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### President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

While many people around the world were at the IAJGS conference in New York in August, I was enjoying my daughter's wedding. As I look at the wedding video and photos, I see cousins joyously dancing the horah together; I see my daughter wearing her grandmother's engagement ring under the chuppah that her father made from bamboo from our yard; I see my family celebrating traditions that will be passed on to the next generation in our family. I will add these wedding details with the photos to my family tree scrapbook.

### Genealogical Societies

**Manasota Genealogical Society** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM until noon from October through May. (Each meeting will conclude with a basic genealogy lesson.) Meetings are at the Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. in Bradenton.

President is Anne Young (french.cat@verizon.net).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs/>

**South Bay Genealogical Society (Sun City Center)** meets the third Tuesday of the month at noon from September through May for lunch and a speaker. September & October meetings will be at the Cypress Creek Golf Club off of Cypress Village Blvd. Starting in November, meetings will be held at the new South Shore Library on 19th Avenue. Starting in November, there will be roundtable discussions at 10:45 AM with different subjects being discussed prior to luncheon.

President is Don Churchill (dchurchill@tampabay.rr.com).

Website: [www.rootsweb.com/~flsbg](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsbg)

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

### MISHPOCHOLOGY

Volume 11, Number 3 Fall 2006

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<http://www.jewish-sarasota.org/jgs/jgssofswfl.htm>

Mishpochology is published quarterly.

### Program

**Sunday, November 19, 2006 (1:00 PM)**

**JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota**

**Program: Jewish Genealogy Conference Review**

by Sylvia Firschein, Tony & Jan Joseph, Hal & Judi Sterne

For information, Kim Sheintal 941-921-1433 or [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com)

**Genealogical Society of Sarasota (GSS)** meets the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM (refreshments) with 10:00 AM (program) from October through May. Meetings are at the Selby Library (Geldbart Auditorium), 1331 1st St. in Sarasota. President is Denton Fitzgerald ([dvfitz@comcast.net](mailto:dvfitz@comcast.net)).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss/>

Germanic SIG is led by Marilyn Wethington

([gssgenealogy@comcast.net](mailto:gssgenealogy@comcast.net)).

Scottish SIG is led by Jean Wallace ([walljb@comcast.net](mailto:walljb@comcast.net)).

Irish SIG is led by Bernadette Duncan ([bduncan941@aol.com](mailto:bduncan941@aol.com)).

Computer SIG is led by Denton Fitzgerald ([dvfitz@comcast.net](mailto:dvfitz@comcast.net)) and meets the third Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM until 3:30 PM from October through May. Meetings are at the Selby Library (Geldbart Auditorium).

Officer elections are January 20, 2007.

**Englewood Genealogical Society** meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM for the General Meeting for October, January through April; November and December on the third Wednesday; September and May will have a Saturday morning meeting at 9:30 AM until 11:30 AM. Meetings are at the Elsie Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn W. Street (1/2 block from 776 on the right) in Englewood.

President is Sue Davis ([suedavis101@comcast.net](mailto:suedavis101@comcast.net)).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flegsf/>

**Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society** meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM from November through April. Meetings are at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

President is Nancy Johnson ([choco8448@yahoo.com](mailto:choco8448@yahoo.com)).

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay** meets the second Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM (beginner's session), and 2:00 PM (featured program) from September through June. Meetings are at the Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida.

President is Bill Israel ([jtstb@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:jtstb@tampabay.rr.com)).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~fljgstb/home.htm>

### Florida State Genealogical Society 30th Annual Conference

November 10 & 11, 2006 at Crowne Plaza Melbourne

2605 N. A1A, Indiatlantic, Florida

For information, go to the FSGS Website at <http://www.flsgs.org>

or contact Ann Staley, P O Box 441364, Jacksonville, FL 32222

([astaley@comcast.net](mailto:astaley@comcast.net)).

## JGS of SW FL 2006-2007 Calendar

Sun., Nov. 19, 2006 @ 1 PM at JCC  
Sun., Dec. 17, 2006 @ 1 PM at JCC  
Sun., Jan. 21, 2007 @ 1 PM at JCC  
Sun., Feb. 18, 2007 @ 1 PM at JCC  
Sun., March 18, 2007 @ 1 PM at JCC  
Sun., April 15, 2007 @ 1 PM at JCC  
Sun., May 20, 2007 @ 1 PM at JCC

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### 2006 IAJGS Achievement Award Recipients

The winners accepted their award plaques at the banquet held on Thursday evening, Aug. 17, at the NY2006 Jewish genealogy conference. These honorees were selected from a large field of outstanding candidates, whose number and achievements reflect the vitality of our Jewish community.

**IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award -- Stephen P. Morse**  
"Recognizing his ongoing work to enhance access to online databases. His versatile 'One-Step' programs have become essential tools for thousands of Jewish genealogists. Thanks to his extraordinary skill and creativity, researchers have made critical discoveries in immigration, census, and vital records, as well as numerous other databases, and they have overcome hurdles presented by unfamiliar alphabets and languages. Extending his generosity beyond cyberspace, he has also lectured widely at conferences and to local societies, contributing to their growth and furthering learning."

**Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product – Ada Green**

"Recognizing her devoted and meticulous efforts to record burials in Jewish cemeteries in the New York City area and beyond. Since 1995 she has documented over 180 burial society and landsmanshaft plots and has single-handedly cataloged over 36,000 gravestone inscriptions worldwide. She has made records accessible to all on JewishGen and has encouraged and guided individuals and groups undertaking other transcription projects. Her tireless work is a model to other volunteers and a mitzvah to the Jewish souls whose memories she has rescued from oblivion."

**Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy -- Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia**

"For creating searchable online databases of Philadelphia's Blitzstein and Lipshutz "ethnic bank" records. These records detail steamship ticket purchases made in the United States, primarily for family members in the "old country." Previously available only in ledgers at the Philadelphia Jewish Archives Center and on microfilm, 55,000 records spanning 50 years of immigration to the Port of Philadelphia are now accessible to researchers worldwide on JewishGen. For some, the records have provided the first written evidence of their ancestral towns."

**Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS – Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston**

"Recognizing the excellence of its quarterly journal MASS-POCHA which informs JGSGB members as well as readers worldwide. Notable features include the variety and originality of its articles, in-depth coverage of guest lectures and the unique resource lists that supplement many articles. A consistent and attractive layout, appealing graphic design, effective use of photographs and illustrations and high editorial standards further enhance the impact of this exemplary publication."

IAJGS Achievement Awards Committee  
Carol Davidson Baird  
Hal Bookbinder  
Joel Spector  
Renee Stern Steinig, Chair  
Ignacio Sternberg

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### Summary of IAJGS activities at the NY conference

Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President

Part 1

Dear Leaders,

I am pleased to share a summary of IAJGS activities at the NY conference. This is Part 1 (of 3).

The Board met three times during the conference week. One of those meetings was devoted solely to our negotiations for a hotel for the Chicago 2008 conference and I am happy to say that they are proceeding on course; as soon as they are finalized, we will announce the dates and hotel.

During the other two board meetings we dealt with additional issues, such as the budget for Salt Lake City 2007. Planning for that conference is moving forward under the able leadership of Michael Brenner and Hal Bookbinder. The dates are July 15-19 at the Salt Lake City Hilton.

Those of you who stopped by the IAJGS table know that we had a petition regarding proposed reduction of NARA hours. Our petition urges NARA to stay open for more hours, on evenings and Saturdays, than would occur if the planned reduction goes into effect: 215 people signed and it was sent off to Professor Allen Weinstein, Archivist of the United States, on August 21, in time for the September 3 deadline to receive written statements. Thanks to all who signed!

We also had a raffle for various items for the Salt Lake City 2007 conference. The winning tickets were drawn at the Banquet out of 292 tickets sold.

--Grand prize, Free Conference Registration, 5 nights Hotel Room and Banquet Ticket to Debbie Etzion of Great Neck, NY.

--1st prize, Free Conference Registration to Eileen Polakoff of New York City.

--2nd prize, Free Banquet Ticket to Judy Salomon of West Caldwell, NJ.

--3rd prize, Free Breakfast with the Experts Ticket to Judy Caplan of Long Beach, NY.

Congratulations to the four winners and thanks to all the wonderful people buying tickets in hopes of winning.

And, we had a "Free Stuff drawing. The 1st prize winner was Sol Krongelb of Katonah, NY --dinner for two at the Roof Restaurant in Salt Lake City (on the 10th floor of the Joseph Smith Building). " The 2nd prize winner was Marge Goldin of Dix Hills, NY --dinner for two at the Lion House in Salt Lake City (in the historic home of Brigham Young). We thank Temple Square Hospitality, SLC, for their very kind donation of these two prizes.

