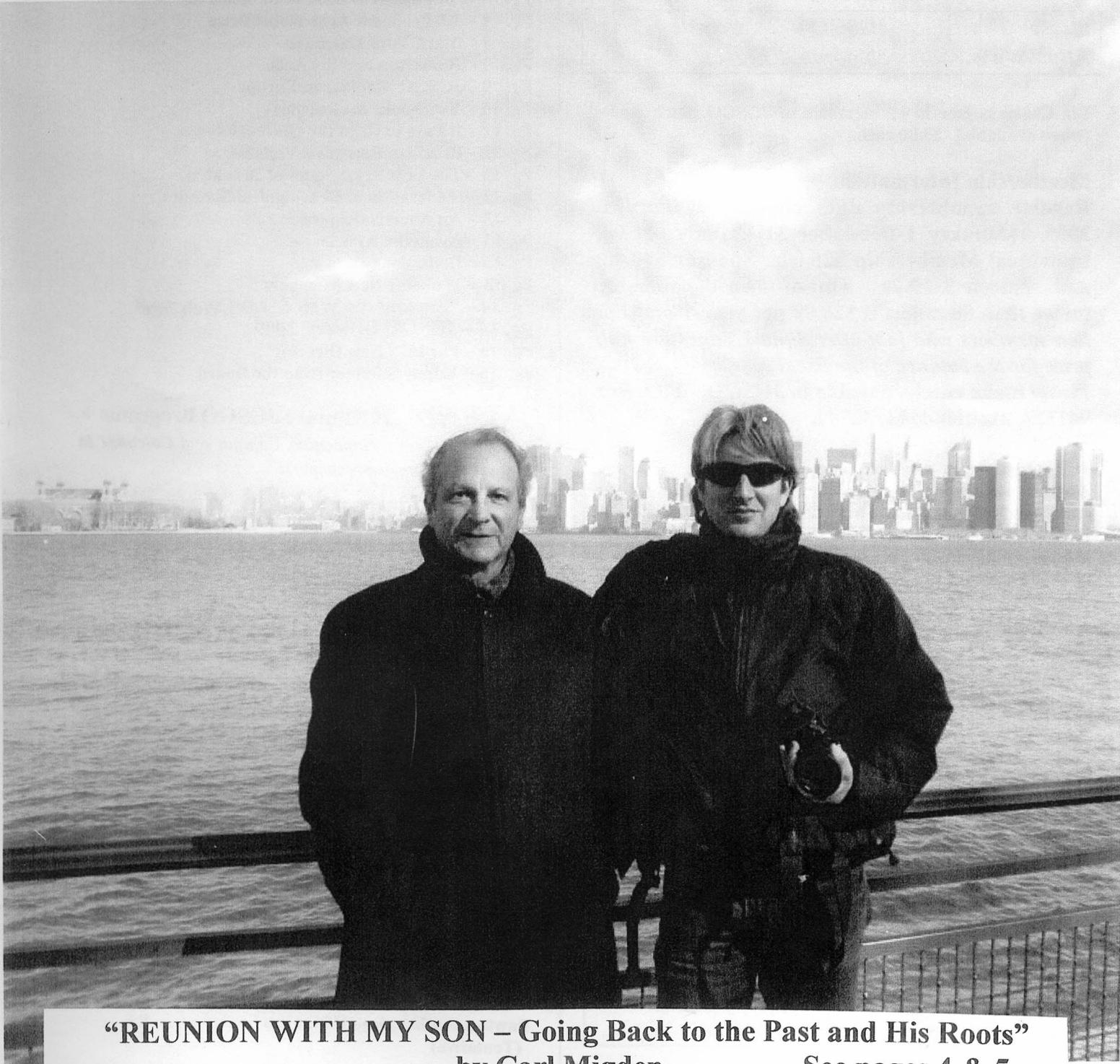
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The Quarterly Journal of the
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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Summer 2009



“REUNION WITH MY SON – Going Back to the Past and His Roots”

by Carl Migden

See pages 4 & 5

ETZ CHAIM

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 P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL. 32794, USA
 Editorial Office
 2619 Sweetwater Country Club Dr.
 Apopka, FL 32712, USA
 Jay Schleichkorn, Editor Phone 407-464-9445
 FAX - 407-464-9445 E-mail: PTJay@aol.com

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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 Tuesday afternoon of the month, at 1:30 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 Tuesday. 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.

In this Issue.....

- Pg. 2 - Calendar
- Pg. 3 - President's Message
- Pg. 3 - 29th IAJGS Conference
- Pg. 4 - "Reunion with My Son" Carl Migden
- Pg. 5 - " " " " "
- Pg. 6 - Orange County Library System
- Pg. 6 - Mailbag
- Pg. 6 - Top Avotaynu Sellers
- Pg. 7 - We Are the Chosen
- Pg. 7 - NARA Address
- Pg. 7 - Opening the Golden Door - Ellis Is.
- Pg. 8 - US Professor Arab Nobel Prize
- Pg. 8 - Mark Your Calendar
- Pg. 9 - Haskelson and the Arts
- Pg. 9 - JGSGO Member in Europe
- Pg. 10 - Yearbooks & Genealogy
- Pg. 11 - It Pays to Read the Obituaries
- Pg. 11 - Brazilian Records Available
- Pg. 12 - The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn
- Pg. 12 - Federation of Genealogical Societies
- Pg. 13 - An Ancestral Journey
- Pg. 13 - Avotaynu Article
- Pg. 13 - Definitions
- Pg. 13 - Welcome New Members
- Pg. 14 - "Surfing the Web & LDS Web Site"
- Pg. 14 - JGSGO Officers 2009
- Pg. 15 - Par LDS New Director
- Pg. 16 - Happy Summer from the Board

CALENDAR: Future JGSGO Programs +
(Check the What's Happening Column and Calendar in the weekly Heritage newspaper):

Tuesday June 23, 2009: Regular Meeting-Program:
 "Repairing and Preserving Old Photos" presented by Mark Schulman, 1:30 P.M. Mini Sanctuary, CRJ
928 Malone Dr., Orlando, FL

No local JGSGO Meetings in July and August 2009

August 2-7, The 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Philadelphia, PA

September 2-5, Federation of Genealogical Societies - Annual Conferences, "Passages of Times" Little Rock, Arkansas

Tuesday, Sept. 15, Regular Meeting- Program: "Google Goodies for Genealogists" presented by Paul Enchelmayer 1:30 P.M. Mini Sanctuary, CRJ (Tentative)

Tuesday, Oct. 20, Regular meeting - Program: New book - "Hiding in the Spotlight" presented by Greg Dawson, Author, 1:30 P.M. Mini Sanctuary, CRJ (Tentative)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all are enjoying my special messages in what I call the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Orlando E Newsletter. I want the message to be informative and helpful to you all.

