PHYLLIS KRAMER WINS AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO JEWISH GENEALOGY VIA THE INTERNET

at the 31st IAJGS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on JEWISH GENEALOGY in WASHINGTON, DC, August, 2011

As genealogical research has become an online challenge, Phyllis Kramer, JGSPBCI member and VP of Education JewishGen, has stepped up to that challenge. She teaches students how to research and organize data from their own homes, by creating online education programs on genealogy research. Congratulations to Phyllis, for receiving this prestigious honor. We are proud of you! (See page 5 for more about Phyllis.)
Table of Contents

President message  page 2
Fall Programs  page 3
IAJGS Conference Highlights  page 4
Phyllis Kramer, Editor’s Message  page 5
All Galacia Database, SIG info  page 6-7
What’s New in Genealogy  pages 8-12
Family History Centers  page 13
Heritage Trip to Lithuania  page 14
Officers and Board Members  page 15
Luncheon Information  page 16

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Editor: Tina Gudin Korn
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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Mark Jacobson

As JGSPBCI’s long summer slumber comes to an end we are all looking forward to a busy season with more excellent speakers and many ways for all of us to increase our knowledge of genealogy. You will see more about that in this issue and future announcements, but I guarantee that you will enjoy our season of programs, as well as our 2012 Luncheon.

Many of you recently attended the 31st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC. I hope you had a great time, heard some good lectures and had a chance to do some research and networking. Next year’s IAJGS Conference will be in Paris, France. So, if you like to travel and if you have family from Western Europe, you should consider attending.

I want to personally congratulate our own JGSPBCI Board Member, Phyllis Kramer, for winning the 2011 IAJGS Award for "Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product" for her online courses at JewishGen. JGSPBCI made this nomination and we are very proud.

As I mentioned in my previous remarks, the 1940 United States Census will be publicly available in April, 2012. Ancestry.com has just announced that they will be allowing free access to the census images and index beginning in mid April, 2012 through 2013.

This is good news for all of us. I remember when I started researching the most recent available census was 1920. This was before there was online access to any U.S. Census, so we had to order and search microfilmed Soundex index cards at the Family History Center and use them to find (and order) the correct film for the image of the Census page. Now, you can search any available census online and save or print the image of the page. I am looking forward to seeing the 1940 Census; it will be the first Census that includes my parents as well as many other relatives who have eluded me after the 1930 Census.

Do you know of an organization that is looking for a speaker on genealogy?

Please contact Speakers Bureau Chairperson: Sylvia Furshman Nusinov at sylvia@jgspalmbeachcounty.org
SEPTEMBER
Our September 14th meeting featured Jerry Naditch, who demonstrated how to organize and to convert all data into computer files, and how to link them to a genealogy software program. He discussed the advantage of genealogy computer programs that can generate many different reports, some of which help in identifying missing data.

He also advised everyone to back-up all of their computer files.

As webmaster of the JGSPBCI website, member of the Board of Directors, the JGSPBCI Speakers Bureau, and the Vice-President of the Boca Raton Computer Society, Jerry often makes presentations that combine his genealogy and computer interests.

OCTOBER
Our October 12th program will feature "The Deceptive Ancestor? - Separating Family Fiction from Fact."

Paul Enchelmayer has over four decades in the applied technology fields of computer education and training, industrial and educational photography, audio and video production, and the growing field of technology-assisted genealogical research. This presentation shows how vital dates, places, and even names sometimes conflict with other "documented" data and especially family stories. Using the "Genealogy Proof Standard" in a case study will show how to spot the fiction in the facts and how to choose among conflicting data.

NOVEMBER
Our November 9th SIG Meeting will combine Austria-Hungary Empire. Mona Morris, President Emeritus, and Dennis Rice, Past President, will present a program “Tricks and Tips of Lesser Known Used Data Bases.”

