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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

Is musical talent primarily nature (born with musical talent) or nurture (a function of environment)? To have a musical talent is fortunate. Many who are not musically inclined enjoy music. Immediately following the JGS of SW FL December 18 meeting, the film 100 Voices: A Journey Home – A Cantorial Journey to Poland will be shown at Temple Emanu-El. This film begins at 3:00 PM. It highlights the resurgence of Jewish culture through the personal reflections and musical selections of a group of cantors and an acclaimed composer, who made an important historical mission to the birthplace of Cantorial music. JGS of SW member Eunice Cohen is the chair of this event. The community is invited (\$8.50 if reserved by December 12 or \$10 at the door). For advance reservations, call Eunice at 349-4367.

The Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee
and The Heller Israel Advocacy Initiative present

The Ramat Gan Dance Theater
Tues., Dec. 13, 2011 @ 7:00 p.m.

Beatrice Friedman Theater - Federation Campus
(580 McIntosh Rd, Sarasota)

Join us for an early Chanukah Celebration with The Ramat Gan Dance Theater! The troupe, founded in 1991, is sponsored by the city of Ramat Gan, Israel's fourth largest city. Members range from elementary school students to adults up to 28 years old, including soldiers who dedicate their free time to rehearsing and learning new folk dancing techniques. Cost: Adults \$5 in advance/\$10 at the door; kids/students are FREE! Make your reservation online at www.jfedsrq.org or contact Jacob Taylor at the Federation, 941.371.4546 ext. 109 or jtaylor@jfedsrq.org.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

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

Treasurer: Liz Klaber <eklaber@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, December 18, 2011 (1:00 PM)

Koernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: Jo Ann Goldwater

presents "Tracing My Grandfather's Journey"

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

JGS of SW FL Winter Programs

Because Florida's west coast is a popular destination in the winter months, we are fortunate to have four exceptional speakers wintering here. December speaker, Jo Ann Goldwater from Montreal, January speaker Ruth Adler Schnee from Detroit area, February speaker Robin Seidenberg from Chicago area, and March speaker Mike Karsen from Chicago area.

Jo Ann Goldwater will present Tracing My Grandfather's Journey from Lithuania to Riga to Dublin 1891-2009 at the December 18 meeting at Koernick House. In July, 2009, Goldwater took a Jewish roots tour and revisited the places where her grandfather, Abba Goldvasser, stopped on his way from the shtetls of Lithuania to Riga, Latvia, and to Dublin, Ireland before settling in Montreal in 1893. She will share with you her photos and memories of this once in a lifetime trip.

Ruth Adler Schnee will present Life is Full of Stories on January 15, 2012 with the film "The Radiant Sun". This film, directed by Michigan filmmaker Terri Sarris and co-produced by University of Maryland Associate Professor of Architecture, Ronit Eisenbach, chronicles the life and works of designer Ruth Adler Schnee. The film presents the challenges she faced as female architectural designer driving the second half of the 20th century. Now in her 80s and living in Michigan, she designs woven textiles for major mills and exhibition installations. Schnee and her late husband are important figures in bringing the mid-century modernist movement to this country.

Robin B. Seidenberg will present To Tell or Not to Tell: Should the Family Skeleton Stay in the Closet on February 19, 2012. Should you disclose all your findings about the fascinating black sheep in the family or just let sleeping dogs lie? Robin will present various family situations. Participants in the discussion group will share ideas and learn from one another. Ultimately each person will determine the most comfortable way to handle these issues.

Mike Karsen will present Write Your Family History NOW! on March 18, 2012. Karsen is a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists (APG), the Genealogical Speakers Guild (GSG), and is currently President of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois. He is the author of the JewishGen website "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland" and has published many articles on genealogy.

In Search of My Husband's Missing Family

by Debbie Jurblum

How often do we hear from the children of Holocaust survivors the words: "No family survived"? In the early years of my marriage, I would hear these very words from my husband, Martin, and his parents on many occasions.

While I felt fortunate to be part of a large family, I was all too aware that Martin had grown up with only his parents, Moishe and Judy, and his sister, Helen. Martin had not grown up surrounded by grandparents, aunts, uncles or cousins.

When I was 18, a few years before I married Martin, my grandmother, with great foresight, had invited me and my aunt to sit with her and write down all that she knew about her family tree. It was at this time that I first developed an interest in genealogy, and I began to add information about current generations to this basic tree.

Then, many years later, around 1994, and because Martin kept mentioning how small his family was, I decided to research his family history, as well as the earlier generations of my side of the family. Not only did I want to find out if there were relatives beyond Martin's immediate family that he could connect with, I also wanted to make sure that our three children knew who their ancestors were on their father's side of the family.