For example, in my April 23 message I shared the good feeling we all got out of the special mini-workshop.

Thanks to efforts of several speakers including Carl Migden on Immigration Records, Edith Schulman on Vital Records, and yours truly on Census Records, together with the organization of Jerold Wertheimer and technical assistance from Jose Valle, the mini-workshop was quite a success. In addition, the homemade baked goodies by Judy Wertheimer were quite popular. Here's what I wrote in my e-mail newsletter: "WOW !! That's my first reaction to our recent mini-workshop. I thank everyone who assisted in making this a very

successful event. I think we had just over 30 people attending. Most were either new members or new prospective members. There were even three people who came in from Clermont !! I think the presenters did a great job in presenting just enough information to educate without being overwhelming. We should seriously consider have a mini-workshop II in the early Fall after our Summer break. Again, limit the presentations to just three topics."

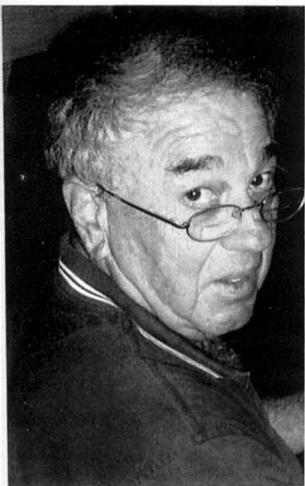
Our two sessions given by personnel (Jane Hebert and Kim Peters) from the Genealogy Department of the Orange Country Library System were also successful. You can be sure you have friends in the department who are willing to be of assistance. They appreciated the plaques designed and produced by Jerry Kurland as noted in their mail to JGSGO. Jerry K also produced colorful announcement posters.

Thanks also to Jerry Wertheimer for setting up the April 21 meeting at CRJ. Guest speaker Sheryl Needle Cohen, EdD of the College of Education took us on "An Ancestral Journey -Walking in the Footsteps of the Holocaust." The speaker was most captivating in her Power Point slide presentation filled with an animated delivery. We had 40 participants and it appears Doris Frank signed up three new members. Excellent!

Overall, the change to a Tuesday afternoon meeting time seems to have been a good plan. Our attendance has certainly improved and we have had many more opportunities to draw potential members.

We also appreciate the cooperation we receive from CRJ in making it possible to have meeting space.

Mark your calendar for the June 16th meeting!
And remember NO meeting in July and August.
Have a safe and healthy summer!



29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, in Philadelphia

Time is going by quickly!

Early Bird registration for the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Philadelphia (August 2-7, 2009)

has ended as of April 30. On May 1, 2009 (through July 24, 2009)

regular registration will be in effect: \$295 (with \$195

for Companion). On-Site

Registration takes effect

After July 25, 2009: \$325 (with \$225 for Companion). To be eligible for the Companion Registration Fee, a companion must reside in the same household as the principal registrant.

Daily registration is also possible.

The exciting program can be found at the website <http://www.philly2009.org> – check it out. You will find an exciting array of speakers and topics.

Whether you are a beginner or an experienced family researcher, there will be plenty to keep you very busy.

To register go to the website and click on the Registration button at the left.

We are also very pleased to bring to your attention a fantastic resource called Philadelphia's Jewish Resource Guide. This is an extensive guide to the Philadelphia area's Jewish and genealogical resources. See it at <http://www.philly2009.org>. With a comprehensive listing of research sites and places of Jewish History in Southeastern PA, Southern NJ and Del, this is a single source of helpful information. Each entry includes name, address, phone number, key staff, website, email, hours, fees, accessibility, public transportation, driving directions, Jewish interest holdings and research advice. Helpful for researchers around the world, this will be especially useful for attendees of this summer's conference. This Guide is an evolving document that will be periodically updated – so you will want to check it more than once before the conference. This Guide is a must-read to prepare for doing research while in Philadelphia.

We look forward to seeing you at what will be a wonderful conference co-hosted by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGSGP).



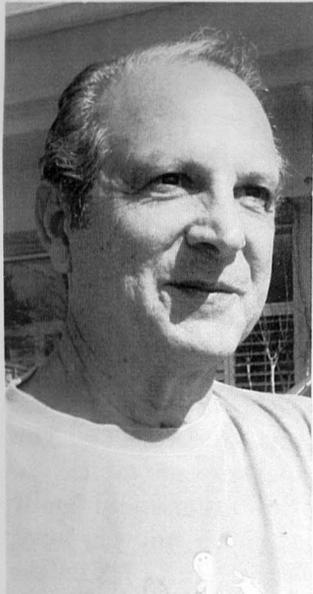
From: Anne Feder Lee & David Mink Conference
Co-Chairs. <annefederlee@gmail.com>
Thurs, 16 Apr 2009

Reunion With My Son - Going back to the past and his roots:

November 16-19, 2008

By Carl Migden, JGSGO Member

One Sunday afternoon in the beginning of January,



2008, I received a long distance phone call via Skype from my son Stephan, who is living in Brussels, Belgium. He wished me the usual holiday greetings and a Happy New Year. He mentioned that during the second week of November, 2008 he was planning on going to his 10th year school reunion at the University of Montreal Saint Hyacinthe, Canada and wondered if we could rendezvous in New York City. I quickly responded and said..."Of course, that sounds great!"

He said that he would be coming in alone since the children (my grandchildren) would be attending local school in Belgium and his wife, Valerie would not be able to get off work in November. He wanted for just the two of us to hang out together for 3 or 4 days and asked that I show him New York City and his roots.

You see, I (we) moved to Brussels with my family in 1974 when Stephan was only 6 years old. Today, he is 40 years old, married with two children, a son named Arthur (8 y.), and Lola (6 y.) He is a large animal veterinarian with his practice in Nivelles, Belgium, a suburb of Brussels. Stephan said that I would be the best person to show him NYC since I was born and raised in the Bronx, lived in Queens and Long Island, and worked in my own business in Manhattan for many years. Yes, I guess he was right in saying I would be an excellent NYC guide.

