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### **President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal**

About five years ago, I made a video about how I traced my family. In January, I decided to make a different sort of audio/visual memory. I wanted to make my genealogy more than just plain charts, and rather, was hoping to make charts that actually progress on a screen. I wanted to add family voices and photos. I put my ideas on paper and selected 71 family photos. I took a 1965 cassette tape of Chanukah parties from the maternal and paternal sides of my family and obtained music from Fiddler on the Roof. I typed the names of my four grandparents, my parents, my sister, my parents' siblings and my first cousins. Most of these people were on my 1965 tape. With my 71 photos, 1965 cassette tape, Fiddler on the Roof music, list of my family members, and a few notes, I contacted a video professional. Within two months, my personal genealogy was moving on a screen with my favorite music plus voices and photos of my grandparents, parents, sister, aunts, uncles and cousins.

I now have a genealogy treasure for future generations.

## **Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida**

### **MISHPOCHOLOGY**

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### **MEETING AND POTLUCK LUNCH**

**Sunday, May 20, 2007 (1:00 PM)**

**Sarasota Herald, 1741 Main Street, Sarasota**

**Program by Jane Plitt**

**"Journey back to the Ukraine, Moldova and Romania"**

**Please bring a dairy dish to serve at least eight people.**

**RSVP Kim Sheintal 921-1433 or klapshein@aol.com**

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### **"Journey back to the Ukraine, Moldova & Romania"**

**How to Find Your Home When You Do Not Know Where You Lived:** practical discussion of how anyone can locate his or her ancestors through creative research, visit, and luck even if you don't have a clue where they really came from or what their real names were.

Share the excitement and frustration of digging back into family history when you got the story all wrong and still found ten generations of family history. Plitt, an amateur historian, journeyed back through time using the computer, the telephone, written and oral records some of which were found in the New York City archives, Jewish genealogy sites, Ancestry.com, EllisIsland.com, DNA tests, climaxed by a two week journey with her grown son to the Ukraine, Moldova, and Romania. The good news is they both survived and the history got expanded.

Plitt will share a nitty-gritty perspective of traveling back to the old country, how she found guides, lodging, and traveled across the borders when neither she nor her son spoke the languages. She will offer ideas of how to pack, what to wear, and how much money to bring in cash for getting people to be "extra" helpful.

Bring your questions. This will be a dynamic sharing session for those hunting for family and/or considering traveling back to wherever home was.

## Get Inspired – Attend a Genealogy Lecture

Genealogy seminars and programs often teach people new genealogy tips.

Susan Davis, JGS of SW FL member, attended the seminar “25 Places Where Your Family’s Facts May Hide” by George C. Morgan in Tampa. Tip #25: Ethnic and foreign language newspapers published in city neighborhood may provide information about your ancestors and their families, including births, engagements, marriages, deaths, and other events.

Alex Morris, JGS of SW FL member, attended a program about the “Ten Technologies that are Changing the Way We Do Research” by Drew Smith at a Genealogical Society of Sarasota. Tip #7: RSS news feeds: [www.google.com/reader](http://www.google.com/reader) - you can sign up to be notified when there are new entries for your items.

Lectures stimulate people. Where do you think your family facts are hiding? What types of technology are changing the way people do research today as opposed to five or ten years ago? Think logically and creatively. Be inquisitive and ambitious. There are several local genealogical societies offering a variety of lectures.

### Englewood Genealogical Society

Program: Photo Care & Restoration

Speakers: Sandy Beach & George Siglin

Date: Wed., April 25, 2007 @ 1:30 PM

Place: Elsie Quirk Library (100 W. Dearborn, Englewood)

### Manasota Genealogical Society

Programs: Researching My Irish Roots by Jim McHugh

The Secrets of Successful Genealogical Research – Prepping for your Genealogy Trip this Summer by Phyllis Coucette

Using Library Resources (for those interested, from noon on)

Date: Wed., May 2, 2007 @ 9:30 AM

Place: Manatee County Central Public Library (1301 Barcarrota Blvd. West, Bradenton)

### Lakewood Ranch Genealogy Club

Program: Beginner Course in Genealogy

Speaker: Donna Moughty

Date: Mon., May 7, 2007 @ 7:00 PM

Place: Lakewood Ranch Town Hall (8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Lakewood Ranch)

For more information, contact Nancy Johnson 752-9819

### Genealogical Society of Sarasota

Program: A Virtual Tour of the New Sarasota History Center

Speaker: Ann Shank

Date: Sat., May 19, 2007 @ 10:00 AM (social time begins at 9:30 AM)

Place: Selby Public Library (1331 1<sup>st</sup> St., Sarasota)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Genealogy Seminar at Sea

