

# Etz Chaim

עץ חיים



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JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF GREATER ORLANDO

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GREATER ORLANDO AREA

WINTER 2005



Eleven-year old Peter Wolfe of Palm Bay, FL, grandson of JGSGO member Howard Gold of Maitland, recently had a good lesson in genealogy. Peter and his grandfather (Howard) toured the Hebrew Cemetery in Fall River, MA where they visited the graves of Peter's great-great grandmother and grandfather, Libby and Hyman Cohen. Libby was born in Poland in 1874 and died in Fall River 10/11/41. Hyman was born in Minsk and died in Fall River 1/1/21.

## ETZ CHAIM

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Please visit JGSGO's website at:  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/FLjgscf/>

Etz Chaim is free to all members of JGSGO. Back copies (when available) \$5.00 each.

### Membership Information:

Regular membership dues effective January 1, 2005. (January 1-December 31) Family \$30.00; Individual Membership \$25.00; Sponsor \$50.00; and Patron \$100.00 Out-of-town membership (more than 50 miles) is \$20.00 per year. *Note: For new members who join after June 1, dues are half price for the balance of the fiscal year.*

Please make checks payable to JGSGO, P.O. Box 941332, Maitland, FL 32794.

JGSGO meetings are held monthly (excluding July and August), usually on the third Monday of the month, at 7:00 p.m., in the Mini Sanctuary, Congregation of Reformed Judaism, 928 Malone Drive, Orlando, FL. If there is a special holiday on a meeting night, we may meet the previous Monday. Read the "What's Happening" Calendar in the Heritage; check the JGSGO website.

JGSGO's meeting site has been made available through the courtesy extended by CRJ.

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The JGSGO is a member of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the Florida State Genealogical Societies. As a member and under the umbrella of the IAJGS, the JGSGO is a 501(c)(3) United States tax-exempt, non-profit corporation.

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### CALENDAR: Future JGSGO Programs + others

Monday – December 19: Installation of JGSGO Officers and Gala Social, Installing Officer and guest speaker, Rabbi Steven Engel, CRJ. 7:00 p.m. Mini-sanctuary, CRJ

2006 (Check the What's Happening Column and Calendar in the weekly Heritage newspaper)

(Note: Change in meeting date since the third Monday CRJ is closed for MLKing birthday)

January 23: Monday, JGSGO meeting at CRJ, 7 p.m.

Program : Speaker: Ann Osisek, Member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, and Past President of the Central Florida Genealogical Society, "8 Simple Steps for Self-Help Genealogy."

February 20: Monday, JGSGO meeting at CRJ, 7 p.m.

Program : Speaker Paul Enchelmayer, VP Central FL Genealogical Society: "Of Privies and Progenitors"

August 13-18: New York City 26<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, Marriott Marquis Hotel, for further details check: [www.jgsnv.org](http://www.jgsnv.org)

### President's Message...

I recently returned from a wonderful trip to Hawaii and like one and one half million other people, I had to visit Pearl Harbor, the final resting place for most of the 1,177 sailors and marines who died on the Arizona. Their head stone, if you will, is but a small rusty part of the ship that sticks up above the sea and reminds those that look that this indeed is the final resting place for the Arizona and its crew. There were Jewish men among those who gave their lives on the Arizona. I stood and read the names engraved on the memorial wall of those who went down with the ship.



After the cruise something kept going around in my head: It was easy for me to visit the cemetery in Nashville, TN and show my grandsons where their ancestors are buried. Some of you can do the same by visiting cemeteries in other parts of the country, or even go back to Poland or Germany. The point is you have a place, a final resting place to go to, to take your children and grandchildren. But for many it will be only a memorial in the Pacific Ocean or a black granite wall in Washington, DC with a name printed on it as the final resting place. Certainly not the same feeling.

