



### **PRESIDENT'S SHPIEL** by Kim Sheintal

Everyone has a unique heritage. Don't keep your family heritage a secret. Share your family stories and ask family members for theirs. Take the time now to talk with relatives.

Many people remember vividly events that occurred as a young child and describe in great detail what life was like while they were growing up. Perhaps names and dates may not be accurate, but most people are able to convey the essence of their lives.

Telling the story is not enough – you need to record your story to pass on to future generations. There are so many formats for family stories: a written narrative, a family cookbook, a scrapbook, a “labeled” photo album, a video, a tape recording, and more.

The next meeting is your opportunity to share a story pertaining to genealogy. Share your story and/or bring books and albums to the Jewish Genealogical Society on March 19.

### **JGS of SW FL Calendar**

Sunday, March 19, 2006 (1:00 PM) @ Flanzer JCC  
Show and Tell: Sharing Our Heritage with Others

Sunday, April 16, 2006 (1:00 PM) @ Flanzer JCC  
Program by Rabbi Howard Simon of Temple Emanu-El

Sunday, May 21, 2006 (1:00 PM) @ Flanzer JCC  
Potluck Luncheon with program by Meirav and Liron Cohen, Community Schlichim

## **Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida** **MISHPOCHOLOGY**

**Volume 11, Number 1 March 2006**

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Sunday, March 19, 2006 (1:00 PM)**  
**JCC, 582 S. McIntosh Road, Sarasota**

**Program: Show and Tell:**  
**Sharing our heritage with others.**  
**Bring a story to share.**

### **Ephemera Findings**

An old magazine or newspaper in your attic may be helpful to someone's genealogical quest. Rather than throw away, give away.

The Ephemera Society of America, Inc. is a non-profit organization formed in 1980 to cultivate and encourage interest in ephemera and the history identified with it; to further the understanding, appreciation, and enjoyment of ephemera by people of all ages, backgrounds, and levels of interest; to promote the personal and institutional collection, preservation, exhibition, and research of ephemeral materials; to serve as a link among collectors, dealers, institutions, and scholars; and to contribute to the cultural life of those who have an interest in our heritage as a nation or a people, both nationally and internationally. Their Ephemera Show and Conference will be March 10, 11 and 12 in Stamford, Connecticut.

Dennis Gries gave the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida two pieces of ephemera.

1. “A Celebration for the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra” 50-page booklet from 1951 on the occasion of its first visit to the United States (fifty-five concerts in forty states in the United States and Canada)
2. Seven-page program from the American Fund for Israel Institutions for the Israel Philharmonic on January 11, 1951 in New York

For more information about these pieces, contact Kim Sheintal at 941-921-1433 or klapshein@aol.com.

## **THE EARLY JEWS OF ENGLAND: 1066 - 1290**

By Anita Woolf

Over the years there have been many anecdotal reports of the probability of Jews residing in the earlier centuries. However, these reports remain unproven until the mid eleventh century when documentation of Jewish residence thus verified their existence in England, together with their lifestyles.

In the eleventh century, William of Normandy, after defeating Harold at the Battle of Hastings, invited French Jews to come to England for the purpose of furthering trade. In Ancient Gaul, where William had resided, Jews, who had dwelt there for many centuries traded, in the main, as moneylenders. The Jews of Normandy were also the link between the Western World and the East, trading in spices and silks. At that point, trade, in England, consisted mainly of barter - there was little coinage. When William invited the Jews to come to England, they brought with them not only their considerable experiences in commerce, but also a particularly scarce commodity - coinage. At that point, Jews could travel freely as they were placed under the King's special protection. They specialized in foreign languages, many were great doctors, scientists, and, due to the King's protection, were able to live freely, furthering foreign trade due to their expertise in French, German, Arabic, Spanish and Hebrew. Although they were given permission to reside where they wished, and were given freedom of movement in the country, they were, however, barred from holding public office, keeping Christian slaves and preferred, of their own choice, to confine themselves to living, mixing and working with fellow Jews.

