YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR 24th ANNUAL
LUNCH ‘n LEARN — Sunday, February 22, 2015
Delray Beach Golf Club

Our annual Lunch ‘n Learn will be at the
Delray Beach Golf Club on Sunday, February
22, 2015. Our speaker will be Genie Milgrom.
Her talk will be entitled “MY 15 GRANDMOTHERS AND HOW I FOUND THEM.”

Genie Milgrom was born in Havana, Cuba into
a Roman Catholic family of Spanish ancestry.
She was always interested in her family
genealogy, but when she learned of the
possibility of having Converso Jewish roots,
her search for the truth about her family’s
past took on a deeper significance.

In an unparalleled genealogical undertaking,
she was able to fully document her unbroken
maternal lineage, going back as far as 1480,
to pre-Inquisition Spain and Portugal.

She has travelled extensively into Fermoselle,
the village of her ancestors in the Zamora
region of Spain, while doing field research on
the past Jews of Fermoselle.

Currently, she is the President of the Jewish
Genealogical Society of Greater Miami,
President of Tarbut-Sefarad-Fermoselle in
Spain, as well as President of the Society of
Crypto Judaic Studies at Colorado State
University, in Colorado Springs.

In addition to all of the above, she is also the
author of the book My 15 Grandmothers as well
as How I Found My 15 Grandmothers, A Step by
Step Guide. She also writes for several online
sites that include www.esafarad.com, as well
as the Journal of Spanish, Portuguese and
Italian Crypto Jewry. Her work has been
showcased in the Jerusalem Post, The Miami
Herald, and publications around the world.
She was awarded the State of Florida
Genealogy Award for her outstanding
achievements and advances in the pioneer
work she has done in genealogy.

(See page 8 for additional information
and registration form.)

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VOLUME 22, NUMBER ONE     FIRST QUARTER, 2015
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Member IAJGS, Florida State Genealogical Society

Request for Articles

Article contributions, preferably by email, are invited for inclusion in Scattered Seeds. Quarterly deadlines are December 1, March 1, June 1, and September 1. Editor reserves the right to accept, revise, or reject all submissions. To increase computer compatibility, please send without formatting in one of the following: .doc (e.g. WORD), .rtf (rich text format), or .Pages (Mac).
Contact Editor: Tina Gudin Korn, editor@jgspalmbeachcounty.org or send typed articles to: JGSPBCI, Attention Editor, P.O. Box 7796, Delray Beach, FL 33482-7796.

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Statement of Ownership: Scattered Seeds is the publication of the JGSPBCI, a not-for-profit educational organization.

The newsletter, issued quarterly, is a free publication distributed to paid members and Jewish genealogical societies throughout the world. Back issues are available at no charge on our website: http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org
I’m taking a break, albeit a short one from my research to wish you all a Happy and a Healthy New Year. 2015…WOW! Where did the past year go? We all know that the older we get, the faster the years seem to slip by. Since I’m always thinking ahead (I’m pathologically early; it’s in my genes) we’re already planning programming for the 2015/2016 season.

The first sessions of Personal Help Day (at the JGSPBCI JCC Library*) are history and were a rousing success. It never ceases to amaze me what can be accomplished in a short period of time, when the student to teacher ratio is 2:1. Even I picked up a couple of tips in regard to research! We’re making plans for January 21st and March 18th. I urge you to sign up early, as we only take ten members at a time. While it is not mandatory that you have a tablet or laptop, it certainly is to your advantage, when you attend one of our intensive research days.

We’re in the early stages of cooperating on yet another IAJGS project, i.e. documenting MEMORIAL PLAQUES at synagogues and temples of Palm Beach County. If you are interested in helping with this VERY worthwhile endeavor, please get in touch with me via email or phone.

I’m looking forward to taking part in my first JGSPBCI Symposium on January 25. I was assigned to cover FamilySearch and how fortuitous, as it’s my second favorite website for genealogical research. What’s my first choice? Hands down, it’s Ancestry with JewishGen as part of the trifecta.

