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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

A few months ago, I discovered that one of my great great grandfathers had a sister Sura that I did not know he had. It was exciting to receive a detailed family tree of Sura's family from one of her descendants. Genealogy discoveries like this are worth sharing. Please submit your genealogy discoveries to Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com for JGS of SW FL newsletter.

The Life of Golda Meir thru Music

The JGS of SW FL presents "The Life of Golda Meir thru Music" by Sharon and David Ohrenstein on May 15 at 1:00 PM at Kobernick House (1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota).

Golda Meir was born to Moshe and Bluma Mabovitch in Kiev, Ukraine on May 3, 1898. She moved with her family to Milwaukee in 1906. The Mabovitch family had fled their home in part to escape pogroms that had been carried out against Jews in Russia at the time. Golda attended Milwaukee Normal School (now University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee) over the objections of her parents, who wanted her to get married rather than pursue a profession. She did both, attaining a teaching certificate and marrying Morris Meyerson. She officially Hebraized her name from Meyerson to Meir in 1956. She had two children Menachem and Sarah. Golda Meir was best known as the fourth Prime Minister of Israel and the first woman to hold the title. She died in Jerusalem on December 8, 1978.

Jewish Names Presentation

Rabbi Brenner Glickman of Temple-Emanu-El will amuse everyone with his humor and witticisms about Jewish names on Tuesday May 17 at 1:30 PM at Kobernick House (1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota). This program is sponsored by ORT America. JGS of SW FL members and guests are invited. For more information, contact Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, May 15, 2016 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "The Life of Golda Meir thru Music"

by Sharon and David Ohrenstein

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

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida Has New Surname Database

by Leah Cook

A new and current JGS of SW FL surname database has been created for our organization. The database resides on our JGS of SW FL website <http://www.jgsswf.org> under the link titled "Member towns and surnames searches."

The new database is alphabetical by each researcher's last name. Should you want to contact a JGS of SW FL member researcher whose information you see in the database, just send an e-mail to: info@jgsswf.org.

Since our website is available to the public, genealogists worldwide are able to search our database for their relatives and ancestors. Similarly, JGS of SW FL members can see if they share surnames and ancestral towns with other members.

As background, the new database was created by Leah Cook, who moved to Sarasota a year ago, from Palm Coast, Florida, and joined JGS of SW FL. Before retiring to Florida, Leah taught computer science at Tufts University and was an active member of the Genealogical Society of Greater Boston. Leah is an experienced genealogist who has been doing family research for more than 15 years.

When informed that the last JGS of SW FL database was ten years out-of-date, Leah volunteered to update the database. It was decided to start the project from scratch by creating a new one. In part, the JGS of SW FL membership was contacted in order to assure that the new database would be up-to-date for all members when it went on-line. It is now operational, and if you would like your surname data to be added to the database, please e-mail Leah at leahcook@aol.com.

Life is full of miracles. If you see a surname in our on-line database that matches a name in your family tree, please follow up by contacting JGS of SW FL. You never know, you might meet a new cousin and make a new friend!

I want to express my gratitude to Kim Sheintal for her encouragement and support, and to Jim Haberman, our Webmaster, for uploading the file to the JGS of SW FL website.

JGS of SW FL Meetings

JGS of SW FL meets third Sunday of month (November thru May) @ 1:00 PM at Kobernick House 1951 N. Honore Avenue.

Guinness World Records Announces Holocaust Survivor Israel Kristal as World's Oldest Living Man

Guinness World Records confirmed that Israel Kristal of Haifa, Israel is now the world's oldest living man. Israel Kristal was born in Poland, near the town of Zarnow on 15 September, 1903 to parents Moszek-Dawid and Brucha Krystztal. He survived Nazi war camp Auschwitz in the 1940s before relocating to Israel. As of 11 March 2016, he was 112 years and 178 days. He was awarded his certificate at his home in Haifa, by Guinness World Records' Head of Records Marco Frigatti. Upon receiving his Guinness World Records certificate, Mr Kristal said: "I don't know the secret for long life. I believe that everything is determined from above and we shall never know the reasons why. There have been smarter, stronger and better looking men than me who are no longer alive. All that is left for us to do is to keep on working as hard as we can and rebuild what is lost."

Guinness World Records was assisted in the research and verification of Israel's world record by the Gerontology Research Group and Jewish Records Indexing - Poland.

