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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

At Shabbat services on July 13, a temple board member gave the announcements and casually mentioned from the bimah that he was surprised that a guest sitting next to him that evening had the same rare last name as him. I thought to myself, I wish that would happen to me. Before leaving temple, I noticed only two people signed the guestbook – one was the lady that the board member mentioned and the other person, to my big surprise, was a lady with my maiden name. Luckily, she wrote her e-mail address in the guestbook. I e-mailed her. She made a special trip to the temple to meet me three days after the Shabbat services. We are trying to determine how we are related.

A Toolkit for Genealogical Research

Featuring Leah R. Cook, Ed.D. Sunday, December 16, 2018

Are you new to genealogy, returning after a hiatus, or just in need of a refresher? This presentation highlights some of Dr. Cook's favorite genealogical Internet sites and other tools for genealogical research. She will share her best tips and practices for finding information on the Internet, and she will divulge some miraculous genealogical stories, including discovering her DNA-match to Kim Sheintal, president of Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida.

At the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meeting on December 16, 2018 at 1:00 pm at Aviva, Dr. Cook will *demonstrate* several websites that you can use for your own personal genealogical research. To illustrate the research tools, she will ask attendees to volunteer the name of an ancestor that she can use to demonstrate how the tool can be used. It will be a fun experience for all. Although Dr. Cook is a huge fan of Ancestry.com, this session will focus on free websites for doing genealogical research including Family Search, Find a Grave, and Yad Vashem.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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www.jgsswf.org

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

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, December 16, 2018 (1:00 PM)

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "A Toolkit for Genealogical Research"

by Leah R. Cook, Ed.D.

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

Wonderful World of Websites

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/free-genealogy-resources/free-genealogy-sites-for-australia-and-new-zealand/>

Free Genealogical Research Sites for Australia & New Zealand

http://jpost.newspaperdirect.com/epaper/iphone/homepage.aspx#_article1c14bc1d-4c7f-4133-8630-1ee4426190a5

Iberian Peninsula Jewish Heritage

https://blog.myheritage.com/2018/08/father-and-daughter-reunite-on-the-today-show/?utm_campaign=Father%20and%20Daughter%20Reunite%20on%20The%20Today%20Show&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=65453134&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-OgNDZ7Mg2Dd-oXWfGHXjYh6_Y7-gGyEtjqDxdG6cDoO3Lk4VtoanQCV6JLmp1_yh8OIXRUjl72f1f94_npfUzfnFA&_hsmi=65453134

Daughter Meets Biological Father at Age 51

<https://www.reclaimtherecords.org/>

Reclaim The Records is a "not-for-profit activist group of genealogists, historians, researchers, and open government advocates. We identify important genealogical records sets that ought to be in the public domain but which are being wrongly restricted by government archives, libraries, and agencies."

<https://www.gettyimages.com/>

Getty Images, Inc. is an American stock photo agency.

<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2018/09/12/ancestry-unveils-more-detailed-precise-ethnicity-estimates/>

More Ethnicity Estimates

<https://www.facebook.com/JewishGen.org/videos/722417231438040/>

Yefim A Kogan - JewishGen Volunteer of the Year

<http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2015/08/the-jewish-surname-process-in-the-russian-empire-and-its-effect-on-jewish-genealogy/>

Jewish Surname Process in the Russian Empire

Sarasota's Jewish Relationship with Food - Past and Present

by Kim Sheintal

The famous joke “They tried to kill us, we won, now let’s eat” is not really that far from the truth. There is hardly a way you can document your family stories without mentioning food. With that in mind, I decided to research Sarasota’s Jewish food history. Researching Jewish food history has many crossovers with researching Jewish roots.

The “Sarasota County Historical Resources” facility has local city directories and phone books going back many years. I was able to look in these directories for specific addresses and discover who or what business was at that location in a particular year. I was also able to look up the name of a business, get its address and find the name of its manager or owner in a particular year. By using the city directories and phone books, I was able to find the year a business opened and closed. I could look in the Yellow Pages of phone books to see a list of specific businesses by categories.

By posting a question on the Sarasota Jewish Network (JNet) e-mail listserv (which allows you to send e-mails to all those on the list, as well as receive e-mails from others), you can ask questions and get responses! I asked if anyone knew about the history of Sarasota’s Jewish restaurants and was surprised at how much I learned from other people. Some of the people wrote to me about Jewish restaurants in other cities and a sweet person loaned me a book about Jewish recipes from around the world.

