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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

If you are thinking about writing your life story, don't miss the JGS of SW FL program on March 17 at 1:00 pm at Aviva.

In this unique presentation, Mike Karsen walks the audience through the process of preserving the memories of departed loved ones. Where genealogy meets family history, this presentation explores the elements of putting together an individual's life story. Framed against the backdrop of historical context, these elements begin with collecting the information and various formats and styles available to each author. These efforts result in written portraits of our ancestors that bring them back to life for future generations to know and cherish.

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Members

Martha Issod ~ Jeff and Anita Knisbacher
Alan Loew ~ Randi Marcus ~ Liela Nelson

Thank You to JGS of SW FL Sustaining Members

Doug Cohen ~ Leah Cook ~ Howard Finkel
Felice Hedge ~ Gerald Lasin

New Filtering System for DNA Matches

https://blog.myheritage.com/2018/06/revolutionary-new-filtering-system-for-dna-matching/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_201807&utm_term=Filtering+for+DNA+Matches&utm_content=EN&tr_date=20180715

JGS of Toronto has Mini-Website about DNA

The JGS of Toronto has a DNA SIG for its members and the general public that maintains a separate mini-website "Jewish Genetic Genealogy in Toronto" at dna.jgstoronto.ca. All and any DNA and genetic genealogy questions are welcome in their DNA discussion forum, but you need to be a JGS Toronto member to access the forum and participate. To learn how to get started, go to: <https://sites.google.com/jgstoronto.ca/dna-sig/getting-started>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

www.jgsswf.org

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

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, March 17, 2019 (1:00 PM)

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "Preserve Your Ancestor's Legacy:
Write Their Life Story"

by Mike Karsen

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

Wonderful World of Websites

<https://bcgcertification.org/standards-for-dna-evidence/>
Standards for DNA Evidence

https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2017/12/06/dna-question-how-can-i-tell-matches-from-my-mothers-and-fathers-side-apart/?o_xid=92161&o_lid=92161&o_sch=Email+Programs
How can I tell matches from my mother's and father's side apart

https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2017/12/07/5-tips-for-discovering-biological-family-with-ancestrydna/?o_xid=92157&o_lid=92157&o_sch=Email+Programs
Ancestry DNA Tips

https://blog.myheritage.com/2018/11/myheritage-live-2018-lectures-now-online/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_201812&utm_term=MyHeritage+LIVE+&utm_content=EN&tr_date=20181208
lectures from MyHeritage LIVE, their first-ever user conference

https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=957
Gilad Japhet, founder and CEO of MyHeritage, talks of his passion for genealogy which began as a 13-year-old in Israel.

https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2018/12/familytreewebinarscom-adds-captioning-to-hundreds-of-genealogy-and-dna-education-classes.html
Legacy Family Tree Webinars, part of the My Heritage family of companies have added captions to hundreds of Genealogy and DNA Education Classes.

<https://familytreewebinars.com/#>
Webinar Library with Captions

https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=986
Why Take a DNA Test

<http://www.iajgs2019.org/>
IAJGS Conference in Cleveland, Ohio: July 28 - August 2, 2019

Family history or soap opera?

The saga begins in Baltimore

by Jeff Knisbacher

On June 26, 1900, my great great grandfather Aaron Shmul TISSENBAUM arrived at the Port of Baltimore with his second wife, their five children and their first grandchild. Aaron Shmul was the maternal grandfather of my maternal grandfather, Shlomo Yeshaya (Isaiah) LIMONCZYK (later Sol LEHMAN). My grandfather Sol was named for his grandfather's father, shown in a Russian census record from 1858 as Shlioma Shaya, married to Dvosya, a variant of Dvora (Deborah). Aaron Shmul was one of Shlioma Shaya's seven children shown on that list. (There was at least one more, a daughter who had married into my maternal family and was thus out of this household when the census was recorded.)

Although Aaron Shmul wound up staying in Baltimore (initially with landsleit), his arrival manifest listed a destination as a "brother in Minneapolis". When I first discovered that document around 1997, there was very little information to be had on the Internet. Trying to find this unnamed brother, whom nobody had ever heard of, meant hour long transportation trips from Baltimore to DC, followed by another half hour on foot to get to either the Library of Congress (to look up city directory listings for Minneapolis) or the National Archives (for census records). In both cases the records were on microfilm, which meant arduous and time-consuming searches.

