WE HAVE CAUSE TO CELEBRATE:

OUR THIRD SYMPOSIUM

Join us on Sunday, January 15, 2017 from 9:30 - 4:00 for our “not to be missed” event.

All information, as well as the registration form are on pages 6 & 7. Don’t be left out. Fee includes a box lunch, snacks and your choice of 15 presentations and a silent auction.

Questions?
Call Chairperson, Joel Sisitsky, 561 706-5419

OUR 26th LUNCH ‘n LEARN

Join us on Wednesday, February 15, 2017 at Indian Spring Country Club at 11:00 AM

“Honoring Four Women at the Crossroads of 90”

For more details and registration form, see pages 10 & 11.

Questions? Call President, Cindy Taylor, 561 704-9621.

Our speaker is Chuck Todd, Moderator of Meet the Press.

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Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.
P.O. Box 7796, Delray Beach, FL 33482-7796
561-450-9577
http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org
editor@jgspalmbeachcounty.org
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, condense, 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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http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Cindy Potter
Taylor

The deadlines for Scattered Seeds seem to creep up faster than my quarterly taxes! Here we are in January and it seems like it was just July. I’m convinced that age has something to do with this phenomenon of time getting away from me. Our Snow Birds, Snow Flakes and Snow Bunnies have returned to paradise and our monthly meetings have become VERY hectic. But that’s a good sign, in that Jewish genealogy is alive and well in Palm Beach County, and I will refrain from grumbling about the traffic……but….OY!

Our IT, “go to guy,” Jerry Naditch, was right on the money for our opening meeting in September, with his presentation, “After Research Comes Preservation.” I’m always learning something new! October brought us the story of the S.S. St. Louis, and whilst there were a few technical glitches, I thoroughly enjoyed the sad tale (is that an oxymoron?) of our people being turned away at safe ports in Cuba, Miami and more. “WE WILL NEVER FORGET, NOT EVER.”

November finally brought us “rounders” (those of us who live here in south Florida, year round) some relief from the oppressive humidity. No wonder people flock here! Ron Arons didn’t fail to entertain and educate with his lecture. Ditto for JGSPBCI board member Phyllis Kramer (December,) who leaves me in the dust with her general as well as specific knowledge of Jewish Genealogy and the internet. I keep telling her that when I get old (er,) I want to be as bright and capable as she is.

And, speaking of Phyllis Kramer, she put on quite the entertaining Power Point presentation at Temple Shaarei Shalom, on November 14th. If you didn’t attend, you really missed a wonderful evening. Our liaison with TSS is in its infancy, but I see great things in our combined futures.

IMPORTANT ... Our Symposium (Sunday, January 15th 2017) is filling up and we need to get the final reservations in ASAP. Joel Sisitsky has planned a wonderful day and I know that we’re all looking forward to meeting and greeting Dr. Janette (pronounced, JANET) SILVERMAN of Ancestry Pro Genealogists. Janette brings to us MANY years of Jewish Genealogy experience, and her lectures are always well received.

JUST AS IMPORTANT...We opened reservations to our Lunch ´n Learn to the public on December 15, 2016. So, if you haven’t already booked, I strongly urge you to do it NOW. Once we are sold out, we will have a waiting list. Remember what happened last year? PLEASE get your reservation to me PRONTO.

Happy New Year 2017! May it be a productive year for you and your Jewish genealogy research.

Cindy

Scattered Seeds Staff

Editor Tina Gudin Korn
Support Jacqueline Fineblit
Proofreading Marilyn Lane, Mark Jacobson
Gary Stone, M.D.
Mailing Mark Jacobson
Webmaster Jerry Naditch
“So, Tina,” asked Mark Jacobson, President of JGSPBCI in early 2010, “would you like to be the editor of Scattered Seeds?” At the time, I was a blogger for the Palm Beach, Florida edition of Sun-Sentinel. I was passionate about writing and fairly new to genealogical research. “I guess I could help you out, until you find someone permanently,” was my answer seven years ago.

Well, this is my silver edition of Scattered Seeds... 25 publications, so far. I strive to create a newsletter that inspires, educates and makes our members look into the future, as well as the past.

Happy 2017! My wishes for the year ahead are peace in the world, good health, and success in research. I extend these wishes to all of our members and friends.
When Cindy Potter Taylor, President of JGSPBCI, introduced herself, she assured the audience that she was a nice “Yiddisha Madel,” with her tribe behind her and proud to belong among them. Cindy happily proclaimed that we were now in a wonderful partnership between Temple Shaarei Shalom and the JGSPBCI Library.