October 27 – November 3, 2007

Royal Caribbean International

Sailing from the port of Miami to:

San Juan Puerto Rico, St. Maarten and Labadie

3 Days of Seminars Presented by:

Paul Milner, Laura G. Prescott, George G. Morgan,

Donna M. Moughty, Paula Stuart-Warren, John Philip Coletta,

Michael J. Leclerc, Stephen J. Danko (speakers subject to change)

For reservations, call Cindy at Fly Away Travel 800-837-0295

Website: [www.genealogycruises.com](http://www.genealogycruises.com)

E-mail: [flyawaytravel@neo.rr.com](mailto:flyawaytravel@neo.rr.com)

## JGS of SW FL Library

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida library is now located in our locked cabinet at Kobernick House, 1951 N. Honore Avenue (Sarasota) on the Kobernick-Anchin campus. In order to check out a book, one must be a member of the JGS of SW FL. All JGS of SW FL meetings will be held at Kobernick House beginning in the fall of 2007. Kobernick-Anchin is a Jewish retirement community on a beautiful campus.

## Libraries Around the World

“Interlibrary loan (abbreviated ILL, and sometimes called *interloan*, *document delivery*, or *document supply* etc.) is a service whereby a user of one library can borrow books, videos, DVDS, sound recordings, microfilms, or receive photocopies of articles in magazines that are owned by another library. Sometimes for a small fee, or possibly for no cost, a library that has the item will loan or copy it, and the item is transported to the requestor’s library to be checked out or just used within the library. Policies vary about whether the user is charged for the request.”

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interlibrary\\_loan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interlibrary_loan)

“The Library of Congress is the nation’s oldest federal cultural institution and serves as the research arm of Congress. It is also the largest library in the world, with more than 130 million items on approximately 530 miles of bookshelves. The collections include more than 29 million books and other printed materials, 2.7 million recordings, 12 million photographs, 4.8 million maps, and 58 million manuscripts.”

<http://www.loc.gov/about/>

Public libraries in the United States:

<http://www.publiclibraries.com/>

U. S. state libraries:

[http://www.publiclibraries.com/state\\_library.htm](http://www.publiclibraries.com/state_library.htm)

United States university and college libraries:

[http://www.publiclibraries.com/university\\_library.htm](http://www.publiclibraries.com/university_library.htm)

United States presidential libraries:

[http://www.publiclibraries.com/presidential\\_library.htm](http://www.publiclibraries.com/presidential_library.htm)

Public libraries around the world:

<http://www.publiclibraries.com/world.htm>

## National Genealogical Society

The National Genealogical Society, a non-profit organization founded in 1903, is the premier national society for everyone from the beginner to the most advanced family historian. The 2007 conference will be in Richmond, Virginia from May 16-19, 2007.

## Federation of Genealogical Societies

The Federation of Genealogical Societies, founded in 1976, has three major purposes: serving the needs of its member societies, providing products and services needed by member societies, and marshaling the resources of its member organizations. The Federation sponsors a national conference each year for genealogists of all levels of experience. The 2007 conference will be in Fort Wayne, Indiana from August 15-18, 2007.

## Aliyah Bet

by Paul Silverstone, Member IAJGS Board of Directors

Between 1938 and 1948 over 125,000 Jews entered Palestine "illegally" without entry permits issued by the British government. This movement is called "Aliyah Bet" to distinguish it from legal immigration, "Aliyah Aleph."

This is of interest both to historians and genealogists because it involves a significant number of people secretly brought into Palestine by ship, sometimes undetected.

The movement was started by the Revisionists in 1937 as an attempt to bring in young people who would be farmers and able to defend their settlements against Arab intruders. These were mostly members of Betar, the Revisionist youth movement which had training camps in Poland and other countries in Europe.

When Austria was annexed to Germany in 1938, Adolf Eichmann was sent to Vienna to facilitate the emigration of the Jews. The big problem was that no countries would give them entry permits so the Revisionist boats started carrying many Jews who were not Betar youths. At first the Jewish Agency would not engage in this traffic which was considered illegal by the British, but the march of events forced a change and Haganah set up an agency called Mossad l'Aliyah Bet. The years 1938 to 1941 saw a great influx of refugees arriving in Palestine after harrowing tales of voyages on ships which were inadequate for the task.

Many of these people traveled down the Danube River on German-flag river boats to ports in Romania and Bulgaria. As the British confiscated steamers which brought these people in, ship-owners would not charter their ships. The only ships available were ancient rust-buckets with inadequate facilities and stores for a voyage.

In April 1939 Britain issued a White Paper restricting Jewish immigration to 75,000 during the next five years. In that month two ships were turned away, but most others landed their passengers who were interned at camps until the quota opened to let them in.

