

# ETZ CHAIM

The Quarterly Journal of the  
**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO**  
**20th Anniversary**

Volume 21, No. 4

Greater Orlando, Central Florida Area

Fall, 2011

## Social Networking-The New Frontier in Genealogical Research

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 2011

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

In the Mini-Sanctuary,  
Congregation of Reform  
Judaism

928 Malone Dr., Orlando,  
32810

**ANN MOHR OSISEK:**

**“The Five W’s of Genealogy” (a microsoft power point presentation)**

AN OVERVIEW OF GENEALOGICAL SUBJECT MATTER WITH HINTS/CLUES FOR RESEARCHING TECHNIQUES. OSISEK WILL PROVIDE IDEAS, CHECKLISTS AND SAMPLES FROM PROVEN METHODS OF RESEARCHING GENEALOGY IN EACH CATEGORY OF THE FIVE W’S OF GENEALOGY—WHO, WHAT WHERE, WHEN AND WHY

### Future IAJGS Meetings

**2012:** Paris, France. July 15-18. Paris Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel. Host is Le Cercle de Généalogie Juive



GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH BRIDGES THE GAP  
TO OUR ANCESTRY AND FAMILY HERITAGE

**JGSGO Bridge-Builders**  
Providing the resources in  
Jewish Genealogical Research

Copyright by: Jerry A. Kurland  
JGS Greater Orlando



## ETZ CHAIM

Published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando  
P. O. Box 941332  
Maitland, FL 32794

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

Please visit JGSGO's website at:  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~FLjgscf/>

JGSGO meetings are held monthly (excluding July and August), usually on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 1:00 pm in the mini-sanctuary, Congregation of Reform Judaism, 928 Malone Drive, Orlando Fl. Meeting dates may change due to the needs of the Synagogue. Please check the website for changes or call Jerry Kurland 407-682-7799

Reproduction: Articles with by-lines or copyright require "permission to reprint" from the author. Contact the editor. All others should give credit to the source, Etz Chaim/JGSGO

The JGSGO is a member of the :  
*International Associations 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*

## Dr. Raeburn & Marci Wallen ———

### A TRIBUTE———

As you may have heard, Dr. Raeburn Wallen, President of JGSGO, is having some serious medical issues and he and Marci have felt it necessary to resign their respective positions with JGSGO.

Rae, since taking over the presidency, has worked hard to make a success of the JGSGO, while Marci has done a masterful job with our library.

He is undergoing treatment in his hometown of Findlay, Ohio where he is Emeritus Professor of World Religions on the Findlay campus of The University of Findlay . Dr. Wallen is a World Traveler and is recognized as an expert in his field. He has garnered numerous awards and the accolades of his students and colleagues.

Both he and Marci have devoted a great deal of their skill, time and money in support of JGSGO having taken on many of the duties of other offices, such as programming and administrative chores that no one else would assume.

Their dedication to our organization will be deeply missed and we can only hope for a full recovery and a return to Central Florida in the Fall as participating members of JGSGO.

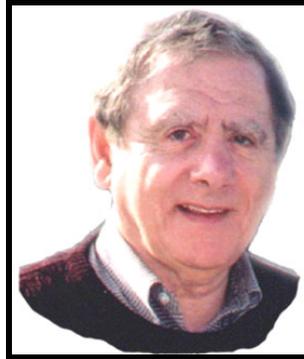
### In This Issue.....

A Tribute .....	2
President's Message.....	3
Social Networking .....	4
Become a Genealogy Blog User.....	6
Social Networking—New Horizons .....	7
JGSGO Officers.....	12
ETZ CHAIM Staff.....	12
David Schreiber Reports .....	12
Calendar .....	12

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.....

*JGS of Greater Orlando* is experiencing serious challenges. We have reached a certain plateau in helping our members break down barriers in their personal research with innovative programs. Our last few meetings have only attracted 12 to 14 attendees. Additionally, we are experiencing a low level of volunteers to help the **few dedicated** leaders who spend many hours of organizational time to schedule and plan every detail necessary to have a successful Speaker's Program.

