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MISHPOCHOLOGY'S ISRAEL HERITAGE EDITION

President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

My husband Jon was born in Tel Aviv and many of his relatives still live in the Tel Aviv area. A brief history of Jon's family appears on the next page. When I married Jon in 1971, I was not aware of my family having any connections to Israel. Thanks to my genealogical research and dedication, I have discovered hundreds of my relatives living in Israel and discovered treasured stories about my family in Israel.

One story began as a six-sentence family story given to me by four of my Lebovitz cousins in 1988 about the Lebovitz connection to starting a Jewish homeland in Gedera (Israel) in the early 1880s. In 2017, exciting things unraveled to enhance the story. On April 22, 2017, I received an email from Jared to let me know that our DNA matched as either second or third cousins on our Family Tree DNA test and he suspected a Lebovitz connection. Within 24 hours, we determined that we shared a great great grandfather on our Lebovitz tree. After sharing my six-sentence story with Jared, he told me that he heard a similar story. Better yet, Jared told me about a museum in Gedera Israel that currently highlights the 19th century pioneers of Gedera with a detailed Lebovitz family tree housed inside the museum. Ever since April 2017, Jared and I were not successful in reaching someone at the museum because the museum was undergoing renovations. In mid-March 2018 with the Israel Heritage Celebration only a month away, I became especially eager to connect with someone at the museum. On March 17, 2018, I sent an e-mail to my niece who lives in Israel

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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www.jgsswf.org

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

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, April 15, 2018 (1:00 PM)

Aviva's Kretzmer Center

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: Israel Heritage Celebration

with music by Sharon and David Ohrenstein

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

in which I asked her to call the museum. She did, but only got a recorded message that the museum was closed for renovations. Then on March 22, someone called her from the museum to say that today was their Reopening Ceremony and they wanted to know the first names of the people in my Lebovitz family who settled in Gedera, because some Lebovitz people who came to Gedera as teenagers never left Gedera. If it were not for a six-sentence Lebovitz story and a DNA match combined with my determination and excitement for the upcoming Israel Heritage Celebration, my six-sentence story may never have been enhanced. Come to the Israel Heritage Celebration to hear more about this story and other Israel heritage stories.

JGS of SW FL presents

Israel Heritage Celebration

Sunday, April 15, 2018 @ 1:00 PM at Aviva

Details on Last Page

Four Reasons to Join a Genealogical Society

<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2017/12/15/4-reasons-to-join-a-genealogical-society/>

Networking

Conferences, Workshops, Meetings

Journals and Publications

Resources

Eight Reasons You Should Consider Joining a Local Genealogical Society

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_orFU151U4

Camaraderie and Breaking Brick Walls

Local Area Experts

Speakers and Presentations

Special Topics Sessions

Communications to Members and the Community

Become a Speaker

Keeping Up to Date

Support - Local Projects and Financial

For more JGS of Long Island instructional genealogy videos:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV8xttIn93AwJX2_I0AI
Ag/feed

Jon Sheintal's Father - Shlomo Sheintal

Rifka Salat and Berl Schönthal were born and married in Dzialoszyce Poland and had eight children. Hebrew, Polish, German, and English versions of their first names were used. The birth year of each child is followed by his/her name.

Heinrich (German): 1896

Hava (Hebrew), Eva (English): 1900

Ya'acov (Hebrew), Jacob (English): 1904

Yitzchak (Hebrew), Ignatz (German), Isaac (English): 1905

Shlomo (Hebrew), Sol (English): 1906

Pola (Polish): 1908

Shmuel (Hebrew), Schmelech (German): 1910

Genia (Polish): born after 1910

These eight siblings were born with the surname Schönthal, but the name became Sheintal.