Membership meetings can get a wee bit hectic, so I’m looking forward to our Symposium and Annual Lunch ‘n Learn as venues to relax and to talk shop with many of you.

This past spring was my tenth anniversary for research, and in that rather short time period, genealogically speaking, I have learned a LOT. I guess that my first job out of school, as a 90 day skip tracer for Borg Warner, put me in good stead to cover the rigors of finding people. Some have still eluded me, but rest assured I will find them. One of my many mottos is “never give up.”

*Cindy

* Rose Merry L. Plough Media Resource and Reading Center located in the Phyllis & Harvey Sandler Center for Jewish Life Enhancement at the Levis Jewish Community Center campus in Boca Raton, Florida. (See map and directions.)
Message from Editor

Tina Korn

I acknowledge that names of our ancestors were dictated in foreign languages and then written in English on ship’s manifests, Census records, birth certificates and other important documents that we use today to try to trace our ancestry.

I’ve found the ship’s manifest listing my maternal grandparents’ arrival to Canada with the spelling of their last name as “Storch.” My grandfather’s Voter Registration card has his name written as “Starch.” His actual name, “Stark” is etched on his tombstone. Using Steve Morse’s search engine, I couldn’t find any Census record. So, this year I will concentrate on trying to solve this brick wall. Many thanks to Merle Kastner of the JGS of Montreal, who was able to retrieve this Registration card for me from Ottawa, Canada.
Hello everyone. Let me introduce myself. My name is Barbara Nowak, and I have recently volunteered to act as the JGSPBCI librarian. While I am somewhat of a “newbie” to this area, I have extensive research experience as an academic with many, many hours clocked in libraries.

Over the past month, I have been performing an inventory of library books and other holdings. This includes adding many donated books to the catalog of our library possessions. When this is complete, a revised listing of our holdings will be available online.

There are many books missing. Please, if you have borrowed any, return them; no questions asked! If you know the titles of the books which belong to the library, send me an email. If you have library books, return them directly to the library or bring them to the next general meeting and find me.

If you have books of genealogical interest that you would like to donate, please contact me. We are always looking for additional resource assets.

Library hours are: Monday and Thursdays 10 – 12 (except for the first week of the month, when the library will also be open Fridays 10 – 12.) If you cannot make these times, please feel free to email me at: library@jgspalmbeachcounty.org to set up an appointment.

Library Help Days: We have already had one very successful Library Help Day in October and had a second “sold out” session in December. The overwhelming interest has resulted in our adding two more help days on January 21 and March 18. Please make sure to sign up. These days are designed to help teach you how to do genealogical research and to show what sources are available, both in book form and online. This help is extremely beneficial, so take advantage of these one-on-one days!
Come to the Symposium!

Joel Sisitsky

Well, the big day will be here soon . . . Sunday, January 25, 2015 our JGSPBCI will be holding its annual Jewish Genealogy Symposium from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. This is a “once in a year event” not to be missed! If you haven’t signed up for this fantastic learning experience, do so now!

You will have an opportunity to select from 15 extremely knowledgeable presenters who will be speaking and teaching in their areas of expertise. Member's fee is $25.00 and non-members and walk-ins will pay $30.00 at the door. Fee includes box lunch, snacks, choices from 15 presentations, handouts, and door prizes. Don't pass up this opportunity to learn more about the world of genealogy!

The registration form is opposite this page. It was sent to all of our members via email. You will also find a registration form on our website jgsapalmbeachcounty.org. As you can see, we have a full day of exciting and informative presentations.

