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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

Some of my family's traditions have a Jewish connotation, some do not. However all of these are my family traditions and my family is Jewish: t-shirt game, college cookbook, and homemade gefilte fish. I suggest taking the time do make a list of traditions that have been handed down in your family.

How I Planned My Genealogical Trip

by Jo Ann Goldwater

In July 2013, Jo Ann Goldwater planned her genealogical trip to Riga, Latvia, and Zagare, Lithuania. It was her second trip to those areas, and armed with more information, she revisited the places where her paternal grandparents were born and lived before going to Montreal in 1893.

At 1:00 PM on Sunday, **December 21, 2014** at Kobernick House, Jo Ann will explain how she planned her trip and what she discovered on her trip. Come to hear her talk and come to see her photographs. Come to enjoy, learn and ask questions.

2015 JGS of SW FL Calendar

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, December 21, 2014 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "How I Planned My Genealogical Trip and Found the Homes Where My Family Lived in Riga, Latvia, and Zagare, Lithuania" by Jo Ann Goldwater

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

Connect with People from Your Ancestral Town

Try connecting with people who now live in the towns where your ancestors lived. There are many unique ways to do so.

Maybe there is a Sister City connection with a city in the United States and your ancestral town. According to <http://www.sister-cities.org/about-sister-cities-international>, "a sister city, county, or state relationship is a broad-based, long-term partnership between two communities in two countries. A sister city, county, or state relationship is officially recognized after the highest elected or appointed official from both communities sign off on an agreement." Sarasota, for example, is a sister city to Dunfermline (Scotland), Hamilton (Ontario, Canada), Merida (Yucatan, Mexico), Perpignan (France), Santa Domingo (Dominican Republic), Tel Mond (Israel), Treviso Province (Italy), Vladimir (Russia), and Xiamen (China).

Maybe there is a particular city in the United States with strong ties to a particular country and has an annual festival to celebrate the tradition of that country. It is a way to learn about a country before you visit that country. In Sarasota, for example, go to Festival Galores in Sarasota County website at www.visitsarasota.org/article/festivals-galore-sarasota-county to see what Sarasota County has to offer. In the past, there have been Israel, Russian, Greek, Hungarian, and many more international festivals in Sarasota.

Consider attending the "Club Med" lecture series held at The Jewish Federation Campus (580 McIntosh Road, Sarasota), sponsored by Senior Home Companions, Inc. The lecture series is free. RSVP is required at www.jfedsrq.org. All lectures are 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. The series includes:

Wed., Nov. 19, 2014 – Rediscovering Ancient Israel Today

Tues., Jan. 6, 2015 – Jews of Cuba

Wed., Feb. 4, 2015 – Jews of Morocco

Wed., Feb. 25, 2015 – Jews of China

Tues., March 17, 2015 – Jews of Egypt

People who attend Sister City events, International Festivals, and Club Med often have a connection to a particular county.

Long Lost Family USA Casting

If you are desperate to trace a lost family member, the Long Lost Family team would like to hear from you. For further information and to apply: longlostfamily@shedmediaus.com.

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/ashkenazi-jews-descend-from-350-people-study-finds/>
Ashkenazi Jews Descend from 350 People

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/kimberley/Harris.html>
Telling the Story of a Jewish Family via a Photo

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/berlin/Home.html>
Jewish Community of Berlin

<http://ourjewishstories.wordpress.com>
Personal Jewish Stories

<http://yourjewishgem.blogspot.com/>
Jewish Gem's Genealogy Mining for Your Elusive Ancestors

<http://genealogybybarry.com/libraries-societies-genealogists-use-genealogy-research/>
Libraries and Societies Genealogists Use in Genealogy Research

<http://genealogybybarry.com/25-topics-genealogists-care/>
25 Topics Genealogists Care about Most