I googled “what used to be in Sarasota” and discovered this amazing website which lists the businesses that were at the locations where current local businesses are now located.

<http://srqwhatitusedtobe.blogspot.com/2017/06/sarasota-fl.html>

There are probably websites like this for other cities.

It is hard to define Jewish food, but I found a wonderful definition in an article from the American Jewish online magazine called Tablet. The article was written by Leah Koenig, whose writings and recipes have appeared in The New York Times and The Wall Street Journal. “My own definition, honed over the years of fumbling to answer the question at cooking demonstrations, is that Jewish cuisine includes any dish that holds meaningful cultural, historical, or ritual significance to Jewish communities. But—and this is an important but—to identify a dish as Jewish does not claim it as exclusively Jewish.”

Jewish foods are influenced by the foods in places where Jewish people have lived. Sephardic cuisine refers to the foods eaten by the Jews of the Mediterranean, North Africa, the Middle East, the Red Sea region, and India. Most Ashkenazi Jews (Jews from Europe and Russia) were poor, and their food reflects this. Ashkenazic food also reflects the migration of a community first based in Germany that eventually spread eastward to Russia and Poland. What Americans usually refer to as “Jewish food” such as bagels, knishes, and borscht are the foods of the Ashkenazic Jews. Israeli foods like hummus and falafel are actually common to the Mediterranean and Arabic world and are not usually thought of as Jewish foods by Israel’s culinary experts. Kosher style or Jewish foods refer to foods commonly associated with Jewish people but which may or may not actually be kosher.

The Jewish deli has some menu items that are almost mandatory such as matzah ball soup, bagels with lox and cream cheese, chopped liver, brisket, and a pastrami sandwich on rye bread. Although plentiful in New York, Miami, Los Angeles,

and Chicago, Jewish delis have not appeared much in Sarasota. The word “delicatessen” derives from German and French and loosely translates as “delicious things to eat.” When delis began appearing in New York and other North American cities in the 1870s, Jewish delicatessens were little more than bare-bones kosher butcher shops offering sausages and cured meats. Sarasota did not even have a Jewish resident until after 1900. And if you think finding Jewish delis in Sarasota is hard, finding kosher food in Sarasota has been much harder with limited number of kosher caterers, kosher synagogues, kosher butchers, stores carrying kosher foods and assisted living facilities with a kosher dining room and restaurant. However when a Jewish Food Festival comes to Sarasota, or a Jewish deli or restaurant first opens in Sarasota, these are filled with hungry Jewish and non-Jewish people of all ages.

Jewish delis started in the United States when Jewish immigrants first came to the United States, especially New York City. The foods our families ate together are a big part of our family history. Passover, Purim, Chanukah, and Shabbat family recipes have been passed down through the generations in Jewish families. Most of these family recipes started outside of U.S. Many of our Jewish ancestors were butchers and restaurant owners. Many of the recipes served in today’s Jewish restaurants began as family recipes first made over one hundred years ago. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida published the *Shtetl Kettle* in 1996 with recipes and photos of their ancestors. Think of your family recipes: homemade gefilte fish, schmaltz, griebenes, etc. It is rare to find a Jewish person who does not like to reminisce about Jewish foods that they have eaten with their family over the years.

This is Sarasota. Let’s take a peek at some of the Jewish restaurants/delis, bagel shops, kosher foods, Jewish style caterers, and Jewish Food Festivals that appeared in Sarasota from 1950 through 2018.

In 1950, the Fiesta Grove Restaurant, a “kosher style” restaurant owned by Saul Haberman, came to Sarasota at the northeast quadrant of Tamiami Trail and Proctor Road. The Fiesta Restaurant attracted a steady clientele, including Ted Williams and other Boston Red Sox players who had their spring training in Sarasota, circus performers, and Jewish author MacKinlay Kantor. Today, Phillippi Shores Elementary School is at that location.

Dotty’s Kosher, a “kosher style” restaurant managed by Robert and Frances Kestenbaum, was located in downtown Sarasota at 1578 Main St. from 1967 until 1975. After it closed on Main Street, it moved to the northwest corner of Hillview and Tamiami Trail. It closed at that location within the same year it opened.

