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### President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

Keep your eyes open everyday for hidden genealogy clues. Over the summer, "K" from New Jersey saw my e-mail on the IAJGS website. She wanted my help to find the whereabouts of her husband's cousin who had owned a store in Sarasota in the 1970's. A month after getting her e-mail, I volunteered at a community-wide Havdalah service where I was a greeter in charge of nametags. Just imagine my surprise when the gentleman "K" was looking for gave me his name upon entering the Havdalah service.

This is the second time for me that a nametag proved genealogical success. Years ago, I spotted someone's nametag at a welcome event with the same name as a cousin on my husband's family tree. She was my husband's distant cousin.

Become a nametag observer and someday you may find yourself looking face to face with a long lost cousin.

### Genealogy Annual Events

The 29<sup>th</sup> Polish Genealogical Society of America (PGSA) 2007 "Bridges to the Past" Conference: 28-30 Sept. 2007 (Schaumburg, Illinois). For details, go to <http://www.pgsa.org>.

Florida Hereditary Societies Gathering: 27 Oct. 2007 (The Club at Eaglebrook, 1300 Eaglebrook Blvd., Lakeland, Florida). For details, contact Hil Bailey, 239-254-1458, [vbailey@comcast.net](mailto:vbailey@comcast.net).

The Florida State Genealogical Society (FSGS) 2007 Genealogical Conference: 9-10 Nov. 2007 (Downtown Orlando Sheraton). For details, go to <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs>.

The 30<sup>th</sup> National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference in the States and Family History Fair: 14-17 May 2008 (Kansas City, Missouri) For details, go to <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>.

The 28<sup>th</sup> International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) Conference: 17-22 Aug. 2008 (Downtown Chicago Marriott). For details, go to <http://www.iajgs.org>.

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

### MISHPOCHOLOGY

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

### MEETING

Sunday, November 18, 2007 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: Pieter Kohnstam, author of

*A Chance to Live: A Family's Journey to Freedom*, will speak about the story of his family's escape from the occupied Netherlands through France and Spain, to freedom in Argentina.

For information, Kim Sheintal 921-1433, [klapshein@aol.com](mailto:klapshein@aol.com)

## Wonderful World of Websites

To locate new and revised Jewish genealogy resources on the LDS website, go to the "Jewish Family History Resources" link at <http://www.familysearch.org>. The announcement of these revised resources was made in conjunction with the 27<sup>th</sup> International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies Conference in Salt Lake City this past summer. This web page includes a new Jewish genealogy database, the Knowles Collection, as well as a new research guide, Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors. The Knowles Collection contains information for thousands of Jews from the British Isles. Building on the work of the late Isobel Mordy, the collection links individuals into family groups with more names added continuously. The collection is available as a file that can be viewed and edited through most genealogy software programs. Genealogy software is also available as a free download. The Tracing Your Jewish Ancestors guide is an excellent, free reference tool for anyone with a Jewish ancestor who came to the United States from Europe.

To search the Yad Vashem database or submit names, go to <http://www.yadvashem.org>.

To view a slide show from the book, Image Before My Eyes: A Photographic History of Jewish Life in Poland, 1864-1939 by Lucjan Dobroszycki and Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, go to <http://www.tachna.com/jlp>.

To locate repositories for U. S. city directories that are printed, microfilmed or online, go to <http://www.uscitydirectories.com>.

The Museum of Family History honors and preserves the memory of our ancestors for the present and future generations. To view family photographs taken in pre-war Eastern Europe and read short stories about some subjects of these photographs and their families, some of whom emigrated and survived the war, and many who perished in the Shoah, go to <http://www.museumoffamilyhistory.com/main.htm>. To find other valuable websites to Jewish genealogists, click on "links" at the top right corner of this website.

To find genealogy forms such as pedigree charts, timelines, etc. go to <http://www.cs.williams.edu/~bailey/genealogy>.

