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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

Contrary to popular belief, you cannot tell whether people are Jewish from their surnames. According to the Jewish genealogy site Avotaynu, the third most common surname among Jews in the United States is Miller, which is also one of the most common names among gentiles. Growing up, I knew a Goldberg who was not Jewish and a Maguire who was Jewish. On <http://www.jewfaq.org/jnames.htm>, it states: "The Jewish people can take pride in the accomplishments of artist Camille Pissarro, boxer Daniel Mendoza, actor Hank Azaria and pop idol Paula Abdul, all of whom are Jewish but whose names don't sound Jewish to most Americans. We cannot, however, take credit for people with such Jewish-sounding names such as rocker Bruce Springsteen, pop singer Avril Lavigne, songwriter George M. Cohan, and former Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger or basketball player Julius Irving ("Dr. J"). There are really only three surnames that are specifically Jewish in nature: variations on Cohen, Levy and Israel. Cohen and Levy are the two most common surnames among Jews in the United States (Miller is third, as mentioned above). Even these common specifically-Jewish surnames can be misleading, though. The surname Cohan (as in songwriter George M.) is usually Irish rather than Jewish. The surname Lavigne (as in singer Avril) is pronounced much like Levine, but it is a common gentile name among French Canadians."

Are you curious about the popularity of surnames in the U.S.? Enter a surname at <http://www.hamrick.com/names/> for a map of the U.S. showing the distribution of people with a particular surname within each of the 50 United States. Search the 1990 U.S. census files at <http://www.census.gov/genealogy/www/namesearch.html> for 1990's popularity ranking of surnames in the United States.

List the surnames of the descendants that you are researching (mother's or grandmother's maiden name, etc.). Look for others doing research on these same surnames. The JewishGen Family Finder <http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/> is a terrific website to find others researching similar surnames. Have fun and learn with others searching the same surnames as you.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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MEETING

Sunday, March 16, 2008 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Speaker: Larry Domnitch, professor of Jewish history

Program: The Jewish Children's Army of the Czar

For details, Kim Sheintal 921-1433, <klapshein@aol.com>

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://MyHeritage.com>

An Israeli company has developed a powerful search engine that will identify which of 1,331 online genealogy databases have information about a given person or surname. The search engine at <http://MyHeritage.com> has a powerful spelling variant system. Another unusual feature is that it will tell you if any other patron has requested the identical search.

http://werelate.org/wiki/Main_Page

WeRelate is a free public-service wiki for genealogy sponsored by the Foundation for On-Line Genealogy, Inc. in partnership with the Allen County Public Library. It is the world's largest genealogy wiki with pages for over 1,500,000 people/families and growing.

<http://worldvitalrecords.com/>

As of February 2, 2008, this website offers affordable access to 872,278,874 names in 5,389 databases.

Looking for Surnames around the World

People Search Includes: Current phone number, address history, age, birthdates, household members & more...

<http://www.intelius.com/search-name.php?searchform=name&>

Purchase International Phone Directories

<http://www.directorystore.com/product/productsearch.jsp?type=int>
International directories can serve as a valuable resource in bringing your foreign marketplace closer to home. You will have the resources to expand your market area, contact foreign vendors directly, and perform competitive price shopping in prospective areas. Plus, they pave the way as you make travel plans. 1-888-266-5765.

White Pages around the World Online

http://www.whitepages.com/intl_directories

Then try: Australia

<http://www.whitepages.com.au/wp/initResSearch.do>

Then try other countries, one by one.

White Pages in United States Online

<http://www.infospace.com/home/>

Then click on "find a person" (only those in United States and must do a state at a time) and you will be able to find addresses for people with a particular surname in each state.

Desperation and Salvation: The Legacy of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society

by Jim Haberman

At the turn of the last century, the nation was ravaged by the "white plague." Tuberculosis was the cause of death for 154,000 Americans annually. Particularly hard hit by the TB epidemic were the masses of immigrants recently arrived in the U.S., many of them Jews. By 1903, the number of consumptives flocking to Denver for its fresh air and sunshine, seeking a cure for tuberculosis, had outstripped all medical and social service capabilities.

