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### President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

Sometimes, all it takes is a friendly conversation to realize that the person to whom you are talking knows your cousin or actually is a cousin. Sometimes, all it takes is attending a Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meeting to learn how to discover your ancestors and add cousins to your family tree.

Many times, I have talked to complete strangers and learned that these people knew my cousins who lived hundreds of miles away. One time, I even learned that a complete stranger to whom I was talking actually was a distant cousin of mine. In 1995, on a trip to Israel, I toured Israel on a bus. Upon talking with someone on the bus, we realized that their family doctor in Memphis was my cousin. About ten years ago when asking people to volunteer for a fundraiser in Sarasota, I called someone who told me that she could not volunteer because she would be in Pittsburgh. I told her that I had a cousin in Pittsburgh. It turned out that my cousin was her best friend. In June, I was eating at a restaurant in Sarasota and talked to the lady sitting next to me. Very coincidentally, I discovered that my cousin from New York dated her mother for many years. In 2010, at the end of a genealogy presentation, someone in the audience turned out to be a very distant cousin of mine.

In 2000, I attended a lecture about JRI Poland at a Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meeting. Because that lecture encouraged me to use the JRI Poland website, I used JRI Poland that same day and learned the surname of one of my great great grandparents. Learning that surname, eventually made possible the addition of hundreds more cousins to my family tree. I am glad that I attended that JGS meeting.

If you want to add names to your family tree, I recommend attending Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida meetings and adding the surnames that you are researching to the JGS of SW FL Ancestor Database.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

## MISHPOCHOLOGY

Volume 20, Number 3 Fall 2015

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

### MEETING

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

Kobernick House

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

**Program: "Researching Family History" Show and Tell Panel** with representatives from the Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida, Ravensbrück Archive, National Genealogical Society Family History Conference Committee, and an author who wrote a children's book about how her family came to America, *The Book of Esther: A Little Girl's Journey to Freedom*.

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

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

### 2015-2016 Calendar

(all meetings start at 1:00 PM at Kobernick House)

**Sunday, November 15, 2015** "Researching Family History" Show and Tell Panel

- Marina Berkovich (Jewish Historical Society of Southwest Florida)
- Bernice Jones, Ph.D. (author who wrote a children's book about how her family came to America, *The Book of Esther: A Little Girl's Journey to Freedom*)
- Amy Crabill Lay (NGS Family History Conference)
- Richard Ohlsson (Ravensbrück Archive)

**Sunday, December 20, 2015** "The Rosenwald Schools of Florida" by Liz Coursen (see page 3 about "Rosenwald" film)

**Sunday, January 17, 2016** "DNA and Genetic Genealogy" by Kathleen J. Callanan

**Sunday, February 21, 2016** "Roots and Branches: A Search for Family in Hungary" by Kayla Niles

**Sunday, March 20, 2016** "Video Biographies: Creating a Priceless Family Heirloom" by Walter Schломann

**Sunday, April 17, 2016** "A Hunt for Roots in Old Galicia" by Dennis Gries

**Sunday, May 15, 2016** "The History of Klezmer Music" by Baila Miller

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

### Ancestor Database

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida is updating their ancestor database. Please e-mail the surnames and places that you are researching to JGS of SW FL member Leah Cook at leahcook@aol.com.

## Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

### Welcomes New Members

Joan Fox

Judith and Ivan Kazen

Dorothy Quint

## Wonderful World of Websites

<http://forward.com/culture/art/309657/think-theres-no-such-thing-as-family-resemblance-these-pictures-will-blow-y/>  
Family Resemblances

<http://www.businessinsider.com/origins-of-popular-jewish-surnames-2014-1>  
Origin of Popular Jewish Surnames

<http://www.248ancestors.com/Read%20More%20Jewish%20Genealogy%20Challenges.html>  
Challenges with Jewish Research

