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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

On May 6, JGS of SW FL members were notified that FamilySearch released records containing 300 million names online. The records include information from birth, marriage and death records, census records, census lists, migration and naturalization records and family trees that were submitted to Family Search, and more. The database is still on a temporary website <http://fsbeta.familysearch.org/>. In May, there were three very excited JGS members as is evident from these comments after having been notified. "Thanks! Found my maternal grandmother's 1916 marriage record," said Jim Haberman. "Amazing! For about 15 years I have been trying to find a death date of an aunt. Bingo it came right up," said Hal Sterne. "I typed in the last name of my great uncle and found a copy of his original 'Affidavit and Certification of Correction' signed by him to request a different first name," said Kim Sheintal.

On September 2, JGS members were notified that Ancestry.com was making its entire U.S. Immigration Collection free through Labor Day. Judi Sterne found a great uncle's naturalization request form, which gave her the real spelling of her maiden name of Tash. Jim Haberman found his paternal grandfather's Canada/U.S. border crossing form, including the name of one of his cousins unknown to him, and his immigration manifest form. He also found his paternal grandparents ocean manifests from Antwerp to Canada (they travelled separately, probably before they'd ever met), their Canadian marriage certificate and their U.S. border crossing manifest! Jim hit the jackpot! I found my great grandfather's US Passport Application on this web site which gave me the name of the ship that he came on in 1890 to the US. Have I inspired you to periodically check on FamilySearch and Ancestry.com?

On October 5 at 1:00 PM, I will present "Tracing Your Roots" at the Jewish Center of Venice (941-484-2022) for their Adult Education Lecture Series. I will guide people on a journey of discovery, teaching the techniques to trace your family from the nourishing roots to the flowering of your family tree. JCV is located at 600 Auburn Road at Kennedy Drive in Venice. Price is \$3 for JCV members and \$5 for non JCV members. No reservations are required.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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President and Editor: Kim Sheintal <klapshein@aol.com>

Treasurer: Liz Klaber <eklaber@comcast.net>

Membership: Libbie Kaplan <albkap@gmail.com>

Programs: Irene Midler <irmsam@comcast.net>

Publicity: Lee Ruggles <lee0614@verizon.net>

Librarian: Bernie Spitalnick <sputnik_too@hotmail.com>

Webmaster: Jim Haberman <info@curtistrade.com>

www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, November 21, 2010 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Speaker: Sue Davis (see page 3 article by Sue)

Program: Making Family Connections

For details, Kim Sheintal 921-1433, <klapshein@aol.com>

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/researchers.htm>

JewishGen list of professional genealogists who do research in Central and Eastern Europe

<http://apgen.org>

Association of Professional Genealogists

www.jgsco.org/jgs-newsletters-from-around-the-world.html

JGS Colorado link for JGS newsletters around the world

http://www.worldvitalrecords.com/news/Volume4Issue19/feature.aspx?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_content=right%2Bbanner&utm_campaign=Wvr%2BNewsletter&offer=1

Hidden Genealogy Nuggets on Library Websites

<http://tinyurl.com/25hua9h>

2010 Census Budget

<http://www.gjenvick.com/>

Historical Documents (1800s - 1954 concentrations in ships)

<http://jsgsb.org/>

Click on to view the 25th Anniversary Video of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Boston

International Jewish Genealogy Month

Cheshvan 5771 (October 9-November 7, 2010)

FSGS Conference in Sarasota

Nov. 12-13, 2010 (see page 3)

IAJGS Conference in DC

Aug. 14-19, 2011 (see page 4)

Genealogy Lectures in Fort Myers

All programs are free and open to the public. (9:30 AM - noon)

October 1: Overcoming Genealogical Roadblocks

October 8: Using Genealogical Collections in Libraries

October 15: Effective Use of the Internet for Genealogical Research

October 22: Library Research Day

Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers-Lee County

Library, 239-533-4626, bmulcahy@leegov.com

Local Genealogical Societies (Fall 2010)

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meets the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM from November thru May at Kobernick House 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota. In addition, there is a 7:15 PM program on January 17, 2011 at Kobernick House.

President is Kim Sheintal (klapshein@aol.com).

Website: <http://www.jgsswf.org>

Manasota Genealogical Society meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM from October thru May at Manatee County Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd., Bradenton.