*From the Past Lane,  
Edith Schulman,  
President, JGSGO*

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GMSc	C. V. LEE Jr.	Sec			
OCSc					

**TO THE MEMORY OF THE GALLANT MEN  
HERE ENTOMBED AND THEIR SHIPMATES  
WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN ACTION  
ON DECEMBER 7, 1941 ON THE U.S.S. ARIZONA**

THIS MEMORIAL WALL WAS INSTALLED AND REDEDICATED BY AMVETS APRIL 4, 1984

MMsc	H. L. LEE	Sec	V. G. MENO	MATTSc	T. L. OWSLEY	SCSc
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Sec	W. R. LIGHTFOOT	GMSc	W. H. MILLIGAN	BMSc	N. C. PEARSON	Sec
Sec	G. E. LINNO	GMSc	B. L. MIMS	Sec	R. S. PEARSON	Sec
Sec						

**JGSGO OFFICERS FOR 2006**

At the November 21st meeting, the report from the Nominating Committee (Doris Frank, Stan Weinroth & Millie Rosenbaum) was accepted and received a unanimous affirmative vote. The following individuals were elected for the year 2006:

President: Edith Schulman –

[edith@schulmans.com](mailto:edith@schulmans.com)

VP - Program: Stan Weinroth –

[stan2334@earthlink.net](mailto:stan2334@earthlink.net)

VP - Membership: Doris Frank –

[Dofrank@cfl.rr.com](mailto:Dofrank@cfl.rr.com)

Secretary: Riva Sorokurs –[rsorokurs@cfl.rr.com](mailto:rsorokurs@cfl.rr.com)

Treasurer: Sandra Moss –

[SandyM2452@aol.com](mailto:SandyM2452@aol.com)

Directors: Jerry Kurland, Past President

[Surrealgraphics@earthlink.net](mailto:Surrealgraphics@earthlink.net)

Jay Scleichkorn, Editor, Etz Chaim

[PTJay@aol.com](mailto:PTJay@aol.com)

Jose Valle, Webmaster

[Jl.valle@earthlink.net](mailto:Jl.valle@earthlink.net)

Librarian: Herb Adler –[herbad@adelphia.net](mailto:herbad@adelphia.net)

**GENEALOGY POINTERS.....**

Have you ever had a hankering to visit the gravesite of Kit Carson, Grandma Moses, Mary Roberts Rinehart (Arlington National Cemetery!), or some other famous person? "Where They're Buried," our directory of the final resting places of 20,000 notables, could contain the information you need to make such a trip worthwhile and an interesting visit.

**WHERE THEY'RE BURIED.** A Directory Containing More than 20,000 Names of Notable Persons Buried in American Cemeteries, With Listings of Many Prominent People Who Were Cremated

Now, for the first time, there is a book that will help you to locate the final resting place of more than 20,000 notable persons who were either buried or cremated in the U.S. Arranged by subject category and there under alphabetically, **WHERE THEY'RE BURIED** is a goliath of a work that catalogues deceased celebrities from all walks of life. Open it to any page and you'll turn up the burial place of someone you've heard of or have an interest in. Given the book's remarkable coverage, it's bound to keep you turning and turning.

Was \$55.00 Now \$32.95  
(paperback, 6x9, 627 pages, reprinted 2001, ISBN 0-806348232, ITEM # CF9425 Genealogy Warehouse, [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com))

Don't to miss the gala  
**Wine and Cheese Party,**

chaired by

**Shirley Michael and Sandy Moss,**

at our *Monday, Dec. 19*

**Installation /Meeting,**

Join us at 7:00 p.m., in

**CRJ's (Congregation of Reform Judaism)**

**Mini-Sanctuary**

**928 Malone Drive, Orlando.**



**Rabbi Steven Engel**  
will be the installing officer  
and our guest speaker.

Come say thanks to the  
outgoing officers, and  
welcome the incoming officers.

Take time to socialize,  
talk with other "genealogists"  
And enjoy the meeting.

**WANT A PHOTO OF A Navy Ship?**

**AHOY, shipmates.** If you want a photo of a Navy ship you may have served on during WWII write: Windjammer Arts  
9092 Washington Avenue, Studio 7, Silverdale, Washington, 98383 or call 1-800-595-0042 Or check: [www.windjammer-arts.com/DD.htm](http://www.windjammer-arts.com/DD.htm)

(Thanks to Edith Schulman)

## BOARD ACTIONS:

Your Board has approved a new project to be called JGSGO Community Outreach Project to be co-chaired by Jerry Kurland and Shirley Michael. Through this project we will offer to Jewish organizations in the community programs on genealogy—sharing with these groups some of the joys we have found as we have done our research in looking for our ancestors. We know that senior groups, sisterhoods, brotherhoods, and other organizations are always looking for good programs and JGSGO thinks it can furnish it for them.

Jerry and Shirley will send a letter to the groups in the community explaining the JGSGO Community Outreach Project. If some of your research falls in this category, please contact Shirley or Jerry. We want to build up a cadre of speakers who are willing to fill requests in the community.