<http://www.archives.com/experts/alford-jennifer/unique-records-for-jewish-genealogy.html>  
Unique Records for Jewish Genealogy

<http://www.archives.com/genealogy/family-heritage-jewish.html>  
Jewish Genealogy and Surnames

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Jewish\\_Names\\_Personal](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Jewish_Names_Personal)  
Jewish Names

<http://www.avotaynuonline.com/2015/03/five-steps-to-publishing-a-family-history-by-gary-mokotoff-publisher/>  
Five Steps to Publishing a Family History

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/ybip.html>  
Yizkor Books in Print

<http://dyguslav.wix.com/polish-ancestors>  
Polish Ancestors

<http://crestleaf.com/blog/jewish-genealogy-100-resources-jewish-ancestry-research/>  
Jewish Genealogy: 101 Resources for Finding Your Jewish Ancestors

<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-32589411>  
Tracing the Children of the Holocaust

[http://www.mocavo.com/1790-1940-United-States-Census/126199?utm\\_source=announcement\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=free\\_census&utm\\_content=search](http://www.mocavo.com/1790-1940-United-States-Census/126199?utm_source=announcement_email&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=free_census&utm_content=search)  
1790-1940 US Census Records

<http://blog.mocavo.com/>  
Mocavo Blog

<http://www.many-roads.com/2015/05/17/jewish-mega-search-engine/>  
ManyRoads' Jewish (Shoah) Mega-Search Engine

<http://familyhistorydaily.com/tips-and-tricks/millions-of-free-records-on-familysearch-cant-be-found-via-search-heres-how-to-access-them/>  
How to Find Family Search Records (not found via search)

<http://tinyurl.com/ndelcwe>  
The Brooklyn (NY) Public Library has digitized 107 years of City Directories and telephone directories ranging from 1856-1967. This is a great way to check addresses, names, advertisements etc.

<http://www.pressherald.com/2015/09/04/exhibition-at-maine-jewish-museum-examines-portland-immigration-then-and-now/>  
Exhibition at Maine Jewish Museum examines Portland immigration then and now (on view through October 26)

## **IAJGS Update**

Doug Cohen, JGS of SW FL member, was elected Treasurer of the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies at the 35th International Conference on Jewish Genealogy held in Jerusalem, Israel in July. Others elected were Marlis Humphrey (Florida) as President, Ken Bravo (Ohio) as Vice President, and Mark Nicholls (U.K.) as Secretary.

### 2015 IAJGS Award Winners

- Lifetime Achievement - Judy Baston
- Outstanding Project/Resource/Program 2015 - JGS of Greater Boston (JewishGen Memorial Plaque Database Contribution)
- Outstanding Publication 2015 - Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island (You Tube Channel)\*
- Outstanding Publication 2015 - Jewish Genealogical Society of Maryland (Newsletter L'Dor V'Dor)
- IAJGS Member of the Year 2015 - Israel Genealogy Research Association
- Volunteer of the Year 2015 - Jan Meisels Allen

\*[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV8xttIn93AwJX2\\_I0AIaG/feed](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUV8xttIn93AwJX2_I0AIaG/feed)

## **AmericanAncestors.org at Sarasota and Venice Library Terminals**

With a Sarasota County library card, you can use Selby and Venice library terminals to search <AmericanAncestors.org>. This is the New England Historical Genealogical Society's (NEHGS's) web site. It includes, among many others 300,000 documents in the digital archives of the American Jewish Historical Society-New England Archives, with 2 million more in the queue. You must use one of the libraries' terminals for access. The site recently doubled the number of searchable records. The branches also have NEHGS's "American Ancestors" magazine.

## **JGS of SW FL Library**

Thank you to Rabbi Barbara Aiello for donating *The Secret Jews of Calabria: Uncovering Jewish Traditions Hidden for 500 Years* (DVD) and the book *The Cat That Ate the Cannoli: Tales of the Hidden Jews of Southern Italy* to the JGS of SW FL Library. Both beautifully describe the history of the hidden Jews of Southern Italy. The stories in the book and the DVD make the 500-year hidden Jewish history of Southern Italy almost come back to life.

