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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

One week prior to my Jewish Genealogy presentation for the Temple Emanu-El Brotherhood in March, I prepared a list of recommended genealogy websites. As I reviewed my list, I tested each website. I tested the JewishGen Family Finder link on the JewishGen website and looked for people tracing one specific surname. I spotted a listing by Eli and sent him an e-mail. Eli suggested that I contact Debbi. Debbi gave me some leads. Because of this one initial contact, I now have a list of potential cousins. Since then, I have made cold calls to people in Canada, New York, Maryland, and California with the same surname that I am tracing. I must sound convincing because all these people have been receptive and interested in learning if there is a family connection. But, I am not the only person who benefited from my talk. This week, I received an e-mail from someone who heard my presentation at the Brotherhood to let me know that she tried JewishGen Family Finder after my talk and found a cousin.

This month, I learned about a new feature on the JewishGen website <<http://www.jewishgen.org>>. Click "JewishGen" on the menu bar at the top of the JewishGen home page and select from the pull-down menu "Search this website." A search form will appear. This form allows you to search all of the text on JewishGen's web pages. Note that this search does **not** include JewishGen's databases (such as the JewishGen Family Finder), which must be searched separately. Warren Blatt, JewishGen Managing Director, states that there are 43,000 static web pages at the JewishGen website.

Periodically check genealogy websites and other genealogy sources such as the genealogical collections at libraries. Come to the May 17 JGS of SW FL meeting to learn about the genealogy department at Selby Library and get a guided tour.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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President and Editor: Kim Sheintal <klapshein@aol.com>

Treasurer: Liz Klaber <eklaber@comcast.net>

Secretary: Sue Davis <suedavis101@comcast.net>

Membership: Libbie Kaplan <albkap@gmail.com>

Programs: Irene Midler <irmsam@comcast.net>

Publicity: Lee Ruggles <lee0614@verizon.net>

Librarian: Bernie Spitalnick <sputnik_too@hotmail.com>

Webmaster: Jim Haberman <info@curtistrade.com>

www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, May 17, 2009 (1:00 PM) – note the location!

Selby Library, 1331 First St., Sarasota

Speaker: Ed Gaulin, Genealogical Society of Sarasota Pres.

Program: "The Genealogy Collection at Selby Library"

Ed will describe the genealogy collection and lead a tour of the genealogy department. Refreshments will be served.

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

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~usgenweb/special/ppcs/ppcs.html>

See what your town looked like according to penny postcards

<http://learn.ancestry.com/Home/HMLND.aspx>

Distribution of surnames in 1840, 1880, or 1920 in US

(go to "Facts about Your Surname" on lower right click on "Name Distribution US")

http://www.sunshineweek.org/sunshineweek/state_govt_online_survey_09

Sunshine Week 2009 Survey
of State Government Information Online

<http://hannah.spertus.edu:8881/R>

Chicago 1911-1949 Jewish newspaper *The Sentinel* digitized

<http://www.macgenealogy.org/mac-genealogy-software/>
Mac genealogy software information

<http://www.iajgs.org/calends/jgscalendar.html>

Master Program Calendar for JGS groups around the world

<http://www.jewishgen.org/databases/GivenNames/search.htm>
JewishGen Given Name Database

<http://www.iiig.org/home/index.html>

website promoting the teaching of Jewish Genealogy at the university level and helping to make Jewish Genealogy a recognized academic discipline

<http://www.gedmagic.com/GEDxlate.htm>

GEDxlate translates genealogy data from standard GEDCOM format into MS Access dB (*.mdb), MS Excel Worksheet (*.xls), comma delimited (*.csv), & text file (*.txt) formats.

<http://www.naa.gov.au/collection/recordsearch/index.aspx>
National Archives of Australia

Program Announced for the 29th IAJGS International Conference on Jewish Genealogy

by Schelly Talalay Dardashti

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Jewish Genealogy's yearly highlight, the 29th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will take place Sunday, August 2 to Friday, August 7, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, co-sponsored by the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Philadelphia (JGSGP) and the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS). Program co-chair, Mark Halpern, recently discussed program and speaker plans for this year's event.

Keynote Speaker

Father Patrick Desbois, author of Holocaust by Bullets: A Priest's Journey to Uncover the Truth behind the Murder of 1.5 Million Jews, will keynote Sunday evening's opening session. Father Desbois has spoken at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and many other venues about his investigative work. In the planning are a question and answer session, a book sale, and an author signing.

