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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

Because I want my new grandson to have a collection of family memories, I made a special Baby Book for him. This is not the usual Baby Album or Baby Scrapbook for sale in stores. It is a homemade notebook, divided into sections that lends itself to people adding to it. I used a three ring binder, extra wide dividers (and labeled each divider with a category), sheet protectors, and card stock paper. (Years ago, I learned about extra wide dividers at a genealogy class that I took.) Each grandparent completed a pedigree chart for the Baby Book. My daughter shows the book to relatives and encourages them to add their stories, photos and family tree updates to the genealogy section.

Wonderful World of Websites

The LDS Family History Department has developed a new research tool in the form of a Wiki, or a website that allows users to add to and edit it: <http://www.FamilySearchWiki.org>. There are countries that may interest Jewish researchers, such as Belarus, Poland, Russia, Hungary, England, Wales, Canada and the United States. There are links to stories, archives, and research topics. You can make Google work as a search engine for the site by doing the following:

- Go to www.google.com and click the Advanced Search feature.
- Enter "www.FamilySearchWiki.org" in the "Domain" field on the Advanced Search page. In the "Find Results" field, place a genealogical term of interest to you and then click "Google Search."

With Advanced Search, you can search only for pages:

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida MISHPOCHOLOGY

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www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, December 16, 2007 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Speaker: Rabbi Brenner Glickman

Program: Zechut Avot: The Merit of our Ancestors

For details, Kim Sheintal 921-1433, <klapshein@aol.com>

- that contain ALL the search terms you type in
- that contain the exact phrase you type in
- that contain at least one of the words you type in
- that do NOT contain any of the words you type in
- written in a certain language
- created in a certain file format
- that have been updated within a certain period of time
- that contain numbers within a certain range
- within a certain domain, or website
- that are available for anyone to use, share or modify, even commercially

Steve Morse has created two new search tools, both listed in the "Births, Deaths, and Other Vital Records" section at www.stevemorse.org.

- Social Security Numbers: Decoding Social Security Numbers in One Step
- Credit Card Numbers: Validating Credit Card Numbers in One Step

Find Rare Family Records and Search 200+ Million Names at www.GenealogyBank.com. To obtain someone's personal information via social security death index dates from 1937 to current, listings of U. S. newspaper obituaries 1977 to current, listings from over 2200 U.S. historical newspapers from 1690 to 1977, listings of many historical books from 1801 to 1900, and listings of many historical documents from 1789 to 1980, type in the name of a person on this website and you often get valuable data without registering and without a fee.

Discover your roots with worldwide family trees. Find your ancestors at www.genebase.com. Although free, you must register to obtain data.

Search millions of records & reunite with friends and family at www.reunion.com. Although free, you must register to obtain data.

Try <<http://www.yivo.org/library/index.php?aid=212&tid=79>> for recommended resources and general tips for researching your Jewish family history.

Steve Morse Interview

Steve Morse, creator of the One Step website, was interviewed in August at the annual conference of the Federation of Genealogical Societies. If you have never met Steve, you will have a chance to hear him on Roots Television discuss his background and how the One Step site got its start. He was interviewed by Dick Eastman, creator of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter found at <http://rootstelevision.com>. To find the interview, use the search engine in the upper right corner, and use the word "Morse" or you can directly to http://rootstelevision.com/players/player_howto.php?bctid=1155105579.

German Maps

by John Jaffer

For anyone researching Germany, here is a link to highly detailed online maps at the site of the University of Greifswald:

http://geogreif.uni-greifswald.de/geogreif/?page_id=4484&initNumber=0

These maps were originally published at a scale of 1:25,000 (4 centimeters on map = 1 kilometer on ground). At this scale, many individual houses are visible. The maps are dated between the 1890's and the 1940's, and cover not only present day Germany, but also former German areas in Poland, Russia and Lithuania.

It is not always easy to find the correct map. Each map is identified by a four-digit numbering system. The website has several grids showing the location of the various maps. Unfortunately, the grid for present-day Germany is blurred, so that the identification numbers on the grid are not legible. Grids for East and West Prussia and Silesia are legible, so maps in those areas may be located more easily.

