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### **President's Spiel by Kim Sheintal**

Thanks to the members who requested specific types of presentations. There are members who want to learn how to prepare records to donate to museums and history centers. There are members who want to know how best to save their home movies and photos for their younger family members. We have members interested in how AI pertains to genealogy. Because of your requests, we scheduled local genealogist Peggy Jude to give programs on both of these topics. Peggy will present "What to Do with Your Stuff: Planning for the Future of Your Genealogy and Artifacts" on November 17 and "AI for Genealogy" on February 16. Peggy is a speaker, educator and researcher who has been conducting genealogical research for her family and clients for over 40 years.

One of the mitzvahs in regard to genealogy is sharing your genealogy whether it is sharing your general expertise by helping others trace their roots or by passing your genealogy collections (documents, photos, movies, stories, etc.) to family members or places such as museums and history centers.

Arthur Kurzweil, author and lecturer, presented "Genealogy as a Spiritual Pilgrimage" for the Malcolm R. Stern Memorial Lecture at the 14<sup>th</sup> Summer Seminar on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC on June 28, 1995. The following is from his speech. The full speech is at <https://www.zchor.org/KURZ.HTM>.

"I am thinking about the mitzvahs that we do as genealogists. It seems to me that every step of the way when we pursue our genealogical research, we are involved in mitzvahs. Who more than we honor the elderly? Who more than we reach out to the elderly people in our family and our communities and make them feel like we need them - because we do. And what is that but a mitzvah, to honor the elderly. Who more than we ask questions? The Talmud consists of questions, thousands of ways of asking different questions. Did you ever ask the question, 'Where did you get that information from?' Well, there is a little code word in the Talmud for the question, 'Where did you get that question from?' And who has perfected the art of asking questions more than we have?"

## **MISHPOCHOLOGY**

**Volume 29, Number 3 Fall 2024**

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

### **JGS of SW FL MEETING**

**Sunday, November 17, 2024 (1:00 PM)**

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

"What to Do with Your Stuff" by Peggy Jude

For details Kim Sheintal: [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com), 941-302-1433

### **What to Do with Your Stuff**

**Sunday, November 17, 2024 at Aviva**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida presents "What to Do with Your Stuff: Planning for the Future of Your Genealogy and Artifacts" by Peggy Jude. The presentation will take place on November 17 at 1:00 PM at Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life, 1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota. Every year, genealogical research, records, and heirlooms end up in the trash. This session provides ideas and strategies to ensure your research and treasures don't find the same fate. Socializing begins at 12:45 PM and the presentation begins at 1:00 PM. Members and guests are invited. Reservations are appreciated. For details, contact Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433 or [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com)

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### **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

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### **JGS of SW FL ONLINE**

JGSSWF website

[www.jgsswf.org](http://www.jgsswf.org)

JGSSWF YouTube Channel

[www.youtube.com/@JGSSWF](http://www.youtube.com/@JGSSWF)

JGSSWF speaker's handout archive

[www.tinyurl.com/mr3d8jwt](http://www.tinyurl.com/mr3d8jwt)

JGSSWF Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/JGSSWF](http://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF)

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## How I Met My Wife

by Joe Floerscheimer (JGS of SW FL member)

I came home after my three years' service in Korea and found that most of my friends had gotten married. I felt somewhat alone. No one to play with. One day one of them invited me for dinner and during various conversations they asked if I would be interested in going on a blind date with them, to meet a friend of the wife. Gave me a little history which I didn't find too thrilling but accepted the invitation. Her father owned a supermarket with a stay-at-home wife. They also told me that the young lady was not getting along with her mother because she was dating a classmate at Hunter College who wasn't Jewish.

We arrived at their apartment in Manhattan, we lived in Queens, and instead of going out they had decided to put out a spread and we stayed there and ate and talked. During the course of the evening, her mother, by the way the young lady's name was Lee, came over and asked, "what do you do for a living?" Being a smart ass, I answered, "I'm a lifeguard at a Mikvah." An old Jewish joke.

This woman immediately fell in love with me since I must be Jewish. The end of the story is that Lee and I were married eleven months later and stayed that way for almost 60 years.

## Uncle Martin and the Chickens

by Joe Floerscheimer (JGS of SW FL member)

I grew up in Germany in a little town called Hoechst. There was a nice Jewish population, a synagogue and a kosher butcher. My grandfather was the Rabbi, and this story has importance that he was also a Cohen. He had lost his wife after having three young children, one of them my mother. He remarried and a year after I was born, he had a son with the new wife. End of background.

