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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

It has been 1½ years since I had my DNA tested. Email messages from people who match my DNA as a close cousin do not come frequently. So when I received an email from someone in Australia on April 22, 2017 to say that our DNA matched as possible second or third cousins, I was excited. I was even more excited to hear that we narrowed our connection to the Lebovitz surname with many first names in common on our Lebovitz lines. But the icing on the cake was that we both heard the same family story about our Lebovitz ancestors who were involved with the 1882 settling of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. On June 17, I had a DNA match with a Nancy. I sent a message to Nancy who matched me as a second or third cousin. I sent her a list of the surnames I am tracing. She responded that she is my cousin Nancy whose grandfather is my grandfather's brother on the Lebovitz line. Quickly, I remembered who Nancy was. Nancy took the DNA test without ever tracing her family, but when I sent Nancy the names of three other DNA matches we shared, I sparked her interest in genealogy. I told Nancy how she was related to three of our shared matches (the cousin listed above from Australia, a cousin in London, and a cousin in California). I sent Nancy an extensive family tree for each of these three cousins. These are just two results of several more from my DNA test.

Another genealogy email came on May 10, 2017 via an email from a lady who found an old passport for sale on Ebay with the surname "Matus". She saw that I am tracing "Matus" on the JewishGen Family Finder and wrote to me about this passport listing. Whereas I was not able to determine if this passport belonged to one of my Matus ancestors, I was able to find the granddaughter of the person to whom this passport belonged (with the help of a cousin of mine who lives in Israel). This shows how helpful it is to post the surnames that you are researching on the JewishGen Family Finder.

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>

Programs: Howard Finkel <hgfinkel@gmail.com>

Publicity: Lee Ruggles <lee0614@verizon.net>

Librarian: Bernie Spitalnick <sputnik_too@hotmail.com>

Surname Database and Facebook Page: Leah Cook <leahcook@aol.com>

Webmaster: Jim Haberman <jim@HabermanUSA.com>

Mishpochology is published quarterly.

www.jgsswf.org

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

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, November 19, 2017 (1:00 PM)

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "Show and Tell"

by JGS of SW FL Members

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

JGS of SW FL Calendar

Location: Aviva, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Please bring your genealogy questions (problems), laptops, and stories to the Show and Tell on Sunday, November 19, 2017 at 1:00 PM. Contact Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com or 941-302-1433 if you have a genealogy question (problem) and/or want to share a story at the "Show and Tell" program.

Mark your calendar for 1:00 PM on November 19, 2017 ~ December 17, 2017 ~ January 21, 2018 ~ February 18, 2018 ~ March 18, 2018 ~ April 15, 2018.

How My Dworsky Surname Became Myers

by Raymond Myers

My family name has been Myers since 1848, thru a comical error by the customs folks in Nova Scotia, Canada. This was where my ancestors arrived from Poland to become Canadian citizens at that time. My great grandfather's name was Myer Dworsky and his family numbered four persons. The customs official found Dworsky too difficult, so he wrote Myer which was easier and added an "s", because there was more than one. We have been Myers ever since. In 1982 I met a woman from Westchester County, New York, and moved there to marry her one year later. We remained there until 2014, at which time we moved to Sarasota, Florida. Sometime after 1982 I received a letter from my father, who was living in retirement in Hawaii by that time. It detailed some history about the Dworsky clan and their annual summer reunion, which he was planning to attend with a cousin of mine. There he met another cousin of ours, who lived in Brooklyn, but was attending a university in Texas where he was researching the Dworsky clan for his dissertation. He did a thorough enough job of it that he traced the Dworskys all the way back to 1604. It surprised me to learn that, among many other interesting items, Benjamin Netanyahu is my 4th cousin. So, there you have it. I did not feel the urge to contact the genealogical folks, because my cousin's book does a lot of that for me. Since my immediate family has basically been Canadian for 150 years or more, I would be more interested in your take, as to whether or not this lineage is of any interest to you? If there are any Dworsky(s+) on your family tree, this story might hit home for you. For more information, please contact me at rjmcjm@gmail.com.

Local Genealogical Groups

Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Club

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).

South Bay Genealogical Society

meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10:45 AM at the Royal Palm Room at Little Harbor Resort, 611 Destiny Dr., Ruskin. 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. Reservations for the lunch must be made in advance. Cost is \$18.50. For reservations, call Doty Love 813-634-2749. President is Don Churchill (donwinch3@verizon.net). Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flsbgs/>

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 and Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. President is Bruce Hadburg (bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com, 727-796-7981).