President is Jim Reger (babeandjim@gmail.com).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs>

Computer Special Interest Group: meets about 11:15 AM (after the regular monthly meeting) on the same day and place

South Bay Genealogical Society meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10:45 AM at the South Shore Regional Library. The Regional Roundtable at 10:45 AM is followed by lunch at noon and a genealogy presentation at 1:00 PM, from September thru May (however no Regional Roundtable in September). The South Shore Regional Library is located at 15816 Beth Shields Way, Ruskin.

President is Mary McIntyre (south-bay@juno.com).

Monday Roundtables: meets first Monday from October thru May at 9:30 AM at Sun City Center's Caper Room in Atrium Building (North Course Lane) at 9:30 AM, followed by the German Club at 10:45 AM.

Genealogical Society of Sarasota meets the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM (mingling), 10:30 AM (program) from November thru May (second Saturday in December 2010) at Selby Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota.

President is Armin Gumerman (gumerman@gmail.com).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss>

Germanic SIG: Karen Dwyer (karensdwyer@yahoo.com) at 9:30 AM at LDS History Center, 7001 Beneva Rd., Sarasota.

United Kingdom SIG: Jean Wallace (walljb@comcast.net) and Susan Well (swell01060@yahoo.com) meet January thru April. Dates, times, and places not available yet.

Ireland SIG: Bernadette Duncan (bduncan941@aol.com) meets second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM at 2645 Wilkinson Rd., Sarasota.

Italian SIG (sponsored by GSS & Sarasota Italian Cultural Events): Franz Schneider (franz.schneider@prodigy.net) meets on selected Thursdays at 2:00 PM at Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota.

Computer SIG: Joe Graham (Genealogy.Ten@gmail.com) meets one day a month November thru April at 2:00 PM at Selby Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota.

Englewood Genealogical Society meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (September thru May) at 1:30 PM for the General Meeting at Elsie Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn W. St., Englewood. November, December and May will meet the third Wednesday because of holidays. The January meeting will be at the Suncoast Auditorium in the Englewood Community Hospital, 300 Medical Ave, Englewood, Florida with a featured speaker.

President is Sue Davis (suedavis101@comcast.net).

Website: <http://egsfl.org/>

Sigs: Beginning Genealogy, British Isles, Eastern Seaboard States, Europe, Family Tree Maker, Midwest States, MAC/Reunion, and Scandinavian

Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM from November thru April at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. Their leader is professional genealogist Donna Moughty. For inquiries please contact Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819).

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay meets the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM (social with light refreshments & library access), and 2:00 PM (featured program) from September thru June with some exceptions to accommodate speakers or holiday conflicts at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater (unless there is a very special program).

President is Clint Elbow <skyhawk54058@gmail.com>.

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/index.htm>

IAJGS Update

The IAJGS is an organization of organizations formed in 1988 to provide a common voice for issues of significance to its members, to advance our genealogical avocation, and to coordinate items such as the annual Jewish Genealogy Conference. Virtually all of the local and national Jewish Genealogical Societies (JGSs), and a number of Jewish Genealogical Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are members. We welcome the newest JGSs: Amoekak Akevoth (Israel), GenAmi (France), and Phoenix Jewish Genealogy Society (AZ, USA).

The 2010-2011 IAJGS Officers are as follows:

President: Michael Goldstein (Jerusalem, Israel)

Vice President: Michael Brenner (Las Vegas, NV, USA)

Secretary: Joel Spector (Cherry Hill, NJ, USA)

Treasurer: Paul Silverstone (New York City, NY, USA)

Immediate Past President: Anne Feder Lee (Honolulu, HI, USA)

Board of Directors: Jan Meisels Allen (Agoura Hills, CA, USA),

Daniel Horowitz (Kfar Saba, Israel), Jay Sage (Newton Center, MA,

USA), Kahlile Mehr (Bountiful, UT, USA), Jackye Sullins (Carlsbad,

CA, USA) and Nolan Altman (Oceanside, NY, USA)

The following notes are from Michael Goldstein (IAJGS President): The IAJGS Annual Achievement Awards and the Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant were presented at the banquet during the 31st IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy hosted by the Los Angeles JGS. The recipients are as follows:

- IAJGS Lifetime Achievement Award given to Hal Bookbinder for his many contributions to the world of Jewish genealogy.
- Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product awarded to Judith Frazin for her book "A Translation Guide to 19th Century Polish-Language Civil Registration Documents, 3rd Edition."
- Outstanding Programming or Project that Advances the Objectives of Jewish Genealogy was awarded to the JGS of Greater Philadelphia for their Philadelphia Area Jewish Genealogy Resource Guide.
- Outstanding Publication by a Member Organization of IAJGS was awarded for the second time to the JGS Los Angeles for their publication Roots-Key.
- The winner of The Rabbi Malcolm Stern Grant was decided at the annual meeting and announced at the banquet. The grant in the amount of \$2,500 was awarded to the Israel Genealogical Society for their database transcription and scanning project. They hope to complete the project in time for the 35th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy to be held in Jerusalem in 2014.

