



Etz Chaim

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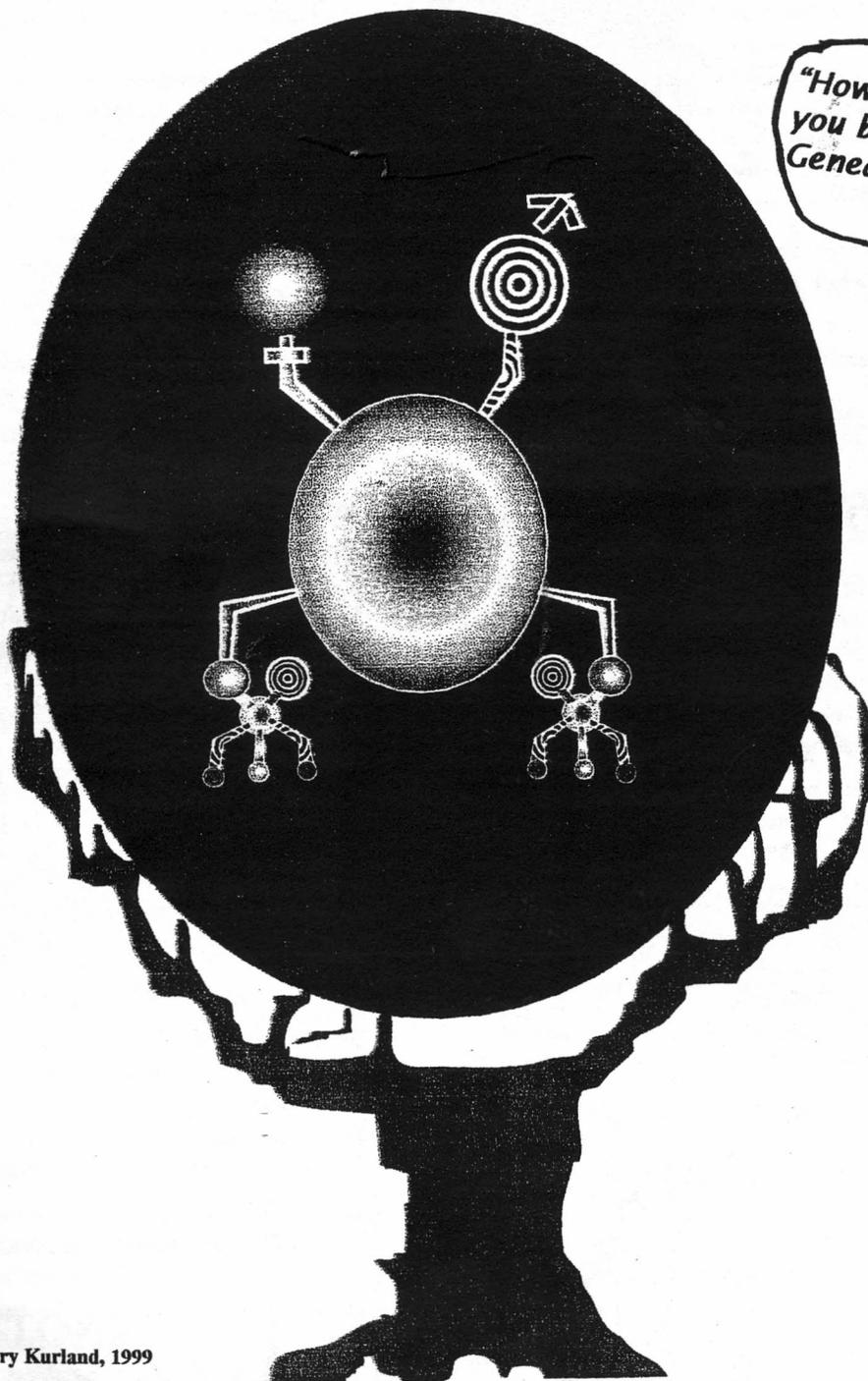
The Quarterly Journal of the
JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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Summer 1999

The Genealogy Bug



"How and when were
you bitten by the
Genealogy Bug?"
See pages 8-10

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This Genealogy Bug is known to habitate and will dig its way down deep into and around the roots of a Family Tree. Each Family tree produces its own species of the Genealogy Bug. Once it discovers the basic roots, it can nourish these roots with its own research which can result in bringing to life the ancestors of a Family Tree.

ETZ CHAIM

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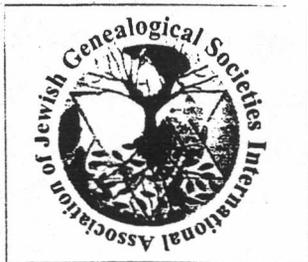
Membership Information:

Regular membership dues (Sept. to Aug) are \$20.00 per year
for JCC members, \$25.00 for non-members. Out-of-town
membership (more than 50 miles) is \$15.00 per year. Please
make checks payable to JGSGO,
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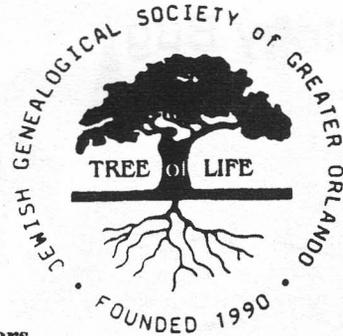
JGSGO meetings are held monthly, year round, usually on
the 2nd Tuesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., in the Senior
Lounge, JCC, 851 N. Maitland Ave, Maitland. Several
Sunday meetings, when scheduled, start at 1:30 p.m., usually
in the Assembly Room of the Holocaust Memorial Resource
and Educational Center, also on the JCC campus.

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JGSGO is affiliated with the *Jewish Community
Center of Central Florida* and is a member
of the *International Association of Jewish
Genealogical Societies, the Federation
of Genealogical Societies and the Florida
State Genealogical Societies.*



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*Thanks to all the authors for their contribution
and to Jerry Kurland for his cover-artwork.*

Deadline for submission of material for the next
issue is August 15.

CALENDAR:

Future JGSGO Programs + others

Tuesday, July 13: 7:30 p.m., JGSGO meeting at JCC Senior
lounge, Round table discussion "Asking for Help with
Genealogical Research"

Tuesday, August 10: 7:30 p.m., JGSGO meeting at JCC
Senior lounge; Program: To be announced

Tuesday, September 14: 7:30 p.m. JGSGO meeting at JCC
Senior Lounge: Two special reports by Shirley Dornfest

1) The Trip to Lithuania and 2) The IAJGS Conference NYC
Tuesday, October 12: To be announced

August 8-13: The 19th Annual Conference on Jewish
Genealogy, Marriott Marquis Hotel, New York City

August 11-14: Federation of Genealogical Societies and St.
Louis Genealogical Society, St. Louis, MO

Fri/Sat, Oct. 29-30: Annual Conference, Florida State
Genealogical Societies, Sarasota

NOTICE:

Yad Vashem Library
has a new Internet address:
www.yadvashem.org.il

JGSGO ANNUAL MEETING

On Sunday afternoon, June 13, JGSGO held its Annual Meeting and Dinner at the Steak and Ale, Altamonte Springs from 5 to 7 p.m.

In addition to enjoying time to socialize and take advantage of the "early bird" choices for dinner, members elected officers for the year mid-June '99 to mid-June 2000.

The Nominating Committee, Gene Starn, chairman, in accordance with the by-laws, presented the slate at the Society's May meeting. Nominees included:

President: Sim Seckbach

Co-Vice-Presidents: Art and Elaine Markowitz

V.P. Membership: Robert W. Marlin

Secretary: Moe Aronson

Treasurer: Millie Rosenbaum

Librarian: Carl Migden

Directors at Large:

Gladys Freidman Paulin, Audrey Pearlman

and the Immediate Past President Jay Schleichkorn.

Gene dismissed the present board members and conducted the election. The entire slate was elected. Mel Kohn served as the Installing Officer.

For his final act as president, Jay Schleichkorn prepared an annual report that was distributed to those present and will be mailed to all other members. The material contained not only his report but those of the Treasurer, Librarian, and committees including Nominating, Membership, Program, Refreshments, Public Relations, and Telephone and a final report for the 1999 Workshop.