Over the following months we discussed and finalized that we would meet at JFK Airport on Sunday, November 16th and would spend three days in Manhattan and the fourth day traveling around Queens, NY and afterwards to Long Island. Stephan wanted to go back to his roots and see the places where he lived, played and went to school as a little boy. Well, I will say we did a lot more than that!

One of the first highlights of the trip was a visit to The Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island. By chance and not premeditated I took a photograph of Stephan while we were on the ferry boat to the Statue of Liberty and after my return to Orlando I discovered I had taken a similar photo in 1971 (see next page) with his grandfather on his mother's side, almost in the same position and with Liberty in the background. It gives me chills (goose bumps) when I look at the two photos. I ask myself..."How did all the years go by so quickly?" Another memorable photo was of my son standing in the Great Hall of the Immigration Museum where all the new immigrants had to pass through. I told him that his great-grandparents, Ezra and Clara Migden passed through this very room in 1902 and 1905 respectively. Ezra was 32 years in 1902 and sailed on S.S. La Bretagne from Le Havre, France not more than 200 miles away from where Stephan lives today.

I talked about his aunt Bea, his favorite aunt, whom he was very close to while growing up in Queens, NY and L.I. She entered the Great Room in 1905 when she was only 8 years old and did not speak a single word of English. I was laughing when I mentioned that Aunt Bea's long voyage across the wide seas on the S.S. Potsdam from Rotterdam took 11 days (Sept. 30, 1905 to Oct. 10th, 1905) and his trip from Brussels took 8 hours. What a difference 100 years makes!

When we entered the medical examination room Stephan pointed out to me that it was strange to see that some of the medical instruments (in the display box) to examine the immigrant's eyes were made out of wood, and that they were probably not sterilized. It appeared that whatever eye disease one immigrant had was probably passed onto another by the very medical officers themselves. Stephan is a veterinarian specializing in large animals (a horse doctor) but he still thinks like a medical doctor. He suggested and it appeared that unsterilized instruments were actually used during the immigrant's exams.

At the end of the tour there is an interactive media room where present-day Americans are able to trace their American family roots. There is a charge

of \$5.00 but it is worth it to show some of the Ellis Island manifests of your ancestors.

This was just the first day together. It was exhilarating and we both enjoyed each other's company. We were to enjoy three more days together.

I planned the itinerary which included major sites in the city such as the Empire State Building Observatory, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Guggenheim Museum, dinner at Pellegrino's on Mulberry Street, jazz at the Village Vanguard to hear the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, Wall Street and the NY Stock Exchange, Trinity Church, Ground Zero of the World Trade Center, Macys Department Store, Rockefeller Center, The French Book Store, Trump Tower, Saks, The Plaza Hotel, the Toys 'R' Us store, The Apple Store, Chinatown and Little Italy and dinner at Seppi's in Le Parker Meridan Hotel and another Jazz session at Seppi's (The Rick Bogart Trio). It truly was a visitor's view of what New York City has to offer.

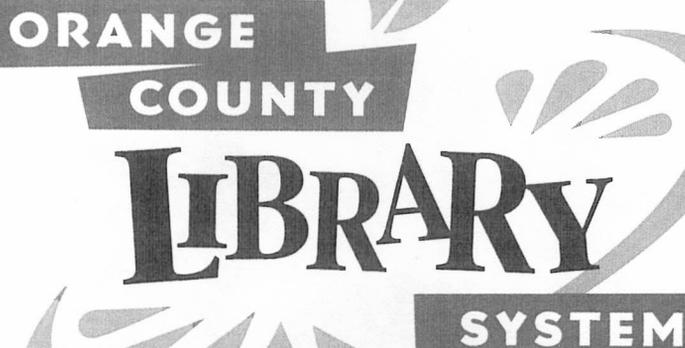
For our last day together, we traveled along Queens Boulevard and Hillside Avenue in our Budget Rental Car visiting several areas that were part of Stephan's early childhood years. We saw our early apartment houses and in Levittown we visited our first home on 24 Solar Lane. Stephan saw his Public School and the public pool where he first learned to swim, an amusement center he enjoyed, and a Kiddy Park.

Returning to JFK Airport in the evening, it was time to see my son Stephan take American Airlines Flight #172 to Brussels, departing at 7:15 p.m. Arrival time in Brussels was 7:40 a.m., (Travel time 7 hours and 25 minutes for 3667 miles.) Amazing when you think Stephan's Aunt made the trip in 11 days in 1905!

The four days were tiring but so worthwhile. What an opportunity to be with my son knowing how much he enjoyed seeing so many places that were and still are a part of his life. It would be my advice to the readers of this article that all consider renewing ties with family members and make every attempt to share past experiences. It will be a great gift for all involved.

Please Note: In these photos, my son Stephan is with his Grandfather in 1971 nearing the Statue of Liberty and recently on Nov. 17, 2008, (37 years later) in more or less the same location.





**ORANGE
COUNTY
LIBRARY
SYSTEM**

(Eds. Note: On January 27 Jane Hebert and Kim Peters of the Orlando Library Staff spoke to our JGSGO meeting. This was followed by a "field 'trip" to the library on February 24th for a "hands on" program. Thanks to Ms. Hebert and Peters, here is new information for our readers.)

"Here are the links to New Titles, Genealogy Periodicals holdings and Directory holdings on the 4th Floor at the Orlando Public Library.

You can access the Library Genealogy Department New Titles lists, Genealogy Periodical holdings and Local directory holdings through Google Docs. The links below will take you directly to the individual databases. Just bookmark or put the links in your favorites. The lists are updated automatically when changes and/or updates are made.

[New Titles: Genealogy, DAR Genealogy, Florida Collection, Genealogy Periodicals at OCLS \(search PERSI on Heritage Quest\)](#)

This document is published on the web. Your Document is viewable at:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pvJd32s7WfQsx8muEUFIPWw>

[Genealogy Periodicals at OCLS \(search PERSI on Heritage Quest\)](#)

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<http://spreadsheets.google.com/pub?key=pvJd32s7WfQuQLMHSLaVvEg>

If you have any questions about the Library, our holdings or services, please call our Questline Telephone reference department at 407-835-7325 or by visiting our web site at:

www.ocls.info and clicking on the contact tab."