As a teen in the early 1920's after finishing cheder (an elementary school for Jewish children in which Hebrew and religious knowledge are taught), Shlomo traveled to Vienna to attend trade school with his brothers. Heinrich, a dry good salesman, most likely did not go to the trade school with the other brothers. In route to Vienna, they were harassed by anti-semitic Cossacks. In the early 1920's, their parents sold their property in Poland and bought land in Palestine. Berl Schönthal and four of his sons (Ya'acov, Yitzchak, Shlomo, and Shmuel) settled in Gan HaShomron across the road from Kibbutz Ein Shemer. They took turns day and night guarding their homestead and fields against hostile Arabs and a wild breed of wolves known as shekels who roamed the land. They planted eucalyptus trees to drain the swamps. These trees are still standing guard at the driveway into the yard and around the fertile fields in that neighborhood. There are still remnants of the original shelters and fences as well as newer homes. It's as if time stood still. Across the dirt road, the kibbutz still functions but more as a museum of its history. The area was also very vulnerable to Jordanian attacks during wars for independence.

Heinrich moved to Tel Aviv and never married. Rifka Schönthal had a niece named Anja and invited Anja to marry one of her sons. Yitzchak and Anja married in Gan HaShomron. Ya'acov married Ruth and they divorced after they had two sons. Ya'acov developed a common law relationship with Sara, a young Yemenite immigrant with the Magic Carpet Aliyah movement who loved and cared for him until his death. Shlomo left for the city, but not before he contracted malaria. Shlomo married Rosi in Jerusalem while he was working at the construction site of the King David Hotel installing the original Gold elevator. Shmuel married Miriam. Rifka joined her husband and sons after a few years when it became safer. Berl contracted yellow fever and died in 1926. Genia died in Poland at age 12 of appendicitis. Pola, her husband and their two daughters remained in Poland. Their daughters perished in the Holocaust. Pola's husband survived Holocaust but was murdered by Polish regime when told he could reclaim his property. Pola came to Israel after WW2 as a widow and eventually remarried. Hava moved to Israel and married there.

Three of the Sheintal brothers (Yitzchak, Ya'acov, and Shmuel) with their families developed a very respectful relationship with the elders and members of the nearby Arab village of Karkur.

Shlomo married Rosi in 1934. Their daughter Nira was born in Jerusalem in 1935 and their son Jonathan was born in Tel Aviv in 1946. The family of four moved to Washington DC in 1947 and had two more children (Ronald and Judy) in the

United States. Nira's daughter Lori married an Israeli and they raised their children in Israel.

The descendants of Rifka and Berl Schönthal in Israel and the United States have close relationships to this day.

Controversy over Access Now that the Israel State Archives are Digitizing Their Archives

In 2015, the IAJGS Records Access Alert reported that the Israeli State Archives chief archivist, Yaacov Lazowick, launched a new website with digitized documents provided - privacy considerations did not apply. Part of that decision was to revoke access to all paper originals and the documents were subject to the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) censor as reported in 972mag.com. If one accesses the National Archives website it mentions over 14 million scanned pages on line: <http://www.archives.gov.il/en/>, which does not include the 2,500 files a month the archives puts out to researchers. It is estimated it would take another 20 years to digitize the millions of pages not yet digitized. If you open the aforementioned page in a Chrome browser you can get an automatic page translation. If you use another browser and use <https://translate.google.com/> you are also able to translate the page.

In an article in Haaretz, *Historians Struggle as Israel State Archives Deadlocked by Legal Restrictions* on 2 August, it said the dispute centers on who is empowered to allow researchers or anybody from the public to access and read unclassified documents kept at the archive.

Deputy Attorney General Raz Nizri sent Archivist Lazowick a warning saying the Archives practice was illegal and to access the material required the depositing ministry's (e.g. Foreign Ministry, or Israel Police) permission. For decades the Archives had vetted all requests using its own criteria for allowing or denying access, albeit not following the law. The archivist acceded to obey an older law and let depositors of archival material decide on each request to view it. In effect the order has shut down the Archives for historians, other researchers and the public. The various government agencies are not prepared in funding or personnel to handle all the requests to examine the materials they deposited in the Archives. Archivists and historians oppose the Deputy Attorney General's order, who say the law needs to be changed, as this is a direct hit to the public's right to access. Lazowick said, "A week ago, we really stopped the services of the Archives, according to the instructions of the attorney general. To a great extent (not completely), we have stopped providing service. A researcher who wants to see a file will now have to wait for two months, or half a year or two years. The last is the most likely."