In his report Schleichkorn, completing his third term as president, expressed appreciation to all the volunteers who worked diligently to maintain the Society's activities. He highlighted several successful programs undertaken by JGSGO such as the annual workshop, the library, the website, the quarterly newsletter Etz Chaim, member recruitment, interesting programming, and more. He also indicated there was so much more that could be done with greater participation by members. Among future activities, he encouraged reactivation of the mentor/maven program, involvement in the IAJGS Cemetery project, establishing a children's genealogy program, promoting Jewish Genealogy Month, adding a "member retention" program, and celebrating JGSGO's 10th anniversary.

LDS Library -Brevard

Thanks to Betty Berman, JGSGO member from Cocoa Beach, here's the latest information on the address of the LDS Library in Brevard County.

The mailing address is in care of: Tom and Betty Coleman, 1110 Guy Court, NW, Palm Bay, FL 32907.

The actual library is now back at: 1803 S. Fiske Blvd., Rockledge, FL., 32955 - Phone: (407) 636-2431.

Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Tues., Weds and Thursday, 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Sim Seckbach

It is with great pleasure that I begin my service as President of the JGSGO. I would like to thank all the members for giving me this opportunity to work with a superb selection of officers and directors who have also agreed to serve. I look forward to a year in which we help each other in our genealogical endeavors and share both our successes and frustrations. The Nominating Committee made several suggestions, all of which I am in complete agreement with, that I will be bringing up for discussion at the next board meeting.

- 1) Bring back name tags with surnames and towns. This is a great help to visitors and new members to finding others with like interests.
- 2) Having committee reports printed rather than oral so as to give more time for genealogical discussions at meeting.
- 3) A discussion period at the beginning of each meeting by the members on their progress or problems.
- 4) Providing programs with a leaning toward increasing our knowledge or ways to make our research easier. Any one willing to present a program please let the program committee know.
- 5) Reactivating the Maven program to help new members as well as old members. If you have special knowledge in any area or skill related to genealogy and are willing to offer help to others, please let us know.
- 6) Having 3 board meetings per year.

We will be looking for volunteers for both the Chanukah Arts Fest and the workshop. I would appreciate calls or e-mail from any members interested in helping with either event.

I look forward to both a very busy and productive year and hope for more growth in our organization. Enclosed in this issue is a survey. Please either mail it to me or return it at the next meeting.

I hope to see each of you at the July meeting.

Sim Seckbach (SSeckbach@aol.com)

(407) 664-3566

420 melrose Ave., Einter Park, FL 32789

MARK TWAIN ONCE REMARKED THAT HE SPENT \$25 TO RESEARCH HIS FAMILY TREE, AND THEN HE HAD TO SPEND \$50 TO COVER IT UP.

WHEN YOU'RE READY TO GIVE UP -- JUST DON'T

By: James A. "Bud" Jaffee

If it hadn't been for the maternal German grandparents whom I didn't know, I would probably never have found the fascinating and history of my Jewish family.

How come? Be patient and I'll try to explain.

It was the mid 1980s and I was tired of pounding the streets of New York carrying a day pack stuffed with files and books with a hotel bill mounting and no research progress to show for it. And now there I was stuck in the NYC marriage bureau after another morning of piling through file cards and still nothing to show for it. I was really -- and I do mean really -- ready to give up the pursuit of my maternal German grandparents. I still didn't know the name or the birthplace of my grandmother who died in 1896. or the birthplace of my grandfather who died in 1913. All I knew was that her given name was Catherine or some Germanic version of it, that they had met and married in NYC and that the news of their marriage had been greeted with surprise and pleasure back in the neighboring small farm communities from which they had emigrated at a date unknown.

There were too many Kruses in the marriage files and even too many Dietrichs and Catherines or some variations of those names. It was already past noon and again nothing to show for the morning. The worn research room had emptied, and equally worn, I rested my head on my arms on the table and took a 10 -- 15 minute catnap. When I woke up a bit refreshed there was nobody left in the room and nobody at the counter. Behind the counter was only a slim young Hispanic man. I thought to myself, should I leave or should I see if he knew anything. Well, I'm here, I might as well ask before I leave. I asked but he couldn't help me, but he was a supervisor.

He said listen, we're not busy now and we have a lady who has worked with these records for years. If she's here and isn't busy maybe she could help you. He disappeared into a back area and shortly emerged with a portly Afro-American lady. I knew the birthdates of my mother and her sister but none of those of their 4 older siblings so the marriage could have taken place over a range of years. Armed with my meager information the most agreeable lady said she would see what she could find for me. She shuffled the marriage file cards with the ease of playing cards as I watched leaning on the counter. After a while she had sorted out a small pile and then sorted them into just a few cards which she studiously examined and then brought them to me at the counter. Of course the marriage cards contain only skeletal information but one of them looked somewhat within my parameters so it could have been the record of my grandparents marriage. That's just a could have been -- not that it necessarily was. I was surprised when she then offered to get the full record of that marriage -- surprised because I

was still a greenhorn in genealogy and thought those cards were the only marriage record they had. She disappeared into the back room to see what she could find to match the card. In just a few minutes she reappeared with a marriage certificate dated November 6, 1881, which proved to be that of my maternal grandparents. It told me where and when they were born plus the names of their parents, including their mother's maiden names. Their neighboring places of birth were Messwinkel and Essern wee farming communities in the district of Amt Uchte in the Kingdom Of Hanover. (Remember this was before 1990 when all the little kingdoms of Germany were first united under Prussia and Bismarck a uniting which 50 years later led to evil consequences) You may ask how I was sure these were my grandparents. Well, I knew my grandfather was from the Kingdom of Hanover and that he was an engineer who ran commercial steam power plants. When I was in my early 20's and working my way through Syracuse University I too became an operating engineer running commercial steam power and refrigeration plants and my mother was quick to tell me of the coincidence.

You're likely asking what all this has to do with tracing my Jewish family. Be patient friends. I do have difficulty writing really short stories.

In any event, in 1946 I decided to visit the USSR, including the Baltics in the hope I could persuade the authorities to permit me to visit Latvia and Lithuania where were located the shtetloch of my forbears, namely Pandelis, Panamunis, Jacobpils, Hasenpoht and Riga. (How the trip went is a different story. I kept a diary of some length which anyone can read if they're that curious -- but it was a very interesting experience including visits to the graves of Tolstoy and Tchaikovsky and another gravesite where in 1812 the bloody battle of Borodino was fought. Napoleon won the battle but it was his first step toward losing the war with tragic consequences to his Grande Army and almost tragic circumstances to one of his field surgeons who is said to be the progenitor of my Chirurg family. Did I tell you my name should really be Jacob Chirurg, the real name of the grandfather after whom I'm named? But when the Czar attempted to conscript him circa age 13 he was whisked away and became the son of a Jaffe relative which somehow gave him protective cover. Shortly after arriving in the US Jacob Aaron made another change. He anglicized himself into James Arthur Jaffee, adding the second 'e' (far wus ik weiss nit.)

Before leaving for Russia I asked my cousin Bob Hart to make an effort to contact an elusive Harold Chirurg. He said he would and he tried only to be evaded and told of a woman named Doris Schrader who might know something of the Chirurg family. Turned out Bob found Doris visiting her daughter not far from his Delaware River home and invited her over for a talk about family. On my return from Russia Bob told me Doris was in her seventies and didn't seem to know anything about the family. Oye....., another blind alley.

Hating to give up I called Bob and quizzed him about his meeting with Doris but he convinced me there was no use in pursuing the matter with her. So I gave up, well not quite. I remembered giving up in the NYC Marriage Bureau. Bob had told me Doris lived in West Palm, a cheap night call from Longwood. So I decided what the devil I might as well call her and make sure she didn't know anything helpful

I did and she did. In fact she took me on a somewhat vague tour of the world of Chirurg descendants with many gaps I'd need to fill in. That tour later led me to travel to New Jersey, New York, Washington, DC. Maryland, Manchester, NH, Maine, Canada, Manchester England, Scotland, Ireland, Israel, South Africa and to an isolated farm spread near the Murray River in Australia. You see Doris's mother was Anna Chirurg, a niece of felsher Bernard Chirurg of Pandelis, the daughter of felsher Solomon Chirurg of Kamaia and the wife of Dr Charles Chirurg of Manchester, New Hampshire. (How come? That's another story too) All the addresses except those in South Africa were lost when Doris's car was stolen on return from a trip to England and Israel. 20 years earlier. (What a coincidence -- one family in two Manchesters an ocean apart. Not really a coincidence at all, but that's still another story)

Doris's memory had begun grow to vague even as you and I, brothers and sisters of accumulated years. But she knew some names and addresses in South Africa. Talking with the daughter who had been with her on the trip to England and Israel we were able to glean a bit of information here and there.

