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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

Not all genealogy treasures are found online. There are hidden genealogical treasures available in places besides the Internet. Take time doing research offline. Let's face it, each of us reading this were around before computers even existed. We call that the BC era (before computers). We have gotten so spoiled by computers that genealogy newcomers might not realize people have been tracing their families long before the electronic age. Everyone, from Internet users to those without computer knowledge, has to start tracing family by beginning with yourself and working backwards. Gather information about yourself, your children and your parents, and organize the information on forms and charts. Ask a local librarian where to write for census records, ship manifests, birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage certificates. Many genealogical treasures are hidden in your home, relatives' homes, schools, courthouses, libraries, and synagogues. Once you have recorded what you know, contact relatives to learn more. Document everything in your genealogical collection; someday someone may discover your valuable photos and charts.

Read more about doing genealogy without a computer at <http://www.familytreemagazine.com/article/Now-What-No-Computer>

JGS of SW FL Calendar

- March 15 @ 1:00 at Kobernick House - "Sex, Murder, and Genealogy" by Mike Karsen, JGS of Illinois
- April 19 @ 1:00 at Kobernick House - "An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy" by Bill Israel, JGS of Tampa Bay
- May 17 @ 1:00 at Kobernick House - "Origin of Jewish Surnames" by Howard Finkel, JGS of SW FL

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida MISHPOCHOLOGY

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www.jgsswf.org

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MEETING

Sunday, March 15, 2015 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "Sex, Murder, and Genealogy"

by Mike Karsen, JGS of Illinois

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

Sex, Murder, and Genealogy: March 15 @ 1 PM

Dora Feldman McDonald, the daughter of German Jewish immigrants, made the front page of Chicago newspapers in 1907 when she shot her lover. Dora, who was married to one of the most powerful political bosses in Chicago at the time, used murder to end this affair and her love's blackmail. But what ever happened to her after her dramatic acquittal the following year? Genealogist Mike Karsen uses every trick in his tool bag to set the record straight and follow her trail.

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Members

Grace and Robert Banta, Leah Cook, Kathleen Dubin,
Arthur Keyser, Kayla Niles, Dennis Ricke

JGS of SW FL Library

Thank you to Grace and Bob Banta for donating *The Lost: A Search for Six of Six Million* (by Daniel Mendelsohn).

You Look Just Like Your Mother

<http://www.aol.com/article/2014/12/30/woman-recreates-generations-of-family-portraits/21122786/>

Christine McConnell, an LA based photographer, proves just how much she looks like her ancestors. McConnell took a collection of family portraits from the females in her maternal line going back decades and recreated the images in her likeness. The photographer used a combination of hair and makeup and some serious Photoshop skills to recreate photos of her ancestors. McConnell inserts herself in the photos and then displays them as a side by side with the original.

JGS of SW FL 2015 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 _____

Rediscovering My Judaism by Kim Sheintal

Kim recommends sharing Jewish stories. She shared hers on <https://ourjewishstories.wordpress.com/bruce-black-2/>

Growing up in Chicago with my parents, sister, four grandparents, great grandmother, many aunts and uncles, and 14 first cousins, I was surrounded by a close-knit Jewish family. From childhood through college, I belonged to a synagogue and had many Jewish friends. Jewish family moments from my childhood resonate in my mind. Mom (my mother's mother) often had the grandchildren at her side as she lit the Shabbat candles. Mom and Pop traveled to Israel, for the first time, when they were over 70 years old. Grandma Lena (my father's mother) made two kinds of gefilte fish, sweet and unsweetened. Grandma Lena and Papa Morris retired to Miami Beach. When I visited them at their beachfront condominium, everyone seemed so Jewish.

