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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

In November, I received an email from someone who wrote me that he typed "Klopman" and "Raciaz" on Google and found the JGS of SW FL fall 2006 newsletter article that I wrote about my Klopman family from Raciaz. He thought we could be cousins. In less than one month, we learned that we are cousins and because of us finding each other, we have both added tremendously to our family tree.

Have you ever met a cousin when you were not expecting to meet a cousin? Volunteer greeters at my temple distribute personalized name badges prior to each Shabbat service. The volunteer asks members their names, finds their name badge, and gives to the member. Recently, the volunteer distributing the name badges discovered a new cousin just because their rare last name was mentioned. Last week, someone came up to me at a Jewish Federation event asking me if I was related to their son-in-law's maternal grandparents who have the same last name as me. My cousin Danny sent me an email to let me know that while cleaning his house this week he found the Klapman family tree that I sent him ten years ago and discovered his daughter's classmate appears on the tree and is a cousin.

Gathering the Voices

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

"This project has gathered and made available online oral testimony from men and women who sought sanctuary in Scotland to escape the racism of Nazi-dominated Europe. Some came on the Kindertransport, others survived concentration camps. Many made remarkable journeys to get to safety in Scotland. There is much for you to see and hear on this site. Listen to the voices of the survivors – their accents will tell you a lot about their journeys. There are Scottish accents, continental lilts and sometimes a mixture of both. All the interviewees spoke about the terrible events that brought them to Scotland."

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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President and Editor: Kim Sheintal <klapshein@aol.com>

Treasurer: Liz Klaber <eklaber@comcast.net>

Programs: Howard Finkel <hgfinkel@gmail.com>

Publicity: Lee Ruggles <lee0614@verizon.net>

Librarian: Bernie Spitalnick <sputnik_too@hotmail.com>

Webmaster: Jim Haberman <jim@HabermanUSA.com>

www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, March 20, 2016 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program "Video Biographies: Creating a Priceless Family Heirloom" by Walter Schломann

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

Video Biographies:

Creating a Priceless Family Heirloom

Award winning filmmaker Walter Schломann will share his expertise on creating a family video biography at the JGS of SW FL meeting on March 20 at 1:00 PM at Kobernick House. Walter will share insights on family history, technological developments, and cover topics such as conducting the interview, research and preparation, basic camera, sound, and lighting techniques, use of ancillary materials and how to organize the video so that it is not only informative, but entertaining. Discussion will include the role of stories and oral traditions in our families and the tricks memories play on us.

Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Contest

by Mark Nicholls & Jeanette Rosenberg, IAJGS Co-Chairs of International Jewish Genealogy Month Committee

The IAJGS holds an annual competition for a work to be used as either a poster or flyer for announcing and celebrating the International Jewish Genealogy Month (IJGM). This year the dates for IJGM are the evening of November 1 to November 30, 2016 coinciding with Cheshvan 5777 in the Jewish calendar. The IAJGS International Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Competition started on January 25, 2016 to coincide with the Jewish Festival of New Year for Trees - Tu B'Shevat, the 15th of Shevat on the Jewish calendar (the day that marks the beginning of a "new year" for trees). "This is the season in which the earliest-blooming trees in the Land of Israel emerge from their winter sleep and begin a new fruit-bearing cycle." (This quoted information is courtesy of Chabad.org.) Details of how to enter the competition are at <http://www.iajgs.org/blog/ijgm/poster-competition/>. The posters can be designed by anyone, including non-members of a JGS, such as family or friends of a JGS member but the posters must be submitted by an IAJGS member organization. Spread the word to your artistic friends or family members. The closing date for entries is June 20, 2016. We look forward to receiving lots of entries this year!

JGS of SW FL Welcomes New Members

Marvin and Barbara Guter

Gerald Lasin

Mary Lipson

Solo Schiffman

Wonderful World of Websites

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV8xttIn93AwJX2_I0AIAg/feed

Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island Videos
The Jewish Genealogy Society of Long Island won the IAJGS
2015 Outstanding Publication Award for its You Tube Channel.