Mr. Rice will take us through the databases of FamilySearch and Footnote. Dennis served as president of the JGSPBCI for four years from 2004-2007. Prior to that, he served as program chair. Dennis is an active member of the JGSPBCI speakers bureau. He has also taught classes and presented lectures to our group and to many community groups. This program is designed to stimulate the beginner as well as the seasoned.

Ms. Morris will show us lesser known resources within Ancestry. She will also demonstrate what can be found by using Jewishdata.com and America’s Obituaries. Mona Freedman Morris, a professional genealogist and speaker, is a member of both the Association of Professional Genealogists, and the Professional Genealogical Speakers Bureau. She is President Emeritus of JGSPBCI.

DECEMBER
The first Beginner’s Workshop being held this year will be on December 14, 2011. Program to be announced.
THE 31st INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH GENEALOGY

Reported by Members Marilyn Newman and Gary Stone

Twenty-five members of JGS Palm Beach County attended the recent 31st International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC. The event was co-sponsored by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) and the JGS of Greater Washington.

There were over 1,100 in attendance at the week-long event August 14-19, 2011. The Grand Hyatt Hotel, just four blocks from the White House, was the venue providing excellent accommodations and meeting rooms.

Lectures, movies, breakfasts and luncheons featured experts versed in Eastern European locations. Some of the other topics covered were: Census Records, Passenger Records, Naturalization Records, DNA specifics and a myriad of other subjects pertaining to genealogy.

The week culminated in a closing gala with featured speaker, David S. Ferriero, 10th Director Archivist of the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). It was at this gala that Phyllis Kramer received her prestigious award. We were there to share this exciting moment.

HIGHLIGHTS

A Resource Center provided thirty-five computers with links to all major genealogical websites usually requiring paid subscriptions.

Also available were five computers dedicated to searching the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum’s Central Names Index. It was here that Gary found six family members, previously unknown to him, who had emigrated to an agricultural community in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, 1943.

Translation services were available for 20-30 minute sessions in most languages, all provided by generous volunteers.

A Vendor’s Room offered 21 vendor/association booths and tables with demonstrations and sales of products.

Twenty-four award winning movies were offered throughout the six days of the meeting.

Finally, the JGS of Greater Washington, is to be commended for its outstanding organizational accomplishments in producing such a flawless conference, thanks to the excellent leadership and the services of hundreds of volunteers. Truly a job well done and a rewarding experience!
PHYLLIS KRAMER WINS AWARD

This August, our Board member Phyllis Kramer, who also serves as JewishGen Vice President for Education, won the award for “Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print, or Electronic Product.” (See page one.) JGSPBCI was proud to sponsor Phyllis’s nomination for this prestigious award.

We all know and love Phyllis as our monthly Brick Wall Moderator, and instructor for Beginner’s Workshops, being held for a second year, December 14, 2011 and February 8, 2012.

Phyllis received the award for her role with the JewishGen Learning Center, a division of JewishGen, [http://www.jewishgen.org/](http://www.jewishgen.org/). Under Kramer’s tutelage, the JewishGen Learning Center developed six online interactive courses to help researchers organize their information and begin to trace their ancestral roots. These courses have reached over 1,400 researchers in the first five years, through a comprehensive educational curriculum addressing all levels of experience.

INTERNATIONAL JEWISH GENEALOGY MONTH

International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM) is a program of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies ([http://www.iajgs.org/jgmmonth.html](http://www.iajgs.org/jgmmonth.html)). IJGM is celebrated during the month of Cheshvan, which this year falls from October 29th to November 26th on the secular calendar. The purpose of the monthly celebration is to make the public aware of local Jewish genealogical societies that can help them begin their research.

Message from the Editor

Traveling this summer brought me close to an area where some of my ancestors emigrated to the Northwestern United States. Portland, Oregon is home to several cousins, only recently researched.

It was exciting to discover the names of the ships that brought my ancestors to North America, some to the U.S. and many to Canada. Here are several helpful genealogical research resources for finding the names of ships:

[www.theshipslist.com](http://www.theshipslist.com) has descriptions of some of the ships that were used to carry immigrants from Europe to North America. There is no cost to search over 3,500 entries.

