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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida
Show and Tell
Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 1:00 PM at Kobernick House

Genealogical Society of Sarasota
Show and Tell
Saturday, May 11, 2013 at 10:30 AM at Selby Library

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida and the Genealogical Society of Sarasota will each feature a Show and Tell program in May. Both programs offer the opportunity for people to listen and participate as members and guests recall stories about their genealogy sleuthing, amazing discoveries, family heirlooms, reunions, and dead-end trails. People are encouraged to bring photos, books, pedigree charts, documents, and historic letters to these programs.

Following the May program, the Jewish Genealogical Society will meet in November.

Please submit 2013-2014 programs ideas to Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433, klapshein@aol.com.

Survivor Testimonies

The Al Katz Center for Holocaust Survivors & Jewish Learning is in the process of videotaping Survivor testimonies. Survivors are requested to call Beverly Newman at 941-313-9239 to schedule an appointment for their testimonies. Plans are for the testimonies to be transcribed for an illustrated print edition to be given to the Survivors and their families. The Al Katz Center is located at 713 South Orange Avenue in Burns Square, Sarasota.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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MEETING

Sunday, May 19, 2013 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: Show and Tell

For details, Kim Sheintal 941-302-1433, klapshein@aol.com

JGS of SW FL Library Receives 22 Books

Rainey Davis donated:

The Last Jews of Eastern Europe by Brian Blue and Yale Strom (1986)

The Big Book of Jewish Humor edited and annotated by William Novak and Moshe Waldoks (1981)

The Penguin Book of Jewish Short Stories edited by Emanuel Litvinoff (1979)

The Jews: Story of a People by Howard Fast (1968)

The Encyclopedia of Judaism editor-in-chief Geoffrey Wigoder (1989)

Tender at the Bone by Ruth Reichl (1998)

A Dictionary of Yiddish Slang and Idioms by Fred Kogos (1966)

Jewish as a Second Language by Molly Katz (1991)

Meshugah by Isaac Bashevis Singer (1994)

Favorite Tales of Sholom Aleichem translated by Julius and Frances Butwin, illustrated by Ben Shahn (1983)

Hooray for Yiddish by Leo Rosten (1982)

The Nazi Officer's Wife by Edith Hahn Beer with Susan Dworkin (2000)

English-Yiddish/ Yiddish- English Dictionary by David C. Gross (1992)

Your Name is Renée by Stacy Cretzmeyer (1994)

Girl with Two Landscapes, Wartime Diary of Lena Jedwab by Lena Jedwab Rozenberg (2002)

The Sacred Chain by Norman F. Cantor (1994)

The Jewish Caravan: Great Stories of Twenty-Five Centuries edited by Leo W. Schwarz (1935)

In Polish Woods by Joseph Opatoshu, translated by Goldberg (1938)

An Empire of Their Own: How the Jews Invented Hollywood by Neal Gabler (1988)

The Jewish Almanac compiled and edited by Richard Siegel and Carl Rheins (1980)

Douglas M. Cohen donated:

Jewish Experience of "Russification" in Tsarist Russia 1825-1894 As Seen in Jewish Autobiographies by Douglas M. Cohen (2012)

Kimberly Sheintal donated:

Jews of Sarasota-Manatee by Kimberly Sheintal (2013)

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.jewishmuseum.org.pl/en/cms/commemoration/>
Museum of the History of Polish Jews

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Canada>
JewishGen's records for Canada and external databases
from the Canadian Jewish Heritage Network

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLeFIEg4z7U&feature=player_embedded
Museum of the History of Polish Jews

<http://elirab.me/2013/04/19/the-museum-of-the-history-of-polish-jews-opens-today/>
Opening of the Museum of the History of Polish Jewish

<http://www.mocavo.com/>
Genealogy Search Engine

http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2013/02/polish-state-archives-and-jewish-records-indexing-poland-sign-historic-agreement-providing-expanded-.html
Expanded Access to Jewish Records in Poland

<https://groups.google.com/forum/?hl=en&fromgroups#!forum/jewishnews>
Google Groups

<http://genealogyindexer.org/directories>
Genealogy Indexer

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/marisa-fox/holocaust-survivor-memories_b_3039758.html