<http://www.esjf-cemeteries.org/>
ESJF European Jewish Cemeteries Initiative

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-34966494>
Jewish Tradition in Yangon, Myanmar

<http://upfront.ngsgenealogy.org/2013/01/genealogy-and-family-health-history-go.html>
My Family Health Portrait

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc3wxIGm_JE
MyHeritage featured on Israeli TV show called HaTsinor

<http://familyecho.com/#edit:START>
Build an interactive family tree of your ancestry.

<http://www.avotaynu.com/wwwsites.html>
List of Worldwide Websites for Jewish Genealogy Research

http://genealogy.about.com/od/jewish/tp/free_jewish.htm
Free Jewish Genealogy Databases Online

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

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

<https://www.rootstech.org/video2/4739804696001>
Roots Tech 2015 Video Archive

Top 100 Genealogy Websites for 2015

http://www.genealogyintime.com/articles/top-100-genealogy-websites-of-2015-page01.html?awt_l=OGFPY&awt_m=JAvWYI3jhAk.Vy
#33 is JewishGen in 2015, #33 is JewishGen in 2014
#34 is JewishGen in 2013, #27 is JewishGen in 2012

JGS of SW FL 2016 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 _____

What on Earth Shall I Do Now?

by Jo Arora

“I hardly know anything about our father”, she said.

It was a fine late May afternoon at my sister’s Tel Aviv home, in her very pregnant daughter’s bedroom – all three of us companionably prone on the bed.

In part due to WWII, our family had been split and eventually our parents were divorced. I being the oldest, continued a relationship with my father, but my sister, 11 years younger than I, was referring to a man she barely knew.

This man, born in Berlin in 1905, left Germany for England, shortly after graduating university in 1933, as he understood the portents clearly. Later from London, using his contacts with the Palestine Maritime Lloyd, he was instrumental in arranging, somewhat clandestinely, for many Jews to leave Germany. He became a British citizen and at the outbreak of war, he joined the British Army Education Corps.

On his death in 2003, I received a packet of original documents, most browned and hand-lettered in faded ink. Inside, along with other papers, were my grandfather’s 1868 birth certificate, my father’s high school and university records, a black and white photo taken at a conference while he was Private Secretary to Henry Mond 2nd Lord Melchett, an ardent British Zionist. I had also kept most of our correspondence which covered some 40 years.

As a result of my sister’s comment, I catalogued these documents and letters and sent them to her after which I relaxed and heaved a big sigh. But, the respite was short as I then pondered what would happen to the original documents after my death and what on earth should I do now. Then, remembering Kim Sheintal who had spoken eloquently at CHJ, I approached her for suggestions. She promptly gave me a name which I contacted by email and, subsequently, letter. There was no response. The next step was to speak with Irene Mirkovic at the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. She put me in contact with Erin Blankenship, Curator of Exhibitions and Collections who, after examining copies of the documents, agreed to accept them.

Now, these crumpled, dusty papers containing markers of another era, another way of life, could be of use to educate future generations.

Death Notices from Sydney, Australia

By Jan Meisels Allen Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

The Sydney Morning Herald has completed indexing every death notice since 1831-2015. (I tried several searches and found examples in 2015). This represents 1,861,095 notices. It took The Sydney Morning Herald 17 years doing 2,000 death notices per week. In addition over 200,000 funeral notices are included - some in addition to a death notice, many as a substitute for a death notice.

The indexes are included in the Ryerson Index which may be accessed at: <http://www.ryersonindex.org/>. On the right side is a tab that says “Search Ryerson”. When this new window opens, click on the drop down box for newspapers and click on Sydney Morning Herald and at least fill in the surname you are searching. The search results will list the type of notice - i.e. death, with the person’s given and surnames, date of occurrence notice, age of the person, other details, publication and published date. Ryerson is a free service.

Thank you to Helen Gardner for this helpful tool.

