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President's Shpiel by Kim Sheintal

DNA testing has become the latest trend in exploring one's ancestry. "Think of family trees and you probably think of dusty letters and black-and-white photos of great-grandparents. The latest trend, though, is using DNA testing to explore your ancestry."

(<http://www.npr.org/2016/01/06/462114359/dna-testing-provides-short-cut-to-trace-family-history>)

DNA home testing is very popular. "The demand has been so strong that the popular consumer genetics company, AncestryDNA, had a database of two million samples as of mid-June (2016) double the number it had roughly one year ago." (<http://medcitynews.com/2016/08/ancestrydna-sees-huge-growth-demand-genetic-testing/>).

Since late 2016, MyHeritage has had a special project in partnership with Israeli Member of Parliament Nurit Koren, to help family members who were separated in the 1940s and 1950s in Israel, to find each other and reconnect through the use of DNA. "The project is one of MyHeritage's pro bono initiatives and is being carried out at no cost to the participants, with the goal of reuniting families. MyHeritage has provided free MyHeritage DNA tests for genetic testing to those families and adoptees who want to be tested." As of February, they have tested 750 people as part of this project. They recently saw this project bear one of its first fruits. Yehuda Kantor, an Israeli physicist, discovered in adulthood that he had been adopted as a baby, and he'd never been able to find his biological family — despite years of searching. The MyHeritage DNA test helped them bring about the moment of a lifetime when Kantor reconnected with his biological family.

(https://blog.myheritage.com/2017/02/an-adoptees-dream-come-true/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=February2017_english&utm_content=kantor)

Read JGS member Kathleen Dubin's DNA tale on this page.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida

MISHPOCHOLOGY

Volume 22, Number 2 Summer 2017

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Mishpochology is published quarterly.

www.jgsswf.org

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

JGS of SW FL MEETING

Sunday, May 21, 2017 (1:00 PM)

Aviva campus in the Kobernick building

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

Program: A History of Klezmer Music to Modern Jazz
by Baila Miller

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

JGS of SW FL presents

"A History of Klezmer Music to Modern Jazz"

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida presents "A History of Klezmer Music to Modern Jazz" with Baila Miller on May 21 at 1:00 PM at Aviva.

Klezmer is a Jewish musical tradition that was born in Eastern Europe in the Russian region "known as the Pale of Settlement." Klezmer is a combination of Russian, Ukrainian, Rumanian, Polish, as well as, Asian influences. We will hear many examples of music and dance tunes that were incorporated by itinerant Jewish musicians who lived with and among gypsies, nomads, and classically trained performers. When Klezmer musicians moved to America they influenced Modern Jazz significantly.

DNA Test Results Help Reunite Family Members

by Kathleen Dubin

March 2017 was very special for me. At AncestryDNA, my father has a "very high confidence" DNA match named Jackie. Jackie said that she didn't know a great deal about her father's family. Her paternal great grandmother Ellen C. was born in Boston, but married and raised a family in New Hampshire.

My great grandmother Mary C. was born in Boston. According to Massachusetts vital records and the 1860 US federal census, Mary had a half-sister named Ellen C. Ellen's mother, older sister, and father died prematurely. Ellen C. was orphaned by age 12. For the last dozen years, I've searched census and vital records, wondering what became of her. I never found a marriage, death, nor convincing census record. Ellen "vanished" from my family after 1860.

Comparing census and vital records with my DNA cousin's Ellen C., one could suppose that her great grandmother was the same person as my vanished Ellen. The records do not line up so perfectly that one could be certain. However, Jackie's DNA is undeniable proof. "Ellen C. = Ellen C." is the only explanation for Jackie's genetic relationship to my father. Jackie is my half third cousin. I'm delighted that our Ellen survived and married in New Hampshire. Jackie and her sister winter in SW Florida, so we met for lunch. Our branches of the family were reunited after 150 years! We plan to meet again. We would not have reunited without DNA testing.

Yizkor Book Project, February 2017 Update

by Lance Ackerfeld, Yizkor Book Project Manager,
lance.ackerfeld@gmail.com

If asked to describe the Yizkor Book Project in one word, I would describe it as the “one-that-never-stands-still-for-a-moment” project. Not one word, you say? You’re right, but there isn’t really one word to describe it is multi-faceted and is kept running by a multitude of dedicated people, from all corners of the globe, around the clock. I would now like to relate what these same people have helped us accomplish during the last month.

For a start, in February two books were added online. The first, which is completely online is called “Holocaust in Rovno: The Massacre at Sosenki Forest, November 1941” and was donated by Jeffrey Burds. Clearly this is an important addition to those of you wishing to learn more about the events that took place in Rovno (Rivne) during the Holocaust and thank Jeffrey for this generous and significant donation.