36th IAJGS International Conference

For the first time in conference history, the 36th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will offer a special program to help Jewish educators incorporate genealogy and family history into the school curriculum - whether it is a day school, synagogue school or a high school. The program will take place on the first day of the conference, Sunday, August 7, from 9 AM to 2 PM. The educators' program requires a separate registration from the regular conference; attendees at the educators' sessions receive breakfast and lunch and, for an extra fee, they can attend the keynote lecture. This year's conference will also feature a Jewish Film Festival created by Jewish film scholar and teacher of cinema Eric Goldman. Other highlights of the Seattle conference include the opening night keynote address by Dr. Devin Naar, chair of the University of Washington Sephardic Studies Program, and the banquet address by "legal genealogist" Judy Russell, a Certified Genealogist and Certified Genealogical Lecturer. As at previous conferences, remote streaming of selected programs will be available through LIVE! The early registration period for the regular conference, which runs until April 30, offers the lowest fees, with savings of \$55 for the full conference. Hotel rooms are going very quickly. To get a room at the conference rate, you must first register for the conference.

For a conference preview and a preview of what you can expect in Seattle, check out the webinar given by co-chair Chuck Weinstein to IGRA earlier in March - go to <http://www.iajgs2016.org> and click on the webinar - don't forget to check out the other great information on the website! We're looking forward to seeing you in Seattle August 7-12.

Conference Co-Chairs

Janette Silverman, Chuck Weinstein, Phyllis Grossman

For conference information, visit <http://www.iajgs2016.org>

Genealogy Stories

Think beyond pedigree charts, photos, and documents when tracing your family. Share stories. Write about who motivated you to trace your family, what excited you the most to discover, where you do your research, when you got started, why you enjoy genealogy research, and how you did your research.

Applications for German Holocaust Reparations

by Larry E. Oppenheimer

While perusing the JewishGen Discussion Group last August I noted a message indicating that files of applications for German holocaust reparation payments could be obtained, and how to go about getting copies of the files.* This brought back memories from the early 1950s of my father and grandmother sitting at our kitchen table composing letters and filling out forms to apply for reparation payments. At the time I didn't have a clue as to what that was all about!

Toward the end of the year, while discussing our next genealogy project with my co-researcher (brother) I mentioned this and he encouraged me to look into getting the files. This was a two-step process. First, e-mail the office which holds an index to the locations of the files. I asked about the files of my grandparents. The reply gave me the location and file numbers for my grandmother's application and stated that they had no record of a file for my grandfather. Not having an e-mail address, I wrote to the archive holding my grandmother's material. In return, I received an e-mail indicating that the sender had both my grandparents' files and noted that the cost of the copies would be about €150! He said to let him know if I was still interested. After consulting with the family's professional historian, who commented that research has gotten very expensive, we decided to go for it. Shortly, I received a package containing the documents, about 130 pages of them. Most were in German, a few in English. And, oh yes, a bill for €152.60.

Some of the documents contained very interesting information about my grandparents' apartment, my grandfather's business, and their living conditions in general. The material was interesting enough that we decided to see if our father had filed for reparations; he had. Fortunately, this was a smaller, less expensive pack of documents.

Our father's application contained a wealth of information including where he went to school, who he worked for and what his responsibilities were, and what his salary was, both in Germany and after he immigrated.

In addition to the personal information, the documents as a whole give one a feeling for how the German bureaucracy worked in the 1950s. We feel that this was definitely a worthwhile endeavor.

* See: JewishGen Discussion Group Archives

11 Aug. 2015 and 15 August 2015

From Stefan Pinkus

Subject: German Holocaust Reparations

Submitted April 14, 2016

JGS of SW FL 2016-2017 Meetings

Sunday, November 20, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Sunday, December 18, 2016 at 1:00 PM

Sunday, January 15, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Sunday, February 19, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Sunday, March 19, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Sunday, April 16, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 1:00 PM

Jewish Genealogy Myths

No one in the family knows anything about the family. The family name was changed at Ellis Island. Family Records were destroyed in the Holocaust. Our town was wiped off the map.

Genealogy Road Show

<http://genealogyroadshow.org/season-3-air-dates/>

In the latter part of 2015 and January 2016, JGSs around the country participated in the Genealogy Roadshow tapings having tables promoting their societies and IAJGS. The listing of the air dates has just been released.