Archivist Lazowick recently announced he is leaving the Archives. No replacement has yet been named.

The article may be found at: <http://www.haaretz.com/israel-news/.premium-1.804409>. To read the article one must have a subscription. One may get a free subscription with up to 6 articles per month by registering. A link is on the upper right hand corner of the page.

An editorial in Haaretz advocated the Archives to be separated from the Prime Minister's Office—keeping the archives away from politicians and letting it operate independently. <http://www.haaretz.com/opinion/editorial/1.804651>

Thank you to Janice Sellers, VP San Francisco Bay Area JGS for first advising me of the Haaretz article.

Jan Meisels Allen Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Wonderful World of Websites

<https://genealogy.org.il/>
Israel Genealogy Research Association

<http://www.isragen.org.il/>
The Israel Genealogical Society

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Israel_Online_Genealogy_Records
Israel Online Genealogy Records

<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Israel/group84.htm>
U.S. Department of State
Jerusalem, Jaffa, and Haifa Consular Post Records

<http://www.israelpb.com/>
Most Common First Names in Israel
(Also you can type in surnames to get addresses.)

<http://dontaylorgenealogy.com/2016/03/it-is-all-rage-birthplace-charts.html/>
Birthplace Charts

<https://www.ushmm.org/online/world-memory-project/pages/about-the-project/index.html>
World Memory Project

<https://www.myheritage.com/ethnicities/israel/country-ethnicity-distribution>
Israel-top ethnicities

<https://www.myheritage.com/ethnicities>
Ethnicities around the World

<http://jewishheritagecenter.org/>
Jewish Heritage Center at
New England Historic Genealogical Society

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/02/08/smarter-living/how-to-preserve-your-family-memories-letters-and-trinkets.html>
How to Preserve Family Memories

<http://metrocosm.com/us-immigration-history-map.html>
Two Centuries of US Migration Patterns

<https://forward.com/opinion/395078/why-do-so-many-jewish-last-names-come-from-women/>
Why Do So Many Jewish Last Names Come From Women?

https://www.dnaquest.org/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_201803&utm_term=&utm_content=EN&tr_date=20180311
MyHeritage is excited to announce a new pro bono initiative - DNA Quest - to help adoptees and their birth families reunite through DNA testing.

<https://www.haaretz.com/jewish/.premium-75-percent-of-jews-trace-ancestry-to-mideast-1.5327994>
75% of Jews Trace Ancestry to Middle East

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Members

Mike Karsen, Tobey Malickson, Joni Mandel

Yad Vashem Exhibit

Early this year, Yad Vashem initiated a new exhibit entitled, "Flashes of Memory: Photography during the Holocaust". The exhibit presents an account of visual documentation- films and photographs-created during the Holocaust by both Jewish and German photographers as well as members of the Allied forces during liberation. There are 1,500 photographs and 13 films, original newspaper clippings, albums, diaries and original cameras. The exhibit focuses on the photograph's circumstances, and the documenting photographers' view while emphasizing the viewpoint of the Jewish photographers as victims of the Holocaust. To view preview of the exhibit see: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9rUgM4TiQrg&feature=youtu.be>

For those not fortunate enough to visit Yad Vashem there are several other videos on Teaching the Holocaust Using Photographs: Teaching the Holocaust Using Photographs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j-bm5piqUZA&list=PLj1tRCohZq81Sw83xZafnX5LOTyuwl86I> Photographs as Propaganda: <https://tinyurl.com/ydx2edhs> Original url: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zd7W5N0gNbA&list=PLj1tRCohZq81Sw83xZafnX5LOTyuwl86I&index=2> Documentation of Atrocities: The Jewish Photographer Henryk Ross <https://tinyurl.com/yctm4prx> Original url: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr3PeT-Fxyc&list=PLj1tRCohZq81Sw83xZafnX5LOTyuwl86I&index=3>