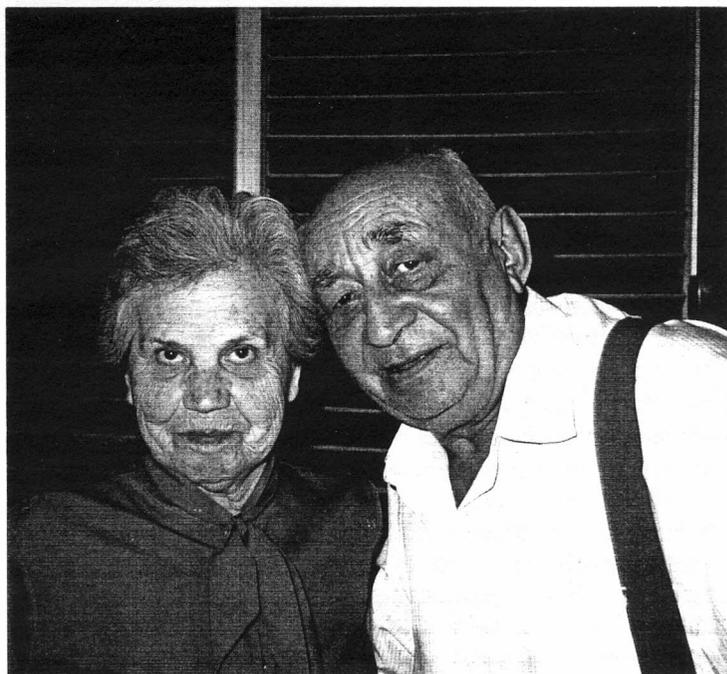
Well, to try to make a long story short, I have since visited all those Chirurg descendants, and many graves from here to Lithuania and South Africa. I haven't knitted all branches of the family together yet and I haven't pinned down the origins of the Chirurg family yet. I don't yet know which version of oral history is the right one. I almost gave up again in London after the International Conference in 1987. Work in the London archives was fruitless. But before leaving London for home I decided to fly to Manchester, England and call every person in the phone book who had a Chirurg related name. On about the fifteenth call a male voice answered and said no he didn't know anything about the Chirurg family. Never heard of them? - I persisted. What'd you say that name was, he replied. I dropped the name's English pronunciation and switched to the Lithuanian replying -- "Khirurg". Oh, he said, oh, that's my wife.

A few nights later I had a delightful evening at a gathering of almost all the Chirurg descendants in the Manchester area.

They led me to a cousin in Kibbutz Amir in the upper Galilee and to a survivor of the Stutthof slave labor camp now living in Ramat Gan outside Tel Aviv. Recently I heard from another cousin I had known nothing about who lives in Kibbutz Gvulot in the Negev. In New York I found a cousin who was thrilled to know she was of Jewish descent. In England I was able to tell two families how they were related.

For an English cousin I was able to find in New Jersey a picture of the grandmother he'd never known or seen, together of a picture of her grave in a cemetery across the Potomac from WDC. And last I found the name of my great great grandfather, Leib Chirurg, and confirmed that in the 19th century Pandelis and the Rokishok area were the abode of my ancestors. (In Johannesburg the Jewish Board of Deputies gave me two copies of the Yitzkor Book of Rokishok and Environs which contained a picture of a cousin with the Pandelis soccer team. It also included a brief anecdote about the felsher Solomon Chirurg of Kamaia.)

All this you see comes from having a brief nap with your head resting on an old archive table. My kids would probably call it my plain stubbornness! But whatever it is, try it. You might like the result. But of course -- no guarantees.



As a result of not giving up on my family history, I found family all over the world. Among them were Etta Chirurg Sher (above) and her husband Zev of Ramat Gan Israel.

As young people in the Kovno ghetto they each saw their families taken to be murdered at the notorious Ninth Fort of Kovno on October 31, 1941. Etta was then sent to the slave labor camp in Stutthof near Danzig (Gdansk) and Zev to Dachau. They barely survived and were later reunited at a displaced persons camp near Munich where their first son, Moshe, was born. Moshe, later an IDF (Israel Defense Forces) pilot, died when his plane was shot down on the last day of the war which followed the Yom Kippur surprise attack on Israel.

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jay Schleichkorn

For the past three years, it has been my honor and pleasure to serve as president of the JGSGO. I look back and say this has been a period of learning about the many responsibilities of leadership as well as gaining knowledge in genealogy. I must admit that the time one must give to the position was much more than I ever anticipated.

JGSGO has some very dedicated members who deserve special recognition. Without them we would not be able to sustain the growth of the society or support our place in the community.

Looking at the past three years we have had three successful workshops primarily due to the expertise of the coordinators Robert W. Marlin, Gladys Friedman Paulin and Sheila Reback and their committee members; our regular meeting programs arranged by the Sternbergers and more recently by Sim Seckbach have been interesting and usually always offered new information on history and genealogy, (a special note of thanks to all who participated); JGSGO has been well represented at the JCC Chanukah Arts Festival and the Book Fair; several members (especially Gladys, Robert, Gene Starn and Elaine Apter) have given their time accepting invitations to "spread the word" about JGSGO to various community groups; when Gene stepped down as editor of Etz Chaim, that responsibility was assumed by 'yours truly' and seven issues have been published; under the guidance of Carl Migden, our library grows and has been well-maintained; membership in JGSGO is at an all-time high of 84, thanks to workshop registrants and the efforts of Marshall Frenkel and his committee; our funds are in order as overseen by Bobbi Rosin and then Millie Rosenbaum; Abby Grissinger, secretary made sure we had a record of meetings; 65% of our members have e-mail and that still makes Shirley Michael and her phone committee very important; and thanks to Audrey Pearlman, Millie and now Lillian Weitzel and their "cookies, cake and soda" contributors, we always had refreshments at every meeting.

In addition to our officers we have representatives in the community to Shalom Orlando -Moe Aronson; and to the Florida State Genealogical Societies, Judy Weinberg.

Thanks to Marge Spears-Soloff we have our own website (<http://members.aol.com/jgsgo>). Marge also brought honor to our JGS by being recognized internationally for her orphanage website (<http://www.scruz.net/~elias/hnoh>). And Robert Marlin, as an author and researcher always announces his membership in JGSGO whenever and wherever he goes. Check his website: <Http://members.aol.com/MySixteen>

It's nice to talk about the good things that have been accomplished, but there are concerns that still need attention. I regret that we were unable to organize the "mentor" group or initiate the cemetery project or arrange any special field trips. We should establish a children's

genealogy program, promote Jewish Genealogy Month, have a "member retention" committee and celebrate our 10th anniversary. At present we have 16 out-of-town members who do not frequent our meetings. Especially for them (as well as for every member) we must maintain some form of communication (i.e. meeting notice mailings, e-mails) to keep them informed and interested.

To all the newly elected officers, best wishes for success and accept my deepest appreciation for assuming a responsible role in the JGSGO.

IAJGS Letter of Condolence

Those of us interested genealogy were shocked to learn about the shooting that took place on April 15 at the Salt Lake City Family History Library. A 62-year old security guard and a female library patron were killed and five people were wounded in the attack. The attacker died of his wounds in an exchange of gunfire with the police.

The following letter of condolence was signed by Karen Franklin, President of the IAJGS on behalf of all the members. And since the JGSGO is a member of the IAJGS, your editor wanted you to be aware of this gesture.

