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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

On January 28, 1996, the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida held its first meeting with 35 in attendance. For a Super Bowl Sunday, I would say that was a "super" turnout. Genealogy continues to be a great Jewish pastime. Happy 25 years to the JGS of SW FL!

According to an article in the Washington Post on September 18, 2020, genealogical online research increased dramatically during the pandemic. Ancestry.com reported a 37 percent increase in subscribers since the pandemic began through mid-July, compared to the same time period last year. At 23andMe, there has been a 17 percent year-over-year increase in customers writing in to customer service to share stories, including stories of connecting with birthparents. As of mid-October, over 100,000 people from more than 165 countries have registered for the RootsTech Connect virtual event which will be held 25-27 February 2021.

The pandemic sparked me to do more genealogical research than usual. I conquered my genealogy to do list. I sorted all of my loose photographs, organized by genealogy documents, and reread all of my old e-mails from past years, sent to me by potential cousins.

Because of boredom, I came up with some new genealogy projects that were not even on my genealogy to do list. I made a list of all of the addresses where I had lived, my husband had lived, and then looked for photographs of all of these places at the time we lived there and today. Then, I did the same thing for both of our daughters. I made several collages of family group photos (my grandparents pictured with their children, my great grandparents pictured with their children, etc.). Now is a good time to come up with new genealogy projects.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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www.jgsswf.org

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

Zoom Program

Sunday, December 20, 2020

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

Germany: An Enduring Presence

from the Fourth to the Twenty-first Century

by David Levinson

For more information or to access the Zoom link:

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Upcoming JGS of SW FL Presentations

Germany: An Enduring Presence from the Fourth to the Twenty-first Century

Sunday, December 20, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

This presentation by David Levinson will focus on Jewish life in Germany from c. 1800 to 1945 within the broad context of the expanse of the Jewish experience in Germany since the fourth century. These 150 years encompass three major developments in Jewish German history: emancipation, assimilation, elimination. Attention will also be given to Jewish family research in Germany and how it can inform our understanding of the larger Jewish German experience.

DNA Tools - A Tour

Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Peggy Jude will explain the six categories of DNA tools, what they are, how to use them and what they can do for your research. This talk is an overview of multiple DNA tools of use to researchers. They include notes, tagging, sorting, filters, combining matches, clustering, painting and phasing.

Success Stories Using Jewish Gen

Sunday, February 21, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

Diane Jacobs will introduce a handful of the new resources, demonstrate how to navigate them, and illustrate their value with some personal stories from her own research. The session will then be opened up to members to share their own success stories. The stories can be large or small – one fact or a whole new branch!

Out of the Whirlwind:

Resources for Holocaust Research

Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Zoom

The daughter of Holocaust survivors, Deborah Munn Long will review the best (as well as some of the obscure) resources and methods for determining the fate of those involved in the Holocaust, including survivors and victims. Deborah will use examples from her own research to demonstrate the documents and artifacts she discovered.

My Dad the Rascal

by Jim Haberman



PFC Saul Haberman on Umnak Island, Aleutian Islands, during World War II.

THE JEWISH NEWS
Friday, September 1, 1944

Jewish Youth's LISTENING POST



By Danny Raskin

WHILE WITH an anti-aircraft battery, Pfc. Saul Haberman participated in the shooting down of eight Zeros during a Jap raid on Dutch Harbor, and one of the planes was brought to Detroit for exhibition at the recent air show . . . One of the recovered bodies was that of a lieutenant-commander in the Jap Navy . . . He had been shot down and landed in the bay, but when the boys got to him they found he had joined his ancestors with a broken neck . . . Saul served 27 months in the Aleutians, spending his days off by hunting Caribou with only a knife . . . Whaling is also a favorite pass-the-time, with the inhabitants living on whale oil and blubber . . .

* * *

I tend to devote energy to my genealogical research in short bursts every few years. Those bursts are sometimes fueled by technological advances.