Think about the research you have done and see if you don't have an incident that brought great joy to you, and would be fun to share.

The Congregation of Reform Judaism has hosted our society and given space for our library. In appreciation of the outstanding cooperation we received (at no cost), we wanted to find an appropriate gift. After much discussion, your Board voted to purchase 5 Torah Commentaries for CRJ. Sammy Goldstein, the executive director, will be notified and a presentation may be scheduled.

### MAIL CALL....

#### CONGREGATION OF REFORM JUDAISM

08 November 2005

06 Cheshvan 5766

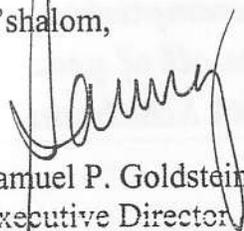
TO: JGSGO Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Congregation of Reform Judaism please express my deep appreciation to the members of the Jewish Genealogical Society for their generous donation of five Torah Commentaries.

We are very glad to be able to work with and support the Society and look forward to many more years of doing so!

Again, please express my thanks to everyone.

L'shalom,



Samuel P. Goldstein, F.T.A.  
Executive Director

## MEET THE RECORDING SECRETARY

Organizations such as the JGSGO are not run by a CEO or a high priced paid director, but by a handful of dedicated volunteers. One such person on the Board of Directors of the JGSGO is Riva Sorokurs, the Recording Secretary.

Riva was born and raised in St. Paul, MN. Her educational background includes attending the University of Minnesota, College of Science, Literature and Arts, earning an Associate in Liberal Arts. Her education continued one year beyond the degree and included assorted short courses in pre-school education and law.



Riva moved to Florida from Minneapolis and has lived in Winter Park, FL, for over 30 years. She taught at the Temple Israel Nursery School for several years. When the JCC opened its Pre-school Riva taught there for more than 10 years. She then became a legal secretary and worked for various law firms for the next 20 years. She has been retired for 3 years.

In July 2003, Riva joined the JGSGO. She said, "I am researching the Schatz, Paymar, Linetsky and Silverberg families. I have always been interested in family stories and have been collecting information forever but it is in no kind of order and there are a great number of blanks." She joined the genealogical society in the hope of learning how to find more information and how to get it together.

Responding to the JGSGO's nominating committee call for volunteers, Riva offered her services and was elected recording secretary in 2004 and nominated for another term in November 2005.

Under her watchful eye, minutes of board and regular meetings have been maintained and made available in a timely manner.

Thanks Riva for playing such an important role in our organization!

## FGS CONFERENCE ROUNDUP

(Note: JGSGO is a member of the FGS Federation of Genealogical Societies)

September 7 – 10, Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS; <http://www.fgs.org>) annual conference was in the heart of US genealogical research: Salt Lake City, home to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints' Family History Library (FHL) <http://www.familysearch.org>) -- which extended its hours during the event.

Around 1,400 people attended, a number likely buoyed by residents of the family history-minded city. Following are this year's conference highlights--and it's not too early to start planning for next year's extravaganza Aug. 30-Sept. 2 in Boston:

The FHL announced plans to index the microfilmed records in its Granite Mountain Vault and put the indexes online. The secure, climate-controlled bunker, carved from a mountain in Utah's Little Cottonwood Canyon, stores 2 million rolls of film bearing records of 110 countries. The library needs help from an estimated 100,000 volunteers by the end of 2006 to create the indexes using a new online system. At the FGS conference, FHL staff offered a sneak peek of the system and recruited volunteers to test it on records from Georgia, Ohio and Mexico. When the actual indexing gets underway, says FamilySearch spokesperson Paul Nauta, the microfilms genealogists most often request will be top priority. He adds the FHL isn't yet ready for an influx of volunteers. Stay tuned to the E-mail Update newsletter--we'll let you know when you can sign up to help. (On another note, pop over to FamilySearch and check out its redesigned home page.)

This fall, MyFamily.com will improve its subscription database site Ancestry.com (<http://www.ancestry.com>) with features including a Recent Activity section (so you can pick up a research session where you left off), better-integrated saving of search results, a new community section and more. According to MyFamily.com, the updates result from 18 months of surveying customers.

As we mentioned in the Sept. 1 E-mail Update, which you can read at <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/newsletter/archive.html>, several genealogy software companies unveiled new versions at the conference: Family Tree Maker (<http://www.familytreemaker.com>), Legacy Family Tree (<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com>) and RootsMagic (<http://rootsmagic.com>). Add The Master Genealogist to that list--see <http://www.whollygenes.com/tmg.htm> to learn about the program's improved look, DNA test result logging

and easier data entry.

