



MISHPOCHOLOGY

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

Zoom Program: Sunday, November 19, 2023

(12:45 p.m. Socializing) (1:00 p.m. Program)

An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy
by David Ellis

For more information or to access the Zoom link:

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President's Spiel

by Kim Sheintal

Looking back at my genealogical accomplishments, the most fun and successful discoveries for me were finding distant cousins with a passion for tracing their families. In 2011, I used the JewishGen Family Finder (www.jewishgen.org/jgff/) to find people researching the Taub family from Raciaz Poland and contacted them. That week, I connected with David Ellis, who was among those researching Taub from Poland. We discovered that we are 6th cousins once removed on our TAUB line.

To my delight, David gave a presentation at the 2022 virtual International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference. I very much enjoyed and learned about my family from his presentation. On November 19 at 1:00 p.m., David will present "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy" for the JGS of SW FL via Zoom. You do not want to miss this. Contact me for the Zoom link at klapshein@aol.com.

Discussing your genealogy with relatives is a great way to jump start your genealogical research, but there are other ways to jump start your research or rekindle the genealogy spark that you once had.

If you are unable to attend a JGS of SW FL program, the JGS of SW FL has a video archive of its Zoom presentations by going to <http://www.jgsswf.org/>. Look for blue box on the lower left side of the screen. Scroll down to the blue box that says "Click this box to access the JGSSWF video archives of past meetings." Click on the blue box. Please note that some videos are only available for three months or less.

IAJGS 2023 Board

President: Jane Rosen Berenbeim

Vice President: Mel Fishman

Treasurer: Joseph Tarshish

Secretary: Ron Arons

JGS of SW FL 2023-2024 Programs

Sunday, November 19, 2023 @ 12:45 pm. socializing, 1:00 p.m. meeting via Zoom: "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy" by David Ellis

Sunday, December 17, 2023 @ 12:45 pm. socializing, 1:00 p.m. meeting at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota): "Panel Discussion: My Methods for Organizing My Genealogical Data" by Jim Haberman, Kim Sheintal, and Scott Mandel

Sunday, January 21, 2024 @ 12:45 pm. socializing, 1:00 p.m. meeting via Zoom: "Traveling to America in Steerage and Whether to Admit or Deport our Ancestors" by Phil Goldfarb

Sunday, February 18, 2024 @ 12:45 pm. socializing, 1:00 p.m. meeting at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota): "Topic TBD" by Daniel Horwitz, MyHeritage expert genealogist

Sunday, March 17, 2024 @ 12:45 pm. socializing, 1:00 p.m. meeting at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota): "How to Write My Memoirs" by Barbara Field and Rosanne Ullman

Sunday, April 21, 2024 @ 12:45 pm. socializing, 1:00 p.m. meeting via Zoom: "Alliance Community Reboot" by William and Malva Levin

JGS of SW FL Presentation by Randy Schoenberg March 24, 2023



Randy Schoenberg, son Joey Schoenberg, and Kim Sheintal

Jewish Lifespan by Kim Sheintal

I fondly remember my cousin Mandel Brin who was close in age to my grandparents. When I was about ten years old, he tried to explain how I was related to him, but I could not understand. Mandel lived to be 104 and was the oldest registered pharmacist in Illinois. In 1982 at age 32, I started tracing my family so I could learn how I was related to all of the relatives who attended our family gatherings. Never did I realize in 1982 when I first put together a family tree of about 200 names that by the time I was 73, I would have thousands of relatives from all over the world on my family tree. When I was in my 40s, Mandel's son Phil contacted me when he heard of my interest in genealogy. We worked together on our Lebovitz family tree. Phil wrote a journal about his father and sent it to me. I never could have imagined as a little girl that someday I would understand how I was related to Mandel and actually have a journal written about him. On my family tree, Mandel is the relative who lived the longest. I started thinking about the longevity of Jews and found the following four articles.

Longevity of Jews (written January 21, 1905)

"It is claimed that of all classes of New York City's population, the Jews are the longest lived. Considering the manner in which the majority of the Jewish population of our great cities live, this is a remarkable showing, if true. The poorer Jews, as a rule, are rigid followers of the Mosaic law, and this would indicate to some extent the excellence of the sanitary provisions of that ancient code. Insurance men, however, it is alleged, while recognizing the temperance of the Jews as a factor, are inclined to think that this longevity is a result of natural selection, the weaker elements of the Jewish race having been gradually eliminated during centuries of persecution. There is still another possible factor to be considered. For centuries the Jews have become acclimatized, so to speak, to city life, and therefore may represent the class most resistant to such environment."