Secondly, [www.photoship.co.uk](http://www.photoship.co.uk) has photos and descriptions of these vessels. I discovered that several of these ships were later used as military transports and some were sunk by German U-boats, during World War I.

Lastly, TheShipsList Email Discussion List, [www.theshipslist.com/archive.htm](http://www.theshipslist.com/archive.htm) is for anyone interested in the ships on which our ancestors emigrated. Subjects include emigration and immigration, port of entries, ports of departure, history, passenger lists and any other related information, such as naturalization and border records. There are about 2,000 subscribers worldwide and many full time members who have a great deal of knowledge and expertise in the area of emigration, ships, passengers lists, etc. They are ready and willing to assist and guide you on your search at no charge.
Those of us who try to research family from Galicia are aware of how hard it can be to find information. Until recently the main source for Galician research was JRI Poland's indexing of Galician records, but this only includes vital records currently in Poland. It does not include the many Galician records currently in the Ukraine. Now there is a new search engine on the Gesher Galicia website, the 'All Galicia Database', that includes information from Galician vital records currently in the Ukraine as well as many other sources. All of it is free to use, and all created by volunteers working on their own with a common goal of helping others researching their family towns.

In 2006, the LDS (Latter Day Saints) filmed surviving Galician Jewish records in the Lviv Archive. I was part of a JRI Poland project to inventory these records. Please see this link for the results of our inventory: [http://www.jewishgen.org/Galicia/assets/images/LvivFilmInventories.html](http://www.jewishgen.org/Galicia/assets/images/LvivFilmInventories.html). My greatest discovery was previously undocumented 19th century birth and death records for my grandfather's town of Drohobycz; births and deaths between 1833 and 1852. I was able to find records for my grandfather's family as old as 1816 and as recent as 1935. It was amazing to discover hidden treasures in these old records. I had to share this amazing resource with other researchers.

News of my discovery of the Drohobycz records was published in the *Galitzianer*, along with the inventory list. People contacted me looking for information in these records. There was no index and I wanted researchers to find family in these records without having to manually search them. I decided to start an independent indexing project. I created templates for indexing each type of record for my family town of Drohobycz. I was able to find others who were also researching Drohobycz and were interested in these records. This became my volunteer base for indexing. Years of back and forth e-mails with templates and records to my volunteers led to the creation of Excel files of indexes to Drohobycz births 1816-1869, Drohobycz deaths 1816-1852, Drohobycz marriages 1935 and Sambor marriages 1859-1876.
ALL GALICIA DATABASE (Continued)

At the same time I established contact with Eric Bloch, Tony Kahane, Tony Hausner, and Max Heffler who were researching other Galician towns with records in the Lviv Archive. Independently, each of us had launched volunteer projects to create indexes of records for our towns. We were not affiliated with any group, just doing these as personal labors of love. Records for some of these towns are as old as 1805 and as recent as 1942 and the information has never before been available. Gesher Galicia President and Research Coordinator Pamela Weisberger approached the leaders of the various town index projects and asked us to include our Galician indexes in a new database that Gesher Galicia was creating.

Now the result of our work is publicly available on the new "All Galicia Database" at Gesher Galicia [http://search.geshergalicia.org/](http://search.geshergalicia.org/). This search engine programmed by Gesher Galicia board member Brooke Schreier Ganz includes much more than our vital record indexes; it also includes information from phone books, school records, land records and Landsmanschaften records. But the main part of the search engine is indexes of records for the towns of Drohobycz, Sambor, Brody, Zbarazh, Mikulince, Bialy Kamien, and Lviv created by our volunteer groups.

Before searching the "All Galicia Database" at Gesher Galicia [http://search.geshergalicia.org/](http://search.geshergalicia.org/) be sure to read the search instructions on the page. Right now this search engine is a 'work in progress'. You cannot search using Soundex so the results will only give you exact spellings. Try all the spelling variations you know for your surnames. You can also try various 'wild card' searches. If you had family in Galicia it is worth searching.

