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### President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

As genealogists family discoveries are more than names, dates, and places. There are family stories to pass down to future generations.

The High Holidays evoke family traditions to me. Each year for the High Holiday services, my father would walk out of our house in his finest suit, wearing his favorite kepah, and his beautiful tallit. As a young child, I knew it was time for High Holiday services when I saw my father dressed up. I miss my father, but have many memories that you cannot take away from me. During these times of isolation, I found the blue pouch that my father brought each year to High Holiday services. In the pouch was his most special kepah and tallit. I always thought this pouch with its kepah and tallit was given to my father for his Bar Mitzvah. But my sister reminded me recently of the following High Holiday incident. By accident, someone attending High Holiday services took our father's pouch by mistake and never returned it. The pouch, kepah, and tallit that I recently discovered last month is the pouch, kepah, and tallit that our father bought to replace his cherished Bar Mitzvah pouch and its contents. Whereas the first pouch, kepah, and tallit was from 1934 and special, this pouch that was purchased by my father in the 1950s is special too. This kepah and tallit in its decorative blue pouch has a story and it belonged to my beloved funny, unique, loving, and caring father who loved to get dressed up for High Holiday services. My father passed away in 2007. He cannot attend High Holiday services and because of the pandemic, I did not physically attend services this year either. However, I still can hold and cherish this pouch with my father's tallit and kepah. As a 70-year-old grandmother, this

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

<https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

### Zoom Program

Sunday, November 15, 2020

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

“Writing Your Memoirs and Dating Old Photos”

by Edward Sandbach

For more information or to access the Zoom link:

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tallit and kepah brought back cherished family memories. Another pandemic discovery brought tears of joy to my 10-year-old grandson Wyatt.

On August 9, 2020, I got a new couch. The following nine unexpected items were discovered under my old couch: puzzle piece, small Lego piece, large Lego piece, spinning top, Chuck E. Cheese whistle, key ring, Power Ranger key, small ball, and a Pokémon key chain. My first inclination was to throw these items away. Instead, I wrapped each thing separately and labeled the items from one to nine on the outside of the wrapping paper. I made a photo collage with photos of my family, wrapped the collage, and labeled it with the number ten. On August 22, I gave my grandson these ten items for his tenth birthday. Whereas, I was not with Wyatt when he opened each of the items, I was on the phone with my daughter who put the phone on speaker. I could feel Wyatt's excitement as he opened each gift reminiscing about how he remembered each item. I am not sure who was more touched by these ten items, Wyatt or me.

### Sharing Serendipitous Genealogical Discoveries

As genealogists, we often see the influence of coincidence and serendipity. Books about genealogy serendipity include *In Search of Our Ancestors: 101 Stories of Serendipity and Connection in Rediscovering Our Family History* by Megan Smolenyak and *Psychic Roots* by Henry Z. Jones.

Please email your serendipitous genealogical discoveries to [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com). Here is one recent genealogical discovery that I did not expect.

Sometimes, I am looking for something about one relative and then unexpectedly discover information about another relative. On May 7, 2020, I was looking for the 19<sup>th</sup> century history about the Jewish community of Panevezys (Lithuania). I found a 13-page story about the Panevezys history. It said that in 1883 six families from Panevezys immigrated to Israel, one of which was Dov Lebovitz (my great grandfather's brother). I was surprised to see someone from my family in the article! But there was a bigger surprise. I knew my great grandmother Mary was from Panevezys. I thought Dov was from Vilkomir (Lithuania). Mary is not related to Dov. Mary is on my maternal grandmother's line and Dov is on my maternal grandfather's line.

## JGS of SW FL Zoom Calendar

**Sunday, November 15, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. (12:45 socializing)**

“Writing Your Memoirs and Dating Old Photos”

by Edward Sandbach

**Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. (12:45 socializing)**

“Germany: An Enduring Presence from the Fourth to the Twenty-first Century” by David Levinson

Both programs have limited space. Although non-members are welcome to attend, priority will be given to JGS of SW FL members. Preregistration is required and must be requested at least twelve hours before the program. To reserve, email Kim Sheintal at klapshein@aol.com. After you register, you will receive an email reply acknowledging receipt of your request. Before the date of meeting, Kim will forward meeting details, Zoom link, and meeting ID to each registrant. Do not share link with anyone, because the link is only for those who register.

## 2021 RootsTech Conference

Family Search has announced that RootsTech 2021 conference previously planned for February 3-6, 2021 in Salt Lake City, Utah will now be held as a free, virtual event online. RootsTech Connect 2021 will be held 25-27 February 2021.