Personal childhood Jewish moments were plentiful and special to me. Hebrew lessons are vivid in my memory. Carpooling to Hebrew school in a crowded car, staying at temple until dark, and practicing Hebrew blessings via my record player were not always pleasant. However, the friendships I gained and the candy we shared sweetened the Hebrew school experience. The scrapbook that I received for my Bat Mitzvah is one of my most cherished possessions. This scrapbook contains photos and stories from my teenage years. Fond childhood Jewish memories fill my mind and my scrapbooks.

Jewish holidays were celebrated with my parents, sister, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins from both sides of my family. In my family, there were two special seders each year, one with my mother's side of the family and the other with my father's side of the family. I eagerly awaited two Chanukah parties each year, one with my mother's side of the family and the other with my father's side of the family. At age 15, I received a tape recorder for a Chanukah present. Because of that tape recorder, I now have an audio recording from two family Chanukah parties, filled with voices from both sides of my family. Hearing Pop's jokes, Uncle Jerry's laugh, my cousin Gail's wedding plans, and my cousin Robert's screaming for his turn to open his Chanukah presents are some of the voices from these tape recordings that expressed how much our family enjoyed celebrating Chanukah.

My college was three hours from home. There was a strong Jewish presence in this period of my life, because most of my college friends were Jewish and I attended Hillel activities. I met my husband Jon while in college and we married less than one year after we met. From early childhood through my college years, I was a part of my parents' temple membership. The day after our wedding, Jon and I moved to Sarasota to be near his parents. My life was changing more than ever; I was hundreds of miles away from my parents and newly married.

Being away from my Chicago family, I celebrated Jewish holidays with Jon's family. My mother-in-law Rose made gefilte fish with the fish that my father-in-law Sol caught in the Gulf of Mexico. Our daughters, Mara and Liana, enjoyed eating their grandmother's gefilte fish just as I enjoyed eating my grandmother's gefilte fish. Each year, my parents and sister would travel from Chicago to Sarasota for Passover and Chanukah to celebrate the Jewish holidays with Jon, his family, and me. Eventually, my parents and sister moved to Sarasota. My Sarasota family was growing, but my early years in Sarasota

were not very connected to Judaism. I did not belong to a synagogue or Jewish organizations during my first 12 years in Sarasota. Until I joined a synagogue and Jewish organizations in Sarasota, I was not associating with many Jewish people other than family. My focus was adjusting to life away from my parents, being married, working, and making friends in a new city.

After Jon and I were married for six years, our older daughter Mara was born and three years later, Liana was born. Now my focus was on being a mother. I joined play groups and started to make friends with other new mothers. I made sure that our children experienced Jewish family gatherings with their grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Soon after Mara and Liana started school, we joined Temple Emanu-El. Adding our two daughters to the Passover and Chanukah celebrations with my husband's family and my family added a new dimension to being Jewish. Having our children with us to celebrate the family traditions with my husband's side of the family and my side of the family brought back the memories of my childhood when I celebrated Jewish holidays with both sides of my family. Jon and I record these memories, but with more sophisticated devices than the reel-to-reel tape recorder that I used when I was 15 years old. A new generation is born and the Jewish life cycle repeats itself.

Once our daughters were in school, I had time to volunteer in the community. I immediately got involved with volunteering at their schools. Shortly thereafter, I joined several organizations with close ties to Judaism. I felt a connection to these groups even before I joined. Our daughters attended the JCC camp for several summers, thus prompting my husband and me to join the JCC. Because of my involvement in the Jewish community, our family has made many Jewish friends. My volunteer involvement in the Jewish community inspired our daughters to get involved with Jewish groups. Mara was sent on behalf of Sister Cities to Tel Mond Israel to work at an English speaking summer camp after her freshman year of college. When Liana was in college, she gift wrapped with me at the ORT gift wrap booth. My desire to raise children with a close connection to Judaism went hand-in-hand with volunteering within the Jewish community.