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**November 9, 2011 SIG Meeting 11:30-12:15 Classrooms A & B combined**

**THE COUNTRIES OF THE AUSTRIAN HUNGARIAN EMPIRE**
Including Galicia, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Western Ukraine

**MEMBERS OF PANEL:**
Mark Jacobson (Galicia), Natalie Hamburg (Hungary), Howard Kaufman & Marilyn Newman (Romania), Mona Morris (Western Ukraine)

**MODERATOR AND SIG CHAIR:** Mona Freedman Morris

Each presenter will share their expertise and experiences to get the most out of researching your families from these countries.

**FUTURE SIGS:**
January 11th: Lithuania; March 14th: Greater Poland; April 11th: Sephardim
WHAT’S NEW IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

CANADIAN JEWISH RECORDS ON LINE

Janice Arnold of the Canadian Jewish News reports tens of thousands of community records are now online at The Canadian Jewish Heritage Network, www.cjhn.ca This site brings together online catalogues and digitalized archival material of interest to researchers of Canadian Jewry. This site makes more than 2000 photographs and documents as well as more than 50,000 genealogical records available online.

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JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY ARCHIVES NOW OPERATIONAL

Nu? What’s New? Vol. 12, No. 19, May 8, 2011, Gary Mokotoff, Editor

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA) has placed its archives online at http://archive.jta.org. JTA is an international news service that produces articles of interest to Jewish people. It has produced more than a quarter million articles since its inception in 1923. Their coverage of Holocaust-era events is extensive. The search engine does not appear to have wildcard ability. This is a free service.

HELP USHMM IDENTIFY ORPHANS OF WORLD WAR II

On March 21, 2011, the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), in Washington DC., launched "Remember Me?" an international campaign that will engage the public by asking them to help the Museum identify 1,100 children who were orphaned, displaced, or separated from their families during the Holocaust and World War II.

http://rememberme.ushmm.org/

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HOW TO FIND GRAVES ALL OVER THE WORLD

JewishGen Blog, June 28, 2011, JewishGen Basics: JewishGen Online Worldwide Burial Registry (JOWBR)

There are over 1.5 million records in JOWBR, as well as other Jewish cemetery resources including JewishData.com, CemeteryScribes.com, MountOfOlives.co.il, DeathIndexes.com.

Another database source for European Jewish Cemeteries around the world is called the Lo Tishkach European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative. This foundation aims to guarantee the effective and lasting preservation and protection of Jewish cemeteries and mass graves throughout Europe.


Library Hours

Until further notice, the JGSPBCI Library on the JCC Boca Campus will only be available by appointment.

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<td>Mona Morris</td>
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<td>Sylvia Nusinov</td>
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1940 CENSUS SEARCH TOOLS
Joel Weintraub, JewishGen Digest, June 28, 2011

In less than 10 months the 1940 U.S. Population Schedules will become public. It will not be name-indexed, so it will be necessary to do an address search in order to find families. Address searching involves knowing the ED (enumeration district) in which the address is located.

The National Archives (NARA) earlier this year indicated they had plans to make available, in 2011, the 1940 ED maps of cities and counties, and ED descriptions, but their recent move to consider having a third party host all the images may have appreciably set back this timetable.

The only website that currently has location tools for the 1940 census is the Steve Morse One Step site (http://stevemorse.org). There are several such tools there, and it could be overwhelming to figure out which tool to use when. There is a tutorial that attempts to clarify it: (http://stevemorse.org/census/intro.html) and an extensive FAQ: (http://stevemorse.org/census/faq.htm).

We are announcing the opening of another educational utility to help people learn about the different 1940 locational search tools on the One Step site, and information about the 1940 census itself. It is in the form of a quiz, and should help many, many genealogists quickly learn how to search an unindexed census by location. The new utility is at: http://stevemorse.org/census/quiz.php and is called "How to Access the 1940 Census in One Step".