The IAJGS Achievement Award winners were announced at the Banquet and information about them has already appeared on this digest so I won't repeat it. We will soon update our website to reflect the 2006 awardees.

Bravo to JGS, Inc of New York for putting on such a wonderful conference and to all who attended.

Anne

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## Part 2

Dear Leaders,

The IAJGS annual general meeting, held on Wednesday, August 16 was very well attended. We appreciate everyone taking time from the very exciting conference program to attend.

--The 2006 Stern Award for \$2000 was approved for Toledot-Jewish Family History Centre in Prague for digitizing some very important Bohemian archival records;

--A brief report was made by the 2005 Stern Award winner, the JGS of Montreal, for their project to digitize and index all Canadian naturalizations for 1932-1951, informing us that more than 90% of the 4000 images have been scanned and that data entry will be soon. We also heard a brief update on the 2003 winner, the University of Denver Ira M. Beck Memorial Special Collection Archives to support the JCRS project indexing about 25,000 tuberculosis patient files from 1904-1920. You can see information about all previous winners at [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org) (click on the Awards button).

--A PRAMC report was given reviewing all the great work done over the past year under the leadership of Jan Meisels Allen. Her report can be seen at [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org) (click on the Legislation button and then on Annual Report).

--A new Travel Reimbursement Policy and Travel Fund were announced. The Board adopted this policy in March 2006 in order to encourage individuals to serve but whom may have hesitations because of the personal expenses required to attend board meetings. We thanked the JGS of Greater Washington for making the initial contribution to this fund. You can find this new policy at [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org) (click on the Leadership button, click on Information about how to serve as a board member and then scroll down.)

--A new IAJGS program, called IAJGS Salutes, was announced. This will be a way of honoring many individuals or organizations that have done worthy things for Jewish genealogy by having their names on our web site. As soon as the program is up and running we will so announce and invite "nominations."

--We discussed future conferences and my attempt to line up a number of locations for, at minimum, the next 5 years. Good progress is being made on this.

--The slate put forth by the nominating committee was elected by acclamation, as there were no nominations from the floor. Elected to continue serving on the board are: Jan Meisels Allen, Florence Elman, Martha Lev-Zion, Daniel Schlyter and Paul Silverstone. Newly elected is Marcia Indianer Meyers and we welcome her to the board. We say a fond good-bye to Ellen Shindelman Kowitz, who will do some work for us even though she is now off-board.

--A suggestion was made that in the future the nominating report be placed on our web site and e-mailed for easy access and cutting costs of copying/mailling. The board will explore this good idea to determine if it would be consistent with the bylaw pertaining to proper notice. Another suggestion from the floor concerned raising money for programs.

--Since the meeting protocol stipulated that all delegates would have 2 minutes during debate, the board determined that, in the interest of fairness, Gary Mokotoff be given the same amount of time to present his report on the most recent meetings with the LDS Church regarding the posthumous baptism issue since he was not attending the meeting as a voting delegate. We

also requested that he distribute copies of his remarks to those attending (he declined to do so). A motion to allow Gary to speak for 10 minutes was made, seconded and passed (26 to 16) and he presented his remarks in that amount of time.

--The resolution put forth by the JGS of Greater Washington regarding the posthumous baptism issue was introduced. But, as there was no second to the motion, it thus died without any debate or vote. Thanks to all who participated in the meeting!

Anne

## Part 3

Dear Leaders,

This is part 3 (the last!) of my reports regarding IAJGS activity in New York and it concerns the Management Sub-Seminar held on the first day of the conference. We were pleased to see so many in attendance and everyone found the speakers of real interest.

One suggestion that came out of the session involves placing a master calendar on the IAJGS website where our member societies could include information about their upcoming meetings and who their speakers will be in the hopes that other societies might join together in hosting the speaker(s) at the same time.

Ellen Shindelman Kowitz, who organized the Sub-Seminar, has agreed to follow-up with this idea and will let everyone on the digest know when it gets up and running. Thanks Ellen and to all whom came to the session.

Anne

## Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsources/Judaism/jewpop.html> will allow you to click on a country for a history of Jews from that particular country.