As part of the new relationship we have with Temple Shaarei Shalom with the transfer of our library to the synagogue, Phyllis Kramer was invited to present an “Introduction to Jewish Genealogy.”

She opened her talk with the title of her Power Point program, "AN ENTERTAINING INTRODUCTION to JEWISH GENEALOGY." Every seat was taken and more chairs were brought in. We were indeed welcomed!

She asked the audience to hold their questions, but answered some eager queries as she went along. Phyllis brought handouts, including pictures, with information and forms one needs to obtain genealogical information.

In discussing using a census to determine age, she noted that “Although the Census is taken every ten years, it is amazing that many women remain only seven years older!”

One particular question she spoke to, regarded family member(s) who requested their names and history not be included in the family documents, but that their existence somehow be included, however, not in the "body" of the tree.

Phyllis has a great sense of humor which she exhibited throughout her presentation. After her talk, there was a lively question and answer session. It was an interested, appreciative group, who enthusiastically applauded. We joined together for coffee and a sweet nosh while people mingled and lingered.

Seven copies of Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy 2016-2017 Edition, by Gary Mokotoff, were sold.
After skipping a year, the big day will be here shortly........ Sunday, January 15, 2017 our JGS will be holding its Jewish genealogical Symposium from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. This is a ‘once in a year event’ not to be missed! Sign up forms will be available soon so make sure you sign up for this fantastic learning experience.

You will have the 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 $35.00 at the door. Fees includes box lunch, snacks, choices from 15 presentations, handouts, and some great items for a silent auction. Again, don’t pass up this opportunity to learn more in the world of genealogy. (See side bar for workshop topics.)

We are extremely lucky to have as a special presenter, Janette Silverman from Salt Lake City, Utah. She is a Senior Genealogist Research Manager at Ancestry-Pro-Genealogists, specializing in Jewish Research. Janette was also Co-Chair of the 2016 IAJGS Conference held in Seattle, Washington.

As you can see, we have a full day of exciting and informative presentations. Remember, Sunday, January 15, 2017 at the South County Civic Center, 16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL. Check us out at our web site: jgspalmbeachcounty.org.

**Location**

South County Civic Center,
16700 Jog Road, Delray Beach, FL

**Symposium**

9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

- Ukraine Special Interest Groups
- What Happens When A Name Changes
- Immigration Mythology & Misinformation
- So You Want To Have A Family Reunion
- Introduction To Genealogy
- Genealogy And DNA
- Naturalization
- Family Search
- Ancestry.com
- Mistakes I Made Exploring My Maternal Grandfather’s Tree
- You Found The Town Name, Now What?
- JewishGen
- How To Tag Any Photo Or Document
- How To Prepare For The IAJGS Conference In Orlando
### SYMPOSIUM 2017 Speakers

- **Ancestry.com** — Mona Morris
- **Family Search** — Dennis Rice
- **Genealogy and DNA** — Michael Abramson
- **How to Prepare for the IAJGS Conference in Orlando** — Cindy Taylor
- **Immigration Mythology & Misinformation** — Janette Silverman
- **Introduction to Genealogy** — Ina Getzoff
- **JewishGen** — Phyllis Kramer
- **Mistakes I Made Exploring My Maternal Grandfather's Tree** — Barbara Nowak
- **Naturalization** — Mark Jacobson
- **So You Want to Have A Family Reunion** — Marilyn Lane
- **Ukraine Special Interest Groups** — Janette Silverman
- **What Happens When A Name Changes** — Janette Silverman
- **You Found the Town Name, Now What?** — Phyllis Kramer
- **Introduction to Computer File Management** — Dan Epstein
SYMPOSIUM SILENT AUCTION

The following is a partial list of items we will have available for our silent auction:

- RootsMagic 7 software program
- 1-year membership to American Ancestors by NE Historic Genealogical Society
- Book - “Blessings of Freedom” - Chapters in American Jewish History
- 1-year subscription to Ancestry World Explorer
- 1-year subscription to Ancestry Academy
- 1-year subscription to Fold3
- 1-year subscription to Newspapers.com Basic
- 1-year subscription to GenealogyBank.com
- 1-year subscription to MyHeritage
- Flip Pal mobile scanner
- Dictionary of Ashkenazic Given Names
- Family Tree Source Book

plus many other genealogical items having a total value of over $2,000.00

ANNE FAIVUS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS

Jane E Appelbaum
Jerry Bartzoff
Mark Jacobson

smile.amazon.com

If you are an amazon.com customer, please consider making your purchases via smile.amazon.com. With no additional charge to you, a small portion of your purchase will be contributed to JGSPBCI by Amazon.