Each map is also identified by the name of the principal town on the map. The map is indexed by this identifying name, but not indexed by any other towns which may be on the same map.

Finally, the maps show latitude and longitude. However the longitude on many of the maps is based on the old Ferro system, not Greenwich, so the longitude shown on these maps has to be converted to more recent longitude information.

Despite these obstacles, it is worth the effort to find the correct map, due to the detailed information shown. Maps for most areas of Germany may be found on this site. If anyone needs assistance in finding the correct map, they should feel free to contact me at <jslj1@comcast.net>.

Jewish Genealogy Programs Around the World

Jewish Genealogical Societies within the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society are having informative genealogy programs in cities around the world. An updated version of the IAJGS Master Program Calendar can be found on the iajgs.org homepage by clicking on the "Calendar" tab OR by going directly to the following website: <http://www.iajgs.org/calends/jgscalender.html>.

Why give a Jewish baby a Hebrew name in addition to an English name?

"Certain religious rituals require Hebrew names. Hebrew names are used for calling people to the Torah. Certain prayers, such as the memorial prayer or the prayer for the sick, use the Hebrew name. Legal documents, such as the marriage contract or ketubah, also use the Hebrew name. Orthodox Jews and Israelis often give their children a Hebrew name, and that name is used for both everyday and religious purposes."

<http://judaism.about.com/od/hebrewname1/a/namesfaq.htm>

"The formal Hebrew name is used in Jewish rituals, primarily in calling the person to the Torah for an aliyah or in the ketubah (marriage contract)."

<http://www.jewfaq.org/birth.htm>

"The custom of giving two names began in the 1200s. A religious name was given to be used in the synagogue, and a non-Jewish name was given to be used on secular occasions."

<http://www.rootsworld.com/~polwggw/naming.html>

The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe

The YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe (Gershon D. Hundert, editor in chief) is coming in 2008 in print and electronic versions. This book has been planned as the definitive reference work on all aspects of the history and culture of Jews in Eastern Europe from the beginnings of their settlement in the region to the present time. This multi-volume encyclopedia, comprising approximately 2 million words, over 1,000 images, and more than 100 maps, will draw on the most current scholarship in all relevant fields and will explore Jewish life in all its variety and complexity. Up until now, a full-fledged encyclopedia dedicated exclusively to the centuries-long history and culture of East European Jewry has not been developed. The work will be published by Yale University Press. The price has not been stated. Additional information, including the ability to view the sample topics shown above, can be found at <<http://www.yivo.institute.org/>> and clicking on the link for publications.

IAJGS 2008 conference in Chicago

IAJGS 2009 conference in Philadelphia

by Anne Feder Lee, IAJGS President (Honolulu, HI)
<FederLee@msn.com>

Don't forget that the 28th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be in Chicago, August 17-22, 2008 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile and is co-hosted by the IAJGS, the JGS of Illinois, and the Illiana JGS. The conference committee is hard at work getting things set up so that our website will be available as soon as possible. We will, of course, let everyone know when it is up and running.

The IAJGS is very pleased to announce that the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will be held in Philadelphia, PA from August 2 - 7, 2009 at the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center Hotel. This conference will be co-hosted by the IAJGS and the JGS of Greater Philadelphia. We hope you will mark your calendars!

Human Interest Articles for Avotaynu's Winter Issue

Once again, *Avotaynu: The International Review of Jewish Genealogy* is looking for Human Interest articles for their winter issue. Each of its quarterly issues typically contains 68 pages of interest to Jewish genealogical researchers. In the October 28, 2007 issue of Nu? What's Nu, Gary Mokotoff wrote, "Many years ago, Sallyann Sack and I wanted to recognize that there is more to genealogy than ancestor hunting. There is the human side of genealogy."

Now is time to submit articles about your emotional side of genealogy. Submit your human interest articles to Avotaynu editor, Sallyann Amdur Sack, at sallyannsack@avotaynu.com by December 1.