FREE SEARCHES AND BROWSING ON ANCESTRY.COM 1940 CENSUS

Ancestry.com announced that the images and indexes to the 1940 U.S. Federal Census will be made free to search, browse, and explore in the United States when this collection commences streaming onto the website in mid-April 2012 through to the end of 2013. To read more go to: http://corporate.ancestry.com/press/press-releases/2011/08/1940-u.s.-census-to-be-free-on-ancestry.com

CYNDI’S LIST LAUNCHES NEWLY UPGRADED WEB SITE

by Cyndi Ingle Howells, Edgewood, Washington, June 6, 2011

Cyndislist.com has upgraded its site to celebrate 15 years of service to the genealogical community. With improved navigation, a custom database, and a custom administrative interface, the upgrade means that everything will be quicker and easier for both visitors and for the site's owner and administrator, Cyndi Ingle Howells. The purpose and intent of Cyndi's List is to be a free jumping-off point for genealogical research. Cyndi’s List remains free for everyone to use. CyndisList.com is a large family history resource, with more than 300,000 categorized links for genealogical research. The site averages 275,000 visitors and 5,000,000 page hits every month. Cyndi's List has won numerous awards and is one of the top genealogical portals for beginners, intermediate, and veteran researchers. http://www.cyndislist.com
WHAT’S NEW IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

MORE NAMES FROM ITS (INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE)
The JewishGen Blog reports that the International Tracing Service now has a website with a searchable database of holocaust victims’ names and their personal effects. There are 2,400 names from Neuengamme, 330 from Dachau and a scattering from other places. The database, which lists personal effects, can be searched at:


RESEARCHING SLOVAKIA

Eastman’s Online Genealogy Newsletter, July 8, 2011

familysearch.org has many Jewish records online for those doing research on Slovakia. Unfortunately, the information is under the misleading title, “Slovakia Church Books, 1592-1910.” There are thousands of Jewish B.M.D records in the Church Books. In each of the counties, there are many town and shtetl records.

The direct link for these records is:

www.familysearch.org/search/collections. Then select “Slovak Church Books”, and then “Jewish.” Happy online hunting!

NEW ONLINE ISRAEL CEMETERY DATABASES

posted on JewishGen Blog, August 28, 2011

As noted on a recent blog, there is no national database for cemeteries in Israel. Each city's chevra kadisha (burial society) runs things in its own way, so some cities have databases online while others do not. Here are the sites for popular cities:

Ashdod: http://www.ashdod-kadisha.co.il/default.asp?pageType=8
Haifa area: http://www.kadisha.net/kadisha/contentpages/search1.aspx
Hebron: http://www.pikholz.org/Hevron/Hevron.html
Hod Hasharon: http://www.datithodhasharon.co.il/search.asp?Flag=False
Petach Tikva: http://www.sgula.org
Tel Aviv-Jaffa area: http://www.kadisha.biz

Want up-to-date information about our JGSPBCI? Our web site is:
http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org
SYNAGOGUES AROUND THE WORLD

posted on JewishGen Blog, August 22, 2011

A Synagogue A Day-Tumblr:
http://asynagogueaday.tumblr.com/

The Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston Special Collections recently launched the A Synagogue A Day Tumblr. Built using a popular blogging format, this website features prints, photographs, and postcards of synagogues around the world from the William A. Rosenthall Judaica collection.

This collection consists of over 100 linear feet of rare books, fine art, postcards, illustrated journals, stamps, and thousands of other documents and illustrations. They document the Jewish people: their lives, history, religious ceremonies, dress and customs.