As both branches of my extended family had settled in the Detroit area at the beginning of the 20th century, for many years I've sought an on-line archive of the Detroit Jewish News. Such an [archive](#)¹ finally came to fruition a few years ago through the generosity of Detroit businessman and philanthropist [Bill Davidson](#)². The archive contains scanned images of every article appearing in the Detroit Jewish Chronicle (1916 - 1951) and Detroit Jewish News (1942 - 2018), with virtually every word of every article search-enabled via a very user-friendly interface.

One amusing nugget which I gleaned from the archive was a segment of a 1944 Detroit Jewish News social column (at left) about my father. Dad served during World War II in an anti-aircraft battery stationed in the Aleutian Islands on Umnak Island, immediately west of Unalaska, where the port of Dutch Harbor is located.

In his younger years (he died in 2018 at age 100), my father relished his subdued bad boy persona. Having spoken to Dad at length about his wartime service, I can assure you that the

majority of the assertions in the column - most likely spoon-fed by Dad to the columnist - are false (particularly regarding my father's supposed penchant for whaling and hunting caribou using only a knife!).

I can also assure you that he and his buddies laughed their tuchases off when it was actually published. Yes, he was stationed with an anti-aircraft battery in on Umnak Island. And yes, a Japanese Zero would occasionally stray within range of the batteries' guns and be shot down, but I am virtually certain that's where reality ends and the hijinks began.

My wife and I just booked a cruise for next summer which includes a stop at Dutch Harbor. I'm especially looking forward to touring the Aleutian World War II National Historic Area and Museum there.

Another new on-line resource may also further enhance genealogical research capabilities. It is now possible to [request a military veteran's service records](#)³ on-line. Previously, one had to download a written form, complete it manually, and attempt to fax it to the National Archives. I say "attempt" because the fax number was continually busy. With the advent of the new system, that's no longer a problem. If one is requesting military records as next of kin, one must provide proof of the veteran's death. I used it to request my Dad's records within a day or two of it being activated. Perhaps soon, after receiving his file, I'll be able to authoritatively put to rest my Dad's undeserved reputation as a modern day Captain Ahab. Wait a minute... Ahab? Haberman? Hmmm...



Saul Haberman manning an anti-aircraft battery on Umnak Island.

¹ <https://digital.bentley.umich.edu/djnews>

² [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Davidson_\(businessman\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Davidson_(businessman))

³ www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records

Wonderful World of Websites

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

JewishGen Genealogy Education (online, interactive courses)

<https://www.jewishgen.org/databases/holocaust/>

JewishGen Holocaust Database

<https://jri-poland.org/psa/psastat1.htm>

JewishGen JRI Poland Town Leaders

<http://jewishhistory.huji.ac.il/Internetresources/gen.htm>

Jewish History Resource Center

<https://en.geneanet.org/>

Geneanet

<https://en.geneanet.org/genealogy/>

Popularity of Surnames

<https://forebears.io/surnames>

Global Popularity of Particular Surnames

<https://www.geni.com/worldfamilytree>

Geni World Family Tree

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

WikiTree

<https://www.wikitree.com/indexes/person/A/index.html>

Wiki Tree for Particular Surname

<https://www.familysearch.org/help/helpcenter/article/how-do-i-request-that-a-microfilm-be-digitized>

Family Search Help Center Regarding Microfilm Be Digitized

<http://www.lifemaps.biz/index.php/about-the-artist>

Life Maps

<https://www.social-searcher.com/>

Free Social Media Search Engine

Historical Newspaper Images

The Library of Congress Launched a new look to search their 1.5 million historical newspaper images. This is a free service. Content covers 1789-1963.

<https://news-navigator.labs.loc.gov/search>

Jury Records

Dick Eastman has informed us about a free website with over 360 million records—yes absolutely free to search.

Go to: <https://www.judyrecords.com/>. You can search by name and the attorney's name also can be found—not just those who are the litigants or defendants.