In other software news: Producers of GenSmarts (<http://www.gensmarts.com>), which offers research guidance based on information in your genealogy program, have increased the utility's knowledge base with titles from the FHL's US film and book collection. Now GenSmarts can look at dates and locations in yourfamily files and suggest FHL resources for you to consult.

Progeny Software (<http://www.progenysoftware.com>) has updated its Personal Ancestral File Charting Companion with colored charts. FamilyKey, a new program for creating family history Web sites, is in beta testing--you can preview it at <http://www.familykey.com>.

If you're interested in using DNA in your roots research, or you're in charge of a surname project, you'll want to meet a new kid on the block: The International Society of Genetic Genealogy is a free educational group that offers networking and resources. We especially like the DNA testing company comparison charts on its Web site, <http://www.isogg.org>.

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For a free sample copy of the print Family Tree Magazine, America's #1 family history magazine, go to <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/specialoffers.asp>?  
FAMfreeissue

### And more from the President:

*"I want to thank my Board and members who helped make this past year such a good year.*

*New projects were begun and it was exciting. Many of you said "yes" when I asked for help and I do appreciate it. That's how we get things accomplished. My sincere thanks to all of you.*

*Edith Schulman*

## IAJGS CONFERENCE HELD IN LAS VEGAS ....

The 25<sup>th</sup> IAJGS (International Conference on Jewish Genealogy) was held at the Flamingo Hotel, Las Vegas, July 10 through 15<sup>th</sup>. Coming from throughout the world, approximately 600 "genealogists" registered for the conference.

Many prominent and well known genealogists were lecturers. Their lectures were taped and are available on a 3CD set (\$35.00). Order through [www.Jewishgenmall.org](http://www.Jewishgenmall.org).

In a report on the conference appearing in the *Dorot* published by the JGS of NYC, Linda Cantor, Secretary of the JGS Executive Council wrote, "One of the best features of attending a conference is the chance to network with other genealogists who share your areas of interest." As a result, she attended several meetings and luncheons of Special Interest Groups (SIG) including Galicia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia and South Africa.

In the same issue of *Dorot* (Spring 2005) Karen S. Franklin of the Leo Beck Institute wrote, "The (Honorable Oscar Goodman) Mayor of Las Vegas had the crowd in stitches as he described his antics, upon arriving in office, in attempting to secure roles in movies shot there. The speech of this Jewish, former self-admitted mob lawyer, who today administers one of the fastest-growing cities in the entire country, was one of the highlights of the convention—at least for this participant."

Franklin also described the general session as a highlight in which it was announced that new advanced search capabilities are available on the All Country Databases on Jewishgen.org. She wrote, "you can search with multiple fields and by specific given names as well as by surnames by geographic regions and sub-regions, specify search criteria for each field using a 'sounds like' criteria, and filter by date. Its capabilities and possibilities continue, offering extraordinary opportunities for experts as well as beginners. While no search features have been subtracted for Jewishgen users, this new feature is available only to donors of \$100 or more. This income is needed in order to maintain and assure smooth service to thousands of users."

Franklin concluded her comments with, "I am looking forward to New York next year – for I can only imagine the multitude of genealogical experiences of Las Vegas magnified in the Big Apple."

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Conference 3 CD set of 2005 IAJGS lectures \$35.00, Product ID: RAI101 (MP3 audio files)

### Description: DISK 1:

RON ARONS Buggy Siegel & Meyer Lansky –  
 JORDAN AUSLANDER NYC Voter Registration Records –  
 ALEXANDER BEIDER Jewish Surnames in Latvia & Lithuania - STANLEY DIAMOND What's New in JRI-Poland –  
 THOMAS EDLUND German Minority Census of 1939 –  
 THOMAS EDLUND Imperial Russian Census of 1897 –  
 DIANE FREILICH Exploring Court House Records -  
 ROBERT FRIEDMAN Center for Jewish History –  
 MICHAEL GREEN Las Vegas Jewish Community –  
 BENNETT GREENSPAN Human Side of DNA Testing –

