

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

presents

Jewish Genes and Genealogy

Robert Weinberg

Sunday, January 9, 2005

1:30–4:30 PM

Wellesley Free Library, Wellesley, MA

By following the pattern of inheritance of certain DNA sequences, it has now become possible to determine where various ethnic groups have originated throughout the world. The Jewish gene pool is especially interesting because of the geographic dispersion of the Diaspora. Among the most dramatic findings has been the discovery of the Cohen Y chromosome, which traces its roots back to a common ancestor who lived more than 2500 years ago. Yet other findings provide indications of the Middle-Eastern origin of many Jewish mutations, including those that afflict particularly the Ashkenazic population. Knowing a bit about your DNA can even help you verify the details of your family tree.

Bob Weinberg is Professor of Biology at MIT and Member, Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research. He received his BS at MIT in 1964 and his PhD from MIT in 1969. He held post-doctoral fellowships at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth, Israel, and the Salk Institute, LaJolla CA. He has been on the MIT Faculty since 1974. Bob has been a genealogist since 1957, and his genealogical tree includes two to three thousand people. He has traced his father's line of descent through nine generations to the late 17th century in Westphalia.

NOTE: This meeting is being held at the Wellesley Free Library, 530 Washington St. (Route 16), Wellesley. It can be reached from Route 16 at Exit 21 and from Route 9 at the Wellesley Hills exit.

Admission is free. Refreshments will be served.

Upcoming programs:

- Feb. 13 Jonathan D. Sarna, "Jewish Settlement Patterns in the US: Why Jews Ended Up Where They Did" (Wellesley Free Library)
- Mar. 6 Tom Weiss, "Buczacz: The History of a Galician Town"

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston is a nonprofit organization of individuals interested in genealogical research. It conducts monthly educational programs.

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