JGSPBCI meetings are held at the South County Civic Center
16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL
Special Interest Groups (SIGs) 11:30 am -12:15 pm
Brick Wall 12:30 pm -12:55 pm
Meeting 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Meeting Mentors - 15 Minute Consultations 3:00 pm -3:30 pm

FUTURE PROGRAMS

JANUARY 14, 2015
BEYOND THE BRICK WALL
A panel of experts, moderated by Dennis Rice, answering questions on immigration, naturalization, census, software, technology, et al.
SIG: GALICIA with Mark Jacobson
(Galicia includes Western Ukraine)

FEBRUARY 11, 2015
THE MIGRATION OF JEWS TO AMERICA and BEYOND
PHILIP GOLDFARB
SIG: BELARUS with Ina Getzoff

MARCH 11, 2015
S.O.S. — SHARE OUR SUCCESS
Dennis Rice, Moderator
SIG: HUNGARY/ROMANIA/MOLDOVA
Romania/Moldova with Howard Kaufman
Hungary with Natalie Hamburg and Mona Morris
Presenting the Alfred M. Silberfeld Memorial

GENEALOGY SYMPOSIUM

SUNDAY, January 25, 2015
9:30 AM – 4:00 PM

SOUTH COUNTY CIVIC CENTER
16700 Jog Road • Delray Beach, Florida

$25.00 JGS Members pre-registration
$30.00 Non-members & walk-ins
(includes dairy box lunch & handouts)

FEATURING GENEALOGICAL PRESENTATIONS

- Getting Started — The Basics
- Ancestry.com
- The Road to Citizenship — Naturalization Records
- Computers, the Internet & using stevemorse.org
- JRI-Poland (Jewish Record Indexing Poland)
- JewishGen.org — The Basics & Beyond
- Finding Relatives in the Census Records
- Family Tree Maker — The Basics
- FamilySearch.org
- Search Tips from an Expert Investigator
- The Immigrant Experience
- Family Secrets: Uncovering & proving family stories
- Your Family’s Story: Using Family Tree Maker and Word to create a book
- Introduction to Genealogy — The Basics
- Google Your Family Tree: Advanced searches using Google & Bing

A book sale will be held in a classroom

* * *

Return the bottom portion of this invitation with your US funds check payable to: JGSPBCI
to Joel Sisitsky at the address below.
Questions? Contact Joel Sisitsky sisitsky@jgspalmbeachcounty.org

JGSPBCI GENEALOGY SYMPOSIUM REGISTRATION
Sunday, January 25, 2015

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Email: ___________________________

Send to: Joel Sisitsky
22918 Sterling Lakes Dr.
Boca Raton, FL 33433

JGSPBCI is a 501(C)(3) Not for Profit Organization under the U.S. IRS Code
Annual Lunch ‘n Learn
“My 15 Grandmothers and How I Found Them”
featuring Genie Milgrom

Join Genie Milgrom, author of “My 15 Grandmothers” as she recounts her personal journey in time researching and ultimately finding 15 grandmothers in an unbroken maternal lineage going back to the early 1500's in the small village of Fermoselle in the province of Zamora in Spain. Having been raised Catholic, she was able to successfully prove that her family had been Crypto Jews from before the Spanish Inquisition.

Genie is President of the Miami JGS, President of Tarbut-Sefarad in Fermoselle, Spain and President of the Society of Crypto-Judaic Studies at Colorado State University in Colorado Springs.

Sunday, February 22, 2015 • 11:00 AM — 3:00 PM
Delray Beach Golf Club • 2200 Highland Avenue, Delray Beach, Florida

$30.00 members • $35.00 non-members
By reservation only. All checks payable (in US Funds) to JGSPBCI

*** Proper attire is requested ***
RSVP before February 12, 2015

Registration Form for Annual Lunch ‘n Learn
Luncheon Choices:

All meals include: salad, warm rolls, butter, dessert, coffee and tea

Please RETURN this form with your choices and your check no later than
February 12, 2015 to Cindy Potter Taylor, 8105 Florence Drive, Boynton Beach, FL 33472

Name__________________________________________Entrée Choice # ______
Name__________________________________________Entrée Choice # ______
Phone: (%)_________________________Email:__________________________________________

* For special dietary and seating arrangements please write on back *

Questions? Contact Eric Sharenow at eric@jgspalmbeachcounty.org

JGSPBCI is a 501(c)(3) NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE U.S. IRS CODE
JEWISHGEN UPGRADE
Phyllis Kramer, VP, Education,
www.JewishGen.org/education

Good News! JewishGen has upgraded its website search facility, using a custom Google Search.