Also online is the third part of the exhibit: Last letters from the Holocaust: 1943 which may be viewed at: <http://www.yadvashem.org/yv/en/exhibitions/last-letters/1943/index.asp#/home>. The letters featured in this exhibition were sent from Ukraine, Bulgaria, Germany, Holland, Greece, Poland, France and Russia. They were written in different languages: German, Dutch, Yiddish, Ladino, Polish and French. The audio of the exhibit is in English. Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

38th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy (5-10 August 2018) Warsaw, Poland

Co-Hosted By

POLIN Museum of the History of Polish Jews

Emanuel Ringelblum Jewish Historical Institute of Warsaw
(in cooperation With The Polish State Archives)

Plan to attend the first IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Central or Eastern Europe. In addition to the usual conference activities, you'll be able to tour the places where your ancestors lived. For more details, go to: <http://www.iajgs2018.org/>





The Jewish Federation
OF SARASOTA-MANATEE



Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

Presents

ISRAEL HERITAGE CELEBRATION



Sunday, April 15, 2018

@ 1:00 PM

Aviva

(1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota)

- Sharing Family Stories about the Formation of Israel (by local residents with Israeli roots)
- Hebrew and Yiddish songs by Sharon and David Ohrenstein
- Israel Heritage Handout
- Sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee

RSVP by April 12 to Kim Sheintal
(JGS of SW FL President) at klapshein@aol.com
or 941-921-1433 to make sure enough
handouts are printed

Readings will be performed by Dianne Brin and
Alice Cotman at the Israel Heritage Celebration.

Golda Meir Quotes

- Not being beautiful was the true blessing. Not being beautiful forced me to develop my inner resources. The pretty girl has a handicap to overcome.
- Those who do not know how to weep with their whole heart, don't know how to laugh either.
- Whether women are better than men I cannot say...but I can say they are certainly no worse.
- Trust yourself. Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life.
- Old age is like a plane flying through a storm. Once you're aboard there's nothing you can do.
- Let me tell you something that we Israelis have against Moses. He took us 40 years through the desert in order to bring us to the one spot in the Middle East that has no oil!
- Women's liberation is just a lot of foolishness. It's men who are discriminated against. They can't bear children. And no one is likely to do anything about that.
- Pessimism is a luxury that a Jew can never allow himself.
- Once in a Cabinet we had to deal with the fact that there had been an outbreak of assaults on women at night. One minister suggested a curfew; women should stay home after dark. I said, "But it's the men who are attacking the women. If there's to be a curfew, let the men stay home, not the women."
- When Golda Meir met with President Nixon, he told her that he would trade any three American generals for General Moshe Dayan. "Okay," she said, "I'll take General Motors, General Electric, and General Dynamics.
- Peace will come when the Arabs will love their children more than they hate us.

Genealogy Guidebook for Librarians, Archivists, and Volunteers

Fostering Family History Services: A Guide for Librarians, Archivists, and Volunteers was recently written by Nicole Miller and Rhonda Clark. This is not a how-to genealogy title, rather a guide for those who work with other genealogists. A variety of topics are covered including how to conduct a genealogical reference interview, planning programming, oral history projects, dealing with old photographs, providing good collection access, digitization projects, and more. This is the first book to cover this subject. A video about this book: <https://www.facebook.com/fosteringfamilyhistoryservices/>

A review about book from the *Library Journal*:
<http://reviews.libraryjournal.com/2016/05/books/nonfic/soc-sci/professional-media-social-sciences-reviews-june-1-2016/>

JGS of SW FL 2018 Membership Application

Single Membership: \$25/year Family Membership: \$30/year

Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) and form to:

Liz Klaber 4461 Violet Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____
E-mail _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Apt. _____
City, State, Zip _____