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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

I finally did it and it feels so good. It took me only an hour, but getting me to do it was the hard part. Curious what I did? I punched holes in all of my loose genealogy papers, organized the papers and put into three big binders. Speaking of binders.....I used six-inch wide binders! Take a walk in a big office supply store and see what is available to organize your papers. I had no idea that binders came so wide. There are fancy dividers to organize into sections, all types of sheet protectors, three-hole punched zipper pouches and lots more. My advice is to go look at office supplies (at an actual store or online) for all of your papers. It feels good to be organized plus it helps when you are looking for papers.

Let's talk public records at the May meeting. Liz Klaber will talk about the public's right to access government records in Florida from her perspective as an employee of a constitutional office. Please come - besides, Liz is my sister.

Warning: once you learn about your access to government records, your pile of genealogical paperwork may increase.

JGS of SW FL 2008-2009 Calendar

(third Sunday of month at 1:00 PM from November thru May)

Koernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Sunday, November 16, 2008
Sunday, December 21, 2008
Sunday, January 18, 2009
Sunday, February 15, 2009
Sunday, March 15, 2009
Sunday, April 19, 2009
Sunday, May 17, 2009

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, May 18, 2008 (1:00 PM)

Koernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Speaker: Liz Klaber, Deputy Tax Collector for Sarasota County

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

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

Wonderful World of Websites

American Jewish Archives: American Jewish Year Book

<http://www.ajcarchives.org/ajcarchive/DigitalArchive.aspx>

The American Jewish Year Book has "information and analysis about the American Jewish community, Jewish demography, Jewish history, and Jewish life worldwide," according to the publisher of the AJC. The American Jewish Committee Archives has what appears to be the full run of the yearbooks in its collection from 1900-2006 on this website.

North American Jewish Data Bank

<http://www.jewishdatabank.org/ajyb.asp>

This North American Jewish Data Bank website has many links such as the one above for Jewish population and demographics articles from the annual American Jewish Year Books.

Genealogy Center, Allen County Public Library Video Tour

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tcqDqc0SXgo>

Roots Television (has link for variety of Jewish Roots videos)

http://www.rootstelevision.com/players/player_jewishroots.php

Click "Jewish Roots" and select from many Jewish roots videos.

Jewish Hometown Associations and Family Circles in NY

<http://home.att.net/~landsmanshaft/wpa.htm#Families>

This website has list of New York family circles (1938 & 1939) from the book *Jewish Hometown Associations and Family Circles in New York: The WPA Yiddish Writers' Group Study*.

Genealogy Blog Finder (contains a Jewish link)

<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/?sssdmh=dm13.163580>

Websites from February Program with Jim Haberman University of Denver Penrose Library

<http://www.library.du.edu/about/collections/specialcollections/jcrs/>

JCRS Isaac Solomon Historic Synagogue

<http://www.isaacsolomonsynagogue.org/>

Ghost Seekers - Resources of Colorado Genealogy

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

Online Interactive Courses in Jewish Genealogy

JewishGen offers online courses in Jewish genealogy to help you organize your information and begin to trace your ancestral roots. Most courses are eight sessions and in addition to the "lecture", contain optional reading material and helpful links to JewishGens resources, as well as other genealogical websites. Opportunities for questions and answers are provided via forums and/or news items. All courses are tuition based and require enrollment.

Next Online Course by Jewish Gen begins on July 1, 2008 and ends August 10, 2008. This Basic Genealogy course consists of 8 lessons, provided online twice weekly. Topics include genealogy formats, trees, organizing and tracking information, interviewing, Jewish naming conventions, U.S. vital records, U.S. Census, Ellis Island passenger manifests, and the JewishGen website and databases. As you can see the emphasis is on U.S. records. The course includes computer hints and tips on how to best use your computer and browse the Internet. All classes offer individualized help through an online Forum where you can post your family information and photographs and get suggestions and answers to your questions.

The tuition for "Basic Genealogy" is \$50. If you qualify for JewishGen's Value Added Services by virtue of a \$100 annual donation, you are welcome to enroll at no additional charge. To do so, do not enroll, but instead, send a note with your JewishGen ID to jewishgen-education@lyris.jewishgen.org and you will receive instructions for the waiver). Go to <http://www.jewishgen.org/education> to pay and enroll online. Select the Basic Jewish Genealogy Course (registration is limited to 60 students and will close when the class is filled). Read the details of the course, background of the instructor and the requirements, then enroll by clicking on the enroll link. You will be able to pay for the course online by credit card at our secure server or by check drawn on a U.S. Bank. If you have any problems or questions, send email to JewishGen-Education@lyris.jewishgen.org.

