

Newsletter of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida (published quarterly)
MISHPOCHOLOGY Volume 8, Number 2 Summer 2003

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Mishpochology is published quarterly by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida.
Letters to the editor, articles, and brick walls pertaining to Jewish genealogy are welcome.

Next Meeting for the JGS of SW FL

Date: Sunday, May 4, 2003

Time: 1:00 PM (Meeting with Pot Luck Lunch)

Place: JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota

Program: His Story/Her Story/Your Story: Mini-lesson in how to write your memoirs

by Ruth C. Tachna, Esq. (retired lawyer and law professor, taught writing memoirs
for more than ten years at various institutions around the state)

Please bring a dairy dish to serve eight people. RSVP Kim Sheintal 921-1433, klapshein@aol.com

President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

We remember Moses and King David, but we know next to nothing about our own forefathers besides our parents and occasionally our grandparents. Those recent relatives are a good place to start your research. Ask your relatives what they remember about your family. There is even a better person to ask about your family - and that person is you. The first "rule" of beginning your genealogy is to start with yourself. Regardless of where you're geographically located and where you will need to research, this is the starting place for all genealogists. Record all the major events in your life -- Birth, Marriage, Children, Schooling, Places lived (and when), etc. Make sure each piece of information is accompanied by the date that it happened and the place it happened in. To help you get more in the mood to begin your genealogy or enhance what genealogy work you have done already, come to the meeting on Sunday, May 4 for a mini lesson in how to write your memoirs.

BRICK WALLS: *When you hit a brick wall in your research, ask a JGS member for help. Submit your "Brick Wall" with your name & e-mail (or phone #) to klapshein@aol.com and it may appear in a future issue of Mishpochology.*

I have the ship manifest for my father, Mendel Sharfstein. On August 21, 1912, he arrived at Ellis Island on the President Lincoln from Hamburg Germany. According to the ship manifest, he came from Sendiszkow, Austria. Please write to me if you have any information about Sendiszkow. Sally Joselson sally021@comcast.net

Is anyone researching Ribarsky from Hungary? Irene Ribarsky Midler smidler@earthlink.net

Oral History Program at Kobernick House

The Jewish Housing Council Guild is sponsoring an Oral History Program at Kobernick House and Anchin Pavilion. We are seeking people who are willing to work as interviewers one-on-one with residents who have indicated that they would like to tell their histories and memories. This can be a very enlightening and helpful experience for a person involved in genealogy. If this kind of volunteer work interests you, please call Ann Friedman at 367-2201 or Sylvia Firschein at 379-0429. Every volunteer will be trained in methods and protocol.

Genealogy Calendar

The Ten Top Reasons to Attend the 23rd Annual IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy in Washington, DC by Milton R. Goldsamt and Elias Savada

The Jewish Genealogy Society of Greater Washington (JGSGW) will be hosting the 23rd Annual International Association of Jewish Genealogy Societies (IAJGS) Conference on Jewish Genealogy, July 20-25, 2003. It will be held at the JW Marriott Hotel, in downtown Washington, DC. JGSGW has hosted three well-received past International Conferences; in line with its awards for innovative programming, our society will spotlight a varied program featuring more than 100 speakers and authors.

Some of those new to the field may wonder: *why attend such a major conference?*

Attending an international conference can help advance your research in an extremely effective way. And this year's event is expected to be the biggest international seminar ever, with between 1,200-1,500 attendees. Previous conferences have set a high standard, and this summer's session promises to match or exceed those. This is particularly true of its website, www.JewishGen.org/DC2003. Recognizing the ease of the Internet, the Conference Chairs have arranged for online conference registration and hotel booking. In addition, there are tabs or sections with a wide variety of support features for all prospective attendees, including: help getting to and around in Washington; speaker listings, bios and presentation topics; information on vendors and exhibits; descriptions of area records repositories; summaries of tours and attractions (which can be purchased during and after you have registered); listings of local restaurants; an FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) area; and a currency converter for those traveling from outside the United States. The Conference Chairs have anticipated that inquiries not answered at the website may arise, and ask that any questions be sent to JGSGWDC2003@AOL.COM. A prompt answer will follow.

The Washington area holds a rich number of attractions that will appeal to many out-of-town attendees and the friends and family accompanying them for a visit to the nation's capital. Here, then, is the Top Ten list of reasons to attend!

Reason 10. The Cities of Washington and Baltimore, and Their Unique Attractions

Washington, Baltimore, and their metropolitan links are filled with first-rate museums and art galleries to satisfy every taste and interest, major theaters, historic neighborhoods, and major attractions such as the National Zoo, Union Station, the Lincoln or Jefferson Memorials, the Baltimore Harbor, and Oriole Park at Camden Yards. Most attractions in Washington are reachable either by a short walk from the conference hotel, a quick Metro train or bus ride, or via local taxicabs. Public museums have no admission charge. The Smithsonian Institution consists of 14 museums, including the Air and Space Museum and the American Museum of Natural History. There's also the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM) and the National Galleries of Art. Three major theaters, the National, Warner, and Ford's, are within blocks of the Conference hotel and two others within a short Metro ride.

