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### President's Shpiel

by Kim Sheintal

As president of Jewish Genealogical Society of Southwest Florida, I get requests from people searching for details about their Jewish relatives who lived in Sarasota. In March 2007, Rochelle Hughes from Texas contacted me about researching her distant cousin Nathan Eagle from Sarasota. Eagle was an agent for a group of midget performers for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Rochelle mailed me two articles about Eagle (New Yorker Magazine: April 1958 and Time: May 18, 1962), but she wanted to learn more about his connection to Sarasota.

While writing a history book about the Jews of Sarasota-Manatee, I contacted many Jewish people who lived in Sarasota-Manatee for over 50 years. Melton Augustine came to Sarasota in 1925 from Georgia with his parents when he was four. His family was active in Sarasota's Jewish business community. Before his passing in 2012, he had been living in Sarasota longer than any other Jewish person. In 2011, I spoke to Augustine about Sarasota's early Jewish history.

My conversations with Rochelle and Melton inspired me to write the two articles about Sarasota Jewish history that appear on page three.

### Now That I Started, What Do I Do with the Information?

On Sunday, December 15 at 1:00 p.m. at Aviva, JGS of SW FL presents Scott Mandel who will present ideas for organizing and presenting a family history using personal examples of how he organized and shared his genealogical findings with his own family members.

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 15, 2019 (1:00 PM)

Aviva - A Campus for Senior Life

1951 N. Honore Ave., Sarasota

**Program:** "Now That I Started,  
What Do I Do with the Information?"

by Scott Mandel

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

## Wonderful World of Websites

<https://www.jewishgen.org/yizkor/translations.html>

JewishGen Yizkor Book Translations

<https://geneticdataprotection.com/>

Coalition for Genetic Data Protection

<https://www.legacytree.com/blog/jewish-genealogy-state-central-historical-archive-ukraine>

Records for Researching Jewish Genealogy

[https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/hidden-treasures-jewish-life-medieval-france?utm\\_source=Atlas+Obscura+Daily+Newsletter&utm\\_campaign=ea1246b050-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2019\\_08\\_05&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_f36db9c480-ea1246b050-65817805&ct=t](https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/hidden-treasures-jewish-life-medieval-france?utm_source=Atlas+Obscura+Daily+Newsletter&utm_campaign=ea1246b050-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_08_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_f36db9c480-ea1246b050-65817805&ct=t)  
Hidden Treasures Hold Clues  
about Jewish Life in Medieval France

<https://www.ebth.com/ron-houck-shopper-story>  
A Family Treasure Rediscovered

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/500-years-after-inquisition-10000-sephardi-jews-close-circle-with-citizenships/>  
500 Years after Inquisition  
10,000 Sephardi Jews Close Circle with Citizenships

<https://blog.eogn.com/2019/08/14/hungary-has-the-worlds-second-largest-percentage-of-population-with-jewish-ancestry/>  
Hungarian Jewish Ancestry

[https://www.ted.com/talks/yaniv\\_erlich\\_how\\_we\\_re\\_buildin\\_g\\_the\\_world\\_s\\_largest\\_family\\_tree](https://www.ted.com/talks/yaniv_erlich_how_we_re_buildin_g_the_world_s_largest_family_tree)  
World's Largest Family Tree

[https://nypost.com/2019/05/21/german-holocaust-archive-puts-millions-of-documents-online/?utm\\_campaign=iosapp&utm\\_source=mail\\_app](https://nypost.com/2019/05/21/german-holocaust-archive-puts-millions-of-documents-online/?utm_campaign=iosapp&utm_source=mail_app)  
German Holocaust archive puts millions of documents online

## Jewish Namesakes Appearing on Maps

Wherever you go in the United States you will probably not be too far from places whose Jewish namesakes appear. In the United States, there are 92 towns, villages, counties, mountains, lakes, and forests named for Jews often not seen along the main-traveled highways.

See <http://www.jewsinamerica.com/settlers/mapnames.html> for a list of the towns, villages, counties, mountains, lakes, and forests named after Jewish people. Maybe some of these places are named after your relatives.

## Sarasota Streets Named for Jewish People

Most people driving in Sarasota on a frequent basis might not realize that many streets in Sarasota are named after Jews.