A particular collecting focus of Rosenthall was images of synagogues located around the globe, including European synagogues destroyed by the Nazis or converted to stables and warehouses. Many items are one-of-a-kind and therefore represent a unique and valuable source for scholars. For more information on Rosenthall and his collection, please visit the William Rosenthall website: http://rosenthall.library.cofc.edu/

100,000 PHOTOS OF TOMBSTONES IN POLISH JEWISH CEMETERIES

Nu? What’s New? Vol. 12, No. 21, May 22, 2011, Gary Mokotoff, Editor

For many years http://cemetery.jewish.org.pl has been growing their database of tombstones in the Warsaw Jewish cemetery. I recently visited the site and discovered they now have tombstones from other towns in the Mazovian region of Poland. In addition to Warsaw, they have photographed and placed on their site tombstones from many cities. There is a surname-only search engine. According to the group, there are a total of 86,475 photographs, but many feature double or triple graves. Those tombstones that do not have surnames will be added to the site in about a month when they will permit browsing of tombstones by cemetery.

The project was possible due to a grant from the Polish Ministry of Culture and the support of Emile Karafiol, the Jewish Community of Warsaw, and Mel and Deana Fishman of Thornhill, Ontario, Canada.
WHAT’S NEW IN GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH

JEWS HGEN ENDING THE USE OF “SHTETL” IN ITS DATABASE NAMES

from Nu? What’s New? Volume 12, Number 35, September 4, 2011, Gary Mokotoff, Editor

If you have not read about it already on various Discussion Groups and blogs, JewishGen is moving away from using the term “shtetl” in the titles of its town-oriented databases. Shtetl is the Yiddish word for “town” and connotes a small village. It also has an eastern European connotation.

This term may have worked in the earlier days of JewishGen when much of the focus was on eastern Europe, but now the focus is more global and the term is inaccurate. ShtetlSeeker, the incredible gazetteer that pinpoints every populated location in 54 countries in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East, and Central Asia, has been renamed the JewishGen Gazetteer. ShtetlLinks, the individual pages about Jewish communities throughout the world, has been renamed KehilaLinks. Kehila is a Hebrew word meaning “community.” Historians use the term to mean the organized Jewish community in a town or area.

VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE

from Nu? What’s New? Volume 12, Number 35, September 4, 2011, Gary Mokotoff, Editor

Using YouTube to promote or teach genealogy has attracted the attention of at least two major genealogy organizations: FamilySearch and the (U.S.) National Genealogical Society. These videos are all brief, usually less than five minutes, and designed more for the public than the genealogy hobbyist. For example, FamilySearch has a series of presentations, all with the main title “Genealogy in Five Minutes.” With subtitles such as “Learn from Family,” “Find a Record,” “Record What You Know.”

I found interesting their two videos about the Granite Mountain vault which houses all the master copies of microfilms and other material. They can be seen at http://tinyurl.com/3hrouug and http://tinyurl.com/3o2lqhm. The entrance to the FamilySearch video site is at http://www.youtube.com/user/familysearch

National Genealogical Society also has a number of videos. Find them by going to http://youtube.com and search for “National Genealogical Society.” David Rencher, Chief Genealogical Officer of FamilySearch, gives a good overview of his organization at http://www.youtube.com/user/PathstoYourPast. Helen F.M. Leary reflects on why people do genealogy and on the comforts that people find in researching their ancestors at http://tinyurl.com/3uutd55. There are many others.

JGS MEETING SCHEDULE 2011-2012

GENERAL MEETINGS

September 14, 2011
October 12, 2011
November 9, 2011
December 14, 2011
January 11, 2012
February 8, 2012
March 14, 2012
April 11, 2012
May 9, 2012
FAMILY HISTORY CENTERS
by Sylvia Furshman Nusinov, FHC Liaison

Family History Centers (FHC) are branch facilities of the Family History Library (FHL) in Salt Lake City, Utah. Centers provide access to most of the microfilms and microfiche in the Library to help researchers identify their ancestors.

The FHC most frequently visited in our area is located at 1530 W. Camino Real, Boca Raton. Phone: 561-395-6644, hours: Monday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m –5:00 p.m.; Thursday 3:00 pm - 9:00 p.m.

Staff members will NOT do research for you, but WILL answer research questions and help you in ordering microfilms and microfiche (a sheet of microfilm containing rows of micro images of pages of printed matter) from the FHL. They will show you how to use the center’s resources, including the computer databases at the center and help with identifying deceased ancestors, if possible. Most centers have a small collection of published reference sources that may include research helps, genealogies, histories, gazetteers, atlases, and maps. To prepare for your first visit to the FHC, bring information about your ancestral search, such as copies of vital records: birth, death, and marriage.