### **1087 - 1100**

William, who had been Duke of Normandy as well as King of England, had bequeathed Normandy to Robert, his older son. William Rufus, who had ascended the throne of England in 1087, therefore was no longer the Ruler of Normandy. Jews, who had freely traded backwards and forwards between the two countries, possibly were no longer as free to do so.

Rufus waged many wars - against the Scots, the Welsh and against his elder brother, Robert, Duke of Normandy. He kept a costly Court and lavished considerable wealth on those who attended his Court. In order to finance his lavish lifestyle and the cost of his warmongering, it is believed that Rufus made use of the Jewish bankers in England. It is also documented that Rufus looked favorably on Jews, possibly because he wished not to risk their escaping from under his rule to Normandy, thus enriching his brother, Robert.

Rufus, throughout his reign was in constant dispute with the French. The Pope tried to remove from him the power of selecting the heads of the Church in England, which resulted in a feud between Rufus and the Church. In that period of time, the Church was anxious to convert Jews to Christianity - mostly by force. The first Crusade (a holy war proclaimed by the Church against the Saracens who held Jerusalem, the Holy City) was in progress. Many Jews were slain by the Crusaders on their way to Palestine. In Rouen, France, Jews were driven into a church by the Crusaders and baptized at the point of the sword. (Later, Rufus allowed them to return to their faith.)

The Duke of Normandy, brother of William Rufus, prior to his departure to the Crusades, sold his dukedom to Rufus, and so Normandy again became the possession of the King of

England. Therefore, once again, the Jews of England and Normandy lived under the same ruler.

### **1100 - 1135**

Rufus lost his life in 1100. His brother, Henry 1, succeeded him.

Jews in other countries had suffered indescribable disasters. The First Crusade, begun five years before the death of Rufus, ended with the capture of the Holy Land. Jews found in Jerusalem at that time, were driven into the Synagogues and burnt alive. The Crusaders, who had begun with the murder and pillage of many Jewish communities in Europe, ended their Crusade in this savage and vile manner in Jerusalem. However, Rufus, then on the Throne in England, ruled wisely. Thus Jews were permitted to continue to live and work in relative peace. At this point, it is documented that the number of Jews in England increased. Was this because some were refugees from the massacres in Europe?

Nevertheless, not all of Europe was reeling from the bloodbath. France, Germany, Italy and Spain were still seats of learning for Jews. (Rashi, for example lived in France.) Jews in England were able to send their sons abroad to study under these great Rabbis. However, at this time, great Jewish schools and colleges were in evidence. During this period, Henry issued an edict that became known as the "Jewish Charter." This made clear to Jews and Gentiles alike the rights of all Jews. Henry the First, called the "Lion of Justice," collected these rights in a special Charter, so there could be no doubts about them. The Charter included the right of freedom to move freely within England, the right to be taxed only by the King, and the right of trial by a jury composed of half Jews and half Gentiles. Ill-treatment by the Barons was also forbidden.

Henry's Charter was in no way created because of a particular liking for the Jews, but purely for practical reasons. Giving them various "privileges" meant they could prosper. The King took the major share of those profits. (Ancient records, "Pipe Rolls" the oldest of which date back to 1130, makes mention of this fact.)

### **1135 - 1154**

Henry the First died. His nephew, Stephen, was crowned. Civil war divided England, for Henry's daughter, Matilda, also claimed the Throne. Jews, although not permitted to bear arms, did not escape the turmoil. For example, in 1136, when the Barons set fire to London, the Jewish quarter suffered greatly. Stephen, pressed for finances, forcibly raised considerable amounts from the Jews. When one man, Isaac of Oxford, refused to pay the extortionate sum demanded of him, his home was torched and he perished in the flames.

Due to the country being in a lawless state, the Barons, fearful for their own safety, built castles and stone forts to secure themselves. Money was collected from Jewish sources that enabled the buildings to be built. (In fact, many of the Stately Castles of England were built using Jewish money, likewise Cathedrals and Monasteries that stand to this very day.) The most outstanding event that occurred during Stephen's reign happened in 1144 when the horrendous charge, known as the Ritual Murder Case, was brought against the Jews of Norwich, a town in east England. Although this accusation had been leveled many times against Jews, this was the first such accusation uttered in England.