Added to this dilemma, our dedicated President, **Dr. Raeburn Wallen**, resigned his **board position** as **President** due to serious medical problems. **Marcie Wallen**, our remarkable librarian, also had to give up her position. Over 80% of our Board of Directors will not be active next year and have expressed their desires to lift the heavy burden they carried with their duties either as an officer or a director of the board. **Herb Adler**, our first co-production editor of our first successful digital newsletters of the *Etz Chaim* publication has also offered his resignation as Director-at-Large and Publication Editor. I believe that this Fall Issue is his **finest** contribution that brought us out of the stone-age to the digital publication revolution. This society will miss these capable leaders who have brought us to this point, our 20th anniversary. Our group is therefore,



at a crossroads, with some directors considering disbanding the organization.

Notwithstanding the above, I believe we are worth remaining a viable organization. In fact, other JGSs are growing in size and interest. Sparked by television programs such as "Who Do You Think You Are?" and the proliferation of online research tools, neo-genealogists are turning to their local JGSs for help. I think there is much that can be done to revitalize the JGS of Greater Orlando for members of all levels of experience and I will accept the challenge as the Acting President with the Board of Directors' approval to seek ways to re-energize & revitalize our society.

To that end, we must study programs that are not so labor intensive and time consuming and provide programs at alternative times accessible by new members. We can enter into the **fast track** of **social networking**, a new wave of genealogy technology and a website providing new horizons for all levels of genealogists. We are thus dedicating this issue to our **Society's Next Generation**, a new type of adventure and interaction in research possibilities, "**Social Networking**".

Jerry Kurland, Acting President

## Social Networking – Our Society's Next Generation & Challenge

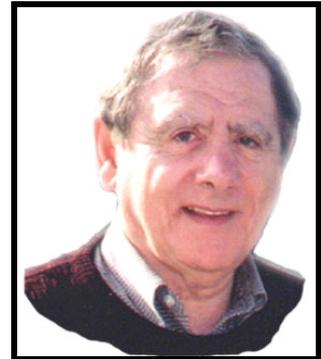
by Jerry Kurland, JGSGO, Acting President \_\_\_

As a former President (2003–2005) & VP of Programs (2003–2004 & 2009–2010), I have come to realize that we have reached a certain plateau in our providing resources to help our members break down those barriers in their personal research. The JGSGO has provided **innovative programs** to help members improve their research skills such as, "**On-Line**" forums. Using CRJ's internet connection to access "on-line" genealogy web sites, interacting with hands-on seasoned computer literate member researchers, attempting to resolve difficult problems in finding or tracking down an ancestor for our members, and gathering clues and facts to use in solving family mysteries we have broken down puzzling barriers. This has been accomplished all in view, step by step, projected on a large screen.

We have two challenges in front of us. First, our monthly programs with Guest Speakers require a lot of time to plan and implement. This has been handled by a few volunteers. They have done a marvelous job, but eventually get burned out, like myself.

Secondly, we have the challenge of meeting the scheduling needs of our membership. We as a Genealogy Society and our Board of Directors, are dedicated in keeping our members on the **cutting-edge** of the industry, its trends and programs. To that end, we consistently walk a very fine line since our organization is made up of non-professional genealogical starters. Some work at day time jobs and others are semi-retired or retired. Program meetings take place in the early afternoons which make it impossible for those members working at daytime jobs to attend. When

our meetings were held in the evenings, most of our senior members felt it difficult to drive to the meeting place during the evening hours.



To solve these problems, our Board of Directors has to reach a decision, to study programs that are not so **labor intensive** and time consuming, planning and organizing and to better serve our local metropolitan membership, which will be on a declining membership basis, if we continue. Or, we must seek a wider more international and youthful membership by attaching ourselves to the fast new track of **Social Networking**, a new wave of genealogy technology and a website strategy providing new horizons for all levels of genealogists.