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

Manatee Genealogical Society

meets the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 AM from October thru May at Manatee County Public Library, 1301 Barcarota Blvd., Bradenton.

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

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs>

Roots Magic SIG: meets the second Monday of the month (but not in the summer) at 2:00 PM at the Westminster Courtyard on Main Street (12th Street West), Bradenton. Phyllis Doucette (pdoucett@tampabay.rr.com). E-mail Phyllis Doucette because location may vary.

Genealogical Society of Sarasota

meets the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM (mingling), 10:30 AM (program) from October thru May at Selby Public Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota.

President is Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819).

Web site: <http://gssfl.com/>

Germanic SIG: meets the third Wednesday of the month from October thru April, but no meeting in December. All meetings are 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM, but 12:30 PM to 2:30 PM in April. All meetings will be at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota. Karen Dwyer (karensdwyer@yahoo.com)

United Kingdom SIG: meets the fourth Friday of October and January thru April with a combined November/December meeting at 10:15 AM to 11:45 AM at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Coburn Road, Sarasota. Susan Well (swell01060@yahoo.com)

Irish SIG: There will be an Irish SIG on Saturday, November 18 from 3:00 PM to 5:00 PM at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota. The remainder of the meeting schedule is posted on the GSS website. Regina Negrycz (gss@gssfl.com)

New England SIG: meets the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM until 2:30 PM from October thru May at the Fruitville Public Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota. Chuck Ford (cford1620@verizon.net)

Computer SIG: Computer SIG: meets various dates and times at Fruitville Public Library in the Meeting Room, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota: (Tuesday, October 17 from 1:30 PM to 5:00 PM) (Wednesday, November 29 from 12:30 PM to 4:30 PM) (Friday, January 19 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM) (Friday, February 16 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM) (Wednesday, March 21 from 3:30 PM to 6:30 PM) (Tuesday, April 17 from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM). Marilyn Wethington (marilyn@familyandtrees.com)

DNA SIG: There will be a DNA SIG on Saturday, December 16 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM at Fruitville Public Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota. The remainder of the meeting schedule is posted on the GSS website. Regina Negrycz (gss@gssfl.com)

Polish SIG: meets once a month from November through April. It meets at 10:15 AM at the Gulf Gate Public Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave, Sarasota. The meeting schedule is posted on the GSS website. Kenneth Majewski (cpalawyer@verizon.net)

Englewood Genealogical Society

meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (September thru May) at 1:30 PM at Elsie Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn W. St., Englewood with these exceptions: November 16, December 14 and May 10. January 25, 2017 seminar with George Morgan will be at Tringali Meeting Hall, 3460 N Access Rd., Englewood.

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

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

SIG Groups: Beginning Genealogy, British Isles/Europe, Eastern Seaboard States, Family Tree Maker, Advanced, RootsMagic, Midwest States, MAC/Reunion, and Scandinavian.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

meets the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM from November thru April at Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota.

President is Kim Sheintal (klapshein@aol.com, 941-302-1433).

Web site: <http://www.jgsswf.org>

Sunday, November 19, 2017: Show and Tell

Sunday, December 17, 2017: TBD

Sunday, January 21, 2018: Social Networking for Genealogists by Donna Moughty

Sunday, February 18, 2018: Program by Marlis Humphrey

Sunday, March 18, 2018: Program by Doug Cohen

Sunday, April 15, 2018: Israel Heritage Celebration

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Member

Joan Goldstein

Looking Back: **BOOKS**

The following books were listed in *From Generation to Generation* by Arthur Kurzweil published in **1980**. Most books listed are available online or can be purchased or found in libraries now. Thanks to JGS member Kathy Bruns for this list.

Blackbook of Localities Whose Jewish Population Was Exterminated by the Nazis

Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy

by Mokotoff and Blatt. Kathy suggested to order this book from Avotaynu. <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/GettingStarted.htm>

Looking Back: **Wonderful World of Websites**

The following sources were listed in *From Generation to Generation* by Arthur Kurzweil published in **1980**. Thanks to JGS member Kathy Bruns for this list.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JGSGW/Bios/AKurzweil.html>
Arthur Kurzweil bio written by JSG of Greater Washington

<https://yivo.org/>

“YIVO – The Institute for Jewish Research – Manhattan is the finest archives and library of Eastern European Jewish material in the world” according to Kurzweil.

