Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

In 1999, I visited my daughter in New Orleans. She had a bad cold one day and all she wanted to do was sleep. As she slept ten feet away on the bed, I was on a chair searching the JewishGen Family Finder to find others searching my maiden name of Klapman. That day, I discovered Flora was also researching Klapman. She in Virginia. We kept in contact via phone and e-mail and found our Klapman connection on September 14, 2008. On January 15, 2009, we met for the first time. We met in Naples, Florida and we each came with a surprise. She brought with a lady searching Klapman roots and I brought with me yet another lady tracing Klapman roots. There was Flora from Virginia, Nannette from Maryland, Maxine from Winnipeg and me from Sarasota. We are getting closer in finding our Klapman connections. This reunion was my reward for years of researching and working on my Klapman family. The rewards of genealogy far outweigh the work.

All families have unique and treasured family traditions and stories. Family stories help to provide valuable perspective and understanding of the past and strengthen family connections.

On March 15, the JGS of SW FL presents two speakers from two different families: Howard Goldberg and Hannah Rigler. Howard's is a tale of good fortune in receiving his unique and detailed family tree. Hannah's is one of survival in the face of the catastrophe that was the Holocaust.

On April 19, Neil Rudin will tell his story "From Minsk to My Blue Heaven: In Search of My Past" which will focus on his journey to gain a broader understanding of his Eastern European Yiddish cultural roots and heritage. He will outline some of the methods employed including an integration of traditional genealogical tools with colorful and humorous memoirs and stories of a huge Yiddish speaking family.

Keep your family genealogy and stories alive by passing what you know to the next generation.

MEETING
Sunday, March 15, 2009 (1:00 PM)
Kobernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota
Speaker: Howard Goldberg and Hannah Rigler
Program: "Family Stories are Worth Sharing"
Howard Goldberg and Hannah Rigler both have stories to tell. Howard's is a tale of good fortune in receiving his unique and detailed family tree. Hannah's is one of survival in the face of the catastrophe that was the Holocaust.
For details, Kim Sheintal 921-1433, <klapshein@aol.com>

Wonderful World of Websites

http://www.pier21.ca
Website to preserve the stories and pay tribute
to millions of immigrants who have made their home in Canada

http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/GivenNames
Given Names Data Bases by Professor G. L. Esterson

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hVQXrKDt_Dk
Genealogy Search Basics (using Google) by Robert Ragan

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zp710JYJ6vs
Genealogy Search Variant Surnames (using Google) by Robert Ragan

http://stevemorse.org/birthday/birthday2.html
Website to obtain birthdays in One Step

http://mariansmith.com
Blog for Marian Smith, historian of Citizenship & Immigration Service

http://images.google.com/hosted/life
Millions of photos from LIFE photo archive, from the 1750s to today

http://www.scribd.com/
Store your documents and share them with others on this website

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JGS of SW FL Membership Application
Single Membership: $20/year
Family Membership: $25/ year
Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to:
JGS of SW FL
c/o Kim Sheintal
4462 Violet Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name_____
E-mail_____Phone_____
Street Address_____
City, State, Zip_____

New JewishGen Databases
Warren Blatt - Managing Director, JewishGen
(*Dec. 2008: JewishGen is pleased to announce the following release of 120,000 new records, in various databases).*
All JewishGen's databases at <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases>.

JewishGen Holocaust Database -- Five new datasets
1. Hidden Children in France - Information on 4,000 children hidden in France by the Oeuvre de Secours aux Enfants (OSE).
2. Rhodes to Ferramonti - Persons from Rhodes who were transferred to the Ferramonti Di Tarsia Internment Camp, 12-Jan-1942.
3. "Jews for Sale": The Rudolph Kasztner Transports - Names of 1,900 rescued Hungarian Jews, 1944.
4. Arad Census - 1942 - 9,698 names in a census of Arad, Hungary/Romania, 1942.
5. Lost Train from Bergen-Belsen - Bergen-Belsen to Trobitz, April 1945.

JewishGen Holocaust Database is a collection of 150 datasets, containing nearly two million records about Holocaust victims & survivors. <http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust >.

Hungarian Census Records
1,519 records for Bereg County, 1832, 1842
< http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary >

Bialystok area 1895 and 1903 "Vsia Rossiia"
1,264 entries from Russian business directories for Bialystok, Bielsk, and Sokolka uyezds (districts), Grodno gubernia (now in NE Poland) < http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/vsia >

Bessarabia Vital Records
More than 20,000 additional birth, marriage and death records for Beltsy, Bendery, and Kishinev (now in Moldova)
< http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Romania >.