Source: JAMA (Journal of the American Medical Association is a peer-reviewed medical journal published by the American Medical Association.)

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/article-abstract/464516>

May You Live Until 120: DNA Uncovers Secrets to Jewish Longevity (written: August 3, 2011)

"Life expectancy has risen steadily in recent years, with the average American now living for close to 80 years. But that's nothing compared to the lifespans of people mentioned in the Bible. According to Genesis, Noah's grandfather, Methuselah, lived the longest, at 969 years of age, with others, including Adam and his kin, not far behind. But even lesser biblical lifespans are astronomical by today's standards. Abraham reportedly lived to 175; Moses to 120. As incredible as these ages seem, they signify the Jewish people's earliest fascination with long life — a history reflected today by the common Jewish blessing, 'May you live until 120.' That goal is rapidly becoming a reality for many Jews. According to British census data, Jews live an average of five to six years longer than their gentile counterparts, and there may be nearly three times as many Jewish centenarians as in the general U.K. population. Similar American data is not available because the U.S. census is prohibited from asking about religious affiliation. But older age is a reality for many in the American Jewish community - according to the most recent National Jewish Population Survey data, 19% of U.S. Jews are over 65, and 9% are older than 75. Improved health care undoubtedly plays a role in the renewed

longevity of modern-day Jews. But DNA could be involved, too. 'We know that the Ashkenazi Jewish population... tends to live longer,' said Dr. Winifred Rossi, deputy director of geriatrics and clinical gerontology at the National Institute on Aging. 'They don't get cardiovascular problems like in other populations.'"

Source: Forward (The Forward, formerly known as The Jewish Daily Forward, is an American news media organization for a Jewish American audience.)

<https://forward.com/culture/140894/may-you-live-until-120-dna-uncovers-secrets-to-je/>

World's Oldest Man (written: August 12, 2017)

In 2017, Israel Kristal, the world's oldest man who lived through both World Wars and survived the Auschwitz concentration camp passed away just a month short of his 114th birthday. Kristal was born to an Orthodox Jewish family near Zarnow, Poland. Guinness World Records awarded Kristal a certificate as the world's oldest man.

Source: The Florida Times – Union (from Association Press) www.jacksonville.com/story/news/nation-world/2017/08/12/world-s-oldest-man-holocaust-survivor-dies-113/15768423007/

Do Jews Live Longer? (written June 29, 2021)

"Next month when Frieda Banks blows out the candles on her birthday cake, she probably won't have much left she can wish for. At the age of 101, she's had a long, happy, and generally healthy life. She's still physically active, doesn't need glasses, a hearing aid or a nursing aide to get her through the day.... Banks is what gerontologists like to call SuperAgers, people who are still enjoying life after their 100th birthday and have little or no experience with the life-threatening illnesses than afflict their contemporaries. The term was coined by Dr. Nir Barzilai, an Israeli-born physician who summarized over 20 years of research about how and why we age, in a new book published last year, *Age Later: Health Span, Life Span, and the New Science of Longevity*. Much of that research comes from his Longevity Genes Project at Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City which has followed over 750 Ashkenazic Jews there between the ages of 95 and 109. They all reached their advanced age without having had such life-threatening illnesses as heart disease or cancer. He chose these Ashkenazim not just because he found them to be especially long-lived but because they generally resemble one another more closely genetically than other ethnic groups. Their genetic makeup, he believes, has been shaped by centuries of politically imposed isolation in Eastern Europe and by religious beliefs that led to marriages with Jews of a similar background. However, when researchers looked more closely at their lifestyle, they found these Jews to have some very bad habits. Over half of them were obese or overweight, many didn't exercise, and over half of them smoked. One New Yorker, Helen Kahn, who lived to be almost 110, smoked regularly for 90 of those years. Her brother Irving, a wealthy financial consultant who was also in the study, lived to be 109, but gave up smoking years before he died. So Dr. Barzilai was forced to look elsewhere for his answers to what leads to a longer life. He described what he found in *Age Later*, his first book on his research. What he learned credits longevity, primarily, to good genes."

