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President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

While anticipating whether I would know anyone who matched my DNA as a possible relative, I expected to see some relatives because many of my relatives told me that they were tested. It was no surprise when my mother and my cousins (John, Dori, Danny, David, and Scott) showed up as possible DNA matches. In the cases of John and David who were more distant cousins, I was happy to see them as matches to confirm that we were in fact related. But I was very surprised to see many "big" surprise matches with people that I actually knew but had no idea were related to me. As of now, I have not been able to determine how I am related to these "big" surprise matches. The best discoveries from my DNA tests were the completely new cousins that I matched and was able to figure out exactly how we were related. Get your DNA tested now so that you will be better prepared for the **Sunday, January 15, 2017** JGS of SW FL program "Interpreting Your DNA Results" by Kathleen Callanan at 1:00 pm at Kobernick at the Aviva Campus for Senior Life.

Location of JGS of SW FL Meetings

The JGS of SW FL will continue to meet at the same campus for the 2016-2017 season as in the past years. When you go to Kobernick now, the entrance sign says Aviva. There are several main buildings on the Aviva Campus (Kobernick, Anchin, and Benderson). There will be renovations on the Aviva campus this year, but there will be a place for our meetings on the campus during the renovations. Most likely, our meetings will be in the Kobernick building during renovations.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

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www.jgsswf.org

<https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, December 18, 2016 (1:00 PM)

Kobernick at the Aviva Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: "A Jewish Family's Letters from the Civil War"

by Keren Weiner

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

A Jewish Family's Letters from the Civil War

"A Jewish Family's Letters from the Civil War" will be presented by Keren Weiner on Sunday, December 18 at 1:00 pm for the Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida at Kobernick (located at the Aviva Campus for Senior Life) at 1951 N. Honore Avenue in Sarasota. Keren Weiner has been a researcher for over twenty years and involved in Jewish genealogical research for the last ten years. Precious documents from the 1860s tell the story of one family's immigration, immediate involvement in the war-between-the-states, and their ultimate settlement in the U.S. Question and answer session will follow her presentation.

Attendance is free. Everyone is welcome.

For more information contact Kim Sheintal at 941-302-1433, klapshein@aol.com, or visit <http://jgsswf.org>

Call People on Your Tree You Could Make a New Friend

And the Friend Might Not Even be Your Relative

In April 1999, I visited my daughter in New Orleans when she had a cold and slept a lot. As she slept, I was often on a chair searching the JewishGen Family Finder for people researching the Klapman surname. That visit, I discovered Flora was also researching Klapman. She has been my greatest genealogy motivator ever since. She has encouraged me to contact people on my Klapman family tree. She noticed that I am a fourth cousin to Rabbi Harold Salzmänn of Temple Anshe Amunim in Pittsfield, MA. She suggested that I call him at the synagogue and introduce myself as his fourth cousin. I called the synagogue and Keren Weiner (office manager at Temple Anshe Amunim) answered the phone. She told me that Rabbi Salzmänn will be in touch with me, because he is very interested in tracing his family. Coincidentally, Keren is a professional genealogist. She was very excited to hear that I was related to Rabbi Salzmänn. I enjoyed talking to Keren so much that I spoke to her several times. And because of my phone call to the temple to reach my cousin Harold, I made a friend with Keren. And because of our conversations, I invited her to speak at a JGS meeting and to my delight, she agreed. She is our featured speaker in December.

Wonderful World of Websites

- <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/EveryFamily.htm>
Every Family Has a Story: Tales from the Pages of Avotaynu
- <http://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/family-history-forms>
Once you have saved the file,
you can open it with Adobe Reader and fill in the form.
- <http://www.aish.com/jw/s/Jewish-Genealogy-The-Journey-to-Oneself.html>
Jewish Genealogy: The Journey to Oneself
- <http://search.geshergalicia.org/>
Search Engine featuring 462,659 records from 305 data sources
- http://genealogy.about.com/od/jewish/tp/free_jewish.htm
Free Jewish Genealogy Databases
- <http://dbs.bh.org.il/>
Jewish Stories (find thousands of content items:
pictures, family trees, music, stories of communities and more)
- <http://www.jewishmag.com/jimmenu/stories.htm>
Humorous Jewish Stories
- <http://www.mnjgs.org/index.php/2016/08/14/telling-our-stories/>
IAJGS 2016 Conference in Seattle
- <http://www.iajgs.org/blog/orlando-2017/>
IAJGS 2017 Conference in Orlando
- <http://blog.myheritage.com/2016/11/introducing-myheritage-dna/>
Launch of MyHeritage DNA
- <http://dna.ancestry.com/ethnicity/european-jewish>
European Jewish Ethnicity
- <https://www.familytreedna.com/landing/jewish-ancestry.aspx>
Family Tree DNA and Jewish Ancestry
- <https://blog.23andme.com/ancestry/23andme-helps-uncover-hidden-jewish-ancestry/>
23 & Me Helps Uncover Hidden Jewish Ancestry for Francisco
- <http://www.renegadetribe.com/the-jews-behind-23andme-and-family-tree-dna/>
Jews Behind 23 & Me and Family Tree DNA
- <http://www.jewishgen.org/DNA/>
JewishGen DNA Central
- http://www.aish.com/atr/Tracing_Jewish_Roots.html
Tracing Jewish Roots
- <http://www.jgsny.org/>
First Jewish Genealogical Society