Jewish Genealogy Month Poster Winner

The poster was submitted by the JGS of Colorado and designed by Jen Lowe. She joined the JGS of Colorado in 2009 and serves as secretary. Her projects have been published 154 times in books and magazines around the world. Read more at <http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>.

JGS of SW FL Membership Application

Single Membership: \$20/year Family Membership: \$25/ year

Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to:

Liz Klaber, 4461 Violet Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

International Tracing Service as a Source of Genealogical Information

by Larry E. Oppenheimer July 14, 2010

The International Tracing Service (ITS), located in Bad Arolsen, Germany, evolved from efforts begun during WWII to reunite displaced persons with their families and to trace the fates of those being sought by relatives. In time, ITS amassed an enormous collection of Holocaust related documents containing information about over 17.5 million individuals. Details of the archive, its history, and management can be found on the ITS web site at <<http://www.its-arolsen.org/>>.

Until recently access to the ITS records was extremely limited, essentially only to ITS employees. In 2007, the eleven nations that set the rules by which ITS operates agreed that the files would be opened to researchers and that copies of digitized files would be made available to one organization in each of the controlling countries. In this country the records are held by the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) <<http://www.ushmm.org/>>. Requests for information on the fates of relatives can be made to either the USHMM or directly to ITS, either by letter or on-line.

When the opening of these files was announced it caused a stir in the genealogy community as a potential source of information that was not available from other sources. I was interested in obtaining Holocaust related information about several members of my father's family and was also curious to see if the material from ITS would indeed be of use to genealogists, or at least to me.

My first request was made to ITS for information about a cousin of my father's who we knew had been arrested in Italy and transferred to Buchenwald, from which he was liberated by the Allies. After 3 ½ months, I received a packet containing good quality photocopies of 17 pages of documents and a cover letter summarizing the important information, which included his date and place of birth, his religion (wrong in the documents), wife's name, and last known residence. Fortunately, the cover letter was in English, while the original material was in the languages of the originating authorities. The documents also included records of his weight, "payroll" records, an inventory of his possessions when transferred to Germany (basically the clothes he was wearing), and a mug shot.

I have since filed requests for information about several more relatives through both ITS and the USHMM (not for the same people.) The information returned was varied; pages from memorial books which had been used to generate information at Yad Vashem, legal records, hospital records, obituaries for concentration camp inmates ... In one case ITS responded that they had no information about an aunt of my father's, but would contact me in the unlikely event that they could find any references to her in outside sources. I was quite surprised four months later when I received a letter from ITS containing information about the fates of this aunt and of her husband, who turned out not to have been Holocaust victims. A substantial amount of information of genealogical interest was included.

The information from ITS can also provide leads for further investigation. For instance, two of the cover letters I received contained references to an archive of abandoned property. Contacting this source resulted in my obtaining, in one case, documents that the person had filed in the process trying to get permission to leave Germany. This included both personal information and an inventory of every item he owned. In the second case, I received a 30 page file of documents and correspondence dated 1932 – 1933 (ie. pre-Nazi era) indicating that the person was having problems with the tax authorities. The file contained some information of genealogical interest, including the subject's date of marriage, his wife's maiden name, and the fact that they had no children. How the file came to be in an archive of material relating to abandoned property is not clear.

In summary then, the ITS files are a valuable source of genealogical information, particularly regarding people who were persecuted by the Nazis, who spent time in concentration camps, or who were displaced persons. The ITS web site describes the types of documents the organization holds, from which it is often possible to determine the

likelihood that a request for information will be successful. Information obtained directly from ITS or from the USHMM appears to be essentially the same and the response times of both organizations are comparable, something between 12 weeks and several months. Patience is required. I prefer to contact ITS directly, rather than using the USHMM service. This is because ITS has, and will use, connections with other archives that may not be available through the USHMM. Note that this is not a criticism of the USHMM which, it was pointed out to me, has a different mission than does the ITS.