To register and read more about it, go to:

<https://www.rootstech.org/?lang=eng>

Thank you to David Oseas, JGSCV Webmaster for informing us about the upcoming free RootsTech Connect.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

## My Ancestors Spoke Yiddish

by Mike Schwartz

I speak no Yiddish, but I did study German in High School so I could understand my parents when they used Yiddish to discuss private matters. It worked to a small degree.

My mother and father both spoke Yiddish, though my mother's Yiddish was learned second-hand (mostly from my father). She was born in NY, as was her father (my grandfather). He could speak Yiddish, but rarely did so in front of me. My maternal grandmother was born near Kiev, and came to America at the age of 11, and certainly could speak both Russian and Yiddish. She spoke excellent, unaccented English to me.

My father came to America from Galicia at the age of 7. Yiddish was his native language, as it was for his parents, and two sisters and two brothers. He was the youngest of his siblings, and thus learned English at a young enough age that he had no accent at all. My aunts and uncles all spoke English with accents, as did my grandfather. He was multi-lingual, as you may recall from my stories about him presented to JGS about his ability to speak Polish and (to my surprise) Russian, as well as English and Yiddish.

My paternal grandmother, however, was a different story. She NEVER spoke English – only Yiddish, despite living in America for over 25 years before her death in 1953, when I was just 6 years old. While this meant I never really got to speak directly to my grandmother, my father and his siblings continued to speak to their mother in Yiddish and thus retained the language for a lifetime.

In fact, my father's second wife reported that on his death bed he started speaking exclusively in Yiddish – which she didn't understand. I find it interesting how the brain's language centers operate after all those years.

## Wonderful World of Websites

<https://youtu.be/mdOyHwD39Gk>

Emotional Reunion

<https://elephind.com/>

World's Historical Newspaper Archives

<http://www.linkpendium.com/>

Family Discoverer Search Engine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O9QVgXXg5Gk&feature=youtu.be>

What the Jewish Genealogist Needs to Know About Jewish Names by Sallyann Amdur Sack, Ph.D.

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

From DNA to Genetic Genealogy: Everything you wanted to know but were afraid to ask by Stephen P. Morse

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4PSQp25k0QA>

Researching NYC Records Remotely by Jordan Auslander

<https://www.facebook.com/JewishGen.org/videos/324622835218638/?v=324622835218638>

“Manifest Destiny” Names at Ellis Island by Dr. Joel Weintraub

<https://www.facebook.com/JewishGen.org/videos/278012293311117/>

Privacy and Genealogy: What are the Rules

by E. Randol Schoenberg

<https://education.myheritage.com/article/how-to-get-the-most-out-of-your-family-site/>

How to Get the Most out of Your Family Site

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B\\_Gx6KUZOe0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B_Gx6KUZOe0)

Hidden Content Treasures at MyHeritage

[https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar\\_id=1002](https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=1002)

Integrating Old Photos into Your Family History Research

<https://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/links.htm>

Museum of Family History (list of websites for genealogists)

<https://www.nytimes.com/wirecutter/blog/store-print-photographs/>

How to Store and Print Photographs So They Last

<https://immigrationusa.yivo.org/exhibits/show/immigrations-tories/1870s1920s>

Jewish Immigration to America Photographs

<https://www.jewishgen.org/education/edu-courses.asp>

Online Interactive Courses in Jewish Genealogy

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

Pedigree Chart Templates

[https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar\\_id=1221](https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=1221)

Organizing Your DNA Results by Diahna Southard

## Local Genealogy Groups

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida  
President: Kim Sheintal, klapshain@aol.com, 941-302-1433  
Website: <http://www.jgsswf.org>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay  
President: Bruce Hadburg, bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com, 727-796-7981  
Website: <http://www.jgstb.org>  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/pg/JGSTB/](http://www.facebook.com/pg/JGSTB/)

Genealogical Society of Sarasota  
President: Nancy Johnson, choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819  
Website: <http://gssfl.com/>

Manatee Genealogical Society  
President: Karen Dwyer, president@mgsfl.org 941-756-7037  
Website: <https://mgsfl.org/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ManateeGenealogicalSociety>

Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Club  
Coordinator: Donna Moughty, moughty@mac.com, 941-907-2914  
Website: <https://www.irishfamilyroots.com/lakewood-ranch-genealogy/>

## List of New Dictionary Entries in 2020

A combination of curiosity and boredom, could inspire someone to search the Web for new words added to dictionaries in 2020 of interest to genealogists.