<https://familysearch.org/search/catalog/101347?availability=Family%20History%20Library>
Toledot: The Journal of Jewish Genealogy
(out of print – microfilm only)

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

“Avotaynu, Inc. is the leading publisher of products of interest to persons who are researching Jewish genealogy, Jewish family trees or Jewish roots. The books we sell are meant to assist you in your research from beginner guides to books about Jewish surnames.”

JewishEncyclopedia.com
1906 Encyclopedia of Jewish Genealogy
(Volume one at Amazon)

<http://www.jewishencyclopedia.com/articles/6577-genealogy>
Encyclopedia Judaica 26 volumes (Volume one is an index)
(described in Kurzweil’s book on pages 112-113)

<http://www.bjeindy.org/resources/library/encyclopediajudai.ca/>

can access *Encyclopedia Judaica* online, but must be logged into the Gale Virtual Reference Library

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Encyclopaedia_Judaica
Wikipedia description of Encyclopedia Judaica

americanjewisharchives.org/publications/fajf/
First American Jewish Families (1654 - 1988)
by Rabbi Malcolm Stern (published 1991)

My Generation: A Course in Jewish Family History by Kurzweil has a teacher’s guide that can be purchased online.

https://books.google.com/books/about/The_Chain_that_Stretches_from_Sinai.html?id=IPYZHQAAAJ
Chain that Stretches from Sinai: Creating a Family Tree from The Living Memorial, 1860 S. Taylor Red, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118

http://www.jewishgen.org/Courland/consular/cons_jews.htm
The Jews in Latvia

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/latvia/latvia.html>
Yidn in Letland has an English translation.
Yidn in Ukraine might only be available in Yiddish.

<http://americanjewisharchives.org/>
American Jewish Archives (collection of family trees and family histories in Cincinnati, Ohio)

<http://www.ajhs.org/>
American Jewish Historical Society in Boston, MA and NYC

<http://cahjp.nli.org.il/>
The Central Archives for the History of the Jewish People at Hebrew University in Jerusalem

<https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/>
International Tracing Service

<http://www.yadvashem.org/>
Yad Vashem in Israel (World Holocaust Remembrance Center)

- <http://www.jewishagency.org/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jewish_Agency_for_Israel
Jewish Agency for Israel
- <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-eaad/view?docId=ead/xOCAJA0361.xml;query=;brand=default>
- <https://www.ushmm.org/exhibition/displaced-persons/resourc1.htm>
- <http://www.worldjewishcongress.org/en/news/world-jewish-congress-marks-80th-anniversary-of-its-creation-8-3-2016>
World Jewish Congress – Division of Displaced Persons

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=3770>
Morton Allen Directory of European Passage Steamship Arrivals (NYC 1890 - 1930 and NYC, Philly, Baltimore and Boston 1904 - 1926)

<http://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1068>
Port of Hamburg Lists 1850 - 1934

http://www.sshsa.org/knowledge_ctr/
Steamship Historical Photo Book

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Where_Once_We_Walked
Where Once We Walked

<https://archive.org/details/completepronounc00thomrich>
Complete Pronouncing Gazetteer or Geographical Dictionary of the World

http://www.worldcat.org/title/columbia-lippincott-gazetteer-of-the-world-with-1961-supplement/oclc/14620237/editions?start_edition=1&sd=asc&referer=null&se=yr&editionsView=true&fq=

- https://www.abebooks.com/book-search/title/columbia-lippincott-gazetteer-world/Columbia_Lippincott_Gazetteer_of_the_World

<https://www.amazon.com/Travelers-Guide-Jewish-Landmarks-Europe/dp/0830301127>
Traveler’s Guide to Jewish Landmarks of Europe
by Bernard Postal & Samuel H. Abramson (published 1971)

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/about/api/>
Historic American Newspapers

<http://www.tabletmag.com/jewish-life-and-religion/228828/23-and-them>

Gary and Ruth Mokotoff - The Octogenarians in New Haven Who Have Revolutionized Jewish Genealogy - Tablet Article
Anyone who is “into” Jewish genealogy” knows Gary and Ruth Mokotoff – the Avotaynu publishers. Tablet magazine wrote an article about *The Octogenarians Who Have Revolutionized Jewish Genealogy* – the “mom and pop” operation that presides over the world of Jewish genealogy. The article focuses on how Gary started the Jewish publishing firm and his affiliation with Sallyann Sack-Pikus when they met at the IAJGS Jerusalem conference in 1984 and started the Avotaynu Journal in 1985.