I knew that Martin's father had a very distant cousin in Israel from his maternal side but we knew nothing about his paternal, or JURBLUM family. Martin's father gave me some basic information going back a couple of generations, but that was all. Martin's mother also had distant family on her maternal side in New York. Early in our marriage, they mentioned these people so seldom that we would forget they were around.

In 1996, after my father passed away suddenly, I realized how important it was to record valuable information about Martin's family while his parents were still around.

Moishe told us that he was born in Warsaw, where his family lived. As a young man, he had enlisted in the Polish army, which he eventually abandoned and fled to Israel. His brother Albert (Abraham Israel), who had been living in France before the Second World War, had survived Auschwitz and Buchenwald camps and had eventually made his way back to France. Albert had lost his first wife and their son, but he had remarried and adopted his second wife's children. In Israel, Moishe met Martin's mother-to-be, Judy, who had lost her entire family at the age of 14 after being smuggled out of Kutu, Poland (now Ukraine).

After the war, Albert located and contacted Moishe in Israel and brought him to Paris. Then Moishe and Judy, and their first child, Helen, made their way to Australia, where their son, Martin, was born. Unfortunately, Albert Jurblum died a few years later, leaving only four in the family.

In 2001, Martin's father sadly passed away, and unfortunately I had not been successful in finding out any more information about his ancestors other than what he had told me. The only other information we found was in 2004. While in Israel, I found out that Moishe's 'distant cousin in Israel' on his maternal side was in fact his first cousin.

Jurblum is not a common name, so you would think it would be an easy name to research, however there was not much information on the internet at this time. In 2007, I did find (on Facebook) a 'Yarblum' in Israel. (We are still trying to work out if we are connected.)

In April 2008, I had the chance to travel to Poland, Germany and Switzerland and was with one of the first groups of Jewish genealogists to visit the International Tracing Service at Bad Arolsen in Germany. It was the perfect opportunity to research more about the JURBLUM side of the family. I only knew of Moishe and Albert and their father, Yitzchok Meier, and his father, Mordechai. Fortunately, I was able to view Moishe's and Albert's TD (tracing/document) file and Albert's Auschwitz and Buchenwald concentration camp records.

After Bad Arolsen, I visited the Refugee Archives in Zurich, Switzerland. I had previously been in contact with Uriel Gast, the only Jewish person working at the archives, to ask him to search for some information on my mother's and father's family, as they had all been refugees in Switzerland.

After I arrived home, Uriel Gast passed on my name to a researcher who specializes in refugees in Switzerland, who suggested that I also look at the Geneva and the Bern archives. Although I was primarily searching for my side of the family, this gave me the idea to search for the name Jurblum. As a result, I had a small file on 'Jurblum/Jarblum' sent to me. The file included the name 'Marc Jurblum/Mordko Jarblum'. I didn't know if he was connected to Martin's family, however it was the first time that I had come across the name Jurblum anywhere other than Martin's immediate family. It also confirmed to me that Jurblum and Jarblum were the same name. Also, those documents indicated that a 'Boruch Jarblum' was Marc's father.

I did a search on his name on the internet and found out that Marc Jarblum was a well known Zionist leader who was born in Warsaw, Poland, in 1887. He was acquainted with Lenin, and was a friend of both the French politician Leon Blum (three times French prime minister) and Ben Gurion. Marc was a leader of the Federation of Jewish Societies of France (La Fédération des Sociétés Juives de France), an organization of Jews of eastern European origin living in France, and a prominent member of the Socialist Party. During the war, he had fled to Switzerland as had been well known to the Nazis. He had also lived in Israel and he died there in 1972 (a street in Tel Aviv is named for him). Despite all this information, I still had no way of knowing if either of these Jarblum/Jurblums were connected to Martin's family.

I entered my family surnames and their cities in the JewishGen Family Finder. In June 2009, I received an email from a Janice Bloom Weber, asking me about my Jurblum family. I was astonished. She said she had found me on the internet and that her grandfather was Abraham Jarblum and that he had changed his name to Bloom. He had made his way from Warsaw to London before the Second World War, and then to the USA. Some of their family members had also changed their name, to Blaine. This confirmed to me that there would have been no way I could have ever found them, and that it was pure luck that Janice had found me. And she also agreed with me that Jarblum and Jurblum were the same name.