How Marisa Fox discovers the shocking real story of her mother's hidden wartime experience and survival

<http://www.archives.com/genealogy/family-heritage-jewish.html>
Jewish Genealogy and Surnames

<http://www.lookstein.org/resources/gene.htm>
Guide to Jewish Genealogy and Oral History Websites

<http://248ancestors.com/Jewish%20genealogy%20websites%20March%202012.htm>
Jewish Genealogy Websites

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/FirstTimer.html>
Jewish Genealogy First Timers

<http://surnames.behindthename.com/names/usage/jewish>
Jewish Surnames

<http://americanjewisharchives.org/collections/genealogy.php>
American Jewish Archives

Where to Find Family Photos

- Visit or search online for photos archived by historical societies.
- Visit or search online for photos archived by history centers.
- Visit or search online for photos archived by state archives.
- Visit or search online for photos archived by museums.
- Visit or search online for photos archived by libraries.
- Visit or search online for photos archived by schools.
- Visit or search online for photos archived by temples.
- Visit or search online for photos archived by organizations (religious, occupational, social, genealogical societies, etc.)
- Look in antique shops for vintage photos.
- Look at estate and garage sales for vintage photos.
- Search the index of books for specific surnames and/or places (possibly online).
- Search newspapers (possibly online).
- Search newsletters (possibly online).
- Search magazines (possibly online).
- Search yearbooks (possibly online).
- Search postcards (possibly online).
- Search Facebook and other social networking websites.
- Search Google for a specific name and then click on images to view photos.
- Search vintage family photo sharing websites to find vintage photos posted online by other people. Search by a specific surname. Photos are often identified as to who is in photo. Contact the person who posted the photo. Example: <http://www.ancientfaces.com/>
- Search your home for photos, albums, etc.
- Ask relatives to send electronically or borrow their photos to scan.
- Ask neighbors/friends or neighbors/friends of your relatives to send electronically or borrow their photos to scan.

JGS in South Africa

by Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS Vice President

Please join me in welcoming IAJGS's newest member, the Jewish Genealogical Society of South Africa (JGSSA). It is over five years since there was a JGS in South Africa and we are delighted that a reconstituted society has been created. They started with 14 members but at their first meeting held in March they had 75-80 attendees! Their new newsletter is Yichus. They are working on creating a website.

The chairman and newsletter editor is Mo Skikne, Other board members include: Secretary -Hannah Karpas, Meetings Convenor -Ada Gamsu, Treasurer -David Sieff, Correspondent -Lionel Slier and member at large -Stan Klaff.

JGSSA is looking for members whether located in South Africa or offshore—anyone with interest is welcome—contact Mo Skikne at moski@global.co.za

Mo and several of the JGSSA board members are subscribed to both the IAJGS Leadership Forum and the Records Access Alert announcement list.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

Genetic Genealogy & How It Can Be Used to Find Lost Family

What is Genetic Genealogy? What tests are available and which one should I order? How much does a Genetic Genealogy test cost? Do I need to be a geneticist to understand my results? If you want the answers to these questions and more, then this live webinar is for you! Attendees will learn about the history of genetic genealogy, be introduced to DNA basics, learn about the different types of DNA tests available for genealogical purposes, and learn about resources that will help make the most of their Genetic Genealogy experience. Join the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay for an information-packed session focusing on how to read, understand, and use Genetic Genealogy test results on Sunday, May 19, 2013 at 2:00 PM at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Registration will be at 1:30 PM.

The presenter will be Elise Friedman, a professional genealogist, specializing in Jewish genealogy, genetic genealogy, and technology. Ms. Friedman has given lectures and workshops at a variety of venues, from local genealogy and community meetings to international Jewish genealogy conferences. She has researched her own family history for more than 10 years, and has roots in Belarus, Poland, Russia and the former Galicia region of Ukraine. Ms. Friedman is very active in the field of genetic genealogy, where she works as a consultant for Family Tree DNA, volunteers as JewishGen's DNA Projects Coordinator, serves as volunteer administrator for several DNA projects, and co-authored a genetic genealogy case study that was published in the AVOTAYNU and FORUM genealogy journals. She is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, Genealogical Speakers Guild, International Society of Genetic Genealogy and Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County. You can learn more about Ms. Friedman and her services as a professional genealogist on her website relative.roots.net.