National Genealogical Society - <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/>  
Florida State Genealogical Society - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsgs/>  
Florida Genealogical Society of Tampa - <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flfsgs/>  
International Assoc. of Jewish Genealogical Societies - <http://www.iajgs.org/>

## **A Murder in the Family Tree**

by **Larry E. Oppenheimer**

There are lots of stories that our parents told us about their childhood, stories that they heard from their parents, and stories that we told our kids. From a genealogical point of view, while these tales may not be the most accurate sources of information, they often can help clarify the relationships between family members and they can give insights into what life was like during the time period involved. There are a number of unusual things about the story that follows. First, no one in the family knew about the incidents described until our genealogical research uncovered the information. Second, the incidents occurred over 200 years ago. And finally the story is very well documented, minimizing the embellishments and modifications that change most stories as they are passed from person to person.

My paternal grandmother's family lived in the town of Seibersbach, in what today is Germany's Mosel valley, since before the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. When we got interested in genealogy we used the Internet to contact others who were looking at the same area. They told us that in 1798 our gr-gr-granduncle Simon, a cattle dealer, was taking a cow from one nearby town to another when he was set upon and murdered by "Schwarze Peter", a member of the gang led by "Schinderhannes". The gang members had been committing crimes in the region for several years and had some support from the local populace, since they were a general nuisance to the unpopular French authorities who controlled the area at that time. When Simon did not return home a search was begun and his body found. He was identified by one of his brothers. Simon left a pregnant wife and a young child. Eventually the gang members were captured, tried by the French government and, on October 24, 1803, 20 of them were publicly guillotined.

The basic story was confirmed for us when my brother visited Seibersbach and the Burgermeister gave him a copy of an article about the murder. In addition, a book about the gang leader includes a chapter devoted to the murder. With the information at hand we assumed that Simon had simply been in the wrong place at the wrong time and, in the way of families, started referring to him as "Simon the Unfortunate".

Additional information about the murder became accessible to us when a CD was published containing newspaper reports of the gang members' trial, along with the complete trial record. Not only did this make the information available to us, it was transcribed into a modern font from the original, hard to decipher, German font (fraktur) and illegible handwriting. With some help translating the old French and German records, the story behind the crime became clear.

Three years before the murder, the child of "Schwarze Peter" had been baptized at the church in Seibersbach. The child's godfather was another gang member, Johann Kraemer. After the ceremony, "Schwarze Peter" and Kraemer's wife took the opportunity to absent themselves from the party to engage in some extracurricular activities. It was then that Simon stumbled upon the couple (perhaps literally). When Simon reported this indiscretion to Johann Kraemer, the aggrieved husband was outraged and beat his wife to death. An inquiry later found that he had "slightly abused" his wife.

So, the record shows that Simon's murder was not a crime of random opportunity but pay-back for his letting Kraemer know what his wife was doing in her free time! What else can we learn from this story? A lot about living conditions in this part

of Germany around 1800; that human nature hasn't changed much in the last 200 years; and finally there are some things that we discover that we are best off keeping to ourselves.

Some Sources:

Franke, Manfred: Schinderhannes: das kurze, wilde Leben des Johannes Bückler, neu erzählt nach alten Protokollen, Briefen und Zeitungsberichten - Hildesheim, Claasen, 1993

Die Mainzer Voruntersuchungsakten gegen die Schinderhannes-Bande. Udo Fleck, ed. Trier: Kliomedien, 2003. 3722 pp. (CD-ROM)

Der Schwarze Peter: Ein Räuber im Hunsrück und Odenwald / Teil 1 von biografien-news @ 2007-02-04 - 19:38:51  
[http://biografien-news.blog.de/2007/02/04/der\\_schwarze\\_peter\\_ein\\_rauber\\_im\\_hunsruc~1679956](http://biografien-news.blog.de/2007/02/04/der_schwarze_peter_ein_rauber_im_hunsruc~1679956)

## **Cook County Illinois Vital Records To Go On-line**

Just in time for the 2008 Chicago IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy, the Cook County (IL) Clerk announced that newly digitized versions of county records such as birth and death certificates and marriage licenses will be available beginning in January on one searchable website.

The vital record documents, without Social Security numbers, will include birth certificates that are at least 75 years old, marriage certificates more than 50 years old, and death certificates more than 20 years old. There are 4 million vital records, which date to 1871, when record keeping began after the Chicago Fire wiped out previous stockpiles.