A concerned and idealistic group of Denver-area Jewish immigrants met to draft a solution to care for indigent patients suffering from all stages of TB. At that first meeting on October 14, 1903, when the founders of the Jewish Consumptives' Relief Society (JCRS) pooled their meager funds into the sum of \$1.10, they began a process leading to the creation a non-sectarian refuge for tuberculars from across the country. Ultimately, their efforts reached nationwide and spawned a network of Jewish philanthropy and fundraising that led to the treatment of 10,000 patients, saving thousands of lives.

In 1904, twenty acres of land were purchased one mile west of Denver, and that September six men and one woman were admitted to a fledgling place of hope consisting of six canvas tents and a one-story building. The first brick building was constructed in 1905, offering wards for bed-ridden patients. The motto of the JCRS was based on the Talmudic tenet, "He who saves one life is considered as if he had preserved the whole world." While the majority of JCRS' patients were observant orthodox Jews from Eastern Europe, no patient seeking treatment was turned away due to religious beliefs or an inability to pay.

Incorporated in 1904 and dedicated to its original mission for the next 50 years, the fledgling tuberculosis sanatorium began with only six frame and canvas tents with a one-story administrative building. Over time it developed into a nationally prominent 105-acre campus, with 34 buildings of many ages, uses and styles.

Along with medical buildings, an on-site farm, dairy and research facilities, JCRS provided a social services department, library with 9,000 volumes, dental office, pharmacy, technical school, monthly magazine, cooperative store, post office, solarium and barber shop. The heart of the campus was the Isaac Solomon Synagogue where religious services were held daily. The JCRS functioned as a sanatorium until 1954 when the JCRS changed its name and focus and became the American Medical Center (AMC) Cancer Research Center. Today, many thousands of Jews and others in every part of the country owe their existence to the treatment of their ancestors at JCRS.

At the February 17, 2008 meeting of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, Jim Haberman provided a multimedia presentation on JCRS and his web-based research that led to his discovery of his grandfather's treatment at JCRS in 1919. For further information regarding JCRS, visit <http://library.du.edu/About/collections/SpecialCollections/JCRS> and <http://www.isaacsolomonsynagogue.org>.

Shoah Victims' Names Recovery Project Facts and Figures: from January 2007 - July 2007

- 207,106 new names records were added to the Central Database of Shoah Victims' Names, including records from the Soviet Extraordinary Commission to Investigate Nazi Crimes and records concerning Hungarian Jewish victims. Many of these names may have one or more complementing records. Efforts to computerize thousands of names lists and millions of names records documented in Yad Vashem's archival holdings continue.
- 35,000 Pages of Testimony were received, 66% of them in the Russian language. Since the launch of the outreach campaign to document victims from the Nazi occupied territories in the former USSR in May 2006, over 45,000 Pages of Testimony and some 25,000 names on victims' lists have been received.
- 43,000 names were received from Pages of Testimony, memorial books and plaques as a result of Names Recovery outreach efforts in the Torah world.
- 2,600 new photographs of Holocaust victims were received and will be added to the Names Database.
- An estimated 7,000,000 pages of archival documents were acquired which contain hundreds of thousands of names of victims of the Shoah (including survivors).

Cynthia Wroclawski, Outreach Manager
cynthia.wroclawski@yadvashem.org.il

Yad Vashem Now Offers Online Inquiries to ITS Records

In conjunction with its acquisition of the records of the International Tracing Service, Yad Vashem in Jerusalem has developed an online application form for people to make inquiries about the fate of persons caught up in the Holocaust. Yad Vashem will search not only the ITS records but other records in its vast collection, which, they claim includes 75 million pages of documentation, as well as photographs, testimonies, Pages of Testimony and more. People are also invited to come to their facilities and do onsite research.