A great deal more information about the sights and attractions of Washington and Baltimore can be found at the conference website under the "About Washington" tab. Washington also has a myriad of restaurants with diverse cuisines. These include, as described at our website's "Restaurants" tab, several food courts (including one adjacent to the Conference hotel) offering standard fare, vegetarian entrees, and salads. A kosher deli/fine dining restaurant is within walking distance of the Conference hotel. Under the "Transportation" tab, you'll find key information about getting to or around Washington—by foot, taxicab, or public transportation. Union Station/Amtrak is minutes away from the conference hotel. Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport also is quite close by via Metro or taxicab. Although we don't recommend driving, we have posted several parking lots near the hotel that offer cheaper alternatives than the Marriott daily rate.

Discount travel arrangements to attend the Conference can be made through US Airways and Amtrak, as described at our website. The city also is likely to be graced during conference week with warm weather and a gentle climate softened by well air-conditioned government, public, and private buildings. Need more information about sights in Washington? Then visit

www.Washington.org. There also is a DC Visitor Information Center across the street from the Conference Hotel, at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, in the Ronald Regan Building & International Trade Center, should you need more detailed information.

One attraction that shouldn't be overlooked is the conference hotel itself. The spacious JW Marriott Hotel is well-located (to research repositories, major airports, the DC Metro system, Amtrak). You can easily walk to the Holocaust Memorial Museum, other museums, and the National Archive. By registering early, you can assure a highly reasonable hotel rate for the full conference period. Staying on site makes it possible to easily enjoy the conference experience and its related activities. Conference attendees can obtain special group lodging rates for three days before and after the event (subject to availability), allowing you to extend your visit with touring, entertainment, or to complete family history research. This rate makes staying in Washington more affordable than many downtown hotels in most major American cities. For more details, please click on our "Hotel" tab.

Reason 9. Tours and Attractions for General and Judaic Interests

To complement the pleasure of attending the conference, arrangements for an assortment of tours and "extra-conventional" events are available for attendees and their non-registered guests and family. Fully described at the "Tours & Events" tab of the Conference website, tickets can be purchased online during, or after, the registration process. Both general interest and Judaic interest tours and attractions are available. These events include a private after-hours tour and reception at the USHMM and tours of Jewish DC and Jewish Baltimore. There will be a daytime visit of Washington's major sights (*Washington's Treasures*) and evening bus excursions (*Monuments by Moonlight*), as well as tours of George Washington's Mount Vernon estate and gardens and an early-morning trip to the International Spy Museum. On the performing arts and entertainment side, we've already reserved a block of tickets for the Capitol Steps, a political satirical revue. We are awaiting program announcements concerning evening entertainment at the nearby National and Warner Theatres. While the Conference will offer a wealth of lectures, discussions, research, and meetings focused on genealogy, there will be plenty of opportunities for outside fun during your Washington visit.

Reason 8. The Nearby Records Repositories

While in Washington, you probably want to experience the first-hand pleasure of conducting your own research? Let us help you jump the hurdles in conducting research into your ancestral town, peruse Yizkor/memorial books, examine Holocaust records, photocopy passenger lists, or view naturalization records. Washington is blessed with a large number of major archival repositories with Jewish-relevant records. These archives represent vast opportunities to fill the holes in your genealogical tree. The JW Marriott Hotel is within walking distance or a short Metro ride from the Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Archives I, and the Library of Congress. Before attending the conference, you should read and re-read our website information on these local facilities and three well-informed articles that have appeared in *Avotaynu*. These cover some of the major features of the USHMM, the ProQuest electronic database (making it possible to search for any person or event that has appeared in *The New York Times* since 1851) available at the Library of Congress, and the National Archives' two buildings (one reachable via shuttle bus from the conference). (See articles by Peter Lande in the Fall 2002 issue, by Elias Savada in the Summer 2002 issue, and by Roberta Solit and Rita Krakower Margolis in the Winter 2002 issue of *Avotaynu*, respectively.)

There are many other records repositories in the Washington or Baltimore areas. These include: the Library of Congress' Local History & Genealogy Reading Room (which contains numerous city directories), or its Hebraic Section [[HTTP://LCWEB.LOC.GOV/RR/AMED/HS/SHOME.HTML](http://LCWEB.LOC.GOV/RR/AMED/HS/SHOME.HTML)], which covers Jewish studies and Israel, and will offer researchers access to hundreds of Yizkor book, the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington, and several repositories in Baltimore. A complete listing of these archival sites appears at the conference website's "Repositories" tab. An detailed description of these sites' contents, hours, and location appears in JGSGW's newly revised *Capital Collections*, which comes free with conference registration. During the conference's opening days, orientation sessions will be held to acquaint attendees with each major repository's holdings. Throughout the week

information sessions will cover specific collections and databases provided at each site.

