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President's Spiel

by Kim Sheintal

There are many reasons why people enjoy tracing their Jewish families such as interests in history, DNA, hereditary health issues, family stories, family heirlooms, writing memoirs, maps, Holocaust research, Jewish surnames, finding new cousins, photography, planning reunions, traveling to the shtetls of their ancestors, and much more. I can tell that different aspects of genealogy attract different people as I take reservations for the JGS of SW FL meetings. I am amazed how different the attendees are from one meeting to another. Not everyone tracing their families has the same genealogical interests.

Genealogy presentations vary so much. What sort of programs would interest you? We would like your program ideas for future JGS of SW FL meetings. Here are some ideas, but we would like to hear your ideas.

- Appraisal of Family Heirlooms
- How Artificial Intelligence Programs Help Genealogists
- How Museums Help Genealogists
- How Newspapers Help Genealogists
- What Family Letters Reveal about Family
- What are the Best Libraries for Genealogists
- What to do with My DNA Test Results
- Why is Jewish Genealogy Different
- Preparing for a Genealogical Research Trip
- My Greatest Genealogy Discoveries
- My Favorite Genealogy Websites

What would interest you in regard to genealogy programs for the upcoming JGS of SW FL season? Please respond to Howard Finkel at hgfinkel@gmail.com

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Zoom Program: Sunday, April 21, 2024

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

"Alliance Community Reboot"

by William and Malya Levin

For more information or to access the Zoom link:

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

First Jewish Agricultural Society in North America

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida presents William and Malya Levin on April 21. They will speak about Alliance Community Reboot, a non-profit organization seeking to rebuild a Jewish farm-based community in South New Jersey, on the site of the Alliance Colony, the first Jewish agricultural society in North America. They will cover their personal connection as a descendant of the original founders of the Colony, how they came to reengage with the farmland and rebuild an historic community. Socializing begins at 12:45 p.m. and the presentation begins at 1:00 p.m. For Zoom link, contact Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433 or klapshein@aol.com

2024 Membership Dues

Single Membership: \$25/year

Family Membership: \$30/year

Sustaining Membership: \$50/year (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

JGS of SW FL ONLINE

JGSSWF web site

www.jgsswf.org

JGSSWF YouTube Channel

www.youtube.com/@JGSSWF

JGSSWF speaker's handout archive

www.tinyurl.com/mr3d8jwt

JGSSWF Facebook page

www.facebook.com/JGSSWF

JGS of SW FL In-Person Programs January 2024 and February 2024



Since the mid-1970's Ken's hobby has been genealogy. In that endeavor, he's been able to locate relatives (both living and deceased) all over the United States as well as in Canada, South America, Russia, Great Britain, Israel and Australia. Ken is the Immediate Past President of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies. He is also a past President of the Jewish Genealogy Society of Cleveland. Above is Ken with Kim Sheintal when he presented "Sometimes the Old Way Works Even Better" at Temple Emanu-El on January 19, 2024.



Dedicated to genealogy since 1986, Daniel was the teacher and study guide editor of the family history project "Searching for My Roots" in Venezuela for 15 years. He is involved in several crowdsource digitization and transcription projects, and holds a board-level position at The Israel Genealogy Research Association. Daniel has been working at MyHeritage since 2006 liaising with genealogy societies and attending conferences around the world. Maria Leonardo, Director of Life Enrichment at Aviva, with Daniel Horowitz, MyHeritage expert genealogist, and Jeff Bockman, genealogy author, on February 18, 2024 at Aviva when Daniel presented "Finding Jewish Records in MyHeritage Search Engine" at Aviva on February 18, 2024.

Wonderful World of Websites

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWXZLL180z8

MyHeritage: 20 Years of Dreams and Innovation

www.newsweek.com/holocaust-survivor-returns-home-family-saved-life-1777144

Holocaust Survivor Returns to Home of Family Who Saved His Life 75 Years On Thanks to MyHeritage

www.flixy.com/new-york-city-evolution-1524-2023-500-years-in-5-minutes.htm

Evolution of New York City 1524-2023 in Five Minutes

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vY22oNZnNdQ

Orphan Holocaust Survivor, Unaware of His Own Name, Finds Family after 76 Years

www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1nz5Bkpmcw

Do You Have An Unrelated Identical Twin?
Finding the Most Identical Strangers

www.instarestoration.com/blog/the-genealogist-a-unique-survey
Genealogy Survey

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Gp6hjs-4Xs

RootsTech 2024 Round Up

www.jewishgen.org/generations

Generations, first Jewish-themed genealogy tv series
(produced by the Museum of Jewish Heritage)

www.thetech.org/ask-a-geneticist/articles/2014/twin-genetics/

Are Twins Hereditary?