<http://feefhs.org/>
The Foundation for East European Family History Studies

<http://www.eegsociety.org/Home.aspx>
Eastern European Genealogical Society

<http://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-result.html/>
Consolidated Jewish Surname Index
(type in a family name and find up to
42 sources that contain this name)

<http://www.instantcheckmate.com/>
Public Records Search Service

<http://genealogybybarry.com/color-coded-genealogy-research-filing-system-part-1-getting-started/>
Color-Coded Genealogy System

<http://genealogybybarry.com/every-genealogist-needs-know-digital-content-100-resources/>
What Every Genealogist Needs to Know about Digital Content
(100+ resources)

http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/house_history.htm
How to Trace the Genealogy of Your Home or Other Building

<http://www.jewfaq.org/genealogy.htm>
Judaism 101

<http://www.businessinsider.com/origins-of-popular-jewish-surnames-2014-1>
Origin of Jewish Surnames

JGS of SW FL Library

The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million by Daniel Mendelsohn
Donated by Bob and Grace Banta

New York Area and Jewish Cemeteries

According to <http://www.jewfaq.org/genealogy.htm>, there are several New York area Jewish cemeteries with online searches, such as:

<http://www.mountararatcemetery.com/search.asp?type=interment>
<http://www.mountcarmelcemetery.com/search.asp?type=interment>
<http://www.mounthebroncemetery.com/search.asp>
<http://www.mountjudah.com/search.asp?type=interment>
<http://www.mountlebanoncemetery.com/search/>
<http://www.mountmoriahcemeteryofnewjersey.org/>
<http://www.mountzioncemetery.com/search.asp>

American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee Archive Update

The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee announced that they will be posting online with free public access its Poland collection from 1945-1949. This collection was confiscated by the Communist Authorities. The collection documents the JDCs efforts to assist holocaust survivors following the holocaust. To access the collection go to: <http://tinyurl.com/nhrj5vw>

Thank you to Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, for alerting JGS members to this.

FBI Digitizes More than 30 Million Records Next Generation Identification System Open

For those who know or think they may have "black sheep" in the family this may be of interest.

The (US) Federal Bureau of Investigation has digitized more than 30 million records and 83 million finger print cards as it opens its Next Generation Identification System (NGI). The identity files date back to the 1920's when the US Army turned over 800,000 files. The majority of files are: criminal history files dating back to the early 1970s and before; civil identity files of people born prior to 1960 who enlisted in the military or applied for a government job; fingerprint index cards.

Paper files are destroyed after digitization with a few exceptions of finger print card of infamous criminals such as Al Capone and Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow.

The FBI retains the files until the person is deceased or is 110 years old.

Go to <http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2014/august/cjis-digitizes-millions-of-fbi-files-in-modernization-push>.

The NGI will provide faster identification processing, increased search capacity, a multimodal framework by incorporating palm prints and face, which will include a facial searching capability. It opened in September.

To read more go to <http://www.fbi.gov/news/pressrel/press-releases/fbi-announces-full-operational-capability-of-the-next-generation-identification-system>

The FBI has a "Vault" where one can remotely read thousands of records. To access the vault go to <http://vault.fbi.gov/>

To find out how to request information from the FBI under the Freedom of Information Act go to <http://www.fbi.gov/foia/>

Thank you to Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee, for alerting JGS members to this.

Learning About Jewish Genealogical Societies

<http://www.iajgs.org/blog/about/about-iajgs/>

“The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is an organization of organizations formed in 1988 to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, to advance our genealogical avocation, and to coordinate items such as the annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.”

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

“The Jewish Genealogical Society, Inc. (JGS) was founded in New York in 1977, becoming the first of what are now over 80 such societies worldwide. In the years since its founding, the JGS membership has grown to more than 1,000, with members from both the New York metropolitan area as well as elsewhere in the U.S. and abroad.”

Where are Jewish People Living Today?

The worldwide Jewish population is estimated to be between 13,500,000 and 15,500,000.