## **Upcoming Genealogy Fair and Conferences**

The National Archives holds an online genealogy fair each year. This year's Fair will be on October 21-22. This will be a live broadcast via YouTube so you can ask genealogy experts questions at the end of their talks. Speakers will include genealogy experts from National Archives locations across the nation. Live lecture sessions will feature tips and techniques for using Federal records at the National Archives for genealogy research. Lectures are designed for experienced genealogists and novices. Recorded sessions will remain available online after event. <http://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/>

Upcoming genealogy conferences include the following.

- May 4-7, 2016: National Genealogical Society (NGS) Conference in Fort Lauderdale
- August 7-12, 2016: IAJGS Conference in Seattle
- July 23- 28, 2017: IAJGS Conference in Orlando

## The Ravensbrück Archive: Bringing 70-Year-Old Holocaust Testimonies to Life

“Our hair was cut, we were given summer dresses with cross-shaped patches sewn on, no underwear. We got sandals, often one size 40, the other 37 or both for the same foot. We went to our bunks, 12 people per bunk. At the time there were over 10,000 Jewish women there,” testified a Ravensbrück concentration camp survivor.

“Transports were coming and going. There were selections which led directly to the gas chamber. The chimney smoked with no interruption. Stench of bones spread through the entire camp. After two weeks we got tattooed; we felt more secure now that we were in the group selected as being able to work.”

These are two paragraphs from the testimony of a Jewish dressmaker who survived the Holocaust and was liberated from Ravensbrück in 1945. She was one of five hundred women interviewed. These interviews were begun at Lund University in Lund, Sweden a few months after the women were liberated and lasted a little over a year.

These interviews, as well as thousands of pages handwritten in Polish, notebooks, diaries, poems, recipes, photos, drawings, official Nazi documents and transcripts of the 1946-47 trial in Hamburg of the Ravensbrück commanders and guards, constitute the Ravensbrück Archive.

Ravensbrück, located sixty miles north of Berlin, was specifically designed as a labor camp for women and children prisoners. During World War II, over 130,000 prisoners passed through Ravensbrück and its satellite camps. In a brave action prior to the end of the war, the Swedish government dispatched a fleet of Red Cross buses, painted white so as to be recognizable, to rescue more than 21,000 survivors of the camps and bring them to freedom in southern Sweden, which was neutral throughout the war.

The Jewish dressmaker remembers this vividly: “On April 25, 1945 ten Red Cross trucks appeared. I was led to the gate by armed guards, but beyond the gate we became free people. 500 women were greeted and transported by the Swedish Red Cross. They offered us cigarettes. On the way to Sweden, sick German military men on the road asked us to give them a lift. We declined. We arrived in Malmö, Sweden on April 28, 1945.”

Among all the survivors were around 1,000 Polish-speaking Jewish women. Zygmunt Lakocinski, a lecturer in Polish at Lund University, volunteered his services as an interpreter. Lakocinski and his colleagues formed a working group and started to methodically document the ex-prisoner’s experiences. The Swedish government contributed funding for the project, which formally started in October 1945. The work continued for a little over a year and resulted in more than 500 detailed interviews in Polish and 20,000 pages of handwritten notes.

The Lund University Foundation, a tax-deductible organization, has raised \$300,000 in donations to date to be used to translate the interviews into English, digitize them, and make them available to all on the Internet. Translators have been working on the translations since April 2015. Thereafter, a traveling exhibition is planned as well as the development of a teaching curriculum.

The testimonies of the Ravensbrück survivors are an invaluable resource since they were given while the survivor’s wartime experiences at Ravensbrück and several other camps were still fresh in the minds of those survivors. The Lund University Foundation now seeks to raise an additional

\$350,000 so as to reach its total funding goal of \$650,000 by the end of 2015.

