JEWISH GENEALOGY SOCIETY OF MARYLAND

Meeting of April 27, 2014

1:00 – 3:30 pm

JCC – Park Heights

MINUTES

Lara Diamond, co-president, opened the meeting. After welcoming the group she made several announcements:

* Members of our genealogy society who are members of AARP are eligible for a 30% discount on Ancestry.com subscriptions.
* There will be a screening of the film *Trochinbrod* on May 14 at the Avalon Theatre in suburban Washington.
* Our May 18 program should be of interest to many members. The topic will be “How to do research in Europe.” A location has been identified, but discussions are continuing to confirm it.

A question was raised about the possibility of recording our monthly sessions and posting them on YouTube. Lara indicated that we could explore that possibility.

First time guests were invited to introduce themselves and note their specific family research interests. One member reported that, after intensive research, she had made a real find: locating her grandmother's tombstone.

Sue Steeble, our publications chair, reported that the April issue of our newsletter *L’Dor V’Dor* had been emailed to all members. The next issue is scheduled to be published in July and everyone was invited to submit articles now.

Sue announced that we are initiating a new program to help members resolve very difficult genealogy problems (“Brick Walls”). Members may submit a question, which will be posted on our web site. Other members may then offer responses with suggestions on new directions for research. Responses will be forwarded by email to the person with the problem, and the questions and replies will also eventually be printed in the newsletter. Instructions and questions are posted on our web site at <http://jgsmd.org/brickwalls.html>.

We were reminded that one-on-one mentoring can also be arranged and this service is coordinated by our vice-president, Laya Bitman.

Joe Nathanson, secretary, passed out the initial compilation of family names and places being searched by members and asked for any updates or corrections,

Robin Thomas, treasurer, reported that we now have 65 members.

Finally, there was an update on our plans to access the genealogic resources housed in New York City. Based on the responses to a member survey, in June a researcher from New York will be our speaker. This will be followed at a later date by a field trip to New York on a week day when more resources will be available.

Hanna Berger, our program chair, introduced our guest speaker in from New York City. Tammy Hepps is the founder of Treelines.com, a web-based tool designed to bring your family stories to life.

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| ***Tammy Hepps***68721v4-max-250x250***Founder, Treelines.com*** | ***Treelines – Turning Your Family Tree into Engaging Stories***Tammy Hepps began her genealogical research 20 years ago. She noted accessing the Rauh Jewish Archives in Pittsburgh. She was tracking down information about her great-grandfather, who was involved in the founding of a synagogue there. As she acquired more records, letters, photos and other archival materials, she was inspired by the work of English writer Maisie Mosco, the author of “Almonds and Raisins”, a series of books based upon Mosco’s own family’s history.Ms. Hepps established Treelines.com in April 2009 and summarized the process with the diagram below: **RECORDS >>>>> TREES >>> STORIES >>> SHARING** She demonstrated the process by telling the story of a cousin, Herbert Goldberg, from Haddonfield, NJ.  He was born in 1922 and entered the service in WWII. He died in combat in Italy in 1944. His remains were re-interred 4 years later in a cemetery near the very community in South Jersey where Ms. Hepps had grown up.As Ms. Hepps writes on her web site, **Treelines** “aims to become the default tool you will use to **curate** and **share** the family stories you uncover.” |

In the Q and A session following her presentation, Ms.Hepps was asked about her business model for Treelines.com. She indicated that’s an issue she is currently working on, pointing out that up to now the site has been free. With that she encouraged everyone to try out the site while it’s still available at no cost to the user.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be on Sunday, May 18\*, 1:00 – 3:30 pm at a location to be announced later. The meeting was adjourned shortly after 3:00 pm.

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\*Because the 4th Sunday this May occurs on Shavuot.

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