Genealogical Conference Comes to Sarasota

The FSGS Conference comes to Sarasota on November 12-13, 2010 at the Hyatt. They have lots of room for lectures, vendors, food, fun, friends and family. The Conference Chair is Cynthia Hineman. Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective, is the Keynote Speaker and will be giving 4 lectures during the conference. Her newest book, "The Last Muster" will be published in September after 10 years in the making. Maureen will be giving the following four seminars.

- How to Find Family Photographs On and Off Line
- Discovering Genealogical Clues in Family Photographs
- The Last Muster: Photographs and Stories from the American Revolution
- Telling the Family Story from DVD's to Self-Publishing

There will be a live session of the longest running regularly produced genealogy podcast in the world (The Genealogy Guys Podcast with George Morgan and Drew Smith.)

Jewish Military Cemetery

Seymour "Sy" Brody, the creator of the twelve virtual "Jewish Heroes and Heroines of America Exhibits," has written hundreds of articles documenting the contributions and sacrifices that American Jews have made to help make our country a leader in the world. The following quote is from his article about a Jewish military cemetery in Richmond, Virginia.

"The Hebrew Confederate Cemetery, located in Richmond, Virginia, is the only Jewish military cemetery in the world outside of Israel. It was created by the anti-Semitism of the two Confederate military cemeteries, in Spotsylvania Court House and Fredericksburg. They refused to bury the Jewish Confederate soldiers killed in the battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Wilderness. They brought them to the Hebrew Cemetery in Richmond, Virginia. They were buried in five rows, with six bodies in a row, in a self-contained hallowed area within the larger Hebrew Cemetery."

Discovering My Family by Sue Davis

Connecting with others researching your family is fun and very rewarding. Using <http://www.ancestry.com> is a great website for making connections. I also am using Family Tree Maker 2010. Starting with my maternal Norwegian grandfather, I created a 3 generation family tree on the Ancestry site and discovered a person who was also researching the same family. I contacted the researcher who lives in Norway. We are distant cousins and now great friends! We have together researched the family back to 1475 and have more to add.

Growing up, my family included my parents, 2 brothers, an aunt, maternal grandmother and no cousins. I knew nothing about my grandfathers and there was no discussion about them. A second cousin contacted me in 1999 as he wanted to interview me. After the interview, he shared pictures and a lot of information in regard to my father's maternal grandmother Levi genealogy. It was at this time I learned that they were German and they were Jewish. I was raised as an Episcopalian.

After retiring, I decided to investigate my father's paternal Harris family. The Harris family arrived in the USA in the late 1840's, settled in Chicago and fortunately stayed in Chicago. There are a lot of great resources for researching in Cook County. I have a lot of documents and sources. The only thing I have not yet discovered is WHERE in Prussia/Poland/Germany they lived before coming to America at the age of 20.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida Exciting Programs for the 2010-2011 Season

Sunday, November 21, 2010 (1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

"Making Family Connections" with Sue Davis – You will see that connecting with others researching your family is fun and very rewarding.

Sunday, December 19, 2010 (1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

"Preserving Your Life Story on Video" with Bob West - West demonstrates how you can transform the very best of your family's photographs, slides, home movies, videos and other priceless memorabilia into a Hollywood-style music video that can live on forever.

Sunday, January 16, 2011 (1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

"The Family Tree" and "Between the Branches" with The Six Pearls - The Six Pearls are Barbara Berkowitz, Gloria Scheiner, Marilyn Shapo, Janet Stollman, Karen Weinstein, and Sandi Yoffee. The Six Pearls do readings of stories that they write about their life experiences. Their readings for this program focus on their family tree.

Monday, January 17, 2011 (7:15 PM at Kobernick House)*

"Early Jewry in America" with Phil Steel - Steel will tell his family story beginning in Portugal in the 17th century through their arrival in the Colonies in 1733, onward through their early life through the Revolutionary War, War of 1812, Civil War and finally with his great grandfather who went to California in the 1870s following the gold rush.

(*Please note this is a Monday evening program and will take place the day after our Sunday meeting in January.)

Sunday, February 20, 2011 (1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

"My Uncle the Hollywood Producer: A Spicy Tale" with Robin Seidenberg - Robin will tell the fascinating story of this colorful adventurer as well as how she found the information. Learn how she used online historical newspapers to unearth captivating details about one of the most fabulous characters to hit Hollywood.