Source: Atlanta Jewish Times

<https://www.atlantajewishtimes.com/do-jews-live-longer/>

Surprise in My Family!

by Jeffrey Knisbacher

Esther Berg was married to Irving Isenberg (son of Zalock) in Kamenetz Podolsk, Ukraine. Irving died just before the last of his four children was born. That last born, in the year 1900, was named Irving after his father. (He was famous for having served in the Jewish Legion of the British Army in WWI, to wrest Palestine from the Ottoman Empire. An offer from Ben-Gurion and Ben-Zvi in November, 1914 to establish a Jewish Legion there had originally been accepted by the Turks, but was then cancelled by Djemal Pasha, a bitter persecutor of Zionists.) Esther left Kamenetz with her four children shortly after Irving was born to go to the United States, and it is believed that she originally lived in Providence, RI with her husband's siblings but they were later in Philadelphia.

Esther and Zalman Herman were sweethearts in the Ukraine and, as the story goes, Esther was forbidden to continue seeing Zalman by her family because they felt that he was beneath her station. After she arrived in the United States she met Zalman again. Zalman told her that he had been married in Kamenetz, that his wife had died and that theirs was a childless marriage. The truth was that his wife had not died and that he had traveled to the United States after having promised his wife and five children that he would, in the United States, make the money necessary to bring them all over to the United States.

The relationship with Esther deepened and they got married. Yes, Zalman had become a bigamist. In the meantime, Zalman's first wife did die in Kamenetz and the children were left parentless. Money somehow was raised and one of the sons, presumably the eldest, Benjamin, was chosen to go to the United States and find their father, Zalman, to tell him that his wife was dead. Benjamin arrived unannounced on the doorstep of Zalman's and his new wife's home. Of course, this was quite a shock for everyone. Zalman because he was found out. Esther because she was unaware of Zalman's other family. Benjamin because he had no idea that his father had another wife. When the dust settled Esther agreed to take Benjamin in and one by one Zalman and Esther raised the money and brought the rest of Zalman's children to the United States.

The household consisted of Zalman, Esther, the four original Isenberg children, the five original Herman children and five new Herman/Isenberg children. Yes, that's a total of 14 children.



Wedding: July 27, 1926, Montreal
Ida "Alice" Yevzeroff to Irving Isenberg
(This is the Irving who was named after his father Irving.)

Quote from Jeffrey Knisbacher: "Ida Alice Yevzeroff, the wife of Irving Isenberg, was the daughter of Leizar Yevzeroff and Minnie Gelstein (aka Goldstein), a first cousin of my maternal grandmother Pearl Gelstein. I have Alice and Irving's wedding picture from my grandmother's photo collection that was passed down to me. But the story came from somewhere else--I don't remember the exact source and don't know if my grandmother was aware of all those details. She might have been, but probably wouldn't have shared them if she did know them."

Wonderful World of Websites

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vbuLsN0gf-4>
MyHeritage CEO Gilad Japhet Addresses RootsTech 2023

<https://www.storii.com/>
Record Your Life Stories

<https://www.interment.net/Default.htm>
Worldwide Cemetery Records

<https://variety.com/2023/tv/news/generations-tv-series-jewish-genealogy-fall-premiere-camryn-manheim-milomanheim-1235647232/>
Museum of Jewish Heritage's Genealogy-focused Series

Jewish Immigration to United States 1654 to 2020

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CvjAIMGXjoY>
Migration Patterns in Jewish History
(How Jews Got to Live Where They Live)
by Dr. Henry Abramson

<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/jewish-immigration-to-america-three-waves/>
Jewish Immigration to America: Three Waves
(Sephardic, German, Eastern European)
by JoEllyn Zollen

The Sephardic settlers arrived in New Amsterdam in 1654 from Brazil. These early Jews settled in such cities as Newport, RI, New Amsterdam (later New York) NY, Philadelphia PA, Charleston SC, and Savannah GA.

German Jews arrived in significant numbers in the 1840s. They left Germany because of persecution, restrictive laws, and economic hardship.

Many Eastern European Jews began to immigrate to the United States in large numbers after 1880. They were pushed out of Europe by overpopulation, oppressive legislation and poverty.

<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2021/05/11/race-ethnicity-heritage-and-immigration-among-u-s-jews/>
Jewish Americans in 2020
See "immigration among U.S. Jews" section
by Pew Research Study

Nine-in-ten Jewish adults report that they were born in the United States (90%), including 21% who are adult children of at least one immigrant and 68% whose families have been in the U.S. for three generations or longer. One-in-ten Jewish adults (10%) are immigrants, including 1% who were born in Israel.

Local Genealogical Societies

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

President: Kim Sheintal
klapshein@aol.com, 941-302-1433
<http://www.jgsswf.org>, <https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF>
JGS of SW FL meets third Sunday of month at 1:00 PM from
November thru April at Aviva, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

President: Bruce Hadburg
bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com, 727-796-7981
<http://www.jgstb.org>, www.facebook.com/pg/JGSTB
JGS of Tampa Bay meets second Sunday of month at 1:30 PM
refreshments, library access, socializing, 2:00 PM program.