### DISK 2: MARK HECKMAN Making a Ken Burns Video –

DAVID/SONIA HOFFMAN Analysis of 18th Century Lithuanian Records - MIKE KARSEN Genealogists' Higher Calling –  
 HERBERT LAZEROW Marriage & Divorce in Jewish Ukraine –  
 HOWARD MARGOL Lithuanian Research  
 STEVE MORSE Creating One Step Search Tools –  
 STEVE MORSE Getting the Most Out of Search Applications –  
 STEVE MORSE One Step Web Page, A Potpourri of Tools –  
 STEVE MORSE Playing Hide & Seek in 1910 to 1930 Censuses –  
 STEVE MORSE White, Blue, & Gray: Ellis Island Database

### DISK 3 JULIUS MULLER Combining

Familiant Books with Jewish Censuses –  
 ROY OGUS South African SIG –  
 BRYAN RIGG Hitler's Jewish Soldiers  
 BRYAN RIGG Rescued from the Reich  
 GAYLE RILEY Magnate Landowner Records –  
 NEIL ROSENSTEIN Rabbinic Genealogy –  
 DAVID SLOAN Argentina Jewish Colonies –  
 SHELLY WEINER Genealogical ILLs - Using InterLibrary Loans –  
 STEPHANIE WEINER Non-Traditional Family Relationships –  
 PAMELA WEISBERGER, LINDA CANTOR and SOL SYLVAN Planning a Shtetl Visit –  
 SUZAN WYNNE Jewish Life in Galicia

## SOMETHING FOR GENEALOGISTS TO CONSIDER...

How old is Grandma?

Recently, one evening a grandson was talking to his grandmother about current events. The grandson asked his grandmother what she thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The Grandma replied, "Well, let me think a minute, I was born before: television, penicillin, polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and The pill. There was no: radar, credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens. Man had not invented: pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon

Your Grandfather and I got married first, . . . and then lived together.

Every family had a father and a mother.

Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, "Sir". And after I turned 25, I still called policemen and every man with a title, "Sir."

We were before gay-rights, computer-dating, dual careers, daycare centers, and group therapy. Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense.

We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege.

We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent.

Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins.

Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started.

Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and weekends-not purchasing condominiums.

We never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings.

We listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the President's speeches on our radios.

And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey.

If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk.

The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam. Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of.

We had 5 & 10-cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents.

Ice-cream cones, phone calls, rides on a streetcars and a Pepsi were all a nickel.

And if you didn't want to splurge, you could spend your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and 2 postcards.

You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600 . . . but who could afford one?

Too bad, because gas was 11 cents a gallon.

In my day: grass" was mowed, coke" was a cold drink, "pot" was something your mother cooked in and "rock music" was your grandmother's lullaby. "Aids" were helpers in the Principal's office, "chip" meant a piece of wood, "hardware" was found in a hardware store and "software" wasn't even a word. And we were the last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby. No wonder people call us "old and confused" and say there is a generation gap... and how old do you think I am?"

I bet you have this old lady in mind...you are in for a shock!

Read on to see her age on page 10  
pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

## COVER STORY

Howard Gold, a member of JGSGO since 1998, shared the following information about the cover photos.

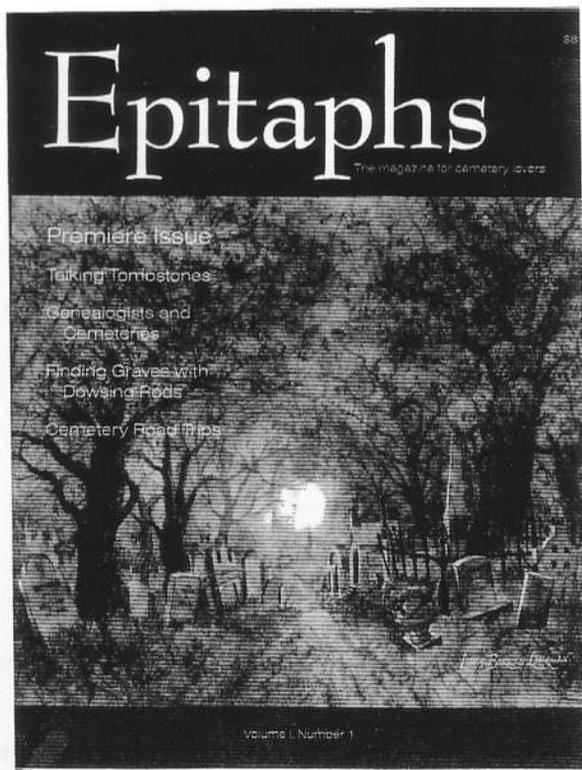
They pictures were taken on a Labor Day trip to Massachusetts. Howie was accompanied by his daughter, Rosalyn and her youngest child, Peter, age 10. Howie said, "we visited three cemeteries where our family members are buried. It was an effort to introduce Peter to his ancestors. Before we left home, Peter was made aware of the custom of leaving a stone when visiting a gravesite, but he decided to bring seashells from his home in Florida in order to leave something a little more personal."

