

# Your Jewish Connection – Genealogical Research

Brought to you by the TBA Lifelong Learning Committee

A few months ago, Meredith Hoffman from the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston (JGSGB) came to TBA and presented an introduction to Jewish genealogical research. The focus of the column this month is on useful Web sites to help you begin your genealogical search.

## **Genealogy Learning and Guidance at About.com Genealogy**

[genealogy.about.com/od/make\\_family\\_tree/u/learn.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/make_family_tree/u/learn.htm) This Web site has plenty of information, tips, and guidance for novice (and experienced) researchers. Also articles on how to start your research.

About.com is a great Web site for almost anything you want to learn more about. Most topics have a Guide who provides articles and/or commentary plus links to other Web sites. It's been around for over 10 years and is well established.

Genealogy.about.com has a broad range of topics to get you started, from finding a surname to software and tools. You can do a search for “Jewish” and be presented with a list of topics, such as free Jewish genealogy databases online, beginner's guide to Jewish genealogy, 10 online sources for Holocaust research, tracing your ancestors in Russia, and more.

**Center for Jewish History** [www.cjh.org](http://www.cjh.org) The Center is a partnership of major institutions – the American Jewish Historical Society, the American Sephardi Federation, the Leo Baeck Institute, the Yeshiva University Museum, and the Yivo Institute for Jewish Research – for the study of the history and culture of the Jewish people.

On the first page, click on a topic under “Trace Your Roots.” Then click on “Trace Your Roots: Research Guides” on the left for information on getting started with your research, a list of resources and records, and so on. This list can help orient you, and many resources are available online. Click on “Computers and Genealogy” for a (printable) document containing lists of genealogy sites and software programs to help in your research.

More Web sites for genealogical research:

**U.S. National Archives** [www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/](http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/) The National Archives provide resources for exploring your family ancestry via government documents and more.

**JewishGen** [www.jewishgen.org](http://www.jewishgen.org) “The first source to go to for Jewish Genealogy.” Includes Family Finder, Family Tree of the Jewish People, Yizkor book translations, and much more.

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston** [www.jgs.gb.org](http://www.jgs.gb.org) Local society with monthly educational programs and with links to important Web sites.

**Ancestry** [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Comprehensive source for U.S. and foreign materials. Free at some libraries. Paid subscription needed for home use. NOTE: This is available at the Nashua Public Library. The Hunt Room has a computer reserved for genealogy and history research. Check here for details: [www.nashualibrary.org/genealogy.htm](http://www.nashualibrary.org/genealogy.htm)

**Ellis Island** [www.ellisland.org](http://www.ellisland.org) Provides immigrant arrival records from 1892-1924. Use the Steve Morse Web site below for easier access.

**Steve Morse** [www.stevemorse.org](http://www.stevemorse.org) An aid for finding passengers more effectively in the Ellis Island database and searching the 1930 census as well as many other searches, ranging from genealogical searches to astronomical calculations.

**Routes to Roots Foundation** [www.rtrfoundation.org](http://www.rtrfoundation.org) An inventory of Jewish documents housed in Eastern European archives.

**Mormons' Family History** [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org) An online catalog of the world's largest collection of genealogical records.

**Yad Vashem** [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) Central database of Shoah victims' names, also see archives.

**Avotaynu, Inc.** [www.avotaynu.com](http://www.avotaynu.com) The leading publisher of products and information of interest to persons who are researching Jewish genealogy. Sign up for free e-zine.

### **Other Jewish Web Resources**

[www.tbanashua.org](http://www.tbanashua.org) Our own TBA Web site!

[www.rabbijon.com](http://www.rabbijon.com) Rabbi Jon's blog.

[www.jewishnh.org](http://www.jewishnh.org) Jewish Federation of NH.

[www.chabad.org/calendar/default\\_cdo/jewish/Jewish-Calendar.htm](http://www.chabad.org/calendar/default_cdo/jewish/Jewish-Calendar.htm) Check Hebrew calendar dates.

[www.jewishboston.com](http://www.jewishboston.com) Lists Jewish events in the greater Boston area and beyond.

[www.shalomboston.com](http://www.shalomboston.com) More resources for greater Boston and beyond.

[www.myjewishlearning.com](http://www.myjewishlearning.com) Lots of general information.

[www.jewfaq.org](http://www.jewfaq.org) Provides information from a traditional perspective.

[www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org) Has information on all facets of Jewish life.

NOTE TO BULLETIN EDITOR: Please keep Web site links active in Bulletin file posted on TBA Web site. Thanks!