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
(IAJGS)

104 Franklin Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705-1808

May 1, 1999

Mr. Stanley M. Smoot

Vice Chair of Community and Visitor Relations

LDS Church Visitor Activities

1174 East Eaglewood Loop

North Salt Lake, Utah 84054

Dear Mr. Smoot:

On behalf of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, I want to express our heartfelt condolences to you and your staff for the deaths and injuries that occurred as a result of the April 15, 1999 shooting at the Family History Library.

It is, of course, a tremendous shock to think that such could happen at a place devoted to searching family history.

As you know, many of us involved in Jewish genealogy have greatly benefited from the resources you offer, not only at the library in Salt Lake city, but in numerous Family History Centers elsewhere. For this we are most grateful.

Please count us among those who share your grief over this senseless loss of life and injury to innocent persons.

Very sincerely yours,

Karen Franklin, President

You Must Have the Wits to Ask

BY: BERYLE SOLOMON BUCHMAN AKA
BRUCHAH BAT RACHMIEL

I knew my Hebrew name, but the only thing that I knew about the Bubby that I was named after was that my mother loved her. That is not good enough! Now thanks to many relatives, I have discovered a bevy of bubbies. I am also hoping that someone will recognize some of the names in this paper.

My maiden name was Beryle Solomon. My Solomon cousins, Richard and Robert Sherins, gave me copies of our family trees and stories about the Solomon and Goldenberg families from Iasi (also spelled Jassy), Vaslui, and Pungesti, Romania, that went back to the early 1800's. I was impressed with their efforts and appreciated their sharing with me. I bought *Personal Ancestry File*, but it just sat there. Two years passed. My good intentions to computerize family information had been forgotten. What do you do when your children remind you that you are the oldest one in the family, and if you do not get busy and find out more about our family, it will be lost?

My sons, J. Miles and Kenneth Buchman, are the major reason I am involved with genealogy. Kenneth wrote stories about our family. He continues to add to this history. He also interviewed my husband, Paul Buchman, on video tape a few months before Paul died. Paul told wonderful stories about his childhood. Miles transcribed the interview and encouraged me to computerize our information.

Paul's family is also from Romania. His family, like mine, was raised on *mamaliga* (corn meal mush dish served with various cheeses). The Buchmans that came to the United States spelled their name Buchman, Bookman, and Buckman. The family that settled in Argentina spelled the name Berman. Most of the family history we have was told to us by Paul's Uncle Sidney Buchman. Sidney told stories about his parents, Manuel Buchman and Jeanette Finkelstein Buchman, when he lived with them in Israel. According to Uncle Sidney, the Buchman family is descended from the de Valier family, who left Spain during the Inquisition.

Paul's cousin, Judy Neuwirth Schwartz, used *Family Tree Maker for Windows* and offered me the Neuwirth database file. I bought the program the next day. The Buchman, Solomon, Goldenberg, and Neuwirth data were entered into one file. My sister-in-law, Harriet Neuwirth Buchman, was born with a memory chip embedded in her brain. I could not type fast enough to keep up with her as she told me additional names, places, and dates. Neuwirth is a common name that means *innkeeper*. This Neuwirth family is from Tarnobrzeg (formerly known as Dzikow) in Poland or Austria.

At this point I had information on Paul's family and three of my four grandparents. I did not know who my grandfather Samuel Moëd's (1880—1939) parents were, much less anyone else. When I spoke to my uncle Sigmund

Moëd, he sent me records from Jules Moëd in London, England, that dated back to 1715 and included the Seiner, Tolkowsky, and Dirdak families. The Bubby that I was named after was Samuel Moëd's mother Becky Belkoff (1851—4 July 1926), wife of Yitzchak (Yoske, Yoseph, or Isaac) Moëd. We do not know why Yitzchak's family moved from Bialystok, Poland, to Odesa, Russia. His father was Rabbi Yehuda Leb Moëd of Bialystok; his grandfather was Rabbi Schmuel Hakatan of Washalkove. Rabbi Hakatan wrote a commentary on the Tractate Moëd, Based on the work of Mordechai ben Hillel Ha-Kohen (1240—1298). Because of this work, he was given or adopted the name of Moëd. Rabbi Hakatan listed his father Rabbi Yehuda Leb of Washalkove, his grandfather Rabbi Heshulam Feivel of Bialystok, and his great-grandfather Rabbi Yacob Yakil. I now had enough bubbies and zaydas to populate Broward County, Florida.

Two Moed cousins, Arthur Blutstein and Richard Moëd, were doing additional research. Richard shared records that go back to Asher ben Yehiel (also known as Asheri and Rosh, c.1250—1327). According to his research our family came from a very long line of Rabbis, whose daughters married Rabbis. Apparently, they kept records of this type, including biographical information and publication that these Rabbis wrote. Most of this information was found in Dr. Neil Rosenstein's book *Unbroken Chain*. Unfortunately, I could not prove the connection between Jules Moëd's family information and the family trees listed in *Unbroken Chain*. I contacted Dr. Rosenstein, who asked me to send him the family information. He is a kind, gracious man, who obviously values family and tradition. At this time, we can not prove that our families are related.

Up to this point, everything was given to me or told to me. I simply computerized and printed. I had not done any independent research. Now my primary software is Sierra's *Generations*, formerly *Reunion*. I am also using *Family Tree Maker for Windows*; however, *Generations* has superior ability for creating, editing, and saving charts.

I now have the Marriage Certificate for my grandparents Samuel Moëd and Anna Levin Moëd. Her parents were Julius Levin and Sarah Sevitsky (or Levitsky). His parents were listed as Isaac Moëd and Baba Myers. I did not know if this was Bubba Moëd, or if she married again. I later found out from my cousin Art Blutstein that it was Becky (or Betty) Moëd, and he sent me her death certificate, which contained the name of her parents, Isaac Belkoff and Resa Fine. I was particularly touched because this was the Bubby that I was named after, and Art sent me the original certificate and kept a photocopy for himself.

What could be more fun than surprising family with a call? Everyone was so pleased to hear from me. Some had only met me once; some only knew me from the family chart. Some had never heard of me. We learned from each other. The FAX machine and telephone hummed with several generations.

Continued on page 11

HOW AND WHEN WERE YOU BITTEN BY THE "GENEALOGY BUG".... COMMENTS FROM SOME MEMBERS OF THE JGSGO

From: Barbara Berman, Cocoa Beach, FL

My mother died five years ago. My mother never talked much about her youth. She was brought up in an orphanage and had quite a difficult time. After her death, I realized how little I knew about her, my father, my husband's family, etc. As a way of coping with my own grief, I decided I would just find out a little about our ancestors for the sake of my own children and grandchildren. Little did I know where this road would take me!

I took a class at Brevard Community College, and began to interview still living members of the families. The reaction of the family members I interviewed was amazing. They loved telling their stories. We met family members we did not know, or hadn't seen in years. What had started as a simple search soon became a spiritual journey for me. I began to feel I knew these people I researched; I began to learn about history and geography of the times; I began to feel as if I were a thread in a huge tapestry - it had a beginning, it has a middle (now), and hopefully it will never end. I feel that I am on a fabulous journey. When will it end? It probably won't!!!.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

More from: Barbara Berman

Quite a lot, as I have learned. One branch of my husband's family, maternal side, are the Nusssdorfs. Several years ago Lewis' Uncle gave me a copy of a family tree that had been made by one of the Nusssdorfs in 1980. It was a great, and amazing, source of information as it went back to 1772! Certainly not usual in the research I had been doing for both sides of our family.

Using that information, I delved in the Social Security Death Index, death certificates, naturalization records, ship records and found some fantastic information. But a great key to the past was handed to me in the following way: Nusssdorf is not a common name. I used the Internet to find all the Nusssdorfs I could, their current addresses and phone numbers. I then took the ones that had names that were family names, sent them a brief letter and explanation of what I was doing. Well, I hit pay dirt with one particular name. It turns out that he is the District Attorney for Queens County and is very interested in our family history. He asked me if I knew the story behind the name "Nusssdorf". I said I had not heard it. He said it was a story orally handed down from one generation to another. Here is what he told me:

There is a town near Vienna, Austria named Nusssdorf. In about 1720, some sort of pogrom came through the town killing most of the Jews. At that times, the Jews did

not have last names. Three brothers escaped. They were Menachem, Abraham, and Eleazar. They decided, for safety sake, to go to three different parts of the world and to take the name "Nusssdorf" so that they could keep in touch. Menachem went to Galicia. One went to a town near Berlin and one went to Hungary. Supposedly, all Jewish Nusssdorfs are related to one of these three brothers. My husband's family comes from Menachem and the Galician branch.