The main page of our website contains a link that provides detailed, step-by-step, instructions for linking your Amazon account to JGSPBCI.

The summary version is as follows: Sign into your Amazon account at smile.amazon.com. Amazon will ask you to pick a charity. Start typing "Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County” and the charity box will be filled in for you. Then, remember to use smile.amazon.com rather than amazon.com for your purchases.
Mark Jacobson will answer questions from our members about Jewish genealogy. Mark is past president of JGSPBCI and an independent genealogy consultant. If you have a genealogical question, please send an email to Markdj1@hotmail.com.

Q: I've started my genealogy - I wrote down everything I remember about my parents, grandparents, etc., asked my cousins for information, and started a tree – what do I do now?

Now, you can begin your research. Don't start with all your family branches at one time. Pick one line – your mother, grandfather or anyone else, and focus on them. Gather what you can find on them and work backwards. Start with relatives who lived in the United States, if possible. That will give you the best chance for success at finding documents. Look for your family in the United States Census, starting with 1940 and working backwards. This will help you estimate ages, birth order of children, year of immigration and whether they became citizens. Put this information into a chart on paper or on your computer and track the person or family group backwards as far as you can. If you find people who became citizens you can begin to look for naturalization documents. These records can help you find the town of birth and details of immigration so you can move backwards to passenger manifests and beyond.

Q: What US census records are available and were they taken only every ten years?

The US Census was mandated by the Constitution to enumerate the population for congressional representation. It is taken every ten years. The first census was taken in 1790 and it continues today. There are privacy restrictions that limit access to the census for 72 years, so the most recent available US Census is 1940. The 1950 US Census will be available to the public in 2022. The census has changed dramatically since 1790; the earliest census only recorded the names of male heads of household, later wives and children were added. By the end of the 19th century households were recorded with relationships to the head of household so it is clear how people living together are connected. Every surviving US Census before 1950 is available for research and online at many free and commercial genealogy websites. The 1890 Census was unfortunately damaged in a fire and later destroyed (except for a few isolated sections,) so it is not available for research. Early 20th century census allows you to learn a lot about your family members including occupation, country of origin, years of immigration and naturalization, and number of children born. To fill in the years between the US Censuses, there are state census records for some states in some years. These include Florida, New Jersey through 1915, and New York, through 1925 (although records for New York City are lost for most years before 1905.) These state census forms usually ask fewer questions than the federal census, but they can help fill in the blanks when you are trying to figure out when someone married, died or was born. The 1925 New York census asks naturalized persons the court where they were naturalized. This can sometimes help you find a naturalization record. Once you find someone in a census, look for them in every available census – each record will have unique questions that could break down a brick wall.
ANNUAL LUNCH 'N LEARN

Presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County

Chuck Todd
Moderator of Meet the Press

Honoring Four Women at the Crossroads of 90

Honorees
- Dorothy Bernstein
- Jacqueline Fineblit
- Natalie Hamburg
- Sylvia Nusinov

Our honorees have served on our Board of Directors in leadership roles and been instrumental in development and growth of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County since its inception.

Indian Spring Country Club
11501 El Clair Ranch Road
Boyatton Beach, FL 33437

Charles "Chuck" Todd is an American television journalist who is the 12th moderator and host of Meet the Press on NBC, and of Meet the Press Daily on MSNBC as well as Political Director for NBC News. Prior to taking the helm of Meet the Press, Todd was Chief White House correspondent for the network and host of The Daily Rundown on MSNBC. He also serves as NBC News' on-air political analyst for NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt and NBC Today. In addition, Todd works as Adjunct Professor, Johns Hopkins University and George Washington University. Todd received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Marymount University in recognition of his work in journalism.