The Big Kitchen at 3900 Clark Road, owned by Jerry Gips, quickly became a popular eatery when it opened in 1998. Prior to owning The Big Kitchen, Jerry Gips owned Nellie’s Deli Market and Catering at 3688 Webber Street which he sold to Fredda and Craig Pohl. With The Big Kitchen such a popular restaurant among local Jews, when the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida was formulating their 2004-2005 season of programs, they asked Jerry Gips to speak at their October 17, 2004 meeting. Jerry Gips agreed and spoke on Jewish recipes and other ethnic foods. Coincidentally, the week prior to his presentation, word got out that The Big Kitchen was closing thus making this program a very big draw to the local community. The program was like a good-bye party to The Big Kitchen.

The Noshery Restaurant, a Jewish deli, was located in the Shoppes of Bay Isles on Longboat Key for many years prior to the remodeling of that shopping center in 2012.

Sarasota was excited in 2015 when Sol Meyer NY Deli opened at 1473 Main Street. On January 26, 2016 Sol Shenker announced he split from his Sol Meyer business partners – sister Samantha Ardenfriend and her husband, Dr. Meyer Rubin Samotin of Naples, – to open Sol’s NYC Delicatessen. In February 2016, Sol’s NYC Deli opened in the Main Plaza complex (former Applebees). On March 2, 2016 Sol Meyer NY Deli held a re-branding ceremony and the 1473 Main Street became Doc Sam’s NY Deli and Gourmet Eatery. The name, Doc Sam’s NY Deli & Gourmet Eatery, is a reference to owner Dr. Meyer Samotin, an orthopaedic surgeon based in Naples, and his wife, Samantha Ardenfriend, the marketing director at Samotin’s practice, Samotin Orthopaedics. Ardenfriend is the sister of Sol Shenker, the original “Sol” in the Sol Meyer NY Delicatessen before the family’s split. On February 22, 2017 Sol Shenker relocated to Gulf Gate to share a space with Panificio pizzeria at 6644 Gateway Avenue. Sol left in March 2018. In March 2018, Sol’s Deli partnered with the Starlite Room. The Starlite Room, located at 1001 Cocoanut Avenue, hired Sol Shenker to offer many of the items formerly served at his deli during the restaurant’s new lunch hours.

A popular restaurant in Sarasota known for Jewish food choices is Too Jays (3501 Tamiami Trail S.). After many years of serving Jewish style food, Sunrise Café (2725 Beneva Rd.) closed this year. Among current restaurants in Sarasota known for Israeli food choices are Fresh Start (630 S Orange Ave.) and Sahara Café & Mediterranean (1121 Tamiami Trail S.).

Around 1978, Mort Goodman and Marvin Katz opened Sarasota’s first bagel shop, the Bagel Inn, at 1902 Bay Road (now home to Rico’s Pizzeria). The Bagel Inn remained at that location until 1998. The cutest thing about the shop was the “Bagel Inn” and “Bagel Out” signs on their doors. From about 1980 until 1982, there were a Bagel Inn Bakery (1173 Palmerwood Ct.) and a Bagel Inn Main Street (1900 Main St.). From 1986 until 1999, bagel shops were multiplying in the Sarasota area with the opening of Better Bagels (7119 Tamiami Trail S. and 4804 Tamiami Trail S.), Bagelwich (4050 Cattleman Road and 3234 17th St.), Einstein Bagels (3800 Tamiami Trail S.), Manhattan Bagels (4065 Tamiami Trail S. and 935 Beneva Road N.), Morty’s Bagel Café (24 Blvd. of Presidents S.), Brueger’s Bagels (3650 Bee Ridge Road), Sarasota Bagel Café which some people knew as Yummies Donuts and Bagels (4050 Cattleman Road), and R & J Bagel Factory & Deli (1600 Ken Thompson Parkway). Better Bagels at 7119 Tamiami Trail S. had kosher bagels, but none of the other bagel shops had kosher bagels until Shapp’s Bagels opened in 2015. During the 1990s, bagel shops enjoyed a rise in popularity across the United States, but by the late 1990s, American bagelry was experiencing an unprecedented crisis. Across the country, bagel shops were closing. The three bagel shops currently in Sarasota are Lox and Eggs (which opened in 2007 at the same location as Manhattan Bagel) at 4065 Tamiami Trail S., Einstein Bagels (which opened in 1997) at 3800 Tamiami Trail S. aka “Coffee and Bagels” or “Einstein Bagels and Caribou Coffee”, and Brooklyn Bagels & Deli at 6970 Beneva Road. In addition, there is currently Shapp’s Bagels, a kosher bagel distributor, at 1979 Northgate Blvd. Shapp’s Bagels are boiled and hand rolled in New York City with the water of the Catskill Mountains as opposed to most bagels