I rediscovered Judaism with my children. We enrolled Liana in the temple preschool the same year Mara began religious school. For over ten years, I volunteered every Sunday at the religious school. The religious school had a service each Sunday morning with a prayer book and I attended all of these services. Because of these services, I had a weekly refresher in reading Hebrew. Shabbat services, Purim carnivals, children's Passover seders, and children's Chanukah parties were added to our family calendar. As our girls studied Jewish history, Jewish holidays, and Israel, I learned about Judaism with them.

When our daughters were in college, I was very aware of their Jewish experiences. Liana would go to Hillel on Friday evenings. Mara switched her major to Jewish studies, because she enjoyed taking classes about Judaism. Judaism was a strong part of their college experiences. My Judaism was further strengthened while Mara and Liana were in college.

Gefilte fish and recording family Chanukah parties appeared in my life again thanks to our two daughters. Now that we have two son-in-laws and four grandsons, our Jewish family traditions will continue to yet another generation. As my family grows, my connections to Judaism grows. With each generation, I discover Judaism again.

Wonderful World of Websites

<http://iijg.org/>

International Institute for Jewish Genealogy
and Paul Jacobi Center at the
National Library of Israel, Givat Ram Campus of the
Hebrew University, Jerusalem

<http://genteam.eu/>

On GenTeam are databases made by and for genealogists.
After registration you may use these databases free of charge.

<http://crestleaf.com/>

Crestleaf is for people who want to preserve their family's
legacy in a chronological timeline and digital archive for both
current and future generations to enjoy.

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

The Center for Jewish History is the home of five preeminent
Jewish institutions dedicated to history, culture and art:
American Jewish Historical Society
American Sephardi Foundation
Leo Baeck Institute
Yeshiva University Museum
Yivo Institute for Jewish Research

<http://www.cjh.org/p/153>

Miriam Weiner Routes to Routes Foundation

<http://www.cjh.org/p/34>

The Ackman and Ziff Family Genealogy Institute

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

In an effort to support the preservation of these valuable
resources, the Orange County Library System created EPOCH -
Electronically Preserving Obituaries as Cultural Heritage.
EPOCH is a free worldwide online permanent depository
allowing individuals to preserve the memory of deceased family
members and friends through memorials, obituaries and tributes.

[http://blog.myheritage.com/2014/12/digitizing-cemeteries-
myheritage-is-at-it-again-with-friends/](http://blog.myheritage.com/2014/12/digitizing-cemeteries-myheritage-is-at-it-again-with-friends/)
Digitizing Cemeteries by MyHeritage Ltd.

3 Ariel Sharon St., Terminal Park, Or Yehuda 60250, Israel

[http://www.timesofisrael.com/ashkenazi-jews-descend-from-
350-people-study-finds/](http://www.timesofisrael.com/ashkenazi-jews-descend-from-350-people-study-finds/)

Ashkenazi Jews Descend from 350 People

http://www.dunelady.com/laporte/gen_will.htm

My Genealogy Will

[http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/australian-birth-
marriage-and-death-records](http://www.nla.gov.au/research-guides/australian-birth-marriage-and-death-records)

Australian birth, death and marriage records

[http://blog.myheritage.com/2014/02/join-the-worlds-largest-
family-reunion/#comment-284211](http://blog.myheritage.com/2014/02/join-the-worlds-largest-family-reunion/#comment-284211)

More details at <http://globalfamilyreunion.com/>

Largest Family Reunion in History Planned for June 5, 2015

Wonderful World of Websites

(for Planning a Genealogy Vacation)

[http://genealogy.about.com/od/research_trips/fl/Tips-for-
Planning-a-Genealogy-Vacation.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/research_trips/fl/Tips-for-Planning-a-Genealogy-Vacation.htm)

