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

Hanukkah is coming. Many Jewish families have unique Hanukkah traditions that have been passed down for many generations. I hope you will enjoy the following Hanukkah traditions that I read on online at [www.reddit.com/r/Jewish/comments/18da41d/happy\\_first\\_night\\_of\\_hannukkah\\_what\\_are\\_your/](https://www.reddit.com/r/Jewish/comments/18da41d/happy_first_night_of_hannukkah_what_are_your/)

“It’s a small thing, but after I moved out of the parental domicile, I started calling my mother when I was lighting, and we’d light ‘together’ over the phone. I’d light my Chanukkiah, she’d light hers, we’d say the brachot together, and just share the moment. It’s not that I moved far but far enough. She recently moved much closer to where I am -- but we still lit together over the phone. It’s a small thing but it makes us both very happy.”

“My Mom always themed each night: clothes, toys, candy (I loved getting my own cans of black olives, I was a weird kid), games etc. We also set aside one night (usually the 8th) as a ‘Day of Giving’ where we would go volunteer somewhere or bring Xmas presents to less privileged families or kids in the foster system.”



## **MISHPOCHOLOGY**

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

**Sunday, December 15, 2024 (1:00 PM)**

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

“Origins of Hanukkah” by Rabbi Brenner Glickman

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

### **Origins of Hanukkah**

**Sunday, December 15, 2024 at Aviva**

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida presents “Origins of Hanukkah” by Rabbi Brenner Glickman. The presentation will take place on December 15 at 1:00 PM at Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life, 1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota. This is an opportunity to learn something about Jewish history. For details, contact Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433 or [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com)

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### **2025 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](https://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](https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF)

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## Preserving Your Genealogical Data

by Jim Haberman

As recently reported by LinkedIn News:

*Struggling genetics company 23andMe has announced another round of bad news, revealing plans to lay off more than 200 employees, or roughly 40% of its workforce. 23andMe also reported continuing revenue declines in its quarterly earnings report on Tuesday, saying: "There is substantial doubt about the company's ability to continue as a going concern."*

While that situation currently only affects 23andMe, it could just as easily similarly affect another provider at some point. The possibility of any genealogy site discontinuing operations should concern every site's members. In the worst case it could result in the loss of the member's family tree data and DNA data stored solely on the provider's server.

To mitigate the risk of such a situation in the case of family tree data, it's advisable to maintain the primary version of this data in an app on your computer. This assumes that the data in the form of a GEDCOM file (a universal file format recognized by virtually every genealogy app and on-line service) is regularly backed up, preferably to a cloud backup service such as Carbonite. Backing up only to a CD or portable hard drive stored in your home will do you no good if (G-d forbid) your house happens to burn down just as your service provider goes out of business. Having said that, supplementing your cloud backup with an additional backup to portable media stored in your home offers even more protection. You can then update the family tree in your account on a given genealogy site by periodically exporting a GEDCOM file from your local app and uploading it to the site.

Regarding your DNA data stored on a genealogy website, it can be preserved by downloading the data from the site to your computer and, again, ensuring that it's backed up. Here's how:

Genealogy sites which offer DNA processing typically enable members to download their DNA data in the form of a raw text (.txt) file, with the text arranged in a universal format. I had my DNA processed a number of years ago by two providers. My downloaded 23andMe DNA data file is 14.7 MB in size, and my Ancestry data file is 17.1 MB. Those may not seem like large files, but keep in mind that each megabyte of raw text contains 1 million alphanumeric characters, as opposed to, say, a Word or

Excel file, in which most of the data consists of the document's formatting.

Although a comprehensive list of genealogy sites which support downloading one's DNA data is beyond the scope of this article, the following three popular sites enable it as follows:

### 23andMe

<https://you.23andme.com/tools/data/download>

### Ancestry

<https://www.ancestry.com/dna/settings>

### MyHeritage

1.) On the MyHeritage home page hover over the DNA tab and click on 'Manage DNA kits'; 2.) On the right-hand side of the MyHeritage kit, click on the three dots and choose 'Download'; 3.) Follow the subsequent instructions.