By reservation only, no walk-ins. Jackets optional. Return bottom portion of this invitation by February 3, 2017 with your check (US funds) payable to: JGSPBCI to Cindy Potter Taylor (address below). Questions? Contact Dennis Rice at drtigers@aol.com

JGSPBCI LUNCH 'N LEARN REGISTRATION
Wednesday, February 15, 2017

Name_________________________________________Entrée Choice___________
Name_________________________________________Entrée Choice___________
Phone: ___________________________Email: __________________________

Send to: Cindy Potter-Taylor
8105 Florenza Drive,
Boynton Beach, FL 33472

Chicken Marsala
Honey Mustard Cedar Planked Salmon
Pasta Primavera

Members $36.00
Non-members $45.00
Amount incl. $________

JGSPBCI is a 501(C)(3) Not for Profit Organization under the U.S. IRS Code
OUR FOUR LUNCHEON HONOREES

SYLVIA FURSHMAN NUSINOV

President Emerita from 1998-2002, Sylvia was a trail blazer in the early years of our JGS. She was instrumental in structuring our group into a full-fledged JGS – patterned after our parent IAJGS. As President, she established a Board of Directors, appointed committee heads, and developed a set of by-laws. She initiated our all-day Genealogy Workshop, later called the all-day Mini-Conference, and now known as the Genealogy Symposium. Our Annual Lunch ‘n Learn was an innovation, bringing the membership together on a Sunday morning to socialize and learn from outstanding guest speakers.

Under her leadership our JGS received two IAJGS International Awards. The first “Outstanding Programming.” The second: “Outstanding Publication” for her workbook, Genealogy Resources - Searching Your Ancestry in Archives and Repositories. She established our Speakers Bureau in 2010 to spread the word of the importance of genealogical research. As she has always said, “How will our children know who they are, if they don’t know where they came from?”

NATALIE HAMBURG

Natalie’s leadership role in our JGPBCI began in the winter of 1998, following the appointment of her late husband, Past President Dr. Marvin Hamburg as Editor of Scattered Seeds, and Natalie, as Co-Editor. Skills developed as a Principal and a Supervisor of Programming in New York City’s Board of Education paved the way to chairing innumerable positions in our Genealogy Society. Chairing our first Anniversary Luncheon was followed by Natalie chairing innumerable future luncheons and stellar events. Natalie served as an outstanding Program Chairman for several terms, and Chaired our initial By-Laws committee. Natalie and Marvin frequently presented Genealogy lectures together addressing organizations and schools, and were SIG/Special Interest Group Leaders. Natalie is our own special WOW girl!

JACQUELINE FINEBLIT

Almost 20 years ago Jackie joined our Board and volunteered to serve as Publicity Director and Membership Coordinator. Calling on her professional training in journalism, she has made sure that our programs were well publicized. Until recently she also edited and mailed the monthly notices to our membership. Over the years she has served on many committees—library, luncheons, mini conferences, by-laws. She was appointed by the Board to supervise and edit our website and worked closely with four web masters to edit content over the years and she has served as copy editor and proof reader for two Scattered Seeds editors.

She joined JGPBCI to learn more about two historic documents her father left her. Her research has brought her to a fascinating family history ranging from Eastern Europe to Holland and England. Today she is working to complete the ten volumes of genealogical documents she has accumulated so that her children will have a completed story of where they come from.

DOROTHY BERNSTEIN

For Dorothy, it all started with a gift of a computer from a familiar source, a grandson—Chuck Todd. His questions stirred up memories of her grandparents, and from there her interests in family history never wavered. As Dorothy has said many times over, “Everyone is from everywhere.” Her genealogical research has turned up relatives from America’s Revolutionary War to recent arrivals.

When Dorothy first joined the Board as Telephone Squad chair, few of our members were computer owners, and she spent many hours notifying members of upcoming events. Today, only a handful of our members do not own computers, but she still keeps them informed by phone. The phone calls she makes unites this special group. She takes this task very seriously which she has performed over the years most efficiently.

My article discussed two items that I had read dealing with the protection of your digital assets. In it, I quoted Dick Eastman, who wrote: *What Happens to your Online Accounts when You Die?* as follows:

“Genealogists are well aware of the disposition of wills, diaries, letters, and other personal items when a person dies. Indeed, the legal processes make sure that a person’s personal affairs are wrapped up properly. If a will exists, those same legal processes have always made sure the wishes of the deceased are considered and implemented as closely as possible. However, today’s new technologies add new challenges that are not yet covered by probate law—and also not well documented for either the family members of the deceased or the corporations that have possession of the deceased person’s digital assets.”

