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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

In the March 2014 President's Shpiel, my mission was to prove that a Jewish person settled in Palmetto prior to 1913. Up until a few months ago, I heard that the first Jewish person who settled in Sarasota-Manatee came to Sarasota in 1913. Mission solved!

Peter Marine was born in Spain about 1851. Golden Fonsela Marine was born in Boston in 1861. Her parents were Jewish from London England; Peter was Catholic. They married on December 21, 1887 in Boston and moved to Chicago. They started to make candy and ice cream, and they sold it from their apartment window that opened on the street. Their candy factory (Marine Candy Company) sold in 1900 to Fanny Farmer Candy Company. The Marine family came to Palmetto in 1909 and rented room and board at the Simm's home. They were looking to purchase property. First they bought 39 acres on Snead Island next to the Indian Mound on July 11, 1910; eventually the Marines purchased 352 acres including the Indian Mound. The land that the Marine family had on Snead Island is now called Emerson Point Park; it has the history of all the people that live there on markers on top of the old Indian Mound. Some of the Snead Island land which Peter and his son Lincoln farmed is now in the Gulf and Bay Estates subdivision. They principally raised tomatoes and peppers.

On August 24, 1922, Lincoln returned home at noon to find the meal on the table but no one in the house. Realizing his parents customarily took a short swim in the river each day, he ran down the palm-lined lane to the river bank. There he found his father's body floating on the water. After help was summoned, the mother's body was found at the bottom of the river. Sadly, Golden was swimming and got in trouble and Peter went to help and they both drowned in the river.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

Volume 19, Number 2 June 2014

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

MEETING

Sunday, May 18, 2014 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are!
Hide and Seek on the Internet"

by Donna Moughty

For details, Kim Sheintal 941-302-1433, klapshein@aol.com

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida Final Program of the 2013-2014 Season

"Come Out, Come Out, Wherever You Are!"

Hide and Seek on the Internet"

with Donna Moughty

Sunday, May 18, 2014 @ 1:00 PM

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Donna Moughty, a professional genealogist and former regional manager for Apple Computer, has been conducting family research for over 20 years. She teaches and lectures on a variety of subjects including Internet and computer topics locally and at national conferences and institutes.

Moughty will explore key sites for genealogical information and explain how to evaluate what you find. According to Moughty, "The Internet is one of the largest finding aids available to genealogists, but it's important to understand how it is organized in order to make the best use of it. Search engines can return thousands or even millions of "hits" and not all engines search the same sites. Also, information indexed in a database will not be shown in a general search. By focusing on information you already know about your ancestors and using advanced search features you can increase the likelihood of success."

For more information about Donna Moughty, please visit website www.moughty.com.

Summer Conferences

16th International Association of Yiddish Clubs Conference, will take place in Boca Raton Florida, November 14-17, 2014.

49th Association of Jewish Libraries Conference will take place in Las Vegas, NV, June 22-25, 2014.

34th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy will take place in Salt Lake City, Utah, July 27-August 1, 2014.

<http://conference.iajgs.org/2014/>

<http://blog.iajgs2014.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/IAJGSConference/info>

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Member

Willa Lewis

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://www.archives.gov/research/alic/reference/ethnic-heritage.html>

Selection of links to websites that are useful for ethnic genealogical research (click on the link for Jewish)

<http://www.sztetl.org.pl/en/?gclid=CNaK8bCbpr0CFbBj7AodoDsAfg>
Virtual Shtetl

<http://www.ancestralfindings.com/jewishroots.htm>
Tips for Jewish Genealogy

<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/>
Genealogy Blog Finder

<http://blogfinder.genealogue.com/jewish.asp>
Listing of Jewish Genealogy Blogs from Genealogy Blog Finder