The online application and downloadable form can be found at http://www1.yadvashem.org/ITS_and_YADVASHEM/home.html.

News from the Fort Wayne Library

To subscribe to "Genealogy Gems," simply use your browser to go to the website: www.GenealogyCenter.Info. 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.

If you do not want to receive this e-zine, please follow the link at the very bottom of the issue of Genealogy Gems you just received or send an email to kspears@acpl.lib.in.us with "unsubscribe e-zine" in the subject line.

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Members

Lee Harrison
Arthur and Evelyn Katchman
Edith Jacobs
Neil Rudin
Ari Shapiro

JGS of SW FL Meeting Calendar

Sun., March 16, 2008 @ 1:00 PM at Kobernick House

Speaker: Larry Domnitch, Jewish history professor

Program: "The Jewish Children's Army of the Czar"

Larry Domnitch's book, *The Cantonists Jewish Children's Army of the Tsar*, depicts through personal accounts a tragic and significant era in Jewish History. Tens of thousands of Jewish children - some as young as 12 years old - were forced to serve in the Czar's army for 25 years with the intent of forcing the boys to abandon their faith. This book describes their struggles as well as those of their communities. This was an era of trauma and tribulation for the entire Pale of Settlement (designated provinces where Russian Jews were forced to live), which also had long-term impacts upon the Jewish community.

Sun., April 13, 2008 @ 1:00 PM at Kobernick House

Speaker: Jennifer Singer, Jewish educator

Program: "Ketubahs"

What does your Ketubah actually say about you and your relationship with your spouse? This ancient marriage document deals more with the dissolution of a marriage than the couple's hopes and dreams as they embark on their life together. Find out what a traditional Ketubah says and why, and how modern couples are changing it to fit their lifestyles today.

Sun., May 18, 2008 @ 1:00 PM at Kobernick House

Speaker: Liz Klaber, Deputy Tax Collector for Sarasota County

Program: "A Public Record Perspective from a Tax Collector's Office"

JGS of SW FL at Jewish Center of Venice (JCV)

Tuesday, February 26, 2008 @ 9:30 AM at JCV: Sue Davis, JGS of SW FL member, presents Finding Our Ancestors

Thursday, April 3, 2008 @ 9:30 AM at JCV: Hannah Rigler, author of *10 British Prisoners-Of-War*, presents her Gift of Life Story

RSVP for JCV events listed above to Kim Sheintal 941-921-1433.

Adult Education at the Jewish Center of Venice invited the Jewish Genealogical Society of SW FL to present two programs at their center this year. Both events will start with coffee/tea and bagels/cream cheese at 9:30 AM, followed by 10:00 AM lecture. The JCV is located at 600 North Auburn Road in Venice. Members of JCV, members of the JGS of SW FL and guests are invited.

Rabbi Barbara Aiello's Italian Jewish Roots Conference

Mon., Feb. 25 / Tues., Feb. 26, 2008 (11:00 AM until 6:00 PM)

Jewish Family and Children's Service, Sarasota

Conference Fee: **FREE**

(handouts, lunches both days, Monday dinner)

Having discovered her own Jewish roots, Rabbi Aiello will share her personal experiences and help conference participants begin their search for Jewish documentation. Featured speakers include experts in Jewish genealogy and Southern Italian history as well as those who have experienced specialized Italian-Jewish study that has led to full participation in Jewish cultural and synagogue life. Conference participants will meet Rabbi Frank Tamburello of New York City who discovered his Jewish roots. Tamburello, now an ordained rabbi, will tell his compelling personal journey. Elise Friedman, JewishGen's DNA Projects Coordinator, will present a lecture on DNA.

