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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

You have heard the expression "another pair of eyes" (aka a fresh pair of eyes) when it comes to proofing papers. This applies to genealogy too. Often times, if someone else looks at the same document that you looked at, the other person will often see something in that document that you did not see. Sometimes, you can actually be that fresh pair of eyes. Consider looking again at a document that you checked a while back, because when you look at things a second time, you may catch something that you did not catch the first time. For example: look back at a documents that you have not reviewed in a long time and look back at websites and blogs for new updates, because things are constantly being added. Someone reminded me this week of a valuable blog called "Tracing the Tribe". My friend had a brick wall for tracing her father's family so she posted something on "Tracing the Tribe" which hundreds of people read each day who are tracing Jewish roots. She got an answer within an hour that led her to a source which gave my friend the information that she had been trying to find for over one year. I had forgotten how valuable "Tracing the Tribe" is.

In summary, review documents multiple times. Periodically check blogs and websites that you have used in the past.

JGS of SW FL Calendar

(all programs at Aviva campus in the Kobernick building
1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota)

Sunday, March 19, 2017 @ 1:00 PM

Finding Your European Ancestor's Hometown by Mike Karsen

Sunday, April 16, 2017 @ 1:00 PM

Getting Started with Genealogy on the Internet by Leah Cook

Sunday, May 21, 2017 @ 1:00 PM

The History of Klezmer Music by Baila Miller

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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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>

Surname Database and Facebook Page: Leah Cook <leahcook@aol.com>

Webmaster: Jim Haberman <jim@HabermanUSA.com>

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www.jgsswf.org

<https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, March 19, 2017 (1:00 PM)

Aviva campus in the Kobernick building

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: Finding Your European Ancestor's Hometown
by Mike Karsen

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

Finding Your European Ancestor's Hometown

If your European ancestor arrived in the United States in the last 100 years, you can find their hometown using commonly available records. On March 19 at 1:00 PM, Mike Karsen will present "Finding Your European Ancestor's Hometown" at the Aviva campus in the Kobernick building.

This presentation reviews where to find the information and the tricks of going from one record to the next to solve this mystery. Case studies are used to demonstrate how to use the records and some of the possible traps to avoid.

Mike Karsen is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is Past President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. He has presented over 300 talks on genealogy topics locally, nationally, and internationally including Newberry Library and Spertus Institute for Jewish Learning and Leadership in Chicago. Mike is the author of the JewishGen website "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" and has published articles on genealogy.

Facebook and DNA with a Jewish Twist

FACEBOOK (Tracing the Tribe)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/20364215746/>

"Tracing the Tribe" Facebook Page is an Open Group, which means that everyone can read posts and comments, but only members can post. "Tracing the Tribe" was created as a blog for Jewish genealogy in 2006. In 2014, "Tracing the Tribe" became a Facebook Page.

DNA (Family Tree DNA and MyHeritage)

Two of the biggest DNA testing companies were founded by Jewish men who continue to serve as the CEOs.

Family Tree DNA was founded in 1999 by Bennett Greenspan. Family Tree DNA was the first American company to offer genealogical DNA testing directly to the general public.

MyHeritage was founded in 2003 by Gilad Japhet, a tech veteran and experienced genealogist.

JGS of SW FL Library Additions

The NEHG Register Journal of American Genealogy Winter 2016 (Volume 170): donated by Grace and Robert Banta
Jewish Synagogues of Italy: donated by Lenore Tishman

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.acpl.lib.in.us/>
Allen County Public Library

http://isogg.org/wiki/Autosomal_DNA_testing_comparison_chart
Autosomal DNA Testing Comparison

<http://www.przemysl.ap.gov.pl/>
Polish Records

<http://thegeneticgenealogist.com/13-2/>
Blaine Bettinger (the Genetic Genealogist)

<http://fun.mivzakon.co.il/video/General/8740/%D7%9E%D7%97%D7%A7%D7%A8.html>
Jews and DNA/Abraham's Children

<http://blog.kittycooper.com/2017/01/a-jewish-adoptee-finds-his-birth-family/>
A Jewish Adoptee Finds His Birth Family

<http://isogg.org/wiki/Endogamy>
What is Endogamy?