IAJGS's 36th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle August 7-12

The conference's early registration period, which runs until April 30, offers the lowest fees, with savings of \$55 for the full conference. The conference website, <http://www.iajgs2016.org>, has complete details on how to register for all levels of the conference. Once registered, you can make reservations at the Sheraton Hotel at a reduced rate.

The keynote speaker is a Seattleite in line to be first U.S. Sephardic Jew to get Spanish citizenship. To read more and see a 2.30 minute video on Ladino and Sephardic Jews by U of Washington Professor Devin Naar, the keynote speaker at IAJGS's 36th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy this August 7-12 in Seattle see the Seattle Times article.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/sephardic-jew-from-seattle-soon-to-get-spanish-citizenship/>

Statue of Liberty

On a plaque at the Statue of Liberty, it reads: "Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me: I lift my lamp beside the golden door" by Emma Lazarus who comes from a Sephardic Jewish family. The Statue of Liberty National Monument is a United States national monument comprising Liberty Island and Ellis Island. It includes the Statue of Liberty, situated on Liberty Island, and the former immigration station at Ellis Island.

MyHeritage Featured in Israel

by Daniel Horowitz

(Chief Genealogist Officer and Translation Team Leader)

MyHeritage was featured in January on a very popular Israeli TV show called HaTsinor. The segment was an overview of MyHeritage, what they do, and how they help millions of people worldwide discover their family history. It also showed how they helped facilitate a very special reunion on the Greek Island of Ereikoussa, between the Islanders who hid a Jewish family in WWII, and the descendants of that family.

The piece also showed clips from a video that they've produced, where they once again took their Instant Discoveries™ to the streets, this time in Israel. Within seconds, passersby found ancestors, relatives, new information and photos. This further demonstrates their truly global reach.

Explore the Instant Discoveries™ in Israel with Hebrew subtitles: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPKI6KXzX4k>
Explore the Instant Discoveries™ in Israel with English subtitles: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zc3wxlGm_JE

TV show segment with English subtitles:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VZJ--TAM2q0>

If you would like more information, you can see the blog <http://blog.myheritage.com/2016/01/myheritage-featured-on-israeli-tv>

Why Your Name Was Not Changed at Ellis Island (and One That Was)

<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2013/07/02/name-changes-ellis-island>

There IS a case of a person's name being changed at Ellis Island. It is very rare that a person's name is changed at Ellis Island. Look at the website to read an article about why Frank Woodhull's name was changed to Mary Johnson.

Welcome to Ellis Island

According to the <http://www.history.com/topics/ellis-island>: "Ellis Island opened in 1892 as a federal immigration station, a purpose it served for more than 60 years (it closed in 1954). Millions of newly arrived immigrants passed through the station during that time—in fact, it has been estimated that close to 40 percent of all current U.S. citizens can trace at least one of their ancestors to Ellis Island."

Second grade students at Phillippi Shores Elementary School in Sarasota enjoyed "Welcome to Ellis Island" day at school. That day, second graders dressed as their immigrant ancestors and reenacted the Ellis Island experience of the early 1900s. Each student wrote a report including which country each of their ancestors lived before coming to the United States.



Phillippi Shores Elementary School



2nd grader Alan Daniel (ancestors from Poland, Israel, England)

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay
“2016 Guide to Naturalization Research:
Why you cannot find your Bubbes’s
Naturalization Records”

(The concluding session of this two-part Jewish Genealogy Seminar will be held on Sunday, March 13, 2016.)

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB) will present the second (concluding) session of a two-part seminar entitled “The JGSTB 2016 Guide to Naturalization Research: Why you cannot find your Bubbes’s Naturalization Records” on March 13, 2016. The seminar will be held at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Registration will be at 1:30 and the seminar begins at 2:00 PM. A booklet replicating the material to be presented will be provided and will be essential for those able to attend only one of the two sessions.