www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/which-face-is-real-discerning-ai-generated-images-isn-t-as-easy-as-you-think/ar-BB1jBYWW?ocid=msedgntp&pc=U531&cvid=64b5610cf2f74234a19d819c0effd08a&ei=10

Discerning AI Generated Images Isn't Easy

www.archives.gov/research/genealogy

National Archives

www.archives.gov/education/family-history

Genealogy for Kids

<https://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-help-and-how-to/hard-truths-family-historian/>

Ten Challenges Every Family Historian Comes to Expect

www.familyeducation.com/baby-names/surname/origin/jewish

Jewish Last Names

www.familysearch.org/library/books/

FamilySearch Digital Library over 500,000 Genealogy Books,
Family Histories, Maps, Yearbooks, and More

My Family Tree Journey

by Kim Sheintal

Each person has two parents, four grandparents, eight great grandparents, and sixteen great great grandparents. I research my birth surname of Klapman. I research my mother's maiden name of Lebovitz. I research my paternal grandmother's maiden name of Matis and my maternal grandmother's maiden name of Contorer. With my four great grandmothers, I add the surnames of Szwarcbort, Lamarz, Kasrilzon, and Jaffe to my research. With my great great grandmothers, I have the potential to add eight more surnames to research. I add three surnames of my great great grandmothers: Zydek, Taub, and Lejsman to research. With my great great great grandmothers, I add surnames Szrajer, Abraham, Berman, and what I think is a different Taub line than the Taub of my great great grandmother to research. With my great great great great grandmothers, I add the Moyses surname to research. With my great great great great great grandmothers, I add the Atkats surname to research. Researching these 17 surnames led to my extensive collection of family stories, documents, and photos, while adding many new people to my family tree.

The surnames to research on one's direct line are:
you (one surname at birth)

2 parents (potential to add one surname)

4 grandparents (potential to add 2 surnames)

8 great grandparents (potential to add 4 surnames)

16 gg grandparent (potential to add 8 surnames)

32 ggg grandparents (potential to add 16 surnames)

64 gggg grandparents (potential to add 32 surnames)

128 gggg grandparents (potential to add 64 surnames)

There will always be pedigree collapse at some point. Pedigree collapse describes how reproduction between two individuals who knowingly or unknowingly share an ancestor causes the family tree of their offspring to be smaller than it would otherwise be. In my family pedigree collapse occurred and thus two of my ggg grandparents are also my gggg grandparents.

I have discovered many cousins around the world (and even some living just a few minutes from my house). Some cousins found me; others I found. In addition, I have reconnected with cousins I had not seen in over 50 years. Several of my cousins are actively tracing their families. One cousin is a professional genealogist who lectures on reclaiming records and DNA. Another cousin is a Russian history professor who wrote a book about our Russian roots. Many of my cousins are active genealogy volunteers raising money for shtetl research, serving on genealogical society boards, and maintaining family trees with thousands of names.

Hundreds of my relatives have enlightened my genealogy experience via phone, in person, on Zoom, and written communications sharing bits and pieces that tell the story of surnames in my family.

Why Is Genealogy Popular among the Elderly?

"There is a decided social association between old age and genealogy. The young determined and dedicated genealogical researcher is a rarity."

<https://genealogystar.blogspot.com/2013/03/the-genealogy-age-gap-how-do-we-expand.html>

"Aging adults experience an unusual happiness when connected with family members they never knew they had. There is a feeling of accomplishment when aging adults find a missing link in their family chain. The sense of knowing they researched and found answers is very fulfilling."

<https://broadviewresidential.com/significance-genealogy-seniors/>

"Older adults often turn to genealogy as a popular hobby because it helps solidify their identities and explore their family history while connecting them to their past. DNA tests and genealogical research can provide seniors with information that can help them make lifestyle changes to enhance and lengthen their lives."

<https://revolutiongray.com/why-genealogy-matters-to-seniors/>

"The psychological benefits of knowing their roots boost their mental well-being in positive ways."

<https://wehavekids.com/family-relationships/How-Genealogy-Affects-Wellbeing-in-Older-People>

Genealogy

Genealogy (from the Ancient Greek γενεαλογία (genealogía) 'the making of a pedigree') is the study of families, family history, and the tracing of their lineages.