Thanks to Kim M. Peters for this information.

MAILBAG:



22 April 2009

"Dear JGSGO Members:

What can I say but WOW! Thanks for promoting and attending the event yesterday. Sorry we weren't able to do more 'one on one' but hopefully you have a general idea of what we have.

Thanks so much for the beautiful plaque and for including us in the newsletter. What an honor!"
Kim Peters, Librarian-Clerk and Genealogist, Orange County Library Services, 202 East Central Blvd. Orlando, Florida 32801

26 Feb 2009

"Hi

I just wanted to write thank you for the beautiful Award of Appreciation that you presented me with yesterday. It was a wonderful opportunity to work with all of you, and I can honestly say I enjoyed the experience immensely. As I said before, PLEASE feel free to contact us again if we can be of assistance to you. I look forward to seeing you in the 'stacks'!

Thank you again."

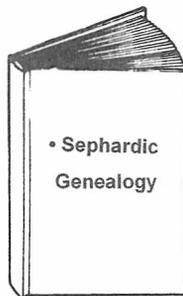
Jane Hebert, Librarian-Clerk, Orange County Library Services, Orlando

Top Sellers of 2008

Avotaynu has closed its accounting books for 2008.

The top selling books for 2008 were:

- A Dictionary of Jewish Surnames from the Russian Empire: Revised Edition



- Google Your Family Tree
- Every Family Has a Story
- A Dictionary of German Jewish Surnames
- Sephardic Genealogy
- Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy

A complete list of books offered by Avotaynu can be found at

<http://www.avotaynu.com/allbooks.htm>>

From: Nu? What's New? Vol. 10 # 2

Jan 26, 2009 Gary Mokotoff

WE ARE THE CHOSEN....

My feelings are in each family we are called to find the ancestors.

To put flesh on their bones and make them live again,
To tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve.

To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before.

We are the story tellers of the tribe.
We have been called as it were by our genes.
Those who have gone before cry out to us:
Tell our story. So, we do.
In finding them, we somehow find ourselves.

How many graves have I stood before now and cried?
I have lost count.
How many times have I told the ancestors
you have a wonderful family, you would be proud of us?
How many times have I walked up to a grave
and felt somehow there was love there for me?
I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts.
It goes to who I am and why I do the things I do?
It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever
to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen.
The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh.

It goes to doing something about it.
It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish.
How they contributed to what we are today.
It goes to respecting their hardships and losses,
their never giving in or giving up.

Their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family.
It goes to deep pride that they fought to make and keep us as
a
Nation.

It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were
doing it for us
That we might be born who we are. That we might
remember them. So we do.
With love and caring and scribing each fact of their
existence, Because we are them and they are us.
So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family.

It is up to that one called in the next generation,
To answer the call and take their place in the long line of
family storytellers.
That is why I do my family genealogy,
And that is what calls those young and old to step up
and put flesh on the bones.

*Ed. Note: Thanks to Larry Morrell. This is from a cousin of mine From: VicObGynMD@aol.com
To: emorrell@cfl.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, March 01, 2009*

National Archives and Records Administration
(NARA) –Southeast Region
5780 Jonesboro Road, Morrow, GA
30260-3806

e-mail: Atlanta.archives.gov/southeast
(Serves Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky,
Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and
Tennessee.)

In addition to archival research facilities. NARA administers records centers, including the National Personnel Records, St. Louis, and the Presidential Libraries. Go to www.archives.gov/facilities for current information on all NARA facilities.

OPENING THE GOLDEN DOOR

Ellis Island in New York Harbor opened on January 1, 1892, to some 700 immigrants disembarking from three ships. Annie Moore, age



17, from County Cork, Ireland became the first person to enter the country through Ellis Island after completing the station's processing inspection.

Over the next 62 years more than 12 million immigrants followed. Moore who died 80 years ago, has become a symbol for the hundreds of thousands of Irish immigrants who settled in New York City, and in October her grave in Calvary Cemetery in Queens was marked with a Celtic cross. (It had been previously unmarked).

(Note: From the History Channel Magazine, January-February 2009, pg. 40. Thanks to Bob Glasser of Winter Park, a JGSGO member since 1996).

(If you have a Levy on your family tree, you should be proud!)

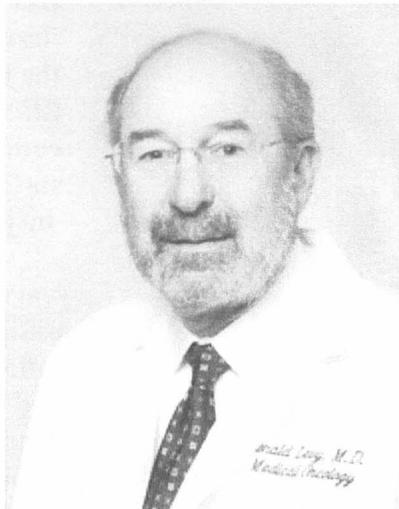
U.S. professor becomes first Jew to win 'Arab Nobel Prize'

By Natasha Mozgovava, Haaretz Correspondent / Haaretz Service

An American professor has become the first Jew to win the King Faisal International Prize in Medicine, popularly known as the "Arab Nobel Prize."

Stanford professor Ronald Levy, who heads the university's Oncology department, told Haaretz that as an American Jew married to an Israeli it never crossed his mind that he might win the Saudi-financed competition. "I didn't think there was much chance, and I forgot about it," Levy said. "It's an Arab country, and I didn't think they are likely to pick a Jew." After he was informed of his victory, Levy rushed to check the contest Web site, where he found his picture and biography already on the homepage.

STANFORD, Calif. — The development of a drug that has revolutionized the treatment of many types of cancer has earned its inventor, Ronald Levy, MD, the 2009 King Faisal International Prize in Medicine. More than 30 years ago, Levy, now chief of the oncology division at the Stanford University School of Medicine, embarked on a



Ronald Levy, Stanford University School of Medicine

research agenda that harnessed the power of the body's own immune system to fight cancer. Levy developed the concept that a drug made from a naturally produced blood protein called an antibody could be a cancer-fighting machine.

The prize committee had posted Levy's biography exactly as he submitted it, with one glaring exception: the line showing his post-doctoral work at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot had been deleted.