Selection of some of new entries appearing in the Oxford English Dictionary for the first time in January 2020:

- Jewish American: an American of Jewish origin or descent
- Jew town: a name for an area inhabited predominantly by Jewish people
- Jewish quarter: an area of a city or town inhabited mainly by, or traditionally associated with, Jewish people

Selection of new words added to the Miriam Webster Dictionary for the first time in April 2020:

- deep web: the set of web pages on the World Wide Web that are not indexed by search engines but that may be viewable in a standard Web browser (as by logging in to a website)
- dark web: the set of web pages on the World Wide Web that cannot be indexed by search engines, are not viewable in a standard Web browser, require specific means (such as specialized software or network configuration) in order to access, and use encryption to provide anonymity and privacy for users

New word added to the Cambridge Dictionary for the first time on July 27, 2020:

- Generation Alpha: a way of referring to the group of people who were, or will be, born in the 2010s and 2020s

Sources:

<https://public.oed.com/updates/new-words-list-january-2020/>  
<https://www.merriam-webster.com/words-at-play/new-words-in-the-dictionary>  
<https://dictionaryblog.cambridge.org/category/new-words/>

## USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History

"We are pleased to announce a partnership between JewishGen.org and USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive® (VHA) whereby an index of data from nearly 50,000 Jewish Holocaust survivor testimonies found in USC Shoah Foundation's Visual History Archive will be accessible via JewishGen." JewishGen Executive Director, Avraham Groll

## Practicing Safe Computing: You've got DNA Matches

by Hal Bookbinder  
(number 52 in a series)

The following article was originally published in the March 2020 issue of *Venturing into our Past* (newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of the Conejo Valley and Ventura County aka JGSCV).

A few years ago, I submitted my DNA to one site and then uploaded the results to another. Like many of you, I regularly receive notices of "You have new DNA Relatives" from 23AndMe and "You've got DNA Matches!" from MyHeritage DNA. With endogamy (marriages within a group) over the centuries among Ashkenazi Jews, the number of 1.0% to 1.5% DNA matches can be huge while the likelihood of being able to determine an actual relationship is low.

Given the low likelihood of actually establishing a match, I certainly do not want to put a lot of effort into reaching out. Yet, I do not want to ignore potential matches either. With minimal effort, I would like to share enough information to see if a connection can be made.

I composed a message as follows and saved it for repeated use:

Hi XXXX,

XXXX indicates that we share X.X% DNA. I am sharing the names and birth locations of my great grandparents. If you spot a name/place that seems familiar, please let me know.

Bookbinder & Wagner - Dubno, Rivne Oblast, Ukraine  
Barenberg & Margolis - Medzybuzh, Khmelnytsyi, Oblast, Ukraine  
Sacharow - Poltava, Poltava Oblast, Ukraine &  
Cooper - Warsaw, Poland  
Horwitz or Muhlstein & Steinwertzel - Soroka, Moldova

Best,  
Hal Bookbinder  
[hal.bookbinder@ucla.edu](mailto:hal.bookbinder@ucla.edu)

When notified of a potential match on a tree managed by a third party I replace the first sentence with, "xxxx indicates that I share x.x% DNA with xxxx xxxx on a tree that you manage."

I paste the message into my response, replacing the x's. I can send meaningful, individualized notes to a dozen potential mishpucha in a few minutes. My response rate has been about 15%. While most of these turn out to be dead ends, they often lead to interesting exchanges.

If you have submitted your DNA to one site, be sure to upload the results to the other sites to expand your potential matches. You can upload at no cost to Family Tree DNA, MyHeritage DNA, Living DNA and GEDmatch. AncestryDNA does not permit uploading of DNA results from another service.

While we must be careful when sharing personal information, I will continue to share ancestors' surnames and locations as widely as I can. On rare occasions, I have been asked follow-up questions that made me uncomfortable and ended the exchange. However, being a genealogist means never giving up. I will continue to respond and keep hoping for additional connections!

## My Name is Kasrilzon

by Kim Sheintal

John's great great grandfather Shmuyla Girsha Kasrilzon, Debbie's great grandmother Slova Rovza Kasrilzon, and my great grandmother Chana Dvora Kasrilzon lived in the same house according to an 1858 census from Vilkomir, Lithuania. Debbie was born in Los Angeles. I was born in Chicago. John was born in London, but grew up in the small nearby town of Elm Park in the county of Essex, later moving to North Harrow, a suburb in North West London. Later, he moved to Hemel Hempstead. John does not know just when his grandfather Samuel Kasrilzon came to live in the UK (the absence of any trace in the 1911 census suggests an immigration date of between 1911 and 1914 on the assumption that moving after the start of WWI was likely improbable). Samuel married in London in 1916, had four children one of them John's mother Bessie. Bessie's birth certificate records her birth surname as Kaisersohn but on her marriage certificate to Jack, her name is spelt Caserzon, otherwise Kaiserzohn. Samuel's last name became Kassersohn (1916 marriage certificate) in London. The 1939 census records the family name as Kasherson and Kesselson. His 1949 death certificate records his name as Kasselson, otherwise Kasherson. When Samuel arrived in the UK, he had two uncles and an aunt living there. Samuel's sister, Nechame (nee Kasrilzon), immigrated to Brazil in the 1930's. She married Israel Birger in Lithuania before immigrating to Brazil. Iser Josel Kasrilzon was John's great grandfather. John's great great grandfather Shmuyla Girsha Kasrilzon was killed in 1880 by village peasants\* and was buried in Kupiskis, Lithuania. Although originally from Vilkomir, he moved to Kupiskis where the family name changed to Kaselson.

