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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

The upcoming Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida "To Life!" series of genealogy programs promises to be an exciting Jewish genealogy journey. The speakers represent an assortment of active members in genealogical societies from a variety of cities. All of these Sunday programs begin at 1:00 PM at Kobernick House in Sarasota.

Special thanks to Howard Finkel, JGS of SW FL Program Chair, for arranging these wonderful programs.

- November 16, 2014 - "A Technology Update for the Family Historian" by Donna Moughty, Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society
- December 21, 2014 - "How I Planned My Genealogical Trip and Found the Homes Where My Family Lived in Riga, Latvia, and Zagare, Lithuania" by Jo Ann Goldwater, JGS of SW FL and JGS of Montreal
- January 18, 2015 - "Navigating the JewishGen Website" Webcast by Nolan Altman, Vice President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
- February 15, 2015 - "Israeli, Yiddish, Popular, Oldies, Folk, and Country Songs" by Rosalie Leon, vocalist with guitar
- March 15, 2015 - "Sex, Murder, and Genealogy" by Mike Karsen, JGS of Illinois
- April 19, 2015 - "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy" by Bill Israel, JGS of Tampa Bay
- May 17, 2015 - "Origin of Jewish Surnames" by Howard Finkel, JGS of SW FL

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, November 16, 2014 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "A Technology Update for the Family Historian"

by Donna Moughty

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

A Technology Update for the Family Historian

The JGS of SW FL starts the season with "A Technology Update for the Family Historian" by Donna Moughty on November 16 at 1:00 at Kobernick House in Sarasota. Moughty, a professional genealogist, teaches and lectures on a variety of subjects including Internet and computer topics locally and at national conferences and institutes.

Genealogical Research Requires Patience

by Kim Sheintal

Sometimes you have to wait 15 years for an e-mail response. In April 1999, I visited my daughter in New Orleans. She had a cold and wanted to sleep. As she slept ten feet away from me on the bed, I was on a chair searching the JewishGen Family Finder to find others searching the surname Lebovitz or Leibowitz from Vilnius. I sent an e-mail to a person named Irma and asked her to respond to my friend Susan's e-mail since I did not have an e-mail address at that time. On April 14, 2014, my friend Susan received an e-mail from Irma stating that she didn't believe we are related and hopes that I succeed in what I am looking for. I immediately responded to Irma with my e-mail address and asked her what took her so long to respond. It is now May 2014 and I have not heard back from Irma. The mystery is more about why it took 15 years to answer my e-mail more than whether or not we are related. Why did she wait 15 years to respond to my inquiry? Maybe I will have to wait a long time to get that answer from her.

You have to be patient for someone to notice your web page. Over ten years ago, someone spotted my interest in tracing my Russian roots and asked for details about my great grandfather from Berislav. I sent this person a few sentences with a photo of my great grandfather taken in about 1910 with his family. Within a week, this person posted the photo and the sentences on JewishGen ShtetLinks (now known as JewishGen KehilaLinks). No one contacted me about this web page about my great grandfather for over ten years until I received an e-mail in June from someone stating that his great grandmother is a sister of my great grandfather. We have since proved our connection and look forward to learning more about each other.

The delayed responses from e-mails and web pages are always a surprise and sometimes the best discoveries of all.

Local Genealogical Societies

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

meets the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM from November thru May at Kobernick House 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota. President is Kim Sheintal (klapshein@aol.com).
Web site: <http://www.jgsswf.org>

Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society

meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM from November thru April at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. Their leader is professional genealogist Donna Moughty. For inquiries please contact Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819).

South Bay Genealogical Society

meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10:45 AM at the Royal Palm Room at Little Harbor Resort, 611 Destiny Dr., Ruskin. The Regional Roundtable at 10:45 AM is followed by lunch at noon and a genealogy presentation at 1:00 PM, from September thru May.
President is Maurice Musholt (wmusholt@tampabay.rr.com).
Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flsbgs/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

meets the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM (social with light refreshments & library access), and 2:00 PM (featured program) from September thru June with some exceptions to accommodate speakers or holiday conflicts at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater.
President is Bruce Hadburg (bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com).
Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/index.htm>

Manatee Genealogical Society

meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM from October thru May at Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd., Bradenton.
President is Jim Reger (babeandjim@gmail.com).
Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs>