United States Holocaust Museum

- <https://www.ushmm.org/>
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum
- <https://www.ushmm.org/online/world-memory-project/>
<https://www.ushmm.org/online/world-memory-project/pages/about-the-project/>
World Memory Project
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center>
Holocaust Survivors and Victims Resource Center
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/holocaust-survivors-and-victims-database>
Holocaust Survivors and Victims Database
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/survivors-and-victims>
Survivors and Victims
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/benjamin-and-vladka-meed-registry-of-holocaust-survivors>
Benjamin and Vladka Meed Registry of Holocaust Survivors
- <http://amgathering.org/>
American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors
and Their Descendants
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/international-tracing-service>
International Tracing Service
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/the-holocaust-survivors-and-victims-resource-center/resources-for-information-about-survivors>
Resources for Information about Survivors
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/id-cards>
Identification Cards
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/office-of-survivor-affairs>
Office of Survivor Affairs
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/office-of-survivor-affairs/speakers-bureau>
Survivors Speakers Bureau
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/office-of-survivor-affairs/resources-for-survivors-and-their-families>
Resources for Survivors and Their Families
- <https://www.ushmm.org/information/visit-the-museum/programs-activities/first-person-program>
First Person: Conversations with Survivors
- <https://www.ushmm.org/remember/days-of-remembrance>
Days of Remembrance

Local County and Town Histories

Local history books are excellent but underutilized sources for genealogical research. These sources often provide detailed accounts of early settlement, migration patterns in and out of the area, original settlers, and profile the economic, political, and religious realities in a community. The issues discussed usually impacted life decisions made by our ancestors.

County and town histories are beneficial regardless of whether the family lived in the city or in a rural area. They are often underutilized in the sense that many beginners either ignore them or they only check the index for surnames of interest. From a genealogical or historical research perspective, these are the most important types of information usually found using these sources:

1. Epidemics and related major health oriented events.
 2. Political and legislative mandates, laws, etc. that impacted daily life
 3. Ethnic, social, religious, and political celebrations
 4. Mobilization of troops for various conflicts, wars, etc.
 5. Specific details about business, education, economic and/or farming trends, crops, etc.
 6. Biographical sketches of prominent citizens and early settlers. Many of these histories were published regularly from the last half of the nineteenth century until the early part of the twentieth century. In addition to casual mention of thousands of individuals, many contain detailed biographical sketches of hundreds of others that can provide essential clues for research.
 7. Because groups from the "old country" emigrated in groups, if the population of an area was highly ethnic in nature, many clues will appear in these sources.
 8. Portraits, Maps, Engravings of Places Ancestors Lived: Many county histories include portraits of prominent individuals and etchings of courthouses, religious institutions, schools, and other institutions. Maps included in most of these volumes are also important for understanding the place(s) where our ancestors resided.
 9. Institutional Histories: These histories usually contain detailed information about the various institutions in a particular area. These would include churches/synagogues, orphanages, charitable institutions, schools, hospitals and dispensaries, cultural institutions, cemeteries, businesses, and methods of available transportation are frequently discussed in great detail. The information found concerning churches or synagogues can be especially helpful given some of the challenges found in finding pre-1900 civil records. Church records often fill gaps where civil records don't exist or can't be found. Even where civil records are available, these church records may contain information not included in civil registrations.
 10. Newspapers: Many researchers and experts regard the historical newspapers as the most accurate and comprehensive source for local information. Local histories can contain important information including dates of publication, area of coverage, and political affiliation. Religious and ethnic newspapers and periodicals are also often mentioned.
- Bryan Mulcahy, Reference Librarian,
Ft. Myers Regional Library

JGS of SW FL Library Addition

Thank you to Kathleen Dubin for donating the following book:
The Stranger in My Genes by Bill Griffeth

Spreading Genealogy Excitement to Others

Do you catch yourself spreading your genealogy excitement to others - even people who are not your relatives? I have. Here are three examples. In each case where I helped someone else, it helped me too.

- I encouraged Lois to contact her family that she had not been in touch with for many years. We sat together in front on my computer and I showed her ways to find addresses and do research on Ancestry. While she was here, I took my own advice and sent an email to my distant cousin David. Within 24 hours, David sent me a 115-page story of his family tree research. Six of those pages were about the common ancestor that we share.
- I invited Julie to come with me to an annual Florida state genealogy conference and she came with me. She was moderately interested in genealogy, but had not traced her family. Now Julie belongs to two genealogy groups, traced her family hundreds of years back and we often get together to talk about our research. Now Julie often teaches me genealogy tips.
- I hired Susan, a professional graphic designer, to make an ancestry chart for me to send to my relatives. She made me a very detailed chart and she was so impressed that she started tracing her own family. She eventually had her DNA tested and had her sister and son do so also. She then encouraged me to have my mother's DNA tested. Having my mother's DNA tested has helped me solve some of my genealogy mysteries.

