



JGSTB Branching Out

October 2009

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

Sunday, October 11, 2009

Title:

Speaker:

Discussion:

Sunday, November 9, 2008

Title: *Producing A Family Newsletter*

Speaker: Pamela Treme

Discussion: Holidays bring cards stuffed with family newsletters...some are good and some are not so good. If you would like to learn how to produce an outstanding family newsletter, this presentation will help you. Pattie starts this presentation by explaining how you gather the information for your newsletter. She offers advice on planning and budgeting as well as the production of a family newsletter. Get suggestions on how to organize your material and decide if your newsletter will be distributed by email or snail mail.

A Leaf or Two from the Editor:

Written By: Jennifer Velt

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay's (JGSTB) has a new addition to its family: this very newsletter! I am so excited that my branches are shaking! As you read *Branching Out*, I hope that it will be educational, informative and will provide an opportunity for you to get to know the branches of the JGSTB family. In return, I would like to get to know you. If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to contact us. I hope that you enjoy *Branching Out*. I thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

A Message from the President:

Written by: Bettylou Rosen

In the Diaspora, our ancestors settled in hundreds of thousands of places around the world, leaving behind clues about their lives and customs. In spite of continuous and often unspeakable hardship, they raised and educated families, and managed to survive in strange and inhospitable environments. More often they left only faded tombstones in overgrown and neglected cemeteries, or illegible signatures on documents written in obscure languages.

Family historians like, you and me, have dedicated themselves to tracing their ancestors and deciphering their clues. They are persistent and dogged in their determination to find their predecessors, because it is their shoulders we stand on. If we know where we came from, we can more readily go forward to prepare a legacy for our children and for generations to come. We must keep searching with patience and dedication. If we help our fellow genealogists and share our successes and failures, we can all benefit by learning from them.

I wish you great success in your genealogical endeavors. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay, created in 1999, exists today to assist you. Our society's newsletter, library, and skilled researchers are at your disposal. Let us know if we can assist you.

JGSTB's Mission Statement:

The purpose of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay is to assist interested individuals in learning about Jewish genealogy and how to research and document their own family histories. The Society does this by facilitating the exchange of research information, encouraging and facilitating research activities, educating members to help themselves and others, making available research resources and materials, arranging genealogical research tours and presenting monthly programs of interest to Jewish genealogical researchers. The Society's library and research resources include both printed materials and Internet access as well as guided assistance from experienced researchers. Special emphasis is given to helping beginners.

JGSTB's Roots:

Written By: Linda Zolinsky

JGSTB society was founded in 1999 by a group of like-minded individuals. Several of us gathered at my house to discuss the possibility of establishing a Jewish Genealogy group in the Tampa Bay Area. We decided that with the size of the Jewish population in this Tri-County area there would be at least 20 people that would be interested in discovering their roots. We met a few times at the John F. Germany Public Library in Tampa, a few times at the Jewish Community Center in Tampa and finally established our home base at the Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services location in Largo. We have outstanding speakers within our organization and have been very fortunate to build lifelong relationships with many outstanding speakers both in our area and visiting to our area.

Leaf of the month:

JewishGen and Ancestry.com Form an Alliance

(Reprinted in part from "Nu? What's New" the E-zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu, Gary Mokotoff, Editor)

JewishGen has agreed to allow Ancestry.com to place their historical databases within the Ancestry environment. In exchange there will be a great benefit to JewishGen users: JewishGen will be hosted on the Ancestry servers rather than their own. Anyone who uses JewishGen is aware of the horrendous response time and occasional down time from the slow antiquated servers. This will disappear by the end of the year when JewishGen will be hosted on the powerful Ancestry servers. A second consideration will be of great benefit to JewishGen itself: money. Ancestry will pay to license the data. It hopefully will be used for growing JewishGen. This will be possible only as long as volunteer contributions continue to increase and pay for sustaining JewishGen's day-to-day costs.

Excluded from the agreement are "personal data" such as the JewishGen Family Finder, Family Tree of the Jewish People, Viewmate, ShtetlLinks, Yizkor book and SIG sites. This means, for example, that Ancestry will not have access to e-mail addresses. Ancestry was not interested in these databases, and, it is unlikely that JewishGen would have released them.

It should be emphasized that all JewishGen databases that are available free of charge will still be free of charge when obtained through Ancestry.com.. This alliance will serve the interests of both parties in that Ancestry.com will gain access to an enormous amount of Eastern European genealogical data that is missing from its databases, and JewishGen will obtain badly needed servers and bandwidth to improve speed and reliability as well as technical assistance from Ancestry to improve the JewishGen user experience.

Roots of the Community:

(Describes the events at JGS throughout the area)

Leaves from Recent Conventions:



Bill Israel convening with a few of the many IAJGS conference goers. So much to learn so little time.



Sally Israel in front of the Liberty Bell after the IAJGS conference.

UNEXPECTED NEW LEAVES:

Written by Rita Shapiro

Rita Shapiro and her daughter, Deborah Radstrom, have been immersed in researching the families, FRANKEL and KIRSCHEN now for some time but given a new impetus after their initiation into "big-time" genealogy at the International Conference held in Chicago in late August. Since the convention (where we learned of JewishGen and Ancestry.com's alliance), we have been busy using the tools that are available online to all subscribers to JewishGen and Ancestry.com. In our doing so, we have located a cousin we didn't know about before, in Woodmere, N.Y. and will meet with him sometime in Feb. Deborah and I have also located interesting "stars" on the FRANKEL lines, which include Yehudah Menuhin and some very Grand Rabbis in Germany and the Ukraine! The fascination with our research continues!!