Reason 7. The Cyber Classroom, Cyber Café, and Online Data Resources

There's nothing like scouring through archival records to give you the thrill of discovery. This is why the Cyber Classroom has been created, to offer registrants a first-hand opportunity to see and use the latest computer technology and web-based genealogy advances. In this room, computers will be used for CD-ROM and online research, instruction and tutorials, and to access the large collection of materials at JewishGen (such as the newly augmented Holocaust and Yizkor Book Necrology databases, the Ellis Island Foundation Database, and other search engines), Avotaynu (including the Consolidated Jewish Surname Index), Ancestry.com, and other genealogically-rich websites. Nearby in the Ballroom Level lobby, the Cyber Café will allow you to check your email while schmoozing with friends and sipping coffee. Both settings will be linked to Internet via high-speed T-1 access lines. Computers all will be free of charge to conference registrants. We also will offer demonstrations of genealogy software and basic instruction for using computers in advancing your family research. This is the perfect setting for those of you who haven't yet hitched a ride on the information superhighway to learn what riches the Internet has for you. We expect to have more than 30 computers available for use by conference participants, more than at any prior IAIGS conference. Volunteers also will be available to help you use an extensive variety of online, offline, and paper materials.

What materials are likely to be present? The USHMM has agreed to allow Cyber Classroom users access to its *List of Name Lists*, which consists of a locality- by- locality listing of Holocaust material, including name lists. This will be the first time this database has been available outside of the museum. By special permission of the LDS Family History Centers (through Regional Manager Alain L. Allard), New York City's microfilmed Department of Health birth, death, and marriage indexes will be available for viewing in our Resource Room.

Reason 6. The Vendor Area

Right now you can check out the list of exhibitors at the "Vendors" tab of our website. In July, stop by the Vendor Area and have a first-hand opportunity to examine and possibly purchase the most current and relevant books, software, supplies, and other genealogical items that can directly benefit your family history research or Judaic interests. Avotaynu will anchor the room, offering old favorites and new additions, including Jeffrey S. Malka's recently-published comprehensive *Sephardic Genealogy*, the Gary Mokotoff-Sallyann Amdur Sack collaboration (with Alexander Sharon) of *Where Once We Walked, Revised Edition: A Guide to the Jewish Communities Destroyed in the Holocaust*, and, as a perfect book for newcomers to the field, *Getting Started in Jewish Genealogy*. The book *Portraits of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside* will be offered by author Emily Rose at another booth. Israel Falkov will be offering postcards and views of Jewish towns and settlements in Eastern Europe. The National Yiddish Book Center, Simcha Sales, and Ideal Bookstore will be present, as will (among others) Yonina Blech-Hermoni and her offerings of ceramic raju Judaica work-seder plates. Local film/video processor Colorlab Corp. will counsel attendees on how to convert their 8mm and 16mm films and older videotapes to digital format.

Reason 5. First-Rate Networking Opportunities

Networking is one of the most important reasons for attending a genealogy conference, and we'll provide lots of space and opportunities to do that. The conference is a wonderful opportunity to find a distant family member, a newly-discovered cousin, or even an entire family line. You can network with other conference attendees that are researching the same surnames or regions of the world, and be able to informally discuss your research on a first-hand basis with them. You'll be able to ask questions and learn key facts about the shtetl you're investigating, where key types of records are stored, or how to bypass hurdles in your research. You can unearth efficient research strategies that could save you valuable hours, days, or even years of wasted effort and money. You can schmooze with old friends and meet new ones. There'll be lots of tables and chairs throughout the hotel and its meeting areas to encourage people to take a few minutes, sit, and chat.

What will this Conference hold for you? Our "Ask the Experts" tutorial sessions will be available on an individualized basis and free of charge during the week. We'll have an expert panel including Sallyann Sack, Gary Mokotoff, Eileen Polakoff, Warren Blatt, and Randy Daitch, ready to help you solve those "brick walls" and generational logjams in genealogical research. Appointments can be set up in advance to provide this personalized assistance, with a chance to

sit in on others' sessions and learn by listening over a shoulder. There'll also be two lecture sessions during the conference with Hal Bookbinder, IAIGS President, to identify common research problems in Jewish genealogy, and with Eileen Polakoff, Avotaynu's "Ask the Expert" columnist, to describe case studies using methods to surmount basic roads to successful Jewish genealogical research. More information about the "Ask the Experts" tutorial and lecture sessions at [HTTP://WWW.JEWISHGEN.ORG/DC2003/EXPERTS.HTML](http://WWW.JEWISHGEN.ORG/DC2003/EXPERTS.HTML)

The conference also will hold many other networking opportunities. Be sure to attend the Birds of a Feather gatherings, where you'll meet others with common interests, those researching your ancestral town. You might find a relative among them. A number of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) have scheduled meetings at the Conference. Eight will have sponsored luncheons, including the Belarus, Geshet Galicia, Latvia, Southern Africa, and Hungarian SIGs. Reserve your seat at these luncheons while registering, and while space still permits. We also intend to have a "SIG Fair" at the Conference, to provide resource information and excellent networking opportunities for those researching the geographic regions associated with various SIGs.