May: Jewish American Heritage Month

by Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS Vice President

The month of May is Jewish American Heritage Month (JAHM). This recognition was started by President George W. Bush in 2006 as a result of the Jewish Museum of Florida and South Florida Jewish Community leaders resulting in congressional leaders urging then-President Bush to recognize the more than 350-year history of Jewish contributions to American culture. The recognition of Jewish American Month has been continued by President Barack Obama. JAHM acknowledges the achievements of American Jews in fields ranging from sports and arts and entertainment to medicine, business, science, government, and military service.

This year's theme: American Jews in Entertainment. The JAHM recently revised and updated their website to reflect this year's theme. Go to: <http://www.jahm.us>. JAHM also included theme related resources which you may find of interest. See: http://www.jahm.us/2013_resources.aspx.

A new feature is "Speaking of American Jewish Heritage" helping you find speakers for community celebrations. http://www.jahm.us/speaking_jewish.aspx.

Included on the website is the "Only in America Hall of Fame". It has categories from arts and entertainment, business and philanthropy, literature, politics, law and activism, sports and more. See: <http://survey.nmajh.org/index.php?category=1>.

33rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

August 4-9, 2013, at the Park Plaza Hotel in Boston
<http://www.iajgs2013.org>

Outstanding Evening Entertainment Announced for International Conference

by Florence Schumacher, Publicity Chair, 33rd IAJGS
International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

Conference organizers for the 33rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy have just released the line-up of evening programs and entertainment for the August 4-9 meeting in Boston. Internationally acclaimed musicians, artists and speakers will perform each evening of the conference following each day's program of lectures, workshops, films and tours. The first five nights are included in the conference registration fee, but the final night is a Gala Banquet for which tickets must be purchased.

As previously announced, Sunday evening will feature the keynote speaker, Aaron Lansky, founder of the Yiddish Book Center in Amherst, MA. A dessert reception will follow.

On Monday night, Hankus Netsky, founder and director of the famous Klezmer Conservatory Band and a multi-instrumental performer as well as a professor in contemporary improvisation and jazz at the New England Conservatory in Boston, will both speak and perform. The title of his presentation is "Taking Extreme Measures: The Ongoing Rescue of Jewish Music" (aka "The Hebrew National Salvage Project").

On Tuesday, the internationally known classical pianist Mona Golabek will perform a musical narrative, "The Children of Willesden Lane." This is the moving story about Lisa Jura, her mother, who escaped Nazi persecution on the "Kindertransport". After the evening's entertainment, a lively Jewish Genealogy Game Night, a version of Jeopardy and Family Feud, will be held for late-nighters. (Note: The day of this event was incorrectly listed in the JewishGen SIG announcements as Wednesday.)

On Wednesday, the Boston based and internationally acclaimed Safam, a six-member band, will play its original music, a unique blend of American and Jewish musical styles.

Thursday night's Gala Banquet will feature the Zamir Chorale of Boston, Joshua Jacobson Artistic Director, an internationally known singing group based in Boston. The Zamir Chorale has made 21 recordings and has toured internationally with its repertoire of major classical works, music of the Holocaust, newly commissioned compositions, and Israeli, Yiddish, and Ladino folksongs.

The conference Film Festival will also be showing films in the evenings, Monday through Thursday.

Go to www.iajgs2013.org to register and learn more about the conference.

Hotel rooms are still available. If you have problems making a reservation, contact hotel@iajgs.org.

New JGS of SW FL Member

We welcome our newest member: Ruth Weinberg

Condolences

We mourn the recent passing of JGS member Bernie Isaacs. We will miss his smiling face at our meetings.

Support JewishGen

by Warren Blatt, JewishGen.org Managing Director

Did you know that JewishGen has more than 1,000 volunteers throughout the world?