Lithuania
1. Tax and Voters Lists - 1,598 records for Telz & Shavl districts, 1880s-1915.
2. Revision Lists - 8,148 records:
  + Panevezys district 1887.
  + Troki district 1834-42.
3. Lithuania Vital Records - 24,114 new records:
  Births:
  + Alytus 1922-1939 (incl. Butrymonis, Daugai, Jieznas, Simnas)
  + Babtai 1875-1891, 1913-14
  + Cekiske 1865-1906
  + Grinkiskis 1844, 1873-75, 1881-1914
  + Jonava 1922-31
  + Josvainiai 1836-37, 1844, 1873-1914
  + Kaunas 1880-85
  + Panevezys 1876, 1883, 1885, 1892-1903, 1905=20
  + Seredzius 1897-1906
  + Simnas 1922-26
  + Vilkija 1838-1897
  + Vilijampole 1880-1882, 84-85, 90-91
  Deaths:
  + Babtai 1875-1884
  + Birzai 1881-1898
  + Butrymonis 1922-26
  + Joniskis 1919-39 (includes Linkuva, Zagare)
  + Kedainiai 1854-1910
  + Panemune Frentzela 1826-1837
  + Panevezys 1875, 1880, 1922-24
  + Pasvitinys 1922-26
  + Raseniai 1922-39
  + Varniai 1852-66; 1868-75, 1881-1913
  + Vilkija 1854-57, 1861-1914
  + Vilijampole 1881
4. Lithuania Internal Passports - 886 records for Siauliai (Shavl), 338 for Panevezys (Ponevez)
< http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania >

Yizkor Book Necrology Database
6,808 records from four Yizkor Books:
  + Lublin, Poland (232 records),
  + Pinsk, Belarus (5,561 records),
  + Suwalki, Poland (685 records),
  + Konotop, Ukraine (330 records).
< http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Yizkor >

Houston 'Jewish Herald-Voice' Database
Entries for 1,000 new events, completing 100 years of this Texas newspaper, 1908-2008
<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA>

Philadelphia 'Jewish Exponent' Obituary Database
Entries or 3,000 new events, 1887-2007, from this Philadelphia Jewish newspaper
< http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/USA >

Duma Voter Lists - Minsk Gubernia
Names of more than 35,000 men eligible to vote in the Russian parliamentary elections in 1906 and 1907. 9 districts of Minsk Gubernia, now Belarus
< http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Belarus >

Welcome JGS of SW FL New Members
Len and Helen Glaser - Sally Katt - Mary Israel Lipson
Fran Ringlestein - Mike Schwartz

Mark Your Calendar
Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay (Sunday Meetings)
March 8: "Introduction to the Family History Center Archives"
April 19: "The Kindertransport"
Contact Sally U. Israel at 727-343-1652

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies
(IAJGS) Conference in Philadelphia (August 2-7, 2009)
Sheraton Philadelphia Center City Hotel
Go to <http://www.philly2009.org>

Italian Jewish Roots Conference in NY (March 22, 2009)
Contact Rabbi Barbara Aiello <rabbi@rabbibarbara.com>

JGS Palm Beach County, FL
8th Edition Genealogy Workbook
(Paperback, coil binding, clear cover front, back is hard textured black card stock. 8 1/2" x 11", English language, and 219 pages.)

JGSPBCI, FL announces the publishing of the 8th edition of the award winning Beginners and Intermediate Genealogical Workbook, now entitled GENEALOGY WORKBOOK - SOURCES FOR RESEARCH OF YOUR ANCESTRY, and is now available to researchers. Compiled, edited and updated by JGSPBCI President Emerita, Sylvia Furshman Nusinov, the 219 page workbook is an essential resource tool for genealogical research. For details: <curiousyl@bellsouth.net>.

Sylvia Furshman Nusinov, President Emerita, Workbook Editor, Chairperson Mini-Conference Workshop JGSPBCI

Jewish Graveyard Rabbit

<http://jewishgraveyardrabbit.blogspot.com>
by Daniel Horowitz, IAJGS Board Member

The International Jewish Graveyard Rabbit was created by Schelly Talalay Dardashti, author of Tracing the Tribe - The Jewish Genealogy Blog <http://tracingthetribe.blogspot.com>. The Jewish Graveyard blog is a new blog focusing on Jewish cemeteries around the world and relevant topics and issues.

This was in response to a call from a major genblogger for locality-specific Graveyard Rabbits (many genbloggers have already responded). Schelly believed that since Jewish cemeteries, no matter the location, share the same language, traditions, customs, an international Jewish Graveyard Rabbit was preferable, and that a team of international writers should contribute with their expertise.

It will cover Jewish cemeteries around the world, preservation and restoration projects; Jewish traditions (death, burial and mourning), Jewish tombstone symbols, how to read a Hebrew tombstone and discover genealogical information, cemetery news and other relevant topics.

