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President's Spiel

by Kim Sheintal

There are numerous ways to organize your genealogical data. Each person develops their own system. Where do I file my grandmother's death certificate? Should I organize by locality, then record type, then family line? Do I file it by the locality at the place of her death or where she was born? Should I file it with all other death certificates no matter which family? Do I file it by married or birth surname? Do I save the record physically and/or do I save the record digitally? Do I use a different color tab for each family line? When it comes to organizing your genealogy papers, it is helpful to be consistent, write legibly, use exact date, and state your sources. Some similarities exist between organizing genealogical data and organizing daily paperwork.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida presents "My Methods for Organizing My Genealogical Data" by the panel of Jim Haberman, Scott Mandel, and Kim Sheintal on Sunday, December 17, 2023 at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota). Socializing begins at 12:45 p.m. followed by 1:00 p.m. program. RSVP: Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com or 941-302-1433.

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Program: Sunday, December 17, 2023

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

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota

My Methods for Organizing My Genealogical Data:

Panel of Jim Haberman, Scott Mandel, and Kim Sheintal

RSVP: Kim Sheintal: klapshein@aol.com, 941-302-1433

Finding your Roots

Finding your Roots 10th Anniversary Season 10 premieres in January on your PBS station. Check your local stations to find out time and dates. There will be ten new episodes which include Michael Douglas, Alainis Morissette (with Jewish roots). Season Ten includes actors Valerie Bertinelli ("One Day at a Time"), Danielle Brooks ("The Color Purple"), LeVar Burton ("Star Trek"), Lena Dunham ("Girls"), Brendan Fraser ("The Whale"), Tracy Morgan ("30 Rock"), Ed O'Neill ("Modern Family"), Bob Odenkirk ("Better Call Saul"), Anthony Ramos ("In the Heights"), Wes Studi ("The Last of the Mohicans"), Jesse Williams ("Grey's Anatomy"); comedian Iliza Shlesinger; musicians Ciara, Sammy Hagar, and Dionne Warwick; and journalist Sunny Hostin.

JGSSWF ON-LINE

JGSSWF web site

www.jgsswf.org

JGSSWF YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@JGSSWF

JGSSWF .pdf speaker's handout archive

www.tinyurl.com/mr3d8jw

JGSSWF Facebook page

www.facebook.com/JGSSWF

2024 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, FL 34238

Jewish Genealogical Society of SW FL 2024 Calendar

Sunday, January 21, 2024 via Zoom: “Traveling to America in Steerage and Whether to Admit or Deport our Ancestors” by Phil Goldfarb

Sunday, February 18, 2024 at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota): “Finding Jewish Records in MyHeritage Search Engine” by Daniel Horowitz, MyHeritage expert genealogist

Sunday, March 17, 2024 at Aviva (1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota): “How to Write My Memoirs” by Barbara Field and Rosanne Ullman

Sunday, April 21, 2024 via Zoom: “Alliance Community Reboot” by William and Malya Levin

Finding Your Original Jewish Surname

“Having a Jewish ancestry can be difficult to trace for a number of reasons. One of the challenges is finding the family surname(s). Traditionally, the Jewish people did not use fixed surnames and adopted them much later than some of their gentile neighbors. Historically, the Jews used patronymics (adopting the father’s given name as a surname for the child). A child might be known as David ben Isaac (David son of Isaac) or Miriam bat Aaron (Miriam daughter of Aaron). These names, of course, changed with each generation.

Sephardic Jews (the Jews of Spain, Portugal, and Italy) began adopting fixed family surnames much earlier than the Ashkenazic Jews (Jews from Germany and Eastern Europe). Some Italian Jews adopted surnames as early as the 10th and 11th centuries. They often chose the name of their town of origin or translated their Hebrew name.

In Germany, Austria, Hungary, Poland, and Russia the adoption of surnames by Jews didn’t take place until much later — in and around the 1800s — and was often forced upon the Jewish population by law. The earliest of these laws came from the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1788. All Jews in the Hapsburg Empire, including Galicia (Austrian Poland) were made to adopt a German surname. This was done to better keep track of the Jewish population for taxation and conscription purposes. If a family did not choose a name that was to the Austrian officials’ liking, one would be assigned to them. No place names or Yiddish names were allowed. This is one reason why so many Jews today have German surnames.”

Source: http://www.tribstar.com/news/lifestyles/genealogy-jewish-ancestry-can-be-difficult-to-trace/article_0b9543ea-562d-57d0-8477-e983942d0882.html

Have You Tried JewishGen Recently?

Even the most newbie genealogists are aware of JewishGen - The Global Home for Jewish Genealogy. People explore JewishGen because it has millions of records from around the world. It is an opportunity to help identify relatives, discover towns of your ancestor, experience how they lived, and connect with the global JewishGen community. It is recommended to check out JewishGen on a regular basis at <http://www.jewishgen.org> to search their collection by typing in a surname, given name, and/or regions. Try it and you could find postings in such places as JewishGen Family Finder, JewishGen Family Tree of the Jewish People, JewishGen Holocaust Database, JewishGen Online Burial Registry, JewishGen Memorials and Plaques Database, The JewishGen Yizkor Book Necrology Database, and more. This is a reminder for all genealogists to explore JewishGen.

A QR Code on Your Gravestone

To learn who people were, how they lived, and what their lives truly meant to others a QR code is sometimes put on a gravestone. La Paz, a Jewish cemetery in Uruguay, has placed a QR code on every headstone.