The prize, which included \$200,000, a medal, and a certificate in English and Arabic, also came with a dinner with Saudi King Abdullah. Levy told Haaretz

he was certain his wife and daughters would not be able to attend the ceremony, as their passports are full of visas from Israel and his wife and one of his daughters were born in Israel. To his surprise, when he went to the Saudi consulate in Los Angeles, the attendants stamped their passports, and no one asked any questions.

In spite of their fears before the trip, Levy said his family was treated to royal hospitality during their entire stay in Saudi Arabia. He said that even when people were aware of his religion and his family's background, he was treated no different than anyone else. Levy said Saudis were fascinated with hearing what he and other visitors think of their country, and if their expectations were proved wrong or not. Levy's victory is the first time in the award's 30 years that a Jew has won, which Levy says he took as a sign that Saudi Arabia is becoming more open.

Levy won the prize for his part in the development of a drug used in the treatment of many types of cancer that is being widely viewed as revolutionary. For over 30 years, Levy has researched methods of using the body's immune system to fight cancer. His research led to the development of the concept that a drug made from antibody could be used to fight cancer.

Editor's Note: two sources:

By Natasha Mozgovava, Haaretz Correspondent / Haaretz Service
www.haaretz.com, Last (Update 16/04/2009) and
 Stanford School of Medicine News Release March 23, 2009, JanelleWeaver

[Http://med.stanford.edu/news_releases/2009/march/levy.html](http://med.stanford.edu/news_releases/2009/march/levy.html)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR... June 23

At our JGSGO meeting set for Tuesday afternoon, June 23, the speaker will be Mark Schulman and his subject "Repairing and Preserving Old Photos." Mark was our speaker on May 19 when he gave a fine presentation on the advantages and disadvantages of digital photography. Mark is a senior analyst with Convergys.

His final comments at the May meeting were, "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."

Tuesday afternoon meetings start at 1:30, usually in the mini-sanctuary at the Congregation of Reform Judaism, 928 Malone Dr. Orlando.

HASKELSON AND SUPPORT OF THE ARTS

By: Jay Schleichkorn

Pierre Haskelson, of Clermont, a JGSGO member since 2004, has a unique artistic interest in something beyond genealogy. He is a skilled metal artist with a long history of designing and producing creative products. His art works go from small candle sticks to large wall hangings.

Pierre sent me an e-mail notice *"that the Maitland Art center has selected 25 artists and are displaying their works (including my "Woman in Flight ") for 2 weeks starting Friday May 8 from 6 to 9 PM, 2009. As an Art center fund raiser they are auctioning blocks of artist's time on Saturday May 16 from 10 AM to 4 PM. During that time Artists will donate 3 hours of their time to produce works that will be sold to patrons. If you have time come on Saturday and watch me shape some iron work in the garden. (You can also watch 24 other artists !)*

I accepted Pierre's invitation and spent most of Saturday morning observing how he can change a piece of iron into a work of art. Amazing!

While many artists need only a small case of paints and brushes, Pierre has two large acetylene tanks, an anvil, various metal files, asbestos gloves, protective eye glasses and various pieces of iron.

The couple who purchased the wall-hanging stopped by several times to watch Pierre. No doubt, what they left with at the art show will find a special place in their home.

In the Summer 2007 issue of Etz Chaim, a column explained how Pierre started his metal work. He wrote, *"I am a self-taught artist who had his beginnings working with his father in the manufacture of metal furniture. I was born in Paris, grew up on French Algeria and have lived in Mexico, upstate New York, Long Island, Montreal, and Orlando. (He and his wife Rosalyn now live in Clermont.) 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."*

He says one of his goals is that, *"I hope you enjoy my works as much as I enjoy doing them."*

Haskelson has shown his work at the Orlando JCC and 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.

Thanks for sharing your artistic expertise with us!



Pierre Haskelson at the Maitland Art Center.

JGSGO MEMBER TRAVELING IN EUROPE..

Doris Frank, JGSGO Membership VP, received the following e-mail (05-18- 2009) from new JGSGO member, Joanie Holzer Schirm of Orlando:

"Dear Doris:

I wish I could be with you for the May 26th meeting but I am actually on my big roots trip in the Czech Republic. We are here until early June 4 searching the family background on my late Czech father Dr. Osvald A. Holzer. I hope to share some interesting stories with the group someday. We have waded through archives of Charles University (founded in the 100's) for records of my father's education as a doctor and from that found apartment address for my grandparents in Prague —one they lived in from 1931-1939 when the Nazis made them move to a smaller apartment. They had to move again in 1941 before they were transported to Terezin. We went to Terezin and in a week head to Lublin Poland district where I think my grandparents perished in Sobibor (may never know for sure). We have been to so many sights hard to list for now but I am definitely learning a lot which I hope to write about.

Best to you and the group."

Yearbooks as a Source of Genealogical Information

What picture comes to mind when you think about your grandparents? Your parents? For your entire life, you've known them as adults, doing adult things. But we forget that they were and teens and young adults too! Finding a picture and / or information about your grandparents or parents from their formative years can be a very rewarding addition to anyone's family history research.

High school, college and other miscellaneous school yearbooks or class lists can be an interesting source of genealogical information and photographs. You might find out that your relative participated in sports, scholastic teams, won academic awards, was a class officer, etc. Maybe your relative's subsequent vocation or avocation goes back to when they were a member of the Biology Club, Drama Club, or school orchestra? Wouldn't it be fun to be able to add a picture of Grandma Ruth when she was a member of her school chorus?

The JGSLI Board decided that it would be a valuable service to its members if we could inventory yearbooks in our members' personal libraries and make that information available for genealogical look-ups. JGSLI commenced its Yearbook Project in June of 2006 with the goal of acting as an intermediary to match researchers with yearbook owners.

During the last year, we have been able to match up dozens of researchers with yearbook owners. Since our list of yearbooks is made public on our website www.jewishgen.org/jgsli/yearbook_list.htm we have received inquiries from not only our members, but non-members as well. We realize that since our membership's yearbooks are from the New York City / Long Island area, the information in those books could be of interest to researchers from around the country.

The interest from non-members outside of the NYC / LI area gave us the idea of expanding our project to inventory yearbooks from other local JGSs, other genealogical groups and other interested individuals. A number of non-member researchers have inquired if they could list their books on our site as well.