which are machine rolled and steamed. This list would be much longer if bagel shops from past and present in Bradenton, Venice, Holmes Beach, and other nearby towns were added. The talk of the town for any city with multiple bagel shops is which one makes the best bagel.

Kosher food items (meats, poultry, baked goods, etc.) can be found at some Sarasota stores that carry groceries. Kosher frozen meat and poultry plus other kosher products are available from Kosher Kaddy delivered from the Tampa area for a small fee. In 1980, Jo-El’s Kosher Deli opened in St. Petersburg (less than one hour from Sarasota) with many kosher food items, a full service butcher shop, and prepared kosher foods to eat in or take home. Morton’s Market owned the Kosher Corner, a kosher market with butcher, dry goods, and baked goods. The Kosher Corner was open from about 2003-2005. Orit Cohen was hired as the main chef. For kosher supervision, Zev Shifrin was hired as the mashgiach to supervise on behalf of Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz. Zev Shifrin is the brother of Sara Steinmetz. Sara Steinmetz is the wife of Rabbi Steinmetz. Morton’s daughter who managed Morton’s Market closed the Kosher Corner so that Morton’s Market could expand in that space. After the Kosher Corner closed, Leon who worked at Kosher Corner started Leon’s, a Jewish market on Bahia Vista, but Leon’s was not kosher and was only open a short time. Ann Silverberg, a very good saleslady, worked at Kosher Corner and Leon’s. Mattison’s and Michael’s On East can cater a kosher event, because Chabad of Sarasota has separate set of dishes and koshers their facility upon request. A kitchen must be closed for 24 hours to be cleaned and koshered under rabbinic supervision before the kosher cooking begins. Aviva: A Campus for Senior Living is the only kosher style senior living facility in Sarasota.

Leonard and Helen Rothman moved to Sarasota in 1960. In 1964, they opened Leonard’s of Sarasota, a very successful and well known bakery and catering service known for its Jewish style food. They owned and operated Leonard’s until 1988.

In 2003, the Flanzer Jewish Community Center held a Culinary Classic and featured food from chefs Craig Pohl of Nellie’s Deli, Mara Routh of Celebrations, Joey Norombaba of Michael’s On East, Paul Mattison of Mattison’s, and American Bistro, plus wine comped by National Distributing. Among the guests were event sponsor Andrew Vac of RE/MAX Excellence with Ramona Glanz, Rob Hoback, Classic chairman Jerry Gips (owner of Big Kitchen, with wife, Luann, and mom, Louise), Terry McKee of Nuovo Salon, Mark Sharff, Ed Brickman and Gloria Weissberg, JCC board chairman Dick Blumenthal and guests Mitch and Colleen Blumenthal, and JCC interim executive director Betsy Schwartz. From about 2003 thru 2007 The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee, sponsored food festivals which served a big variety of Jewish style and Israeli foods. Chabad of Sarasota (with The Jewish Federation), Temple Sinai, and Jewish Center of Venice each started having annual Jewish food festivals shortly after 2007. Chabad of Sarasota with The Jewish Federation have an annual Taste of Chanukah that has strictly kosher food that is provided by vendors, including Michael’s On East’s kosher brisket dinners and latkes fried on site by Munchies. Temple Sinai usually has their Jewish food festival in January and the Jewish Center of Venice has their Jewish food festival in February.

On January 3, 2019 at 3:30 pm at Aviva, I will present “Sarasota’s Jewish Relationship with Food - Past and Present” for the public. If interested e-mail me at klapshain@aol.com.

Beteavon! (Beh-tay-ah-vohn is Hebrew for good appetite.)