In March, 2016, Florida’s Governor approved a new law under Florida Statute Chapter 740, entitled the *Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act*. This act took effect on July 1, 2016. The purpose of the Act is to vest fiduciaries with the authority to access, control, or copy digital assets and accounts. Under Chapter 740, a “digital asset” is defined as an “electronic record in which an individual has a right or interest.” This could be anything online (and some offline storage too,) including email and Facebook accounts, domain names, online storage of files in Dropbox, Box.com, Evernote, Amazon or perhaps access to financial accounts through banks or offline storage accounts. It can also include, most importantly for the genealogist, the storage of your online tree information, photos, records or data.

The Act establishes the rights of personal representatives or guardians (those chosen by the decedent or appointed by Court). A personal representative is presumed to have access to all of the decedent’s digital assets unless that is contrary to the decedent’s will or to other applicable law. A guardian must be specifically authorized by the court to gain access to the ward’s digital assets and electronic communications.

There are many more details found in the Act that provide access to a person’s digital assets in different situations. If you, like me, have spent lots of time carefully researching your family and storing and preserving emails, photos, records or other information on the computer in the cloud or with other accounts like *Ancestry.com* or other family tree accounts, it would be very wise indeed to be sure to legally allow for your heirs, loved ones, or those you wish to have access with the proper legal authority to make that happen or at the very least, be sure they are aware of their ability to gain access to these materials through Florida’s new Act.
MEMBER TIDBITS

Contributed by member Jackie Fineblit:

On October 23, 2016, Roger Lustig of Princeton, NJ (Prussian Poland area coordinator, JRI-Poland) posted this on the JRI Poland SIG:

For those of us researching East Prussia, there is a large trove of records lurking in the Ancestry.com databases. Specifically, the Jewish vital-records cards for Koenigsberg (now Kaliningrad, Russia) have been put on line and indexed, BUT, they're in a collection called “Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1519-1969.” These records cover well over a century, ending in 1874.

Contributed by Past President, Mark Jacobson:

Gesher Galicia has recently added many record indexes for various Galician towns to the free All Galicia Database at http://search.geshergalicia.org. The additions include indexes of vital records held by the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine in Lviv for the towns of Stryj, Narajow and Zolkiew.

These are different from the records already indexed for these towns by JRI-Poland and more will be added from Narajow and Stryj when funds are raised. Gesher Galicia has also added indexes to vital records held by the Przemysl State Archive for Zloczow and Skole.

From this same Archive they have added an index to a list of people from the Czortkow area who were subject to obligations of military service who applied for and obtained foreign passports, 1930-1937. This last item is the result of a joint project between the Suchostaw Region Research Group (SRRG) and Gesher Galicia.

Contributed by member Ann Rabinowitz: (member and author of “Mythbusters”)  

Here are two more of my top ten myths spouted by the “family historian” who doesn’t think Jewish genealogists are important—and I offer the perfect response to each:

Myth #6: Our ancestral town no longer exists —

RESPONSE: Today, your ancestral town may not have a Jewish community which has survived, but it most likely still does exist. It might be in a different country, or have a different name. More than 6,000 known Jewish communities can be searched in the JewishGen Communities Database. Once you have identified your ancestral town and its present-day name, it is possible to locate records, visit the place, and involve yourself in learning more about your ancestors’ lives, with the assistance of JewishGen and its various tools such as Yizkor Books, KehilaLinks, and the like.

Myth #7: People knew their birth dates —

RESPONSE: Wrong, many immigrants did not know their birth dates. Entering the U.S., before 1924, required no documentation, just a ticket. Many brought no identification papers with them. Even if they knew their birth dates, it was usually in relation to a Jewish holiday (“the third day of Chanukah,”) or a Hebrew date (“12th of Adar.”) They had no easy way of translating this Jewish calendar date into the secular Gregorian calendar date. Many individuals decided to use American holidays, such as January 1st or July 4th, as their birthday. Also, some people adjusted their ages for various reasons: to avoid conscription into the military, to be eligible to vote, to enable them to obtain pensions, or to marry a younger person. It is said that the average woman’s age decreased over seven years between every Federal census from 1900 through 1940.
USING GENEALOGY BANK OBITS (1980-2010)
Phyllis Kramer, JGSPBCI, VP Education, JewishGen

Many of us have found relatives in the 1920, 1930, 1940 census, and often the next step is to look for information on their children. Generally speaking, if you are looking for someone after 1940, it is somewhat difficult. Names are changed; ladies marry; people move.