*"That is the question."*

More and more genealogy societies are now forming on new web sites as well as adding a social networking presence. Some of the genealogical societies have their own websites in addition to one on **Rootsweb**, some have a **Facebook** page (JGS Broward County), and some also have a **blog (including the IAJGS itself)**. The **Illinois Genealogical Society** seems to be very progressive having moved from **Rootsweb** to their own web site with **Twitter, Facebook and blog** feeds: <http://www.ilgensoc.org/>. At the most recent IAJGS conference this August in Washington, D.C., during a meeting of JGS webmasters, it was noted that most all in at-

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

tendance were moved off of Rootsweb, moved onto their own more advanced website, and had implemented one or more forms of social media described above. Additionally, they are now including webinars and YouTube recorded video lectures on their websites in order to provide more value to existing members and attract new members.

Here are some links: (Reference: Marlis Humphrey, Ukraine SIG Project Coordinator & JGSGO member)

1. **"Tracing the Tribe"** is a blog <http://www.tracingthetribe.blogspot.com/> that has the ability for discussion through comments and is one of the key things that distinguishes a blog from a website. The site uses Google's Blogger—which is free and relatively easy to use. You can tell it is Blogger because "blogspot" is in the operator's **url**. We can also create different pages for our blog which begins to emulate a website. An example of this is <http://www.blog.dearmyrtle.com/>

2. **Genealogy & Historical Societies** that have blogs from Thomas MacEntee's GeneaBlogger blogger tracking list: <http://www.geneabloggers.com/genealogy-blogs-type/genealogy-society-blogs/>. As noted by JGS board member, Doris Frank, the JGS of Great Britain recently announced its blog [http://www.jgsgb.org.uk/blog/\\_as](http://www.jgsgb.org.uk/blog/_as) a place where they can put general messages of genealogical interest in an informal environment and interact with members and potential members via their blog comments.

3. **Weebly** <http://www.weebly.com/> is a drag and drop interface for a website. This is an example of a website that Thomas MacEntee created on Weebly, <http://>

[henneberg.weebly.com/index.html](http://henneberg.weebly.com/index.html), although it is not a genealogical society site—but a family history site.

**Genealogy Societies** are currently leveraging the power of **Facebook, Twitter and blogs** to expand their online presence through social networking and recruit members.

Our present **Rootsweb site** is not interactive. It is only an information bulletin site. The home page of a website is the face an organization presents to the world. The look and feel of the site needs to reflect the character and further the mission of the organization. We need to be able to receive queries and respond to them by posting the text queries on the **blog** and to pass them on to another society or a new discovered distant relative who might have other resources with which to respond. We can also share a **blog** site with other societies if need be. Low maintenance is required for a relatively small organization, like ourselves, that would like to use a **blog** and or website strategically to provide **more value** to the membership (i.e. retain members) and also to attract new members that don't necessarily have to be limited by attending our program meetings in order to be informed about genealogy.

A blog can help you with your individual genealogy research: There are many instances of genealogists breaking down brick walls (some in existence for 40 years) simply by posting information in their genealogy blog and having a search engine like *Google* pick it up for others to find. There are similar stories from researchers who read genealogy blogs. They find infor-

*(Continued on page 6)*

*(Continued from page 5)*

mation about ancestors which was previously unavailable via databases, archives, etc.

This therefore, could be our Society's **Next Generation**. Reaching out to New Genealogical Communities, a type of **adventure** and **interaction**, is what I find so potentially rewarding about blog-enabled social networking genealogy research.

***Blog Posts*** is one of the best features in the eyes of blog owners as well as blog readers, and is the true exchange of information and ideas that takes place by leaving comments to blog posts. We are in a new communication age of **obtaining direct information**, to get **real results** for our genealogy research, with the possibilities of scanning many countries across the globe to become a worthy link in the field of Genealogy research, as perhaps to expand to become an International Genealogical Society.