Hyman and Libby Cohen were Howie's mother's parents, making them Peter's great-great grandparents.

Howie also said "I was the fourth and last of my generation to have lived in Fall River, MA. My children and grandchildren live in Florida, Virginia and Arizona."

## FIRST ISSUE OF 'EPITAPHS' PUBLISHED

If you have an interest in cemeteries, you will enjoy reading a new magazine, "Epitaphs." The Premiere issue, Volume 1 Number 1, became available in early October. The editor-in-chief is Minda Powers Douglas of Moline, IL. In her message, From the Editor, she wrote, *"There are a lot of people who are fascinated by graveyards and gravestones. They just seem to be a little shy about it. And for good reason. How many times have you mentioned your love of cemeteries to someone only to have that person look at you like a lobster just crawled out of your ear? You're not the only one. The truth is, if you turn over just about any stone, you'll find a fellow cemetery lover. Those stones just happen to have names and dates carved on them."*



The Premier Issue has several interesting articles including Tomb Traveler – Cemetery Road Trips, Arlington Cemetery, Eagle Scout Soars with Cemetery Project, The Great Obsession: Genealogists and Cemeteries, Adipocere: Nature's Own Preservative, Guardians of the Holy Shade: Once, Among the Gravestones, On Returning the Headstones to their Rightful Contact Locations, G.A.R. Civil

War Museum and Library, The Victorian Undertaker and a report of the Annual Conference 2005 of the Association of Gravestone Studies. Contents also included several poems related to cemeteries and special Internet sites.

A subscription to the quarterly magazine costs \$30. Send check or money order to: Epitaphs Magazine, PO Box 1163, Moline, IL 61266-1163.

Minda Powers-Douglas is also an author of a recently released book, "Cemetery Walk." The book is available from Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com or your local bookstore. Also available from the author at [www.TheCemeteryClub.com](http://www.TheCemeteryClub.com) the total cost is \$18.50

## SOFTWARE FOR JEWISH ROOTS RESEARCH

If you have Jewish ancestors, you might need to record Hebrew names, Jewish dates, Holocaust information and other special data. The creators of DoroTree software (<http://www.dorotree.com>), which recently introduced version 2.1, incorporated features for Jewish researchers, such as:

- \* a virtual keyboard that lets you enter data in Hebrew, even if your computer doesn't support Hebrew characters
- \* a date converter that changes dates from Hebrew to civil (the Jewish day starts at sunset, while the civil day starts at midnight)
- \* a Holocaust symbol so you can mark victims in your database
- \* direct Internet access to Jewish genealogy sites
- \* a first-name converter that shows you Hebrew names
- \* a Pages of Testimony form for submitting ancestors' names to Yad Vashem, the Jerusalem-based Holocaust remembrance organization established in 1953.

Like other genealogy programs, Dorotree lets you create family Web pages, add photos to your files and import or export GEDCOMs. (GEDCOM is the universal file format for family tree files.) It costs \$59 plus shipping, and is compatible with Windows 98 and higher.

## All European life died in Auschwitz

By Sebastian Vilar Rodrigez(\*)

(\*) *This is a summary of an article recently printed in a Spanish newspaper, but it applies to most countries of western Europe.*

I walked down the street in Barcelona, and suddenly discovered a terrible truth - Europe died in Auschwitz.

We killed six million Jews and replaced them with 20 million Muslims. In Auschwitz we burned culture, thought, creativity, talent. We destroyed the chosen people, truly chosen, because they produced great and wonderful people who changed the world.

The contribution of this people is felt in all areas of life: science, art, international trade, and above all, as the conscience of the world. These are the people we burned. And under the pretence of tolerance, and because we wanted to prove to ourselves that we were cured of the disease of racism, we opened our gates to 20 million Muslims, who brought us stupidity and ignorance, religious extremism and lack of tolerance, crime and poverty due to an unwillingness to work and support their families with pride.