For more information go to the following website:  
[http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-digitize\\_websep07,1,531448.story?ctrack=1&cset=true](http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/chi-digitize_websep07,1,531448.story?ctrack=1&cset=true)

## **Yad Vashem presents Award to Donald Hirschhorn**

JGS of Palm Beach County Inc., Florida, proudly announces the presentation of an award to Donald Hirschhorn, bestowed upon him at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual IAJGS Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 18, 2007. Alexander Avraham, Director, Hall of Names, Yad Vashem, Jerusalem, presented the Award, declaring: "On behalf of Yad Vashem I would like to take this opportunity to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Donald Hirschhorn for his activism, dedication and outstanding volunteerism as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project. His tireless efforts to attempt to memorialize each individual Jew who perished during the Holocaust have served as a model for us all."

Don serves as the Names Recovery Campaign Coordinator for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Palm Beach County and South Florida. Don has been instrumental in recruiting over 25 Jewish Genealogical Societies (including the JGS of SW FL) who have registered with Yad Vashem. Don has personally coordinated the submission of close to 1,000 Pages of Testimony, but many additional pages have been submitted as a result of his efforts either through the American Society for Yad Vashem, to Israel directly, or via the Internet.

**IAJGS Board Report**  
**on Salt Lake City Conference**  
by Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President

As always, those attending the annual international conference had to make difficult choices among a great many activities: from inspiring and knowledgeable speakers, SIG and BOF luncheons/meetings, watching films, socializing, to doing research at the Family History Library. Here are a few highlights:

There was a great photo exhibit called Lives Remembered: Photographs of a Small Town in Poland 1895-1939 put together by Mike Marvins from numerous pictures Marvin's grandfather, Zalman Kaplan, took as the photographer in Szczuczyn from 1895-1939.

Paul Shapiro, of USHMM, gave an extremely moving opening ceremony speech about his years of work that have led to the opening of the ITS archives at Bad Arolsen.

Dan Rottenberg, author of the first guidebook on Jewish genealogy research, *Finding Our Fathers*, spoke at the banquet and wowed us all by announcing that he was relinquishing his copyright to the part of his book with the alphabetical list of family names with information on each entry. I'm sure it will be up available on the web before too long.

The banquet festivities also included the awarding of the 2007 IAJGS Lifetime Achievement to Mathilde Tagger of Israel for her many years of Sephardic research and the 2007 IAJGS Award for Outstanding Contribution to Jewish Genealogy via the Internet, Print or Electronic Product to Lars Menk for his remarkable book, *Dictionary of German-Jewish Surnames*.

At the IAJGS annual meeting, Alexander Avraham, on behalf of Yad Vashem, presented a certificate to Donald Hirschhorn of the JGS of Palm Beach County, in recognition of his activism, dedication and outstanding volunteerism as coordinator for the Shoah Victims Names Recovery Project. The IAJGS member organizations approved the granting of the 2007 Stern Award of \$2000 to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum to be used for its upcoming project to index materials it receives from the International Tracing Service (ITS). The Board announced that in the future the name will be changed from Stern Award to Malcom Stern Grant to clarify that it is for a proposed project. Jan Meisels Allen gave an excellent report on the activities of the Public Records Access Monitoring Committee. A bylaws amendment was passed adding the following language to IAJGS Objectives: "To promote public access to genealogically relevant records." The following officers were re-elected: Anne Feder Lee, President; Michael Brenner, Vice President; Joel Spector, Secretary; and Mike Posnick, Treasurer. Consensus was reached on creating a new IAJGS committee for Strategic Planning. Member organizations were encouraged to submit posters for our Jewish Genealogy Month competition (see [www.iajgs.org](http://www.iajgs.org) for more).

The IAJGS Management Seminar on Fundraising and Grant-writing for Non-profits with presentations by Ron Arons and Shelly Weiner was excellent and included much practical information. All IAJGS member organizations received a CD with their power-point presentations.

At our preview of the Chicago 2008 conference, we announced that some of the special items will include lunch kiosks, free wi-fi in attendees' guest rooms, free use of the hotel health club and the possibility of cooking classes given by the hotel chef. The Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile

Hotel, the location of the conference, is in a wonderful location, has a spacious lobby, and a fantastic pastry chef. The room rate is: single and double \$199 (excluding tax) and an additional person is \$30 (excluding taxes). There will be special focus on Jews in the Midwest, Jews in Latin America, and immigration to the US via Canada as well as many many other sessions. The hotel is offering a special bonus of a free week for a conference attendee - details of how the winner will be selected will be announced as soon as they are finalized. Those who want a head start on research possibilities in Chicago are urged to go to Mike Karsen's website: [www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago](http://www.jewishgen.org/InfoFiles/Chicago). A google search for "Jewish Chicago" will also lead to many interesting items. Mark your calendars now: August 17-22, 2008.