Computer SIG: meets about 11:00 AM (after the regular monthly meeting) on the same day and place: Currie Colket (colket@colket.org)

Roots Magic SIG: meets the second Monday of the month at 2:00 PM at the Westminster Courtyard on Main Street (12th Street West), Bradenton: Phyllis Doucette (pdoucett@tampabay.rr.com) – RSVP because location may vary

Genealogical Society of Sarasota

meets the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM (mingling), 10:30 AM (program) from October thru May at Selby Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota. President is Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819).
Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss>

Germanic SIG: meets the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 PM from October thru April at Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota: Karen Dwyer (karendwyer@yahoo.com)

United Kingdom SIG: meets the last Tuesday of the month at 10:15 AM from January thru April, and on a designated Tuesday in December at Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota: Susan Well (swell01060@yahoo.com) and Jean Wallace (walljb@comcast.net)

Republic of Ireland SIG: meets for two hours on December 6 at 12:30 PM, January 3 at 1:30 PM, February 7 at 1:30 PM, April 4 at 10:00 AM, and May 2 at 12:00 PM at the Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota: Regina Negrycz (genlgist@yahoo.com) (gssirishsig@gssfl.com)

New England SIG: meets the first Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM from October thru May, exception is January 8 (second Thursday), at the Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota: Chuck Ford (cford1620@verizon.net)

Computer SIG: meets the Thursday following GSS meetings at 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota: Marilyn Wethington (marilyn@familyandtrees.com)

DNA SIG: meets the first Tuesday of the month from January thru May at 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM at Gulf Gate Library (Sarasota Square) with the exception of February 12 at Selby Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota: Regina Negrycz (genlgist@yahoo.com) (gssdnasig@gssfl.com)

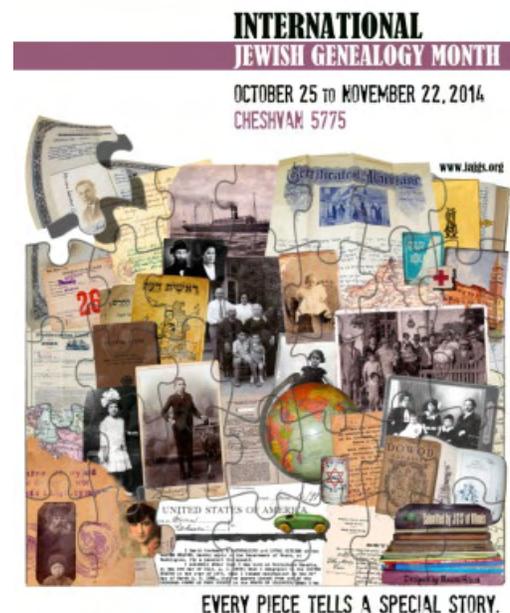
Englewood Genealogical Society

meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (September thru May) at 1:30 PM at Elsie Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn W. St., Englewood with these exceptions: November, December and May meetings will be the third Wednesday at Elsie Quirk Library and January meeting (seminar meeting) will be the fourth Wednesday at the Suncoast Auditorium in the Englewood Community Hospital, 300 Medical Ave, Englewood.
Contact: Sue Davis (suedavis101@comcast.net).
Web site: <http://egsfl.org/>

SIG Groups: Beginning Genealogy, British Isles/Europe, Eastern Seaboard States, Family Tree Maker Beginning, Family Tree Advanced, Midwest States, MAC/Reunion, and Scandinavian

Jewish Genealogy Month Oct. 25 - Nov. 22, 2014

The poster was designed by Marcia Hirsch from JGS of Illinois.



Two Yizkor Books Just Published in English

The first is: "Brest-Litovsk - Volume II Encyclopedia of the Jewish Diaspora" a translation of Brisk de-Lita: Encyclopedia Shel Galuyot. The original Yiddish volume was edited by Elieser Steinman and published in Jerusalem in 1958. The name of the town, Brest-Litovsk, indicates its link with Lithuania. Although founded by the Slavs in 1017 and invaded by the Mongols in 1241, it became part of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in 1319, and in 1569 it became the capital of the unified Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The town is also known as "Brisk," in Yiddish to the Jews who lived and thrived there for six centuries. Jewish "Brisk" had an illustrious history; the famous Brisker Yeshivah attracted scholars from all over Europe. The list of Rabbis of Brest includes Solomon Luria and Joel Sirkes, in earlier periods, the Katzenellenbogens, and three generations of the Soloveitchik dynasty in more recent times. Brest also produced Jacob Epstein the great Talmudist at the Hebrew University, Menachem Begin, and many other major religious, literary and political leaders. In 1923, Jews made up 60% of Brest's population of 60,000. Brest, Belarus is located 203 mi SW of Minsk.