They have turned our beautiful Spanish cities into the third world, drowning in filth and crime. Shut up in the apartments they receive free from the government, they plan the murder and destruction of their hosts.

And thus, in our misery, we have exchanged culture for fanatical hatred, creative skill for destructive skill, intelligence for backwardness and superstition. We have exchanged the pursuit of peace of the Jews of Europe and their talent for hoping for a better future for their children, their determined clinging to life because life is holy, for those who pursue death, for people consumed by the desire for death for themselves and others, for our children and theirs.

What a terrible mistake was made by miserable Europe.

*11/11/05 e-mail from Fran Hodes*

## ARMENIAN HEIRS RECEIVE MAJOR FINANCIAL SETTLEMENT

French insurance company Axa SA has agreed to pay \$17 million to settle a suit filed by descendants of Armenians killed 90 years ago in the Turkish Ottoman Empire.

It was the second case settled in the past 15 months claiming that relatives of people who died were not paid benefits after the death of 1.5 million Armenians from 1915 to 1923. The latest agreement reached between Axa and heirs to policy holders, will be considered for final approval November 14 by a federal judge. The judge last year approved a \$20 million settlement between New York Life Insurance Co. and heirs of 2,400 policyholders. Under the Axa deal, as many as 5,000 descendants will split \$11 million, while \$3 million will go toward French Armenian charities and the rest to pay attorneys and other costs. "We wanted the matter resolved, and we were able to come to an agreement," said plaintiffs' attorney Vartkes Yeghiayan. Axa admitted no wrongdoing and said it was "very happy" to have reached the accord.

The Armenian pontiff, Catholicos Aram I, said that the settlements were a step toward international recognition that the bloodshed was an act of genocide and maintains that Armenians were killed in civil unrest during the collapse of the empire.

(from The Wall Street Journal, 10/17/2005 page. A14)

Note: The Ottoman Empire was the state responsible for the Armenian Genocide. The Ottoman Empire existed from 1300 to 1923 and was ruled by Muslim Turks. For more information about the Armenian Genocide, go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com). In the search box insert Armenia and the Ottoman Empire.

Or go to: [Armenian-genocide.org/Ottoman.html](http://Armenian-genocide.org/Ottoman.html)

Answer:

*Grandma is only 58!!!*

## JGSGO PROGRAM ON SEPHARDIC RESEARCH

The September 19<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JGSGO featured a presentation by Shelomo Alfassa, Executive Director of the International Society for Sephardic Progress. Alfassa is also the editor of the International Sephardic Journal. A semi-annual scholarly Jewish publication exploring Sephardic history, culture and life past and present. Mr. Alfassa served as former Director of Research and Development for Sephardic House at the Center for Jewish History and as a consultant to the American Sephardic Federation. He currently serves on the board of directors of the New York based Foundation for the Advancement of Sephardic Studies and Culture and is a staff member of the Sephardic Educational Center in Jerusalem. Holding both Israeli and U.S., citizenship His family is from the Island of Rhodes and Ottoman Edirne, Turkey.



(left) JGSGO member Jose Valle with guest speaker Shelomo Alfassa

Alfassa related the history of the Ottoman Empire and modern Turkey. "When the city of Salonika was destroyed 90% of the records were lost," he said. Sephardic Jews come from such areas as Syria, Iran, Iraq, Morocco, Greece and Turkey.

Using transparencies, Alfassa showed various scenes of Jewish life in Turkey and Greece. For specific references to Sephardic history, he suggested searching the internet ([www.isfsp.org/pride.html](http://www.isfsp.org/pride.html)). Alfassa has an interesting article on the site (*A Message on Sephardic Pride and Responsibility*).

## JGSGO November 21 Meeting

Edith Schulman, JGSGO president, opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. in the Mini-Sanctuary of the Congregation of Reformed Judaism.

In the absence of the Nominating Committee chairperson (Doris Frank) presented the slate of officers and conducted the election. A unanimous vote elected the slate (see page 4). Edith especially thanked Lillian Weitzel for her service as VP Programming. She also thanked Shirley Michael for her role as treasurer for the past two years.

Shirley Michael, Treasurer reported JGSGO has \$1,722.04 in its account.

Edith spoke about the annual "gala" meeting set for Monday evening, December 19. Rabbi Steven Engel of CRJ will install the new officers and serve as the guest speaker.

Shirley Michael and Sandy Moss are handling the "wine and cheese" refreshments for the meeting.

