



PRESIDENT'S SHPIEL by Kim Sheintal

JGS meetings have helped many members add names to their family trees. At the JGS of SW FL meeting in January 1996, I learned about the JewishGen Family Finder. The JGFF is a searchable database that connects people who are searching the same ancestral towns and surnames. If I hadn't gone to the meeting that discussed JGFF, I may not have made the following two discoveries with Simon and Michael.

Simon Contacts Me

Because I did not have a computer in 1996, I used a public library computer to find lists of people on JGFF tracing the same surnames as me. I mailed my family trees to people's homes. In addition, I posted the surnames that I was searching on JGFF. I posted my phone number on JGFF, because I didn't have an e-mail address.

A man in Germany named Simon called me in October 1996 after he saw my Sheintal posting on JGFF. He knew someone in France named Nina who was searching Sheintal/Schontal. I mailed Simon my Sheintal family tree. He said he would send me Nina's address when he found it.

In December 1999, I got a computer and added my e-mail address to my JGFF postings.

I did not hear from Simon since the 1996 phone call until November 7, 2000 when I received this e-mail from him:

"Dear Kim and Nina, I owe you a big apology! I had told you a couple of years ago, Kim, that I would forward the very interesting material you sent me about your Sheintals from Dzialoszyce to my Schontals from Dzialoszyce, namely Nina in Nice and her mother Marion in Glasgow. And Nina, I had promised you would get them soon many months ago. The problem is I CAN'T FIND THOSE PAPERS! I am very sorry!! I guess my daughter may have hidden them in just years back or I am just even more disorganized than I realized. But now that I have seen your name and e-mail address on JewishGen, Kim, I can at least put the two of you in touch with each other. I can also provide you both with the information I have gathered so far on the Schontals, either as text or as gedcom. It isn't much, I am afraid. Please keep me posted! As a manic mishpochologist, I always wanted to know everything about kin and kin of kin and kin of kin of kin. All the best and again, sorry! Simon"

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida MISHPOCHOLOGY

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

NEXT MEETING

Sunday, December 18, 2005 (1:00 PM)

JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota

**Program: Sharing the Immigrant Experience
with Adeline Silverman**

**who shared her personal family heirlooms for an exhibit
at the Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York.**

On November 11, 2000, I received this e-mail from Nina:

"Dear Kim, I often asked my Mother – I wonder what happened to Simon and the news of the Schontal family he said he was sending – well now I know. I just found Simon's messages and phoned my mother to tell her. She tells me that she only knows that her father was called Wicek Schontal, his father was called Gershon Schontal, born probably around 1878. Gershon married Dina Eisenberg. They were both very young at the time. Dina Eisenberg was the daughter of Hannah Srebrny and Benjamin Eisenberg. The sister of Wicek, Gina Schontal, is my great aunt. It seems that in Israel, Mother has met some Schontal family (my grandmother, Inka, who married Wicek, lived in Natanya for many years) and even went to the wedding of the daughter who unfortunately died only a few years after her wedding. This family moved to Israel in 1920's probably. Gina was in touch with a Schontal family in Australia. I remember as a small child receiving a stuffed koala bear, which I still have. I am the eldest of three children. My brother is 2 years younger and my sister 18 years younger. My brother is married and has 4 children, lives in Kent in England and my sister is married with one child and expecting a second, lives in Israel. I live in France since 1982, lived in Ottawa from 1974 to 1982 and right now live in Grasse, near Nice. My parents live in Glasgow where my grandmother is in a retirement home. I look forward to hearing from you and will pass on any messages you send to my mother, as she does not have a computer. I do not speak or read Polish I am sorry to say, only English and French. Nina"

On November 14, 2000, I received this email from Simon: "Bullseye and Bingo!" was in the subject line. "Dear Kim, Dear Nina, I owe you both yet another apology!! I have now found the stuff you, Kim, sent me four whole years ago AND I have found my own material on the Schontals, including a tree you, Nina, wrote together with Gina Schontal in the early 1970s. Guess what: I could have confirmed four years ago that you are related to each other! Kim, your Dov (Berish) Sheintal I had all along as Bernard, son of Moses. Moses was a brother of Aron, Nina's great great grandfather! I am enclosing both a gedcom and a family history report of my information.....All the best, Simon"

Since those letters, I have contacted the Sheintal family in Australia via e-mail. I have exchanged photos with Nina. After Nina and I discovered our Sheintal connection, Nina convinced her mother to write what she knew about the Sheintal family during the 1920's thru the 1940's. In her story was mention of my husband's father, Sol Sheintal, and his brothers. Sol passed away in 1994, but I was able to read the story to my mother-in-law, Rose Sheintal. So much in the story was familiar to Rose. Rose had no idea that Sol's first cousin Wicek had children that survived the Holocaust. Wicek's daughter now lives in Glasgow and his granddaughter Nina now communicates with me on a regular basis. Simon may not be related to me, but he connected Nina to me.