Wonderful World of Websites

100 Common Jewish Surnames with Meanings
<https://parade.com/living/jewish-last-names>

Digitized Historic Jewish Newspapers, Periodicals, e-Journals

<http://library.osu.edu/projects/hebrew-lexicon/Jewish-Press.htm>

Detroit Jewish News Digital Archives
<https://digital.bentley.umich.edu/djnews>

Skokie Newspaper Index
www.skokieneewspaperindex.com/browse/

Jewish Sentinel on Illinois Digital Archives Website
www.idaillinois.org/digital/collection/p16614coll14

Organizing a Jewish Genealogical Society
[https://www.iajgs.org/SGS-JGS/Starting a JGS Organizing a JGS Handbook.pdf](https://www.iajgs.org/SGS-JGS/Starting_a_JGS_Organizing_a_JGS_Handbook.pdf)

Jewish Ancestors? A Guide to Organising Your Family History Records by JGS of Greater Britain
<https://shop.nationalarchives.gov.uk/products/guide-to-organising-jewish-fh>

Calculator: Add to or subtract from a date
<http://www.timeanddate.com/date/dateadd.html>

Organizing Paperwork
<http://www.indeed.com/career-advice/career-development/organize-your-paperwork>

Habits of Highly-Organized Genealogists
<https://familytreemagazine.com/organization/9-habits-of-highly-organized-genealogists-2/>

Organizing Your Files
http://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/Organizing_Your_Files

Ways to Organize Digital Photos
<http://www.pcmag.com/how-to/3-easy-ways-to-organize-digital-photos>

Tips to Organize Digital Photos
<http://www.marthastewart.com/how-to-organize-digital-photos-7506188>

How to Organize Your Book Collection
<http://www.clutter.com/blog/posts/how-to-organize-book-collection/>

World's Largest Genealogy Conference
RootsTech Online and In Person
February 29 thru March 2, 2024
<http://www.rootstech.org>

Jewish Denominations
<http://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/the-jewish-denominations/>

Linkpendium's goal is to index every family tree, surname, vital records, biography, or otherwise genealogically-related site on the Internet.
<http://www.linkpendium.com/>

JDC Archives (type in surnames)
<https://names.jdc.org>

Am I Really Jewish?

According to *halakha* (Jewish law), you must be born to a Jewish mother or have entered the faith through conversion. A reform or reconstructionist rabbi (these are the more socially progressive and halakhically creative of the four main Jewish denominations) would tell you that patrilineal Jews count, but only if they're raised Jewish.

Source:

<http://severancemag.com/i-just-found-out-im-jewish-but-am-i-jewish>

Bachelor's Degree: Family History/Genealogy

Brigham Young University (in Provo, Utah) is the only university in the world that offers a four-year bachelor's degree in Family History/Genealogy.

Ancestral Reference Numbering System

We all have:

2	1 mother and 1 father
4	grandparents
8	great-grandparents
16	2nd great-grandparents
32	3rd great-grandparents
64	4th great-grandparents
=====	
	etc., etc.

Each generation doubles in size. Start with yourself in the first generation. Then your parents, and so on:

2nd generation	2 ancestors	= 2 ancestors in total
3rd generation	4 ancestors	= 6 ancestors in total
4th generation	8 ancestors	= 14 ancestors in total
5th generation	16 ancestors	= 30 ancestors in total
6th generation	32 ancestors	= 62 ancestors in total
7th generation	64 ancestors	= 126 ancestors in total
8th generation	128 ancestors	= 254 ancestors in total
9th generation	256 ancestors	= 510 ancestors in total
10th generation	512 ancestors	= 1022 ancestors in total

The 10th generation by itself, will contain 512 ancestors. But a 10 generation list of ancestors contains 1,022 because this is the total number of ancestors for the 2nd to the 10th generation inclusive. Ancestors are traditionally recorded on a Pedigree Chart. Here is a description of the most commonly used coding system on Pedigree Charts. This chart will list all your ancestors from one father and mother to the next father and mother. The reference person number 1, will be the person whose genealogy you are doing. If you are researching your entire genealogy, then your name will be reference number 1. The sequence on your pedigree chart will be:

- 1 You
- 2 Your father
- 3 Your mother
- 4 Your paternal grandfather
- 5 Your paternal grandmother
- 6 Your maternal grandfather
- 7 Your maternal grandmother
- 8-11 Your paternal great-grandparents
- 12-15 Your maternal great-grandparents
- 16-23 Your paternal 2nd great-grandparents
- 24-31 Your maternal 2nd great-grandparents

JGSSWF Expands Its Online Presence

JGSSWF is expanding its digital horizons! First, we're proud to announce our new YouTube channel. There you'll find a video archive of selected past JGSSWF programs, including our November presentation by David Ellis entitled "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy". To access the channel, go to www.youtube.com/@JGSSWF or simply go to YouTube and type @jgsswf in the search bar and click on the first search result. If all else fails, a link to the channel is on the home page of our web site (see below). Please subscribe to our YouTube channel by clicking the "subscribe" button. This will not result in you receiving e-mails, but each time we upload a new video it will appear in your YouTube feed.

Another useful JGSSWF on-line resource is our Google Drive-based digital library of .pdf handouts provided by our speakers. To download a .pdf of speakers' handouts for past programs, simply go to <https://tinyurl.com/mr3d8jwt>.

Don't forget our Facebook page - www.facebook.com/JGSSWF. Please give the page a "like".

Last, but not least, the JGSSWF web site (www.jgsswf.org) has undergone a sorely needed major content update. The site contains the following useful features:

- the complete list of every JGSSWF program since our inception in 1996;
- the JGSSWF Members' Research List, containing all of the surnames and towns being researched by our members;
- an archive of every issue of JGSSWF's newsletter, *Mishpochology*, dating back to 2002;
- a list of useful web links; and
- a membership application

Feel free to contact JGSSWF's webmaster, Jim Haberman, with any comments or digital presence improvement suggestions at webmaster@jgsswf.org.