#### READERS FEEDBACK:

*Members and subscribers are asked to offer your feedback to this article. Should you have further ideas to embellish this concept, I would like to hear from you.*

1. As a member, would you benefit by having this type of **blog** to use for your own personal posting of your genealogy research?

2. Would this enhance your membership with JGSGO? All replies should be addressed to Jerry Kurland. P.O. Box 916084, Longwood, FL 32791-6084 or by e-mail: surrealgraphics@embarqmail.com

## Become A Genealogy Blog User

by Thomas MacEntee

*Members and subscribers are asked to offer your feedback to this article. Should you have further ideas to embellish this concept, I would like to hear from you.*

1. As a member, would you benefit by having this type of **blog** to use for your own personal posting of your genealogy research?

2. Would this enhance your membership with JGSGO? All replies should be addressed to Jerry Kurland. P.O. Box 916084, Longwood, FL 32791-6084 or by e-mail: surrealgraphics@embarqmail.com

If you've ever used Google to do a surname search, you may have come across what looked like a website but seemed more like a personal journal or diary. What you stumbled upon was a blog and most likely a blog dedicated to genealogy and family history. There are thousands of genealogy blogs on the Internet that can be used to assist you in your research and enhance your genealogy experience. Besides learning what a blog is, you should also understand what types of genealogy blogs exist, how to use information found on blogs, and the best way to read and follow blogs.

### What Is a Blog?

The term blog is an abbreviation for weblog which is a type of website created and maintained by a person. Similar to an online journal, a blog contains posts similar to pages in a diary or articles in a maga-

*(Continued on page 7)*

*(Continued from page 6)*

zine. A post might contain information on a genealogy event such as a conference or a recent find during a genealogy research trip. The types of posts found in a blog vary based upon the type of blog.

## How Can A Blog Help Me With My Genealogy Research?

**Research:** There are many instances of genealogists breaking down brick walls (some in existence for 40 years!) simply by posting information in their genealogy blog and having a search engine like Google pick it up for others to find. There are similar stories from researchers who read genealogy blogs: they find information about ancestors which was previously unavailable via databases, archives, etc.

**Connect With Family:** Many genealogists have located cousins because they either have a genealogy blog or read genealogy blogs. Some are cousins related going back eight or nine generations through a common ancestor. Others are first cousins about whom the genealogist had no information until they found each other.

**Connect With Other Genealogists:** Many have found new ways of connecting with fellow genealogists through genealogy blogs. You may be able to locate a genealogist who specializes in a certain ethnic group or geographical location. Or you may find someone who teaches classes in a specific subject.

**News:** Genealogy companies and genealogy societies leverage the social media power of blogs to publicize products and events. You can stay up-to-date with the latest developments in the world of family history.

**Writing:** Believe it or not, many types of reading – including genealogy blog posts – can help you become a better writer. If you want to write narratives about your ancestors, reading genealogy blogs can help improve your writing skills.

## Genealogy Blogs as Sources

And just as with any source – book, GEDCOM file, website, etc. – you must consider that source. Is a blog a source? Not usually but some blog posts do contain source citations to back-up the research discussed in the post. When in doubt, e-mail the blog owner and ask if they wouldn't mind sharing their research or source information. You'd be surprised at how willing many genealogy bloggers are to help out other genealogists.

## Types of Genealogy Blogs

There is a wide variety of genealogy and family-history related blogs. They exist in many formats and deal with many different subject matters. Below is a list of genealogy and family history-related blogs organized by type. This list is not meant to be exhaustive by any means. As well, the

*(Continued on page 8)*

Individual Family History

Genealogy Industry

Genealogy Vendors

Genealogical and Historical Societies

Genealogy Conferences

Education and Certification

Archives and Libraries

Research

Technology

Ethnicity

Geography

Surnames

Family Reunions

Diaries

Cemeteries

Photos and Charts

Crafts

Humor

Writing Your Family History

*(Continued from page 7)*

individual blogs listed within each type are not meant as a “best of” in its genre, but selected to represent different blogging platforms, templates, formats and writing styles.