I Contact Michael

On July 23, 2003, I saw on JGFF that Michael was searching the same surname from the same town in Poland as me. I sent the following e-mail to him:

"Dear Michael, I saw your listing on JewishGen today. I see you are searching the Taub family from Raciaz. I only have some vague information about my Taub family. My great great grandfather is Hersz Taub. His daughter (my great great grandmother) is Chaia Maihla Taub. Chaia Maihla Taub married Berek Szwarcbart (my great great grandfather) in 1840. I think that these people lived in Raciaz Poland. Do any of these names sound familiar to anything that you have? Recently, I learned that my family has a connection to Rabbi Samuel Elijah Taub from Zwolen. I learned of this connection from a man named Hershey Schwartz who is in the process of finalizing a book about this Rabbi. Please send me some information about your Taub family from Raciaz. I also have Klapman, Matus, Joskowicz, and Szwarcbart roots from Raciaz. Thank you. Kimberly Klapman Sheintal"

On July 23, 2003, Michael sent this e-mail to me:
"Dear Kimberly, Let me describe you briefly the Polish Taub genealogy as much as I know. Shlomo Zelman Taub was a student of the Baal Shem Tov. He was born in Raciaz. He had four sons Zwi Hirsh, Dov Bear, Zev Wolf and Arje Leib. Note that all four names represent names of animals, Deer, Bear, Wolf and Lion respectively. Apparently, according to Hershy Schwarc's Hebrew write up, Shlomo Zelman attended a wedding but did not dance and appeared to be very sad. The Baal Shem Tov saw this and asked him about his sadness, to which Shlomo Zelman replied, "How could I be happy when I have no sons." The Baal Shem Tov blessed him saying, "Be happy and dance like an animal and you will have sons!" Four were born and gave them names of animals!...."

On March 30, 2005, Michael sent me an e-mail with a 45-page family tree to explain how the two of us are related. He also mailed me his photo that I thought was a photo of my father. These 45 pages begin on page one with my great, great, great, great grandfather Shlomo Zelman Taub who was born in Raciaz and was buried in Warsaw in 1791.

Wonderful World of Websites

Both the Beth Hatefutsoth and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Jewish History Resource Center) websites have excellent Jewish genealogy links.
<http://www.bh.org.il/Genealogy/index.aspx>
<http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/dinur/Internetresources/gen.htm>

IAJGS Updates

The 2006 IAJGS conference will be held in New York City next August, hosted by JGS (New York). To assist people who will be coming to New York, they have posted "Research in New York: Major Repositories in New York City for Genealogical Research" on their conference website at <http://www.jgsny2006.org/research.cfm>. Each listing includes address, phone number, hours, summary of holdings, and a link to the repository's website.

A new JGS has been formed in the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (and surrounding areas) located in California-known as the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County (JGSCV for short). For those not familiar with the area, it has one of the largest-growing and flourishing Jewish populations in the west, estimated at over 10,000 Jews residing here. The Conejo Valley starts just west of the boundary line of the City of Los Angeles and extends into the eastern part of Ventura County; and all of Ventura County, which is the California County between Los Angeles and Santa Barbara Counties.

DNA, Genetics & Genealogy: A Scientific Approach to Research

An all-day conference:

Saturday, January 28, 2006 (8:00 AM – 5:00 PM)

Sahib Shrine Center, 600 N. Beneva Road, Sarasota

The Genealogical Society of Sarasota is pleased to present a fascinating, daylong conference about the exciting world of DNA and its applications to the genealogist. This conference is geared to introducing the newcomer to DNA, from an understanding of DNA, to being tested and how that can further your genealogical research.

Led by three experts in the field, Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation's Dr. Scott Woodward, Family Tree DNA's Bennett Greenspan and DNA Print Corp.'s Dr. Matthew Thomas will take you on a guided tour from DNA's history, development, testing and current genealogical applications. At the end of the day, there will be a moderated question and answer forum.

This is a remarkable opportunity to take advantage of hearing and questioning three world-renowned leaders in this field. There will be multiple chances to win DNA tests (a minimum value of \$100) as door prizes. For additional information, go to www.rootsweb.com/~flgss/ or contact GSS.FL.USA@gmail.com.