Jewish Genealogy Blogs

<http://www.senseofface.com/history/senseofface/senseofface.html>

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

<http://arnevetbetholam-stl.blogspot.com/>

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

<http://bloodandfrogs.com/>

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

<http://www.genpals.blogspot.com/>

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

<http://www.ha-historion.blogspot.com/>
<http://jewishgen.blogspot.com/>

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

<http://mishpachtoblogia.co.il/>

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

<http://jewishxroots.livejournal.com/>

<http://www.papaworx.com/blog/>

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

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

<http://idogenealogy.com/blog/>

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

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

JewishGen's Latest Yizkor Book Publication

The Yizkor-Books-In-Print Project of JewishGen, Inc. (www.jewishgen.org) is pleased to announce the publication in hard cover of: "Shards of Memory: Messages from the Lost Shtetl of Antopol, Belarus - Translation of the Yizkor (Memorial) Book of the Jewish Community of Antopol." It was translated by Nathan Snyder and edited by Alicia Esther Goldberg. The book is 470 pages, 8.5" by 11", hard cover. The list price is \$58.95 but is available on Amazon for around \$44 and may have lower prices elsewhere.

This memorial book of the Jewish Community of Antopol, Belarus weaves together the history of a vibrant Jewish community, annihilated during World War II, as told through first-hand accounts gathered from its original inhabitants. These stories edited and translated from Yiddish and Hebrew are dedicated to the Antopol survivors and the memory of the 3,000 martyrs, whose names and stories fill these pages.

The book contains first-hand accounts of the vibrant life of the shtetl before the Shoah, including descriptions of institutions, important personalities, clubs, etc., and then what is known about the Holocaust in Antopol. We are proud to say that this publication is a history of the village that can serve as a near-personal history for descendants of the town and offers material for researchers.

For more information and links to order, go to: jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip/YBIP_Antopol.html. To see all our publications and to learn more about the project, please go to jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html. Currently we are proud to say the project includes 23 books with several more due out shortly.

Sandra Hirschhorn
Publication Specialist, Yizkor Books in Print project
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Monroe Township, NJ

Is Genealogy as Easy as ABC? Sometimes It Is! by Kim Sheintal

Rather than use real names, I am going to call the people in this story A, B, C, D, E, F, and G. I am the "G" in this story. "A" sent "G" an e-mail on February 24 asking if "G" would e-mail "B". "G" sent "B" an e-mail. "B" wrote "G" that he had a friend "C" who had a friend "D". "D" wanted to find out the original surname of her father, his port of arrival in US, and from what city in Europe he came. I will call her father "E". "D" had hopes to present "E" with the results for his birthday on March 10. "G" asked her friend "F" to see if he would help "D" and he agreed but could not promise the March 10 deadline.

On March 5, "F" was able to give "D" the region in Russia where "E" was born, when "E" came to US, the surname "E" had when he came to US, and where "E" settled in US. "F" found the Petition for Naturalization for "E" which led "F" to other papers with valuable information. "D" was able to give everything to her father in time for his birthday.

JGS of SW FL 2014-2015

JGS of SW FL will meet the third Sunday of the month from November thru May, 1:00 PM, at Kobernick House. Howard Finkel, JGS program chair, is hard at work planning programs.

An Invitation to Share Your Story

by Bruce Black

As genealogists, our goal may be to trace our lineage back hundreds of years, find a hidden branch of our family, or simply gain a deeper understanding of the shape and development of our family.

But for our family tree to come to life, for the roots and branches to have meaning, for us to truly know the relatives who came before us, we must learn how to uncover and share our family stories, as well.

In many ways, the study of genealogy is a heartfelt search for family stories.

Sometimes we are lucky, and our grandparents, aunts, or uncles love to tell stories about the family. Sometimes, though, relatives are reticent to speak about the past and prefer silence, and we have to learn how to serve as interrogators drawing out stories with question after question.

Each story that we discover can shed a new light on our family tree and its history. That's why sharing our stories is so crucial. They help us understand how our families came to be (and how we came to be who we are), and they show us, too, how our families fit into the larger story of American Jewish life.

It's important to write down our family stories so the stories can be passed on. You may not believe anyone is interested in your story. You may not think you have a story worth sharing. But everyone has a story to share. Your story is worth more than you know.

Won't you please share a story to help others understand the experiences that have shaped you into who you are as a Jew today? It might be a story about a beloved teacher or mentor; a loving grandparent, aunt, uncle or parent; or a stranger or friend whose life served as a catalyst for you to explore your relationship to Judaism. Or it might be a story about an experience that made you more aware of your Jewishness, an experience that changed you in a way that fuels your desire to live a Jewish life today.