The first positive result showed up at the Library of Congress in a 1904 Minneapolis city directory listing for one Arthur TISENBOM, followed by a couple of others up to 1910. In all of them he was involved in the scrap metal business. At that point I waited for my work schedule to permit a trip to the National Archives where I searched for census records, first for 1900, which turned up nothing, and then 1910, which did show a TISCHENBAUM family, with five children, headed by mother Lena, but no Arthur. Since the last child was only six months old, I wondered what happened to Arthur. Had he died after his third daughter was born, did he abandon his family, was he temporarily absent to visit other TISSENBAUM family somewhere else? The 1920 census eliminated the first possibility. He was alive and well then, but in a town now known as Litchfield some 60 miles west of Minneapolis, where he was listed as a buyer of "furs, hides and junk." However his wife Lena was not there, and I later found a death certificate for her from 1919. And there the matter rested, mostly unresolved, until this year.

As I was trying to arrange 20 years worth of old records, I was reminded of this puzzle and decided to revisit the records I had previously printed out from microfilm, this time via Web resources such as Family Search or Ancestry. Bingo, the 1910 and 1920 censuses were both there. Not only that, but there was another 1910 record that I had not found in those microfilm searches two decades back. Arthur TISENBAUM (that spelling) was alive and in Minnesota, but not in Minneapolis. He was in Stillwater, the state prison!

The next step was to recheck the 1920 census, and this produced even more surprises. Of the five children that Lena had listed in 1910—Freda, Fannie, Leon, Yasheiah (later Carl), and Sarah (later Carrie)—Leon was singled out in a note I had

totally missed before. According to Arthur, Leon was NOT his child (or Lena's), but his daughter's. From information I had collected from some of Arthur's descendants in the intervening years, I knew that Arthur had been married previously, with two children, a son and a daughter. The son was Oscar, who showed up with Arthur in a couple of the Minneapolis city directory listings before 1910. At that time I could only guess that he might be Arthur's son, but later found Oscar's Social Security application (the SS-5 form) which listed Arthur as his father and his mother as Sonia ZIPPERMAN. None of the descendants knew the name of Arthur's daughter from this first marriage.

But a couple of years ago, as I kept searching new records for TISSENBAUM, I did find arrival records for a brother and sister heading to a father Alta TISSENBAUM in Minneapolis. Though the names (and even gender for the daughter) were scrambled on the index to these records, the actual 1903 ship manifest (for the *Lake Michigan*, out of Liverpool and heading to Montreal) showed an Anshel and a Cirl (Tsirl). Anshel is a Yiddishized version of the Hebrew Asher, which could easily be where the name Oscar came from. And Alta was obviously the source of Arthur. I also learned from some of Arthur's descendants, who had all moved to California in the mid-1920s, that Arthur himself had moved to Oklahoma. (I speculate that with his background in junk and scrap metal, he was hoping to make a good living supplying the burgeoning oil drilling industry in that state.) Most important, I was able to find that he died in Oklahoma City in 1940 and then to locate his tombstone in a Jewish cemetery. The tombstone confirmed that Arthur was "Alta". The actual inscription on his stone gave his full name as Netanel (Nathaniel) Alter.

Back again to the 1920 census. Not only had I missed the note about Leon not being Arthur's son, but I also missed the fact that Arthur and his children were then living in the same house as another family (part of which was listed on a separate page that I had never printed out) with a Harry and Cecilia RAIZES and their three children. This Cecilia was the long lost daughter from Arthur's first marriage, whose name no one had remembered. (Harry was also working in "furs, hides and junk," presumably together with his father-in-law.) Further investigation revealed another piece of the puzzle. Harry, eleven years older than his wife, and Cecilia had been married, in Minneapolis, in late 1906, AFTER Leon's birth earlier that year (from his WWII enlistment record). So Leon was illegitimate and illegitimate births back then, unlike today, were a very big deal. We can speculate that Arthur and Lena claimed him as their own (in 1910), in order to avoid a scandal and maintain her marriageability. But then you have to wonder how long the two families were living together and if Harry (or even Leon) knew of his real parentage. Clearly the family was enduring a lot of hardship, which may well explain Arthur's legal troubles and Lena's early death in 1919.

And there is still more. While searching this year in the Library of Congress's online digital newspaper series "Chronically America," I came upon a fascinating news story about son Leo TISENBAUM, both in a Grand Forks, ND paper and a nearly identical one in the Washington Evening Star of May 15, 1912 as shown in this copy:

SIX YEAR OLD HERO SAVED SISTER'S LIFE

Minneapolis, May 15.—Leo Tissenbaum, aged 6, today walked into a local hospital and insisted that physicians remove sufficient skin from his body to cover the burns which had kept his sister Fannie, aged 7, confined in the hospital for the last ten months. The lad's request was complied with and after the transfer of cuticle, physicians declared the chances of ultimate recovery greatly had been increased.

Presumably such an unlikely human interest story was shared all over the country and the two notices that I found were simply the ones that the Library of Congress happened to have in a digitized format.