Where differences exist, the blog will address Ashkenazi, Sephardi and Mizrahi customs and issues. Photographs will be included, as well as extensive links to sites providing relevant information. Researchers who have visited an ancestral cemetery are invited to participate with their personal experiences and photographs.

In addition to Schelly, the team currently includes Daniel Horowitz-Israel, Celia Male-UK, Gaby Laws-UK, Samuel Gruber-US and David Stoleru-Spain.

If you would like to participate as either a contributing writer or to suggest a topic of interest, please send details to Schelly jgrarab@yahoo.com, cc'd to me, Daniel Horowitz daniel@genealogy.org.il

Genealogy Tips

by Juliana Smith, Ancestry.com Newsletter Editor

The Ancestry Weekly Journal, a free service of Ancestry.com, offered the following tips in their January 12, 2009 journal.

Often the focus on our direct ancestor and siblings causes us to overlook that spinster aunt or bachelor uncle. The fact is, we should be researching every sibling thoroughly because while the records of one child may not include the information you need, and those of a sibling may include the information you need.

There may be siblings that you don't even know about. Many years ago, high child mortality rates were a fact of life. You might discover these children in family cemetery plots and in vital records indexes. For mothers who were alive in 1900 and 1910, the U.S. federal census asked for the number of children born, and the 1910 census also asks how many were still alive that year. Mortality schedules will also list the children who died within a census year. Once you identify a child who died young, look for their birth and death records.

Half siblings on your tree share one parent with your ancestors and their records could contain valuable information.

JewishGen Moved

Warren Blatt, Managing Director, JewishGen

The re-hosting of JewishGen servers from Texas to the new location at the Ancestry.com data center took place in January.

2009 IAJGS Poster/Flyer Competition link

<http://www.iajgs.org/jgmonth.html>
by Steve Lansky, Poster Competition Committee Chair

The IAJGS is holding its annual competition for a piece of art work that can be used as either a poster or flyer for announcing and celebrating Jewish Genealogy Month. The month for celebrating Jewish Genealogy month will be Cheshvan. The winning poster/flyer will be unveiled at the IAJGS International Conference in Philadelphia. Deadline for submissions is April 1, 2009. For more information, contact Steve Lasky at <steve725@optonline.net>.

The Museum of Family History

< www.museumoffamilyhistory.com>

The Museum of Family History is a virtual, multimedia, and interactive creation that was designed for those of us who are interested in learning more about modern Jewish history, as well as those who were a part of this history, who now grace the many branches of our family trees. The Museum humbly attempts to honor the Jewish people and the Jewish family unit in particular. Steve Lansky is the founder and director.

"Who Do You Think You Are?"
New Realty TV Show
Coming on NBC in April

Dick Eastman has written many times about "Who Do You Think You Are," a very popular British television that has since been exported to other countries. Each country produces their own shows, featuring local television personalities and stories. Now NBC will bring the television program to American viewers, starting April 20. The program will air on Mondays at 8 PM.

"Who Do You Think You Are?" will feature American celebrities, including Lisa Kudrow, Sarah Jessica Parker and Susan Sarandon, as they unearth their family trees. Kudrow's company, Is or Isn't Entertainment, will produce the programs, along with the U.K.'s Wall to Wall Productions.

The series will examine a star's family tree and uncover stories about love, secrets and triumphs in his or her family's past, while also weaving the family story into the larger narrative of American history.

"This show personalizes history and turns it into a gripping narrative," Kudrow says. "The most striking thing about the show is the realization of how connected we all are."

The first of six episodes of "Who Do You Think You Are?" is set to premiere on April 20, 2009 at 8:00 PM. Lisa Kudrow, Sarah Jessica Parker and Susan Sarandon will explore their family histories in what NBC is calling a new "U.S. reality series." The former "Friends" star, Lisa Kudrow, is also the executive producer.

According to Curt B. Witcher, president of the National Genealogical Society and head of the genealogy department of the Allen County Public, "It is a very significant event for genealogy-based programming to make it onto mainstream, American network television…..There are so many lessons that can be taught and learned through exploring genealogy."

International Institute for Jewish Genealogy

What are the primary aims of the International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center? 1. To engage in research and teaching of Jewish genealogy at university level. 2. To make Jewish genealogy a recognized academic discipline.

For more information, go to < http://www.iijg.org/home/>.

JGS of Long Island Yearbook Project
Nolan Altman – Project Coordinator
(Yearbooks are a Source of Genealogical Information)

What picture comes to mind when you think about your grandparents? Your parents? For your entire life, you've known them as adults, doing adult things. But we forget that they were and teens and young adults too! Finding a picture and / or information about your grandparents or parents from their formative years can be a very rewarding addition to anyone's family history research.