Familysearch.org has put up GenealogyBank Obitis from U.S. newspapers from 1980 through 2010; obituaries often contain the names of close relatives and their descendants. One caveat: as familysearch is using OCR, be aware there are transcription errors.

1. Go to familysearch.org
2. Click on search (icon located at the middle on the bottom)
3. Scroll down to the collection box and key in genealogybank (one word)
4. Key in the names you are searching (use the check box for an exact search,) and if known, a range of birth years.

* * *

UPDATE ON MEMORIAL PLAQUES DATABASE
Nolan Altman, JewishGen VP for Data Acquisition, December, 2016

JewishGen is proud to announce its year-end 2016 Update for the Memorial Plaques Database (MPD). The MPD database can be accessed at http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/ The MPD database includes the data from plaques and Yizkor lists from synagogue and other organizations. Many of these sources include patronymic information.

This update added approximately 30,000 records and 7,900 photos from Croatia, Israel, Italy, the United States and Wales. These records come from 24 different synagogues and other institutions.

We believe that the MPD is a good example of how users of JewishGen's databases can “give back.” If you are a member of a synagogue or other organization with memorial plaques or Yizkor lists, please consider helping us to grow this database. You can find more information on submitting data at http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/Submit.htm If you have additional questions, please contact me directly.

For a complete listing of the institutions currently in the database, please see http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Memorial/tree/MemList.htm

* * *

FIND A GRAVE SITE NOW INCLUDES GEDENKBUCH HOLOCAUST VICTIMS

Names of more than 170,000 German Jews murdered in the Holocaust are now included on the Find A Grave website. Go to:

https://www.bundesarchiv.de/gedenkbuch/directory.html
INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE PLANS TO PLACE MORE OF ITS COLLECTION ONLINE

In conjunction with a visit from the German Commissioner of Culture, the director of the International Tracing Service stated that ITS aims to make its documents available to even more people around the world for research and education, as well as personal exploration. “The new ITS Online Archive is a window into the ITS collection on the web. We want to open this window even wider, because the value of the archive grows with the number of people using it,” said ITS Director Floriane Hohenberg.

The International Tracing Service, located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, is an archive and a center for documenting Nazi persecution and the liberated survivors. Out of the more than 30 million documents about an estimated 55 million persons, former victims of Nazism and their families receive information regarding their incarceration, forced labor, and postwar allied assistance. The documents in the ITS archives provide the basis for research and education. In continuing to fulfill these responsibilities, the ITS is part of an international cooperation with memorial sites, archives and research institutes.

The ITS is governed by representatives from 11 member states: Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Poland, United Kingdom and U.S. The German Federal Government Commissioner for Culture and the Media funds ITS. The German Federal Archives is the institutional partner. The index to their collection is available at one site within each member state. For Israel, it is Yad Vashem, and for the United States it is the Holocaust Memorial Museum. ITS and those sites that have the index accept inquiries from individuals.

Current collections online include:
- Effects Reserved at the ITS
- Inquiries by Allies on "Death Marches"
- Child Search Branch


JEWHGEN EDUCATION 2017 COURSES

Phyllis Kramer, VP, Education, JEWISHGEN.ORG
Nancy Holden, Instruction Manager

We are delighted to offer ‘genners a range of courses in 2017.

1. Improve Your Organization Skills & Research Online (for Advanced Beginners)– Jan 2-29
2. Exploring JewishGen (Basic 1 – tuition waived for Value Added ‘Genners) – Jan 6-20
3. Brick Walls or Dead End– Feb 3-24
5. Complex Genealogical Research in the U.S. – Apr 3-20

The three and four week classes are taught in our unique FORUM, a personal mentoring experience, where students have the opportunity to share their story and work one step at a time with the instructor. Students are encouraged to post one branch, set goals for their research and work interactively. Instructors are familiar with a wide range of resources and offer text lessons to accompany the research process.

Consider the beginning course for organization and basic research skills (census, vital records, manifests) then move on to the Complex U.S. course or the New York course (both cover naturalization, military, governmental records, and local archival research.)

Basic Courses are 2 weeks and text based with exercises; tuition is waived for Value Added members of JewishGen who have donated $100 to the General Fund in the last 12 months.