To support or learn more about the Ravensbrück Archive and the Lund University Foundation, visit [lunduniversityfoundation.org](http://lunduniversityfoundation.org) or contact Richard Ohlsson at [richard.ohlsson@lunduniversityfoundation.org](mailto:richard.ohlsson@lunduniversityfoundation.org)

## American Archives of Public Broadcasting

The (US) Library of Congress announced in the spring that a collaboration between the Library, WGBH Boston and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting launched a new website <http://americanarchive.org/>. This provides the public with access to a collection of American public radio and television dating back to the 1950s. The collection is from 120 public broadcasting organizations across the US. Initially the website will have 2.5 million inventory records which includes an array of interviews and performances and cultural genres. This month, it is expected that audio and video content will be accessible to stream on the website’s Online Reading Room. Currently the website provides information on the contributing organization, whether it’s an album/clip/series/ episode/ uncatalogued/raw footage, a description a genre (such as war), who owns the rights, the media type (e.g. moving image) and length of film. In April, Jan Meisels Allen (Chairperson, IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee) typed in the search box “genealogy” and received over 150 hits, typing in “Jews” received over 2,000 hits. Similar results for typing in names of countries such as Austria, Australia, Belarus, France, Galicia, Germany, Israel, Poland and South Africa. Obviously many of the hits may not be of genealogical interest but when they are digitized it is worth looking for your ancestral countries and topics. Thank you to NGS for alerting Jan Meisels Allen to this new archival online site.

## Inspirational Jewish film “Rosenwald” Opening October 2 in Sarasota at Burns Court



*Julius Rosenwald with students from a Rosenwald school. (courtesy Fisk University John Hope and Aurelia F. Franklin Library, Special Collections)*

Aviva Kempner’s “Rosenwald” is the incredible story of Julius Rosenwald, who never finished high school, but rose to become the president of Sears. Influenced by the writings of the educator Booker T. Washington, this Jewish philanthropist joined forces with African American communities during the Jim Crow South to build over 5,300 schools during the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Inspired by the Jewish ideals of *tzedekah* (charity) and *tikkun olam* (repairing the world), and a deep concern over racial inequality in America, Julius Rosenwald used his wealth to become one of America’s most effective philanthropists. Because of his modesty, Rosenwald’s philanthropy and social activism are not well known today. He gave \$42 million in his lifetime. For more details, go to [www.rosenwaldfilm.org](http://www.rosenwaldfilm.org).

## Local Genealogical Societies

### Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

meets the third Sunday of the month at 1:00 PM from November thru May at Kobernick House 1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota. President is Kim Sheintal (klapshein@aol.com).

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

### Lakewood Ranch Genealogical Society

meets the first Monday of the month at 7:00 PM from November thru April at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. Their leader is professional genealogist Donna Moughty. For inquiries please contact Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819).

### South Bay Genealogical Society

meets the third Tuesday of the month at 10:45 AM at the Royal Palm Room at Little Harbor Resort, 611 Destiny Dr., Ruskin. The Regional Roundtable at 10:45 AM is followed by lunch at noon and a genealogy presentation at 1:00 PM, from September thru May. Reservations for the lunch must be made in advance. Cost is \$17. For reservations, call Dotty Love 813-634-2749.

President is Beth Clarke (bethnles@tampabay.rr.com).

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~flsbgs/>

### Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay

meets the second Sunday of the month at 1:30 PM (social with light refreshments & library access), and 2:00 PM (featured program) from September thru June with some exceptions to accommodate speakers or holiday conflicts at Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater. President is Bruce Hadburg (bhadburg@tampabay.rr.com).

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fljgstb/index.htm>

### Manatee Genealogical Society

meets the first Tuesday of the month at 9:30 AM from October thru May at Manatee County Central Library, 1301 Barcarota Blvd., Bradenton.