Avotaynu Wants Human Interest Stories

Avotaynu, *The International Review of Jewish Genealogy* was founded in 1985 as a 20-page semiannual; it has grown to 68-page quarterly that is one of the most respected magazines in genealogy.

December 1 is the deadline to submit human interest stories to the *Avotaynu* editor, Sallyann Amdur Sack-Pikus, for publishing in the winter issue. For the past 30 years, *Avotaynu* has devoted a portion of each winter issue to genealogy human interest articles. Stories are typically about how genealogy affected people's lives, whether it be the researcher or the people they are researching.

Submit the article to sallyann.sack1@verizon.net. In 2008, *Avotaynu* published 72 of these stories in a book, *Every Family Has a Story*. A sample story in the book that originally appeared in the winter 1998 issue of *Avotaynu* can be read at <http://www.avotaynu.com/books/Unterschatz.pdf>.

Finding and Connecting with Cousins around the World

"Finding and Connecting with Cousins around the World" will be presented by Kim Sheintal on Tuesday, December 6 at 10:00 am for the Manatee Genealogical Society in the auditorium of the Manatee County Central Public Library at 1301 Barcarrota Boulevard West in Bradenton. Kim will share poignant parts of her journey with fellow genealogists and family historians, hoping that her experiences will aid other family researchers.

JGS of SW FL Welcomes New Members

Ardis Freedman Marlies Gluck

National Genealogy Day

National Genealogy Day is celebrated on the second Saturday of March. This is a day to give recognition of family history and a great time to look back into your heritage. In 2017, National Genealogy Day is March 11, 2017. There is no official record as to the start of the observance of this special day.

For more information:

<http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/2013/03/08/march-9th-2013-national-genealogy-day-national-barbie-day-national-joe-franklin-day-national-crab-meat-day-national-meatball-day/>
<https://www.daysoftheyear.com/days/genealogy-day/>
http://www.dates.abouttravelingtheworld.com/special-holidays/genealogy-day/#The_Origin_and_Purpose_of_the_Genealogy_Day

National Family History Day

The U.S. Surgeon General has declared Thanksgiving as National Family History Day since 2004.

For more information:

http://www.idph.state.il.us/HealthWellness/family_history.htm

National Ellis Island Family History Day

National Ellis Island Family History Day is held annually on April 17. On April 17, 2001, the first National Ellis Island Family History Day was observed.

It was by official proclamation of our nation's governors that April 17 be designated as "National Ellis Island Family History Day."

For more information:

<http://www.nationaldaycalendar.com/days-2/national-ellis-island-family-history-day-april-17/>

National Genealogical Society 2017 Family History Conference

May 10-13, 2017 in Raleigh, NC

<http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies 2017 Conference

July 23-28, 2017 in Orlando, FL

<http://www.iajgs.org/blog/conferences/future-conferences/>

Statue of Liberty Museum

Quote from Wall Street Journal (November 9, 2016)

"The National Park Service has approved a proposal to build a new free-standing 20,000-square-foot museum on Liberty Island, home of the Statue of Liberty, agency officials said Wednesday. The new facility is intended to increase public access to exhibits on the history and construction of the monument. The museum is currently housed inside the statue's pedestal. The expanded museum, to be located on the northwest portion of the island, would accommodate as many as 1,000 visitors per hour and also serve as shelter during inclement weather."

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/new-statue-of-liberty-museum-approved-1478737805>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

Upcoming Programs

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

Sunday, December 18, 2016 "A Jewish Family's Letters from the Civil War" by Keren Weiner

Sunday, January 15, 2017 "Interpreting Your DNA Results" by Kathleen Callanan

Sunday, February 19, 2017 "Mapping Family Stories - Using Historical Maps to Illustrate and Better Understand Family Legends" by Mike Schwartz

Sunday, March 19, 2017 "Finding Your European Ancestor's Hometown" by Mike Karsen

Sunday, April 16, 2017 "Getting Started with Genealogy on the Internet" by Leah Cook

Sunday, May 21, 2017 "The History of Klezmer Music" by Baila Miller

What is the World Memory Project?

"Imagine not knowing your father's fate for almost 65 years – and then finding the truth in a document you never knew existed. Millions of documents containing details about victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution during World War II still exist today. Through the World Memory Project, you can help make these victims' records searchable online and restore the identities of people the Nazis tried to erase from history, one person at a time.....The World Memory Project is changing lives already by building the world's largest online resource for information about individual victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution."

<https://www.ushmm.org/online/world-memory-project/>

"The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum has gathered millions of historical documents containing details about survivors and victims of the Holocaust and Nazi persecution during World War II. Ancestry.com has spent more than a decade creating advanced technological tools that have allowed billions of historical documents to become searchable online."

<https://www.ushmm.org/online/world-memory-project/pages/about-the-project/>

JGS of SW FL 2017 Membership Application

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

Name _____

E-mail _____ Phone _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City, State, Zip _____

Your surnames/places for JGS of SW FL Ancestors Database:

(use space below or attach a paper with a more complete list)