Reason 4. Book Talks/Author Appearances, Photographic Exhibits, and the Art/Essay Contest Display

Four types of Conference programs are sure to provide you with rich insights into the historical and cultural contexts underlying other information you gather via conference sessions, records repository research, or networking. Several noted authors will report on recently-published books they're written on genealogy-relevant topics. This includes Blake Eskin, on *A Life in Pieces: The Making and Unmaking of Binjamin Wilkomirski*, which delves into Holocaust child survivors in Riga, Latvia. Another such presentation will be made by Dr. Nehamia Polen, translator of *The Rebbe's Daughter: Memoir of a Hasidic Childhood*, which won the 2002 National Jewish Book Award. This book focuses on Rabbinic genealogy and life in Kozenice, Poland during 1905-1906. Further information about these authors, and their quality presentations can be found at www.JewishGen.org/DC2003/bookauthors.html. Speakers Rose Lerer Cohen and Saul Issroff will discuss their publication *The Holocaust in Lithuania 1941-1945: A Book of Remembrance*.

The Conference also features a fascinating exhibition of 50 photographs taken on a Jewish heritage tour to Poland by Alex Oldfield of Ontario, Canada. These include scenes of the Warsaw Ghetto, a 16th century synagogue in Tykocin which is near Bialystok, the Treblinka death camp and Majdanek concentration camp, many photographs of Kazimierz near Krakow, and street scenes of many areas of Polish life. The photographs will be available for sale during the Conference. Another historical exhibit consists of aerial photographs showing the history and growth of the Jewish community of Washington from its earliest beginnings in 1850 to the present. Finally, winning artwork and essays submitted by Washington and Baltimore religious school students about the theme *L'Dor Va-Dor: From Generation to Generation in Art and Prose* will be displayed. The artwork and essays will be judged for their originality, creativity, and contribution to the awareness of the importance of Jewish genealogy.

Reason 3. The Conference's Opening Address by Chief Archivist of the United States John W. Carlin

Mr. Carlin's keynote address will launch the conference week. He is the head of the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), which has the mission of being the nation's record keeper. Mr. Carlin has been Archivist of the United States since 1995, and has a host of major achievements to his credit, including the development of NARA's Electronic Access Project, through which thousands of records from the Civil War to the Cold War are now accessible via the Internet to schools and homes. Mr. Carlin received a commendation from the U.S. Senate for NARA's help in research tracing "Nazi Gold" looted from Holocaust survivors.

Reason 2. The Conference Banquet and Speaker Hadassah Lieberman

Traditionally, the Conference's closing evening and its banquet adds a rich patina to the events, information gathering, and networking that have gone on during the week. IAIGS uses the occasion to commend major genealogical societies and individuals for their achievements and contributions to Jewish genealogy. A multi-media presentation also will be offered. This year's banquet is particularly enriched by having as its main speaker Hadassah Lieberman, wife and campaign partner of presidential candidate Senator Joseph Lieberman. Her touching and insightful address will address genealogical themes. Mrs. Lieberman was born in Prague, Czech Republic, and is the daughter of Holocaust survivors of Dachau, Auschwitz, and a Jewish slave labor camp. She will provide a firsthand account of her family's experiences in Eastern Europe

during WWII, and as immigrants starting a new life in America. The banquet will be held in the JW Marriott's elegant Grand Ballroom, Thursday evening, and will offer a choice of delicious cuisine, including several kosher options. Banquet tickets are available during and after you have registered online.

Reason 1. Renowned Speakers from Around the World

This year's program is a very rich one that's responsive to the needs and interests of beginner, intermediate, and advanced genealogists. One might say it represents, as Shakespeare might say, a "blessing devoutly to be wished"—a program so plentiful that it may be hard to attend all the sessions that you'd wish to! (Although the conference CD-ROM will have copies of handout materials from all presentations.) The agenda of over 100 highly qualified, expert speakers from the United States and abroad will feature in-depth talks on a wide array of high-interest topics, resources, geographical areas, and historical periods. The speakers come from within Jewish genealogy and outside, as the field comes to recognize that genealogy is intertwined with other intellectual spheres. The topics include Sephardic genealogy, many cultures (such as the Jews of Ethiopia, Shanghai, India, and Siberia), technology, and records preservation. Other talks will focus on tips for effectively using archival sources, such as Census records, the Ellis Island records database, Hamburg passenger lists, and Holocaust archives. Each day during the Conference week experts associated with major area archives—the Library of Congress, the National Archives I and II, USHMM, and the Immigration and Naturalization Service—will present talks on research strategies and information sources of special interest to Jewish genealogists.