"Ritual Murder" means murder for religious reason, to be perpetrated by enemies of Jews. It was believed that Christian

blood was used for celebrating the Passover. In fact, this accusation was first invented by the pagans. With regard to the supposed "Ritual Murder" in 1144, this came about because a little boy, William, disappeared. His body was found in a nearby wood. He had, supposedly, amidst all the rumors which abounded, been seen entering the home of Eleazer the Jew. William's uncle immediately accused all Jews of murdering his nephew. Theobald, a Jew by birth, who was baptized and later became a monk and was regarded by all Jews as a traitor and renegade, later declared - and was believed - that it was a custom to sacrifice a Gentile every Passover. Although this occurred in August, he nevertheless was assumed educated in the practices of his renounced faith. A clamor arose for the arrest of all the Jews. However, the Royal Sheriff, a just man, refused to arrest the Jews of his town. (Actually, it was subsequently believed that the child had suffered a fit.)

*1154 – 1290 to be continued in next issue*

Areas of Reference:

A.M. Hyamson - *A History of the Jews in England*

H.G. Richardson - *The English Jewry under Angevin Kings*

Beth Zion Abrahams - *The Jews in England*

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#### **International Institute for Jewish Genealogy Opens**

The International Institute for Jewish Genealogy and Paul Jacobi Center, a non-profit organization, opened in February in Jerusalem. Its aims are to engage in Jewish genealogical research and teaching at the university level and to make Jewish Genealogy a recognized academic discipline within the realm of Jewish Studies.

"The Institute is the only one of its kind in the Jewish world. It plans to operate on an interdisciplinary basis and also in a collaborative way with organizations engaged in aspects of Jewish genealogy. It will put a premium on innovative programs and projects of practical benefit to individual family historians."

Sallyann Sack from DC and Josef Lamdan from Israel headed the international Founding Committee. They worked on its establishments for two years. Lamdan, a former Israeli ambassador to the Vatican, is Director of the Institute.

*Nu? What's New?* (Vol. 6 No. 21, February 6, 2006)

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**Jewish Genealogical Society (New York)**  
**is proud to host the 26th IAJGS**  
**International Conference on Jewish Genealogy**  
<http://www.jgsny2006.org/>



**August 13-18, 2006**  
**New York Marriott Marquis Hotel**

## **Wonderful World of Websites**

**Florida State Genealogical Calendar**  
<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/calendar.htm>

**Personal Source for Public Information**  
[www.publicrecords.com](http://www.publicrecords.com)

**Jews of Siberia**  
<http://www.bh.org.il/Communities/Archive/Siberia.asp>

**Jews of United States Southwest**  
<http://parentseyes.arizona.edu/bloom/>  
<http://fp.arizona.edu/judaic>

#### **Jewish Genealogy Links on the Internet**

Both the Beth Hatefutsoth and the Hebrew University of Jerusalem (Jewish History Resource Center) websites have excellent Jewish genealogy links.

<http://www.bh.org.il/Genealogy/index.aspx>

<http://www.hum.huji.ac.il/dinur/Internetresources/gen.htm>

The newly developed Jewish Roots Ring is devoted to linking those sites that deal primarily with Jewish genealogy and/or Jewish history. If you are searching for your Jewish Roots and would like some general information about Jewish genealogy and/or conducting Jewish historical research, feel free to browse around. This ring could include individual family pages as well as general research aids, databases, etc.  
<http://j.webring.com/hub?ring=jewishgene>

#### **Holocaust Research on the Internet**

JewishGen's Holocaust Database:  
<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Holocaust/>

Czestochowa-Radomsko Area Research Group:  
<http://www.CRARG.org/>

United States Holocaust Memorial Museum:  
<http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/registry/index.php?cont=entofferings/>

Yizkor Books Online:  
<http://www.nypl.org/research/chss/jws/yizkorbookonline.cfm>

Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial:  
<http://www.yadvashem.org/>

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**Welcome New Members**  
**Cathy Lammie**  
**Bob Martin**  
**Bernie Spitalnick**

To become a member, mail \$20 (or \$25 per family)  
payable to JGS of SW FL to:  
Kim Sheintal  
4462 Violet Ave.  
Sarasota, Florida 34233

### **New Family History Show - You could be a part of it.**

History Television (Canada) is creating a series about family history. This is your opportunity to share your stories and if your story, research or question is chosen, it could appear on Ancestors in the Attic.