Now, you can easily search all the text on all of JewishGen's web pages. This includes KehilaLinks, Special Interest Group (SIG) pages, InfoFiles, Yizkor Books, ViewMate's archives, and Communities pages.

JewishGen's website search facility is available at:
http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/Search.asp, which can also be accessed by going to the "About Us" oval on the main JewishGen menu bar, and then clicking on "Search Website."

Please note that the website search does NOT include databases, which should be searched separately: ancestral surnames and towns via the JewishGen Family Finder (JGFF) or historical records via the JewishGen databases at http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/

* * * * * * * *

MULTILINGUAL GESHER GALICIA WEBSITE
Pamela Weisberger, President & Research Coordinator Gesher Galicia
www.geshergalicia.org

Gesher Galicia proudly announces that our entire website is now completely multilingual, offering 80 languages including Polish, Yiddish, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Ukrainian and Russian:
http://www.geshergalicia.org

To use this feature, in the center of our home page (and every sub-page) click on the Google Translate icon, select the language and the text will be instantly translated, including notes on records and data results on the All Galicia Database and inventory search engines and Cadastral Map Room at:

http://search.geshergalicia.org
http://www.geshergalicia.org/inventory/
http://maps.geshergalicia.org

The only languages we find missing that would be of great use to Jewish genealogical researchers are Gothic (Old German,) Church Slavonic, Judeo Spanish/Ladino and certain dialects of Yiddish.

If you know Galician researchers who would benefit from viewing results and information in their native language, please spread the word!

CAN YOU GUESS WHAT THIS IS?

If you guessed that the photo on the left was used to make the lines in matzo, then you are right.
Photo submitted by President Cindy Potter Taylor.
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT JEWISHGEN’S DISCUSSION GROUPS? JewishGen Blog, November 27, 2014

Discussion Groups are a great way to ask questions and connect with more than 10,000 researchers throughout the world.

If you are up against a “brick wall” with your research, and you do not know what to do next you can post a message on the Discussion Groups and see if anyone else can help, or offer suggestions!

All Discussion Group postings have been archived since 1993, so you can search to see if your question has already been dealt with.

People have had incredible success using the Discussion Groups. For example, this past year, a family in Canada came across a five-year old message and was able to connect with someone who turned out to be a half-sibling!

As with everything on JewishGen, the Discussion Groups are completely FREE. The more people who participate, the greater the chance for success in connecting families!

It takes less than three minutes to subscribe. There is a “general” Discussion Group (which most genners subscribe to,) along with groups organized by geographic location (more than 35 of them) to focus your research.

Click here to get started or go to http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/DiscussionGroup.htm

INTRODUCING A NEW GENEALOGY SITE: FAMILYTREENOW.COM
Dick Eastman, September 29, 2014

A new genealogy site has appeared at FamilyTreeNow.com. It is billed as being completely free for everything. The site is in beta and claims to have “billions of historical records, including census (1790-1940) records, birth records, death records, marriage & divorce records, living people records, and military records.”

Dick Eastman reviewed the site and was quite impressed. It doesn’t have everything that the well-established commercial web sites have, but the price tag of “free” will appeal to many.

All in all, he found a lot of useful information on FamilyTreeNow.com. As a brand-new online site that is still in beta, you can expect it doesn’t have everything available yet and lots of improvements and additions will probably be added in the future, as users offer their feedback.

You can see for yourself at http://www.FamilyTreeNow.com.
EXPLORING NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Excerpted from article posted in genealogysstar.blogspot.com/
Nov. 9, 2014

Many of the world's national archives are becoming more proactive in putting at least part of their collections online. These resources can sometimes be helpful to genealogists when there seems to be few other records available from a particular country. Every country has its own rules for access to archived items and in many cases, gaining access to even some of the records requires a personal visit to the archives.

