



# Growing a JGS: GETTING TO KNOW MEMBERS

Deborah Long, [Triangle Jewish Genealogical Society](#) (2015) Revised 2022

With any luck and some effort, your society is going to experience membership growth. Nothing makes members feel more valued than getting personal attention from the organizers or having opportunities to share their research with their friends and colleagues.

When possible, it's great to have a cup of coffee or a meal with each new member. If your society is experiencing rapid growth, it's a good idea to have a new membership orientation meeting, either in-person or on Zoom.

If your society has a newsletter and/or Facebook page, a short introduction or feature article on new members can be welcoming. Giving new members a chance to introduce themselves at meetings with a five-minute summary of where their genealogical research has or will take them can also be effective.

Assigning a mentor to a new member can also be a good strategy for integrating new members into a society.

Kim Sheintal of the JGS of Southwest Florida offers two great icebreakers in the following pages that also help your members get to know each other: Genealogy Statistics and Human Bingo.

## Genealogy Statistics

by Kim Sheintal

The book *Guinness World Records* collates and publishes notable records of all types, from first and best to worst human achievements, to extremes in the natural world and beyond. I started to make a list of my personal genealogy records.

- Most separate branches of one surname not connected to another branch with that same surname on my family tree is 17.
- Most number of children by the same mother and father on my family tree is 10.
- Longest surname on my family tree is 11 letters.

Here are the same records listed above and others for you to look for within your own family tree:

- Most separate branches of one surname not connected to another branch with that same surname is \_\_\_\_.
- Most number of children by the same mother and father is \_\_\_\_.
- Longest surname is \_\_\_\_.
- Longest first name is \_\_\_\_.
- Most number of sons in a row without daughters by same mother and father is \_\_\_\_.
- Most number of daughters in a row without sons by same mother and father is \_\_\_\_.
- Most number of years difference between two siblings born to the same parents without any children born in between them is \_\_\_\_.
- Most names for a person (first, middle names, surname) is \_\_\_\_.
- Biggest age discrepancy between siblings (with no one born in between) by the same mother and father is \_\_\_\_.
- Biggest age discrepancy between oldest and youngest siblings by the same mother and father is \_\_\_\_.
- Youngest mother on family tree is age \_\_\_\_.
- Youngest father on family tree is age \_\_\_\_.
- Oldest mother to have a baby is age \_\_\_\_.
- Oldest father to have a baby is age \_\_\_\_.
- Most years married by the same two people married to one another consecutively is \_\_\_\_.
- Most marriages by one person is \_\_\_\_.
- Oldest copy of a birth certificate is from the year \_\_\_\_.
- Oldest copy of a death certificate is from the year \_\_\_\_.
- Oldest copy of a marriage certificate is from the year \_\_\_\_.
- The most generations traced on one family line is \_\_\_\_.
- The most spellings found for the same surname is \_\_\_\_.
- The most number of babies born at one time is \_\_\_\_.
- Most sets of multiple births by the same mother and father is \_\_\_\_.
- Oldest age is \_\_\_\_.
- Biggest age difference between a husband and wife is \_\_\_\_.
- Most number of siblings within a family to have the same birthday is \_\_\_\_.

**JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>O</b>
One of my parents or grandparents was born in Poland. _____	I know the first & last names of my four grandparents. _____	I know the birth towns of both of my parents. _____	I am listed in the Jewishgen Family Finder. _____	I went to a genealogy convention. _____
One of my parents or grandparents was born in Russia. _____	I know the first & last names of my eight great grandparents. _____	I know the birth towns of my four grandparents. _____	I have corresponded with someone from Jewishgen Family Finder. _____	I belong to a genealogy society. _____
One of my parents or grandparents was born in Lithuania. _____	I know the first & last name of at least one of my great grandparents. _____	I know the birth town of at least one of my grandparents. _____	I have a genealogy software program. _____	I subscribe to Avotaynu. _____
One of my parents or grandparents was born in Germany. _____	At least one of my ancestors had a last name changed in US. _____	I know the birth town of at least one of my great grandparents. _____	I know what JRI Poland is. _____	I am on at least one genealogy mail list on my computer. _____
One of my parents or grandparents was born in Hungary. _____	I do not know the name of any of my great grandparents. _____	I have received an ancestor's birth certificate from another country. _____	I know the website addresses for at least three genealogy Websites. _____	This is my first time at a genealogy meeting. _____

**NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**The object is to get as many boxes signed as possible by having a different person sign his or her name in each box that applies to him or her. People can only sign their name in one box on each piece of paper. You do not have to sign your name in same box on each paper. The winner is the one with the most completed bingo board.**