There is no fee to visit a FHC or to use most of their resources. However, there are small fees for photocopies or computer printouts, and for postage to cover the microfiche or microfilm orders. In the USA and Canada, current fees are Microfilm loan: U.S. $5.50, loan time 60 days, Canada loan time 90 days; Microfiche loan, U.S. $.15 per fiche – as long as needed. Neither the FHL microfilm, nor the microfiche can be removed from a center, or transferred from one center to another.

To search for records on-line in the Family History Catalogue go to: http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Library/FHLC/frameset_fhlc.asp. For the FHL’s new and improved Family Search Learning Resources, where 6 billion records can be found, go to http://www.familysearch.org/learn

When linking to this site, type in JEWISH Records, and click on your choice of country to begin your research. The Family History Library has microfilmed Jewish Records in all the countries listed in the database, and is continually adding to the extensive records.

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Dues are payable as of September 1st for 2011 - 2012

To remain a member in good standing, please bring your check to the next meeting or mail to:

TREASURER,
Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.
P.O. Box #7796
Delray Beach, FL 33482-7796
HERITAGE TRIP TO LITHUANIA

Howard Margol and Peggy Freedman have been escorting groups to Lithuania for 18 years. The trip is sponsored by the American Fund for Lithuanian-Latvian Jews, Inc. It is a non-profit organization. For additional information: http://www.litvaktrip.peggyspage.org/

by Member JGSPBCI, Paulette Bronstein

This summer, I was privileged to join the Heritage Trip to Lithuania. Our group stayed at hotels located in the heart of Kaunas and Vilnius and we met with head archivists there. They confirmed my guess that several families listed on the Belarus and Lithuania Revision Lists were related to my family. My ancestors all shared the same former registration numbers.

Kudos to our tour leaders Howard Margol and Peggy Freedman. They arranged outstanding visits to historic and modern sites in Lithuania. A few Jewish homes still exist in Salakas. I was able to visualize the sights, sounds and smells of a place my loved ones once called home. I was able to say blessings in the Salakas Jewish Cemetery and the mass grave located a few kilometers outside of town.

Yadviga Vida Zilinski, curator of a nature museum in the town of Salakas, with a 1908 map of Salakas, Lithuania.

by Member JGSPBCI, Pearl Sloane

As an 84-year-old widow, I had some fears about traveling to unfamiliar places. My fears were unfounded, as I have only praise for Howard Margol and Peggy Freedman.

After tours of Jewish Vilnius - both public and private areas - we visited the Archives, where we broke up into individual “roots” tours. Each of us had a guide and a car and driver to take us to the city of our research.

Ilya is a small new city I wanted to visit, since I had discovered my father’s name on a ship manifest listing Ilya as his place of embarkation (although he was born in Minsk.) When I had been at the Museum of the Jewish Diaspora, in Israel, I learned that the Nazis had burned the town and all of its inhabitants. Today, the forest where my grandfather had worked was visible, however the cemetery was surrounded by water and was unreachable.

Next, we went to the town of Dokshitzy. My Lubavitcher Chasidim cousins emigrated from there in 1934. I was able to see the grave of a cousin who was the town butcher.

Another city we visited was Kaunas (formerly Kovno). Here, we had access to the Archives. We were successful in finding relevant information about our ancestors.

I would highly recommend this trip to anyone interested in searching for families who had lived in this area. Another Heritage trip is planned for 2012.
Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.
P.O. BOX 7796, DELRAY BEACH, FL 33482-7796
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ANNUAL LUNCHEON
February 26, 2012
MAKE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THIS SPECIAL OCCASION.
2012 is a leap year and on FEBRUARY 26th we will be leaping right into our 21st year with a great luncheon at the Boca Renaissance Hotel featuring great food and a special speaker.