So if you know of any Nusssdorfs, let me know! We are probably related!!!

* * * * *

From: Richard Musgrave, Orlando, FL

I have had several false starts about looking into my ancestors. Two of my co-workers, Larry Rosen, who you know and Jack another co-worker have done considerably more work than I have so far. Larry especially has had some enthusiastic conversations with me about how to do research. About 1 1/2 years ago, my wife and I visited some of my relatives in Indiana and Ohio. One of my cousins in Ohio has done a lot of research and sent me copies of all the work she has completed so far. I now know quite a bit about my father's mother and her ancestors. I know minimal about my other grandparents as yet.

My mother's parents are about all I know about her side of the family. That will take another burst of energy by me as my job allows.

I have enjoyed the meetings that I have been able to attend and will attend more as time allows.

* * * * *

From: Teresa Finer, Orlando, FL

I always enjoyed my grandparents' stories about where they were born, especially my Grandma Rose's stories about Zamosc, Poland, repeated in some detail. But I never took the time to try to put it all together until just before we moved to Orlando in 1989. My Dad took me with him to Chattanooga for his great-uncle Nathan Levine's 90th birthday. We visited with cousins there and made a trip to the cemetery, also. The Jewish cemetery is on a little hill - it's not a very big place and you get the feeling that the whole Jewish community is right there. I think the trip to the cemetery must have put me in a thoughtful mood. In a casual conversation that afternoon, Barney Brody, my Dad's mother's cousin, told us what he knew about my Dad's great grandfather in Lithuania. I took some notes and somehow I guess Dad convinced me to continue with it. Right after that, we moved from Atlanta to Orlando and the JGSGO was just forming - so I joined! I learned so much from the group that year and although I haven't come to the meetings for some time, I am still actively involved with research from home. I recently found my great great great grandparents from Rokiskis (Rakishak), Lithuania through the LitvakSIG.

Continued....

Bitten by the "Genealogy Bug".....

COMMENTS FROM SOME MEMBERS OF THE JGSGO

From: King William Halikman, Maitland, FL

Actually I was always interested in family and where they came from, but I never seemed to get organized to set up a data base.

In 1990 my father who was 100 years old, and had been living with a young couple (in their 80's), came to live with us because they were unable to assist him anymore.. At the same time I acquired the genealogy program from Parsons Technology. I started querying my father about all those names of family that he always mentioned, only this time I was able to put them in the family tree, so I could understand and view the relationships.

I started pumping family members. Writing and calling them, for information. My data base swelled. In 1993 I joined Orlando JGS, and spent a productive year, learning new techniques to acquire data.

This is something that I will pursue for the rest of my life. Trying to learn all about the history of those who came before me, to provide a specialized history for those who will come after me.

* * * * *

From: Shirley Weiss Michael, Maitland, FL

Not knowing much about my parents, I became interested in genealogy in 1988. My mother died when I was 9 years old and back in those days my father really never talked much about his family or my mother's family. My problem was where do I start since my father was born in Czechoslovakia and my mother was born in Hungary and I had no information. I thought I'll never be able to find out anything. I began talking to my friend Ann Mohr Osisek, who is a genealogist and told her what I wanted to do and as far as I was concerned I would never be able to find out anything, since most of the family perished in the Holocaust. Her reply to me was "oh no, there are ways you can find out". She convinced me to take a genealogy class at Winter Park High School and that was the beginning of my search. I then asked the family to send me or tell me anything that they remember about the family. Luckily, my sister Harriet saved a letter that my father wrote to my niece Cheryl in 1970. Cheryl had a school project that required finding out about her family history. In that letter was enough for me to get started which I did. One thing led to another, I now have documents, licenses, birth certificates, etc. that I thought I would never be able to find. Yes, there are ways you can find information, it might take months but it is out there.

From: Bob Kornspan, Port Orange, FL

Sometime about 1984 I began to take an interest in our family histories. Two things occurred which really made me think about the subject. The first was that my mother, who was very knowledgeable about the families of her parents, began to show signs of Alzheimer's disease. She already was difficult to interview and to my surprise, her siblings although younger appeared to have little of that same knowledge. At about the same time, my youngest daughter came to me and started to ask questions so she could compile a family tree for her sociology class. I suddenly realized I couldn't answer most of the questions. I decided it was time to do some researching of the different families, and although I was still working full time at that point, I began to spend some of my weekends, down at the Archives, or the Library of Congress. We lived in the Washington, D.C. area so this wasn't too difficult, although many other chores around the house were put off as long as possible.

At the beginning of my researching, I started compiling descendancy charts by hand, using large sheet of paper and drawing lines with ink. The text was done using a typewriter on glue-backed paper. Once the chart was completed, I would use a zerox, and reduce the chart to page size. These charts were used to send to distant family members, to get additional information to add to them. This was a very difficult task, and was very labor intensive. I was constantly cutting and pasting various sections of the charts. It was several years later that I devised a way to use a drawing program to compile charts on the computer. I now have more than 100 family descendancy charts that I keep in the various Family Books.

I must mention that one of the first ways that I discovered the existence of many family members was by going through address and telephone listings which at that time were found on microfiche at the local public library. They were listed by state, and city. Only the largest cities were to be found, however. I just looked for the name of "Kornspan", and discovered about 40 different people with that name. They were found in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Florida, California, etc. I was amazed at this since growing up in the D.C. I knew of only my grandfather, my dad, and his two brothers with that name. When I asked my day about this, he started talking about some of the families that he was aware of. However, most of the names were new to him as well. So began my family researching which is now taking me overseas as well. I am still as enthusiastic as I was in the very beginning, but find information much more difficult to obtain at this point. I hope to continue this project as long as I am able.

For information about the JGS International Conference in New York City

Visit our web page: <http://members.aol.com/nyc99conf>

E-mail: nyc99conf@aol.com

Write: Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc.

600 West End Avenue, Suite 10F

New York, NY 10024

CONTINUED....

BITTEN BY THE "GENEALOGY BUG"

COMMENTS FROM SOME MEMBERS OF THE JGSGO

From: George Sackheim, Skokie, IL

It has been the custom in my family that the original family tree be handed down to the eldest son before his wedding. So, just before I was married I received my copy which then began a life-long quest into my family history.

The tree was a rabbinic one, meaning that it listed only rabbis, chief rabbis, and gaonim. Women were not mentioned unless they married a rabbi and sons were not mentioned at all if they were not rabbis. The connections to other rabbis was very prevalent since who else was there to marry?

My tree had about 125 names which, in the past 52 years, I have expanded to over 37,000 names by including all descendants.

In the old days, before computers, email, and JewishGen we had to rely on such items as ordinary and airmail plus occasional phone calls. Over half a century ago, there were very, very few of us Jewish genealogists available to work together.

I recall having over 10,000 3 x 5 cards with family data on each. Would you like to try to alphabetize such a list by hand?

My suggestions to modern Jewish genealogists is to set yourself an impossible goal and then work ceaselessly until you accomplish it. I did it and so can you!

From: Arlene Parnes, Orlando, FL

As part of the "Project Mosaic" here in Orlando, on Wednesday, January 15, 1992, Rabbi Malcolm Stern, founding father of American Jewish Genealogy, served as the closing Distinguished Lecturer at the Congregation of Liberal Judaism. As Maddy (Madeline Keane) and I had know him quite well in New York City while I was working at the UAHC, we decided to go just to say 'hello'. Well, he asked us why we weren't tracking down ancestors. I mentioned that Grandpa Louis Parnes had written a book about his life in the Vishnevets Shtetl and after he came to America and we had a copy of that book. Malcom said that we had a wonderful headstart - so go to it. He also offered his help if we got stuck (and we did take him on his offer several times).