The second book, from which we have been kindly donated several sections, comes from Rasia Moroz of the Jewish Family and Children’s Services of Southern Arizona. The book is called “To Tell Our Stories: Holocaust Survivors of Southern Arizona” and is particularly interesting as it includes stories by Holocaust survivors from the former-Soviet Union, and their arduous journey east from Ukraine, Belarus, and Russia, and the subsequent harshness of life in Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Siberia.

In recent times, I have been approached by people interested in seeing the “A Memorial to the Jewish community of Dubno, Wolyn” book translated into English. I suggested, as I usually do, that the best way to see this happen was by setting up a specific Dubno Translation Fund to support the professional translation of the book. With their agreement this has, in fact, now been carried out and we now turn to those of you who are Dubno researchers, to assist us in the lofty goal of making the unique treasures this book contains available to a wide as possible public. If you are able to assist financially to any extent, to this particular fund or any of the other 85 odd project funds we have running, please see the JewishGen-erosity link at the end of this report. Clearly, every donation is meaningful.

The Yizkor Book in Print Project is another facet of the YB Project that is always on the move. This last month the “A City and the Dead; Zablutow Alive and Destroyed - Memorial Book of Zabolotov” became available for purchase - details may be found via the YBIP link at the end of this report. By-the-way, Joel Alpert, the YBIP Project Manager, recently informed me that just in 2016, 1259 books published by this project were sold. For me this is clear indication of the importance of this particular project and the “thirst for knowledge” that exists for people looking to learn more about the communities and people destroyed in the Holocaust.

Other than that, in keeping with our being a never-standing still project, this past month we received an encouraging number of additions to be added to our existing projects. These additions come from our Translation Fund projects, from a number of tireless volunteer translators and also from other good people who have had sections of Yizkor book translated and have thoughtfully and generously, passed the translations on to us to be added in online. That’s how we keep moving.

And now for details of all the updates and additions that were carried out in the Yizkor Book Project over February.

We have added in two new books:

-Rivne, Ukraine (Holocaust in Rovno: The Massacre at Sosenki Forest, November 1941)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/rovno2/rovno2.html>

-To Tell Our Stories: Holocaust Survivors of Southern Arizona

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Stories/Stories.html>

We have also added in two new entries:

- Bardejov, Slovakia (Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities in Slovakia)

http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_slovakia/slo112.html -

-Chortkiv, Ukraine (Memorial Book of Czortkow)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Chortkov/Chortkovh.html>

[Hebrew]

We have continued to update 27 of our existing projects:

- Bedzin, Poland (A Memorial to the Jewish Community of Bendin)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/bedzin/bedzin.html>

- “Brichah”

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/brichah/brichah.html>

- Brody, Ukraine (An Eternal Light: Brody in Memoriam)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/brody/brody.html>

- Chisinau, Moldova (The Jews of Kishinev)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Kishinev/Kishinev.html>

- Chorzele, Poland (Memorial Book of the Community of Chorzel)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Chorzele/Chorzele.html>

- Czyzew-Osada, Poland (Czyzewo Memorial Book)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Czyzew/Czyzew.html>

- Gostynin, Poland (Book of Gostynin)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/Gostynin/Gostynin.html>

- Hungary (Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities in Hungary)

http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_Hungary/pinkas_Hungary.html

- Kovel, Ukraine (Memorial Book of Kowel)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/kovel/kovel.html>

- Kovel, Ukraine (Kowel; Testimony and Memorial Book of Our Destroyed Community)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/kovel1/kovel1.html>

- Lithuania (Lite)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/lita2/lita2.html>

- Lviv, Ukraine (Lwow Volume: Part I)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/lviv/lviv.html>

- Miechow, Charsznica & Ksiaz, Poland (Miechov Memorial Book, Charsznica and Ksiaz)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Miechow/Miechow.html>

- Novohrad-Volynskyy, Ukraine (Zvhill-Novogradvolinsk)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/zvhill/zvhill.html>

- Niasvizh, Belarus (The Nesvizh Yizkor Book)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/nesvizh/nesvizh.html>

- Plonsk, Poland (Memorial book of Plonsk and vicinity)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/plonsk/plonsk.html>

- Pultusk, Poland (Pultusk memorial book)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Pultusk/Pultusk.html>

- Rafalovka, Ukraine (Memorial book for the towns of Old Rafalowka, New Rafalowka, Olizarka, Zoludzk and vicinity)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/rafalovka/rafalovka.html>

- Rokiskis, Lithuania (Yizkor book of Rakishok and environs)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/rokiskis/rokiskis.html>

- Ryki, Poland (A Memorial to the Community of Ryki, Poland)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ryki/rykp000.html> [Polish]

- Sarny, Ukraine (Memorial Book of the Community of Sarny)