Advanced purchase (prior to January 8, 2006) of tickets for this all day conference is \$35.00 per person. Late registration: \$45.00. Space is limited. Conference fee includes lunch, morning and afternoon refreshments, and program materials. Make checks payable to Genealogical Society of Sarasota. Cancellations made prior to January 8 are fully refundable. Cancellations after that date are not refundable. Mail reservations with your name, address, e-mail, and phone to: DNA Conference, c/o Genealogical Society of Sarasota, P.O. Box 1917, Sarasota, FL 34230-1917 and state whether you want your name and contact information in the attendee's roster.

Welcome New Members

Jane Plitt

Anita and Ellis Woolf

Marilyn and Philip Stark

To become a member, mail \$20 (or \$25 per family) payable to JGS of SW FL to:

Kim Sheintal

4462 Violet Ave.

Sarasota, Florida 34233

It All Started When.....by Lee Ruggles

You remember those speckled composition books we had in school..... well, maybe not. It was back in the last century, 1940s, '50s..... The seed that began to grow into one my family tree was sown in one of those little composition books when I sat down with my mother and father and asked them to tell me the names of every relative they could think of.

My first child was scheduled to be born in a few months and we hadn't decided on a name. Jewish tradition calls for honoring a beloved relative by naming one's child for him or her. Naming a child for a *gutte neshama* (good soul) is sure to bode well for the little one throughout his life.

And so it began. I carefully set up to outline each family's progeny. Little did I know, almost fifty years ago, how valuable those sparse outlines would become. My grandfathers and grandmothers were still alive then, so I started there. But then I learned that both of my parents knew the Hebrew and English names not only of their grandparents, but their great-grandparents, as well. I was twenty-one years old. Everyone we spoke of seemed ancient. Most of the people I listed had been long gone, ghosts of my family past. Cousins and in-laws, what made someone a second or third cousin, who was Tante Feigel related to? Stories, stories. "She's not going to name her child after Charlie." My mother was really upset. "Why not, Ma?" I grinned at my father who was enjoying the whole thing. "You just won't!" She continued peeling potatoes, but now with a vengeance. "Charlie died of lead poisoning," my father said. "Lead poisoning?" All I could think of was some little child chewing on a windowsill, soaking up the lead-based paint. Then he held up his hand like a fake gun and said, "Lead poisoning." Slowly the story came out. Apparently Cousin Charlie was a "rum runner" during Prohibition and was shot in the process. Another cousin, a femme fatale, was the "very good friend" of some mobster. I could see her gracefully climbing out of a big black car, slinky dress, bobbed hair and one of those fox fur stoles with the little heads attached draped around her shoulders. The family was outraged. Those stories beat the Cousin Jack the lawyer, or Sam the doctor stories by a mile.

And so it went, the rhythm of Life set down in an outline. Eliuhu, Moische, Rochel, Yossel, Toibe, Leah..... Blank spaces for forgotten names. Blank space for a child born and dying in a day without having been named. Many years later I typed up the outline and sent it to my sister who was visiting an elderly cousin. He filled in a few blanks and added more stories. Another cousin mailed her list to me and we compared notes. And so it went.

The library became my personal gold mine. Censuses on microfiche! I found Uncle Benny! A dozen or so years ago I finally bought a computer and discovered www.jewishgen.org

That's when I was found and another second cousin was able to fill in another blank space in *her* outline.

Mad Dash to Find Tash by Judilee Tash Sterne

I am just beginning to look for my father's family. None of my cousins have any information. I know there's a family tree on my grandmother's family, but I haven't found the owner yet. I have found that all this takes TIME! I went online and found the address to write to for my grandparents' death certificates. I called, luckily, and saved myself \$25 by mailing in my requests instead of asking online! That was a discovery, because everything online is usually cheaper! I found both sets of my great grandparents' names. Now I have to re-contact the two people on JewishGen who contacted me about Rosenbergs, because they might have been looking at my great grandparent's family, while I thought they were looking at my grandparents'. Another new discovery on my grandfather's death certificate: Meyer Tash signed it. That is a relative nobody every talked about! Now I'm excited to find out lots more. It's interesting how three names on one document can be so energizing!

Berlichingen by Hal Sterne

IN MEMORY OF THE JEWISH CITIZENS OF SCHONTAL –
BERLICHINGEN

1563 – First mention of Jewish inhabitants in Berlichingen.

1623 – The Jewish Cemetery is mentioned for the first time.

1806 – Building of Synagogue by Jewish Community in Berlichingen.

1807 – Jewish Community in Berlichingen had 128 members, which increased to 240 in 1854.