After attending the JGS Workshop that year we took a course with Ann Osisek and were off on the long climb. Maddy did the research, I did the computer work. There are now over 2,300 people in my database - all due to Madeline's perseverance, I only take credit for the computer part. All research has stopped without her.

Editor's Note: *Maddy, Arlene's long-time friend and companion, passed away on March 6, 1997*

From: Lillian Weitzel, Orlando, FL

I always found family stories very interesting. I found out about JGSGO at a Chanukah Arts Festival, went to a meeting, and really enjoyed it. History and historical novels have always appealed to me and genealogy personalizes history. It's been so many years since I've become a member that I don't remember when it was. I think the JGS was a couple of years old. Gene Starn was president and Audrey Pearlman was in charge of refreshments. The thing that sticks in my mind the most was the solution to an argument between my dad and me. He said his mother's maiden name was Sapiro, but I clearly remember an address label on a Yiddish newspaper with, Gita Shapiro Weitzel. Well, she was from Lithuania where "sh" is pronounced "s". I learned that at a meeting.

I can only go back as far as my great-grandparents and not even all of them because Grandma Weitzel didn't know her mother's maiden name. Her first name was Dveira. Now I'm searching for the following names: Weitzel, Lipkin, Shapiro Friedman, Fishman, Strongin and Goldberg.

From: Phyllis Berger, Leesburg, FL

It must have been in the early '50s when I realized that Grandpa Max, spoke 6 different languages. As a child I was amazed and when I asked he, he replied quite simply that his country of Austria-Hungary had been taken over a few times by different countries and that he had to learn the languages to survive. It was then that I was bitten. Too young to realize the depth to which I was to go at a much later date, I simply asked Grampa Max, where he was from and I wrote it down. A few years later I tried to get a record from immigration but hit a brick wall. Unfortunately, my maternal and paternal grandparents died before genealogy was popular and the bug which had been buried under marriage and children burrowed its way out and took hold.

I am currently, slowly and painfully trying to put together 7 albums for my children and my nephews, so that they will know the very rich heritage that they all share.

From: Elaine Apter, Maitland, FL

The genealogy bug bit me when I accompanied a group of Wymore students on a field trip to search their ancestors. They had filled out genealogy forms with the help of family members at home. We then went to Orange County Public Library and started searching the census records. They were so excited when they found relatives. Of course, it was fairly easy for them, most were searching small counties in Alabama, South Carolina and Georgia. I thought, this is fun, I'm going to try it. So a few weeks later I journeyed to the library and started searching for MAX LEVINE in BROOKLYN NEW YORK. To make a long story short, my search did not result in instantaneous gratification, but I was hooked.

continued

You Must Have the Wits to Ask....

By: Beryle Solomon Buchman

Inspired by family history written by Richard Sherins and my son Kenneth, I encouraged others to write stories. Robert Sherins and I have collaborated on several books. Many anecdotes were also written by Esther Moëd Oster, Sigy Moëd, Daniel Oster, Harriet Neuwirth Buchman, and my granddaughters, Katherine Elizabeth Buchman and Stephanie Leigh Buchman.

My Hewlett Packard LaserJet printer squeaked out volumes of crisp looking charts, reports, and outlines. The copies that I gave away began to have style. A Table of Contents created by Microsoft *Word* plus all the information created by *Generations* were arranged in a notebook. The most popular item was the Relationship Chart. I gave copies to several relatives. Some helped by adding; some totally ignored the information.

I took copies of an earlier version of this document to the Jewish Genealogy Seminar in Washington D.C. in June 1995, hoping that someone would recognize the family names in this paper. I am still trying to learn how to research, but the best part is staying in touch with family and friends and sharing the information. You can not find out if you do not have the capacity to inquire. Unlike the fourth son at Passover, you must have the wits to ask.

Byrle Solomon Buchman of Plant City, FL, is a retired teacher, the family computer guru, and Bubby.

READER'S COMMENT:

From Michael Steinore, Lake Oswego, OR

(Michael Steinore has contributed several articles in the past to Etz Chaim. His comments now refer to the article "A FORGOTTEN YIDDISH PAST" which appeared in Etz Chaim, Vol. 9 No. 3, Spring 1999).

"Like Marshall Frenkel, I must take exception to a quote by Dovid Katz in the article by Michael Tarm: 'The full scope of Hitler's work is only becoming apparent now...' Obviously the Holocaust destroyed the bulk of Yiddish speakers, but it's clear that Yiddish use was shrinking long before Hitler. Reasons:

The end of the shtetl and isolation of Jews in their communities. Jews who immigrated to America were rapidly assimilating. As early as 1915 the Forward (a Yiddish newspaper) began including an English page for the children of immigrants because they couldn't read Yiddish. The Soviets suppressed Judaism decades before Hitler arrived and in fact Sovietized the Yiddish language, thereby cutting off Russian Jews from the world's Yiddish and vice versa. (I posted a note on Jewishgen about a Dictionary of Sovietized Yiddish that is available in Portland, OR) The decision by Israel to adopt Hebrew over Yiddish. It would be difficult for any language to thrive without a national anchor."

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Jewish Orphanages in the US, Website- Update

By: Marge Spears-Soloff

Announcing a brand new page called Alumni Reunions on my website, HNOH Welcome-Jewish Orphanages in the US at <http://www.scruz.net/~elias/hnoh>

This will be a new genealogical resource as it will include many maiden names of females from different Jewish orphanages as well as dates and states of residence. The first one posted has 276 names from the 1979 reunion of the Chicago Home for Jewish Orphans established in 1893.

New information has also been added to the Chicago section on the Jewish Orphanages Page with addresses for accessing possible records. Many new photos have been added to the Memorial Page and the Orphans and Foundlings Burial Page has a few new abstracts.

Over 60 new URLs have been added to the Jewish Genealogy Resource Page and Other Resource Page which now totals over 700 URL links to thousands of sites on the Internet for research. Both pages were also revamped for easier access to different categories.

Marge Spears-Soloff, Orlando, FL

<http://www.scruz.net/~elias/hnoh>

**Genealogy...it's not a hobby...it's an
obsession.**

Arlene Parnes, 1999

JGSGO MEMBER HONORED BY ANCESTRY.COM

Marge Spears-Soloff, a member of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando (JGSGO) since 1997, was named the recipient of a special award from Ancestry.com, the largest online Genealogy Library on the Internet, for her work with a website on Jewish Orphanages, it was announced by Juliana S. Smith, editor of Ancestry Daily News.

The website, <http://www.scruz.net/~elias/hnoh> was initiated in October 1997 by Marge to perpetuate the history of Jewish Orphanages and to assist individuals seeking information about orphan relatives. Reacting to the announcement, Marge Spears Soloff said, "I'm really excited about the award and my good friend 'Brother' Sam Myers, an HNOH alumnus in Oregon who helped inspire me to establish this website, is completely overwhelmed!" Smith wrote Mrs. Spear-Soloff "in recognition of excellence in providing the genealogical community with this valuable research site, Ancestry.com is happy to announce that your site Hebrew National Orphan Home Alumni has been awarded the 'Family History Favorite Award.' Congratulations on a job well done."

Ancestry also provided a computerized plaque to be used on the HNOH web site and featured its activities on the Internet on Wednesday April 21. In addition an article about the website will appear in an upcoming issue of Ancestry Magazine.

The website has grown and according to Marge, now offers information about Jewish Orphanages in the United States in

23 States, 49 Cities as well as historical and archival information for 100 of the orphanages. Also included on the website are photographs, book lists, information on social service agencies, orphan trains, census records, and links to additional sites that could be useful in genealogical research. "Another section containing Orphans and Foundlings Interred in Free Burial in New York area cemeteries has also been added spanning the years of 1880-1920. As of now it includes 139 children with genealogical information and will be updated as new information is acquired," Marge Spears-Soloff said.

Gene Starn, Editor Emeritus of the Heritage and founder of the local Jewish genealogical society featured Marge Spears-Soloff and her website in his March 19 column, *My Thoughts ...and Yours!* (See page 13). Jay Schleichkorn, president, congratulated Marge and her husband Jerry. "It's most gratifying to see Marge receive recognition for her active and willing participation that has benefited so many people in the genealogical community not only locally but nationally and internationally," Schleichkorn said.