If you'd like to share your story, send it to Bruce Black, and he will collect the stories so that we can share them with members of our community. With your help we can deepen our understanding of what it means to be Jewish, and inspire others to explore their lives for stories.

If you're interested, contact Bruce for more information or for a list of questions to serve as writing prompts that can help you get started. You can reach him via email at wordswimmer@gmail.com or by phone (941) 355-1787.

Genealogy

Message Boards, Forums, Mailing Lists

Genealogy message boards, forums, and mailing lists enable the family historian to reach out to cousins who are researching common ancestors.

Genealogy Message Boards
<http://boards.ancestry.com/>

Genealogy Forums
<http://genforum.genealogy.com/>

Genealogy Mailing Lists
<http://lists.rootsweb.ancestry.com/index/>

Discover Sarasota-Manatee History and Learn about the Local Jewish History along the Way

Discover the Sarasota-Manatee history by visiting local museums, synagogues, parks, or taking a walking tour. Enjoy learning about Jewish contributions to this history at some of the places on this list:

Gamble Plantation Historic State Park

<http://www.floridastateparks.org/gambleplantation/>
3708 Patten Ave., Ellenton, Florida (941) 723-4536

It is believed that Confederate Secretary of State, Judah P. Benjamin, took refuge here after the fall of the Confederacy, until his safe passage to England could be secured. Benjamin was Jewish.

Judaica Museum of Temple Beth Sholom

<http://templebethsholomfl.org/Programs/JudaicaMuseum.aspx>
1010 S. Tuttle Ave., Sarasota, Florida (941) 955-8121

The primary mission of the Museum is to serve as an educational resource about Jewish arts, culture and lifestyle through its permanent and rotating exhibits.

Ringling Circus Museum

<https://www.ringling.org/circus-museum>
5401 Bay Shore Rd., Sarasota, Florida (941) 359-5700

In 1927, circus magnate John Ringling, who had been vacationing in Sarasota since 1909, moved the winter headquarters of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum and Bailey Circus to Sarasota, and the circus became an important part of local life. Many Jews joined the circus scene as performers, agents or with the concessions. Today, local Jews continue to be a part of the circus tradition, both with the circus and related businesses.

John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art

<http://www.ringling.org/>
5401 Bay Shore Rd, Sarasota, Florida (941) 359-5700

Sarasota Classic Car Museum (historic photographs available for viewing in the gift shop)

<http://www.sarasotacarmuseum.org/>
5500 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, Florida (941) 355-6228

Florida Maritime Museum

<https://www.manateeclerk.com/historical/MaritimeMuseum.aspx>
4415 119th Street West, Cortez, Florida (941) 708-6120

Manatee Village Historical Park

<https://www.manateeclerk.com/historical/ManateeVillage.aspx>
1404 Manatee Ave E, Bradenton, Florida (941) 749-7165

Palmetto Historical Park

<https://www.manateeclerk.com/historical/PalmettoPark.aspx>
515 10th Avenue West, Palmetto, Florida (941) 723-4991

Manatee County Agricultural Park

<http://www.manateeclerk.com/historical/AgMuseum.aspx>
1015 6th Street West, Palmetto, Florida (941) 721-2034

South Florida Museum

<http://www.southfloridamuseum.org/>
201 10th St. W., Bradenton, Florida (941) 746-4131

History Center Museum

701 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Sarasota and Bradenton Walking Tours

<https://www.scgov.net/History/Documents/Historical%20Walking%20Tour.pdf>
<http://www.realizebradenton.com/index.php/walking-tour-downtown-bradenton>

Finding Documents, Postcards, Yearbooks, etc. from Sarasota-Manatee

Sarasota County Historical Resources
<https://www.scgov.net/History/Pages/default.aspx>
6062 Porter Way, Sarasota, FL, 34232 (941) 861-5000
(online sources)

Manatee County Historical Records Library
<https://www.manateeclerk.com/historical/HistoricalLibrary.aspx>
1405 Fourth Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida (941) 741-4070
(sources not online)

Publication of Archival Library and Museum Materials
(State University Libraries of Florida)
<http://palmm.fcla.edu/>
On this website, there are links to Sarasota-Manatee resources.