55,000 Massachusetts Jewish Burial Records Now Online: The Jewish Cemetery Association of Massachusetts has placed 55,000 burial records of the association's more than 100 cemeteries online. Best of all, the records are available at no charge. To search the database, go to <http://www.jcam.org>, click on "Services," then click "Genealogical Search" and then enter the name (or just the first four letters of the last name). Next, click on SEARCH. The results returned show the name, burial location, name of cemetery, street name, and date of death of each record that matches the parameters you entered. Some records may not be available for lack of date-of-death information. Due to poor record keeping from years ago, in some instances, information may be incorrect. Records are only available for JCAM cemeteries.

<http://books.google.com> has digitized fully many books of potential interest to Jewish genealogists, and recently began allowing downloads of PDFs of books that are no longer protected by copyright.

<http://www.WeRelate.org> is an Internet search engine for genealogy-related web sites.

# The Early Jews of England (Part 3)

By Anita Woolf

## 1190-1199

Richard left for the Crusades. His departure was a signal for further onslaughts on Jews. The Jews of York were old and prosperous. The "signal" for the massacre was an attack on the house of one Jew, Benedict, who had been forcibly baptized. His house was plundered and torched and his wife and children perished in the flames. Every Jew fled to Clifford Tower for safety. Men, women, children, babes in arms – the entire Jewish community sheltered in fear in the Tower. Outside, the rabble lusted for blood. "Crush the enemies of Christ. Crush the enemies of Christ." On Friday, 16 March 1190, the eve of Shabbat Hagadol, the name given to the Sabbath before Passover, the Jews became martyrs. Their leader, a great French scholar, one Rabbi Yomtov, advocated martyrdom. Amidst the controversy which ensued, there were those who agreed, who destroyed their valuables, who slew their wives, their children, and then turned their knives on themselves. The remainder of the group then carried out similar acts either by setting fire to the Tower and perishing in the flames or by following their Rabbi's example in their self-destruction. Then, the handful remaining, threw the bodies over the walls, and accepted baptism if they were to be spared. This was agreed. But on lowering the drawbridge, the rabble fell on them and murdered them. The Jewish Community of York was thus destroyed in its entirety. There is, to this day, a plaque commemorating this event affixed onto a wall of the remaining walls of the Tower. This plaque is written in both English and Hebrew and is a painful reminder of this tragic happening. An "English Masada" to be sure.

Richard returned to England from both the Crusades and his term of imprisonment by the Duke of Austria. He discovered that not only had this act taken place but finance was needed. He also discovered that, in the frenzy, which had swept the country, during the four years that he had been absent from England, all Jewish records had been destroyed, and that all the debts due to Jewish bankers, and therefore to him, were lost.

An enquiry was put into action immediately, and from these records, which exist to this day; Richard noted the names of many who part in the Massacre, which included both barons and nobles. Richard discovered the destroyed records seriously affected the Exchequer and, resolving that this would not happen, appointed Hubert Walter, the Archbishop of Canterbury to set up a plan to safeguard the Royal Treasury. An ingenious plan it proved to be. All business dealings involving Jews were to be registered, records were to be duplicated, one copy to be kept by the Jewish banker. The other copy was to be locked away in a special chest, sometimes called an "archa." The archas were to be located in all cities where Jews resided. As a point of interest, archas were actually the forerunners of safes in banks, as we know them today. The archas were sturdily built. Bound with iron, they had three locks and three keys, with five officials in charge of each archa. Two were Jewish, the other three Gentiles. One of the Gentiles was an official of the Treasury. They were all called chirographers, and the third was the responsibility of the Treasury official. This arrangement was, of course, to prevent fraud and forgery, as this meant no one person could open the archa. Later, Jews were only permitted to reside in towns where these archas existed. It is noted that altogether 27 of these chests existed in different parts of the country. Although the records were mostly written in Latin, receipts for payments were written in Hebrew mostly with a Latin translation. Interestingly these receipts were called by their Hebrew name of Shetar.

