

Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida (published quarterly)  
**MISHPOCHOLOGY Volume 8, Number 3 Fall 2003**

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**JGS of SW FL Board of Directors**

President and Editor: Kim Sheintal klapshein@aol.com

Treasurer: Gerry Chernoff cher751@comcast.net

Secretary: Sue Davis suedavis101@comcast.net

Membership: Sabina Zimmer zwriteman@yahoo.com

Programs: Irene Midler irmsam@comcast.net

Publicity: Lee Ruggles lee0614@juno.com

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Mishpochology is published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida.  
Letters to the editor, articles, and brick walls pertaining to Jewish genealogy are welcome.

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**Next Meeting for the JGS of SW FL**

**Date: Sunday, October 26, 2003**

**Time: 1:00 PM**

**Place: JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota**

**Program: Restoration and Conservation of Documents, Photos, Letters, etc.**

**by Nikki Meyer, member of the American Institute for Conservation of Historic & Artistic Works**

**Bring one of your "paper" heirlooms and hear what can be done to restore and conserve it.**

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**President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal**

When I started to trace my family, I did not even know where my own parents were born, let alone my grandparents, and now I can tell you when and where all of my grandparents were born, the names of all 8 of my great grandparents, the names of 9 of my 16 great great grandparents, the names of 6 of my great great great grandparents, and the name of one of my great great great great grandparents. In fact, I even have a photo of one of my great great great grandparents and it was even taken of him in the United States!

There are lots of excuses for not pursuing your genealogy: "I wouldn't even know where to begin." "There is no one left who has any information." "All the records have been destroyed." With some guidance, you can successfully explore the massive amount of records available, and go on to discover the roots and branches of your family tree. The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida is here to help you at the monthly meetings from October thru May with informative lectures at the Flanzer JCC in Sarasota.

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**IAJGS Outstanding Publication Award:** The JGSPBCI (JGS in Palm Beach, Florida) was honored with the Outstanding Publication Award 2003 at the 23<sup>rd</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington DC on July 24, 2003. Sylvia Furshman Nusinov has been on cloud nine ever since her workbook, *Beginners and Intermediate Genealogical Workbook*, was credited with the award. JGSPBI President Marv Hamburg and Sylvia were presented the award at the conference with an engraved plaque. The *Beginners and Intermediate Genealogical Workbook* (priced at \$15.00) is an invaluable tool for all researchers with a guide to geographic repositories and historical archives - focusing on references, charts and forms covering a wide range of information to aid in planning and organizing one's genealogical research.

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**JGS of SW FL Library:** This summer, we have added three books to our library: *From Generation to Generation* (revised edition) by Arthur Kurzweil, *Family Reunions Handbook* by Barbara Brown and Tom Ninkovich, and *How to Find Almost Anyone, Anywhere* by Norma Mott Tillman. Hal Atkins was given a CD Rom (*Jewish Genealogy Yearbook 1998-2003*) for our library while in DC at the IAJGS conference.

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**JGS of SW Florida Meeting Schedule** (all meetings begin 1PM at JCC in Sarasota) – Guests Welcome

**Sunday, October 26, 2003:** Nikki Meyer will speak about restoring and conserving documents.

**Sunday, November 16, 2003:** Dr. James P. LaPolla, a gynecologic oncologist from St. Petersburg, will speak on genetics and cancer and how it relates to Ashkenazi Jews. He will present invaluable information.

**Sunday, December 14, 2003:** Dr. Winn Taplin will speak on "The Inseparables: Genealogy and History."

**Sunday, January 18, 2004**

**Sunday, February 15, 2004**

**Sunday, March 21, 2004**

**Sunday, April 18, 2004**

**Sunday, May 16, 2004:** Pot Luck Luncheon

## Jewish Genealogy Trips Around the World

IAJGS Inaugural Jewish Genealogical Cruise, Dec. 1 - 5, 2003

### CANCELLED

The IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) was sponsoring a western Caribbean cruise, but had to cancel because of lack of participation.

The 24<sup>th</sup> IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

[www.ortra.com/jgen2004](http://www.ortra.com/jgen2004)

Jerusalem, July 4-9, 2004

**Jewish Genealogical Research Trip to Salt Lake City** - If you failed to have your genealogical "fix" for the year because you did not attend the very successful International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held recently in Washington, D.C., consider spending a week doing research in Salt Lake City. Every year, veteran professional genealogist Eileen Polakoff and Gary Mokotoff accompany a group of Jewish genealogists on a research trip to Salt Lake City. This year's dates are October 28 - November 6. Experience levels range from absolute beginners to advanced researchers all of whom take advantage of the individual consultations with Eileen and Gary as well as access to the 2.5 million microfilm reels of records at the LDS (Mormon) Family History Library. For more information <http://www.avotaynu.com/slctrip.htm>

## Did Grandma Marry A Nice Jewish Doctor?

By Larry E. Oppenheimer

Did Grandma Marry A Nice Jewish Doctor? Or, for that matter, did she marry any physician? The American Medical Association has collected biographical information about American physicians for many years. The information about physicians who dies between 1906 and 1964, inclusive, currently resides with the National Genealogical Society ([www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)). For \$20.00, \$15.00 if you are a member of the NGS, they will send you a copy of any record from this "Physicians' Database."