One important factor to keep in mind is that the various archives, even those with online collections, have a variety of rules regarding access to their collections. Some of the countries make copyright claims to all their government documents and others allow copies to be made without such claims.

Wikipedia has a rather extensive list of national archives. You might be surprised at what is and what is not online from the various archives. For example, the National Archives of the Czech Republic or Národní archiv has digitized all volumes of the Registers of Births, Marriages, and deaths of Jewish communities deposited in the National Archives.

In the course of 2014, they have been gradually made accessible on: www.Badatelna.eu. One challenge is that the language used on the website may be outside of those supported by Google Translate although some websites may have a provision to be read in English. To read the complete article click on Exploring National Archives.

WHAT’S NEW AT JGSPBCI

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County now has a phone number: (561) 450-9577.

If you call this number you'll get the following greeting: "You've reached the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Florida. Please leave a message and somebody will contact you shortly."

For those of you who are technically inclined, this is a Google Voice telephone number.

When you leave a message, it gets transcribed into an email and sent to our membership chairperson, Marilyn Newman.
ASHKENAZI JEWS ARE COUSINS

THE SCROLL Tablet Magazine, Stephanie Butnick, September 10, 2014

According to a new study, all Ashkenazi Jews are basically cousins. More specifically, Ashkenazi Jews are at least 30th cousins. LiveScience reports on the international team’s new study, which found that “the central and eastern European Jewish population, known as Ashkenazi Jews, from whom most American Jews are descended, started from a founding population of about 350 people between 600 and 800 years ago.”

According to Columbia University researcher Itsik Pe’er, who was involved with the study, their research also showed that the group of 350 was made up of Jews of Middle Eastern and European origin— thereby disproving the much-debated theory that Jews descended from Khazars, a Turkic people who lived in the Caucasus region between the 7th and 10th centuries.

Here’s how the study was performed, according to LiveScience: The team analyzed the genomes of 128 Ashkenazi Jews, comparing them with a reference group of 26 Flemish people from Belgium. From that the researchers were able to work out which genetic markers in the genome are unique to Ashkenazi.

The number of similarities within the genomes allowed the scientists to compute a rough estimate of the founding population and put upper and lower limits on the amount of time that had passed since that group originated. In this case it is 30 to 32 generations, or at most 800 years.

“[Among Ashkenazi Jews] everyone is a 30th cousin,” Pe’er said. “They have a stretch of the genome that is identical.” The discovery holds perhaps the most significance for doctors and Jewish patients. Recently, a new study revealed that all Ashkenazic women, even those without any family history of cancer, may carry the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic mutations linked to breast and ovarian cancer.

The more genetic information available regarding Ashkenazi Jews, the fewer genome sequences doctors need to test and analyze when looking for potential problems or mutations.

HEBREW TRANSLATIONS

Member Nili Krassner has generously and graciously offered to translate documents from Hebrew to English (limit 10 minutes per person.)

If you have a document, photo of a tombstone, etc., bring it to the Symposium on January 25th. There will be a sign-up sheet.

Nili’s email address is nli@nililondon.com
RESEARCHING TORONTO, CANADIAN ARRIVALS?  *Tracing the Tribe*  Schelly Talalay Dardashti

The Toronto, Ontario, Canada Jewish Archives has received a nearly $200,000 Canadian government grant to upgrade climate control controls in the vault to preserve the Ontario Jewish Archives (OJA) collections.

Among the holdings: the Rotenberg Ledger, kept by a family of steamship agents, providing a list of individuals brought over from Europe from 1911-1914, a valuable record for genealogical research:


To see the surnames on the ledger:  
http://www.jgstoronto.ca/rotenberg-ledger/

To learn about the Rotenberg Ledger:  

GENEALOGY IS CALLED AN “OBSESSION”
*Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee*

There are both professional and hobbyist genealogists. There are a growing number of genealogy firms that are profit and non-profit:  Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, FindMyPast.com, MyHeritage.com and more.