JewishGen: New Director, New Location

Susan King has stepped down as the Managing Director of JewishGen, after 20 years of dedicated service. Warren Blatt is the new Director of JewishGen. Blatt has been a part of JewishGen since 1990 and its editor-in-chief for many years. As of April 1, 2008, the offices of JewishGen have relocated from League City, Texas to the Museum of Jewish Heritage - A Living Memorial to the Holocaust, located in Manhattan's Battery Park. The mailing address of JewishGen is JewishGen, Inc., Museum of Jewish Heritage, 36 Battery Place, New York, NY 10280 and the phone is (646) 437-4326. According to Blatt, "Over the next few months, in addition to becoming more fully integrated with the Museum, we will be announcing several new projects, as well as giving you a glimpse into our plans for the future of JewishGen. Michael Tobias and I continue Susan's tradition, by striving to grow JewishGen and take it to the next level. But be assured that we will not venture too far from our roots; we are built on our volunteers. JewishGen's volunteers are our wealth and strength, and that will always remain. We are always looking for enthusiastic volunteers to join our family...I look forward to working with all of you over the months and years ahead, as JewishGen continues to be the leading internet resource for Jewish genealogy."

Pages of Testimony Video

Yad Vashem, together with its partners, has collected and recorded the names and biographical details of half of the six million Jews murdered by the Nazis and their accomplices. You can search for victim names on their website at http://www.yadvashem.org/wps/portal/IY_HON_Welcome.

Yad Vashem has a new 11-minute tutorial video on writing Pages of Testimony which is excellent. This can be viewed by going to www.yadvashem.org home page. Then in the first column under "Explore and Discover" scroll down to "Community Outreach" and when that page opens go to the last column on the right under "New!" and click on the "Pages of Testimony Tutorial Video."

Landsmanshaften/Landsmanshaftn

Landsmanshaften were societies that were based on connections to the villages of the Old Country. Most of these societies disbanded between the years 1960 to 1980. Their founding was registered with the State of New York and their disbanding went through the state government. The records of these societies, which included their papers and records, were given to New York State, which then passed them on to YIVO. The YIVO defines *Landsmanshaftn* as "Immigrant Mutual Aid Societies," or "Hometown Organizations."

The website <<http://home.att.net/~landmanshaft/yivo.htm>> has a list of 1000 organizations including all landsmanshaftn listed in *A Guide to YIVO's Landsmanshaftn Archive* by Rosaline Schwartz and Susan Milamed, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, New York, 1986, and *Guide to the YIVO Archives*, compiled and edited by Fruma Mohrer and Marek Web, YIVO Institute for Jewish Research, 1998.

To learn more about *Landsmanshaften*, go to the website http://www.jewishgen.org/belarus/accessing_yivo_records.htm.

Identical Strangers:

A Memoir of Twins Separated and Reunited

In *Identical Strangers*, Paula Bernstein and Elyse Schein recount the story of how they each, at age 35, discovered they were each other's identical twin, and the reunion that followed. They were adopted by different Jewish families in the 1960s.

Jewish Travel

After you learn the city of your ancestors, write a letter to the Jewish community or rabbi there. Consult the *Jewish Travel Guide* published annually by Jewish Chronicle Publications, 25 Furnival St., London EC4A 1JT England. For almost fifty years the *Jewish Travel Guide* has been the essential reference book for all Jewish travelers worldwide - whether traveling on business, for pleasure or to seek their historical roots. *Jewish Travel Guide 2007* is published by Vallentine Mitchell Publishers and Michael Zaidner is the editor.

Records of birth, marriage and death have survived for many Jewish communities and may date as far back as 16th century and are usually kept in local synagogue. Rabbi will know of Jewish library museum or research center in your ancestor's town. If your ancestors' community has disappeared, write to rabbi of closest synagogue still in existence.

28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Chicago

August 17-22, 2008
www.chicago2008.org

We want to share this important announcement about the Chicago 2008 conference with all of you.

Eighteen computer workshops have now been scheduled. Each workshop lasts one hour and 45 minutes. The registration fee is \$25.00 per person. Attendance is limited to 25 individuals per workshop (note: many of the workshops offered at last year's conference sold out). These workshops provide an excellent opportunity for you to learn new computer and Internet research skills or brush up on existing ones. You can see the entire list of computer workshops by going to the conference website and clicking on the "Breaking News" button. The computer workshops are on the registration form and you must register/pay in order to participate in any of them. Because the number of participants in each workshop is limited, we suggest that you sign up as soon as possible.

