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Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami to Collaborate with Israel's *Beit Hatfutsot*—The Museum of the Jewish People

At its October 18, 2015 meeting, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami (JGSGM) will launch a new project called “Remembering our Roots” whose overall goal is to document vanishing life stories and .previously untold “chapters of history” in the South Florida Jewish community

Everyone has a story to tell. The aim of “Remembering our Roots” is for Jews of all ages to interact with the seniors in our midst, record their stories, and preserve them. JGSGM is already organizing events and recruiting volunteers in synagogues, Jewish Day Schools, and various other Jewish organizations to enable them to initiate versions of “Remembering our Roots” appropriate to their members from school-age to .adult

JGSGM will provide initial guidance and materials and overall coordination. The collected “stories” will be preserved as recordings or videotapes in JGSGM’s genealogical collection housed at Temple Beth Am Library, Pinecrest; they will also be uploaded to the online database at *Beit Hatfutsot*—The Museum of the .Jewish People on the campus of Tel-Aviv University. Each interviewee will receive a CD or DVD

For adults “Remembering our Roots” projects will be oral history interviewing, using open-ended questions and photographs to prompt memory. JGSGM will hold short training sessions on how to conduct an interview. Efforts involving children draw on two programs initiated by *Beit Hatfutsot*’s educational .department: “G2G (Generation to Generation)” and “My Family Story

G2G pairs Jewish students and seniors. The youngsters teach computer skills to the seniors and help them to write their “stories”; the students develop relationships with their elders and discover the value of personal and collective narratives. The stories are posted on *Beit Hatfutsot*’s online database, thereby adding to the .ongoing story of the Jewish people

G2G reaches more than 10,000 participants in Israel annually. In the Greater Miami area, G2G-like programs could be initiated in Jewish day schools, as part of synagogue after-school activities, as projects for youth (/groups, and at JCC’s. (For more information, see <http://www.bh.org.il/education/g2g-generation-generation>

The other program at *Beit Hatfutsot* is “My Family Story,” a multigenerational Jewish heritage journey for 5th-7th graders into their own Jewish family story. Each youngster interviews relatives, collects family photos and documents, and explores their family’s genealogy, heirlooms, and traditions. Their study .culminates in an art project

“My Family Story” holds an annual competition in which Jewish institutions worldwide send the best two of“ their participants’ art projects to *Beit Hatfutsot*. This year, about 20,000 students participated, representing 170 Jewish institutions from Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Costa Rica, FSU, Germany, Greece, Israel, Italy, Mexico, Spain, Turkey, Ukraine, USA and Venezuela. The 44 final winners won free trips to Israel for the international exhibition of the winning “My Family Story” art projects displayed at the (/museum. (For more information, see <http://www.bh.org.il/education/family-story-program>

The October 18th launch will be held at the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, 4200 Biscayne Boulevard Miami, at 11:00 am. Special guests include Ms. Shula Bahat, American CEO of *Beit Hatfutsot*, in person, and Rabbi Talia Avnon-Benveniste, Director of the International School for Jewish Peoplehood Studies (ISJPS) at the museum via live webinar from Tel Aviv with Yael Rosen, Director of Program Development .for “G2G”, and D'vora Greisman, Director of International Programs representing “My Family Story

For more information, contact ymillman.jgs@gmail.com