When Forbes Magazine writes an article on this and the upcoming FamilySearch sponsored RootsTech Conference the “world is watching.”

To read the article see:  http://www.forbes.com/sites/amyanderson/2014/11/23/opportunity-is-about-to-knock-so-get-ready-to-open-your-door/

The article mentions the Time.com Magazine article from last May, where genealogy is called an “obsession” and according to ABC News, “It is the second most visited category of websites, after pornography.”

To read that article see:  http://time.com/133811/how-genealogy-became-almost-as-popular-as-porn/
What’s New in Genealogical Research

TWO YIZKOR BOOKS JUST PUBLISHED IN ENGLISH
Sandra Hirschhorn, JewishGen YBIP Project Coordinator

I’m pleased to advise that two new titles have joined the ranks of hard cover books published by the Yizkor Books in Print Project which is part of the Yizkor Books Project of JewishGen, Inc.

The first is: “Brest-Litovsk — Volume II encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora,” a translation of Brisk de-Lita: Encyclopedia Shel Galuyot. The original Yiddish volume was edited by Elieser Steinman and published in Jerusalem in 1958. The name of the town, Brest-Litovsk, indicates its link with Lithuania. Although founded by the Slavs in 1017 and invaded by the Mongols in 1241, it became part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1319, and in 1569 it became the capital of the unified Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The town is also known as “Brisk,” in Yiddish, to the Jews who lived and thrived there for six centuries. Jewish “Brisk” had an illustrious history; the famous Brisker Yeshivah attracted scholars from all over Europe. The list of Rabbis of Brest includes Solomon Luria and Joel Sirkes; in earlier periods, the Katzenellenbogens, and three generations of the Soloveitchik dynasty, in more recent times. Brest also produced Jacob Epstein, the great Talmudist at the Hebrew University, Menachem Begin, and many other major religious, literary and political leaders. In 1923, Jews made up 60% of Brest’s population of 60,000. Brest, Belarus is located 203 miles SW of Minsk.

This book was written by Brest survivors and former residents from many countries who contributed their memories of their hometown as a record for future generations, and as testament and loving tribute to the innocent Victims of the Shoah. It is a must read for researchers of the town and descendants of “Briskers.” The list price is $56.95. This title is available at Amazon for around $41. Also, check the JewishGen website http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybib/YBIP_Brest.html for further information and non-U.S. sources.

The second title is “Grayewo Memorial (Yizkor) Book.” It is a translation of Grayevey Yisker-Bukh (Grayewo Memorial Book) editor: Dr. George Gorin, New York. Originally published by United Grayever Relief Committee, 1950. Grajewo is located 114 miles NNE of Warsaw in Poland. Alternate names for the town are: Grajewo [Polish], Grayavah [Yiddish], Graevo [Russian], Grayevo, Grayevo.
What’s New in Genealogical Research

(New Yizkor Books, continued)

Jews have been living in Grajewo, in the province of Bialystok, Poland since the late 17th century.

The 1765 census counted 83 Jewish people and by 1857, the number had grown to 1,457, comprising 76% of the town’s population. By 1921, the percentage of Jews had decreased to 39%.

During the Soviet occupation, between September 1939 and June 1941, Jewish businesses were nationalized. The Nazi invasion of Grajewo on 22 June 1941 marked the beginning of the devastation and horrors thrust upon the Jewish population.

Within a few months, 1,600 to 2,000 Jews had been sent to the transit camp at Bogosza and on to the extermination camps at Treblinka and Auschwitz.

The list price is $49.95, available on Amazon for around $36. Again, see http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip/YBIP_Grajewo.html for further information and non-U.S. sources. You can see the full range of books printed under the auspices of our Yizkor Books in Print Project at: http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip.html.

If you have any questions, contact Sandra Hirschhorn, Publicity Specialist Yizkor-Books-in-Print Project of Jewishgen.org at sdh2381@comcast.net.