A full listing of the over 100 speakers, their biographies, and topics of their talks appears at the conference website. Those appearing include the following internationally-known authorities: Valery Bazarov, director of the HIAS Location and Family History Service; Alexander Beider, not authority on Ashkenazic given names and surnames; Vitalija Gircyte, Head Archivist of the Kaunas Archives in Lithuania; Kinga Frojimovics, former director of the Hungarian archives; Stephen P. Morse, designer of the Ellis Island records search engine; Olga Muzychuk, director of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine; Peggy Pearlstein, Area Specialist in the Hebraic Section of the Library of Congress; Yale Reisner of the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw; Marian L. Smith, Historian for the Immigration and Naturalization Service; and Fay Zipkowitz, director of the Yiddish Book Department and Yiddish Cataloguer at the National Yiddish Book Center.

Our final advice? Don't hesitate to avail yourself of all the exciting activities here in Washington, its environs, and, of course, at the conference! Visit our website to register online (a downloadable registration form is also available). Early bird registration for the full conference week is available at reduced rates through May 15, 2003: \$185 (individual) and \$285 (individual with spouse/partner). After May 15, individual registration jumps to \$215; the spousal/partner rate to \$340. Individuals (but not spouse/partners) registering for the full conference week receive a conference tote bag, the conference CD-ROM (containing the syllabus, speakers' materials, a newly-updated version of *Capital Collections*, and demo software. It will work on both Windows and Macintosh platforms. Daily registration will be \$70; although no syllabus, CD-ROM, and tote bag are included.

Tickets for the Thursday evening banquet featuring Hadassah Lieberman (\$80) and the SIG luncheons (\$25) can be ordered during registration. Tours and

Events (various prices) also can be selected during registration, as can the souvenir shirt (\$12.50, assorted sizes). Space is limited at some events (particularly the Monday night session at USHMM), so it's best to register early.

What else? See you here next July!

Milton R. Goldsamt, Ph.D. is a research statistician and psychologist who currently belongs to two genealogy societies, and has been researching his admittedly rare surname and family's roots in western Galicia since 1985. He presently is Public Relations Chair for the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy.

Elias Savada is co-chair of the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and has been an active member of the JGSGW board for several years, maintaining its membership database and editing its annual membership directory. He is director of the Motion Picture Information Service, a copyright search firm, and co-wrote *Dark Carnival*, a biography of horror director Tod Browning. He is an online film critic and has published articles in *Avotaynu* and *Mishpacha*, the JGSGW newsletter. He has 7,300 people on his family tree.

This article also benefited from suggestions made by the other conference co-chairs, Sheri M. Meisel and Benjamin A. Okner.

IAJGS Caribbean Cruise by Hal Bookbinder, IAJGS president

The IAJGS (International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies) is sponsoring a western Caribbean cruise this coming December aboard *Carnival's Fascination*. This very attractively priced cruise will depart Miami on December 1st and return on December 5th. In between, it will call at Key West and Cozumel. While at sea, sessions will be offered on various genealogical topics, including a session on Holocaust research by Peter Lande of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Experts will be available to answer participants' questions, assist with translations, and help with the use of computers to access on-line databases from the ship's Internet Cafe. Anyone interested in Jewish Genealogy would benefit from these sessions and from the opportunity to network with other genealogists doing similar research. There are special incentives (including free cabin upgrades) for those who register by March 15th. Please check the www.iajgs.org website for more information about the Cruise, including a toll-free information and reservations number.

I hope to see you in July in Washington D.C. for the 23rd IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy and on the First IAJGS Genealogy Cruise in December.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies 2003 Conference

hosted by Florida State Genealogical Society
Countdown to Discovery: A World of Hidden Treasures
<http://www.fgs.org> (click on "2003 conference")
PLACE - Renaissance Orlando Resort
DATE - September 3-6, 2003

Wonderful **W**orld of **W**ebsites

<http://www.archives.gov/facilities/> <http://www.genealogy.com/0000091.html>

In addition to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., there are currently 13 Regional Archive Centers located in various cities around the country. The regional centers all have United States census data and a variety of other research materials. There is no inter-center loan, so you must go to the regional center that has the records that you need to search. If you have a very specific request, you may be able to get a photocopy of the record instead. In addition, the National Archives has a microfilm rental program for census records. Washington D.C., Alaska Region, Central Plains Region, Great Lakes Region, Mid-Atlantic Region, New England Region, Northeast Region, Pacific Region, Pacific Northwest Region, Pacific Sierra Region, Pittsfield Region, Rocky Mountain Region, Southeast Region, Southwest Region

Archival Research Catalog http://www.archives.gov/research_room/arc

Paper of Record (<http://www.paperofrecord.com/Default.asp>) is an historical archive of full-page newspaper images that you can search for unique coverage of past events. The archive is created from newspaper collections on microfilm, preserving the original format of the paper, but saving you hours, even days, of research time. Now, you don't have to scroll manually through reel after reel of film to unfold history, page by page. You can use their search engine to find birth, marriage, & death notices and to read fascinating stories about the communities your ancestors built.