Janice, a passionate genealogist for several years, set out in earnest to find out if her family and Martin's family were connected. She sent me photos of matseivahs (tomb stones) from Warsaw, and I asked Rabbi Mendi Groner (Melbourne) to translate them. Slowly, and after many emails between two excited women, we worked out that Martin's father (Moishe) and Janice's father (Elliot) were most likely cousins. Moishe's grandfather was Mordechai and Elliot's great grandfather was Mordechai. There were two people named Mordechai listed on JRI-Poland, but only one had a birth date that was close to the

birth date of Moishe's grandfather and Janice's great, great grandfather. This Mordechai's father was listed as Meier, and I knew that Yitzchok's middle name was Meier. Through Moishe, I also knew that all the Jurblums were from Warsaw, and Janice's family were also all from Warsaw. This was such an exciting breakthrough.

As Janice explained to me: "On your tree, you had Mordechai as Yitzchok's father. Mordechai is Boruch's father on my tree. When I found Boruch and Mordechai's gravestone, Meier was listed as Mordechai's father and I believe Martin's father or grandfather had Meier as a middle name. That is two sources tying us together."

I asked Janice if there was a chance that she could make it to the IAJGS conference in Los Angeles (in 2010) so we could meet. Janice said she would aim to.

Several weeks before the conference, I emailed her to find out if she was going to Los Angeles, but circumstances, including a six-week visit from her parents, prevented her from attending. I was so disappointed. Martin, who was coming with me to the conference, was excited as he was off to Milwaukee on business and Janice had organized to take her parents on a one-hour drive to Milwaukee to have dinner with him. Meeting Martin after his trip was so exciting, even if he was not quite so convinced. He said it was a lovely meeting and that Elliot, his second cousin, did remind him a little of his dad, Moishe.

After returning home from the conference, Janice emailed me to tell me more about her Jarblum family. She mentioned her grandfather's siblings, which included a Marc Jurblum/Jarblum, the name that I had seen on the Geneva archive documents! If Marc was Janice's great uncle, and Martin's Mordechai and Janice's Mordechai was the same person, then Marc would also be a cousin to Martin.

Janice said that although she always knew Marc was her great uncle, she had not had any success in finding her great uncle's family. So, in order to help, I sent all the documentation that I had about him to Janice, which helped her add more information to her tree.

Several months ago, I mentioned to Janice that we were going to London for a function in May. To our surprise, Janice and her husband, Warren, were going to be in London at about the same time, so we agreed to meet in Paris to try to contact Marc's family. After many emails back and forth, and some amazing research by Janice, she was able to contact Marc's grandson Yves De Kisch.

Yves arranged for us to meet with his mother (Marc's daughter), Fira De Kisch (nee Jarblum), now 96 years old, and his sister Nelly De Kisch at Marc's original Paris apartment, where Fira still lives. Nelly, a teacher, was delightful and welcoming, and Fira was lovely, and although she does not speak English she was very alert and helpful, while Nelly translated.

Fira and Nelly went over our family tree and started filling in information that we didn't have, including birth, marriage and death dates. To our surprise, though, they also told us about four uncles (Moishe's first cousins) that we did not know existed! They only had information on descendants of two of the uncles, but were aware of the other two. So our cousin Marc was not one of three brothers, but one of seven! They had the address of one cousin and the email address of the other, so when we receive these, we will have more exciting research to do. We took many photos, and I took a video of the time we spent together. We were doing our research, meeting our wonderful

cousins and eating French *macaron* in Marc Jurblum/Jarblum's apartment! Who would have believed it.

A few days later, we met Marc's grandson Yves and his wife, Marie-Anne, an academic whose speciality is Shakespearian English, at their home in the Hamlet of Montvilliers, about 1.5 hours south of Paris. Yves is a retired professor of archaeology and current mayor of the town of Escrennes, which we drove through to get to their home. We hired a car for our journey, and when we arrived at their house, we found that they lived in an old 15th century 'petit chateau', the Chateau Montvilliers. We were welcomed with champagne and a wonderful homemade lunch. This really was an occasion to celebrate.

We had already emailed our family photos, both old and new, to them ahead of our arrival, and I had emailed them all the Swiss archival documents relating to Marc Jurblum/Jarblum. We took photos of their old family photos and had the most wonderful day, during which we collected more information that we did not have. We did not want to leave, and I must say that I think that they were also sorry that we had to go. Unfortunately, we had to return our hire car, so we left just after 6 pm. The weather was as magnificent as the day itself. On our ride back to Paris, we were all a-buzz.

Although Martin has always been supportive of my genealogical pursuits, he had no personal interest in it – until now. I'm so proud to have given my husband a family tree that has grown from just five people to hundreds of wonderful family members, both past and present.