<http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGen/ValueAdded.asp>
JewishGen services for donating minimum of \$100 annually

<http://crestleaf.com/blog/jewish-genealogy-100-resources-jewish-ancestry-research/>
101 Resources for Finding Your Jewish Ancestors

https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/source_view.php?SourceId=45325
Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database
(if a name of interest is found, a link appears whereby copies of individual pages may be requested)

https://www.lds.org/callings/temple-and-family-history/familysearch-microfilm-discontinuation?lang=eng&_r=1
Family History Microfilm Discontinuation

<https://www.geni.com/projects/Jewish-Genealogy-Portal-A-Guide-to-Jewish-Projects-and-Resources-on-Geni/13121>
Geni.com Links Helpful to Jewish Researchers
(Guide to Jewish Projects and Resources with Jewish Ancestry Research Guide, Jewish Genealogy Curators, etc.)

<http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/preserve-genealogy-research/>
How to Preserve Your Research (organize, write and record, pass it around, find the next generation, donate with preparation)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/jewishgen/testimonials/>
JewishGen Success Stories

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Latvia/>
JewishGen Latvia Database

https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/source_view.php?SourceId=25029
Holocaust Survivor and Victims Database

<http://iajgs2017.org/>
<http://iajgs2017.org/2017/07/28/thank-attending-iajgs-2017/>
Learn about the 2017 IAJGS Conference

“Sarasota Sister Cities Association” Presentation: Northern Greece – Thessaloniki & Holy Mt Athos

Presented by Raymond A. Young, Ph.D.
Selby Library on September 28, 2017 at 4:00 PM
Thessaloniki has historically been a predominant home to the three monotheistic religions, Greek Orthodox Christianity, Sephardic Judaism and Turkish Muslim.

The evolution of the ethnic culture of the city will be described with descriptions of the Roman and Byzantine eras and the subsequent occupation by the Ottoman Empire.

The dramatic alteration of the population with the emigration of the Sephardic Jews from Iberia led to the designation of the city as the New Jerusalem. For almost 400 years Judaism was the predominant religion of the city. The population exchanges between Turkey and Greece and the decimation of the Jewish population during WWII has led to the near total Greek city of today. A description will also be given of Young’s sabbatical experience at the Aristotelian University in Thessaloniki and a pilgrimage to the Holy Mt Athos, the 1,000 year-old Orthodox Christian peninsula composed of 20 monasteries and 2,000 monks, near Thessaloniki.

IAJGS New Officers and Awards

Ken Bravo, President (JGS Cleveland)
Jay Sage, Vice President (JGS Greater Boston)
Douglas Cohen, Treasurer (JGS Greater Boston, JGS of SW FL)
Marlis Humphrey, Immediate Past President (JGS Orlando)
Jan Meisels: Lifetime Achievement Award
Reclaim the Records: Outstanding Project
Rose Avigael Feldman: 2017 Volunteer of the Year

Searching for Butsnevits: A Shtetl Tale

by Jack Rothman

This is a story of discovery. Like many kids in immigrant families, I avoided dealing with “old country” family history--and like many of us, I was later moved to go on a quest to discover my roots. This book, *Searching for Butsnevits: A Shtetl Tale*, is part autobiography, part social history, and part detective story--where the search is for a missing community rather than a missing person. The book is an encounter with the past, with the history of my family in Ukraine in the early 1900s, and includes information about Jewish life in the area and what’s happened since to the place and the people, as well as a rare firsthand account of the flight of my family from Ukraine in 1920 in the wake of the pogroms that swept the country following the Russian Revolution.

Jack Rothman, member of the JGS of Los Angeles and professor emeritus at UCLA, recently published this book based on visiting his family’s shtetl in the Ukraine, a part of the Russian Empire when they lived there. The book narrates his on-the-ground search for the shtetl and gives background on the historical and cultural conditions of Eastern Europe back then. It also deals with the immigrant process, both hardships and positive outcomes.

JGS of SW FL 2017 Membership Dues

Single Membership: \$25/year Family Membership: \$30/year
Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with your name, e-mail, phone, address and surnames/places you are tracing to:
Liz Klaber 4461 Violet Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34233