Several workshops will kick off the annual event earlier on Sunday: a three-hour Beginning Jewish Genealogy workshop, a two-hour Jumpstarting Philadelphia Research with specifically Jewish resources, and a three-hour Repository Fair for local archives, libraries, and other institutions to showcase holdings and answer questions, as well as other programs and workshops. Tracks and Programs

Halpern notes, "We are very pleased at the response to our Call for Papers. More than 150 speakers submitted more than 280 programs for consideration by the program committee. The number and diversity of the offerings will guarantee an exciting, interesting, and diverse program." A sampling of events includes the following:

- A program on the archives of the Joint Distribution Committee will offer information about this valuable resource.
- Ukraine is in the spotlight at this year's event, with a photo exhibit of contemporary Ukrainian Jewish life being planned. Lectures will include Valery Bazarov speaking on Jewish tradition and life in Odessa, Ukrainian Jewish research by deputy director Olga Muzychuk of the Ukraine Archives system, two talks by Dr. Zvi Gitelman of Michigan on Jewish emigration from Ukraine and roles played by Ukrainians in the Holocaust, and new archival projects in Ukraine with Miriam Weiner. Muzychuk and Weiner will also lead a Ukraine Breakfast with the Experts.
- First-time tracks include Jews and Food (programs include the impact of Jewish traders and merchants, and Turkish cooking) and Jews in Sports.
- DNA and Genealogy programs include talks on Jewish genetic diseases and genealogy in conjunction with the Victor Center for Jewish Genetic Diseases at the city's Albert Einstein Medical Center and Genzyme Corporation.

- The Cemetery Research, Preservation, and Restoration track features the CEO of the Foundation for Preservation of Jewish Heritage in Poland.
- Holocaust Research will include the Role of Women in the Resistance, plus new resources from France, Israel, and Germany (from the International Tracing Service and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum).
- Migration and Immigration will offer programs on the U.S. South and New Jersey's Jewish agricultural colonies.
- Languages sessions will focus on learning the Cyrillic alphabet and reading Polish language records.

Evening Programs

Evening programs include:

- Dr. Jonathan Sarna is Brandeis University Professor of American Jewish History and Chief Historian for the 350th commemoration of the American Jewish community. Sarna is recognized as the leading commentator on American Jewish history, religion, and life. This event is co-sponsored by the National Museum of American Jewish History <www.NMAJH.org>.
- "Yiddish in Story, Poem and Song" is being planned and combines a lecture, recordings, and live performance, as a performer and cultural historian collaborate on a personal guided tour through centuries of Yiddish cultural creation.
- JewishGen's annual program spotlights new features along with previews of future developments and projects.
- "Jewish Genealogy Game Show Night," produced by Ron Arons and Pamela Weisberger, will permit conference attendees to demonstrate their genealogical knowledge, historical acumen, and research skills as they participate in a variety of game show formats adapted to the world of Jewish genealogy. Possibilities include Genealogical Jeopardy, SIG Family Feud and Name That Jewish Tune. Prizes and surprises are guaranteed.

Immigrant Bank Records

Genealogists searching Philadelphia Jewish roots have a unique and valuable resource in immigrant bank records. These commercial enterprises allowed recent immigrants to save money and to arrange the purchase of steamship tickets to bring family members to the United States. These records, known as Passage Order Books, are preserved at the Philadelphia Jewish Archive Center <www.philajewisharchives.org>. JGSGP volunteers have indexed records for the Blitzstein Bank (1888-1930), Lipschutz Bank (1906-1948) and Rosenbaum Bank (1894-1927); the indexes are included in the JewishGen All USA Database.

Founded as an immigrant bank, Rosenbluth Travel is one of the largest, most successful travel agencies in the U.S. The Rosenbluth family retains possession of its historic Passage Order Book from the immigrant years and has funded the book's digitization which will be indexed by JGSGP volunteers. The images and indexes will be available to conference attendees. "We are happy to make public more than 600 pages of entries from a Rosenbluth Bank book previously unavailable," said conference co-chair David Mink. "We are in the process of indexing the data." In conjunction with this important resource, Dr. Rebecca Kobrin, Assistant Professor of American Jewish

History at Columbia University, will speak about her research into Jewish immigrant banks.

Philadelphia-area Resource Directory

The JGSGP also has prepared a detailed Philadelphia- Area Jewish Genealogical Resources Directory offering detailed information on general genealogical resources, on synagogues (including rabbi lists, founders, and more), Jewish institutions, cemeteries, libraries, and archives. The Directory will have a direct link to the conference website and also may be found at the JGSGP homepage, <<http://jewishgen.org/jgsp>>. In addition, Monday programming will feature Philadelphia research so that attendees with roots in the area may plan how to use these resources to their best advantage.

Technology and Workshops

Mindful of the interrelationship between genealogy and technology, sessions will focus on the use of Google and other powerful Internet resources, face recognition technology, and the phenomena of Internet social media and genealogical applications.