Military Personnel Files Released by U.S. Government

The U.S. National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has opened all of the individual Official Military Personnel Files (OMPF) of those who served and were discharged, retired or died while in the service prior to 1946. Collectively, these files comprise more than six million records, including many elements of military service such as assignments, evaluations, awards and decorations, education and training, demographic information, some medical information and documented disciplinary actions. Some records also contain photographs of the individual and official correspondence concerning military service. These files are open only to the veteran him/herself, if living, or next of kin, which can be father, mother, son, daughter, sister or brother. A surviving spouse can gain access only if not remarried. To obtain copies of records, write to NPRC at 9700 Page Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63132, fax a request to 314-801-9195, or submit a request through <http://vetrecs.archives.gov> or on a Standard Form 180. (Records prior to WWI are in Washington, DC.) For more information, go to the National Personnel Records Center Homepage at <http://www.archives.gov/st-louis/military-personnel/index.html>.

Tracing the Tribe: The Jewish Genealogy Blog

<http://tracingthetribel.blogspot.com/>

Tracing the Tribe is a JTA blog about Jewish genealogy -- all the developments, tools and resources you'll need to peer more closely into your family tree.

The Future of Your Genealogy

To prepare your genealogical collection for the FUTURE, you must collect, organize, preserve and share your records TODAY. Have you collected all of your genealogical findings in scrapbooks, videos, books, and photo albums? Have you organized your findings? Have you carefully preserved what you have? Have you shared your findings with family members? Hopefully, you have answered "yes" to these questions.

Tips:

- Convert old home movies to DVD
- Label all of your photos
- Remove photos from acid albums

Talk to Others Doing Genealogy

by Kim Sheintal

I enjoy talking to others who like doing genealogy. I enjoy hearing their progress. I like to see if we have any surnames or places in common with my family. And I love to learn from others. Last evening, I was chatting with two people about genealogy and they were raving about a website called Jewish Data. How could they be raving so much about a site that I had never even known existed? I checked it out this morning. Now I know why they love that site so much. On the top of the home page there is this quote by Arthur Kurzweil: "Jewishdata.com is an ambitious project that will surely delight many researchers. And, at the rate at which it is growing, it becomes a more valuable source for genealogists by the day... I am quite impressed with this groundbreaking web site." Jewish Data <<http://jewishdata.com/>> is one of the largest professionally compiled Jewish Genealogical resources of its kind currently available. They have over 500,000 records including images of tombstones, school yearbook pages and Citizen Declaration documents. New records are added on an ongoing basis. The first search I did, listed the death date and cemetery for my ggg-grandfather Morris Jaffe. I got this information at no charge, but you must pay to get all the benefits of this website.

During that same chat last night, I also learned about the Legacy website <<http://legacy.com/Obituaries.asp>>. This site claims to be the nationwide resource for obituaries and Guest Books. I decided to explore this site by checking for my father. And sure enough, it showed how the obituaries were worded in all of the newspapers where his obituary appeared. I obtained all of this information at no charge and within minutes.

Not only did I learn about these two sites last night, I heard about the progress of the chatters and I told them about my progress. It is fun and helpful to talk to others who like doing genealogy. Remember, you can learn a lot from others even though they are not searching the same surnames and places as you.

"She" Keeps the Family United and Happy

by Kim Sheintal

Ever since her children were little, she has shown her children photos of their grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins from around the world and explains to them who everyone is in the photos. She talks with them about more than just who are in the photos. She works hard to make sure her children know what is happening with all of the relatives. She does her best to have family get together at her home for the Jewish holidays. She decorates her home for the holidays and is a very gracious hostess. Seeing family is her main concern when it comes to taking a trip. She keeps up with family correspondence. She thanks people for things they give her and things they do for her. She often makes homemade gifts for the family. She is appreciative of things she gets from family members. She keeps up family scrapbooks and albums. She passes along the progress of her kids to family via photos, phone calls, letters, and visits. She gets her family involved so that they do things together. She goes out of her way to help family. Her family love and support for even distant family members comes out in her children. It's these things that she does that keep families united and happy. And with this, family traditions will be carried on and not forgotten. Is there a "she" in your family?

Remember When?

Remember when you would go on a vacation and stay in a hotel and look at the phone book in the night table drawer for people in that town with your last name? Remember when you would ask someone to send you a family photo or a family document and you would have to wait days for the photo or document to arrive at your home? Remember when you had to wait for rolls of film to be developed? Remember when you had to look very hard to find a book written on Jewish genealogy? Remember when there were no Jewish genealogical societies? Remember when there were no computers, faxes, scanners, printers, or copy machines? It was not that long ago.