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/holocaust-survivor-spots-long-lost-cousin-on-tv/>
Holocaust Survivor Spots Long Lost Cousin on TV

http://jewishgenealogysurnameproject.com/about_us.html
The Jewish Genealogy Surname Project (JGSP) has been created to build the largest ONLINE Database Spreadsheet on Facebook consisting of Surnames, Given Names, Towns, Shtels/Villages and Countries our ancestors lived plus DNA information if you have tested. Since most of us have exhausted all records available, we are trying to connect via Surnames /Towns and DNA. Only members who have added their names can view the Database.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-38828042>
Man who dresses up as his ancestors

http://jewishgenealogysurnameproject.com/facebook_groups.html

This website was created not only to house our Jewish Genealogy Surname Project Database but to list all Facebook Groups offering us help with respect to Jewish Genealogy Research by country or non-specific to country, Jewish Communities, Jewish Education, Jewish Libraries, Jewish organizations, Jewish Genealogy Societies, Synagogues, Jewish Historical Groups, Jewish Cemetery Groups, Holocaust related Groups, Jewish Museums, Shtetl Groups, Jewish News & Media, Photo Restoration and DNA.

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/shavli/shavli1.html>
Jewish Ancestry from Shavl (Šiauliai), Lithuania

<http://jewua.info/genealogynews/>
Jewish Genealogy News and Updates

<http://www.yiddishbookcenter.org/language-literature-culture/pakn-treger/assaf-urieli-computational-yiddish-linguist>

Assaf Urieli: Computational Yiddish Linguist

Below are useful free websites for historical maps. Thank you to Mike Schwartz for suggesting these.

<http://maps.geshergalicia.org/>
Gesher Galicia Map Room

<http://kehilalinks.jewishgen.org/>
JewishGen Kehila Links
(click through to the region of interest to find maps)

<http://english.mapywig.org/news.php>
Map Archive for the
Military Geographical Institute of Poland 1919-1939
(some download photos)

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Geographic Atlas of the Russian Empire, Kingdom of Poland and Grand Duchy of Finland \(1820-1827\)](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Geographic_Atlas_of_the_Russian_Empire,_Kingdom_of_Poland_and_Grand_Duchy_of_Finland_(1820-1827))
Geographic Atlas of the Russian Empire, Kingdom of Poland and Grand Duchy of Finland 1820-1827

<http://www.maphistory.info/imageeurcont.html>
WWW-Virtual Library: History Map History
History of Cartography: THE Gateway to the Subject
(An index to numerous historical map websites)

<http://feefhs.org/map/library>
Foundation for Eastern European Family History Studies
(Map Library)

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/>
University of Texas at Austin
Perry-Castañeda Library Map Collection

IAJGS Jewish Genealogy Conference <http://iajgs2017.org/>

Transportation: The IAJGS Jewish Genealogy Conference will take place in Orlando from July 23 thru July 28. Kim Sheintal made her reservations at the Walt Disney World Swan Resort in Orlando for five nights (July 23, 24, 25, 26, 27) for \$1175.65. (This room is big enough for two adults and two children.) Her plan is to arrive on Sunday, July 23 in Orlando and return to Sarasota on Friday, July 28. Kim is considering a chartered limo that holds up to eight people for the JGS of SW FL members. Depending on how many people are interested will depend on the price for each of us. This will cost each person about \$100 to \$300 for the round trip to and from Orlando. Please make your reservations at the Swan now since you can always cancel 48 hours in advance. If you would like to join the group on the limo, please let Kim know ASAP. Contact Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433 or klapshein@aol.com.

Registration: Registration is now open for the 37th Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, July 23–28, 2017, at the Swan Resort on the grounds of Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Save money with early registration and guarantee a room by visiting the conference website now at <http://www.iajgs2017.org>.

The Upside and Downside of DNA Matching

by Leah Cook, Ed.D.

In this article, I describe the joy of finding new relatives through DNA matching and some of the unintended consequences.