I spent hours looking up my family and some I found and others I did not. I don't know if all states are yet included as they are adding 15 million records per month and I found many records from Florida and non from New York—but that is just searching my family.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

Update to the Family Tree of the Jewish People

by Avraham Groll, JewishGen Executive Director

JewishGen is pleased to announce a significant upgrade to the Family Tree of the Jewish People (FTJP), enabling the addition of **555** new family trees, representing **454,416** individuals. In total, the Family Tree of the Jewish People now includes **7,684** trees which represent approximately **8,642,345** individuals.

While small in comparison to Family Tree collections at major commercial sites, the JewishGen Family Tree of the Jewish People provides researchers with **unique** access to vital Jewish family history information that is available in no other facility. We encourage everyone to utilize this valuable resource that we hope will continue to grow on an ongoing basis.

Improving the FTJP was labor intensive and required the navigation of many complex systems and processes. In this regard, please join me in expressing our gratitude to volunteers **Gary Sandler** (Director of Systems Administration) and **Iris Folkson** (FTJP, Support and IT Coordinator) for the dozens of hours they spent analyzing and upgrading our system, adding trees for the first time since in 2018, and ensuring that the FTJP can be updated on a monthly basis going forward.

The FTJP can be searched by visiting:

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

To submit a Family Tree, please visit:

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

Genealogical Research during the Pandemic

by Kim Sheintal

Conquer the Genealogy “To Do” List

- Organize photos
- Organize postcards and letters
- Organize genealogy documents
- Read old emails from potential cousins
- Type the pedigree chart

and if you are really bored...innovative genealogy projects

- Make a list of all of the houses (dorms, apartments, etc.) where you have lived
 - Find a photo from when you lived there
 - Find a recent photo of this location
 - Find the address of each place
 - You can do each of the above for each of your children and your spouse too!
- Make a list of your aunts and uncles for each generation on your pedigree chart
- Write a history of each surname on your pedigree chart
- Write short family stories and/or genealogical mysteries you solved
- Describe each pedigree collapse within your family tree
- Make family group photo collages

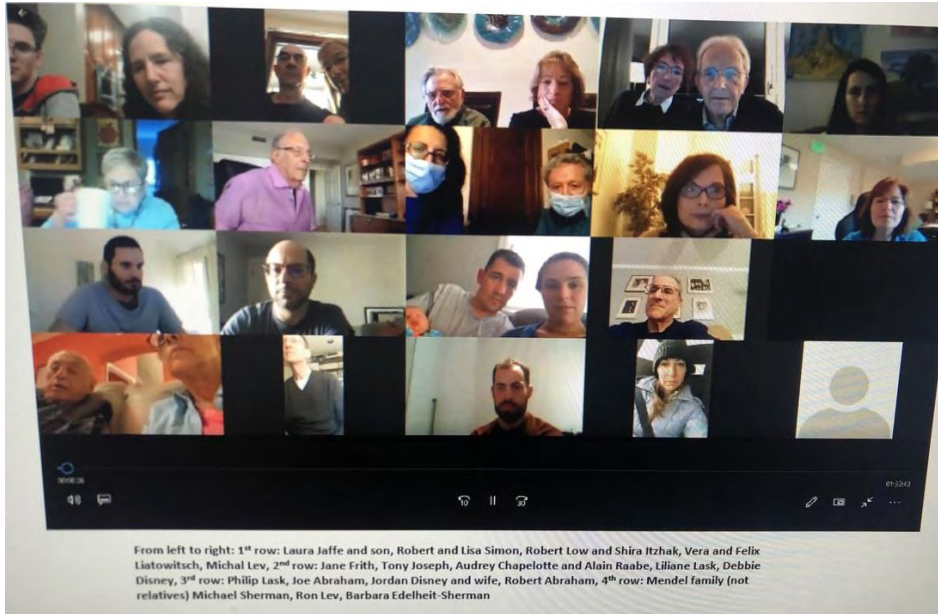
New Ways to do Research

- Take online genealogy courses
- Attend virtual genealogy conferences
- Attend virtual genealogy meetings
- Schedule free 20-minute weekly genealogy consultations at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Online_Consultations
- Attend RootsTech Connect Online Conference 25-27 February, 2021