President is Jim Reger (babeandjim@gmail.com).

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flmgs>

**Computer SIG:** meets about 11:00 AM (after the regular monthly meeting) on the same day and place. Currie Colket (colket@colket.org)

**Roots Magic SIG:** meets the second Monday of the month at 2:00 PM at the Westminster Courtyard on Main Street (12th Street West), Bradenton. Phyllis Doucette (pdoucett@tampabay.rr.com) – RSVP because location may vary

### Genealogical Society of Sarasota

meets the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM (mingling), 10:30 AM (program) from October thru May at Selby Library, 1331 1st St., Sarasota.

President is Nancy Johnson (choco8448@gmail.com, 941-752-9819).

Web site: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~flgss>

**Germanic SIG:** meets the third Tuesday of the month at 12:30 PM from October thru April with the exception of January and February when the meetings will be on the third Wednesday. There is no meeting in December. All meetings will be at Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota. Karen Dwyer (karensdwyer@yahoo.com)

**United Kingdom SIG:** meets the last Tuesday of the month at 10:15 AM from January thru April and on a designated Tuesday in December at Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota. Susan Well (swell01060@yahoo.com)

**Republic of Ireland SIG:** meets on designated Saturdays at 10:00 AM until 12:00 PM at the Braden River Library, 4915

53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East, Bradenton. The fall meetings are November 21 and December 26. Spring meetings have not yet been scheduled. Regina Negrycz (gssirishsig@gssfl.com)

**New England SIG:** meets the second Thursday of the month at 1:00 PM until 2:30 PM from October thru May at the Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota. Chuck Ford (cford1620@verizon.net)

**Computer SIG:** meets most Wednesdays following GSS meetings at 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Fruitville Library, 100 Coburn Rd., Sarasota; check the GSS website for dates and location. Marilyn Wethington (marilyn@familyandtrees.com)

**DNA SIG:** meets on designated Tuesdays at 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM from October thru May at the Braden River Library, 4915 53<sup>rd</sup> Avenue East, Bradenton. The fall meetings are October 27, November 24, and December 22. Spring meetings have not yet been scheduled. Regina Negrycz (gssdnasig@gssfl.com)

**Southern SIG:** might be forming. If interested, please contact Kate Prugh (kprugh@gmail.com) for details.

### Englewood Genealogical Society

meets the fourth Wednesday of the month (September thru May) at 1:30 PM at Elsie Quirk Library, 100 Dearborn W. St., Englewood with these exceptions: November, December and May meetings will be the third Wednesday at Elsie Quirk Library and January DNA seminar will be the fourth Wednesday at Tringali Meeting Hall, 3460 N Access Rd., Englewood.

Contact is Sue Davis (suedavis101@comcast.net).

Web site: <http://egsfl.org/>

**SIG Groups:** Beginning Genealogy, British Isles/Europe, Eastern Seaboard States, Family Tree Maker Beginning, Family Tree Advanced, Midwest States, MAC/Reunion, and Scandinavian via email

## **FamilySearch Wiki has Immigration List Links**

A FamilySearch Wiki site has a page devoted to U.S. Immigration after 1820 providing links to sites, both free and fee-for-service. It is located at the following website: <http://tinyurl.com/FamSearchImmigAfter1820>. Ports covered are Baltimore, Boston, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia and Canadian Border Crossings. There is also a bibliography of published lists of immigrants with links to those lists that are on the Internet. For example, the multivolume Russians to America has a link to the FamilySearch index located at the following website: <https://familysearch.org/search/collection/2110813>.

## **JGS of Tampa Bay Meeting**

Hands-On Genealogy Work Session with Guided Assistance  
Sunday, October 11, 2015 @ 2:00 PM (1:30 PM library access)  
Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services  
14041 Icot Blvd, Clearwater, Florida  
For information, call Bruce Hadberg at 727-796-7981

## **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 \_\_\_\_\_