## 1199

King John now ascends the Throne. The conditions of the Jews were still poor. Many had returned to the Continent. The remaining Jews had much diminished wealth. In 1201 the King granted a Charter of Liberties to all Jews in both England and Normandy. Again, Jews and their possessions were to be "protected." Jews once more could move freely, could buy and sell without hindrance. For some years Jews enjoyed a reasonably peaceful lifestyle. However, in 1206, John

lost Normandy. This also resulted in a considerable loss of wealth. John's attitude towards Jews changed radically. Jews suffered also with loss of contact with their brethren that they had enjoyed since King William. They were denied the great scholars and Rabbis who had freely visited England. John's efforts to recapture Normandy and his other unsuccessful war against Wales proved to be costly. This was the basis for his change of policy against the Jews. Jewish property was confiscated. Debtors to Jews were released from their debts. A massive, unrealistic tax was levied on them.

In 1210, all Jews were cast into prison until their debt was paid. There were Jews, supposedly wealthy, who were tortured to reveal where their riches were hidden, and there were those who managed to flee the country.

A temporary period of calm then prevailed. Four years later, violence again erupted. Jewish owned houses were seized and given to Royal favorites. Other Jewish owned property was demolished. And so continued this period of disquiet until Henry 111.

## Henry 111 (1216)

Henry came to the Throne at the age of 9. Acting as Regent for many years was the Earl of Pembroke who ruled fairly and wisely. He restored peace and order and released all Jewish prisoners.

In 1217, preparations for a further Crusade were under way. Strict orders were sent to all Sheriffs where Jews lived – they were to protect their Jewish subjects. An interesting situation arose. Jews from the continent were encouraged to visit England, but those wishing to leave could only do so with a special license (!)

At this time the Church was very powerful. Jews had to wear a special badge on their garments (\*). This was to be white or light in color, shaped like 2 tablets of stone bearing the 10 commandments. (Later changed to yellow.) Nevertheless, until Henry came of age, Jews lived in peace and prosperity.

In 1227, Henry came of age. A serious change came about in the treatment of Jews. Fines were levied and again they were forced to pay huge sums to the Royal Treasury.

This is a synopsis of the further persecution of Jews.

1231 The Jews of Leicester were driven out of the city

1234 Newcastle suffered a similar fate

1235 High Wycombe

1236 Southampton

1242 Berkhamstead

1244 Newbury

1253 To prevent any chosen movement of Jews, this year saw the decree that Jews could only live in the cities in which they resided at this date.

1263 This decree was proved to be worthless, as, at this date, they were driven out of Derby.

\*It was the forerunner for the Nazi yellow star. The writer has seen these garments at a fascinating exhibition of Jewish Medieval Dress at the Jewish Museum in Camden Town, London.

*To be continued 1262 – 1290 (The Expulsion)*

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## Your Genealogy Stories and Articles

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida welcomes contributions regarding genealogical research experience or Jewish history. Submit your articles to:

klapshein@aol.com

Kim Sheintal  
4462 Violet Avenue  
Sarasota, Florida 34233

## Looking Back to May

By Kim Klapman Sheintal

My daughter is getting married in three months. I am busy remodeling two bedrooms for out of town guests and arranging a week's worth of wedding related festivities. I get the e-mail, *"I welcome hearing from you if you have an interest in the Raciaz Books of Resident indexing project or if you would like to obtain a copy of the file with the frequency of Surnames, Towns of Birth and Previous Places of Domicile."*

Sure, I have the interest...my paternal grandfather Morris Klapman was born in Raciaz Poland. But I don't have time for genealogy now; I am planning a wedding. I will contact them about the Raciaz indexing project after the wedding. Or, should I contact them now. What do I do? I choose to contact them.

The Raciaz Books of Residents are a unique source of information on the citizens of Raciaz containing a house-by-house census of the people in Raciaz. They cover the period from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century until 1931. One of the most frequent surnames in the Raciaz Books of Residents is Klapman.

In May, I receive the Raciaz Books of Residents and a 33-page descendant chart database of Szmul Joel Klapman (my great great great grandfather) from Flora Gursky. Flora and I have been in contact over the years because of our Klapman roots in Raciaz. But I don't have time now to look at the Raciaz Books of Residents or the 33-page descendant chart of Szmul Joel Klapman; my daughter is getting married in less than three months. What do I do? I choose to peek at both.

I get an e-mail from Flora Gursky on May 28, *"Could I ask you to please compare this "Szmul Joel Klapman" data with what you have and let me know any additions, corrections, misspellings, etc.?"* What do I do? My daughter is getting married on August 12; I have so many wedding preparations. I tell Flora that I will proof the 33 pages and will mail her the corrected copy.