No words can express our thanks to all the wonderful volunteers under the able direction of conference co-chairs Michael Brenner and Hal Bookbinder. A sincere thanks to: The Generations Network for sponsoring the Ancestry.com Resource Room; to the Family History Library for providing extended hours for attendees, speakers, and special maps for the resource room; and to Genzyme for a substantial educational grant and for sending Gary Frohlich to share important information on Ashkenazi genetic diseases, particularly Guacher Disease. Thanks also for support from Harvey Krueger, Alan Rinsler, Rochelle Kaplan, E. Randol and Pamela Schoenberg, Marty Mazner, Bob Spinner, the Center for Jewish History, the Czech Torah project, Jossey-Bass publishers, The Jacob Rader Marcus Center, Congregation Kol Ami of Salt Lake City, JGSs, SIGs, individuals and many vendors.

### **2010 US Census Information**

"The U.S. Census Bureau submitted to Congress the subjects it plans to address in the 2010 Census, which include gender, age, race, ethnicity, relationship and whether you own or rent your home. Estimated to take less than 10 minutes to complete, the 2010 Census would be one of the shortest and easiest to complete since the nation's first census in 1790." [http://www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/Final\\_2010\\_Census\\_and\\_American\\_Community\\_Survey\\_Subjects\\_Notebook.html](http://www.census.gov/acs/www/SBasics/Final_2010_Census_and_American_Community_Survey_Subjects_Notebook.html)

### **More Men Taking Wives' Last Names** By Kim Sheintal

Last year when my friend married, she and her husband chose to hyphenate their surnames together. According to the USA article, <http://www.usatoday.com/advertising/orbitz/orbitz-window-unldPop.htm>, some husbands are even taking their wives' last names (and giving up their last names entirely). Americans are breaking the patriarchal tradition so ingrained in our society. In this USA article it states: "The California Legislature is set to consider a bill this month that would allow men to change their surnames upon marriage as seamlessly as women now can. Only seven states now allow a man who wishes to alter his name after his wedding to do so without going through the laborious, frequently expensive legal process set out by the courts for any name change. Women don't have to do so. The bill is co-sponsored by the ACLU of California as a follow-up to a federal lawsuit the civil rights group filed in December on behalf of Michael Buday, a Los Angeles man who wants to take on his wife's surname, Bijon, to show his affinity for his father-in-law. He accuses the state of gender discrimination for forcing him into the more complex process."

## Local Genealogical Societies

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida** meets the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM from November thru May (however the April 2008 meeting will be the second Sunday because of Passover). Meetings are at the Kobernick House at 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota.

President is Kim Sheintal (klapshein@aol.com).

Website: <http://www.jgsswf.org>

**Manasota Genealogical Society** meets the first Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM until noon from October through May. Each meeting will conclude with a basic genealogy lesson. Meetings are at the Manatee County Library, 1301 Barcarrota Blvd., Bradenton.

President is Anne Young (french.cat@verizon.net).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs>

**South Bay Genealogical Society** meets the third Tuesday of the month at noon from September through May for lunch and a speaker. Meetings will be held at the South Shore Library on 19th Avenue, Sun City Center. There will be roundtable discussions at 10:45 AM prior to luncheon.

President is Don Churchill (dchurchill@tampabay.rr.com).

Website: [www.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs)

**Genealogical Society of Sarasota** (GSS) meets the third Saturday of the month at 9:30 AM (refreshments) with 10:00 AM (program) from October through May. Meetings are at the Selby Library (Geldbart Auditorium), 1331 1<sup>st</sup> St., Sarasota.

President is John Noyes (NOYESY@aol.com).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss>

**Germanic SIG** is led by Marilyn Wethington.

(gssgenealogy@comcast.net).

**Scotland/Northern Ireland SIG** is led by Jean Wallace.

(walljb@comcast.net).