In most cities in the United States, subdivision developers have the privilege of naming new streets. The names are submitted to the city through relevant departments for review and acceptance. In 1949, Martin Paver and his wife, Mildred, visited Sarasota. Shortly thereafter, they decided to move their family here from Great Neck, Long Island. The Paver family soon became the most important developers in the area. Martin Paver started Paver Construction Company with his sons, Stanley and Paul. Their motto was to “build better than the building codes required and create a place where you would like to live and raise a family.” Over the next fifty years, their company built more than 6,000 homes and many commercial properties throughout Sarasota County. Their developments included Paver Park and Kensington Park in which they named the streets after many of their family members and friends.

In Paver Park, the Paver family named the following streets after family members: Sydelle Street (Martin Paver’s daughter), Cheryle Lane (Stanley Paver’s daughter), Nancy Street (Stanley Paver’s daughter), Martin Street (named after Martin Paver), E. Paulstan Court (named after Paul and Stanley Paver), and Milmar Drive (named after Mildred and Martin Paver).

In Kensington Park, the Paver family named the following streets after family members: Schwalbe Drive (maiden name of Stanley Paver’s wife, Roxane), Randa Boulevard (Paul Paver’s daughter), Andrea Street/Andrea Place (Paul Paver’s daughter), Monica Parkway (middle name of Paul Paver’s wife, Doris), and Roxane Boulevard (Stanley Paver’s wife). In Kensington Park, the following streets were named after salesmen and friends of Stanley and Paul Paver: Melgert Place (named after Mel and Gertrude Cole) and Lench Place (named after Jack Lench).

Kalin Lane, near Landings Boulevard and Tamiami Trail/41, is named after Ed Kalin who moved to Sarasota from Asheville, North Carolina in 1950 and opened Kane’s Furniture that same year. Kalin became a prominent fixture in the Sarasota-Manatee real estate market.

Cohen Way in the Rosemary District is named after David Cohen, musician, conductor, cofounder of the Florida West Coast Symphony (today’s Sarasota Orchestra), and Sarasota’s first Jewish mayor (1964-1966) who moved to Sarasota in the 1940’s from Petoskey, Michigan.

Rosin Way (east off of Clark) is named after Marcus Aurel Rosin, Sarasota’s first Jewish attorney, who was born in Arcadia in 1907 and moved to Sarasota in 1951.

Next time you want to take a leisurely drive in Sarasota, look for the aforementioned streets and be proud that so many streets in Sarasota are named after Jewish people.

## History Centers, Historical Records Libraries, Historical Digital Collections, Historical Societies, Historical Museums, and Historical Parks

Brick walls are common issues most genealogists will encounter. Just remember, there are always more places to look. Local history centers, historical records libraries, historical digital collections, historical societies, historical museums, and historical parks are some of the best and least used sources for hidden genealogical information, because these places collect information and/or photos on the people and events of the local area. Many families donate their genealogy research, photos, and/or heirlooms to local historical collections.

The Sarasota County History Center (6062 Porter Way, Sarasota, Florida 34232, 941-861-6881) maintains an archive, museum, and reference service for public interest and research, and an exhibit on pre-European people of the area.

The Manatee County Historical Records Library (1405 Fourth Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida 34205, 941-741-4070) located in a 1918 Carnegie Library, offers researchers governmental records dating back to 1855. Deed books, marriage licenses, probate files, court records, County Commission minute books, aerial maps, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, historic maps, plat maps, tax cards, general directories, school yearbooks, school attendance records, voter registration books, and soldiers and sailors discharge books are some of the items that are available to researchers. In addition, the library houses the Herb Loomis Manatee County Postcard Collection and the Steve Belack Crosley collection.

Photos from Manatee County Public Library Historical Digital Collections (<https://cdm16681.contentdm.oclc.org/>) portray Manatee County people, activities, and buildings from the late nineteenth century to the early 1980s. These images feature prominent families and their important role in Manatee.

Sarasota County Historical Resources has an online photo collection database (<https://scgov.pastperfectonline.com/photo>).