According to Miriam-Webster Dictionary, the following are synonyms for genealogy:

ancestry
birth
blood
bloodline
breeding
descent
extraction
family tree
line
lineage
origin
parentage
pedigree
stock
strain

Welcome Newest JGS of SW FL Members

Timothy Childers
Joe Floersheimer
Elise Galinsky
Abe Lederman
Marc Silverstein

My Postcard Collection

by Kim Sheintal

For over 60 years, I saved the postcards that my family and friends sent to me and my family. I inherited my mother-in-law's collection of postcards that were sent to her and her family by her family and friends. Each postcard reveals a part of family history. Here are three of my favorite postcards in my collection.

Addressed to: Jonathan and Nira Sheintal (husband of Kim and his sister) in Washington DC from cousin Kenny who lived in DC, but was on vacation in Delaware Water Gap, PA

Date: about 1949 (postmark hard to read)

Front of Postcard: Squirrel

Handwritten Message: "Hi Cousins. Mama and I are having a real nice time here. There's plenty of land to run around on, but no other children to play with, I really wish you were here too. Regards to all. Love, Kenny Marx"

Comments: This postcard led me to the discovery that the DC address on the front of the postcard was for Jon's maternal grandfather's butcher shop around 1949.

Addressed to: Kim Klapman in Skokie, Illinois from her maternal grandparents who were on vacation in Florida

Date: March 11, 1963 (three months before my Bat Mitzvah)

Front of Postcard: Florida Seminole Family

Handwritten Message: "Dear Kim, Thank you for the delightful and interesting letters, and beautiful drawings. What color material did you get for your dress? I bet blue! The weather is still beautiful here. But I'm really a little lonesome for Chicago's exciting weather. Kiss mother and dad and Liz for us. Love, Mom and Pop"

Comments: My maternal grandparents went to Miami Beach for a vacation from Chicago three months before my Bat Mitzvah and thought that I would pick out a blue dress for my Bat Mitzvah. As it turned out, I picked out a pink silky dress.

Addressed to: Kim Sheintal in Sarasota from her sister Liz who was on vacation in Miami Beach, FL

Date: June 3, 2021

Front of Postcard: Beau Rivage Resort and Casino in Biloxi

Handwritten Message: "Hi Kimmie, Funny - the only stamps the hotel has is Alabama and we're in Mississippi. Go figure! And the only postcard is of their golf course. When I think of Beau Rivage, I think of that big deal family vacation to Miami Beach. First time I flew, that pool! Daddy with a broken leg, getting dressed up to fly and eat dinner - I had duck. And you took swimming lessons from a dark muscular guy? We're going to explore Biloxi today. Love, Liz"

Comments: Liz's message brought back memories from when I was about ten and Liz was about five and we took a family vacation with our parents to Beau Rivage Hotel on Collins Avenue in Miami Beach, Florida.

The oldest postcard in my collection was mailed in July 1941 to Palestine from United States addressed to Rosi Schonthal (mother of my husband Jon before Jon was born). Rosi lived in Haderah, Palestine. This postcard was from Bertl, Rosi's sister, who was living in DC area. From this postcard, I learned Rosi's Haderah address in 1941.

U.S. 2024 Population

The U.S. Census Bureau projected the U.S. population was 335,893,238 on January 1, 2024. Two hundred and fifty years ago just before the nation's independence, U.S. population was about 2.5 million residents. During January 2024, 4.3 births and 2.0 deaths are expected worldwide every second.

www.census.gov/library/stories/2023/12/happy-new-year-2024.html

Combination of births, deaths, and net international migration increases the U.S. population by one person every 24.2 seconds. The world population is 8,019,876,189.

Jan Meisels Allen
Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Annual Conference

Dates: August 18-22, 2024

Location: Sheraton Philadelphia PA Downtown
201 N. 17th St., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

"Expert Jewish genealogists will be presenting informative family history talks for the 44th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from Sunday, Aug. 18 through Thursday, Aug. 22, 2024. Further details will be forthcoming from the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies." <https://jgsi.org/event-5512581>

National Genealogical Society Annual Conference

Dates: May 16-18, 2024 Location: Virtual

"Whether you are pulling together papers about your grandparents, have a basic working knowledge of family history research, or are trying to break through a brick wall to expand your family tree beyond the first hundred years, the NGS 2024 Virtual Family History Conference takes your research to the next level and expands your possibilities." <https://conference.ngsgenealogy.org>

Upcoming Genealogy Conferences around World

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/blog/genealogy-conferences-2024>

<https://conferencekeeper.org/conference-keeper/>