This book was written by Brest survivors and former residents from many countries who contributed their memories of their hometown as a record for future generations, and as testament and loving tribute to the innocent Victims of the Shoah. It is a must read for researchers of the town and descendants of "Briskers."

The list price is \$56.95. This title is available at Amazon for around \$41. (Be sure to check there may be lower prices elsewhere.) It is available at Barnes & Noble. Check website: http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip/YBIP_Brest-Litovsk.html for further information and non-U.S. sources.

The second title is "Grayewo Memorial (Yizkor) Boo" It is a translation of Grayeve yisker-bukh (Grayewo Memorial Book) Editor: Dr. George Gorin, New York. Originally published by: United Grayever Relief Committee, 1950. Grajewo is located 114 mi NNE of Warsaw in Poland. Alternate names for the town are: Grajewo [Polish], Grayavah [Yiddish], Graevo [Russian], Grayeve, Grayevo.

Jews have been living in Grajewo, in the province of Bialystok, Poland since the late 17th century. The 1765 census counted 83 Jewish people and by 1857, the number had grown to 1,457 comprising 76% of the town's population. By 1921, the percentage of Jews had decreased to 39%.

During the Soviet occupation, between September 1939 and June 1941, Jewish businesses were nationalized. The Nazi invasion of Grajewo on 22 June 1941 marked the beginning of the devastation and horrors thrust upon the Jewish population. Within a few months, 1,600 to 2,000 Jews had been sent to the transit camp at Bogosza and on to the extermination camps at Treblinka and Auschwitz.

The list price is \$49.95, available on Amazon for around \$36. http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip/YBIP_Grajewo.html for further information and non-U.S. Sources.

You can see the full range of books printed under the auspices of our Yizkor books in Print Project at the following website: <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip.html>

If you have any questions, contact
Sandra Hirschhorn, Publicity Specialist
Yizkor-Books-in-Print Project of Jewishgen.org
sdh2381@comcast.net

Origin of Jewish Surnames

by Howard Finkel

Have you ever wondered how the members of your family tree acquired their surnames (last or family name)? Does your surname reflect the town of origin of your ancestors, or the occupation of an ancestor, or perhaps nothing other than a nice name?

Ashkenazic Jewish surnames were derived in a variety of ways: surnames indicating Kohen or Levite origin, rabbinical surnames, surnames derived from place names, surnames drawn from masculine or feminine given names, occupational surnames, surnames drawn from personal characteristics, and artificial surnames. Since the governing authority had significant influence over the adoption of surnames, determining the derivation of a particular surname often depends on when it was adopted, and critically, the place of origin.

Sephardic Jewish surnames, which were adopted much earlier than Ashkenazic surnames, are generally of Portuguese or Spanish linguistic origin. Many are of Hebrew derivations and others appear to be in the Arabic language, as the Arabs and Moors are given credit for bringing surnames as we know them to the Iberian Peninsula during their conquest. When, as a result of the Spanish Inquisition, Jews wishing to maintain their faith were forced to go underground, many changed their names and adopted aliases to hide their Jewish origins. Some speculate that all names ending in ez in Spain and es (meaning son of) elsewhere, denote Sephardic heritage.

At the May 17 Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meeting, Howard Finkel will lead a discussion of the history of Jewish surnames and where, when, how and why they were chosen. As a part of this discussion, the JGS of SW FL is compiling a list of surnames from the family trees of its members to be shared at the meeting. If you would like your surname or surnames in your family tree to be part of the discussion, please contact Howard at hgfinkel@gmail.com or (941) 358-0999 with your name, email address, phone number, and the surnames from your family tree to be included. We would also like to know about the research you may have done on this subject with regard to your surname(s).