Sunday, March 20, 2011 (1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

"Most Effective Way to Organize, Write, and Publish an Autobiography" with Liz Coursen - Miss Coursen will offer advice about how to organize your illustrations, how to choose which stories to tell about your life, how to avoid common biography-writing mistakes, and how to make your autobiography as fun to read as it was to write. She will also discuss how to design your book, as well as give insight into the process working with your editor and getting the most out of a publisher.

Sunday, April 17, 2011 (1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

"The Table, the Diary, and the Road to Discovery" with Mike Schwartz - It's a story about how two unconnected genealogical investigations serendipitously got tied together, greatly expanding a family tree.

Sunday, May 15, 2011 (1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

"Jewish Family Folklore" with Dr. Eleanor Wachs - It's not all old wives tales and cooking recipes....Jewish family folklore is a way we express our culture in a familial manner with personal narratives, proverbs, riddles, folksongs, and more. Dr. Wachs will talk about what comprises Jewish family folklore and how you can collect your own or others in the Jewish community.

IAJGS Conferences

Congratulations to the JGSLA for putting on the 2010 Jewish genealogical conference that attracted over 1,050 attendees from 15 countries and 38 states and had 40% first timers.

2011: Washington, DC. August 14-19. Grand Hyatt Washington. Host is the Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington. See <http://www.dc2011.org>.

2012: Paris, France. July 15-18. Paris Marriott Rive Gauche Hotel. Host is Le Cercle de Généalogie Juive.

The 2013 conference is planned for Boston and 2014 for Jerusalem, Israel.

Jewish Records Indexing - Poland

Jewish Records indexing - Poland is pleased to announce that a new version of their Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) is now available. The link is on their home page at www.jri-poland.org/index.htm.

Genealogy Surprises by Kim Sheintal

Sometimes when you least expect a shining e-mail, you get two of them within ten days. It was in the middle of the summer and I had not done much in the way of genealogical research. I wake up on the morning of July 17 to learn that a very distant cousin of mine whom I had never met posted a family tree for our Kasrilzon family on the UK version of Ancestry.com. On July 26, another very distant cousin of mine whom I had never met posted a family tree for our Contorer family on Geni.com. Two of my cousins were busy posting family on websites and I am very happy that they did!

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet at 2:00 PM on Sunday, October 10 at the John F. Germany Library, 900 N. Ashley Drive, Tampa, Florida for a hands-on workshop for individual research. This library has one of the best and most complete sets of genealogical holdings of any library in the Tampa Bay region. The library will have an expert in genealogy and the library's resources to give an overview of the resources, give us a private tour, and to help us with research. Several experienced JGS mentors will also be available to provide guided assistance at this working session.

The workshop will begin by acquainting you with the extensive genealogical resources - in print, on microfilm, and online - most of which are only available at Tampa's main downtown library. This overview will be followed by actual use of these resources for your own individual research under the guiding hands of our experienced mentors. The John F. Germany library has a large microfilm collection of immigration records as well as computer access to Ancestry Plus, Heritage Quest and other databases among its considerable genealogical resources. A listing of the library's premium databases can be seen online at <http://www.hcplc.org/hcplc/dw/genealogy.html>. Note: The resource links at this website can be accessed from home or anywhere only if your library card is registered with the Hillsborough County Public Library system, or if you are at the library.

Attendees should bring their own materials and information to do their research at the library.

Parking spaces are available on the street near the library at no charge on Sunday. If you park in the Poe Parking Garage that is attached to the library, the charges can be paid for with a credit card, debit card, or cash at \$1.20 per hour.

The overview session of the library's holdings will begin at 2:00 PM, and that will be followed by individual research using the library's microfilm readers and computer facilities with guided assistance if needed until the library closes at 5 PM. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogy research is invited to participate. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. There is no charge for the meeting.

For information on the organization or directions to the meeting call Sally Israel at 727-343-1652.

Military Personnel Records

<http://www.archives.gov/research/order/standard-form-180.pdf>

Personnel records of military members who were discharged, retired, or died in service less than 62 years ago and service treatment records (STR) are in the legal custody of the military service department and are administered in accordance with rules issued by the Department of Defense and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS, Coast Guard). Any military personnel service record that is 62 years old or older since the veteran was discharged, died in service or retired is an archival public record and doesn't require any kind of authorization from the next of kin nor proof of death.