JSTOR (Journal Storage)
Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson for IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, May 2014

JSTOR (pronounced JAY-stor) is short for Journal Storage, which is a digital library of more than 1,500 academic journals, books, and primary sources. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. This organization collaborates with the academic community to achieve the following goals:

• Help scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of scholarly content on a dynamic platform that increases productivity and facilitates new forms of scholarship.
• Help libraries connect patrons to vital content while increasing shelf-space savings and lowering costs.
• Help publishers reach new audiences and preserve their scholarly content for future generations.

JSTOR has now made some articles available to individuals through Register to Read. The number of articles is enormous, so when searching it is best to narrow the categories down by browsing for specific journals. There are Jewish Historical Journals from England and also many other historical journals that have articles on Jewish history and genealogy.

For more information, go to: http://about.jstor.org/rr
US: A new genealogy website called Crestleaf has launched in the United States. It allows you to search historic records and create family trees. Family trees can contain photographs. The website has some 75 million records which list basic information such as name, date of birth and date of death. Each record is associated with a particular town.

Most of the records come from the US Social Security Death Index (1935 to 2011). The records can be browsed for free by state and town or alphabetically by last name. Up to 1GB of photographs can also be stored in a family tree for free (after which there is a monthly subscription fee). Go to Crestleaf.

* * * *

FamilySearch has added an additional 2.6 million indexed records from the New York state census of 1865. This census lists the name, age, occupation and birthplace of each household member. Most of the counties are covered, although some of the records have been lost/destroyed over the years. This collection can be searched by first and last name.

If you suspect that the records for the county you are interested in are not available, then consider browsing the images by county first. Access is free. [New York State 1865 Census] For more information, go to www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt_l=7obvF&awt_m=JFK_5qx_JAk.Vy#

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The New York Times has launched an interactive digital archive called TimesMachine. It allows users to search more than 11 million Times articles published between 18 September 1851 and 31 December 1980. The articles can be searched by keyword. Access is by subscription, but is free to anyone who has a current online subscription to the New York Times.

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Yale University has created an online archive of images from the Great Depression, which allows viewers to explore some 175,000 photographs of America taken in the 1930s and 1940s. Most of the images were taken by government photographers under the Farm Security Administration act. Yale University created a website called Photogrammar that organizes and visualizes the images on an interactive map. Zoom in to the region where your ancestors lived in the 1930s and 1940s to view all the photographs from that region. Access is free.

See more of what’s new at: http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/newest-genealogy-records.html?awt_l=7obvF&awt_m=JFK_5qx_JAk.Vy#sthash.uO63xxy7.dpuf
A LETTER FROM DANIEL HOROWITZ
Chief Genealogist and Translation Manager
www.myheritage.com

I wanted to let you know about a project we undertook in December, 2014, as part of our global initiative to preserve and digitize cemeteries worldwide, with the help of some friends.

We embarked on a very ambitious goal to digitize Israel's largest cemetery, Holon, collaborating with genealogy companies, genealogy organizations, societies and other volunteers who love genealogy. It was our biggest challenge yet, and one of the largest events of its kind ever organized - in the world!

The day was a huge success! Over 150,000 gravestones were photographed. It is a great model for how similar activities can be organized around the world.

Please read more about the event in our blog post: http://blog.myheritage.com/2014/12/digitizing-cemeteries-myheritage-is-at-it-again-with-friends.

Feel free to use the text and images from this post if you would like to help us to spread the word. Please let me know if you have any questions.

HOW DID OUR ANCESTORS GET FROM THEIR HOMES TO THE PORTS FROM WHICH THEY SAILED TO THE UNITED STATES?

This message was posted on LitvakSIG and answers a question that has been asked by researchers many times.

Several people recommended Irving Howe's book: "The World of our Fathers." Phyllis Kramer, Jewish Gen's VP for Education, summarized Howe's comments on this subject.