If you have not already registered for the conference, go to www.chicago2008.org and click on "Registration." If you have already registered, go to "registration" and then "registration update" to add computer workshops.

And, don't forget to sign up for breakfasts with experts and/or luncheons when you register or update your registration.

On behalf of IAJGS, the JGS of Illinois, and the Illiana JGS, we look forward to seeing you in Chicago!

Anne Feder Lee, Mike Posnick, Joel Spector
Conference Co-Chairs

Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames

by Guilherme Faiguenboim, Paulo Valadares, Anna Rosa Campagnano

The *Dictionary of Sephardic Surnames* uses 335 different sources (books, onomastics dictionaries, encyclopedias, tombstone photographs, wedding lists, circumcision lists, lists of inhabitants' settlements, cemetery lists, genealogical family trees, synagogue lists, internet, communitarian magazines, genealogical magazines, etc.) in a compilation of 17,000 surnames presented under 12,000 entries.

All names were used by the Jews who lived in Spain and Portugal for 15 centuries and later spread across the world as Sephardim, marranos and conversos.

This book contains hundreds of rare photographs, family shields and illustrations. It is more than a dictionary; it also contains a 72-page summary of Sephardic history, before and after the expulsion from Spain and Portugal and a 40-page linguistic essay about Sephardic names, including an interesting list of the 250 more frequent surnames.

The dictionary itself has 274 pages and appendices: geographic glossary, remissive index (replacing the soundex), a detailed list of all 335 bibliographical sources on which the book is based. The period covered by the dictionary is of 600 years, from the 14th to the 20th century. The researched area includes Spain and Portugal, France, Italy, Holland, England, Germany, Balkans, Central and Eastern Europe, the former Ottoman Empire, Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Iraq, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Israel, North America, Central America and the Caribbean, South America (including colonial times), Australia and others.

Looking Ahead to 2009 IAJGS Conference

29th IAJGS Conference Aug. 2-7, 2009
Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel

Florida Jewish Genealogical Societies

JGS of Broward County

<http://www.jgsbc.org/>

JGS of Greater Miami

<http://www.jgs-miami.org/>

JGS of Greater Orlando

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgscf/>

Jacksonville JGS

(no website)

JGS of Palm Beach

<http://www.jgspalmbeachcounty.org/>

JGS of Southwest Florida

<http://www.jgsswf.org/>

JGS of Tallahassee

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgst/>

JGS of Tampa Bay

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/index.htm>

Italian Jewish Research

by Kim Sheintal

On January 8, I was asked to speak at the Italian Jewish roots conference to be held in Sarasota on February 25. I do not have any Italian Jewish roots. I needed help. I decided to contact others currently doing Italian Jewish roots research. Between January 8 and February 12, I emailed 322 people on the JewishGen Family Finder website researching Italian Jewish roots. I received responses from 51 people. I looked forward to reading my emails that entire month.

One person sent me (via email) his entire family tree and a journal about a genealogy trip he took to Italy. His greatest mystery is tracing his Italian roots back to Spain. The story handed down is that his family lived somewhere in Spain and was expelled with the rest in 1492 and ended up in Italy. In the early 1900s his great grandparents came to New York. His great-grandmother, upon arrival in America, went to a synagogue and was sent away because of her Italian name. She stood outside the synagogue reciting "Shema Yisrael" until they realized she was Jewish.

I was surprised that 9 of the 51 email responses (20%) were from people who were not Jewish. Here are three of my favorite responses from those who were not Jewish.

- an Italian American man determined to find his connection to Judaism after he learned when DNA testing revealed Middle Eastern ancestry and a very likely link to Jews - this man, a practicing Roman Catholic, remembers his mother covering the mirrors in their home when his father died
- a family in Italy that substituted Catholic names for Hebrew names to throw off the Inquisition
- a Sicilian man claiming not to be Jewish was raised not to eat pork and remembers his grandmother tying red ribbons to the cribs of young babies in his family

For conference follow up, go to the website
http://www.rabbibarbara.com/italian_jewish_roots_fu.html