I proof the 33 pages to the best of my knowledge and mail back to Flora. Flora responds on June 5 with *"I have been able to add lots more details and, of course, I now have more questions. I would like to include dates and cities of birth, death and marriages and so – can I ask you to fill in some of the blanks for yourself and your family...?"* What do I do? My daughter is getting married in less than ten weeks; I have so much more to do for the wedding. I will answer Flora's questions.

Throughout June and July, I get more questions from Flora. Then she suggests that I contact more people within the 33 pages and get details of their immediate families. I enjoy contacting long lost cousins and learning about my family. I figure I could work on this leisurely and finish in more detail after the wedding. Then Flora has the idea that we fix up the 33 pages as best we can so that I can give the papers to all of the Klapman family at the wedding. What do I do? I have so much to do right before the wedding. I decide to go for it. Flora graciously types a revised booklet with 59 pages, four pages with names and addresses, and a detailed Poland map. I distribute the booklets to the Klapman relatives at the wedding. This booklet would never have been possible without Flora. Flora is my inspiration.

About a week before the wedding, Flora suggests I mail letters to all the Klapmans in Israel. I mail 24 letters the week of the wedding.

In the three months before the wedding, I talked to and/or e-mailed many cousins and "prospective" cousins. I discovered which family members perished in the Holocaust. I learned the name of my great great great grandfather (Johel Jakubowicz Klapman). I found three siblings of my great grandfather Joel Szyia Klapman (Joel Szyia Klapman is son of Israel Klapman). I received a wedding photo with my cousins from England and Israel whom I never met.

In the one month since the wedding, I have found many newly discovered Klapmans in Israel related to me; the "book" has increased in size from 59 to 66 pages and will probably double in size by the time Flora and I finish it. Flora has inspired me to keep in contact with all of my relatives and even my "possible" cousins around the world. I want to find more Klapman cousins.

I am still waiting for Flora to find her Klapman relatives from Raciaz. Flora's cousin married Jankief Klopman. Jankief, born in Raciaz about 1868, is the son of Zalman Majer.

## Cousins Cousins Everywhere

....and not always where you think!

By Lee Ruggles

It takes just one question, one e-mail, one "are-you-my-cousin" to energize and kick-start my genealogical (search) engine. Registering at [www.jewishgen.com](http://www.jewishgen.com) years ago was undoubtedly one of the best things I've done, family history-wise.

I had planned to write a little "how-to" piece for *Mishpochology* on how I had honored my father's memory with a small album of old photos and musings and snippets of childhood memories. Then the e-mail arrived from the JewishGen Family Finder site: *I'm a Belafsky from Perth Amboy, New Jersey. How are you involved? I have just started to research my family.*

This kind of e-mail tends to leave me slack-jawed, staring at the screen. At the risk of sounding a tad wacky, I have to say that it's like a window opening to the universe. Day to day routine fades to the background and my focus once more is on family that I never met. Most are long gone, but many are scattered about the globe, sharing some of my genetic markers, my DNA, my ancient history.

*Hello, Mark. I'm a Frankel; my father was Joseph. My grandparents, Julius and Rachel Frankel lived on Division Street.....My great-grandfather, Morris (Moishe Chaim) Frankel was married to Bertha (Toibe) Belofsky, daughter of Isaac and Sarah.....Moishe's father was Elias (Eliuhu) Frankel. They're all in the old Hebrew Fraternity cemetery in Fords.....*

I was rewarded with: *Hello, cousin!.....I believe Bertha Belovsky was my grandfather's sister.....*He went on about who had settled in Perth Amboy and how he and I attended Woodbridge High School, (although he was a freshman when I was a senior). I learn that he will be attending his 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion soon. That same day my sister e-mails that she is attending her 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion soon – same school. Hooray for the Class of 1956.

I suggested to Mark that he join a Jewish genealogy group in his area. If it's anything like ours, he'll be on his way to his digging around his roots, working his way up the trunk and the branches and adding fresh new buds.

I will send what I have of the Frankel Tree. It will make a sturdy branch on the Belofsky Tree.

## Translators

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida needs members who can translate a foreign language. If you can translate a foreign language, please contact Kim Sheintal 941-921-1433 or klapshein@aol.com.

## Genealogy Newsletters

### Florida State Genealogical Society Liaison Newsletter

Current and past versions of the FSGS Liaison newsletters may be accessed on the FSGS website at <<http://www.flsgs.org/>> under the publications link.