Cities with most Jewish people starting with the city or suburban area with the most Jewish people is as follows, according to <http://www.simpletoremember.com/vitals/world-jewish-population.htm>.

Tel Aviv
New York
Haifa
Los Angeles
Jerusalem
Southeast Florida
Paris
Philadelphia
Chicago
Boston
San Francisco
London
Buenos Aires
Toronto
Washington DC
Be'er Sheva
Moscow
Baltimore
Montreal
Detroit

Today, there are about 20,000 to 25,000 Jews in Sarasota-Manatee and 5,000 more if you include seasonable residents.

New York State Family History Conference September 17-19, 2015 in Syracuse, New York

The New York Genealogical and Biographical Society and the Central New York Genealogical Society are co-sponsoring the 2015 conference. It will also be a FGS (Federation of Genealogical Societies) Regional Conference with a day focused on societies and a public Society Showcase.

New England Regional Genealogy Conference April 15-18, 2015 in Rhode Island

For more information about the New England Regional Genealogical Consortium, Inc., go to <http://www.nergc.org/>.

Next Year in Jerusalem! 35th IAJGS Conference on Jewish Genealogy Jerusalem Ramada 6-10 July 2015

Registration is now open at www.iajgs2015.org for the IAJGS 35th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy taking place at the Jerusalem Ramada 6-10 July 2015. The Conference is being held in cooperation with MyHeritage and with the support of individual, organizational and corporate sponsors presently including Harvey Krueger of New York and Yad Vashem. We will be updating our sponsors listing to include longstanding friends of Jewish Genealogy and a host of new friends.

The Ramada Hotel near the entrance to Jerusalem was chosen as our conference venue as it is the only Jerusalem Hotel able to host a conference of our size, has easy access to city and interurban transportation and is close to many Archives, Museums and cultural attractions. The Ramada has two wings – the Royal Hotel (3 stars) and the Ramada (4 stars) and reservations in the Conference block are available following your registration to the Conference. To get the Hotel Conference rate and special perks such as in-room free Wi-Fi you must register and reserve through www.iajgs2015.org

A Shabbaton (Friday & Saturday weekend July 3-4 program) - Shabbat experience for everyone -will precede the Conference and will be followed by an “Exploration Sunday” on July 5 with touring and archive options. The program for the 2015 Conference promises to be varied and unique! There will be sessions relating to research in different countries, techniques and a focus on how the end of World War II impacted the Jewish people and their lives across the world.

The Conference website, www.iajgs2015.org, currently includes registration for those outside of Israel, the Call for Papers and basic information. Additional information on, Shekel based registration, Family Finder, Exploration Sunday, Shabbaton and meal functions and more will be available shortly. So, we encourage you to watch the website, sign up for the Conference Discussion group, follow us on Facebook or Twitter.

We look forward to seeing you all – NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM!

About IAJGS

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization of organizations formed in 1988 to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, to advance our genealogical avocation, and to coordinate items such as the annual International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

Contact

Michael Goldstein, Chairman
35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy
chairman@iajgs2015.org
www.iajgs2015.org

National Genealogical Society Family History Conference May 13-16 2015, in St. Charles, Missouri

For more information about the National Genealogical Society Conference, go to <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

First Jewish Congregation in Sarasota

Earlier this year, Kim Sheintal was asked to speak about the diversity and history of religions in Sarasota for the Sarasota Historical Society. This was a daunting task for her in that the only Sarasota religious history she knew was the Jewish history. She was not even sure how many places of worship existed in Sarasota. A quick look into the Yellow Pages, showed about 200 places of worship in Sarasota. This would have been too many to discuss at one program. So she limited herself to any church that had the word "First" in its name. There were still too many so she chose to highlight those religions that had a major presence in Sarasota prior to 1930. On a Friday in December 2013, she visited twelve places of worship in Sarasota County that fit the criteria of a major presence prior to 1930.