Genealogical Society of Sarasota

President: Nancy Johnson
choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819
www.gssfl.org
GSS monthly Society meets the second Saturday of the month at
10:00 AM at the Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave.,
Sarasota.

Manatee Genealogical Society

President: Karen Dwyer
president@mgsfl.org, 941-840-3939
<https://mgsfl.org>,
<https://www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogicalSociety>
MGS monthly meetings will be held on the first Tuesday of
month at 10:00 AM at Manatee County Downtown Central
Public Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd. W., Bradenton.

South Bay Genealogical Society

President: Dru Thomas
813-634-9513, southbaygs@gmail.com,
Reservations: Dianna Loudermilk, 864-607-
1330<https://sites.rootsweb.com/~flsbg/index.htm>

Englewood Genealogical Society

President: Paul Skeels
info@egsfl.org, <https://egsfl.org/contact.php>

Charlotte County Genealogical Society

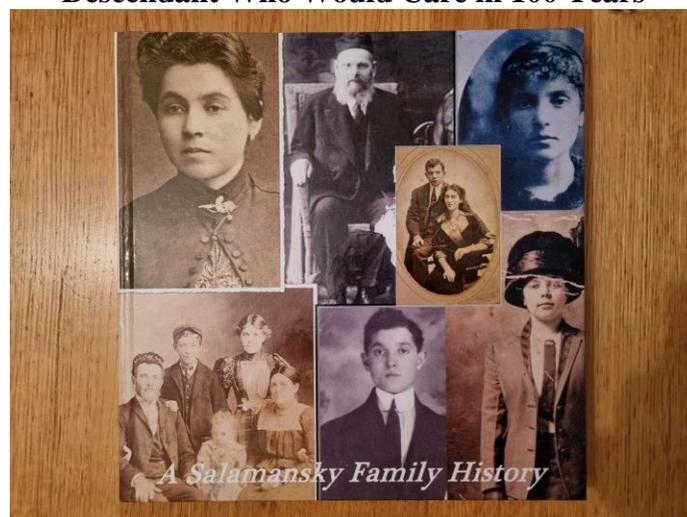
President: Philip Fisher
webliasion@ccgsi.org, <https://ccgsi.org>

FamilySearch Microfilm

FamilySearch has announced that "Due to the rapidly diminishing supply of microfilm, the ability to request copies of microfilms from the Granite Mountain Record Vault to be viewed in the FamilySearch Library will no longer be available after Saturday, July 15, 2023. We are currently working on alternate methods of access for microfilmed records that cannot be released to the public online. We apologize for the inconvenience and appreciate your patience as we develop these alternative options." If you have any additional questions, you may contact the Family History Library at FHL-SLC-FilmRequests@churchofjesuschrist.org

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson
IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

And Then There Is the Question of if There is a Descendant Who Would Care in 100 Years



To put some at ease that our research efforts aren't for naught, I worked over three years assembling history of my mother's family - a hair-pulling, frustrating, and wonderfully satisfying puzzle. It started as a simple way to record my grandparents' history, that ended up revealing 11 first-cousin marriages in a single generation (duplication of offspring and first names beyond your imagination), a lost then found great-great uncle and his offspring, other cousins who had no idea they had family out here, stacks of support documentation and ultimately an 80-plus page book of the results of these efforts.

I'm childless, so why bother? I did it, first and rather selfishly, to satisfy my own curiosity. But then ultimately, to leave a record to any of my thousands of cousins who might now or in the future be interested. The most surprising of all were two responses to the books I distributed to each "branch" of our complicated family when I drew a line in the sand at one point in my work. The first was (and is) from a second cousin who tells me repeatedly how her (non-related) friends are so intrigued by the findings, they break out the book at every visit, go through it again and again, and tell her they now feel a remote part of our family history as it was uncovered and where the research ultimately led. The second most satisfying came surprisingly from an adopted daughter of my first cousin who wrote to thank me for my work which she said gave her a family history to share with her children.

So, no matter if we think our efforts will be underappreciated, they will never be. Record what you can, highlight the remaining questions and missing pieces to make future research easier for others, distribute and save copies to everyone, and find satisfaction in creating a record of your own individual piece of our collective family history.

Leslie Gut-Reiken
Switzerland
lesliegut@bluewin.ch

2023 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 researching to:
Liz Klaber ~ 5389 Manchini Street ~ Sarasota, Florida 34238