## Finding Genealogy Blogs

One way to locate a genealogy blog is to use your favorite search engine such as Google, Bing or Yahoo, and enter in your search criteria. Chances are you will have one or more blogs among your search results. For added measure you could add the word “blog” to your search criteria. Another method is to use search sites that look only for blogs such as [Google Blog Search](#).

## Easy Ways to Read Genealogy Blogs

Many first-time blog readers will begin to bookmark genealogy blogs that they find useful or place them in their Web browser’s favorites section. Over time this can become unmanageable and it would be difficult to efficiently read 100 or more logs each day with this method. Most users leverage the power of blog readers and aggregators such as Google Reader to help them sort through the hundreds of new posts each day. It is virtually impossible – and impractical – to bookmark and visit each and every genealogy blog in existence let alone your favorite ones!

## Commenting On Blog Posts

One of the best features in the eyes of blog owners as well as blog readers, is the exchange of information and ideas that takes place by leaving comments to blog posts.

## Glossary

**aggregator** – a website or an application that collects information from blogs, news sites, etc. in the form of a feed to which you subscribe. Google Reader is an aggregator used to read blog posts.

**application** – a computer program that must be installed on your computer in order to access specific program features. For reading blogs, an e-mail program like Microsoft Outlook would qualify as an application which could be used to read blog posts to which you’ve subscribed.

**blog** – a type of website in journal format with posts that convey information and allow interaction with readers through comments.

**comment** – text which is left on a blog post by a reader to give the blog owner feedback on the post or the blog itself.

**feed** – a method of collecting all content from a website or blog and preparing it so a reader can subscribe to regular updates of the content.

**post** – similar to an article in a magazine or a newspaper. A segment of a blog which is posted or published and may contain text, images, video and other content. Posts are usually shown in reverse chronological order on a blog (meaning latest post at the top).

**reader** – (noun – person) someone who visits blogs either using a web browser or an aggregator to read posted content; (noun – object) an aggregator used to subscribe to and read blog posts.

**search engine** – a tool designed to easily and rapidly find information on the Internet.

Major search engines are Google, Bing and Yahoo.

**URL** – Uniform Resource Locator which is the web address of a site on the Internet.

**website** – a webpage that a user must visit on the Internet in order to utilize information.

# Social Networking - New Horizons for Genealogists

By Thomas MacEntee, of High-Definition Genealogy



Thomas MacEntee

*S*ocial networking (a.k.a. social media networking) is a term that more and more genealogists and family historians encounter each day. Besides hearing or seeing Facebook and Twitter in the media, if you use the Internet as part of your research efforts, you most

likely have already come across these programs and others. Social networking may appear to many of us to be all “fun and games” or “kid’s stuff” or “a passing fad.” Yet more business and organizations are leveraging it as part of their marketing and interaction with their customer base. Used wisely, social networking has great value for the genealogy community.

## What Is Social Networking?

At its roots, social networking is information published in a variety of methods that encourages its readers/users to interact socially with other readers/users. The methods used to publish and disseminate this information utilize Internet-based technologies such as websites and blogs, online communities and more. Even computer-based applications, such as **Family Tree Maker**, contain ways to interact with others through Internet connectivity and sharing of family trees.

## Methods of Social Networking

These are the various methods used when participating in social networking.

**Publishing:** making original content

available to readers/visitors at a site.

**Collaborating:** allowing more than one author to publish original content at a site.

**Commenting** or **Discussing:** allowing readers/visitors to leave their feedback on original content for the author and for other readers/visitors to see.

**Following:** allowing readers/visitors to track new original content and new comments on a site by becoming a follower or a friend.

**Rebroadcasting** or **Sharing:** marking as noteworthy by a follower and shared with that person’s followers or friends.