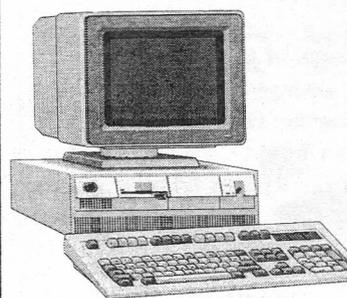


FGS on the Internet

One would assume that our JGSGO members are well aware how to use Jewishgen in their genealogical projects. If not, just search for Jewishgen and a wealth of information becomes available.

Our JGSGO is also a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies, based in Richardson, Texas. The FGS consists of more than 500 member societies and over 200,000 genealogists. The organization publishes FORUM, a quarterly journal providing current information on subjects of interest to serious genealogists. Each FGS member society receives two free copies of FORUM. Check our JGSGO library or speak with our librarian, Carl Migden, about the publications on file.

It is also possible as individuals to subscribe to FORUM at a discounted rate of \$11 per year. FGS reports that 4,000 genealogists personally subscribe to the magazine.



On the Internet, FGS may be found at <http://www.fgs.org>. The site provides much useful data such as a list of Federation activities, latest data on records preservation and access issues including current "hot" calendar of important Federation dates such as annual conference dates and current events, lists of publications for sale, listing member societies, details on projects including the Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System and Librarians serving genealogists.

FGS, since 1983, the Malcom H. Stern NARA Gift Fund has contributed \$94,416 to the National Archives and Records Administration to create finding aids and produces microfilms of interest to the genealogical community. It has been funded primarily by \$1 contributions by members of genealogical societies. To date, among the projects funded are: Microfiche street indexes to 39 of the largest cities in the 1910 U.S. census which were not soundexed; Duplication of enumeration district descriptions for the 1920 census; Index to War of 1812 Prisoner of War records; Canadian Border Crossings, 1895-1954; Galveston Passenger Arrival records 1896-1948.

Access to the materials is through any of the Regional National Archives and through any of the LDS Family History Centers in the world.

David E. Rencher, President of FGS recently wrote, "Your society's membership in the Federation continues to be a vital part of uniting the collective voice of over 200,000 genealogists and local historians nationwide."

"We are always coming up with the emphatic facts of history in our private experience and verifying them here. All history becomes subjective; in other words, there is properly no history; only biography."
----- Ralph Waldo Emerson, 1803-1882

HERITAGE

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My Thoughts ... and Yours!

Gene Starn, Editor Emeritus

Opening the doors to Jewish orphan homes

She wasn't an orphan herself. Nor was her husband, Jerry. But Marjorie Spears Soloff has probably done more to open the doors of Jewish orphan homes in this country than anyone could even have imagined just a few years ago.

Today, on the Internet, people from every corner of the world are storming to this Orlando woman's website for information about one of their relatives, or for someone they knew, who had spent time in one of the many Jewish institutions for foundlings. Her site is loaded with information about the Jewish orphanages, including their histories, locations, how to access their records, and where alumni groups are located.

The list begins with the earliest known Jewish orphanage in Charleston, S.C., in 1801 and contains a growing list of nearly 100 such Jewish homes. Also catalogued are the cities that had Jewish social service agencies that handled adoptions and foster care for Jewish children.

How did it all begin? And why?

Well, Marge says her first exposure to Jewish orphans came when she was about 10 years old. It was the time of the blizzard in 1947, around Chanukah, when a group of young boys from the Hebrew National Orphans Home in Yonkers, N.Y., came for a holiday dinner at the apartment house where her family lived in Mt. Vernon, N.Y. Blowing winds caused large drifts and their bus soon was stuck in a snowbank, preventing them from going back to the home. Marge was called upon to help find places for the boys to stay in the building. She remembers racing up and down the stairs, not even waiting for the elevator, to find each boy a place to sleep. The next day, the bus was still stuck. So, with her parents permission, she took them all to see a movie.

Skip to 1958. Now married, Marge and Jerry were shopping in Yonkers for a pair of leather gloves. The salesman behind the counter kept staring at them as if he'd seen a

ghost, and when Jerry signed his name to a check to pay for the gloves, the salesman was in great shock. He noted the name "Soloff" on the check, and unbeknownst to Marge at the time, was that Jerry's father, Jacob, and some of his siblings had been at the Hebrew National Orphans Home, some years before she was even born. The salesman, it turned out, had been best friends with Jerry's uncle, David Soloff, who had died in 1935 at the young age of 26. It seems that Marge's husband resembled his uncle immensely.

Over the years, Marge never learned much about Jerry's father's stay at HNOH because of his secretiveness. But three years ago she began looking into her father-in-law's roots. She searched the Internet for anything about the Jewish home. She began an e-mail correspondence with a "brother," as the former residents are called, in Oregon. A few months later she found the Jewish Child Care Association in New York and within weeks found out quite a bit about her father-in-law, his parents, and even where her husband's grandparents were from.

One day a video arrived in the mail from her Oregon friend, called "Our Childhood ... Remembered," put together by several of the Brothers. After shedding a few tears and some laughter, Marge established her website as a "gift of love and devotion to all the new friends" she had met, and to perpetuate the history and memories of all the brothers of the Hebrew National Orphan Home.

Her site has grown tremendously since her first efforts. Each day she receives new information and new sources of data about the Jewish foundlings of yesterday. Today at her website, she has some 600 links to the sources of information she has gathered.

We always hear about Jews taking care of their own. But the standards of care in yesteryears were not always as we think of them today. For instance, a Jewish orphan in those days was defined as anyone who had

Note: This is a story about JGSGO member, Marge Spears-Soloff, and her work with the Jewish orphanages website. The article was written by Gene Starn, founder and past president of the JGSGO and Editor Emeritus of the HERITAGE.

lost his father. Or there were instances when children were taken from their parents because of extenuating circumstances: illness or poverty.

From the 1850s until 1929, thousands of young Jewish children were put aboard "orphan trains" and shipped en masse to foster parents in the Midwest, to be given new names and religions, never to see their birth mother or father again.

Marge's work has been acclaimed by people the world over. Typical is this letter she received recently:

"I am a 51-year-old female adoptee that has just very recently found a brother that I had been in search of for 30 years. All I know so far is that he was adopted from the Hebrew Kindergarten and Infants Home in Far Rockaway, N.Y. I had known from the time I was a small child that I was adopted, and my birth family was Jewish, however I was adopted into an Irish Catholic family and was raised as such. Going through this website, seeing pictures, reading of memories, somehow adds a connection to my knowledge of being Jewish, yet at the same time a very deep sadness overcomes me since I was not raised in the faith. I simply want to thank you for adding this website for all to see."

If you're interested in learning more about the Jewish orphanages, the "brothers" and Marge Spears-Soloff herself, and the amazing work she is doing, her address on the Web is <<http://www.scruz.net/~elias/hnoh>>.

* * * * *

"MY THOUGHTS ...AND YOURS"
welcomes reader response and input. To participate phone Gene Starn at his home at 788-3898 (or leave a message), or FAX to 831-0507, or write him at P.O. Box 520583, Longwood, FL 32752 or E-Mail to "genes@iag.net",

Names will be withheld if requested, but anonymous communications will be ignored.

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How to Get Your Family Tree Online

by James Gross

Are you interested in putting your tree on the web so others can see & compare their trees to yours? If so, here are a few steps that may help you reach this goal.

- 1) Get a gedcom ready genealogy program
- 2) Get a gedcom filter
- 3) Get a gedcom webpage creator
- 4) Get a bulk ftp uploading software
- 5) Get space on a website

1) *Get a gedcom ready genealogy program*

To start off you will need to use a genealogy software that allows you to export a gedcom file. Most of the major programs do this. One such program is called Brothers keeper, and provides for gedcom export. URL:

(ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/Brothers_Keeper/)

You can do a search on the web under "genealogy software" to see what is currently available. I also suggest asking your genealogy friends what they program they use and if they like it. Make sure its user friendly. For example, I am still using Brothers Keeper's older DOS version because I like it more than the windows version. To a large extent, use of a particular software program is determined by taste.