1. Venice-Nokomis United Methodist Church (organized 1868). Current church built in 1979 on Palm Avenue in Nokomis.
2. Friendship Baptist Church (organized 1875). Current church built in 1949 on Palmer Boulevard in Sarasota.
3. First United Methodist Church (chartered 1891 as Sarasota Methodist Episcopal Church, current church built in 1955 is on Pineapple Ave.)
4. Church of the Redeemer (started in mid 1880s, 1904 church built, current church built in 1950 is on Palm Ave.)
5. Crocker Memorial Church (built in 1901 at Bee Ridge & Tamiami, current church is located on 12th St.) – this is not a church with a specific denomination and does not currently hold weekly services
6. First Baptist Church (organized 1902, current church built in 1924 is on Main St.)
7. First Presbyterian Church (organized 1906, current church built in 1928 on Oak St.)
8. St. Martha's Catholic Church (organized 1911, current church built in 1941 on Orange Ave.)
9. First Church of Christ, Scientist (organized 1916, current church built in 1930 on Main St.)
10. Christian Church (organized 1926, current church built in 2000 on Clark Rd.)
11. Temple Beth Sholom (organized 1927, current synagogue built in 1959 on Tuttle Ave.)
12. Bayshore Mennonite Church (Mennonites and Amish started coming in late 1920s, current church built in 1945 on Chapel Dr.)

Jewish people have lived in Sarasota since 1913. There was a Jewish lady living in Palmetto (Manatee County) in 1909. And there was a Jewish man in Arcadia (Desoto County) in 1905. The very first Jewish congregation in Sarasota was formed in 1925 as the Jewish Community Center. In 1927, this evolved into Temple Beth Sholom. Seven religions established themselves in Sarasota-Manatee before Temple Beth Sholom was established.

1. Venice-Nokomis United **Methodist** Church 1868
2. Friendship **Baptist** Church 1875
3. Church of the Redeemer (**Episcopal**) mid 1880s
4. First **Presbyterian** Church 1906
5. St. Martha's **Catholic** Church 1911
6. First **Church of Christ, Scientist** 1916
7. **Christian** Church (Christian Churches are independent churches with no official denominational tie) 1926
8. Temple Beth Sholom (**Jewish**) 1927

Early Sarasota Congregations

Several congregations in Sarasota held their services at the Woman's Club in downtown Sarasota before they had their own place of worship. The Woman's Club is now the Florida Studio Theatre. The First Church of the Nazarene, Temple Beth Sholom, and Temple Emanu-El held their services in the Woman's Club before they had their own places of worship.

When Longboat Key was plotted, Arvida Corporation designated two 2-acre lots for religious properties. About 1980, an Episcopal Church purchased two acres and the Jewish community purchased the other two acres. In 1981 the small committed group from the All Angels by the Sea - Episcopal Church- investigated the viability of buying land from the Arvida Corporation that was developing the area. The group proceeded to raise the funds and purchased the present lot at 563 Bay Isles Road. The Jewish community bought the other 2-acre plot at 567 Bay Isles Road next door for a temple. Thus started a friendship that has flourished through the years.

First Jewish Cemetery in Sarasota

In circa 1932, Temple Beth Sholom established the first Jewish cemetery in Sarasota (on Circus Boulevard). In 1992, members of the Genealogical Society of Sarasota, Inc. completed a survey of all of the Sarasota County cemeteries, and compiled a listing that was published in a book titled Cemeteries of Sarasota County Florida - A Record of Births, Deaths and Burials. This book has been out of print for several years. Today, the GSS shares the data via the internet at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgss/GSSCemteryBook.htm.

Temple Beth Sholom Cemetery listing can be found at www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgss/CemeteryFiles/TempleBethSholomCemetery.pdf. Periodically, GSS Members submit new information. So, check the Cemetery Data Update Tracking List file for the latest update information. New cemeteries and names may be added. The data will be found in the cemetery and alphabetical files.

JGS of SW FL 2015 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 _____