## Examples of Social Networking Sites

**Blog:** a site where the owner/author publishes original content, usually focused

on a specific interest or subject matter. *Examples:* **Creative Gene,**

**GeneaBloggers.**

**Global Social Networking Site:** a “catch all” site that incorporates different social networking methods to build an online community. *Examples:* **Facebook, MySpace, Second Life.**

**Genealogy Social Networking Site:** sites with a focus on genealogy. *Examples:*

**Ancestry, dynastree, GenealogyWise, Geni, MyHeritage, WeRelate.**

**Micro-blogging Site:** utilizes micro-

“Social networking has great value for the genealogy community”

(Continued on page 10)

*(Continued from page 9)*

blogging (publishing content in small message formats) and followers to build an online community. *Example: Twitter.*

**Knowledge Management Site:** a site with information which is built collaboratively by its users such as an encyclopedia and allows commenting to refine the content. *Examples: Wikipedia, Albany Hill Towns.*

**Social Bookmarking Site:** a site consisting of rebroadcast or shared content in the form of links also allowing commenting and followers.

*Examples: Digg, StumbleUpon.*

**Other Media Sharing Site:** a site which allows users to publish multi-media content (songs, videos, etc.) and allows commenting from other users.

*Examples: YouTube, Last.fm, iTunes.*

### **Benefits of Social Networking for Genealogists**

#### ***Find other researchers working on the same surname or ancestral lines:***

Many genealogists have stories to tell of how they've met long-forgotten or even unknown family members on sites like Facebook. Currently researchers are using Twitter to see who else might be researching specific surnames, family lines or even subject matters such as DNA genealogy.

#### ***Locate new resources for research.***

Let's face it, there is no way any of us can track every new genealogy database, website or blog. By following genealogy focused people in social networking you'll get the latest news and resources.

***Get opinions and recommendations from other genealogists.*** Once you build a community online it is easier to get recom-

mendations on genealogy database software or on how to write a difficult source citation.

#### ***Publicize events and conferences for your genealogical society.***

Groups are realizing how easy it is to connect with other genealogists and "get the word out" on upcoming happenings but also to drive traffic to their sites.

***Market your services or your genealogy-related company.*** Social networking is a low-cost method of making sure a target audience learns about your services as a genealogist or products your genealogy-related company offers.

### **The Do's and Dont's of Social Networking**

As with any site, social networking is a world of "user beware" and here are some tips on how to protect yourself, your computer and your data while still enjoying the benefits of interacting with others.

Only use sites that are permission-based – this means sites where you need to allow people to follow you or see your content/information.

Limit the amount of personal information you display both publicly and to friends/followers. Don't include birth year, mother's maiden name, hometown and other items of information used to verify personal identity.

Read and understand the Terms of Service agreement at all social networking sites. It is your duty before signing up and using a service to know how your information will or will not be used by that site.

Don't use email links to add friends/followers or to add applications – this is a common way to pick up a computer virus.

*(Continued on page 11)*

*(Continued from page 10)*

Go to the original site and you should use the notification there to add friends and content.

It isn't all about you – this means you need to listen, comment on the content of others, share information.

Don't spam, don't oversell or over-promote – social networking folks are very savvy and know when they smell bologna and cheese.

Don't overload – don't share everything you find, don't feel the need to comment on every photo or item shared.

Don't race to build followers – many new users of social networking think they need tons of followers right away. Focus on quality followers who share the same interests. Don't follow everyone that follows you – check out someone before following and make sure they are a “good fit.”

Be human, be you – this is the most important part of social networking. People want to know there is a real person behind what is being published and shared.

## Glossary

**blog** – a type of website in journal format with “posts” that convey information and allow interaction with readers through comments. Example: **Creative Gene, GeneaBloggers**.

**collaborating** – allowing more than one author to publish original content at a site.

**commenting** – text which is left on a blog post or article by a reader to give the author feedback on the post or the site itself.

**follower** – someone who finds value in the content you broadcast, whether it is your own or a rebroadcast of another user, and commits to follow your posts, messages, etc.

Also known as **friend**.

**forum** – a site that allows visitors to begin a discussion and then respond to messages from other users. Also known as a **message board**. Example: **Ancestry Message Boards**.