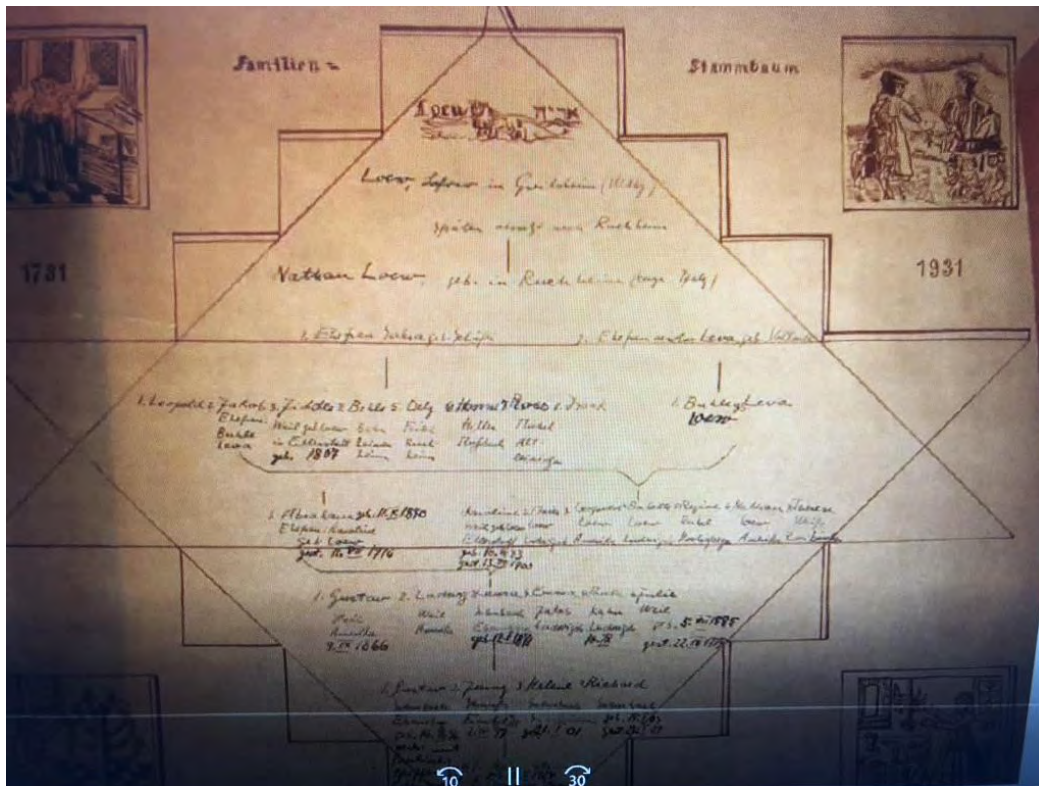
Zoom Conference with Loew/Low Descendants from across the World

by Tony Joseph

On October 18, Gidon Lev, a cousin of mine from Israel organized a meeting of the Low/Loew family, descendants of Nathan Loew from Ruchheim (now part of Ludwigshafen) Germany. Some 35 Lows and their spouses and children attended. They connected through Zoom from Israel, the UK, Puerto Rico, Argentina, Switzerland, Israel, Germany, France, and 12 states.



The slides included three handwritten family trees, but names were barely legible. In the middle, I can find my ggg grandfather, Nathan, his children, including my gg grandfather, Jacob Loew, and his children, including Leopold Loew, my g grandfather.