Iser Josel Kasrilzon had a brother Shlioma Noach Kasrilzon. Shlioma Noach Kasrilzon had a son Moshe Kasrilzon. Moshe Kasrilzon was born in 1900 and married Dveira\*\* in 1924 in Lithuania by whom he had three children. He later migrated to South Africa in the late 1920's where he married Nadia from Leningrad. They had two children, Thelma who was born in 1935 and Ed who was born in 1940. Their father died in 1966 and their mother died in 2005. Ed then moved to Israel with his wife and children. His sister settled in Seattle (US). Moshe Noach Kasrilzon had a brother Arye (Leibus) who went to Israel in the early 1920's and had two daughters (Ora and Miriam). Their father had a sister too. When Moshe Noach Kasrilzon went to South Africa, people there could not pronounce his last name and thus his name became Kaserzon. When Aryeh went to Israel, people there could not pronounce his last name, and thus the name became Kasrielson. Aryeh then had his name Hebrewized to Katrieli.

On my great grandmother's death certificate, her father's name is listed as Samuel Cassfieldson.

Of all the surnames that I trace in my family, the name Kasrilzon has more variety in spellings than any other.

\* Note provided by Ivan on 30 January 2017: "As for the death of my grandfather's father (Shmuyla Girsha Kasrilzon) I think I got the story from my mother. I don't ever remember discussing it with my grandfather. I did check with my Auntie Katy who was my grandmother's sister. Both families came from the same town so I thought that Katy would know. The story is that my great grandfather was killed while trying to steal a horse from one of the landowners near the town. Auntie Katy confirmed that the story was true but I couldn't be sure she was telling the

truth. She had a wicked sense of humor. In some ways the story ties in with your research that he was killed by peasants."

\*\* Dveira and her three children perished in the holocaust. Notes of conversation between Ed and John in Tel Aviv on 8 Oct. 2013: Strangely Ed knows little of his family as neither of his parents would tell anything of their past. We both knew that Ed's father had previously married in Lithuania and had three children. He left them to go to South Africa but we have no knowledge of his intentions towards them. Ed's dad used to say to him that he had lost contact and believed they perished in the holocaust. However, we know that he re-married in South Africa and had both Ed and Thelma, Ed being the younger born around 1940, so this doesn't really match up with what Ed's father has said. Ed's uncle who lived in Israel from the 1920's clearly didn't believe his brother and thought he had abandoned his first wife and children. For many years he wouldn't communicate with his brother. When Moshe arrived in South Africa he could only speak Russian and Yiddish so when seeking work he joined gangs of blacks loading maize onto ships with two blacks to one container of maize. Moshe carried two containers and thus got paid more. Eventually he discovered the source of the maize and offered to take it direct to the ships where he got paid. From this he built up a business eventually running his own garage which is where Ed began his love of cars, cycles and racing. Ed has lived in Israel for about 25 years.

### Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference Award Three Jewish Genealogists

The Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) held its virtual annual conference on September 2, 2020. The FGS will be merged into the National Genealogical Society (NGS) as of October 1. The New NGS will have at least four board members from the FGS including a new officer position, Vice President of Society and Organization Management. Joining the new NGS board will also be Marlis Humphrey, as a director-at-large from Florida.

During their annual virtual conference the FGS announced its annual awards of which three awards were given to Jewish genealogists.

The Rabbi Malcom H. Stern Humanitarian Award was given to Miriam Weiner, CG. The award describes Miriam as the genealogist who lifted the "Archival Iron Curtain" and represents the highest standard that embodies both the purpose and spirit of the award.

The Loretto Denis Szucs Award was given to Gary Mokotoff for his many years of dedicated service and for helping to revolutionize the way we do research. They mentioned he started in 1979 by helping develop the JewishGen Family Finder which is used by 100,000 researchers and help found the IAJGS.

The third award, the FORUM Writers Award went to Jane Neff Rollins for the FORUM contribution, *Labor Union Documents Genealogically Relevant Sources*. FORUM is the magazine of the FGS.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

### Learn How to Make a Family Tree

Thursday, November 5, 2020 at noon via Zoom

Sponsored by Temple Emanu-El of Sarasota

No Charge – Everyone Welcome

If interested, contact Kim Sheintal at [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com).