The naturalization records of your ancestors can help in determining their roots in the old country. Unfortunately, the tangled web of naturalization laws, the multitude of judicial jurisdictions, and the scattered location of germane records make the search for these documents difficult and frustrating. This two-part course is designed to reduce the mystery and confusion and improve the chances of a successful search. A simplified history of the laws and governmental entities involved in naturalization processes will be presented and a logical progression for finding the actual records will be demonstrated; Internet procedures will be emphasized.

Dr. Emil H. Isaacson will lead the seminar. Dr. Isaacson has over 30 years of experience in genealogy and, through research, has traced his ancestral roots back seven generations to the late 1700’s in Europe. He will share his successful and sometimes unsuccessful techniques.

This seminar is free to JGSTB members. The fee for non-members is \$25 for an individual or \$35 for a family, but non-member fees include a membership in the JGSTB. There is an additional optional \$10 charge for the seminar booklet that replicates the material to be presented. The booklet will be useful during the seminar and valuable for reference afterwards. Purchase of the booklet, is highly recommended. Only one booklet is needed for either a family or an individual.

Those who attended the first session are reminded to bring your seminar booklet with you to the concluding session. Call Sally Israel at 727-343-1652 to register for the seminar if you did not attend the first session.

The purpose of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay is to assist interested individuals in learning about Jewish genealogy and how to research and document their own family histories. The Society does this by facilitating the exchange of research information, encouraging and facilitating research activities, educating members to help themselves and others, making available research resources and materials, arranging genealogical research tours and presenting monthly programs of interest to Jewish genealogical researchers. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. For information on JGSTB or directions to the meeting, please call Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981, or email him at bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com.

JewishGen’s Two Search Facilities

Just a reminder to differentiate JewishGen's two search facilities. We have two types of data...databases (fixed fields) and text pages.

1. Our ****databases**** are searched via indexes ...boxes in which you must enter the surname or town...as in the Communities Database (by town name), Family Finder Database (by surname and/or town), Family Tree of the Jewish People (by surname), and Country Databases (by surname and/or town).

2. ****Text**** pages are searched by any word you wish (think of a google search) as in Yizkor Book Database, KehilaLinks, InfoFiles, and Discussion Group Message Archives. Go to the www.jewishgen.org to the “About Us” oval and click “Search Website” which states: “The form above allows you to search all of the text on JewishGen’s web pages. Note that this search does not include JewishGen’s databases, which must be searched separately.

- To search for family surnames and ancestral towns, search the JewishGen Family Finder.
- To search JewishGen’s other databases, see the JewishGen Databases index.

These searches do not overlap and if you are researching something, you might want to do both. Happy hunting.

Phyllis Kramer, NYC & Palm Beach Gardens Florida

JGS of Tampa Bay - Hands-On Genealogy Working Session with Guided Assistance

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida on Sunday April 10, 2016 at 2:00 PM for a hands-on working session for individual research using the Internet and library resources of the JGSTB. Experienced JGS mentors will be on hand to provide guidance and assistance. This “members-helping-members” session has always been one of our more popular programs. We are pleased to offer it again following the overview in January and the Immigration and Naturalization seminar in February and March. This work session will be an opportunity to apply what was discussed in earlier sessions, or to just learn how to get started with genealogical research. A pre-session social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 PM. The workshop will begin with a brief overview of the genealogical research resources and library materials that will be available for use at this session. Free access to Ancestry.com and to MyHeritage.com (Premium), will be available on several computers. While this workshop is intended as a hands-on working session for those who have already begun their research and wish to further it or to seek assistance with problems, novices will be given an abbreviated “jump start” on how to get started. Attendees should bring their own research materials and information, and be prepared to work. Bring your own laptop computer if you have one. Several computers with Internet access will be available if you cannot bring your own. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay’s library and research resources are available to all meeting attendees and can be loaned out to members. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogy research is invited to participate. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. The pre-program social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 PM, and the featured program starts at 2:00 PM. For information about the organization or directions, please call Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981, or email him at bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com.