What kind of information might you find in this database? Date and place of birth, (in the case of my great grandfather, "Warshow, Russia 1860"), early education ("Gymnasium of Warshow"), medical education, address, and practice specialty. Also place and date of death, abstract of death notice, and the source of the information about the death. In addition, a reference to the obituary that appeared in the Journal of the American Medical Association was included in the response to my request.

Is this the kind of information that is likely to solve all of your genealogical problems? Probably not. But it is the kind of material that adds human interest to the trunk and branches of the family tree.

## Wonderful World of Websites

Texas Seaport Museum's Galveston Immigration Database:  
<http://www.pearland.com>

Catalogued U.S. Newspapers: published in the United States from the eighteenth century to the present - can be found at:  
<http://www.neh.gov/projects/usnp.html>

A listing of 10,000 newspapers from around the world, searchable by country and then by publication can be found online at:  
[www.onlinenewspapers.com](http://www.onlinenewspapers.com)

CENTROPA is a compilation of the largest online library of privately owned pre- and post-Holocaust family photographs and oral histories ever assembled in Central and Eastern Europe:  
[www.centropa.org/mainpage/main.asp](http://www.centropa.org/mainpage/main.asp)

Landsmanshaften were societies formed and based on connections to the villages of the Old Country. Records may be accessed at YIVO, the Institute for Jewish Research - and accessed thru their website which also gives an explanation of the 918 records available at:  
[http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/accessing\\_yivo\\_records.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/Belarus/accessing_yivo_records.htm)

JewishWeb Index is a compendium of thousands of links and bits and pieces of information relative to researching your roots:  
<http://jewishwebindex.com>

FEFHHS East European Map Room:  
<http://feefhs.org/maps/indexmap.html>

### SEARCHING ON THE WEB

There are unlimited resources available to you when accessing Search Engines. The most popular is Google: <http://Google.com>  
Three more places to aid your genealogy search are -  
US Search: <http://www.ussearch.com/wlcs/index.jsp>  
Vivismo Document Clustering: <http://vivismo.com>  
Surname Navigator: <http://www.rat.de/kuijsten/navigator/>

### CENSUS TOOLS

<http://censustools.com/census/download.html>  
U.S. Federal 1790-1930; Iowa Census 1836-1925; Kansas 1865-1925; Massachusetts 1855-1865; Minnesota 1849-1895; New Jersey 1855-1915; New York 1825-1925; Wisconsin 1836-1905 plus trackers and check lists for the above states. Also includes Canadian Census spreadsheets for 1851-1901; English for 1841-1891; Irish 1821-1911; Scottish 1841-1891 plus trackers and check lists for those. U.S. Special Schedules are also on the list of downloads. Invaluable tool to keep track of your records. Hint...copy the instructions before you start to download.

JEWISH GENEALOGY RESOURCES ON THE WEB  
<http://www.genealogyforum.rootsweb.com/gfaol/resource/Jewish/>

## Local Genealogical Societies

Manasota Genealogical Society meets the first Wednesday of the month at 10 AM from October thru May. Meetings are at the Central Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. in Bradenton, FL. A 1:30 PM workshop usually follows lunch. President is Pat Richley Foy. (DearMyrtle@aol.com).  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs/>

Englewood Genealogical Society meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:00 PM from September through May. Meetings are at the Elsie Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn W. Street (1/2 block from 776 on the right) in Englewood. President is Peggy McCoullough. (PEGGYJAI2@aol.com).  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flegsf/>

Genealogical Society of Sarasota (GSS) meets the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM from October thru May. (Second Saturday in December.) Meetings are at the Selby Library, 1331 1st St. in Sarasota. President is Armin Gumerman. (gumermana@aol.com).  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss/>

Manasota PAF Users Group meets first Saturday of the month at 9:15 AM from October thru June. Meetings are at the South Branch Library, 6081 26<sup>th</sup> St. West in Bradenton. 30% genealogy software, 30% basic how-to, 30% Internet research, 10% free-for-all fun and sharing. For more information, contact Elsie Naylor (GenElsieN@aol.com).  
<http://www.dearmyrtle.com/PAF/index.htm>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meets the third Sunday of the month at 1 PM from October thru May. (Fourth Sunday in October and Second Sunday in December.) Meetings are at the JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Rd. in Sarasota. President is Kim Sheintal. (klapshein@aol.com)  
<http://www.jewish-sarasota.org/jgs/jgssofswfl.htm>

South Bay Genealogical Society (Sun City Center) meets the third Tuesday of the month at 12:00 noon from September thru May. The luncheon meeting has a speaker each month which meets at Tropics Restaurant, Bahia Beach in Ruskin. There are several SIG groups that meet in the Caper Room in Sun City Center during the month: PAF meets the first Monday night, Family Tree Maker meets the third Monday night, Family Tree Maker and PAF meet the fourth Thursday morning of the month and the German Club meets twice a year. President is Maurice Bigger. Musholt (wmusholt@tampabay.rr.com)