In addition, there was an Ancestry tree that I had not previously seen. There were photos of two weddings, an anniversary, the synagogue in Ruchheim that still shows the Hebrew lintel designation of the building, although it no longer is a synagogue. Records show that the Ruchheim Jewish population fell from a high of 160 in 1848 to zero by 1941. There were major revolutions throughout Germany

in 1848, which led to emigrations to the USA, including several members of my family. I was unaware of these Loews before finding their names on the trees, as having gone to Amerika.

The following chart lists many of the attendees and their links back to two Ruchheim brothers, Leopold and Jacob.

Participants at the Loew Zoom Conference of Oct 18, 2020 (updated Oct 16, 2020)

Leopold (*1817) and Helena (*1820) Loew-Bodenheimer							Jakob Loew and Buhle Leva
Max and Fanny Loew-Faber	Isaak and Barbara Loew-	Ferdinand and Ida Loew-Sellgmann	Nathan Low-Minnie Cohen	Bertha and Ignatz Burger-Loew	Rosa and Hermann Mendel-Loew	Emanuel and Johanna Loew-Goldstuecker	Karolina and Abraham Weil-Loew
Rosa and Albert Raabe-Loew - Audrey Chapelotte	Jakob and Emma Loew-Meyer - Vivian Kaslin - George Alberti-Loew	Leonard Low and Kathrin Gans - Robert Low - Shira Itzhak - Debbie Disney - Jordan Disney	Rebecca and Henry Roth-Low - Malcolm Sherman - Michael Sherman	Irene Rudinger-Burger - Joshua Garfield	Max Mendel-Heymann - Robert Simon	Heinrich and Emily Levy-Loew - Dorothy Sole and daughter	Laura Weil und Gustav Schubach - Laura Jaffe Leopold Loew - Tony Joseph
Berta and Bert Abraham-Loew - Jane Frith - Robert Abraham	Hugo and Toni Loew-Mandel - Vivian Loew-Lugo						
Otto and Claire Loew-Geismar - Philip Lask							
Jakob and Camille Loew-Heymann - Felix Liatowitsch - Monique van Praag - Michelle Demby-van Praag - Gidon and Mira Lev - Ron Lev - Michal Lev							

I also received the email addresses, current home towns, and phone numbers of each of the participants.

Gidon took a 1927 letter I have from my grandfather about his visit in Germany to his 1st cousin once removed and two of his second cousins once removed and was able to locate three descendants of that family in Puerto Rico and Argentina, who joined the conference. I thought they had all perished in the holocaust. I recently sent them a copy of the 1927 letter.

Gidon also showed a photo I took in 2004 of the Ruchheim synagogue.



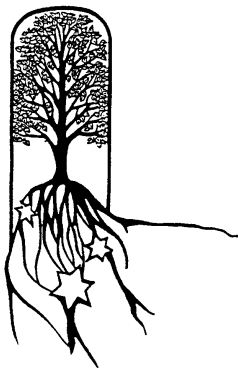
Above the entry door is the lintel.



The Hebrew reads "This Gate of the LORD, into which the righteous shall enter" from Psalms 118.20. Finally, there was a photo of the Germans celebrating the destruction of the synagogue and holding items taken on Kristallnacht 1938.

Kristallnacht 1938





JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA 2021 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES NOTICE

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Family.....\$30/year

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Please indicate single or family membership on the stub below and send with your check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to:

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c/o Liz Klaber, Treasurer
5389 Manchini Street
Sarasota, FL 34238

JGS of Southwest Florida is a tax-exempt organization under the umbrella of the IAJGS IRC 501 (c) (3) status.

Any amount that you can contribute above the dues will be greatly appreciated. The chapter has been running in the red, and unfortunately, we have accumulated a sizable deficit. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Please include the below information with your check.

.....

Dues for the year ending December 31, 2021

Name(s): _____

Amount enclosed: \$ _____

Member type: Single _____ Family _____ Sustaining Membership _____

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