BUBBIE'S COOKING VERSUS MY COOKING

Amongst all those recipes cards and numerous cookbooks, there is still that favorite recipe made by your grandmother. You may have the original handwritten recipe. This recipe was made by your mother and grandmother and possibly even by your great grandmother, too. It is now your recipe to hand down to your children and grandchildren. Recipes change from generation to generation. A smidgen of salt becomes a half-teaspoon of salt. A glass of milk becomes a pint of milk. A pound of cream cheese becomes a pound of "lite" or "fat free" cream cheese. An oven becomes a microwave. Each generation modifies the preparation to suit the times and their lifestyle. These recipes are part of our Jewish history. Each recipe has its own special ingredients. Each recipe is part of you. Handing these recipes to your children keeps the Jewish tradition alive. Each recipe brings a memory of family gatherings from years past.

The following is a humorous story about schmaltz recipes.

SCHMALTZ RECIPES (Ess, ess, mein kindt)

The author is unknown and the subject matter a little frightening for we who remember and especially for we who indulged!

Before we start, however, there are some variations in ingredients because of the various types of Jewish taste (Polack, Litvack and Gallicianer).

Just as we Jews have six seasons of the year (winter, spring, summer, fall, the slack season, and the busy season), we all focus on a main ingredient which unfortunately, and undeservedly, has disappeared from our diet.

I'm talking, of course, about schmaltz (chicken fat).

Schmaltz has for centuries been the prime ingredient in almost every Jewish dish, and I feel it's time to revive it to its rightful place in our homes. I have plans to distribute it in a green glass Gucci bottle with a label clearly saying: low fat, no cholesterol, Newman's Choice, extra virgin schmaltz. It can't miss!

Let's start, of course, with the "forshpeiz" (appetizer). Gehockteh leiber (chopped liver) with schmaltz is always good, but how about something more exotic for your dear ones, like boiled whitefish in yoyech (soup) which sets into a jelly form, or "gefilteh miltz" (stuffed spleen), in which the veins are removed, thank God, and it is fried in, you guessed it, schmaltz, bread crumbs, eggs, onions, salt and pepper.

Love it! How about stewed lingen (lungs) -- very chewy, or gehenen (brains) -- very slimy. Am I making your mouth water yet? Then there are greebenes -- pieces of chicken skin, deep-fried in schmaltz, onions and salt until crispy brown (Jewish bacon). This makes a great appetizer for the next cardiologist's convention.

Another favorite, and I'm sure your children will love it, is pe'tcha (jellied calves feet). Simply chop up some cows' feet with your hockmesser (hand-chopper), add some meat, onions, lots of garlic, schmaltz again, salt and pepper, cook for five hours and let it sit overnight. You might want to serve it with oat bran and bananas for an interesting breakfast (just joking).

There's also a nice chicken fricassee (stew) using the heart, gorgle (neck), pipick (a great delicacy, given to the favorite child, usually me), a fleegle (wing) or two, some ayelech (little premature eggs) and other various chicken innards, in a broth of schmaltz, water, paprika, etc.

We also have knishes (filled dough) and the eternal question "Will that be liver, beef or potatoes or all three?"

Other time-tested favorites are kishkeh, and its poor cousin, helzel (chicken or goose neck). Kishkeh is the gut of the cow, bought by the foot at the Kosher butcher. It is turned inside out, scalded and scraped. One end is sewn up and a mixture of flour, schmaltz, onions, eggs, salt, pepper, etc. is spooned into the open end and squished down until it is full, the other end is sewn and the whole thing is boiled. Yummy!

My personal all-time favorite is watching my Zaida (grandpa) munch on boiled chicken feet. Try that on the kinderlach (children) tomorrow.

For our next course we always had chicken soup with pieces of yellow-white, rubbery chicken skin floating in a greasy sea of lokshen (noodles), farfel (broken bits of matzah), arbiss (chickpeas), lima beans, pietrishkeh, tzibbeles (onions), mondlech (soup nuts), kneidlach (dumplings), kasha, (groats) kliskelech and marech (marrow bones).

The main course, as I recall, was either boiled chicken, flanken, kackletten (hockfleish-chopped meat), and sometimes rib steaks which were served either well done, burned or cremated. Occasionally we had barbecued liver done to a burned and hardened perfection in our own coal furnace.