Martin, the son who's now my uncle, and only being a year older than me, became good friends and palled around most of the time. One day while walking through this town he grabbed a chicken that was roaming around, laid it on the ground took a praying position and started mumbling a prayer but somewhat silently. The chicken never moved. I was fascinated by this and wanted to know what the prayer was he had just recited. He told me he could not tell me because I wasn't a Cohen. His father was from my mother's side. No matter how I pleaded he would not tell me. He did this very often and always went through the same ritual. I never learned the bracha.

We all eventually immigrated to the USA but even when we were here, and I still asked, he would not tell me. When I was about thirteen my brother and I were sent to a summer camp. I hated it and came back home. Through a family friend I was sent to Vineland NJ to work on a chicken farm. Near the end of the summer, it was time to gather the chickens for shipping to a slaughterhouse. We used long hooks to grab their legs and put them in crates. I noticed that the owner would occasionally pick up a chicken and just lay it on the ground. The chicken never moved. I ran over and asked, "Are you a Cohen?" He had no ideas what I was talking about since he was also Jewish and knew what a Cohen was. I explained the story to him and stood there while he just couldn't stop laughing. I felt embarrassed. He then explained that if you cross the wings of a chicken, they become paralyzed till the wings are unfolded. We both had a good laugh about me being taken in by my uncle.

When I came back home and met up with Martin I related the story. We both had a good laugh about him putting me on for so many years. Wish he was still around.

## Local Genealogical Societies

### Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

President: Kim Sheintal

[klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com), 941-302-1433

[www.jgsswf.org](http://www.jgsswf.org), [www.facebook.com/JGSSWF](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 with two exceptions this season. April 2025 meets fourth Sunday in 2025. March 2025 only meets via Zoom.

### Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

President: Bruce Hadburg

[bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com), 727-796-7981

[www.jgstb.org/](http://www.jgstb.org/), [www.facebook.com/JGSTB/](https://www.facebook.com/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](mailto:choco8448@gmail.com), 941-752-9819

[www.gssf.org](http://www.gssf.org)

GSS meets second Saturday of month at 10:00 AM at Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota.

### Manatee Genealogical Society

President: Karen Dwyer

[president@mgsfl.org](mailto:president@mgsfl.org), 941-840-3939

<https://mgsfl.org>,

[www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogicalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogicalSociety)

MGS meets 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: Cathy Rebhun

813-643-4649

Reservations: Vicki McDonnell, 360-608-1647

<https://southbaygenealogy.org/>

### Englewood Genealogical Society

President: Paul Skeels

[info@egsfl.org](mailto:info@egsfl.org)

<https://egsfl.org/contact.php>

### Charlotte County Genealogical Society

President: Dottie Baugh

[webliasion@ccgsi.org](mailto:webliasion@ccgsi.org)

<https://ccgsi.org>

## JewishGen and IGRA Partnership

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce a strengthened partnership between JewishGen, the world's largest digital repository for Jewish family history, and the Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA), Israel's largest Jewish Genealogical Society. This collaboration will provide an easy access point for researchers to search over three million records related to Israel through a single, user-friendly interface, which will alert genealogists when there are potential record matches. The new integrated search capabilities are accessible via JewishGen's Unified Search (<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/all/>), and directly through Israel Genealogy Research Association's All Israel Database (<https://www.genealogy.org.il>). This effort is part of an ongoing commitment by both organizations to enhance and expand their Israel-related collections, providing rich and diverse content to the broader worldwide Jewish genealogical community. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to work together to make family history research more accessible and comprehensive for all.

Avraham Groll and Garri Regev

# **Wonderful World of Websites**

[www.jpost.com/tags/genealogy](http://www.jpost.com/tags/genealogy)

Breaking News about Genealogy in Jerusalem Post

<https://aish.com/the-jews-of-djerba-9-facts-about-this-ancient-jewish-community/>

Ancient Jewish Community in Djerba

[www.ancestry.com/c/story-scout](http://www.ancestry.com/c/story-scout)

Story Scout

<https://www.officialusa.com>

USA Directory and State Guides

[www.apgen.org](http://www.apgen.org)

Association of Professional Genealogists

[www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/researchers.htm](http://www.jewishgen.org/infofiles/researchers.htm)

Professional Genealogists (Eastern European Researchers)