For example, here is a snapshot of just some of JewishGen's volunteers, and the areas they cover:

- Austria-Czech: E. Randal Schoenberg and his team.
- Belarus: Paul Zoglin and his team.
- Bessarabia: Yefim Kogan and his team.
- Bialystock: Mark Halpern and her team.
- Courland: Martha Lev-Zion and her team.
- Danzig: Logan J. Kleinwaks and his team.
- DNA: Elise Friedman and her team.
- Early American: Marvin Weinberg and his team.
- France: Rosanne Leeson and her team.
- Germany: Jeanette Rosenberg and her team.
- Hungary: Vivian Kahn and her team.
- Latvia: Michael Eliastam and his team.
- Lodz: Roni Leibowitz and her team.
- Rabbinic: Shirley Rotbein Flaum and her team.
- Romania: Rosanne Leeson and her team.
- Scandinavia: Elisebeth Paikin and her team.
- Sephardic: Jeff Malka and his team.
- South Africa: Saul Issroff and his team.
- Sub-Carpathia: Marshall Katz and his team.
- Ukraine: Ronald Doctor and his team.
- Warszawa: Hadassah Lipsius and her team.
- Yiddish Theater: Jonina Duker and her team.

Do you search our other areas of the site? If you search the Holocaust Database, our Burial Registry (JOWBR) or Memorial Plaque Database, then Nolan Altman, and his team are to thank for their efforts.

Our technical and support services, are managed by a team of volunteers, including: Dick Plotz (Discussion Groups), Iris Folkson (Lyris, IMail, Passwords), Gary Sandler (Systems), Sandra Aaronson (general support), Annette Stolberg (general support), Alex Sharon (JGFF editor), Mike Kalt (HTML), Max Heffler (HTML), Marian Price (LostNFound), and Sam Eneman (ViewMate & Wall of Honor).

If you are interested in:

- English translations of Yizkor Books, thank Lance Ackerfeld and his team. Want to have those books published on demand? Thank Joel Alpert.
- Webpages dedicated to preserving destroyed towns, thank Susana Leistner Bloch and her team.
- Learning more about JewishGen, thank Phyllis Kramer and her team.

Finally, we ask that you imagine what JewishGen would be without its volunteers. It would not exist. After more than twenty years, we are still a grassroots organization. Our site is still free. We believe in our mission of "preserving our history for future generations." Please donate now to help us continue. A donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated. To donate with a credit card, click here to use our secure website. Send checks to: JewishGen 36 Battery Place New York, NY 10280

At this time of year, we know that there are many worthy organizations in need of support, and we thank you for supporting JewishGen's important work.

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring

by Jan Meisels Allen, IAJGS Vice President

I previously reported on this forum that a bill introduced in Oregon at the request of the Governor would extend the waiting periods for birth records from 100 years to 125 years and for marriage records from 50 years to 100 years and death records from 50 years to 75 years and would redact cause of death from death records. I am delighted to inform you that at the hearing on April 10 an amended version of the bill was adopted which removed the redaction of cause of death and retains the 100- and 50 year wait periods for the various vital records. While we won this round we need to remain vigilant as it still has to pass the floor of the House-expected vote this Friday or next Monday and then go to the Senate Health Care and Human Services Committee for a hearing and then the floor of the Senate before going to the governor for signature. While we are not expecting any surprises, we need to continue to monitor this.

This outcome would not have occurred without the genealogical community contacting their local representatives, the committee members and especially the chairman and rallying the troops! It showed that genealogists can make a difference. Thank you to IAJGS member societies, JGS of Oregon, and JGS of Willamette Valley who contributed to the outcome by sending statements and making local contacts.

The attempt by some states to adopt a proposed, not Department of Health and Human Services approved revised Model Statistics Act, is something we all need to watch out for in each state. Today showed that we can make a difference and if you want to continue to have access to vital records in a reasonable time frame we need to actively participate when bills are introduced that adversely affect our access to needed family history. Again, if you learn of legislative attempts to restrict access in your states please let IAJGS know.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida 2013 Membership Application (dues for year ending December 31, 2013)

2013 Single Membership: \$25/year

2013 Family Membership: \$30/year

Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with this form to:

Liz Klaber

4461 Violet Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____