2) *Get a gedcom filter*

While working on inputting your family tree data, you should be aware that there is a filter available to screen your genealogy gedcom program for live relatives. I used the words "while Working" loosely as many of you have probably already input your data into a gedcom ready genealogy program. Unfortunately, the gedcom filter requires a special keyword to be added to every live person. So why bother?

Due to issues of privacy and security, it is a good idea to use this filter. What it does is delete info that will be read by the public on live relatives. They will still be linked to the deceased relatives, but will not show dates of birth, etc. This filter is Gedpage (www.frontiernet.net/~rjacob/gedpage.htm) Another similar program that I just came across on the web, and have not tried, is called Repriva. (www.ozemail.com.au/~naibor/rpriv.html)

Be aware that the Gedpage program is rather picky. It works as follows: You MUST type in the word "ALIVE!" for each live relative so that it appears as a data field in the outputted gedcom file. This word acts as a keyword, identifying live relatives. I realize that this instruction may sound complex as it did for me. When I say data field everyone starts scratching their head. When you type info into your genealogy program, those spaces are data fields. When you generate a gedcom file from your genealogy software, one of the steps involves you telling your program what fields to export. As you are not a gedcom expert, this can take some time until you get it right.

For those of you, like myself, who already have data existing in a genealogy program, you will want to do this without mistakes. In order to get this right, I suggest that you play around with a very small gedcom export and verify that you are inputting the word "ALIVE!" in the correct data field and exporting it correctly into the gedcom file. In other words, export just your immediate family, and verify, with a simple text editor, that the word "ALIVE!" actually appears in a data field. In my case, I used an extra data field and advised my brothers keeper program to call it "RETI". This data field is not recognized as a standard gedcom field so it was exported in my gedcom file but considered to be a hidden field by . Since it has a data line, it is picked up by my gedcom filter, "Gedclean". Once you have the word "ALIVE!" inputted, things will go faster.

Once you have finished inputting the word "ALIVE!" into all your breathing relatives files, and have exported the gedcom file, you are ready for the next step.

3) *Get a gedcom webpage creator*

To create my html files I used a software program called Gedpage. Its URL is: (www.frontiernet.net/~rjacob/gedpage.html). I clicked off the options for sources, notes, and e-mail address as I already had preset headers and footers from my existing webpage. If you don't have any preferred headers/footers, then let the program create it for you. This program takes a while to generate the file. When it is done you will have over 400 files. There are a few key files that you should double-check prior to uploading on the web. They are: surnames.htm, names1.htm, names2.htm. I found it was necessary to use a regular text editor here. The names 1 & 2 is a link by name, aka james gross, to all your names. I pasted part of names1 to names2 to make both files equal in length. This allows for faster loading by the user. I also did some deleting for those miscellaneous people whom I didn't want listed. I had some maiden names that I wanted in alphabetical order, so I had to move them around too. The surnames wasn't too bad except I wanted to center it and adjust its size. It helps if you have a rudimentary knowledge of html. You can do all of this without any such knowledge, but it doesn't hurt to know a little bit.

4) *Get bulk ftp uploading software*

After you generate your genealogy pages from your gedcom file, you will be sitting on an excess of 400 files. This is quite a large number of files to upload by hand and, realistically, calls for a bulk ftp program. Regardless of which operating system you are using (win 3.1 or win95), the only program I found to work is called cute ftp(www.cuteftp.com/Cuteftp/index.html). This program is available as a free download. I tried this program, which is available in either 16 bit or 32 bit. I found the 32 bit (win95) version to work effectively. A company techie advised me that the 16 bit version was old and recommended the Win95 version. You should have no problem uploading your entire file into your website directory.



FROM THE JGSGO LIBRARIAN



— Carl R. Migden —

The Quarterly Journals of Jewish Genealogical Societies from around the world as well as the Special Interest Group's (SIG) publications and AVOTAYNU, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy, are kept on file in our library in the Holocaust Center, Maitland.

Most of the Journals have information useful to genealogists depending upon their own interests. Listed below are some articles from journals that may be of interest to our readers. Come visit the library! ☺

The Kielce - Radom - Special Interest Group Journal
covering Kingdom of Poland, 1867-1917
Orlando, Florida - Winter, 1999

HIDDEN TREASURES IN POLISH VITAL RECORDS
by Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis

ROOTS - KEY - Los Angeles, Cal. - Winter, 1999
A Trip to the German Rhineland
by Fred Levy

DOROT - New York - Winter - 1998-99
"My Name Was Changed at Ellis Island" - A Myth
by Michael Steinmore

MISHPACHA - Greater Washington - Winter 1999
A Trip to France, Poland, and Slovakia (Part I)
by Rita Permut

MASS-POCHA - Boston, Mass. Winter 1999
A Ukrainian Shtetl Tour
by Donald Campbell Lockhart

The Kielce - Radom - Special Interest Group Journal
covering Kingdom of Poland, 1867-1917
Orlando, Florida - Autumn, 1998

Index vs. Extract vs. Translation
by Lauren B. Eisenberg Davis

5) Get space on a website

When you finally finish generating your webpage html index using your software, as exemplified by my use of Gedpage, you will need to upload it somewhere. There are several companies which offer webspace and your web provider has probably already allocated you some space. The problem with using your providers space is that if and when you stop using your provider, your website will be shut down. If you don't mind this eventuality, then use your provider. In my case, I have web access thru my local Snip provider. Though Snip offers free webpage space I am not using it as my site is listed by other websites as well as indexed by several search engines on the web. This process of getting indexed doesn't happen overnight and I'd like to avoid breaking all the existing links to my website.

With regard to using my providers e-mail address vs a "free" e-mail address, I would give no hope of contacting everyone should my e-mail suddenly change as I have people as far away as Israel and S Africa. It is for this reason that I use a free and unchanging e-mail address, called juno, and a free and unchanging website provider called geocities. There are other free web based e-mail providers like yahoo and hotmail. There are also other free website providers like tripod. It is something that you can look into and decide upon.

Thank you for your time. Please be aware that I don't get any kickbacks for any software recommendations. For more info on gedcom & related software, try the following websites:

(www.genhomepage.com/com/software.html)

(opax.swin.edu.au/andrew/gensoft.html)

Editor's Note: James Gross of Cherry Hill, NJ is a member of the JGS Philadelphia. He has been involved in genealogy for eight years and is researching the families of Steinberg, Shulman, Sidel, Geringer and Neubauer. His e-mail is: larklane@juno.com In correspondence with the Etz Chaim editor, he voluntarily offered this article to JGSGO as well as to other JGS newsletters.

Humor only Genealogists can appreciate

Part II from: Roslyn Downey, Winter Park, FL

I'm searching for myself; Have you seen me?

If only people came with pull-down menus and on-line help...

Isn't genealogy fun? The answer to one problem, leads to two more!

It's 1999... Do you know where your-Great-G...-Grandparents are?

Am I the only person up my tree ... sure seems like it

FLOOR: The place for storing your priceless genealogy records.

Gene-Allergy: It's a contagious disease, but I love it

Genealogists are time unravelers

Genealogy is like playing hide and seek: They hide... I seek!

Genealogy: Tracing yourself back to better people

"Crazy" is a relative term in my family

A pack rat is hard to live with, but makes a fine ancestor

I want to find ALL of them! So far I only have a few thousand

I Should have asked them BEFORE they died!

I think my ancestors had several "Bad heir" days

I'm always late. My ancestors arrived on the JUNEflower

Only a Genealogist regards a step backwards, as progress/

**The Jewish Genealogical Society
invites you to attend**



New York...Gateway to America

**19th Annual Conference on Jewish Genealogy
August 8-13, 1999**

**Marriott Marquis Hotel
Broadway & 46th Street, New York, NY**

See page 9 for e-mail and web site



Jewish Genealogical Society
Of Greater Orlando
P.O. Box 9411332
Maitland, FL 32794

Steven Spielberg, accepting the
Academy Award as best
director Sunday, March 21/99
*“To my father, appreciation
for teaching me that there’s
honor in respecting the
past”*

TO/