On the “upside,” last spring I was DNA matched on Ancestry.com to a cousin related to me through my maternal grandmother. Since my grandmother passed away before I was born, I knew almost nothing about her. And, unfortunately, my mother never told me anything about my grandmother’s family (perhaps because many had perished in the Holocaust). After searching for my maternal grandmother’s extended family for 15 years, it was exciting to finally find a cousin of mine from her family. My new cousin lives in Florida, and we hope to meet soon.

Still on the “upside,” this past summer, I was DNA matched to a 15-year-old girl, let’s call her Rachel, as my closest DNA match. Since I thought that I knew all of my cousins, I was perplexed. I provided surnames and birthplaces of my grandparents to Rachel, and I asked her for the names and birthplaces of her ancestors. I soon learned that Rachel is the daughter of a sperm donor, and, hence, she knew almost nothing about her donor dad. However, with her minimal description of her donor dad, and some research on my part, I quickly identified Rachel’s father. Again, I was very pleased to learn about my new cousin. **But, what was I to do with this information?**

Now to the “downside” of DNA matching. After consultation with family and friends, including a rabbi and a priest, I decided to inform my sperm donor cousin that he has a daughter, Rachel, who is my first cousin twice removed. At first, he was delighted to learn about his daughter, but then he became very angry and belligerent with me. Since the sperm bank assured him that his donation would be anonymous, he felt that I should not have told him about his daughter. I subsequently learned from his brother that he did not want to raise children, and he had donated sperm to propagate his “good” genes and to make some money. He does not want to know about Rachel or any other offspring. He believes that his privacy was invaded and has demanded that I provide no more information to Rachel about him or our family. Sadly, our relationship has been terminated.

As an interesting note, there is an online registry for offspring of sperm (and egg) donors that enables donor offspring to locate their half-siblings. From the registry, Rachel’s mother and I independently found out that my sperm donor cousin has many more offspring. I will note that the *Donor Sibling Registry*’s core value is: “honesty, with the conviction that people have the fundamental right to information about their biological origins and identities.” I share the values of the Registry, but my cousin, the donor dad, wants to silence me. The Donor Sibling Registry can be found on the web at: <https://donorsiblingregistry.com>.

DNA matching is a wonderful tool for connecting with family. There are three major matching services: Ancestry.com, Myheritage.com, and 23andme.com. In addition, the site Gedmatch.com will match your DNA from one service with DNA information from another. All of the matching services provide an ethnicity profile, and some provide medically related genetic information. The most common DNA test for genealogical purposes is the mitochondrial DNA test, but other tests exist. The typical cost for a basic DNA test is \$99.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t mention an interesting side to DNA matching. As you may know, Iceland is a small geographically isolated island with a population of approximately 330,000 and most were descended from a small group of 9th century Viking settlers. Now comes DNA testing and DNA matching. Imagine discovering that you are married to a very close relative! There is even an “Incest Prevention” app for cell phones based on the “Book of Islanders,” a book containing names and information for most Icelandic residents dating back 1,200 years. If you have a new partner, the app lets you *bump* cell phones to show how closely you are related. * In the early history of the Jews, there were small clans of people, so it seems reasonable that marriage between cousins was not uncommon. It does not appear to be explicitly prohibited by the bible.

In summary, the “upside” of DNA matching is that you can connect with family members from around the globe. As I recently discovered, a major “downside” of DNA matching is that many people (including both donors and others) do not want to connect with family, and they find research by others to be intrusive.

* Source: “Kissing Cousins? Icelandic app warns if your date is a relative”; CBC New Business Section, an AP article posted on-line April 18, 2013.

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What is DNA?

<https://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/primer/basics/dna>

“DNA, or deoxyribonucleic acid, is the hereditary material in humans and almost all other organisms. Nearly every cell in a person’s body has the same DNA. Most DNA is located in the cell nucleus (where it is called nuclear DNA), but a small amount of DNA can also be found in the mitochondria (where it is called mitochondrial DNA or mtDNA).”

DNA Shoah Project

<http://www.jewishgen.org/DNA/>

“The DNA Shoah Project is building a database of genetic material from Holocaust survivors and their immediate descendants, in hopes of reuniting families disrupted by the Shoah (“Holocaust” in Hebrew). The Project aims to match displaced relatives, provide Shoah orphans and lost children with information about their biological families and, eventually, assist in the forensic identification of Holocaust-era remains.”