JGSLI's Role

JGSLI does not own, nor do we physically custody the yearbooks listed on our site. The books are in the personal libraries of those that are making them available for genealogical look-ups. JGSLI will act as the "matchmaker" between the owner of the

information and the researcher. When a request comes to us, using the email address on our site (yearbook_project@jgsli.org), we will reply to the researcher and forward the request to the owner of the book by using a blind cc. It is up to the owner of the material to comply with the request. (People signing up for the program do so with the understanding that there will be requests. See Owner's Role below.)

Owner's Role

The owner of the material submits a signed JGSLI Yearbook Project Form which they can download from our site at http://www.jgsli.org/Yearbook_Form.pdf

The agreement states in part, "Submitting a listing means that you have volunteered to be contacted by email and are willing to provide information, a photocopy, or scan for the researcher. JGSLI is only making the information available to researchers. Owners of the books are responsible for following up with the request."

Researcher's Role

Researchers can contact us through the email address listed on our site yearbook_project@jgsli.org. We would appreciate if requesters of information also become providers of information to help fellow researchers.

How You Can Help

We know that the members of other social groups, their families and friends can be an important source of yearbooks and we would be very grateful for your help to grow our database. Due to the success and smooth operation of the project as it currently exists, and since we have been receiving requests from non-members for information as well as interest on how to list their own yearbooks on our site, the JGSLI Board has decided to reach out to other potential sources. Our long term goal is to expand the inventory of yearbooks available and to facilitate matches to researchers and family members.

We would appreciate if you would consider helping us by allowing us to include your yearbooks in our listing so our database will be more valuable to researchers. We also would be happy to have this article run in any of your local society newsletters.

For any additional information, please contact me at: yearbook_project@jgsli.org

THE JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY of LONG ISLAND'S (JGSLI) YEARBOOK PROJECT
Nolan Altman – Project Coordinator
3817 East Oceanside Rd, , Oceanside, NY 11572

IT PAYS TO READ THE OBITUARIES...

By: Riva Sorokurs

"I was telling Doris Frank about this experience and she suggested I write it up and forward it to you. She thought you might need a filler for a future issue of Etz Chaim. I won't be at all upset if you don't run it, but if you do, you have my permission to do so."

A few weeks ago I was reading the New York Times when I ran across an obituary for a woman with



a famous last name, Chomsky. As I was reading it, I came to a line that gave her maiden name, Schatz, and stated that she was from Philadelphia. Bingo! From the last name, I figured that she had to be either a granddaughter or a great-granddaughter of my grandfather's brother, Max/Moteh Schatz, who had been a cantor in Philadelphia at the beginning of the last century. I passed

the information on to my daughter, Julie Hart, the one who is doing the actual genealogical research, and asked her to contact the family and find out if they were related to my grandfather and if they had any information on the family that they could pass on to us.

She did and they did! She wrote to the daughter of the woman named in the obituary, who passed Julie's e-mail on to her aunt, who passed it on to her son and granddaughter, who have been researching the family for the past 25 years. We are eagerly awaiting a contact from them.

And, then, a few weeks later, I read the Times' obituary of Helen Suzman of South Africa. It stated that her family had come from Lithuania, and then gave her maiden name, Gavronsky. And another Bingo! That's the family name of a friend whose family, like mine, came from Lithuania.

By the way, Julie did get a response from the last guy in the story and he is interested in corresponding with her. It does pay to have an unusual last name, doesn't it. It pays to read the obituaries!"

(This was an e-mail from Riva Sorokurs, 1/15/2009)

For those researching Brazilian ancestry this will be of interest.

Rio De Janerio Brazil Civil Registration Records Available on Family Search

Family Search has announced that they have digitized over 4 million Rio De Janerio Brazil civil registration records and placed it on its on-line collection. The records cover births up to 1930, marriages to 1950, and deaths up to 2006. Family Search, part of the Mormon Library research continues to film the records in Rio De Janerio and will continue to update the collection. This collection existed of over 2,500 microfilms, spanning 117 years of vital records and are now digitized. You can still view the records on microfilm in Salt Lake City at the Family History Library or one of the Family History Centers by borrowing the microfilms, but the digitization makes the records available through your computer at home.

The new digital images can be searched for free at FamilySearch.org (click Search Records, and then click Record Search pilot). You can quickly navigate from a Rio de Janeiro municipality down to individual towns. Simply click on a town, and the images are typically divided up by birth, marriage, death, and a year range—making it very convenient to comb through the original records for that town during a specific period in search of a Brazilian ancestor from Rio de Janeiro. Digital images can also be printed or saved electronically. Civil records were kept for all the population, including Catholics and non-Catholics. There was a large infusion of non-Catholics in Brazil after the 1880s.

To read the entire press release on this collection go to: <http://tinyurl.com/cy3yac>

You may want to see what other Family Search digitized records are available on line by going to: <http://familysearchlabs.org/> Click on Record Search, then click on the world map for the region you are searching and which opens a list of records available for that region.

From: Jan Meisels Allen, Director, IAJGS and Chairperson, Public Records Access Monitoring Committee IAJGS Digest for Thursday, April 30, 2009.

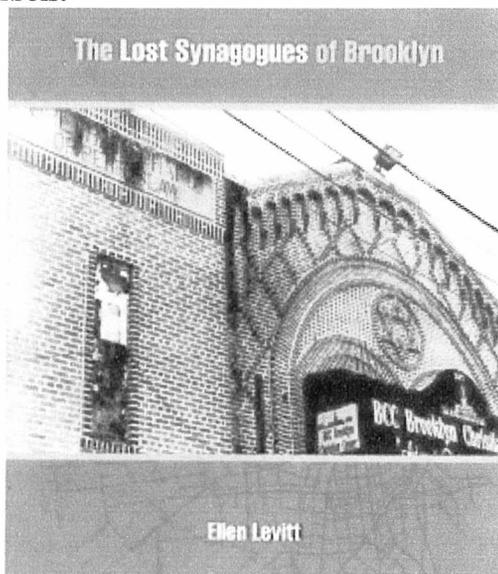
**29th IAJGS International Conference
on Jewish Genealogy, in Philadelphia
Register NOW!!!!**

<http://www.philly2009.org>

New Book:

The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn

Jewish life in Brownsville, East New York, Flatbush-East Flatbush, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and other nearby areas of Brooklyn through the 1950s was a lively, rich, and varied environment. During the next few decades it dissipated greatly. As Jews moved to other areas, they left behind their synagogues. Avotaynu's latest book, *The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn*, is a photographic essay of these ex-shuls; it tells what happened to them and how they appear today. Many became churches whose facades still have Jewish symbols.