**global social networking** – a site that incorporates a variety of social networking methods and components to interact with other users in building an online community.

Examples: **Facebook, MySpace**.

**micro-blogging** – a form of social networking that utilizes brief text messaging

combined with the concept of followers to build an online community. Example: **Twitter**.

**publishing** - making original content available to readers/visitors at a site.

**rebroadcasting** - marking original as noteworthy by a follower and shared with that person's followers or friends.

**social bookmarking** – a method of saving and organizing favorite Internet sites as well as social media posts. Some social bookmarking sites incorporate the concept of followers and broadcasting your favorite sites. Examples:

**Digg, StumbleUpon**.

**social networking** – a method of building online communities of people who share the same interests or activities.

**website** – an Internet site that a user must visit in order to utilize information.

For social media users, websites are a way to set up an account but not always a convenient way of sharing information or interacting with others.

**wiki** – an online encyclopedia that allows others to contribute information and

collaborate with other contributors. Examples: **Wikipedia**.

## JGSGO Officers:

Jerry Kurland ..... Acting President  
 Rikki Hanin ..... Vice President, Membership  
 Riva Sorokurs ..... Treasurer  
 Joel Nierenberg ..... Secretary  
 Open ..... Librarian  
 Jose Valle ..... Webmaster  
 Edith Schulman ..... Director-at-Large  
 Herb Adler ..... Director-at-Large  
 Jerry Kurland ..... Director-at-Large  
 Doris Frank ..... Director-at-Large

## ETZ CHAIM Staff:

Open ..... Editor-in-Chief  
 Edith Schulman ..... Co-Editor  
 Herb Adler ..... Co- Production Editor  
 Helaine Blum ..... Co-Production Editor  
 Jerry Kurland ..... Design & Advertising  
**Contributors:** Jerry Kurland, Marlis Humphrey,  
 Thomas MacEntee, David Schreiber

## Program Calendar

Sept. 20 2 pm	Ann Osisek "The Five W's of Genealogy"
Oct. 25 Time TBA	Paul Enchelmayer "Ten Ways to be a better Ancestor"
Nov. Date TBA	Tom Hirsch- Photo Stitching, "Collecting & Saving Items"
Dec. Date TBA	JGSGO Social (Potluck) & In- stallment of 2012 Officers

## David Schreiber Reports !

Washington, DC turned out to be an excellent site for the IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held August 14-19, 2011. More than a thousand researchers descended on the nation's capitol for a program offering a wide variety of lectures and a full plate of activities, including a closing night gala, visits to area embassies, and the opportunity to visit the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM).

My wife and I joined the trip to the Ukrainian embassy where the group met with Mr. Mykola Kulynych First Secretary (Congress). Mr. Kulynych told of the embassy's efforts on behalf of the American and Ukrainian Jewish communities. He then responded to questions from our group regarding efforts to preserve Ukrainian Jewish cultural sites and records in Ukraine. Experts from the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, and the USHMM shared their knowledge of the often complex contents of

their facilities. For example, Megan Lewis of the USHMM explained, in great detail, the arcane organization of the Bad Arolsen records showing that it is imperative to make an appointment with an in-house expert searcher to really get anything out of the experience. Many experienced Jewish genealogy searchers also gave lectures, including our own Marlis Humphrey, who spoke on "Create a NextGen Family History Book" and "Latest Trends in Publishing for Genealogists".

I was surprised to discover that the Library of Congress (LOC) has an abundance of genealogical materials, such as city directories, old phone books from across the country and thousands of vintage American photos.

Another lecture that we attended, dealt with Genealogy Indexer found at GenealogyIndexer.org. This site, developed by Logan Kleinwaks, is chock full of historical directories from Central and Eastern Europe, 28000 pages from 64 Yizkor books, and has full-text and soundex search capabilities to important genealogical resources elsewhere online as well. Next year the conference will take place in Paris. Hope to see you there!