Kim Sheintal, JGS of SW FL President, will speak at the conference on Monday. Kim is a self-taught genealogist, who enjoys spending hours each morning on the Internet searching for names to add to her family tree. Networking, national and international phone books and genealogical societies have all helped her. The best tool in her genealogical research has been finding others tracing the same surnames and places as her. For example, she discovered the truth behind her connection to the Baal Shem Tov, founder of Chassidic Judaism. Her Klapman family tree grew from two pages to over 100 pages thanks to a lady she discovered on the Jewish Gen Family Finder website. At the Conference, she will share stories that she has collected from people with Jewish Italian heritage. For info, call 941-306-2047.

The JGSTB 2008 Guide to Immigration Research: "Finding Your Grandma's Immigration Record"

by Dr. Emil Isaacson

A 2-Part Jewish Genealogy Seminar by The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay Part 2 of two parts: March 9, 2008

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will offer the second and last of a two part educational seminar entitled: "The JGSTB 2008 Guide to Immigration Research: Finding Your Grandma's Immigration Record" on March 9, 2008 at 2:00 PM at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Registration will be at 1:30 PM.

This seminar will enable you to discover your family's immigration records. The presentation will concentrate on both traditional and recently available Internet resources that will be of interest to the beginning genealogist as well as those with more experience. The past few years have seen substantial changes in the methods and sources of genealogical research, so Dr. Isaacson will place special emphasis on recently developed Internet resources, which are invaluable to researchers of any level of experience. The course will focus on the proper techniques, methods, and short cuts (emphasizing local in addition to Internet resources) that will connect you with your ancestors in the old country - including your grandma! Those who missed the first part (February 10) of this two-part seminar will find that the information presented then is well covered in the seminar booklet, so you will still find the second part useful even if you missed the first part.

Dr. Emil H. Isaacson will lead the seminar. Dr. Isaacson has 25 years of extensive experience in genealogy and has researched his ancestral roots back seven generations to the late 1700's in Europe. He will share his successful and sometimes unsuccessful techniques.

The course is free to current paid-up members of the Tampa Bay Jewish Genealogical Society. A one-year family membership will be included in the \$25 course fee for non-members. A \$10.00 fee will be charged per book to defray the cost of printing. An annual membership in the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay is \$25 per individual or family.

Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited. Early registration is recommended to ensure that sufficient seminar booklets are available.

For further information on the organization, or to register for the class, or for directions to the meeting call Sally Israel at 727-343-1652.

Group Trip to Lithuania & Surrounding Area with Howard Margol and Peggy Mosinger Freedman

The June 2007 group trip was great with over 40 participants. If you are interested in tracing your roots in Lithuania, Latvia, Eastern Poland close to Lithuania, or Belarus, now is the time to sign up because this year we will be limiting the group size to 25. The dates for the trip are June 24 to July 4, 2008. The trip includes visits to the various Archives, synagogues, ghettos, Holocaust sites, meetings with Jewish leaders, sight-seeing, guide/interpreters, and two days to visit and spend time in your shtetl or shtetlach of interest. All meals are included (except for one dinner and two lunches), the finest hotels (new & modern), modern bus with on-board toilet, and much more. Howard and I are very familiar with the Archives, the archivists, Lithuania and the main places of Jewish interest.

IMPORTANT: This trip is sponsored by the American Fund for Lithuanian-Latvian Jews, Inc., a 501(c) (3) non-profit. If there is a profit from the trip, the entire profit will go to support the Jewish community in Vilnius. It is NOT sponsored by IAJGS or JGS.

Our previous trip participants can be contacted if references are desired. For details and full itinerary, contact Howard or Peggy at litvaktrip@gmail.com.

**Charlotte County Genealogical Society
Spring Symposium
"The Who, What and Where of Genealogy"**

featuring Curt B. Witcher
of the Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN.
Saturday, February 23, 2008

St. James Episcopal Church on Viscaya Drive, Port Charlotte.
Registration will open at 8 AM. Seminar will begin at 9 AM.

"Passenger and Immigration Research"

You are challenged to view your ancestor's travel to this continent as a 3-step process - leaving, arriving and settling down - with each step containing the possibility of record generation.