In November 1940 three old ships arrived, carrying 4,000 people coming from Austria organized by Eichmann's appointed agent, Storfer. Britain had previously announced that any new arrivals would be immediately deported to another British colony. A large number were put aboard the French liner Patria then at Haifa. Haganah agents smuggled a bomb on board to prevent the sailing, but it blew a hole in the ship's side and 250 Jews died when it capsized. The remainder of the passengers was sent to Mauritius.

In December 1941 a 75-year-old ex-yacht named Struma arrived in Istanbul harbor with 750 people crammed on board. For two months it sat there while the Turks decided what to do with it. The boat, with non-working engines, was towed into the Black Sea where it exploded and sank. There was one survivor. We now know that Struma had been torpedoed by a Russian submarine.

Immigration stopped but picked up again in 1944 when boats sailed from Romania to Istanbul where the refugees were taken to Palestine by sealed train.

After the war ended, Mossad and Haganah endeavored to bring survivors to Palestine by organizing them and bringing them to ports where ships secretly waited to make the voyage. Most of these were intercepted by the British and eventually the people were taken to camps on Cyprus where they waited for a resolution. As these camps filled up, the British announced that new arrivals would be returned to the country from which they sailed.

The first ship to arrive was the old Chesapeake Bay excursion steamer President Warfield, with 4,000 people on board. Renamed Exodus the ship became a symbol of the whole Aliyah Bet movement. The British returned the people to France but could not force them to disembark, finally taking them back to Germany. This whole episode solidified the British determination to leave Palestine. More ships came after this including the Pan York and Pan Crescent in January 1948 with 15,000 people on board.

A principal interest for genealogists is a listing of people who made these voyages. Many lists do exist and these are being collected by the Atlit Museum of Illegal Immigration. This database however is available only at Atlit. For those ships which landed their people

undetected there are no lists. A number of people gave false names; many were told to destroy their identity papers by the Haganah operatives, in order to confuse the British. Therefore, the lists are and always will be incomplete.

For more information, see: <http://www.paulsilverstone.com> and click on the button for "The Aliyah Bet Project"

## Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog

Nancy Goldberg Hilton (formerly Nancy Goodstein) is happy to announce that the full text of Nechama's List, an update of Jewish Records in the Family History Library Catalog, is now available online at the following web site: [www.nechamaslist.com](http://www.nechamaslist.com).

Nechama's List includes 635 new specifically Jewish records added to the Family History Library Catalog between the dates of January 8, 2001 to November 8, 2006. It thus adds to the listing done previously for IAJGS and available on line at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/FHLC/>.

It is available on line free of charge for any researcher who would like to access it. Anyone who wants to order the microfilms identified should go to their local Family History Center.

The information online is the same as on the CD that was recently sent to all Jewish Genealogical Societies.

## Local Obituaries and Life Cycle Events

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida has a notebook with all of the obituaries and life cycle events listed in the Sarasota Manatee Chronicle (later named Sarasota Manatee Jewish News) since January 2002. The society has the book *Cemeteries of Sarasota County Florida: A Record of Births, Deaths and Burials by Genealogical Society of Sarasota* in their library.

## It's a Small World

by Kim Sheintal

As genealogists know, it's a small world. As JGS president, my email and phone numbers are frequently listed on the Internet. In the last month, three serendipitous things happened to me relating to genealogy - via phone, email and in person.

Two weeks ago, a Canadian woman called me about the February JGS lecture by *Dear Helga, Dear Ruth* author Helga Harris. She noticed on the Internet that Helga Harris was our speaker and wanted to contact her. This Canadian woman eventually confirmed that her parents were included in Helga's book.

Last week, a lady from Texas emailed me to ask about her cousin that worked in the mid 1900s with the Ringling Circus in Sarasota. A book in the JGS of FL library about the Jewish history of Sarasota and Manatee Counties had a paragraph about her cousin.

Yesterday, I was at a Jewish Federation committee meeting in a restaurant to help plan a Welcome Breakfast for the new Jewish residents in Sarasota and Manatee. A lady, looking for another meeting scheduled at the same restaurant that day, came up to me. I told her about the plans for a Jewish Welcome Breakfast. Although this was not her meeting, she was very interested in this Welcome Breakfast, since she was Jewish and new to the community. Coincidentally, she recently wrote a book about her Polish roots. You may be seeing her at a JGS of SW FL meeting.

## IAJGS Conference

<http://www.slc2007.org>

July 15-20, 2007

Hilton City Center

Salt Lake City, Utah

IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) is the host of the 27th Annual Jewish Genealogical Conference. The following is the latest "breaking news" for the 27th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

### VIEWING THE WORLD

The Resource Room will offer both the German and Austrian pre-World War I military map series, on loan from the Family History Library. The printed version of these maps is normally not accessible to FHL patrons.