Venice Archives & Area Historical Collection
Director of Historical Resources, 351 S Nassau St., Venice, Florida
(941) 486-2487
Collections come from Venice, Laurel, Osprey, and Nokomis.

Clerk of the Circuit Court for Sarasota County
<http://www.clerk.co.sarasota.fl.us/online.htm>
(online sources)
Visit 2000 Main Street, Sarasota, Florida (941) 861-7400

Sarasota County Public Records
http://publicrecords.onlinesearches.com/FL_Sarasota.htm

Genealogy Help Desks in Sarasota and Venice Selby Library 1331 First Street, Sarasota Venice Library 300 S. Nokomis Avenue, Venice

There are genealogy help desks at the Selby and Venice Libraries near the Genealogy Collections. Each desk is regularly staffed by Genealogical Society of Sarasota volunteers with genealogy experience to assist you with your research.

Photos are Special

Photographs add a human element to the names and dates on your family tree. Explore these websites about photographs.

Dating, Organizing, and Identifying Photos
<http://www.maurentaylor.com/>

Care, Handling, and Storage of Photos
<http://www.loc.gov/preservation/care/photo.html>

Using Photos in Your Research
http://www.genealogy.com/10_phtus.html

Links about Photos and Memories <http://www.cyndislist.com/photos/>

JGS of SW FL 2014 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 _____

Synchronicity - *Do I Know You?*

by Lee Ruggles

"Parish," I heard him say. The hotel desk clerk next to mine had asked his name. I probably misheard, I thought, waiting for my clerk to complete a room change. I turned to him.

"Excuse me. Did you say your name is Parish?"

"Yes, I did. Howard Parish."

I introduced myself. "My mother's maiden name was Parish." I'd be very surprised if we aren't related. There's a vague something about his face, his nose. "She was born in Bayonne, New Jersey."

"My family lived in Bayonne. My grandfather's name was William." "Oh. I don't think....." I'm disappointed. "Wait! Velvel! Uncle Velvel! Velvel was one of my grandfather's brothers! My grandfather was Rubin!"

The connection was made. We shook hands and laughed. "Hello, Cousin!" Second cousins, but *mishpocha*, nevertheless. His father and my mother had been first cousins.

This was Jewish Geography to the nth degree. We spoke for a few more minutes, exchanged business cards, and promised to keep in touch. We were in Baltimore attending a Hadassah National Business meeting – he from New Jersey, me from Florida. He went off to find his wife – also a Hadassah delegate – to tell her the news. I left to attend a workshop.

Fast forward to late fall. There's a Northern New Jersey Region of Hadassah Snowbird Reunion - usually held on Florida's east coast - scheduled to be held at the Ringling Museum at the end of January. Event Chair? Sofia Parish, Howard's wife. My 2nd cousin-in-law!

'Re-motivated' barely describes how I felt. Back to the Family Tree program! Check out the cousins. Is it up to date? Who's who? I took out the Parish pictures, scanned one of my grandfather and some of his brothers, including Velvel, and emailed it off to Howard and Sofia. Looking at the old men in the photo suddenly made another photo come to life. A tintype, circa early 1900s, of an unknown young man had sat among the other pictures in the box for many, many years. Now I knew. It was Benjamin, another brother.

We all met at Howard and Sofia's winter home in Ft. Myers – my brother and his wife from Coral Springs, Florida, another "cousin-in-law," his significant other, and me. We looked at old photos and family albums. I reminisced about how, in 1953, I got started tracing family. I was looking for a name for my soon-to-be-born baby. I recalled that, when I asked my mother about one of her cousins, she became a little agitated.

"You're not going to name the baby Charles!" My father tried to keep from laughing.

Not that I wanted to name him (or her) Charles, but "Why not, Mom?"

That's when I learned that Cousin Charlie had died of 'lead poisoning' during Prohibition. And there was Clara (who became Claire – so much more sophisticated), the mobster's moll, furs and all.

There were similar tales told that afternoon. A few, I later learned, had, over the years, become more elaborate than the original incidents.

The tea had cooled, the sun was setting, and one last picture had to be snapped.

The connections made are for always.

Post story musing: The entire episode begs this question: In light of how these coincidences, these synchronistic events happen more often than not, how in the world does a witness protection program ever actually work?