Family Tree for Kids

Did you ever think to make a family tree with your child, niece, nephew, or grandchild? Be creative. You can make a family tree out of wood, paper, cloth, corkboard, or even a magnet board with magnets. For a game, do as a jigsaw puzzle and have the child put the family tree together piece by piece. Gather photos, names, and dates and get to work. Teach a child his family.

Roots-Key, the Journal of JGS Los Angeles

“Roots-Key, the Journal of JGS Los Angeles, is publishing their special issue, Recreating Your Ancestral Shtetl in December, 2007. This 68-page journal contains articles covering a range of topics that researchers encounter while trying to expand their family genealogy into town-wide research. Where do you find the records? How do you analyze the data? If no records exist, what can you do? When you have collected all that you can, what should you do with all that stuff?”

Nancy Holden <nholden@interserv.com> Roots-Key editor

The issue is organized around four themes:

1. How to document the families and Jewish community life of a town using many types of records. Towns in Belarus, Lithuania, Poland, Germany, and Ukraine are featured. Authors include Sonia and David Hoffman, Vitaly Charny, Victor Kumok writing from the Ukraine, Henry Neugass, and Mike Marvins.

2. A separate section of analyzing data describes integrating databases and given name analyses as well as community genealogies. Authors include Daniel Wagner and Israel Pickholtz, writing from Israel.

3. A third section concentrates on 20th century research, Holocaust memorials and memoirs, highlighting Yizkor books, translation projects, biographical memoirs, town associations, innovative ways to uncover the past and build a bridge to the future, with articles by Joyce Field, Werner Frank, Joel Petlin, Meyer Swirsky writing from Israel, and Martin Cahn writing from Poland.

4. Finding ways to preserve and share research and town histories are included in the last section on publication with articles by Susana Bloch, Chaim Freedman writing from Israel, Eilat Gordin Levitan and Jeffrey Kohn.

If you are interested in purchasing a copy of this issue, we would like to add your name and address to the bulk mailing labels. The charge for this double issue is \$10 and can be mailed to: JGS of Los Angeles, Box 55443, Sherman Oaks, CA 91413.

Traveling this Year? Visit a JGS Chapter!

If you are taking a trip this year, look at all of the JGS programs happening around the world this coming year at <http://www.iajgs.org/calends/jgsalendar.html>.

JewishGen Mailing Lists

JewishGen is "The Home of Jewish Genealogy" and found at <http://www.jewishgen.org/>.

JewishGen provides several mailing lists to allow genealogical researchers to share information, ideas, methods, tips, techniques, and resources. There is the main JewishGen Discussion Group mailing list, and several Special Interest Group mailing lists: JewishGen Discussion Group, Austria-Czech SIG, Belarus SIG, BIALYGen: Bialystok Region, Danzig SIG, Early American SIG, French SIG, German Jewish SIG, Geshet Galicia SIG, Hungarian SIG, JCR United Kingdom SIG, Latin America SIG, Latvia SIG, Lodz Area Research Group, Rabbinic Genealogy SIG, Romania SIG, Scandinavia SIG, Sephardic SIG, South Africa SIG, Ukraine SIG, Warszawa Research Group, DNA Testing, ShtetLinks, Yizkor Project, JRI-Poland, LitvakSIG, Yiddish Theatre & Vaudville

JGS of SW FL Upcoming Events

See front page for Dec. 16, 2007 meeting with Rabbi Glickman.

Sun., Jan. 20, 2008 @ 1 PM at Kobernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota, Florida
Speaker: Donna Moughty, professional genealogist
Program: Family History: From a Pile of Pieces to a Puzzle Picture

Sun., Feb. 17, 2008 @ 1 PM at Kobernick House, 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota, Florida
Speaker: Jim Haberman
Program: Jewish History Discoveries thru Genealogical Research. Jim will speak about how he located the medical and burial records of his paternal grandfather.

JGS of SW FL Membership Application

Single Membership is \$20 per year.
Family Membership is \$25 per year.

Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) to:
JGS of SW FL
c/o Kim Sheintal
4462 Violet Avenue
Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