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to:  
Kim Sheintal 4462 Violet Ave. Sarasota, FL 34233  
Single Membership \$20 per year  
Family Membership \$25 per year

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

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Welcome new member – Bernice Davis

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### Jewish Genealogical Societies in Florida

Jewish Genealogical Society of Broward County, Inc. (Ft. Lauderdale)  
Bob Koltnow, President (bobkolt@aol.com)  
<http://jgsbroward.org/>

Jacksonville Jewish Genealogical Society  
Sherrie Harris, President (sherrie@fdn.com)  
No website

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Miami, Inc.  
Joan Parker, President (housemom@att.net)  
Under construction

Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando  
Jerry A. Kurland, Chairman (surrealgraphics@earthlink.net)  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgscf>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County, Inc.  
Dr. Marvin Hamburg, President (Jakies51@aol.com)  
New website under construction

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida  
Kim Sheintal, President (klapshein@aol.com)  
<http://www.jewish-sarasota.org/jgs/jgssofswfl.htm>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tallahassee  
Charles B. Nam, president (charlesnam@earthlink.net)  
<http://tfn.net/clubs> (look under "societies")

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay  
Mark Baron, president (JGSTampaBay@yahoo.com)  
No website

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### Germanic Genealogy Workshop-February 28, 2004

\$35 if postmarked by Feb. 14 and \$40 after Feb. 14  
presented by Genealogical Society of Sarasota  
600 N. Beneva Road in Sarasota  
[www.rootsweb.com/~flgss/germanicworkshop.htm](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss/germanicworkshop.htm)

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Hal Atkins for representing the JGS of SW FL at the Annual General Meeting of the IAJGS in Washington DC in July. Thank you to Judy and Hal Sterne for locating the perfect cabinet to store the JGS of SW FL library. Hal has remodeled this cabinet with casters and additional shelves. The JCC has graciously allowed our society to store the cabinet at the JCC. The JGS of SW FL Surnames and Places Research List is now available in an "easy to read" chart format thanks to Bob Kraus, a member of the JGS of New Jersey. If interested in receiving this list or submitting to this list, contact Kim Sheintal at 921-1433 or klapshein@aol.com. We also want to thank the JGS of New Jersey for the article appearing on this page that recently appeared in their newsletter, Yichus.

### "If It's Official, It Must Be True." Oh, YEAH??

By Bob Kraus

When you receive a certified copy of a birth, marriage or death certificate from the New York City Municipal Archives, you see the following statement: "In issuing this transcript of the record, the [Archives] does not certify to the truths of the statements made thereon..." Based on my experience, that's probably a smart disclaimer.

I recently obtained a certified copy of the marriage certificate/record of my parents, Emil Kraus and Kitty Laks from 1925. In accordance with New York State law, the certificate was prepared and signed by the rabbi who performed the ceremony. The witnesses were two of my (not blood-related) uncles. (See Figure 1). Also, as the law requires, the certificate was signed by the bride and groom, again in the presence of the same witnesses. (See Figure 2).

The body of the certificate contains such genealogical nuggets as the bride's and groom's residences (invaluable for accessing unindexed census records), their birthplaces, their father's first names and, as shown in Figure 3, their mothers' maiden names. Not bad "finds" from one piece of paper!

In my case, however, what makes this record especially fascinating is the very top of the page (see Figure 4). There, in the rabbi's firm, clear handwriting in the designated spaces, appear the names of the groom and bride: Emil Kraus and ... Fanny Lazansky!!

Thus, proving that even rabbis make occasional errors, and that brides, grooms and witnesses can be so preoccupied that they fail to read what they're signing, I have an official transcript recording the "fact" that my father married his own mother!

The moral of the story? Even raised-seal copies of records from governmental archives may contain errors, perhaps not as obvious as this one.

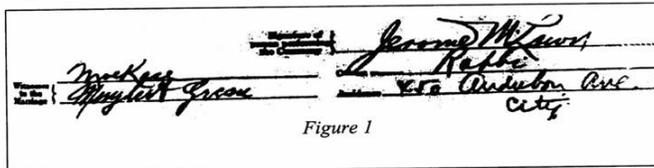


Figure 1

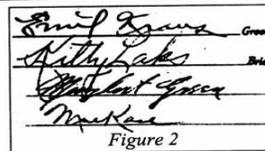


Figure 2

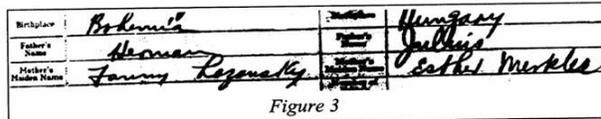


Figure 3

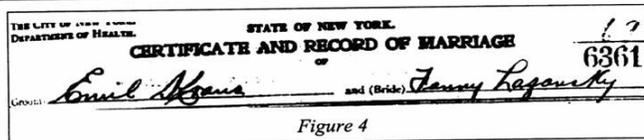


Figure 4