Russian Soldier in WW I and POW in Germany

Last year, one member of the SW FL JGS mentioned to Mike, a JGS of SW FL member, that his ancestor was a Russian soldier in WW I and was a POW in Germany. This is the opposite of Mike's grandfather's experience. He asked Mike if he had any way for Mike to research this ancestor, after Mike had mentioned to him his grandfather's story. Mike does not remember who it was that asked him this question. Mike forwarded to me the following notice from JRI-Poland that may provide this person some help. *Jewish Records Indexing - Poland is pleased to announce the addition of 4,300 records to our database from an unusual source, "Russian-Jewish Fallen Soldiers in WWI" published in a Russian newspaper. A full description of the project is linked from the navigation bar on the JRI-Poland home page www.jri-poland.org under "projects."*

If you are the person who spoke to Mike, please respond to Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com and Kim will give you more details.

JSTOR

JSTOR (pronounced JAY-stor is short for Journal Storage)
The following post appeared in an "IAJGS Public Records Access Alert" e-mail from Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson for IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, on May 22, 2014. She posted this on behalf of IAJGS Secretary, Mark Nicholls.

JSTOR is a digital library of more than 1,500 academic journals, books, and primary sources. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. They collaborate with the academic community to achieve the following goals:

- Help scholars, researchers, and students discover, use, and build upon a wide range of scholarly content on a dynamic platform that increases productivity and facilitates new forms of scholarship.
- Help libraries connect patrons to vital content while increasing shelf-space savings and lowering costs.
- Help publishers reach new audiences and preserve their scholarly content for future generations.

JSTOR has now made some articles available to individuals through Register to Read.

The number of articles is enormous, so when searching it is best to narrow the categories down by browsing for specific journals. There are Jewish Historical Journals from England and also many other historical journals that have articles on Jewish history and genealogy. One example is the Polish American Studies journal, where a search for Jewish in the journal returns 226 results.

- URL: <http://about.jstor.org/rr>
- Sign up for free, read-online access to more than five million articles from 1,500+ journals on JSTOR!
- REGISTER to READ for FREE
- Register for a free MyJSTOR account.
- Log in to www.jstor.org and start searching.
- Look for "Read Online Free" above the article and click on it.
- Add the article to your "reading shelf" to read the full text. Save up to 3 articles on your shelf at a given time. After 14 days, you can remove articles and replace them with new ones. Read up to 78 articles a year.
- FREE! BROWSE THE REGISTER & READ TITLE LIST HOW TO READ FOR FREE ON JSTOR
- Read about it
- Watch a video
- Have a question? Try our FAQs.

Popular Genealogy Website Founded in Israel

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

http://www.myheritage.com/#play_video

In 2003, CEO Gilad Japhet and a team of genealogy enthusiasts founded MyHeritage in Japhet's living room in the moshav of Bnei Atarot, just outside Tel Aviv, Israel.

MyHeritage is a commercial family-oriented social network service and genealogy website. It allows paying members to create their own family websites, share pictures and videos, organize family events, create family trees, and search for ancestors

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://polishjews.yivoarchives.org/>

Yivo Digital Archive on Jewish Life in Poland

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nASSn4rDXh4>
JewishGen via You Tube

<http://www.myheritage.com/>
MyHeritage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5cvr28YRpzc>
You Tube Video for MyHeritage

http://www.myheritage.com/#play_video
MyHeritage (video description)

<http://www.ellisland.org/newsletter/SOLEIF-Summer2014-Newsletter.asp?SID=610>
Ellis Island Summer Newsletter
(read article "Ellis Island Records are Expanding")

<http://irishjewishroots.com/search-our-database/index.php>
Irish Jewish Genealogy

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/20364215746/>
Tracing the Tribe (group on Facebook)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D17S1NCNZMk#t=828>
Jewish Chorale sings at January 2014 for JGS of SW FL

www.GenealogyCenter.org

The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center website was chosen by Family Tree Magazine as one of the "Best US Genealogy Websites" for 2014. The Allen County Public Library Genealogy Center in Fort Wayne, Indiana has a formidable online presence with databases including military records and family histories. Use the Genealogy Center Surname File to identify others researching your same surname.

JGS of SW FL 2014 Membership Application

Single Membership: \$25/year
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 _____