The book offers photographs, interviews and analyses on 91 of these former Jewish houses of worship. Some have been faithfully preserved while others are in disrepair. Described in the book are memories of Jews who belonged to these old congregations as well as the Christians who now fill the pews. This is supported by extensive research and stirring stories.

Author Ellen Levitt is a life-long Brooklynite who has delved into a subject dear to her. Some of the photographs featured in this book were part of her photography exhibit at the Brooklyn Historical Society, which ran from November 2006 through February 2007. She also lectured on this subject to the Society. The exhibit and lecture were the genesis for *The Lost Synagogues of Brooklyn*.

Additional information as well as the Table of Contents and a sample page can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/LostSynagogues.htm>.

The book, 8 1/2"x 11", 196 pp., hard cover, published in March 2009, cost \$26.00 (Reprinted from "Nu? What's New?" the e-zine published by Avotaynu," Vol. 10, #9, May 11, 2009)

FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

In every issue of Etz Chaim in the bottom left corner of page 2, we list the organizations with which JGSGO is affiliated. One of the larger groups is the Federation of Genealogical Societies.



Based in Austin, TX, the FGS links the genealogical community by:
 serving the needs of its member societies;
 Providing products and services needed by member societies;
 Marshaling the resources of member organizations.

FGS was founded in 1976 and represents the members of more than 500 genealogical societies.

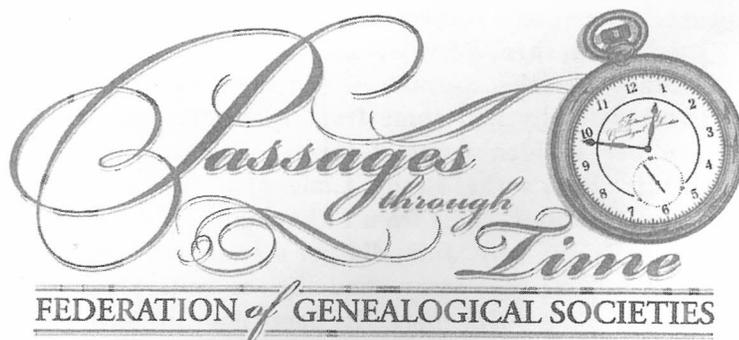
FGS links the genealogical community by helping genealogical societies strengthen FGS also publishes an extensive series of Society Strategy Papers, covering topics about effectively operating a genealogical society.

FGS also links the genealogical community through its annual conference – four days of excellent lectures, including one full day devoted to society management topics and grow. To do this, FGS publishes FORUM magazine, filled with articles pertaining to society management and genealogical news.

The next major conference organized by the FGS will take place September 2-5, 2009, in Little Rock, AR. The theme is "Passages through Time."

For specific information about the conference contact FGS at <http://www.office@fgs.org>.

(Editors note: Our JGS library located in the Cantor Dworkin Learning Center at the Congregation of Reformed Judaism, Malone Dr., Orlando, FL has many copies of the FORUM for on-site viewing.)



SEPTEMBER 2-5, 2009 • LITTLE ROCK, AR

“Walking in the Footsteps of the Holocaust: An Ancestral Journey”

For our Tuesday afternoon meeting of April 21, the guest speaker was Sheryl Cohn, EdD, an instructor of Clinical Supervision in the College of Education at the University of Central Florida, South Lake Campus. Her doctorate from Nova Southeastern University is in Early and Middle Childhood Education.

Dr. Cohn's research interest is the Holocaust and Genocide. In 2006 she was one of 30 scholars selected to attend a three week program sponsored by the International School of Judaic Studies.

Using a Power Point presentation with her

narration, Dr. Cohn described her search and visit to her grandparent's village in the former 19th and 20th century Russian territories of Lyakovichi and Dubno. Dr. Cohn spoke of her paternal grandparents Bella Bittleman and Max Needle and the problems they faced in their small village. She explained there were two Holocausts with one prior to 1933 and the often discussed horrible situations faced by Jews and others in the 1940s. “No synagogue was safe” Cohn said, and “59% of Dubno's Jews were victims of mass murders by 1942.” Her travels in 2007 also took Dr. Cohn to Auschwitz, the death camps at Burkenau and Terezin, Prague and Budapest.

Dr. Cohn managed to insert a bit of humor into her travels as she described the boarder crossings and airport security in Lvov on the way to Warsaw.

Using her experience and on site visits, Dr. Cohn “ties the personal journey to her research studies on how best to teach future educators about the Holocaust.”

Definitions:

Lineal Versus Collateral

A *lineal descendant* (also known as a *direct ancestor* or *progenitor*) is a person who is in direct line to an ancestor (such as a child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc.). A lineal descendant is distinguished from a *collateral descendant* which would be from the line of a brother, sister, aunt or uncle.

(from Mishpochology, Vol. 14, No. 2, Summer 2009) published by the JGS of Southwest Florida.

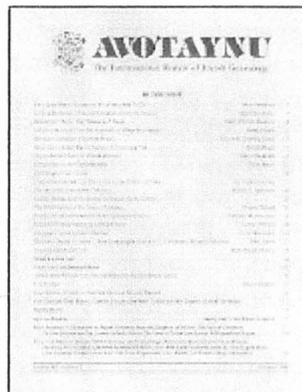


CONGRATULATIONS TO CARL MIGDEN...

Our JGSGO member, Carl Migden deserves a commendation for an article he has in the Spring issue of Avotaynu. The three page article describes the

successful genealogical search Carl undertook in locating all kinds of information about Jacob “Cuppy” Migden, a former inmate of Sing Sing prison, who could be the blacksheep of the family.

In Gary's column “Nu? What's New?” (Vol. 10 # 9, May 11, 2009), he mentions several articles that are in the issue. It includes 15 articles on a variety of subjects plus



the regular columns, “From Our Contributing Editors,” “U.S. Update,” “Book Reviews” and “From our Mailbox.” In the area of expanding one's knowledge of how to do family history research, Gary referred to “Just How Were Passenger Manifests Created?” and an article about a large number of directories—other than city directories—that are available that provide clues to one's ancestors. “I enjoy articles about the history of Jews in the less commonplace areas of the globe,” Gary wrote. This issue has an article about the Jews of Rhodes and the successful quest for ancestors in Syria, Baghdad, and Calcutta which took the author's family back to 1600

The complete Table of Contents can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/page01.pdf>.