For more information about the DNA Shoah Project, go to:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbGrkcCSZQI>
<https://www.holocaustremembrance.com/itfdirectory/organization/show/3484>
http://edweb.tusd1.org/vfrazier/Documents/FS/9-Forensic%20DNA/Notes_Presentation_v3.pdf
<https://www.facebook.com/events/602710913107353/>
<http://www.nytimes.com/2009/05/17/nyregion/long-island/17dnali.html>

JGSTB 2017 Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research: A Foundation for Beginners and an Update for Experienced Researchers

A two-part Jewish Genealogy Seminar will be presented by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (JGSTB)

Part 1 – February 12, 2017

Part 2 - March 12, 2017

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay offers a two-session seminar entitled: “The JGSTB 2017 Guide to Jewish Genealogy Research: A Foundation for Beginners and an Update for Experienced Researchers” on February 12 (Part 1) and March 12, 2017 (Part 2) at 2:00 PM at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Registration will be at 1:30 PM on both dates. A seminar booklet summarizing the presentation and containing updated references will be available and is essential for those able to attend only one of the two sessions.

This seminar focuses on developing proper approaches and in applying the necessary tools, techniques and short cuts to most effectively connect you with your ancestors in the old country. Internet resources as well as local resources will be emphasized to enable the beginner to discover his or her family history and to facilitate experienced researchers in resolving “brick wall” problems. The past year has seen numerous additions, revisions and deletions of Internet sources, especially at Familysearch.com and Ancestry.com. New genealogical resources and databases will be demonstrated, and internet links and site references are updated in the seminar booklet.

Dr. Emil H. Isaacson, who will lead the seminar, has over 30 years of experience in genealogy. He has researched his ancestral roots back seven generations to the late 1700’s in Europe. He will share his successful and sometimes unsuccessful techniques (do’s and don’ts).

The seminar is free to members. Nonmembers will be charged \$25 for individuals or \$35 for a family, and that charge will include an annual membership. The seminar booklet will be available for \$10, and it is strongly recommended that you reserve a copy, as it contains valuable reference material. Only one booklet is needed for a family, and it is available only to seminar attendees.

Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend. Early registration is recommended so that sufficient copies of the printed booklet and handouts will be available. To pre-register for the class, for further information on the organization, or for directions to the meeting, call Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981.

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. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. For further information on the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay or directions to the meeting call Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981 or email him at bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Members

- Diane and John Arch
- Felice and George Hedge
- Debbie Silver Heller
- Dr. Carol and Ed Lieberman

Lakewood Ranch Genealogy Club

Monday, March 6, 2017

7:00 pm - General Meeting with Nancy Johnson presenting “Skeletons in Your Closet”

Location: Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Lakewood Ranch

Contact: Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com) (941-752-9819)

Manatee Genealogical Society

Tuesday, March 7, 2017

10:15 am to 12 pm – General Meeting with Bryan Mulcahy presenting “Canadian Genealogy”

Location: Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd., Bradenton

Contact: President Jim Reger (babeandjim@gmail.com)

Genealogical Society of Sarasota

Saturday, March 11, 2017

10:00 am to 10:30 am - Scrapbook Contest

10:30 am to 12:00 pm - General Meeting with Debra Fleming presenting “Getting the Most out of Familysearch.org

Location: Selby Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota

Contact: President Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com) (941-752-9819)

Englewood Genealogical Society

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

1:30 pm to 3:30 pm - General Meeting with Anne MacIntyre presenting “Brick Walls”

Location: Elsie Quirk Library, second floor, 100 Dearborn W. St., Englewood

Contact: President Sue Davis (info@egsfl.org)

JGS of SW FL 2017 Membership Application

Single Membership: \$25/year

Family Membership: \$30/year

Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with this information to:

Liz Klaber

4461 Violet Avenue

Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name_____

E-mail_____

Phone_____

Address_____Apt._____

City, State, Zip_____

Please attach a paper with your surnames/places for the JGS of SW FL Ancestors Database.