1832 – The Rabbinate in Berlichingen included the Jewish communities of Berlichingen, Nagelsberg, Ernsbach and Olnhausen.

1918 – First all-German meeting of Zionist Youth Organization *Blue-White* takes place in Berlichingen.

1938 – During the Kristallnacht, 9th of November the Synagogue was destroyed by the Storm Troopers. The same night some dwellings of Jewish citizens were also destroyed.

During the war, the synagogue was completely demolished.

During the 19th century, the Jews, mostly craftsmen, artisans and businessmen, were of great economic importance to Berlichingen.

Jews and Christians lived in great harmony. With the ascension to power of the Nazis, the active life of the small congregation Berlichingen was destroyed. At least 20 persons who were living here in 1933 lost their lives through deportation to the extermination camps.

WE HONOR THEIR MEMORY
Schoental 1985 Berlichingen

BIELEFELD CEMETERY
In Loving Memory of
Our 388 Congregation Members
Who Lost Their Lives
For Our Jewish Beliefs
During the Years 1933-1945

In Memory of
Our Congregation Members
Who Died During
World War 1914-1918

SCHWABISCH HALL PLAZA
During the nights of 9th
to 10th of November 1938
at this spot the
Nazis of Hall burned
all religious objects,
furniture and books
from the Jewish Congregation
at Upper Herrngasse 8

FORMER SYNAGOGUE IN NAGELSBURG

In this house from 1789 until 1907

stood the Synagogue of the

Jewish Congregation of Nagelsberg.

In 1907 a new Synagogue was built

on Konsul-Uebele Street in Kunzelsau.

In 1938 that Synagogue was destroyed.

The city of Kunzelsau remembers with this tablet

the great misfortune of its Jewish fellow citizens.

Immigration and Naturalization by Donna Moughty

At the 10th Anniversary Celebration of JGS of SW FL on Jan. 15
Donna Moughty, a professional genealogist and former regional manager for a national technology company, has been conducting family research for over 15 years. She teaches classes for beginners and lectures on a variety of subjects including Internet and computer topics. She is the keynote speaker at the 29th Annual Florida State Genealogical Conference in Panama City on 11-12 November 2005.

TEN-YEAR REVIEW OF THE JGS OF SW FL

1996

January 1996 – Discussion of Goals and Getting Acquainted
March 1996 – How To Do Genealogy by Fran Carter-Walker
May 1996 – Visit to Selby Library Genealogy Department
June 1996 – Get Interested in Your Ancestry by Gene Starn
September 1996 – Genetic Diseases by Dr. Sumner Hoffman
October 1996 – Genealogy Updates by Robert Weiss
November 1996 – A Genealogical Journey by Nora Banner
December 1996 – *My Sixteen: A Self-Help Guide to Finding Your 16 Great-Great Grandparents* by Robert Marlin

1997

January 1997 – Eastern Europe Revisited by Edgar Braun (Germany), Jack Fuchs (Poland) and Mark Gorinshteyn (Russia)
February 1997 – Potluck with Arthur Kurzweil Video
March 1997 – Holocaust Research by Stephen M. Goldman
April 1997 – Immigration and Naturalization by Gladys Paulin
May 1997 – Potluck with Show & Tell
September 1997 – Keeping a Journal of Your Life by Reva Sipser
November 1997 – Photos by Laurie Thompson and Postcards by Bernice Kaufman
December 1997 – Galveston Movement by Sylvia Firschein

1998

January 1998 – Book Sale with Chit Chat
February 1998 – *Eighty Miles from a Doctor* by Esther Mockler
March 1998 – Big Picture of Jewish History by Lawrence Tapper and Avotaynu by Gloria Goldblatt
April 1998 – Lithuanian Research by Howard Margol
May 1998 – Potluck with Share Meeting
October 1998 – Vital Records by Robert Marlin
November 1998 – Video on Sephardic Jews in the United States
December 1998 – Documents Don't Lie or Do They by Gladys Paulin

1999

January 1999 – Handwriting Analysis by Michael Zimmer
February 1999 – LDS Research by Pat Richley (aka Dear Myrtle)
March 1999 – Kinder Transport by Henry Goldman
April 1999 – How to Workshop
May 1999 – Potluck with Share Meeting
October 1999 – Jewish Resources at the Manatee Country Library by Diane Dittgen
November 1999 – Lithuanian Research by Albert Kaplan
December 1999 – Private Investigating by Donald Uffinger