As the FHL series is incomplete, the Conference Committee is arranging with the Library of Congress for copies of the missing maps. So, you should be able to conveniently access all maps in the two series. Finding aids will be available and you will have the ability to print (for a fee) oversize copies of each map.

### GOING FORWARD

The Forward has graciously agreed to contribute complimentary copies to conference registrants.

### ADDING MORE EVENTS IF YOU ARE ALREADY REGISTERED

To add breakfasts with the experts, SIG luncheons, the banquet or computer classes once you are already registered, please do the following:

a. Go to the conference website: [www.slc2007.org](http://www.slc2007.org). Click "Registration" and then "Registration Update."

b. A new window will open. Enter your family name and the password that was provided to you in a confirmation email when you registered (If you do not have it, click on "Forgotten your password?" and it will be emailed to you again.)

c. Another window will open; click "Add Fee-Based Items."

d. All added-fee items will appear: breakfasts with experts, SIG luncheons, computer workshops and the banquet. Scroll to the activity. Select the specific events you wish to add and click "Continue." Provide your payment method and click "Submit."

e. You will receive a confirmation within a few days. All added items are reviewed to ensure that a registrant does not inadvertently request a fee-based item already ordered or which might be in conflict with a previously selected item. This is important, as there are NO refunds or cancellations on fee-added items.

### TOURS

Day trips during the conference and three-day state and national parks tours just before and just after the conference, at special conference rates, will be available. The website through which you will be able to purchase these tours is now being set up and will be available by April 15. There will be a link from the "Travel and Hotel" button on the [www.slc2007.org](http://www.slc2007.org) website.

### COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN

Only one month until early registration runs out and conference registration prices rise. So, if you have not yet registered, do so at discounted pricing.

### A FEW WORDS TO THE WISE

Many of the fee-based items have limited seating. Once sold out, there will be no more. So, be sure to lock in your seat. The hotel is filling up fast. We have expanded our "room block" twice, essentially including all available hotel rooms. For some nights (mainly for the weekend after the conference), no rooms at conference rates remain. You can access the hotel's special conference registration website from [www.slc2007.org](http://www.slc2007.org) by clicking on the "Travel and Hotel" button. This offers the deeply discounted rates available to conference attendees - so long as rooms remain available.

Jan Meisels Allen, Registration Chair  
Conference Co-Chairmen, Hal Bookbinder and Michael Brenner

## Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.americanjewisharchives.org/aja/FAJF/intro.html>

The Jacob Rader Marcus Center of the American Jewish Archives provides Malcolm Stern's *First American Jewish Families: 600 Genealogies, 1654-1988* text online.

<http://ajcarchives.org/>

American Jewish Committee Archives makes history instantly accessible on this website.

[http://www.schiffslisten.de/index\\_en.html](http://www.schiffslisten.de/index_en.html)

This site has a database for the Bremen Passenger Lists 1920-1939. The project is a joint effort of the Bremen Chamber of Commerce and a Bremen society for family research called Maus.

<http://www.avotaynu.com/indexsum.htm>

Avotaynu is now on CD-ROM. It will contain all articles that have appeared in the journal from 1985 to 2005. Go to the website for pricing, ordering, and further information.

<http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/>

This website honors and preserves the memories of our Jewish ancestors for the present and future generations.

<http://www.jewishgenealogysearch.com/>

The Jewish Genealogy Search website will help you explore your ancestors' roots, build your family tree, trace Israeli submitters of Holocaust Pages of Testimony, and create a legacy for your future generations.

[http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/pub\\_floridalines.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/pub_floridalines.htm)

The Florida State Genealogical Society provides their Florida Lines newsletters on this website.

[www.loc.gov/preserv/](http://www.loc.gov/preserv/)

This website covers many aspects of preservation from the Library of Congress. There are three major sections on the main page: Preservation at the Library, Preservation of Your Materials, and Special Topics & Presentations. The second link in the second section called, "Preparing, Protecting, Preserving Family Treasures" provides simple instructions, as well as links to more comprehensive information for "Preparing, Protecting, Preserving" many types of family treasures.

## Genealogy Gems

Genealogy Gems, an electronic newsletter published by the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center, is intended to enlighten readers about genealogical research methods as well as inform them about the vast resources of the Allen County Public Library.

To subscribe to Genealogy Gems, simply use your browser to go to the website: [www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org](http://www.FriendsOfAllenCounty.org). Scroll down toward the bottom of the first screen where it says, "Enter Your Email Address to Subscribe to Genealogy Gems." Enter your email address in the yellow box and click on "Subscribe." You will be notified with a confirmation email.

The Allen County Public Library is a member of the JGS of SW Florida.