High school, college and other miscellaneous school yearbooks or class lists can be an interesting source of genealogical information and photographs. You might find out that your relative participated in sports, scholastic teams, won academic awards, was a class officer, etc. Maybe your relative's subsequent vocation or avocation goes back to when they were a member of the Biology Club, Drama Club, or school orchestra? Wouldn't it be fun to be able to add a picture of Grandma Ruth when she was a member of her school chorus?

The JGSLI Board decided that it would be a valuable service to its members if we could inventory yearbooks in our members' personal libraries and make that information available for genealogical look-ups. JGSLI commenced its Yearbook Project in June of 2006 with the goal of acting as an intermediary to match researchers with yearbook owners.

During the last year, we have been able to match up dozens of researchers with yearbook owners. Since our list of yearbooks is made public on our website (http://www.jgsli.org/yearbook_project.htm), we have received inquiries from not only our members, but non-members as well. We realize that since our membership's yearbooks are from the New York City / Long Island area, the information in those books could be of interest to researchers from around the country.

The interest from non-members outside of the NYC / LI area gave us the idea of expanding our project to inventory yearbooks from other local JGSs, other genealogical groups and other interested individuals. A number of non-member researchers have inquired if they could list their books on our site as well.

JGSLI's Role: JGSLI does not own, nor do we physically have custody of the yearbooks listed on our site. The books are in the personal libraries of those that are making them available for genealogical look-ups. JGSLI will act as the "matchmaker" between the owner of the information and the researcher. When a request comes to us, using the e-mail address on our site (http://www.yearbook_project@jgsli.org/), we will reply to the researcher and forward the request to the owner of the book by using a blind cc. It is up to the owner of the material to comply with the request. (People signing up for the program do so with the understanding that there will be requests.)

Owner's Role: The owner of the material submits a signed JGSLI Yearbook Project Form which they can download from our website (http://www.jgsli.org/Yearbook_Form.pdf). The agreement states in part, "Submitting a listing means that you have volunteered to be contacted by e-mail and are willing to provide information, a photocopy, or scan for the researcher. JGSLI is only making the information available to researchers. Owners of the books are responsible for following up with the request."

Researcher's Role: Researchers can contact us through the e-mail address listed at <http://www.yearbook_project@jgsli.org/>. We would appreciate if requesters of information also become providers of information to help fellow researchers.

How You Can Help

We know that the members of other social groups, their families and friends can be an important source of yearbooks and we would be very grateful for your help to grow our database. Due to the success and smooth operation of the project as it currently exists, and since we have been receiving requests from non-members for information as well as interest on how to list their own yearbooks on our site, the JGSLI Board has decided to reach out to other potential sources. Our long term goal is to expand the inventory of yearbooks available and to facilitate matches to researchers and family members.

We would appreciate if you would consider helping us by allowing us to include your yearbooks in our listing so our database will be more valuable to researchers. We also would be happy to have this article run in any of your local society newsletters. For additional information, contact Nolan Altman at <http://www.yearbook_project@jgsli.org/>.

Calendar Trivia
(from Nu? What's Nu? - Volume 10, Number 1 | Jan. 14, 2009)

Here are some of the fascinating discoveries uncovered when using Stephen P. Morse's latest contribution called "When did..." It allows comparisons between dates of the secular and Hebrew calendar. A more practical use is to determine yahrzeit (anniversary of death) dates for any year.

Is it possible for Chanukah to occur before Thanksgiving? No, but they do occur on the same day about once every hundred years. The next time it will happen is in 2013.

Can Purim coincide with Valentine's Day? Yes. It last occurred in 1995 and will take place again in 2014.

The last time the first day of Passover and Easter Sunday coincided was in 1983, and it will not occur again until 2123.

The earliest Rosh Hashanah can happen on the secular calendar is September 5, but it is rare. It will occur in 2013, but will not take place again until 2089.

Stephen Morse Lecture for

Four JGS of SW FL members went to the Charlotte County Genealogical Society Workshop on February 14 to hear renowned genealogist/computer scientist Stephen Morse discuss and explain his One-Step site for family research. His site includes more than 100 Web-based tools for tasks ranging from genealogical searches to last-minute bidding on eBay. Morse, member of the San Francisco JGS, has received the Outstanding Contribution and Lifetime Achievement awards from IAJGS and is the creator of http://www.stevemorse.org/ and designed the Intel 8086, ancestor of today's Pentium processors.

Social Networking Websites

Try social networking websites to find family and others interested in genealogy. According to www.Compete.com, Facebook.com is the most popular social networking website, saying it racked-up nearly 1.2 billion visits in January 2009.

#1-Facebook.com #2-MySpace.com #3-Twitter.com
#4- Flixster.com #5-Linkedin.com #6-Tagged.com
#7-Classmates.com #8-myyearbook.com
#9-Livejournal.com #10-imeem.com