Some (most?) genealogy websites also permit uploading one's DNA data text file. Doing so facilitates identifying your DNA matches on the site, even if you had your DNA processed elsewhere.

Currently, 23andMe (and perhaps others) doesn't support uploading DNA data files obtained from other services. Others allow uploading of DNA data, but only if sourced from a few specified services. Still others may allow it with no restrictions. The main concern of those with restrictions is privacy security - in particular, preventing scofflaws from obtaining your DNA data file and uploading it to the genealogy sites' servers for nefarious purposes. Educate yourself on the risks associated with downloading, uploading, and storing your DNA data file prior to taking any such action.

The guiding principle behind all backups is "better to have it and not need it than need it and not have it."

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### **45<sup>th</sup> International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies**

#### **Conference on Jewish Genealogy**

Fort Wayne, Indiana ~ August 10-14, 2025

Come for an exceptional and unique experience!

<https://www.iajgs.org/conference/iajgs2025/>

Contact [info@iajgs2025.org](mailto:info@iajgs2025.org) with questions



### ***Finding Your Roots* begins 11<sup>th</sup> Season**

PBS will start the 11<sup>th</sup> season of *Finding Your Roots* with host Henry Louis Gates on January 7, 2025. Check your local listings for your local Public Broadcasting System channel and time.

The season's guests include Joy Behar, Kristen Bell, Laurence Fishburne, Debra Messing, Michael Imperioli, Melanie Lynskey, Natalie Morales, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Lea Salonga, Amanda Seyfried, Dax Shepard, Sharon Stone, Crissy Teigen and celebrity chefs José Andrés and Sean Sherman, novelist Amy Tan, poet Rita Dove and historian Lonnie Bunch and Rubén Blades.

According to the synopsis: Along the way, viewers are transported from coastal Africa to the Mississippi Delta; from shtetls in the former Russian Empire to the ancestral lands of the Lakota Nation; from villages in the Philippines to a pirate enclave in Puerto Rico... Stone, 66, discovers she's descended from two French kings and Charlemagne, the founder of modern Europe. Meanwhile, Fishburne, 63, learns the identity of his biological father. Morales, 52, meanwhile, realizes she's related to one of the "legendary pirates of the Caribbean," and Imperioli, 58, finds out his family's patriarch — an Italian American tavern-owner — "has more in common" with his Sopranos character Michael "that he'd ever imagined."

See: <https://people.com/finding-your-roots-season-11-to-feature-chrissy-teigen-kristen-bell-more-exclusive-8695030>

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

### **Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida Upcoming Programs**

- 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 Experiences and Outcomes: The Good and The Bad 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

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life is located at 1951 N. Honore Avenue, Sarasota.

### **Jewish Genealogy Archives Trivia**

- According to *Pittsburgh Post-Gazette* on February 23, 2024: "Once again, the Heinz History Center was selected by *USA Today's* panel of industry experts as one of 2024's 10 best history museums nationwide. This time, though, the History Center earned enough votes from *USA Today* readers to officially earn the title of America's best history museum." 1212 Smallman St., Pittsburgh, PA To read the list of the top ten history museums in United States, go to the following <https://10best.usatoday.com/awards/travel/best-history-museum-2024/>
- "The American Jewish Archives (AJA) of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, is the largest free-standing repository dedicated solely to the study of the American Jewish experience. It contains more than 15 million pages of documents, audio-visual recordings, microfilm, and photographic images." 3101 Clifton Ave., Cincinnati, OH <https://www.americanjewisharchives.org>

### **Hurricanes and Genealogy by Kim Sheintal**

Milton landed in Sarasota as a category 3 hurricane at 8:30 p.m. on October 9, 2024. This storm pushed water inland and had sustained winds of 120 mph. By October 10, I received several emails from my distant cousins from England, Israel, and around the United States to see if I was okay. I received a phone call from Helen to check up on me. Helen is a DNA match of mine in Oklahoma. Helen and I still have no idea how we are related but she calls me on a regular basis! This hurricane made me realize how much family, whether distant or close, looks out for one another. Shortly before I evacuated Sarasota, I put my genealogy papers in the safest place in my house to be protected from flooding and wind damage. I emailed my important genealogy documents to several relatives. No one likes a hurricane, but it took a hurricane to remind me how important family is and how much I want to keep my genealogy records safe.

"FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution co-sponsor the Heritage Emergency National Task Force, a partnership of more than 60 national service organizations and federal agencies created to protect cultural heritage from the damaging effects of natural disasters and other emergencies."

<https://www.fema.gov/disaster/recover/save-family-treasures>

# Wonderful World of Websites

<https://sites.americanjewisharchives.org/publications/fajf/>

Malcolm Stern's *First American Jewish Families*

Introduction

<https://sites.americanjewisharchives.org/publications/fajf/search.php>

Malcolm Stern's *First American Jewish Families*

Search Genealogies

<https://collections.ushmm.org/search/>

United States Holocaust Museum

Collections

Search All 272,202 Records

The Museum's Collections document the fate of Holocaust victims, survivors, rescuers, liberators, and others through artifacts, documents, photos, films, books, personal stories, and more. Search to view digital records and find material that you can access at their library and at the Shapell Center. Recordings can be viewed online.

<https://www.ushmm.org/remember/resources-holocaust-survivors-victims/database-of-holocaust-survivor-and-victim-names>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Resources for Holocaust Survivor and Victim Names

[https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/person\\_advance\\_search.php](https://www.ushmm.org/online/hsv/person_advance_search.php)

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database

<https://collections.yadvashem.org/en/names>

Yad Vashem

Pages of Testimony (completed pages of testimony forms)

<https://www.anumuseum.org.il/the-new-museum/>

ANU Museum

Scroll down and then click "Databases & Collections"

<https://www.anumuseum.org.il/upload-gedcom/>

ANU Museum: Where to Upload GEDCOM Files

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5CUUpDiMc4E>

A Zoom Presentation about ANU Museum

for Temple Emanu-El in Sarasota

<https://www.alliancefilm.com>

Alliance Trailer

<https://heinzhistorycenter.emuseum.com/objects/images>

Heinz History Center

Collections with Photos and Descriptions

<https://www.americanjewisharchives.org/research/genealogy/guide/>

American Jewish Archives

(Genealogy Guide)

<https://www.jewishgen.org/gedcom/>

JewishGen GEDCOM files

<https://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>

JewishGen Family Finder

(surnames and places submitted)

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers/>

Chronicling America (digitized newspapers)

[https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United\\_States\\_Newspapers](https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Newspapers)

Listing of Online Newspapers (fee for some)

<https://legacybooks.com/26-things-to-include-in-a-family-history-book-beyond-photos-and-text/#:~:text=Including%20your%20mother%27s%2C%20grandmother%27s%2C%20or%20great-grandmother%27s%20recipes,can%20read%20the%20recipe%20in%20her%20handwriting>

26 Things to Include in Family History Book  
beyond Photos and Text

<https://www.familysearch.org/en/rootstech/schedule/preview>

Roots Tech Conference Schedule Preview

March 6 - March 8, 2025

<https://guides.loc.gov/genetic-genealogy>

Library of Congress Research Guide

Genetic Genealogy DNA and Family History

<https://thebreman.org/research/>

<https://thebreman.org/research/genealogy/>

The Breman Genealogical Research

<https://mjhny.org>

Museum of Jewish Heritage

A Living Memorial to the Holocaust

<https://vimeo.com/channels/1702763>

Sarasota 100 Years – 100 Stories

<https://vimeo.com/554403503>

Sarasota 100 Years – 100 Stories

(Kim Sheintal Highlights Jews of Sarasota  
with mention of JGS of SW FL)

<https://www.fastpeoplesearch.com/>

Find People Search (find people fast and free)