The following website explains how local historical societies and genealogical societies can further your genealogy research. <https://ancestralfindings.com/using-local-historical-and-genealogical-societies-to-further-your-genealogy-research/>

The following website explains how local historical societies can help with your family history research. <https://blog.genealogybank.com/genealogy-101-historical-societies-your-family-history.html>

Local historical societies and local historical park:

- Historical Society of Sarasota County  
<https://hsosc.com/>
- Manatee County Historical Society  
<http://historicalsocietymanateecounty.org/>
- Charlotte County Historical Society  
[https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/historical/Pages/CC\\_HC\\_Society.aspx](https://www.charlottecountyfl.gov/services/historical/Pages/CC_HC_Society.aspx)
- DeSoto County Historical Society  
<https://www.historicdesoto.org/>
- Englewood Historical Society  
<https://englewoodhistoricalsociety.org/>
- Anna Maria Historical Society Museum  
<https://www.amih.org/>
- Venice Area Historical Society  
<https://veniceareahistoricalociety.org/>
- Palmetto Historical Park  
<https://palmettohistoricalpark.com/our-story/>

## Two Articles about Sarasota Jewish History

### Sarasota Jewish Circus History

Sarasota has had a rich circus heritage since 1927 when John Ringling moved the winter quarters of the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus to Sarasota. The Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus moved from Sarasota to Venice in 1960. The Jewish circus performers and businessmen have played a major impact in Sarasota achieving its status as the home of the American circus.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus has been owned by a Jewish family longer than it has been owned by the Ringling brothers or Barnum and Bailey. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus was bought in 1967 by Irvin Feld, Jewish entrepreneur. In 1968, Feld created Clown College in Venice to train clowns. For its twentieth anniversary, Clown College was featured on a CBS special hosted by Dick Van Dyke. After Irvin Feld's passing in 1984, his children took over the Feld production business, the Ringling shows, and Clown College. The Irvin and Kenneth Feld Productions, Inc. changed its name to Feld Entertainment, Inc. in 1996. Feld Entertainment Inc. moved its Virginia-based corporate operations to Ellenton in 2012. Feld Entertainment, Inc., still in Ellenton, is a live show production company which owns a number of traveling shows. Clown College closed in 1997 after 25 years in Venice, followed by three years in Baraboo (Wisconsin) and its last two years in Sarasota. Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus held its final performance in May 2017.

Many Jewish people have performed and managed activities for the circus in Sarasota-Manatee. Frank Bartlet Adler known as Felix Adler or "The King of Clowns" performed for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus for 20 years. He was inducted into the International Clown Hall of Fame in 1989. His father was Jewish and Irish; his mother Scotch and Indian. Adler said, "All the races in me are having a terrific scramble to come to the top." Albert White, Jewish clown in Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, persuaded the circus to engage Temple Beth Sholom's Rabbi Barry Konovich as the circus chaplain in the 1970s. Rose Hanlon, English born and Jewish, was the first woman clown for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Jacob Rheuben Erlich, professionally credited as Jack Earle and remembered as the Jewish Giant, performed for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Earle was one of the world's tallest humans at 8 feet 6 ½ inches tall. Frank Miller, who was Jewish, was head of the concessions for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus. Milton Bartok, a Jewish circus worker, became well known as a patent medicine marketer, minstrel show producer, and, later, circus owner. His family spent winters in Sarasota beginning in the 1940s. The Sarasota Yacht Club, which usually excluded Jews, invited Bartok to join, despite public knowledge of his religion. Rita Adler, often seen riding elephants in the circus, received the Circus Ring of Fame Foundation's Special Award of Recognition in 2003 on St. Armands Circle for her untiring efforts which helped preserve Sarasota's rich circus heritage. Rita Adler was a remarkable Jewish lady who will be remembered for her love and passion of the arts and circus in Sarasota. Nate Eagle, whose Jewish family came from Poland to New York in the early 1900s, was an agent for a group of midget circus performers and a ringmaster for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus starting in 1952. Mr. Fribush, payroll coordinator for Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus was Jewish. Richard Fuchs,

a Jewish employee of John Ringling during the 1920s and 1930s, was one of the incorporators of the Ringling Museum. Jewish clowns, Billy Bob "Todd" Steinberg and Chuck Sidlow, perform for Circus Sarasota (Florida's only not for profit resident circus). Sarasota's Big Top Tours (Sarasota's circus history bus tour company) is owned by Roberts Collins who is Jewish. After 92 years, the Jews continue to contribute to the circus scene in Sarasota-Manatee.