"Who Went Where...And Did What?! Using Directories in Genealogical Research"

Directories can provide so much data in developing a meaningful family history research and finding all the records available for a specific area in a particular time period. There are many more directories to be used than just City Directories.

"More than Surname Surfing: Best Practices for Using the Internet for Genealogists"

Take a hard look at what is currently available on the Internet for genealogists and how to methodically go about accessing that data. This is a step beyond searching a large database!

Seminar Fee: \$35 for CCGS members, \$40 for non-members
Fee includes all handouts and your box luncheon choice of ½ subs (Italian, beef, turkey or veggie).

Reservations may be sent without a specific reservation form.
Write your name, address, phone number and e-mail address on a sheet of paper.

Note if you are a CCGS member and your choice of box lunch (Italian, beef, turkey or veggie).

Send this with your check made payable to CCGS, Inc. to

Spring Symposium
c/o Joanne Ryder
26128 Dunedin Court
Punta Gorda, FL 33983

2008 IAJGS Conference/Hotel Registration LIVE

We are very pleased to announce that conference and hotel registration are now live. Please go to www.chicago2008.org.

It will be a wonderful conference with quite a few innovations that you are sure to enjoy and find interesting. For example, for those who arrive in Chicago early, there will be a Shabbat dinner on Friday, August 15 and a conference Welcome dinner on Saturday August 16. See the conference web site for details. There will be quite a few brand new presenters/presentations.

In addition to daytime hours, the exhibitor room will also be open one evening so no one has a reason not to spend time there. Conference activities will start full swing on the morning of Sunday, August 17 -- so be sure to arrive in time so you don't miss anything. See you all there!

Chicago2008 Co-chairs: Chairs@Chicago2008.org
Anne Feder Lee, Honolulu, HI
Mike Posnick, Minneapolis, MN
Joel Spector, Philadelphia, PA
and conference co-hosts, JGS of Illinois and Illiana JGS

IAJGS Conferences

The 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be in Washington, DC in summer of 2011 and hosted by the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW). The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington draws its membership primarily from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, DC. The organizational meeting was held in November, 1980 and in January 1981; the first speaker was Rabbi Malcolm H. Stern, the "Dean of Jewish Genealogy." During the past 28 years, JGSGW has hosted four conferences: 1984, 1988, 1995 and 2003. The overwhelming success of these conferences bears witness to the society's ability to put together the best speakers on subjects of great interest to the Jewish genealogical community and combine it with the fabulous resources of the Washington, DC area. The IAJGS Conference in 2011 will meet the same high standards and will surely be worthwhile attending. See you in DC in 2011! Paris is planning for 2012 and Jerusalem for 2014. 2009 IAJGS Conference will be in Philadelphia (August 2 thru 7). Other years/locations will be announced when determined.

Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President
Marlene Katz Bishow, President of the
Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington

"How to Make Shtetlinks Web Pages"

JewishGen will hold an on-line class on how to make ShtetLinks web pages beginning Sunday, February 24. The six-week course will show students how to create web pages with just knowledge of a word processor such as Microsoft Word or WordPerfect. The fee for the course is \$36. In the past, JewishGen has had online classes in Basic and Intermediate Jewish Genealogy. A full description, requirements and enrollment are located at <http://www.JewishGen.org/education>.

Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Contest

The Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Contest committee wants to remind you to submit your entries for the poster competition.

The deadline is April 1, 2008.

Poster size: 16" x 20" through 24" x 36"

The date on the poster will be: 1 Cheshvan 5769 through 29 Cheshvan 5769; 30 October 2008 through 27 November 2008.

All information about the poster competition can be found at: www.iajgs.org. Click on Jewish Genealogy Month.

JGS of SW FL Membership Application

Single Membership is \$20 per year.

Family Membership is \$25 per year.

Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to:

JGS of SW FL c/o Kim Sheintal

4462 Violet Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

New Book by Avotaynu Coming Soon!
Every Family Has a Story

According to Volume 9, Number 4 - February 17, 2008 issue of *Nu? What's New?* (e-zine of Jewish Genealogy from Avotaynu – Gary Mokotoff editor), Avotaynu will soon publish *Every Family Has a Story: Tales from the Pages of Avotaynu*. “It consists of 72 Avotaynu articles that focus on the human side of genealogy – how genealogists have been personally affected by their research and how the research of genealogists affected others.”

Some of these stories are quite remarkable. It is interesting to note that the lead article in this book was the very first human interest story ever published in Avotaynu. The article, *Freya Joins the Kahn Klan*, relates how a woman, who was adopted shortly after birth decided to locate her birth family when, in her mid-40s, she became interested in genealogy. She discovered she was one of eight children – the only one adopted. None of her birth siblings knew of her existence. “How she found the family and the consequences would make a Hollywood movie.”

Another story in the book, *Evelyne Regains Her Identity*, is about a child survivor of the Holocaust finds family. Evelyne had spent her entire life without family and with little exposure to her Jewish heritage. She finds her American cousins and regains her Jewish identity.

This book is divided into sections:

- People
- Family
- Back to the Old Country
- Crypto-Jews
- Luck
- Genealogy and Holocaust

Every Family Has a Story, a 304-page hard cover book, is \$37.00 plus postage. If you are a *Nu? What's New?* reader who subscribes to *Avotaynu*, you are eligible for the pre-publication discount price of only \$29.95 plus shipping, if the order is placed before March 3.

To subscribe to *Avotaynu, the International Review of Jewish Genealogy*, call 800-286-8296 or go to website <http://www.avotaynu.com/journal.htm>. To subscribe to *Nu? What's New*, go to the website <http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm>. Order at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/EveryFamilySpecialPrice.htm>; just indicate that you are an *AVOTAYNU* subscriber in the special instructions/comments field (and they will check to make sure you are eligible).

An Evening with Jon Entine

Lecture and Discussion of his book, "*Abraham's Children: Race, Identity and the DNA of the Chosen People*"

Monday, March 24, 2008

6:30 PM – Registration/Refreshments, 7:00 PM – Program

Temple B'Nai Israel - 1685 Belcher Road - Clearwater

This is a special event co-sponsored by the Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County, the Golda Meir/Kent Jewish Center, and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay.

Jon Entine is a widely respected television news producer and Emmy-award-winning documentary producer. He is a former producer at NBC News and ABC's 20/20 and Prime Time Live. He has produced magazine programs at ABC News and CBS News, an entertainment special for NBC, and was Tom Brokaw's long-time producer at NBC News, where he was also the executive in charge of documentaries. Mr. Entine is an adjunct fellow at the American Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC and is an internationally recognized writer on public policy issues in religion, science and society and in business ethics. He is the author of several other books in addition to *Abraham's Children*.

Abraham's Children vividly brings to life a new understanding of Western identity and the shared Biblical ancestry of Jews and Christians. Using the latest tools of DNA and genealogical research, Entine addresses a range of fascinating issues, including the story of the Lost Tribes, the emergence of Christianity and faith-based religions, the remarkable stories of the descendants of converts who discover their Jewish ancestry, the DNA of Jewish IQ, and the age-old question of “Who is a Jew?” *Abraham's Children* establishes a new constructive dialogue around the often-contentious issue of “race,” as the author illuminates the efforts of scientists identifying cures for diseases that disproportionately impact specific populations and the tempest this research stirs.

The price is \$5.00 to the general public (pay at the door), and free to members in good standing of any of the three sponsoring organizations: Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay, Jewish Community Center of Pinellas County and Golda Meir/Kent Jewish Center.

For additional information, contact Bill Israel (Jewish Genealogical Society of Bay) 727-343-1652. For more info on Jon and his book, go to: <http://www.abrahamschildren.net>.



Festival of Jewish Food

Sunday, March 9, 2008

Kobernick/Anchin Campus

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

10:00 AM until 5:30 PM