So in the space of six years, from 1906-1912, this family suffered through three cataclysmic events: an illegitimate birth, a prison sentence for the head of a household of five children, and then, in 1912, a disastrous fire. As it turns out, Leo did, in fact, save his sister's life as she appears in that 1920 census and in later censuses in California. But what about the rest of the family? While Lena's family moved to California, the RAZES (later RAIZES) moved to Philadelphia where they appear in a 1930 census. Arthur himself, as we have seen, moved to Oklahoma, but no Arthur TISSENBAUM (the 1920 census spelling) or TISENBAUM, shows up after that.

However that is still not the end of the story. In 1940 in Oklahoma, almost by accident, I found an Oscar TISSIEBAUM. My initial thought was that this was Arthur's son Oscar who had come to visit him (shortly before Arthur passed away that year). But, no, Oscar, in the same month of April, is listed correctly as Oscar TISSENBAUM, running a cleaning business which he had for years, and living with his own family in Los Angeles. The Oklahoma Oscar TISSIEBAUM claimed to be a 60 year old widower, born in Pennsylvania and working as a salesman for a dry goods company. But this had to be Arthur since the address given was almost identical to the address listed on his death certificate a few months later in July. Moreover the man who signed that certificate was his son Carl from his second marriage, not Oscar. Since several previous documents showed Arthur's birth year as somewhere between 1867 and 1869 (his death certificate has Dec. 27, 1866), his claim to be 60 in 1940 (hence born around 1880) seems to be an attempt to appear younger than he really was. With so much bogus information, it is hard to decide if any of what he told the census taker is true, and equally hard to avoid the conclusion that Arthur may have been back in trouble with the law.

One final note. Arthur's death certificate, filled out by son Carl, claimed that Arthur had no Social Security, But that also turned out to be wrong, though certainly not a deliberate error on Carl's part. (Carl said that Arthur had been in Oklahoma for

14 years, hence since about 1926, the same time frame that his children were leaving Minnesota, either for California or for Philadelphia.) A recent search on Ancestry turned up Arthur's Social Security application (from July, 1937), where he listed his father as Morris TISSENBAUM and his mother as Freda ANGELMAN (surely the source of his daughter Freda's name). But these are NOT the parents of my great great grandfather Aaron Shmul, so he and Arthur could not have been biological brothers! The mystery continues.

Do What I Say Not What I Did - Preparing for a Natural Disaster

As many of you know I live in the greater Los Angeles area and went through the recent disastrous Woolsey fire. We are very fortunate when we returned from mandatory evacuation orders our home was untouched—while blocks from us some homes no longer stand, the hills surrounding our area burned all the way. I am writing an article for our society's newsletter on emergency preparedness and thought I would share it with you—this is relevant whether you live in a hurricane/flood area, fire/mudslide area or earthquake area. The fires in Northern California are still raging so this is pertinent for other areas, and our thoughts are with those in Northern California with thousands lost their homes, many deaths and missing as well as Southern California for those hundreds who lost their homes. We in California will expect the mud slides if this winter we get any rain. The following is meant for all of us as disasters hit all parts of world: fire, earthquake, mudslide, hurricanes. The article is a guide and not meant to be all inclusive:

Even knowing that a mandatory evacuation was more probable than not, I did not pack up my genealogical binders with papers, nor my family photos— and many have not been scanned as they are framed. I do have an offsite back-up system that runs several times a day—Mozy/Carbonite so everything on my computer could be downloaded to another computer if necessary after the fires.

When the call came from the Agoura Hills City Manager as part of their outstanding e-notification system we were out in less than 15 minutes. We each packed a suitcase with clothes for 3 days, medications, list of medications and the dog's food and medications. I took my travel laptop with connections so it could be charged, cellphones and chargers. We took the "important" papers—passports, social security cards, will, trust, credit cards, extra cash etc. but not the genealogy documents I have been working on for 20 years. We were lucky that the house was not damaged. I grabbed my hotel affinity cards on the way out and that helped us find a hotel 50 miles away. We also have two hepa filters in the house due to allergies and one of the smartest things we did is we left them on while we were gone—when we returned no smoke odor in our home, unlike some of our neighbors.

So this is what I recommend everyone does before the next disaster hits whether it is fire, earthquake, mudslide or hurricane:

All family members may not be home when the disaster strikes. Know in advance where a central meeting place would be in case of disaster and remind family members several times a year. Know how to contact each family member—remember phone lines may be down during a disaster.

Make a list of items you absolutely must take: (medications, important legal papers, credit cards, hotel affinity cards, additional cash, insurance policy and contact number list of

contacts, cellphone and laptop/tablet and their chargers, extra set of car and home keys, safe deposit box keys, jewelry, first aid kit/supplies-bandages, antibiotic ointment, glasses, extra cash-ATMs may not be working if the electrical power is down, maps-Waze may not be working in an emergency, family and emergency contact information, scissors, manual razor, matches, plastic-large garbage bags if that is all you can get, work gloves, masks especially those for particulate matter—we got ours before we returned home from Home Depot, blankets if you can, etc.).