1. Jews from Ukraine and southern Russia would usually cross the Austro-Hungarian border illegally, travel by train to Berlin or Vienna, then regroup for the journey to one of the major ports.

2. Jews emigrating from western or northwestern Russia (The Pale) would surreptitiously cross the German border, go to Berlin, then proceed to the northern ports. Some would go to Libau, but an expensive Russian visa was required. Draft-age men couldn't get one.

3. Jews from the Austro-Hungarian Empire would cross into Germany legally, proceed to Berlin, then go on to the ports.

4. Jews from Romania, whose mass migration began in 1899, often went through Vienna or Frankfurt am Main and then on to ports in Holland. The first stop was often Brody in Austria-Hungary, where the authorities were considered to be less savage than the Romanians.
Registration is now in full swing for the 35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Jerusalem from July 6-10, 2015. As announced, the Conference is being held in cooperation with MyHeritage and with the support of individual and corporate sponsors including as of this date, Harvey Krueger, Ancestry.com, JewishGen, Yad Vashem, and Blumberg Segal LLP.

A Shabbaton (Friday-Saturday) weekend will precede the Conference, followed by an Exploration Sunday of tours and programs (including a Yad Vashem option) prior to the official Conference opening on Monday.

Visit www.iajgs2015.org to register now!

For your peace of mind, we have negotiated a modestly-priced cancellation insurance policy that will cover both hotel and total registration refunds, valid up to almost the eve of the conference (see details at www.iajgs2015.org).

Because our advance planning is helped by knowing more about those of you who will be attending, we urge you to register as soon as possible.

To encourage registration, we are running an ongoing raffle whose prizes include Banquet tickets, Exploration Sunday Registration, MyHeritage.com subscriptions, Ancestry.com subscriptions, a free hotel night and more. The earlier you register, the greater your chances to win!

Our plans include an outstanding array of sessions by world-acclaimed experts, plus some IAJGS Conference “firsts” to be announced in the coming weeks. One of these is an option for Assisted Research!
About two months ago, I received an email from a young lady who identified herself as a new genealogist. She had noticed my name on Ancestry.com as a researcher of my mother's family, the Mandel family. Her husband's name was also Mandel and she was attempting to develop a tree for his family. “Would I help her?” she asked, “with this project?”

“Yes, of course,” I responded. With my offer of help, however, I explained that “reinventing the wheel” on her part would not be necessary — I would gladly give her a copy of my own maternal family tree!

Within an hour or so, my phone rang. It was her father-in-law calling — a Mandel! — my own cousin Larry! Two days later, another unexpected call came, this time from a gentleman whom I did not know. He immediately introduced himself as a fellow resident of the community in which I live. He, too, had received a call from a cousin — his cousin Larry! We met that same afternoon and together confirmed that there was only one cousin Larry but there are two of us. We shared an Uncle Murray, an Aunt Tess, and a first cousin Daniel, who was cousin Larry's late father! Uncle Murray, my mother's brother, was married to Aunt Tess, his father's sister! How do we describe ourselves now . . . cousins-in-law? . . . cousins-by-marriage? . . . kissing cousins?

Two months later, we happily accept any and all of those designations. We are now quite sure of the truth of our little story: Genealogy Is Fun!

**STOLPERSTEINE**
_Tina Gudin Korn, JGSPBCI_

While celebrating our anniversary in June, 2014, we visited several European cities along the Rhine and Danube Rivers. We saw many tributes, sculptures and memorials to Jews that had been deported to concentration camps during WWII. Fascinated by these small (5” x 5”) square brass plates that were imbedded in sidewalks in many German cities, we inquired about their origin and creator.

**Stolpersteine** is the name of these memorial plates, created by Gunter Demnig.
15 MINUTE CONSULTATIONS

This fall we plan to continue our successful program CONSULT WITH AN EXPERT. After each membership meeting, we will hold fifteen minute sessions (ONE ON ONE) with an expert in your area of research.

You must make an appointment, and sign up before the meeting at the registration desk. To assist your mentor, bring documents and research information.