If you have not renewed your subscription for 2009, in North America call 1-800-AVOTAYNU (286 8296) to resubscribe.

If you are not an AVOTAYNU subscriber you can do so at <http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm>.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

On behalf of the officers and members of the JGSGO, we welcome the following persons as new members:

Lauren Brown of Maitland
Cheryl Hanin of Longwood
Ricki Hanin of Orlando
Charlene Kuhn of Winter Springs
Elaine & Joel Nierenberg of Orlando
Joanie Schirm of Orlando

“SURFING THE WEB SITE, FAMILY SEARCH AND THE LDS”

A well-attended meeting held Tuesday, afternoon May 26 in CRJ's Social Hall featured guest speaker Judy Bowden, a Family History Consultant for the LDS Family Library Center, Lake Mary. Using her well prepared Power Point audio-visuals, Ms. Bowden, with an excess of 20 years of genealogical research, emphasized how best to maneuver through the LDS's 38 million pieces of information. She described the record keeping method used by the LDS and how resources such as the Ancestry File is now the Pedigree Research File. She referred to the important information found in the Social Security Death Index. “In 1965” Bowden said, “you had to report a death but it really became a major source in 1972.”

A useful site to start with is www.labs.familysearch.org.

Files at the LDS allow you to verify information. “Make sure it is your relative, Each clue is a step in your research.”

With our interest in Jewish genealogy, Bowden described what is available in the Jewish Family History Resources and the Knowles Collection. “That collection is most helpful if a relative came from the British Isles.”

“It is important Bowden said that you check the Family History Catalog. Microfiches may be ordered and played at the LDS Center.”

Words of caution related to importing a file. “If you want to share information use the Gedcom system. If you share a family history, be sure there is no personal information.”

It is also helpful to LDS if you give the Center feedback. “Maintaining all the records is on going and new information is always added. On the LDS web site, it states, “Family Search Labs showcases new family history technologies that aren't ready for prime time. Your feedback will help us refine new ideas and bring them to market sooner. Have fun playing with these innovations and send your feedback directly to our development teams. The FamilySearch Labs blog has the latest scoop on our current projects.”

The program was arranged by Jerold Wertheimer, the JGSGO VP – Programming.

See photo....next column:



Judy Bowden and Jerold Wertheimer

JGSGO OFFICERS 2009

President: Larry Morrell

e-mail: emorrell@cfl.rr.com

Co- VP Programming: Jerold Wertheimer

e-mail: Jwerth@hotmail.com

Edith Schulman

E-mail: Edith@schulmans.com

Co- VP Membership: Doris Frank

e-mail: Dofrank@cfl.rr.com;

Jerry Kurland e-mail:

Surrealgraphics@embarqmail.com

Secretary:

Herb Adler: hcalist@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Millie Rosenbaum

e-mail: Lifeanu@gmail.com

Editor: Etz Chaim- Jay Schleichkorn

e-mail: PTJay@aol.com

Webmaster: Jose Valle

e-mail: Jose@craftyneedle.com

Director: Jerry Kurland

Surrealgraphics@embarqmail.com

Librarians: Marci & Raeburn Wallen

wrprof@aol.com

New Appointment at the LDS Family History Center on East Par, Orlando

Those of us in the Greater Orlando area will be pleased to learn that Deborah Smith has been officially recognized in the Salt Lake City data base of Directors of Family History Centers as the new director at the Par Building facility.

Mrs. Smith recently was asked by the leadership of her church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, if she would accept the assignment of being the new director in the Par Building. She indicated, *"I have had a love of researching my family lines since 1973. My love of genealogy and tracing my family roots made it very easy for me to accept the new assignment."*

There was a bit of confusion at first with two different Smiths. The error was caught but not all the Family Centers were aware of the proper appointment. In an e-mail of 05/26/09, Deborah Smith wrote, *"As of today, I am still the PAR BUILDING DIRECTOR"*

"So far," Mrs. Smith added, *"I have been able to trace my family into the following countries: England, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, Ireland, and Switzerland. Perhaps one of the most exciting discoveries is that the passenger on the Mayflower who fell off the ship was my 10th great grandfather."*

Mrs. Smith was born and raised in Sacramento, California. She joined the LDS church at the age of 23. Three years later, she served a full-time mission (18 months) for the church in the Nashville, TN mission. Eight days after completing her mission, she married Gavin and moved to Washington. *"There"* she wrote, *"we had four of our children. In 1983, Gavin's job took them to Utah, where we had 3 more children in another 5 year spread. Their eighth child arrived in 1992. I ended up HOME SCHOOLING all 8 of our children. Five of the children have served missions covering Taiwan, Canada, Brazil and one in Colorado. Our oldest graduated #1 in Law School and is currently a JAG for the U.S. Army serving in Iraq."*

The family has lived in Florida since 1992. According to Deborah Smith, *"In July 2009, our 12th grandchild is due to arrive,"*

"For nearly 30 years, my life has been centered around my family and will continue to do so," Mrs. Smith wrote. *"My love of putting together our FAMILY HISTORY is one of my MAJOR interests. I am an avid reader, gardener, and have taught home school youth*

(other than my own), early American history and the Constitution of the U.S. I LOVE HISTORY"

Currently, the Par Family History Center is open Thursday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and on Saturdays from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. *"As soon as we are able,"* Mrs. Smith indicated, *"we hope to open up the center a couple of evenings as well."*

The Par Family History Center is located at 45 E. Par Ave., Orlando, FL 32804, ph: 407-898-4011.



Photo: Jay Schleichkorn

Mrs. Deborah Smith



**Have a Happy, Healthy and Safe
Summer....See you in September!**

**From: The Board, Jewish
Genealogical Society of Greater
Orlando.**

**Standing: Jay Schleichkorn, Raeburn Wallen,
Marci Wallen, Millie Rosenbaum, Herb
Adler, Jerold Wertheimer, Jerry Kurland,
and Jose Valle**

**Seated: Edith Schulman, Larry Morrell, and
Doris Frank**