Since we couldn't have milk with our meat meals, beverages consisted of cheap pop (Kik, Dominion Dry, seltzer in the spritz bottles) or a gzelz tay (glass of hot tea) served in a yohrtzeit (memorial candle) glass and sucked through a sugar cube held between the incisors.

Desserts were probably the only things not made with schmaltz, so we never had any. Momma never learned how to make Schmaltz Jell-O.

Well, now you know the secret of how I've grown up to be so tall, sinewy, slim and trim, energetic, extremely clever and modest, and if you want your children to grow up to be like me, you're in gohnsen meshuggah (completely nuts)!

Ze! mir gezunt (go in good health)... and order out Chinese.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida 2002-2003 Year in Review

Sunday, October 20, 2002:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting

Toronto 2002 Jewish Genealogy Conference Overview

By Sandra Krisch

Sunday, November 17, 2002:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting

An Archeological Trek to Khazaraia -

A Genealogical Search for Our Ukranian & Crimean Ancestors

By Dr. Hilliard E. Firschein

Sunday, December 15, 2002:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting

JewishGen Shtetl Project and ShtetlLinks for Gargzdai

By John Jaffer

Friday, January 10, 2003:

Jewish Genealogy - Where Do You Come From

Program presented by JGS of SW FL at Temple Beth El dinner

Sunday, January 19, 2003:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting

Researching In Your Own Backyard –

Learn to do genealogical research in your home and very close to home

By Sue Davis

Sunday, February 16, 2003:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting

Beyond Names and Dates: Discovering the Life & Times of Your Ancestors – By Emily Rose, author of *Portraits of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside* (2001-2002 National Jewish Book Awards Finalist)

Saturday, March 8 and Sunday, March 9, 2003:

Shop Israel in Sarasota at Kobernick House

JGS of SW FL members volunteered

Sunday, March 9, 2003:

Jewish Genealogy - In Search of Your Bubba's Bubba

Seminar presented by the Adult Education Committee of Temple Beth Sholom and JGS of SW FL

Sunday, March 16, 2003:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting and JCC Kallah

Judaica Heirloom Show and Tell

By Roger Wilson

Sunday, April 13, 2003:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting

The Jews of Africa: A close-up Look at Our Brothers and Sisters in Ghana and Uganda

By Rabbi Barbara Aiello

Sunday, May 4, 2003:

JGS of SW FL General Meeting / Pot Luck Lunch

Mini-lesson in how to write your memoirs

By Ruth C. Tachna

Famous Jewish People

http://www.genealogy.com/92_eben_print.html

<http://www.amuseum.org/jahf/virtour/index.html>

Louis D. Brandeis (1856-1941): First Jewish US Supreme Court Justice (1916), he assumed leadership of the American Zionist movement in 1914 and is the namesake of Brandeis University in Massachusetts, largely due to his lifelong commitment to social justice.....**Emma Lazarus** (1849-1887): Poet noted for her sonnet *The New Colossus*. Her words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free," grace the Statue of Liberty.....**Adolph Ochs** (1858-1935): Newspaperman and philanthropist who, at 38, took over The New York Times and turned it into one of the most prominent newspapers in the world.....**Emma Goldman** (1869-1940): Russian-born anarchist, feminist and labor advocate.....**Golda Meir** (1898-1978): Born in Kiev, she emigrated to the US in 1906. An ardent Zionist, she resettled in then-Palestine in 1921, got involved in politics and rose to be Israel's fourth prime minister (1969-1974).....**Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel** (1906-1947): New York and Hollywood mobster who built the Flamingo Hotel and Casino. Although a criminal, he's credited with the development of what would become the Las Vegas Strip.....**Leonard Bernstein** (1918-1990): One of the most revered conductors and composers of the 20th century, he led the New York Philharmonic for 11 years. He is also remembered for musical scores including *Candide* and *West Side Story*.....**Sandy Koufax** (1935-): Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher who refused to play on Yom Kippur, the holiest day in the Jewish year, during the 1965 World Series. At 36, he became the youngest player voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.....**Barbra Streisand** (1942-): Talented and multiple award-winning singer and actress of stage and screen.....**Steven Spielberg** (1947-): The world's most successful living movie director, he acknowledged his return to Jewish culture after making *Schindler's List* (1993) and continues to film Holocaust survivors' testimony through his [Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation](#). He co-founded Dreamworks SKG, along with former Disney exec Jeffrey Katzenberg and David Geffen, both Jewish.

Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) There has been much speculation over the centuries as to whether Christopher Columbus may have been Jewish or of Jewish descent. The Encyclopedia Britannica indicates that he may have come from a Spanish-Jewish family settled in Genoa, Italy. But there is no question that it was his Spanish-Jewish friends who were instrumental in arranging for his meeting with the Spanish Monarchs in 1486 and who turned his dream into reality.....**Luis de Santangel** (?-1498) Contrary to popular opinion, it was not Queen Isabella's jewelry, but Spanish Jewry that made Columbus' historical trip of discovery possible. Actually it was Luis de Santangel, whose grandfather had converted from Judaism to Christianity under pressure of Spanish persecutions, who lent nearly 5 million maravedis to pay for the voyage. In addition, Santangel's influence with King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella was decisive in gaining their acceptance of Columbus' proposals. In recognition of his assistance, Santangel was the first to hear of the historic discoveries directly in a personal letter from Columbus. Showing his allegiance to his former co-religionists, Luis de Santangel made substantial contributions toward the hiring of ships that enabled them to leave when they were expelled en mass from Spain.....**Don Isaac Abravanel** (1437-1508) Another of Columbus' stalwart friends was Don Isaac Abravanel, who had remained stalwart to his religion and who was one of the most distinguished biblical scholars, philosophers and statesmen of the period. He also helped to finance Columbus' voyage, although he was not there to greet the great explorer upon his return ... since Abravanel was also expelled from Spain, in spite of his high position in the court of Ferdinand and Isabella.....**Abraham Zacuto** (1452-c.1515) Before the Expulsion, Abraham Zacuto was forced to leave his native Spain. He was later named Royal Mathematician to the Portuguese royal court. There, he improved the astrolabe (early navigational instrument) and prepared astronomical tables, greatly improving navigational accuracy on the high seas. A copy of Zacuto's astronomical tables, along with Columbus' personal annotations, is still preserved in Seville.

IT'S ALL RELATIVE.....

COUSINS

Your **first cousins** are the people in your family who have two of the same grandparents as you. In other words, they are the children of your aunts and uncles.

Your **second cousins** are the people in your family who have the same great-grandparents as you, but not the same grandparents.

Your **third cousins** have the same great-great-grandparents, fourth cousins have the same great-great-great-grandparents, and so on.

When the word "**removed**" is used to describe a relationship, it indicates that the two people are from different generations. You and your first cousins are in the same generation (two generations younger than your grandparents), so the word "removed" is *not* used to describe your relationship.

Once removed means that there is a difference of one generation. For example, your mother's first cousin is your first cousin, once removed. This is because your mother's first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. This one-generation difference equals "once removed."

Twice removed means that there is a two-generation difference. You are two generations younger than a first cousin of your grandmother, so you and your grandmother's first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.

GRANDPARENTS

Bubbe, Zayde pronounced "Bubbeh" or "Bubbee" and "Zaydeh" or "Zaydee" are the Yiddish words for grandmother and grandfather.

Savta, Saba are the Hebrew words for grandmother and grandfather.

JGS of SW FL Library is Growing

Where Once We Walked (Revised Edition) by Gary Mokotoff and Sallyann Amdur Sack with Alexander Sharon

Portraits of Our Past: Jews of the German Countryside by Emily Rose

SURNAME & PLACE LIST

To submit the surnames and places that you are currently researching to the JGS of SW FL "Surname & Place" list, submit surnames and places to klapshein@aol.com

To obtain an e-mail copy of the JGS of SW FL "Surname & Place" list, request at klapshein@aol.com

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES NEEDED

for the Fall 2003 issue of Mishpochology
e-mail to klapshein@aol.com

Avotaynu Guide to Jewish Genealogy edited by Sallyann Amdur Sack and Gary Mokotoff

This new book is the definitive guide to Jewish genealogical research. Written by more than 60 authors, each is an expert in his/her own field. The list of authors is a veritable "Who's Who in Jewish Genealogy." Its more than 100 chapters cover all-important aspects of the rich body of information available to do Jewish genealogical research. Each chapter in "Researching by Country of Ancestry" typically has (1) history of the Jewish presence in the country, (2) what records are available, (3) how to access records, (4) address of repositories and other institutions, (4) bibliography, and (5) Internet addresses. This book is of immense value to both the novice and the experienced researcher. Hardcover. \$85.00. <http://www.avotaynu.com/guidetoc.htm>

JewishGen adds "All-Hungary Database"

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Hungary>

This follows the trend to have databases of information about individual Jews from various countries on ancestry. Presently there are "All-Country" databases for Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania. The Jewish Record Indexing - Poland project serves a comparable function for Polish Jewry. A JewishGen All-Country Database is actually an index to multiple databases from sources in the specified country. A search engine then identifies which sub-databases contain the key words specified. Key words are usually surnames or town names.

Welcome to our new members:

Kuna and Elva Abroms

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Mail check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to:
Kim Sheintal 4462 Violet Ave. Sarasota, FL 34233
Single Membership \$20 per year
Family Membership \$25 per year

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Amount Enclosed _____