Two-hour hands-on workshops for Friday morning will include photo identification, document and photo preservation, and Jewish cooking.

Tours

Numerous sites illustrate the Philadelphia area's Jewish history. Conference planners have arranged visits to cemeteries in northeast Philadelphia and in Delaware County, tours to southern New Jersey agricultural colonies (Alliance and Woodbine), a bus tour, and a walking tour of once largely Jewish South Philadelphia, the historic Colonial-era Congregation Mikveh Israel, and other visits to important congregations (Adath Jeshurun, Reform Congregation Keneseth Israel, Congregation Beth Shalom, and Rodeph Shalom). A trip will be offered to the Eastern State Penitentiary's Jewish chapel. More Details

For all conference details, go to <<http://philly2009.org>>. For all the latest announcements, sign up for the conference discussion group at JewishGen <www.jewishgen.org>. Through April 30, 2009, early bird registration is \$250. From May 1-July 2, 2009, regular registration is \$295. Onsite registration is \$325 for the full conference. Full-conference companion rates are available, as well as special daily rates. See <http://philly2009.org/registration_information.cfm>.

Rooms at the conference venue, the Sheraton Philadelphia City Center, are single/double \$189+tax or \$209+tax for triple/quad rooms. These rates are available for three days before and three days following the conference. For more information, see <http://philly2009.org/hotel_registration.cfm>.

Journalist, blogger, speaker, and Jewish genealogy instructor, Schelly Talalay Dardashti writes the popular Tracing the Tribe- the Jewish Genealogy Blog <<http://tracingthe.tribe.blogspot.com>>, coordinates and edits the International Jewish Graveyard Rabbit-The Jewish Cemetery blog <<http://jewishgraveyardrabbit.blogspot.com>> and writes a general genealogy blog for MyHeritage.com.

Lineal Versus Collateral

A *lineal descendant* (also known as a *direct ancestor* or *progenitor*) is a person who is in direct line to an ancestor (such as child, grandchild, great-grandchild, etc.). A *lineal descendant* is distinguished from a *collateral descendant* which would be from the line of a brother, sister, aunt or uncle.

Member's Amazing Discovery

by Tony Joseph (JGS of SW FL member) April 2, 2009

For a lark in February, I searched JewishGen's "Family Tree of the Jewish People," not expecting to find anything that I had not previously found. BUT, I found my great great grandfather and his wife with a child different from my great grandfather. When I contacted the person who had posted the tree, I quickly found that she had a handwritten family tree with lots of names previously unknown to me. We began an exchange, as some of her data did not jibe with mine. The person who had posted the tree lives in Israel, as do my step-family, and he translated from German an 1838 marriage registration that cleared up some of the confusion and corrected the data. He also was able to trace my family back to an earlier generation from a different German town that I had never heard of. I then went to the LDS Family History Center and from its microfilms and the tree data, I was able to connect my family to that of another Israeli, who I met in 2004. Our previous efforts to tie our lines together had failed. The Family Tree site is not only searchable by name, but also by town or country. Another genealogist suggested a different translation technique: "Viewmate" on JewishGen. Our JewishGen SIG also allows postings of docs that need translation. To me, this is a WOW.

ViewMate is Back!

According to Warren Blatt (JewishGen Managing Director), JewishGen's ViewMate program, which has been down for several months for the correction of technical problems, is once again up and running. ViewMate can be accessed via the JewishGen home page under "Projects", or directly at <<http://www.jewishgen.org/ViewMate>>. ViewMate is the most convenient way to post images which you would like to identify, translate, ask questions about, etc.

Genealogical Society Directory

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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

Manasota Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flmgs/index.htm>

Genealogical Society of Sarasota

<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flgss/calendar.htm>

Englewood Genealogical Society

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

Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society

<http://www.lwrsv.com>

(click amenities & activities)

(click clubs & organizations)

(click special interest)

(click genealogy club)

Southbay Genealogical Society

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~flsbgs>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

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

JGS of SW FL 2009-2010 Calendar

The next meeting for the JGS of SW FL will be on Sunday, November 15, 2009. The fall newsletter will include the 2009-2010 calendar.

Ask the Mavens

Presented by Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay will meet at 2:00 PM Sunday May 17, 2009 at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida for a genealogy problem solving session -"ASK THE MAVENS". A social with refreshments and library access begins at 1:30 PM, and the featured program starts at 2:00 PM.

In this working session a panel of experienced resident genealogists will assist those who have come up against a dead end in their family research and don't know what to do next. The solutions presented should be of value to anyone doing family research.