Were your ancestors sheep-thieves or war heroes, saints or sinners, or something quite unexpected? Are there family secrets you'd still like to unlock or legends you've already untangled? Let Ancestors in the Attic help you solve your dramatic, personal family mysteries or feature the stories you've already discovered.

Ancestors in the Attic would like to hear about astonishing stories with a Canadian connection that you've already unearthed.

Discover more on the History Television website:

[www.history.ca](http://www.history.ca) or go directly to the Ancestors in the Attic page at:

<http://www.history.ca/microsites/ancestorssearch/default.asp>

In 500 words or less, tell Ancestors in the Attic about your story and briefly outline the evidence you gathered in your research. Send all information to:

[Ancestors.Search@allianceatlantis.com](mailto:Ancestors.Search@allianceatlantis.com)

*Genealogy Gems: News from the Fort Wayne Library* No. 22, December 31, 2005.

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### **Howard Margol Visits Sarasota**

Howard Margol, past president of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and a foremost authority on Lithuanian research presented a January program for members of the JGS of SW FL at the home of Libbie and Al Kaplan. He spoke about doing actual research at the State Historical Archives of Lithuania as well as searching the following online databases:

#### **Internal Passport Database**

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/Internalpassports.htm>

#### **JewishGen Vital Records Database**

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/VRBirths.htm>

#### **1897 Lithuania Census Database**

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/Lithuania/LithCensus1897.htm>

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### **“DNA Genetics and Genealogy: A Scientific Approach to Research”**

Several members of the JGS of SW FL attended the DNA Genetics and Genealogy workshop on January 28, 2006 sponsored by the Genealogical Society of Sarasota and were given a 128 pages with information about the speakers, websites, lists of DNA testing companies, explanation of DNA/Genes/Chromosomes, mapping and sequencing the human genome, model organism research, data collection, suggested books on genealogy-genetics, and suggested magazine articles on genealogy-genetics.

The Genealogical Society of Sarasota gave the JGS of SW FL a DVD by Bennett Greenspan, President and CEO of Family Tree DNA. An entrepreneur and life-long genealogy enthusiast, Greenspan founded Family Tree DNA in 1999 after successfully using Y-DNA to solve his own predicament involving his family's history. His success in proving a common male ancestor existed between families in California and Argentina in his own family tree inspired him to create Family Tree DNA.

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## **JEWISH GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES**

**Argentina (1)**  
**Australia (2)**  
**Belgium (1)**  
**Canada (7)**  
**Denmark (1)**  
**France (1)**  
**Germany (1)**  
**Great Britain (1)**  
**Israel (3)**  
**Netherlands (1)**  
**South Africa (1)**  
**Sweden (1)**  
**Switzerland (1)**  
**Arizona (2)**  
**California (5)**  
**Colorado (1)**  
**Connecticut (1)**  
**District of Columbia (1)**  
**Florida (8)**  
**Georgia (1)**  
**Illinois (2)**  
**Indiana (1)**  
**Louisiana (1) inactive**  
**Maryland (1 plus part of DC group)**  
**Massachusetts (2)**  
**Michigan (1)**  
**Missouri -  
(Jewish Special Interest Group  
of the St. Louis Genealogical Society)**  
**Nevada (1)**  
**New Jersey (3 plus subgroup)**  
**New York (5)**  
**Ohio (4)**  
**Oregon (2)**  
**Pennsylvania (2)**  
**Texas (3)**  
**Utah (1)**  
**Virginia (part of DC group)**  
**Washington State (1)**  
**Wisconsin (10)**  
**Venezuela (1)**

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## **JEWISH GENEALOGICAL PUBLICATIONS**

**Jewish Genealogy Online Newsletter:** *Nu, What's New*, the e-zine of Jewish genealogy, is published biweekly and free. Editor Gary Mokotoff keeps people abreast of the latest information of value in Jewish genealogical research. The website is: <http://www.avotaynu.com/nuwhatsnew.htm>.

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