Jewish Museum of Florida

301 Washington Avenue • Miami Beach • Florida
<http://www.jewishmuseum.com/>

The Jewish Museum of Florida opened in 1995 in a former historic synagogue that housed the first congregation on Miami Beach. Built in 1936, the Henry Hohausser designed building that underwent a two-year restoration for \$1.5 million, boasts Art Deco features, a copper dome and 80 stained glass windows. In 2007 the Museum expanded into the original 1929 synagogue next door after a one-year restoration for \$1 million. Both buildings are on the National Register of Historic Places. The Museum is much more than beautiful buildings. It is a place that presents its own and traveling exhibits; sponsors cultural and educational programs; houses a Collections & Research Center reflecting nearly 250 years of Florida Jewish history; and communicates Jewish history, art, culture and values to Jews and non-Jews alike in an informal mode. The Museum is also a place where Jews of all ages discover and reaffirm their rich heritage – thus helping to strengthen Jewish identity and continuity.

Florida Jewish History Facts

http://www.floridajewish.com/florida_jewish_history.php

In 1763, the first recorded Jews in Florida came to Pensacola, in the northwest corner of the territory. More Jews moved to north Florida in the next few decades, but the Jewish population remained small during this time, numbering no more than a dozen individuals. In 1821, the Jewish population numbered only 30 to 40 people, all in northern parts of the state. Moses Levy plans a Jewish colony in Micanopy, where the University of Florida is today. When Florida became a state, March 3, 1845, there were less than 100 Jews in a population of 66,500. The first U.S. Senator from Florida was a Jew, David Levy Yulee. In 1857, the Jacksonville Hebrew Cemetery became the state's first Jewish institution. In 1876, Beth El, in Pensacola, received charter from the state as Florida's first Jewish congregation. By 1900 six other congregations had been established. In 1928 some Jews moved to South Florida, however the majority of the Jewish population remained to the north, with 40% of the state's 10,000 Jews living in Jacksonville. By 1940, there were about 25,000 Jews in Florida. By 1960 the Jewish population grew dramatically to over 175,000. Many Jewish retirees from the northeastern United States moved to South Florida. Thousands more Jews arrived from the Caribbean and Latin America, a migration that continues today. In 2007, there were approximately 750,000 Jews in Florida.

Free Genealogy Newsletters Online

“RootsWeb Review” and “Ancestry Weekly Journal”

<http://newsletters.rootsweb.com/>

Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter

<http://blog.eogn.com/>

Nu? What's New?

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

IAJGS Salutes Sidney and Arline Sachs Jewish Genealogy Shows on the Internet

<http://www.iajgs.org/salute/sachs.html>

Since 1997 Sidney and Arline Sachs have produced a public access television series, Tracing Your Family Roots, which deals with Jewish genealogy. The series' shows have increased the knowledge of available resources, demonstrated creative techniques, and increased the number of individuals who participate in Jewish genealogy. Sidney has produced the series, while Arline and Dr. Sallyann Sack have performed as co-hosts of the show. Until recently, the shows were broadcast in the District of Columbia/ Maryland/Virginia area but, as of a year ago, the shows have been digitized and placed on the Internet at <http://tracingroots.nova.org>. This website provides direct access to thirty shows and also provides a list of all shows that have aired and links to all references mentioned in the shows.

Jewish Genealogy Research Trip to Salt Lake City

For the sixteenth consecutive year, veteran Jewish genealogists Gary Mokotoff and Eileen Polakoff will be offering a research trip to the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library in Salt Lake City from October 23-October 30, 2008. To date, more than 350 Jewish genealogists from the U.S., Canada, South America, Australia, Israel and Europe have taken advantage of this program. The program offers genealogists the opportunity to spend an entire week of research at the Library under the guidance and assistance of professional genealogists who have made more than a three dozen trips to Salt Lake City. Each person has access to trip leaders each day except Sunday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Library for on-site assistance and personal consultations. There is also a planned program that includes a three-hour class on day of arrival introducing the participants to the facilities and resources of the Family History Library; a mid-week informal group discussion of progress and problem-solving. For those new to genealogy, a beginner's workshop on the first morning of the trip introduces them to the wonderful world of Hamburg immigration lists, U.S. passenger arrival lists, naturalization records and census records and other record groups important to Jewish genealogy. In addition to the beginner's workshop, classes are given on other contemporary topics such as Holocaust research. Social events include a mid-week Sunday brunch for camaraderie and discussion of successes (and failures); attendance at the Sunday morning broadcast of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir; informal group dinners; and group planning parties. Additional information can be found at <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>; by email at mokotoff@earthlink.net or call 201-387-7200

JGS of SW FL Membership Application

Single Membership: \$20/year. Family Membership: \$25/ 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 _____