**Irish SIG** is led by Bernadette Duncan.

(bduncan941@aol.com).

**Italian SIG** is led by Franz Schneider.

(franz.schneider@prodigy.net) and sponsored by GSS and Sarasota Italian Cultural Events (SICE).

**Computer SIG** is led by Denton Fitzgerald.

(dvfitz@comcast.net) and meets the third Thursday of the month at 2:00 PM until 3:30 PM from October through May.

Meetings are at the Selby Library.

**Englewood Genealogical Society** meets the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1:30 PM until 3:30 PM for the General Meeting for October, January through April; November and December on the third Wednesday; September and May will have a Saturday morning meeting at 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Meetings are at the Elsie Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn W. Street, (1/2 block from 776 on the right), Englewood.

President is Sue Davis (suedavis101@comcast.net).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flegsf>

**Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society** meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM from November through April. Meetings are at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

President is Nancy Johnson (choco8448@yahoo.com).

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay** meets the second Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM (beginner's session), and 2:00 PM (featured program) from September through June (first Sunday in November). Meetings are at the Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida (except in October when meeting is at B'Nai Israel in Clearwater).

President is Linda Zolinsky (ZolinskyL@pcsb.org).

Website: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~fljgstb/home.htm>

## Local Genealogical Society Fall 2007 Meetings

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida** (Kobernick House in Sarasota)

Sunday, 18 November 2007 @ 1:00 PM: Story of his family's escape from the occupied Netherlands through France and Spain, to freedom in Argentina by Pieter Kohnstam

Sunday, 16 December 2007 @ 1:00 PM: Zechut Avot: The Merit of our Ancestors by Rabbi Brenner Glickman

**Manasota Genealogical Society** (Manatee County Library in Bradenton)

Wednesday, 3 October 2007 @ 9:30 AM: Jamestown, Virginia - Its History & People: Researching Jamestown for Early Settlers by Barbara Schultz

Wednesday, 7 November 2007 @ 9:30 AM: Maps for Genealogists - Tracking Your Ancestors by Ed Gaulin

Wednesday, 5 December 2007 @ 9:30 AM: Experiences in Publishing a Family Genealogy by William Currie Colket

**South Bay Genealogical Society** (South Shore Library in Sun City Center)

Tuesday, 18 September @ 10:45 AM (noon lunch)

Tuesday, 16 October @ 10:45 AM (noon lunch)

Tuesday, 20 November @ 10:45 AM (noon lunch)

Tuesday, 18 December @ 10:45 AM (noon lunch)

**Genealogical Society of Sarasota** (Selby Library in Sarasota)

Saturday, 20 October 2007 @ 9:30 AM: Enhanced Genealogical Research Possibilities at the LDS Family History Centers and On-Line at FamilySearch.org, by Jody Riddick

Saturday, 17 November 2007 @ 9:30 AM: How to Find Genealogical Records in Ireland by Jim McHugh

Saturday, 15 December 2007 @ 9:30 AM: Your Genealogical 2007 Accomplishments and Plans for 2008 by Bryan Mulcahy

**Englewood Genealogical Society** (Elsie Quirk Library in Englewood)

Saturday, 22 September 2007 @ 10:00 AM: Researching at Elsie Quirk Library by Sue Davis

Wednesday, 24 October 2007 @ 1:30 PM: History Mystery

Wednesday, 14 November 2007 @ 1:30 PM: Nominations and Computer Talk by Lorraine Walsh

Wednesday, 12 December 2007 @ 1:30 PM: Open Forum, Installation of Officers, Holiday Goodies

**Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society** (Lakewood Ranch Town Hall in Lakewood Ranch)

Monday, 5 November 2007 @ 7:00 PM

Monday, 3 December 2007 @ 7:00 PM

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay** (Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services or Temple B'Nai Israel in Clearwater)

Sunday, 9 September 2007 @ 2:00 PM: Highlights of the 2007 IAJGS Conference at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services

Sunday, 14 October 2007 @ 2:00 PM: Histories of the Jewish People of Pinellas County from 1883 to 2005 by Dr. Herman Koren at Temple B'Nai Israel in Clearwater

Sunday, 4 November 2007 @ 2:00 PM at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services

Sunday, 9 December 2007 @ 2:00 PM at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services