The problem-solving panel will include Emil Isaacson, Clint Elbow, and Bill Israel - our resident experts. Dr. Isaacson has 26 years experience in Jewish genealogy and has researched his ancestral roots back seven generations to the late 1700's in Europe. He has conducted several educational seminars in Jewish Genealogy for the JGSTB. Clint Elbow is a Business Systems Analyst working in information technology in the healthcare field. He has been researching his family roots for seven years focusing on his patronymic roots back to Germany. Bill Israel, a Director of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS), has spent more than 28 years researching his Jewish roots. He has traced nine generations of his family lines going back more than 200 years, and he has documented more than 1,600 related individuals.

Those who present problems to "Ask the Mavens" by e-mail to <jgstb@tampabay.rr.com> prior to the meeting will be given priority by the panel.

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay's library and research resources are available to all meeting attendees and can be loaned out to members. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogy research is invited to participate. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome.

For information on the organization or directions to the meeting call Sally Israel at 727-343-1652 or Rita Shapiro at 446-9311.

My First Name Is.....

A *first name* is also known as a *forename* or a *given name*.

According to http://www.genealogy.com/35_donna.html: "In genealogy we usually concentrate on surnames since they are the most important way of identifying people who are related. A surname is usually inherited and, while it may be changed, some form of it is usually retained. Given names are more important in a way because they represent a voluntary choice by the parents or, sometimes, by an individual. A name is usually not given lightly. It represents thought and feelings and can be significant to the researcher."

For the statistics about the popularity of first names in the United States year by year, check out the following websites:

- List for the popularity of first names for single births <<http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/>>
- List for the popularity of first names for twins <<http://www.ssa.gov/OACT/babynames/twins.html>>

JewishGen Family Finder

JewishGen Family Finder <<http://www.jewishgen.org/jgff/>> is a compilation of surnames and towns currently being researched by over 80,000 Jewish genealogists worldwide. The JGFF was created in 1982 by Gary Mokotoff, and is now maintained by JewishGen, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation.

1982: The New York-based Jewish Genealogical Society published a 37-page typewritten roster of ancestral towns and surnames being researched by 83 members of the society. This was the start of what became the "Jewish Genealogical Family Finder".

1994: The JGFF was made available on the Internet, via a World Wide Web and e-mail retrieval system developed by Warren Blatt for JewishGen.

1996: A new online system was developed for JewishGen by Michael Tobias, which included the ability to enter and modify entries online. Ownership of the JGFF was transferred from the Jewish Genealogical Society (New York), to JewishGen, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, in order to make the data more widely available. It was renamed *JewishGen Family Finder*.

2009 Statistics:

- An average of 10 new users and 100 new surname/town entries are added every day.
- JGFF contains over 400,000 entries (100,000 ancestral surnames and 18,000 town names).
- JewishGen is completely free of cost to users, there are costs to administer and maintain the database. It is suggested that those who are benefiting and using the JGFF for their research to send a voluntary \$25 annual donation.

Documentary Films at Selby Library

(Geldbart Auditorium)

Aug. 3, 2009 @ 2 PM "Remembering Ellis Island" (2005 film); 60 min.

Aug. 10, 2009 @ 2 PM "Out of Ireland" the story of the Irish immigration to America (1994 film); 102 min.

Aug. 17, 2009 @ 2 PM "They came for Good: History of the Jews in the US" (1997 film), 60 min.

Aug. 24, 2009 @ 2 PM "Italians in America" (1998 film); 105 min.

"They Came For Good: A History of the Jews in the United States"

Documentary on the history of the Jewish people in the United States, covering the period from 1654 -- when 23 Sephardic Jews first arrived in the harbor of New Amsterdam -- through the American Revolution, the Civil War, the arrival of German Jews, the California Gold Rush and the nation's westward expansion, until 1880, the start of the great European migration. They Came for Good: A History of the Jew in the US is a 1997 documentary by Oscar nominated director Amram Nowak that explores the challenges and contributions of Jews during America's founding history. The film brings to life a series of personalities, including Asher Levy, Louis Moses Gomez, Rebecca Gratz, Uriah Phillips Levy, Levi Strauss, Isaac Leeser, Isaac Mayer Wise, Judah Benjamin, the Warburgs, the Schiffs, and Emma Lazarus.

JGS of SW FL Membership Dues

In order to have all members dues owed at the same time, the \$20 yearly membership fee (\$25 yearly family membership fee) will be due in January of each year. Please help us with this transition. New members who join during the year will pay prorated dues until their \$20 (or \$25) dues are up for renewal in January. Some of you will have a dues bill enclosed with this newsletter, please pay in order to have your JGS of SW FL membership current thru December 31, 2009. If there is not a bill included in this newsletter, your membership is paid through December 31, 2009.