We strongly encourage you to look at the course details, instructor’s credentials and student requirements (time, fee, prerequisites) on www.jewishgen.org/education. Course Registration opens two weeks before the course start date. If, after reviewing the education page, you have some questions, please email JewishGen-Education@lyris.JewishGen.org.
You do not need to have a subscription to MyHeritage to access its Compilation of Public Sources collection with over 447,000 books, manuscripts and articles. It's free!

Go to: http://tinyurl.com/gl37cnj

Original url: https://www.myheritage.com/research/collection-90100/compilation-of-published-sources

Type in a family name or town and see the results.

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Since my posting on the German National Library Digitized Exile Press back online I received several questions about how to find the collection on the website. As the collection was available as of December 1, which was after my original posting, I had not checked where to access it. I do not speak nor read German, therefore, I used the Chrome browser which translates for you. I went to the link in the original posting the portal of the German National Library (www.dnb.de) and typed in “exilpresse.” On the dropdown list in the index is “exile collections.” I clicked on that which took me to: http://www.dnb.de/EN/Wir/Projekte/Archiv/exilpresseDigital.html I clicked on the link within that notice for information on the digitized journals and holdings: http://www.dnb.de/EN/DEA/Kataloge/Exilpresse/exilpresseDigital.html which lists all the German exile press journals. Note, they are only in German.

If you have further questions about how to use the website or the collection I recommend you contact the Library at the "contact“ link in the upper left hand corner.


Jews have been part of the American story since before the American Revolution. It addresses how Jewish settlers came to inhabit the New World, Jews in Colonial America and their contributions to the flowering of American culture. The exhibit follows the immigration from Europe, South America and the Caribbean to arriving in Nieuw Amsterdam in 1654.

More about the exhibit may be read at: http://www.nyhistory.org/exhibitions/first-jewish-americans-freedom-and-culture-new-world

The Forward has an article with 11 images from the exhibit. They may be viewed at:


If you are visiting New York City during the time of the exhibit, and want to see the exhibit, it is located at:

New-York Historical Society
170 Central Park West
New York, NY 10024

at Richard Gilder Way (77th Street)
IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT NEW LAW LIMITS FOR THE WARSAW DECREE

On 17 September 2016, a new law took effect in Poland that results in limiting the rights of claimants to those who have filed under the Warsaw Decree. The new law terminates many private property claims in the City of Warsaw after 1945 (Warsaw Law) — unless the heirs come forward to reactivating the claim. Please note the new law does NOT permit for new claims to be filed, but rather only permits claims already filed with the City of Warsaw under the Warsaw Decree. The original Decree issued in 1945 transferred ownership of all properties within the prewar boundaries of Warsaw back to the city of Warsaw. This only pertains to the City of Warsaw as prescribed in the Warsaw Decree and no other parts of Poland.

Claimants must be able to prove their rights to the property or they will lose their rights to the property and the property will be transferred to the state treasury or the City of Warsaw. When Poland was under the Communist regime, the regime seized much of the pre-war property of all Poles, and therefore the claims languished for decades. The law permits only six months, beginning from the date of publication on the new law and it became effective in mid-September. Time is of the essence.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization (WJRO) has created a webpage with a searchable database to help you identify whether you or your relative may have filed a claim under the Warsaw law. For background information on the new Warsaw property legislation see: http://tinyurl.com/zw39znw

What WJRO did was match the street addresses which the City of Warsaw published — see below — with the property owners found in the 1939/1940 Warsaw Homeowners Directory. Go to: http://warsawproperty.org/ after reading the aforementioned website on WJRO. Thank you to Jewish genealogist, Logan Kleinwaks (genealogyindexer.org) for his assistance in digitizing and using the Polish directories and other aides to help WJRO accomplish this feat.

Not all homes listed are necessarily those previously owned by Jews. However, there was a large Jewish population in pre-war Warsaw.

In June 2016, the City of Warsaw published over 2600 street addresses with open claims without publishing the names of the claimants or owners. See: http://tinyurl.com/hxhewqt
To read more about this see http://tinyurl.com/z745mlq

Thank you to Jewish genner Randy Herschaft, AP, for informing us about this important story.
His mother would not let him study opera. Someone offered to send a young Harry Jordan to Italy to train his lovely voice into that of an opera singer. His parent’s protest: “We just came from Europe. You’re not going back to Europe.” And so it was.