Tips for Planning a Genealogy Vacation

<http://genealogy.about.com/cs/immigration/a/birthplace.htm>

Finding the Birthplace of Your Immigrant Ancestor

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/libraries/a/questions.htm>

Ten Questions to Ask a Research Facility before You Visit

http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/a/onsite_research.htm

Genealogy Research at the Courthouse, Archives or Library

[http://seniortravel.about.com/od/typesoftravelforseniors/ss/
GenealogyVacations.htm](http://seniortravel.about.com/od/typesoftravelforseniors/ss/GenealogyVacations.htm)

Senior Travel: Plan Your Genealogy Vacation

[http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/tp/Genealogy-
Research-In-A-New-Locality.htm](http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/tp/Genealogy-Research-In-A-New-Locality.htm)

Genealogy Research in a New Locality

<http://genealogy.about.com/od/basics/tp/international.htm>

Genealogy Research in a Foreign Land

Historic Newspapers

Search America's historic newspaper pages from 1836-1922
or use the U.S. Newspaper Directory to find information about
American newspapers published between 1690-present.
Chronicling America is sponsored jointly by the National
Endowment for the Humanities and the Library of Congress.
Check out at <http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/>

Digitizing Family History/Genealogy Publications

There are huge collection of digitized genealogy and family
history publications from the archives of some of the most
important family history libraries. Digital books are available at:
Google Books (<http://books.google.com/>)

Archive.org

Allen County Public Library

Brigham Young University Harold B. Lee Library

Brigham Young University Hawaii Joseph F. Smith Library

Church History Library

Family History Library and familysearch.org

Houston Public Library – Clayton Library Center for

Genealogical Research

Mid-Continent Public Library – Midwest Genealogy Center

Pennsylvania State University Libraries' Digitized Collections

Always go to worldcat.org if there's no digitized book.
Worldcat possibly will find the book in a nearby library for you.
WorldCat is the world's largest network of library content and
services. WorldCat libraries are dedicated to providing access to
their resources on the Web, where most people start their search
for information.

Free Research Guides for 43 of the 50 States

Did you know that Ancestry.com offers free research guides
for 43 of the 50 states? Check it out at <http://goo.gl/syRwLS>

Who was Possibly the First Jewish Person in Sarasota-Manatee?

by Kim Sheintal

Every life is full of twists and turns, some the result of conscious—or unconscious—decisions the individual makes and others brought about by accident—or destiny, if you believe in fate. In my efforts to learn more about the history of Jews in Sarasota/Manatee—the subject of the book, *Jews of Sarasota-Manatee*, I wrote in 2012—I’ve learned that the historian’s path is also full of twists and turns, leading me in unexpected directions and often to surprising facts and insights.

That was certainly the case as I struggled to pin down the most basic fact imaginable about local Jewish history—when did a Jewish person first arrive here?

Sources I used for my book led me to believe that the first Jewish person in the two-county region settled in Sarasota in 1913. And that’s what I thought until I met Phyllis, a woman who happened to be visiting the Manatee County Public Library in downtown Bradenton when I was doing research there on May 18, 2013. Phyllis is not Jewish. We talked about local history and I told her of my interest in Sarasota-Manatee Jewish history.

She shared a story about a marker she saw while at Emerson Point Park in Palmetto. At Emerson Point Park, the history of many of the people that lived there is written on markers on the top of an old Indian mound. On one marker, Phyllis read about a Palmetto woman who was Jewish and had owned a candy store in Chicago with her husband, who was not Jewish. She read that the couple drowned in a river in Palmetto. For almost a year, I tried to find out the name of the couple and when they lived in Palmetto, but I had no success until January 2014.

On January 19, 2014, I attended a Sarasota Jewish Chorale performance directed by Linda Tucker. Linda—who is not Jewish—is from Palmetto. I asked her if she ever heard of a Jewish woman in Palmetto who drowned in a river. Linda did not know about this woman, but suggested I ask her mother, Lenore Stewart, who loves Palmetto history. Lenore put me in touch with a man named Ken. Although Ken is not Jewish, he knew much about Palmetto history and solved the mystery about the couple who drowned in the river.