Albuquerque: May 17, 2016

Miami: May 24, 2016

Houston: May 31, 2016

Our Favorite Stories: June 7, 2016

Boston: June 14, 2016

Providence: June 21, 2016

Los Angeles: June 28, 2016

Please check your local PBS station for air time. Thank you to Fred Land, JGSCV member and one of the JGSCV volunteers at the Los Angeles Genealogy Roadshow taping for sharing the dates with us.

Jan Meisels Allen, President, JGSCV

The Jewish Journey:

A Passage through European History

By using genealogy and history, Dr Edward Gelles pieced together the fascinating story of his ancestors and their lives throughout Europe on a timescale of over a thousand years in his recent book, *The Jewish Journey: A Passage through European History*.

Dr. Gelles is interviewed about his book by the head of his alma mater, Sir Drummond Bone, Master of Balliol College, University of Oxford at <http://voicesfromoxford.org/video/the-jewish-journey/639>.

DNA can provide a new dimension to your research. Consider reading *The Jewish Journey: A Passage through European History* and getting your DNA tested in 2016. On January 15, 2017, the JGS of SW FL presents “Interpreting Your DNA Results” by Kathleen J. Callanan, Genetic Genealogy Consultant.

JGS member Kathleen Dubin donated *The Jewish Journey: a passage through European History* to the JGS of SW FL library. Kathleen visited this hard-working, intelligent and interesting author while in London and recently learned that her husband is a good DNA match to Edward Gelles.

500 Years of Jewish Life in Venice, Italy

David Laskin, the author of *The Family: A Journey into the Heart of the 20th Century* has written an article about the 500 Years of Jewish Life In Venice. His article published in the New York Times on March 9, 2016 talks about the ghetto, established by Doge Leonardo Lorecon in 1516—a place where people were forcibly segregated and surveilled due to religious differences. 2016 is the 500 anniversary of the ghetto. The current Jewish population of Venice is 450—at its height—the 17th century—the ghetto held 5,000 Jews from Italy, Germany, France, Spain and the Ottoman Empire. By World War II the Jewish population of Venice had reduced to 1,200 residents. The ghetto still has five synagogues still standing. To read the article <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/13/travel/venice-italy-jewish-ghetto.html>. Thank you to Rand Fishbein for sharing the article.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.sztetl.org.pl/en/article/pilica/16,accounts-memories/9351,a-visit-to-piltz/>

Virtual Shtetl, the portal website of The Museum of the History of Polish Jews, includes “A Visit to Piltz” by Sonia Pressman Fuentes

<http://www.iajgsjewishcemeteryproject.org/>
International Jewish Cemetery Project

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nASSn4rDXh4>
This is JewishGen

<http://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/europe-free-online-historical-newspapers#>
Europe free online historical newspapers

<http://www.findmypast.com/>
<https://www.mocavo.com/> (no longer in use)
Mocavo, a Findmypast company, moved to Findmypast site.

<http://www.timesofisrael.com/ashkenazi-jews-descend-from-350-people-study-finds/>
Ashkenazi Jews descend from 350 people

<http://grandeguerre.icrc.org/>
Prisoners of First World War, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Archives

<http://blog.myheritage.com/2016/04/myheritage-launches-book-matching/>
MyHeritage users automatically receive relevant excerpts from digitized books that reveal information about their ancestors and relatives

https://www.myheritage.com/#play_video
MyHeritage Video

www.myheritage.com/community
help other users or get genealogical assistance

<http://www.avotaynu.com/csi/csi-home.htm>
shows codes for various databases in which a surname appears

Topix Features Genealogy News

Topix has forums and news for over 300,000 topics including genealogy. “Topix is a forum to discover and discuss what you want about the people, places and things that matter to you,” according to the Topix website. Read current genealogy news:

- Go to Topix website to get list of all topics
<http://www.topix.com/dir>
- Click on “Life” category <http://www.topix.com/top-level/life/list>
- Click on “Hobbies” <http://www.topix.com/hobbies/list>
- Click on “Genealogy” to get to forum
<http://www.topix.com/forum/hobbies/genealogy>
- Click on “Genealogy” on the top
<http://www.topix.com/hobbies/genealogy>

ProQuest and USC Shoah Foundation Embark on Landmark Partnership

ProQuest and the USC Shoah Foundation, the Institute for Visual History and Education have embarked on a landmark partnership where ProQuest will begin distributing the USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archives to colleges and universities starting during the summer of 2016. ProQuest will be the exclusive distributor of the archive around the world except for China.