And the amazing coincidence is that 28 years ago – well before genealogy took over my life – Martin and I had our first son. We named him Marc Jurblum!

Shop at Amazon Through IAJGS Website Portal

With holidays coming, please note that the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies (IAJGS) is an Amazon associate.

If you enter Amazon.com through the portal on the www.IAJGS.org website (scroll down to the bottom of the IAJGS home page and click on the Amazon name) IAJGS benefits, and of course the same great prices for all their merchandise applies. This is a great way to support IAJGS by shopping at Amazon and it doesn't cost you any more.

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WANTED! Vintage photographs and stories of Sarasota-Manatee Jewish history!

- Would you like to help preserve our community's fascinating Jewish history?
- Do you have old photographs or vintage postcards of Sarasota-Manatee?
- Are you knowledgeable about Sarasota-Manatee Jewish history?

Local resident Kim Sheintal is currently compiling a photographic Jewish history of Sarasota-Manatee and is looking for your help! She is assembling historic images and the stories that go with them to be included in an upcoming book to be published by Arcadia Publishing, the nation's leading publisher of local and regional history. To share your photographs and stories, contact Sheintal 941-921-1433 or klapshain@aol.com by February 1, 2012. Help keep the local Jewish history alive!

Utah Jewish Farming Colony in 1911

Utah was one of 40 US settlements known as "Back to the Soil" which permitted settlers, many from Eastern Europe, to try a way of living that their ancestors were prevented from having--owning land. In early September 2011, there was a commemoration of the 100 year anniversary when more than 250 people over 5 years moved to a settlement near today's Gunnison, Utah. These people created an agricultural colony that they named Clarion. Clarion was 135 miles south of Salt Lake City. They formed this cooperative settlement to move to the countryside to build confidence as Jews. Few people today would even know that a Jewish community once existed in Utah. This colony was part of a worldwide movement and was one of about 40 such settlements in the U.S. that was founded as part of the Back to the Soil movement.

Deepest Sympathy

With great sadness, I must inform you of the recent passing of Guy Catalono (husband of JGS member Judy Catalono) and JGS member Neil Rudin (husband of Cheryl Rudin).

Guy was the husband of JGS member Judith. He was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and returned there after serving in the U.S. Army in Africa and Europe during World War II. He was employed for 21 years as Director of Admissions at Millard Fillmore Hospital in Buffalo. In 1988 Guy and Judith moved to Sarasota where they enjoyed years of happiness.

Dr. Neil Herbert Rudin, born in Detroit, lost his battle against ALS on Nov. 1st, 2011. A Fulbright Scholar, Dr. Rudin was a professor and dean at SUNY Buffalo State. After retiring, he conducted genealogical research, published his memoirs, and founded The Rudin Family Giggle Fund for children in Hospice. He was devoted to family, a storyteller with a great sense of humor, and committed to living a life filled with honesty, compassion and laughter. Neil leaves behind his loving wife Cheryl, his son Joel (Debra) and daughter Marla (Michael), and four grandchildren. Donations to the Rudin Family Giggle Fund, Tidewell Hospice or ALS/TDI.

JewishGen Family Links Database

The database <<http://www.jewishgen.org/family/index.asp>> allows individuals to search web pages prepared by fellow researchers. This database, which can be searched by surname or keywords, allows fellow genealogists to share information with one another.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida 2012 Membership Application

Single Membership: \$25/year Family Membership: \$30/year
Mail Check (payable to JGS of SW FL) with this form to:
Liz Klaber, 4461 Violet Avenue, Sarasota, Florida 34233

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Jewish Heritage Group Trip to Lithuania - 2012

Howard Margol and Peggy Freedman are organizing another group trip to Lithuania - June 19 to June 29, 2012. If you are interested in tracing your roots in Lithuania, Latvia, Eastern Poland close to Lithuania, or Belarus, now is the time to sign up because they will be limiting the group size to 25.

Included - visits to the various Archives, synagogues, ghettos, Holocaust sites, meetings with Jewish leaders, sight-seeing, guide/interpreters, and two days to visit and spend time in your shtetl, or shtetlach of interest. All meals are included (except for one dinner and two lunches), the finest hotels (new and modern), modern buses, and much more.

Howard and Peggy are very familiar with the Archives, the archivists, Lithuania and the main places of Jewish interest. Their previous trip participants can be contacted if references are desired.

For details and a full itinerary of the trip, check their web site at: www.litvaktrip.peggyspage.org or contact Howard Margol or Peggy Freedman, litvaktrip@gmail.com

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