Returning to the program for the evening, "Ask the Experts," Lillian introduced Larry Morrell, the moderator, panelists Carl Migden and Jose Valle.

Members present had many questions related to their genealogical interests including such subjects as the new Castle Garden web site, Jewishgen projects, finding cemetery records, the 1910 and 1930 census, military records, the Italian site, and ship manifests. The panel offered helpful information.



Larry Morrell

HAPPY HANUKKAH  
YOU'ALL!  
AND A SAFE AND HEALTHY  
2006

## WRITE THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE

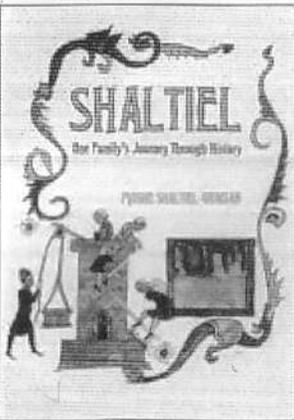
This work is the best introduction to writing autobiography ever set into type. Through specific exercises, psychological insights, apt quotes, personal examples, and suggested readings, author Ruth Kanin provides an extensive tour of the creative process. "WRITE THE STORY OF YOUR LIFE must rank as the most comprehensive, definitive, and finest book yet published on the subject."--Alex Haley, author of "Roots." Was \$16.95 Now \$11.95  
<https://www.genealogical.com/>  
 from Genealogical Pointers (09/20/05)

New Book:

## Shaltiel: One Family's Journey Through History

Yet another Jewish family that claims to trace its ancestry back to King David--the Shaltiel family--has been documented in a new book, *Shaltiel: One*

*Family's Journey Through History*. The author is Moshe Shaltiel-Gracian who spent years of research in uncovering the history of the Shaltiel family. This included traveling to many countries including Israel, Greece, The Netherlands and the United States. Shaltiel notes in the book that he found ancestors almost everywhere--from Babylonian rulers to cousins of



Charlemagne, Annie Oakley's husband, Holocaust survivors, an Israeli general and a deputy mayor of Chicago. All of his discoveries, he states, have been "woven together into a single tapestry that is vast, colorful and historic, presenting panorama of the Sephardic Diaspora and how the Shaltiel family participated in its history."

The book lists for \$35.00. Ordering information and the complete Table of Contents can be found at:

<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/shaltiel.htm>

Last year, Avotaynu published another book about a family of Davidic descent, "The Lurie Legacy," by Neil Rosenstein. Information about his book can be found

<http://www.avotaynu.com/books/lurie.htm>.

## Attention Genealogy Junkies

Genealogy junkies should reserve the month of August 2006 for their genealogy fix. Two major conferences will be held at that time.

The 26th annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in New York City from August 13-18. The event is sponsored by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies, the umbrella group of nearly 80 Jewish genealogical societies throughout the world. The conference hotel, the Marriott Marquis, is located in the center of the tourist district. In 1999, 1,200 people attended the New York conference. It is not unreasonable that more than 2,000 people will attend this time. Dr. Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, will be the keynote speaker. The host society, Jewish Genealogical Society Inc, is the largest Jewish genealogical society in the world. Watch their web site, <http://www.jgsny.org>, for additional information as it develops.

The annual "Conference for the Nation's Genealogists" of the Federation of Genealogical Societies will be in Boston from August 30-September 2. FGS is the umbrella group of nearly 600 genealogical societies located in the U.S. and Canada. The conference will be in the Hynes Convention Center. The Boston Sheraton Hotel in the Back Bay area of Boston is the host hotel. New England Historic and Genealogical Society, the host society, is the largest genealogical society in the U.S.. It is anticipated that 3,000 people will attend that conference. It is unfortunate that few Jewish genealogists attend FGS conferences. They are of much value for lectures on subjects not covered as well at IAJGS conferences, such as methodology. There is a huge vendor exhibit hall that typically includes about 50 vendors (Avotaynu will be exhibiting in Boston). I met Neil Abelson of Long Island, New York, at the FGS conference in Salt Lake City. It was the first time he attended a national conference other than IAJGS conferences. He made the comment that I hear from most Jewish genealogists who attend an FGS conference for the first time; that he does not understand why so few Jews attend such a worthwhile event. Additional information can be found at <http://www.fgs.org> as it becomes available.

Editor's note: Adapted from information in Gary Mokotoff's "Nu? What's Nu?" - the E-zine of Jewish Genealogy, Vol. 6 No. 13, September 11, 2005