<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/sarny/sarny.html>
 - Slovakia (Encyclopedia of Jewish Communities in Slovakia)
http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/pinkas_slovakia/pinkas_slovakia.html
 - Sokyryany, Ukraine (Sekiryani, Bessarabia - alive and destroyed)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Sokyryany/Sokyryany.html>
 - Stryy, Ukraine (Book of Stryj)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/stryj2/stryj2.html>
 - Suceava, Romania (The Book of the Jews from Suceava (Shotz) and the Surrounding Communities)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Suceava/Suceava.html>
 - Turiysk, Ukraine (Memorial book of Trisk)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Turiysk/Turiysk.html>
 - Tykocin, Poland (Memorial book of Tiktin)
<http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/Tykocin/Tykocin.html>
 Some important links to note:

This month's additions and updates are flagged at <http://www.jewishgen.org/Yizkor/translations.html> to make it easy to find them.

All you would like to know about the Yizkor Books in Print Project: <http://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/ybip.html>

Yizkor Book Translation Funds (where your financial support will assist in seeing more translations go online):

http://www.jewishgen.org/JewishGenerosity/v_projectslist.asp?project_cat=23

Jewish Genealogy International Conference

This conference, sponsored by the International Association of Jewish Genealogical Societies and the Jewish Genealogical Society of Greater Orlando, will be held on the grounds of Walt Disney World, at the Disney World Swan Resort at 1200 Epcot Resorts Blvd, Orlando, Florida from July 23 thru 28, 2017. Dozens of restaurants, shopping, and entertainment venues are within walking distance and hundreds more are only a short boat or shuttle bus ride away. Discounted hotel rooms are currently available from July 17 to August 2, so you are welcome to come early and/or stay late to explore Disney World and Orlando's many attractions with your family! Greet old friends, make new ones and take your family search to the next level, with:

- Superb lectures and workshops as you have come to expect
- Meetings for all experience levels, from first-timers to conference veterans
- Hands-on mentoring with experts in our field
- In-depth DNA workshops to answer your questions
- Databases, translators, and search tools available to all
- Expanded exhibit hall where the latest family discovery tools and technologies will be described by staff members from top names in the field such as Family Search, myHeritage, Geni, Ancestry, Family Tree DNA, RootsMagic and Family Tree Maker.
- Networking through popular Special Interest Group events (over 50 groups have signed on to hosting events at the conference!)
- Special emphasis on:
 1. Multigenerational storytelling
 2. Jews in Florida, the Caribbean and the South
 3. Strategies for passing on your family legacy on to younger generation

For further information, go to <http://iajgs2017.org/>.

Wonderful World of Websites

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

American Jewish Historical Society

<http://americanjewisharchives.org/>

American Jewish Archives

<http://thejewishmuseum.org/>

Jewish Museum

<https://www.thecjm.org/>

Contemporary Jewish Museum

<https://jmof.fiu.edu/>

Jewish Museum of Florida

<https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/>

<https://www.its-arolsen.org/en/archives/>

International Tracing Service and Its Archives

<https://www.jgsny.org/index.php/searchable-databases/indexes-to-jewish-organizations/yivo-landsmanshaftn-collection>

YIVO's Landsmanshaftn Collection

<https://brotmanblog.com/2014/11/10/the-nusbaums-were-they-jewish-learning-from-rookie-mistakes/>

Jewish Genealogy – Rookie Mistake

https://familysearch.org/wiki/en/Rookie_Mistakes

Genealogy Rookie Mistakes

<http://rejoiceandbeexceedingglad.blogspot.com/2017/03/how-much-has-genealogy-really-changed.html>

How Much Has Genealogy Changed

<https://www.wikitree.com/g2g/253820/question-week-whats-your-embarrassing-genealogical-mistake>

What's your most embarrassing genealogical mistake?

<https://dna-explained.com/2013/12/30/promethease-genetic-health-information-alternative/>

Genetic Health Information

<http://www.iajgs.org/publications.html>

Guidebooks by Jewish Genealogical Societies

Find title of publication, author or editor, which JGS published it, the year/edition, a brief description, how to order and cost. Included: beginner's guides/handbooks/workbooks/manuals, etc.

<http://www.genealogyintime.com/records/genealogy-records-by-country.html>

Genealogy Records by Country

Find recent genealogy records on the internet organized by country and region (Canada, United States, Caribbean, Central America, South America, England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, New Zealand).