[http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/top ten most popular online genealogy magazines.html](http://www.genealogyintime.com/GenealogyResources/Articles/top%20ten%20most%20popular%20online%20genealogy%20magazines.html)

Top Ten Online Genealogy Magazines

[www.ngsgenealogy.org/magazine/](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/magazine/)

National Genealogical Society Magazine

[www.americanancestors.org/publications/american-ancestors-magazine](http://www.americanancestors.org/publications/american-ancestors-magazine)

American Ancestors Magazine

<https://familytreemagazine.com>

Family Tree Magazine

<https://familytreemagazine.com/best-genealogy-websites/>

101 Best Genealogy Websites 2024

<https://familytreemagazine.com/category/heritage/jewish/>

Family Tree Magazine (Category: Jewish Genealogy)

<https://library.vu.edu/c.php?g=947380&p=6830243>

Yeshiva University Libraries (Jewish Genealogical Research)

<https://genealogy.org.il>

The Israel Genealogy Research Association (IGRA)

<https://theweitzman.org/about-us/>

Weitzman Museum of American Jewish History

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/websites/>

National Archives Recommends 18 Free Genealogy Websites

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/best-genealogy-websites-for-every-research-scenario>

Best Genealogy Websites for Different Research Scenarios

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSz5kB-MPCg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GSz5kB-MPCg)

Basics of Jewish American Genealogy (YouTube)

[www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/06/mail-in-dna-test-results-bring-surprises-about-family-history-for-many-users/](http://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2019/08/06/mail-in-dna-test-results-bring-surprises-about-family-history-for-many-users/)

Pew Research Center: DNA Test Results Bring Surprises

## **My DNA Surprises**

by Kim Sheintal

Here are some surprises about my matches on Ancestry DNA.

- I know exactly how I am related to six of my DNA matches on Ancestry who share less than 20 cM of DNA with me.
- Five members at my synagogue share DNA with me on Ancestry but I cannot determine how I am related to any of them.
- On May 28, 2016 when I got my results on Ancestry, I had 2792 4<sup>th</sup> cousins or closer matches. Today, I have over 100,000 matches that are 4<sup>th</sup> cousins or closer.
- Two of my DNA matches on Ancestry live just minutes from me. One of the matches grew up in the same city in Illinois as me and we both are now retired in the same city in Florida. We think we have the same ggggg grandfather. The other DNA match has a mother born with my maiden name with ancestors from the same shtetl in Poland as me.

## **What is a Jewish First Name?**

“There’s no single definition of what makes a Jewish name Jewish. Depending on who you ask, you will get different examples. Names from the Tanakh, like Miriam and Yosef, are considered Jewish, as are names currently popular in Israel, including Libi and Oz. Yiddish names such as Malka and Moishe were used by Ashkenazi Jews of Europe. Their immigrant ancestors often adopted such non-Jewish names as Molly and Morris, which would later become widespread across Jewish communities. Young Jewish-Americans may consider Jewish names to be those that hit their peak a generation or two ago, like Rachel and Sarah, Joshua and Max.”

Source <https://nameberry.com/blog/modern-jewish-baby-names-pay-homage-to-heritage>

## **What is a Jewish Last Name?**

“There are really only three surnames that are specifically Jewish in nature: variations on Cohen, Levy and Israel. These names are derived from tribal ancestry that were recorded by the Jewish people and recognized in synagogue with various distinctions.”

Source [https://www.jewfaq.org/jewish\\_names](https://www.jewfaq.org/jewish_names)

## **Converted to Judaism**

- Sofia Richie has converted to Judaism ahead of her wedding to music producer Elliot Grainge.
- Ivanka Trump and Karlie Kloss both converted when they married Jared and Josh Kushner, respectively.
- Isla Fisher converted to Judaism before marrying Sacha Baron Cohen.
- Elizabeth Banks didn’t complete the conversion process but still considers herself a Jew.
- Zooey Deschanel converted to Judaism.

Source [www.businessinsider.com/celebrities-who-converted-to-judaism](http://www.businessinsider.com/celebrities-who-converted-to-judaism)

- Natasha Leggero, comedian, converted to Judaism before marrying fellow comedian Moshe Kasher, who was raised in an Orthodox household.