Perhaps his creative urge was born from this incident. I’ll never know. My father passed away when I was fourteen. The only bit of genealogical information I gleaned from him was that our name, Jordan, was Zerdanowski, in Russia. His flair for the stage came to me in bits and pieces from my mother, others who knew him, playbills, photos and books.

Philadelphia was his new American home, when he arrived in 1906, at the age of eleven. By 1913, he was playing in local Jewish variety shows. The next few years found Harry performing sketches in English vaudeville and dramatic clubs. He then branched out and played legitimate theater in Baltimore, and by 1930 he had passed through Detroit, Toronto, Pittsburgh and Cleveland. I found him in the 1920 Census, living in a hotel in Peoria, Illinois, giving his occupation as “a performer.” I’ve always wondered if he acted in New Orleans, because I found a very youthful picture postcard of him that was sent to his parents in Philadelphia. My attempt at researching New Orleans theater in the 1920’s was fruitless.

The 1928-29 theater season brought Harry to Littman’s Peoples Theater in Detroit. In the autobiography of Yiddish actor Herman Yablokoff, Der Payatz, a story was told about a play that starred Bertha Kalish. There were many problems with the production, including illness of the actors. Several succumbed to the flu and were hospitalized. My father had to assume the role of the main male actor on short notice for the evening performance, which he did successfully.

He played at the Hopkinson Theater in Brooklyn in 1931. I found an old crumbling telegram among family photos wishing him success on opening night at a theater in New York, but unfortunately the play closed soon after.

My father met my mother, Mary, at Littman’s Peoples Theater on 12th Street in Detroit. She, her sister and her friend began dancing in the chorus in 1932. She was right out of high school and the Depression hit the family hard. The young women earned $1.50 a performance, which helped pay the bills.

Harry and Mary married in 1935 and continued working in Yiddish theater. They entertained actors by the score in their little three room apartment, sharing home cooked meals, lovingly prepared by Mary. Herschel Bernardi’s brother, Jack, was one of their favorites. His sense of humor was like none other. He literally had people rolling on the floor from his antics. I was lucky to meet him in 1980 and also experienced his humorous demeanor.

There was a “Jewish Hour” radio program in Detroit. The actors, as well as the chorus, sang once a week to advertise their shows in the Yiddish theater. Rehearsals were at the home of Harry Weinberg, who hosted the show, and Harry and Mary participated with all the actors. No one was paid. My mother remembered the Weinberg children, in their pajamas, getting ready for bed while they rehearsed.

My parents encountered some of the Yiddish Theater greats while working at Littman’s: Paul Muni, Michal Michalesko, Celia Pearson, Aaron Lebedeff, Lucy German, Menashe Skulnick, Samuel Goldberg and Joseph Buloff.

A portrait of Abraham Littman resided in my mother’s basement for decades. Why it was in her possession I’ll never know. I recently donated it to the Franklin Archives in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. An artist by the name of Rappaport painted a portrait of Harry. It hung in the lobby of a New York theater at one time. It has been restored and now hangs in my home, reminding me every day of my father’s exciting career as a Yiddish actor.
Have YOU renewed your membership?

The fiscal year of the JGSPBCI begins September 1, 2016. We thank you for your part in making the past year most successful. Prompt return of your check, made payable to JGSPBCI will insure that your research information is included in the 2016-2017 Membership Directory.

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.

| Individual  | $25  |
| Individual Life Member | $200 |
| Family       | $36  |
| Donor        | $50  |
| Patron       | $100 |
| Family Life Members | $300 |

For further information, contact Eric Sharenow, our membership chairperson, at membership@jgspalmbeachcounty.org or 561-254-9861.

Welcome New Members

Ethel Blitz
Michael & Gaya Brodnitz
Nordahl & Suzanne Brue - ** Family Life Membership
Lorin & Sharon Duckman
Linda Faber
Pete Grosewald
Lois Hoffman
Gail Ikler
Florence Kapoor - * Life Member
David & Debra Picker
Rita Redlich - * Life member
Jill Roff
Ted & Edith Sulzberg
Jerome Tabakman
Which deserving Palm Beach County high school senior will be awarded the $1,800 Anne Faivus Memorial Scholarship at our JGSPBCI 26th Annual Lunch n’ Learn on Wednesday, February 15, 2017? Be there to find out!