### "Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library"

is a monthly electronic newsletter published by the Historical Genealogy Department of the Allen County Public Library. Each issue keeps one updated on any special events in the department; provides descriptions of department collections, resources, and services; and highlights lodging facilities, travel directions, and lecture opportunities. There are two ways to subscribe if you are interested in receiving the issues as they are published.

E-mail: [GenealogyGems\\_subscribe@FriendsOfAllenCounty.org](mailto:GenealogyGems_subscribe@FriendsOfAllenCounty.org)  
Go to [www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org](http://www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org) and fill out the subscription form toward the bottom of that web page.

### Jewish Genealogical Society Newsletters Around the World

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies - IAJGS - is an independent non-profit umbrella organization coordinating the activities and annual conference of more than 75 national and local Jewish genealogical societies around the world. The IAJGS site is [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org). To obtain information about Jewish genealogical societies and their newsletters, click on the link for "a list of existing Jewish Genealogical Societies."

### Nu? What's New? The E-zine of Jewish Genealogy

*Nu? What's New* is published biweekly by Avotaynu, Inc. To be added or removed from this mailing list, go to the Internet site <http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm>.

### Eastman's Online Newsletter

To receive this daily online genealogy newsletter, go to <http://blog.eogn.com>.

## How well do you know genealogy terms?

**Collateral family:** The families with whom your ancestors intermarried

**Ancestor:** Any person from whom one is descended, especially one earlier in a family line than a grandparent

**Once Removed:** a difference of one generation. For example, your mother's first cousin is your first cousin, once removed. This is because your mother's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. Twice removed means that there is a two-generation difference. You are two generations younger than a first cousin of your grandmother, so you and your grandmother's first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.

## Curious about Jewish surnames?

[http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/polish\\_surnames.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/cs/surname/a/polish_surnames.htm)  
<http://www.jewfaq.org/jnames.htm>

These websites have interesting facts about Jewish surnames highlighted in this article.

Most European surnames develop from four major sources. Such is the case with Polish surnames.

**Geographical Surnames** - Polish last names derived from the location of the homestead from which the first bearer and his family lived.

**Patronymic & Matronymic Surnames** - Based on an ancestor's first name, this category of surnames is usually derived from a father's first name, although occasionally from the first name of a wealthy or well-respected female ancestor. Such surnames can often be identified through the use of certain endings including -icz, -wicz, -owicz, -ewicz, and -ycz which usually mean "son of."

**Occupational Surnames** - these Polish last names are based on the person's job.

**Descriptive Surnames** - Based on a physical feature of the individual.

You cannot always tell whether people are Jewish from their surnames. A lot of the surnames that sound Jewish to Americans are simply German names such as Klein, Gross or Grossman, Weiss or Weisman, Rosen, Schwartz or Schwartzman, Segal, Siegal or Sagal, and anything that contains berg, stein, man, thal or bluth.

There are really only three surnames that are specifically Jewish in nature: variations on Cohen, Levy and Israel. These names are derived from tribal ancestry that were recorded by the Jewish people and recognized in synagogue with various distinctions.

## IAJGS Maps Collection

The IAJGS is working to make available high quality maps of areas that have particular interest to Jewish genealogists. This resource will grow as new maps and map sets become available. For a listing of maps, go to <http://www.iajgs.org/maps.html>.

## Grandaunts and Granduncles

Generation 1 - My siblings are my brothers and sisters

Generation 2 - My parents' siblings are my aunts and uncles

Generation 3 - My grandparents' siblings are my grandaunts and granduncles

Generation 4 - My great-grand parents' siblings are my great-grandaunts and great-granduncles

Source: <http://www.genealogy.com/askr031303.html>

The sister/brother of your GREAT grand parent is your GREAT grand aunt/uncle. The sister/brother of your grand parent is your grand aunt/uncle. Technically, there is no such thing as a GREAT aunt/uncle.