This is part of a multi-year plan to significantly broaden access and to meet the growing demand for the largest archive of holocaust/genocide testimony in the world. Currently, the Shoah Foundation has 53 subscribing institutions, with this agreement they will quadruple that number in two years and a ten-fold increase by 2019, the Shoah Foundation's 25th anniversary.

The archive includes: 53,000 recorded testimonies, resulting in 112,000 hours of video - 63 countries and 39 languages - 62,000 keywords - 1.8 million names - 700,000 images

The partnership is also allowing for archival-quality transcripts of all 53,000 testimonies. This massive endeavor will complement the Institute's indexing methods and further refine the process of searching testimonies for specific points of interest. The ProQuest partnership is enabling the Institute to transcribe the interviews. Revenue from the partnership will be used to offset the cost of transcripts. The transcription process is expected to take five years and will be undertaken by native-speaking academic research transcriptionists for the 39 languages represented in the Visual History Archive.

To read more about this landmark partnership see: <http://tinyurl.com/z5or72a>

Original website: <https://sfi.usc.edu/pressroom/releases/usc-shoah-foundation-announces-partnership-proquest-increase-access-visual>

USC Shoah Foundation - The Institute for Visual History and Education is dedicated to making audio-visual interviews with survivors and other witnesses of the Holocaust and other genocides, a compelling voice for education and action. - See more at: ProQuest is an information technology firm with partnerships that currently encompasses 90,000 sources, 6 billion digital pages spanning six centuries. ProQuest is best known to IAJGS conference attendees as the resource for historical newspapers that are available in the resource room which they will again be available at the 36th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Seattle August 7-12, 2016. ProQuest Day will be Wednesday August 10 Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

JGS of SW FL Library Additions

Thank you to Kathleen Dubin for donating the following books:

- *The Polish Way* by Adam Zamoyski
- *The Jewish Journey: A Passage through European History* by Edward Gelles
- *Finding Our Fathers: A Guide to Jewish Genealogy* by Dan Rottenberg

Get Your DNA Tested Now

FTDNA.com (swab), 23andMe.com (spit), Ancestry.com (spit)
Get your DNA tested (see above options) before January 15, 2017 JGS of SW FL program "Interpreting Your DNA Results".

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay Presents "Dissect Obituaries for New Clues"

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services; 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida on Sunday May 15, 2016 at 2:00 PM with George G. Morgan discussing how to Dissect Obituaries for New Clues. A pre-session social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 PM.

Obituaries are miniature biographies for the deceased. Obituary writers are often compelled to compress as much information into a small amount of text as possible. Your job is to carefully analyze the content of a death notice, obituary, or funeral notice and look for clues. Obituaries often contain a wealth of information that is difficult or impossible to find elsewhere. This lecture presents a methodology for dissecting an obituary, determining what information is provided or inferred, identifying record types that may be available, where those records are located, and how to access them. Obituaries can be one of the most important sources of genealogical information.

It would not be an exaggeration to state that George G. Morgan is one of the most prolific and best-known authors and speakers on genealogy in this country and internationally, and we are fortunate to have him residing in the Tampa Bay area. George is an avid genealogist, the President of Aha! Seminars, and the author of 12 landmark genealogy books, including his award-winning "How to Do Everything with Your Genealogy" that is included in McGraw-Hill/Osborne's highly successful "How to Do Everything" series - one of the best-selling genealogy "how-to" books published in the past 20 years! George is a prolific writer in other areas as well, and he is a highly popular speaker at national and international genealogical conferences with a widely diverse range of speaking topics. He is co-host with his partner Drew Smith of "The Genealogy Guys" podcast - the longest running genealogy podcast on the Internet, enjoyed by thousands of listeners around the world each week.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay's library and research resources are available to all meeting attendees and can be loaned out to members. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogy research is invited to participate. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome.

The pre-program social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 PM, and the featured program starts at 2:00 PM. For information about the organization or directions to the meeting, call Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981.

JGS of SW FL 2016 Membership Application

Single Membership: \$25/year

Family Membership: \$30/year

Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with this form to:

Liz Klaber 4461 Violet Avenue Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____

E-mail _____

Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____