After the Florida Hurricanes last year, on recommendation by Dick Eastman in his newsletter, I purchased a backup battery that has outlets for both USB and 120Volt. Keep this charged and in the trunk of your car. The USB port lets you back up your phone when the electricity is down; the regular outlets lets you charge other items, and his model also has the capability to charge the car battery. We took my husband's car not mine (one car so we would not get separated) so the backup battery stayed home-but it was all charged and ready to go. We just forgot about it as we were not taking my car. Next time, and there will be a next time, if we take only one car it goes with us!

Start scanning in your family photos because you may not have the time to take them from throughout the house when you have to evacuate.

Make certain that you have an offsite back-up system so that your computer work is at least stored offsite if your home is destroyed you can salvage your computer documents.

Set up a large container with canned and dry foods, individual containers of fruit juice and bottled water, paper plates and disposable forks, knives and spoons. A rule of thumb is one gallon of water per person per day and food for three days per person. For an emergency you can place this container in your car and have at least a few days of supplies. In that container include extra batteries, flashlight, a manual can opener, baggies, and toiletries including a brush/comb, toothpaste, toothbrush, hand mirror, toilet paper and paper towels, manual razor and matches. I also include Yahrzeit candles and a battery operated portable radio. If you have a pet, keep extra dry pet food and a portable dish for food and another for water. If you can, bring the pet's bed or blanket. Keep a case of bottled water next to your evacuation kit to take with you. At least twice a year look for the expiry dates on the canned and dry foods, and bottled water, so that the food/water is "edible" when it is necessary to be used. Restock at least 1-2 times a year depending on expiry dates. While we have all of this we did not take it for the fires as we felt we would be able to find shelter and luckily we did.

Try to keep your car's gas tank at least half-filled at all times. One never knows when disaster strikes and you have to go at a moment's notice. We filled up both cars earlier in the day just in case.

Homeland Security has a blurb on Preparing My Family For A Disaster with suggestions of what to do in advance and when the disaster hits: <https://www.dhs.gov/how-do-i/prepare-my-family-disaster>.

Read the FEMA Advice Sheets on:

- **Advice after the fire: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures**

<https://tinyurl.com/y8njwm4f>

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1452020463438-03d4365a46c620bdd1ad1e854379c237/Fire_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508.pdf (original url)

- **After the flood: Advice for Salvaging Damaged Family Treasures**

<https://tinyurl.com/y7wtfwj1>

https://www.fema.gov/media-library-data/1537903646474-713c46c9f75fc24d3184cfc95ab98260/Flood_FIMA_Fact_Sheet_2015_508_rev_092418.pdf (original url)

Society Preparedness

Some of the above may also be relevant for your society. You also need to prepare in advance. Make a list of your society's "valuables" such as laptop, projector list of library books, etc. You may not be able to take the books with you but having a list of what you have may assist in getting remuneration from your insurance company. If your society has valuable historical/genealogical documents try to have them in an accessible place to be removed if time permits—but definitely have a photo of them and both scan the photos to an offsite backup system and place the original photos in a vault offsite. I took with me the society's brand new lap top and the treasurer took the society's check book and checks. More than half of our JGS board were mandatory evacuated ranging from 1-4 days. Take a list of names/cellphones of your board members with you to be in touch. I contacted the JGSCV Board members when we arrived in our location 50 miles away to check on their status and let them know they could contact me. I also took a roster of our members—on my laptop and hardcopy in case we had to contact them—we didn't but it is something to consider.

I hope none of us ever have to survive the various possible disasters-but we do need to be prepared. Try to do what I say not what I did.

Jan Meisels Allen, President, JGSCV

Manatee Genealogical Society 2019 Seminar

Date: Saturday, March 16, 2019 **Time:** 8:00 am to 4:00 pm

Place: Bradenton, FL (Manatee Technical College)

Speaker: Dr. Thomas Wright Jones, PhD (award-winning genealogical researcher, writer, editor, and educator)

Session Topics:

- The Jones Jinx - Tracing Common Surnames
- Converting a Bunch of Information into a Credible Conclusion
- Can a Complex Research Problem be Solved Solely Online?
- Using Indirect and Negative Evidence to Prove Unrecorded Events

Cost of Seminar: \$45 Members; \$55 Non-Members; optional lunch, add \$10

Register: <https://mgsfl.org/> **Email questions:** info@mgsfl.org

JGS of SW FL Special Musical Program

Sunday, April 21, 2019: "Jewish Women of Valor" with singing and guitar by Rosalie Leon

JGS of SW FL 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

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Sarasota, Florida 34238