Source: <http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~hornbeck/relation.htm>

# REGISTER NAMES OF HOLOCAUST VICTIMS TODAY

*Ensure that no one is forgotten*

In fulfilling its mandate to memorialize and preserve the legacy of each individual Jew who died at the hands of the Nazis and their collaborators, Yad Vashem has been collecting "Pages of Testimony" since the mid 1950's. Submitted by survivors, relatives or friends of victims, Pages of Testimony are preserved in the Hall of Names at Yad Vashem, Jerusalem. In November 2004, the Page of Testimony collection was integrated into the Central Database of Shoah Victims Names where brief histories and photographs of over three million Holocaust victims may be accessed online. A revolutionary milestone in Holocaust remembrance and learning, this online resource provides the opportunity to search for names, photographs and brief histories, of over three million Jews who perished in the Holocaust. The Database also allows users to submit names, photos and documentation online.

The names and life stories of millions more victims are in danger of being forgotten. If you know of a Holocaust victim, please fill out a Page of Testimony in their memory, or assist survivors and others who know of Holocaust victims to do so.

**Please search the site today, submit unrecorded names and pictures, and help ensure that no Holocaust victim is forgotten.**

Names may be registered in two ways:

1. Online via the website [www.yadvashem.org](http://www.yadvashem.org) - Enter the Database from the home page and click "Submit Additional Names" on the search page.
2. Via a special form for registering Holocaust victims, known as a Page of Testimony. Forms and instructions may be downloaded from the site and printed or photocopied for multiple submissions at: [http://www1.yadvashem.org/download/index\\_download.html](http://www1.yadvashem.org/download/index_download.html)

Forms may also be requested from Yad Vashem:

Via e-mail: [central.database@yadvashem.org.il](mailto:central.database@yadvashem.org.il)

Telephone: +972-2-6443582

Fax: +972-2-6443579

Testimonies given to organizations other than Yad Vashem are NOT in the Central Database. (Please pass this message on to your family, friends and acquaintances.)

*On behalf of Yad Vashem, thank you for helping ensure that every Holocaust victim has a place in our collective memory.*

## Campaign to Recover Names of Holocaust Victims In Southwest Florida

In recent months, hundreds of organizations and individuals around the world, including the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, have joined the Shoah Victims Recovery project to commemorate the six million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. This is not an easy task. Aging survivors, witnesses and members of the next generation need assistance in completing Pages of Testimony.

## Yad Vashem

Yad Vashem is the Jewish people's memorial to the murdered Six Million and symbolizes the ongoing confrontation with the rupture engendered by the Holocaust. Containing the world's largest repository of information on the Holocaust, Yad Vashem is a leader in Shoah education, commemoration, research and documentation. Located on Har Hazikaron, the Mount of Remembrance, in Jerusalem, Yad Vashem is a vast, sprawling complex of tree-studded walkways leading to museums, exhibits, archives, monuments, sculptures, and memorials.

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida Membership Application

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, a nonprofit organization that promotes the research of Jewish history, celebrated its tenth anniversary in January 2006. Guests are always welcome to attend programs. For more information, call Kim Sheintal at 941-921-1433.

### Objective

- Collect, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and information with reference to Jewish genealogy

### Activities

- Acquire research material for society library
- Document surnames/places for members
- Arrange genealogical programs

### Location

- Flanzer Jewish Community Center, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota, Florida

### Dues

- Single Membership \$20 per year
- Family Membership \$25 per year

Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL):

JGS of SW FL

c/o Kim Sheintal

4462 Violet Avenue

Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

## Genealogy Survey

Please complete this survey and mail to one of the following:

Kim Sheintal, 4462 Violet Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34233

klapshein@aol.com

Be sure to state your name. Use another paper if necessary. Answer as many questions as you would like. Responses may be printed in an issue of Mishpochology. If you are not a member of the JGS of SW Florida but are a member of a genealogical society, please give the society name.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Genealogy Society Member of \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is your favorite genealogy website?

2. How much time do you spend on genealogical research in the average month?

3. How did you get interested in genealogy?

4. What has surprised you the most in your genealogical research?

5. What advice would you give to a beginning genealogist?

6. What gives you the most pleasure from doing genealogy?

7. What have you gained (besides discovering family) from your genealogical research?

8. What genealogy book would you recommend to a beginning genealogist?

9. How many people have you gotten interested in genealogy?

10. Do you post your surnames on a website?

11. Have you ever hired a professional researcher for your family history project?

12. How long have you been researching your ancestry?

13. What has been your best source of information?

14. What has been your biggest accomplishment with your genealogy?

15. What surnames/places are you researching?

16. Have you ever attended a genealogy conference?

17. What is your main goal in your research?

18. Have you put your family tree in a software program?