Sarasota, known as the "Circus Capital of the World" has many Jewish circus performers and businessmen to thank for making this recognition possible.

### Sarasota's Hood Building Has Jewish Connection

The Augustines, a Jewish family, moved to Sarasota during the real estate boom of the 1920s and shortly thereafter bought the Hood building in the heart of Sarasota's black community in the early 1930s. Known as Overtown in the mid-1920s, this community was bounded roughly on the north and south by today's Tenth and Fifth Streets and on the west and east by U.S. 41 and Orange Avenue. The hub of the community was at the corner of Central Avenue and today's Sixth Street. This district was officially renamed "The Rosemary District" in 1994 in honor of the Rosemary Cemetery that was established in 1886 at 8th Street and Central Avenue. During the 1920s, the area included a movie theater, billiards hall, barbershop, department store, ice cream parlor, auto dealership, gas station, lunch counter, grocery store, print shop, and a furniture store. Temple Beth Sholom, established in 1927, was only one mile away, at the NW corner of today's Washington Blvd. and Sixth Street.

In 1925, Harry Augustine moved to Sarasota from Cochran, Georgia with his wife and two young sons. There were only a handful of Jewish people living in Sarasota at that time. Harry's son Melton was only four years old. When Melton became a Bar Mitzvah, his grandfather came from Atlanta to conduct the service because Temple Beth Sholom did not have a rabbi until Rabbi Pizer Jacobs became rabbi in 1948.

Previously Augustine owned and operated Sarasota Auto Wrecking at another location. Upon purchasing the Hood Building in the early 1930s, he relocated his business to the building where he maintained an auto junkyard. H. Augustine Used Auto Parts on vacant land to the west, and also established a scrap metal business. The Augustines have been well recognized as major landowners and businessmen in this section of the city. The Hood building, located at 1373-1385 Fifth Street near Central Avenue, was constructed in the mid-1920s in Mediterranean Revival style for the McRae-Burns Furniture Co. of St. Petersburg, Florida and J. Hood of St. Petersburg for whom the building is named. The 100-foot site was purchased in February, 1925 by the furniture company and Hood from Levy & Kaye. Yetta Schulman, a Jewish dressmaker, was an occupant of the Hood Building in the 1930s.

The Jewish presence still exists in the Rosemary District. Cohen Way in the Rosemary District is named after David Cohen, Sarasota's first Jewish mayor. Today's Rosemary District includes several businesses with Jewish owners and many Jewish people residing in the newer apartments and condominiums.

The Hood building remained in the same family until 1998 with Harry Augustine's son, Melton, retaining ownership. Melton lived in Sarasota until he passed away in 2012. When Melton passed away, he was the only Jewish person in Sarasota that was living in Sarasota as far back as 1925.

## **MyHeritage DNA Study Reveals Hungary Has World's Second Largest Percentage of Population with Jewish (Ashkenazi) Ethnicity**

A new study MyHeritage DNA did with Dr. Daniel Staetsky, a statistician and demographer uncovered the number of people descended from Jewish ancestors in Hungary is higher than other demographers have previously estimated.

The first study of its kind revealed that the country with the highest proportion of Ashkenazi Jewish ethnicity after Israel was Hungary. It was previously thought it was the United States. The study showed: After Israel, the top countries in terms of significant Ashkenazi Jewish ethnicity were Hungary and Russia, followed by Argentina, South Africa, Ukraine, and then the USA. The analysis was a cohort of 1.8 million anonymized DNA tests taken by MyHeritage customers worldwide. The study included 100 countries.

A much lower percentage of people in Hungary, who self-identify as being Jews, is substantially lower compared with the DNA test-takers, even after adjusting for a degree of selectivity of MyHeritage users (most educated and well to do classes since commercial genetic testing which is more likely to be used by those cohorts.) It is also assumed that more Hungarian Jews assimilated into the local population before the Holocaust, more Hungarians survived the Holocaust than Jews in Poland, and more Jews remained in Hungary than in Poland following the Holocaust.