2000

January 2000 – Tracing My German Roots by Harold Sterne
February 2000 – JRI-Poland & Conference Review by Sandra Krisch
March 2000 – Show and Tell
April 2000 – Potluck with Share Meeting
October 2000 – Jewish Genealogy Beginner's Workshop
November 2000 – How to Get the Roots of Your Family Tree by Pat Richley (aka Dear Myrtle)
December 2000 – Sharing Bubbie's Recipes

2001

January 2001 – Jewish Genealogy Updates by Howard Margol (IAJGS President) & Michael Brenner (past president of JGS of NY)
February 2001 – Florida Holocaust Museum Update and visit to the Resource Education Center by Stephen Goldman (Museum Director)
March 2001 – Ask a Member: A Time to Ask Members for Genealogical Help
April 2001 – Pedigree of 1500 Family Members by Bruce Shanker
May 2001 – Potluck with Sephardic Heritage by Rabbi Barbara Aiello
October 2001 – Jewish Heirlooms Appraised by Roger Wilson
November 2001 – JewishGen's Yizkor Project by Sandra Krisch
December 2001 – Potluck Chanukah Celebration

2002

January 2002 – Life In Eastern Europe in Early Hitler Years as Witnessed by Different People in Different Places (Carolyn Kaplan and Herb Klaber spoke on their life in Germany. Magda and Mickey Quittner spoke on their life in Hungary.)
February 2002 – Translation Sites and Services by Pat Richley (aka Dear Myrtle) with translators in five different languages (Russian – Jim Powers; German – Herb Lenk; Hungarian – Laszlo Apathy; Polish – David Oberlander; Yiddish – Chaya Perera)
March 2002 – A Visit to Piltz with her review of *Eat First – You Don't Know What They'll Give You* by Sonia Pressman Fuentes
April 2002 – Slide Show of Trip to Plunge Lithuania by Libbie Kaplan
May 2002 – Potluck with Jewish Family Tree World Records by Kim Sheintal
October 2002 – IAJGS Conference Update by Sandra Krisch
November 2002 – Archaeological Trek to Khazaria by Dr. Hilliard Firschein
December 2002 – Gargzdai JewishGen Shtetl Project by John Jaffer

2003

January 2003 – Researching In Your Own Backyard by Sue Davis
February 2003 – Beyond Names and Dates by Emily Rose, author of *Portraits of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside*
March 2003 – Judaica Heirloom Show and Tell by Roger Wilson
April 2003 – The Jews of Africa by Rabbi Barbara Aiello
May 2003 – Potluck with Mini-Lesson in How to Write Your Memoirs by Ruth Tachna
October 2003 – Restoration and Conservation of Documents by Nikki Meyer
November 2003 – Genetics and Cancer by Dr. James P. LaPolla
December 2003 – The Inseparables: Genealogy and History by Winn Taplin

2004

January 2004 – Coexistence Exhibit by Richard Bergman
February 2004 – Genealogy Round Table
March 2004 – Importance of Oral Histories and How to Record Them by Sylvia Firschein
April 2004 – Connecting the Generations: 350th Birthday of the North American Jewish Community by Dr. Jerome C. Rosenthal
May 2004 – Pot Luck with the Source and Connection of the Name of a Person by Rabbi Mendy Bukiet
October 2004 – Jewish Recipes and Other Ethnic Foods by Jerry Gips and Israeli Food Presentation by Shlichim Roee and Noa Lavee
November 2004 – Researching Our Ancestors by Sue Davis
December 2004 – Jewish Sarasota by Marty Haberer

2005

January 2005 – Europe in the 30s Compared with the World Today by Richard Bergman
February 2005 – Shtetl Medicine by Dr. Michael Nevins
March 2005 – European Synagogues and Family Research – Guideposts to Our Past by Tony Joseph
April 2005 – The Winter of Our Discontent: 3 Months to Better Organization by Pat Richley (aka Dear Myrtle)
May 2005 – Potluck with Jewish Soul Music by Rosalie Leon
October 2005 – Getting Started in Genealogy by Dennis Gries
November 2005 – Into the Mainstream – Jewish Composers in the 19th Century by Dr. John Goodman
December 2005 – Sharing the Immigrant Experience by Adeline Silverman

Jewish Genealogical Society of SW Florida Highlights

“**Mishpochology**” printed quarterly since March 1996
“**Shtetl Kettle**” recipe book printed
“**Library on Wheels**” with over 100 reference books and maps
“**Website**” with all newsletters since December 2002
“**Four Scrapbooks**” with the ten-year history of the JGS of SW FL
“**Connecting the Generations**” workbook for kids printed
“**Member's Manual**” printed for all new members