Peter Marine married Golden Fonseca on December 21, 1887 in Boston. Peter was born in Spain in 1852 and was not Jewish. His wife was born in Boston area in 1860 and was Jewish. Her parents were from London, England. Peter and Golden moved from Boston to Chicago. In 1909, they moved from Chicago to Palmetto. While living in Chicago, they started Marine Candy Company and sold it to Fanny Farmer Candy Company in 1900. On January 8, 1910, Peter and Golden purchased an Indian mound and the adjoining 363 acres in Palmetto. The land the Marine family had on Palmetto’s Snead Island is now called Emerson Point Park. To enhance his land, Peter planted parallel rows of royal palms from the base of the mound almost to the river’s edge. He raised tomatoes and peppers with his son, Lincoln Marine. On August 24, 1922, Lincoln returned home at noon to find the meal on the table but no one home. Knowing that his parents took a short swim in the Manatee River each day, he ran down the palm-lined lane to the river bank and found his father’s body floating on the water. Golden was struggling to stay afloat, and Lincoln went to get help. When he returned with a neighbor, his mother had disappeared. Her body was found at the bottom of the river. According to a book by the Florida Historical Society, Peter drowned while trying to save

Golden, who got into some sort of distress while swimming. But a newspaper clipping from the time reports that there were no witnesses to their drowning.

The mystery as to who was possibly the first Jewish person to settle in Sarasota-Manatee was discovered with the help of a non-Jewish lady visiting the Manatee County Public Library and a non-Jewish man interested in Palmetto history.

JGS Tampa Bay

2015 Guide to Jewish Genealogical Research: Foundation for Beginners and an Update for Experienced Researchers Part 1 - Feb. 8, 2015 Part 2 - March 8, 2015

The seminar will be held at Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida. Registration will be at 1:30 PM on both dates, and the seminar begins at 2:00 PM. A booklet summarizing the material to be presented will be provided and will be essential for those able to attend only one of the two sessions. This seminar will focus on developing the proper approaches and applying the necessary tools, techniques and short cuts to most effectively connect you with your ancestors in the old country. Internet resources as well as local non-internet resources will be emphasized to enable the beginner to discover his or her family history as well as facilitate the experienced researcher in resolving “brick wall” problems. The past year has seen extensive and numerous additions and revisions of internet sources, especially Familysearch.com and Ancestry.com. New genealogical resources and databases will be demonstrated and all Internet links and site references have been updated from prior seminars. Dr. Emil H. Isaacson will lead the seminar. Dr. Isaacson has over 30 years of experience in genealogy and has researched his ancestral roots back seven generations to the late 1700’s in Europe. He will share his successful and sometimes unsuccessful techniques. There will be no charge to members for the seminar. Non-members will be charged a \$25 seminar fee, but a one-year individual membership is included in the \$25 course fee. Annual membership in the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay is \$25 for an individual membership, or \$35 for a family membership. There will be an additional charge of \$10 for printed seminar materials to defray printing costs, but only one set of materials will be needed for either a couple or an individual. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend. The purpose of the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay is to assist interested individuals in learning about Jewish genealogy and how to research and document their own family histories. The Society does this by facilitating the exchange of research information, encouraging and facilitating research activities, educating members to help themselves and others, making available research resources and materials, arranging genealogical research tours and presenting monthly programs of interest to Jewish genealogical researchers. Anyone interested in learning how to do Jewish genealogical research is invited to attend. Beginners as well as experienced researchers are welcome. Those who attended the first session are reminded to bring your seminar booklet with you to the concluding session. Call Sally Israel at 727-343-1652 to register for the seminar if you did not attend the first session. For directions or JGS of Tampa Bay information, contact Bruce Hadburg 727-796-7981 (bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com). **JGS of Tampa Bay member Bill Israel will present for the JGS of SW FL in Sarasota “An Introduction to Jewish Genealogy” on April 19 at 1:00.**