Websites about Jewish and Israeli Food History

- “The Genealogy of the Jewish Deli”
(<https://daily.jstor.org/the-genealogy-of-the-jewish-deli/>)
- “Is There a Secret Ingredient in the Jewish Relationship with Food?”
(<https://www.momentmag.com/is-there-a-secret-ingredient-in-the-jewish-relationship-with-food/>)
- “Israeli Food”
(<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/israeli-food/>)

101 Best Websites

Family Tree Magazine published their annual 101 Best Websites for family history information and honors the individuals & organizations who create the sites (17 categories).
<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>

- Best Big Genealogy Websites
- Best European Genealogy Websites
- Best Genealogy Records Websites
- Best US Genealogy Websites
- Best African-American Genealogy Websites
- 101 Best Websites 2018
- Best State Genealogy Websites
- Best Genealogy Library Websites
- Best Genealogy News Websites and Blogs
- Best Social History Websites
- Best Family Tree and Sharing Websites
- Best Genetic Genealogy Websites
- Best Genealogy Apps and Tech Tools
- Best Canadian Genealogy Websites
- Best Mapping Websites for Genealogy
- Best Websites for Immigrant Research
- Best Websites for Old Newspapers

Congratulations to JewishGen.org for being included.
Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,
IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

JGS of SW FL Revised Program for Sunday, January 20, 2019 @ 1:00 PM at Aviva “Jewish Genealogical Discoveries”

Sometimes genealogical surprises come to us in unexpected ways. Keeping good records and having a good memory are often key to putting together pieces of a genealogical puzzle. Mike Schwartz will present his story which illustrates one such example when he presents The Table, The Diary, and the Road to Discovery. Learn about the International Association of Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) conference that took place last summer in Poland from Doug Cohen, IAJGS Treasurer, and hear what he found in Poland about his family.

Reclaim The Records: Acquiring Geographical New York City Birth Index

Reclaim The Records plans to place online a Geographical New York City Birth Index. This index will be sorted by street address on birth certificates. It can be useful when searching the index by name does not prove successful. The range of years is approximately 1885–1912. These images should be online for free public use by the end of 2018 or early 2019.

Family Search and Ellis Island Announce Expanded Ellis Island Records 1820-1957

All New York Passenger Lists are now free to search on the Ellis Island Website! While Ellis Island opened in 1892, their website has added New York ships' passenger lists back to 1820. FamilySearch and the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation announced that searchable New York passenger lists for 1820-1892 are available for free on the Ellis Island website: <https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/passenger>. The joint project also has placed an index to the records on the free FamilySearch website: <https://www.familysearch.org/>. The index links to record images on the Ellis Island site. On either website, you'll need a free registration to view matches to your search results.

There are three distinct collections:

- Castle Garden: New York Passenger Lists 1820-1891
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1849782?collectionNameFilter=false>
- Ellis Island New York Passenger Arrival Lists 1892-1924
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1368704?collectionNameFilter=false>
- New York, New York Passenger and Crew Lists 1909, 1925-1957 (ships and airplanes)
<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1923888?collectionNameFilter=false>

On the Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation website you may search and view for free. However, downloading the passenger record must be purchased as that is how the foundation gets support for its work. However, by searching on FamilySearch and accessing the digitized record there you are able to search, view and download to your computer for free.

A fire on Ellis Island in 1897 burned most of the New York Passenger lists dating from 1855 stored on the Island.
<https://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/ellis-timeline>

An interesting narrative about the fire appeared in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle at the time of the fire, which may be read at http://members.tripod.com/~L_Alfano/BrooklynEagleJune15.htm

What we see on genealogy websites such as FamilySearch, Ancestry, My Heritage etc. are actually the customs lists. What are customs lists? The ship's purser recorded the customs list alongside passenger lists the US Customs Office collected passenger lists from ship's captains. These records have been microfilmed and indexed, and now fill the holes burned by the 1897 fire.

To read more see: <https://media.familysearch.org/expanded-ellis-island-immigrant-records-1820-1957-online/>

There is an interesting list of countries and number of immigrants from 1892-1931 located at:
<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/ellis-island-castle-garden-immigration/>

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,
IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida 2019 Membership Dues

Single Membership: \$25/year Family Membership: \$30/year
Sustaining Membership: \$50/year for single or family
Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with your name, e-mail, phone, address and surnames/places you are tracing to:
Liz Klaber 5389 Manchini St. Sarasota, Florida 34238