National Genealogical Society 2017 Conference

The NGS Conference will take place in Raleigh, NC from May 10-13, 2017. <http://conference.ngsgenealogy.org/>

Using Instructional Videos for Successful Internet-based Genealogical Research

by Dr. Leah Cook

If you want to start researching your ancestors on the Internet and you don't know where to begin, consider watching YouTube videos. Many genealogical websites have extensive collections of instructional videos. Ancestry.com has over 500 videos on YouTube (www.youtube.com) and its own site, Ancestry Academy (www.ancestry.com/academy). You do not need to be a member of Ancestry.com to use Ancestry Academy. YouTube requires a user id if you want to save links to video channels (called subscriptions). A YouTube user id is the same as your Google id (or Google email address). In addition to Ancestry.com, Jewishgen, Yad Vashem, FamilySearch.org, and many other genealogical organizations have YouTube channels (collections of videos). One of the best YouTube channels is the Jewish Genealogical Society of Long Island. Sample videos on this channel are: "10 Tips for Successful Oral Interviews," "8 Sites You Should Explore for Holocaust Research," and "6 Popular Ports of Entry to the US (Not Everyone Came through Ellis Island)." A search for "Jewish Genealogy" on YouTube located over 7,000 individual videos, and that's a lot of information!

Bill Introduced to Require Diacritical Marks

Legislation has been introduced in the California Assembly, AB 82, that if enacted would require the state and local vital records registrars to use diacritical marks on English letters when recording, and certificates of live births, fetal deaths, deaths and marriages. Diacritical marks are defined but not limited to: accents, tildes, graves, umlauts, and cedillas. See: http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB82

The history of the bill, per the author, is before 1986 when Californians enacted Proposition 63 and declared English as the official language of the state, diacritical marks were used on official state documents.

This is the second state that has similar legislation introduced this year...recently the IAJGS Records Access Alert reported on similar legislation in Texas. A few states already have this requirement. The federal government does not have diacritical marks on their official documents such as passports and Social Security Cards which may cause problems for proof of identity if state and federal governments differ.

To read the comments on this bill go to the following website http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=201720180AB82 and click on bill analysis.

The bill was discussed on National Public Radio this morning but is not yet archived.

Thank you to Teven Laxer, member IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee for informing us about this new bill.

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,
IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

JGS of Tampa Bay Meeting

"Digital Cameras for Genealogy" with Bob Bryan

This meeting will be Sunday, May 21, 2017 at 1:30 PM at the Gulf Coast Jewish Family Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater, Florida For information about the organization or directions to the meeting, call Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981.

Getting Started with Online Jewish Genealogy

by Dr. Leah Cook

General Genealogy Websites

Google-https://www.google.com/?gws_rd=ssl
Ancestry-<http://www.ancestry.com/>
Geni-<https://www.geni.com/>
Family Search-<https://familysearch.org/>
Ellis Island-<http://www.libertyellisfoundation.org/>
Find A Grave-<http://www.findagrave.com/>
Fulton-<http://fultonhistory.com/>
NYC Births, Marriages, Deaths-<http://italiangen.org/>
Archives.com-<http://www.archives.com/>
Cindy's List-<http://www.cyndislist.com/>
Find My Past-<http://www.findmypast.com/>
National Archives-<http://www.archives.gov/research/genealogy/>
Military-<https://www.fold3.com/>
Books and Newsletter-<http://www.avotaynu.com>
Investigate-<https://www.intelius.com/>

Important Websites for Jewish Genealogy

Jewishgen-<http://www.jewishgen.org/>
Geshet Galicia All Galicia Database-
<http://www.geshetgalicia.org/>
One-Step Webpages-<http://stevemorse.org/>
Yad Vashem-<http://www.yadvashem.org/>
Jewish Record Indexing-<http://jri-poland.org/jriplweb.html>
Town Maps & Photos-<http://www.rtrfoundation.org/index.shtml>
Links-<http://www.jewishlink.net/genealogy.html>

Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida Resources

Website-<http://www.jgsswf.org/>
Facebook-<https://www.facebook.com/JGSSWF/>

DNA Matching

23 And Me-<https://www.23andme.com/>
Ancestry-<http://dna.ancestry.com/>
Family Tree DNA-<https://www.familytreedna.com/>
GED Match-<https://www.gedmatch.com/login1.php>

Family Trees

Ancestry-<http://www.ancestry.com/>
Geni-<https://www.geni.com/>
Family Search-<https://familysearch.org/>
My Heritage-<https://www.myheritage.com/FP/my-sites.php>

Welcome New JGS of SW FL Member: Kathy Bruns

JGS of SW FL Library Additions

Thank you to Rainey Davis for donating these books:
Hitler's Willing Executioners by Daniel Jonah Goldhagen
Out of the Whirlwind: A Reader of Holocaust Literature (edited
by Albert H. Friedlander, Illustrated by Jacob Landau)
Leo Rosten's Treasury of Jewish Quotations

JGS of SW FL 2017 Membership Application

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

Name _____
E-mail _____
Phone _____
Address _____ Apt. _____
City, State, Zip _____

Please attach a paper with your surnames/places for the
JGS of SW FL database.