Jews have a long history in Hungary dating back to at least the early 13<sup>th</sup> century. By the early 20th century Jews constituted 5% of Hungary's total population and Jews comprised 23% of Budapest. (These are not MyHeritage's numbers.) By 1941, over 17% of Budapest's Jews were Roman Catholic converts, following coordinated pressure across Europe that began with the Spanish Inquisition in the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. Over 560,000 Hungarian Jews were murdered in Holocaust.

The MyHeritage study also revealed Russia having many more people with Jewish ethnicity than demographers expected.

To read more including the percentages of population with Ashkenazi Jewish ethnicity see:

<https://blog.myheritage.com/2019/08/hungarys-secret-new-study-by-myheritage/>

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

## **JGS of Tampa Bay Lunch and Learn Social**

The JGS of Tampa Bay will meet at Gulf Coast Jewish Family & Community Services, 14041 Icot Blvd., Clearwater on December 8, 2019 at noon. A "Pot Luck" luncheon will be served followed by a brief business meeting at 1:30 to elect and install new officers. The program will feature "success stories" and "lessons learned" by members in researching their families. There is no charge to members for the luncheon. Non-members will be charged \$5 for the luncheon. Reservations must be made by December 1 to ensure there will be ample food. Make your reservation by calling Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981.

This is the JGSTB's annual opportunity to schmooze, socialize, and get to know each other better, exchange genealogical tips/successes/failures, and plans and ideas. This meeting will be a combined social and open agenda learning experience in a casual and informal setting. For further information on the Jewish Genealogical Society of Tampa Bay or directions call Bruce Hadburg at 727-796-7981.

## **Welcome New JGS of SW FL Members**

Myra Levine

Barry Clarke

## **FGS and NGS Announce Intent to Merge**

At the opening session of the Federation of Genealogical Societies (FGS) conference in Washington D.C. it was announced that the FGS and National Genealogical Society (NGS) intend to merge. The two organizations, will form one consolidated group that will continue to operate as the National Genealogical Society. The merger will be completed October 1, 2020. Until then, both organizations will continue discussions and both will hold their 2020 conferences as planned: FGS in Kansas City and NGS in Salt Lake City. The first merged conference will be held in May 2021 in Richmond Virginia. That conference will expand from four to five days allowing for a society management additional day. The FGS is an umbrella organization for genealogy societies and the NGS is an organization predominately of individuals with organizations allowed to join but without a vote. At the joint press conference conducted by both societies' presidents, Ben Spratling, President of NGS, said NGS will incorporate FGS in society related activities and societies will have voting rights. The difference between societies and individuals in voting is still being worked on during this "engagement" period. The periodicals will be "merged" with the FGS Forum being incorporated into the NGS Magazine. FGS, NGS and IAJGS jointly sponsor the Records Preservation and Access Committee which will continue, but after the merger/marriage with two sponsors not three. To read the press releases see: <https://www.ngsgenealogy.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/NGS-FGS-Intent-Merge-PR-2019-0821-FINAL.pdf> <https://fgs.org/ngs-and-fgs-announce-intent-to-merge/>

Jan Meisels Allen, Chairperson,

IAJGS Public Records Access Monitoring Committee

## **Victims of the Holocaust in Czechoslovakia**

If you have relatives who lived in Czechoslovakia during the Holocaust, JGS of SW FL member Jeff Knisbacher, recommends - <https://www.holocaust.cz/databaze-obeti/>  
Dates are in day, month, year order.

Helpful Translations: born (narozen); perished (zahynul); last residence before deportation (poslední bydliště před deportací)

## **Genealogy Conferences**

The Roots Tech Conference will be held 26-29 February 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The National Genealogical Society forty-second annual Family History Conference, Echoes of Our Ancestors, which will be held 20-23 May 2020 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The International Association of Jewish Genealogical Society fortieth annual Jewish Genealogy Conference will be held August 9-14 2020 in San Diego, California.

The New York State Family History Conference will be held 10-12 September 2020 in Albany, New York.

## **Google Updated Its Search Engine in October**

Google's new software understands small nuances in language. <https://www.blog.google/products/search/search-language-understanding-bert/>