Source [www.kveller.com/9-celebrities-who-famously-converted-to-judaism/](http://www.kveller.com/9-celebrities-who-famously-converted-to-judaism/)



## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida 2024-2025 Calendar

- Sunday, November 17, 2024 at 1:00 PM: What to Do with Your Stuff - Planning for the Future of Your Genealogy and Artifacts by Peggy Jude at Aviva
- Sunday, December 15, 2024 at 1:00 PM: Origins of Hanukkah by Rabbi Brenner Glickman at Aviva
- Sunday, January 19, 2025 at 1:00 PM: DNA and the Courts by Michael Katzer at Aviva
- Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 1:00 PM: Artificial Intelligence for Genealogy by Peggy Jude at Aviva
- Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 1:00 PM: Leveraging Freedom of Information Laws to Procure Novel Records by Alec Ferretti on Zoom only
- Sunday, April 27, 2025 at 1:00 PM: Use of Geography in Genealogy by Eric Wolfgang at Aviva

## MyHeritage and FTDNA New Collaboration

A new collaboration between MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA is announced which includes the integration between MyHeritage and FamilyTreeDNA websites by enabling FTDNA customers to transfer their family trees to MyHeritage and continue building on them on MyHeritage.

The two companies have had a longstanding partnership and this further enhances that relationship. "This strategic decision allows FamilyTreeDNA to focus on its expertise in DNA testing services and reporting, while providing its users with access to the powerful family tree tools and technologies offered by MyHeritage."

To read how this works go to the MyHeritage blog at: <https://blog.myheritage.com/2024/07/new-collaboration-with-familytreedna/>

I have no affiliation with MyHeritage nor FTDNA and am sharing this solely for the information of the reader.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

## Genealogy on Television Shows

### *Who Do You Think You Are*

*Who Do You Think You Are* featured celebrities as they participated in discovering their own family history. This show aired from 2010 thru 2022 on NBC and TLC. Occasionally, celebrities with Jewish roots were featured such as Lea Michele ("Lea Michele Uncovers Her Jewish Ancestry").

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRgwINxzYg>

### *Finding Your Roots*

Henry Louis Gates Jr. shares family history surprises with celebrities in each 52-minute episode of *Finding Your Roots*. This PBS show originally aired in 2012 and continues to air on PBS. Occasionally, celebrities with Jewish roots are featured such as Iliza Shlesinger ("Iliza Shlesinger Discovers Horrors in Her Family's Journey").

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D2TyjArm9sY>

To read about more genealogy television series, go to website <https://familytreemagazine.com/entertainment/must-see-genealogy-tv/>

## Genealogy and Abbreviations

Abbreviations shorten the word but do not create a new one.

Abbreviations used in genealogy:

- Ave. "Avenue"
- Dec. "December"
- photo "photograph"

An acronym is a type of abbreviation that shortens a phrase by combining the first letter (or letters) of each word in the phrase to form a new pronounceable word.

Acronyms used in genealogy:

- ZIP "Zone Improvement Plan". To form the acronym ZIP, you take the first letter of each of the words in the phrase "Zone Improvement Plan" and then pronounce the collection of letters as a new word. We pronounce the term as "zip" and not the individual letters "Z-I-P."
- JPEG "Joint Photographic Experts Group"
- GEDCOM "GEnealogical Data COMmunications"

An initialism is another type of abbreviation similar to an acronym—but not exactly the same. Initialisms also use the first letter of each word in the phrase, but instead of combining the letters to form a new word, you pronounce each letter individually.

Initialisms used in genealogy:

- IGRA "Israel Genealogy Research Association"
- JGS "Jewish Genealogical Society"
- IAJGS "International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies"
- NGS "National Genealogical Society"
- FGS "Federation of Genealogical Societies" *In the summer of 2019, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) merged as one organization known as NGS.*
- FSGS "Florida State Genealogical Society"
- APG "Association of Professional Genealogists"
- DAR "Daughters of the American Revolution"
- AM and PM "ante meridiem" and "post meridiem"
- DNA "deoxyribonucleic acid"
- CG "Certified Genealogist"
- aka "also known as"
- NARS "National Archives and Record Service"
- APJI "Association for Protection of Jewish Immigrants"
- HIAS "Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society"
- USCIS "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services"
- NARA "National Archives and Records Administration"
- GPS "Genealogical Proof Standard" (GPS also stands for "Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling" and "Global Positioning System".)

Sources

<https://www.rd.com/article/acronym-vs-abbreviation-whats-the-difference/>

<https://www.rd.com/article/acronym-examples/>

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/free-resources/abbreviations/>

<https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/the-merger-of-ngs-and-fgs/>

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/GEDCOM>

<https://homepages.rootsweb.com/~sam/abbr.html>